



CITY OF Clarkfield, Minnesota

"HEART OF THE PRAIRIE"

PRAIRIE POST

COMMUNITY DAYCARE INITIATIVE

I want to give an update on the daycare center, as the project has gotten much bigger than we anticipated. I also want to recap how far we have come and how Clarkfield has stayed ahead of the daycare crisis in Yellow Medicine County. I went to my first County EDA meeting dealing with daycare back in February. The first meeting I attended was focus on the need of child care, but also focusing on how to supply existing and new child care providers with the right tools to be successful. I am proud to be part of this county wide initiative in providing solutions for child care. The conversation started with the different cities within the county that need child care services, Clarkfield being one of them. I remember thinking, "Oh good, the Clarkfield Charter School is working on starting a center at the school, so we are covered." I was relieved that they were taking the reins and that Clarkfield was doing something about the need. And though that was true, I was soon quickly going to learn the roadblocks the community was about to face in providing child care. Kathy Koetter, Clarkfield Charter School Director, wanted initially to have a one-stop place for parents and was hoping to start a summer daycare program that would turn year-round. After exhausting all options for year-round child care at the school, Kathy requested that I become part of the conversation in March as we would need a facility outside of the charter school property. In April, Kathy and I realized this daycare center would need to be an initiative for the entire community and discussed locations with the City Council. The City Council directed me to inquire about the property north of the old school building, as it is a prime location with plenty of space, along with looking into the Care Center as an option. At the same time we started conversations with the Care Center and looking at the property north of the old school building, we successfully connected with someone to hold the license for the daycare center. After meeting and speaking with Kara Super-Peterson, Tiny Sprouts Daycare, she indicated concerns with the Care Center location knowing state daycare regulations. We moved forward full steam ahead and successfully acquired the property north of the old school building and officially made the announcement in the June 2017 Prairie Post Newsletter that Clarkfield would be home to a 48-child care facility. The project was relatively simple and inexpensive with adding on to the existing building on the property. After learning, we could not simply add on to the existing building, we went to the drawing board on a newly constructed building with a much larger price tag. We took the opportunity to dig into the county daycare concern and evaluate the need for families. The decision was made to increase the facility from 48 to 58 children, serving 24 infants, 14 toddlers, and 20 preschool aged children. The daycare center is working together with the charter school for preschool. The preschool program is and will continue to be offered at the Charter school and the daycare will provide spots to preschoolers when the kids do not have preschool class. The Charter School has 2 preschool class programs. The 3-year old class attends on Tuesdays and Thursdays, meaning these children can attend the daycare center on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at a daily rate of \$36. The 4-year old class is opposite of this schedule. Today, Kathy and I are working on submitting a grant in the amount of \$200,000 with the Bush Foundation. We discussed the initiative with the foundation multiple times and feel like we have a strong application. The grant we are applying for is different than most. The grant application focuses on the community collaboration efforts and process. We have also learned of other grant opportunities, in which we will also be applying for. As the project expanded, we needed to open the project up to the competitive bidding process. Cont. page 2....

COUNCIL MEETING

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Jeff Lobell
mayor@clarkfield.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Dale Stringer Jr.
council1@clarkfield.org
- Sue Fritz
council2@clarkfield.org
- Jerry Kaupang
council3@clarkfield.org
- Emily Bruflat
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

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

CITY OF CLARKFIELD

812 10th Avenue | Clarkfield, MN 56223
 Phone: (320) 669-4435
 Fax: (320) 669-4815
info@clarkfield.org
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

DAYCARE CONT.

The bids will be opened at the August 1, 2017 City Council meeting. The project is still moving ahead but with a different opening date. We are looking for the project to be completed by October/November 2017 timeframe. This also allows us additional time to secure the approval from the State on the licensing application.

I do also want to touch on the cost of daycare, being that the concept of paying for full time spots is new to our community and county. The ratio between children and teachers varies depending on age. The ratio in the infant room is that every 4 infants needs 1 teacher/aide. The toddler room needs 1 teacher/aide for every 7 toddlers, and the preschool room is 1 teacher/aide for every 10 children. The center will be 41% infant. The way the cost structure works is that parents will pay for a full time spot at \$140 per week per child. This breaks down to \$2.80 per hour per child. 4 infants at \$2.80 per hour equals \$11.20, and now turn around and pay a teacher/aide. The margin is very tight. Kara has stated that she is not taking money out of the business except to cover traveling expenses. This is definitely a community collaboration that extends past our community and county.

Kathy and myself are looking at temporary daycare options through family daycare licenses in Clarkfield for families currently on the waiting list. The project is still moving forward and I thank all those involved. I also want to thank those businesses that have stepped forward committing to help. This is a huge undertaking for the community but will have great long-term benefits. I am proud that Clarkfield is providing a solution to the major daycare crisis in our County. I am proud to be serving as your City Administrator and excited to see what Clarkfield is capable of. Please watch the Tiny Sprouts on the Prairie Daycare Facebook page for more details coming. - Amanda Luepke, City Administrator

BOARD OPENING

The HRA Board has experienced a recent resignation, leaving a vacancy to be filled. The board meets the third Thursday at 8:00 AM every month. For more information or to apply, please contact Steph Brock @ 320-669-4648.

Local
Postal Customer

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

YOU'RE INVITED!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017 • 5:30 TO 7:00 PM
EMERGENCY SERVICE BUILDING

Meet members of the Clarkfield Fire Department, Ambulance, YMC Sheriff, and MN State Patrol; check out equipment, and have a meal. There will be a free Pork Chop or Hotdog meal provided while supplies last by Prairie Grain Partners.



COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Give blood. Help save lives.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017

2:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

CLARKFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Donating blood makes a big difference in the lives of others. Did you know that 1 donation can potentially help more than 1 patient?

CLARKFIELD CHARTER SCHOOL

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2017 • 6:30 PM

The public is welcome to attend!

Pool Closing August 25th
Pool Hours extended to 8:30 PM

*Starting August 1st

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FACEBOOK


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