

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

DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS AND GROWTHS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF BOONE, IOWA

It is unlawful for the owner or occupant of any lot or parcel of ground to allow noxious weeds to grow upon the lot or parcel or to allow weeds or grass over **twelve inches or taller** or to allow volunteer trees less than three inches in diameter to grow upon the parking along the street, in the alley, or on privately owned lot or parcel of ground or on land owned by the city abutting the privately owned land. It shall be the duty of such owner or occupant to cut or cause to be cut down all noxious weeds or growths upon the lot or parcel of ground, and to keep cut down reasonably close to the ground all grass, noxious weeds and volunteer trees upon the space between the lot line and the curb line or edge of traveled way along or in front of the lot or along the adjacent half of alley. Such growths are declared to be a public nuisance.

In case of failure of such owner or occupant to cut such weeds, grass, or volunteer trees, the weed commissioner shall cause the same to be cut down and violations thereof to be corrected. The city will also impose a maximum civil penalty of fifty (\$50) dollars for a first violation, and two hundred (\$200) dollars for the second and subsequent violations, a five (\$5) dollar administrative fee, PLUS the actual costs of such cutting or mowing necessary to bring the property into compliance. No notices or warning letters will be issued or sent.

After the weed commissioner has completed the destruction of weeds or growths, he shall determine as to each tract of real estate the actual costs of destroying said weeds or growths and the applicable civil penalties and administrative fees, and assess the resulting sum against said tract of real estate by a special tax and collected with interest and penalty after due, in the same manner as other unpaid taxes.

MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS:

As we begin to enjoy the nice weather, it is important to remember certain codes that go along with Spring, Summer and the Fall. Chapter 135 of the Boone Ordinance states that it is unlawful to blow, throw, or deposit on any street or alley any leaves, grass or debris. Chapter 105.05 covers the regulations restricting Open Burning. Chapter 46 provides guidelines around curfews for persons under the age of eighteen (18) years of age. Please visit www.boonegov.com and click on City Code for more information. Violation of these codes are subject to a civil penalty outlined in Chapter 4.03. First offence is a fine not to exceed \$750.00. Second offence is a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00.

VISIT WWW.BOONEGOV.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Open Burning begins April 15th and ends May 15th 8 am to 7 pm
- May 1—June 30 Nominations for Community Dedication Award accepted
- Hydrant flushing will begin in April and will continue throughout the season

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.

Despite these many factors affecting alleys, the hurdle the City must overcome is finances. Yet, the maintenance responsibilities and expectations increase year to year. We ask for your patience and understanding as we do our best to keep our street network functional.

Community Dedication Award

The City of Boone is accepting nominations for the annual Community Dedication Award.

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.

Qualifications for Award:

- a. Starting new and innovative programs that help maintain and grow our local treasures that benefit the Boone residents and visitors to our community; or
- b. b. Inspired and lifelong supporter 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. 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.

Nominations: Any citizen of Boone may nominate a current resident of Boone. Nomination forms are available at www.boonegov.com or at the City Hall and may be submitted by email to clerk@booneiowa.gov or at City of Boone Attention: City Clerk PO Box 550, 923 8th Street, Boone, IA 50036.

Timeline:

- a. All nominations shall be submitted to the City Clerk between the dates of May 1st and June 30th of each year.
- b. Nomination forms are given to the Mayor /Council for consideration. The Mayor and all Council Members will have a vote for the award winner.
- c. 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.