

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

- Jan 8,15,22,29
Business Classes
6:30 PM City Center
- Feb 13 & 14
Untold Nauvoo
Stories

For more events and updated schedules see beautifulnauvoo.com

Also, visit the Beautiful Nauvoo Facebook page



JAN/FEB MEETINGS

- Jan 7 Hotel Motel Board
4 PM City Center
- Jan 12 Finance Meeting
4:30 PM City Center
- Jan 12 School Board
7 PM N-C School
- Jan 13 Nauvoo Park District
6 PM –Library
- Jan 13 City Council
7:30 PM City Center
- Jan 15 Fire Protection Meeting
7 PM Fire Dept.
- Jan 20 Library Board
7 PM City Center
- Jan 21 Betterment Association
7 PM City Center



UNTOLD NAUVOO STORIES SYMPOSIUM

The Untold Nauvoo Stories Committee announced that the 2026 edition of the Untold Nauvoo Stories Symposium will be held Friday and Saturday, February 13 and 14 at the Nauvoo City Center at 1445 Mulholland Street. This year's symposium 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.

Here is a sneak preview of four of the upcoming sessions:

Nauvoo Currency and Coins During the 1840s, by Dr Ugo A. Perego

Delve into the coins and currency that circulated during this pivotal decade in American history, from the general U.S. coinage of the era to the unique local notes used by Nauvoo residents, and how economic innovation and faith intertwined as settlers built a thriving community amid a growing nation. You'll also hear about a gold coin unearthed during an archaeological excavation in Nauvoo—an artifact that offers a tangible link to the city's past.

History of the Grape Festival Pageant, by Paul McKoon & Joel Ourth

Explore the colorful history of Nauvoo's community celebrations, beginning with the inaugural Grape Festival of 1938. Launched by visionary young Mayor Lowell Horton at the end of the Great Depression, the festival aimed to foster community spirit and economic renewal. The following year, the festivities expanded to include the popular Wedding of the Wine and Cheese Pageant, which drew approximately 1,000 participants. Hear personal stories of what it was like for families to be involved in this lively tradition.

Christmas Traditions of the Immigrants, by Donna Lawson

Attendees of the upcoming symposium will have the opportunity to discover the Christmas customs of our ancestors, with a special focus on traditions from Germany, France, Scotland, and other countries. A fascinating presentation will explore how these diverse cultural practices shaped holiday celebrations and offer insights into family heritage across different regions.

Nauvoo Button Factories, by Melody Lloyd & Eileen Smith

A special presentation at the upcoming symposium will explore Nauvoo's historical influence on the Pearl Button Industry along the Mississippi River, spanning from Hannibal, Missouri, to Muscatine, Iowa, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Attendees will learn about how this industry shaped the region's economic development and community life during that era.

From impactful lectures to engaging discussions, the Untold Nauvoo Stories Symposium is a remarkable opportunity to connect with the past and appreciate the complexities that have formed the heart of our communities. Don't miss out on this unique cultural event—mark your calendars for February 13-14, 2026! You can register online and view all the sessions at www.untoldnauvoostories.com.

New Year's Resolution Ideas: Buy yourself flowers, cut back on ultra-processed foods, schedule annual health screenings, volunteer regularly, spend more time with family, get more steps each day, try a new haircut, drink more water, be kind to yourself.



WINTER EXERCISE



Tired of being in the house and want to get out for some exercise? Open gym for walkers will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:00 AM starting December 30 in the former elementary gym. Please be aware that the gym will only be open until 11. Clean

walking shoes are required, so if wet outside, bring an extra pair. Any changes will be posted on Caremonger Contact Cindi Leon by email at Cindileon@ymail.com for more info.

ATTN: QUILTERS!

Nauvoo Emporium Quilt is hosting a cozy winter quilting retreat at the Inn at Old Nauvoo January 29 thru 31 for a cost of \$105. Meal plan available for \$130 or bring your own food. Special room rates at Old Nauvoo Inn Hotel. Space is limited so reserve your spot soon.

Bring your own projects to work on. Spend three days sewing, learning & relaxing with fellow quilters. Two classes available. Call Linda at 801-690-0518 for details or registration.



Nauvoo Area Senior Citizens

Join Nauvoo area seniors on January 28 at 11 AM in the Nauvoo City Center. All are welcome for a free-will offering.

Learn how our county government works from Hancock Co Clerk & Recorder Holly Wilde-Tillman.

HOUSING SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who helped with first stage of the Nauvoo Housing Survey.

We're now moving into the second phase which is quick and easy. We need 150 responses to produce an accurate assessment. Please scan this QR code to complete information about your housing.



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

Have you been considering having your own business but don't know where to start? You now have the opportunity to learn from professionals.

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 in January with a special class on 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.

For more information or to sign up email visitnauvoo.illinois@gmail.com

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Nauvoo City Council met last Tuesday (December 9th) evening with only four aldermen, just enough for a quorum. Twelve people were in the audience.

Council Actions Included the following approvals:

Payment of \$41,919.09 to Laverdiere Construction for work completed on the City Park upgrade.

Two police officers to attend a course on Catching Predators Online in Galesburg in January. The registration fee is \$350 per officer, with additional costs for per diem and vehicle use.

Contract with CTM Media Group to distribute the new Nauvoo tourism brochure in Chicago and St. Louis at a cost of \$1,275.

Payment covering two nights' lodging for four individuals attending the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs' 37th Annual Rural Community and Economic Development Conference in Springfield in February. The estimated expense is approximately \$1,000.

Christmas bonuses for city employees: \$150 gift cards for full-time and \$75 gift cards for part-time workers. A lease agreement with Motley Fitness for space in the old school building at a rate of \$750 per month for a period of two years.

Other:

The aldermen reviewed a quote from Niemann General Contracting of Quincy, amounting to \$1,550,000, for the demolition of the old school building. This estimate excludes asbestos removal, and the city is awaiting a separate quote from Meller Excavating of Fort Madison, Iowa.

Jordan Squire reported that the "Grow Nauvoo" committee is pursuing grant funding for two digital radar speed limit signs—one to be installed in front of Dollar General on Mulholland Street's westbound lane, and the other south of the Temple to greet eastbound traffic.

Concerns were raised about damage to basketball hoops at City Park and the old school gym, where rims have been bent from hanging. Proposed solutions include installing cameras, posting liability warning signs, and replacing rims with breakaway models and replacing the nylon nets with metal chain nets.

Jordan Squire announced a business development class beginning January 8th. The course costs \$50 for Nauvoo residents and \$100 for others. Participants will learn how to craft a business plan, with a \$300 prize for the best submission.

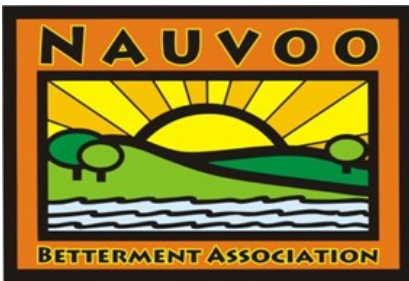
Squire also urged the public to complete the Illinois Housing Development Survey, noting that "we need 150 responses." The survey is available on the Caremonger Nauvoo Facebook page.

Rebecca Williamson, Nauvoo Tourism Director, reported that the new tourism brochure is complete. The colorful, booklet-style brochure includes a foldout map.

Nauvoo Emergency Services & Disaster Association (ESDA) Director Dan Gallaher announced that the city will conduct a tabletop tornado disaster drill on Saturday, February 21, 2026. The purpose is to strengthen disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts within the community and will involve first responders, search and rescue teams, weather spotters, and resource coordinators as well as civic, business, and other organizations to practice their roles during emergencies such as accidents, fires, or severe weather events. It will examine how the community responds to a hypothetical tornado occurring late on a Wednesday evening in July, followed by a significant power outage. The goal is to be better prepared. Mayor Boyles reported that in November, the Nauvoo Police Department handled or initiated 53 incidents. Of these, 28 were traffic stops, resulting in seven citations. Alderman Adkisson announced the Board's acceptance of the resignation of Amber Bevier as head librarian of the Nauvoo Public Library, as she has accepted a position at the Quincy library. Alicia Levesque has been appointed as her replacement.

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



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



A message from Terry Knoke, President of the Food Pantry:

“We at the Nauvoo Food Pantry would like to thank everyone for their support this holiday season!! Your generosity has allowed us to help our neighbors provide healthy and nutritious food to their families this holiday season.

In addition to the critical local help we were also blessed to receive \$2,500 in food through DOT Food’s Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. This program, a part of their volunteer efforts, is planned around the holidays to donate to food pantries in the areas where their employees work and live. Thanks to DOT Foods and their dedication to fighting hunger.

The Nauvoo Food Pantry is open every Monday, except holidays. We are in the northwest corner of the Nauvoo City Center, 1445 Mulholland Street, Suite C. Anyone in the area in need of food assistance, who meets the income requirements, is encouraged to come to the Food Pantry any Monday between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm

Thank you to area residents, churches and businesses for your continuing support of the Nauvoo Food Pantry. Without your support we would not be able to do what we do.”

Editor note: Our community is fortunate to have Terry, his wife Kris, the Food Pantry Committee and many volunteers to ensure this service is available to our citizens. We truly appreciate their efforts.

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWS

In November the NFPD purchased an Inva-Lift Pro 500 Lift Chair. This battery powered lift chair was designed by emergency medical and care giving professionals to eliminate injuries sustained by lifting fallen patients or residents up off the floor. The person is scooted onto the flattened chair, then lifted up from the floor/ground. In other words, the EMTs can lift the person onto the chair (3 inches), and the chair lifts them up. This helps prevent back injuries (and workers comp costs) to emergency personnel. The chair cost \$5,152.74. The vendor gave NFPD a \$1,000 discount. The NFPD is the first Fire/EMS Agency in the state of Illinois to have one of these.

The Annual Soup Supper brought in a total of \$2,340.50. One hundred fifty-nine people attended. The net profit was \$850.00.

The Trustees discussed a request from the Nauvoo Discovery Program for a property tax exemption on some properties. The NFPD plans to contest the exemption request at a meeting scheduled for January 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Board Room.

The Trustees voted to explore updating the District’s 2019 Fire Codes to achieve a better Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating. A higher ISO rating benefits the community by reducing insurance rates for homes and businesses. To qualify for a superior rating, the District must have a Fire Code that aligns with the most recent two editions of either the International Fire Code or the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Code. This process is expected to take a few months.

The district responded to a total of 15 calls in November. Among these calls, 10 were related to ambulance services, two were traffic accidents, and two were fire-related. As of December 18, the NFPD has responded to 355 calls this year—approximately one call per day. There were about 400 calls in 2024.