

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
APRIL 18, 2024

Contact Information: tricorn@newvirginia.com or
Drop Box Northeast Corner Hen House - New Virginia or
PO Box 302, New Virginia, IA 50210

DEADLINE: 2ND WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - \$20.00

JERRY'S MOTORCYCLE GAS TANK BIRDS

Contributed by Cheryl Boles & Karma Kimzey

On September 23, 2023, I received a call on my answering machine from a dear friend, Chris Benedict, regarding birds she and her husband Lloyd had seen near Jerry Boles' garage. These were not your run-of-the-mill yard ornament birds, but in fact, birds made from the gas tanks of motorcycles. I dropped the nothing I was doing and got in my car to investigate. Jerry's garage door was open, and the first thing I saw was a penguin. It was a proud little fella of black and white and stood approximately two feet tall. He appeared to be guarding the place with his shiny chrome badge gas cap that was polished to a high gloss.

Jerry stated that he was the fourth bird he'd made and was from a Kawasaki motorcycle gas tank. The penguin resides at the southwest corner of Jerry's residence. Jerry stated that his manufacturing of the lawn birds all started in the fall of 2021 when his sister-in-law asked if Jerry could get her a used motorcycle gas tank. Of course, Jerry wondered why she needed a tank, and she explained that her nephew was going to make her an owl in shop class out of it. This peaked Jerry's curiosity. She ended up sending him a picture of what the owl would look like. From there Jerry's imagination took over, and it didn't take long before he developed plans for a bird of his own.

Jerry's first bird, a blue heron, was born in the summer of 2022. He stands about 5 ½ feet tall and was from a Honda 350 motorcycle gas tank. He resides in the backyard of his residence next to the Gerry Allen Memorial Park under an oak tree. After seeing the blue heron, sister-in-law Norma Cosner, asked Jerry that if she provided the tank from an old Harley Davidson motorcycle that she had owned and ridden, would he make her a bird? That was the beginning of bird number two. Norma's bird, a stork, stands approximately six feet tall and is white with black stripes on the wings. This special bird lives at the Ballard Forty with an endangered species sign posted in front of her.

Of course, you cannot make one sister-in-law a bird and nothing for the next, so Jerry proceeded to make a baby stork for Charlotte Wickett. Charlotte's bird is a smaller version of Norma's; therefore, it was an offspring of Norma's bird. Her bird was built around a smaller Honda gas tank, and it stands about 3 ½ feet tall and painted similarly to Norma's bird. Charlotte's bird is free to be outside in the summer, but is housed for the winter for its protection from the environment.

Jerry located a couple of used tanks on Facebook Marketplace, so on a Sunday in the summer, Lori and Jerry made a road trip to Ottumwa to purchase two more tanks. Also, after a visit to the garage from Brett Morris and his son Jack who showed an interest in what Jerry was doing, Jack gifted Jerry with three more used tanks that he had stored at his house. So, with extra tanks available, Jerry decided to make a couple more birds as Christmas gifts. They are still works in progress. He is still waiting for the necks to be bent at this time. Each bird can take up to two months to build, and materials alone can cost between three and four hundred dollars.

While investigating Jerry's birds, I noticed a child's pedal car in a glass display case. Jerry stated he had purchased the car in the early 70's from Alfred Moss, the local garbage collector, for the grand total of five dollars. According to Cheryl, "It looked like a rusted heap of junk, and it wasn't worth the money he paid." However, after storing it for over 30 years, Jerry decided to restore it. You would not know it was the same car. He has entered it in the New Virginia Old Settlers Car Show and has won first place in his division.

Jerry has always had an artistic flair, and he took a two-year art course after graduation from high school. He was hired by GMC in Des Moines as a body and fender man in the early 70's. He immediately excelled in the field. His entire working history has been in the car and truck restoration field, and some of his paint jobs have been published in magazines. Jerry also built the first rescue unit for New Virginia Fire & Rescue in 1974. He took two sedan delivery trucks, cut them into two pieces, welded them back together, did frame and body work, then painted it. He did all this for the community, charging nothing for his labor. Jerry has been one of the best car restoration men in our area and has won numerous awards with his 1932 Ford Coupe and his 1903 Harley Davidson Motorcycle replica.

Jerry and wife Cheryl (Ballard) Boles have resided in New Virginia their entire married life. In fact, Jerry was born at home at the now Lee Zimmerline residence in rural New Virginia and was delivered by his grandmother, Doris, as Dr. Jardine was unable to get there due to muddy roads. They are the parents of two daughters: Lesa Ouimet of St. Marys and Lori Brommel (Richie) of rural St. Charles. They have four grandchildren: Zachery Ouimet, Bridget Allen (Logan), Brooke Keeler (Wayne) and Taylor Brommel, and they have three great-grandchildren: Austin and Lauren Keeler and Raigen Allen.



We are receiving several copies of the paper back every month from the area post offices which tells us that some of you are not getting your paper. If you do not receive a copy of the paper, or you know of someone who did not, please let us know. You can reach us via email at tricorn@newvirginia.com

**or call Terry at
515-249-6371.**

We will see that you get a copy of the current issue.

Remember, everyone living in the

Interstate 35 and Martensdale/St. Marys school districts is entitled to a subscription to the

Tri-Corner-Express free of charge. Make sure you are getting your copy!

Please share this information with anyone you may know who is not receiving their issues.

**Thank you,
The Tri-Corner-Express Team**



City Of New Virginia

Council Meeting Minutes, April 1, 2024

The Council met in regular session on Monday April 1st, 2024, at 7:13 p.m. for the April council meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange with Council Members Dunkin, Bailey, Galivan, Taylor and Truman present. Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Old Business discussed: After discussing other possible options regarding the water drainage of the alley at 510 Pine Street with Steve Savage, the original recommendation (take out the sidewalk, do dirt work to make a rounded swell and place a culvert under the driveway on the west side of the house at 510 Pine Street) at the March council meeting was determined to be the best option. Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to do the alley drainage project at 510 Pine Street at a cost of \$975.00. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays, Taylor abstained from voting. Motion carried.

The request for the lot at 304 Main Street be split so the pole building is separated from the house was further discussed. There was nothing found in the zoning ordinance stating that this request cannot be done. There are two other properties that a split has been done in the past. The property owner of 304 Main Street will be advised the split of the lot is ok to do and that the split must be ten (10) feet west of the pole building.

A letter drafted regarding junk vehicles/machinery and storage safety issues was reviewed. The letter will be sent by certified mail. Two other properties on Grand Avenue were discussed regarding the accumulation of junk vehicles/machinery.

Mayor Strange met with an InRoads Representative to look over and discuss potential street work. Mayor Strange sent a map with the Representative with proposed projects but has not heard back as of this April meeting.

Citizen Input: There have been complaints about dogs running loose around town. There will be a notice placed in the Tri-Corner-Express with pertinent sections of the Ordinance about dog tie-up and dogs running at large.

A council member was informed that the gate in the fence that was installed last summer at GAMP Park is locked. The gate will be unlocked but will be re-locked during truck pull events.

Garrett Gobble was present to introduce himself as a candidate running for the Iowa House of Representatives District 22. More information about Gobble can be obtained by calling or texting 515-639-0136 or sending an email to garrettgobbleforiowa@gmail.com.

Water Utilities discussed: A council member had a citizen concerned about the minimum amount of the water bill and that they never use the 2000 gallon minimum and wondered if an adjustment could be made to the minimum bill. The minimum bill is set and will not be lowered. The minimum bill is \$29.15 water, \$30.00 sewer and \$4.00 recycling for a total minimum bill of \$63.15.

Fire Department Business: Fire Chief Zuercher advised there is a large pothole forming in front of the fire station where the concrete apron meets West Street. InRoads will be contacted about filling the pothole in with asphalt when they do street work in town.

Chief Zuercher advised a black mold issue was discovered in the back storage room area. The fire department will do overhaul training to remove the sheetrock. Chief Zuercher has contacted some sheetrock workers to get bids for installing new sheetrock.

Discussion was held regarding paying fire department personnel for entering fire reports and EMS non-transport reports in the Image Trend software. After thorough discussion and consideration of this request, Galivan moved, seconded by Taylor to approve paying \$15.00 per fire report and EMS non-transport reports starting April 1st, 2024. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Chief Zuercher advised the Mayor and Council of fire safety issues regarding an apartment fire at 704 West Street. There was not a fire extinguisher located in the first floor hallway. There is a fire extinguisher bracket located on the wall near the washer and dryer but the fire extinguisher is gone. Some tenants voiced concerns about smoke detectors not working and/or smoke detectors not present. Chief Zuercher has contacted the State Fire Marshal's Office regarding the above fire safety issues at this apartment building.

Law Enforcement: The report summary from the Sheriff's Office for the month of March was reviewed. Deputies received or initiated 32 calls for service during the month of March. Officers spent in excess of 38 hours in the city for the month. Officers patrolled in excess of 222 miles within the city limits for the month. Five citations and/or warnings were written for traffic violations that occurred within the City of New Virginia proper.

The 2024-25 fiscal year budget plan was finalized to complete information required in the Notice Of Public Hearing – Proposed FY2024-25 Budget Form. Galivan moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the Proposed FY2024-25 City of New Virginia Budget for publication and to schedule a public hearing for the City of New Virginia Proposed FY2024-25 Budget for Monday April 15th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Galivan to pass and approve Resolution #2024-03 – A RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF THE SOUTHERN IOWA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

There was one bid received for the 2024 mowing season. Galivan moved, seconded by Taylor to accept and approve the mowing bid of R & R Mowing Services for the 2024 mowing season: mowing Lions Park, Old Settlers Park, fire station, library, Hen House, welcome signs, City right of way southeast corner of Broadway and Border Street at \$450.00/month. GAMP Park east half at \$450.00/month, west of GAMP Park at \$325.00/month. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

There was one letter of interest received for the City Treasurer Position. After reviewing the letter and resume, Truman moved, seconded by Galivan to approve Kim McWilliams for the City Treasurer Position. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

A letter requesting dissolution of the New Virginia Playground Committee and the need to place two BBQ grills in Lions Park was reviewed. Taylor moved, seconded by Bailey to approve the dissolution of the New Virginia Playground Committee and funds currently in the New Virginia Playground Committee checking account be transferred to the City of New Virginia by the Treasurer of the New Virginia Playground Committee. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

GAMP UPDATE

The new cleaning people have started cleaning the GAMP building. The golf disc course is planned to be completed by the end of April, first part of May depending on the weather.

KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM

The April meeting is tomorrow, as well as the Trail Committee meeting.

There are several events being planned for in 2024. One of the first events will be a kite flying event April 21st with a rain date of April 28th and May 4th city-wide garage sales. July Old Settlers booth will be Christmas in July event to pre-sale Country Christmas Holiday Home Tour tickets. September – End of Summer Social Date: September 29th. October – Scarecrow Stroll/contest and Trunk or Treat. December – Country Christmas Holiday Home Tour Friday December 6th from 4 to 7p.m and Saturday December 7th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ELF CLUB

No new updates.

The new driveway culvert at 813 East Street is not set to flow correctly. It needs to flow to the north. The property owner will be contacted about this.

It was discussed another dumpster is needed for Old Settlers. Jim Sims will be contacted about this.

Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to approve payment of all City bills. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no further business to come forth, Galivan moved, seconded by Bailey to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

There is a special council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 15th at 7:00 to approve FY2024-25 City of New Virginia budget.

The May council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. May meeting date – Monday May 6th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk

CLAIMS REPORT		AMOUNT	CHECK #	CHECK DATE
VENDOR	REFERENCE			
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$578.72	15242	4/1/2024
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$79.81	15274	4/9/2024
BRENT BAUGHMAN	RECORDING FEES QUIT CLAIM DEED	\$71.00	15245	4/2/2024
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	VEHICLE REPAIR 768	\$333.63	15243	4/1/2024
HY-VEE	MEDICATIONS	\$569.00	15249	4/2/2024
INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE -RHT	PUBLISH LEGALS - TAX LEVY	\$75.07	15250	4/2/2024
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$429.77	16326572	4/4/2024
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$754.74	16326573	4/4/2024
J&L SANITATION	GARBAGE SERVICE - CITY	\$62.00	15251	4/2/2024
OFFICE OF AUDITOR STATE OF IA	PERIODIC EXAM FEE 032024	\$1,200.00	15241	3/18/2024
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT INC.	OEPRATING SUPPLIES	\$113.85	15252	4/2/2024
RON HULTS	CLEANING GAMP	\$225.00	15253	4/2/2024
STRANGE SPECIALTY TIRE & AUTO	VEHICLE REPAIRS -768	\$465.50	15254	4/2/2024
TINA BURKHEAD	GAMP DEPOSIT REFUND	\$125.00	15255	4/2/2024
WASTE MANAGEMENT	RECYCLING	\$1,136.44	15273	4/4/2024
WEX FLEET UNIVERSAL	VEHICLE FUEL	\$387.36	15257	4/2/2024
WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$559.54	15258	4/2/2024
TOTAL GENERAL		\$7,166.43		
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$1,149.59	15242	4/1/2024
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$16.24	16326573	4/4/2024
TOTAL ROAD USE		\$1,165.83		
ANCEL KENNEDY	SERVICE	\$125.00	15244	4/2/2024
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$22.46	15274	4/9/2024
DES MOINES WATER WORKS	WATER TESTING	\$190.00	15246	4/2/2024
FENIX USA	DATA & SOFTWARE HOSTING	\$70.40	15247	4/2/2024
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	TESTING - WATER SAMPLES	\$100.00	15248	4/2/2024
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	WET SALES TAX 01/31/2024	\$557.38	16326562	3/26/2024
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	WET SALES TAX 02/29/2024	\$493.47	16326563	3/29/2024
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$323.66	16326572	4/4/2024
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$370.51	16326573	4/4/2024
WARREN WATER DISTRICT	WATER USAGE/LOAN PAYMENT	\$4,340.25	15256	4/2/2024
TOTAL WATER UTILITIES		\$6,593.13		
GENERAL		\$4,058.30		
WATER		\$1,715.71		
Total Payroll Paid		\$5,774.01		

***** GRAND TOTAL *****

\$19,963.81

The Sign

at the United Methodist Church in
New Virginia

Please send messages to:
newva-medora@outlook.com
Please put SIGN in the subject line.



Recycling Dates New Virginia

**May 2
May 16
May 31**



IN THE NEAR FUTURE EXPECT HIGHER SEWER RATES, DUE TO CONTINUED USE OF SANITARY WIPES BEING FLUSHED DOWN THE TOILET CAUSING DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT AT THE LAGOON.

DO NOT FLUSH SANITARY WIPES OF ANY KIND DOWN THE TOILET. EVEN IF THEY SAY THEY ARE FLUSHABLE, THEY AREN'T. THEY DON'T DISINTEGRATE AND THEY CLOG THE SYSTEM CAUSING EXPENSIVE REPAIRS.

NEW VIRGINIA SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT
Cheryl A Boles, Chairman

**City Of New Virginia
Special Council Meeting Minutes
April 1st, 2024**

The Council met in special session on Monday April 1st , at 7:00 p.m. before the regular April council meeting for a public hearing on the proposed FY2024-25 property tax levy for the City of New Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange at 7:09 p.m. with Council Members Bailey, Dunkin, Galivan, Taylor and Truman present.

Taylor moved, seconded by Bailey to open the public hearing on the proposed FY2024-25 Property Tax Levy for the City of New Virginia. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no citizens present and no written responses or email responses received in response to the proposed property tax levy, Dunkin moved, seconded by Taylor to close the public hearing. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Bailey moved, seconded by Taylor to pass and approve the proposed Fy2024-25 City of New Virginia property tax levy of \$6.26911/\$1,000 valuation for city regular tax rate and \$3.00375/\$1000 valuation for city ag land tax rate. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no further business to come forth, Taylor moved, seconded by Truman to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Jennifer Baughman

**Gerry Allen Memorial Park
Community Building**

	N.V. City Limits	All Other Renters
809 West Street, New Virginia, IA	Full Day Rental \$125.00	\$150.00
	Half Day Rental \$ 75.00	\$100.00
	Hourly Rental \$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Deposit \$125.00 due at time of reservation, rental fee due prior to event.		
All Non-Profits groups - there will be no rental fee.		
Signed rental agreement required.		
Certificate of liability insurance for rental over 50 people is required.		
<i>All renters must cleanup at the conclusion of their event.</i>		
Visit us at www.newvirginia.com or call: Jennifer Baughman 641-449-3492 for more information		

Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk

Public Notice
All City Water

Payments need to be mailed or dropped off into the gray payment/drop box. This payment/drop box is located by the New Virginia Hen House and New Virginia Post Office.

PUBLIC NOTICE

There has been citizen complaints about unleashed dogs running loose around town and some dogs being aggressive with people walking on City streets and alleys. Chapter 16.14 of the City Code states that no owner shall permit their dog to be at large at any time. Exception to 16.14 is subsection(2) that a dog properly registered with the City shall not be deemed at large if the dog is on the premises of the owner or person given charge of the dog by the owner and is either:

- 1. Accompanied by and obedient to the commands of the owner or the person given such charge, or
- 2. restrained on those premises by an adequate protective fence or by leash, cord, chain or similar restraint that does not allow a dog to go beyond the owner's real property line.

The dog is off the premises of the owner and is:

- 1. either accompanied by and obedient to the commands of the owner or a competent responsible person, or
- 2. on a leash, cord or chain or other similar restraint not more than six (6) feet in length and under the control of a person competent to restrain and control the dog, or
- 3. properly restrained within a motor vehicle.

A dog shall be deemed to be at large if it is not properly licensed with the City. Any dog shall be deemed at large at any time when attacking persons, domestic animals or destroying property.

It is required that dogs be licensed with the City. This process requires a copy of the dog's rabies certificate.

Community Happenings

Virginia Booster 4-H Club News

Written by Nora Nelson, Reporter

New Virginia Spring Clean-Up

The annual Spring Cleanup Program is scheduled for Saturday May 11th, 2024. Residents may dispose of large items such as furniture that would not be picked up through the regular weekly trash pickup.

The following requirements will ensure a safe, efficient cleanup:

1. TRM Disposal out of Indianola will pick up items curbside at your residence. Items MUST be placed at the roadside, not in a ditch or across a ditch. Items in those areas WILL NOT be collected.
2. All items must be at the curb by 6:30 a.m. Items placed on the curb after the hauler has been in the area will not be picked up.
3. Items that are bulky and difficult to handle, such as swing sets, must be cut up or dismantled into smaller pieces, no more than 4 feet in length.
4. The following will not be picked up; leaves and organic yard waste, dirt/sod, construction materials, railroad ties, paints or thinners, oils, batteries, tires, vehicle parts, concrete or air compressors.
5. This service is available for residential dwellings and apartments only. No commercial businesses.

The intent of this program is to provide a useful service to our citizens and to help beautify the community – everyone's cooperation is greatly appreciated. For questions or comments, please contact TRM Disposal at 515-962-2014 or by email at sarah@trmdisposal.com.

The Virginia Boosters 4-H Club held their March 13, 2024, meeting at 7:00 PM at the Lions Hall in New Virginia. Brady Streeter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call was, "Most fun thing you did over spring break?" Jeta Nelson read the secretary's report, and Brady gave the treasurer's report.

This month's old business:

- Bake Sale Fundraiser at Hen House on March 30 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.- bars, cookies, cupcakes, and pies
- Petting Zoo Updates - with the FFA chapter at school in May
- YQCA training must be completed by June 1.

The monthly county newsletter began the new business. We discussed:

- Sheep and Goat Weigh-In - April 20, 7-9 a.m.
- Farm Display Workshop - March 23 from 9 a.m.-12 noon
- Public Speaking Skills Lab - March 26, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Cupcake Wars - March 29, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Dog Project Meeting - April 1, 6:30 p.m.- Classes Mondays @ 6 and 7 p.m. April 8 – July 15
- Terrarium Workshop - April 2, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- Reference guide 4-H fair foods is now available.
- Mid-year eligibility check - must attend five meetings from September-June

Any other new business:

- April Hosts - Noah Wickett and Owen Ritchey
- April Presentations - Evelyn and Kinsey Martindale

Charlotte Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Nora Nelson seconded. Charlotte gave her presentation about how to play volleyball, and Noah gave his presentation about Belgian horses. The next meeting is April 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

New Virginia Alumni Banquet

NEW VIRGINIA
GERRY ALLEN PARK

SATURDAY, MAY 25TH

DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM
SOCIAL HOUR 5-6 PM
DINNER SERVED AT 6 PM

\$15 PER PERSON
RSVP BY MAY 11TH TO
SHIRLEY ZIMMERLINE
PHONE: 641-342-3723

2024 Tri-Corner-Express Ad Prices

The Tri-Corner-Express ad prices are as follows. Please email us your ad at tricorner@newvirginia.com or drop off your ad in the Black Mailbox labeled Tri-Corner-Express on The Hen House - West Street, New Virginia, IA

Business Card (3.5 x 2)	\$30.00
Quarter Page (5 x 4.5)	\$45.00
Half Page Horizontal (10.5 x 5)	\$85.00
Half Page Vertical (5 x 9.5)	\$85.00
Full Page (10.5 x 9.5)	\$175.00

Thank You's, Birth Announcements, Birthdays, & Anniversaries:

0 - 50 words = \$5.00 51 - 100 words = \$10.00

\$0.10 per word over 100 words \$5.00 for each photo

Obituaries and Weddings (Including one photo): \$40.00

Additional photo(s) \$5.00 each

CITY OF ST. CHARLES

City Of St. Charles

Council Meeting Minutes, April 8, 2024

The St. Charles City Council met at City Hall on Monday, 4/8/2024, for a regular meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Megan Allison called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Council members Whitney Hutton, Dan Kozak, and Travis Brockett were present along with three guests.

Mayor Dennis Smith and Council Member Tom Blomme were absent.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Whitney Hutton/Travis Brockett to approve the agenda. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes for Council Meetings 3/4/2024 and 4/1/2024: Motion made by Dan Kozak/Whitney Hutton to approve the minutes. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Approval of March Treasurer and Budget Reports: Motion made by Dan Kozak/Travis Brockett to approve the treasurer and budget reports for March. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Approval of April Bills: Motion made by Whitney Hutton/Dan Kozak to approve the April bills. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Sheriff's Report: During March there were 41.71 patrol hours, seven calls, and four traffic stops in St. Charles. The Department investigated kids banging on houses. Sheriff will provide patrol during RAGBRAI.

Propane Tank 514 E Main St.: The City Council has concerns allowing propane tanks on residential property that can be serviced with natural gas through MidAmerican Energy. The discussion concerning the propane tank was tabled after a new letter from MidAmerican was submitted. Megan Allison is contacting MidAmerican for clarification of the letter and also the City's Franchise Agreement.

City Boards/Committees:

Sewer Report: The March Sewer Report was submitted to the city.

Maintenance Report: The city will consider renting a street sweeper attachment for the skid loader. Motion by Megan Allison/Travis Brockett to post a reorganized job position for Public Works. Voice vote was unanimous.

Fire/Rescue Department: Rick Schaffer presented the March minutes. The Fire/Rescue Department has seen an uptick in calls this past quarter. The new pumper truck will be ready to go on Friday, April 12th.

Library Board: Margaret Blair presented the March minutes.

Tourism: Painting and Plaster work is being done at the Welcome Center.

Emergency Management: The March report was submitted.

Clerk's Report: The City Clerk will donate after hours time spent on RAGBRAI but will need to work on some items during normal City Hall business hours.

Resolution 4A-2024 Transfer of Funds as Budgeted for Capital Road Work: Motion by Travis Brockett/Dan Kozak to approve Resolution 4A-2024. R/C vote was unanimous.

Resolution 4B-2024 Transfer of Funds as Budgeted for Pumper Truck Purchase: Motion by Whitney Hutton/Dan Kozak to approve Resolution 4B-2024. R/C vote was unanimous.

Lighting Upgrade Proposal: ROI Energy in partnership with MidAmerican Energy has special incentives to upgrade lighting to LED in the Fire Station and City Hall/ Library buildings.

Motion by Megan Allison/Travis Brockett to approve the proposal to upgrade lights. Voice vote was unanimous.

Budget Review Fiscal Year 2025: The new date of the Public Hearing for the 2025 budget is April 22nd. The public hearing will take place at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

Opportunity and Complaint Forms: Three letters will be sent certified to various locations in St. Charles.

An email was received giving an update concerning a location on Cherry Street.

RAGBRAI: RAGBRAI will be in St. Charles on Wednesday, July 24th. We are considered a breakfast stop. We can expect the first riders to be coming through town by 5:00 am with all vendors being closed down at noon. A quick business meeting was held at the conclusion of the City Council meeting. Ideas and suggestions were shared.

Public Forum: No public asked to speak.

Old Business: No old business

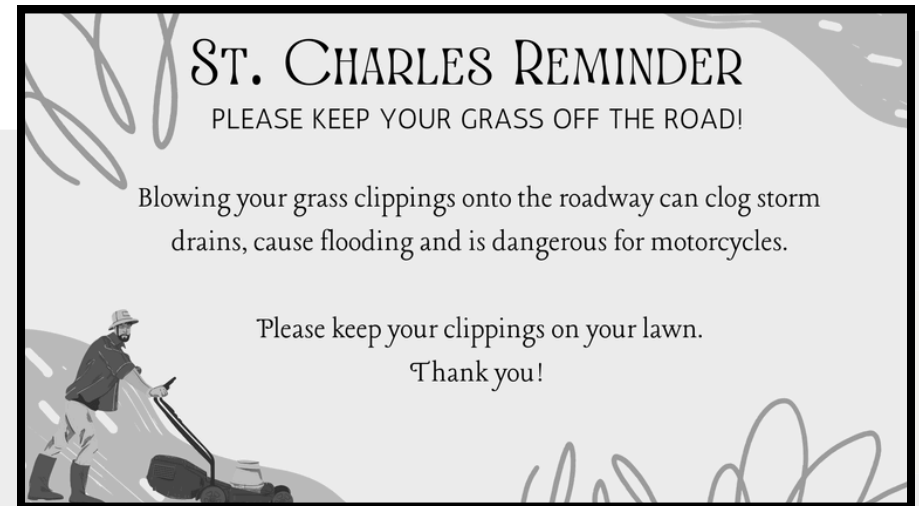
New Business: No new business

Motion made by Dan Kozak to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm.

The next City Council meeting will be on May 6, 2024, at City Hall.

Megan Allison, Mayor Pro Tem Attest: Tracy Kozak, City Clerk

Posted at: City Hall, Post Office, Montross, and Library



APRIL SHOWERS
Bring
MAY FLOWERS





Truro City Council Monday, March 4, 2024 Council met at the Truro Library

Looking For Crafters and Vendors!
Contact Information on the
Truro Area Boosters Facebook Page



Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Ancei Kennedy, Jason Phillips, and Matt Masters were present. Julie McMichael was absent. Fire Chief Terry Stills and Tom Pike were also present. Rhonda Guy joined later. Arzani asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution 2024-3. Motion by Phillips/Masters to amend the agenda to include Resolution 2024-3. All Ayes motion passed. Arzani asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Kennedy/Masters made the motion to approve the amended agenda. All Ayes motion passed. There was no public input. The Council reviewed the Sheriff's Report. There was no report from Emergency Management. Stills gave the Fire & Rescue Report: 8 fire calls and 4 EMS calls.

The Easter Egg hunt will be March 31, 2024, at 9:00 am in the city park. The Fire Dept will have a fund raiser breakfast April 20 from 7 am to 10 am. The Department would like to buy a compressor to fill the Departments air tanks. The cost is from \$15,000 to \$40,000 depending on whether it is used or new. The Department is working on grants and other funding options. Arzani asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-4 approving the final plat of Whitetail Acres Subdivision, Madison County, Iowa. Motion by Phillips/Masters to approve Resolution 2023-4. Vote by roll call: Phillips Aye, Masters Aye, Kennedy Aye, Cannoy Aye, McMichael was absent. Guy gave the Water/Wastewater report. Hults has worked with Electric Pump to replace the VFD Panel at the Lagoon. The panel has been installed and is working well. The Control Panel was also discussed. It is old and it may be difficult to find parts if it malfunctions. For now, it is working fine. Rhonda updated the Council regarding the Wastewater inspection done by the DNR in December. Currently Ronnie is taking samples manually and this is done 4 times in the same day once a week. The city could use a new Automatic Sampler at a cost of \$3,500 and \$10,000 depending on if the unit is portable or stationary. Ronnie will get quotes. Selling the street sweeper was discussed. The Council would like to advertise the unit using closed bids. The Council discussed the deterioration of Hutchinson Street and Scenic Drive and if the City should pursue legal action against the engineer. Arzani will inquire with some attorneys and other experts to get their feedback. Tom Pike from Grimes Asphalt presented a quote to the Council to repair Turner Street from McKinley Street to just past Scenic Drive. The cost is \$84,665. After discussion Arzani asked for a motion to have Grimes Asphalt do the work as soon in the spring/early summer as possible. Payment will be made after July 1, 2024. Motion by Cannoy/Phillips to hire Grimes Asphalt to repair Turner Street from McKinley Street to just past Scenic. All Ayes motion carried. The committee chosen to review the proposals from design firms for a possible new Library/City Hall met and selected ISG to do the service. All Ayes motion carried. SICOG is applying for a grant that may help with this cost. The Council discussed utility bad debt for the rental property at 140 N Hull Street. The Council would like the City Clerk to send the bill to the property owner. EMC has given a quote regarding the construction of City Hall. They will only pay for cleaning the carpet that had 2 inches of water over all the carpet. The City Clerk has written to EMC requesting they reconsider and have the carpet replaced. The Council agreed and also said instead of carpet, vinyl should be used. After discussion, Arzani asked for a motion for the City to pay to replace the carpet with vinyl. If EMC does not pay for the replacement, the city will pay at a cost not to exceed \$1,400. Motion by Masters/Phillips for the City to pay for replacement vinyl if EMC does not pay, not to exceed \$1,400. All Ayes motion passed unanimously. The Public Hearing for the Proposed Property Tax Hearing was set for March 26, 2024 at 6:00. The FY25 budget was discussed. Motion by Master/Phillips to approve the FY25 budget. All Ayes motion carried. Hults is continuing to do projects around town. He is making studying for the water test and certification a priority. Arzani asked for a motion to approve consent items. Motion by Masters/Cannoy to approve the consent items. All Ayes motion passed. The next Council meeting will be the Public Hearing, March 26, 2024. Motion to adjourn Phillips/Kennedy. All Ayes motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

**Truro Fire and Rescue
Association Breakfast
April 20th from 7-10 am
at the Fire Station**

**Happy
Earth
day**

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS
by Sue Stills

Yes, rain is needed for flowers to grow,
And wouldn't we rather have it than snow?
See that boy as he jumps in a puddle?
What fun! But some rush on as they huddle
Under umbrellas to keep their heads dry
From angels' tears falling out of the sky.
When there is too much, a flood is distressing,
And you may find all the ladies are dressing
In rainhats and coats in yellow or brown
Dodging the raindrops all over town.
Our rain comes in sprinkles, even a monsoon,
But we know it will stop, and then very soon,
We will be blessed with flowers galore
In our gardens and also at Flowers 'n' More.
The rain is a blessing sent from above,
And flowers can convey friendship and love.
So do not despair when a raincloud appears,
As a rainbow may smile when the sky again clears.

**Seven Awe-inspiring Private and Public Gardens
Featured at First Annual Gardens Galore in 2024 Garden Tour**

If you love beautiful gardens and are looking to be inspired, please save the date
Saturday, June 22, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM for the first annual Gardens Galore in 2024 Garden Tour.

This self-guided tour of four private and two public gardens in Indianola, Iowa, and the surrounding area will showcase
different styles from gardeners of all experience. Warren County Master Gardeners are hosting the tour. The Garden
Tour planning committee believes these show-worthy gardens will offer ideas and inspiration to the home gardener. The
tour gardens will delight and enchant guests with their unique and familiar plantings designed in whimsical and peaceful
settings.

Guests can join the tour anytime throughout the event. Warren County Master
Gardeners volunteers will be present at each host site to assist guests and answer
questions.

Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit programs in Warren County including
horticulturally related 4-H summer youth camps, scholarships and grants, and
landscape enhancements. Event tickets complete with a tour map, addresses and descriptions, are just \$10.00. Ticket sales
will be online starting March 15 through June 21. Tickets may be purchased the day of the event at the Iowa State
University Extension and Outreach Center at 200 W. 2nd Ave., Indianola. Vendors will be set up at the Center as well.

Guests are encouraged to bring a hat, sunscreen, water, umbrella, and comfortable
walking shoes. It's likely that the weather will be sunny and warm; however, the event will be held rain or shine.

Truro Public Library

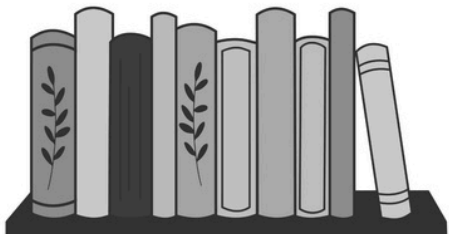
New Books:

Toxic Prey by John Sanford
Still See You Everywhere by Lisa Gardner
The Reappearance of Rachel Price by Holly Jackson
www.truro.lib.ia.us

**Borrow
ebooks &
audiobooks**

Libby.
The reading app from our
library, built by OverDrive.

Library Hours:
Sunday Closed
Monday Closed
Tuesday 9:30-3:30
Wednesday 3:30-6:30
Thursday 10:00-6:00
Friday Closed
Saturday 9:00-noon



**Truro Library
Monthly Book Club!
Every Third Thursday
@ 5pm**

May's book club selection will
be *The Love Story of Miss
Carmichael* by Beth Morrey



We're getting ready for
this year's summer
reading program!
May 30th will be
sign up day!
Like us on Facebook or checkout
our website
www.truro.lib.ia.us
for updates!



ROADRUNNER PRIDE

INTERSTATE 35

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Keeping the District's Technology Up and Running is not a Small Task

When most people think of technology at Interstate 35, they think of the students' Chromebooks and the school's Internet, but in reality the I-35 Technology Department is responsible for so much more. The Interstate 35 Technology Department consists of only two employees - Technology Director Heather Wells and employee Bryan Sheets, Technology Specialist. This two-person team is responsible for maintaining and updating all the technology in the District which includes all classroom and auditorium equipment, student and staff devices, software accounts, the District security cameras, electronic door access, phones, bells, clocks and of course, the District's Internet and on-site servers. Whew!

Some of the most visible technology devices within the District are the student Chromebooks. Interstate 35 is currently a one-to-one district from 1st through 12th grades. In the elementary classrooms (1st - 4th), each classroom is equipped with a cart of Chromebooks for each student in the classroom to use throughout the day. The middle school and high school students are issued a Chromebook at the beginning of the year and are allowed to take it home in the evenings to complete school work. One of the biggest responsibilities of the Technology Department is ensuring the student Chromebooks are in good working order. In addition to the student Chromebooks, the District owns approximately 200 iPads which are used in the Day Care, Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms, the technology classroom, and elementary library by students. The Technology Department maintains all the iPads and is responsible for installing and maintaining the apps on each iPad.

Along with student devices, the Technology Department also maintains the staffs' school-owned individual devices. Nearly every staff member at Interstate 35 is issued an individual device for school-related use. The Technology Department put in place a plan to begin transitioning staff to Chromebooks which are larger and faster than students' Chromebooks, and are designed specifically for teachers. Making this switch will save the District over \$80,000 every upgrade year (teacher devices are replaced and updated every four years). "Making this switch required a lot of research, thought, and discussion. I know a lot of teachers really like having a laptop, but as we have developed our District into a Google School and having everyone on the same



Technology Director Heather Wells, and Technology Specialist Bryan Sheets plan for the day at Interstate 35 Community School District.

platform is important. I reached out to many other technology directors in the state and a large number of districts are also moving teachers to Chromebooks," says Director Heather Wells. Along with the minimum of \$80,000 saved on the devices, the District will also save nearly \$10,000 a year by no longer needing to download Microsoft software onto teachers' laptops and moving to online Microsoft accounts.

In addition to maintaining each of the individual devices in the District, the Technology Department maintains the Google accounts for every user in the District as well as nearly all of the other educational software accounts such as Go Guardian, FlexiSched, ESGI, Turnitin, Kajeet, BrainPop, Edgenuity, Abcya, MobyMax, and FAST.

The I-35 Technology Department also plays an integral role in the District's security. The Technology Department is responsible for maintaining the security camera system's physical cameras as well as the software needed to store and review footage, and maintaining user access. Along with the security cameras, the Technology Department maintains the door access system to allow building access to staff and public members. In January 2024, the school transitioned staff building access from nondescript fobs to photo ID badges. Over the 2024 summer, the District will begin transitioning community access of the building from the same nondescript fobs to photo ID badges as well. This update will ensure everyone with access to the I-35 facilities will have a photo ID badge--which add an additional level of security.

In order to keep all things running smoothly we must have a high functioning internal data system. For the last 12 years, Technology Specialist

Bryan Sheets has been responsible for updating and maintaining the District’s server system, and is available nearly 24 hours a day to ensure our servers are functioning at peak performance. “We had a situation a few months ago - the air conditioning unit in our main server room went down - and Bryan was on-site throughout a Saturday night and into Sunday morning to ensure our servers didn’t overheat and go down until we could get someone in to fix the AC unit,” Technology Director Heather Wells. Without the servers, the school loses more than just the Internet; the school’s phones system, our PA system, the clocks, and the bell systems all rely on the servers and are serviced through the Technology Department.

One of the least known responsibilities of the Technology Department is our District’s marketing platform (Apptegy), the school website, I-35 app, and the District’s social media platforms. Most of the updates and changes made to the District website are made directly by Heather Wells; information created by teachers and administrators to be shared out via our school social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and X) is pushed out through our school marketing platform Apptegy, which is linked to the District social media accounts. District-wide updates, emergency notices, and weather related notifications are sent out via Infinite Campus and the District social media sites.

In order to maintain our system, Wells seeks grants to help off-set the cost of equipment and software. Every year the Technology Department files for the Universal Service Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as "E-rate," which provides discounts of up to 90 percent to help eligible schools and libraries in the United States obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access. Heather Wells also wrote a request to the Interstate 35 Education Foundation to purchase three interactive display boards for support classrooms that did not have projectors, and she is currently researching other funding opportunities to help update more of the current projectors in the District to interactive displays.

Keeping our systems up and running takes tremendous attention to detail and an ability to troubleshoot and problem solve. We are thankful for our team and all they do. We are better as a result of their work and commitment.

URGENT STAFFING NEEDS

LITTLE ROADRUNNER CHILDCARE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Daycare Director <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full-Time Position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 40 hours/week ○ Benefits Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health care ▪ Dental ▪ & More ○ Choose from a 4 day or a 5 day work week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daycare Associates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full-Time Positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes benefits ○ Part-Time Positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Particularly 3-6PM ○ Flexible Scheduling! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any help is appreciated. <p style="text-align: center;">Please call if you are interested!</p> |
|--|---|

Upcoming Events

Come out and support the ROADRUNNERS over the next few weeks!!!

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Thursday, April 18 | B/G Golf at Woodward |
| Thursday, April 18 | B/G Track at MStM |
| Friday, April 19 | FFA Banquet |
| Saturday, April 20 | B Golf at Panorama |
| Monday, April 22 | School Board Meeting |
| Monday, April 22 | G Track at Winterset |
| Tuesday, April 23 | B/G Golf at Earlham |
| Tuesday, April 23 | B Track at Mt Ayr |
| Wednesday, April 24 | MWEA Baccalaureate at MStM |
| Thursday, April 25 | G Track at Clarke |
| Thursday, April 25 | B Track at Bondurant Farrar |
| Monday, April 29 | G Golf WCAC at Pleasantville |
| Monday, April 29 | B/G Track at Ogden |
| Tuesday, April 30 | JDRF Walk |
| Tuesday, April 30 | B Golf WCAC at Panorama |
| Tuesday, April 30 | B/G Track at WCV |
| Wednesday, May 1 | Elementary Program |
| Wednesday, May 1 | Spring Blood Drive |
| Thursday, May 2 | B/G Golf at Central Decatur |
| Thursday, May 2 | B/G Track at Mt Ayr |
| Friday, May 3 | 5-12 Choir Concert |
| Saturday, May 4 | Band Large Group at Pella |
| Monday, May 6 | B/G Golf at Morman Trail |
| Monday, May 6 | B/G Track at Pleasantville |
| Wednesday, May 8 | B Golf Sectional at TBD |
| Thursday, May 9 | G Track District at TBD |
| Thursday, May 9 | B Track District at TBD |
| Friday, May 10 | G Golf Regional at TBD |
| Friday, May 10 | Senior Signing Breakfast |
| Tuesday, May 14 | PTO/BEEP Club Meeting |
| Tuesday, May 14 | Fine Arts Night |
| Wednesday, May 15 | Senior Awards Night |
| Thursday, May 16 | Preschool Graduation |
| Friday, May 17 | Baseball at Collins-Maxwell |
| Sunday, May 19 | Graduation |

ALL athletic competitions are VARSITY contests. For all sport and activity calendar please visit www.roadrunnerpride.org

Go ROADRUNNERS

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR

2024 NEW VIRGINIA FIREWORKS

THE SATURDAY EVENING FIREWORKS ARE A BIG PART OF OUR OLD SETTLERS CELEBRATION. WE STILL NEED DONATIONS TO PAY FOR THE 2024 FIREWORKS. WE ARE PLANNING A "\$4700.00 FIREWORKS SHOW", BUT WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LIKE TO DO YOUR BUSINESS ONLINE, THE NEW VIRGINIA OLD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION HAS SET UP A VENMO ACCOUNT FOR ONLINE DONATIONS.

-OUR LINK TO DONATE IS: [HTTPS://VENMO.COM/NEWVIRGINIA-OLDSETTLERS](https://venmo.com/newvirginia-oldsettlers) PLEASE NOTE IN VENMO THAT YOUR DONATION IS FOR THE FIREWORKS FUND.

-DONATE TO THE NEW VIRGINIA FIREWORKS FUND AT CITY STATE BANK

-MAIL A CHECK (PLEASE WRITE FIREWORKS IN THE MEMO) TO THE FIREWORKS FUND AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: CITY CLERK OF NEW VIRGINIA, PO BOX 302, NEW VIRGINIA, IA 50210

ANY QUESTIONS FEEL FREE TO CONTACT, DEANN STRANGE (515)210-8847 OR NEWVIRGINIAOLDSETTLERS@GMAIL.COM



Band, it is not just about the Music

Contributed by Grace Hart

My name is Grace Hart, daughter of Josh and Jessica Hart and granddaughter of Kathy and Mike Blackford. I am graduating from the University of Iowa in May 2024 with a health science degree. I graduated from Martensdale-St. Marys in 2020 with a class size of less than 50 people. I just finished my fourth and final year as a member of the Hawkeye Marching Band and the Iowa Pep Band at the University of Iowa. My band journey started in fifth grade when I decided to play the trumpet. In high school, there were never more than 20 people in our entire band for everything, so I didn't really have any marching band experience going into college. I decided to apply to the HMB because I wanted a good way to make friends in college and wanted a way to continue playing my trumpet without having to get a music degree. Being accepted was a great feeling, but it was also a bit overwhelming at first. I started marching band at Iowa with no prior experience, but it didn't take me long to learn it, and I will never regret my decision to do this. Across my four years of both marching band and pep band in college, I have performed in two NFL stadiums, been recognized by Elton John for a combined show with Ohio State, gone to three bowl games, two Football Big 10 Championships, two Women's Basketball Big10 Championships, traveled to six+ states, performed for the Pat McAfee Show, more recently traveled with the Iowa Women's Basketball team for the Sweet 16 through the NCAA Championship Game and met some lifelong best friends along the way. Not only are the bowl games and tournaments a lot of fun, but getting to perform for 70,000 people in Kinnick Stadium on Saturdays or 15,000 people in Carver Hawkeye Arena is an experience I will always cherish. I am so grateful for the amazing experiences I have had throughout my college journey, and if you're needing a reason to stay in band, I hope I have given you one.



GARAGE SALE

Craft Sale

New Virginia City Wide

GARAGE SALE & CRAFT SALE

SATURDAY, May 4, 2024

8 am - 2 pm

NEW VIRGINIA LIONS WILL SERVE **BREAKFAST BURRITOS** & NEW VIRGINIA OLD SETTLERS WILL SERVE **A LUNCH OF A HAMBURGER OR HOT DOG, BAKED BEANS, CHIPS, DESSERT AND A DRINK** IN OLD SETTLERS PARK (LUNCH 11AM TO 2PM)

TO GO ORDERS AVAILABLE

GARAGE SALES & CRAFTERS MAY SET UP IN OLD SETTLERS PARK FOR A \$5.00 FEE

CRAFT & GARAGE SALES MAY BE POSTED FOR FREE. EMAIL YOUR INFORMATION nviwagaragesale@gmail.com

!!!WINNER-WINNER-WINNER!!!



JESUS' RIGHT HAND

If I had to title this article, it would have to come under the heading, "Truth From the Trenches." During the past 28 years that the doors of Jesus' Right Hand have been open, many people have simply seen it as just another building on West Street in New Virginia. Some have criticized, some have ignored, and others have speculated what goes on behind the doors of this ministry. Recently there has been more attention paid to what we do, especially when seeing the many people coming in and out of our distribution center on Mondays. We have become more visible in our area, and in the spirit of full transparency, it's time to peel back the rumors and misconceptions and expose the heart of what we are all about. Sometimes that needs to come from someone who sees the raw and unvarnished realities of people's lives on a daily basis.

First, and most importantly, we are a Christian organization that seeks to meet the needs of whoever comes to us for assistance. Jesus' name is above the door, and there is no hiding the fact that this is a "faith-based" ministry, not that we would ever be ashamed of serving the Lord. We don't take government funding in any way, shape, or form because that restricts a lot of people from receiving help from us in one way or another. It also dictates what we can do, and how we can do it, and what people are eligible to get assistance. We have a 100% volunteer staff, no salaries or paychecks involved. Our people have a heart for this type of work, and it definitely shows in their dedication to the work. We offer food, clothing, prayer, hugs, a listening ear, an understanding heart, and so much more. Those are the bullet point facts about JRH.

Now it's time to crawl into the trenches. Jesus had a ministry while He was here on earth that was like no other. He deliberately sought out those who were on the fringes of society. His ways pushed back against the social or religious standards of that time. In a time when society believed acceptance by God was based solely upon rituals and sacrifices, Jesus offered unmerited favor in the simplest of ways...by simply believing in faith. He offended their minds in order to reveal their hearts. He told His disciples, "...Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). So that is what we do. We give freely, without judgement, without bias, without all the red tape that comes with being an outreach of this type. Access to God through Jesus Christ isn't "deserved" or merited in any way. It is a gift that is freely given to us, not something that we earned by checking all the boxes of a good life, but because of His sacrifice on the cross. We strive to be like Him every day, and if that means tipping over a few sacred cows, well, so be it.

I want to state in no uncertain terms right here and now: This is a safe place. We have worked tirelessly to earn the trust and reputation of being a place where people can come and be treated with the love and respect that every human on earth deserves. This extends to everyone involved: the people coming to us for help, the donors, the volunteers and supporters, the community, and surrounding areas. Jesus' Right Hand is a place where people can feel safe from judgement, condemnation, and gossip. The people who walk through our doors are someone's son or daughter, mother, father, or grandparents. They are your grandchild, your neighbor, or your best friend. They are human beings and are God's creation, regardless of what life has dealt them. The truth of the matter is that the people we serve have needs that run deeper than food or clothing. They face loneliness, isolation, fear, abuse, misunderstanding, mental or physical illness, personal loss, and so much more. Many of them simply need to be heard or seen. If someone comes to us for something, there is always a need. It may not be a need you see on the surface, but sometimes it's the deeper, more hidden needs that are the most painful. Someone who has been judged by others as "working the system," is actually the person who has an intense fear of their children going without, because they themselves faced chronic hunger in their childhood. Or what about the "weird" person who refuses to sit in our waiting area, but instead chooses to wait outside in their vehicle until it is their turn to go through the line? That could rouse all types of suspicions and create a murmur of gossip. However, this could be one of our veterans suffering from past combat experiences, or a person who has recently escaped an abusive relationship. It's sad to say, but anyone who has experienced the "system" carries scars from judgement, humiliation, and condemnation. But this is "A People Who Love" center, and we aim to change that in everyone's lives, one person at a time.

When David and I first had the vision of the JRH Distribution Center, we knew that it had to be a place where people were treated love and respect simply because they are God's creation. We were once a part of that "system," dealing with homelessness, hunger, and uncertainty. We were disrespected and judged. We received food that no person would have normally eaten, because "if they're hungry, they'll eat anything." We were scrutinized down to every microbe in our existence. It was assumed that because we had a need, that it was because we were lazy and stupid. However, neither of us was lazy nor stupid. We both had

Continued on page 12... 11

ROAD TRIPPING

Contributed by Terry Garner

Rollie and I just love shopping at the Amish stores scattered across the countryside. When the weather is bad enough that we don't want to be out in it, we'll jump in the truck and take off for a drive. Recently, we stopped at Gingerich Building Materials south of Chariton. It's actually two stores, the lady informed us when we went to pay for our purchases, though they are housed in the same building. There is the building supplies store, and then there's a store for the variety side of things, like stuff for your home and kitchen, books, baby items, canning supplies, and that sort of thing.

While taking our time and looking through the store, we noticed the small fan they had sitting on the heating stove (theirs is coal, not wood). Our Amish friends also have one of these, and we've been considering getting one for the woodstove that sits in our kitchen. There is a tiny motor with a couple of wires attached that lead to a small flat something-or-other gizmo thing right behind the fan blade. You set the fan on the back of the stove and as it heats up, the heat will generate electricity to start the motor, which then begins to turn the fan blade. In no time at all, that thing is just spinning along. It makes NO noise whatsoever, which is a big plus for me. It won't move air like a big ol' box fan, but it gets the air moving just enough to circulate throughout the kitchen to even out the heat just a bit. And just like a watched pot that never boils, that thing will wait till you have your back turned before it takes off!

It's heavier than it looks; it's made really well, I think. It should be. We were surprised at the price, \$125 dollars! When we got home, like every good English person (how Amish people refer to us), I googled it and guess what? They were right on. It was actually more expensive in some places than it was in the store. No matter, we're glad we got it, we think it helps, and we're happy! Happy spouse, happy house! :)



Check out this little fan we bought at an Amish store south of Chariton. Gingerich Building Materials LLC, 40330 State Hwy 14, Chariton, IA 50049. It's an Ecofan Airmax Model 812. Made in Canada. www.ecofan.com

Have any of you ever stopped at the Timber Ridge Country Market on the north side of the square in Osceola? Rollie's been stopping in there for breakfast when he sneaks off without me. He finally hauled me in there one day, and I saw what he's been raving about! I had a breakfast sandwich built to order (Kim is super accommodating). Rollie is in love with their sausage (and maybe Kim!). He says lunch is good too, so that's next for me. I gotta keep my eye on those two! Haha! Look for a coupon in an upcoming issue and try out the Timber Ridge Country Market. Let me know if you see Rollie in there!



Honey, are we lost? No dear, we're just exploring.

college degrees, we worked hard, but a major life change had fallen through which led us to lose our home and jobs. We sought help only because of our children. We put up walls and became defensive anytime we needed help, just expecting more judgement and disrespect. With God's help and direction, we rose out of the ashes, and He planted us where we are today. We were determined that no person walking through the doors of the ministry would ever have to experience what we had experienced during our hard times, and it is still a standard we hold fast to today.

Whether it is with Jesus' Right Hand, or Jesus Christ, no one "deserves" or "earns" the privilege to come. It's freely available to "whosoever will." If Mr. Whosoever comes through our doors on a Monday afternoon and wants some food, they will walk out with a box of food that they have selected for themselves. They will be treated with respect, dignity, and love, regardless of how they look, what they drive, or where they live. If someone realizes they are missing something in their life, and they come before Jesus Christ on their knees in prayer, He doesn't judge or condemn based on their past. He looks at them with love and compassion and with open arms to welcome them. Our staff and volunteers work very hard to see others through God's eyes, but sometimes we come across a situation where we must correct each other. After all, we are also human and stumble at times. But we try to the best of our human abilities to love unconditionally...at all times.

I realize this is a longer article than usual. My heart burns passionately about this, and I can't apologize for speaking from the trenches. I've been there, and Jesus' Right Hand was the light in the darkness. This is why I keep inviting you to come in and see what we do, to experience our "10-Cent Tour." People's eyes have been opened by seeing things for themselves, and everyone leaves with a new perspective. I personally will take time to show you what we do, whether it's on a Monday afternoon, or a Friday morning. Whatever time you're comfortable stopping by, if I'm available, I will answer your questions, respond to any concerns, and even listen to your criticisms. We have nothing to hide. And we are here if you need us. Just like we've been doing since 1986, we pray these words will encourage and challenge you.

In His Love and Service,
Jesus' Right Hand

Bart's

Tire & Auto

(641)449-3715

1452 G76 HWY, NEW VIRGINIA

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Service & Repair
- ✓ Oil Change & Lube
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Tire Services

HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM - 4 PM



PRESS RELEASE
March/April 2024

FREE Welcome to Medicare Seminar

The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) provides assistance with understanding and navigating Medicare. SHIIP services are free, unbiased and confidential.

Warren County SHIIP volunteers are providing a **FREE Welcome to Medicare Seminar** Tuesday, May 21st from 5:30-7:00PM at the Indianola Activity Center (2204 West 2nd Ave). The seminar covers all parts of Medicare (A through D). To attend, RSVP by calling (515) 962-5375.

Press Release Contact: Elodie Opstad
elodie.opstad@gmail.com
515-240-8016



FREE SEMINAR

Welcome to Medicare

A free seminar offered by the State of Iowa's Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and Indianola Activity Center

"Welcome to Medicare" will cover:

- » Medicare Parts A & B benefits
- » Prescription Drug Benefits (Part D)
- » Medicare Advantage Plans
- » Medicare Supplement Insurance
- » Medicare Fraud, Errors and Abuse

DATE

Tuesday
May 21, 2024
5:30 - 7:00 pm

LOCATION

Indianola Activity Center
2204 West 2nd Ave
Indianola, IA

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Call (515) 962-5375

www.shiip.iowa.gov

1-800-351-4664



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This project was supported, in part by grant numbers 955AP0044-03-00 and 90MPP0044-02-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201

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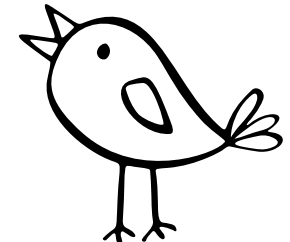
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WEED CONTROL

Contributed by Mel Stills



Mom and Dad utilized all the available technology in their endeavor to control weeds. The definition of a weed for Mom was anything that came up in her garden that she hadn't planted. Dad had declared war on cockleburrs, butter print and thistles. They used all the modern technology, a robot that had a laser guided tool that could cut the weeds off underground, pull them and could distinguish between a weed and a desirable plant. Hah! That's not at all accurate; you pulled the weeds by hand or cut them off below ground with a hoe or corn knife. I heard many a time, "If you don't cut it off below ground, it's going to come back." Weeding the garden started as soon as seeds or plants went in the ground, in April or May. Mom was very flexible; she could stand flat-footed, bend over, with knees straight and pull weeds. It was an all-day job, all summer long, between preparing three meals a day and all the other household chores.

Pulling weeds was pretty easy if the ground was moist from a recent rain, but if it hadn't rained for a while, the weeds wouldn't come out, roots and all. The most modern tool we had as a backup for weed control was a hoe, but again, the weed needed to get cut off below ground, and that generally wasn't accomplished with one whack of the hoe. Mom had an eagle eye and quickly got you to do it her way.

There was also a push cultivator that made a six-inch cut down the row of corn, beans, peas or whatever was in a row. There might be some gladiolus planted in a short row for the house, but everything else was edible. We didn't have much trouble with wild critters getting in the garden. It was dangerous for them to be up around the house.

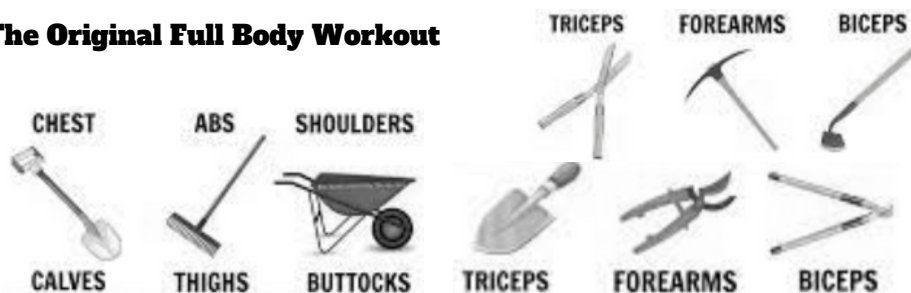
When I moved back to Iowa, I started a garden in order to have fresh tomatoes and strawberries. I always planted tomatoes twice. The first planting always got frosted off, but it was worth it in order to get tomatoes as early as possible. I gave up on the strawberries because weed control was impossible for me. As much as I hated pulling weeds in the garden as a kid, as a grown up, I didn't want weeds in my garden either. I was so happy when I got old enough to drive the tractor, because then I worked in the field for Dad, and gardening was Mom's and my sisters' responsibility.

Dad was completely mechanized in weed control. He (I) used the grab and pull approach, a corn knife, hoe or tractor with a two-row cultivator. As farming modernized, we went to a four-row cultivator. Cultivating started when the corn or beans were about six inches high and went on until they were too tall for the cultivator. Generally, three cultivations were needed in a growing year. Bending or breaking a cultivator shoe was common, and Dad's hands always had the hide knocked off due to the only tools in the tractor toolbox slipping, whether a crescent wrench, pair of pliers, big screwdriver or a hammer.

After the last cultivation, I can't remember exactly, but it was probably July or August, we (really I) were delegated to the final weed control solution. It was cool weather, and the corn leaves would scratch. I would walk every row of corn or soybeans, then pull or cut off all the cockleburrs and butter print. You were supposed to do two rows at a time, one on your right and one on your left, but a teenager could save time and cover a larger swath. That worked if Dad didn't spot a weed in the middle of his bean field. If he did, you went back and did it over again. The last thing you ever wanted to have to do was to go back a third time. Farmers took pride in having a clean, neat bean field. With corn, you could get by with a little standards' relaxation, but a weedy bean field would get talked about in town. Weed control might have also been kid control.

I never pushed Dad or Mom to find out what would happen if I missed a weed due to sloppy work. A lesson that did me well in the Navy, my time with the Marines, and all my working life, was to do it the best you can so that you don't need to do it again.

The Original Full Body Workout



Farmer Mel has been working in our yard and has planted two tomato plants with support "cages," five rose bushes and five geraniums. The tomato plants have blossoms and are really getting tall! We had our one-year-old, failed tangelo tree taken out and a Ruby Red grapefruit tree planted. All four of our fruit trees have new leaves, have bloomed and now have tiny new fruits developing. We had a large shrub removed from the front yard and will be researching what shrubs/plants may do well in that space. The bougainvillea are starting to bloom.

My older brother Tom and wife Gwen are now at their home in Sun Lakes for good, as of April 2. They have a buyer for their house in Georgia, and they expect to have that transaction finalized before too long.

I played the role of the waitress in a one-act play that was performed on March 14 at the monthly meeting of the Sun Lakes Community Theatre. The other two people in the play were "seasoned actors," whereas I am a "newbie." I was a little nervous, but it was fun.

We of the Sun Lakes Citrus Sharers had our end-of-season party on March 15, with 200 or so in attendance. The group picked just over 70 tons of citrus fruits on 10 days from January 27 to February 26, with all of it donated to the St. Mary's Food Bank. A Food Bank representative explained that all of the fruit is used and is distributed across Arizona, not just in Phoenix. The group put in 5,700 work hours, picking 1,319 trees at 591 houses in Sun Lakes. The total picked this year was almost 35 tons less than last year because of the brutally hot, dry summer.

Our patios have the "cool deck" surfacing done on them, and a 14' x 14' pergola has been erected on the back patio, with an 84" fan with light. So we will have some shade and a breeze on the hot days. Mel hung his ship's bell and ship's lantern (with a solar insert), and we have small solar pendant lights around the perimeter of the roof.

Our Catholic church had lovely Holy Week and Easter services, and the 60+ lilies and other white flowers made the setting very beautiful. Our parish will be getting a second priest in July to replace one who left in February, and I met him on Easter when he did the Mass. I think we will like him. We hosted Easter dinner for my brothers Jim and Bill and friend Renee. Jim brought me a purple and pink Easter basket filled with Hershey's kisses, a chocolate bunny and eight multi-colored hard-boiled eggs.

Our friends, Lisa and Fran, own a home here and are snowbirds from Western New York State. They returned home in time for the total solar eclipse on April 8, since the path of totality went through the Buffalo area. Unfortunately, their view was partially obscured by clouds.

We followed the University of Iowa Women's Basketball team's excellent journey to the NCAA final game on April 7, and of course, we were heartbroken when they were outscored. Caitlyn Clark should certainly have a good basketball future ahead of her.

We had our first day of over 90° on April 11, but then more moderate temperatures returned. Spring is just lovely here, with lots of days when we can sit on our patio. Happy Spring to you all!

Register Today for the Iowa Veterans Entrepreneurship Conference

Iowa State University Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship and America's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Iowa invites veterans, active duty, reserve military, family members, and business partners to join us for the Iowa Veterans Entrepreneurship Conference.

Iowa State University Debbie and Jerry Ivy College of Business and the Bergstrom Foundation is sponsoring this entrepreneurship conference. A welcome reception will be May 3, from 5 to 7 pm.

The main conference will start on May 4, beginning at 8 am. It is scheduled until 5 pm. Keynote speaker is NFL player Allen Lazard. Lazard is an Iowa native and founder of At the Top for Vets. This conference is free for military veterans and families due to the generosity of At the Top for Vets foundation. Limited spots are available; and registration is required.

This conference provides a supportive environment for exploring entrepreneurship. It includes an optional virtual pitch workshop on April 24, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. This workshop prepares interested attendees for two business pitch competitions scheduled May 3 at 3 pm. Event attendees will have the chance to connect with small business resources, participate in tailored workshops and collaborate during networking opportunities.

For more information head to Iowa Veterans Entrepreneurship Conference (isupjcenter.org). Please contact Jean Walsh, Iowa State Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship, 515-294-2776 or info@isupjcenter.org, with further questions. Jean Walsh, Iowa State University, Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship Jeanw@iastate.edu, 515-294-2776

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Farm Custom Rate Survey Shows What Iowans Are Charging and Paying in 2024
Newly released survey includes averages and ranges for popular farming tasks in Iowa

March 27, 2024, 1:53 pm | Ann Johanns

AMES, Iowa – Farmers who depend on custom work or provide custom services can review rates charged by others across the state in the latest Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey.

The 2024 report was published in the March edition of Ag Decision Maker and includes 130 responses and 2,805 custom rates provided by Iowa farmers, custom operators and farm managers.

Farm tasks in the report include everything from planting to harvest, with cost data that reflect the average, median and range for each task.

The rates in the report are expected to be charged or paid in 2024, and they include fuel and labor (unless otherwise noted). The average price for diesel fuel (highway-retail including taxes) was assumed to be \$3.92 per gallon (as projected by the U.S. Energy Information Administration in early February 2024). Rental rates for some machinery items are shown in the last section of the report, along with a worksheet for estimating rental rates for other items.

Ann Johanns, program specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and editor of Ag Decision Maker, said this year's numbers seem more in line with the current farm economy.

"We've seen increases in rates the past two years (3% to 10% and 10% to 15%)," said Johanns. "The steady to slight decline in rates generally seen across the 2024 survey is closer to changes observed prior to the last two years."

While the projected fuel price increased, production challenges and crop prices seem to have impacted custom rates as well.

Johanns said it's important for custom operators to know the market for custom farming and to know their costs.

"If the custom operator isn't covering their costs, they are operating at a loss," she said. "If they don't have a good handle on their cost to operate, there are helpful resources on Ag Decision Maker."

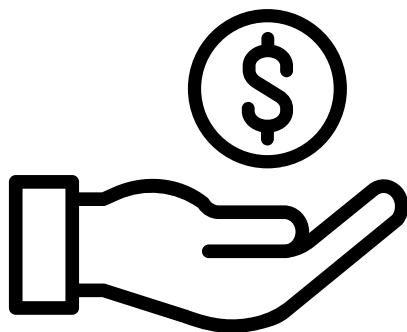
New for 2024 is additional insight into who responded to each operation shown. Of the 2,468 who responded with usable rates: 48% are service providers, 32% are service users, 8% are both service providers and users, and 12% are unknown. The sources of the 69 rates reported for machinery rentals are: 38% machinery owners, 35% machinery renters, 11% machinery owners and renters, and 12% unknown. The sources of the 108 rates reported for wages are: 81% employers, 7% employees, 2% employer and employee, and 9% unknown.

The rate survey is intended only as a guide. Actual custom rates may vary according to availability of machinery in a given area, timeliness, operator skill, field size and shape, crop conditions and the performance characteristics of the machine being used.

"Ultimately, the Custom Rate survey is a starting point in discussions, but any custom rate charged, or paid, should cover the operator's cost of owning and operating the machinery being used," said Johanns. "Just using the results of the survey alone might not be the right answer for an individual operation."

Past publications of the Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey are also available online.

About the Author:
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Department of Economics
515-337-2766
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Associate Pastor: Daniel Moore

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Pastor Gearold McElwee

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Sun. Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sun. Evening Worship 5:30 pm

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Thursday Evening:

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Pastor: Darin Feikema

515-490-4444 Cell: 515-770-3713

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New Virginia, IA 50210

641-449-3779

Pastor Paul Burrow

515-402-1802

Pastor's email: burrowpi@yahoo.com

Church email: NewVA-Medora@outlook.com

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Fellowship following Worship Service

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515-402-1802

Pastor's email: burrowpi@yahoo.com

Church email: NewVA-Medora@outlook.com

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Worship: 9 AM

Quilters: 1:00 P.M. Thursday

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Murray Worship 10:30 am

