



heart of the prairie PRAIRIE POST

JUNE 2020

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

We are thrilled to announce that Mr. Christopher Webb has accepted the position of City Administrator, with a start date of June 29, 2020. It was a very tough decision for Council to narrow down from our finalists. Chris has recently received his MBA and has 9 years of work experience in ministries and non-profit management. We are excited for this new beginning and the skills, knowledge, and excitement that Chris will bring to the position!

As we move into summer, I'm sure the rest of you share my excitement about the state continuing to allow the opening of various businesses and facilities. While unfortunately we aren't yet able to open our softball fields or fully open the campground to recreational camping, we CAN finally go out to eat. The Clarkfield Café and the Filling Station will be able to open at 50% capacity. On June 2, the City Council approved a temporary expansion of the Filling Station Liquor License to allow for liquor service in the parking area to the south. The City Council and I encourage you to support our local businesses, many of whom are struggling to recover from the COVID closures.

We are all tired and frustrated with COVID-19, and excited about openings, but this is not over and we must also stay vigilant. Please continue to wash your hands, social distance and wear a face covering when out and about. Stay Safe everyone.

~ Mayor Sue Fritz

SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS

The YME School District will continue to provide meals at no cost to students through June 30. Meals will be delivered Monday - Friday from 11:00 - 11:30 am near 1210 12th Ave. (former daycare building) in Clarkfield. For more information, call 320-564-4081 or visit www.isd2190.org/1/News/96.

Try out CURBSIDE PICKUP from Clarkfield Public Library. You can view the catalog at clarkfieldlib.libib.com. Then call 669-7651 or Facebook Messenger us with your selections.

**Red Cross Blood Mobile
Clarkfield Lutheran Church
Aug. 11, 2020, 1 - 7 pm**

COUNCIL MEETING

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Sue Fritz
mayor@clarkfield.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dale Stringer Jr.
(320) 226-6857
dstringer@clarkfield.org

Jerry Kaupang
jkaupang@clarkfield.org

Melinda Hedman
mhedman@clarkfield.org

Craig Giles
cgiles@clarkfield.org

CITY OFFICE HOURS

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

FRIDAY
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Clarissa Hadler

LIBRARY HOURS

**CLOSED
DUE TO COVID-19
Now taking appointments!**

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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EDA BOARD OPENINGS

The EDA Board has experienced a recent resignation, leaving a vacancy to be filled. There are currently two vacancies. The board meets the 4th **Monday** at 6:00 PM each month. For more information, please contact the city office at 320-669-4435.

CLOSED FOR COVID

The City Offices will be closed to traffic during the COVID-19 health emergency. Feel free to call us if you need anything!

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS...

Is anyone else just sick of that word? Trust me... I get it.

We've had some questions and comments about the city opening the softball fields and campground. Here is a very brief summary of the issue of potential liability with regard to COVID-19.

The main issues are;

- Will our insurance cover the legal expenses to defend a claim (lawsuit) and/or damages if losing a lawsuit?
- What is the likelihood of the City being held liable in a lawsuit?
- What is the likelihood of any individual council member being held liable in a lawsuit?

Attorney Chris Smith, of the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust, explained in a recent webinar that if a City chooses to allow use of their own facilities that goes against the Governor's Executive Orders, the following could take place;

- Injunctive Claims may not be covered by our insurance. Even if we won a lawsuit, the city could end up paying our attorney to defend it.
- The City may lose our discretionary immunity, which City's have when we implement policy in accordance with the law. So we might lose a lawsuit wherein we might otherwise have not been held liable for that same issue.
- Individual Council members (and staff) could lose their discretionary immunity, which means they could be held personally liable for a claim.

Now, none of this comes into play unless the City were to actually get sued. While it may seem unlikely, there are attorneys around the county that make their living filing lawsuits against cities and COVID-19 and confusing state standards provides **ample** opportunity for frivolous lawsuits.

We know that the state will continue to open things up, though unfortunately it appears that adult team sports is not part of the most recent phase.

None of us likes the situation we're in. Very little of this seems "fair" and often the openings don't make sense. If other cities are opening their facilities that is their own decision and potentially an uneducated one, at that. We ask that you please be patient and understanding. Your Council is being cautious because they are educated on the facts and because they are **diligently** trying to put the City in a better position.

Zap me a note if you have any questions. chadler@clarkfield.org

Clarissa Hadler
Interim City Administrator

