

Zoning ordinance discussed at Clark City Council meeting

By Carolyn Olson

The Clark City Council met in regular session on Monday night at a slightly earlier time of 6:00 p.m.

Clark County State's Attorney Chad Fjelland handed out a zoning map regarding City Ordinance #585. A lengthy discussion ensued, bringing up several questions.

Cassie Kottke had concerns over the ordinance because she feared that her rights as a landowner may be taken away. And by approving the new zoning Ordinance #585, anyone could build any type of structure near her home.

Kottke asked, "If my neighbor decided that he wanted to sell his lot, and he has a lot right behind him; then according to this, anybody could come in, and anybody could build apartments and do multi-family housing. Is that accurate?" Fjelland replied, "That is correct."

Terry Schlagen was also present at the meeting and asked if there had been enough study done on this to make a decision. He also inquired about how many meetings the city council have had this year.

"Six, but this is kind of the first time we've brought it to the rest of the council," Clark Mayor Kerry Kline answered. "We are going over what we want to keep and change tonight. We are not voting on it tonight," she added.

Fjelland stated, "We should have a form of motion to amend the new motion with all those changes."

The board carried the motion. The remainder of this motion will be re-addressed at the April 8 council meeting.

Other Business:

□ Mallory McIntire asked the board if they could add a 10-and-under fastpitch softball team to park and recreation this coming season. It was approved.

□ Baron Yexley brought to the council his plan to build a hotel/bed and breakfast. He is going to get the plans in order and bring it up again at the April meeting.

□ The board approved the well project for Dickinson Park to be completed this coming summer.

□ The discretionary resolution did not pass; all motion failed.

□ The swimming pool will not be opening until July 1, 2024. Membership prices will be changing due to the late opening. The city will also be advertising for help for anyone interested in becoming a lifeguard.

□ Rob McGraw asked the board about obtaining a liquor license for the Pro Pheasants Banquet; it will be brought up at the March 18 equalization meeting.

□ All other motions were carried and passed.

The Clark City Council meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. The annual equalization meeting will be held on March 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular city council meeting will be April 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Seth Tarbox collects donations for Sanford Children's Hospital NICU/PICU as part of his senior project

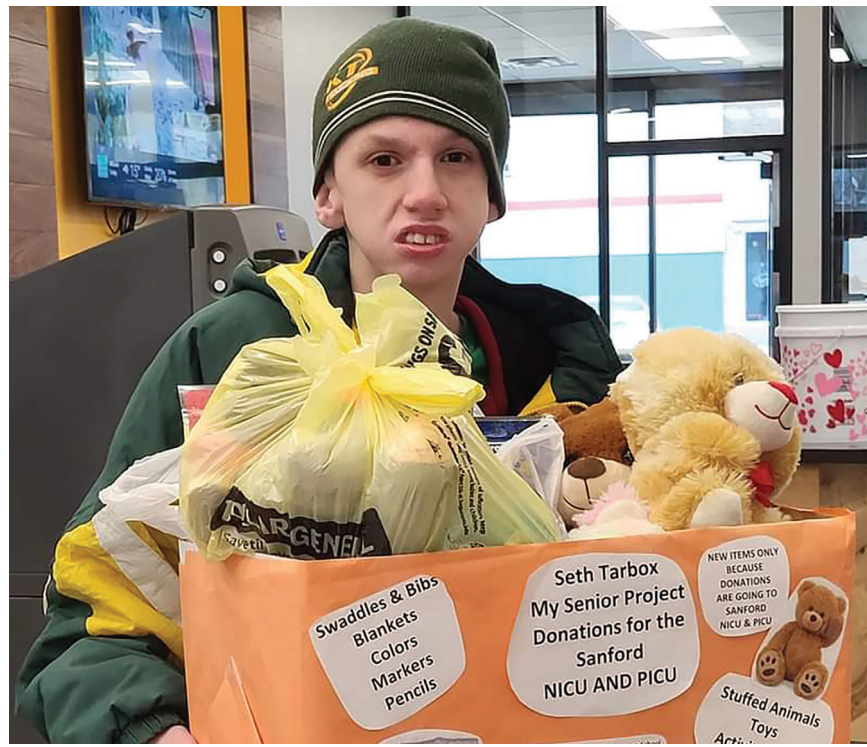
By Carolyn Olson

Clark High School senior Seth Tarbox presented his senior project on Thursday, February 15 during the doubleheader basketball game against Hamlin.

For his project, Tarbox chose to collect donations such as crayons, pencils, markers, pacifiers, baby swaddles, bibs and toys, to be given to the NICU/PICU at the Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls. Seth had donation boxes placed at both the Clark High School and elementary school and also at some local business, such as Ken's Food Fair, Dacotah Bank, Westside Implement and Lewis Family Drug. He picked up the donations on Friday, February 23.

"The NICU/PICU is really near and dear to our hearts," said Nichole DesLauriers, Seth's mother. "Seth was born at 34 weeks with no suck, swallow, gag or cough reflex. Doctors didn't think he would live to see a year," she explained. "I can't believe I have a senior now!" DesLauriers exclaimed.

The NICU/PICU's impact on Tarbox's first years of life played a big



Seth Tarbox, a Clark High School senior, was collecting donations for the Sanford NICU and PICU as part of his Senior Capstone Project. He is pictured above picking up one of his donation boxes from Dacotah Bank in Clark.

Submitted photo

"I had to go to the Sanford Castle until I was in middle school," he explained. "I just wanted to be able to give back to the nurses and families there and help make their stay in the hospital easier."

Dawn Hink is Tarbox's senior project mentor. She reached out to Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls and a list of items that Seth could collect as donations. They approved of his project right away.

"Seth and I spent most of the first two years of his life in the hospital, and a lot of that time wasn't easy," DesLauriers shared. "Now, he'd like to make sure that other kids that are going through similar situations have all they need to make their stays a little better."

Seth's parents are Nichole DesLauriers and the late Keith Tarbox. His step-dad is Bryce DesLauriers. Seth also has two younger sisters, Abby and Riley.

His plan after graduating high school is to stay in Clark and enjoy the summer, but he would like to become a nurse someday.

part in his senior project decision.

"I'm a NICU/PICU baby," Seth said.

60's Plus Dining returning to Clark Monday, March 11

By Carolyn Olson

Starting March 11, 2024, Clark Elementary School will serve 60's plus meals while school is in session at 11:45 a.m. to area residents.

"Since the closing of Heather's Bistro, there was a significant gap left in the community. We need more affordable options for people aged 60 and over, as well as more overall options. Plans for the future include coffee and discovering how to create weekend options," stated Choose Clark County's Executive Director Catie Noethlich.

The Corner Diner is a member of the Stars Program and offers up to 50 Star Meals per day to eligible locals. The meals are priced at \$4.50 each. The cardholders can use their card at any of the 13 locations, including The Pizza & Burger Shack - Clear Lake, Hazel Community Cafe, HyVee - Watertown and Brookings, The Prairie Inn - Carthage, August 17th Gourmet Coffee and Sandwich Shoppe - Clear Lake, St. William's Care Center - Milbank, Brookings Health System Cafeteria, Blue Jays - Egan, The Bullpen Bar and Grill

- Lake Norden, The Corner Diner - Clark, the Alibi - Gary, and The Lake Preston Cafe. This program also has frozen meal options available at Used 2B New, located at 116 North Commercial Street in Clark.

Officials at Clark Elementary School ask that you park your car on the west side of the school when visiting for lunch. To reserve your meal, please call 605-532-3605 before 3:15 p.m. the day before you plan to dine in. The school will also provide to-go meals upon request. You can create an account using your name, address and phone number by calling 605-532-3605.

The meals will cost \$4.71 each, and are the same meals the elementary students will be having. The monthly menu is available in the Ken's newsletter that is printed out at the school.

This new meal option in town will benefit both the students and the lunch attendees. "We aim to continue growing and improving this project for Clark County and welcome any suggestions or ideas!" stressed Noethlich.

Emil Larson Library vital to quality of life in Clark County

By Tara Knutson

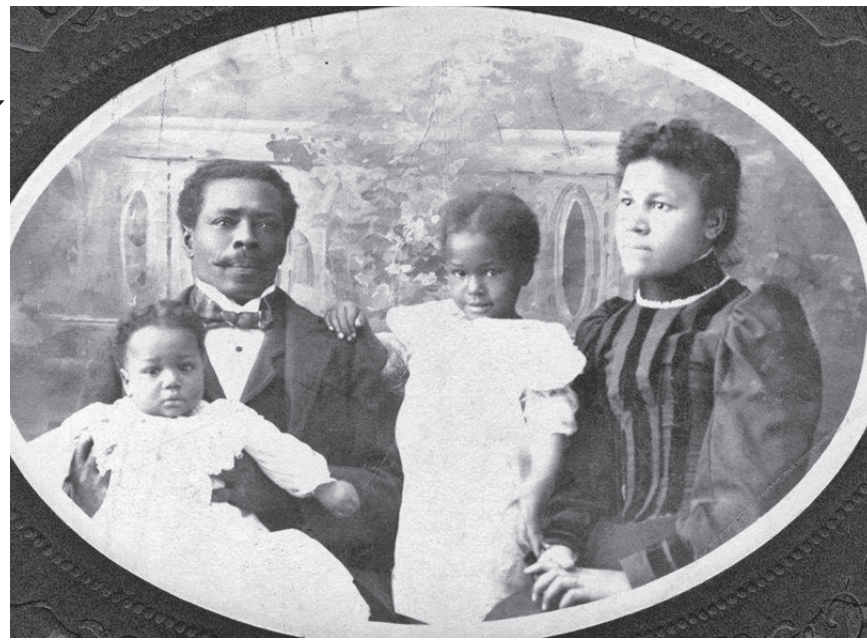
For nearly 108 years, the Emil M. Larson Public Library has been the heart of our small town. Generations of Clark County residents have been able to enjoy the benefits of having a library close to home. There have been many changes in the library throughout the years, but one thing is for sure: the library is a pivotal center of the community and will continue to be so for many years to come.

Founded in 1921 by the Clark Women's Club, the city library was initially established on Commercial Street with the wife of the Clark Methodist Church minister serving as volunteer librarian.

As the number of books in the library grew, the location had to be expanded several times throughout the years. In 1929, the library was moved into City Hall and has stayed with the city administration offices since. In the winter of 1999, they were moved to the current location in the Ulylyot Building.

In 1924, the library had 1,545 books and 97 patrons. The library was open for borrowers to browse the bookshelves on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoon and evening. The library now has 9,938 books, 38,028 ebooks, four se-

Emil M. Larson Library
(continued on page 10)



Above left, Calvin and Rosa Simmons are pictured with their eldest children: May, Janet and baby Calvin. Right, the Simmons family is pictured outside their home in Garfield Township, about two miles west of Clark Center Church.

Simmons was first African American to be buried in Rose Hill Cemetery

By Tara Knutson

As the pioneers of earlier centuries traveled west in search of fulfillment of their dreams, many dreams were met with heartbreak and death. The littering of graves, both those marked and the unknown number of unmarked graves are a physical indication of the passage of time through the generations of Clark County residents and those settlers passing through that encountered despair and sorrow while here.

According to self-reliant genealogist Gordon Meyer, there are 49 cemeteries in Clark County. He notes that some were "more difficult than others" to locate, inspect and record information about.

It is thought-provoking to ponder the stories these pioneers could share: the lessons learned through their triumphs and trials of life on the early prairie. Several Clark County residents have taken an interest in keeping the history and stories of lives gone by alive. Thus, the impact of lessons learned from history continue to impact the citizens of Clark County. It is through documentation of these graves and cemeteries that many stories and lessons have been learned, documented, and as a result, able to be shared.

The largest cemetery in Clark County is located just a half mile north of Clark in Mt. Pleasant Township. Prior to being referred to as Rose Hill Cemetery, it was known as the Village of Clark Cemetery.

Incorporated in 1906, the cemetery started with a 10-acre plot of land donated by the Sloan family. The size has grown to 22 acres presently and is divided into six sections.

The earliest recorded grave was 1884; however, the true number of graves is unknown, as there are numerous unmarked graves. The pioneers buried in section A are among the oldest and contain prominent Clark County names including Bockoven, General Conkling and Captain W. G. McSpadden.

Captain W. G. McSpadden was an officer in the Civil War, serving under General Sherman. He was a drummer boy in the U.S. Army that traveled to Mexico in 1847. After the war, in 1881, McSpadden filed on land one mile west of Clark. His wife and 10 children joined him on the prairie the next spring. He is known for the construction of the Northwestern Hotel. The name was later changed to Commercial Hotel and then finally the Adams Hotel.

Calvin Green Simmons also accompanied Captain McSpadden to Clark County. Simmons was a personal servant, or freed slave, of the Captain and is known to be part of the first black family to have settled in Clark County. He was born in 1850 in Mississippi. His family consisted of four children and wife Rosa Belle Jenkins. Their first child, May Janet, was born in 1898. Calvin was born in 1900, William G. was born in 1901 and Adaline Grace was born in 1905. They homesteaded on 60-80 acres in Garfield Township,



Clark Center Church. This photo is estimated to have been taken around 1907.

Photos from Centennial History: Clark County

Simmons was first African American to be buried in Rose Hill Cemetery



Above is Calvin Simmons headstone, which was placed by the Clark Rotary Club in October 2008 at Rose Hill Cemetery.

Photo by Tara Knutson

two miles west of the Clark Center Lutheran Church.

Simmons was known to do masonry and plastering work as well as a popular entertainer who performed both as a dancer and a singer. According to reports from the Simmons neighbors, the children had a difficult time integrating themselves into the white population of Clark County. Ruth Larson, the family's neighbor who often watched the children while Cal and Rosa were away, is noted as saying that "George, the smallest boy, would wash and wash his face with soap in an attempt to get his face as white as ours." The other children were named Mae, Grace and Calvin.

Life in the Dakota prairie was difficult on the entire family. While the children were still young, Rosa took the children and left Cal. For

some time, she and the children lived in a small house in Clark. Later, she would relocate to Minneapolis, Minn. to live with relatives.

Simmons lived on the farm near Clark until he became too weak and unable to care for himself. One day, while greeting a neighbor who was delivering groceries to him, Simmons tripped and fell through a window. After, he was taken into Clark and lived with friends until his death. Simmons died in Clark in 1915 and is buried in the McSpadden family plot.

Simmons' grave was unmarked for many years until the Clark Rotary Club held a dedication service in October of 2008 when a memorial headstone was placed to mark the final resting place of this early Clark County pioneer. He is believed to be the only African American to be buried at Rose Hill Cemetery.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 27.....	62	12	0
Feb. 28.....	12	-2	0
Feb. 29.....	22	0	0
March 1.....	53	20	0
March 2.....	64	30	0
March 3.....	57	32	0
March 4.....	43	21	0
2024 precipitation to date 0.63"			
2023 precipitation to date 1.81"			

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