



Alburnett Winter Newsletter 2011

SNOW:

Winter is fast approaching and there are many issues to remember concerning snow. Be sure to drive and walk carefully. If you don't have to be out during a storm, please stay in and be safe.

It is the responsibility of the abutting owner to remove snow, ice, and accumulations from sidewalks within twenty-four (24) hours after accumulation. If property owner does not remove snow, ice, and accumulation within twenty-four hours, the City may do so at the owner's liability and assess the cost against the property owner for collection in the same manner as property tax.

Remove all vehicles from the street parking areas during a winter storm. The snow plow is much more effective when they can pass through the streets easily and straight along the side of the road. Vehicles can not be parked on a street for more than 48 hours. Vehicles can not be parked on the west side of a north-south street or on the south side of an east-west street.

The snow plow deposits the snow along side of the road. This means that you will have snow placed in the area of your driveway, mailbox and sidewalk. The City may make multiple passes to keep the street area clear. This may require you to clean these areas more than once for each storm. There is no way to avoid this snow placement.

ATTENTION SNOWMOBILERS!

You don't always get many opportunities to use your sled, but please remember a few simple guidelines. Ride on a designated trail when possible. If you must ride in the street, be sure the street has a snow cover and use the most direct route to and from your destination. Do not ride over other people's private property. This isn't your property and you do not have a right to be there. Do not ride over sidewalks.

Thank you for your help with these snow issues. Just think, there are only 80 days until the first day of spring!



BUILDING PERMITS:

With the adoption of the International Building Code 2006 Edition the only two items *exempt* from a permit are fences less than 3' high and one-story detached structures with floor area not to exceed 120 square feet. Whenever any work has commenced without first obtaining the permit, an investigation fee in addition to the permit fee shall be collected. The investigation fee shall be equal to the amount of the permit fee.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Planning & zoning

These two City boards are looking for additional members. The City is in need of two more persons for the Board of Adjustments and one more person for the Planning and Zoning. These boards only meet when needed. Please consider serving your community. Contact City Hall at 842-2692, if you are interested.

Recodification

What is it you ask? It is the updating of the City Ordinances. The City Council, by State of Iowa Code, is required to review all City codes every five years or maintain it on a regular basis. In recodification, redundant, outdated and erroneous laws are struck from the books so that we have a clear grouping of laws which do not contradict each other. The City of Alburnett City Council is currently updating the City Code this year. A public hearing will be held early in 2012 about any major changes to the City Code.

COMMUNITY TREE

A big *Thank You* goes out to Kenny & Shirley Andrews and Wickiup Hill Tree Farm for the donation of the 18' Blue Spruce located by the Fire Station. Our goal is to have activities planned around the tree lighting next year.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

The Alburnett Fire Department would be happy to talk to anyone interested in becoming a member of the volunteer fire department serving Alburnett and Otter Creek Township. Volunteering as a firefighter does not come without its benefits. They protect and rescue people, save their property, and in some cases their lives. Please contact the Fire Department or come to a department meeting. The meetings are held the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Alburnett Fire Station.

WATER METERS

The City would like to thank everyone for their cooperation with the installation of the new radio read water meters. The new meters will greatly reduce the labor needed to read the meters every month.

2012 CENTENNIAL

Anyone with an Alburnett connection can be a part of the Town Directory. If you are not available to have your picture taken by Olan Mills, you can send a photo to the The Centennial Group. There is no cost in submitting a photo and you will receive a free copy of the directory. Photographs will be taken at Rockwoods's Store. To schedule an appointment for a photo or if you have any questions contact The Centennial Group at kms226@fmtcs.com.

The Centennial Group is also selling wooden coins for \$5.00 each, the buyer will get a years worth of savings and fun. How does it work? At least once a month a sponsor will offer a "Centennial Special" for anyone that is carrying their Alburnett Centennial coin. The coins will also be numbered allowing the Centennial Group to hold a raffle though out the year.

SEWER LINING PROJECT

We have completed Phase I of our sewer lining project. Municipal Pipe lined 4971 LF of 8" pipe and 867 LF of 10" pipe and the results have shown a remarkable improvement in the amount of infiltration. In April 2011 the City pumped 1,283,000 gallons of water from our wells; the lift station pumped 3,333,700 gallons of water. A difference of 2,050,700 ! In November 2011 the city pumped 1,297,000 gallons of water from the wells; the lift station pumped 1,751,600 gallons. A difference of 454,600 gallons. Phase II of the lining project will begin in February. With phase II we will line 2447 LF of 8" pipe. Reducing the amount of infiltration means we will not have to draw down the lagoons before our 180 day regulation by the DNR.