



# Summer Issue

Volume 1 Issue 43

June 2015

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## **New Face in the Village**

On June 22nd the City Council met in Special session to officially hire Jess Radcliffe as the new Public Works/Zoning Administrator for Wahpeton. Jess and his wife Tracey live in Milford. Jess was born and raised in Spirit Lake and has lived in the area all his life. He enjoys hunting, riding his motorcycle and helping his wife manage some rental property they own.

I hope you take a minute to introduce yourself and get to know Jess. He will be busy working around the city and is anxious to meet residents and help with any building permits and zoning needs.

## **There is a lot going on with the Iowa Great Lakes Trails!**

The new Pioneer Beach Road Trail is completed. Over a mile long, it starts at Highway 9 and travels north to the State Fish Hatchery on 252nd Ave. The trail is open and already getting a lot of use!

On the West side of West Lake Okoboji, the final segment on the long run of trail along Highway 86 is under construction. Once the grading and underground pipe work is complete, the trail will be paved. Weather permitting, it should be ready for use the first part of July! The Grand Opening Celebration for this trail will celebrate its completion, the completion of all the trails along West Lake and the generous donors who have made it possible!

Another trail that will be completed soon runs for 1400 feet in Spirit Lake, from just north of Hy-Vee on Peoria Ave., traveling in an arc northeast to join the Spine Trail at 15th Street. This is the first segment of trail on the former IANW Railroad bed. The Rails-to-Trails project on the railroad bed will eventually result in an over 40 mile trail, from just west of Superior, traveling across both Dickinson and Osceola Counties to Allendorf. This Rail Trail is a multi-year project that is now in the planning stage.

Also in the planning stage is a trail along the east side of East Lake Okoboji, a trail that will run from Highway 9 on the north, all the way to the Moore Lake area, and connecting to the existing Arnolds Park trail near Bridges Bay on the south. From that location, trail users will be able to travel to the Spine Trail and the entire Iowa Great Lakes area. This, too, is a multi-year project.

On the maintenance front, we are patching and resurfacing nearly two and a half miles of the Spine Trail from the McDonald's area north to the Y and to 23rd Street in Spirit Lake. This is one of our oldest trails and the project will result in a great surface that will last for many years. As you are reading this, patching and part of the new asphalt overlay is being completed, with resurfacing of other sections to follow later this summer.

The 2014 Okoboji RAGBRAI committee made a generous donation to the trails for emergency and way-finding signing.

The Trails Board has set up an Endow Iowa Maintenance Fund with the Okoboji Foundation. We are looking at the long term and the need to assure that maintenance funds will be available into the future as we build more trails and our trails get older. Donations to this fund are eligible for a 25% state tax credit for Iowa residents.

If you, your children or grandchildren enjoy using the trails, we invite you to join the Friends of the Trails. Friends donations and pledges are used to provide matching funds for grants, building and maintaining trails. More information can be found on our website – [dickinsoncountytrails.com](http://dickinsoncountytrails.com). Click on the Donate tab, then Friends of the Trails. *By Jean Martin, DC Trails.*



## **Don't forget to register campers/tents with the City**

Occupied recreational vehicles may be parked and occupied on private property no longer than seven (7) consecutive days at a time and no more than fourteen (14) days in the calendar year. Only one (1) occupied Recreational vehicle and one (1) tent shall be allowed at one time on a residential lot. When recreational vehicles are occupied, the property owner shall notify the city of the period of occupancy. If complaints are received by the city arising from the occupancy of a recreational vehicle or tent, the City reserves the right to restrict occupancy of recreational vehicles and tents. Also, if not registered they may be asked to leave.

### Council Clips:

Minutes are published in the Dickinson County News, posted at City Hall & Kazarelli's Restaurant. Complete copies are available from City Hall or on our Website at: [www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com](http://www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com)

**April 20, 2015:**

- Discussed turkey bow hunting in the City limits. The proposed Ordinance failed.
- Council reviewed a water tower study completed by I&S Group. Results included the possibility of rehabilitating the old tower, size needed for a new tower, population fluctuation & demand, PSI pressure, water mains, emergency backup power, time frame for the project.
- Council decided to leave the recycling bins at their current location.
- Council approved construction of a driveway, parking and signage for public access to the playground.

**May 11, 2015:**

- Council began reviewing Wahpeton Code of Ordinances with Darren Bumgarner from NWIP & D.

**June 8 2015:**

- Appointed Bonnie Roberts to be on the DC landfill commission.
- Appointed Doug Westerman to fill a vacancy on the Board of Adjustment effective July 1, 2015.
- Council approved Resolution 15-3—City participation in Home Base Iowa.

**June 22, 2015: Special Session**

- Council approved hiring Jess Radcliffe as the new city employee.

**City of Wahpeton Office Hours:**

**Mon – Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

City Clerk/Administrator: Bonnie Roberts

Supt. of Public Works: Doug Hanna

Zoning: Jess Radcliffe

**Council Meeting:**

2nd Mon. of the month at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor: Frank Joenks

Councilmen: Brad Jones, Tom Rierson,

Phil Johnson, Harold Prior & Steve Feld

**Board of Adjustment:**

3rd Thurs. of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman: Wanda Nelson

Members: Colin Jensen, Jerry Edwards,

Jack Jones and Doug Westerman

**Planning & Zoning Commission:**

2nd Tues. of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman: Donna Harris

Members: Tom Hart, Fran Parrish, Mark

Foss and LeAnn Blau.

### City Hall Information

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On any given day here at the Iowa Great Lakes, one of my all-time favorite activities is canoeing with my husband. Our favorite place to canoe is along the canals and through Turtle Lake on West Lake Okoboji. The beauty of this natural body of water here in Dickinson County is apparent as we glide along taking in the splendor of the topography and the numerous animals and birds that live in and around the lake.

That being said, there is one thing that routinely spoils our peaceful journey each time we venture out...litter. We started out canoeing for some of the typical reasons...pleasure, good exercise, a common interest, relishing nature. And on occasion we might pause and fish out of the water a rogue pop can or plastic bottle. However, after one of our first trips out, rather than enjoying a relaxing canoe ride, we were working hard to collect the garbage in the water!! And rather than just tossing the litter we collected onto the floor of the canoe, we decided we needed to bring along a plastic grocery sack...just in case, we thought.

Through the years, depending on the season, the litter has been increasing. I can't decide if the perpetrators are simply committing acts of carelessness/accidental or purely malicious in their offense. It doesn't matter. The fact is that people are contributing to what appears to be a big problem here at the lake.

Beer cans, pop cans, candy wrappers, cigarette packs, chip bags, plastic water bottles, styrofoam containers and lids (used to carry worms or bait), more beer cans...the list goes on and on. I am hesitant to point fingers at any one group. I feel strongly that those individuals who are using the lake for boating, fishing, or recreation of any type need to carry out everything they bring in! Our local wildlife doesn't like a messy home and it ruins the scenic beauty here. Not to mention, it is disgusting and a human impact on the environment.

While littering laws vary from place to place, it is known that negligent and lenient law enforcement helps contribute to littering behavior. Other causes are inconvenience, entitlement and economic conditions. The presence of litter invites

more littering. "Keep America Beautiful" has done extensive research into why people litter, and found that often it's just thoughtlessness. There's a sense that someone will come along behind them and clean it up.

Something definitely needs to be done. We may need to consider organizing a local group of citizens to brainstorm on possible solutions. Maybe attractively placing more trash cans along waterways or installing signs reminding visitors and residents that littering is a criminal offense punishable with a fine is a place to start. One of the more difficult challenges is for law enforcement officers to witness the illegal act in order to write a citation.

Regardless, let's all do our best to keep the Iowa Great Lakes clean and litter-free. And in the meantime, my husband and I will continue to bring a bag with us on our canoe outings...just in case.

*Written by -Susan Hunnel Sherman*



Just one day of trash retrieved from the lake.

**The City of Wahpeton is now accepting all major credit card payments for utility bills, deposits, and miscellaneous items. Fees are applied in addition to your transaction which include 2.75% for swiped transactions or 3.5% plus 15 cents for manually entered transactions.**

As a reminder per Chapter 165.02.98 of the Wahpeton Code of Ordinances, residential homes in Wahpeton cannot be rented or leased for any period less than one month. To do so is a municipal infraction punishable by civil penalties, per Chapter 165.16.