



CITY OF OKOBOJI

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Mission Statement: "Improve and Protect our Community"

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BUR OAK BLIGHT

The following is a portion of an article from the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach service. This article was published 02/09/11. Since the City of Okoboji has received several complaints from residents concerning the condition of oak trees in the area, we thought it would be appropriate to share what we have learned.

"It's beginning to look like Bur Oak Blight is a long-time resident of Iowa, and is here to stay. Bur Oak Blight has been recognized in Iowa for only the last 6 to 7 years, but the fungus that causes it has probably been here much longer." The article went on to identify the fungus *Tubakia dryina* as the initial culprit, but upon closer examination, the cause has been found to be a new species of *Tubakia*. The report outlined how the disease spreads and the longevity of the disease as well. A long-time tree specialist in the area has told city staff not all oaks are bothered by this disease because not all oak trees are of the bur oak species, and other information may need to be collected to defend this opinion. The total ISU Extension report is currently available online at:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2011/2-9/buroakblight.html>

OPEN BURNING THIS FALL

The City of Okoboji currently has new restrictions about open burning on your property. The following was approved and adopted as Ordinance No. 220. **"4. Landscape Waste. The disposal by open burning of landscape waste originating on the premises. For purposes of this section, "originating" means grown upon the premises where the burning occurs. However, burning of landscape waste produced in clearing, grubbing, and construction operations shall be limited to areas located at least one-fourth mile from any building inhabited by other than the landlord or tenant conducting the burning. Rubber tires shall not be used to ignite landscape waste. Burning shall only be permitted after sunrise and one-half hour after sunset. Moreover, a person 18 years or older must attend the fire at such time, provided, however, an attendant under age 18 may be permitted so long as said attendant is supervised by an individual 18 years or older. Provided further, any adequate fire suppression material, whether water or otherwise, shall be on site during any open burning."**

There is currently no burning ban imposed by Dickinson County officials. Please take care not to infringe upon the rights of your neighbors when burning. Do not leave piles of burning leaves unattended, and do not burn on very windy days. **Burning on City property is not allowed**, and any resident doing so on city property will be subject to a citation and possible fine. If you do not wish to burn this fall, the City currently picks up landscape waste every Wednesday so long as weather permits. Please listen to KUOO or KICD for cancellation notices due to inclement weather.

The City of Okoboji is asking each and every one of you that does open burn to police yourselves in a safe manner when doing so, and to observe the new restrictions as listed above to avoid a citation and fine.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

As we all know, winter can arrive early in the Iowa Great Lakes area. Ice on the roadways can become a severe problem in this part of the state as temperatures can vary widely. The City does not have a specific snow removal policy, but this office makes the call as to when the crew begins snow removal. The question often arises as to why the City crew doesn't start plowing immediately after it is done snowing. In answer to that, if a storm ends late in the evening, it is better from a safety standpoint for the crew to begin early the next morning rather than late in the evening. When the crew has already worked all day, a rest is needed before beginning to plow again. If the crew is forced to plow late at night, fatigue may set in and could cause problems operating the heavy equipment. In the event of an emergency, someone will always be available. If you need to get out and drive in stormy conditions, please exercise appropriate caution. If all residents of Okoboji would please bear with us when such conditions arise, your City streets will be cleaned in a timely fashion.

MAILBOXES

A reminder to all those using rural mailboxes: City employees try to be extremely careful during snow removal operations not to strike the boxes with the snowplow. Frequently though, as the snow is pushed off the roadway, the pressure of the snow will break a mailbox or the mounting post. The City Council has taken the position that the shoulder right-of-way is for snow removal purposes, and the City is not responsible for any damage to your mailbox. Although the City does not object to residents having rural mailboxes installed in the right-of-way, property owners do so at their own risk.

To avoid having mailboxes destroyed, it would be helpful if City residents having rural delivery would attach some sort of marker indicating your mailbox location in the event it gets covered with snow. If you are gone for the winter season and no longer receive rural delivery during that period of time, it would be helpful if you would simply remove your mailbox.

SNOW REMOVAL AT FIRE HYDRANTS

Over the years there always seems to be the problem of fire hydrants becoming buried in piles of snow during the winter season. During normal snow removal operations performed by the city crew, hydrants do become buried. When this occurs, the city crew must go out several times during the winter to uncover them. This is essential so that in the event of a fire, the fire department is able to locate a hydrant in the least possible amount of time. It is one thing when the city plows cover the hydrants, but it is another when a resident's snow removal service does it. The city knows this is not done purposely, but there have been instances of upwards of a 6 to 10 foot pile of snow covering a hydrant. The city is asking that you contact your snow removal service and advise them to please take care and not cover a hydrant at your location. The time it would take the fire department to locate a fire hydrant could mean the time it would take to save your home in the event of a severe fire. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this matter.

CITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- ** Okoboji City Offices will be closed Monday, November 11th, in observance of Veterans Day.
- ** City Offices will be closed November 28th & 29th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- ** City Offices will be closed December 24th & 25th in observance of the Christmas holiday, and December 31st and January 1st in observance of the New Year's holiday.
- ** Garbage and Recycling collection will be on Mondays as usual.

Your Okoboji City employees would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy holiday season.

These newsletters are furnished to all taxpayers and citizens of Okoboji, hoping they will enhance efforts to keep all informed as to local government issues and to encourage participation. If you have a suggested topic for further newsletters, advise your Mayor or Councilmembers, or you may call or write directly to City Hall.