



## CITY OF OKOBOJI

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

### QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 1, 2017

#### **NEW CITY CLERK / ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

On December 12, 2016 the City's newest employee, Jason Peters, started his duties as the City Clerk / Zoning Administrator for the City of Okoboji. Jason recently completed internships with the City of Maple Grove and the City of Wayzata as Management / Planning Intern. When you have a chance please stop in to introduce yourself and welcome Jason to the city.

#### **LAKESHORE LANDSCAPING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS**

The Planning and Zoning Committee has worked tirelessly on the creation of a new Section 11.22 Lakeshore Landscaping and Development Regulations to be added to the City's Zoning Ordinance Book. We appreciate the feedback from community members and area professionals that helped create this text amendment. If you would like to review this text amendment it is available on our website at [www.okobojicity.com](http://www.okobojicity.com) for your reference.

#### **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.

#### **CITY WEBSITE INFORMATION**

We have added a new feature on our website page. If you are interested in announcements via text or email from City Hall please go to our website and click on the Dickinson Alert link to sign up for this service.

#### **SNOW REMOVAL**

The Okoboji City crew takes pride in providing safe streets to travel upon during the winter. In the event of a snowstorm, the City crew will make every effort to clean the streets in a timely fashion. If a storm diminishes during the evening hours, you can expect the plows to be out as early as possible to have the streets open so you may have safe travel to work in the morning. In the event of a daytime storm, the plows will be out as weather allows; but in any event, every effort will be made to make travel as safe as possible.

During normal snow removal operations, you may find your driveway entrance has been blocked with snow from the snowplows. If you could wait until the crew is finished with snow removal, you should only have to clean your entrance once. In the event the City crew goes out and widens the street at a later time to accommodate more snow removal in the future, the snow will be removed from your entrance. Please do not confuse this with normal snow removal operations.

*The City crew asks that everyone please give them some room when operating the trucks for snow removal, as this can be very difficult when working with traffic.*

**Please keep parked cars off city streets during and after snow storms. Parked cars are an obstacle to clearing the street well, and also pose a hazard that plows must maneuver around. Your street will be plowed more thoroughly if there are fewer cars parked on the street.**

**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.**

#### **NEW YARD WASTE REGULATIONS**

The City of Okoboji would like to become more environmentally friendly when it comes to yard waste pickup. Therefore, starting this spring yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and brush must be placed in 30-gallon paper bags for curbside pickup. These bags must not exceed a total weight of 40 pounds per bag. Residents can obtain these 30-gallon brown paper yard waste bags from local retailers such as Bomgaars, Ace Hardware, Wal-Mart, Fareway and HyVee. Yard waste put into plastic bags will not be picked up.

***As always, the Mayor, City Council, City Hall Staff, Police Department, and Maintenance Employees would like to wish you all a safe and prosperous New Year!***

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