



THE OKOBOJI QUARTERLY

July 2019

“With the summer months upon us, the City enjoys this season and welcomes back to the area many Okoboji residents and those who are visiting our beautiful community. We are all so fortunate to be able to share this region together and know that the City strives each and every day to continually improve and promote our community. Enjoy your summer to the fullest and make memories that will last a lifetime. Please know that while you are in town, City Hall is always open to your questions, comments, concerns, or thoughts. We are here to serve you and our door will always be open.” - Michael Meyers, City Administrator - Contact Michael at 712.332.2550 or by email at michael.meyers@okobojicity.com

Non-Conforming Structures

It was not until 1972 that the City of Okoboji had any formal zoning ordinance in place to help control development and govern uses of land within the municipal jurisdiction. Largely due to the age of many of the City’s properties, when zoning was first initiated it created many legally non-conforming structures. “Non-conforming” simply means that the existing structure does not comply with the City’s current zoning law. These structures exist legally as they pre-date zoning; however, they are not allowed to be expanded upon and would not be allowed to be rebuilt should they be removed. These structures are especially prevalent on the lakeshore side of many lakeshore properties. This includes, but is not limited to, boat houses, lakeshore decks, lakeside patios, and much more. If you have one of these structures and are planning *ANY* work on them it is imperative that you contact the City at your earliest convenience to ensure what you are doing is appropriate. Failure to notify or work with the City could result in municipal infractions and/or complete removal of your non-conforming structure. If you have any questions whatsoever, a member of City Staff will happily meet you at your property to discuss.



Share the Road

After community input and in an effort to raise awareness of the multiple uses of Lakeshore Drive, the City Council authorized the installation of seven signs to help alert motorists of pedestrians and cyclists. The City asks that motorists remain alert to others utilizing the City streets. The City also requests that residents park as few vehicles as possible on the City streets to avoid congestion and create additional blind spots.

City Projects

In the State of Iowa, local governments have a fiscal year that runs from July 1 - June 30. In March of 2019, the City Council adopted a budget that helps outline the City’s goals for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020). Contained within that budget are several projects which the City hopes to accomplish in that time frame. Some of the projects that will impact you & your enjoyment of Okoboji include — Replacement of the basketball court in Speier Park with new basketball hoops — Regrading & adding storm water tile in Speier Park to correct the low lying areas that hold water — Resurfacing of Carriage Lane — Rip-Rap project on Dixon Beach — Redevelopment of City owned park on Highway 71 adjacent to East Lake Okoboji. The City has several other projects identified on a newly developed Capital Improvement Plan to help guide major capital expenditures into the future.



Mayor:
Mary VanderWoude

Council:
Julie Andres
Jim Delperdang
Jim Hentges
Walter Mendenhall
Jerry Robinson

City Administrator:
Michael Meyers

Deputy City Clerk:
Jill Verdoorn

Public Works:
Neal Houge
Tim Jensen
Jim Rohwer

Police Chief:
Jason Petersen

Officers:
Scott Colt
Brent Sexton
Mitch Watters
Kevin Olson

City of Okoboji
1322 Highway 71 N
PO Box 377
Okoboji, IA 51360
712.332.2550

Fireworks

As a reminder, Chapter 41.12 prohibits the use of fireworks within the City of Okoboji.

Please note that the discharge of fireworks off of docks is the jurisdiction of the State of Iowa and the Department of Natural Resources. You must contact DNR law enforcement in an effort to have the appropriate permitting to do so.

Garbage and Recycling Collection

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, residential garbage is picked up on Mondays and Thursdays. Recycling is picked up on Monday only. Please have your garbage and recycling curbside by 7:00am on collection days.

If you have questions relating to garbage or recycling collection, please call Waste Management at 888-960-0008

Decks, Patios, and Steps

Section 11.4 of the City of Okoboji Zoning Ordinance states that decks, patios, and walkways may be permitted in all zoning districts, however, shall conform to required setbacks and shall not encroach or project into any yard setback. Please remember this when considering future projects.

Recreational Vehicles

Recreational Vehicles, campers, and the like are not permitted in the City of Okoboji unless at a designated campground or as defined in the following. Section 11.17 of the City's Zoning Ordinance reads:

1. RVs are permitted within designated campgrounds, RV parks, and other typical recreational areas including the lakes.
2. RVs shall not be permitted to be parked or stored within the front or side yards. In residential zoning districts, RVs are only permitted in an inconspicuous location in the rear yard.

Do I Need a Building Permit?

Chances are yes! Any expansion of your structure needs a building permit to be issued by the City of Okoboji. In addition to these more obvious situations, the City also requires permits for the following... patios, decks, fences, walkways, etc. When in doubt, please ask!

Rental of Residential Property

As per the City of Okoboji Zoning Ordinance, the renting of residential property such as a room, a group of rooms, or an entire residence for sleeping, living, and housekeeping activities by the same person or same group of persons on a permanent or semi-permanent basis is prohibited except for the intended tenure of 30 days or more. — This is applicable to all residential zoning districts in the City of Okoboji.

Imagine Iowa Great Lakes

There is quite a bit of activity happening at the Iowa Great Lakes thanks to the Imagine group. Find more information at www.imagineigl.com.

Upcoming City Council Meetings:



- ⇒ Tuesday, July 9, 6:00 PM
- ⇒ Tuesday, August 13, 6:00 PM
- ⇒ Tuesday, September 10, 6:00 PM

Rain Gardens

The City has been in communication with a horticulturist to provide additional input on the plantings within the City's rain gardens. The City desires to find a mixture of plantings that will allow for proper maintenance, beauty, and ensure functionality of the rain garden.

2018 Consumer Confidence Report of Water Quality

The Consumer Confidence Report of Water Quality for the City of Okoboji, Iowa will be mailed to you with your July water bill. A copy is also posted at the Okoboji City Hall and at the Okoboji Post Office, and posted on the City's website.

www.okobojicity.com

City Council agendas, minutes, and public hearing notices are posted on the City's website under the "GOVERNMENT" tab.

If you would like to be on a mailing list to receive notifications from the City, please contact City Hall.