

EST. 2011

# See Nauvoo News

N A U V O O B E T T E R M E N T A S S O C I A T I O N

## EVENTS

- Dec 5 & 6  
A Christmas Carol  
Camp Nauvoo
- Dec 6 KringleMart  
KC Hall 10 -5
- Dec 6 Community  
Breakfast 8 -11  
LDS Church
- Dec 6 Fire Dept /  
Soup Supper 4-7
- Dec 12 Christmas  
Walk 5 to 9 PM  
Visitor Center/Main
- Dec 13 "The  
Messiah" 7:30 PM  
Pageant Bldg Hwy  
96 East of Nauvoo  
For more events and  
updated schedules  
beautifulnauvoo.com  
Also, visit the Beautiful



## DEC/JAN MEETINGS

- Dec 3 Hotel Motel Board  
4 PM City Center
- Dec 8 Finance Meeting  
4:30 PM City Center
- Dec 9 Nauvoo Park  
District 6 PM -Library
- Dec 9 City Council  
7:30 PM City Center
- No Betterment Meeting in  
December
- Dec 18 Fire Protection  
Meeting 7 PM Fire Dept.
- Dec 20 School Board  
7 PM N-C School
- Dec 20 Library Board  
7 PM Public Library



## NAUVOO ICON CLOSES

After more than seven decades of service, the Kraus family, longtime owners of the historic Hotel Nauvoo, have announced their plans to retire and sell the beloved inn. The family has proudly operated the hotel for four generations, spanning an impressive 77½ years, making it a cherished

landmark in the community and a favorite destination for visitors seeking a taste of history and warm hospitality.

In a heartfelt message, the Kraus family reflected on their journey, quoting the biblical wisdom from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, Verse 1:

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the Heavens."*

They expressed gratitude to the many friends and "family" who have supported and stayed with them over the years, emphasizing that their efforts have always been rooted in community and human connection.

The family shared that, in keeping with longstanding tradition, they recently closed for the season and are now preparing for their next chapter—retirement and focusing on health. While details about the future are still unfolding, they assured their patrons that they do not plan to reopen next year. They also expressed trust in divine guidance, trusting that the Almighty will steer them along the way.

### A Historic Landmark with Rich Roots

The Hotel Nauvoo, housed in a building dating back to 1841, is a significant fixture in Nauvoo's history. Originally constructed as a residence, the structure was built in part by J. J. Brendt, a Latter-day Saint, and completed by Adam Swartz, a German immigrant. Its architectural features—spacious rooms, a porch, an upper verandah, and a distinctive cupola—are characteristic of pioneer Mormon architecture.

In 1885, the building was purchased by William C. Reimbold, who transformed it into the Hotel Oriental, offering overnight accommodations, dining, and even an antique shop showcasing collections of Mormon and Icarian artifacts, Indian arrowheads, and manuscripts. The Reimbold family operated the hotel until 1938, after which it sat dormant and fell into disrepair until John A. Kraus acquired it in 1946. His son, Elmer J. Kraus, oversaw extensive restoration, and the hotel reopened as Hotel Nauvoo in 1948. Today the hotel preserves its original historic charm while offering modern comforts.

*Article by Alan Moberly*

*Editors note: On behalf of the residents of Nauvoo, thank you to the Kraus Family for their many contributions to our city and its citizens. Generations of local youth benefited from the opportunity to work locally and learn responsibility that they carried forward as they became adults.*

This edition of *See Nauvoo News* is sponsored by:  
Red Front Restaurant, 1305 Mulholland St, Nauvoo 217-453-2363  
Shear Design, 360 S Page St, Nauvoo 309-221-4509



*A CHRISTMAS CAROL*



Presented by Nauvoo Arts Council  
 Dec 5th 7 PM Dec 6th 2 PM  
 Camp Nauvoo Lodge  
 Adults \$10 Children \$5

**KRINGLEMART MARKET**

December 6 10 AM to 5 PM  
 Knights of Columbus Hall  
 Enjoy Christmas in Nauvoo  
 Lunch, hot chocolate bar, shop with local vendors  
 See Santa! Hear Christmas stories read from our  
 librarian, Amber Bevier  
 Stuff the Squad Car 2 to 5 PM  
 Music by Nathan Gosnell at 2 PM  
 Sponsored by the Nauvoo Historical Society

**NAUVOO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
 ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER**

Saturday, December 6  
 4 to 7 PM



3 Soups - Maid rite Sandwiches - Desserts - Drinks  
 Free Will Offering Visit with Santa

**CHRISTMAS WALK IN OLD NAUVOO**

Friday, December 12 5 - 9 PM

Caroling - Live Nativity - Musical Entertainment  
 Parlor Games - Wagon Rides - Refreshments  
 Free and Open to the Public  
 Hosted by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints



**Nauvoo Orchestra Concert  
 Handel's "The Messiah"**

December 13 at 7:30 PM at  
 Pageant building 885 E Hwy 96, Nauvoo  
 Soloists:

Soprano: Joanne Gallaher Alto: Lisa Compton  
 Tenor: Ammon Doney Bass: John Brammer

**2026 Calendars**



Are you looking for a gift idea? How about a Nauvoo calendar! Filled with historic Nauvoo photos and dates this calendar is great for everyone who likes history and Nauvoo. Calendars are available for purchase

at Winning Looks, Nauvoo Pharmacy, Baxter's Winery, and the Nauvoo State Bank for \$10. Can't make it to Nauvoo? We will ship! Message the Nauvoo Historical Society page for details.

**"START OR GROW YOUR BUSINESS"  
 DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY**

Starting January 8th, local entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners have the opportunity to participate in a series of Business Development classes. Held every Thursday evening through February 12th at the City Center, these sessions will guide participants through the process of creating a comprehensive business plan.

The cost is \$50 for Nauvoo residents and \$100 for Hancock County residents. Organized by the Small Business Development Center under the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity and supported by Grow Nauvoo, **the classes also feature an exciting prize: a \$300 cash award and the chance to win three months of free rent for a business space at the old school.** To qualify for the drawing, participants must attend at least two classes and submit a completed business plan.

**Nauvoo Area Senior Citizens**

Join Nauvoo area seniors for their holiday party and luncheon on Wednesday, December 10 (NOT the last Wednesday of the month, as usual).

Instead of a formal program, there will be songs and games of the season and the usual fraternity that goes along with the season's activities. 'Tis the season to love one another and enjoy the festivities that add to the Christmas spirit.

## CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Nauvoo City Council convened last Wednesday (Nov. 12) evening at the City Center, with Mayor Jim Boyles presiding over the session that drew a crowd of twelve residents. During the session, aldermen approved a new application form for renting space in the old school building, which currently functions as an incubator for new businesses. Additionally, they authorized the purchase of a new security camera for the City Center entrance from Hopp Computing at a cost of \$790.

The council also authorized payment of \$202,142.06 to Laverdiere Construction for ongoing work on the City Park upgrade project. To support tourism, they approved the purchase of 10,000 copies of the updated Nauvoo Tourism brochure from Southerton Printing of Des Moines, Iowa, at a cost of \$7026.43.

In terms of ordinances, the council approved the second reading of an ordinance to increase water and wastewater rates by 3% in the upcoming year. They also approved the first reading of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Tax Levy Ordinance, and the first reading of an ordinance which proposes lifting the existing 2024 moratorium on nightly rental properties while capping the number of such licenses at 35 across all zoning districts—excluding hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts.

The topic of hiring a new City Engineer was also on the agenda. Representatives from Benton Engineering, currently working on the City Park project, attended the meeting. Doug Ericson assured the council that Benton Engineering is willing to serve as the city's engineering firm without requiring a retainer, emphasizing their availability and openness to communication: "Just pick up the phone and talk to us."

In addition, the council discussed plans to celebrate Nauvoo's history with a "Timeline Display" honoring the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The display, a joint project of the Nauvoo Tourism Office and the Nauvoo Historical Society, will feature key Nauvoo events from 1776 to 2026 and will be exhibited in the City Center lobby throughout 2026.

Chief Dykstra reported that in October, the Nauvoo Police Department responded to or initiated 90 incidents. Of these, 33 were traffic stops, resulting in 11 citations.

A concerned resident raised safety issues regarding the upgraded City Park. She suggested increasing the height of the fence around the basketball court from four feet to twelve feet. She also recommended installing a stop sign at the alley exit on the park's east side to improve traffic safety.

Meetings of the Nauvoo City Council are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Nauvoo City Center. They are open to the public and can also be viewed on the City of Nauvoo IL Facebook page.

*Article by Alan Moberly*

### LIBRARIAN CHANGE

The board of the Nauvoo Public Library has made the following announcement:

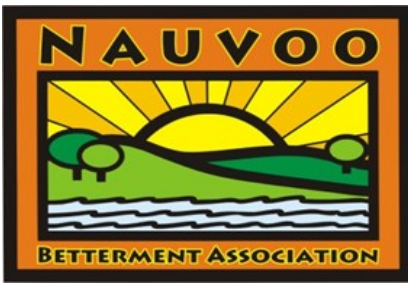
"It is with a bittersweetness that the Nauvoo Public Library announces a new Head Librarian. Amber Bevier has filled this role incredibly for nearly a decade. As she moves on, literally and figuratively, we send her with our deepest gratitude for all that she has accomplished for our community. Former Aide, Alicia LeVesque, is stepping into the role of Head Librarian moving forwards. With Amber's expert guidance, we anticipate a smooth transition."

Good luck to Amber in her future endeavors and congratulations to Alicia!



### Let There Be Lights!

The Mulholland Business District is showing off its new lights that outline each business establishment. The idea was the brainchild of Boyd Walz, member of Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce, in 2024. Bygone Nauvoo holiday decorations had been unearthed, refurbished (star, lamp-lighter, etc.), and used last Christmas. But, the Chamber was looking for a more spectacular "drive-through" idea to draw people to Nauvoo to enjoy for more than just the Christmas holidays. That's when Boyd and Brian Christiansen came up with outlining the buildings with lights. The Chamber liked the idea and budgeted for them. Brian Christiansen was able to purchase the lights for the Chamber at a good price. The project featured strings of small LED bulbs that could be programmed to create various colors. Buildings were measured, building/business owners were contacted for permission (they supply only the electricity), and members of the Discovery Group did much of the installation. The goal was to adorn all the buildings in the Business District all year long and to change colors monthly, as the season required. The lights to be on from dusk to dawn. (Linda Chatwin is chief programmer.) The lights' debut was during Pumpkin Walk where its orange lights made a big splash and earned lots of positive comments from those attending. Christmas is soon upon us. This year, the decorated trees in front of businesses will bask in the glow of the new red, green, and white lights, bringing a fairytale look to Mulholland.



Articles may be submitted at any time to [Schafer.barb0495@gmail.com](mailto:Schafer.barb0495@gmail.com)  
Deadline for the January issue is December 22, 2025

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.

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
"God Bless Us, Every One!" —Tiny Tim

Nauvoo's new arts organization, The Nauvoo Arts Council, is making plans for its first full-scale theatrical show, *A Christmas Carol*, directed by Sara Ljungkull with traditional carols and original music by Lynne Maxfield and Alissa Maxfield. It is set to run December 5 at 7:00 PM and December 6 at 2:00 PM at the Camp Nauvoo Lodge. The Council has built a full scale stage with professional lighting and sound to enhance the entertainment.

The performance will feature some local faces: Ebenezer Scrooge - Mike Cottam; Bob Cratchit - Meschak Tenney; Ghost of Jacob Marley - Mark Maxfield; Ghost of Christmas Past - Lynne Maxfield; Ghost of Christmas Present - Mark Maxfield; Ghost of Christmas Future - Ben Ream.

The cost of admission to *A Christmas Carol* is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. With community support and dedicated leadership, the Nauvoo Arts Council aims to enrich life in Nauvoo through the arts for years to come.

The Nauvoo Arts Council was born out of informal meetings beginning in January, initiated by Elaine Pence, and continues with a board of directors with the goal of uniting the community through visual and performing arts. Their motto, "The heART of Nauvoo," captures their mission to foster creativity and fellowship.

In September, the organization achieved 501(c)(3) status, opening the door for grants and tax-deductible donations to help fund their activities.

The leadership team includes: Alissa Wakefield, President and lifelong music director; Sara Ljungkull, Vice President with lots of community theater experience; Carol Conrad, Secretary, a seasoned musician and nonprofit leader; Carly McQuay, Treasurer, who's brought her theater background from Maine and Chicago.



**UNTOLD NAUVOO STORIES SYMPOSIUM**

The 2026 edition of the Untold Nauvoo Stories Symposium will be held Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14 at the Nauvoo City Center at 1445 Mulholland Street.

This year promises to be an unforgettable journey through the lesser-known narratives that have shaped Nauvoo and its neighboring areas, providing attendees with a unique lens into the rich tapestry of local history.

A sneak preview of six of the sessions is as follows:  
Historical spotlight: Victoria Claflin Woodhull's Quincy Roots (Nancy Benz)

The Steamboat Osprey and the Legendary Bell (Dave Moen)

The Murder of William Martin (Russ Fry)

Stephen A Douglas and Nauvoo (Reg Ankrom)

Church News—How Publications have Shaped Perceptions in Nauvoo (Dr Joseph Smith)

Captain James Gifford Steamboat Captain (Rebecca Williamson and Jim Topic)

Previews of other presentations will be announced soon. Mark your calendars for February 13 & 14 and register online at [www.untoldnauvoostories.com](http://www.untoldnauvoostories.com)



**CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH**

K	V	P	B	R	A	Q	K	Z	P
D	H	B	C	L	R	A	N	N	W
X	S	E	I	C	O	O	K	I	E
H	O	L	L	Y	P	R	F	T	O
V	L	F	M	S	A	N	T	A	G
X	I	V	Z	S	C	A	R	F	Z
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	X
R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	P	L
W	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	G	R
E	I	L	I	G	H	T	S	T	R

CHRISTMAS  
SANTA  
REINDEER  
ELF  
PRESENT

LIGHTS  
HOLLY  
ORNAMENT  
COOKIE  
SCARF

Easy Peasy Fun