

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

## DECEMBER EVENTS

- Dec 9, *Handle's Messiah*, See article page 1
- Dec 28, Book Reading & Signing at the Library, See article page 2

MERRY CHRISTMAS



## DECEMBER MEETINGS

- Dec 6, Hotel/Motel Board, 2 p.m., City Hall
- Dec 11, Chamber of Commerce, noon, Nauvoo Inn.
- Dec 12, Park Board, 6 p.m.
- Dec 12, City Council, 7:30 p.m., City Hall
- Dec 18, School Board, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 18, Library Board, 7 p.m.
- Dec 20, NBA, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Dec 21, NFPD, Fire Department, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 26, Chamber of Commerce Board, noon, zoom

## Spotlight on Nauvoo Business

Casey's is the 3rd largest convenience store chain in the United States (after 7-Eleven and Circle K) and the largest that is wholly American-owned.[3] It is one of two Iowa-based Fortune 500 companies. In 1959, Donald Lamberti leased a service station in Des Moines, Iowa, from his father. After successfully remodeling the station into a convenience store and operating it for nine years, his gasoline supplier and friend, Kurvin C. (K.C.) Fish, suggested that he purchase the Square Deal Oil Company, a service station available for sale in Boone, Iowa. Lamberti followed Fish's advice and purchased the station, which he renamed "Casey's" after Fish and as with his leased store converted the station into a convenience store. The logo on the Boone store was used by the chain until 2020.

The Boone store (located in a town of only 12,500) did well, so Lamberti decided to see if he could duplicate his success. He built another store in Creston, Iowa (population 7,000), and that store did well also. Lamberti became more ambitious and decided to open a store from scratch in the even smaller town of Wauke, Iowa (population 1,500 at the time). The Wauke store proved to be the most successful of the three, so Lamberti decided to purchase and open more stores, concentrating on towns of less than 5,000 population.

As of November 2023, Casey's has over 2,500 stores across 17 states. Casey's operates in the following states, most of which are in the Midwestern United States and the Plains States.[20] Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North, Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin

Since 1985 Nauvoo has been fortunate enough to have a Casey's in town. Our Casey's has seen thousands upon thousands of tourists. With the smallest Casey's among Carthage, Hamilton, Warsaw, Keokuk, and Ft. Madison our Casey's still manages to send out thousands of pizzas and hundreds of sandwiches and other things during summer!!! Speaking with our very own Casey's General Store Manager, Tina Marshall, I learned that our Casey's has been open since 1985. Tina has been the Manager of this location since 2015. Tina and her trusty sassy sidekick, Lynn Taylor (who has been First Assistant since 2018), have trained numerous employees in the fine art of making the illustrious Casey's Pizza!!! During summer these ladies go through thousands of customers and food orders fly out the door!! Sometimes they have HUGE pizza orders of dozens!! Yet they come to work day after day!!! They are truly the unsung heroes of Nauvoo summers!!! We also need to take a minute to do a VERY SPECIAL shout out to Pauline Vass who has weathered 13 tourist filled summers as a Casey's veteran!!! We are so fortunate to have Casey's to service our little town!! Can you imagine life without Casey's Pizza on a yucky night when you don't feel like cooking?!! Or no gas station when you wake up late and really should have gotten gas the night before on your way home??? Make sure you stop by and say thank you and pick up a donut or two, or three, or more!!!!

Some information plagiarized from Wikipedia

## Nauvoo Orchestra to Perform *Handle's Messiah*

The Nauvoo Orchestra is back in time for Christmas. The first concert after their return presents selections from *Handel's Messiah* on Saturday, December 9th at 7:30pm. This venue is Pageant Headquarters, 885 East Highway 96, Nauvoo.

This year, the orchestra is led by assistant conductor Beth Shurtleff. Beth Shurtleff is excited to be a part of the Nauvoo Orchestra. For her day job, Beth works as a school principal in Burlington, Iowa.

The performance will feature local soloists Joanne Gallaher (Soprano), Lisa Compton (Alto), Rick Marshall (Tenor), and Pete Hagglund (Bass). The orchestra has 44 musicians from the area. The choir (led by Nauvoo newcomer Alissa Wakefield) consists of around 40 singers.

There will be no donation jar at this concert as it is funded fully by Nauvoo Discovery Inc.. Manager Laurie Peterson urges people to attend, stating that, "It just isn't Christmas without *Handel's Messiah*! It is wonderful to be back practicing again for it."

Taken from an article by Alan Moberly

## October City Council November 14, 2023

Acting Mayor Tacy Nelson gavelled the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

The City Council approved the following:

- A pay raise for City Treasurer Ana LaVesque.
- To pay \$360 to the Hancock County Reserves for sending 6 Deputies for Pumpkin Walk.
- Purchase of four desks and chairs for \$5,300. The old desks are 23 years old, and “taped up”.
- Approval of rental prices for use of the Community Room at the Community Center.
- To hire “Best Movers” to move furniture, filing cabinets, and a safe from the old City Hall on Wells Street to new offices at the new Community Center on Mulholland. This was to be done on November 17th.
- A TIF agreement with Chatwin Emporium.
- To adopt the Hancock County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan as the City of Nauvoo’s plan.
- An addendum to current agreements and additional compensation for social media and website facilitators.
- An ordinance to amend the bus routes and add an exception for school buses, waste removal vehicles, farm equipment and delivery trucks.
- To contest property tax appeals for two properties, including hiring an appraiser.
- To allow sublease on Suite 250A (in the old school building). This would allow Rebecca Williamson (of the Tourism office) to sub-rent office space on an hourly basis for businesses that need to use it while in town.
- Approved the site plan for the Nauvoo Temple Visitors’ Center.

Nauvoo Community Center Capital Campaign Committee (NC5) Barb Schafer reported that they have sold more engraved pavers—\$7,500 worth. The pavers will be engraved by Harrison Monuments in Warsaw. You can still purchase an engraved paver to go in the sidewalk in front of the new Community Center. Information is available at City Hall. She closed by saying the Committee looks forward to a formal grand opening of our new Community Center in the Spring.

Taken from an article by Alan Moberly

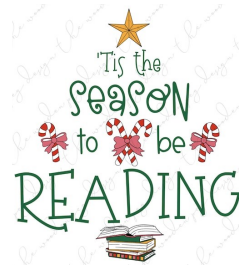
### Nauvoo Chamber Gets a New President

The Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce met last Monday afternoon (November 13th) to elect new leaders and share information on ways to improve business success in Nauvoo and the surrounding areas. Tracy Chatwin (co-owner of The Emporium, a quilting supply shop) was unanimously elected president. Red Front owner Morgan Squires was elected Secretary, and Joe Billings re-elected Treasurer. Incoming Chamber President Terry Chatwin has this to say upon his election as Chamber president: “What an honor it is to serve this great community and work alongside other business owners and citizens to make Nauvoo shine.”

Rebecca Williamson, Karen Blunier and Gene Shurts were chosen as board members. Outgoing President Dr Tom Grant, DC conducted the meeting. Chamber members shared information about upcoming events. Sal Garza of the Illinois Department of Commerce spoke to Chamber members on numerous types of financial and non-financial assistance available to help businesses seeking to locate or expand their operations. For information, visit [www.dceo.illinois.gov](http://www.dceo.illinois.gov).

Outgoing Chamber president Tom Grant has this to say, reflecting on his time in office: “It has been my privilege to work closely with so many of Nauvoo’s finest business people. It has been a season of personal growth for me as I have learned to better navigate the complexities of varying opinions, interests, and likes/dislikes. Quite the bootcamp for conflict resolution and providing the tools for individual and organizational success to our Chamber Members. I’m reminded again that Nauvoo is awesome not because of where it is or what it has, but because of the wonderful people that live here whom I have come to love. I look forward to helping our new leadership team transition into the daily operations of the Chamber and look forward to the continuing direction of success we offer to our Chamber Members. It’s a shameless plug, yet it’s true, Nauvoo is a beautiful place to start and grow a new business!

### NASA in Nauvoo! Santa in Space!



our planet.

Can Santa be seen in space as he delivers presents? Join the Nauvoo Public Library and local NASA Solar System Ambassador Mellissa Smith in our fourth NASA in Nauvoo! to find out! We will be meeting at the old city hall (60 Bluff Street) on December 2 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss Santa and the satellites that orbit

### Santa Reads *Twilight: A Reindeer Story* at the Library!

Nauvoo Public Library is thrilled to announce that local author Adam Woodworth will be in town to sign and read his new book release *Twilight: A Reindeer Story*. Dressed as Santa, Woodworth will read his delightful new children’s book aloud and be available for signings and questions. He will also have his book available for sale at the event. This event will take place at the Nauvoo Public Library on December 28 from 4- 6 p.m.

### Library Window Fun

Nauvoo Public Library does not disappoint when it comes to fun ideas!!! This winter they put up a Pokémon Tree!!!! You can go in and – NO PEEKING – pick a Pokémon card off the tree!!! Super cute tree and fun to see what card you get!!!

Along with that they have painted a really cute Santa Sleigh on the window and now they need help to fill the sleigh!! Stop in and grab a present picture to color then bring it back and the ladies will put them on the window to fill the sleigh. Embellish your pictures with anything you want, glitter, sparkles, ribbon or whatever!!!



Taken from an article by Alan Moberly



### Another Year in the Books

Is it possible that we have successfully navigated another trip around the sun??? 1 Year=12 Months=52 Weeks=365 Days=8,760 Hours=525,00 Minutes. No matter how you look at it we have packed a whole lot into 2023!! Some good, some not so good, but we managed to make it through together in this town we call home.

The last couple years we have been hit hard with the loss of City Icons and I am sure the coming year will not be without its similar losses. For many of us who have called Nauvoo home for decades it isn't just about losing a neighbor/friend that was a town fixture, it is about years of watching them support, promote, and love Nauvoo. They did it out of the pure love and pride they had in our little town. Blessedly they will live on in our hearts and our stories.

This year we survived a derecho that left many towns our size devastated for months. As a community we banded together to clear literal tons of debris. It wasn't just about the LDS church who allowed us to burn on their property and it wasn't just about the City who worked tirelessly and called in backup to haul endless loads of brush, it wasn't even just about the NFPD who put their disaster plan into effect and did what they had planned for. It wasn't about JUST one of those pieces because without the other pieces it would not have mattered. It was about all pieces coming together and working together, not for recognition or bonus points but for COMMUNITY!!! For US, for each and every one of us.

We survived a hectic and very busy tourism season and came out on the other side!! Our little town of 950 managed to play host to thousands of people amidst a crippling storm that cut off power and shortly after that an ill timed water break. Once again because all the pieces came together for our COMMUNITY we made it through in record time.

We watched as some new businesses opened and sadly others closed. We watched as businesses refreshed buildings that longed for a little bit of extra love. For those businesses that open year after year we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being who you are and doing what you do and not giving up on this COMMUNITY!!! For those that are new to our town, we welcome you and hope to help support you through the long winter season soon to come.

Plenty of Nauvoo's Untold Stories were once again waiting to be told this year – and a fairy filled Fairy Trail was again charted this summer and new fairy neighbors popped up in all kinds of places with some much welcomed Fairy Rings sprouting up to give their fairy blessings – May brought another beautiful day with another successful Memorial Day Picnic to pay our respects for those that have protected and defended our community and country in years past and present - Another Grape Festival has come and gone with new supporters being involved and hoping to bring in some extra help and fresh ideas – The Festival on Wheels rolled in and filled up an empty field again showing off hundreds of vehicle entries both old and new - Scarecrows popped up all over town again with lots of new entries for the Scarecrow Festival this year and some new categories– Amidst a cold and rainy evening the Pumpkin Walk could not be deterred, with some very special sisters carrying on their father's legacy – With tons of lighthearted fun and good food October Fest is fast gaining a foothold bringing out Nauvoo's rich German heritage-once again before we knew it Christmas trees are lining our sidewalk ready to welcome visitors along Mulholland.

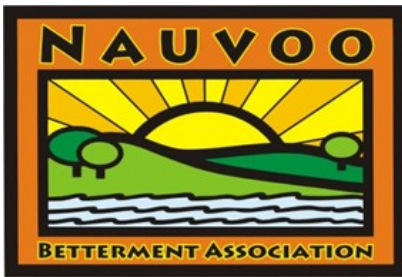
Last but very much not least, the City prepares to welcome a new building – with it comes the sadness of saying good bye to a building that has served many years as Nauvoo's heart – to some who have been walking into those doors for 30+ years it is like leaving home – but the excitement and the NEW BUILDING smell is only blocks away!!! With fresh paint, fixtures, sidewalks and grass comes new beginnings – The excitement of a New Year with new possibilities and new challenges, new friends, and new faces. Thank goodness we have the memories of years past to help us navigate the future. Thank you all for putting your precious quarter into the little slot and helping to support the Nauvoo Betterment because without others pushing and pulling to be better where would we be. Thank you to a COMMUNITY I love and people I cherish. Good bye 2023! 2024 Watchout because we are READY!! #WeAreNauvoo!!!

### Natures Winter Art Show



Well here we are, THAT time of year again!! IT IS CHILLY!!! Getting into my car this morning I was presented with the most graceful and gorgeous art show that I had to pay nothing for. The art of nature so often astounds me in its beauty. What I saw on my window prompted me to do a search for some information here is what I found:

Kai Carter, a meteorologist with Washington State University's AgWeatherNet team, said the shapes on windscreens looked like those in nature for a reason. "An ice crystal is made up of two building blocks: hydrogen and oxygen. These hydrogen and oxygen atoms form a hexagon shape that is a kind of six-sided ring," Mr Carter told the university's Dr Universe blog. "Even though we may not be able to see them with our eyes, these hexagon shapes can repeat in a pattern across the frosty surface of the window. "Sometimes the water molecules can form into one big sheet of frost. But sometimes things can get in the way of the water molecules. They may have to take a new path as they freeze to the surface of the glass. Mr Carter said should the "molecules run into something like a speck of dust, salt or even a bit of washer fluid ... they may change their direction". "In mathematics, we call this kind of thing a fractal design. A fractal pattern repeats itself at different scales. One other place you can also find fractal patterns in ferns. The fern frond looks like it's made up of little fern fronds, which look like they are made up of even smaller fern fronds."



Articles may be submitted at any time to  
[seenuvoonews@gmail.com](mailto:seenuvoonews@gmail.com)  
Deadline for the January Issues is December 29

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.

### A Preview of the 14th Annual Untold Stories Symposium

The Untold Nauvoo Stories Symposium is a venue for sharing unknown stories, little known stories, or stories that need to be revisited based on new historical research. This annual two-day symposium features twenty-four talks and one keynote dinner presentation. The conference is attended by both professional and amateur historians and locals interested in learning more about this area and its people. This year's Symposium will be held Friday and Saturday, February 9-10, 2024, at the new Nauvoo Community Center building at 1455 Mulholland.

The 14th Annual Untold Nauvoo Stories Symposium will have something for everyone: history, romance, utopia, French, Swiss, German, birds, archeology, and pseudo-swamps! Organizers have released the following information about 8 of the 24 scheduled topics and speakers. Future articles will have more.

#### **Dave Brady - Reflections of a Historical Journey of Illinois**

"My presentation is a look into early Illinois history as told through primary sources. This study uses personal letters and local, county, state, and federal documents that sometimes call into question what we have been told in popular history. I hope this talk will encourage others to use these sources for discovering their untold stories."

#### **Rebecca Williamson - Sleepy Hollow to Nauvoo: Washington Irving and Van Tassel Family**

Sleepy Hollow to Nauvoo. How can your most famous ancestor be Katrina VanTassel, the love interest in the Sleepy Hollow story by Washington Irving? And how did they end up in Nauvoo? The true story that inspired the Sleepy Hollow tale is the stuff legends are made of.

#### **Wendy Eaton - Emmeline Griswold: The Handsomest in the Lot**

Emmeline Griswold grew to adulthood in 1850s Nauvoo. As a young woman, she met and married Joseph Smith III. It was not always an easy marriage, but it was one of great love.

#### **Geri Marshall - Nauvoo Beyond Adieu (Icarian)**

This presentation will introduce participants to Etienne Cabet's quest to create a utopian society. The day-to-day workings of Icaria will be described as well as the rise and fall of this beautiful community in Nauvoo.

#### **Randy Soland - The Swiss Immigration and Influence on Nauvoo**

Between 1850-1914, Nauvoo became the most German speaking town in Illinois. The reason was not only because of the many German immigrants who came to Nauvoo, but also due to the Swiss immigrants, as 17/26 Swiss Cantons (states) have as their native language, German. During this time period, both immigrant groups primarily settled in the Midwest, more specifically, in the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio. Swiss communities grew in such small towns as Nauvoo and Highland, Illinois, New Glarus, Wisconsin, Gaylord and Vevay, Indiana, and Woodfield and Sugar Creek, Ohio. This talk will focus on the Swiss legacy left on Nauvoo, more specifically, Swiss culture in Nauvoo and specific Nauvoo Swiss families will be highlighted.

#### **Brian Fox Ellis - Audubon on The Mississippi**

In this engaging performance John James Audubon will bring to life bird behavior, focusing on the birds you are most likely to see as you go bird watching in the Nauvoo area. Audubon followed the annual migrations of birds throughout North America in the 1810s and 1830s, keeping meticulous journals on the birds he saw. With lessons on field ecology, the scientific method, art history, and bird migration. He was raised in the midst of the French Revolution and his father was friends with George Washington. Audubon lived in this region when it was the western frontier.

#### **Paul Debarthe - The Second Times and Seasons Building: The Fire in His Bones**

"A Fire in His Bones," used by Ebenezer Robinson to describe the inspiration he received to re-publish the Book of Mormon at the Second Times and Seasons site in Nauvoo, 1840, offers a perambulatory clause to the effort to reconstruct that building. Paul DeBarthe worked with Robert T. Bray as crew chief on the site in 1975 and has returned to excavate and resolve issues in the summers of 2022 and 2023. Now, the plans for reconstruction are under way, reconstructing not only the Times and Seasons building, but the pre-Mormon basement beneath it, probably used for storage of furs. This investigation shows Denis Julian as a person of interest as we examine the efforts of someone, a permanent resident, not a transient, who dug through the limestone and used it to construct a drywall basement with a stone stairwell entry.

#### **David Debarthe - Nauvoo Pseudo-Swamp**

Archeological and geological research does not support the concept that a true swamp existed on the terrace above the Mississippi that provided the site for Nauvoo. At least it was not a wetland that existed for hundreds of years let alone decades. There are numerous historical records of the Mormons draining the swamp. It would appear that instead of a true swamp there were scattered slow drainage areas individuals drained, and their historical record has been expanded to say that Nauvoo was located in a swamp.

Taken from an article by Alan Moberly information provided by Untold Stories