

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

JUNE EVENTS

- June 3, Curbside recycling begins
- June 4, NC5 Yard Sale, 8 a.m. -2 p.m. Old Grade School Gym
- June 5, Gods Portion Day, 10 a.m., SPPS
- June 9, Nauvoo Public Library Space Camp, 2 p.m., City Park
- June 11, Fairy Garden Contest, 10 a.m.– 12 p.m., outside Hotel Nauvoo
- June 17-18. City Wide Yard Sale , see article pg. 3
- June 25, Retired Teachers luncheon, see pg. 3
- June 25, Movie showing *Encanto!*, 2 p.m., Grandpa Johns Theater,
- June 25, UMC Hog Road, 5-7:30 p.m., Nauvoo Methodist Church
- Save the date– July 1-3 French Heritage Festival ,see pg. 3

JUNE MEETINGS

- June 6 , Chamber Executive Board, noon, Zoom
- June 13, Chamber of Commerce, Noon,
- June 14, City Council, 7:30 p.m., City Hall
- June 15, NBA, 7 p.m. City Hall
- June 20, Fire District Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., Fire station
- June 20, School Board , 7 p.m.
- June 20, Library Board 7 p.m.

Nauvoo Community Center Groundbreaking



Light rain didn't keep ca. 50 from observing the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new community center. Construction is already well underway. The fenced building site has been prepared, trenches dug, and cement foundation laid. The project is expected to be completed in October. Remarks were made by former mayor John McCarty, Mayor Skog, and head librarian Amber Bevier.

John McCarty's Remarks: Over the years, many of you have been able to envision the potential for this new structure that will add new opportunities to our community--a place where memories will be made, friendships started, and existing ones strengthened. Fortunately, enough of you also believed in and trusted each other to get us here today...you also trusted the community and its friends, to help us get this done.

This whole project came out of a desire to build a new library. Wow! Did that desire grow after a simple suggestion from Dean Hughes, who encouraged, 'if we are going to build a library we might as well build a bigger building and move everything to one location.' It sounded simple enough!

Through countless meetings, tons of research, endless discussions, and several roadblocks, the committee stayed the course and are now honored to give the City of Nauvoo a building that will provide a brighter future for all and a landmark we can all be proud of. There are many to thank for this dream moment to finally become a reality. I would really like to acknowledge a few.

A big thank you to Dean and Kathy Hughes for helping us see the possibilities and to Roger and Kathy Black for putting their lives on hold for a year by staying in Nauvoo and helping to push the plan down the road. We truly appreciate your guidance and never-ending encouragement. Thank you, Larry Nicholl, for your countless hours researching and writing grant proposals that ended up making the difference, giving us that major boost we needed to make the project plans come to reality. To all Committee members past and present, especially our chairpersons. To Mayor Jason Skog and to past and current City Council members who have backed this building from the start. They had the foresight in seeing the opportunity and benefits to purchasing this property years ago, giving the town a perfect location for a Community Center--and most recently supporting the coverage of the additional expenses from the life and safety issues.

Also, I want to thank all the community members and friends of Nauvoo who have actively or quietly been advocating on our behalf along the way. The wind we have had at our back from all of you is truly amazing and was just what we needed to keep us pushing forward. Thanks also goes to Schickedanz Construction: Mark, Pebbles and Sierra, the crew, and sub-contractors. We look forward to working with you to get this show on the road, knowing that you will do a great job that we will all be proud of.

Mayor Jason Skog corroborated John's remarks, adding that it was perseverance brought us here-- no matter our walk of life or what might have brought us to Nauvoo. He thanked all who helped to make Nauvoo Community Center a reality. "This is OUR community center. We have accomplished a dream to be proud of it."

Amber Bevier amplified the fact that the long-needed spaces for the library to expand services into has been around for decades. Just seeing ground finally being broken filled everyone associated with the library with joy! She thanked the building committee, past and present, for their tireless efforts. A dream fulfilled.

-Taken from an article by Alan Moberly

This edition of *See Nauvoo News* is sponsored by
Shear Design, 360 S. Page Street, Nauvoo, 217-453-2335

Nauvoo City Council Minutes May 10, 2022

Announcements:

- **Curbside Recycling:** Curbside recycling will begin June 3rd. Residents must have two containers: one for trash, one for recycling.
- **City-wide yard sale** to be held June 17 and 18. Residents wishing to be included on the map should call Lisa Parker at 217-453-2520. (leave your name and number). Maps will be available at Casey's that weekend

Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF). Participation in IMRF would provide a much better retirement for City workers. Although this was to have been the 3rd and final reading of the ordinance, the Council deferred coming to a final decision on whether or not to join IMRF until after special meeting on May 17 in hopes that an IMRF representative will be available to answer questions. A decision to join the IMRF is irrevocable.

Economic Development: Alderman Christensen, representing the Economic Development Committee, recommended the following:

- To increase the fees for itinerant merchants doing business in Nauvoo. (For starters, he proposed that food trucks that are inactive for ten days in a row, must move. This is in response to a food truck that has been parked in front of the Nauvoo Market Place for months.)
- To make the following changes to rates for itinerant merchants:

Current rates:	Proposed Rate:
Three-day permit - \$50	One-day permit-\$50
30-day permit - \$200	Three-day permit-\$125
180-day permit - \$300	30-day permit- \$500
Calendar year permit - \$350	
- **Non-profit organizations** (Knights of Columbus, Scouts , etc.) would only pay half of these fee. (Christensen added that these rates are comparable to those in Quincy and Keokuk. Those caught selling without this license would be fined double. Exemptions would be for the Grape Festival, the Pumpkin Walk, and events sponsored by the Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce.)

Comments from the public expressed concern about there being too many [financial] barriers to those wanting to do business in Nauvoo: County fees, State fees, taxes, and now City fees--all adding up, making it too expensive to do business here. "What do you want more, payment of fees, or people to come here?" The Council voted to send this back to the Economic Development Committee to gather more public input. Mayor Skog urged interested persons to come to the next meeting and help Committee members reach a consensus. The Economic Development Committee next meets Wednesday, June 1st at 11:00 a.m.

Historical Sites: Jordon Bodily, Director of Facilities Management for the Historical Sites, spoke about what the sites will be featuring this season. Here is a summary: All grass will be mowed except the fenced pastures except at designated sites and where sheep will be quartered; a pedestrian path will be added in the middle of the block between Hotchkiss and Munson streets; an additional parking lot will be added at the William Weeks home; more bike racks will be available at parking lots; and tickets will be required for carriage and wagon rides and indoor performances. (Visitors can obtain tickets from their cellphones by using the Eventbrite app.) The Nauvoo Performing Missionaries (formerly Young Performing Missionaries) will be in Nauvoo until October; Pageant concessions will all be prepackaged and cashless; and Historic Nauvoo will continue to offer virtual tours through the summer.

Continued in next column

City Council Minutes Continued

Hotel/Motel Board: Alderman Christensen, speaking on behalf of the Hotel/Motel Board, reported that four applicants had applied for the position of Tourism Director. The Director will function as an independent contractor. The Board recommended Rebecca Williamson for the post, which would include a team of three others: Joe Hammond, Jeffery Zhou, and Matthew Von Trapp. On advice from the City Attorney, the City Council will meet in a special session on Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m. to review and discuss the recommendation of the Hotel/Motel Board and all other proposals, following a 6:30 p.m. meeting of the Finance Committee.

-Submitted by Alan Moberly

Special Nauvoo City Council Meeting May 17, 2022

Two items were on the agenda: one action; one, informational. The main purpose of the meeting was to review, discuss, and act on hiring a new Tourism Director. Outgoing Director Sharon Nicholl had informed the Hotel/Motel Board that she would not be requesting renewal of her contract. The Tourism Director contract is not to exceed \$49,500. It is paid from taxes collected on lodging. The City pays for office rent, Wi-Fi, insurance, and utilities.

Alderman Jeff Christensen reported that the Board advertised for the position through local newspapers, Facebook, and word of mouth. They received four replies: a woman in London, UK, a man in northern Utah, Nauvoo resident Melanie Cobb, and a team of four individuals, led by Nauvoo resident Rebecca Williamson. Alderman Christensen reached out to the applicants to get more details. The London applicant did not reply; the applicant from Utah had planned to do the job from home, hiring locals, as needed. Both were eliminated. The remaining two candidates were interviewed. The Board, in a split decision, recommended the Rebecca Williamson led team. Melanie Cobb retracted her proposal.

Aldermen expressed concerns: the Director could keep more "take home pay" by not going to conferences or not advertising Nauvoo's attractions Alderman Adkisson expressed concern with one of the members of the Williamson team. After discussion, the Council voted to not accept the recommendation of the Hotel/Motel Board; the position was not filled.

The second item was and online informational meeting with representatives of the Illinois Municipalities Retirement Fund (IMRF). The City is weighing its decision re: joining the IMRF, which would provide a much better retirement benefit for City employees and would make the City more competitive in its ability to recruit and retain workers. It would also cost more money to the City. The aldermen's detailed questions received thorough answers. The issue will be voted on at the June 14 Council meeting.

Nauvoo Fire Protection District

At its May meeting, the Nauvoo Fire Protection District (NFPD) Paul McKoon announced his retirement after having served as President of the NFPD Board of Trustees since 1989. The new Board of Trustees' terms begin June 1, with each Board member serving a three-year term: Elgin L Berry, Dan Gallaher, and Bill Shanks. The NFPD has jurisdiction in five different townships: Nauvoo, Sonora, Appanoose, Rock Creek, and Montebello. They are responsible for fire protection and EMS services. The NFPD currently has a volunteer force of 32 individuals, both male and female, ranging in age from 18 to 79. It was announced that the Fire Station can no longer host events such as blood drives during the daytime because of new security mandates that require the presence of a certified NFPD staff member. The budget was discussed; it needs approval by August.

Yard Sale at Former Elementary School Gym

Mark your calendar to attend the multi-family “yard” and book sale on Saturday, June 4 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the former elementary school gym. Yard sale items will include home décor, plants, kitchen items, home furnishing and miscellaneous items. As the library makes plans to move into the new community center later this year, they are offering a wide selection of books for children and adult fiction. Fill a bag and take your books home for only a \$1.00. All proceeds from the day will go towards the community center and library.

God’s Portion Day

Sts. Peter & Paul will hold its annual God’s Portion Day fund-raiser auction on Sunday, June 5, at the school gym starting at 10 a.m. A wide variety of items have been donated for the in-person auction facilitated by Dan and Jim Sullivan.

Funds raised from the auction will go towards the school’s operating expenses. (A history of Sts. Peter and Paul, submitted by Alan Moberly, will be in a later edition of the newsletter.)

Clergy Reassignment

Fr. Tom Szydluk will be leaving Sts. Peter and Paul Parrish mid-June. His new assignment will be in Danville on the eastern edge of Illinois. Fr. Szydluk has served Hancock County parishes for 15 years. He will be missed. Fr. Tony Trosley will come out of retirement to assume duties. Fr. Showalter, also retired, will assist, as needed. All Hancock County priests live in Nauvoo’s parish and serve the parishes of the of Carthage, Dallas City, Hamilton, and Warsaw, as well.

Hancock County Retired Teachers (HCRT)

On Monday, June 13, HCRT will meet at the Knights of Columbus in Nauvoo at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served. Mr. Bernie Andrew, area bee inspector, will speak on the importance of the bee population. Reservations need to be made by Thursday, June 9. Cost: \$10. Please contact Ruth Gayton at rgayton@rocketmail.com or 217-430-6487.

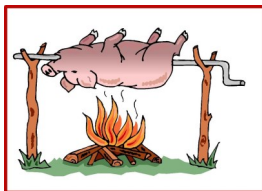
YARD SALE

City Wide Yard Sale

Yard sales will be held all around the city on June 17 & 18. Residents wishing to be included in the map should leave their name and number with Lisa Parker 217-453-2520. Maps will be available that weekend at Casey’s.

Nauvoo UMC Hog Roast

The Nauvoo United Methodist Church will host its annual hog roast supper on Wednesday June, 25 from 5-7:30 p.m. Dine-in/carry out options are available.



June Events at Baxter’s Vineyards

June 3 - Mug Painting from 6 to 8 p.m. (RSVP required)
 June 4 - Live Music on the Patio with Tim Smith from 3 to 6 p.m.
 June 12 - Hancock County Wine Crawl, Catfish & Chips from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Live Music on the Patio by Elijah Boyer from 3 to 6 p.m.
 June 18 - June Birthday Party from 2 to 9 p.m.
 June 25 - Live Music on the Patio with Bocephus Wayne from 3 to 6 p.m.
 Details can be found on www.NauvooWinery.com and Facebook!

It’s Gardening Time! (On a Wee Scale)

A Fairy Garden contest will be held on Saturday, June 11, from 10:00 to noon (set up at 10:00) on the front lawn of Hotel Nauvoo. Competitors for this fun activity for both young and old will be divided into two age groups, 5 to 11 and 12 to 112. “Tiny Gardens” and “Large Gardens” will be the two categories judged. Prizes will be awarded in each category and for each age group. The best handcrafted garden will receive a special \$25 prize. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. Forms are available at the Nauvoo library. Start making plans now for your magical fairy gardens. We’re once again looking forward to seeing your unique creations! Questions? Call Kathy Schoeni (309-209-0337)

Summer Reading at the Library!

Summer reading at the Nauvoo Public Library as begun! Please pop by any time to sign your child up! Once signed up, they can read for prizes and participate in our fun activities! In June, look out for the activities below:

- **Space Camp:** June 9 @ 2:00 p.m. at City Park (next to City Hall). Meet us for a fun, art-filled afternoon! Enjoy a space themed story, make your own planet, and eat a space themed snack!
- **Movie Showing: Encanto:** June 25 @ 2:00 p.m. at Grandpa John’s Theater Join us for a free showing of Disney’s *Encanto*! Free popcorn and drink included! Rated PG.
- **Take Home Craft:** Stop by the library anytime during that week to get a craft bag filled with all the supplies you will need to do that week’s craft! For extra fun, tune in to our Facebook page for an instructional video on how to do the project! Many nature themed crafts planned!

French Heritage Days

Get ready for a three-day French experience in Nauvoo in July starting Friday, July 1! Director Randy Soland, Associate Director Rebecca Williamson, along with committee members Jeff Christensen, Ralph Shank, Jim Topic, Bev Reynolds, and Nancy Phillips have been working diligently to provide an interesting schedule of events that highlight the French Era in Nauvoo. The listing of events follows:

Friday, July 1: Press House Winery tour and excursion boat ride.

Saturday, July 2 events will begin with an opening talk by Randy about the French Icarians at the Inn at Old Nauvoo, followed by a guided walking tour, narrated by Randy, of downtown Icarian properties. At noon there will be a tour of the French Cambre House and properties (box lunch included), narrated by owner Rebecca Williamson. The day concludes with a French cuisine dinner by chef Ellen Hundt at the Inn, which will include a keynote talk and entertainment. When done, all can find their way to a good view of the Independence Day fireworks.

Saturday, July 3, features a 6-mile group bicycle ride around Nauvoo, a grape juice/wine tasting, winery tour and entertainment at Baxter’s Winery. A complete schedule, listing dates, times, fees (if any), etc. can be found at nauvooheritagefestivals.com or contact one of the committee members. You may register online at Eventbrite.com-Nauvoo French Heritage Days, pick forms up at City Hall, Zions Mercantile, and the Inn at Old Nauvoo, or download them from nauvooheritagefestivals.com. (Note: There are registration deadlines for some of the events. Don’t delay.) This is going to be fantastic!

If you want to see cool things happen in your small town, you have to do cool things.



Articles may be submitted at any time to
seenauvoonews@gmail.com
 Deadline for the July issue is June 24

See Nauvoo News may be picked up at the following locations for a suggested donation of twenty-five cents: City Hall, Fudge Factory, Nauvoo Café & Sweet Shoppe, Nauvoo Market Place, Nauvoo Pharmacy, State Bank of Nauvoo, and the Red Front. 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.

Nauvoo-Colusa CSD 325



On May 24, a special school assembly was held for the students and staff of Nauvoo-Colusa. Janet Hill and Miki Jackson, Havenlight Fine Art in Nauvoo; Shaila Ayer, widow of Dan Ayer; and Hallie Draughan, step-daughter of Dan Ayer, assembled to honor Dan Ayer, who passed away on May 16, 2021.

Janet Hill, and was moved by Dan's passing and how loved he was by students, faculty, and staff. She thought a fundraiser would be a wonderful way to raise funds for memorial projects at the school in his honor.

Using Havenlight Fine Art's cadre of artists who donated their works for the event, Janet and Miki conducted an online art fundraiser May 5-7. The results were overwhelming. On the 24th, Janet and Miki presented Principal Cox, Shaila, and Hallie, a check for \$3,070. Both staff and students had input on what to do with the funds. The decisions included the construction of a "Thunder Wall" on playground, the placement of an outdoor bench, and the resources to create an indoor Calming/De-escalation Room for students who need a time-out area. Everyone, from organizers to students, faculty, and family were left with feelings of pride. It was wonderful that Janet, a Nauvoo resident for only a year, was able to single out a need and facilitate a memorial that meant so much to the school community. She thanks everyone who donated to the event, thus helping to make a difference.

Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce

The Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce offered an opportunity to learn more about the many businesses and their beneficial services in Nauvoo. Current membership includes 69 businesses. Twenty-five local merchants highlighted their wares. There were approximately 150 local and area residents in attendance. The Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce activities range from hosting events (such as this one), sponsoring and supporting charitable works (\$145 was raised in donations to go toward Nauvoo's share of the cost of this year's Independence Day fireworks). Visit BeautifulNauvoo.com website and Facebook pages for additional activities.



The Nauvoo Christian Visitor Center's building façade has been restored to its original 1882 style. The fresh new look fits right in!

Cruz Nauvoo

One of the best ways to see the Historical Sites in Nauvoo is with a bicycle. Using one, you can park much closer to your destination than you can with an automobile. Bicycles do not emit greenhouse gasses, and riding a bike is good exercise.

One Nauvoo entrepreneur, Steve Jespersen, purchased a sleek set of pretty sky-blue bicycles. Steve named his business "Cruz Nauvoo". Cruz Nauvoo rents these bicycles out for short periods of time. The bikes are lined up in front of the popular Nauvoo Market Place at 1385 Mulholland. Visitors can call ahead to reserve a bike, and a representative of Cruz Nauvoo will meet them there for payment and rental. Customers can then use the bike to see all the sites, visit the restaurants, and travel around Nauvoo. When they are finished, they then return the bike as arranged.

Readers may remember that a few years ago Cruz Nauvoo rented electronic scooters. Then COVID happened. Jespersen switched to bicycles instead, purchasing 26 one-speed Kent and Huffy-brand bikes. In his own words, Steve Jespersen recounts, "We wanted to provide a fun way to see Nauvoo, and scooters were just too expensive to try again". Cruz Nauvoo will only rent to those with a credit card. They will rent to underage riders for whom an adult is willing to sign. Each rental includes a helmet and a bike lock.

Bicycles currently rent for \$9 per hour, \$25 for three hours, \$35 per day, \$60 for two days, \$90 for three days, and \$150 for one week. For more information, readers can visit www.cruznauvoo.com or call 217-219-3024.

Memorial Bricks for the Nauvoo Community Center

As building continues for our new Community Center, it is time to remind everyone that the Nauvoo Community Center Campaign Committee are still accepting donations as well as orders for bricks/pavers. We have over 175 orders but have room for many more. This is an opportunity to remember your family and ancestors, businesses, organizations, classes and churches. You might know some of the following businesses, past and present, that have purchased bricks: Gobac Sinclair, Quarry House Gallery, Winning Looks, Nauvoo Mill & Bakery, Nauvoo Blue Cheese, Kron Pharmacy, Nauvoo Pharmacy, Nauvoo Red Front, Marting Insurance, Martin Accounting, Starr's Garage, St. Mary's Academy, St Mary Monastery, and past postmaster Al Leininger. Don't miss this chance to honor/remember those who were and continue to be part of Nauvoo's history.

A 4"x8" brick is \$250, 8"x8" brick is \$500 and a 16" x 16" granite paver is \$2,000. They will be available for all to see on the walkway leading up to the Center. Order forms are available at Nauvoo City Hall or you may go to www.nauvoocc.org and click on "Entrance Plaza" to place your order. What a neat way to have a memory of a place, name, event, business, etc. "set in stone." (Note: For those giving \$5,000 or more, your name will be inscribed on the donor wall in the lobby. A June 30 deadline will ensure your name will be included in the presentation at the ribbon cutting in the fall. Subsequent donors at that level can be added to the "wall," as needed.) Donors at less than \$5,000 will also be recognized in a different manner.