



THE OKOBOJI QUARTERLY

April 2022

IOWA DOT HIGHWAY 71 PROJECT - The Iowa Department of Transportation plans to replace pavement and sidewalk along the Highway 71 corridor between East View Avenue in Okoboji and Okoboji Grove Road in Arnolds Park. The proposed project is anticipated to take place during Fall 2022, Spring 2023, and Fall 2023. Depending on weather, it is possible that this project could go into Spring 2024.

In December 2021, the Okoboji City Council met with representatives of the Iowa DOT in special session to discuss the construction throughout the City of Okoboji specifically. As a result of this meeting, a small group of city representatives, business owners, and other stakeholders was formed to continue conversations with the Iowa DOT. As part of these discussions, it was determined that within the City of Okoboji there would always be an opportunity for two-way traffic throughout construction. This could include, but is not limited to, local route detours, temporary signals, or flaggers. This will help ensure adequate access in and out of Okoboji for the duration of the project creating as minor of an inconvenience as possible with a project of this magnitude.

Of perhaps the most significance is work to be completed on the Highway 71 bridge and roadway between Lake Shore Drive in the City of Okoboji and Ackley Street in the City of Arnolds Park. At this time, it is planned that the bridge will be under construction for approximately four weeks of Fall of 2022. During this construction period, emergency services will be available to cross the bridge, but it will be closed to traffic for this time period.

In addition to the work being done as part of the Iowa DOT project, the City of Okoboji will also be doing some upgrades to the corridor. The most noticeable upgrade will be the additions of decorative pavers and irrigated green space. The pavers will be located on the corners of intersections as well as other locations where pavers provide better functionality than sod. Finally, there will be significant paver presence within the medians at Highway 71 and Stake Out Road.

Second, the signal poles located at the Lake Shore Drive, Sanborn Avenue, and Stake Out Road intersections will be replaced with all new poles and equipment to replace currently aging poles at each intersection. Along with the replacement of the poles will come some slight changes to the way that these signals operate. The City will be introduced to the 'flashing yellow arrow' concept at certain locations. The flashing yellow arrow concept is prevalent in larger communities and is a standard adopted by the Federal Highway Administration to improve safety.

Last, the City of Okoboji and the City of Arnolds Park have worked together to have the majority of both cities' signals connected by fiber to communicate with each other. This communication will allow for a more efficient flow of traffic throughout the corridor.

While this is not a City of Okoboji project, the City will do our best to keep residents informed and educated on the project via these newsletters as well as on our website as needed. The City thanks the Iowa DOT for their cooperative spirit during the planning process.

COUNCIL CHATTER - At the March City Council meeting, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2023 budget for the City of Okoboji. This budget included a tax levy of \$4.75 per \$1,000 of valuation which will be the fifth consecutive year of a level tax levy. The budget also includes several budget items and projects including significant investment into potential Speier Park upgrades.

Also in March the Council passed on the first reading an ordinance to allow for ATV operation 24-hours a day within the City limits. Presently, the ordinance states that ATVs may not be operated past sunset. The second reading of this ordinance will be in April. This **DOES NOT** include golf carts. Golf carts are governed under an entirely separate chapter of the City's Municipal Code. Watch for the April City Council meeting for an update on this policy.



Mayor:
Mary VanderWoude

Council:
Julie Andres
Jim Delperdang
Jim Hentges
Walter Mendenhall
Dan Sanders

City Administrator:
Michael Meyers

Deputy City Clerk:
Jill Verdoorn

Public Works:
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Tim Jensen
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Police Chief:
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Officers:
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Josh Zigrang

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2022 Walleye Weekend
May 7 - 8
More information at
www.okobojichamber.com/walleye-weekend

Register today!

LAKE SHORE DRIVE / COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE / SPEIER PARK PARKING LOT - As soon as the weather allows, the contractor will resume work on Lake Shore Drive. Those north of Nature Center Road will have the existing Lake Shore Drive milled out and it will be followed by an overlay mirroring what was done in the Fall of 2022 south of Nature Center Road. Residents should have access to their properties the entire time with the potential exception of the day asphalt is laid directly in front of their home. The substantial completion date for this project is before Memorial Day.

The contractor will also be milling and overlaying the parking lot in Speier Park. This will likely happen later on in the project and closer to the completion date.

Lastly, after the City addressed some concerns pertaining to the work done on Country Club Drive. This portion of the project will be redone to ensure an acceptable finish.

The City thanks you for your cooperation during this significant road project. As was the same last fall, the City will update our website as needed to provide updates and locations on the work being done. To find these updates, visit our website and click on the project link in the top left corner of the home page.

HAYWARDS BAY SANITARY PROJECT - The ongoing sanitary project in Haywards Bay will get started again in the first week of April with a completion date of May 2, 2022. The detour around this project will go back into place to accommodate the roadway and curb replacement. The Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District and their engineer, Bolten Menk, will be updating their project website for the spring start up and will be communicating with affected residents directly.

More information can be found here: <https://clients.boltonmenk.com/2021lakeshoredrive/>

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY - Are you interested in being on a mailing list to receive important communication from the City of Okoboji? Visit our website, hover over 'Government,' select 'Mailing List' and fill out the form provided.

Please know that City Hall is open Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm, and City Staff is always present and willing to assist. If you would like to reach out to the City Administrator directly, please email michael.meyers@okobojicity.com. If you would like to reach out to the Council directly, please email council@okobojicity.com.

INTERESTED IN SETTING UP YOUR WATER ACCOUNT ON AUTO PAY? - Call City Hall and we are more than happy to assist in this easy and efficient process.

SPEIER PARK UPDATES - As soon as weather allows, the City will be constructing a large concrete pad to the adjacent northwest corner of the pickleball courts. Over the pad will be a shelter with picnic tables to provide for a gathering space and relief from the summer sun. The City thanks the private donations which will entirely cover the costs of this project.

The City will also be installing decorative lighting on the southern perimeter of the parking lot. These lights were originally on the Highway 71 bridge prior to redesign and will be repurposed within Speier Park to add some evening light along with aesthetic improvements.

As of the time of this newsletter, the pickleball and tennis nets have been installed. The City generally waits several more weeks prior to the installation of wind screens to allow for winter weather to fully pass to avoid damage to the windscreens and fencing.

DUMPING BEHIND THE CITY'S PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY: Please note that the City has been experiencing a substantial increase in dumping behind the City's Public Works facility. Dumping of appliances, furniture, hazardous material, and the like is prohibited. Additionally, the dumpster at this location is not for public use. This spring the City will be installing a gate on the west side of this facility to help alleviate this.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY - The date for Spring Clean Up Day has not yet been set, however, it is generally the first Monday in June (This year, that date is June 6, 2022). As soon as the Clean Up Day date is set, the City will communicate with this date on our website as well as through local media.

CITY STAFF - Congrats to the following staff members who have celebrated their "Workiversaries" this past quarter: City Administrator Michael Meyers (4 years), Police Officer Brent Sexton (6 years), and Police Officer Scott Colt (4 years). The City of Okoboji appreciates all that you do for our community on a year-round basis.

ZONING PERMITS - Please remember most construction and lakeshore landscaping activities require a permit from the City of Okoboji. If you are planning any such project this year, please contact Michael Meyers at City Hall to go over necessary regulations and permitted procedure. This process is efficient and will ensure compliance with the City of Okoboji's zoning regulations.

YARD WASTE - The City of Okoboji will resume yard waste pick up in the coming weeks. Please check our website for a specific date. Yard waste will be picked up each Wednesday during the growing season (as weather permits). Yard waste clippings such as grass, leaves, and brush may be placed in 30-gallon paper bags or yard waste containers not to exceed 40 pounds. Branches may be bundled -- limit the size of branches to two inches in diameter, not longer than four feet in length and 75 pounds in weight.

2022 COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Please note: City Council meetings have returned to City Hall (1322 Highway 71 N, Okoboji, Iowa 51355) Residents are encouraged to check the agenda prior to the meeting to determine the meeting location. All Council meetings are held at 6:00pm. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to City Staff directly.

| Jan. 11 | Feb. 8 | Mar. 8 | Apr. 12 | May 10 | June 14 | July 12 | Aug. 9 | Sept. 13 | Oct. 11 | Nov. 8 | Dec. 13 |

To reach out directly to the Council, email council@okobojicity.com