



# CITY OF Clarkfield, Minnesota

"HEART OF THE PRAIRIE"

# PRAIRIE POST



**Wishing you a happy and safe holiday!** Please remember that the City Administration Office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26, along with Monday, January 1, 2018.

## CLARKFIELD CHILD CARE INITIATIVE

Clarkfield's Child Care Initiative was featured, along with two other communities, in the latest publication from the Center for Rural Policy and Development called "Child care's quiet crisis: an update." In 2016 there were major conversations on the child care shortage facing all of Minnesota and the impact it is having on just not families but also on employers and the economy. In Southwest Minnesota, there is a 3,090 shortfall of spaces needed to accommodate the estimated number of children under six with both working parents. Data from the Minnesota Department of Human Services shows that the number of licenses family child-care providers continued to plummet while child care centers showed a market increase especially in Greater Minnesota. Clarkfield should feel proud to led this initiative in our area as child care is a proven economic driver for rural communities. The Clarkfield Child Care Initiative was a recipient of a Clarkfield Area Community Foundation grant in the amount of \$5,194.34. Those involved in the initiative are extremely grateful for such a generous grant. Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who have already donated to the project, whether it has been an in-kind donation or monetary, every cent helps and we appreciate your support! Cardinal Kids recently mailed out a donation letter to all of Yellow Medicine County, along with Dawson, Montevideo and Boyd outlining the details of the initiative. Please consider donating. Every penny counts and will be invested into the community. Let's GROW Clarkfield together!

## H.A. H.A.G.G SCHOOL TASKFORCE - SURVEY SENT

There were surveys recently mailed out seeking out the community's view point of the old school building. In 2015, the Clarkfield's Economic Development Authority along with the City of Clarkfield sought after help from the County in order to expedite the tax forfeiture process in order to save the building. This is the first time since 2012 for the City to take the fate of the building into their own hands. Please provide your thoughts using the mailed survey and have the surveys returned to the City Administration Office by Wednesday, December 6th. There is more information available on [www.clarkfield.org](http://www.clarkfield.org).

## CITY OF CLARKFIELD'S SLEDDING HILL

The sledding hill will be open again this year as soon as there is a nice layer of snow. Please be aware that those sledding must remain on the marked sledding area and use the return trail instead of climbing back up the sledding surface. Community members are able to use the hill at your own risk and are asked to use caution and consideration. There are no snowmobiles or four-wheelers allowed on the sledding hill. People are not allowed to enter the storm water pond area located near the sledding hill. Please abide by posted notices. Violators may be prosecuted.

### CITY OF CLARKFIELD

812 10th Avenue | Clarkfield, MN 56223  
Phone: (320) 669-4435  
Fax: (320) 669-4815  
[info@clarkfield.org](mailto:info@clarkfield.org)  
[www.CLARKFIELD.org](http://www.CLARKFIELD.org)

**In Case of Emergency: 9-1-1**

**Ambulance Office (Non Emergency)**  
**Police Office (Non Emergency)**  
**Clarkfield Public Library**



**(320) 669-1674**  
**(320) 564-2130**  
**(320) 669-7651**

### COUNCIL MEETING

1st & 3rd TUESDAYS of each month at 7:00 PM.  
**City Hall Meeting Room**

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### MAYOR

Dale Stringer III  
[mayor@clarkfield.org](mailto:mayor@clarkfield.org)

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dale Stringer Jr.  
[council1@clarkfield.org](mailto:council1@clarkfield.org)

Sue Fritz  
[council2@clarkfield.org](mailto:council2@clarkfield.org)

Jerry Kaupang  
[council3@clarkfield.org](mailto:council3@clarkfield.org)

Emily Bruflat  
[council4@clarkfield.org](mailto:council4@clarkfield.org)

### CITY OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY - THURSDAY**  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**FRIDAY**  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Amanda Luepke  
[amluepke@clarkfield.org](mailto:amluepke@clarkfield.org)

### LIBRARY HOURS

**MONDAY - WEDNESDAY**  
10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

**THURSDAY**  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM/  
2:00 PM - 6:30 PM

**FRIDAY**  
1:00 PM - 5:30 PM



Local  
Postal Customer



## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE!

With the adoption of the MN Basic Code nearing soon, we have the opportunity to create a Planning Commission, along with a Park and Recreation Advisory Board. The Planning Commission shall be the city's planning agency and has a vital role to the growth and sustainability of Clarkfield. If implemented, this commission would consist of seven members from the resident population of the city serving three year terms. The park and recreation advisory board would be made up of five members of the resident population of the city to be appointed by the Mayor. The advisory board will consult with the City Council and the Planning Commission and shall advise in matters relating to park lands, park facilities, and park and recreation. Please contact Amanda Luepke at the City Administration Office by contacting 320-669-4435 if you have questions or would be interested in serving on the Planning Commission or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

## TRUTH IN TAXATION

Tuesday, December 5, 2017  
6:00 PM  
City Hall Meeting Room

Minn. Stat. § 275.065 establishes a process, generally referred to as "truth-in-taxation," for establishing and communicating proposed levies for the purpose of engaging the public in the budgeting and levy process. Truth In Taxation public hearing gives property owners an opportunity to review information pertaining to a property tax proposed for their property and to react to local budget decisions before they become finalized.

## PRAIRIE FIVE RIDES

Hours of Service:  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
9:00 am-3:00 pm  
1-877-757-4337



## AFTERNOON WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 3, 2017  
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
Clarkfield Care Center



Clarkfield Prairie Cardinals are sponsoring their annual "Afternoon with Santa" event at the Clarkfield Care Center on December 3rd from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Activities will include cookies and hot drinks, carriage rides, Christmas music, and treat bags. Of course Santa plans to be there also! As in the past, we will be accepting donations to the Food Shelf.

*Thank you!* Thank you to F & M Bank for hosting the "Fill the Crib" fundraiser. We appreciate your support to the child care initiative and thank you for those who donated. Thank you to all who attended and supported the child care initiative fundraiser on Thursday, November 30. Thank you to the Clarkfield Lions for serving the meal and supporting the initiative.

## CLARKFIELD AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



On Tuesday, November 28th, the Clarkfield Area Community Foundation handed out various grants to community organizations in the amount of \$9,234.34 that will help continue to grow and improve Clarkfield. Clarkfield Garden Club - \$240 for landscaping at the new daycare center; Clarkfield Community Library - \$500 to be used towards purchasing STEM materials; The Mall Association - \$1,800 to be used to updating the public restrooms within the mall; Clarkfield Prairie Cardinals - \$1,000 for music for Cardinal Days; Clarkfield Prairie Cardinals - \$500 to be used for various events held within the City; the Clarkfield Daycare Initiative - \$5,194.34. Thank you to the CACF for your continued support and passion for the community of Clarkfield.

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