

EST. 2011

See Nauvoo News

EVENTS

- May 16 Plant Swap Weld Museum 1-4PM and opening of museum
- May 23 Disc Golf Fundraiser 10 AM State Park
- May 25 Memorial Day Picnic 11 to City Park
- May 25 Cambre House Craft Show 10 AM to 3 PM

For more events and updated schedules see beautifulnauvoo.com

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Nauvoo City Council met in front of 12 attendees last Tuesday, April 14, at the Nauvoo City Center. The aldermen unanimously voted in favor of the following:

Approved payment of \$33,789.06 to Laverdiere Construction for improvements to City Park.

Accepted a bid from Joe Hopp Electri & Const. for \$2,900 to install bicycle rack at City Center.

Authorized City Employees to aid in installing new speed radar signs on Mulholland Ave (State Highway 96) once they arrive. No funds will be spent.

Increased business license fee from \$10 one time, to \$10 annually, with a \$40 monthly late fee.

Accepted a bid from McCarty Art Design for \$568 to create small Journey Stories panels for the foyer, under the windows at the City Center. (The vote was 5-0, with one abstention.)

Accepted a bid from Labonte’s Lawn Care of Carthage for \$605 per mowing for the lawns at the City Center, old school building, cemeteries, City Park, and the water and sewer plants.

Approved a reimbursement of \$1,000 to Nauvoo Police Chief Dykstra to attend a conference with the County contributing an additional \$1,500.

Accepted a bid from Blue Line of Carthage for \$940 to clean carpeting at the City Center.

Authorized the sale of the surplus 2018 Dodge Ram Pickup with 53,503 miles.

Nauvoo Tourism Director Rebecca Williamson announced that Nauvoo has met all requirements to become a Bird City USA and that the city will renew its Tree City USA status. She added that Cards with QR codes on them will be on tables at local restaurants that will show what one can do in Nauvoo. She announced that a public transportation bus will operate in Nauvoo and Carthage on a pilot program for six months. This bus will run from the historic sites to the Nauvoo business district, to the Historic Carthage Jail, and to Memorial Hospital in Carthage. She also announced that Nauvoo will run tourism ads in Salt Lake City, Chicago, and St. Louis. These ads will target people whom the internet identifies as interested in visiting a beautiful small town. This advertising will be via a streaming service produced by WMBD-TV in Peoria and will run from April 15 through August 15. Both the advertising and the bus are funded through separate grants.



JUNE / JULY MEETINGS

- May 6 Hotel Motel Board 4:30 PM City Center
- May 7 Economic Development 4 PM City Center
- May 11 Finance Meet 4:30 PM City Center
- May 12 City Council 7:30 PM City Center
- May 18 School Board 7 PM N-C School
- May 18 Nauvoo Park District -6 PM Library
- May 20 Betterment Association 7 PM
- May 21 Fire Protection Meeting 7 PM Fire Dept

Police Department Report

Chief Ryan Dykstra provided a March update on police activity, noting that the Nauvoo Police Department responded to or initiated 55 incidents. Of these, 22 involved traffic stops, leading to 21 citations for violations of city ordinances. Additionally, one individual was arrested and charged with traveling to meet a child, indecent solicitation of a child, unlawful grooming, and solicitation to meet a child.

Mayor Boyles read a proclamation designating May 9, 2026, as World Migratory Bird Day in Nauvoo and a proclamation announcing Arbor Day on April 24, 2026

Taken from article by Alan Moberly

IMPORTANT NOTICE

May 1 marks the beginning of the new fiscal year for the City of Nauvoo, which means a new year begins for all City licenses and registrations.

The following are the fees:

Business License: NEW THIS YEAR—\$10 per year (Late fee after May 15th is \$40/month until paid)

Dog License: \$3 per dog (may incur City Ordinance Fines if you do not have a tag)

Side x Side License: \$25

Hotel/Motel License: \$75 which includes inspection

Nauvoos Area Seniors May Luncheon

Peggy Shurts will be the featured speaker at the May 27 luncheon, 11:00, Nauvoos City Center. She will share "The Tale of Two Little Girls" in her whimsical manner, which, no doubt, will elicit more than a few chuckles from the audience. All this for a free-will offering and a chance to mingle with friends and meet new ones.

DISC COURSE NEARS COMPLETION!

Exciting news as the latest addition to the Nauvoos State Park is underway. So far three of the nine holes have been completed with the remaining holes ready by May 23 in time for the disc golf tournament. Fundraising continues for an additional nine holes with the tournament beginning at 10 AM on May 23 for \$20 per person. A free will lunch will be available in the main shelter house at noon. Participants will be eligible for a 50/50 raffle drawing. To register call John Shaw at 319-470-6938.

NIGHT OF NAUVOO

Organized by the Nauvoos Arts Council, the upcoming "Night of Nauvoos" promises a diverse lineup of acts that will celebrate the creativity and spirit of the community. The one-night-only event will be held on May 2nd at the Nauvoos Discovery Program (formerly Christ Lutheran Church), located at [1110 Ripley Street](#). Doors open at 6:30 for seating on a first-come, first-served basis, with tickets costing just \$5. The show will showcase approximately 20 acts performed by talents aged from 8 to 70, including musical instrumentals, singing, dancing, skits, and juggling, all hosted by Studio C comedian Tori Pence.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

The Nauvoos Historical Society is sponsoring this year's picnic on Memorial Day in the City Park from 11 to 1. As in the past a picnic meal of pulled pork sandwiches, beans, chips and dessert will be served for a free will donation. Guests will enjoy musical entertainment. Join family and friends for this community event.

IT'S TICK SEASON

The Lone Star Tick, which has thrived in recent years due to warmer temperatures and an abundance of the white-tailed deer they feed on, has a bite that may cause a meat and dairy allergy known as the alpha-gal syndrome. Signs of the ailment include nausea, vomiting, breaking out in hives, wheezing, or throat closing up even hours after having eaten meat (maybe a burger?) or dairy (an ice cream cone, perhaps?) or having taken medications that have ingredients derived from animals. The alpha-gal allergic reaction usually appears 2 to 6 hours after a person consumes something that triggers it.

Be proactive. Protect yourself. Know that ticks are active when it's 40 degrees or above, especially in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. Wear light-colored clothing, making ticks easier to spot; tighter clothing prevents them from crawling up into gaps. Apply an insect repellent, such as OFF! (with at least 30-70 percent deet). Once bitten, use a tweezers to grab tick as close to the head as possible; pull steadily, removing as much of the mouth parts as possible. Clean area with soap or water or alcohol wipe. Wrap tick in tape, and flush down toilet or drop in rubbing alcohol. For a suspicious bull's-eye rash up to 30 days after being bitten or previously mentioned symptoms, contact a health care provider. Don't forget to check your pets for ticks, as well. (Taken from May/June 2026 Consumer Reports)



Stop by City Hall to purchase an American Flag set for only \$25 and display it for Memorial Day. Sponsored by the Nauvoos Betterment Association.

LIBRARY WISH WALL

With the weather warming up, the Nauvoos Public Library is already thinking about Summer Reading! Starting around mid-April, the Nauvoos Public Library is going to have a "Wish Wall." If you haven't heard of a Wish Wall, don't worry! It's new to us too. They are starting to pop up all over, many of them at libraries. While most of them are associated with America 250, our first one will have the theme "What do YOU Want to See at the Library?" We want to plan Summer Reading with ALL of our patrons in mind.

Since we are launching an Adult Summer Reading Program (18+) this year, we thought this would be the perfect time to try out our Wish Wall. Stop by and let us know what you envision for the library and the coming programs. We can't wait to read all your wishes!

AMERICA ILLINOIS

Congratulations to Tourism Director, Rebecca Williamson for her efforts to earn this honor for our City!

PARTIAL PRESS RELEASE

Nauvoo Earns 2025 Tree City USA Recognition From Arbor Day Foundation

Nauvoo, Illinois 4/25/26 – The Arbor Day Foundation named Nauvoo a 2025 Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to plant, grow, and maintain trees to benefit its community. In addition, Nauvoo was among 103 Illinois communities that were awarded a 2025 Tree City USA Growth Award for achieving accomplishments that go above and beyond the minimum standards to gain Tree City USA recognition. Nauvoo’s 2025 Growth Award achievements included a combination of maintaining an annual tree planting program, planting more trees than the community removed, working with a utility that is Tree Line USA recognized, regularly using recycled tree debris such as wood mulch, and maintaining regular inter departmental communications involving community trees across city departments.

“We’re proud to be recognized as a Tree City USA community and to receive our first Tree City Growth Award,” said Rebecca Williamson, Tourism Director for Nauvoo. “These honors reflect our commitment to preserving the natural beauty that makes Nauvoo such a special place to explore, and they play an important role in enhancing outdoor tourism experiences for our visitors.” To earn Tree City USA recognition, a city must uphold four core standards including maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and participating in an Arbor Day celebration.

TREE PLANTING

A small crowd gathered at Nauvoo’s Purple Park Saturday morning, April 25 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Arbor Day Foundation in style. Nauvoo residents Mark Anderson and Clyde Holverson flexed their muscles to dig holes deep enough to plant two Maple Autumn Blaze trees near the baseball diamond bleachers. The Autumn Blaze Maple is popular for its rapid growth, brilliant orange-red fall color, and adaptability to various soil types and urban conditions. Sponsored by the Nauvoo Betterment Association.

MTC FIBER OPTIC COMING IN NAUVOO

Construction has resumed this spring in Nauvoo for fiber optic service. Work will continue through town this spring and proceed towards Bluff Woods this summer/fall. Residents can look forward to lightning fast internet speeds up to 1 GIG with MTC’s Fiber to the Home. To receive progress updates register at www.mtcfiber.net or call; 309-573-3211.

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWS

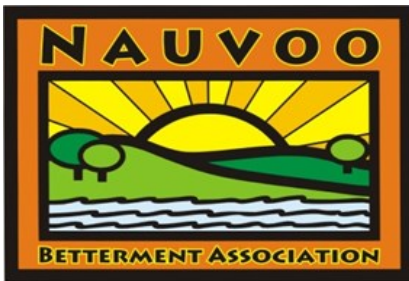
The Nauvoo Fire Protection District (NFPD) Board of Trustees convened for its regular monthly meeting at the Nauvoo Fire Station on Thursday, April 16. The Trustees discussed the replacement of the 3A78 ambulance, which is a 1999 model and 27 years old. The new ambulance will be a 2027 Ford E-450 with a V-8 gasoline engine and 2-wheel drive. The purchase will be subject to a bidding process. The NFPD plans to make an initial payment of \$100,000, with the remaining balance financed through a five-year loan. Once the new ambulance arrives, the NFPD will fit it out with a Multi-Band Dual Control Head Radio, a 6500 Cot Power Load Upgrade Kit (power lift stretcher), and a MTS Power Load.

The Trustees voted to add Bruce Bromley and Paul Jespersen as Emergency Service Disaster assistants. These men would assist during disaster responses for the NFPD through radio.

The NFPD pancake, sausage, and egg breakfast fundraiser raised a net profit of \$1,362.

NFPD Fire Chief Gallaher provided an update on the district’s activities, noting that the district responded to a total of 37 calls in March. Among these calls, 33 were related to ambulance services and 4 were fire-related.

The NFPD Board of Trustees’ meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Nauvoo Fire Station. These meetings are open to the public.



Articles may be submitted at any time to
Schafer.barb0495@gmail.com
Deadline for the June issue is May 22, 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. **Note:** The *See Nauvoo News* staff reserves the right to condense event information, referring readers to reference sites for specific event details.

Historic Nauvoo South Visitor Center



In 2024, the former Joseph Smith Historic Center, along with a majority of Community of Christ properties in Nauvoo, was purchased by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Church). The building has recently been repurposed and renamed The Historic Nauvoo South Visitor Center.

Recently the Church has had an organizational shift to better serve its needs. This included decentralizing its Historic Site division into four Regions: (1) Headquarters, covering Salt Lake and Temple Square; (2) Western, covering Wyoming, Utah, and California; (3) Midwest, covering Illinois and Missouri; and (4) Eastern, covering Ohio and New York. Each of the four regions now has its own site managers and staff, rather than being managed from Salt Lake, 1300 miles distant. The Midwestern Region covers the Church's Illinois and In Nauvoo (Midwest Region), Site Manager Juanita Coleman oversees and coordinates things that relate to all the Church's Illinois sites, among them the historic structures and landscapes, performances, and tours, and The Old Carthage Jail.. Church history's efforts are supported by Facility Management (FM) and the Illinois Historic Sites Mission.

Alex Stromberg, the Visitor Experience Specialist, programs the story content of all the tours, trains the missionary staff, oversees all exhibits, as well as designs activities available to visitors. (See accompanying article on Alex.) Woody Johnson, the Historic Preservation Specialist supervises all regional landscaping and historic building structures to make sure they follow historic preservation standards. These include where to dig—so as not to disturb buried artifacts—to the types of nails to be used in restorations. He is responsible for the Nauvoo House and the Brigham Young home, now undergoing restoration on the flats. He might be called “a house doctor,” administering to their wellness needs.

Registrar Raquel Gibson's job is to take care of all the objects and artifacts at the sites. This includes both taking inventory and cataloging of all items, referring worn or damaged items to Salt Lake for conservation. She also restages buildings' interiors, as needed, and manages their housekeeping needs and oversees climate control. The Church optimizes its presence by being good stewards of their historic sites for anyone who has interest in both United States and/or Church history. Nauvoo is a sacred place to Church members who see the area as a part of their historic identity and a way to reach those who wish to know more about the history of their faith.

Visitor Experience Specialist, Alex Stromberg



In 2025, Alex Stromberg was comfortably situated in his Salt Lake home where he and his family had lived for nine years. Then, in 2025, his life took a new direction. He, wife Elora, Sophie (13), Harrison (11), Elizabeth (10), and Hyrum (6) moved to Hamilton in preparation for a new challenge in Nauvoo. Alex, 39, Utah born, raised, and educated, majored in history and minored in music (he plays the piano) at BYU Idaho. Prior to his move, Alex enjoyed 15 years at This Is the Place State Park, Salt Lake City,

where he served in many capacities from a seasonal interpreter to a member of the administrative staff.

Something a professor had once said “The American West is the mythology of the United States” had always piqued his interest, encouraging him to pursue a Master's Degree in Historical Administration at Eastern Illinois University (2015). The degree work included working with historic preservation, exhibits, interpretation, exhibits, archival science, non-profit management, and material culture studies. The Nauvoo opportunity to connect American History, in general, and Nauvoo, in particular, was a dream come true—an offer he couldn't refuse. Welcome to Nauvoo, Alex.

Nauvoo Historical Society

The Weld House and Rheinberger Museums open on Saturday, May 16th. Local members are needed as volunteer hosts at either museum at least once a month. For the last few years, the museums have only been opened one or two days a week, thus missing out on educating lots of summer visitors on all phases of Nauvoo's History. Each volunteer session is three hours, 1:00-4:00 p.m. in an airconditioned museum, leaving time for reading, using the WIFI and the internet, browsing the collections and becoming familiar with Nauvoo.

Being an expert on Nauvoo History is not required; meeting people and making them feel welcome is. Bring a spouse or friend and enjoy a quiet afternoon. Contact Rita Souther 217-453-6635 for more information.