

# PRO TIPS

ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU

## Why the Roundabout?

By EARL WOULDSTRA  
City Administrator

Many residents have asked the question – why a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 10 and St. Paul/Jay Avenue?

When the DOT presented the concept to the City Council, the following benefits were shared:

**SAFETY - Roundabouts reduce severe crashes**

- Speed and severity of potential crashes are reduced.
- The overall risk of crashes is reduced by 40 percent.
- The risk of fatal and injury crashes is reduced by 70-80 percent.
- There has never been a fatal crash at an Iowa roundabout.

**VERSATILITY - Roundabouts benefit everyone.**

- Raised islands are designed for farm vehicles and semi-and fire trucks.
- Pedestrians only need to cross one direction of traffic at a time.
- Roundabouts are commonly built near schools and recommended by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

**EFFICIENCY - Roundabouts reduce delays.**

- Traffic moves more efficiently during peak traffic times compared to a traffic signal.
- St. Paul Ave and Jay Ave wait times are reduced compared to a stop sign since roundabouts create easier gaps in IA 10 traffic.
- Drivers don't need to wait for traffic signals during less busy times

Recently the DOT has shared these additional suggestions for navigating the roundabout that we anticipate will open in mid-August.

**LARGE VEHICLES** - Large vehicles can use the truck apron – the dark gray colored, raised center island – for extra room for their rear wheels when turning.

**PEDESTRIANS** - Pedestrians should cross one direction of traffic at a time.

1. At the crosswalk, look left for traffic before entering the roundabout.
2. At the raised splitter island, stop and look right, then finish crossing. Drivers should check for pedestrians when entering and exiting the roundabout where crosswalks are present.

**EMERGENCY VEHICLES** - Always yield to emergency vehicles in the roundabout. If you have already entered the roundabout, continue to your exit, then pull over and allow emergency vehicles to pass. Do not stop in the roundabout.

For more information– please visit our City website: <https://orangecityiowa.com/roundabout/>



# 'WHEN I PAINTED, I FELT BETTER'

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was to improve the qualifications of directors and teachers, hold seminars, arrange concerts and competitions for musicians separately for each instrument, and also artists and dancers. I also wrote manuals and edited them, made posters and much more. We helped teachers improve their skills by writing manuals and publishing them."

In 2018 Popova's mother died of a blood clot. As an only child, she was very close to her mother. "It was a shock, because my mother was in very good health at 79 years old. I am happy that she could see me married."

When COVID hit everything shut down. "We didn't have work because we couldn't be together. That was when we started publishing the manuals." And then the war started. "We hoped the war would end soon, but six months of the war passed, and the situation became worse. There was no work, and our saving ran out. Vova's brother and mother had gone to Germany, so we were alone. We were offered to go to the west of Ukraine to a safer place, to Maranda and Vasya Heytsi. I found a job there in a jewelry store, but there was often no electricity or water, and people didn't have the money to buy jewelry, so I made no money. Vova worked six days a week in a pizzeria, and when cars came from Hungary with things and products, Pastor Vasily let him know, and he helped unload the cars. Because he had a volunteer ID, he did not have to join the army, and when the time came, he was able to leave under that status."

Maranda knew how difficult it was for them, so she suggested they talk to Martha Hulshof (Maranda's sister from Ireton) and see if she could help them. "Martha said that if someone would support us, we could go to the United States. So we prayed, and First Reformed Church of Orange City agreed."

The couple were given housing in the basement of Brian and Patty De Kock, and it wasn't long before Patty asked her what she enjoyed doing. When Patty found out she had been an artist, the church quickly provided her with canvases and oils. "When the

war started I could not paint anymore," she explained. "After I was here a month, I started to paint again. That made me feel better. There was a lot of fear and stress, even here: I needed to learn the language, find a job, learn to drive. It was very hard for me. But when I painted, I felt better." Her first picture was for Patty. Called "Tulips for Patty" it showcases purple tulips, which happen to be a favorite color of both women. Next was a family portrait for Mark and Suzanne Haverdink, and later a portrait of Laird and Sally Edmund. "Suzanne taught us English every week, and she was a wonderful teacher!" she exclaimed. "And then, not that long ago, she invited us to help her celebrate her birthday. I only had a few days, and I wanted to give her a gift. But all this time I had been painting in oils, and oils take a long time to dry. I raced to Hobby Lobby and bought big paper and a frame, and then I painted a picture of flowers. I used the watercolors I had brought with me from Ukraine: they are very small but very expensive. It was a gift I loved to give!"

Popova was recently highlighted by Orange City Arts, showing her works in the StadCentrum. "The large Dutch painting is interesting for me, because it is Europe and this Dutch town. For me, it's my first impression of the city, because I heard a lot about the Tulip Festival, and I was really looking forward to it." Popova is also pleased to announce that she will be donating a painting to the silent auction for the Ukrainian Fundraiser, to be held in the Maurice park on August 9. "I am so happy to help my fellow Ukrainians! The fundraiser will be a wonderful time to do that. I may also be displaying and selling other works there as well."

Popova now works at Prairie Ridge Care Center as a cook, and Vova at EZ Liner. "I was very nervous at first, and used Google Translate a lot! Things get better every day. I like my job and the people. I enjoy getting off early so I can paint in the afternoon. And I love that my drive now is only ten minutes instead of one hour! Ukrainians have come to the United States on a two-year refugee status, and then we need to reapply. We hope to stay in the United States. I like this town and my church is very important to me. But no one knows what tomorrow holds."

## DORDT EMERITUS FACULTY MEMBER RECEIVES \$500,000 TO SHARE BEEKEEPING WITH STEM EDUCATORS

SIoux CENTER — Dordt University has received a \$500,000 grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to train secondary school teachers to capture the interest of Generation Z students in the sciences and address pollinator decline utilizing honeybees.

Dr. Duane Bajema, professor emeritus of agriculture, will serve as one of the primary investigators for this grant. He will also work with Melanie Bloom, a curriculum consultant and Ph.D. candidate who teaches at Sioux Central High School in Sioux Rapids.

The title of the grant is "Bringing Effective and Engaging Science Teaching into the Generation Z (Beestingz) Classroom using Apiculture." Twelve to 16 teachers from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota will be trained in beekeeping, receive equipment for their schools, develop and implement curriculum that connects the environmental issue and related beekeeping opportunities to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. They will engage in four 2-day workshops in the summer of 2023 and 2024, including four workshops this summer. The teachers will be led by regional industry representatives, mentors, researchers, and leaders to develop curriculum. They will also be given long-term support from groups such as the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and others.

Pollinators are in decline, and that has long-term ramifications for food and agriculture, says Bajema. The decline is due to many factors, including habitat loss, diminished food supply, insecticides (which have been blamed for many colony deaths and long-term issues), diseases, parasites, and more.

"We need to promote the science part of STEM education at the high school level. Secondary teachers and schools have opportunities to effect local community activities as well as encourage students in the sciences and technology at the post-

secondary level."

Angela Kroeze Visser, director of the Kielstra Center for Research and Grants, is intrigued by the possibility of engaging students in learning about science through hands-on involvement with beekeeping. "Over the last few years, the news has been full of stories about bee colonies' collapse and the importance of pollinators. This project trains educators to involve students in 'real-world' or experiential learning and problem-solving through beekeeping. I look forward to seeing the outcomes for teachers trained as part of this project and the benefits for their students."

Generation Z can have a huge impact on beekeeping, adds Bajema. "Gen Z wants to be creative and contribute to solving problems in the world. In this case, they can serve and impact their local communities by addressing the environmental need of pollinator loss and habitat decline."

Kroeze Visser says that this program brings together Dordt's strengths in agriculture and education. "It connects us with other partners in the Great Plains who are interested in training the next generation of students who will live in, work in, and contribute to rural communities."

Creation is complicated, marvelous, and filled with the awe of the Creator, says Bajema. "Beekeeping connects many facets of the environment that highlight how wonderfully complicated nature is."

This work is supported by the USDA NIFA. It is part of a \$7.3 million investment to fund the Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy (PDAL) program, to increase the food and agriculture educational workforce. It supports 16 projects around the country that seek to increase the number of K-14 educational professionals trained in the food and agricultural sciences. Dordt University is one of these institutions, along with Clemson University, Utah State University, New Mexico State University, University of Alaska Anchorage, and others.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT NEWS

**Police charge credit-card offenses**

ORANGE CITY — A Kingsley resident has been charged by the Orange City Police Department with several offenses.

Krista A. Brown, 43, was arrested and charged with unauthorized use of a credit card, a felony, theft in the third degree, an aggravated misdemeanor, and theft in the fifth degree, a simple misdemeanor.

The charges stem from an investigation of an unauthorized use of a business credit card from Orange City Sanitation.

**Non- motorist injured; driver arrested**

ALTON — On July 16, at approximately 2:30 a.m. the Orange City Police Department arrested Edgar A. Garcia-Escobedo, 22, of Hull. The arrest stemmed from a report of a vehicle that had struck a flag pole and causing minor injuries to a non-motorist, at the Community Center in Alton. Upon further investigation by the officer it was found that Edgar Garcia-Escobedo was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

Edgar Garcia-Escobedo was charged with operating a vehicle while under the influence and cited for failure to maintain control.

**Sheriff charges sex offender violation**

SIoux CENTER — A Sioux Center resident was arrested by the Sioux County Sheriff's Office and charged with a second violation of the Iowa sex offender registry law and providing

false information for the registry.

Brady De Jong-Pederson, 22, was arrested on Friday afternoon, July 14, according to the sheriff's report, taken to the Sioux County Jail and charged.

The arrest stemmed from a sex offender registry compliance check on DeJong-Pedersen's status with the Iowa Sex Offender Registry regulations. Upon investigation, along with additional reports received by the Sioux Center Police Department, it was determined that DeJong-Pedersen provided false information and additionally violated terms of the Iowa Sex Offender Registry.

The arrest was a result of a joint investigation between the Sioux County Sheriff's Office and the Sioux Center Police Department.

**Collision injures four**

BOYDEN — Four persons were treated for minor injuries after a collision near Boyden early Thursday evening, July 13.

Cody Van Engen, 18, and three passengers in a 2014 Ford pickup were transported by Boyden Ambulance to Sanford Medical Center in Sheldon for treatment, according to the report by the Sioux County Sheriff's Office.

The accident happened on Kennedy Avenue approximately three miles north of Boyden.

Robert Feldman of George was driving a 2006 Peterbilt semi-tractor north on Kennedy.

Van Engen was driving the pickup south on Kennedy.

The pickup crossed the center of the road and struck the Peterbilt head on. After impacting, the pickup left the road, went into the east ditch and came to rest in a bean field.

Van Engen was cited for failure to maintain control of a motor vehicle, driving in the wrong lane and use of an electronic communications device while operating a motor vehicle.

Damage to the Peterbilt was estimated at \$20,000. Damage to the pickup was estimated at \$15,000. The bean field sustained approximately \$1,000 in damage.

The sheriff's office was assisted by Boyden ambulance and fire personnel.

**Hull resident is killed in accident**

HULL — A Hull resident was killed in an accident on Friday morning, July 14, near Hull.

Harvard Punt, 69, died from injuries suffered at Livestock Equipment and Manufacturing approximately two miles west of Hull, according to the report by the Sioux County Sheriff's Office.

Punt was working on a load of cattle gates on the flatbed of a pickup. Punt climbed on the bed to secure the load, when the gates fell from the vehicle. Punt was crushed and died as a result of the injuries.

The sheriff's office was assisted by Sioux Center police and Hull fire personnel and the Sioux County medical examiner.

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