

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF CITIZENS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF BOONE.

The city of Boone has made a dedication to its citizens: Provide a greater level of information and education while maintaining financial stability. We hope this newsletter will help our citizens become more aware of city government activity.

Your Government Boone

ALLEYS IN BOONE

Each spring residents that utilize alleys begin to see a degradation of alley way conditions. This is a typical situation for gravel surfaces as ice melts and frost exits the ground. This article will provide information on alleys and the level of maintenance to be expected this year.

Alleys have a long history in Boone and across this country. The original purpose of alleys ranges from utility access to promoting neighborhood character. While many utilities are still present in alleys, opinions of favorable appearance has changed. At one point in time it was actually uncommon to see a single-family home with a garage. Today, it is common to see new homes constructed with at least three garage stalls attached to a home. Vehicles have grown to be a major part of our lives. When garage units were first being installed they were placed with alley access in-part, due to the perceived negative appearance of a garage. Homeowners had a desire to show off their home and hide the garage. Over time that too has changed. New developments are designed around street access as the development of the road network is a major expenditure.

Today alleys pose a new set of challenges to the City. In a recent Public Works Conference we learned that many other communities also continue to struggle to maintain alleys. It seems simple; grade the alleys and add gravel periodically. It isn't that simple. Cities face a number of struggles in maintaining alleys. The following is a summary of some key issues.

The number one factor affecting alleys is the weight and size of vehicles; most specifically, garbage trucks. Today's "small" garbage truck weighs almost twice as much as a fully loaded garbage truck used many years ago. These bigger vehicles can create large potholes and ruts in an alley. Even our automobiles have an impact as we have seen the growth and popularity of SUVs. Another factor affecting alleys is a change in drainage due to a build-up of gravel when alleys are plowed. This causes berms along the sides of some alleys causing water to stand. When water stands in an alley, potholes form.

Despite these many factors affecting alleys, the hurdle the City must overcome is finances. Public Works Department has less staff than years past, yet the maintenance responsibilities and expectations have not changed. If State funding declines we will be forced to scale back some services. Alley maintenance is one service that will be impacted by these budget constraints. We ask for your patience and understanding as we do our best to keep our street network functional.

VISIT WWW.BOONEGOV.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION



Upcoming Events

- City Offices will be closed Monday, February 16th in observance of President's Day
- Boone & Scenic Valley RR Valentine Dinner Train— February 21st details at scenic-valleyrr.com
- Boone Home & Garden Show @ Boone Fairgrounds February 27th 5 pm to 8 pm & February 28th 10 am to 5 pm
- Kiwanis Ham Dinner 5 pm to 7 pm March 30th Boone County Fairgrounds

What is the purpose of the Leak Protection Program?

Commercial and Residential

The Leak Protection Program is for the purposes of providing a mechanism to protect certain water/sewer utility customers from high bills resulting from water leaks. Rates are determined based on type of usage as defined by the City. Currently an accidental water leak (burst pipe, leaking toilet, etc) can lead to high water bills, in some cases topping \$1,500 for a single month. For residential customers the cost is \$.50 cents per month beginning the first billing cycle, unless you notify the Utility Billing Department that you do not want this protection.

Commercial owners must call the Utility Billing Department to determine what rate they fall under. Failure to call the billing department will always end with the commercial property owner being responsibly for ALL of the leak that occurred.

Below is a chart showing the rates for residential and commercial usage and the cost for the program.

Account Type	Monthly Usage Classification	Cost per Account	Deductible
Residential	All	\$0.50	\$100
Commercial *	\$199 and below	\$0.75	\$100
	\$200 - \$499	\$1.50	\$100
	\$500 - \$999	\$3.00	\$200
	\$1,000-\$1,999	\$6.00	\$200
	\$2,000 and above	\$12.00	\$200

*Commercial classification without adequate usage history may be classified at the \$500-\$999 range until such usage history is available. It is the **Responsibility** of the account holder to notify the Utility Billing Department for usage reclassification.

But please be aware that you will be FULLY RESPONSIBLE for all water/sewer charges regardless of any leak or pipe break if you fail to contact the Utility Billing Department about the leak protection program and sign up for the program.

Complex Systems what do they do? Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewers

The sewer system is a complex system of underground pipe and streets. The key is the difference between a sanitary sewer and a storm sewer. Both systems are designed to transfer water/wastewater from a source to an outlet point yet the two are very different.

The sanitary sewer system is what hauls water from your home when you flush the toilet. This water is referred to as wastewater. Wastewater is high in bacterial content and must be treated prior to release. The treatment process is complex and requires constant monitoring at the Boone Water Environment Facility. The sanitary sewer system IS NOT intended to handle storm water or water from sump pumps or perimeter drains; however, this is a chronic problem for our system.

The storm sewer system is designed to handle rain from storm events and some groundwater. Often times the storm sewer system includes roads to transfer water from one location to another. When you see a stream of water traveling along the curb realize that this is the intended purpose of the road. In some cases that storm water enters storm intakes and is transferred to underground pipes that lead to a ravine or stream. This water IS NOT treated.

Both of these systems within Boone need repair and both of these systems are being stressed by system users. In many cases this "stress" on the system is inadvertent and not intentional. Below are some examples of what causes the stress:

Storm Sewer Stress:

- Tree roots
- Leaves, grass and other material in the street
- Broken pipe or damaged pipe

Sanitary Sewer Stress:

- Illegal sump pump connections
- Illegal foundation drain connections
- Illegal downspout connections
- Tree roots
- Grease
- Towels, toys, turtles or other items flushed down the toilet

HAM DINNER

Sponsored by
Boone Daybreaker Kiwanis

Community Building · Boone Fairgrounds

Monday, March 30, 2015

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Reminder if you need snow ordinance information e-mail www.clerk@city.boone.ia.us with your cell phone number and provider or your email address to be added to the list.