



March/April 2011

#### New Equipment

- The City has purchased a 4720 John Deere tractor with proceeds from an insurance claim on the International tractor. The smaller, more maneuverable machine is similar to what other municipalities use. The loader, blade, mower and snow blower attachments should make the tractor more versatile.
- Two years ago the City purchased a John Deere 320 Skid Steer for jobs around town. We have decided that a larger skid steer would fit our needs better, so we have upgraded to a John Deere 326D Skid Steer. The bucket and fork attachments are interchangeable with the tractor for even more versatility.
- The dump truck with snow blade is a 1985. Repairs to the truck have increased greatly and replacements parts are extremely hard to find. During the last heavy snow storm the truck was inoperable and the town had to hire its' snow removal done. The City has purchased a new Ford 550 dump truck with blade and sander using our Local Option Sales and Service Tax monies.

#### Projects

- The Alburnett water tower was built in 1991 and the exterior is showing some rust. To maintain our investment we are painting the exterior and interior of the tower this summer.
- Many of the sewer lines in town have been televised and found to have cracks which allow ground water infiltration. During periods of high rainfall the lagoons exceed their capacity and force us to bypass. This can cause problems with DNR. This summer we will begin lining the sewer lines with a plastic sleeve to reduce groundwater infiltration.
- The City has launched a website, [www.alburnettia.org](http://www.alburnettia.org), which gives general information about the city, ordinances, minutes of the council meetings and upcoming events in the community.

#### Business

- The City has recently refinanced its general obligation bonds at a lower interest rate which will be a cost saver. The purchase of new bonds at a low interest rate will be financing the water tower painting and the sewer lining.
- On Tuesday May 3, 2011, Linn County will have a vote on extending the current Local Option Sales and Service Tax (LOSST). If the vote passes in Linn County and Alburnett, Alburnett will receive a portion of the taxes collected in the county. If the vote is not passed in Alburnett, the funds will be divided between those municipalities who passed the vote. Alburnett will use 50% of the LOSST funds for Property Tax Relief and 50% for infrastructure improvements.

## City Maintenance

- We have FREE screened mulch at the city shop for anyone who wants some and it is excellent for gardens.
- The compost pile is for leaves, grass, and tree branches NOT rocks, oil, furniture, flower pots, plastic bags, cans or garbage. If these items continue to be placed in the pile, it will be discontinued.
- We are working to put radio read water meters in everyone's house. If you haven't received a new water meter, I will be coming to install one in the near future. If you have received a pink tag on your door for water meter repair please call so we can schedule an appointment to install the new meter.
- Mowing season is just around the corner. Please do not blow your grass clippings into the streets. The clippings wash into the storm sewers and plugs them and it's costly to repair.
- Yards that were torn up last year due to the water project will be repaired and seeded this spring. If there is a problem with your yard contact City Hall and we will arrange to have it taken care of.

Thanks, Steve

## Events

- The Alburnett Fire Department will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 1:00 PM at the Alburnett School.
- CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES – The Alburnett City Wide Garage Sales will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30. If you would like to be a part of a group advertisement and have your sale listed on a map, call Julie at 540-4094. A pancake breakfast will be sponsored by the Alburnett Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday from 7:00 AM till 11:00 AM. Stop at the Fire Station for pancakes and sausage; proceeds will go towards the new fire station.
- CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP – The Alburnett City Wide Clean-Up day will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2011. Items for pickup must be on the curb by 7:00 AM. We will accept: Clean metal, furniture and major appliances. Metal must be free of plastic and wood and under 40 lbs. per piece. Example: bike, grill (no LP tank), lawn mower (no oil-no gas tank). We will take large furniture and large appliances but only one item of each type. Example: couch, table, TV, bed, computer, monitor, stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer. NOT 2 couches and 2 stoves. NO tires, hide-a-beds, latex paint, regular garbage, fluorescent bulbs, motor oil, antifreeze, batteries. The Solid Waste Agency Hazard Materials will have a trailer at the bus barn parking lot from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM where you can bring hazardous materials such as gasoline, kerosene, pesticides, kitchen/bathroom cleaners, metal polish, oil based paint, spray cans, stain remover, stains & thinners, solvents & varnish, weed killer and wood preservatives.

### Dog and Cat Reminder

Remember your pet deserves the very best, BUT not everyone loves your pet like you do. Alburnett City Code Chapter 18, Section 4: No owner or keeper of any dog or companion cat shall permit such dog or companion cat to run at large. Please respect your neighbors and other residents of Alburnett, give your pet a collar with tags, have it on a leash, chained up, or in your yard, but don't allow it to run free. Alburnett City Code Chapter 18, Section 10: No dog of known fierce, dangerous or vicious characteristics shall be permitted off the premises of the owner except while such dog is confined in a boarding kennel, veterinary hospital, or while being transported to such boarding kennel or veterinary hospital. Most people want to be good neighbors and would feel terrible if their pet caused their neighbors any kind of harm. We are sure that you feel the same way. We are also confident that you will take every precaution and effort to see that your pet does not harm someone.

### Alburnett Sewer Customers & Property Owners

Due to high sewer flow that results from storm water infiltrating the sanitary sewer system the city Wants you to be aware of the following ordinance.

The Alburnett Code of Ordinances Chapter 35C, Section 1: Prohibits discharge of any storm water, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, sub-surface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water or unpolluted industrial water to any sanitary sewer.

We are asking you to correct any violations that may be occurring on your property. If you are unsure if your sump pump is discharging properly, please contact City Hall at 842-2692.

### Fire House Cookbooks

We are making a Fire House Cookbook as a fundraiser for the Alburnett & Otter Creek Township Fire Department. The cookbooks will be ready for sale by the end of April. The cookbook will have over 500 recipes, cooking and nutrition tips, helpful hints, kids' kitchen crafts, local advertisements, and fire safety tips from our fire department. The books are spiral bound, large print and sell for \$15.00. The money raised will help defray the cost of building a new fire station.

We have had a great time doing this fundraiser; now we are looking for our next project! If you have any ideas, please give one of us a call, and don't forget to pick up a cookbook or two!

Julie Towe and Sharon Robertson