# 2022 Pride & Progress

**New Business Focus**

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# CAMERON'S DEVOTIONAL DIRECTORY

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(816) 632-7337 | (816) 284-2830
Follow us on Facebook | Buses available for pickups
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service..... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Afternoon Service ..... 2:00 p.m.
Wed. Evening Service & Kids Club..... 7:00 p.m.

**CAMERON CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**
Pastor Vicki Copp
206 Lovers Lane | (816) 632-7812
www.cameronnazarene.org
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.
In Person & Facebook Live

**CAMERON RESTORATION BRANCH OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**
Elder Brian Marshall
1008 W. 3rd | (816) 724-0522
Opening Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School ..... 9:40 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service..... 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service..... 7:30 p.m.

**CAMERON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastor Dan Brown
Associate Pastor Kobey Puls
201 N. Pine | (816) 632-3461
www.cameronumc.org
Check out our Facebook page for Online Worship
Sunday Service..... 10:00 a.m.
In Person & Online
Youth & Children's Ministries
Kid's Sunday School..... 9:00 a.m.
Age 4-5th Grade
Sunday Youth Group..... 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Grades 6-12
Wednesday Night Live..... 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Age 4-5th Grade

**COMMUNITY OF CHRIST**
Pastor Nancy Fulmer
902 W. 4th | (816) 632-3303
Pastoral Team Denise Youtsey
& Blair Shock
Sunday Morning Service..... 10:00 a.m.
In Person & Zoom Meeting
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**CORNERSTONE CHURCH**
Pastor Morgan Saunders
317 N. Locust | (660) 815-5373
cornerstonechurch.cc
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Worship
& Youth Group..... 6:30 p.m.

**CROSSROADS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
Pastor Tim Harrell
919 North Harris St. | PO Box 401
(816) 632-2427
Adult Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.
Children's Church ..... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service..... 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service ..... 6:30 p.m.
Children's Classes..... 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday's starting in May

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Terry Beasley
202 E. Ford | (816) 632-7251
Music Pastor - Steve Howell
Youth Pastor - Aaron Laskey
Children's Pastor - Bryan Allen
www.cameronfbc.org
Sunday School - All Ages ..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.
Tues. Men's Breakfast & Bible Study ..... 6:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-Week Manna ..... 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Awana Clubs ..... 6:30 p.m.
Thursday Impact Youth..... 6:30 p.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor Russ Hamilton
318 N. Pine | (816) 632-3605
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cameronfcc@yahoo.com | Follow us on Facebook
Adult Sunday School ..... 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service..... 10:00 a.m.
Monday Evening Bible Study..... 6:00 p.m.

**KINGDOM BUILDERS CHURCH**
Pastor Gary Phillips
311 N. Main | (816) 596-2454
kingdombuilders121@gmail.com
Sunday Free Breakfast ..... 9:00-9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service..... 10:00 a.m.
Monday Faith Based 12 Step ..... 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.

**MABEL WORSHIP CENTER ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
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1/4 mile West at sign | (816) 632-2673
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Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service..... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Family Night
Adult Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.

**PASSION CHURCH**
Pastors Lonnie and Colleen Hardy
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Sunday Morning Service..... 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Evening Service ..... 7:00 p.m.

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Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Divine Service..... 10:45 a.m.

**REACH CHURCH**
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202 Lovers Lane | (816) 808-7462
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

**RIVER OF LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastors Otis Nixdorf & Dave Nixdorf
811 S. Walnut | (816) 632-2246
www.riveroflifebaptist.com
Sunday School ..... 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service ..... 10:15 a.m.

**ST. MUNCHIN CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Father Thomas Ludwig
301 N. Cedar | (816) 632-2768
www.munchin.net
stmunchinparish@gmail.com
Saturday Mass ..... 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass ..... 9:00 a.m.
School of Religion Sunday after Mass
Sunday St. Aloysius Mass..... 11:00 a.m.
Weekday Mass: Mon., Wed. & Thurs. ..... 8:00 a.m.
Tues. & Fri..... 7:00 a.m.

**TURNING POINT CHURCH**
Pastor Terry Sims
N 69 Hwy at EE Junction
(816) 507-7062 | (816) 507-0030
Follow us on Facebook
Cafe Connect Breakfast ..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service..... 10:30 a.m.
Follow live on Facebook
Tuesday Night Live..... 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study or Live Focused Prayer
Wednesday Celebrate Recovery..... 7:30 p.m.

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# CONTENT


Devotional Directory ..... 2
New Businesses
- 3rd Street Fusion ..... 6
- Abundant Health, Athene Miller Real Estate ..... 7
- Farmhouse Kitchen Meals ..... 7
- Take 2 Discount Furniture, Teez & Tiaras ..... 12
- Willowbrook Women's Center ..... 12

Message from the Mayor ..... 13
Hometown Improvements
- Veterans Home Silhouette Memorial ..... 16
- Sloan Monument Celebrates 150 Years ..... 18
- Pool, Parks & School Improvements ..... 18
- The Plant Place & Cameron Greenhouse ..... 22

Service Guide ..... 17-18
Businesses On The Move
- CosMedic Dentistry ..... 24
- Cameron Mutual Insurance ..... 28
- Leibrandt Jewelry ..... 29
- Randy Curnow Chevrolet ..... 30
- The Bow Hut, Young Electric ..... 30

Clubs and Organizations ..... 26-28

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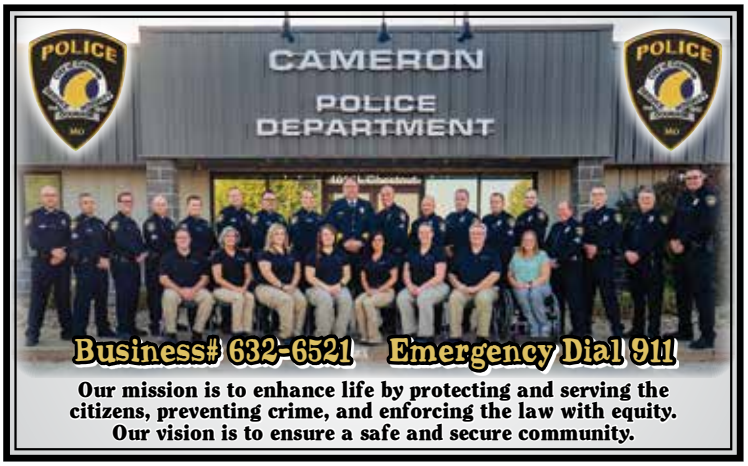
*Photos by Jimmy Potts, unless indicated*



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*Dr. Littlejohn joined CRMC's Active Medical Staff in January 2020, providing Obstetrics & Gynecology services on a full-time basis. Dr. Littlejohn attended Loyola University School of Medicine in Chicago and performed his OB/GYN Residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria.*

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# New Businesses

## 3rd Street Fusion

**219 East Third St | 816.649.5472**

Supporting area artisans got much easier thanks to a new business focused on handcrafted goods made in Missouri.

For Linda Krentz, co-owner of 3rd Street Fusion in Cameron, she sought to open the stores in order to showcase the vast number of area artists and their variety of talents. It's unbelievable, but they don't always have a place to display it," Krentz said. "We started asking around for different artists and handcrafted items. That's how it happened."

At first, with its cash register nestled under a menu of various coffee selections, 3rd Street Fusion may exude the setting of a simply country coffee shop but just a few steps further into the business reveals its true intent. Its wooden shelves are adorned with handmade goods and even further back is a wine bar filled with selections from wines from independent vintners across Kansas and Missouri.

"We decided, we also like Missouri wines, coffee and people. It's been pretty good. We have a lot of people come in that love watching the demonstrations," Krentz said. "… It's nice and quiet here. Some people just come in and plan for the week or just sit and read. I've had people come in and do their planning for the week, then come back in with some friends in the evening."

Although only open for a few weeks, Krentz already plans to expand her products and services. She hopes to host demonstrations on pottery and stained glass in the near future, along with offering related items.

"We may open up the possibility of people renting the space in the evening. We have some artists coming in the spring for demonstrations, games and marble makers … We will have a lot of different things after the first of the year. We want more chances for more artists to show us their stuff," Krentz said.

Despite only being open for a week, Krentz said the feedback she's received has been positive. While making enough revenue to keep the lights on and the doors open is the top priority, she said her business is more of a conversation piece to awe and inspire her patrons.

"Right now, I have three or four artists and a couple of more who have expressed interest. Everybody says they love it. They tell their friends and come back. Most people say they enjoy the coffee and visiting," Krentz said.

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## Abundant Health

101 East Third Street | 816.649.8487

## Athene Miller Real Estate

602 Lana Drive, Suite F | 816.284.0796

## Farmhouse Kitchen Meals

103 East Third Street | 660.525.0650

Meal prep services are in high demand as time escapes our grasp. These services cater to various tastes, diets, eating patterns, and health conditions with meal kits. Most meal delivery services entail shipped boxes containing everything needed for selected meals. The boxes arrive at your doorstep, filled with exact measurements of ingredients, with recipe cards to spell out each step of the preparation and cooking process. It is no secret that you pay for the convenience, but when costed out, the meals are cheaper than you would pay at a restaurant. Kits may also be an option if you do not use everything you purchase from the store for your meals. The boxes are customizable and provide the opportunity to hone your cooking skills. Unfortunately, you may find that it takes you much longer to cook due to extra time needed to review and read each step

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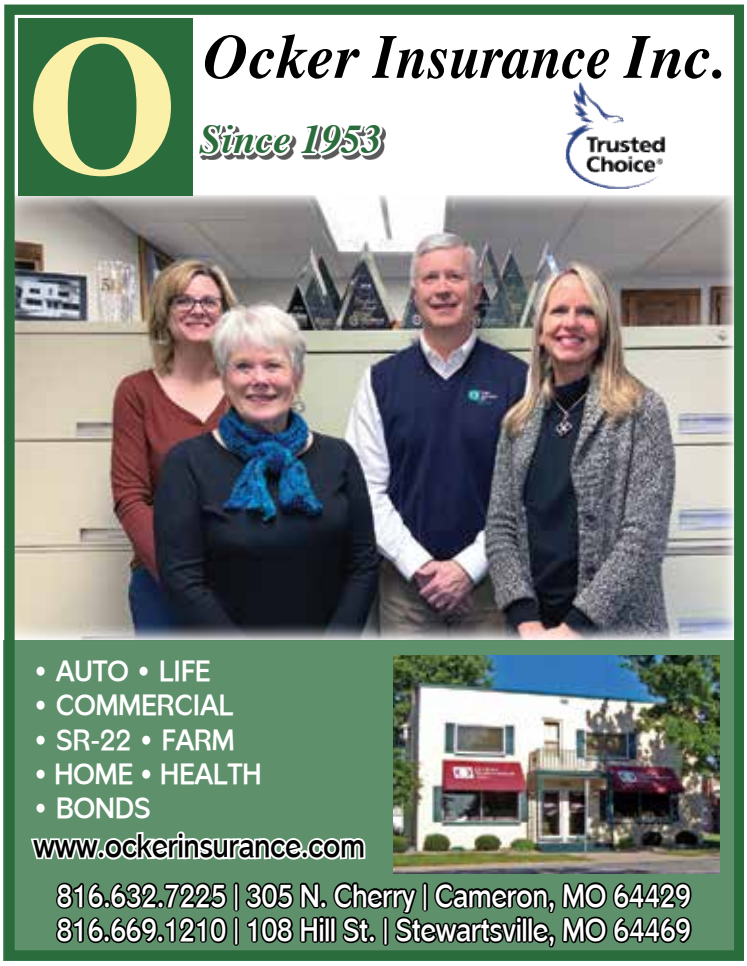
of the cooking process.

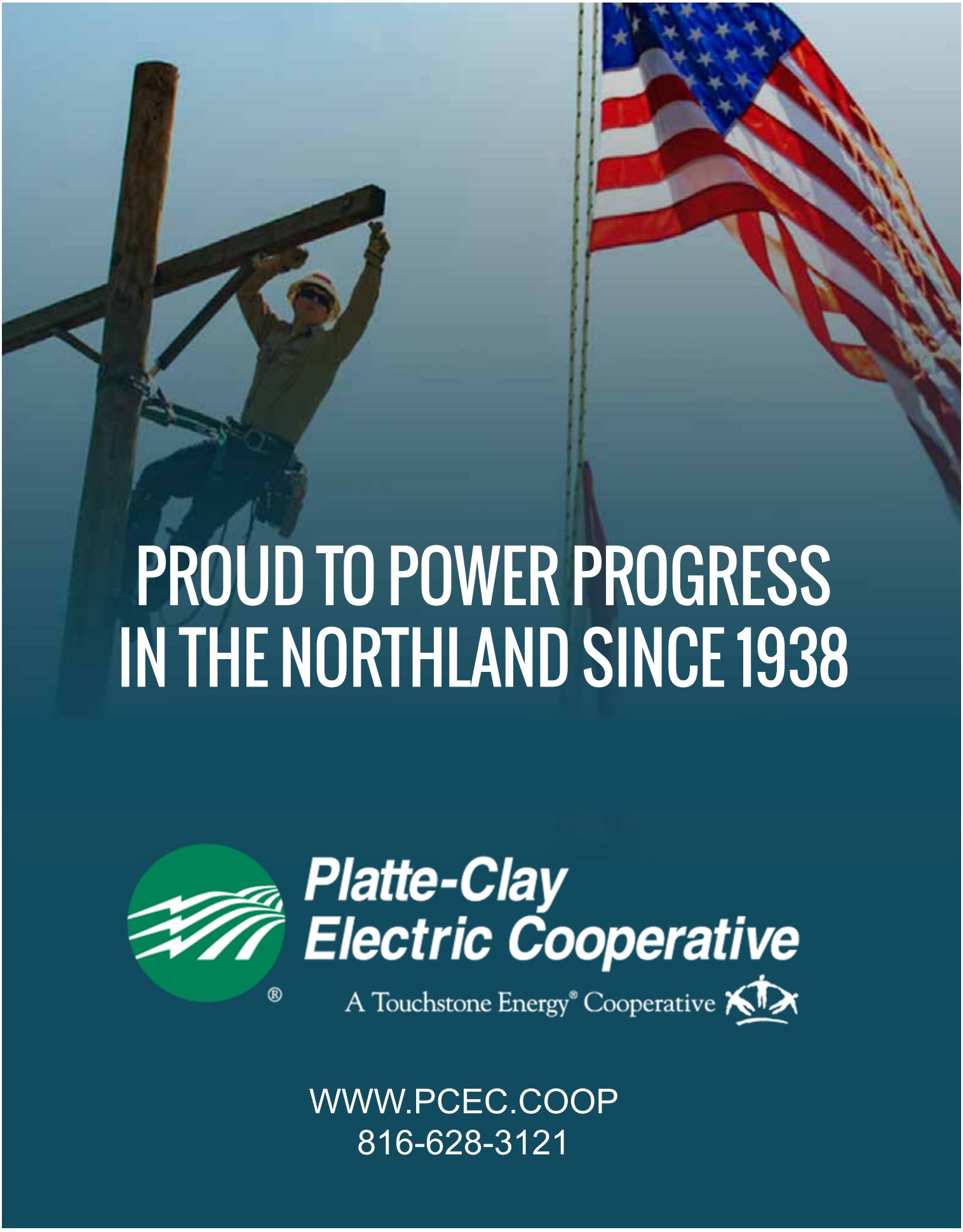
Cameron, Missouri has its very own meal prep service on Third Street. It is owned and run by Bethany Warren. Her food philosophy is real, wholesome food, in healthy portions with a little room for the occasional treat. Walk into Farmhouse Kitchen Meals storefront and find fresh muffins, cookies, donuts, danish, breads, energy bites, dog treats, and Cameron Nutrition Teas. The meal prep and delivery services cater to a variety of needs, including low-sodium, low-carb, Paleo, and keto diets. Whether you need a quick pick-me-up snack, perfectly portioned lunch, or a whole dinner prepped for you, Bethany has got you covered.

Ordering is done online and is as simple as going to the shopping link on Farmhouse Kitchen Meals' Facebook page. Order online Monday through Friday, ensuring your order is in by midnight on Friday of each week to be ready the following Monday. Your meals are dated and labeled with instructions for you to follow. Farmhouse Kitchen Meals take it a step further by removing the kits and preparing the meals for you. Deliveries are made in Cameron, Plattsburg, Hamilton, Maysville, Lathrop, and Saint Joseph.

Unlike other meal prep delivery services, Farmhouse Kitchen Meals removes the time-wasting hassle of following tedious instructions. Bethany is also in touch with the community, providing something special for days like Teacher Appreciation Day, or Election Day. You will not find that personal touch with most of the 100-plus meal prep companies in existence. With her innovative ways, Bethany is sure to continue to find ways to serve the Cameron community. If you're in need of time-saving, healthier food options, stop in to see Bethany or place an order online.

Story by Lisa Orr.

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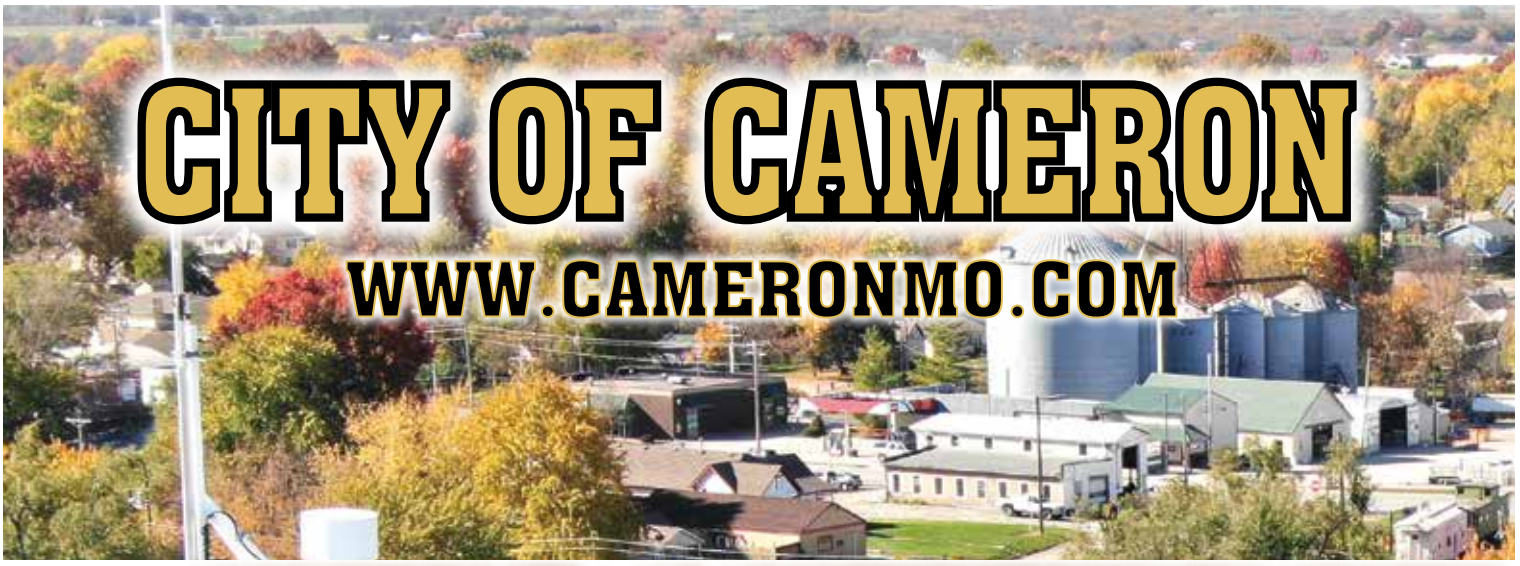


# Committed to Growing our Community

- Improve Communication
- Improve Infrastructure
- Create Recreational Opportunities
- Become more Resident Friendly
- Promote Economic Development

**City Council Members:**
**Mayor Dennis M. Clark, Becky Curtis,**
**Gina Reed Hibler, Julie Ausmus, Roy Estes**

# "Crossroads of the Nation"

## 2021 Highlights

- At its Goal Setting Session, the City Council identifies 5 goals which staff has been aggressively pursuing
- Historic Preservation Society takes over Third Street building revitalization
- Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission sets timeline which identifies construction of waterline starting in May
- The Transportation Tax is passed to improve major road reconstruction
- The Public Safety Taxes are used to upgrade the public safety building and vehicle equipment
- The City continues to work on trails around the reservoir
- The Parks continue to expand with the new aquatic center and community park
- The Cameron Public Library makes improvements to their building including ADA accessibility
- The City applies for two $1 million grants to improve the Community Center and Griffin Road as well as a $500,000 grant to improve Harris Street

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## Willowbrook Women's Center

210 North Main Street | 816.632.1377

Pregnancy Resource Clinic (St. Joseph PRC), D.B.A. Willowbrook Women's Center has provided services in Cameron since May 2021. Libby Owens, Executive Director along with employees; Mary, Peyton, Alexx and Lisa make up the Center's staff. In 1998 Pregnancy Resource Clinic was established in St. Joseph.

The main focus of Willowbrook is helping women in crisis pregnancy with no-cost clinic appointments. Willowbrook Women's Center is looking forward to bringing additional services to Cameron in 2021 including Maternity Closet, a clothing giveaway, and prenatal parenting program. They are a non-profit organization which relies on the community for support.

Submitted by Mary Murdock, Cameron Chamber of Commerce


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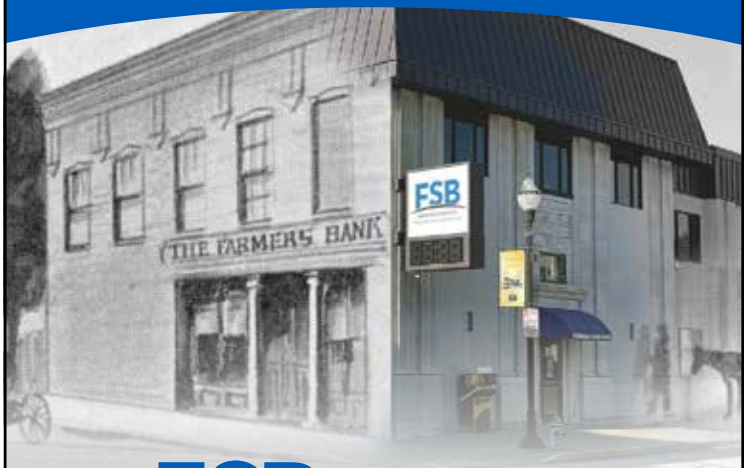


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# Message from the Mayor

**Introduction**

As we do each year, I welcome the opportunity to let the community know what things are coming in the year ahead of us. As we have done in the past, our primary focus is to help make the community a place where everyone would like to come to work, play, and live. In this message I would like to highlight some of the things that are ongoing and will be high on the City Council's agenda in the coming months.

**2021 Goal Setting Session**

On June 11, 2021, the City Council conducted a strategic visioning retreat at The Elms Resort in Excelsior Springs. As a result, the City adopted the following goals for 2021, which the staff has been aggressively pursuing.

1. Improve Communication
2. Improve Infrastructure
3. Create Recreational Opportunities
4. Become more Resident Friendly
5. Promote Economic Development

**Historic Preservation Society (HPS)**

The Historical Preservation Society Board of Directors agreed to cement their stake in the community by taking on a section of buildings on Third Street. The buildings are in much need of structural care. The HPS is now in control of the direction and design of these Third Street buildings.

Mayor Dennis M Clark

The HPS, City of Cameron, and the previous property owners all agreed that it was in the best interest of the community to revert the buildings to the Historical Preservation Society. The goal is to revitalize the block of buildings with grants, donations, funding raising, and assistance from other agencies. HPS views this as a project that will improve the community along with the downtown district.

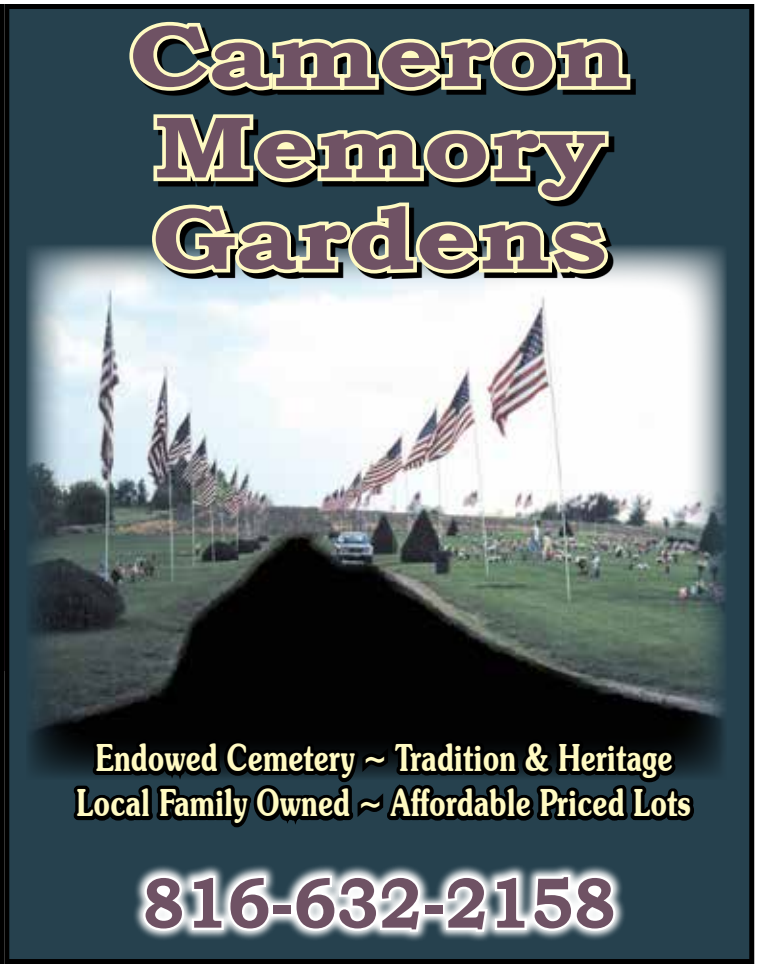
**Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission (GNWWC) Timeline**

The GNWWC bids for construction were recently received by the City on December 22nd. As a result, the new waterline from the Missouri River will soon be a reality and Cameron will no longer need to worry about recurring drought. In discussions with USDA and the GNWWC Commission, a timeline for construction was established. By March 15th all of the required property easements will be acquired.

From February 15th to March 15th public meetings will be conducted in Maysville and Cameron in regard to proposed rates. By April 22nd, the public bonding action will be completed to make money available to proceed. And on April 23rd we propose giving the construction companies a notice to proceed. This waterline will be in addition to our current water system and will provide our community with abundant clean water for decades to come.

**Transportation Tax**

The public recently approved the new transportation tax, this was a significant statement by the public for the City to move forward with improving our road system. This money is estimated to produce approximately $750,000 per year. This is



in addition to money that the City Council annually puts in the street repair budget, about $250,000. The street repair budget is for doing small emergency repairs, such as fixing collapsed culverts and fixing pot holes. The Transportation tax is for doing major street reconstruction such as what was recently done on Groat Street. The passing of this tax allows us to continue major street rebuilds.

**Fire Department and Police Department Improvements**

Since last year, the Fire Department has added a new office to the public safety facility and the computerization and bookkeeping system has also been updated to the 21st century. These are some of the improvements being completed through the Fire Department sale tax to continue to improve public safety protection. The Police Department has also been upgrading the computer system and equipment in the vehicles. They are also working on a new roof and upgrading the security system in the building. The Police Department has also been able to modify salaries so as to be more competitive and retain police officers and dispatchers. All of this has been achieved through the public passing of the public safety tax.

**Trails**

The City is currently working to complete two major trail systems around the reservoir in the northwest part of the City. The first one is the rustic trail around Eagle Lake. This trail has been opened up and is only lacking a bridge across the spillway on the north end of the lake. The City is working to complete this trail this coming summer. The second trail is the ADA accessible trail around Sunrise Lake. This trail is ¾ the way completed. We currently have in place grant monies to complete everything except the remaining 1100 feet. We are currently working on a grant to complete 400 feet of this trail which will go from the parking lot on McElwain Drive to the Boy Scout overlook. That leaves us only 700 feet to be completed.

**Parks**

There have been two great additions to our park system this year. Due to the generous passing of the new parks tax, the Parks Department has been able to begin construction of the new aquatic center. We are hoping to have this open by the end of the summer 2022. The other major project is the community park located at the southwest corner of the intersection of US 36 and I-35. Construction of this project is also underway and we are looking forward to it being substantially completed by the end of summer 2022 as well.

**Cameron Public Library**

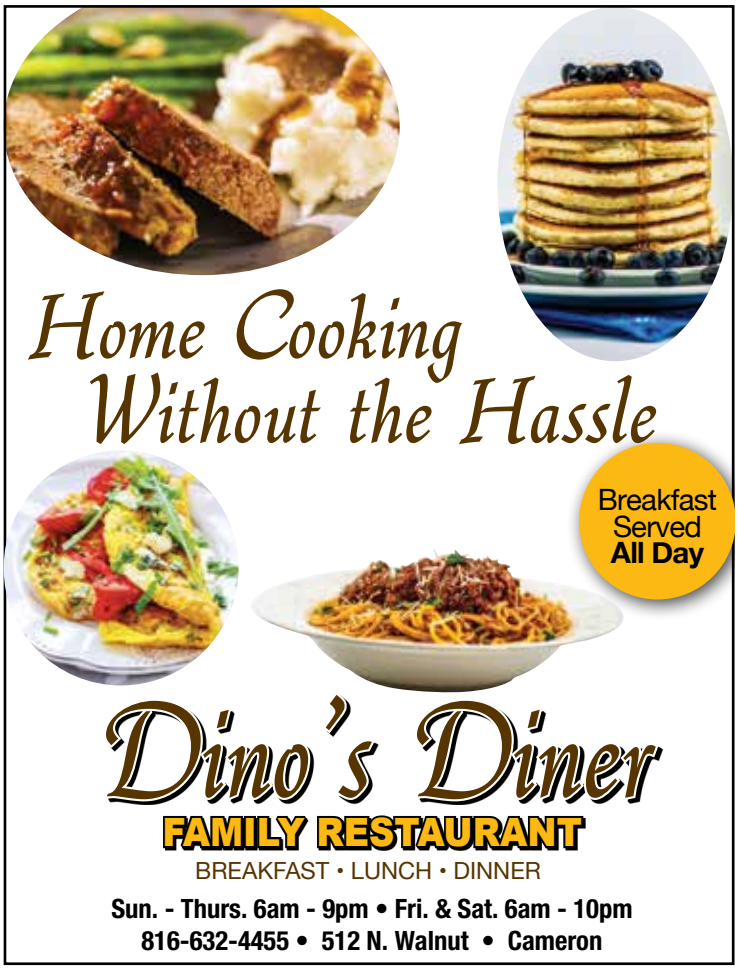
The Cameron Public Library Board has approved accessibility and cosmetic improvements to the library building. ADA accessibility is a necessity to the community and for those with disabilities. The improvements will include improving ADA parking access, expanding the door entry and vestibule, and replacing the sidewalk. The Library Board saw the need for these improvements by observing customer traffic. Often the ADA accessibility needs are overlooked, but with a very observant board and staff, they were able to identify the need to serve the community and make needed updates to comply with local, state, and federal codes.

**Community Development Block Grants (COVID)**

The City routinely applies for state and federal grants to complete infrastructure projects and due to our aggressively pursuing them, we have had good success in supporting our projects with these grants. These grants, however, require a match of some city dollars. Due to COVID related dollars becoming available, some grants are now available that do not require a city match. They must be COVID related, however, and there are dollar limitations on these applications. As a result, the City has applied for two such grants which are 1 million dollars each and require no match. The first one is major improvements to the Community Center and the second one is major new pavement to Griffin Road. We believe we have a good chance of getting one or both of these, but they are in review now and we anticipate hearing something by April or May 2022.

**Conclusion**

To summarize where we are and where we are going, the major quality of life issues that we are working on will be our new parks, trails around the reservoir, and completing the Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission line from the Missouri River. As we make the community more desirable for outsiders, it will continue to make a better place for all of us. It is an honor and privilege to continue to serve this community and I would like to encourage everyone to work together and to let your Council Members know what your concerns are.



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# Hometown Improvements

## Silhouette Memorial unveiled outside Cameron Missouri Veterans Home

**Cameron Missouri Veterans Home**

**1111 Euclid Ave | 816.632.6010**

The walk to the Cameron Missouri Veterans Home has a bit more gravitas thanks to the recently installed silhouette garden.

The garden honors the men and women of each military service branch, which comes as part of fundraising effort exceeding $30,000 through the Cameron Veterans Assistance League.

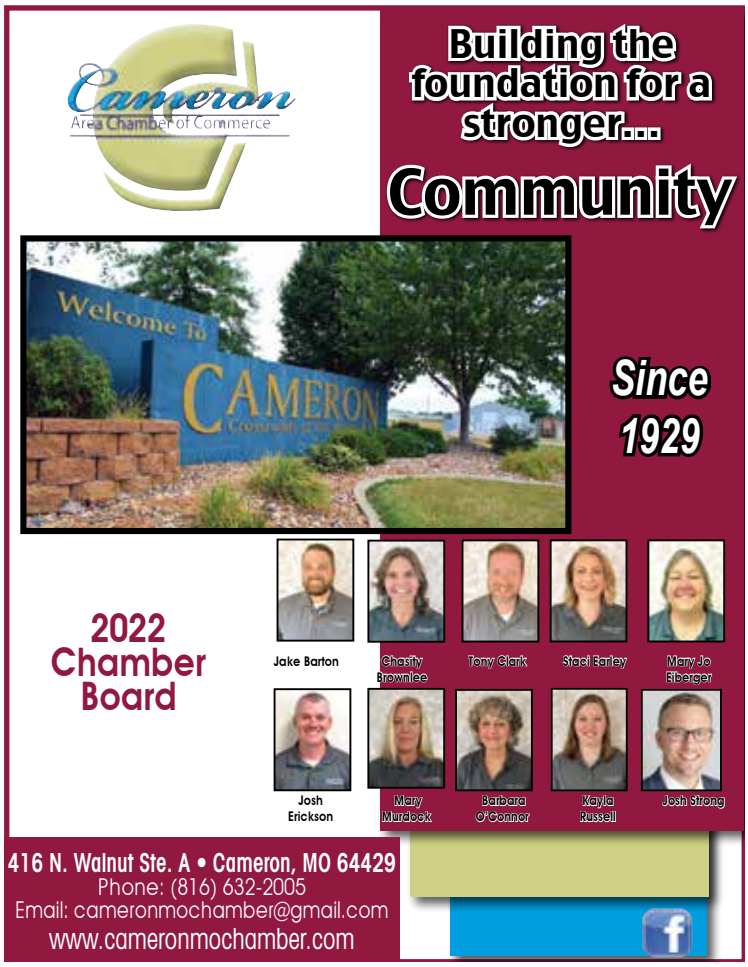
"It's a wonderful site and the gentleman who had the idea, Kenny Rucker, wanted it to represent all veterans," said Roger Foreman, a CVAL board member. "We think it's going to be a wonderful tribute and a lot of people will want to be a part of it and leave their legacy on the donor wall."

The CVAL announced the project last May and, following multiple fundraisers, construction efforts got underway a few weeks ago. Along with the silhouette displays, the garden also includes a paved walking path through the structure with wheelchair accessibility and various landscape elements.

"When the landscaping matures, it's going to be absolutely fabulous. It will take a year or two. When that landscaping comes about it is going to be unbelievable," Foreman said. "... The two people I want to give a lot of credit to is Kenny Rucker - a veterans that came up with the idea and Zach Workman, who designed the entire project and oversaw the construction. He did a lot of work himself and did a wonderful job."

Although recently constructed, the CVAL is still paying off the cost of construction. Those looking to donate can become a bronze member with a donation between $250-$1,000, silver member donations range from $1,000-$2,499, gold member donations range from $2,500 and $4,999 and Freedom member donations exceed $5,000. Donations can be submitted by mail by addressing them to the Cameron Veterans Assistance League at 1111 Euclid Ave, Cameron, Mo. 64429 attention Bradley Haggard, Silhouette Donation.

"I see this thing being a long-term program. Through the years, people will add their names or a veteran's name to the wall for many years to come," Foreman said. "... We're extremely optimistic the structure itself is going to be paid for very soon and the additional funds that come in will go to help our veterans."



# BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS & SERVICES GUIDE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# Celebrating 150 Years in Cameron

## Sloan Monument Works

**311 North Cherry | 816.632.2473**

After more than 150 years of operation, Sloan Monuments continues finding innovative ways to honor lost loved ones.

Sloan Monuments, originally opened in 1872, is Cameron's oldest operating business with its gravestones and mausoleum often featured in the Cameron Train Depot Museum and Historical Society's annual cemetery tour. With the tour becoming a regional attraction in its three years of operation, and the mausoleum and gravestones featuring some of Cameron's most influential citizens, Sloan Monuments' works often border on genuine works of art.

Founded by craftsman W.G. Sloan, the company eventually fell into the hands of Kent and Kurt Thompson, after its sale in 1988 - citing the purchase as a natural extension of their business, Poland-Thompson Funeral Home. Along with its indoor and outdoor show rooms, the bereaved can also go online and preview gravestone styles, colors and other aesthetic choices for a unique, personalized monument honoring a family member of friend.

For more information, or for more history on the Sloan Monuments legacy, visit them online at sloanmonuments.com or call (816) 632-2473 to set up an appointment.

# Pool, Parks and School Improvements

Multiple voter-approved projects may change the landscape of Cameron's arts and entertainment opportunities.

The soon-to-be-named Cameron City Park and Cameron Aquatic Center will open Memorial Day while the new performing arts center will open sometime in this fall.

During the 2020 city election, Cameron voters overwhelmingly approved all three projects. The pool and park projects came as part of a $16 million 1/4-cent sales tax package. Last fall, city officials broke ground on the park, the project had been in the works for years but pursuit of the park gained traction in 2019 after the Cameron City Council approved selling the current baseball/softball complex used by area little league teams to the Cameron R-1 School District. The park plan indicates it will replace the fields lost in the sale with a cloverleaf of fields with room to add soccer fields in the northern section. Plans for construction of an amphitheater area also underway through a recently established not-for-profit group.

The pool, with an estimated cost of $4.7 million, would be a complete overhaul of the current Cameron Municipal Pool and include a curled water slide and a straight slide to emphasize speed, an aquatic playground, a seven-lane swimming pool and bring the facility to

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS & SERVICES GUIDE

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**Pre K - Elementary | Intermediate School | Middle School | High School**

**Parkview Elementary | Pre K-2**
602 South Harris 816.882.1051

**Cameron Intermediate School | 3-5**
915 South Park 816.882.1046

**Cameron Veterans Middle School | 6-8**
1015 South Park 816.882.1041

**Cameron High School | 9-12**
1022 South Chestnut 816.822-1036

## Cameron R-1 School District

Central Office: 423 N. Chestnut, Cameron | 816.882.1031

## Activities:

Student Council
Tennis
Track & Field
Cheerleading
Pom Squad
Band
Choir
Dance Team
Softball
Baseball
Academic Bowl
Football
Theatre
Volleyball
PLTW
FCCLA
FFA
DECA
Soccer
Golf
Basketball
Robotics
Wrestling
Cross Country

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Cameron R-I School District! The Board of Education, administration, and staff of the Cameron R-I School District are eager to welcome you and become educational partners as we fulfill our vision: "A School of Excellence".

The Cameron R-I School District is made up of four school buildings: Parkview Elementary (grades Prek-2), Cameron Intermediate School (grades 3-5), Cameron Veterans Middle School (grades 6-8) and Cameron High School (grades 9-12).

We have high expectations for our students. The District continues to create an academic environment where every student can achieve beyond their potential. The Cameron R-I School District strives to do more than merely offer a quality education; the District "ensures" an excellent education.

All four of our school buildings are Professional Learning Communities (PLC) where student learning is the focus. The staff of the Cameron R-I School District has worked very hard to modify their grading, teaching, and communication with each other to assist all students in the learning process.

Cameron High School implemented Project Lead the Way (PLTW) seven years ago with two tracts: engineering and bio medical; in the fall of 2016, computer science was added as well. Project Lead the Way is now a part of the science curriculums in grades 3-8. In addition, our Veterans Middle School also participates in The Leader in Me a character building program.

In June of 2020 voters approved a bond issue that will build a state of the art vocational center, new high school science classrooms and a new performing arts center at the High School. We have started on work already and the next eighteen months the community will see very big changes. We are very excited about the opportunities that our new facilities will provide our students.

The district greatly appreciates the support of the community and wants to thank all of its patrons, as well as new residents and visitors. I encourage you to visit our schools and get involved in both the school district and the community!

Sincerely,
Dr. Matt Robinson
Superintendent of Schools
Cameron R-I School District

# School that is second to none.

Cameron's education system offers highly trained professionals and the latest technology in teaching the leaders of tomorrow.

There are four educational facilities located in Cameron. Parkview Elementary School houses students from Pre-K through second grade. Cameron Intermediate School holds grades three through five. Cameron Veterans Middle School is home to grades six through eight. Cameron High School houses grades nine through twelve, and a credit recovery program to better meet the needs of all students.

The district continues to improve technology resources with the installation of wireless networks in all buildings. Mobile computer labs are being used at all of our buildings and we are currently piloting programs at the high school, middle school and intermediate school with iPads and Chromebooks.

The district has completed the process of becoming a Professional Learning Community (PLC). All four schools in our school district have finished up their training. Recently Parkview Elementary and Cameron Intermediate Schools became an exemplary Professional Learning Community and was recognized at the state level. Cameron Veterans Middle School was recently recognized as a sustaining PLC school.

The Cameron R-I School District is undergoing many changes with more in store. The primary focus will be on student learning and preparing students for the ever changing demands in the future.

compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The new performing arts center, currently under construction at Cameron High School, was approved as part of the Cameron R-1 School Districts $10 million B.E.S.T. Bond, funding a variety of district building improvements, but the new theater has the largest footprint of all projects and will replace the historic Goodrich Theater in downtown Cameron

## The Plant Place & Cameron Greenhouse

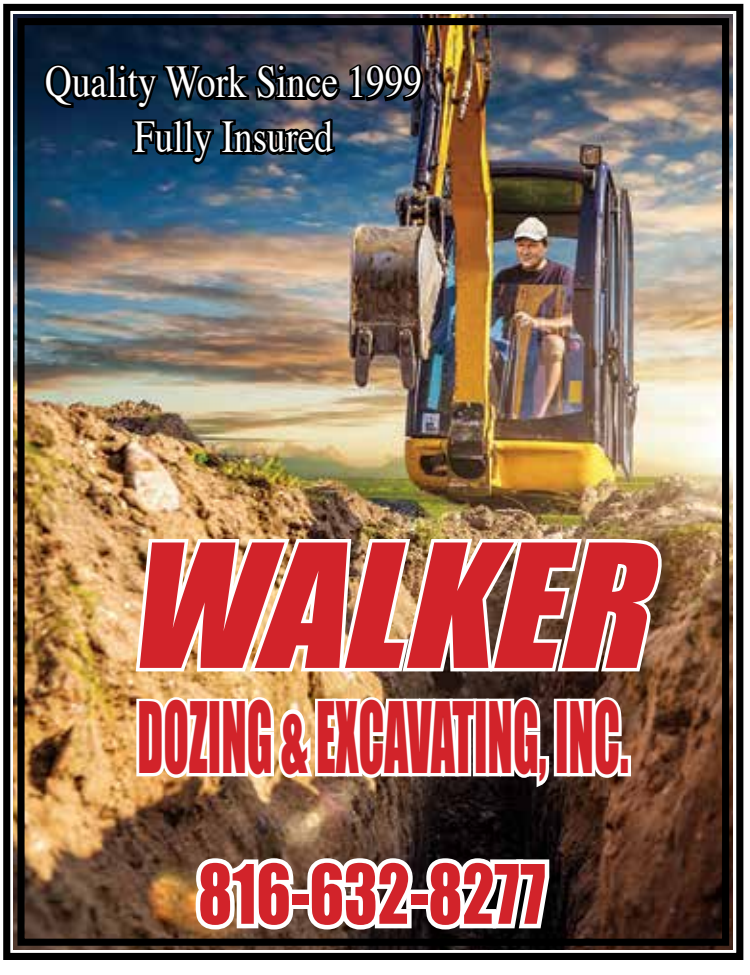
**New Owners: Jackie and Bill Wolf**
**615 South Walnut | 816.632.7317**
**Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
**Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

### New and Familiar Faces at Cameron Greenhouse

Cameron Greenhouse and The Plant Place welcomed new owners recently. As of June 30, the new operators are Jackie and Bill Wolf of rural DeKalb County. They are longtime area residents and customers of the greenhouse and are excited in their new roles. Jackie left a 30-year tenure as a bookkeeper for a construction company in Kansas City for this adventure only 20 minutes from her home. They plan on keeping many things the same, including the longtime employees of the business. They are doing some updating of the lobby and display area. One thing they plan to add is a line of locally sourced gift items.

Pictured left to right are employee Tammy Oitker and Jackie Wolf, owner.

Photo and story by Gina Reed.



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# Businesses On The Move

## CosMedic Dentistry

**315 Little Brick Road | 816.632.6700**
**Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Cosmetic Dentistry celebrated its 18th year of operation with a new, 7,000 square feet location, along with a few comfort of life amenities for new and returning patients.

Since opening in 2004 as Dentistry and Denture Service, Cosmetic Dentistry slowly evolved into its current form with a focus on patient comfort.

"We want to help everyone feel at ease when they come in, as if they're visiting a friend rather than a healthcare facility, and we want to build trust and confidence in what we do. We started by earning our license to provide to our patients," Dr. Paul McGraw said. "In our new office, we have nitrous oxide in every operatory space. Ultimately though, it's about helping both our existing patients as well as new patients who seek us out, improve their health, both dental and general physical health, and we'll do everything we can to ease any fear and anxiety getting in their way of achieving that."

With patient comfort in mind, the new facility features free WiFi, television in every room and a myriad of reading materials. Visitors also have access to a comfort menu, featuring blankets, neck pillows, iPods, earphones, Chapstick as well as coffee and water.

"We spent a lot of time identifying areas of improvement in our patient experience, and we constantly revisit it. In addition to utilizing sedation and modern tech to make visits more comfortable, we started implementing some basic amenities, such as complimentary beverages, TVs in every room, free WiFi, blankets, lip balm and various other comfort items," McGraw said. "To create a more unique experience, we also added welcome gifts, office tours, monthly drawings, "Patient of the Month", and an in-house dental savings plan, just to name a few. To be honest, some patients are caught off guard because they've never experienced all of this at a dental office, but we want to do everything we can to provide a warm and inviting atmosphere."

The new facility also offers plenty of room for growth. With an ongoing relationship with the neighboring V.A. Clinic, as well as a location right off U.S. Highway and I-35, and growing patients rolls due to positive word-of-mouth

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marketing, McGraw believes the future of Cosmetic Dentistry is bright.

"Visibility has definitely been a top advantage of our new office. At our old location, we constantly had people saying, 'I had no idea you were here,' even though we had been in that location since 2004. Now that we're right off of Hwy 36, Hwy 69 and I-35, it's much easier to find us, particularly for patients who come some distance. We have many patients who travel from Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska as well as East and Northeast Missouri," McGraw said. "We do appreciate being next to the new V.A. clinic. We have a good relationship with the V.A. and are always more than happy to help area veterans with their oral health. I think our new location makes us a convenient option for veterans seeking dental care. Between the V.A. clinic and CosMedic Dentistry, area veterans now have access to a wide range of health services in close proximity."

Office photos submitted by Pauline Ford, CosMedic Dentistry.

# clubs & organizations

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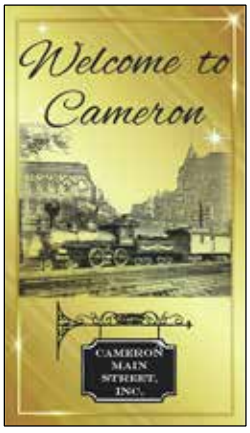


**Cameron Main Street Inc. works directly with Missouri Main Street Connection to revitalize our Downtown District. We bring the annual Christmas Parade and Lighting, the Freedom Festival, and many more local activities! We're proud to be the heart of Downtown!**
**For more information about Cameron Main Street please contact: Timothy Wymes 816.632.2177**

**Cameron Main Street Inc**

MISSOURI MAIN STREET CONNECTION

Cameron Lodge No. 2615

**Mission Statement:** Elks are Community. As Elks, we invest in ours and surrounding communities through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug free, meet the needs of our Veterans, those living in our local VA home and those who do not, and improve.

**As Elks We:** Support Patriotism | Educate our Youth | Encourage giving within our Communities | Care for our service men and women.

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**Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesdays Monthly**

***Goal:*** To Provide Leadership Training Through Community Service.

***Activities:*** Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Cameron, Camp Quality Dinner, 37 years of hosting Annual Jaycees Golf Tournament Benefit, Multiple Senior Scholarships, Ever evolving involvement for community betterment.

**For Further Info on the Club - Tracy Hutton, President 816-632-9740**

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# VFW Post 7158

**Our Mission:** To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.
**Our Vision:** Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

**Join us the 3rd Monday of the Month at 7 p.m. at the Cameron Veterans Home, 1111 Euclid Ave., Cameron.**

*If you are seeking membership to the VFW or have any questions contact Bob Isbell at 816-632-2961 or Allen Reed at 816-632-3113.*

# American Legion Post 33

P.O. Box 47 | Cameron, Mo

## What do we do?

- Help with Veteran's Assistance
- Flag Routes
- Boy Scout Troop 87 Sponsor
- JROTC
- Award College Scholarships

If you are seeking membership to the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion or the Auxiliary, contact Bob Isbell at 816-632-2961 or Allen Reed at 816-632-3113

# Cameron Rotary Club

**"Service Above Self"**

**Meetings held at Noon on Mondays**

*Focus:* Supporting organizations including the Cameron Hospital; YMCA; Clinco and the World Wide Eradication of Polio. Also involved in Awarding Student Scholarships. For more info on the club,

**Contact Everett Ice at 816-632-7111.**

# Cameron Area Arts Council

*Promoting all the arts in Cameron*

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## Cameron Mutual Insurance

**1304 North Walnut Street, Ste. 200 | 816.632.6511**
**Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Positioning itself for the next 129 years of operation, Cameron Mutual Insurance has sold its Home Office and relocated to 1304 North Walnut – occupying the second floor of the Bank Midwest building. The company had been on the corner lot at 214 McElwain Dive for 56 years.

The company physically relocated in April. Sale of the property to Cameron Regional Medical Center was finalized on August 18.

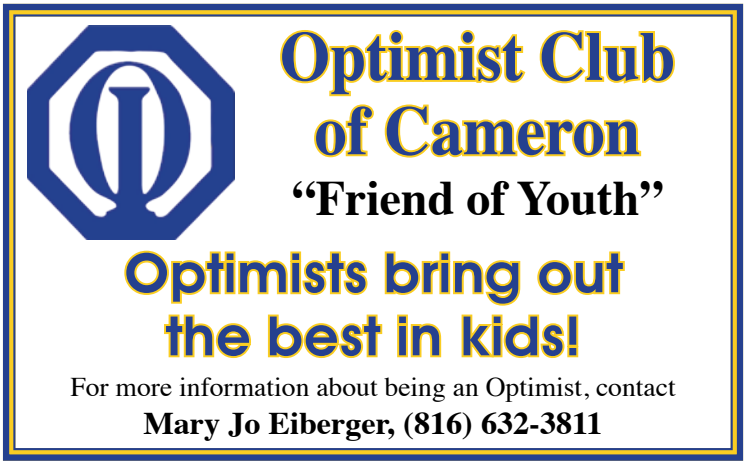
"It's really resulted in a win-win-win situation," said Brad Fowler, Cameron Mutual President and CEO. "Cameron Mutual was able to relocate to a more modern, efficient, and right-sized home office; Cameron Regional secured a building and location well-suited for their expansion purposes; and the Cameron community will be very well served by the hospital's immediate offering of infusion therapy and longer-term plan to establish a senior service center and related programs.

The McElwain Drive office, which had expanded twice from the original construction, offered far more space than the company required after changes in technology and business efficiencies had staffing levels shifting from a high of 235 in the 1980's to under 100.

"Over recent years, we had come to realize that the property provided far more space than we were ever likely to utilize," said Fowler. "The layout of the building made it difficult to manage the cost of maintenance and upkeep to fit our needs."

The impact of the COVID pandemic accelerated the relocation efforts. As the company shifted to remote working, it found that staff members were maintaining service and response levels while enjoying the benefits of working from home. An employee survey revealed that approximately 90 percent of staff preferred working from home on an ongoing basis.

# clubs & organizations



Cameron Mutual began exploring the local market and quickly identified its new home. "The Bank Midwest option became a pretty obvious answer," Fowler said. "It keeps us in Cameron and provides the space we need on a daily basis with room for larger gatherings as the need arises."

Staff members may work from home or come into the office largely as they choose. As meetings or other work dictate, they can check out a workspace for the day.

"Our move to the hybrid remote work model provides our employees with greater ability to flex their schedules to meet both work and personal commitments," said Andi Lockridge, Executive Vice-President. "It makes our employees more productive at work and alleviates some of the time pressures which come with working in the office on a set 8-5 schedule."

The shift to an entirely different work model has been embraced by the staff. "Our employees' feedback on this change has been overwhelmingly positive," said Lockridge.

"I was honestly not thrilled to move home after 42+ years of going to the office daily, but by the end of the first week, I was loving it." said Commercial Underwriter Cathy Jack. "You don't hear everyone's conversations and phones ringing all over the room. It's easier to concentrate on you own work."

Pam Whalen, Sr. Quality Assurance Analyst, agreed. "It was a little wonky at first, just getting a comfortable office set up" she said. "But, I get more steps in because I left the printer on the main floor of our home, so I have to run up the stairs to get printed docs!"

Claims Supervisor Nick Vanderslice was surprised at the ease of the transition. "It was a lot less difficult than I expected," he said. "I don't think for myself or any of my team members it could have gone any smoother than it did."

Interviewed staff members were confident that customer service has been unaffected. "If anything, I believe it may have increased as employees are able to keep up their work as their schedules permit rather than being locked into typical work schedules," said Connie Graeff, Mail/Imaging Processor.

Vanderslice concurred, "We're generally more productive at home than in the office setting. Working in the comforts of your home without driving into the office leads to happier employees. And they are better customer service providers."

Graeff pointed to reduced travel and clothing expenses, flexible hours, and the ease of keeping work current as additional perks of working from home.

Despite all the benefits afforded by hybrid work arrangements, staff members acknowledged missing the daily contact with co-workers. "I miss my peeps," said Whalen. "But we still get together outside of work."

Maintaining the culture that served Cameron Mutual's policyholders over the past 129 years is a key focus of the company's leadership team. "To make sure we keep everyone connected and engaged, we have hosted several events - virtually and in-person – to keep everyone updated and personally connected with colleagues," said Lockridge. "We will be very intentional about making sure our staff members know they are part of a company full of great people and a valued part of the Cameron Mutual team."

The company held a ribbon-cutting and open house at its new location on September 17.

Submitted by Cameron Mutual Insurance

**306 North Walnut Street | 816.632.3382**
**Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**
**Sat. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

After more than 147 years at their old location off Third Street, Leibrandt Jewelry officially unveiled their new location to the public during their grand opening.

Steve Leibrandt, the store's owner, said opening the doors for the first time was a strange experience, but he is happy to reopen with the new location featuring nearly double the floorspace.

"It's a lot different. We started business in Cameron in 1873 and moved in on the 10th of July so [Saturday] is 148 years since we opened the original store. The old store was only 22 feet wide and this one is 47 feet wide. It's a lot more space just to breathe," said Leibrandt, shortly after cutting the ribbon on the new location.

The change of venue came as a result of the City of Cameron declaring the building, as well as two other attached structures to the east and west of Leibrandt Jewelry as unsafe structures. While speaking to the Cameron City Council in last fall, Cameron resident Gina Reed said she intended to purchase one of the buildings, but city officials immediately began procedures to declare the building a dangerous structure after noticing what Cameron Community Development Director Tim Wymes later described as significant faults in the buildings' structural integrity.

"We unfortunately had to move because of structural issues with our neighbor's building and the city forced us to move. We had to find a new place … We acquired the building in October of last year and finally got in there today," Leibrandt said. "With the materials, supplies and finding contractors to get stuff done - right now it's hard to do anything. It's strange and a new beginning. Hopefully, with the different traffic patterns, we will have more people in here."

As for the old building on Third Street, the City of Cameron and the Cameron Historical Preservation Society recently reached a deal allowing CHPS to take ownership of the building. As part of the agreement, CHPS will have two years to develop a plan for building restoration and complete the plan by 2026.

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Vehicles may begin moving into the estimated $1.3 million Randy Curnow Chevy-Buick-GMC dealership.

During a July Cameron Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, CPZC President Mike O'Donnell said he had spoken with City of Cameron Building Inspector Paul Beckwith regarding the dealership and reported to the commission plans to move in this month.

"I talked to Paul about Randy Curnow and they're talking about opening the first of July and they're close to getting completed," O'Donnell said.

Until last summer, the dealership remained in development limbo as the city negotiated property right-of-ways and a tax increment finance plan. Before major construction got underway, the Cameron City Council approved a reallocating a TIF plan originally passed for the development of Manion Plaza until Curnow purchased the property for their new dealership across from the Cameron KFC/Taco Bell restaurant.

"[TIF] helps save on construction costs. It's, I believe, a 23-year development incentive where they save on property taxes and construction costs," Cameron Community Development Director Tim Wymes said. "In other cities there are all kinds of different development incentives … Whatever they have to do to get the job done, the city will do whatever is in their power to help them out. We work with a lot of construction companies."

The new facility will feature a showroom, maintenance area and provide economic growth to an area Cameron continues to develop. In the fall of 2019, when the project first came before the city council, Curnow Automotive Vice President Max Curnow credited the Cameron City Manager Steve Rasmussen for making the new dealership possible and hopes to provide a mutually beneficial relationship between the city, the dealership and the residents they both serve.

"We've been here since the fall of 2014 and we've seen a city that is ready to grow, and we like the community here," Curnow said. "We've really seen Cameron, which is on the intersection of two major highways, as a community that has a big opportunity to grow. We feel like putting a new building there is going to be good for the community in a large way and the people that travel through ... It's a multi- million-dollar investment. Obviously, that final number is not decided because there are costs that come in that fluctuate a bit."

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