

City of Camanche

Summer Newsletter

June 2022



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563-259-8342

www.camancheia.org

Crosswalk Improvements

There will be many crosswalk access improvements along 9th Street as well as 7th Avenue. The City of Camanche received matching funding from Clinton County to upgrade these access points so that they will be ADA compliant. Our goal is to get all of the school pathways upgraded to meet these needs.



Front Desk

Our new system for payments is online and ready for use. If you go to the City's website at www.camancheia.org you will find a button titled "Pay My Bill". This will take you to the page to sign up for front desk. When you sign up, you will need your billing account number. You will also need to enter your name and address exactly as it appears on your bill. You will then be able to pay your bill, get alerts, see your previous bills, sign up for paperless billing, and sign up for automatic withdrawal. Front

Road Construction Detours

As many of you are aware, the City of Camanche, in conjunction with the Iowa DOT will be constructing a roundabout at 7th Ave and Highway 67. In order to keep costs down, all traffic will be detoured along Washington Blvd. The plan is to have increased patrols, speed radar reminders, and other signage in order to remind people that they are travelling through a pedestrian area. We recommend that when crossing Washington Blvd, you and your family take the time to utilize the flashing crosswalk signs where they are available. Please discourage your children from

jaywalking from Central Park to the convenience stores. This project will last until at least October. When we get into the school year, there will be additional measures in place to assist any children travelling to and from school who are trying to cross the busy street. This will be a challenging process. We ask for your patience and assistance as we work our way through this safety upgrade. The City has received \$900,000 in funding from the Iowa DOT and the Regional Planning Authority towards this project. All remaining costs will come from Road Use Tax Funds and Federal ARPA funds.

City Property Tax

Recently there were notices sent out by the County Assessor's office noting significant increases in property valuations. The taxes suggested in that letter were based on the current tax levy and those increased valuations. The City has every intention to lower the levy to an acceptable rate so as to keep similar property tax revenues as the previous year with the low-

Street Work

Since its inception, the Street Improvement Plan (SIP) has conducted nearly \$2M in needed improvements. We have nearly finished Phase 3 at this point. This phase was pulled up a year, so there will be minimal road work in 2023, other than the roundabout project. There are a few smaller projects which could be added in. For now, we will



Sewer Base Rate

On June 7th, the Camanche City Council is proposing an adjustment to the base sewer rate, increasing it by \$1.75 per month. The last increase to the base rate was in 2012. This base adjustment is intended to rebuild the sewer fund to an acceptable level to create a fair reserve fund. The debt service fee helped the fund recover from a negative balance. When that was reduced, the fund stabilized. This increase will help the fund grow its reserves and increase our financial standing. It will also help prepare us for any unexpected expenditures. There will also be a \$0.015 increase to the commercial usage rate.

Credit Rating

In preparation for a Bond Issuance to fix 9th Street, the City sought a bond rating from Standard & Poor's (S&P). A thorough review of the City's finances brought back an A+ rating, which is something not common for smaller communities. We are thrilled with the review and acknowledgment that we are finan-

Did You Know?

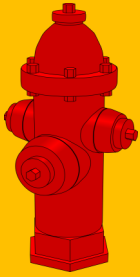
Many of our services and applications for permits can be filled out online? You can also conduct most business at our drive up window. You can find all of that infor-

Historical Society

The Camanche Historical Society and Museum is open on Sundays from 1-4PM. Please feel free to stop in and visit some history of our city. You will find a lot of interesting artifacts, pictures, and a lot of warm friendly people to greet you. You can also research your family history through the Clinton County Genealogical Society, which is

Hydrant Flushing

The Camanche Fire Department and Public Works will be performing hydrant flushing through the summer. This flushing and pressure testing is required to maintain the City's ISO rating for fire protection. Camanche is proud to maintain a grade 3 rating and is on its way to a grade 2. This is a rating that reflects in insurance rates for property owners. During the flushing process, some of the lines may produce discolored water. This is from sediment built up in the line traps. If you experience this in your system, the solution is to run the water for a few minutes until it clears up. This discoloration is not harmful to your health. The City continues to pass all water quali-



LMI Program

The City is now offering a "Low/Moderate Income" housing program utilizing funding derived from some of the recent housing developments to assist those who qualify in home improvements. Applications for the program can be obtained on the City's website, or you can come to City Hall and receive a copy as well. This can be used for property improvements including but not limited to: roofing, heating, windows, bathroom upgrades, insulation, ADA accessibility, electric upgrades, plumbing, waterproofing, and other like items. Excluded are things like landscaping and beautification. You may also qualify for assistance from the USDA, which has a similar program. To find out more, visit <https://www.camancheia.org/economic-development/lmi-program/>

Building Inspector /Code Compliance

An area of concern every year for the City is the blowing of grass into the city street. This is not only a hazard for traffic, it also creates clogs in the storm sewer system. As this debris builds in the catch basins, it creates an environment where storm water does not drain properly. Over time, this lack of drainage will compromise the sub base underneath the street. The end result is a premature street repair as well as a repair to the storm water system. Ordinance 6-7-5 subsection 15.a part 3 reads: **No person shall place or allow to be placed an accumulation of material, including, but not limited to, wood, concrete, stone, brush, grass clippings, or other debris that might block the flow of storm water in a storm drainage easement or could reasonably be expected to be carried downstream by such storm water to the detriment of either upstream or downstream property owners.** We ask that you continue to help keep the city's storm water system in good operating condition by adhering to this ordinance.

Camanche Depot Project

We are pleased to announce that the Camanche Depot Museum is the community project of the Rotary Club of Clinton. City Administrator Andrew Kida is the incoming president of the club and has promoted this project as a community need. The plan is for a rehabilitation of the building and the rail car in the spring of 2023 in order to have a train safety day celebration in the summer of 2023 at the depot. The anticipated train volume increase on the Canadian Pacific line is bringing to focus the need for safety training as it concerns rail in Camanche and Clinton. The RCOC Foundation has committed to the project as has Canadian Pacific, which awarded a \$5,000 grant towards the project. The fall fundraiser for the Rotary Club will focus on the president's project. We would love to see our Camanche Citizens support this project through the RCOC Boo-Bash event scheduled for October 28 at the Vista Grande. The project cost is estimated at \$41,000. The goal is to have the structures brought up to standards, reopening of the Depot Museum on a regular basis, and a safety day event to include bounce houses, food trucks, music and family events for a day, as well as safety training for everyone. Your support of this event helps support Camanche.

Burn Days

This is a reminder that burn days are Tuesday Thursday and Saturday from 10AM to 5PM. This burning is for yard waste only. Unauthorized materials include but are not limited to garbage, refuse, construction materials, tires or other refuse. Burn piles must be attended. There must also be a garden hose connected to a water supply or other fire extinguishing equipment at the scene.

Mealsite

The mealsite for seniors is held at the Camanche Community Center every weekday beginning at 11AM. Food is provided by Milestones Area Agency on Aging. Seniors are welcome to attend and join in some fun. There is always good conversation as well as some card playing. We ask that you fill out any paperwork necessary prior to your attendance so that we can get a count as to how many people will be attending each day. It is a great way to get out and be active.

Rail Crossings

The Canadian Pacific rail line will be raising its track and improving the grade of each crossing in Camanche. The CP will be improving the crossing by replacing the existing material with concrete. They will also need to improve the approaches to each crossing. This will make for a smoother pass for vehicles and pedestrians along the way. In addition, the CP has applied for DOT assistance to place crossing barriers at other stops in Camanche. The city has also asked for the consideration of wayside horns in order to limit the train horn duration how the sound is amplified through the City. Discussions are ongoing.



Library

The Library's summer season is well underway. Be sure to check out all of the fun events going on. There have been many updates and improvements to the Camanche Public Library. The hours are 10AM-630 Monday—Wednesday, 10AM-4PM Thursday and Friday, 10AM-1PM Saturday. Closed on Sundays. You can reach the library for more information by phone at 563-259-1106

