

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

## JANUARY & UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 21-22. Bald Eagle Days, Keokuk, See article p.4
- Jan 27, Untold Nauvoo Stories dinner reservations due, see article p.1
- Feb 3-4, Untold Nauvoo Stories, see article p. 1

*Don't dismiss the good for the desire of the perfect.*

## JANUARY MEETINGS

- Jan 3, Chamber of Commerce, Zoom
- Jan 10, City Council, 7:30 p.m., City Hall
- Nov 16, School Board , 6:30 p.m.
- Nov 16, Library Board 7 p.m.
- Jan 17, Chamber Executive Board, noon, Zoom
- Jan 19, NFPD , Fire Department, 6:30 p.m.

## NFPD Awards Presentation



The Nauvoo Fire Protection District (NFPD) honored both its volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians, as well as their families with a wonderful dinner at the Nauvoo Fire Station on New Year's Eve presented award plaques and certificates to two men who had served for many years.

Paul McKoon served as President of the NFPD Board of Trustees from April 1989 to April 2022, a total of 33 years. Among the projects enacted during his tenure were the commissioning of Nauvoo's First-Responder Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program in 1991, the purchase/replacement of four new fire trucks and two ambulances, the addition/expansion of the current fire station building in 2000, and the

commissioning of Nauvoo's first ambulance in 2008. Paul was also one of the first five founding members to get trained as a first responder for the NFPD.

Paul Brown joined the NFPD in 1984 and retired December 2022 after 38 years of service, including those as both a firefighter and as an EMT. He was one of the five founding members to get certified as a first responder for the NFPD. In 1997 he took the first EMT class provided in Nauvoo to become certified as an EMT. Paul was instrumental in the creation of annual NFPD soup supper and pancake breakfast events and was notorious for offering many repairs around the NFPD building and supplying the department with many custom-built solutions that are still used around the department today.

Perhaps you, or someone you love, is alive today because of the men and women of the NFPD, or other first responders where you live. Let them know you appreciate them. We do.

From an article by Alan Moberly

## Untold Nauvoo Stories

Mark your calendars. The 13th Annual Nauvoo Untold Stories symposium will be held on Friday, February 3, and Saturday, February 4, at The Inn at Nauvoo. For more information about the event please go to [beautifulnauvoo.com](http://beautifulnauvoo.com).

### Registration Form

Please complete this form and then send it, along with your **check or money order payable to: Nauvoo Untold Stories. Registration/payment for the Keynote Dinner is January 27.** (Mail check to Jeff Christensen, Treasurer for Untold Nauvoo Stories, P.O. Box 102, Nauvoo, IL 62354. ( Note: You may register and pay (cash, check or money order) in person at the Symposium check in.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please check the appropriate box(es):

I will attend both days of the talks and the Keynote dinner. \$55

I will attend one (1) day of the talks and the Keynote dinner. \$40

I will attend both - Friday and Saturday - talks. \$40 (Discount)

I will only attend the Friday talks. \$25

I will only attend the Saturday talks. \$25

I will only attend the Friday Keynote Dinner. \$15

I would like information about future Untold Nauvoo Stories sent to my email or mailing address.

**(You may register and pay (cash, check or money order) in person at the Symposium check in.)**

This edition of *See Nauvoo News* is sponsored by  
Outlaw Tee's 85 N. Iowa Street, Nauvoo 217-453-2359

### Nauvoo City Council Meeting December 13, 2022

New at this meeting was the use of a Passport 300 PRO sound system, which sounded made it easier for those watching online to clearly hear the proceedings. Each alderman and the mayor had a microphone in front of them that fed into two upfront speakers. This new sound system will be used for future City Council meetings.

The City Council approved the following:

- 2022-8 Tax Levy Ordinance
- 2022-10 to amend Section 8-1-6(B) regarding “lewd or indecent dress or conduct.” (If a man dresses in women’s clothing he won’t be arrested.)
- Expenditure of \$1,658.50/year with Midwest Alarm Services for an alarm system at the new Community Center building.
- Christmas bonuses for City employees: \$150 for full-time, \$75 for part-time. Bonuses are in “Chamber Bucks” which are good at any Nauvoo Chamber business.

The short meeting included discussion about how to draw more tourist activity to Nauvoo. Alderman Christensen reported that attendance at the Nauvoo Pageant was down 20% from previous years, partly because many people in Utah are unaware that the Pageant in Nauvoo still exists. [The Pageant in Palmyra New York is no longer performed.] It was suggested that ca. \$7.4K of Hotel-Motel Tax funds be used to send representatives to Murdock Travel to visit Salt Lake City and St. George (Utah). Another tourist challenge revolved around high gas prices, which kept many more people in the 5-7 hour range from traveling to Nauvoo. Although many visited Nauvoo via bus tours in 2022, those traveling a shorter distance chose to postpone their visits to another time. It was noted that City Attorney Diane Vine (who participates in the meeting on Facebook from Utah) offered her home to save on lodging expenses for the City. She added that she some connections who could help with publicity for Nauvoo.

Submitted by Alan Moberly

### Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce

Christine Murphy addressed the monthly luncheon of the Nauvoo Area Chamber of Commerce in December about the exciting opportunities available to Hancock County teenagers who want to learn about owning and operating their own business through participation in Hancock County’s CEO (CEO for “Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities”) Program, now in its eighth year. High school juniors and seniors who choose to participate get to meet with various business owners around the Hancock County to gain experience in how to set up and operate a business.

The dual credit, not cost program meets from 7:15 a.m.-8:45 a.m. at various businesses, Monday through Friday before regular high school classes begin. The program is open to students at all four Hancock County high schools and to homeschool students. “Entrepreneurial education is about seeing and doing, not sitting and getting”. Interested? Visit the website at [www.hancockcountyceo.com](http://www.hancockcountyceo.com).

From an article by Alan Moberly



### Nauvoo Food Pantry

Thank you to our Nauvoo School families for the BIG canned food offering and money that you gave the NFP before Christmas and to all the people who gave their help, food, produce, and money—all of which keep us going all year. In addition, the Food Pantry was the lucky recipients of a grant of \$5,000 worth of groceries delivered this fall from Dot Foods. Donations of money can be left at the Nauvoo State Bank. This is used to purchase foods from the River Bend food Bank in Davenport, Iowa, and area food stores. The totals from 2022 are 925 families and 3035 individuals. The following show changes in numbers of families and individuals served since 2003. Thank you for your continued support.

	Family	Persons		Family	Persons
2003	83	249	2013	752	2225
2004	301	861	2014	970	2596
2005	243	713	2015	810	2106
2006	193	516	2016	742	1891
2007	240	624	2017	897	2598
2008	270	718	2018	887	2692
2009	375	996	2019	1042	3201
2010	454	1294	2020	986	3038
2011	442	1311	2021	616	1907
2012	528	1704	<b>2022</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>3035</b>

2022

	Families	Persons		Families	Persons
Jan	73	210	Jul	62	201
Feb	54	131	Aug	97	309
Mar	53	162	Sep	81	268
Apr	58	227	Oct	102	340
May	81	246	Nov	98	405
Jun	85	275	Dec	81	261

### The Nauvoo Fire Protection District Meeting

In December the Nauvoo Fire Protection District (NFPD) approved the purchase of a new Stryker MTS Power Load Cot for the new ambulance they plan to purchase in 2023. The “loader cot” has a mechanism that does the lifting work for up to a 700 lb. patient, enabling almost effortless transportation into the ambulance. The loader also has four points of contact to lock the cot into place, so that if there is an accident, the patient and bed will not slide out.

One of NFPD’s two ambulances already has such a system in place. The new purchase will equip a third ambulance that is planned for purchase in 2023. By acting before the end of the year, the price to NFPD is \$48,517.07. In 2023 the price goes up to \$57,284.05.

Submitted by Alan Moberly

## NAUVOO'S BUSINESS DISTRICT CHANGES

On New Year's Eve there is a tendency to reflect on the past. New Year's Day, however, marks the beginning of things to come, bringing opportunity for those making the changes happen as well as those profiting from them. Nauvoo has much to look forward to as many new businesses have recently or are planning to open along Mulholland. Take a "virtual" walk along Mulholland's Business District and learn about recent and future changes to the economic landscape of our town.

### MULHOLLAND'S NORTH SIDE: West to East

#### The 1200 Block:

- The Nauvoo Emporium (former Nauvoo Needlework shop) owners Linda and Trace Chatwin are throwing their energies into building a business that will attract area quilters and needleworkers.
- The new KC Hall (former Kraus Furniture Store) has been holding KC events and combined sponsorship events with the Nauvoo Historical Society highlighting Nauvoo's heritage. The former building next door will eventually be sold to allow for more commercial activity to take root.
- The former Tourism Office and Food Pantry that were located on the corner will be moving into the new Nauvoo Community Center, thus freeing up yet another space for commercial enterprise.

#### The 1300 Block:

- Havenlight Fine Art Gallery (former Schafer Accounting Office), managed by Janet Hill, features original artwork and classes that cater to those with an artistic bent.
- Midblock, the former Country Cottage Antiques building is for sale, awaiting its next owner-entrepreneur.
- The corner building (former Nauvoo C-Store), owned by Jenny Nilsen and Erin and Steve Jespersen, is using the "red truck" as a kitchen as they transforming the building into a restaurant while testing their menu items on willing consumers.

#### The 1400 Block:

- The recently completed Nauvoo Community Center anchors the business district and will serve as a center for civic activity. The building which houses Nauvoo's library, city hall, police, food pantry, and tourist welcome center will open its doors to the public once appropriate sidewalks and parking are in place in early spring.



**The 1500 Block** has a business opportunity available. The former Hawaiian Shave Ice store (former Mayfly) has moved to a new location.

#### On Mulholland's eastern edge:

- The Inn at Old Nauvoo, owned by Brian Christiansen, has been in operation for a little over a year. It continues to expand its service for lodging, dining, and meeting room opportunities.

- The building on the curve (former gas station) is for sale and would be a good welcome-to-Nauvoo business.



### MULHOLLAND'S SOUTH SIDE: East to West

#### On Mulholland's eastern edge

- Nauvoo Adventure Rentals, owned by Emmet Skog, continues to offer a fun way to get around in Nauvoo via golf carts and UTVs.
- Nauvoo Café and Sweet Shoppe (former Nauvoo Mill & Bakery) owners Sarah and Travis

Scheel have been in business a year and continue to provide good eats and sweet treats.

#### The 1400 Block:

- Brielle Hill-Johnson and Bryan Johnson have moved their shave ice business to the former Cornerstone of Zion building. In addition, they will be opening an overnight lodging with a twist at the site: retro campers for those wanting to overnight in something different.
- On the west corner of the block, The Allyn House's new permanent managers, Jody and Boyd Wolz have great plans for the future). (Boyd is currently Chamber of Commerce VP.)

#### The 1300 Block:

- Nauvoo Health and Chiropractic (formerly Blimpie's), owned by Tom Grant, continues to make additional offerings for health care in his clinic. (Tom is currently Chamber of Commerce President.)
- Quarry House Gallery (former Havenlight Gallery), owned by Dan and Sue Bartlett, kept the offerings of the former gallery and created overnight stays in Quarry House Lofts, above the gallery. The Bartletts are presently preparing the former Bertschi duplex on knight street for their future retirement move to Nauvoo.
- Nauvoo Pharmacy, while an old business in Nauvoo, changed new owners and pharmacists last year: Mattie Haas and Lauren Carlisle are keeping a pharmacy in Nauvoo—a real boon for our town.
- The Hudson Store (formerly named Nauvoo Christian Visitors Center. (In the 1880s, the building was also called Hudson's!) has been renamed to reflect its new offerings, according to the center's director Steve Daley.
- Annie's Custard will have a new owner and custard maker at the helm this year, according to Helen Campbell, present owner and operator.

**The 1200 Block** will have one change, as the Nauvoo Public Library will move to its new home in the Community Center as soon as it becomes available. This will free up another building for a business opportunity.

Lots of positive changes have occurred in Nauvoo's Business District over the past year. Many of these changes have occurred because of newcomers making Nauvoo their home, bringing with them new ideas and a new horizon for Nauvoo commerce. All are welcomed. We are happy to have you.







Articles may be submitted at any time to  
[seenauvoonews@gmail.com](mailto:seenauvoonews@gmail.com)  
Deadline for the February issues is January 27

See Nauvoo News may be picked up at the following locations for a suggested donation of twenty-five cents: City Hall, Fudge Factory, 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](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.

### Dam Site? No. Muskrat Lodge.



Muskrat



Beaver

Are those beaver dams that are dotted across the river? No. They are muskrat lodges.

Musk rats are the most common mammal in North America according to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. They certainly are common in our area. While you might never have seen one, you can see hundreds of their lodges dotting the slow-moving areas of the river as you drive the river road. Have you ever seen a muskrat? They are often confused with beavers. Both are rodents and are only distantly related; muskrats, however, are much more closely related to hamsters. The following compares the muskrat and (beaver). Keep an eye out!

Both are brown, round animals with bare, fleshy tails. Musk rats are about 5 inches tall, 10-14 inches long, and weigh about 2-3 pounds. (Beavers are much larger, weighing 40 on average.) Musk rats' sharp claws on all four feet are used mostly for digging. Musk rats have a distinctive 8-10 inch hairless tail that is flattened vertically, providing balance on land and steering while swimming. (Beavers have flattened tails, which usually can't be seen while swimming.) While swimming, muskrats expose much of their heads and backs; only a beaver's head rises above the water. Musk rats eat plant and animals such as crayfish; beavers are exclusively vegetarian, loving the soft tissue under tree bark.

Beavers build dams in order to block off streams and create ponds; muskrats do not. Muskrat lodges are smaller than beaver's and are made mostly of plants like cattails. Beaver's lodges are full of large sticks and logs. Either might also make a home by digging into a stream bank. Beavers build dams in order to block off streams and create ponds; muskrats do not. Muskrat burrows can be quite elaborate and reach up to 45 feet in length, may be used for a number of generations. Burrow openings start underwater then rise above the water table and open into multiple chambers. Their lodges are often built on submerged stumps, or similar projections. Musk rats pile mud and vegetation roughly 4-6 feet in diameter and 2-3 feet above the water's surface. As the pile settles, the muskrat tunnels into it and eventually creates a hollowed area with one or two chambers. In addition to providing shelter, these houses offer an added benefit of being edible if food supplies become limited during the winter. Who knew?

### Kris Kringle Market Recap

About 400 people showed up in early December at the Knights of Columbus Hall for Nauvoo's 1st Annual Kringle Market. Vendors offered their wares. Children enjoyed creating ornaments. Sales of homemade cookies cookie sales went to the KCs and to the Nauvoo Historical Society. According to organizer Randy Soland, the music by the Warsaw High School Jazz Band was the most popular draw. Several businesses offered special displays. A petting zoo was an outdoors feature. And the free will offering at the fire station's soup supper netted \$3,052 toward the purchase of a new ambulance. The Nauvoo Area Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of their 2022 Christmas Tree Decorating contest: Most Nostalgic: "Deck the Halls" (Casey & Cherece Hall Family); Most Creative: "I'll Be Gnome for Christmas" (Nauvoo Public Library). The winning decorators received \$50 in Nauvoo Chamber Bucks.

From an article by Alan Moberly

### 39th Annual Bald Eagle Days



The annual Bald Eagle Appreciation Days starts on Saturday, January 21, at the First Christian Church in Keokuk Iowa, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.. The World Bird Sanctuary and Iowa State Insect Zoo plus Native American activities, children's activities, food and vendors will be featured. Trained spotters will be located along the riverbank of the Mississippi River to assist participants in viewing live eagles in their natural habitat. Free Admission. Day Two, January 22, will be held at the Riverfront Landing in Montrose, Iowa. For more information call 319-524-5599 or email [info@keokukiowatourism.org](mailto:info@keokukiowatourism.org)



Nauvoo Market is for the birds! Literally. Cages of canaries enjoy their homes at the rear of the store where they can be seen and heard "tweeting" away. What fun!