



**CITY OF OKOBOJI**

**P.O. BOX 377**

**OKOBOJI, IA 51355**

**PHONE: (712) 332-2550**

**FAX: (712) 332-7040**

**E-MAIL: [okobojich@mchsi.com](mailto:okobojich@mchsi.com)**

**WEBSITE: [www.okobojicity.com](http://www.okobojicity.com)**

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

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

**April 1, 2016**

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT**

Would you like to be involved in the City of Okoboji government? We will keep a list of residents who are interested in serving on the various Boards and Committees of the City. To be considered the next time an opening occurs, please go to the city website at [www.okobojicity.com](http://www.okobojicity.com) to fill out the form and send to the City Hall or feel free to stop in as we have forms on hand.

**DOs and DON'Ts: MANAGING ZEBRA MUSSELS AND AQUATIC PLANTS**

Last fall - despite best efforts to prevent their spread - the invasive zebra mussel made its presence in the Iowa Great Lakes known. Hundreds if not thousands of adult shells could be seen crusted along dock posts and boat hoists removed from the lakes for winter storage. According to experts, they are here to stay - at least for now - as to date there is no known solution to stop their spread once reproducing populations are established.

Zebra mussels can cause problems for lakeshore residents and recreationists by attaching to boat motors and increasing the cost of treating drinking water.

Ironically, zebra mussels also have benefits. As filter feeders, they remove algae and increase water clarity. In turn, improved water clarity will increase aquatic plant growth. This is good for fish who hide and lay eggs in plants, and who feed off of the smaller fish and invertebrates that also find food and shelter in underwater plants. Aquatic plants are also good for water quality by keeping bottom sediments stable, preventing turbidity. On the other hand, increased aquatic plant growth can interfere with boating, creating new management challenges.

**DOs and DON'TS**

The Iowa DNR and local drinking water utilities join together to remind the public that application of aquatic pesticides to control zebra mussels or aquatic plants by homeowners in our lakes is unsafe and illegal. Application of such chemicals is only allowed in special circumstances and they cannot be applied by the public. A strict permitting process is in place to protect human and environmental health. In addition, application of restricted use pesticides can only be performed by licensed applicators. Mechanical removal of cutting of aquatic plants by private landowners, however, is allowed under Iowa Administrative Code (IAC 571 Chapter 54) but must be restricted to a 15 foot width. For more information, please contact Michael Hawkins, Iowa DNR, at 712-336-1840.

**ALLIANT ENERGY NEWS**

Alliant Energy rebates include Wi-Fi programmable thermostats, tune ups for central air conditioners 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 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. You can learn more at [iowabebright.com](http://iowabebright.com) and find a participating retailer near you.

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

1. Don't make you're 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.
2. 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.
3. Turn your ceiling fans off when you leave the room. Ceiling fans cool people, not air.

**CLEAN-UP DAY AND LANDSCAPE WASTE**

The annual Clean-Up Day conducted by the City of Okoboji will be **June 6th** this year, **one day only**. The Clean-Up Day is designed to pick up items not normally picked up for regular garbage collection, and is for

**residential only.** Please limit the weight of items you wish to have picked up, and **have your items at the curb before the designated day.** Be sure all planks/boards are cut not to exceed 6 (six) ft. in length for disposal. **Batteries, paint, insecticide cans, and other hazardous waste will not be picked up. The City will NOT collect the following special items for free on Clean-Up Day: white goods (appliances), brown goods (electronics), televisions, furniture (stuffed items), car tires, truck and tractor tires.** Tags must be purchased for the collection of those items. (Reminder: Residents may use this tag system all year round to dispose of these types of unwanted items – not just on Clean-Up Day.)

The City began collecting landscape waste on Wednesday, March 16th. Please use clear bags if possible, but we will collect landscape waste provided it is bagged, boxed, or canned. Limit the size of branches to two (2) inches in diameter, not longer than four (4) feet in length, and seventy-five (75) pounds in weight. In the event the landscape waste site becomes too muddy or wet due to poor weather, the City will announce on the local radio stations landscape waste will not be collected that day.

### **GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

**\*\*\* Mark Your Calendar - Week of May 23rd - Twice/Week Garbage Collection Begins \*\*\***

Starting the week of **May 23rd** through the Monday after Labor Day, Garbage Collection Service will be twice weekly, on Monday and Thursday. Recycling Collection Service continues once/week on Monday.

**Memorial Day Holiday:** Garbage and Recycling Collections will be one day later during that week only; on Tuesday and Friday for Garbage collection, and Tuesday for Recycling collection.

For more information, please contact Waste Management, Toll Free at 1-800-833-9596.

### **HOUSE NUMBERING:**

#### **WOULD THE AMBULANCE CREW BE ABLE TO FIND YOU??**

This is a reminder that your home or business must be numbered. **Our Fire Chief has requested that you make sure your number is displayed AND visible to passing traffic.** Our fire and rescue personnel have had difficulty finding certain locations because of no house numbers or numbers that are hard to see. The time spent trying to locate your house number could be a matter of life and death in an emergency situation. Please contact City Hall if you are not certain of your house or business number. Our City Ordinance states: The owner shall place or cause to be installed and maintained on the principal building the assigned number in a conspicuous place to the street in figures not less than two and one-half (2 ½) inches in height and of a **contrasting color** with their background. If your home or business is located so it is not visible from the roadway, then a number must be placed on a post as near to the road as possible for easy identification. For those of you who know your home or business is not numbered, please do so at your earliest convenience. Chapter 150 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Okoboji that each owner of a principal building shall have a building or house number placed on it. It is also stated that failure to comply could result in the city placing the assigned number on the principle building and assess the costs against the property for collection in the same manner as a property tax. The City realizes that from time to time this issue is accidentally forgotten about, especially when a building remodel or new construction takes place. **Please review your property to ensure you are properly numbered.** If you have any questions please contact City Hall.

### **RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV) PARKING**

Chapter XI Section 11.17 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Okoboji specifically states that recreational vehicles shall not be permitted to be parked or stored within front or side yards in residentially zoned districts. Recreational vehicles are only permitted in an inconspicuous location in the rear yard and are not allowed to be lived in while parked. If you have any question please contact City Hall.

### **DOGS AND CATS RUNNING AT LARGE**

Just a reminder to all citizens of Okoboji: It is illegal to allow an animal to run at large. This problem seems to surface particularly during the summer months. Chapter 55 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Okoboji states it is unlawful for any owner to allow an animal to run at large within the corporate limits of the City. The Code also states that in the event any animal is found running at large and not under restraint, it shall be presumed that the owner or harbinger of said animal has permitted said animal to run at large and consented thereto and the burden of proof shall be upon said owner or harbinger to prove otherwise. It is also unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow or permit such animal to pass upon the premises of another thereby causing damage to, or interference with, the premises. The Code further states it is unlawful for the owner of a dog to allow or permit such dog to cause serious annoyance or disturbance to any person or persons by frequent and habitual howling, yelping, barking, or otherwise; or, by running after or chasing persons, bicycles, automobiles or other vehicles

### **DOG WASTE RECEPTACLES**

The City currently has dog waste receptacles at locations throughout town. Receptacles are located at Speier Park, each end of the Dixon Beach walkway, the corner of Lake Shore Drive and County Home Road, the corner of Julia Street and Lake Shore Drive, the south Echo Bay dock owners' access, and the north City limits at the last stop sign location in town. The receptacles will provide a plastic bag for you to use as well as the bin where you can place the waste. The City of Okoboji has always encouraged those who walk their dogs

within the City limits to pick up after them. Please make use of these receptacles, as this service is being provided at no charge. **Anyone walking their pet is reminded to please pick after your pet no matter wherever you may be as this could become a trespass matter on private property.**

### **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

City offices will be closed Monday, May 30, 2016, in observance of Memorial Day.

City offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2015, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

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, please advise your Mayor or Councilmembers, or you may call or write directly to the City Hall.

Dennis J. Daly, CMC  
City Clerk/Administrator