

Pool committee progress was discussed at October meeting of Clark City Council

By Carolyn Olson

The Clark City Council meeting was held on Monday, October 7 at the Ulyot building in Clark.

The council convened as a Board of Adjustment to discuss YWH LLC's (Baron Yexley) building permit for moving mobile homes to a lot that is not adjacent to a public street. Council member Shane Hagstrom noted that Yexley's plans involve two trailer houses. Mayor Kerry Kline stated, "With our new zoning, it says you have to have them adjacent with a public street." There was approximately a 20 minute discussion over this matter. There will be a brief Board of Adjustment meeting on Monday, October 21 at 5:00 p.m. for a variance for the motel setbacks being too close to property lines. At that meeting they will need to discuss building permits to move the mobile homes. Yexley's partner Ryan Wilfahrt was also present for the discussion.

The board then reconvened as the city council at about 7:21 p.m. There was no public input.

Darin Altfillisch invited Kyle Gaikowski from Westside Implementation to the council meeting to talk about trading in the skid loader.

Gaikowski shared a packet with the council, and stated that the first page needed to be addressed before moving forward. "In 2006, the City of Clark bought a skid loader, the 4840 model, and every 350 hours we rolled it out for a set amount per hour up until 2020. At that point, we weren't able to get the size class skid loader you guys had so Darin elected just to keep it instead of rolling it every year. He kept it for four years," Gaikowski explained.

The first page of the packet included upgrades that were done for the previous skid loader the city purchased from Westside Implementation that had never got billed out. Unfortunately, it wasn't brought to anyone's attention until now. The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic played a big part in this matter. There is enough money in the 2025 budget for a skid loader. The council discussed doing the lease option, which consists of trading in their current skid loader that's worth \$32,000. The city would have to pay \$5,000 a year for two years. The skid loader would be covered under warranty for the two years and they would then roll it or trade in every two years under those same agree-

ments, and the city would have a new skid loader every two years.

City of Clark Police Chief Jeremy Wellnitz opened discussion about the pickups that Altfillisch obtained. "The one-ton was supposed to be a dually, it's going to take a period of time to get that back because we've already registered it, and we didn't order the right box for it either. It needs to be a 60 inch cab and chassis. We are working on getting that back to Iowa to get the dually, but it will be about four or five months, and it'll be a 25 with an up fee," explained Wellnitz.

Rae Jean Flora reported to the council that she is still working on zoning. Tammy Rusher didn't have many updates other than she needs the fees for next year, due to people already booking for next year's season. Mayor Kline said they will get those to her next month.

Next on the agenda was the pool committee. Josh Layer from Burbach Aquatics was present via Zoom to discuss progress that has been made so far with the pool. The committee has concluded step two of phase one, and they were looking for approval to move forward with step five and six of phase one,

if that's the direction they decide to go. "If we get the approval, then we can use, or move forward with those phases if we deem necessary on Sunday when we meet next," stated Cassi Kottke.

Josh showed the council version seven, a diagram, of what the new pool will look like. In this plan, they would be keeping the existing bath house, there will be a kid friendly pool area with a slide, depths that range from two feet to twelve feet, a three-meter board and a one-meter board. The pool will hold a capacity of 311 patrons at one time. The cost for the pool project is approximately \$4.2 million dollars right now.

The next phase of the pool is the capital campaign. The committee needs a total of 15 to 30 people to be able to break into nine different divisions to move forward and start grant writing; going to local businesses telling their story and getting more donations coming in to reach the 95% money goal needed in order to move forward with the remodel of the pool. The goal for this new pool is to be friendly for all ages. The council approved, but some things are subject to minor changes.

In Other Business:

The council approved the special event liquor license for the Lions Gun Raffle along with on-sale liquor licenses for the Golf Course, Sportsman's Bar, The Lookout, Clark Lanes, Dakota Butcher for off-sale, Ken's on and off-sale wine and cider, The Big C on- and off-sale wine and cider.

The tax assessment to the County Auditor was approved for the repairs of a water leak that the owner did not fix. The city had to hire it done.

There are seven items up for surplus.

The council approved resolution #871 to replace the official zoning map with no changes. Wellmark Insurance rates for 2025 were also approved.

There was a second reading of ordinance #588 for the 2025 budget. Council member Hagstrom had a question about the parks being listed so high. Altfillisch wants a retaining wall, new picnic tables at Flat Iron Park, one load of wood chips per year at each park, but possibly also replacing wood chips with a rubber mat or rubber

chips. Choose Clark County and the Chamber of Commerce for Potato Days were also discussed for the budget. Choose Clark County's donation was set at \$20,000.

There was a first reading of ordinance #589 for 2025 salaries. There were no comments or feedback on this, the council approved and there was no motion needed.

The council approved the payment request for Halme Construction.

A motion was carried for contingency transfer of \$7,000 for street lighting, \$4,900 for health, and \$13,800 for the Clubhouse.

The council went into executive session at 8:56 p.m. Executive session ended at 9:09 p.m. After executive session, a motion was made to transfer the John and Michele Pickler house located at 110 4th Avenue NW in Clark to the city for no consideration. The city council meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next regular Clark City Council meeting will be Monday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Important South Dakota registering, voting details

The South Dakota Secretary of State's website includes details about how to register to vote, where to vote and how to absentee vote if you're unable to cast a ballot on Election Day and other important information. VoteSouthDakota.com also offers election stories and a legislative map with information on the candidates.

Key dates for 2024:

- Sept. 20: Absentee voting begins.
- Oct. 21: Voter registration deadline.
- Nov. 5: General election (polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time).

What to take when you vote

All voters must show proof of identification or sign a personal identification affidavit at their polling place.

Approved forms of photo identification include:

- South Dakota driver's license or nondriver ID card
- U.S. government photo ID such as a passport
- U.S. Armed Forces ID
- Current student photo identification card from a South Dakota high school or South Dakota accredited institution of higher education
- Tribal photo ID

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
October 1.....	72	41	0
October 2.....	65	50	0
October 3.....	83	50	0
October 4.....	63	38	0
October 5.....	69	39	0
October 6.....	70	41	0
October 7.....	62	40	0
2024 precipitation to date	18.57"		
2023 precipitation to date	16.38"		

Dawn Brush brings awareness to National White Cane Day

By Carolyn Olson

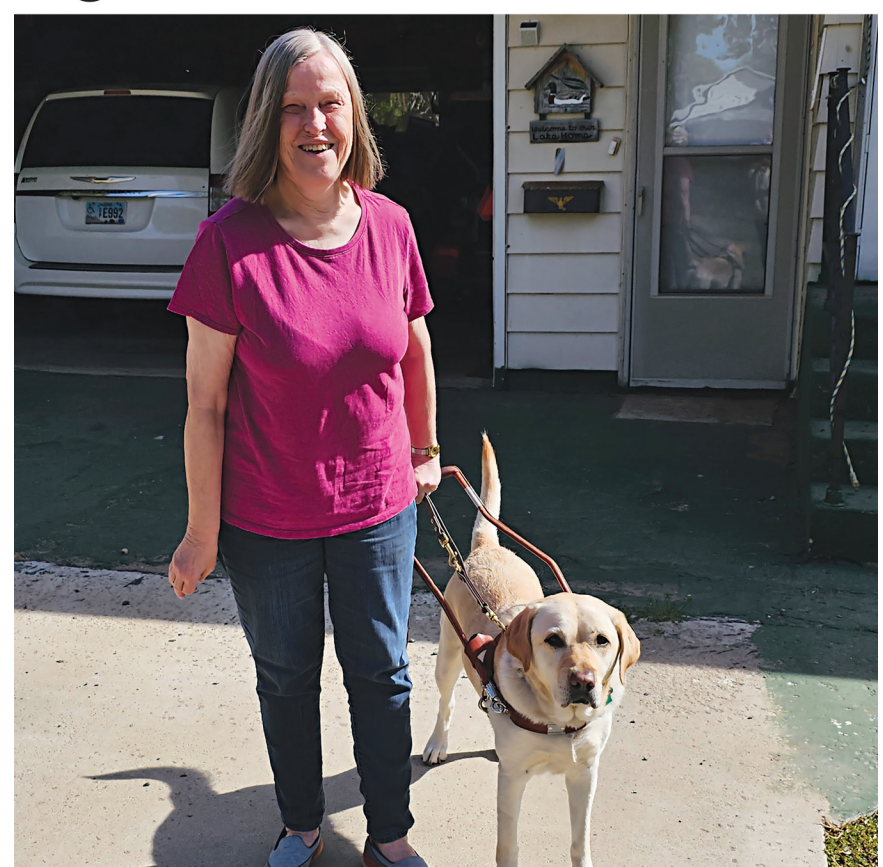
White Cane Safety Day is a national observance in the United States, celebrated on October 15 of each year since 1964. The date is set aside to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired. The white cane is the important symbol of blindness and tool of independence.

Dawn Brush, a local resident who splits her time between Clark and Aberdeen, would like to bring awareness to White Cane Safety Day, and also remind community members that it's the law that drivers stop for white canes and guide dogs, not only on White Cane Safety Day, but every day. "I think we need to bring awareness to the fact that U.S. Highway 212 needs a stoplight with an audible symbol," Brush stated. "It's something that would probably take years to get done, but some drivers on Highway 212 are terrible," she added.

Dawn shared that she attended a South Dakota Association of the Blind conference last month at Joy Ranch near Watertown. There, one of the speakers talked about traffic lights with audible symbols and how they were beneficial and much needed in communities.

Brush has a white cane and a three-year-old yellow lab guide dog named Meadow. She's had Meadow for three years, and Meadow is the third guide dog Brush has had over the years.

Dawn got Meadow in June of 2021



Above, Dawn Brush stands with her harnessed yellow lab guide dog, Meadow, demonstrating what it looks like when a guide dog is at work.

Photo by Carolyn Olson

after retiring her previous dog, Breezy due to age. Brush traveled to Guiding

Eyes for the Blind in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. where she stayed on campus for 12

days as she trained with Meadow and developed trust and a relationship with her new guide dog before they returned home to South Dakota.

"One thing I would like to remind everyone of is when you see a guide dog, try to refrain from petting, due to distraction; when you see a guide dog with their harness on, that means they are working and need to be very focused on that."

Brush is, and always has been, a huge supporter of the Clark community and hopes by getting the word out about White Cane Safety Day, it will help get the community more involved and take a hard look at the important issues that are out there for visually impaired citizens that live in the area.

Some fears that Brush has when spending time in Clark, is having to walk across the street to get to and from places she needs to go. "At times, I have to walk to get places, as I don't always have access to a ride. Although I have Meadow to help guide me as I'm walking, I still fear walking out in front of oncoming traffic and drivers not being able to stop or not see us," she explained. "People in the Clark community are always very helpful when they see me in public, and that's a great feeling," she added.

Brush feels that a possible stoplight

White Cane Safety Day
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Willow Lake School Homecoming parade winners for 2024 announced

The 2024 Willow Lake Homecoming week came to an end on Friday with the Homecoming football game against the Deuel Cardinals, in which the Cyclones won 26-7.

Judges determined placing of the parade divisions, and the winners were announced. The theme this year was 'Disney/Pixar'. Pictured above are the winners in each category. On the left, second grade students Makenzie Fischer and Abram Schmidt are pictured dressed as Lightning McQueen and Tow Mater. Their class won

in the elementary division with "Cars" as their movie. In the middle school division, the eight grade class won with their "Moana" inspired float. The junior class won in the high school division for their "Toy Story" themed float. Andy Peterson is dressed as Buzz Lightyear, and Mato Denoyer is dressed as Jessie the cowgirl. Fellow junior Levi Atkins' picture can also be spotted on their float.

Photos by Christina Kannegieter