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OFFICIAL CITY AND COUNTY NEWSPAPER

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Galatians 5:13



Two days of peaceful protests in favor of action resulting from the death of George Floyd in Minnesota culminated on Thursday with approximately 125-200 people lining the West half of East North Avenue chanting their support for equal rights to become a reality. The first day saw approximately 25-50 protesters with the number jumping to Thursday's total with a large portion being Christian Faith, Beliefs, Values Result

In Sheriff Myers Changing Parties

I knew when I was provided the opportunity to become Clay County Sheriff that I would ultimately have some extremely tough decisions to make.



I begin my law enforcement career at 21 years of age and wanted to be the best Deputy Sheriff that I could be. I had no desire to be involved in politics but I did have great desire to continue to try to build off what the previous Sheriffs had done and continue to make Clay County Sheriff's Office something everyone could be proud of, which led me to the position of Sheriff.

In 2013 I was honored to be chosen by a great group of people to fulfill the remainder of Sheriff James Sulsberger's term. In the past seven years I have been taxed with facing several issues that were driven at the state and federal level from the same party that I have been affiliated with.

These issues cause me great concern as Sheriff, a father, a Christian and everything I stand for. As a result of this I have chosen to seek re-election in 2022 as a member of the Republican Party. My Christian faith, beliefs and values have given me comfort in my decision I have made moving forward. I will be forever grateful to those who have given me the opportunity to be Sheriff.

Sincerely, Andy Myers, Clay County Sheriff

Beyond The Bell Offering Summer Food Service Program

Effective Tuesday, May 26, the grab 'n go meals offered by the Flora School District during COVID-19 transitioned to Beyond the Bell for the summer. To access these FREE meals, persons should drive through Beyond the Bell (located in the former Flora Bank and Trust building in the Southern Garden Shopping Center) between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and Noon, Monday - Friday (except holidays). Students enrolled in Beyond the Bell will be provided meals on-site.

Fair Board Forced To Halt Most Activities

The Clay County Fair has been a longstanding tradition in our county since 1939 bringing family fun, food, and entertainment to many over the years.

With the current COVID-19 situation, the Clay Co Fair Board has been working diligently to offer an alternative plan. They are currently planning a modified version of the 2020 Clay County Fair, which will be held the last week of July, and will include a few days of in person junior livestock shows. (Just to clarify these shows are not 4H related)

The Fair Board further stated that it is with extremely heavy hearts, however, that they must cancel the 2020 Clay County Fair Pageants. They feel that this is the best decision with the girl's best interests in mind. They feel that they deserve the best and entire experience possible. So, with practices being required ahead of time, their first priority is the health and safety of the contestants and attendees, and they cannot safely comply with the state's current executive order and guidelines set forth in the "Restore Illinois" plan.

The Fair Board thanks residents for understanding!

ing from surrounding counties. There were no incidents and in a double act of cooperation, the protesters offered to make a donation to Anthony's Wild West Restaurant with owner Anthony Booth saying that wasn't necessary, but if they got hungry, they could buy some pizzas, which they did. (John Bayler Photos)



Brad Anderson Works At Making Courthouse Look Outstanding

By Beth Fancher

During the last several weeks the Clay County Court House has been in the spotlight with high profile court cases concerning the Corona Virus. With all the people attending the proceedings, has anyone looked around at the grounds surrounding the court house? There is a carpet of green surrounding the meticulously manicured lawn kept by the court house custodian/grounds keeper, Brad Anderson.

Anderson has worked for the county since December, 2016, when he took over the job from Carroll Rose. He not only keeps the grounds, he is responsible for keeping the inside of the court house sterile and clean for visitors and employees.

"I've been busy this spring cleaning the court house, court rooms and keeping the grounds at the court house, sheriff's department Please Turn To Page Three

Clay City Village Board Meets To Consider Agenda Items

By Mary Anne Maxwell

The Clay City Village Board met last Tuesday evening in the Community Building to provide for social distancing and to consider agenda items.

Board approval was given to payments regarding the Dollar General sewer project and the Grant Drive project. Kiefer Brothers Construction will receive \$9,154.80 for sewer line work and \$12,799.50 for their work on Grant Drive. Engineer Mike Bridges reminded the board Kiefer came in at approximately \$10,000 under budget.

Mayor Rod Franklin recommended some projects he thought SCRP-DC (South Central Regional Planning and Development Commission) might be able to help with such as a new water tower, repairing or replacing sewer lines, water lines, etc. Engineer Bridges said he would be willing to help with those projects and reminded the board will receive \$20,000 in Rebuild Illinois Funds to use for projects. However, he reminded them the use of these funds have strict criteria.

Village Clerk Amy Britton also noted the Invenegy money for the Concession Stand should be received soon. The board is also seeking grant money to use for this project.

Engineer Bridges told the board to prioritize these projects. Board approval was given to an ordinance to block through semi-tractor-trailer traffic to Big Four Road, Morning Glory Road, South First Street Southeast and onto Main Street. This ordinance does not apply to local traffic who has a destination within this area.

Clay City resident Kathy Lauderback attended the meeting to ask for suggestions regarding a proposed Transformation Committee she is thinking about starting. She told the board she wants this to be more than a beautification committee. Regarding clean-up, she told the board she wants committee members to be responsible for cleaning up their own neighborhoods. She's also interested in utilizing Mills Park for special events.

She also told them she had wavered between starting this group as a non-profit or as part of the village. After some discussion, she decided they might be better off as a non-profit organization. Members of the board told her they would support her efforts and to contact them if the group needed anything and to contact Mayor Franklin for guidance if they would like to host a special event in Mills Park.

Tyler Turner, Utility Supervisor, told the board he and his crew would be painting curbs, moving ditches, doing some ditch work and dealing with drainage issues.

Trustees Beth Hance and Zeb Oestreich were absent. They were attending children's eighth grade graduations. The next meeting of the Clay City Village Board will be July 7 at 6 p.m.



Loss Of Sarah Lampley Results In Changing Of The Guard

By Mary Anne Maxwell

On October 30, 2019, Heritage Woods lost their business manager when Sarah Lampley passed away.

Valerie Bute, who was Director of Marketing and Sales at the time, indicated it was a difficult time at Heritage Woods back then.

"We all loved Sarah," she noted. "We were very close. She'd been here 13 years."

But Valerie, who also helped plan carry out activities, had thought about retiring in a year or two.

"This is not as a high energy job," she quipped. "As much as we hated to lose Sarah, I changed jobs."

She'd served in the "high energy job" for 14 years.

Bute volunteered to step in as Business Manager while continuing to work her own job.

"I want to make it clear, I didn't do it alone," she noted. "We work as a team here, so I had help. It's not like I did these two important jobs all by myself."

Patti Jenkins, wife of the late Dr. Keith Jenkins, had been a volunteer at the Flora Heritage Woods



A change has transpired at Heritage Woods over the past few months. Patti Jenkins is now the Director of Marketing and Sales and Valerie Bute is the Business and Office Manager. The change was set in motion when Sarah Lampley, who had been the Business and Office Manager passed away on Oct. 30. (Photo provided)

location helping with activities.

"I loved it when I volunteered here," she related. She moved to Effingham and worked at Midland State Bank for a while.

"I missed the direct contact with people like I had at Heritage Woods," she recalled.

Please Turn To Page Two

Flora City Council Approves Sale Of Surplus Property

By Mary Anne Maxwell

The Flora City Council met last Monday afternoon to hold a public meeting and to attend to other agenda items.

Prior to the regular business meeting, the Council held a public meeting let by Luke Eastin, SCIRPDC (South Central Regional Planning and Development Commission) to give interested parties an opportunity to express their views concerning the proposed USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Facilities Grant. The grant funds will be used to purchase a police car. Eastin said the total amount of the grant is \$23,300. The total cost of the Tahoe is \$42,424. The City's portion of the cost is \$19,124. There were no public comments.

During regular business, Council approval was given to an ordinance approving ratifying the sale of surplus Real Estate. The sale of these properties was approved at the last meeting.

Council approval was given to seek bids for Oil and Chipping and the IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) resolution for maintenance under the Illinois Highway Code for the 2020 Oil and Chip program. A total of \$60,000 of MFT (Motor Fuel Tax) funds will be used for this program.

Mayor Mike Stanford reminded Flora citizens to complete the 2020 census. He noted this is important and helps the City receive money for projects.

Commissioner Linda Spicer thanked Chad Bayles and Toby Rinehart for working together on moving Charley Brown Park noting it looked nice.

The next meeting of the Flora City Council will be June 15.

Deluxe Tan Case Moved Back To Clay County

The lawsuit, which was recently filed by James Mainer and Deluxe Tan, of Clay County, against Governor Pritzker, has been remanded back to Clay County Circuit Court.

Mainer and Deluxe Tan were granted a temporary restraining order against the governor's stay at home order in an earlier filing.

It was then appealed by the state to the Appellate Court, which last week sent the matter back to Clay County Circuit Court.

A status hearing in the case had been set for last Friday afternoon, however, a telephone conference call was held, which eliminated the need for the hearing.

Mainer and Deluxe Tan are asking for leave to file an amended complaint in the case.



Bridge Project Continues Ground Work Before Concrete Work Begins



Looking To Bump Up Your Portfolio Income?

Provided by Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. and Cole Duke

We all know, only too well, that the "usual" places we save money (savings accounts, money markets, CDs, etc.) aren't paying us much, if anything. Interest rates are among the lowest they've been in many years. So, where do you put your nest egg where it will earn more than nothing and be available when you need or want it and have some level of safety?

Some investors immediately think of fixed-income (bond) investments as an alternative way to meet their income needs. Many bonds pay interest at regular intervals and, if you hold the bond to maturity, you will also receive the principal face value of the bond back. Typically, the longer the maturity on a bond, the higher the interest rate. Also important is the fact that most bonds can be sold at anytime if you find you have an unforeseen need for cash, and many of them are backed by insurance of one sort or another. Of course, there are always exceptions to every rule and there have been instances in the last few years where bonds, both backed by a municipality or a corporation, have had liquidity problems. But, in general, people feel bonds are a reasonably safe place for a portion of their savings.

There is an issue with this train of thought, though. Interest rates and bond prices trade in an inverse relationship to each other. In other words, as interest rates go up, and I think we can all agree they can't go much lower, the value of that bond will go down. So, as an example, you buy a \$10,000 bond that pays you three percent and matures in 10 years. Three percent is a lot better than the average savings account right now. However, if interest rates go up and you need access to those funds before the bond matures in 10 years, chances are the price of the bond will have gone down and you won't get back all of your original investment.

Another possible income-producing alternative is investing in dividend-paying stocks. Unlike bonds paying a fixed rate of return, dividends can potentially increase over time, which helps increase your income and keep pace with inflation. At the same time, it is important to remember that companies can decrease their dividend at any time, or eliminate it altogether.

However, companies with a long track record of paying dividends to shareholders through all kinds of market environments may be worth considering. A company's ability to consistently pay – and increase – dividends is also an important sign of that company's financial strength. While past performance is not a guarantee of future results, dividend-paying stocks have also historically performed well relative to non-dividend-paying stocks during periods of rising interest rates.

Investing in stocks is not for everyone. It entails certain risks, including the potential loss of all or a portion of the proceeds invested. You should consider your financial needs, investment objectives and risk tolerance before making an investment. As always, before taking any action, it's a good idea to talk to an investment professional about your specific situation.

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Deadline June 23

Clay County Awarded Federal Funds

Clay County has been awarded Federal Funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

Clay County has been chosen to receive \$3,481 under Phase 37 and \$25,979 under the CARES phase to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, USA, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army, and United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the county.

A Local Board made up of the Clay County Ministerial Alliance, C.E.F.S., and SWAN will determine how the funds awarded to Clay County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by the local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal Funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to delivery emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Clay County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with the Clay County Ministerial Alliance, CEFS and SWAN participating. These agencies were responsible for providing 1000 meals and eight nights lodging.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Local Board Chair **Richard L. Artis, P.O. Box 501, Flora, IL 62839 or 618-662-3851** for an application. **The deadline for applications to be received is June 23, 2020.**

A Local Board meeting will be held at 9 a.m., on June 24, 2020 at the CEFS office located at 835 West North Avenue and/or approved and funds will be awarded to local agencies.

Brad Anderson

Makes Courthouse

Look Outstanding

Continued From Page One and the old sheriff's department/museum," Anderson said.

When asked why he took the job at the court house, he said this has given him a more normal life.

"I had worked factory jobs for many years, working shifts and sometimes 70 some hours a week," Anderson said. "This is a much more normal schedule and I can do the other things I have going on after work. I've always done carpentry and maintenance. A jack of all trades, a master of none. Everything in the court house is cleaned every day to keep it sterile and with the fertilizer on the lawn I mow every few days. I say it grows two inches every other day."

Anderson has lived in Clay and Wayne County all his life. He lives on a small farm with his family and raises livestock and enjoys the country life.

"You couldn't ask for better people to work for," Anderson added.

Beyond The Bell

Offering Summer

Food Service Program

Continued From Page One write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Menus for both meals are posted on Beyond the Bell's Facebook page and at the Clay County Health Department. Clay County Health Department, the program sponsor, is located at 601 E. 12th Street in Flora.

For further information, contact Deena Mosbarger at 618-662-4406 or Kathryn Thomas at 361-239-6631.

Governor Okays Summer School

Governor J.B. Pritzker has given his okay to in-person summer school.

Pritzker filed an executive order last week, which allows in-person summer class meetings.

Schools are required to comply with state health guidance related to COVID-19 prevention, including social distancing, capacity limits, the use of face coverings, and appropriate hygiene and sanitation practices.



We appreciate and need your volunteer time and donations of cash, litter and food.

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