

# Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday

Remember to set your clocks ahead Saturday night

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The hometown newspaper of Charlyne A. Johnson Minneapolis, Minn.



## The thrill of victory!

### ▲ SoDak16 was Tuesday versus Flandreau

The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones boys basketball team is heading to the SoDak 16 round, which was played Tuesday, March 8, too late for press release this week. The Cyclones defeated Tiospa Zina 47-40, in the semi-final game of Region 1A, bringing about the SoDak 16 qualification. In Madison, Tuesday, the fourth seeded Flandreau Fliers, 18-3, battled the 15-7, thirteenth seeded Cy-

clones for a berth in the Class A tournament next weekend, in Rapid City. What a great picture! A combination of players, statisticians/managers/coaches/cheerleaders and a 'colorful' rooting section make for a 'complete team picture.'

Photos by Heather Jordan

## Emil M. Larson and his significant history in the Clark community

Emil M. Larson. A memorable name in the City of Clark as the town's library is his namesake. Have you ever wondered where this name came from? Who was this man and his significance in the community? The *Courier* is providing our readers some insight into who this noteworthy man behind the name and his significance to the City of Clark.

The young man was raised in Clark and served in the military during WWII. A mine explosion caused the loss of eyesight in both of his eyes. After his discharge from the U.S. Army, Emil M. Larson went on to attend college at Augustana in Sioux Falls.

The V.F.W. in Clark raised funds in Larson's name for a seeing eye dog to assist him due his loss of eyesight. At the time of the fundraising completion, Larson declined the money, stating that he had no need for an assistance dog. The money raised in his behalf wasn't used.

Fast forward ten years. Ten years from Larson's discharge from the war and ten years from the time the funds were raised for the seeing eye dog. At that point, Emil M. Larson had some time to reflect on his experiences of the war and how to honor those that served. His thoughts were to have a statue erected that honored all veterans throughout Clark County that served in WWII. The names of the veterans would be listed on the base of the monument, similar to the WWI statue.

The monies raised that were initially to go to him for a seeing eye dog would be used for this project. Additional help could come from the American Legion and contributions that school children from the county could bring in to school to help cover the cost of the monument, according to Larson's plan.

Larson used the quote of Abraham Lincoln to further detail his thoughts on honoring those who had served and fallen in WWII. "We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who gave their lives that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this sacred ground. The brave men living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note or long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated her to the unfinished work for which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us here to be dedicated to the great task, remaining before us—that from these honored we take increase devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we were highly resolved that these dead shall not have died in vain."

**Emil M. Larson**  
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## City of Clark getting the town ready for summer

The first March meeting of the Clark City Council, the regular monthly meeting of the council, often is a time to finalize summer activities, such as the dump ground, the swimming pool, the golf course and summer recreation sports. Such was the case Monday.

The Clark City Council will also be meeting on Monday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m., the annual equalization meeting. That time can also be used for items that need follow-up, clarification or finalization from the Monday, March 7 meeting.

Chris Bokinskie, representing the Clark Area Baseball/Softball Association had several topics he wanted covered with the council.

In recent years, finding baseball/softball coaches has been a challenge. Bokinskie reported that this year there are more coaching candidates than there are teams, so a meeting will be held within the next couple of weeks to decide what coaches will coach which teams.

Bokinskie stated, "My goal is that if there are three or four people who want to coach a certain team—more is good. Let's all work together. I hope all the interested parties show up at this meeting so decisions can be made as to who will be the coach."

As Bokinskie was explaining that there will be a 14 and under baseball team, a Jr. Legion team and a Legion team, he noted that there will not be a 16 and under Legion team.

He then asked that the \$1,000 that would go to him as coach of that team be donated to the association, so the teams would get \$2,500 from the city rather than the \$1,500 budgeted.

The talk then turned to how much money was needed for the baseball program, how it was raised and how it was spent, and what specifically the \$2,500 from the city goes for, and Bokinskie answered in detail, commenting, "We fund-raise \$8,000 - \$10,000 a year. Last year, we spent \$18,000 - \$20,000."

Council person Melissa Ne-shheim said, "that is a lot of money for a summer program." And as Bokinskie listed all the towns the players come from, she asked if any of those towns help with the finances.

Bokinskie clarified why different teams have the names that they do and that the money goes for balls, umpires, etc. Bokinskie added that hours of time and effort go into the great baseball facility at Dakota Style Field and many people take pride in keeping baseball alive and well in Clark.

The city pays for lights and Clark Rotary Club President Dala Albright was in attendance at the meeting to tell the council that new lights for the baseball field were quoted at \$134,000.

Albright said a cheaper option would be to redirect the current lights with LED bulbs at the baseball park. She then said that the

Clark Rotary Club is looking at putting in a garage at Dakota Style Field to house the field groomer tractor.

Albright excitedly told the council that the Sioux Falls Canaries baseball team will be coming to Clark on Friday, May 6. More information will be coming regarding the Canaries as we approach this date.

The school and city are working out a five-year lease regarding the youth baseball/softball field south of the high school, according to city finance officer Alaina Wellnitz.

**Pool Rates**

Clark Swimming Pool manager Emily Sansom was at Monday's meeting, and the council set pool rates for 2022. A family pass will be \$150.00; water aerobics \$100.00; lessons, \$40.00 per child; individual pass \$60.00; day passes - \$6.00 adult, \$4.00 kids, age three and under are free.

Swimming pool improvements need to be addressed, was the consensus of all city employees in attendance, including the mayor and council and the upcoming budgets needed to show this need—grants are being sought.

**Dump fees**

Wellnitz showed the council financial figures showing that the dump was \$17,000 in the red for 2021.

She proposed a monthly fee of \$2.00 or \$3.00 to be added to the utility bill monthly to offset this deficit. Lead city employee Darin

Altfillisch will get dump cost numbers to the council by the March 21 meeting.

**In other business:**

- \* No executive session was necessary.
- \* The land auction of city-owned property lots will be at the April 4 meeting.
- \* Golf Club managers Tammy Rusher wanted to know when the club would be opening this spring. Weather permitting, an April opening was the council's consensus.
- \* The ice skating rink had a good, but short season it was reported. It is now closed.
- \* During the Public input portion, Tony Polluck, who lives on N. Smith street, wanted a 'big mess wood pile' to be kept up and maintained in the neighborhood.
- \* The voter wards redistricting was approved.
- \* The next meeting will be Monday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m.

### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
March 1.....	52	29	0
March 2.....	43	29	T
March 3.....	32	13	0
March 4.....	24	13	0
March 5.....	37	23	0
March 6.....	29	13	0.03
March 7.....	26	8	0
2022 precipitation to date			0.63
2021 precipitation to date			0.91