

EST. 2011

# See Nauvoo News

**EVENTS**

- April 11 Migratory Bird Day—Nauvoo City Center 10AM –3PM
- April 18 9 AM Mulholland Cleanup
- April 18 Noon to 2 Community Picnic Nauvoo Park District
- April 24 10 AM Arbor Day Tree Planting-Nauvoo Park District
- April 18 5PM-9 PM KC Trivia Night KC Hall
- April 25 7 AM Nauvoo Marathon

For more events and updated schedules see



**APRIL / MAY MEETINGS**

- Apr 1 Hotel Motel Board 4:30 PM City Center
- Apr 5 Economic Development 4 PM City Center
- Apr 13 Finance Meet 4:30 PM City Center
- Apr 14 City Council 7:30 PM City Center
- Apr 15 Betterment Association 7 PM McCarty Art office
- Apr 16 Fire Protection Meeting 7 PM Fire Dept
- Apr 20 School Board 7 PM N-C School
- Apr 20 Nauvoo Park District 6 PM –Library
- Apr 20 Library Board 7 PM Library.

**John McCarty receives prestigious 2026 Frank H. Atkinson Award**

John received this award at the Chicago Bushmaster’s Kustom Kulture Charity Art Auction on March 7. The event, which took place at the Chicago World of Wheels car show, saw over 70 artists create stunning pieces of art over a three-day period. For McCarty, a professional sign painter with over 50 years of experience, this award is a testament to his dedication to his craft.

McCarty's journey into sign painting began at a young age. *"I lettered my first vehicle painting when I was 13 years old for Elmer Kraus,"* he recalled. *"From there, I continued to hone my skills in hand lettering and airbrushing throughout my high school years and beyond."* When asked about his award, McCarty was humble and gracious. *"It's an honor to be recognized by the Kustom Kulture community,"* he said. *"I'm just glad to be able to do what I love every day."* The award is on display at McCarty's shop.

The Kustom Kulture Charity Art Auction, which benefits the Ronald McDonald House charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana, is an annual event that celebrates the artisan in a world of computer graphics.

The McCarty's plan to add a mini museum of old Nauvoo area signs with brief histories of the buildings they were in and other businesses that were housed there. This will be by appointment, as the museum is also a functioning sign shop. Watch these pages for information on an opening date.

*Excerpt of article by Alan Moberly*

**Nauvoo Is for the Birds and Barges on April 11!**

It’s spring! Time to celebrate the Mississippi River’s awakening. On Saturday, April 11, the Nauvoo Betterment Association (NBA) will feature a family-friendly event featuring migrating birds (in honor of Migrating Bird Day), and the towboats, and barges that ply the river.

For those bird lovers who would like to start the day with a FREE guided bird walk, meet at 8 a.m. at Nauvoo Riverwalk’s viewing platform, Parley and Water Streets for “Birding with Audubon,” with Brian “Fox” Ellis, storyteller, naturalist, and Audubon enthusiast.

A \$5 admission will be charged for participation in the rest of the day’s events: 10-11 a.m., a make-and-take-it activity will focus on creating futuristic or fantastically interesting birds for children up to 12 years old (an adult needs to accompany children 10 and under). All materials will be provided. At 11 a.m.-Noon, Brian will delight his audience with storytelling: “Bird Tales: Songs and Stories from Other Cultures.” Lunch (\$5) will be available from noon-12:30. From 12:30-1:30 p.m.. Brian, still in storytelling mode, will magically set the stage for his second presentation “Adventures with John James Audubon,”

Then, having paid homage to the river’s feathered friends, Mark Hanlin retired” towboat” captain (not “barge” captain!) from Montrose, will explore the river from a different perspective. He will give an overview of a captain’s day-to-day duties, including the challenges and pleasures of the job.

The \$5 admission fee is good for any or all of the events and is open to all. Children of any age will enjoy the presenters, See beautifulnauvoo.com, Caremonger’s City of Nauvoo’s Facebook page, or call Karen Ihrig at 217.453.2202 for more information.

**Nauvoo Area Seniors**

Over fifty? Then, you are welcome to join other “seniors” at the Nauvoo Area Seniors’ luncheon on Wednesday, April 29 at 11:00, at Nauvoo City Center. Cost for lunch is a free-will offering. NC Music Department under direction of Madeline Dorn will present the program and dine with the seniors. See you there!

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST/EASTER EGG HUNT**

The NFPD will host its annual pancake breakfast fundraiser and Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 4, at the fire station. Breakfast pancakes and sausage, will be served from 7:00 until 10:00 a.m. The egg hunt will begin at 10:00 a.m. The cost for the breakfast is a free-will offering. Word is that the Easter Bunny will make an appearance!

**GROW NAUVOO UPCOMING EVENTS**

Apr 18- Mulholland Cleanup. Meet at Community Center from 9 to 10:30. Bring gloves and any tools you need.  
 Apr 18-Community Picnic at “Purple Park” (Nauvoo Park District) 395 N Winchester 12-2PM. Hot dogs furnished, bring side or dessert to share as well as outdoor games and chairs.

**MORE EVENTS**

Apr 18-Trivia Night-KC Hall 5-9 PM  
 Apr 25-Nauvoo Marathon 7 AM

**ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING**

Plant a tree in the Dog Park at the Park District, 395 N Winchester at 10:30 on April 24. Sponsored by the Nauvoo Betterment Association Tree Committee.

**Art Opportunities in Nauvoo**

On July 18, the Nauvoo Art Council will use the City Center’s lawn as a venue to display the original works of local artists. A 10 x 10 space will be allocated from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. for the event. Get those creative juices flowing! Check beautifulnavoo.com website for more information.

**CALLING ALL ARTISTS!**

The Natural Nauvoo Art Competition invites artists of all ages to submit original artwork inspired by Nauvoo’s natural landscapes, birds, and wildlife. Entries are due by **April 10**, with the competition and public display held on **April 11**. The entry fee is **\$35 per piece**, and award will be given for **Best in Show with a prize of \$250**. Artwork will be showcased during the Natural Nauvoo / Bird City event, celebrating creativity and the natural beauty of Nauvoo. For more information see beautifulnavoo.com/art or email visitnavoo.illinois@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Nauvoo Betterment Association.

**Winners of Business Plan Competition**

The Nauvoo Business Development Group is proud to announce the winners of its recent Business Plan Competition, the culmination of a series of business development classes designed to support and grow local entrepreneurship.

The classes, hosted by Grow Nauvoo and the Nauvoo Tourism Office with assistance from the Small Business Development Center, guided participants through the process of building a strong, actionable business plan. Topics included market research, financial planning, marketing strategy, and operational development. Participants then submitted completed business plans and delivered presentations showcasing their ideas and vision.

This year’s competition resulted in a tie, recognizing two outstanding local entrepreneurs for their innovation, preparation, and commitment to growing business in Nauvoo.

**McKenzie Bryant**, owner of *Bryant Homestead*, and **Lyuba Hall**, founder of *Bake Royale LLC*, were each awarded a \$300 prize.

“The Business Plan Competition is about more than just an award—it’s about building confidence, skills, and momentum for our local entrepreneurs,” said Rebecca Williamson Nauvoo Tourism Director. “We are excited to see both of these businesses continue to grow and contribute to Nauvoo’s vibrant small business community.”

The Nauvoo Business Development Group, along with its partners, remains committed to fostering economic growth by supporting new and existing businesses through education, mentorship, and opportunity.

For more information about future classes or business development opportunities in Nauvoo, please contact the Nauvoo Tourism Office. [www.beautifulnavoo.com](http://www.beautifulnavoo.com) or [www.grownauvoo.org](http://www.grownauvoo.org)



**DID YOU KNOW???**

The Hancock County Public Transportation Program offers service for those needing transportation to appointments. If you are interested in this program or currently use it, we want to hear from you. Please contact Rebecca Williamson at 309-221-9803 for more information.

### COMPREHENSIVE TABLETOP TORNADO EXERCISE

On February 12 in a proactive effort to bolster community safety ahead of the upcoming tornado season, approximately 20 representatives from city government, county agencies, public safety, volunteer groups, and local stakeholders met to evaluate response capabilities and identify areas for improvement. Led by Nauvoo Fire Protection District (NFPD) Fire Chief Kendall Gallaher, the “Nauvoo Tornado Tabletop Exercise simulated tornado touching down in Nauvoo on July 15 at around 10:00 p.m., during the town’s busy pageant season. The exercise goal was to “identify gaps, improve communication, and develop concrete steps to ensure Nauvoo is resilient in the face of severe weather.”

Participants reviewed existing warning systems, including outdoor sirens, city text alerts, and social media. Nauvoo’s five outdoor sirens are activated for tornado warnings with winds over 70 mph, sounding for one minute every five minutes. The city’s text alert system requires residents and visitors to opt-in by texting “NAUVOO” to 91896, a capability that could be expanded with federal alert systems like IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert Warning System) for broader reach. The group explored the importance of educating the public, especially for tourists unfamiliar with tornado signals. Suggestions included distributing safety information at motels, B&Bs, and state parks, as well as conducting pre-event announcements during large gatherings.

Overloaded 911 and radio channels during the simulated storm underscored the need for redundant communication methods. Options discussed included utilizing GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) and amateur radio nets operated by Nauvoo Emergency Radio Communications, which can relay vital information if traditional systems fail. The exercise also stressed establishing a unified command structure and a dedicated Joint Information Center to prevent conflicting messages, with the Mayor or designated official serving as the primary spokesperson.

Participants identified potential shelter sites such as churches, school gyms, and the community center, which is being equipped with an emergency power generator. The Red Cross and Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) are poised to assist with shelter management, volunteer coordination, and long-term recovery efforts. The importance of clear housing plans, volunteer management, and resource allocation was emphasized to ensure quick mobilization post-disaster.

Critical infrastructure systems, including water, sewer, and fuel supplies, were reviewed. The city’s water plant and sewer lift stations have backup generators, but fuel management and mutual aid arrangements need strengthening to sustain operations during extended outages.

A key outcome was the consensus on developing policies for large event management during severe weather, including criteria for canceling or delaying events like the Nauvoo Pageant. The group agreed to establish procedures for regular public briefings and designated spokespeople.

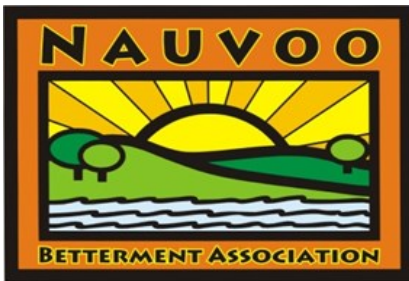
Immediate action items include updating contact lists, enhancing communication training, and formalizing procedures for staging, damage assessment, and sheltering.

A follow-up meeting will be scheduled within the next two months to review progress and refine plans. Leaders from city, county, and community organizations are committed to working collaboratively to enhance Nauvoo’s disaster resilience.

Mayor Jim Boyles summed up the sentiment: “This exercise shows us where we’re strong and where we need to improve. Our goal is to protect our residents, visitors, and our historic community, no matter what severe weather may come.”

This tabletop exercise represents a vital step in Nauvoo’s ongoing efforts to prepare for natural disasters. By simulating real-world scenarios, the community aims to ensure swift, coordinated, and effective responses to protect lives and property.

*Summarized Article by Alan Moberly*



Articles may be submitted at any time to  
Schafer.barb0495@gmail.com  
Deadline for the April issue is March 23, 2026

See Nauvoo News may be picked up at the following locations for a suggested donation of twenty-five cents: City Hall, Fudge Factory, Nauvoo Pharmacy, State Bank of Nauvoo, and The Red Front. The newsletter may also be found online at Beautiful Nauvoo's Facebook Page and at [www.beautifulnauvoo.com](http://www.beautifulnauvoo.com). **Note:** The See Nauvoo News staff reserves the right to condense event information, referring readers to reference sites for specific event details.

### Housing Assessment in Nauvoo

A March meeting sponsored by Economic Development Committee's subcommittee on housing, featured Becky Darling's (Illinois Housing Development Authority, IHDA) review of the recently completed 62354 zip code's housing assessment in the recent survey of the 62354 zip code. The survey yielded a "high" response 103 response from mostly older residents. Some of the results noted the need for more senior and more affordable housing with both more rental properties and opportunities for home ownership for families while there was both strongly agree and disagree re: adequate commercial and retail development. A need was expressed for affordable and nutritious food and more transportation options. There was strong agreement on availability of parks and recreation facilities. An assessment of conditions of housing stock yielded 72% in excellent condition; 4.9%, average, 2.6%, fair; and 1% poor. The majority of roofs (79.6%) were considered good, while 8.7% were fair.

The IHDA provided its services for both creating the tool for the survey and evaluation at no cost. The results might help Nauvoo's access to the Federal Opportunity Zone's financial assistance, which is based on rural areas, income levels, and the 62354 zip code area of the 2020 census map. It will also be reflected in Nauvoo's Comprehensive Plan and encourage prospective developer's interest in Nauvoo. Kudos to the dedicated group of citizens who did the survey and who will look forward to seeing positive effects of their efforts.

*Article by Karen Ihrig*

### City Council News

The Nauvoo City Council met in front of 11 attendees Thursday, March 12, at the Nauvoo City Center.

The aldermen approved the following:

Payment of \$42,052.80 to Laverdiere Construction for work on improvements to City Park. The city will borrow the money from State Bank of Nauvoo and will repay it once the promised grant funds are received.

Purchase of a new 2026 Dodge Durango police squad car at a cost of \$58,879.42, replacing the current 2018 Dodge Ram. The existing vehicle will be traded in after a resolution declares it surplus property and authorizes its disposal.

Increase the Hotel/Motel annual license fees from \$60 to \$75.

Purchase of two new picnic tables for City Park at a cost of \$1,070 each, plus delivery. One of the tables will meet ADA requirements.

Payment of \$190 for registration, plus lodging and per diem expenses, for the city Director of Public Works to attend the Illinois Rural Water Association (ILRWA) Conference in Effingham.

Acceptance of a \$12,500 Strong Communities Initiative grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

Acceptance of a \$20,000 Tourism Attraction grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Opportunity.

Reimbursement of \$285 in lodging expenses for Nauvoo Tourism Director to attend the Iowa Tourism Conference.

A donation of \$100 to the Warsaw High School after-prom event.

Allow the Farmers Market to operate at City Park. Local farmers, gardeners and crafters will be there to sell their products every Friday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., from June 5 through September 25.

Allow the Nauvoo Arts Council to hold a fundraiser on the lawn in front of the City Center on Saturday, July 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Vendors will be there to sell a variety of genres.

Jordan Squire, representing the Economic Development Committee, announced that disc golf "disc pole holes" will be installed at Nauvoo State Park on March 28, and that Mulholland Cleanup Day will be Saturday, April 11, at 9:00 a.m., in front of the City Center. He added that the City has a goal of 250 hours of service this year to celebrate America's birthday, and that helping to "spruce up" Mulholland Street would be a good start.

Mayor Jim Boyles said the citywide cleanup will be Saturday April 4. This is an opportunity for residents to put their old junk out on the curb for pickup. The City will mail out flyers explaining the rules.

Chief Ryan Dykstra provided a February update on police activity, noting that the Nauvoo Police Department responded to or initiated 81 incidents. Of these, 43 involved traffic stops, leading to 27 citations for violations of city ordinances. Among these, there was one arrest for DUI (alcohol) and for possession of methamphetamine. An additional arrest was made for an aggravated battery incident from the previous month. Additional charges were filed for resisting arrest.

*Article by Alan Moberly*