



## CITY OF OKOBOJI

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*Mission Statement: "Improve and Protect our Community"*

### QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 1, 2015

#### NEWEST ISO RATING HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED

The City of Okoboji is pleased to announce that ISO (Insurance Services Office) has released its new rating for the City of Okoboji. A Public Protection Classification of **05/5X** has been assigned to the City. The City of Okoboji wishes to thank Mr. Mike Miller, Superintendent of the Central Water System and Fire chief Chris Yungbluth for their cooperation during the recent Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey. If you would like to know more about our community's PPC classification or if you would like to learn more about the potential effect of proposed changes to your fire suppression delivery system, please call ISO at 1-800-444-4554.

ISO's Public Protection Classification Program plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. In fact, most U.S. insurers, including the largest ones, use PPC information as part of their decision making when deciding what business to write, coverages to offer or prices to charge for personal or commercial property insurance.

PPC is important to communities and fire departments as well. Communities whose PPC improves may get lower insurance prices. PPC also provides fire departments with a valuable benchmark, and is used by many departments as a valuable tool when planning, budgeting and justifying fire protection improvements.

ISO appreciated the high level of cooperation extended by local officials during the entire PPC survey process. The community baseline information gathered by ISO is an essential foundation upon which determination of the relative level of fire protection is made using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule.

#### ALLIANT ENERGY NEWS

Whether it's a thermostat or light bulbs, you will probably need to make an energy-related purchase this year. And when you do, remember that you can save money – sometimes big money – by taking advantage of energy-efficiency rebates from Alliant Energy.

Alliant Energy rebates include Wi-Fi programmable thermostats, annual system maintenance for central air conditioners, ductless "mini-split" heat pumps, whole-house fans and much more.

You can find all the rebates online at [alliantenergy.com/rebates](http://alliantenergy.com/rebates) or by calling 1-866-ALLIANT (866-255-4268).

Some rebates, like those for lights, happen right at the store. When you purchase a LED or CFL bulb with the Be Bright logo on it, you're saving money with an instant rebate. The price is already discounted, thanks to Alliant Energy, and there's no paperwork to fill out.

Until you do make that next purchase, consider these tips to use less energy from your current appliances:

- Don't make your A/C unit run all day when you're not home. It's most efficient to set your cooling temperature around 82 degrees when you're away at work and 78 degrees when sleeping.
- Shut the blinds and draperies on your south and west facing windows. This will reduce how much the sun heats up the inside of your home.
- Turn your ceiling fans off when you leave the room. Ceiling fans cool people, not air.

#### OPEN BURNING THIS FALL

The City of Okoboji has 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 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 of you that burns landscape waste to police yourselves in a safe manner when doing so, and to observe the 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 Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Veterans Day.
- \*\* City Offices will be closed November 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- \*\* City Offices will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Christmas holiday, and December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> 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 future newsletters, contact your Mayor or Councilmembers, or you may call or write directly to City Hall.