

CITY OF AVOCA

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WHAT IS THE CITY DOING ABOUT STORMWATER?

Stormwater is a major issue for the City of Avoca. No matter where you live in Avoca, you have probably noticed flooding in your neighborhood after an extended heavy rain. Given the history of significant rainfall events and the fact that some areas of Avoca do not have storm sewer facilities, the probability of a flash flood event in the community is relatively significant. Particularly at risk are those in low-lying areas; close to dry creek beds or drainage ditches; near water; or downstream from a dam, levee, or storage basin.

In addition to the property damage from stormwater, run-off pollutants that are carried into local streams off of driveways, roads, lawns and fields by rain or melting snow are being targeted for regulation by the state and federal government. We have seen this in recent years with our municipal water, wastewater, public landfills and underground water supplies, now stormwater rules are being created.

Several cities and universities in Iowa are now being required to produce effective stormwater management programs that show positive gains in a true reduction of non-point pollution in their respective storm systems. Avoca currently does not have the means to properly comply with, or pay for these pending requirements. The City of Avoca currently faces a dual challenge of maintaining its aging stormwater infrastructure in the older portions of the community while trying to promote and manage proper drainage in newly developing areas and in areas where stormwater facilities were never created.

New and improved stormwater conveyance systems are needed in Avoca. In designing these systems, the City's engineers will not only look towards more effective conventional systems, but will incorporate simple and effective treatment systems into each design so that the treatment process is continuous.

In order to better serve the public, protect property, and maintain water quality, the City is considering creating a stormwater utility. A stormwater utility provides a means of stormwater management, policy and payment for the operation and management of the infrastructure needed to properly collect, treat and convey stormwater to the nearby river system. The utility would be similar to the existing water or sanitary sewer utilities.

As a result of the new stormwater utility, all property owners inside the corporate limits of the City of Avoca will be assessed a small monthly stormwater fee. This is not a tax, but a fee levied by a public utility. Revenues derived from this fee will be earmarked solely for stormwater purposes. The fee structure being developed for Avoca will be simple and fair.

Public input is absolutely necessary to make this work. Please make it a point to come to the public participation phase of this process, learn more about the intent of this important public utility and express any concerns you may have regarding this issue to your city leaders. Public meeting regarding the implementation of the Avoca Stormwater Utility will be held at the Avoca Public Library on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 10:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 23, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.



FORUTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The Avoca Business and Professionals Association is hard at work on the annual Fourth of July Celebration.

More information will be available at a later date, but plan on attending the following events:

- July 3— Live Music
- July 4— Road Race, Parade, Kid's Games and Inflatable Rides at the Park, Volleyball & Fireworks
- July 5— Softball Tournament

For more information contact City Hall at 343-2424 or

"The City received \$1,228,987 in grant money to complete the Elm Street Streetscape Project, received excellent rates on the additional money that was borrowed, and the lowest responsible bid came in significantly under the engineer's estimate; everything came together to make this project possible"

- Mayor James Johnson

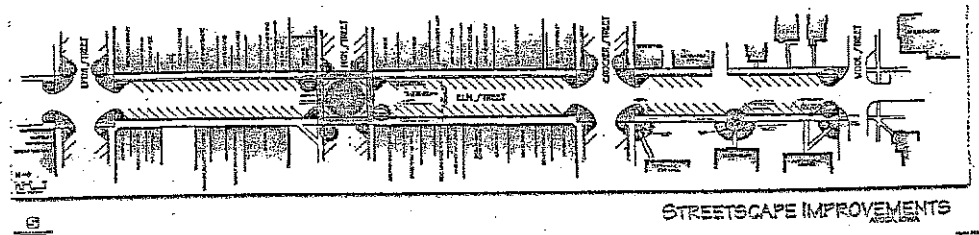
ELM STREET STREETScape PROJECT UPDATE

The Elm Street Streetscape Project is under way and progressing. Phase I construction will be taking place from approximately April to November 2009 and will include all new City infrastructure and most streetscape enhancements. Phase II will take place in 2010 and will consist of constructing enhancements at the intersection of Hwy 83 and Elm Street, and creating a plaza in front of the Pottawattamie County Sub-Courthouse.

Some citizens have asked why the City cannot re-use the existing brick street that is now exposed. There are several reasons why it is not possible to re-use the exposed brick street, including the following:

- 75% need to be removed to install new utilities (water main, water services, sanitary sewer main, sanitary sewer services, storm sewer pipe, electrical conduit, etc.)
- It would be impossible to make the old existing grades ADA accessible, we are changing grades throughout the project to meet these requirements.
- The top of these pavers will be covered with "tack", a tar like substance that was sprayed down prior to previous asphalt overlays.
- Roughly 40% could be re-used in a street setting due to corners being broke off and the general quality of them.

If you have questions about the project, please contact Clint Fichter, City Manager at 343-2424 or avoca@walnutel.net. A project rendering of the Elm Street Streetscape Project is below:



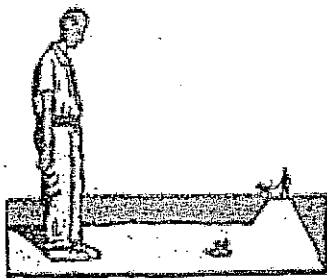
OBSERVING PET WASTE RULES

Now that spring is here, many of us may begin taking our pets on regular walks around the neighborhood. 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.



WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The City is required to annually provide citizens with detailed information regarding the safety of the community's drinking water. Below is a table illustrating the results of the past year's water testing. No violations were found in the City's water supply in 2008.

A more detailed evaluation of the City's source water was completed by the IDNR, and is available from Regional Water Rural Water Association's main office at 108 Highway 59, Avoca, Iowa. Decisions regarding the water system are made at the Board meetings held on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at Avoca's City Hall at 201 N. Elm and are open to the public. For questions regarding this information, please contact Josh Peterson at 712-343-2424 during the following hours: Monday thru Friday from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

2009 WATER QUALITY REPORT

FOR Avoca Waterworks 2008 Test Results

This report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is groundwater. Our groundwater is drawn from the alluvial aquifer(s). Our water quality testing shows the following results:

Test Results from Avoca Waterworks

| CONTAMINANT | MCLG | MCL | DETECTED LEVEL | DATE SAMPLED | RANGE OF DETECTION | VIOLATION | SOURCE |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|--|
| Lead (ppb) | 0 | AL=15 | 1 | 08/06/08 | 0.00 to 12 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |
| Chlorine (ppm) | MRDLG=4.0 | MRDL=4.0 | 0.72 | RAA | 0.64 to 0.825 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Copper (ppm) | 1.3 | AL=1.3 | 0.00 | 08/06/08 | 0.00 to 0.08 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Trihalomethanes (ppb) [Total] | N/A | 80 | 24 | 07/23/08 | N/A | No | By-products of drinking water disinfection |
| Xylenes (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 0.0012 | 07/26/05 | N/A | No | Discharges from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories |

Test Results from Regional Water, Inc.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|------|----------|--------------|----|---|
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 1.17 | 1/07/08 | 1.02 to 1.17 | No | Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Sodium (ppm) | N/A | N/A | 39 | 08/27/08 | N/A | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process |
| Nitrate [as N] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 0.79 | 08/27/08 | N/A | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

DEFINITIONS

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- ppb - parts per billion.
- ppm - parts per million.
- pCi/L - picocuries per liter
- N/A - Not applicable
- ND - Not detected
- Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

NUISANCE CODE REMINDER

The City of Avoca provides services to all properties within city limits. Additionally, the City enforces codes related to the maintenance of private property throughout the City. Periodically, the City abates nuisances on private property in order to promote the public health and safety, as well as the general welfare of the public.

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 City must vigorously enforce its property maintenance and nuisance codes in order for the community to remain a healthy and attractive place to live."

- City Manager Clint Fichter

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.

The City has a general policy of working with nuisance violators that present a reasonable plan to remove the nuisance, even if it exceeds the time frame of the original notice. If a property or property owner is a chronic and habitual offender, the City will watch closely to ensure that the ordinance is followed.

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.

NATIONAL EMS WEEK



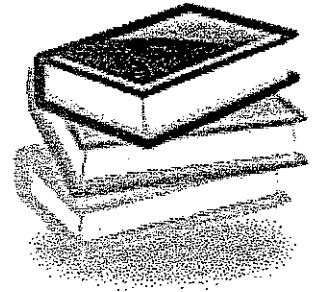
National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line."

National EMS Services Week is May 17-23. Please thank your local volunteers!

AVOCA PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER PROGRAMS

Research shows that children who read 1 book per week during the summer months retain their literacy skills. Of course, the book must be at their reading level to challenge their brains! We will give a free prize every week to elementary and teen readers who meet the challenge starting June 1st. The books must be checked out from the Public Library!! And, don't miss all the fun events we have scheduled this summer. Free fun for the entire family.

2009 AVOCA PUBLIC LIBRARY
Be Creative @ The Summer Library Program
Calendar of Events
June - August
Read One Book Each Week & Win a Prize each week!



Wednesday June 3rd
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fun Family Yoga Night
Introduction to beginning Yoga

Monday June 29th

1:00 p.m. Silly Sally The Clown
Entertains Children of all ages with an introduction to the
Be Creative @ Your Library
2009 Summer Program

Tuesdays

July 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
Summer Story Time
Preschool thru 1st grade 9:30-10:15 a.m.
2nd grade thru 5th 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Fridays

July 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st
Library Lunch for Teens
Bring a sack lunch, Drink & Dessert Provided

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 "safty 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.

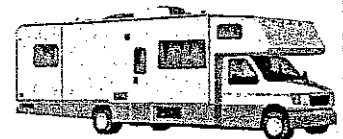
The City will begin enforcing this ordinance in May, so if you are in violation you should find alternative parking arrangements. Also, if you feel you qualify for an exemption and want to apply for a permit, now is the time to do so. Parking vehicles on a lawn is not permitted. Vehicles must be parked 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.

An oversized vehicle is any vehicle or off-highway vehicle (excluding recreational vehicles and boats) the length of which is greater than two hundred thirty (230) inches or the width of which is over eighty-two (82) inches or the height of which is over eighty-two (82) inches or the weight of which exceeds eight thousand (8,000) pounds. Oversized vehicles cannot be stored openly on any residential lot, or on any public street or way within a residential zoning district.

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.

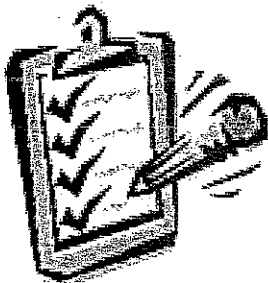


INCOME SURVEY FOR CDBG APPLICATION

During the next several weeks, the City of Avoca will be conducting a survey of residents to obtain necessary information needed to apply for a State of Iowa Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The city is considering submission of applications for CDBG funds for sanitary sewer and/or storm sewer system improvements.

To be eligible for funding, projects must meet the national objective of primarily benefiting low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons. This means that at a minimum, 51% of those benefiting from the activity must be considered LMI, and applicant cities must be able to document this benefit. The State uses this information to help determine if people's income is high enough to afford paying for the entire project with local money, for example, through increased taxes or utility rates.

If approved, a grant could pay for up to \$500,000 of the total project costs associated with eligible projects. These funds would not have to be repaid by the city and would help to keep utility rates stable.



The income survey will consist of two basic questions. One pertains to the need and support for the project and the other asks whether the total household income is above or below a set amount depending on family size. Program guidelines require this information to be part of each application. The question regarding income is very important, and must be completed for a response to be considered useable. The city is required to contact all residences, and must receive useable responses from at least 80% of those residences.

Cooperation of residents in completing this survey is greatly appreciated. Residents of the community will be surveyed by mail. Those not responding will be personally contacted by the City Clerk. Citizens are encouraged to fill out the survey and return it as soon as possible. The survey is brief and will take only minutes to complete. Answers remain anonymous; names are not written on the surveys. The City's goal is to have the surveys completed by May 22, 2009.

For more information, please contact Teresa Hoepner, City of Avoca, at (712) 343-2424, or Jake Hansen, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, at (402) 444-6866 x226. A copy of the survey instrument to be used can be found below.

City of Avoca Omnibus Right-of-Way Permit

Instructions: The form is used for a variety of programs. Complete only those sections of the form that are necessary for your purposes. Every applicant should complete Division I. Division I provides basic contact information for the applicant. The other Divisions should be completed as is appropriate and are the following:

- **Division II: Projects in Right-of-Way.** This division should be completed for projects that will disturb the right-of-way. These include, but are not limited to, driveways, sidewalks, water service lines, and sewer service lines.
- **Division III: Sidewalk/Driveway Improvement Partnership Program.** This division is the application for the City's grant program for improvement of sidewalks and driveway approaches. Make sure to complete Division II if you are applying for this program.
- **Division IV: Right-of-Way Parking Permit for Qualified Exceptions.** This division is the application for a parking permit to park one personal vehicle on a qualified parking structure in the public right-of-way. Terms for such exceptions are given in Title IV, Chapter 5 of the City Code. Permits are given at the discretion of the City's review team.

Division I: Applicant Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone: _____
 Fax: _____

Signature: I agree to pay such fees as necessary for the City to verify the conformance of work with applicable codes. I understand that construction on any easement will be at my own risk and responsibility, and that I will be liable for any necessary removal should it become necessary. I hereby acknowledge that I have read this application and state that the above is correct and agree to comply with all pertinent city ordinances and state laws.

Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent _____ Date _____

Division II: Projects in Right-of-Way

Contractor Name and Contact Information:

Project Address: _____

Purpose: _____

Approximate Start and End Dates: _____

Indicate Project Type. Check all that apply:

- Water System
- Driveway
- Sidewalk
- Sanitary Sewer System
- Street Removal
- Storm Sewer/Culvert

Division III: Sidewalk/Driveway Improvement Partnership Program

Please Check All That Apply:

- Applicant understands the program details.
- Applicant is applying for sidewalk grant.
- Applicant is applying for driveway approach grant.
- City staff should investigate property to determine eligibility and scope of work.

Work Will Be (Circle One):

Self Contracted OR Performed by Contractor

Note: Self-contracting of sidewalk repairs will only be permitted if the owner can demonstrate prior experience and knowledge necessary to adequately perform the work.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT BEGIN ANY WORK PRIOR TO RECEIVING VERIFICATION OF AWARD

Division IV: Right-of-Way Parking Permit for Qualified Exceptions

The following conditions justify a parking exception (check all that apply):

- Handicap accessibility is not sufficient
- Irremediable site characteristics exist which make other parking alternatives unsuitable.

Please Check All That Apply:

- City staff should investigate property to determine eligibility.
- Parking in right-of-way will be provided on a concrete or asphalt surface.

For more information contact:
 Clint Fichter, City Manager
 201 N Elm St.
 343-2424
 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@wainutel.net

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SIDEWALK AND DRIVEWAY GRANT PROGRAM

A well maintained sidewalk network promotes walking as exercise and for transportation, increases property values, and improves the attractiveness of neighborhoods. Unfortunately, a recent survey of the City of Avoca's sidewalk network revealed that over 30% of the existing sidewalks needs replaced:

Under state law and the City Code, abutting property owners are responsible for the repair, replacement, or reconstruction of all broken or defective driveways and sidewalks. Abutting property owners are also required to maintain sidewalks and driveways in a safe and hazard-free condition.

The City of Avoca has adopted a program that will assist with the repair of damaged and/or hazardous sidewalks located in the city's right of way. The program is designed to dramatically simplify sidewalk replacement. Key portions of the program include:

- City providing funds for construction materials.
- City maintaining a list of contractors capable of performing the work. Qualified applicants may be allowed to self-contract the work.

The program also includes the option of replacement/repair/installation of driveway approaches. Approval of this option will be at the discretion of the City. A simple application for the program can be retrieved from City Hall or from www.cityofavoca.com. City staff will let you know if your application is approved.

City staff will inspect the property subject to the application prior to work beginning and provide a project scope to the property owner. City staff will inspect final work and provided the work meets applicable standards, material costs will be remitted back to property owner within 30 days. Funds are available after July, 2009.

