



# City of Arnolds Park Newsletter

## Fall 2008



### 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

### Arnolds Park/Okoboji Fire and Rescue

Fire prevention week was held October 5-11, 2008 and this year's theme was Prevent Home Fires. This theme is appropriate especially for Iowa this year. The State Fire Marshall's office and the Arnolds Park/Okoboji Fire and Rescue are concerned by the high number of fire related fatalities in the state.

As of October 1, 2008 the state has recorded 35 total fire deaths for 2008, the number at the same time last year was only 20, and this year's pace has even surpassed last year's total fire deaths of 30. The state fire

marshal's office is so concerned that it is forming a task force to determine what can be done to prevent these fire related deaths and this article is part of the Arnolds Park/Okoboji Fire and Rescue's efforts to step up education in our district to hopefully prevent a tragedy from occurring in our area.

If you have not looked over the materials your children brought home with them from school after a fire prevention program, take the time to do so tonight. It could be your life, or your children's lives, that may be saved.

If I can tell you the two most important steps to saving your own life in a fire I would have a hard time picking just two. However, if forced, the top two are:

1. Have and maintain smoke detectors in your home. If you don't have early warning in a fire; you more than likely, won't survive that fire.
2. Have a plan like EDITH (Exit Drills in the Home) to escape from your home if your smoke detector does sound.



I will finish with a few more important safety tips and wishes that you and your families have a very safe and happy holiday.

### Fire Safety Tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food.
- Keep space heaters 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside and provide a deep, sturdy ashtray.
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Inspect electrical cords and replace or repair loose or damaged cords.
- Extinguish candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Prepare and practice a home fire escape plan.
- Install smoke alarms
- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- If you must escape through smoke, get low and go to the nearest exit and proceed to your meeting area as soon as possible.

For more information on these principles, contact City Hall and request that the fire department send you fire safety materials. As always if you need our services in an emergency dial 911. If you have any questions contact us at 712-332-5260 or by e-mail at [apofire@hotmail.com](mailto:apofire@hotmail.com).

Thank for you attention.  
Chris Yungbluth, Fire Chief  
Arnolds Park/Okoboji Fire and Rescue.

## Dickinson County Recycling Center

For a small fee the Dickinson County Recycling Center accepts electronic waste (i.e. TVs, CPUs, VCRs, stereos), tires, white goods (i.e. stoves, refrigerators, dryers, freezers), and yard waste.

The recycling center has available, free of charge, wood chips and compost. Call to check on availability.

Household Hazardous Materials are also accepted by appointment only and upon completion of a self-inventory sheet.

The recycling center is located on County Road A34 ½ mile of the east of Highway 71 in Milford. If you have any questions or to arrange an appointment to drop off hazardous materials, please call (712) 338-2549.

## 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.

## Library

Thanks to a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the State Library of Iowa has been able to provide nearly 300 libraries with their own web sites and stable and consistent E-mail services.

Late last winter customization of the Arnolds Park Library's website began. Please take some time to visit the website and see what we have to offer. The address for our website is [www.arnoldspark.lib.ia.us](http://www.arnoldspark.lib.ia.us). Our new email address is [info@arnoldspark.lib.ia.us](mailto:info@arnoldspark.lib.ia.us).

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.

## Community Room

The City of Arnolds Park provides a Community Room for residents and guests to use and enjoy. Approximately 100 people can be seated in the full Community Room. The Community Room may also be divided in half for use by smaller groups. A full kitchen is available. Please contact City

Hall for availability and fees. The Arnolds Park Community Building is a smoke-free and alcohol-free facility.

## 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.

The City is currently working with Town and Country Garbage Services to provide the elderly, handicapped, etc. citizens of Arnolds Park with an alternate garbage pick-up service this winter. If you are physically unable to get your garbage to the curb this winter, please contact City Hall to make arrangements to have your garbage collected at your front step.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## Projects

**Sawmill Bridge:** The bridge is in the final design phase. The bid date, however, is now anticipated to be in the spring of '09, with construction beginning after Labor Day '09. A good amount of this delay is being caused by the desire to have construction on the bridge to be in the off-season.

**Dam Road – Helms Drive:** This project has been completed, with a few items on the punch list for the contractor to take care of prior to final approval. This is one of those projects that the City knew would take a long time, and it's nice to have it behind us.

**Comprehensive Plan/Zoning Ordinance:** The Planning Commission is working through the final draft of an updated Zoning Ordinance. This process should be finished within the next month or so, and be ready to submit to the City Council.

**Maintenance Building:** The City has purchased a 5-acre tract of land located east of Pelican

Ridge, from the Light of the Lakes (Friends) Church, as the location for the City's new maintenance building. Bids have been let, and A&S Construction is the low bidder. Dirt work has begun, and utilities are being run to the site. The completion date for the project should be prior to August 1, 2009.

**Trails:** Trails along Rohr Street from Henderson Woods east to 240<sup>th</sup> Ave. and along Linden Dr. from Hinshaw Bridge to 240<sup>th</sup> Ave. have been bid. Cedar Valley Construction is the low bidder. Construction has begun, with completion prior to June 15, 2009 being anticipated.

**Water Plant Upgrade:** The Cities of Arnolds Park and Okoboji are co-owners in the Central Water System. A major upgrade in the water plant is anticipated over the next two or three years, necessitated by Changing Standards from the Iowa DNR for water treatment, as well as the need for increased capacities to meet the growth of the communities. The plant that is presently being used was designed to take care of the Cities' needs for 20 – 25 years and was built in 1978. Central Water has contracted with McClure Engineering Co. of Fort Dodge, IA to do a study concerning some new technology that has come into existence. If this technology is approved by DNR, they will be looking at designing the upgrades to the plant over the next year or so.

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Carports, Boat Hoist Covers, Etc.

Carports, canvas enclosures, Boat Hoist Covers, etc. are considered buildings by the City's zoning ordinance, and require a building permit. Two items to note are: a detached building cannot be placed or constructed in a front yard, and an accessory building needs to be constructed of a permanent material, and should be color coordinated with the principal building. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall.

## Emergency Number

If you have a water or sewer emergency on weekends or holidays, please call the Dickinson County Communications Center at (712) 336-2525.