



City of Arnolds Park Newsletter

Fall 2007



Winter Weather

Fall has arrived, and winter is just around the corner. At this time we would like to remind you of a few things:

- Keep your sidewalks free of snow and ice—this is the responsibility of the property owner
- During snow removal, do not park, abandon, or leave unattended vehicles on any public street, alley, or City-owned off-street parking area unless the snow has been removed or plowed from said street, alley, or parking area and the snow has ceased to fall
- Drive carefully

Iowa One Call

Iowa law requires that any person, homeowner, professional, public or private entity, planning to engage in any form of excavation within the state of Iowa, must notify the Iowa One Call notification system, **at 1-800-292-8989 or 811, at least 48 hours prior to excavating.**

The Iowa One Call notification system is a free call and a free service to all persons planning an excavation within the state of Iowa. The required 48 hours advance notice does not include Saturdays and Sundays or legal holidays.

Iowa One Call will notify the owners/operators of underground facilities who participate in Iowa One Call. The various underground facility operators will dispatch "locate" personnel to the area to mark the underground facility locations with flags and paint markings, showing where underground facilities are located so the excavator can avoid damaging the facilities.

Iowa law applies to professional contractors as well as homeowners, and encompasses a wide array of outdoor projects including:

- ♣ Installing a fence
- ♣ Planting trees or shrubs
- ♣ Building a patio, addition, deck, garage, outdoor shed or any similar structure that requires any form of digging
- ♣ Putting in a new driveway
- ♣ Installing a septic system or water drainage system
- ♣ Terracing or landscaping

Iowa One Call is committed to maintaining and operating a notification system efficient in relaying information and safeguarding underground facilities essential to all Iowans.

Fire Department

The Arnolds Park/Okoboji Fire and Rescue is taking another step to help protect the citizens that it covers. The department has started a program called Knox-Box. This program is similar to what a realtor would use when selling a home. The Knox-Box is installed on the outside of your residence or business and the fire and police departments are the only ones with keys to this box. This allows the Fire and Police fast and secure emergency access to your business or residence.

There are several reasons why you should consider purchasing a Knox-Box for your residence or business. 1) It eliminates needless, costly forced entry damage that may not be covered by your insurance deductible. 2) It assures immediate building entry by firefighters without delay or waiting for building keys. 3) It protects inventory, equipment, and supplies from unnecessary water damage caused by delayed sprinkler shut-off. 4) You save time and aggravation by not having to drive to your building at 2:00 a.m. for a false alarm. 5) You feel secure about emergency coverage when your building is left unattended. 6) You can maintain building security after fire alarm investigation by simply re-locking the undamaged door.

Protect your property from thousands of dollars in damage with this one-time, low-cost investment. This is the highest lock-box security available with attack resistant, UL tested reliability. Over the last 30 years, Knox-Box has been the chosen solution in more than 9,000 nationwide communities just like yours.

If you would like more information or would like to purchase a Knox-Box, please contact the Arnolds Park/Okoboji Fire Department at (712) 332-5260 or send an email to apofire@hotmail.com. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Police Department

School is once again in session. Drive safely and keep an eye out for children and play equipment that may get too close to the roadways.

Winter will soon be here. Please have an emergency travel kit in each vehicle. Drive carefully and listen to weather forecasts. If you must travel during inclement weather, please allow extra time to get to your destination.

All vehicles must be off City streets following a snowfall of 2 inches or more for snow removal. If they are not removed, they will be ticketed and/or towed.

We would like to take this time to remind all pet owners that they must have their pets, especially dogs, contained on their property at all times. When walking animals, they must be on a leash. **All animals must be in a secure location away from electric, gas, and water**

meters. This will assure your meters are read properly.

You can reach the Arnolds Park Police at 332-2227 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday. After hours, please call the Communication Center at 336-2525; and for an emergency, call 911.



Checkout the Library

The library subscribes to many newspapers, so you don't have to! You can stop in and read here. Several people come everyday just to read newspapers. The subscriptions we get are: The Wall Street Journal, The Des Moines Register, The Sioux City Journal, The Dickinson County News, The Spencer Reporter, and the N'West Iowa Review out of Sheldon. The N'West is well known for its great sports photos (even of our local teams) and news that pertains to our area of the state.

The library now has a beautiful large display case made by a local craftsman: Rick Fettig of Five Star Millwork in Arnolds Park. Exhibits will run for a month each. So if you have a collection of something to display, let us know. Presently, Bev Heemstra is displaying amazing lighthouses she makes.

Every third Wednesday morning of the month, the library sponsors a morning book discussion. We have so much fun. If you would like to join in, stop and get a copy of our latest book and then come for cookies and coffee – the next one is on November 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Our board puts in lots of volunteer hours to supervise the library. If you see them, tell them thanks for all they do (and you can give them suggestions for the library while you are at it). Barb Woodley, Dee Brooks, Susan Robinson, Joyce Burgeson, and Diana Jensen comprise our five-member board.

The library is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays; on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to Noon.

The library's internet access is wireless. It can be used by anyone with a laptop. There are also three public computers that are online.

Projects

Sawmill Bridge: We are continuing to work on the bridge design. The engineers, Calhoun and Burns, will be taking core samples to see what lies beneath, and will be applying for permits to allow for construction. In talking with the engineers, the design should be done in July 2008 and ready to bid for a fall and winter construction to be completed in the spring of 2009.

Dam Road – Helms Drive: The street project is finally underway. Godbersen-Smith Construction got the bid, and construction has begun. Although the contractors were of opinion that all three phases of the project would be done this fall, I would still guess that concrete on Phase III will not be applied until spring. Hopefully the fall weather will continue to be mild.

Traffic Signals - 202nd and Highway 71: Work is completed on the intersection. The traffic signal portion of the project was bid and KWS Electric has the bid; work on the signals will begin in the spring, and will be complete in May of 2008.

Little League Concessions Stand: Plans and specifications are complete on a new concession stand for the Baseball Diamond. The Park Board took bids on the project in the summer/fall of 2006. Cost of the concession stand had been estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$125,000; but the bids came in at \$185,000. The plans have been reworked, and the project has come in under \$100,000. The decision has to be made now as to whether the City should proceed with the project.

Zoning Ordinance Update: The City has adopted the City's Comprehensive Plan. Now the City Council has contracted with the Northwest Iowa Planning Commission to update the City Zoning Ordinance. This is the next step in the planning process. This should be accomplished this fall and winter by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Water Treatment Plant

The Central Water System, owned by the Cities of Arnolds Park and Okoboji, will be

looking at the expansion of the existing water plant. This will become necessary because of the new requirements from the E.P.A. as they relate to water quality, and the growth being experienced by the two communities.

The plant upgrade will probably not be necessary in the immediate future; however, the future needs of the utility are being studied at the present time, as are methods for payment of the capital improvement costs.



Garbage Collection

From now until Memorial Day, residential garbage will only be picked up once a week with that day being Monday. Garbage is collected on all holidays, except **Christmas**. Garbage collection begins at **7:00 a.m.** in residential areas.

All garbage must be in City Bags and set at the curb. City Garbage Bags may be purchased at City Hall, Casey's, and Great Spirits Wine and Liquor in Arnolds Park, Buy Rite Foods in Milford, and HyVee in Spirit Lake.

There are proper disposal methods for yard waste and it should never be placed or blown on street right of ways, public roads, or neighboring lots.

Yard waste is collected on Tuesdays. The yard waste must be in city bags, tied shut, and at the curbside by 7:00 a.m. on collection days. If you choose instead to burn, remember that any yard waste you burn on your

property, must originate on your property. ***Yard waste cannot be burned on City property.***

Curbside Recycling

Recycling is collected curbside on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month. Please clean recyclables before placing them in the recycling containers. Make sure all recycling is in the recycling containers and not stacked beside them.

A community recycling facility is located next to the water tower.

Utility Billing

It is the responsibility of the landlord to contact City Hall whenever a tenant moves in or out. The account will remain in the landlord's name until City Hall has been contacted and a deposit has been paid by the tenant.

In order to receive the discount on your water, sewer, and garbage bill, payment must be received in our office or the Book Drop/Utility Bill Drop Box in front of City Hall by 5 p.m. on the day that **they are due. Bills are due on the 20th of the month.**

The City has the ability to directly deduct the utility bills from checking accounts at any bank. You would still receive a bill at your home stating paid by bank. Contact the City hall if you would like to make this change to your account.