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A Biannual Insight Into What Is Happening in Keota

City of Keota

current topics >>>

News from City Hall

Due to COVID-19 the City of Keota has been forced to implement some new procedures.

The City Hall is not open to the public until further notice. The clerk is in office from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday if you would like to call in or talk to her through the door security. The rest of the day she is working from home, so feel free to email if you have any questions or concerns. Wilson Memorial Library is CLOSED until further notice.

These new guidelines are put into place to avoid people congregating at our facilities and to do our part to help flatten the curve during this time.

If you have any questions please go to our website keotaiowa.org or our Facebook page City of Keota, Iowa.

KEOTA CITY HALL
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309 E. BROADWAY AVENUE
PO BOX 77
KEOTA, IOWA 52248
641-636-2266

KEOTACITYHALL@CLOUDBURST9.NET

1st Quarter Legislative Link

- Lowered your levy tax from \$16.15 to \$14.56 per \$1,000.00 of home value.
- Repealed excessive government oversight laws as listed below:
 - Rental Inspections which cost the city thousands of dollars each year and didn't resolve the public health concerns the community was facing.
 - Cottonwood and Poplar trees are once again legal to plant in the City Limits.
 - It is now legal to double ride a bicycle, ride with no hands on the handle bars, use a pull behind to pull your children on your bike, and rest things on your handlebars while you bike.
 - Legalized golf carts, UTV, and ATV vehicles in City Limits - required registration application and sticker obtained through the city hall.
- Initiated condemnation of 306 W. Broadway Ave.
- Upheld the City of Keota's Pitbull ban.
- Prevented a new Salvage Yard Ordinance from becoming law which allows four businesses in town to continue to operate without additional, unnecessary government regulation.
- Started enforcing the Building Maintenance portion of our Code of Laws. All houses (both occupied owned and rental) are required to meet living standard requirements. These requirements are now being enforced.
- Approved grant applications for the Pool Advocate Committee with the understanding that the citizens will be given an opportunity to vote on whether or not to pay for the difference between the grants received and the total cost of the pool.
- Jump started the Daycare Committee. Below are the actions taken so far:
 - Mr. Wilson's will does not prevent the City from moving the Library to the new City Hall building if the current Library can be renovated to a Daycare Facility.
 - Plans are lined up to have an architect look through the Library to see if it can be renovated.
 - There is a current survey available to the community in order to understand our community's needs regarding the Daycare. This survey is currently live. If you have questions about how to participate in the survey please visit the City of Keota website.

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Other Happenings >>>

Once again the water rates will increase in July 2020. Due to the completion of the new wastewater treatment plant, the City of Keota is required to raise the rates from a base rate of \$36.24 to \$41.67 in order to keep up on the interest and principal payments for the new plant.

Libertyville Savings Bank will be moving in the coming months and they have generously donated their current building to the City of Keota. The hope is to move city hall, the library and the Historical Museum to the former bank building. It will be a phase by phase move with the hopes of having city hall moved by late summer, early fall. From there, the Council will re-evaluate when and how to move the other departments.

The Council is looking into updating the Wilson Memorial Park. The hope is to vacate the street between the park and the large ball field, put in a walking path around the park and large ball field, update some park equipment, and rejuvenate the park in general.

The City Council and Mayor have been impressed with the number of people volunteering their time and effort to a number of projects and organizations in Keota. They are proud of how the residents have stepped up and have shopped local during the COVID-19 pandemic as well. Through this time, everything is moving full steam ahead on projects and the future progress of Keota. Together we can all get through this!

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- Updated ordinance regarding City Right of Way. It is no longer legal to plant trees or shrubs in the City Right of Way between the sidewalk and the street. All existing trees are exempt.
- Approved contract for Cemetery mowing.
- Set new directive to all departments (both City and Volunteer) to first seek grants for all non-emergency/ non-essential items before coming to the City Council asking for the Citizens of Keota to pay for the costs. It is hoped that by implementing this we will be able to save tax payer dollars by making better use of grant opportunities that are currently available but not being accessed.



Upcoming Events

Summer months are fast approaching!

All events tentative depending on proclamations.

Wilson Memorial Library

Check with the library on dates for the Summer Reading Program!

Keota City Wide Clean Up

Saturday, April 18

Items to Curb by Fri., April 17

Keota Education Foundation Golf Tourney

Sunday, June 7 – 11:00 a.m.

Keota Fun Days Celebration

June 12 & Jun 13

For more information go to
www.keotaiowa.org

Spring & Summer Guidelines

The Council is in the process of looking at sidewalks in the city limits of Keota for repairs and replacement. The City Employees will help tear out the sidewalk if and when they have the time at no charge, but it would be the homeowners responsibility to replace them.

Code of Ordinance Title VI, Chapter 15, Duty to Trim Trees states: “The owner or agent of the abutting property shall keep the trees on, or overhanging the street, trimmed so that all branches will be at least fifteen (15) feet above the surface of the street and eight (8) feet above the sidewalks.

Trash, debris, and junk also needs to be picked up from yards in accordance with City of Keota Code of Ordinances Title III, Chapter 2, Section 1.p: Nuisance – “Accumulation of rubbish or trash tending to harbor vermin, rodents, and rank growth of weeds or other vegetation and plants which is conducive to hazard.”

Dangerous Animals Prohibited. No person shall keep, shelter, or harbor for any purpose within the City limits, a dangerous animal. The following are animals which shall be deemed to be dangerous animals per se: “...Pit bulls meaning any dog that is an American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, or any dog displaying majority of physical traits of any one or more of the above breeds (more so than any other breed), or any dog exhibiting those distinguishing characteristics”

Also, according to City of Keota Ordinances dogs are prohibited to run at large. This means that if a dog is off owner’s property it is to be leashed, under the control of a competent person, in a motor vehicle, or kenneled.

Burning of leaves, trash, rubbish or other combustibles is prohibited in city limits. There is a compost site outside of the city limits for yard waste only. Stop by city hall if you are unaware of the location and the city clerk will have a map for you. If using a fire pit for a camp fire in town, only untreated wood is allowed to be burned.

