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Ecce Panis Angelorum

St. Luke Catholic Church took part Sunday in the ancient custom of celebrating Corpus Christi with a Eucharistic Procession. Pictured, Deacon Jim Zajicek carried the book of prayers while the Rev. Nick Radloff bears the Blessed Sacrament. See a full gallery from Sunday at midamericapublishing.smugmug.com/Calmar-Courier. Photo by Michael Hohenbrink

Spillville Approves Wages

By Michael Hohenbrink Editor

SPILLVILLE - The City Clerk position will be open for the City of Spillville coming up, and wages were approved as City Council met.

Next spring, the city clerk position will be open, with council looking to fill the role.

Council also voted to approve wages with the city clerk position at \$21,290.10 with an additional \$20 for meetings.

The library director position was set at \$13, library aide at \$10.23, museum director at \$15.90, museum staff at \$12.55 and museum guides at \$10 per hour, and water/sewer operator and maintenance director at \$26.10 per hour.

The Bily Clocks museum is open right now Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a possible extension in hours if more help can be found.

Meanwhile, reservations can be taken online for the Park Campground at spillville.org, and council heard six new sites are complete.

Calmar Eyes Ordinance Violations

By Michael Hohenbrink Editor

Refer to Pickleball Courts Page 9

CALMAR - Violators of city ordinances are being reminded of the rules for the City of Calmar.

City Council heard that letters have gone out to 18 separate residences on city ordinances.

Chief complaints include the need to keep grass mowed and, on a related note, not blowing grass clippings right out into the street, where the clippings can wash down into the drain.

Additionally, a reminder about tree heights with sidewalks and streets will be posted.

Council also heard the so far 27 percent of residents have responded to a survey by Hawkeye Telephone.

The survey is seeking to gauge interest in the company running high-speed fiber optic cable through Calmar.

If the company sees sufficient response, it might go ahead and wire the city, which would offer additional options to residents.

Also during the meeting, council approved a pay raise of 50 cents per hour for Chief of Police Joe Ward and heard that the former depot is largely emptied.

All that remains are a few city museum items.

No passing lines could be seen in the near future as the city is working on getting these at Highway 52/175th Street and along Highway 24 by the city pool.

Fort Atkinson Wins Library Grant for Work

By Michael Hohenbrink Editor

FORT ATKINSON - The Fort Atkinson Public Library has seen success with grant writing with a significant upgrade planned.

Director Laura Thomas briefed the Fort Atkinson City Council during its June meeting on the effort, which saw the library win \$20,000 in funding.

The money was obtained as part of an American Library Association grant and will go toward improving accessibility for the disabled at the library.

A new back door as well as an ADA-compliant ramp and door openers for both the front and the rear doors are planned.

Council also heard that supply chain issues are continuing with the city impacted with electrical components on the lagoon project.

A wait of 13 weeks is what the city is looking at right now.

Fencing at the lagoon should be going up this week with the project set to be completed by the end of the month.

A construction permit has been obtained for sewer extension.

Council opened bids for water extension work to the tune of \$26,105 for Northeast Iowa Backhoe, \$31,940 for Blazek Corporation and \$37,300 for Rausch Construction.

Northeast Iowa Backhoe was awarded the bid.



Agriculture Secretary Mike Naig chats with stakeholders Thursday at the site of a watershed project near Fort Atkinson that seeks to aid farming while meeting the needs of the watershed. Photo by Michael Hohenbrink

Projects Could Reshape Watershed

By Michael Hohenbrink Editor

FORT ATKINSON - Workers are taking advantage of construction season to tackle a project in Fort Atkinson that could be the start of more with an aim to benefit the Central Turkey River Watershed.

It's a project that is drawing high level interest.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Naig was out Thursday at Einwalter Farm, west of Fort Atkinson, to check out progress.

Located on 305th Avenue, the site is currently seeing work on a pond to serve to filter nitrates, preventing runoff into the water.

A crew was out installing riprap with Naig and staff able to check out progress.

The field has been one that sees one constant, said Manager Darin Einwalter, son of Phyllis Einwalter, the landowner.

"Always water," said Darin.

Frequent flooding has impacted yields, making the land less than productive and increasing the risk of runoff.

Naig noted the topography of the field.

"This lays flat," said Naig.

That means water is not easily removed.

As such, around four years ago, the family began to take a look at what might be done to improve the situation, according to Darin.

After much planning, work finally has begun.

"They got started in the spring," said Darin.

The boulders that form the riprap were being maneuvered into place during Naig's visit, coinciding with an announcement that successful demonstration project efforts for the Water Quality Initiative are entering a new phase, focused on edge-of-field conservation practices.

To date, other WQI projects in the watershed have seen over 43,700 acres of cover crops planted.

That use of cover crop planting will continue to be emphasized.

"Because of excellent leadership from local partners and engagement from participating farmers and landowners, this Northeast Iowa water quality project continues to be a success. As we advance toward the next stage, we will further accelerate our conservation progress by incorporating proven edge-of-field practices," said Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig. "We need even more farmers and landowners to join us, because adding more practices will keep the positive momentum moving toward our Nutrient Reduction Strategy goals."

With the WQI, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is putting over \$280,000 into the project.

Coming up, Ridgeway is planned for the next project, tentatively set for next year as watershed preservation efforts continue in order to balance farming with the needs of the watershed.

Interim Engineer Contract Approved

By Michael Hohenbrink Editor

Calmar's 175th Street is tantalizingly close to completion. Just a bit remains.

"We still have shouldering to do on 175th [Street]," said Engineer Lee Bjerke Monday morning as he briefed the Winneshek County Board of Supervisors.

Things are getting close, though.

"Hopefully, we can get it open," said Bjerke. "Get out of everybody's way."

The engineer noted people were using the roadway despite

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