

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

## MARCH EVENTS

- Mar. 5, Movie at Methodist Church, See article p 4
- Mar. 10, Fish Fry, KC Hall 5 p.m.
- Mar. 17, Painting Class, See article p 4



## Mayor Skog's "State of the City" Address

(The following is an abridged and condensed version of the Mayor's address.)

After COVID, Nauvoo is welcoming back tourists, opening businesses, and having our tourism back in full swing.

New businesses have opened: Nauvoo Health & Chiropractic, Nauvoo Adventure Rentals, and Havenlight Fine Art Gallery. The Knights of Columbus Hall has been expanded and is hosting events. Three businesses will open soon: the Nauvoo Emporium, Sunset Hill (new location) with overnight accommodations, and [Lock 19] eating establishment at the old Sinclair gas station.

On May 20, 2022 ground was broken for the new Nauvoo Community Center, the new home for the Nauvoo Public Library, the Nauvoo Food Pantry, City Hall, Police Station, and Tourism Office. The fundraising has topped over two million in donations. Thanks to the Nauvoo Community Center Capital Campaign Committee (NC5): Barb Schafer, Elaine Ferguson, Diane Adkisson, John McCarty, Gary Schoeni, Kathy Schoeni, Paul Sly, Larry Nicholl, Jessie Rubio, Alan Moberly, Jordan Bodily, Scott Sumner, Chuck Gilbert, Karen Ihrig, and Amber Bevier for their time and efforts in having the vision and watching this vision become reality. The move into this new facility should be sometime this spring.

Larry Nicholl, who served as 3rd Ward Alderman, resigned, and Scott Sumner was appointed in his place. The full-time city employees became members of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF). Mike Boley, who had served as Nauvoo Chief of Police for five years, resigned and Ryan Dykstra was named as Nauvoo interim Police Chief.

A French Heritage Celebration was held for the first time this year. Fireworks were shot off at the end of Parley Street in conjunction with our agreement with Montrose, Iowa. The Nauvoo Pageant started back up again in 2022 after a couple years break due to COVID-19. The Nauvoo Grape Festival took place Labor Day weekend along with Festival on Wheels. Oktoberfest activities took place in October. Many thanks to Randy Soland and his committee for making French Heritage Days and Oktoberfest happen. The Nauvoo Pumpkin Walk continued to delight those who attended.

TIF money (Tax Increment Financing) was distributed to different businesses within the district to help with their improvements.

With things getting back to normal, Nauvoo brought in \$81,867.29 in sales tax revenues for fiscal year 2022, an increase of \$33,725.65 from fiscal year 2021. Fiscal year 2023 looks even better with already \$71,733.28 brought in so far. Hotel/Motel tax revenue for fiscal year 2022 was \$153,180.66, an increase of \$21,462.43 from fiscal year 2021. Fiscal year 2023 looks like it will be a good year also, with already \$130,774.51 brought in.

This year, our community lost two iconic residents: Mary Logan, a passionate supporter of the Nauvoo's history and the Nauvoo Grape Festival, among others. Durell Nelson, designer of the Women's Garden in Nauvoo, was also one of the founding members of the Nauvoo Pumpkin Walk and, like Mary, had a passion for Nauvoo history. Both will be deeply missed.

As many of you know, I have accepted another job out of state. My wife and I will be moving at the end of this month. and will resign as Mayor effective next week. I wish to thank this City Council for their support and efforts that they put into their jobs. Nauvoo is in good leadership hands going into the future.

Thank you to John McCarty for helping me my job as mayor: for the late-night conversations and advice. Thanks to Barry Cuthbert, Joe Tripp, Jerry Hutson and Brenden Seigfried for their time and dedication working in whatever weather Mother Nature throws at them. Thank you, Ryan Dykstra for the remarkable job you've done in the last few months in making this police department great. Thank you, Diane Vine for being our City Attorney, for your friendship, wisdom, and knowledge. Thanks to Carol McGhghy and Ana LeVesque for keeping me going through your encouragement and having my back, as well as for your hard work and all the unseen things you do. Thank you, Nauvoo, for being my town since 1997 and helping raise my children. Thank you, friends, neighbors, for the support you have given to me and to Brian and Christy Christiansen for helping along the way. And lastly thank you to my family and, most of all, thank you to my wife, Laura, for all your support through all these years. Thank you and God bless you all.

Daylight Saving Time



March 12th

## MARCH MEETINGS

- Mar. 14, Chamber of Commerce,
- Mar. 14, City Council, 7:30 p.m., City Hall
- Mar. 15, NBA, City Hall, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 19, NFPD , Fire Department, 6:30 p.m.
- Mar. 28, Chamber Executive Board, noon, Zoom
- Mar. 20, School Board , 6:30 p.m.
- Mar.20 , Library Board 7 p.m.

**Nauvoo City Council  
February 14, 2023**

The City Council approved the following:

- To pay employees who had to come to work during COVID-19. The Federal Funds for these payments (\$30,000 total) came from the American Rescue Plan, which was signed into law on March 11, 2021.
- To donate \$150 to the Hancock County Reserves for the assistance of two additional police officers during the Pumpkin Walk.
- Payment of registration fees, lodging, and per diem for several police officers to attend training.
- Additional money (up to \$1,000) to Levi Yoder to add castors to the large, semicircular oak City Council table he built for the new Community Center at a cost of \$13,500. (It was noted that the price for the table is much less than the commercial prices offered by various manufacturers.)
- Payment of registration fees (\$175), lodging, per diem, and mileage to send one person to the Illinois Rural Economic Development Conference on February 21-22.
- Award winning bidder Floyd Rahn of Hamilton \$840 for stump removal at the Community Center site.

Other:

- There was only one bid for a customer service counter at the new Community Center. The City will seek for more bids.
- The City will advertise for mowing bids.
- Reported from Nauvoo representatives at a Salt Lake City travel show that many people are unaware that the Nauvoo Pageant continues to be performed yearly
- Twelve people applied for the Social Media and Website Facilitator position. Four have been interviewed, but no action has been taken. The City Attorney is working on the contract for the position.
- The police have been more diligent about giving traffic citations to motorists who violate the speed limit or fail to stop at stop signs.
- Mayor Skog delivered the annual State of the City address and announced he will be resigning next week.
- Boyd Wolz encouraged Nauvoo residents to participate in a fiber optic survey. (See article.)
- The Council agreed to have a special meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 7:00 p.m. to discuss and take possible action on adjustments to the original contract with Schickendanz Construction, Community Center contractor.

Submitted by Alan Moberly

### Nauvoo City Council Special Meeting

On February 28 the Council will hold a special meeting that will include, among others, the acceptance of Mayor Skog's resignation and taking action on selecting an acting mayor to serve until a new mayor is elected and sworn in the 2025 election. According to Statute, the alderman selected and elected by the Council to serve may maintain his/her status as alderman as well as be acting mayor, thus maintaining aldermanic voting rights. Or, the acting mayor may resign his/her aldermanic position and, as acting mayor, appoint an alderman to complete his/her term with Council's approval. (The new acting mayor was not available at the time of printing. Please see April issue for more information.)

### NOTICE: Stop Sign Enforcement



As of a February 24 news release, Nauvoo Police Chief Ryan Dykstra reports that there will be a noticeable increase in stop sign enforcement, specifically on Young and Knight Streets, due to an increase in traffic complaints of a blatant disregard for the stop signs, especially on Young Street.

### The Nauvoo Fire Protection District (NFPD)

The NFPD Board of Trustees' February meeting included the following items:

As reported earlier, the NFPD will now take over providing ambulance service for the Hancock County portion of the Dallas City Fire Rural District, plus all of Dallas City, which is situated partly in Hancock County and partly in Henderson County. One person from Lomax Ambulance Service is interested in joining NFPD. The Trustees reviewed the budget, which a new ambulance whose funding come from a ten-year \$250,000 loan plus a \$100,000 donation from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A public hearing on this change is scheduled for March 16 at 6:00 p.m., at the Nauvoo Fire Station.

Chief Kendall Gallaher reported: NFPD responded to 34 calls in January: ambulance (32), fire (1), automobile accident (1). He will be attending Fire Instructor III training. The City of Nauvoo to set the occupancy limit for the new Community Center; a Tactical Emergency Critical Care class for EMS and Law Enforcement students was held at the Nauvoo Fire Station in January; a recruitment drive has begun for those living withing the NFPD; a surplus 1985 F350 fire truck is for sale at \$10K, or best offer; and also addressed how the addition of a new TIF District would affect NFPD (see article).

Submitted by Alan Moberly

### NFPD Chief Expresses Concerns About Proposed TIF District Addition

At the February NFPD meeting, Chief Kendall Gallaher stated his concerns about the City of Nauvoo considering the addition of a new TIF district. A TIF (Tax Increment Financing) is a tool used by many cities (including Nauvoo) to fund economic development by setting aside all future property tax increases within the TIF district. Basically, TIF uses this money to help existing businesses to expand and/or new businesses to come. The presumption is that these improvements will trigger gains in jobs and sales tax revenues. Any increase in tax revenues resulting from increased valuation of properties within the TIF district are set aside for this purpose.

Gallaher stated that the TIF hurts other taxing districts, such as NFPD. It redirects money raised by property taxes from increased valuations of properties in the TIF district away from the NFPD (and other entities that rely on property tax revenues) towards the city's TIF funds, which forces these other government entities to increase their tax levy or cut back on services. He expressed hope that the City would understand the burden they are creating for the NFPD and avoid establishing more TIF districts or share some of that TIF money with NFPD to make up for the loss. Chief Gallaher estimates that NFPD is missing out on over \$10,000 annually from the already existing TIF district.

Submitted by Alan Moberly

## Scammers Are at It Again

Nauvoo's Chief of Police Ryan Dykstra is being proactive about alerting the community to scammers' methods, as a major scam has happened recently to a Nauvoo citizen. He has placed information about scamming and how to keep from being a victim at City Hall. Make a point to stop by, take the information home, share it with family and friends. Be aware. Avoid becoming an easy target for falling for scams to steal your identity or compromise your accounts.

### Recycling Reminders

Curbside recycling is available in Nauvoo ONLY to residents who pay for garbage on their water bill.

**Acceptable recycling items:** broken down cardboard, paper items (newspaper, magazines, office paper), plastic bottles and jugs # 1-7, cans (tin and aluminum).

**Unacceptable curbside:** glass (bottles, jars, containers), the following plastics: bags, toys, dishes, waste cans, laundry baskets, buckets, etc. Other unacceptable items include Styrofoam, food waste, toys, insulation, house siding, clothes, or household trash of any kind. Questions? Call City Hall at 217-453-2587.

### Official Vote by Mail Application

**Reminder:** By now you should have received the Vote by Mail Ballot option, sent by the Hancock County Clerk's office. The office is required to notify registered voters of the opportunity in accordance with Illinois State Statute. If wishing to vote by mail for the April 4 election, you must detach and mail in the card, which must be received 5 days prior to election day (March 30). This option may also be extended to allowing your voting by mail a permanent status. FYI: Should you prefer to vote in person, early voting begins February 23 at the County Clerk's office or you may vote on 4, election day, April 4, at your designated polling place. Whichever way you chose to cast your ballot, please make voting a priority.

### Fiber Optic Broadband Survey

Boyd Wolz, local merchant (Allyn House) and Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce vice-president, along with Hancock County Economic Development Chair Samantha Harnack encouraged Nauvoo residents to participate in an online survey which will help bring fiber optic broadband internet to Nauvoo and Hancock County. The purpose of the survey is to demonstrate the need for better internet, so that Hancock County can get as much fiber optic internet as possible. To participate in the survey, visit the website at [growthancock.com](http://growthancock.com) and click on "broadband." If you don't have internet access at your home or workplace go to a place that does. (The survey cannot be done from your mobile phone.) The five minutes survey must be completed by April 10. For more information contact Boyd Wolz at 217-453-2922.



### Harmons to Celebrate Their 60th

Ron and Sandy Harman of rural Nauvoo will be celebrating 60 years of marriage on March 10. They were married at Appanoose Faith Presbyterian Church, a church they still attend, in Niota, Illinois. The Harmons have three children, all of Niota: Richard (Julie), Patty Seigfried (Alan), and Jamie. Grandchildren include Kody, Kaity, Brittany, Brenden, Brody, Mackenze, and Amanda. Please send any cards to 786 E. County Rd. 2300.

## Nauvoo Betterment Association (NBA)

The river is coming alive with ducks and geese and swans and pelicans. Soon barges will be on the move. The trees and wildflowers and annuals are thinking seriously about popping up and animals are coming out of hibernation. Walkers, joggers, and bikers are testing their endurance as temperatures moderate. Nauvoo's natural attributes are many, and NBA has decided to pursue those actions and attractions and call them "Natural Nauvoo" or "Nauvoo, Naturally" ("Creative Nauvoo" and "Historic Nauvoo" are the other two suggested themes.) Information, activities, and events will accompany each of the initial natural attractions: the river, trees, birds, and wildlife. NBA has tasked each to have ideas in place by 2024 with various "trial balloons" between now and then. You do not have to be an NBA member to participate. Interested? Contact Rita Southern, Annette McClane, Carol McGhghy, Rebecca Williamson, or Karen Ihrig. Joining will renew or intensify your curiosity in the natural world.

### Lillian Snyder would be pleased....

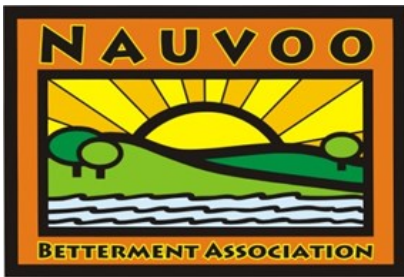
Many knew or knew of Nauvoo's much beloved Dr. Lillian Snyder (1914-2005), a staunch supporter of government, education, and women's rights. Her degree and passion revolved around social work, and she taught in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University from 1973 until she retired in 1985. An Icarian descendant, she founded and became executive director of the National Icarian Heritage Society and was instrumental in the foundation and development of the Center for French Icarian Studies at WIU.

In 2001 Lillian Snyder gave an interview which appears in *Modern Perspectives on Nauvoo and the Mormons* by Larry E. Dahl. The interview, read by Jennifer Gardner, was included as one of the various letters read in February's Untold Nauvoo Stories. In the interview Lillian speaks about many topics, among them her run for Mayor in 1988 and her comments about what she would do if elected. It follows.

*When I ran for mayor in '88, after I finished with the county board, I lost by forty-seven votes. On my list of things, I was going to build a new community center like they have down in Warsaw. It was built by the people. They volunteered. Why couldn't we do something like that? I had a place picked out for it. I thought we'd build a new library. We now just have a little storefront library. We'd need ten times more books and have book reviews, and our library could be the center of the town. I had a place picked out where we could get grants and have a library. I felt we needed a community center for the children, a community center for the old people, and I had enough votes to be elected I went around to every house and presented my platform.*

*But I was forty-seven votes short. I was told that the reason was because I didn't buy beer for everybody. I don't believe in liquor. I don't even drink Coke or coffee or anything like that, just fruit juice. So they didn't approve of me, and I didn't win. They didn't want a woman for mayor either. They didn't think that a woman would be strict enough with the police and all that, [laughs].*

"Miss Lillian," as she affectionately was called, would be ecstatic to know that soon her wish has come true through Nauvoo Community Center's Capital Campaign Committee's (NC5) efforts in securing the financing through an Illinois Library Grant and donations from those who felt strongly about our community's needs.



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

### Free Movie

On Sunday, March 5, at 3 p.m., the movie *Same Kind of Different as Me* will be shown at the Nauvoo United Methodist Church, 1610 Ripley St.. The movie, popcorn, and drinks are FREE. We welcome all. Please join us.

### Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

There will be another chance to attend the second fish fry during the Lenten season at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Friday, March 10, starting at 5:00 p.m.. Dine in or carry out free will offering.

### March Attractions at the Legacy Theater

March 11, 7:00 p.m., Shawn Gerhard will present "The Ultimate Garth Brooks." Be prepared for things to disappear and reappear in "Eric Jones Magic" show on March 24, 7:00 p.m. For Tickets or more information contact: 217-357-9479 or [www.thelegacytheater.com](http://www.thelegacytheater.com), or [info@thelegacytheater.com](mailto:info@thelegacytheater.com).

### Painting, Anyone?

Havenlight Fine Art Gallery is offering a class on Friday, March 17, from 6-9:00 p.m. A Monet painting will be used as subject matter with instruction provided by Rebecca Williamson. Materials and snacks are provided. The cost is \$30. Reservations are required please email [havenlightfineartnauvoo@gmail.com](mailto:havenlightfineartnauvoo@gmail.com). Come and have fun with other like-minded enthusiasts. (Berets are not required.)

### Toby, the Cat Caught Hanging Around



Maybe you've seen Dave Hammer, manager of Eborn Books, walking around with Toby, a two-year-old tabby, draped over his shoulder. Quite the character—Toby, not Dave, can sometimes be seen lying in the window of the store, on the counter, or just hanging out somewhere among the bookshelves. Toby—mistakenly thought to be a "he"—was one of three in a litter that were rescued by Nauvoo city workers and raised for six weeks by the girls at City Hall. Toby is now two years old and is livin' the life!

### Monopoly

Were you aware that Lizzie Magie (1866-1948), a Macomb, Illinois, native created the game of Monopoly? She was an American game designer, writer, and feminist, who invented the "Landlord's Game" and was granted a U.S. patent on her game in 1904. Originally, the goal of the game was to simply obtain wealth and combat the economic ill effects of land monopolism and the use of land value tax as a remedy for it; however, it morphed into the goal to own industries, create monopolies, and win by forcing others out of their industries. After the game went through a variety of name changes, supposed creators, and a lengthy lawsuit, Parker Brothers bought out Magie's rights to the original Landlord Game for \$500, and published its version of the game we know today as Monopoly. Lizzie Magie was given little credit and little money for creating the popular game. Today there is a sign outside of Macomb stating her place of birth and her invention.

Sources: PBS, NPR, Wikipedia

### List of Banished Words for 2023

Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste., Marie, Michigan, encourages people to stop resorting to trite and meaningless words and terms. Some words are overused or just plain irritating. Last year, over 1,500 nominations were made for inclusion on "the list." This tongue-in-cheek tradition has compiled the lists since 1976. The following made the top ten.

G.O.A.T. (acronym for "greatest of all times," and for anyone or anything from sports stars to chicken wings) was ranked number one of ten. The nine others, in order, included Inflection point (a turning point), quiet quitting, gaslighting, moving forward, amazing, Does that make sense?, irregardless (really it should be just "regardless"), absolutely, It is what it is (an excuse not to anything about to make it different than it is).

### Mississippi River Basin' Black Carp Problem

The Mississippi River basin covers more than 1,500,000 square miles includes 32 U.S. states and small parts of two Canadian provinces. Black Carp are now known to be established in the wild in parts of the Mississippi River basin. (Silver carp, bighead carp, and grass carp have already been established in the basin. All forementioned fish, once called "Asian carp" is now referred to as "invasive carp.") Black carp can grow quickly and reach more than three feet long. They prey on snails and species of native mussels, which are responsible for, among other things, for improving water quality by filtering out bacteria, algae, and pollutants. Originally, black carp were imported to control snails in fish farms where fish are bred. Their importation has been prohibited since 2007.

Taken from January 23, 2023 *Waterways Journal*

