

EST. 2011

# See Nauvoo News

**EVENTS**

- Fridays, June –Aug Farmer’s Market– City Park 3-7PM
- June 7 God’s Portion Day—Sts Peter & Paul School
- June 18 & 19 Icarian Festival See article for details

For more events and updated schedules see beautifulnauvoo.com

**FRENCH/ICARIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

The annual French/Icarian Heritage Festival is scheduled for Friday, June 19, and Saturday, June 20, 2026, the festival promises a weekend full of world-class musical performances, cultural workshops, and community gatherings that honor Nauvoo’s unique history.

**Special Organ Recital** A special organ recital will be at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, located at 170 N. Wells Street. World-renowned organist Dr. Paula Pugh Romanau, Ph.D., and D.M.A., will perform a concert featuring masterworks by French composers such as Marchand, Locklair, Clérambault, and J.S. Bach. Dr. Romanau will bring a touch of European classical tradition to Nauvoo’s historic sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. The concert is free, but voluntary offerings at the door will be accepted to benefit Saints Peter & Paul Elementary School.

**Organ Workshop**

On Saturday morning, area church organists, liturgical musicians, and anyone interested are invited to participate in an organ workshop led by Dr. Romanau at 10:00 a.m. The workshop, designed to demystify ornamentation techniques used in classical organ music and hymnody, offers a rare opportunity to learn from a world-class musician. The \$25 registration fee may be paid by calling 217-525-2518.

**French Cooking**

Later that evening, at 6:00 p.m., attendees can enjoy a French culinary experience at Baxter’s Winery, where a plated dinner featuring French cuisine will be served for \$25. Following the meal, Bill Furry—husband of Dr. Romanau—and a representative of the Illinois State Historical Society will deliver a presentation on Icarian history, providing insight into the community’s unique origins and legacy in Nauvoo. The French/Icarian Heritage Festival is sponsored by the Nauvoo Historical Society, an organization dedicated to preserving and celebrating all aspects of Nauvoo’s history. With events suitable for all ages, the festival offers a meaningful glimpse into Nauvoo’s past and its enduring cultural ties to France. Telephone 303-609-0001 or 217-242-2743 (leave a message for a call-back) before June 15th to make your reservation for the French dinner on June 20th. Don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate Nauvoo’s vibrant history and musical traditions!!



**JUNE / JULY MEETINGS**

- June 3 Hotel Motel Board 4:30 PM City Center
- June 4 Economic Development 4 PM City Center
- June 8 Finance Meeting 4:30 PM City Center
- June 9 City Council 7:30 PM City Center
- June 15 School Board 7 PM N-C School
- June 15 Library Board
- June 17 Betterment Assoc. 7 PM City Center
- June 18 Fire Protection Meeting 7 PM Fire Dept

**WELCOME TO THESE NEW BUSINESSES**

1270 Mulholland

Tuesday - Saturday 9 AM-2 PM

**Bake Royale**

www.BakeRoyale.com (direct order)  
Soft bread, cakes and delicate pastries

**The Yarn House in Nauvoo**

Luxurious hand dyed yarns  
Get help with projects

**The Crazy Iguana**

2205 Mulholland

Tuesday through Saturday 10 AM to 10 PM

Tex-Mex favorites

**The Nauvoo Shoppe**

1340 Mulholland

10 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday

This edition of *See Nauvoo News* is sponsored by:  
Winning Looks, 85 North Iowa Street, Nauvoo 217-453-6519



**Nauvoo Area Seniors June Luncheon**

Lori Berlin, proprietor of Berlin’s Home Decor Boutique, will delight those gathered at the June luncheon with her experiences in the life of starting a business. Join her and “over-50” attendees for lunch (free-will offering), an opportunity to have a blood pressure check, a good lunch while sharing with one another. Remember to reserve Wednesday, June 24, 11:00 AM on your calendar. You will be glad you did!

**NAUVOO LIBRARY NEWS**

Another year of summer reading has already begun! This year, it is open to ALL ages. We have some wonderful prizes for readers in every age group. Plus, we booked a couple of special programs with our grown-up readers in minds. Sign up sheets and packets are available at the library. We look forward to spending the summer with you.

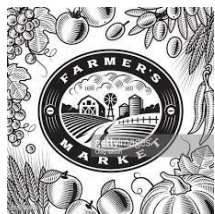
Pre-orders are open for the Nauvoo Public Library fundraiser. The logo this year was designed by our very talented volunteer, Lizzie Jespersen. Stop by the library for your pre-order form in the month of June. All proceeds from shirt sales go directly to supporting programs for summer reading and throughout the year.

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM: Plant a Seed, Read**



Thursday, June 25 at 2 PM City Center Lawn  
Bring your children for the fun “Bubble Palooza”

Friday, June 26 5:3 -7:00 PM City Center Community Room  
Free 80’s Trivia Event for Adults  
Bring a snack to share



**FARMER’S MARKET**  
**Fridays 3 PM to 7 PM**  
**June through September**  
**Nauvoo City Park**  
**Support our local vendors**

**MUSIC ON THE PATIO—Baxters Vineyard**  
June 7 Kathy Briggs & Spencer Smith  
June 14 Stealin’ Cooper  
June 21 Lee Klett  
June 28 Nathan Gosnell



**FREE SUMMER MEALS 2026**

All children 18 and under  
Healthy and nutritious meals available when school is out  
To find a site close to you call or visit the website:  
866-348-6479 Text Summer to 914-342-7744 or visit [HungerFreeAmerica.org](http://HungerFreeAmerica.org)



**July 3 Fireworks activities and games 6 PM, music 8 PM—Fireworks 9:30 PM—Temple Hill**  
**July 4 Community Breakfast 8 AM Visitors Center 290 Main St; Flag ceremony 9 AM;**  
**Sunset by the Mississippi Patriotic Pre-Show 6:30 PM; Sunset by the Mississippi 7 PM**

### **Nauvoo's Tourism Office's Dynamic Duo (see article on page 4)**

Nauvoo in at the receiving end of the creative and technical abilities of Tourism Director Becca Williamson and Social Media Manager Erin Jespersen. For the past three years in office, their synergy has energized and enriched the Nauvoo tourism experience. They have courted new contacts, prepared enticing media presentations for longer-stay and day-trippers to experience, and always have their antennae out for the next tourism venture.

Their union began five years ago when they started their own media business, Social Nauvoo with the tag line "Building unity in the community." This venture helped fill the gap for those seeking things to do in Nauvoo. They wanted to make sure Nauvoo was "on the map" of interesting places to visit. Then, three years later, Becca and Erin were employed by the city to do just that as well as to be a bridge between the various city organizations by including them in the process. In three short years, they have:

Built the Beautiful Nauvoo website, a community website where businesses and organizations have their own page and control their own content such as listing their own events and changing content, as needed.

Formulated the Community Guide, featuring contact information for the various organizations and businesses in the city. It is updated, as needed and available at City Hall in pamphlet form and online at Beautiful Nauvoo.

Taken Nauvoo's Facebook page from 4,000 to 10,000 followers

Created a Nauvoo Pinterest page and YouTube videos as well as Nauvoo ads that are streamed on TV for Salt Lake City and Nauvoo's "Drive Markets": St.Louis and Chicago.

Worked together with other social media that use "influencers," the newest form of advertising. One is Scripture Central, whose influencer is Casey Griffiths, a BYU professor and tour guide. Another is Shinedown, who plan to feature Nauvoo on network TV in the future. These influencers talk about Nauvoo with their followers, clueing them in on places to stay, eat, and letting them know what there is to enjoy.

Called out to nature and pet lovers by jumping through hoops needed for Nauvoo to be certified Tree City USA, Bird City USA, and Pet Friendly City.

The tagline "Museum City" now is official. There are over 20" museums" (*any curated collection of items open to the public*). It's true. Count them!

Collaborated with Nauvoo State Park Superintendent Robin Hinchee to allow disc golf (9 holes at present, soon to be 18) and worked with John Shaw, who has designed all the local disc golf courses. (Note: Course is free to use; however, you must supply your own discs.) In addition, Lake Horton will soon have rental canoes that will allow visitors to paddle to "Gilligan's Island" where some amenities are being planned.

Works in progress include continuing activities to keep everything relevant: making new videos with updated pictures and content, promoting the latest outdoor tourism, making the Nauvoo area more bike friendly--after learning that many bikers love riding on graveled backroads, using GPS programs for mapping roads and way-side stops, and including some photo walks for those interested in capturing the moment. The "two halves" of Nauvoo's tourism team make one creative whole as they blend their talents to meet the needs of the travel public in a city with a myriad of amenities. Nauvoo IS on the map as it's never been before.

*Article by Karen Ihrig*

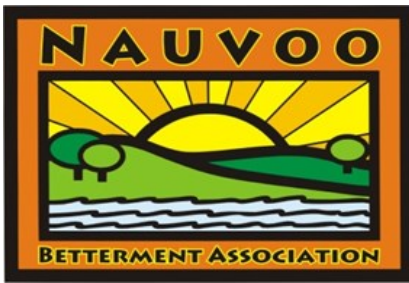
### **TURTLE WATCH!**

Turtles have begun their annual trek, crossing the highway. Now until about the end of June, female turtles are crossing the highway between Nauvoo and Hamilton (River Road). Every year they return to the place from which they hatched - to lay their eggs. Only the females cross the road. Please be mindful of this perilous trip and let them get across the road safely. Submitted by Deb Moffitt

### **Martyrdom Stories Museum Opens for Summer Season in Nauvoo**

The Martyrdom Stories Museum is now open for the summer season and welcomes area residents and visitors to stop in. Located at 1279 Mulholland, in the former Knights of Columbus building, the museum is open most days from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through August 1, the end of Pageant. Admission is free. New signage was recently installed to make the museum easier to find.

"Our goal is simply to help more people understand and appreciate this part of local history," Brian Stutzman said. "We had several thousand visitors last year, and we hope even more people will come through during the 2026 season."



Articles may be submitted at any time to  
[Schafer.barb0495@gmail.com](mailto:Schafer.barb0495@gmail.com)  
Deadline for the July issue is June 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](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.

### Rebecca Williamson

“Becca” is not new to the area. Her ancestors founded the town of Colusa and have lived nearby since 1820! Born and raised in Bowen, she came to Nauvoo often as a child where she visited her Fowler and Lionberger relatives. Her adult years, including marriage and a job as a mail carrier, found her living in various places within a 150 mile radius of Nauvoo.



Then in 2015, after the death of her husband and Fowler grandparents, Becca, who has always loved history, was prompted to purchase her Fowler grandparents' Cambre House, three miles north of Nauvoo. While living in Avon and continuing her mail carrying job at various post offices, she decided to open the Cambre House as a wedding venue, forcing her to enhance her marketing and advertising skills. In 2020 a leg injury ended her 20-year postal career, and she moved to the Nauvoo area into a cabin near Cambre House. In 2022, with her three oldest children (current ages) Petra(30), Bryce (28), and Alwyn (26) long gone from home, Becca and daughter Amelia (17) bought a house and moved into town.

### Erin Jespersen

Most of Erin's earlier life was spent near the water, as her father was in the Coast Guard. Her first 18 years were in Massachusetts and, then, much of the rest of it on the East Coast before moving to Nauvoo. They took a trip to Nauvoo for a friend's wedding, it captured her heart, and, it was situated on the water. Her husband also has family in Nauvoo and Quincy, so the move made sense. Since then, she and husband Steve opened Lock 19 restaurant with Jenny Nilson and ran it for three years before selling it to its new owners so Steve could devote more time to his landscape business, Noble Services, which opened in 2018. Erin and Steve have two children: Stevie, (19) and Lizzie (16).

Erin uses her photographic skills with her love of capturing slices of time for her own enjoyment and for those wanting to come to Nauvoo. All this in addition to her social media savvy and love of her job.

*Article by Karen Ihrig*



Stop by City Hall to purchase an American Flag set for only \$25 and display it for our country's 250 Birthday. Sponsored by the Nauvoo Betterment Association.



### NEW AMBULANCE

The Nauvoo Fire Protection District has a new ambulance. The new ambulance is a 2027 Ford E-450 with a V-8 gasoline engine and 2-wheel drive. 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 an MTS Power Load. This replaces their 1999 ambulance. The NFPD sold an old 1991 fire truck for \$7,000 to an individual from Colorado.

NFPD Fire Chief Gallaher provided an update on the district's activities, noting that the district responded to a total of 29 calls in April. Among these calls, were 21 related to ambulance services, 1 related to a traffic accident, and 7 related to fire services. Two of the ambulance service incidents were outside of the district to assist when the Hancock County Ambulance was unavailable.