

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

## Sump Pump Inspection Program Continuing

The City of Boone revised Ordinance 96.07 to prohibit all storm water including sump pumps from being connected to the sanitary sewer throughout the entire year. There is no longer any seasonal sump pump connections allowed to the sanitary sewer. Any home or business that has a system that allows the switching of sump pump discharge to the sanitary sewer system is now required to remove it. The new ordinance is being implemented over several years throughout the City by specific targeted areas.

The City will be continuing the mandatory sump pump inspection program in the summer/fall of 2025 for the seventh year. We have completed six targeted areas in Boone with tremendous reduction of clean water inflow and infiltration.

### Why is this important?

Like many cities in Iowa, Boone faces a challenge with its sanitary sewer system. During significant rain events, the sewer system can be overloaded. When it rains, flows can jump up to 20 times the normal amount. Overloaded sewers lead to basement backups and overflows of untreated sewage to Honey Creek and the Des Moines River.

The City is being urged by the EPA and Iowa DNR to reduce overflows. The City has already invested millions of dollars in improving the public sewer mains and lift stations. However it isn't enough to solve the problem. It is possible that DNR could require us to install an additional \$3 million dollar flow equalization basin at the wastewater treatment plant unless the excess clear water is removed from the sanitary sewer system.

Excess clear water enters the system from cracks in sewer mains and manholes along with private sources such as sump pumps, basement seepage collection systems, defective service laterals and roof drains. Removing private sources of clear water is essential to solving the problem.

A major source of private clear water in the sanitary sewer system is sump pumps. A sump pump removes ground water from around a home's foundation. The proper place for a sump pump to discharge is to the exterior of the home or storm sewer street intake if available. The improper place for it to go is the sanitary sewer because this unnecessarily increases treatment costs. A single sump pump discharges between 20-100 gallons per minute (gpm). It only takes a few improperly connected sump pumps to overload a neighborhood sewer main that has a typical capacity of 400 gpm.

### What should I do?

With the revision of Ordinance 96.07 prohibiting all storm water connections to the sanitary sewer system, the City needs your help to remove clear water from the sanitary sewer system. Check to make sure your sump pumps, seepage collection system and roof drains discharge outside your home to yard space, garden space or storm sewer if available.

### What is an inspection?

The City of Boone will be continuing with a new targeted area of sump pump inspections this summer/fall to verify that clear water sump pump connections have been disconnected from the sanitary sewer system. To do this, they will need access to your property and basement to observe exterior grading, roof drains, sump pit/pump and seepage collection system if present. A typical inspection is completed in less than 15 minutes. There will be no charge for these inspections.

Special safety precautions will be implemented in accordance with the State Department of Public Health and the CDC to ensure the inspections are safe for everyone.

### What's the next step?

The seventh inspection program will begin in the summer/fall of 2025 with a targeted area of 1st Street south to Park Avenue and from Story Street east to S Jackson Street. You will be notified by mail of the upcoming work. Please visit the City website at [www.boonegov.com](http://www.boonegov.com) for more information.



### Upcoming Events

- Linwood Park Cemetery Cleanup starts Monday, April 7th, 2025. Residents with items at the cemetery should collect these items before the cleanup begins.
- Open Burning begins April 15th and ends May 15th. Burning allowed 8 am to 7 pm
- City Wide Cleanup information coming in the May newsletter
- May 1—June 30 Nominations for Community Dedication Award details at [www.boonegov.com](http://www.boonegov.com)

VISIT [WWW.BOONEGOV.COM](http://WWW.BOONEGOV.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION

## 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. 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.

### **Please be aware of the following City Code in regards to Municipal Infractions.....**

Chapter 4.03 (2) C.) Any violation of the restrictions prohibiting blowing grass, leaves or snow into the street, "open burning", curfew as defined in Chapter 46, or placing signs in the public right-of-way shall carry the following penalties:

- (1) First offense – \$75.00 fine
- (2) Second offense – \$300.00 fine
- (3) Third and subsequent offenses – \$750.00 fine

Each day that a violation occurs or is permitted to exist constitutes a repeat offense.

*The entire code may be found in the City of Boone Code of Ordinances at [www.boonegov.com](http://www.boonegov.com)*

### **City of Boone Policy Manual Chapter 18 Community Dedication Award**

**18.01 Intent and Purpose:** To recognize individuals or groups whose passionate advocacy for the Community of Boone has fulfilled our goal of advancing the growth of the city of Boone.

1. Qualifications of award:
  - a. Starting new and innovative programs that help maintain and grow our local treasures for the benefit of Boone residents and visitors to our community; or,
  - b. Inspired and lifelong support to the professional development in Boone but not limited to: local education projects, community events and celebrations, volunteer work, leadership in community fundraising efforts; or,
  - c. Spearheading the effort at the local, regional and national level to help grow our community and make it accessible to everybody who chooses to live here, contribute to its growth and call it home.

**18.02 Nomination:** Any citizen of Boone may nominate a current resident of Boone.  
Nomination forms are available at City Hall or at [www.boonegov.com](http://www.boonegov.com)

**18.03 Award Schedule:** All nominations shall be submitted to the City Clerk between the dates of May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

**18.04 Award Selection:** Nomination forms are given to the Mayor /Council for consideration.  
The Mayor and all Council Members will have a vote for the award winner.

**18.05 Award Presentation:** The award winner will be presented with a plaque at the opening ceremonies for Pufferbilly Days. The Mayor, and or his/her designee shall present the award.

Send completed application which can be found at [boonegov.com](http://boonegov.com) to:  
City Hall City Clerk, PO Box 550. Or you may e-mail information to [clerk@booneiowa.gov](mailto:clerk@booneiowa.gov). Deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>.