



# NEWSLETTER

CITY OF UNDERWOOD

February-March 2026



Underwood City Council voted to appoint David Mace, as a city council member to fill the city council vacancy. The City of Underwood welcomes you to City Council. <<<Picture to the left is Mayor Josh Madsen gave the oath of office to David Mace, newly appointed council member on February 23, 2026.

Mayor  
Josh Madsen  
Council Members  
Jim Pingel  
Kelle Erwin  
Jodi Bose  
Keith Rodenburg  
David Mace

Underwood City Council appointed Dennis Bardsley to the Board of Adjustments Committee to fill the vacancy. The City of Underwood welcomes you to the Committee.



## Fisher Cemetery

Spring is coming and a FRIENDLY REMINDER to remove any objects at the Cemetery that you are wanting to keep by March 31, 2026.

Beginning April 1 anything that is left will be removed and disposed of for our annual cemetery clean up.

## Woodmenlife Flag Donation

Pictured above L to R: Council Member - Kelle Erwin, WoodmenLife - Rob Williams, Council Member - Jodi Bose, Council Member - David Mace, and Council Member - Keith Rodenburg.

WoodmenLife representative, Rob Williams, presented twenty (20) US flags to Underwood City Council on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

A big thank you to WoodmenLife for their donation to the City of Underwood.

## Single and Multiple Dog License Applications

**Dog Licenses are Due  
February 28, 2026**

- Thanks to everyone who renewed their dog licenses.
- Letters were sent out January 5, 2026.
- Reminder calls were made between February 9-13.
- Applications can be found on the city website to print and complete, Or you can sign up for Front Desk and there are single and multiple dog application. If done this way, you can also pay online once city staff have verified a complete application.
- Or come to City Hall to complete
- Beginning 3/1 a \$10 late fee is assessed per dog.

**Spring Clean-up Day  
Friday, April 10, 2026.**

**\*\*MUST HAVE items out Thursday,  
4/09 by 9 pm for pickup!**

## **Underwood Volunteer Fire/Rescue ANNUAL**

**Pancake Breakfast  
Sunday, April 26, 2026  
8 a.m. -12:00 p.m.  
@ the Fire Station  
220 Second Street**

**City Wide  
GARAGE SALE  
Saturday, June 6, 2026**

# Annual Safety Reminders

**\*\*Check the batteries in your smoke alarms.**

**\*\*\*Call Iowa One Call 811 prior to digging to ensure locates for utilities are completed. You don't want to hit a sewer line, power, natural gas, cable or internet.**

## Tornados and Sirens

### **Tornado sirens: Frequently asked questions**

**When are Sirens sounded? Sirens are sounded when the National Weather Service observes conditions on radar that indicate a possible tornado has developed or is likely to develop and issue a Tornado Warning. Sirens may also be activated when trained public safety storm spotters observe a tornado or a rotating, lowering funnel cloud.**

**Additionally, public safety officials can have sirens sounded for extreme wind events such as straight line winds expected to be near or in excess of 80 mph.**

**What should I do when the sirens sound? Do not go outside to see what the weather is doing!**

**Tornados are very difficult to predict and development can occur very rapidly.  
SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!!!!!!**

**When is it safe to leave Shelter? Once sheltered, remain there. Monitor local AM/FM radio reports, television reports, or a NOAA Weather Radio. These media outlets will notify you when the tornado threat has passed and it is safe to leave your shelter.**

**SIRENS WILL NOT BE SOUNDED AGAIN TO LET YOU KNOW IT IS "ALL CLEAR"**

**Sirens will sound for three (3) minutes. This is your notice to immediately seek shelter. If the sirens sound again it indicates that the tornado warning has been extended, a new warning has been issued, or a tornado has been spotted and verified on the ground near the area.**

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### **Property Fraud Alert is a free service provided by Pottawattamie County Recorder.**

Protect your most valuable investment! According to the FBI, property and mortgage fraud is the fastest-growing white-collar crime. To address this concern, your Land Records office has teamed up to create a notification service to combat the effects of property fraud.

Sign up to be notified if a real estate document with your name on it is recorded in the Pottawattamie County Recorders office.

[Sign up for free online](#) or call the Property Fraud Alert Hotline at 1-800-728-3858.

# INFORMATION AND UPDATES

## ALERT IOWA

ALERT IOWA IS THE STATE OF IOWA'S OFFICIAL EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM. THROUGH ALERT IOWA, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE ABLE TO UTILIZE A SINGLE, STATEWIDE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM. IT IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY AND PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGES . THESE ARE THE DIFFERENT WAYS TO SIGN UP.

## ALERT IOWA WAYS TO SIGN UP

WEBSITE -

[HTTPS://PCEMA-IA.ORG/](https://pceima-ia.org/)

(CAN ACCESS ALERT IOWA AT THE HOME PAGE)

ALERT IOWA (DIRECT)

[HTTPS://PCEMA-IA.ORG/ALERT-IOWA](https://pceima-ia.org/alert-iowa)

CHECK OUT IOWA ROADS BEFORE TRAVELING  
IOWA DOT 511 ROAD INFORMATION  
511IA.GOV

CHECK OUT IOWA'S BE AWARE WEBSITE  
IT COVERS FAMILY PREPAREDNESS, DISASTERS AND  
EMERGENCIES, WARNING SIRENS AND MORE!  
[HTTPS://READY.IOWA.GOV/BE-AWARE/](https://ready.iowa.gov/be-aware/)

## Snow Removal for Streets & Sidewalks

- Per City Ordinance, all vehicles need to be off the streets by 3 AM the morning of the snow.
- Per Chapter 136.03, Snow much be removed from sidewalks promptly. If a property owner doesn't remove the snow within a reasonable time, the city may do so and assess the cost against the property.
- We would like to remind citizens to clear sidewalks as well as moving their vehicles as needed to help with the snow removal process. It is a big process to completely remove the snow from the streets, so please be respectful and let us know if there are any issues or concerns.
- Friendly reminder to all citizens with basketball hoops in the street. When snow flies, please remove the basketball hoops from the street for ease of snow removal.
- We are here to help the city and our citizens and will do our best to fix and issues or concerns. Thank You!

**CITY OF UNDERWOOD, IOWA**  
**FRONT DESK CHANGES IN PAYING ONLINE**  
**EFFECTIVE MARCH 30, 2026**

### **Credit Card Third-Party Payment Processing Fee**

- **Fee:** 4% of the payment amount, or \$3 minimum
- **Who pays it:** The resident making the payment
- **What it means:**
  - If a resident pays a smaller bill (say \$40), they'll pay the \$3 minimum.
  - If they pay a larger bill (say \$200), they'll pay 4% (\$8).

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### **ACH Fees (i.e. eCheck)**

- **Fee:** A flat dollar amount based on the size of the transaction
- **Who pays it:** The resident making the payment
- **What it means:**
  - Payments up to \$500 → **\$3 fee**
  - Payments \$500.01–\$1,000 → **\$4 fee**
  - Payments \$1,000.01–\$5,000 → **\$5 fee**
  - Payments over \$5,000.01 → **\$10 fee**

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If the following list occurs with a resident and their payment, the company will charge the city, who will charge the associated fee back to the specific resident on their sewer and/or garbage bill.

- **ACH Fail Fee: \$25**
  - When an ACH payment cannot be completed (e.g., insufficient funds).
- **Chargeback: \$25**
  - When a resident disputes a transaction with their bank.
- **eCheck Return: \$10**
  - When an electronic check is returned unpaid.
- **eCheck Refund: \$1**
  - When an electronic check payment is refunded.
- **Arbitration: \$15**
  - When a disputed transaction requires arbitration.
- **Retrieval Request: \$25**
  - When documentation of a transaction is requested by a card issuer.



## WASTEWATER UPDATE

Some pictures showing the progress on the wastewater treatment project.  
December 2025-January 2026



Free

Free

Free

Free

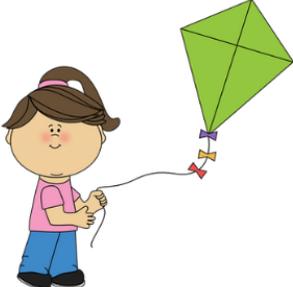
Free

# March 21, Saturday

## 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

### Underwood Middle School

*Rain or Shine!*



### Build & Fly Kites

- **For Kids to Build & Fly with their Families**
- **For Kids of all ages**
- **Free Kites**
- We help kids Build their kite.
- Kids decorate their kite with provided color markers.
- Will Fly outside behind M.S. (weather permitting).  
Take your Kite home.
- Omaha Kite Club will fly their huge kites south of M.S.

Sponsored by: **Underwood Optimist Club**



### Bike Helmet and Fitting

**Ages 1 to 14**

for each kid ages 1 to 14.

#### Free Bike Helmet

- Helmets will be fitted to current safety standards.
- Please don't bring bikes.

#### Bikes Give-a-way:

- 2 bikes given away (1 boys and 1 girls)
- **Drawing at 10:45**
- Kids enter free but must register in M.S. when building a kite or fitted with helmet.



### Easter Egg Hunt

## 11:00 AM

*Weather Permitting*

By **Underwood High School J.O.I. Optimist Club**

Co-Sponsored by:




Sugar Mountain Truck will be there! Vendor charges

Thanks to the Underwood Schools for allowing use of the facilities.

#### Volunteers:

- Underwood Optimist Club
- Underwood High School J.O.I. Optimist Club
- Underwood Middle School J.O.I. Optimist Club

Coordinated by the Underwood Optimist Club



**ANNOUNCEMENT – Put items out Thursday evening**

## **CITY WIDE SPRING CLEAN UP**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026**

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**Items must be to curbside the night before.**

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**Please place items at curb Thursday 4/9 by 9 p.m.**

Please call City Hall at 712-566-2373 if you have appliances or large items by Tuesday, 4/7/2026 at 3:30 p.m. so we can notify MTS.

Checks payable to MTS must be received at City Hall by 4/7/2026 for appliances.

### **Will Take:**

#### **Regular items:**

Furniture, newsprint, aluminum cans, tin cans, etc.

**Appliances:** There will be a \$20 charge per appliance. They do not need to be degassed.

### **Will not Take:**

Glass of any kind, car batteries, tires, batteries, dirt, oil, paint or paint products unless in hard form, large piles of wood (example: from construction or deconstruction), waste, rocks or concrete. No excessive piles please. Only items within city limits will be taken and NO outside garbage.

# Chicken Dinner



## Live Auction

12:00 Live Auction begins  
Scholarship Winners following

## 50/50 Raffle

## Silent Auction

12:45 Silent Auction Closes

Proceeds to help fund college  
scholarships to Underwood  
students.

**Sunday**  
**April 12**

U.M.B.A. Hall  
Underwood, IA

**Dinner Served**

**11:00–1:00 pm**

**Menu includes:**

2 pieces of Fried Chicken  
Cheesy Hashbrowns  
Green Beans – Ice Cream – Drink

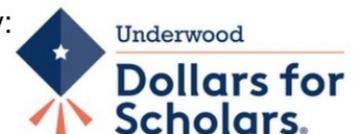
\$15 / Dinner

\$8 / ages 5 – 10

4 & under Free

Take Outs Welcome!

Fundraiser by:



**Donations to:** Underwood Dollars for Scholars, PO Box 113, Underwood, IA 51576.

Or Venmo@UnderwoodDollarsforScholars, note "Chicken Dinner".

**Auction Donations:** contact Sandy Redshaw 712-310-2151

**Volunteers:** contact Heather Davis 402-659-6848

**Questions:** contact Event Chairs Dale or Barb Robertson 402-650-2422

**Indoor and Outdoor Spaces Available**



# Junkwood

**June 13th - Underwood, IA**

[junkwoodiowa@gmail.com](mailto:junkwoodiowa@gmail.com)



## **AVENUE OF FLAGS**

**2026 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW AVAILABLE!**

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**6 HOLIDAYS • \$40 PER YEAR**  
**MEMORIAL DAY • FLAG DAY • JULY 4TH**  
**LABOR DAY • PATRIOT DAY • VETERANS DAY**

**\*CHECK OUT THE CAPTION TO FIND OUT HOW TO SIGN UP!**

# Underwood Avenue of Flags 2026

Dear Underwood Neighbor:

The High School Junior Optimist International (JOI) Club and the Underwood Optimist Club are proud to again offer an annual subscription to celebrate **six national holidays** to line the streets in Underwood with American Flags for **\$40 per year** in front of your home or business. We will place a 3'x5' American Flag on a pole on these national holidays: **Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Patriot Day, and Veteran's Day.** \*Please note, in case of severe weather (snow, ice, violent storms, or heavy rain), for the safety of our volunteers, we may not put out flags. **Subscription service is limited to within the Underwood City limits.** This is will be our 18<sup>th</sup> year!

Club volunteers will generally install the flags the night before and retrieve them after the holiday. We may leave flags up for more than the one day or between holidays. A receptacle that remains will be installed in front of your home or business if you have not previously subscribed. The receptacle will be flush with ground level with a red/colored cap on top so as not to interfere with normal mowing but is visible to us. **If you can help us remove vegetation and debris around the cap it will help us greatly to find them.** We will contact Iowa One-Call, so utilities are not disturbed before placing new receptacles. We need approximately **2 weeks' notice** to get the receptacle placed. **Example: all subscriptions must be received by May 15 for Memorial Day.** Please make sure there are "house numbers" visible.

Please consider buying a subscription to Avenue of Flags. If you would like to have more than one flag (add another subscription) at your home or business, you may do so. You may also want to donate a subscription to someone else's home or business (use a separate form for each address location).

All proceeds support the JOI High School and Underwood Optimist Clubs' activities and projects. In recent years JOI has been able to perform many community service projects, both groups provide graduating seniors with scholarships and allow many of our members to be able to attend International and State Optimist Conventions.

## TWO WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE:

1. Fill out the form below and email it to [jooitomk@aol.com](mailto:jooitomk@aol.com) OR mail it to Underwood JOI Club; PO Box 75; Underwood, IA 51576. **Mail a check for \$40 per flag, made payable to Underwood JOI Club or pay via Venmo@Underwood-Optimists.** Phone code if needed 5723. Venmo transactions MUST include your name, address, email, phone number and a note whether the subscription form has been emailed or mailed.
2. Register Online from the Optimist Club's sports registration page (scroll to the bottom of the Registration Info section): <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1289578> This option does charge an additional online service charge for the subscription.

Any questions, please contact Barb Robertson 402-670-8029 (text or call) or email: [jooitomk@aol.com](mailto:jooitomk@aol.com)  
Or Dale Robertson 402-650-2422 or email: [agidale@aol.com](mailto:agidale@aol.com)

## Thank You for your support!!!



### Please fill out the subscription form below.

The form may also be found on the Underwood City website.  
Retain the top portion for your information if you wish.

Please place a flag at the property listed below. I/we would like to show our patriotism, support our community, Underwood High School JOI Club, and the Underwood Optimist Club by subscribing to the 2026 "Underwood Avenue of Flags".

At flag location:  I am a "NEW" Subscriber or  I am a "PREVIOUS" subscriber

#### Billing Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Flag Location Information, if different than billing:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Flags: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

#### If New:

Do you have an underground sprinkler system within 10 feet of the street, curb or sidewalk?  Yes  No

Do you have an underground invisible pet fence within 10 feet of the street, curb or sidewalk?  Yes  No



## THANKS for supporting the Underwood Can Kennel.

Donate your Iowa 5 cent containers, help the environment, and support the Underwood High School JOI (Junior Optimist Club) youth projects, scholarships, and conferences.

**Location:** On Railroad Highway, across the street west of the Underwood Fire Dept.



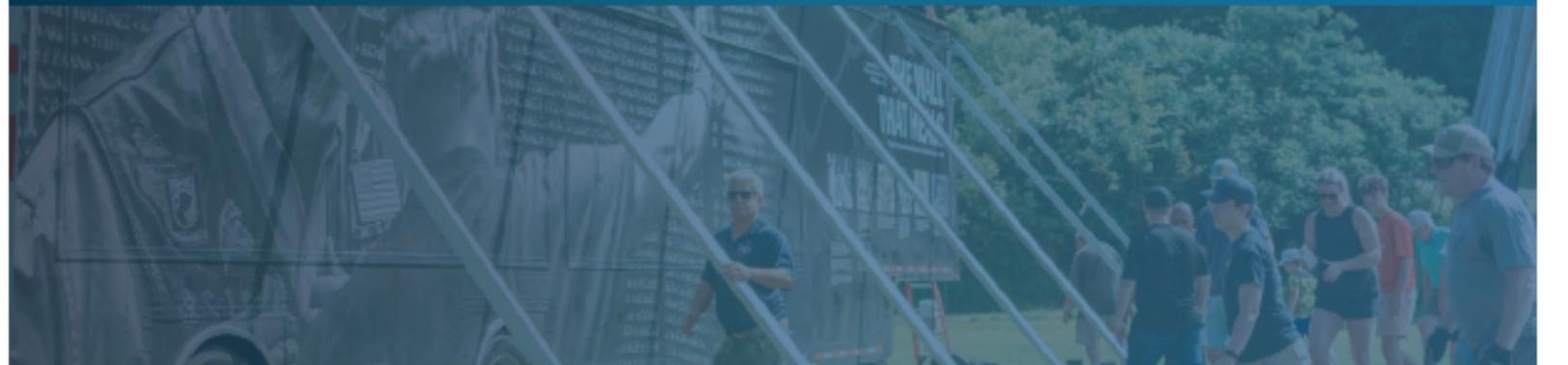
### Notes:

- Iowa's 5 cent bottle deposit law covers all carbonated and alcoholic beverages. 5 cent cans and plastic bottles should be thrown into the kennel in plastic bags. No crushed or flattened containers. 5 cent Glass Bottles: Place behind kennel. Prefer glass bottles returned in original boxes (beer in beer boxes). Other sturdy, stackable boxes may be used. There is no need to sort by vendor. All brands can go together. Absolutely no trash. An empty beverage container shall be dry and free of foreign materials per Iowa code.

JOI Club is sponsored by the Underwood Optimist Club. Barb Robertson is Advisor. Any questions please contact Dale Robertson 402-650-2422.

# Volunteer for The Wall That Heals in Pottawattamie County

Calling for community volunteers over Memorial Day weekend.



The Wall That Heals is a traveling, three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., honoring the more than 58,000 service members who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War. This exhibit brings healing, education, and remembrance to communities across the country.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Pottawattamie County will host The Wall That Heals and welcome visitors from across the region. Community volunteers play a vital role in ensuring a respectful, accessible, and meaningful experience for all. It will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public.

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Welcoming and assisting visitors
- Supporting ceremonies and special events
- Helping maintain a respectful environment
- Assisting with exhibit operations, set-up, or tear-down
- Motorcade escort welcoming The Wall That Heals to our community

## Volunteer Information

- Open to individuals, families, and community groups (no military experience required)
- Veterans and veteran supporters are encouraged to participate
- Shifts available throughout the weekend
- Training will be provided
- Advance registration is required

## Interested in Volunteering for The Wall That Heals?

Scan the QR code to learn more and sign up. Your service helps ensure we can honor Vietnam service members and veterans and create a meaningful Memorial Day experience for our community.





# DOWN-TO-EARTH FIBER BEATS “SPACEY” SATELLITES

## FIBER INTERNET IS YOUR CLEAR WINNER

You may have seen ads for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite internet. While constellations of satellites sound cool, don't get starry-eyed by the claims. LEO's real-world performance is inferior to fiber.

Compared to satellites, fiber internet provides these advantages:

- Much faster download and upload speeds
- Superior reliability and consistency
- Local support from our responsive team

As it turns out, the most out-of-this-world internet comes from fiber's direct connections on earth.

**CALL 712-764-6161 TO LEARN MORE**



**Marne Elk Horn  
COMMUNICATIONS**  
Powered by **Fiber** – Driven by **Community**



**Marne Elk Horn  
COMMUNICATIONS**  
Powered by **Fiber** – Driven by **Community**

## VoIP Review



*We were really excited to learn that Marne Elk Horn Communications was offering a voice over IP (VOIP) phone service. In addition to receiving new features, we save about \$15/mo on our individual phone charges, and there are no long-distance fees. We plan to explore features like being able to dial from our work computers at home. This allows us to place and receive calls as if we were in the museum. We also have the capability to text from our work extensions to members and donors. The cutover went flawlessly, and the MEHC team completed the deployment by noon on the cutover day.*



*We are proud to partner with a local business that prioritizes innovation and cost-effective ways to expand and streamline operations for other organizations.*

*- Henry Olson, Museum of Danish America - Elk Horn*

# Pottawattamie County Recycle Center Trailers



## ACCEPTED

### PLASTIC CONTAINERS

All clear and colored plastic containers. Examples: Milk jugs, soft drink & juice bottles, water bottles, yogurt & butter containers, detergent & bleach bottles.

### NEWSPAPERS, OFFICE PAPER MAGAZINES, CATALOGS

Newspapers (including inserts), phone books, junk mail, magazines, brown grocery bags, catalogs, office & shredded paper.

### CARDBOARD

Corrugated cardboard boxes, remove all contents AND flatten boxes. Cereal boxes, gift boxes, shoe boxes, beer and pop boxes.

## NOT ACCEPTED

PLASTIC BAGS  
OF ANY KIND

Diapers

Tin Cans

Glass

Hard cover books

Milk/juice cartons

Packing Peanuts

Plastic food wraps

Plastic Toys

Plastic Tupperware

Styrofoam

Waxed Cardboard

Flower pots

Furnace Filters

Plastic Tarps

Coat Hangers

Laundry Baskets

Paper products with  
food residue

Garden Hoses

Electronics

(batteries/phones/etc.)

Clothes

Vinyl Siding