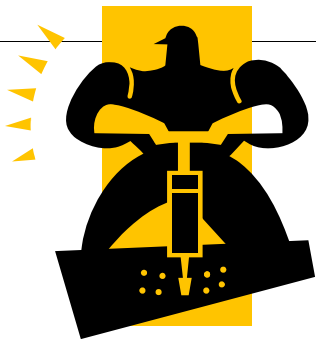


# CITY OF AVOCA

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**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Its time again for the City’s annual public improvement projects. This year will be finishing the major downtown renovation, improving our stormwater drainage, decreasing stormwater inflows into our sanitary sewer system, and upgrading water services to the southern section of town.

These projects often cause inconveniences. We appreciate your patience during the construction process.

Fortunately, the City has taken honest stock of itself and assessed our infrastructure needs. Unfortunately, the City’s infrastructure had been allowed to decay and lots of work is necessary. All of the referenced projects have been well-planned and largely paid for through outside grants.

For more information contact City Hall at 343-2424 or [avoca@walnutel.net](mailto:avoca@walnutel.net).

**2010 Project Update**

Now that winter is finally over, the City will begin in earnest to complete several public improvements. The following is a brief description of the projects that will take place this year:

**Elm Street Streetscape Project**

Phase II of the Elm Street Streetscape Project will be constructed in 2010. Traffic will have to be diverted at Elm Street and High Street during portions of the project. Approximately 90% of the \$645,000 project will be paid for entirely through grants. The project involves the following items:

- Themed interest columns that enhance the image of the area.
- Landscaping and street trees to provide traffic calming and enhance the area for pedestrian activity.
- Plaza areas which enhance the image of the existing traffic areas and also create citizen gathering areas.
- Ornamental lighting

**2010 Stormsewer Projects**

Both the West Ditch Improvement Project and the RR ROW Replacement Project will be completed in 2010. The West Ditch Project will be bid in June, 2010. The RR ROW Project was bid in February, 2010 and awarded for \$178,000. The I-Jobs Grant Program, a state stimulus program, will pay for one-half of the two stormwater projects.

**South Section Water Improvement**

The Water Board has approved the “Southern Section Project” The project will replace or eliminate all 2” mains, replace 4” mains, loop 2 dead ends, replace and/or install 10 fire hydrants, and replace and/or install 12 valves and associated services (85). This project is expected to cost approximately \$540,000 and \$270,000 will be paid by the CITIES grant fund. This project will be completed in 2010 and 2011. More on this project is available on the final page of this newsletter

**2010 Stormsewer Projects**

The Sanitary Sewer System is subject to large amounts of inflow and infiltration of stormwater, which causes more water to be treated through the system than is allowed under the City’s operating permit from the IDNR. In 2010, the South Union Street Interceptor, a major main contributing to the stormwater infiltration problem, will be replaced. 2/3 of \$240,000 project will be paid for through the Iowa Community Development Block Grant Program.

## MANDATORY REPORTING OF SEWER BACK-UP

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) requires the City to report any sewer main backups that result in backups into a building. The requirement to report basement backups was added to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) rules in April 2009.

This information is being provided to the community to ensure that all citizens are aware that backups to basements that are caused by a plugged or damaged sewer main owned and/or operated by the city must be reported to the IDNR by the City. Please report any such back up to City Hall at 343-2424. Thank you.

### **Per 567 IAC 60.2 Defintions**

*“Bypass”* means the diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility or collection system. A bypass does not include internal operational waste stream diversions that are part of the design of the treatment facility, maintenance diversions where redundancy is provided, diversions of wastewater from one point in a collection system to another point in a collection system, or wastewater backups into buildings that are caused in the building lateral or private sewer line.

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## ILLEGAL SUMP PUMP AND DOWNSPOUT CONNECTIONS TO SANITARY SEWER Q&A

*Q. Does city law prevent hooking up downspouts and sump pumps to sanitary sewers?*

A. Yes, the City Code prevents hooking downspouts and sump pumps to sanitary sewers.

*Q. Why do I need to disconnect my downspouts or sump pump?*

A. The extra stormwater entering the sewer system from these incorrect connections overloads the system and causes the City to treat more wastewater than our state permit allows. The stormwater entering the sewer system from these illegal connections takes up space in the system and at the wastewater treatment plant, contributing to back up into basements.

*Q. How do I know if my downspouts or sump pump are connected?*

A. Downspouts that disappear into the ground are most likely incorrectly connected to the public sanitary sewer system. Water from downspouts should discharge into your yard or an appropriate drainage structure. Your crawl space or basement groundwater sump pump should also discharge into your yard. If it is connected to any other pipe in your home, it is most likely incorrectly connected to the public sewer system.

*Q. Does the city plan to do testing to verify illegal/incorrect connections?*

A. The City will be implementing a testing/verification program.

*Q. What if I choose not to disconnect?*

A. Illegal sump pump connections constitute a municipal infraction and are punishable by a \$750 fine for a first offense, and \$1,000 fine for each additional offence. Each day an illegal connection persists is considered a separate violation.

## PET WASTE AND PET LICENSING

The deadline for pet licensing is past and licenses for all dogs and cats are due immediately. If you have not done so already, please license your animals as soon as possible. The Pottawattamie County Animal Control Service is currently enforcing the licensing ordinance.

Licenses are the means by which the City verifies that animals have all shots and vaccinations necessary for public health.

Each resident is permitted to own up to three (3) dogs and three (3) cats. Spayed/Neutered pets will cost \$10 to license. Unaltered animals will be \$15 to license.

In addition, the City has already received several complaints about animal waste on public sidewalks. When walking your pet, please be mindful of the City's laws governing animal waste on private and public property.

It is a violation of city ordinance to let your pet defecate on any property, including city owned property, other than your own. Should this happen, the waste must be picked up. Every year the City receives numerous complaints that a pet has defecated on city sidewalks, city parks, private property. Not only is this unhealthy and unsanitary, but you should think of others who may want to play or walk where your pet has defecated.

The City's Animal Control Ordinance cites the following as violations that will receive a citation:

- Allowing or permitting such animal to urinate or defecate on private property without the express consent of the owner of such property.
- Failing to pick up and dispose of any feces deposited by such animal on private property without the express consent of the owner thereof.
- Allowing or permitting such animal to urinate or defecate on public property, including, but not limited to, public property located between curb lines of public streets and adjacent property lines and public property located within parks.
- Failing to pick up and dispose of any feces deposited by such animal on public property.

The Pottawattamie County Animal Control Service will be enforcing the pet waste ordinance.

## LIBRARY SUMMER SCHEDULE

### Summer Story time Tuesdays:

- July 6<sup>th</sup> (Mermaids & Pirates)
- July 13<sup>th</sup> (Rivers, Lakes, fishing, canoes)
- July 20<sup>th</sup> (Beach, Ocean/Coral Reefs)
- Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup> Pool Party @ Avoca Aquatic Center

### June-August

Read 1 book each week & win a prize each week! We have ordered 1 set of Goldfinch Award books (Lower Elementary) and 2 sets of “Iowa Children’s Choice Award” books (Upper Elementary). For each of these Award winners you read your name is entered in a Gift Card drawing at the end of summer!

## RIGHT-OF-WAY PARKING REMINDER

Reminder: Title 4, Chapter 5 of the City Code regulates public right-of-ways within the city limits. This chapter creates a 10.5 feet “safety easement”, measured from the back of the curb line or street edge, where curbs do not exist, in which the parking of vehicles is prohibited. Exceptions can be made to this rule under very limited circumstances.

Parking vehicles on a lawn is not permitted. Vehicles must be parked on a conforming driveway. The complete Ordinance can be found in Title IV, Chapter 5 of the City Code. Please call City Hall with questions at 343-2424.

## RECREATIONAL VEHICLE AND BOAT PARKING

The City’s Zoning Code creates supplement parking regulations governing recreational vehicles, boats, non-motorized vehicles, and oversized vehicles. These regulations are designed to best preserve the residential character of neighborhoods, keep right-of-way open, and ensure traffic safety.

Recreational vehicles and boats must be stored in the rear yard of lots if proper access exists, but may be stored in the front or side yards of lots if proper access is not available. Parking of personal vehicles, recreational vehicles, boats and non-motorized vehicles may only occur in the rear yard setback if the parking space is provided on an improved surface such as concrete, asphalt, laid brick, or other impervious material. Recreational vehicles and boats hauled on a trailer equipped to a conforming vehicle may be parked on a public street or way as necessary for loading or unloading for periods not exceeding 24 hours.

## NUISANCE CODE REMINDERS

Spring and summer seasons are the peak time for the City to experience nuisance code violations. This article will explain the nuisance code abatement process and common violations.

A nuisance code violation abatement typically begins with a citizen complaint made at City Hall, but may also be initiated by City staff. The City Manager and Police Chief work in tandem to abate identified nuisances.

The first step to abate a nuisance is for a notice to be sent to the property owner. The notice is usually sent via certified letter, although the police chief may also serve notice to a property owner or occupant. The certified letter describes the violation and provides a reasonable time frame for the owner to remove the nuisance. If the nuisance is not abated the City may either remove the nuisance and assess costs to the owner or may also prosecute the violation in District Court.

Residents may not be aware of the nuisance code regulations. Common nuisance violations include the following:

- Allowing growth of grass and weeds to exceed 6 inches in length.
- Storing junk vehicles or other vehicles that may not be lawfully operated upon a public road.
- Dilapidated buildings that have obvious safety hazards, structural deficiencies, fire damage or other obsolete characteristics.
- Maintaining tree limbs that are less than eight (8) feet above the surface of any public sidewalk or are less than fourteen (14) feet above the traveled way of any public street.
- Accumulating junk, rubbish, or trash on a property.
- Storage of vehicles upon a front, side, or backyard on a pervious surface, such as grass. All vehicles must be stored upon a conforming driveway constructed of an improved surface such as cement or asphalt.
- Blocking a public way such as a street or sidewalk. Vehicles parked across a sidewalk are in violation of this provision.
- Storage of inflammable materials, except as permitted by the zoning code.

Any citizen wishing to report a nuisance condition should notify Clint Fichter, City Manager at 343-2424 or [avoca@walnutel.net](mailto:avoca@walnutel.net).

City of Avoca

Avoca City Hall  
201 N Elm Street  
Avoca, IA 51521

Phone: (712) 343-2424  
Fax: (712) 343-4304  
Email: avoca@walnutel.net

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.cityofavoca.com](http://www.cityofavoca.com)



# SOUTH SECTION WATER PROJECT

The South Section of the water system is the oldest portion of the City's water mains and has outlived its useful life. The South Sector Replacement Project will replace aging, deteriorating, and undersized water mains in the area included on the map below.

Overall the project will replace or eliminate all 2" mains, replace 4" mains, loop 2 dead ends, replace and/or install 10 fire hydrants, and replace and/or install 12 valves and associated services (85).

In addition to being old and outdated, the South Section mains are often too small, do not properly support fire flow capability, lack fire hydrants, and leak water excessively. It is estimated that approximately 10% of all the water the City purchases from Regional Water is leaked out in the South Section of the water system.

The City has received a \$270,000 grant to pay for half of the estimated \$540,000 project.

