

CITY OF IONE NEWS

January 2008

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A Year in Review – A Look Ahead

The year 2007 was transitional for Ione in many ways. City management transitioned from city administrator to city manager and Kim Kerr was hired in July. The new position of Director of Finance was filled with Mark Smith joining the finance department in August. A permanent Chief of Police, Michael Johnson came on board in late December 2007. These key positions along with the existing staff have begun to establish goals and objectives that will position and move the city forward to better serve the residents of Ione. Here is a look at highlights from 2007 and plans for 2008.

2007 Review

- ARSA agreement signed-increased sewer capacity
- Adopted 2007/08 budget – Qtrly reports to council
- Bid for new fire station out for response
- Bid for storm drain and street repair out for response
- Corrected sewer line in Howard Park
- New City attorney providing broader capabilities
- Improved Jr. High softball fields – girls softball
- Improved Jr. High swimming pool
- Clean up of abandoned car, mobile home at stables
- Goals set for Park & Rec and Planning commissions
- Improvements to City Hall – paint and carpet

2008 Plans

- New fire station completed
- Identify new police station site
- Budget and goal setting process and mid year review
- Review and rewrite zoning codes for consistency
- Begin general plan update process
- EIR for sewer improvement
- Park 'n Ride parking at end of Main Street
- Safe schools route – sidewalk improvement

Ione Police Chief is On-board

Michael Johnson has joined the City of Ione as the new Chief of Police. Before accepting this position, Mike was employed with the City of Eureka where he served in various capacities since 1996. Most recently he was a sergeant, shift/watch commander and K-9 supervisor. For the past six plus years he supervised the activities of police and safety officers, volunteers and support staff.

A bonus for the City is his K-9 companion Hawke, who has been with Mike for a year and a half, Hawke, is a fully trained black Labrador retriever, certified in narcotic detection and will prove to be a welcome addition to the force.

Mike recently graduated from the FBI National Academy. He has earned certificates in both Peace Officer Standards and Supervisor Training as well as an Advanced Officer certificate. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Humboldt State University.

When announcing his appointment, city manager Kim Kerr stated, "Mike has a solid management background and is a strong leader. He will prove to be an excellent asset to the City as it faces future challenges that include growth and organizational changes." Mike is initially employed under a five year contract.

New Computers & Software for Ione Elementary School

Through a local grant, Ione Elementary was able to replace classroom computers that are 5 to 10 years old---considered "ancient" in the world of electronics. They purchased 20 new computers with the grant funding. The only problem was, they needed an additional \$1061 to purchase Windows XP, the operating system software. The Castle Oaks Women's Group generously donated the full amount needed for the software. This group is a social organization that raises funds through an annual craft's faire and monthly luncheon raffles. A check was presented to principal, Tony Wight in December.

Ione Rotary Annual Crab Feed

Mark your calendar for February 2nd for the annual Crab Feed sponsored by the Ione Rotary. This gastronomical, all you can eat event is a sell out each year. The no-host bar opens at 6:00 PM and dinner is served at 7:00 PM. Cost is \$30 per person. A raffle and silent auction are planned. The proceeds from the dinner will be used to fund and support community projects. Tickets are available at Stahl's Farmers Insurance on Buena Vista Street in Ione or call 274-0233.



Citizen Alert

The City of Ione and surrounding areas have recently experienced numerous thefts of catalytic converters, which are part of a vehicle's exhaust system. To date, the vehicles have typically been Toyota pickups, model years mid-80's to 2000. A recent search of the Internet revealed this to be a statewide trend. Stockton has experienced almost 700 of these thefts in 2007. Thieves receive cash by selling to recyclers who specialize in extracting precious metals from inside the parts. Residents are strongly encouraged to garage their vehicles or park in a well-lighted, secure area. It is also suggested having the bolts securing the converter spot-welded to help deter theft. Please immediately report any suspicious activities to the Ione Police Department by calling the Amador County dispatch at 223-6513. Suspicious activity would include people loitering near parked vehicles or on foot with tools during the evening hours.

IBCA January Mixer at the Ranch

Rancho Arroyo Seco will host the first IBCA mixer in 2008 on January 17th at the ranch house located at 3740 Hwy 104 next to the Big Red Barn. The event will begin at 5:30 PM. with great food, good drinks and good company. The public is invited and encouraged to attend and meet local business owners and members of the community. Artifacts from Jackson Camp will be on display at the ranch house

Fire Safety Tips from Chief Mackey

If you use space heaters to keep your home warm...

- ✓ Leave a minimum of 36" of clear air space on all sides of the heater.
- ✓ Keep heaters clean and in good working condition.
- ✓ If you use fuel, use proper type, store fuel outside.
- ✓ Use only equipment that is tested and approved by an independent laboratory.
- ✓ Never use portable electric heaters in the bathroom or touch them when you are wet.
- ✓ Be sure wiring is adequate for electric heaters. Do not overload circuits or rely on extension cords.
- ✓ Do not store or dry objects on or near heaters, open flames on cooking stoves or near a fireplace

New Mayor and Vice Mayor Selected

At the December 18th City Council meeting, the council voted Andrea Bonham for mayor and Lee Ard for vice mayor. They will serve in these roles through 2008. Other council members are Jerry Sherman, Jim Ulm and Jeff Barnhart.

ACRA Recreation Programs

After School – 6th, 7th, 8th graders 2:00-5:30 PM, Ione Jr.High Meet at the field. Parental permission required.

Open Gym – Friday's 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Ione Jr. High School

Bus to Kirkwood - \$10 person (all ages).
Reservations required. Call 223-2877

Note: Karate has been cancelled

City Meetings – January

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 21 for Martin King Jr's Birthday

Planning Commission

Jan 8 5:30 PM City Hall

City Council

Jan 7 Special Meeting 6:00 PM City Hall

Jan 15 6:00 PM City Hall

Parks & Recreation – Note time change

Jan 22 6:00 PM City Hall

Organization Meetings

Preston Castle Foundation

1st Wed - 6:30 PM – Across from Brown Academy-Palm Ave

Ione Homecoming Picnic Association

1st Wed – 6:30 PM – VFW Hall

Grange & Jr. Grange Meetings & Potluck

2nd Thurs – 6:00 PM – VFW Hall

IBCA Board Meeting

3rd Thursday – 8:30 AM – Castle Oaks Golf Club

IBCA Mixer – Rancho Arroyo Seco Ranch House

3rd Thursday – 5:30 PM

Rotary Club Meeting

Thursdays – 12:00 Noon – Twisted Fork Restaurant

Eastern Star Meeting – 274-2340

3rd Thursday – 7:30 PM – Ione Masonic Hall

Rainbow Assembly – 274-0354

2nd and 4th Tuesday – 7:00 PM – Ione Masonic Hall

Castle Oaks Women's Club Luncheon

3rd Mon - 11:30 AM check in - Castle Oaks Golf Club

Reservations – Call 274-6225 or 274-2786

Veterans of Foreign War Meeting – VFW Hall

2nd Friday – Family dinner 6:00 PM – Meeting 7:00 PM

Weight Watchers Meeting - Ione

Mondays – 6:00 PM Weigh-in – Methodist Church

Methodist Church Soup Supper – 274-2852

4th Wednesday each month – 5-7 PM – Methodist Church

Upcoming Events

Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 12 – 2:30-6:30 PM – Evalynn Bishop

Preston Castle Tours

Tours are cancelled until Spring 2008

E-Waste Collection – Note Reduced Hours

1st Saturday Dec-Mar – 10–12 noon - Preston Castle

Important Numbers

City Hall	209-274-2412
Emergency	911
Non-emergency	209-223-6513 (Sheriff's dispatch)
City Web Site	www.ione-ca.com

City of Ione NEWS

City of Ione NEWS is published monthly. Input forms are available at City Hall or email Sharon Long at ionecitynews@ione-ca.com. The deadline for input is the 20th of each month.

Happy New Year!