



## **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, 2014**

#### **NEW COUNCILMEMBERS**

Please welcome Julie Andres and Walter Mendenhall as the newly elected Councilmembers for the City of Okoboji. Julie and Walter will officially begin their duties on January 2, 2014, and bring with them a wealth of experience as businesspersons and interested citizens for the City of Okoboji. The terms for both will be four years. Also, please welcome incumbents Mary VanderWoude as Mayor and Jerry Robinson for Council. Mary brings 8 years of experience as Mayor, and Jerry brings 8 years of experience as well. Both are very valued city officials.

Our outgoing Councilmembers are Neal Christensen and Steve Dulin. Neal brought with him many years of fact-finding, negotiating, and goal achievement experience, and will be missed. Steve Dulin came onboard as an appointed Councilmember in May 2013 due to the passing of Susan Larsen. Steve also brought with him many years of experience as a former Mayor, fire fighter, and businessman. The City of Okoboji wishes to thank Neal and Steve for their years of service to the citizens of Okoboji. If you happen to meet the newly elected, re-elected, or outgoing city officials, please thank them for the many years served or upcoming years of 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.*

#### **WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE**

The new water treatment plant project is now fully complete and operating as designed. The upgrades are state of the art and will bring a water quality that everyone has come to enjoy. Capacity issues were addressed within the new design and should not be a problem in the future. If you would like to take a tour of the plant, please call Superintendent Mike Miller (712-332-5000), and he will gladly set up a time for you.

## **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.

## **STORM DRAINAGE PROJECTS**

You may have noticed there has been some construction taking place along Lake Shore Drive in the areas of Echo Bay and Omaha Beach. The construction consisted of putting in new drainage pipes, intakes, and rain gardens in four locations. The City identified those as problem areas for erosion into West Lake Okoboji, and took the initiative to go forth with the projects. They are now substantially complete, except for final touch-up this coming spring for plantings. The City of Okoboji would like to take this opportunity to thank the associations and individuals alike for granting easements to the City so these projects could take place.

## **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 Thursdays & Fridays 9 AM – 4 PM and Saturdays 9 AM – 1 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. With the automatic payment system, 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.

## **HOUSE NUMBERING: WOULD THE AMBULANCE CREW BE ABLE TO FIND YOU??**

This is a reminder that your home or business must be numbered. ***Our Fire Chief has requested that you make sure your number is displayed AND visible to passing traffic.*** Our fire and rescue personnel have had difficulty finding certain locations because of no house numbers or numbers that are hard to see. The time spent trying to locate your house number could be a matter of life and death in an emergency situation. Please contact City Hall if you are not certain of your house or business number. Our City Ordinance states: The owner shall place or cause to be installed and maintained on the principal building the assigned number in a conspicuous place to the street in figures not less than two and one-half (2 ½) inches in height and of a **contrasting color** with their background. If your home or business is located so it is not visible from the roadway, then a number must be placed on a post as near to the road as possible for easy identification. If an owner refuses to number a building as mentioned, or fails to do so for a period of thirty (30) days after being notified in writing by the City, the City may proceed to place the assigned number on the principal building and assess the cost against the property for collection in the same manner as property taxes. ***For those of you who know your home or business is not numbered, please do so at your earliest convenience.***

***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