

# Fredericksburg Review

Published weekly by Vanguard Publishing LLC

Vol. 48 No. 35

Fredericksburg, Iowa 50630, Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022



Fun in the Son Preschool students, including Emme Westin (left), Hattie Brincks, Mila Wendland, Leah Nelson, Vivyan Fayer, Wyatt Swyers and Cambrie Coronado, have fun as they sing Christmas songs for family and friends last weekend.

## Holiday fun had by all ages at annual Hometown Christmas celebration

The Women of Fredericksburg held its annual Hometown Christmas celebration Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Fredericksburg Community Center. Over 150 people attended the event and canned food along with \$200 was donated for the Fredericksburg Food Bank.

For the silent auction, bidding numbers were given out with 40 silent auction items donated by businesses, organizations and individuals. The Fredericksburg Futures 4-H Club provided refreshments and the Sumner-Fredericksburg National Honor Society held children's activities throughout the day. Entertainment was provided by Fun in the Son Preschool and Expressions Dance Studio.

Door prizes were donated by vendors and those winning were Lana Nelson, Pete Uhlenberg, Linda Koenigsfeld, Tinlee Sassmann, Pattie Davis, Brittany McNeil, Lacey Schmidt, Pat Ross, Mary Reno, Steve Fres, Tessa Hagen, Carly Schmitt, Megan Entwisle, Jesus Uribe, Maeli Kelley, Amy Kilcher, Tiffany Slick, April Wehling, Lynn Wilkens, Michele Anderson, Dorreen Cook, Dena Palmer, Makaya Henniges, Lori Franzen, Pat Halbur, Tammy Farrell, Grace Rethamel, Sara Harrison, Mary Langerman, Linda Steege and Becky Hicks.

Proceeds from Hometown Christmas go toward community projects, and the Women of Fredericksburg would like to thank everyone who made the day successful.

(Continued on page 2)



Cashton Clausing isn't so sure about sitting on Santa Claus' lap during the ol' elf's visit to Hometown Christmas.

## 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' delights audiences, helps spread holiday cheer

Audiences were delighted by the talents of area children in the Sumner Community Theater's production of "A Charlie Brown Christmas," which took to the stage Friday through Sunday, Dec. 2-4, at Sumner-Fredericksburg High School.

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" is by Charles M. Schulz and is adapted based

on the classic animated television special by Bill Melendez and Lee Mendelson featuring Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus and the gang discovering the true meaning of Christmas.

On their way to join their friends ice skating on a frozen pond, Charlie Brown (Greyson Priebe) confided in

Linus (Reid Meyer) that, despite all

the things he likes about the Christmas season, he was still depressed. Charlie Brown visited Lucy's (Sydney Hartness) psychiatric booth and told her his problem. She suggested he direct the group's annual Christmas play to get him involved, and he accepted.

Charlie Brown became even more

(Continued on page 6)



The cast and crew of the Sumner Community Theater's "A Charlie Brown Christmas" include (back, left) Director Amy Tucker, David Monroe, Ezekiel Boehmler, Annabelle Monroe, Sydney Hartness, Jerica Baker and Neva Brockmeyer; (middle, left) Gregory Baker, Shyla Platt, JoJo Westendorf, Charleigh Craun, Sammy Monroe, Reid Meyer, Evie Bruihler and Cecelia Sperflage; and (front, left) Oliver Bruihler, Ryder Platt, Greyson Bergman, Tate Meyer, Greyson Priebe, Benji Monroe, Amos Boehmler, Bradley Arthur, Kate Boehmler and Sawyer Bergman. (Photo submitted)

## Council discusses demolition permits, approves building permit fee increase

The Fredericksburg City Council met Monday, Dec. 5, for its regular meeting. Council members Dean Speicher, Randy Leach, Kyle Wendland and Brittany McNeil were present. Mayor Jimmy Mitchell presided over the meeting and council member Sheriton Dettmer was absent. City clerk Beth Henningsen was also in attendance.

Discussion was held about the demolition permit and the council approved the permit as presented. Mitchell stated the fee is \$50 which will make sure the services are capped in the correct spots and an inspection is done before covering everything up.

The motion to increase the building permit application fee from \$25 to \$50 was approved. Henningsen explained Speicher thought the building and demolition permits should have the same fee. Mitchell added the application fee was added to cover Bob Schulz's time inspecting projects and a lot of times he has to return to look at other issues and follow-up.

The council reviewed and approved to adopt the commercial property maintenance code and the ordinance of vacant building permit and inspection. Mitchell stated both came from the downtown forum and for the commercial

property maintenance code it recommends when people do work on the facades of buildings in the downtown district they follow certain items.

He added the effort is to focus on the rehabilitation of building to make them look as close to original as possible and help with grants for the downtown.

Discussion was held about a catalyst grant and the council approved to move forward with the pre-application with the match to be made from the building owner and development corporation. Mitchell stated the city has the ability to apply for a catalyst grant and there was a building in mind with the owner agreeing to put forth "skin in the game." The grant would be for \$100,000 and the city would have to match with \$100,000.

Leach asked if the building owner revealed their plans, and Mitchell stated they had not and the process started with a pre-application. Wendland added it is due Jan. 27 and details of funding, plans for the building and expenses do not have to be provided until it is time to fill out the follow-up application.

The council held discussion about garbage prices and approved to table the item. Mitchell stated the landfill is

increasing in price and currently the city charges \$6.50 for recycling and \$11.75 for garbage. Henningsen stated she wouldn't mind tabling the item and talking about it during budget time so she could do a workup of expenses coming out of garbage.

Discussion was held about the city-owned property where the old substation sits and the council approved to make the area into city parking. Bob Vrzak commented the property could be used as parking and maybe build a storage on it for the apartments he owns nearby and Mitchell suggested it being city parking.

Leach asked how the city would keep people from parking there permanently and Vrzak commented his tenant would use the space. Mitchell added they could install signs where tenants park to have reserved parking. Currently there are four apartments and one AirBnB in the building with a few of Vrzak's tenants having cars now and there are only three parking spots. Mitchell stated he preferred the tenants park in the back of the building and he liked the idea of permits. Speicher added he would prefer the city own the lot.

The council approved to extend the offer for the deputy city clerk position.

(Continued on page 2)

### Fredericksburg Review Christmas series

## Prosser looks to grow park and rec with programs, activities for all ages

*Editor's note: This Christmas season, the Fredericksburg Review is focusing on people within the community who give their time and talents to make the city of Fredericksburg a better place for everyone. This year's Christmas series begins with a focus on Misty Prosser who is providing community members of all ages programs as the new park and rec director. Next week's focus will be on Theresa Schulz and her breast cancer diagnosis and the support from family and friends which brought light to her in a dark time. In the final week of the Christmas series in the Review, the focus will be on Cindy Lantow, who is retiring from the city after many years of service, and her involvement in various community organizations. Please join us this Christmas season in recognizing the people and organizations who help so many in the community of Fredericksburg without seeking out the recognition they deserve.*

For nine years Misty Prosser was a stay-at-home parent caring for her three young children along with serving as a volunteer softball coach the past four years for her daughters. When former Fredericksburg Park and Rec directors Erica and Trevor Harris stepped down, Prosser decided to throw her hat in the ring and apply for the position since her youngest was starting kindergarten this year.

She explained the park and rec director position was a good way for her to step back into the working world as it is a part-time position and she has a background in sports. Prosser started at the beginning of July, so she is still learning but so far it has been about interacting with the citizens of Fredericksburg, as well as Sumner, since both communities are involved with some shared programs.

"We kind of split our programs and share just because with the children consolidating once they get to middle school, we try to interlock them a little sooner than fifth grade. We share programs throughout the year instead of both of us trying to run the same programs all year long," Prosser explained. "For me getting to know more people in both communities has been huge for me especially being a stay-at-home parent. You're kind of in your own little bubble for so long and you don't know other people in the community so this has been huge for me to get out there, be social and get to know people."

Prosser also enjoys growing the program and she wants to see more and more programs added to park and rec. She commented to be able to offer these programs to children of all abilities



MISTY PROSSER  
Fredericksburg Park and Rec director

is huge for her because she wants to be able to have something for all abilities and skill levels.

There is no typical day for her as the park and rec director and since she has not worked a full year there are several programs she has not yet done along with running the city's pool. Prosser commented when she stepped in, the adult slow-pitch softball league was just starting and then she ran fifth- and sixth-grade tackle football. Just before Thanksgiving, she was working to send out registration for the third- and fourth-grade basketball season.

"So far it has been a lot of administrative stuff, just getting the word out we're starting the programs, getting registration forms out to the schools, posting it online, kind of maneuvering all the registrations and getting the children organized," she explained. "Recruiting volunteer coaches is a huge thing. Parents don't always necessarily want to get involved so trying to find parents who are willing to step up and coach their child's team is tedious at times. It is a big responsibility and parents don't necessarily want to jump in and just want their child to be involved."

Once the softball and baseball season begins in 2023, Prosser will also be responsible for preparing the fields and running Meinerz Dairyland Swimming Pool in the spring and summer. She is preparing by becoming certified as pool operator, obtaining a spraying license so she can help the city employees maintain the Steve Staker Athletic Complex by mowing, spraying for weeds and other maintenance.

Prosser has not implemented any

(Continued on page 2)

## School greenhouse project underway, projected completion set for fall 2023

Sumner-Fredericksburg High School offers a wide variety of learning opportunities for students, and there is currently a greenhouse in the works to bring a new learning environment to high schoolers.

The S-F FFA previously had a greenhouse at the high school but it has been unoccupied for many years, so the previous adviser Karen Van De Walle, who has since left S-F, began the process to construct a new building at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Van De Walle presented the work she had done to find funding for the greenhouse to the S-F School Board, including writing grants and receiving donations from individuals and area foundations for a total of \$100,000. Following Van De Walle's departure from S-F at the end of the school year, principal Tim Johnson and current FFA adviser and ag teacher Jennifer Dillon have picked up where she left off and have been working on getting the greenhouse completed.

Johnson explained Van De Walle worked diligently to make sure the greenhouse had complete funding, including a \$10,000 Farm Service grant, several individual donations, a \$20,000 donation from the S-F FFA, a \$2,000

donation from the Cougar Betterment Foundation, a \$1,000 donation from the Fredericksburg Education Foundation, a \$10,000 Bremer County Betterment grant and other grants.

"The previous greenhouse was a bit run down and had served its purpose, so now this project is going to be such a nice upgrade from what it used to be," Johnson commented. "The goal is to have this greenhouse be completely funded through fundraising, so no taxpayer dollars are spent through the school on it. We're very thankful for the people and organizations who have

(Continued on page 3)