



# The Strawberry Vine

Volume 5, Issue 5

December 2011

## Letter from the Mayor

### *Things to See & Do:*

- Backbone State Park
- Wilder Museum
- The Big Strawberry
- [www.strawberrypoint.com](http://www.strawberrypoint.com)



Mayor &

City Council

*Dale Fox*

*Jackie Opperman*

*Mike Tucker*

*Jacci Meyers*

*McKenzie Johnson*

*Rich Newman*

Hope you had a great Thanksgiving with family, friends, food, football, and other enjoyable things. Now it is time to think Christmas! Please remember to shop your Strawberry Point merchants. Economists tell us each dollar spent turns over seven times. Our local merchants are ready, willing and able to help you find great Christmas gifts for everyone on your list.

Have you stopped by the Economic Development office in the last couple weeks? If not, you are invited to stop in and meet our new director, Carrie Weaver. She is off to a very good start promoting Strawberry Point.

Are you going to take part in the Holiday Lighting project and decorate the outside of your house? Each decorated home adds to the fun of Christmas. If you put up at least 200 lights, stop by city hall and pick up the form to save \$15 on your February utility bill. This project is for businesses also.

December 3 is our Berry Merry Christmas celebration. Our businesses will have special deals. Events start at 11:00 at the library with vendors, a cookie walk, and voting for your favorite decorated Christmas trees. Santa will arrive at 1:00. There will be carriage rides and the Wilder Museum will be open. At 4:30 we will have the lighting of the city Christmas tree in Inger Park and the drawings for Santa Bucks. Come a little early and listen to a group of high school carolers. December 3<sup>rd</sup> has lots of fun things, and good deals from our businesses, to get you into the Christmas spirit.

The Electric Study Committee has begun researching which company has the best deal to supply Strawberry Point's electricity. Our current contract with RPGI expires on December 31, 2013. West end conversions/updates will be finished soon. That leaves only one more part of town to

upgrade. One more year and, hopefully, we can adjust from updating an old system to maintaining a quality system—having a rotation plan to keep the system at peak performance.

We have some buildings, both homes and businesses, that are in need of a bit of fixing up. The town council is looking at participating in grants that not only help owners fix up their property but also make us a better city. We apply for grants realizing that we will not get all we apply for. The grants we have found so far require some matching, either money or labor, by the owners. Better looking buildings help city funds and make Strawberry Point more pleasing to both visitors and residents.

As we get to this time of year, we have to talk about snow. Please remember there is no over-night parking on our city streets during the winter months. This is done so snow removal is easier and faster. If you have a fire hydrant by your house, you can make our town safer by helping keep the snow away from them. Speed is very important in fighting fires and a clear path to the fire hydrant really helps.

Are you making your list for the first snow vacation day in winter of 2011? Sleeping late, family times, fixing a special meal, enjoying a good book, or just enjoying the snow are good things. If it has been a while since you visited the city web page at [www.strawberrypoint.com](http://www.strawberrypoint.com), you might add that to your list.

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dale Fox, Mayor

# City Hall News

## *Merry Christmas from City Hall*

Meeting dates for December: December 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

**Need help with your heating bill?** Contact City Hall for more information.

City Hall will be closed December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas holiday. City Hall will also be closed January 2<sup>nd</sup> for New Years.

The City is again offering the Holiday Lighting Rebate for Christmas lights. The rebate forms are available at City Hall or on our website at

[www.strawberryppt.com](http://www.strawberryppt.com). The rebate amount will again be \$15.00. Forms are due to City Hall no later than December 16<sup>th</sup>.

No parking on City Streets 2:00 – 6:00 AM November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>

The staff at City Hall also welcomes any comments and suggestions. Please feel free to stop in or call us at 563-933-4482.

Deanna Dement

City Clerk/Administrator

## Fire Department

Your support of our department is greatly appreciated!



## Library

No News.

# Economic Development and Tourism

It seems too soon that Christmas is just around the corner. The Chamber of Commerce is hosting "A Berry Merry Christmas" on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It has been fun helping out with this town-wide event and I am excited for all the fun events and activities that have been planned. The businesses will have open houses, and the Wilder Memorial Museum will also have their holiday open house that day from 11-4 p.m. In the Library the kids could get pictures with Santa; do some crafts, and receive a gift from Santa. The Library will also have a Christmas Tree Festival. The Civic Center will have Christmas vendors, a cookie walk, and carriage rides. The lighting of the town Christmas tree, along with the Santa Buck drawing will be held in Inger Park at 4:30. All participants must be present to win the Santa Bucks grand prize. Hope you can come out and celebrate "A Berry Merry Christmas" with us.

Another opportunity for businesses is the new program from the state of Iowa. Google is presenting a program called "*Iowa Get Online*." This program offers businesses a free Web site for one year free. Then the business can continue the Web site for \$7.99 a month after that year has expired. All businesses can go to <http://www.iowagetonline.com> to set up a Web site in less than one hour. The Strawberry Point Development Fund has invited Google come to our area on December 2, 2011 to do a workshop for our businesses so every business in town can have the opportunity to have a Web site if the businesses choose to have one. The workshop will be held at Keystone AEA in Elkader, Iowa from 1:00-3:30; 4:00-6:30.

As I look back on the year, the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Board have had many accomplishments. The Chamber has planned a successful Strawberry Days in 2011 and currently planning for 2012. They have welcomed new businesses, sponsored a shuttle bus for Osborne Heritage Days, had another successful Annual Golf Outing, and organized a pumpkin walk for local kids. The Economic Development Board has been working with Dale Fox on the city webpage and the Strawberry Point Facebook page, and other projects as well. I hope you enjoy the holiday season and have a Merry Berry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Carrie Weaver  
Director of Economic Development and Tourism  
Chamber of Commerce Secretary  
Strawberry Point Development Fund, Inc.  
105 West Mission Street  
(563)-933-4417  
[econdev@strawberrypt.com](mailto:econdev@strawberrypt.com)



## Ambulance

Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!!

Theresa Callahan - Service Director

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Fax: 563-933-4012

*Carrie Weaver—Economic  
Development Director*

*Deanna Dement—City  
Administrator*

*Elizabeth Jaster—Deputy City  
Clerk*

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.STRAWBERRYPT.COM

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## December Birthdays



Deborah Yokiel

John Farmer

Russell Schofield

Terry Thein

Roxie Basten

Don McCullough

Kenneth Bowers

E Lillian MacTaggart

Randy South

Jerad Seedorff

Vickie Schmidt

Bob Faust

Danielle West

Nic Stelken

Shari Payne

Dave Gould

Jay Thomas

Heather Carnicle

JJ Hotz

Leroy Littlefield

Norm Rizer

Amanda Sargent

Nick Hansel

Rick Weig

Al Friederich

Jessica Baumgartner



## Police

Reminder:

No parking on City streets November 1st to April 1st 2 am—6 am.

Reminder:

Please lock your homes and vehicles during the Holiday season to prevent theft.

Have a Safe and Happy Holidays!

Chief Bob Pope

