



## **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**

**January 1, 2015**

#### **CITY WEBSITE INFORMATION**

As many of you are aware, the new city website is up and running. During the course of implementing the new website, the Mayor and City Council wanted it to look more vibrant and up-to-date, plus offer more information. In the past few months, the City has added information in the Government section of the website regarding issued construction permits, zoning fees, application for construction permits, the zoning map, and approved zoning ordinance amendments for your convenience. These come along with the zoning ordinance and the index to the Code of Ordinances already in place. These are all done with your interests in mind. If you have any other suggestions for items to possibly be added to the website, please contact your City Councilmember, Mayor, or City Hall, and we will see what can be done.

#### **WATERSHED PROTECTION IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District recently added Jim Sholly as the Watershed Coordinator for the Iowa Great Lakes. A native of Spencer, Jim has been working to enhance and protect natural resource assets in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa for the past 12 years. Partnering with the many stakeholders within the watershed, he will work with both rural and urban communities to improve water quality and reduce sediment and excess nutrients reaching our lakes. Jim is excited to be back in northwest Iowa and working to protect those natural resources that he and so many others enjoy and depend on every day. No matter where you live within the watershed, we all contribute one way or another towards its protection or the decline in water quality through our actions. With a wide range of water quality improvement practices offered through this project for both rural and urban areas, improvements can be made in almost any setting.

One of the greatest benefits to our lakes is improving shoreline stabilization by pairing native vegetation plantings and bio-engineering to secure banks from erosion. Propelled by the recently completed low impact development (LID) practices designed to protect Center Lake, the next step in the multifaceted plan for that system is to secure and enhance a large portion of the shoreline along the Northwest corner of Center Lake. This area will serve as demonstration of practices individual lakeshore homeowners can explore and mimic to do their part and help protect our lakes. The only option for capturing this kind of pollution is to prevent it from ever moving in the first place.

In the last 10 years, over 150 LID practices have been installed on private and municipal properties within the Iowa Great Lakes region alone! These practices function to capture rain water and the pollutants picked up during those events. Some areas are designed to capture entire parking lots while many others work to treat an individual's home and property. The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District office can offer technical guidance and cost share information on a wide spectrum of practices for individuals, businesses, and agricultural producers alike.

No practice or change in behavior is too small to improve water quality in our lakes. For more information on what you can do to help or cost-share opportunities available, please contact Jim at (712) 336-3782, Extension 3, or at [jim.sholly@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:jim.sholly@ia.nacdnet.net).

## **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.**

## **E-MAILING AGENDAS AND MINUTES**

If you would like to receive City Council agendas and meeting minutes via e-mail as well as other city updates, please send an e-mail to [okobojich@mchsi.com](mailto:okobojich@mchsi.com), and we will add you to the list to receive these.

## **WINTER HOURS FOR RECYCLING FACILITY**

Winter hours have been set for the Recycling Center located at 2260 220<sup>th</sup> Street (A34), Milford, Iowa. Those hours will be Monday, Wednesday, & 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.dickinsonrecycling.com](http://www.dickinsonrecycling.com). These hours will remain in effect until further notice.

## **AUTOMATIC BANK PAYMENT**

The City of Okoboji offers automatic bank payments for your quarterly water bills. This service will save you time, money, and hassle -- your payments will be made automatically from your checking or savings account. You will save time writing and mailing checks plus the cost of stamps and checks. Your payment will be made on time every quarter. You never have to worry about forgetting a payment or incurring additional charges for late payment. Automatic payments are extremely accurate. If you have more than one City water account, you can sign up for all of them on one form. Please contact City Hall if you have any questions about this service, or to request an ACH Debit Authorization form.

***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 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.

Dennis J. Daly  
City Clerk/Administrator