



# heart of the prairie PRAIRIE POST

JANUARY 2020

## NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

If you were able to attend our “Truth in Taxation” or our budget listening session held by the council budget committee, you were able to see first-hand how critical outside funding is to our community. The City of Clarkfield depends on funding from both the state and federal level and a majority of those funds are based on census results. For example, according to the Minnesota State Demographic Center’s page on the 2020 Census (<https://mn.gov/admin/2020-census/learn-about/why/>), the state of Minnesota received over \$15 billion for various Federal Spending Programs. Examples of these programs that Minnesota benefited from are the Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the National School Lunch Program, Foster Care programs, and programs to fund Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans. All of these programs and many more are dependent on funding, that are furthermore dependent on census data. According to the same source, the census count missing just one person, “. . . could mean forfeiting almost \$28,000 in funding over the next ten years.” I encourage you to take a look at the link provided above for a more detailed list of the various federal programs that Minnesota benefits from each year.

Another example of funding that directly affects Clarkfield is Local Government Aid (LGA). If you had a chance to be at our Budget Listening session as mentioned above, you may have noticed that Clarkfield’s LGA is \$367, 188 for 2020. This is one of the larger increases in LGA that Clarkfield has seen in recent years. There is more that goes into that number than just population (MN Legislature must approve the funding), but the primary formula used depends largely on a community’s population.

That is why the 2020 Census and ensuring **all** our counted is so important for the city of Clarkfield. Ensuring an accurate count will play a vital role in state and federal funding dollars for our city. Additionally, the 2020 Census is in need of workers! If you are interested and able, please visit <https://2020census.gov> to find more information and apply. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday

## CHANGE IN UTILITY RATES

The City of Clarkfield is committed to maintaining critical infrastructure and complying with all applicable rules and regulations to deliver safe, dependable, and efficient storm sewer, water and sewer services to our citizens. The City strives to maintain the affordability of these services. The City needs to increase rates for these utilities in the upcoming fiscal year. Rates are determined based on the proposed budgeted expenditures for both capital and operational expenses in a given fiscal year. The use of, or replenishment of financial reserves during a given fiscal year will also influence rates. For 2020, the water base will increase by \$.50 and usage will increase by \$0.50. The sewer base will increase by \$.50 and the usage by \$0.25. The storm sewer charge for 2020 will increase \$5.00. These rates will be effective January 1, 2020.

### COUNCIL MEETING

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

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### **MAYOR**

Zachery Hendrickson  
[mayor@clarkfield.org](mailto:mayor@clarkfield.org)

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Dale Stringer Jr.  
(320) 226-6857

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

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

Melinda Hedman  
[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

### 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 Service**

**Police Office (Non Emergency)**

**Clarkfield Public Library**



9-1-1

(320) 564-2130

(320) 669-7651



*heart of the prairie*



— LIKE US ON —  
**FACEBOOK**  
f

**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 Service**

**Police Office (Non Emergency)**

**Clarkfield Public Library**

**9-1-1**

**(320) 564-2130**

**(320) 669-7651**

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*  
Postal Customer  
Clarkfield, MN 56223

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CLARKFIELD, MN  
PERMIT NO. 3

## SPECIAL MEETING CONDUCTED

In a special meeting on Thursday, January 2, 2020, the City Council in a 4-1 vote approved continuing with the demolition of the old school project, to include demolition of the west gym. There was some unfortunate news that broke about the individual interested in purchasing the gym and the City Council decided to not move forward with that individual. The city thoroughly explored both the option of keeping the west gym for further use or to take it down with the rest of the building. As stated above, the City Council chose the latter in order to reduce future cost to the taxpayers, since the costs of rehabilitation are largely unknown. This is an unfortunate situation for the community as many of you have some sort of history for that school and this a decision that was not taken lightly.

## FLASHING STOP SIGNS

The City of Clarkfield is very appreciative of Tom and Becky Listul who brought a concern of the safety at the intersection of HWY 67 & 59 at the railroad tracks. This is a very unique situation to have two major highways intersect on railroad tracks. The Listul's worked with the City and County with not very much luck getting a solution to the intersection, but the duo did not stop fighting for the safety of the community. A few months later, the City office received a call from Mn Dot that the railroad intersection would be receiving two blinking stop signs. We are grateful for their determination and thankful to MN Dot for listening to and acting upon the concern.

## WINTER PARKING

After a snowfall of 2 inches or more or if there is snow emergency, all vehicles must be removed from city streets to allow for efficient snow removal operations. These parking restrictions are effective until the snow has been plowed from curb to curb on those public streets.

## 4-H IS FOR FAMILY

**Sunday, January 12, 2020**

**4-Leaf Clovers**

**1:15 PM to 2:15 PM**

**Hazel Run Lutheran Church Basement**

**Prairie Runners**

**3:30 PM to 4:30 PM**

**Clarkfield City Hall Basement**

Come hang out with our local 4-H clubs for fun, learning, friends, and community! Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP. We would love to see you there! Please contact the Extension Office with questions or to RSVP: 320-669-4471.

## TAX LEVY INCREASES

	History of Tax Levy	Increase by %
<b>2014</b>	\$346,068.00	5.66%
<b>2015</b>	\$365,041.75	5.20%
<b>2016</b>	\$372,342.58	1.96%
<b>2017</b>	\$388,870.00	4.25%
<b>2018</b>	\$384,750.00	-1.07%
<b>2019</b>	\$382,766.00	-0.52%
<b>2020</b>	\$423,366.00	9.59%

The City Council balanced the 2020 General Fund budget. At the December 3, 2019 City Council Meeting, the council voted to increase the 2020 tax levy to \$423,366 due to the old school project.

*heart of the prairie*