

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

APRIL EVENTS

- April 16, Pancake Breakfast, Fire Station 7-10 a.m.
- April 16, Easter Egg Hunt, Fire Station, after the pancake breakfast.
- April 27, City Wide Cleanup, See p3

One act of kindness won't change the world, but it may change one person's world.

APRIL MEETINGS

- April 4, Chamber Executive Board, noon, Zoom
- April 11, Chamber of Commerce, Noon,
- April 12, City Council, 7:30 p.m., City Hall
- April 18, School Board, 7 p.m.
- April 18, Library Board 7 p.m.
- April 20, NBA, 7 p.m. City Hall
- Please check with your organization for updates on meetings.

Mayor Skog's State of the City Address March 8, 2022

Note: The following is an abridged version of Mayor's letter.

For the last 10 months it has been my pleasure to serve you, the citizens of Nauvoo, as your mayor. While the first few months were chaotic and stressful, persistence prevailed. In 2021, several changes occurred while some things remained constant around us.

While vaccines and boosters have helped slow the spread of COVID 19, we lost many loved ones and friends. COVID19 numbers within Hancock County and the City climbed to new numbers. However, new businesses were opened, and vacant store fronts came to life. The old Nauvoo Mill and Bakery is now the Nauvoo Café and Sweet Shoppe; Havenlight Gallery is now Quarry House Gallery; The Mayfly is now Sunset Hill Shaved Ice; Zions Mercantile, Woodruff Hotel, and Nauvoo Family Inn and Suites (now called The Inn at Old Nauvoo) were purchased by new owners.

Our new Nauvoo Community center is even closer to breaking ground, thanks to so many people, businesses, and organizations whose donations have made it possible. And, more importantly, thanks to the committee who have been patient and steadfast in donating their time to see this goal begin to take form.

Our thanks to Assistant Police chief Mark Churchm who retired after four years of service to our community Derek Himan and Kolton Jonson were hired as part-time patrolmen.

John Mc Carty passed the gavel down after 16 years of dedicated service as Mayor of Nauvoo. Jeff Christensen was elected alderman of the 1st Ward; Ron Grant was appointed as 1st Ward alderman to a 2-year term to fill the vacancy of Jason Skog who was elected Mayor. Tacy Anozie was re-elected as alderman to the 2nd Ward, and Jim Boyles was re-elected as alderman to the 3rd Ward. New members were appointed to the Planning Commission, Hotel/Motel Tax Board, Economic Development, and Library Committees. The Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce elected Dr. Tom Grant as new president replacing Jessie Nelson.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints announced that the historic sites would reopen to in-person tours, and four new sites on the flats were opened and dedicated: the Orson Hyde, William Gheen, William Weeks, and Edward Hunter homes, which aided in Nauvoo Historic Residences receiving the 2021 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award for Restoration in Chicago last October.

The Nauvoo Pageant was cancelled for a second year in a row; the Nauvoo Grape Festival, the Pumpkin Walk, and the Nauvoo Christmas Walk went forward and attracted crowds of people.

The new 2020 census numbers were received the fall of 2021. Nauvoo's population fell 199 people to a new count of 950.

Former City Attorney Mariah Wallace was replaced by Diane Vine, who had previously served Nauvoo for many years.

The Nauvoo Community Center Capital Campaign Committee introduced a new "sweetheart" of a deal fundraiser for Valentine's Day with all proceeds going towards the new Community Center. Alderman Larry Nicholl secured two Community Facility grants of \$50,000 each to go towards the purchase of a new backhoe and dump truck for the city. And yes, Barry Cuthbert got his Christmas present early with a new F150 truck for the city also, after his old "red rider" truck gave up the ghost.

Nauvoo received \$39,313.95 in sales tax revenue in fiscal year 2021. (We are already at \$69,964.93 received this year, with \$50,000 budgeted—an increase of \$30,650.98.) Our 2021 Hotel/Motel tax was \$11,380.65. (We have already received \$58,506.34 this year, with \$90,000 budgeted—an increase of \$47,127.83.) TIF money was granted to several businesses for improvements within their establishments. A lot in Bluff Woods was donated to the city in 2021, with all proceeds of the sale of the lot allocated towards the Community Center.

2022 looks to be a great year for our town. Preparation for the Nauvoo Pageant is in full swing; the Grape Festival and Pumpkin Walk are being planned; Nauvoo is taking its turn to oversee the Independence Day Fireworks this year--All donations accepted; and a French Heritage Day and an Octoberfest is in the works.

My thanks to City employees Mike, Barry, Jerry, Joe, and Brenden; to aldermen Tacy, Jim, Ron, Jeff, Brenda, and Larry for keeping the City running; and a special thanks to Carol McGhghy and Ana LeVesque, who know the ins and outs of helping others, our City, and especially me. Thank you to my wife, Laura, for support. Thank you all.— Mayor Jason Skog

This edition of *See Nauvoo News* is sponsored by
Nauvoo Pharmacy, 1350 Mulholland Street, 217-453-2717

Nauvoos City Council Minutes March 8, 2022

A large gathering (21) was on hand at Nauvoos City Hall last Tuesday evening (March 8) to witness the City Council approve a contract for the construction of the Nauvoos Community Center. Schickendanz Construction of Fort Madison, Iowa, was the winning bidder, offering to do the job for \$1,765,800. John McCarty, representing the Nauvoos Community Center Capital Campaign Committee (NC5) recommended awarding the contract to Schickendanz, adding that the NC5 checked other projects they had done and found that the customers were both satisfied and pleased with the communication during construction of their projects and the final product. There will be an accessible daily log for the project. He recommended that the City assign Jim Boyles, Jordan Bodily, and Jeff McCarty to oversee the project. All funds for this project were raised by donations and grants. The City Council voted unanimously to accept the Schickendanz proposal and authorized the mayor to sign the contract and conduct any business associated with it, pending review by the City Attorney. According to John McCarty, if the weather cooperates and supplies are available, the building could be completed by November. The City Council approved the following:

- Purchase of a software upgrade to read water meters. Cost is \$29,628.
- Repair two furnaces at the old school building. Mayor Jason Skog is doing the labor at no charge, but is authorized up to \$500 for parts.
- A cost of living pay increase averaging 3% for City employees.

The City Council also discussed a proposed ordinance to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) and to set a minimum of 1,000 hours per year for City employees to participate. This action would cost the City more, but will give City workers a better pension. A discussion followed and the following points were made:

- This is needed to increase retention of City employees.
- The IMRF is the most stable public pension program in Illinois.
- In the 1990s the City Council voted to reject participation in the IMRF. Two former aldermen who served on the City Council back then voiced their regret at that rejection.
- It is irreversible. Once the City signs on the IMRF, it cannot leave.
- This is the 1st reading of this ordinance. It will have two more readings before it becomes law. The first reading passed, 4-1 (Aldermen Nicholl, Christensen, Grant, and Adkisson approved; Boyles against. Alderman Anozie was absent.)

Other:

Alderman Jeff Christensen, speaking for the Economic Development Committee, reported that they were looking into installing programmable thermostats at the old school building which would turn the heat down when no activity in the room was detected. He also reported that lots of busses are scheduled to arrive in Nauvoos this summer.

Mayor Skog gave the annual State of the City address and reported the following:

- A letter from Mediacom announcing price increases for television service.
- A city-wide cleanup on April 27 (more information to come).
- Storm spotter training at Legacy Theater in Carthage on March 14 at 6:30 p.m.

He and other mayors and township presidents in Hancock County attended a meeting where they discussed Census numbers. Some went up. Some went down. Nauvoos population declined from 1,149 to 950. (It should be noted that the "count" date was April 1, 2020, during the depths of the pandemic, when all the missionaries that worked in Nauvoos were absent, thus artificially deflating Nauvoos population numbers.) They are looking into what it would cost to redo the Census in Nauvoos and some other communities.

Nauvoos Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber has grown over the past year and is making ambitious plans under new president Tom Grant, whose day job is being chiropractor in Nauvoos. He also is involved in Historical Merriments with his wife Kimberli. Under his leadership, committees have been formed to educate business owners about strategic business practices and promote the importance of enhancing their business facades (or "businessification," as Tom would term it). He acknowledged that Nauvoos businesses have become too dependent on the "summer pageant mindset," when tourist numbers naturally bloom.

Tom, drawing on previous business experiences, wants to focus on the other eight months: "what's worked in other places can work here." His goal in the Chamber is to use "tracking" to see what works and what doesn't in Nauvoos marketing. Emphasis will be on training, branding, marketing, and the use of social media to enhance Nauvoos business opportunities. Another goal is to upgrade the Beautiful Nauvoos website, which was reassigned from the City to the Chamber for tweaking its "new and improved" look and offerings. He hopes this will be done sometime in May. As Tom sees it, "the City's Economic Development Committee's job is bringing businesses to Nauvoos; the Chamber's job is helping them to succeed."

Nauvoos Community Center Update

Mayor Skog signed the contractual agreement between Schickendanz Construction and the City on March 24, allowing the company to order materials the Community Center in a timely fashion. While NC5 has met its financial goal for the construction of the building, additional donations are being sought for non-construction items: parking lot, driveway, furniture and equipment, upgrades of carpeting, landscaping, etc. All these go toward making our new Community Center one that we all can be proud of. The purchase of a brick for the entry plaza or making a donation—both of which can be done at City Hall or by going to nauvoos.org and following the prompts. We are on our way! C'mon along.

Nauvoos Community Center Grant (NC5) Applied For

Larry Nicholl, NC5 member and Second Ward alderman has made application for a \$500,000 Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grant (USDA). The first phase of the application was successful; the second phase should be completed by the end of March. It is based on a first come, first served basis, as funds allow. The required public hearing was held on March 25 to learn about what the grant entails and to allow for comments and questions. Paperwork covering contractor's specifications and cost estimations for the Community Center: concrete, carpentry, masonry, etc. as well as the major outlays the City might have for the project over the next couple of years needs to be submitted as well as whether the project affects Native American sites, endangered species, wetland, floodplain, etc. Notification of grant money allocated should be sometime this summer. Any grant monies will go toward Community Center's upgrade of finishes, sidewalks, parking lot, driveways, etc. (Earlier this year Larry was successful in writing for and receiving two USDA grants for the City in the amount of \$50,000 each: one for a back hoe; the other, a dump truck.) Larry continues to be both an indispensable member of NC5 as well as an City alderman. The City appreciates his dedication to making Nauvoos the best it can be. Thanks.

In and Around Nauvoos

According to Facebook: Hotel Nauvoos will open April 1 and will be open on Fridays and Saturdays only from 4:30-8:00 p.m. The Hotel will not be open on Mother's Day nor Easter this year. Peter's Place and RV Park, operated by Peter and Sarah Moon Bate, will open both restaurant and RV Park May 1.

Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt



The Nauvoo Fire Department is excited to announce the return of their pancake breakfast and easter egg hunt on April 16. Bring your family and enjoy a pancake breakfast at the Fire Station from 7 - 10 a.m. followed by a GIANT easter egg hunt.

Nauvoo Adventure Rentals

Emmitt Skog and Brian Christiansen have purchased the entire lot on Mulholland across from the Inn at Old Nauvoo (formerly Family Inn and Suites). Emmitt will be managing Nauvoo Adventure Rentals, which will include six golf carts, 30 go carts (ATVs), and 50 bicycles (number still TBD). Maps will be available for the “adventure” set, guiding them to points of interest in Nauvoo. The golf and go carts have 35 MPH speed governors and are legal to go on all streets excepts Hwy. 96, which includes Mulholland. Signage will indicate designated crossings of Hwy. 96 on Gordon, Fulmer, Wilcox, Barnett, Bluff, and Parley on the flats. (Emmitt indicated that the vehicles and their operation are compliant with all City ordinances governing motorized vehicles on Nauvoo roadways.)

Everything is in place for an early May opening with hours from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Saturday. (Daily rentals only.) Cost is \$30-\$80 per day, depending on vehicle. They may be rented in advanced. Renters signing for a motorized vehicle must be a minimum of 18 years old. This year an enclosed trailer will serve as the rental center. By next summer, the plan is to have a permanent building at the site. Some beverages will be available for sale. Emmitt is making it possible for visitors to have a “new, exciting way to experience Nauvoo.” Sounds like fun! For more information see Nauvoo Adventure Rentals on Facebook or Instagram.

Nauvoo Soda Company

Yummy soda concoctions will, once again, be found in the alleyway between Nauvoo Clinic and Quarry House Gallery starting in mid-May. Robin Riggins will operate the custom soda shop. Robin, daughter of Sue and Dan Bartlett, owner-operators of Quarry House Gallery, is finishing up a college degree and presently lives in Nauvoo. Snacks--soft pretzels, popcorn, cookies, trail mix—will be available along with tee shirts. Nauvoo Soda Company will be open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. with extended hours, as needed, during the peak summer season.

Sweet Suite Nauvoo

Suite Nauvoo—love that play on words--a new Airbnb business will take reservations for 14 rooms located in and near Nauvoo: White House, Hart House, Gramma’s House, rooms above Quarry House Gallery, Annie’s Custard, as well as two cabins outside the city. Kelly Elmore, who lives in Burlington, Iowa, and is the daughter of Sue and Dan Bartlett and sister of Robin Riggins (Nauvoo Soda Company) is busy renovating the properties, getting them ready for the busy season ahead. For more information: suitenauvoo.com

City wide Clean-up is scheduled for April 27th. Nauvoo resident’s should be on the lookout for a list of acceptable items coming in the mail.



The Inn at Old Nauvoo

Local investor Brian Christiansen purchased the former Nauvoo Family Inn and Suites property in 2021 and renamed the hotel “The Inn at Old Nauvoo.” The Inn, located at 1875 Mulholland, boasts a swimming pool, event center, dining hall, gift shop, and 88 rooms of various sizes, some of which can sleep ten. The Manor House, which is diagonally across the street, has 60 rooms, and is often used by youth groups visiting Nauvoo during the summer.

Christiansen’s, daughter-in-law, Ashlee Christiansen, Warsaw, will manage The Inn as well as the Christiansen’s other lodging properties: the Nauvoo Temple House (formerly the Woodruff Hotel) and the Willard Richards Inn. Ashlee is the wife of Forrest Christiansen, a photographer and owner of Forrest Photographic Services.

New changes at the Inn include an electronic marquee that welcomes visitors to Nauvoo and advertises community events, and a heated indoor swimming pool that is also available to Nauvoo residents upon purchase of a daily or monthly pass. The Inn’s dining room will be available for breakfast and dinner for the May-August peak tourist season. Looking for employment? The Inn will be hiring permanent as well as an additional 30-40 seasonal workers. Contact hotels@nauvoobusinessgroup.com for employment information.

To read more about The Inn, visit website innatoldnauvoo.com.

-from an Alan Moberly article

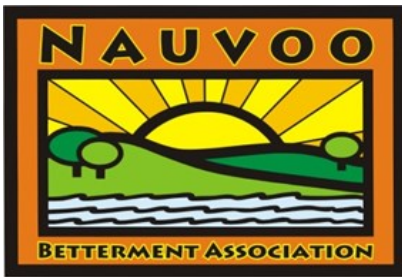
Nauvoo Lavender

Lindsey Marshall not only raises beef cattle, but she is also one of Nauvoo area’s new entrepreneurs, dabbling in many areas but most recently, lavender. Last spring she started 117 lavender plants at the former location of Larry’s [Dusenberry] Toy Ranch east of town. (The acreage had originally been purchased from Larry by her parents Tom and Laurie Scheetz, who recently sold it to Lindsey.) In June, she will add 500 more plants. It takes two years to establish the plantings with harvesting set for 2024—enough time to plan for the possibilities. Eventually, one to two acres will be dedicated to the project.

Lavender’s properties-- their oil, healing properties, fragrance, and beauty intrigue Lindsey. Some varieties will grow up to 18” high and 4’ wide and have a life span of 7-8 years. Her goal is to harvest the buds and use the byproducts from distillation for a variety of marketable products. She plans to include picking-your-own and classes in wreath and sachet making, a culinary lab for chef’s who like experimentation with the lavender flavor, and lavender lemonade for a taste treat. To accommodate all this, Lindsey’s ultimate goal is to build a shed/shop to house the on-site business end of things. Ah, the smell of lavender is wafting through the air already....

Historical Merriments

Kimberli Grant, Nauvoo, has taught old-fashioned dance classes for five years and has taught historic dancing for 27. Historical dancing, like square dancing, is done in groups or circles with the dance moves called out so you don’t have to memorize the steps. All this is done at the former Presbyterian Church [“Kirche”] where Kimberli teaches classes two or three times a month, usually on the first and third Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Each class is one and one-half hours and costs \$5. Once July rolls around, and Nauvoo’s population starts popping, Kimberli will expand offerings to several classes a week. Class size is limited to 30 people, making signing up on line a must. For information, visit the website: historicalmerriments.com. Get on your dancing shoes....



Articles may be submitted at any time to
seenauvoonews@gmail.com
Deadline for the May issues is April 22

See *Nauvoo News* may be picked up at the following locations for a suggested donation of twenty-five cents: Allyn House, City Hall, Dollar General, Fudge Factory, Nauvoo Clinic, Nauvoo Market Place, Nauvoo Pharmacy, State Bank of Nauvoo, The Red Front, Three Keys Collection, Winning Looks, and Zions Mercantile. The newsletter may also be found online at Beautiful Nauvoo's Facebook Page and at 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.

Improve the Environment. Add Rainscaping.

The City has received notice about a Purdue University Rainscaping Education Program, which will provide workshops to promote the planning, installation, and maintenance of rain gardens. Landscapes with rainscaping capture stormwater, which reduces polluted runoff from homes and communities. When plants and soils of a rainscaped landscape absorb water from storms, they keep pollution from reaching streams, rivers, and lakes. Interested? Read more at <https://extension.purdue.edu/rainscaping>.

Flood Museum

The Flood Museum will kick off the 2022 season with its first annual Faith and Science Conference on May 27 & 28. This conference is part of the Museum's effort to strengthen families and increase individual faith. There is a misconception in the world that faith and science are incompatible. The topics discussed at this conference will demonstrate the power of science that is consistent with faith.

Presentations will feature museum founder Dr. Robert Wright, Retired US Bureau of Reclamation Geologist Doug Bennett and Author and Galesburg Pastor Dr. Randy Hroziencik. Their topics will include: The Mystery of Ancient Man, the History of the Theory of Evolution, the Impact of Evolutionary Theories on Youth, the Geology of the Global Flood, Man and Dinosaurs, and Christ is the Creator.

At a time when there is so much uncertainty in the world, these messages of faith will bring confidence and hope to attendees. This is a non-denominational conference, and believers of all faiths are invited. Admission to the conference events is free, but registration is required. Those wishing to attend can visit the museum's website at TheFloodMuseum.com for additional information, and to register for the conference.

KC Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus really did themselves proud at their Lenten fish fry on March 11. They fried over 120 lbs. of catfish and still ran out, leaving them to buy 180 lbs. for their March 25 event, the last KC "fry" in Nauvoo before Easter. They are looking forward to enhancing their offerings at the "new" hall for Saints Peter and Paul church and school functions as well as making the space available for community events, receptions, reunions, and fundraiser rental. As funds allow they will, among others, be putting on a new roof, updating lighting, and making HVAC improvements.

El Camino Real Food Truck

According to Sharon Cohen, the operators of El Camino Real restaurant in Hamilton hopes to be open their food truck for lunch and dinner during the week (not on weekends). Being open depends on staff availability.

Fort Madison Road Closures

Starting Friday, April 1, Avenue H from 10th Street through 12th Street and 15th Street to 18th Street will be closed for Phase One of the Avenue H Construction Project. Street intersections including 10th, 13th, 14th and 18th will remain open for access south of Avenue H. Please note, businesses will remain open but access may be restricted to the alley.

Just for fun....

Did you know that local children often refer to the playground at the ballpark as the "Purple Park" and the playground next to City Hall as the "John Deere Park"? It all has to do with the colors of the playground equipment. Leave it to children to call things as they see them.

Fairy Garden creations and competitions will be back by popular demand this year. (Nauvoo has really been into "wee" things the past few years, much to the delight of those creative minds who love exploring the little people and their lifestyle. What's especially nice is that they are willing to share their creations. Watch Caremongers for information

Gnome Homes

Nauvoo Riverwalk offers more than just information about the river and its wildlife. Gnome homes are nestled into the niches of adjoining trees. Not only do they just mysteriously appear, but occasionally items are added, much to the delight of Riverwalk strollers. The Hotel Nauvoo has a new gnome home in its yard thanks to John Allen's creativity Hmmm. Our population might just be expanding with more housing available for wee folk. What a neat attraction.



Kibbe Museum

Kibbe Hancock Heritage Museum in Carthage will open for the season on Friday, April 1. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12 to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Special group or class tours can be arranged at other times.

The museum was created around the large natural history collection from Dr. Alice Kibbe, former biology professor of Carthage College. It has expanded to include home, farm, businesses, fashions and military items from Hancock County's past; and relics from Carthage College, Native Americans, and fossils and rocks of the area.

Special exhibits focus on the origins of Memorial Hospital and healthcare in Hancock County, Abraham Lincoln's life and death, and his era and connections to Hancock County, funeral customs and military service. The spacious museum has room for groups of visitors to view the exhibits, while remaining separated at safe a distance.

The museum is closed on Mondays, and on major holidays. Sherry Harris and Don Gee will share weekly duties as host at the museum along with volunteers. The museum is located at 306 Walnut Street in Carthage. For information, call 217-357-