



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

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dale Stringer Jr.
(320) 226-6857

Sue Fritz
council2@clarkfield.org

Jerry Kaupang
council3@clarkfield.org

Melinda Hedman
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 Service

Police Office (Non Emergency)

Clarkfield Public Library



9-1-1

(320) 564-2130

(320) 669-7651



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CITY WINTER WEATHER POLICY

The City of Clarkfield City Office will follow the school district, Yellow Medicine East, winter weather policy on deciding to close the City Office. The school district notices will be broadcasted via radio and television. Information about the City Office closing will be posted on the City of Clarkfield Facebook page. The decision to close the City Office, to start late or close early is difficult due to weather conditions that can vary considerably from town to town. For this reason, your co-operation and understanding is much appreciated.

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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 %
2014	\$346,068.00	5.66%
2015	\$365,041.75	5.20%
2016	\$372,342.58	1.96%
2017	\$388,870.00	4.25%
2018	\$384,750.00	-1.07%
2019	\$382,766.00	-0.52%
2020	\$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.

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 while pulling in resources from Prairie Grain Partners with not very much luck getting a solution to the intersection, but the duo did not stop fighting for the safety. 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 the determination and thankful to MN Dot for listening to the concern.

MAILBOX DAMAGE POLICY

In 2018, the City Council approved a policy regarding damage to mailboxes during the city snow plowing operations. Property owners are responsible to clear snow around their mailbox. The City will consider making repairs to mailboxes only if the snowplow equipment "physically" hits the mailbox or post, and only if the mailbox conforms to the mailbox guidelines set up by the UPUS. The guidelines from USPS states to position your mailbox 41" to 45" from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox or point of mail entry. Place your mailbox 6" to 8" back from the curb.

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