

CITY OF CAMANCHE SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021



818 7th Ave. P.O. Box 77

563-259-8342

www.camancheia.org

Large Item Pickup

The Spring large item pickup is scheduled for the week of May 3rd. All items are to be at the curbside no later than May 2nd and no earlier than April 26th.

As a reminder, the volume is to be limited to about the size of a small pickup truck load. Items not allowed



include electronics, appliances, chemicals, batteries, tires, paint, or yard waste. Items not eligible for pickup will be left at the curbside.

Street Improvements

The City will be performing approximately \$500,000 in street improvements this Spring. They include: 9th Ave from the UP tracks to Anamosa Rd, 4th Ave from the CP tracks to the marina, 9th Ave from the North side of the CP tracks to 3rd St including the alley, 10th Pl and most of 7th St. Some portions of 7th St have been previously repaved, so those sections will be omitted. Both projects came in under estimate, so there may be additional road work from future street plans pulled up. Be on the lookout for work crews. The road use fund is in great shape and the low bids are helping us in our ability to get more done. As a note, road use funds come from gasoline sales throughout the state and are disbursed to cities based on population.

Burn Days

A reminder that burn days are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10AM to 5PM. The burning of refuse is prohibited. Yard waste may be burned and is defined as organic debris such as, but not limited to, grass clippings, leaves, tree limbs, bark, branches, flowers which are produced as part of yard and garden development maintenance

Mid American Work

Mid American will be performing a number of infrastructure upgrades throughout the city. These upgrades are designed to address service issues in a couple of subdivisions and will also include upgrades for future growth. These are significant improvements for service and the work will take much of the summer for them to finish. We ask that you be aware of your surroundings when you see the Mid American workers in your area. They will mostly be seen around 4th Ave and 5th St, the substation at 5th St and 9th Ave, and along 9th St by the Murphy's subdivision.

Community Garden

The City of Camanche has purchased a piece of property at 610 7th Ave. The location previously had a dilapidated trailer. The



trailer has been removed. The Hometown Pride Committee will be working with the City to develop a community garden at this location. We are in search of a Master Gardener to assist us with this program. If you are a Master Gardener and would like to lend a green thumb, please contact the city administrator at 259-8342. More details will come soon.

Tax Levy Lowered

The City was able to lower the tax levy from \$12.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value down to \$12.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The City has seen an increase in demand for property and therefore it has seen an increase in property values. The increases have necessitated an increase in services. The City has been able to handle the increased costs through revenue sources other than property taxes. We have also seen an increase in sales tax revenue. With property reassessments being performed this year, it is anticipated that valuations will increase again, thereby allowing the City to review the levy amount next year. City funds have recovered from damages suffered during the 2019 flood and the 2020 derecho. We feel comfortable with fund levels for the coming year.

City Hall

The expansion of City Hall will begin in mid May. The new section is projected to be open some time in early July. The full opening should be in September. Some of the features you will see in the new section includes a drive up window and a built in drop box which will lead to an internal secure safe. This will also be the location of the building inspector, so you will be able to obtain your permits and make payments in the same location. Due to the pending construction, City Hall remains closed. We will open the drive thru feature when it is ready.

Garage Sales

St. Mark's is sponsoring city wide garage sales the weekend of May 1. You may contact them to sign up for the sale at 259-1064. We ask that you continue to take extra precautions by wearing masks and encouraging social distancing. Garage sales are on your private property. You may establish the rules for your property. Following CDC guidelines is recommended.



Central Park

You may have noticed that some playground equipment at Central Park has been removed. A new setup of playground equipment will be installed this Spring. It is an approximate \$60,000 investment in the park and will include blue rubber mulch which satisfies the City's ADA transition plan for parks. We look forward to getting this equipment ready for play soon. There will be more parks work coming. The Park & Rec committee is assembling a Parks Master Plan in consultation with ECIA. The Capital Improvement Plan calls for \$1.5M in park upgrades over the next 10 years to be applied in 3 phases.

Did You Know?

You can pay your utility bills online. You can use your credit card. However, there is a fee for the card usage. This is the processor's fee. We will soon be changing to a system with a larger scope of online services through a program called Front Desk. Keep on eye on the City's website for future developments

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings remain online until City Hall is finished. The need for technology improvements to the Community Center are preventing us from having in person meetings at that location. City Council meetings are the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6PM. You can log on to the meeting through our service. That quick link is available on the front page of the City's website. You can also phone in to meeting by dialing 1-717-275-8940 and using access code 289 8487. We look forward to seeing you all in person soon

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COVID-19 Update

As we continue to work our way through the pandemic, the City encourages all citizens to remain diligent in preventing the spread of this virus. The sooner we get through this, the sooner we will be able to reassemble and return to our community as we know it. As an operation, the City will continue to follow protocols to protect citizens and staff.

Grass Clippings

As a reminder, it is a violation of City Ordinance to blow your grass clippings into the street. Not only is this dangerous for motorcycles and bicyclists, the debris prevents proper flow of storm water into our system. Please make sure you are directing your yard clippings away from the street.

2019 Flood

This project has finally closed. The City sustained approximately \$420,000 in damages to infrastructure. \$350,000 has been recovered through FEMA funding. The City also recovered \$63,000 in DERECHO damages through FEMA funding. These funds were a direct cost to the City and were used to replace those costs. On the plus side, the Swan Slough parking lot and Park Drive are replaced, our 21" sewer main has been updated at Washington Blvd, the 5th Ave boat ramp was mostly repaved, and a few other sewer repairs were completed. As difficult as the flood was, we now have significant improvements to the city at little cost.

Comings and Goings

In March of 2021, the City of Camanche said goodbye to Public Works Director Mark Hilgendorf. Mark served the community faithfully for 32 years. In April, the City hired James Bornemann as the new Public Works Director. James began his duties on April 5.

In April, the City of Camanche will say goodbye to Chief of Police Colin Reid. Colin provided the City with 4 years of service as Chief and has over 25 years of service between the City of Clinton and the City of Camanche. Chief Reid has been a phenomenal asset to the City. We are currently in the process of testing and interviewing for a new Chief of Police.

We wish all individuals well in their future endeavors.

Utility Billing Changes

You will soon see the end of your utility bills showing up on our card stock mailing. The future will bring a folded invoice on a regular sheet of paper and include a return envelope. The return envelope will require you to place postage on it if you intend to mail your payment. There will be other new services coming soon with our "Front Door" program which will include SMS text alerts and your ability to review all of your past utility billing information. Keep an eye on the City's website for more information

