



# CITY OF OKOBOJI

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

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 1, 2016

### LAKESHORE LANDSCAPE MORATORIUM

The City of Okoboji created a Moratorium on Lakeshore Landscape Permits up to six months beginning August 9, 2016. This was approved in order to study possible additional regulatory controls with an exception through a conditional use permit. If you would like to attend any Planning and Zoning meetings to offer your input to this process please visit our website at [www.okobojicity.com](http://www.okobojicity.com) for meeting dates. Previous minutes are also posted on the website.

### ORDINANCE/PERMIT REMINDER

We ask residents to become familiar with the City of Okoboji's Ordinances and Permit processes before starting a project. If you hire contractors and/or landscapers it is the residents' responsibility to be in compliance and educate yourself on the regulations set forth. All zoning regulations are listed on the cities website at [www.okobojicity.com](http://www.okobojicity.com) for your reference. Once your permit is granted please keep in mind that you cannot deviate from the plan that was submitted to the city. If you would like to make changes to the original permit you need to apply for those changes, otherwise, you are in violation.

### LAKES AREA DOG PARK

The Lakes Area Dog Park has raised the \$35,000.00 necessary to build the first phase of the park. The first phase includes the roadway entrance, driveway, 6' tall commercial grade fence, waste receptacles, benches and cement pad for the entry gate. Right now they are in the process of building the park.

They will use money they are raising for the second phase to enhance the park. Enhancements include watering stations for canines and humans alike. They will also use the money for a covered entrance, shade trees, walking paths, a message board and work to smooth rough patches of ground.

A third phase will follow to make the dog park landscaping nicer and worthy of the citizens and guests of The Iowa Great Lakes.

All donations are appreciated. They can be mailed to PO Box 456, Okoboji, IA 51355.

Donations can be made through our web site at [www.lakesareadogpark.com](http://www.lakesareadogpark.com). The Lakes Area Dog Park is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

### BUR OAK BLIGHT IN THE IOWA GREAT LAKES

Many of you have noticed browning leaves on area oak trees appearing in late summer. This is likely a symptom of Bur Oak Blight (BOB), a fungal pathogen that lives in the leaf stem. Symptoms are especially prevalent in years with long, wet springs. Researchers from Iowa State University urge homeowners not to panic, and caution that research is still underway to determine the best method for treating BOB. The first step is proper diagnosis by ISU Plant Pathology and Microbiology Department. For sample instructions visit <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/pidc/>. Only the most severely affected trees may warrant treatment, and treatment in spring after full leaf expansion appears to be the best time. *Treatment after symptoms appear will not help.* For more information visit <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~tcharrin/BOB.html>.

### WINTER HOURS FOR RECYCLING FACILITY

Winter hours (November – March) have been established for the Recycling Center located at 2260 220<sup>th</sup> Street (A34), Milford, Iowa. Those hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 AM – 4 PM. The phone number for the location is 712-338-2549. Appointments must still be scheduled for the disposal of household hazardous waste. The website address is [www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com](http://www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com)

### 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."

**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. **City of Okoboji Ordinance 69.10 states "No person shall park, abandon or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street, alley, or City-owned off-street parking area during snow removal operations unless the snow has been removed or plowed from said street, alley or parking area and the snow has ceased to fall."** (Code of Iowa, 321.236[1]). **Those in violation are subject to ticketing, fine and/or towing.**

### **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 Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Veterans Day.
- \*\* City Offices will be closed November 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- \*\* City Offices will be closed December 23<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Christmas holiday, and December 30<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of the New Year's holiday.
- \*\* Garbage and Recycling collection will be on Mondays as usual, if the holiday falls on the Monday it will be picked up the following day.

*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.