

Budget, drainage and golf clubhouse kitchen are August council topics

Clark residents, Kevin and Jill Zobel, led off the August meeting of the Clark City Council, during the public input portion, talking water drainage.

Zobel, who lives in east, south-east Clark, explained that he purchased the old Sundvold feedlot and planted over 400 trees in the past six years. The trees are now dead, flooded out. Zobel would like to see an engineer led, hydraulic water shed testing done by the city.

After Zobel explained the details of the situation, city attorney Chad Fjelland outlined the city ordinance, which applies to a floodplain and this area is not located in the city plain. Fjelland then stated that this is a legal dispute between two private land owners. "But that doesn't mean the city can't mediate this problem," he said.

This area, especially during wet years, is a standing water nightmare, it was noted, as the city has done numerous water drainage attempts to help alleviate the standing water south of 212 at the Monica Zobel residence and Northwestern Energy building location.

The second portion of the public input discussion dealt with fireman/councilman Shane Hagstrom asking finance officer Jackie Luttrell to

combine, in the budget, the firemen operations and maintenance categories. He then spoke of the Jaws of Life, that with an extra tool, will be coming in a couple of months. The price tag will be \$41,000 for this equipment.

Talk then turned to the municipal golf course. Luttrell and golf club manager Tammy Rusher both used the word 'awesome' in talking about revenues at the golf course in July and this summer.

Said Luttrell, "We will exceed 2019 revenue some time this month."

Because the golf club has been so busy, Luttrell and Rusher noted that the (cooking) fryer is not keeping up and customers have to wait a long time for their food.

The duo explained that they are working with Maxwell Restaurant Service out of Watertown and would like to purchase kitchen reorganization updating to replace the fryer - a cost of around \$20,000.

Before the motion was made to purchase kitchen equipment, councilman Terry Schlagel talked how much the swimming pool plus golf course plus city parks was costing Clark taxpayers. "Plus, let's talk water/sewer infrastructure and money in the bank versus debt load

before we look at purchases (at the golf course)," said Schlagel.

Luttrell continued that this was a quality of life issue and an investment to promote the city. The kitchen equipment purchase motion passed 4-1, with Hagstrom, Dennis Larson, Derrick Dohmann and Nick Dalton voting yes and Schlagel, no. Andrew Zemlicka was absent.

Luttrell led the 2021 budget planning discussion going over the various changes in line items.

The first reading of the 2021 budget will be in September and the second and final reading at the October board meeting.

In other business:

▲ The swimming pool will close August 11.

▲ The discretionary formula was discussed, with more discussion coming at future meetings.

▲ Mayor Kerry Kline announced that the former drive-in, located on west Highway 212 in Clark will open in mid August as El Corral, a Mexican restaurant. The wives of Dakota-17 (pig farm) employees will be operating the restaurant, she said.

▲ Sprinkler heads have been moved at the golf course.



Don Larson comes by wagon for burial

Saturday was the graveside service for Donald Larson, at Clark Center Lutheran Church, northwest of Clark. Being a life-long cowboy at heart, Larson's casket was brought to the Clark Center Cemetery by a horse drawn wagon 'Spirit of West Stage'.

This wagon was a vital part of the 1989 South Dakota Centennial Wagon Train and so was Larson.

As one reporter wrote in the memory book, "Don 'grandpa' Larson is soft spoken, easy going, hard-working and one down-right good ol' boy! Hard work and bad times mixed with some good years, Grandpa tells better stories than those who write books."

A regular part of his "cowboy" schedule included horse shows, trail rides, shoeing, State Fair, Prairie Village wagon train, thrashing with a team, bringing Santa into the mall on a stagecoach, DC Presidential inauguration parades with the McCrossan Boys Ranch and working the chutes at the Las Vegas national rodeos. Mr. Larson once said with amazement, "We sure got to do a lot of stuff that most people don't!" And whenever it was time to leave, he would call out, "Next time bring a rope and we'll play horse!" This wagon came from Canton especially for the burial.



4-H is livestock event only in 2020

Emma Caulfield shows her calf Monday morning and wins the trophy in her class.

Achievement Days this year is a livestock only event, as the coronavirus pandemic has shut down many events this summer, not just 4-H static exhib-

its. The livestock shows were live streamed on the Clark County 4H page and ITC channel 153. The State Fair is Sept. 3 - 7.

Heading into August - row crops are promising

"The winter wheat and the winter rye harvests are wrapped up, the oats are close to being done and the spring wheat harvest is just getting started," noted South Dakota State University Extension Agronomy Field Specialist David Karki.

With the winter wheat results in, they averaged between 70 and 75 bushels per acre, which was pretty good in general.

The rye crop that was reported, (although there is not much around here he stated) averaged 65 to 70 bushels, maybe a little less.

With the oat crop, it depended. The high heat and wind had some effect on the crop depending on where one lives. Mid June in the county had high temperatures combined with high winds but 1.33 of moisture on June 18 helped in recovering the moisture which was lost. July 3-5 was in the upper 80s temperature-wise and humid, but then on July 5, 6 and 7, shots of rain with 1.10 falling on July 9, helped to balance out the high heat moisture loss in Clark County. The above rain reports are from the city

of Clark. Clark and Codington counties were lucky to get some showers along with the higher temperatures noted Karki. This made a big difference in the crop results for oats. In a research test plot east of Brookings, dry conditions made for a different story with them with high heat and wind affecting the small grain crop.

Soybeans

"The soybeans and the corn in our area look great," stated Karki. "The beans are setting their pods in this growing time of the year. A few aphids are showing, but not enough to have to spray the fields for the most part. A little defoliation of the leaves has been reported but beans can handle a little defoliation," continued Karki. "They can handle a few holes in their leaves. Both the beans and the corn look great right now."

Corn

The corn is developing as usual in its growing time of the year. "It likes moisture and heat units and has been getting both this summer.

The crop has probably reached its maximum height now and is working on filling out the kernels," explained Karki.

"The sunflowers are coming along I imagine. I haven't received any updates on this crop recently."

Hay/alfalfa

Right now, a lot of ditches are being cut and baled and hay fields are getting harvested.

Pretty much everywhere, the third cutting is now being worked on in the alfalfa fields and is just getting started. As usual working in between rains has been the challenge to get it dried and baled.

"We saw some weevils in that first cutting but that was taken care of with that harvest," continued Karki. "You will see a lot of fresh straw bales in the area, too nowadays."

"The only concerns out there is that the oat crop may require some drying with its higher moisture content but yields were reported at 130 plus bushels an acre," ended Karki. "There are some really nice oat fields west of Watertown."

2020 has us look at Clark Potato Days past...in a potato skin (not a nutshell)

Editor's note: Last Saturday, August 1, would have been the 29th annual Clark Potato Days. Because of the coronavirus, Potato Day, along with many, many other community events, was not held.

Starting in 1992, we thought it would be interesting to hit on some events throughout the Potato Days history. It is brief, not all inclusive with all events, but a few.

In the July 29, 1992 edition of the Clark County Courier the business community of Clark and event organizers were very excited about the first ever Potato Days.

For months the Chamber of Commerce was brain storming and getting people excited for the day in putting together events that offered

something to enjoy for all ages.

A photo of the Tater Puff Drill team in action with their potato oriented rap song was featured as a teaser for the afternoon entertainment. A flatbed truck was brought to Dickinson Park for center stage entertainment purposes. God's Country and Lisa Finstad performed and the Fromdahl sisters preceded a lip sync contest.

Back then a 5x5 softball tournament was the weekend's athletic event. A car and motorcycle show was held and local stores were open until 9:00 p.m. promoting various potato themed specials. The two age groups - the 'Tator Tots' and 'Small Fries' entered poster contests and potato dishes and chip dips were judged on stage at noon. Dickinson Park had 29 booths of

various crafts, flea market items and food booths.

An article also was included in the paper that told of a similar 'Potato Days' event in Williams, Minn. where potato growing is a staple for area farmers. Their event had been ongoing for the past 39 years.

In 1992 it was estimated that 2,000 acres of foundation seed was harvested in Clark County according to the secretary of the SD Potato Growers Association, Donally Fjelland.

1993

A bike rodeo was added for the youngsters in 1993 as well as a horseshoe and golf tournament at the Clark Golf Course. The Clark businesses were open until 7:00 p.m. that year.

1994

The kids tractor pull for kids ages 4-11 began this year. It was also the year the Clark Classics Car Club got involved with the third annual car show at the event. Judging preceded the annual afternoon parade and a steak fry (bring your own meat) was held. A Glow Ball golf tournament was held at dusk and a dunk tank was added to the park activities.

1995

The 4th Annual Potato Day brought to attention the Clark County Courier slogan under its name - 'Proudly serving Clark County since 1880 - South Dakota's Potato Capital'. Campbell Farms Dakota Style Chips had been operating for 10 years by then and McCain Foods had been open for 25 years, in later years full time

with 120 employees to date. Tours were offered at McCains this Potato Day. The company offered their food samples at the Legion Hall for the public. This year the airport got involved with aerial tours offered.

This was also the first year that the spuds flew into the air by wrestlers in the now infamous mashed potato wrestling. The McCains company sponsored this event and furnished the potatoes - gravy not included it was mentioned.

1996

The term 'Bargains with a-peel' started and the Great Pretenders were the musical entertainment.

1997

This was the first year that women were added to the potato wrestling roster. Kelli Kritiz and Penny Weeks were the first wrestlers. A

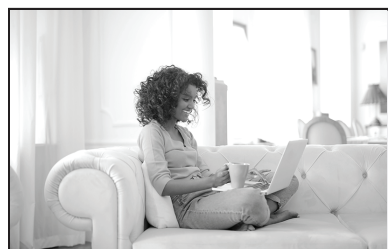
youth coin dig in the sand at the swimming pool park was added to the existing events. Finders keepers was the sand box rule at the volleyball courts.

Potato Days (continued on page 8)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
July 28	83	63	0
July 29	82	63	0
July 30	82	62	0
July 31	81	61	0
Aug. 1	85	61	.01
Aug. 2	78	59	0
Aug. 3	75	54	0
2020 precipitation to date	13.00		
2019 precipitation to date	23.11		



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