

EST. 2011

# See Nauvoo News

N A U V O O B E T T E R M E N T A S S O C I A T I O N

## MAY EVENTS

- May 15, Piggies Due, State Bank of Nauvoo
- May 31, Cambre House events 10-4, See article p4
- May 31, Memorial Day Picnic, 11-1 p.m., City Park

*All of our actions, whether they be good or bad, have unintended consequences no matter how well thought-out they might be.*

## MAY MEETINGS

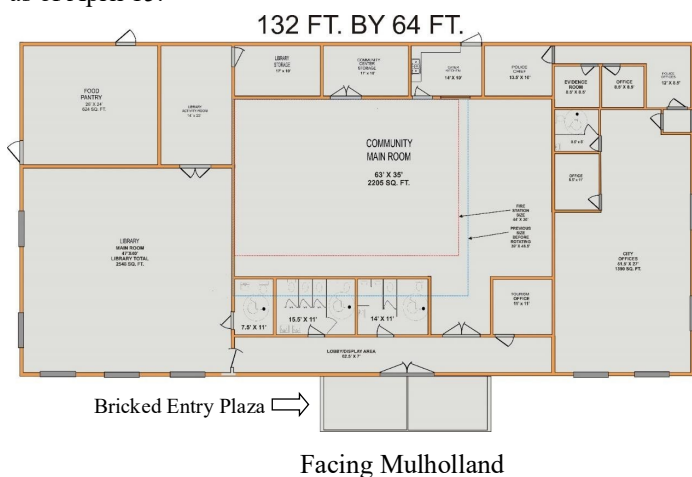
- May 11, Chamber of Commerce, Noon, Location TBD
- May 11, City Council, 7:30 p.m., City Hall
- May 17, School Board, 7 p.m.
- May 17, Library Board, 7 p.m.
- May 19, NBA, City Hall 7p.m.
- May 24, Chamber Executive Board, noon, City Hall
- Please check with your organization for updates on meetings.

## NC5 Moves Closer to Its Goal

According to NC5 Chairman Barb Schafer, fundraising for the Nauvoo Community Center is enjoying a boost with a surge of new donations after its March 30 Public Meeting, which brought the project within \$200,000 construction budget goal of ca. \$1.6M. Any funds in excess of the construction cost will be applied toward furnishings, parking, and landscaping, bringing the total project close to ca. \$2.2M.

Floorplans for the Center have evolved, with the latest layout shown below. The Committee is presently working on a bid package with specifications for contractors who do design-build projects. Specifications that must be in place include space requirements for all entities who will be using the facility as well as mandatory requirements of the Library Grant and State.

The \$617,000 Library Grant requires bids to be let and all monies for construction to be in place in a separate independent, dedicated account of funds held by the City of Nauvoo by June 2021, in order to allow the project to move forward. Because of the pressing demand in the construction trades this year, it is possible that the building, itself, won't be started until 2022. Pictured is the proposed layout for the ca. 8,500 sq. ft. building as of April 15.



Mulholland Street

The latest draft of the floorplan features the ca. 2,500 sq. ft. library anchoring the building on the west with the ca. 1,400 sq. ft. city offices on the east. A small tourism welcome center and restrooms will be at the center front, near the building's entrance. In the northwest corner of the building will be the Food Pantry, accessible only from the outside for privacy reasons. The center of the building will be the ca. 2,200 sq. ft. Community Center's main room. (For comparison, the Nauvoo Fire Protection District's meeting room, used for Nauvoo Senior luncheons and programs, is 1,340 sq. ft.) Next to the library and behind the main room is a catering kitchen with its own outside entrance as well as offices for the police department, which also features a separate entrance for privacy reasons. (Note: These outlines and drawings have not yet been finalized.)

As of this writing, the building will face Mulholland and offer parking in the front and on the east sides. (The bird's eye view of the block also shows gym and former school for perspective.) Any further changes will be made according to final drawings, which must be in compliance with building codes and other state and grant requirements.

From article submitted by Alan Moberly

**Nauvoo historic sites will open starting in May 2021, as local and state governments and conditions allow.**

**The lobby at the State Bank of Nauvoo is now open.**

## Nauvoo City Council Minutes April 13, 2021

The City Council approved the following:

- Public Works Director Barry Cuthbert's attendance at the Illinois Rural Water Association (IRWA) conference in Effingham on June 15-16, 2021.
- A permit for 1200 Mulholland (Zion's Mercantile) to create an underground exhibit room, on condition that they provide a one-day notice to close Bluff Street south of Mulholland, repair the damaged sidewalk on the south side of Mulholland in front of their property, obtain written approval from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and clean up any debris from their work.
- Extending the Tourism Director contract through 13 May, when it will expire. Tourism Director Sharon Nicholl reported that calls have been coming in from people wanting to visit Nauvoo this summer.
- The appointment of Richard Miller to the City Planning Commission.
- Establishing an independent, dedicated account of funds raised for construction of the new Community Center. Money in this account can only be used for construction.
- Authorizing a TIF Redevelopment Agreement for improvements to the apartments above the Red Front restaurant at 1305 Mulholland.
- Authorizing a TIF Redevelopment Agreement for improvements to the old Mayfly building at 1595 Mulholland. The new owner wants to have a Hawaiian Shaved Ice business there.
- Having the City Attorney prepare a Request for Proposal for a design/build option for the new library/community center that will meet both library grant requirements and municipal building requirements, and pay up to \$2,000 in attorney fees for this.
- The tentative design and layout of the new Community Center building.

In other business, the Council discussed

- how to compensate for the loss of revenue received as PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) funds (\$58K) from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which will be phased out over the next two years. The City Council is considering increasing the utility tax on electric and gas bills. In this way, the amount is spread out over everyone using utilities and not just those paying property tax. Mayor McCarty stated his opinion that this is a fairer way to make up the revenue loss. The increased amount will be discussed at next month's meeting.
- the request by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that the City vacate Hyde and Ripley Streets from White to Mulholland and Main to Partridge Streets (the Pageant grounds). Facilities Management Director Jordan Bodily said this was needed for safety issues and so that the Church can redesign the use of those city streets (which have not been used for years). He said the Church would reimburse the City for costs of vacating those streets. The Church owns the properties on either side of the streets. Mayor McCarty and several aldermen expressed concern over whether the City might need those streets at some future date and asked if a 20-year renewable lease would be acceptable. Alderman Larry Nicholl asked about a trade of the boat harbor lease for vacating the streets. The matter will be discussed further at next month's meeting.
- a request that property owners remove snow from sidewalks on their property,
- the City of Nauvoo Second Amendment Preservation Act, which was proposed last month by Nauvoo resident Laurence Pitt. The City is awaiting an evaluation from the City Attorney.

**Continued on the next column...**

Economic Development Committee Chairman Jeff Christensen reported

- that the committee is working on modifying contracts with the small businesses leasing space at the old school building, adding that since the building will NOT be torn down to make way for the new Community Center, more maintenance will be required to keep the place up.
- that they are interested in bringing a Farmers Market to Nauvoo and are looking for someone to spearhead the effort.
- on the internet needs survey recently taken. More information is needed. The Bartels family of Nauvoo had their name drawn for the participation \$25 prize.

### Tourism Office

Volunteers are needed in the Nauvoo Tourism Office! If you would like to learn more about the history of Nauvoo, greet visitors, tell them about things to do in the Nauvoo area and also be involved in some projects at the office, please consider volunteering in the Tourism Office. Call 217-453-6648 for more information.

This last year has been a difficult challenge for everyone including the Nauvoo businesses and accommodations. As the Illinois State guidelines allow, our businesses, museums and Nauvoo Historic Sites will be opening in May. This is a great time to encourage your family and friends to visit Nauvoo and experience all this area has to offer.

The Flood Museum and Nauvoo Historic Sites are opening May 1st. The Nauvoo Historical Society's Weld House and Rheinberger House museums open May 15th. The Nauvoo Historic Sites show on the outdoor stage east of the Visitor's center, the fun and rousing variety show, "Sunset by the Mississippi", starts Memorial Day weekend. (Unfortunately, the Joseph Smith Historic Sites will not be opening this year). There are other events and activities scheduled to take place this Summer and Fall (State guidelines permitting), so check out the Nauvoo City web site [beautifulnauvoo.com](http://beautifulnauvoo.com) for more details. Nauvoo Historic sites Zoom tours are still available by going to [nauvoohistoricsites.org](http://nauvoohistoricsites.org).

### Nauvoo Public Library Reopening

Nauvoo Public Library is now reopening in a reduced capacity! We will be allowing two patrons on a computer at one time, as well as one person or family in the stacks at a time. It is strongly suggested that you call ahead to make an appointment to ensure availability. We will still accept walk ins, but there is no guarantee we won't already be at capacity. Masks will be required to enter. Doors will remain locked to ensure we do not exceed capacity, so please knock and your librarians will let you in. Curbside is still available if anyone prefers that method. We are excited to see everyone again.

The library will also be having socially distanced summer reading activities this year, so stay tuned here and on our website and Facebook page for coming summer reading updates.

### Did you know...

- The Great River Road in Illinois is 557 miles long and takes in 15 counties.
- A recent algorithm created by Epic, an online subscription children's book service founded in 2013, identified children aged 6-10 preferred owls to chickens, chickens to hedgehogs, unicorns to mermaids, volcanoes to tsunamis, the Titanic to cowboys, pizza to cake, science to art, and "poop" outranked all of them. Hmmm.
- If you live outside of Nauvoo, a family is able to purchase a library card for \$92. For those living in Nauvoo, the card is based on a percentage of the homeowner's assessed valuation, which often is in excess of that amount.

### NC5's Fun Fund-raising Successes

The push is on to create as many opportunities to donate to the Nauvoo Community Center as possible. Since the NC5 Public Meeting on March 30, several generous pledges and donations have been received, causing a nice rise in the fundraising thermometer!

The Committee (NC5) is looking toward having the majority of money needed for the total project in place this year: the ca\$1.6M for the building construction (by June of this year) as well as an additional \$500,000-\$600,000, for sidewalks, parking, landscaping, and other exterior details. Total project cost: ca \$2.2M.

It's amazing what can be done when creative minds and supportive area residents come together to champion a cause. In this case, the cause is fundraising for Nauvoo's new Community Center. From art and horticultural classes to cookbook sales and filling piggy banks, the fundraising snowball continues to grow. The Committee especially thanks those who are making it all happen and hope that they are having fun doing so.



#### Container Gardening

In April, horticulturist Richard Hancock (pictured) gave 25 eager gardeners a lesson in container planting at Nauvoo Facilities Management (former NRI). Richard sees that 20,000 plants are started and an additional 20,000 cuttings are purchased for planting at the sites. He also runs an internship program for horticultural students—all this is done with one fulltime assistant plus a myriad of volunteers. Flowers, soil, and fertilizer were courtesy of Nauvoo Facilities Management.

Some interesting tips included where to place one taller plant ("thrillers"), three filler plants ("fillers"), and three trailers ("spillers"). Richard uses a soilless medium made up of peat/sphagnum moss for moisture; perlite for aeration (to allow plants to breathe), vermiculite and composted bark. He also uses a slow-release fertilizer, such as Osmocote, which is mixed with the soil (about 2 TBSP in a 12" pot) and a sprinkle on top of container, avoiding leaves. This will last about three months before needing to refertilize. Also, morning is the best time to water plants. "Never put a plant to bed wet" as water might get trapped on the leaves and invite fungus. Lots of tips and a potted plant to take home. What could be better!

To date, two previous Zoom classes plus in-person class (above) have netted \$1,250 for the Community Center.



#### Another Version of "Kilroy Was Here"

Brick sales for the Entry Plaza of the Nauvoo Community Center have been brisk. Among some of the 115 who have done so thus far include **Religious groups:** St. Mary Monastery, St. Mary's Academy, Nauvoo's First Presbyterian Church; **Businesses:** Nauvoo Blue Cheese Co., Red Front, Starr's Garage, Winning Looks; **Organizations:** Nauvoo Jayceettes, Nauvoo Betterment Association, Nauvoo Lions Club; **Classes:** '65 (St. Mary's Academy); NCHS classes of '69, '75, '78, '89, and 2000; **NCHS principals:** Gene Ihrig and Ken Nudd. Wouldn't you like to commemorate an event, honor an ancestor, friend, organization, or business? For more information go to [www.nauvooc.org](http://www.nauvooc.org) or pick up a form at Nauvoo City Hall. It would make a great birthday, graduation, or Christmas gift.



#### Piggy Update

Just a reminder...you have until Saturday, May 15, to bring your piggy to Nauvoo State Bank where its innards (coins) tabulated. If decorated, your piggy will be added to the bank's runway of cute pigs that will be in contention for one of the three prizes: Most "Well Fed," Most Creative, and Best "Dressed." All decorated pigs will be on view and prizes will be awarded at the Memorial Day picnic in the park on Monday, May 31. Some of the decorated pigs will be available for a silent auction. (Remaining pigs may be picked up at that time.) All seventy-five pigs ordered have been "adopted" and are being lovingly "fed out" for "the cause."

#### Yard Sale a Success!

The Nauvoo Community Center Capital Campaign Committee (NC5) was invited to participate in a "yard" sale in front of Nauvoo Market Place on April 24 with all proceeds marked with #90 going to NC5. The weather cooperated, as did the crowd. Market Place proprietor Sharon Cohen, will continue to funnel all future items marked with number 90 into her store's inventory—an ongoing reason to do some serious cleaning this spring. She will also highlight the outdoor venue for NC5 and NBA fundraising events the first and third Saturday of every month. This is a continuation of her previous arrangement with the Nauvoo Betterment Association's (NBA) sponsorship for proceeds to go towards the Community Center project, which has already generated over \$1,000. It's a win-win situation. NC5 thanks to all those "#90ers" who scoured their belongings for the event and to Sharon Cohen for her generosity and civic support. The event netted NC5 \$2,500.

#### Library "Checks in" to Campaign

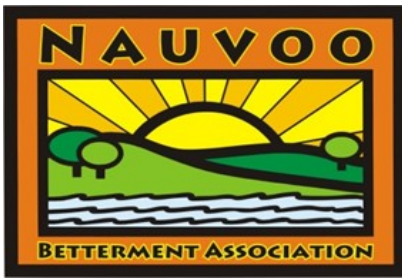
According to librarian Amber Bevier, the library "cooked up" a plan to solicit recipes from Nauvoo residents and combine them into a published volume. All 100 copies sold @ \$15. In addition, the Friends of the Library (which no longer exists), donated all of their funds to the project. The Library Board donated unused library furniture for the auction in 2019 and to the Nauvoo Market Places yard sale in April. Proceeds all go to the Nauvoo Community Center project, which will include a new, larger public library for Nauvoo. Pictured is Nauvoo Library Board president Patty Haigh presenting a check for \$4,543.32 to NC5 members Dianne Adkisson and Elaine Ferguson.



#### Cookbook Brings Home the Bacon for NC5

A Facebook group of NCHS alumni ladies was formed by Maxine Dennison a couple of years ago for socializing and exchanging memories and ideas. In the fall of 2019, the group started exchanging their favorite soup recipes, which grew to other offerings, which eventually led to the creation of a cookbook, Comfort Food, to sell as a fundraiser for NC5. The book is for sale at Baxter's Winery for \$12. To date \$518 has been donated. The Nauvoo Capital Campaign Committee is grateful for the efforts of these ladies, led by Cindy Bollin Smallwood. They have proven that our citizens and alumni are the best.





Articles may be submitted at any time to  
[seenauvoonews@gmail.com](mailto:seenauvoonews@gmail.com)  
Deadline for the June issues is May 21

See *Nauvoo News* may be picked up at the following locations for a suggested donation of twenty-five cents: City Hall, Dollar General, Fudge Factory, Grandpa John's, Motley Fitness, Nauvoo Clinic, Nauvoo Market Place, Nauvoo Pharmacy, State Bank of Nauvoo, The Red Front, Three Keys Collection and Winning Looks. The newsletter may also be found online at Beautiful Nauvoo's Facebook Page and at [www.beautifulnauvoo.com](http://www.beautifulnauvoo.com). **Note:** The See *Nauvoo News* staff reserves the right to condense event information, referring readers to reference sites for specific event details.

## Memorial Day Weekend Happening in and Around Nauvoo

The Nauvoo Betterment Association will host its annual Memorial Day Community Picnic in the park on Monday, May 31, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Nauvoo City Park. A short program will honor veterans, will feature a few war letters from different war eras, musical entertainment, and a lunch for a free-will offering which will benefit the new Nauvoo Community Center. All picnic proceeds this year will be given to the Nauvoo Community Center Capital Campaign (NC5). While you are enjoying this year's Memorial Day picnic, the Piece Maker Quilters will be displaying some of their quilts for the Quilting for Warriors project (see article below).

### Cambre House Memorial Day Event

The picturesque Cambre House and Farm will soon host their fifth annual craft show and open house. Ten to fifteen vendors have signed up to offer their beautiful and/or **tasty wares to the public. The event will occur at the Cambre House and Farm** on Monday (Memorial Day), May 31, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m..

The Cambre House, built in 1867 by a member of Nauvoo's short-lived Icarian community, is an historic farmstead near Niota. Cambre also built several of the Icarians' buildings in the 1850s. The house is the only surviving Icarian-designed building in Hancock County and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

The property is currently owned by Rebecca Williamson, granddaughter of Rely and Lois Fowler. She is dedicated to preserving the house and sharing it with the public. She is doing this craft show to give people a chance to come tour the home and in honor of her grandparents, who held an annual craft show from 1983-1994.



W. Hamma, 1948-1949.

While you are enjoying this year's Memorial Day picnic, please stop and visit the table where the Piece Maker Quilters will be displaying some of their quilts for the Quilting for Warriors project. Monetary donations will gladly be accepted. Name, rank and military branch of your special Veterans will also be accepted for future labels.

## News from Nauvoo Market Place

According to proprietor Sharon Cohen, there will be some additions to Nauvoo Market Place's offerings this spring and summer.

- Mid-May will find the El Camino Real food truck, providing delicious lunches and dinners, parked out front. Covered seating will be available.
- An Open-Air Market will be an opportunity for vendors to provide seasonal fresh vegetables and fruits along the length of the store's west side. The approximate 10' x 10' spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. All purchases will be processed inside the store, enabling vendors to have product available without necessarily being on the premises. Hours will be Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Note: An Open-Air Market differs from a Farmer's Market, which is a "Cottage Industry." Open-Air Markets do not allow baked goods or other home-made edible items for sale.)
- "Yard" sales for organizations that fall into tax-exempt categories (501 (c) (3)s, etc.), will be featured on Saturdays. The Nauvoo Betterment Association (NBA), which is sponsoring a fundraising opportunity for the new Community Center via sales of items marked with #90 will be featured the first and third Saturdays of every month. Second and fourth Saturdays are available for other tax-exempt organizations.

For information about any of the above, stop in and see Sharon at the Market Place, or call 217.242.4286. Things are, indeed, opening up in Nauvoo!

## The Piece Maker Quilters

The Piece Maker Quilters are once again meeting each Thursday, to work on quilts for the Quilting for Warriors project. They design, sew and quilt gurney-sized quilts to be sent to the USO Warrior Center at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany where active-duty Service Members are treated who have been injured or wounded while overseas. These brave men and women are flown home on gurneys in the belly of a specially equipped cargo plane. The quilts are intended to provide warmth and comfort to the long flight home and to show these young people that someone back home cares about them.

Since adopting the Quilting for Warriors project in 2018, the ladies have sent 123 quilts. Each quilt carries a special label to offer blessing for recipients' recovery and to thank them for their service. The label also honors a local veteran's brave service. It is the intention of the Piece Maker Quilters to honor two special acts of service with the giving of each quilt.

The most recent shipment of 16 quilts included labels honoring the following Service Members: Don Griffiths, Jr., Vietnam; Valoie V. Hutson, WWI; Phillip Buelow, WWII; Daniel L. Kraus, Vietnam; Richard D. Bertschi, Korea; Matthew D. Kraus, Iraq; Kurt Upton, Special Service Operations; John Schwan, Vietnam; Clarke Bergmeier, WWII; Bryan McCarty, WWII; Lloyd S. Starr, Korea; Paul G. Buelow, WWII; Marion (Bud) Anderson, WWII; Mike Hamma, Vietnam; Ralph C. Fay, Vietnam; and David

-submitted by Julie Johnson