

Camanche Community Newsletter- Summer 2016



Road Use Tax At Work- As you may recall, last year the Iowa legislature approved a ten cent per gallon increase in the State's fuel tax rate. Cities were provided a portion of that additional revenue with the instruction that it be used to repair or improve transportation infrastructure.

Funding for road repairs has been a very challenging issue for a long time. This has been particularly true for Camanche, where a number of City streets travel a long way outside of the community proper. For years, Camanche, and other communities have struggled to fund road repairs. Over that time period, those roads have continued to deteriorate until they have reached the point of being cost prohibitive to repair. To illustrate the point, Camanche has historically received about \$450,000 in Road Use Tax Funds. That money has paid for snow removal (including salt), street signs, street patching, street sweeping, ditch mowing and maintenance, salaries and benefits for street related duties, storm sewer and curb repairs, AND street projects! That amount hasn't changed since 1989! It's been kind of hard to make ends meet.

This year, Camanche will partner with Clinton and Clinton County to reconstruct Anamosa Road from US 30 to 21st Street and 21st Street from Anamosa Road to 49th Avenue. We will also replace an old concrete culvert under 21st Street. We will also reconstruct 21st Street from 7th Avenue to US 67. These projects will cost about \$925,000 to complete. We will borrow that money and use the new Road Use Tax funds to make the loan payments. The new funding allows the City to reconstruct these roads before they literally reached the point where they had to be replace and to replace an old culvert that has become a dangerous situation.

Yard Waste Dates- Residents of Camanche may drop off yard waste at the public works yard, 409 9th Avenue, between the hours of 3:30-6:00 PM on the following Mondays:

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Yard Waste Dates 2016

June 20 th	August 22nd	October 24th
July 11 th	September 12th	October 31st
July 25th	September 26th	November 7th
August 8th	October 10th	November 14th

Pet Concerns- Just a reminder that our local code requires dog and cat owners to clean up after their pets. Is there anything more aggravating than having to clean up after someone else's pet? Please be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your pet.

Also, our local code requires that dogs and cats be registered at City Hall. There is a nominal charge for the registration, but the City is able to return a pet with a tag to its rightful owner. Without an identifying tag, we are forced to transport the pet to the Humane Society and there are costs associated with that. Again, please be a responsible pet owner and register your pet.

Two last reminders... It is against our local code to allow your pet to run loose. If the City receives a complaint, we will investigate and may charge the pet owner with allowing their pet to run loose. Lastly, barking dogs drive neighbors crazy! If your dog is outside and has a tendency to bark, please do something about it. If the neighbors complain and the complaint is valid, the City will have no choice but to issue tickets.

Please be a responsible pet owner and neighbor and take care of your pets!

Open Burning Regulations-



Camanche has adopted laws that regulate open burning in the community. Here are the important facts:

- 1) Only yard waste may be burned. Paper, cardboard, construction materials, etc. may not be burned.
- 2) Yard waste may be burned only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays between the hours of 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM.
- 3) A yard waste fire must be attended at all times and a means of controlling the fire (garden hose, fire extinguisher, etc.) must be available to control the fire.
- 4) Recreational fires (small fire pits) are allowed provided they are not a threat to people or property. Only natural wood (untreated, unpainted, not "pressboard" or plywood) may be burned.

New Community Center/Fire Department Storage Building- Perhaps you've seen the new construction next to Garner Hall. The City has been busy constructing a new, 7,200 square foot building to serve as the new community center and fire department storage facility. The new building will replace Garner Hall and the former City Hall building on 3rd Street. The new building should be ready this fall. Garner Hall will be removed and the City plans to sell the old City Hall building. Just a reminder that if

anyone is interested in making a donation to the new community center in exchange for having the center named after them, please contact City Hall at (563) 259-8342.



Party in the Park- The summer edition of the Party in the Park will be held in City Park on Thursday, July 18th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The semi-annual event will feature food, music, and entertainment. Please mark your calendars and join your neighbors for a fun evening!

Senior Meal Site- The Camanche senior meal site is located at Garner Hall and provides senior citizens with a great meal and a chance to get together at a very minimal cost. Daily meals are served at 11:30 AM. If you or someone you know eats lunch alone, or doesn't eat properly, give the senior meal site a try. Once the new community center is completed, the senior meal site will move to the new building.

Water Rates/Garbage Rates- The City certainly tries to hold the line on expenditures and rate increases related to the operation of our utility funds. Unfortunately, costs increase and rate increases are inevitable. The City's water, sewer, and garbage operations are all "enterprise" based. Basically, this means that they must generate sufficient revenue to offset expenses. This is particularly challenging as infrastructure becomes older and needs to be repaired or replaced. That's the position we find ourselves in with regard to our water operation.

Maintaining an aging water system is no small task. Water mains, valves, and fire hydrants all get old and wear out. At the same time, the cost of labor and materials continues to rise. Problems can't be ignored, so the City has no choice but to raise rates to increase the cash flow to pay for the repairs that have to be made.

Camanche last raised water rates in 2012 and garbage rates in 2011. The City has approved a rate increase for both water and garbage effective July 1st. Those increases will show up on your fall utility bill.



Camanche Public Library Events-

Monday July 11 at 1:00pm is Summer Splash on the library lawn. Beat the heat, run through the sprayer set up by the Camanche Fire Dept.

Every Monday at 1:00pm in July is movie afternoon for elementary school aged children, and every Thursday at 1:00pm is movie afternoon for middle school aged children. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided.

Every Tuesday is "Wii Play Afternoon", come in anytime between 1:00 and 4:30 to play Wii games. Snacks will be provided.

The Camanche public Library is sponsoring story time with Dan Wardell from IPTV, Wednesday July 13 at 1:00pm, at St. Mark's Methodist Church 808 3rd St. Meet Dan, hear an original story and receive your IPTV KIDS Clubhouse super ball.

Every Wednesday morning at 11:15 is Story & Craft Time. Each week is a different theme:

July 6 – Pajama Day story & craft

July 11 – Wear a funny hat story & craft

July 20 – During story & craft time children can do Yoga with yoga instructor Kelli Jahn

July 27 – Visit from Clinton County Conservation during story & craft

Saturday July 9 is Library Lego Time from 11:30-1:00pm. Children can build a Lego creation and display it in the library. Also at 2:00pm is a special outdoor story and craft time on the library lawn.

Saturday July 16, from 3:00-5:00 is Sharpie Tie Die T-Shirts. Bring a t-shirt, we'll supply the markers. Call to reserve a spot as space is limited.

Resume Writing Class Thursday July 21 5:00-6:00pm. Theresa Duncan will be available at the library to help anyone who needs help writing a resume or updating the one they have. Space is limited, call the library to reserve a spot.

August events

Every Wednesday at 11:15am is Story & Craft Time

The Friends of the Library will have their annual book & bake sale August 12th & 13th, 8:00am - 4:00pm at the Camanche Masonic Lodge 220 9th Ave. A variety of used adult and childrens books, magazines, puzzles, movies and more will be for sale. For a good deal, come in Saturday between 1:00 and 4:00 for buck-a-bag sale. Fill as many bags as you wish for \$1.00 per bag. There will also be a wide selection of baked goods for sale on both days.

Monday Aug. 15th is another Summer Splash on the library lawn. Beat the heat, run through the sprayer set up by the Camanche Fire Dept.

Readers on the River discussion group meets Wednesday Aug. 10 to discuss the book "Brooklyn" by Colm Toibin. Anyone interested in reading the book can call the library to reserve a copy. Discussion sessions are at 12:30, 2:30 and 6:00pm

September is Library Card Sign Up month. Visit the library and sign up for a library card.

Children's Story & Craft Times will be Wednesday Sept. 7th & 21st at 11:15am and after school at 2:30pm.

The Readers on the River book discussion group meets Wednesday Sept 21. The book being discussed is the 2016 All Iowa Reads pick "Lila" by Marilynne Robinson. Anyone who would like to participate in the discussion group can call the library to get a copy of the book. Discussions are at 12:30, 2:30 or 6:00pm.

Call the library at 563-259-1106 or visit our website at www.camanche.lib.ia.us for more information.



Recycling- Recycling is one of those things that drives both residents and the contractor crazy. There are concerns over what is recyclable and how it should be prepared for collection. **In this newsletter is a pull-out flier that you can keep to help provide guidance regarding recycling and solid waste issues.** Please be considerate of the contractor when you prepare your recyclables. Each of us has one recycling container to care for. The contractor picks up hundreds of containers each day! A little cooperation and consideration from everyone will make for a smoother operation all the way around!

Flowers at the Fire Station- Have you noticed the beautiful flowers that were planted near the fire station? Local Girl Scout Troop 7412 donated and planted the flower box as a community project. Great job girls!



Party in the Park- The summer edition of Party in the Park will be held on Thursday, July 21st from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at City Park. The theme is "Pie in July" and the event will feature a pie eating contest! Stop by and enjoy a beautiful summer evening with your friends!

Camanche Days- The largest annual event in Camanche is Camanche Days. This four day community festival features a wide variety of entertainment, a parade, athletic contests, a carnival, and much, much more! This year, Camanche Days will be held from August 11th -14th. Don't miss this fun, community based festival!

News From Camanche Park and Recreation Board- For the many citizens who go for walks and bike rides, Camanche Park and Rec has added seven stations for health and fitness in five of our parks.

In Central Park, you will find a **SIT-UP BENCH** for improving the strength of your abdominal muscles, hips and thighs. Right next to it is a set of **UNEVEN BARS** for doing a variety of strength exercises including chin-ups and dips.

The other five stations are found along the MRT: Triangle Park has **PUSH UP BARS** for building strength in your back and shoulders. In addition, the **BACK EXTENSION** station is there to Increase power in your lower back, gluteus and hamstring areas, thus improving your posture and stability. When you get to Maxan Street Park, you can try out the **DOUBLE LEG PRESS**, which places particular emphasis on the quadriceps, gluteals and hips. Chicago Street Park has the **SELF-WEIGHTED ROWER**, which uses one's own body weight to provide resistance. It delivers both cardiovascular and muscle strengthening benefits for the total body. If you move on to Buffalo Street Park, you'll discover the **DUAL EXERCISE BARS** to provide various pushing, pulling and stretching exercises.

Information on using these stations is attached to each one. We hope you'll find the equipment useful and beneficial.

USDA Rural Development –Home Repair and Improvement Loans and Grants-

USDA Rural Development may be able to help qualified homeowners make needed repairs to their owner occupied homes. Here are the basic conditions to be eligible for either a 1% loan or a grant:

Qualifications:

- Own and occupy a single family residence in need of repair
- Lack personal resources to pay for the repairs
- Fall within income guidelines
- Have a credit history of meeting obligations as they become due
- Grant applicants must be 62 years of age or older and unable to repay a loan.
(This age restriction does not apply to loan applicants.)

Questions, please contact the USDA Rural Development Office in Tipton at (563)886-6006, Ext. 4.

Flood Hazard Boundary Changes- In response to all of the flooding that has occurred in the US in recent years, FEMA has revised the nation's flood hazard boundary maps. If your property is located near a waterway or if you are considering the purchase of a property, it might make sense to check with the Camanche Fire Department regarding the flood hazard boundary areas. IF property is located in a flood hazard area, lenders may require federal flood insurance before a loan can be made. This can be expensive and you want to know what you are getting into when you are buying or selling property.

City Administrator Position- This will be the last community newsletter that I write. I have certainly enjoyed my 9+ years with the City of Camanche, but retirement is simply too good of a deal to pass up! I have especially enjoyed meeting so many fine residents of this great community. My wife, Lisa, and I will be moving back to Bellevue. Lisa has 7 years left to teach at the Bellevue Community Schools and that drive is quite a challenge in the winter! I do want to thank the Camanche community for welcoming us and all of the great experiences.

Camanche is looking for a City Administrator. If you know of someone looking for a management position, please encourage them to contact City Hall at (563) 259-8342 for more information. Applications are due July 22nd.



Building Permits- Building permits are required for new homes and additions, garages, sheds, fences, decks, etc. Building permits are available at the Camanche Fire Station, 720 9th Avenue. If you have questions about building permits, please contact the Camanche Fire Department at (563) 259-1112. The fees for building permits are as follows:

Storage buildings up to 150 square feet in size- \$20.00

Storage buildings over 150 square feet in size- \$20.00 plus \$1.00 per \$1,000 in construction value

Garages- \$20.00 + \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 in construction value

Wooden decks- \$20,00

Patios and concrete slabs- \$20.00

Fences-\$20.00

Swimming pools- \$20.00

Room additions- \$20.00 + \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 in construction value not to exceed \$75.00

Principal dwellings- \$50.00 +\$1.00 per \$1,000.00 in estimated construction cost. Any dwelling exceeding an estimated construction value of \$150,000.00 will have a base of \$200.00 + **\$.75** per \$1,000,00 in construction value over \$150,000.00.

Commercial buildings, office buildings, apartments, warehouses and other similar buildings- \$50.00 + \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 in construction value.

Any building exceeding \$150,000.00 in construction value will have a base fee of \$200.00 + **\$.75 per** \$1,000.00 in construction value over \$150,000.00.

All building construction values will be taken from the Building Valuation Data of the Uniform Building Code, using regional modifiers for this area.



Hydrant Flushing- You may notice the fire department flushing fire hydrants as part of their training on Wednesday nights. Flushing hydrants is important to ensure the hydrant is operational and that there is adequate water flow for fire protection. Unfortunately, when a hydrant is opened, it can dislodge rust or deposits that have built up in the water system. If you notice rust or discoloration in your water, allow the faucet to run for a while. Basically, those deposits have become dislodged and need to be flushed from the system. Allowing the water to run for a few minutes should allow the water to become clear.