



October 8, 2011

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State Fire Marshall

John Ticer, a State Fire Marshall, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on Saturday, October 8. He has worked for the Iowa Department of Public Safety since 1990. In 1999 he was assigned as one of the ten special agents in the state of Iowa.

Fire Marshalls are not fire fighters. They are certified peace officers. Sworn officers do inspections of schools, nursing homes, jails, etc. John worked as an inspector for 6-7 years.

As a special agent, John has been in most counties in the state. His primary responsibility is fire investigations and explosives. He is the only agent currently handling a accelerant canine. His dog, Rocket, a yellow lab, can determine if any gasoline, kerosene, or other fire agents have been used in a fire. Robert is about 9 years old, so he will probably retire in about 3 years.

John said that some fires are drug related and insurance fraud. Nationally, about 25% of fires are intentional.

John started his career in the Air Force for six years. There he was fortunate to work with the President. After that he worked with the Iowa Capitol Police for 18 months.

Besides investigating suspicious fires, John also does training for fire investigators. He mainly just investigates fires where people are injured or killed.

Asked about farm fires, John said that there are a lot of farm fires in the Northern part of the state caused by farm equipment and dry conditions. If the state does not get rain in the next 10 days, there will probably be a statewide fire ban.

Meeting Minutes

Chuck Nielsen and Keith Denton and provided jokes before the Optimist Club meeting on October 8 at the Treynor Recreation Association (TRA). Chuck Nielsen, the new Treynor Club president opened the meeting with the pledge and Dick Baber offered the prayer.

Richard Vorthmann contributed to the Youth Fund because his grandson, who works for Farm Bureau, is touring Germany to talk to Farm Bureau agents there. Dennis White contributed because he didn't ask the TRA until the last minute if the club could meet there. Chuck Nielsen contributed because his grandson in

kindergarten is playing soccer. John Klein, a guest, said his son Hans passed his landscape architecture test.

Thanks to everyone who helped with parking at the football game against St. Albert on Friday. Tuesday will be the last time to take down the flags this year. Wednesday is can kennel sorting for the Optimist Club.

Chad Guttau brought five pumpkins to be auctioned. They were auctioned for \$13 total.

Dick Baber won the 50/50 drawing. Jerry Hempel won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 17 members and two guests at the meeting.

New officers this year are Chuck Nielsen-President, Ken Graham-Vice President, Gary Guttau-Treasurer, and Dale Willenborg-Secretary.

Calendar

- Oct 8 – Flags up for Columbus Day
- Oct 11 – Take flags down, 5:00 p.m.
- Oct 12 – Can Kennel sorting for Treynor Optimist Club, 5:00 p.m.
- Oct 26 – Can Kennel sorting for Treynor Optimist Club, 5:00 p.m.

Birthdays

- Sep 30 – Tim Greiner
- Oct 17 – Marsha Underwood
- Oct 29 – Bill Vorthmann

Anniversaries

- Sep 26 – Bill & Ann Vorthmann
- Oct 6 – Eric & Kelly Allen
- Oct 13 – Dale & Dianne Willenborg
- Oct 17 – Dennis & Kay White

Speakers

- Oct 15 - WIDA Presents "Home Town Competitiveness" Mobilize local Leaders, Energize Entrepreneurs, Retain and Attract Young Families and Capture Wealth Transfer
- Oct 22 - Pottawattamie Historical Society- Two members will bring displays and discuss activities
- Oct 29 - Jeff Danker - Pott. County Sheriff

Programs

- Oct – Gary Funkhouser
- Nov – Arlyn Norris
- Dec – Chuck Nielsen

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Important Fire Prevention stuff to remember:

- * If you must smoke in bed, always wear wet pajamas. Or sleep at the fire station.
- * Though smoking in bed is the #1 cause of fire deaths, very few people have been burned up by chewing tobacco in bed. Though many times their spouses are.
- * Always store oily rags in a cool place in tightly sealed containers. A Tupperware bowl in the refrigerator is great -- unless, of course, someone mistakes them for leftovers and tries to warm them up in the microwave.
- * Never leave matches, lighters, or flame-throwers within the reach of children.
- * Always remember, the #1 cause of fire fatalities is smoking in bed. Except in Texas, where it's eating jalapeno peppers near an open flame.
- * Never leave small children alone in a house where there are matches and a cat with a long tail that resembles a fuse.
- * Obtain a quality smoke detector. The best smoke detector is a reformed smoker with a big nose.