

Cutty's Des Moines Camping Club

Dear Members,

3/12/19

I hope this letter arrives with warmer weather with the polar vortex and continuing snowfalls just a memory. Camping season is soon approaching. Cutty's staff is working hard to have everything ready.

Buildings and grounds trimmed over two hundred trees. Travis and his crew do a great job of trimming the trees high enough that they don't scratch the roof or sides of our units. They also remove dead limbs that could fall during a storm. Travis and his crew are working on the roads and ask that you please drive on the paved roads. The gravel roads are not ready at this time. There is some work being done in the common areas to replace deteriorating walls and structures. This season's activities have been set and are updated on our website. We will have a new website that will be optimized for mobile devices and some new surprises on their way.

The clubhouse roof has been fixed and the interior problems have been addressed. The door in the indoor pool area have been deteriorating over the years until they will not shut. This is a safety risk if children or anyone entered this area without training. There are chemicals and equipment that could pose a hazard. The Board has approved the finances to have these doors replaced. The upper women's and men's bathrooms are being repaired and new toilets installed. The new outdoor pools are getting some equipment upgrades to handle the additional use.

The Board has been very conservative with Capital improvements for this season. We are in the midst of planning a large expenditure to replace the road over the lake and upgrade the current spillway. As you know the last few years the flooding has caused water to flow over the road numerous times. This not only traps our members in the park but also as the culverts under the road cannot carry away the water fast enough and the water undermines the road causing sink holes or cavities. We have been spending thousands of dollars filling and repairing these cavities as they appear. Our current spillway under the walking bridge cannot carry the water out of the lake quick enough causing the water to go over the dam. If you walked by the dam this last season you would see that much of the dam had been washed away. We spent over \$40,000 replacing the dirt and having it graded. Again, this money did not fix the problem but patched the dam. The Board has hired an engineering company to come in and survey the lake and give recommendations on how to rectify the problem. The recommendation is to take out the current road and culverts and replace them with larger culverts and then build a new road on top. This would greatly reduce the flooding. The road would be built with a temporary spillway at the north end allowing for major flooding to enter the lake there and not cause any damage. Allowing more water to flow into the lake requires a more robust spillway to let the water out. The recommendation is to build an additional structure by the dam to allow the water to flow into the creek faster thus protecting our dam. This will be a costly project but must be completed to ensure no further damage to our road, the lake and our property.

The 100th street exit is now open in both directions. The DOT have begun work on the Highway 141 flyover exit area. This will not encroach on Cutty's property. I would expect some shut downs at that exit as they complete this work which is why the 100th street exit needed to be completed first.

Talking about the 141-exit ramp the intersection at 141 and 37th street east will be widened from the intersection east to Destination St. That is just before the road gets to Cutty's. In the future the City of Grimes does plan to widen that road all the way to Cutty's and put in turning lanes. This should make getting in and out of Cutty's much easier. They have no dates for the completion of this project. Our new neighbors to the east have sold a section of the property to Casey's and a new store should be opening soon.

Last letter I outlined some price increases but neglected to say the Board and management are working hard to reduce expenses as well. The Board tried to make the increases across all types of members as the high increase in taxes, water and other expenses will affect all members. This last year was an anomaly of increases which we do not usually have. The Board does not expect to see increases like this next year unless some other event occurs.

As with any seasonal business Cutty's has some turnover each year in employees and this year is no different. We have openings in the gatehouse, housekeeping, store and snack bar. If you are interested in applying, please complete an application which can be printed from cuttys.com or picked up in the office Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm.

Thank you for your time and the great support Cutty's gets from its members. It is this support that makes Cutty's the best campground in Iowa.

Best regards,


Ron Haynes