

## Fire Prevention Week 2023

By Carolynn Olson

National Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14, 2023. Fire prevention week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, a tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The theme for this year's fire safety week is "Cooking Safety Starts with You." This theme focuses on the importance of practicing safe cooking skills at home.

Five local chief volunteer fire fighters from different departments were interviewed in honor of this year's fire prevention week. They include Clark's fire chief Shane Hagstrom, Raymond's fire chief Garrett Woodring, Garden City's fire chief Jason Foster, Bradley's fire chief Vernon Tarbox and Vienna's fire chief Jacob Smith.

### Fire Chief Shane Hagstrom, Clark

Shane Hagstrom has been volunteering as a firefighter for around seventeen years. He started in Desmet, volunteering there for roughly five years and has continued to volunteer in Clark for about twelve years. He was asked by a few people in the Desmet Fire Department if he'd be interested in becoming a firefighter, and the rest is history.

Hagstrom has been the chief in Clark for two years. Before he was voted to be chief, he worked as the treasurer of the Clark Fire Department. Hagstrom says "the ability to help people" is one of things he enjoys most about the job.

Some of the most common fires in the Clark area according to Hagstrom are grass, farm equipment and uncontrolled burns, and they encounter maybe one or two

structure fires a year in the area. A few safety reminders from Chief Hagstrom are to have practice often having family meeting place in case of a fire, keep batteries updated in all smoke detectors, and test them to make sure they are working properly. If possible, keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen of your home, and last but not least, call 911 immediately if you smell smoke. "The quicker the better," Hagstrom stated about calling the emergency number.

When Shane isn't volunteering his time to the fire department, he works at North Western Energy as district superintendent.

### Fire Chief Garrett Woodring, Raymond

Garrett Woodring has been a volunteer firefighter in Raymond since 2011 and has been chief for the last two years. This year, there will be an election, and Woodring stated he may be handing the position off.

During his time as a volunteer firefighter, the different types of fires he's experienced are grass fires, combine/tractor fires and a few structure fires. The Raymond Fire Department responds to roughly three to four fires a year.

When asked what he enjoys most about being a volunteer firefighter, Woodring stated "being able to help out the community." A little advice from Chief Woodring is, "With it being harvest time, have a fire extinguisher on hand while in the fields."

When he's not responding to fires and other emergencies, Garrett works for his family's business, Woodring Plumbing.

### Fire Chief Jason Foster, Garden City

Jason Foster has been a volunteer firefighter in Garden City since

2019. He was attending a community meeting that year about whether the fire department should continue or disband. Foster, along with a few others stood up against it and said they need to keep the fire department going. They held elections for officers that same day, and Foster got elected Fire chief. Foster says, "It's been a learning experience for sure, but a good one."

Some of the most common causes of fires in the Garden City area, according to Foster, are smoke detectors not working properly, homeowners leaving dryers run when they are not at home, and fires getting started due to having too many appliances plugged into an extension at one time. Some advice Foster gives to help prevent fires in homes is to have fresh batteries in smoke detectors change about every six months. Also, test the detectors to make sure they are working properly and effectively, and make sure not to leave dryers, stoves/ovens on or candles burning when you are not home.

When asked what he enjoys most about being a volunteer firefighter,

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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Oct. 3	87	68	0
Oct. 4	76	52	0.20
Oct. 5	66	45	0.05
Oct. 6	56	39	0
Oct. 7	49	32	0
Oct. 8	60	44	0
Oct. 9	64	39	0
2023 precipitation to date	18.32"		
2022 precipitation to date	17.10"		

## Clark School Board approves Tony's Collision property purchase during special meeting

By Carolynn Olson

The Clark School Board met Tuesday, October 3 for a special meeting. During the meeting, it was approved that the school will be purchasing the property that houses Tony's Collision Center.

The school's plan for the property is to house many of the current CTE programs like automotive mechanics courses for the students. The property will also provide space for their building trades classes. Included with the purchase of the property are car hoists, brake lathes and numerous other mechanic tools.

The price of the property was \$350,000, which will be taken from reserve Capital Outlay funds. The school will also be applying for Collaborative CTE program grants and other related grants. The collaborative CTE program grants could lead to offering 'seats' to students from neighboring districts so they may

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## Poppen and Nichols crowned King and Queen in Willow Lake

James Poppen and Emma Nichols were crowned King and Queen at Willow Lake High School's Coronation ceremony on Friday, October 6.

The other king candidates were Landon Villasenor and Ryder Jun-tunen. The other queen candidates were Shelby Anderson and Haylee Tormanen. Junior attendants were Elliot Bratland and Nora Terhark. First grade attendants were Reagan Larson and Wyatt Hofer.

Photo by Cheryl Hovde

## Pheasant season opener coming up this weekend

By Carolynn Olson

October 21 is the non-resident pheasant season opener for 2023. The season will come to an end on January 31, 2024. The limit remains the same at three roosters daily, with a 15 possession limit after five days.

With harvest underway and as more corn gets harvested, it should start producing a bit more daytime activity for the pheasants and better opportunities in the fields. With a lot of CRP being cut for hay this summer, hunters may want to focus in on the little pockets of sloughs and grass patches, as they should be holding the pheasants and are also better for smaller groups of hunters. "There are still a lot of good habitats on the landscape to focus in on," says Clark County Game, Fish, & Parks Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen.

As the opening of pheasant season is quickly approaching, Officer Thomsen would like to give out some reminders for all to have a safe and fun hunting season. Remember to wear blaze orange so all participants can easily be seen. "Most hunting accidents in South Dakota happen when hunters are swinging on upland game and forget to focus on the others and their locations," Thomsen stated. "Always keep the safety on and finger off the trigger until ready to shoot," he added.

For hunters who partake in road hunting, Thomsen would like hunters to remember and follow the 660 ft. rule regulation, vehicle regulations, and always remember the bird must originate from public road right-of-way. "Road hunting violations and trespassing situations are always the most common violations we see as conservation officers," Thomsen said. If anyone is caught violating, it could result in the loss of their hunting privileges that could be up to a year maximum.

Officer Zach Thomsen said, "Pheasant season is a great time of year to spend with fam-



ily and friends. The traditions live on, and it seems it's always the true sign of fall in South Dakota. Have a great, safe and exciting fall season, and don't forget to take the kids out hunting with you!"

### Season dates

For most of South Dakota, the season runs from October 21, 2023 through January 31, 2024.

### Shooting Hours

The shooting hours remain the same for this year's pheasant season and are 10:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time until sunset. Central Time is used statewide for opening shooting hours.

### Daily/possession limits

The daily limit is three rooster pheasants a day. The possession limit is 15 rooster pheasants per five days. In or-

der to possess another hunter's birds, a free transportation permit must be obtained from a GF&P conservation officer. This should be handled prior to opening day. Transportation permits are not issued as a means of allowing the daily/possession limits to be exceeded.

### License/I.D.

All hunters must possess, while hunting, a valid S.D. hunting license and the proper form of identification, such as a state-issued drivers license or a state-issued and expiration-dated identification card. Hunters under the age of 16 can carry their HuntSAFE card with their license. An adult who is serving as a mentor for a youth hunter must be properly licensed, be unarmed and possess a HuntSAFE card also.

## Clark City Council October meeting sees water rates rising for 2024

By Carolynn Olson

The regular October meeting of the Clark City Council was held Tuesday, October 2, 2023. Mayor Kerry Kline called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Tony Werdel attended the council meeting to propose a development plan regarding city owned parcel 7903. It is roughly 27 acres, east of the old McCain Foods building. Werdel and Ron Clausen hope to develop the land for housing. The pair asked for the council's permission to have an engineer draft a site plan for the area. The council agreed, having no issues with it presently. The council also approved Werdel's plat for the East Park Addition, formerly McCain Foods.

Clubhouse Manager Tammy Rusher spoke about the October clubhouse schedule and touched on the golf course's promising revenue, despite being over budget. Deputy Finance Officer Rae Jean Flora will attend municipal League, and health insurance premiums will go up by 4.28 percent.

The council approved the change order from Halme Construction for the Drinking Water Improvement project. All members voted yes, and the motion was carried.

There was a lengthy discussion on the topic of shop houses in residential districts between the council and Mayor Kline. After pondering the pros and cons, the council decided to allow shop houses in residential districts.

After much discussion on the med van service, the city council decided upon an updated fee schedule for the individuals and businesses that utilize the Clark Med Van. The fee schedule will be uploaded to the City of Clark website and will be

available at City Hall.

The Golf Course Capital Outlay was discussed and approved. The City Council determined that equipment replacement, maintenance and improvements of the golf course and the golf course clubhouse is necessary for proper upkeep, but there are not sufficient funds within the general fund. Therefore, a Capital Outlay account will be established for the purposes of maintenance and improvements of the golf course and golf course clubhouse. Finance Officer Alaina Wellnitz is authorized and directed to budget and accumulate \$10,000 per annum beginning with the 2024 appropriations from the general fund for these purposes.

The first reading of Ordinance #583, regarding water rates, was heard. Water rates will increase from \$5.70 per 1,000 gallons to \$6.10 per 1,000 Gallons, a \$0.40 increase. This change will begin with the January water bill in 2024, that is for December 2023. Along with that increase, the other half of the 2023 surcharge that was also approved will be increasing to the full \$20.20 rate.

The second reading of Ordinance #581, regarding flood plain management, was recited and approved by the council. According to Ordinance #581, "A component of the U.S. department of Homeland Security and the City of Clark's community officials have elected to join the program, participate and enforce this Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and the requirements and regulations of the NFIP. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the community and minimize public and private losses

due to flood conditions."

### In Other Business:

□ Tammy Rusher, acting for the All For Jesus Youth Group, asked for the council's permission to use Second Avenue, between City Hall and the courthouse, for Trunk or Treat on October 25.

□ Lon Reidburn asked the council if his gutters were properly placed per his agreement with the city. The council agreed that he had done what was asked of him.

□ Melissa Nesheim spoke for Felicia and Matt Hofman and asked the council if the street department could remove one of the signs in front of their home.

□ Finance Officer Alaina Wellnitz provided the preliminary report from Burbach Aquatic regarding the Clark Swimming Pool. A copy of the report will be available at City Hall.

□ The council discussed a mowing contract provided by Bob Bjerke with New Dimensions. City Attorney Chad Fjelland suggested putting the contract on the November agenda so that he may look up previous contracts.

□ The council approved the temporary liquor license for the Clark Lion's gun raffle, scheduled for October 14.

The public meeting lasted approximately one hour. The executive session began at 8:08 p.m. and lasted approximately 15 minutes. Discussion of personnel and contractual issues ensued. With no other motions called, executive session was declared out at 8:23 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Clark City Council is scheduled for November 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.