

3/30/18

Cutty's Des Moines Camping Club

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families all surviving the winter and looking with great anticipation of the upcoming camping season. We have been busy this winter planning and preparing for what we think will be a great camping season.

I know the outdoor pool project is the most frequently asked question that we get. I am happy to announce that the project is on time and we plan for the pools to be open in May. The contractors are working on the new bathhouse and equipment room as we speak. Some have asked if we could put in a zero entry pool and others have asked for different features such as slides, diving boards etc. Unfortunately we do not have the resources of a city and there are many factors controlling what we do. Even the idea of one larger pool would be great but if we did that we would have to provide lifeguards during the hours we are open. We are open 8-8 which is longer than most city pools so the amount of lifeguards to cover these hours would be financially prohibitive for us. Also lifeguards are in high demand and many cities had to cut their pool hours back last year due to the lack of personnel. This is also true of slides and diving boards which requires more lifeguards to watch each of these features. Also the cost of insurance would increase with these additions. We are looking forward to the new look the pools will have and the new safety features built into the design.

Of course the updated pools will be very visible to our members but the Board also has to use capital improvement money to maintain the Club in ways that are not so visible. We have had to replace the air handler in the clubhouse after about 17 years of operation. Upgraded software for the computer system was another expense that needed to be made.

With our ongoing cost rising the Board had to make a few needed price increases. The Board has increased the price to transfer into the Club from \$300.00 to \$400.00 with a discount of 50% if the person transferring in is related to the member transferring out. These discounts are to promote family camping. The Board has increased the late fee for not checking out at 3:00 or staying longer than 14 days on a site to \$50.00/day. This was done as too many members were holding up campsites that other members should be able to use. The rules are set so all members have equal rights to all sites in open camping. The golf cart fee of \$25.00/year was increased to \$30.00/year. All rental unit prices were changed to one price for guests as well as members. Seasonal site fees were increased by \$50.00.

We have had a number of complaints about Park Model campers coming into the Club on seasonal sites and tying those sites up for long periods of time. We have over 300 members on the seasonal site wait list and if someone buys a park model they get that site. We are phasing out that policy. Anyone bringing a park model into the park must take it out when they leave just like all other models. If you are on a seasonal site and have signed the 2018 seasonal contract you may put a park model on your site and if you sell that unit the new member can keep that site but the new contract they will sign will state that if they sell the unit they need to move it off the site when they leave. All Park Models currently on seasonal sites are grandfathered in and can be sold one time with the site but that member would need to move the unit off the site when they leave.

Some of you might have heard that Dennis Kline, a long time employee in buildings and grounds, has left the company. He is still a club member so if you see him thank him for his years of service. Travis is taking applications and resumes to fill the buildings and grounds position but he also needs someone for RV repairs so if you know anyone with mechanical or related experience send them our way. All other departments are now calling back previous summer employees but there are always new openings. If you or if you know anyone wanting a seasonal job have them give us a call or come in and fill out an application.

We have included a new Cutty's brochure. The marketing department would appreciate if you could pass this brochure on to someone you think might be interested in Cutty's or post on a bulletin board at work or wherever convenient.

I look forward to seeing all of you this summer.

Sincerely,

Ron Haynes  
President