

EST. 2011

See Nauvoo News

EVENTS

- March 7 America Trivia 2 PM Nauvoo City Center
 - March 11 Housing survey results 6 PM City Center
 - March 14 Historical Society Meeting 6 PM Nauvoo City Center
 - March 20 5 PM KC Hall Fish Fry
- For more events and updated schedules see beautifulnavoo.com



Abraham Lincoln PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

I Didn't Know That...! America 250 Trivia Event

Test your knowledge—and memory—on 250 years of Americana trivia on Saturday, March 7, 2:00 p.m. (doors open at 1:00), at Nauvoo City Center when Nauvoo Betterment Association (NBA) puts the “fun” in fundraising. The cost is \$10 per person. Come with a pre-made team, or be added to a table of eight made up on the spot.

Popcorn and a “Happy Birthday, America” cake will be served. A grand prize basket will go to the winning team; and two door prizes: a year’s membership (free admission) for four to the Lincoln Museum in Springfield and an American flag, pole, and brackets for outdoor display will be drawn from entry tickets. (Additional flags will be for sale for \$25 each.) Entry forms are available and may be turned in at City Hall and Nauvoo Library by Monday, March 2. Come and celebrate our country’s past through tantalizing trivia.

We are excited to announce that the NBA has received a donation of a family of four museum membership to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield IL. Anyone who has visited the museum will agree that is well worth the drive to Springfield. The NBA thanks them for their contribution.

March General Primary Election

The Primary Election for state and local offices will be held on Tuesday, March 17, for in-person voting at local polling places. (Nauvoo’s is the former City Hall on Bluff Street.)

This election covers both state and local offices: for state: U.S. Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, Congressman, senator, and representative. Locally, Hancock County voters will select candidates for County Clerk, County Treasurer, and County Sheriff.

Early voting began on February 5 and continues through March 16. Times are 8-Noon; 1-4:00 on weekdays and on Saturday, March 14 from 8-Noon at the Election Department, County Clerk, First Floor, Carthage Courthouse. For clarification re: your voting status or additional information regarding voting in this Primary Election, check with the Election Department at 217-357-3519. Voting is a not only a privilege but a responsibility.

Note: In Illinois, when you participate in a primary election, you will be asked to choose either a Democratic or Republican ballot. This means you must declare which party’s candidates you wish to vote for in that election, and you will only be able to vote for the candidates running in the party you select. You can switch parties from one primary to another. This process helps each party select its nominees for the general election in November. *Article by Karen Ihrig*



MARCH/APRIL MEETINGS

- Mar 4 Hotel Motel Board 4 PM City Center
- Mar 9 Finance Meeting 4:30 PM City Center
- Mar 9 School Board 7 PM N-C School
- Mar 10 Nauvoo Park District 6 PM –Library
- Mar 10 City Council 7:30 PM City Center
- Mar 16 Library Board 7 PM City Center .
- Mar 19 Fire Protection Meeting 7 PM Fire Dept
- Mar18 Betterment Association 7 PM City Center

The Beautiful Nauvoo newsletter keeps you informed weekly on the upcoming events, community activities and special happenings. It also includes the monthly See Nauvoo News. Whether a resident or frequent visitor, it’s the perfect way to keep connected to the heart of our vibrant community. To sign up, go to <https://www.beautifulnavoo.com/subscribe>



At the recent City Council Meeting, Chief Dykstra said: “We have seen a noticeable rise in speeding this month. Please slow down and spread the word. As flattering as it is to see us so often, we’d prefer our interactions happen without flashing lights.”



Nauvoo Area Seniors

Over fifty? Then, you are welcome to join other “seniors” at the Nauvoo Area Seniors’ luncheon on Wednesday, March 25, 11:00, at Nauvoo City Center.

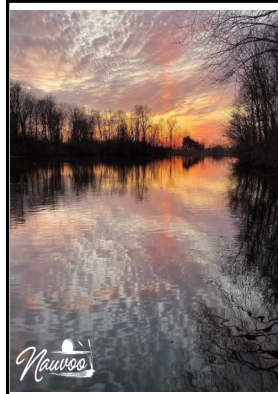
Dr. Tom Grant, Nauvoo chiropractor, will present a program “Aging Younger” that will speak on healthy options to incorporate into our lives. Cost for lunch is a free-will offering. See you there!

SAVE THE DATES

April 11 - Migratory Bird Day
Nauvoo City Center 10 AM—3 PM
April 18—KC Trivia Night
KC Hall 5 PM—9 PM

HOUSING SURVEY RESULTS

The Economic Development Committee, will reveal the results of the Nauvoo Housing Survey at the City Center on Wednesday, March 11, at 6:00 p.m.



Natural Nauvoo Art Competition

Calling all artists. Nauvoo Betterment Association (NBA) invites local artists to celebrate the natural beauty of Nauvoo. A \$35 entry fee (per entry, paid upon submission) gives artists the opportunity to be awarded a prize of \$250 for Best in Show. Entry deadline is April 10 from 1-6pm. All art work will be displayed at Nauvoo City Center. For full list of rules and more information, go to beautifulnavoo.com/art

Photo courtesy of Erin Jespersen

FLAG SALE



The NBA is encouraging our community to celebrate the 250th birthday of our nation by displaying the American flag at your home or business.

Don't have a flag? To simplify the purchase, a 3' x 5' flag along with an aluminum pole and hardware to display the flag is being sold by the NBA for \$25. These made in the USA flags were purchased from the American Legion. Flags will be available at the trivia event on March 7 or may be picked up at City Hall.

Thinking About Spring...

It's time for Migrating Birds to follow the Mississippi Flyway to their destinations. If you are a bird and river lover, mark your calendar for April 11 when Nauvoo Betterment Association (NBA) will feature “A Celebration of Spring’s Awakening on the River.” The program will include an early morning bird walk a family-friendly opportunity for make-it-take-it birds (monster, imaginary, futuristic); two hour-long sessions about migrating birds; and a barge captain sharing his career on Mississippi barges. Save the date. Look for more information in April’s newsletter, social media, and the City’s website: BeautifulNauvoo.com.

TOURISM REPORT

As the days grow longer with later sunsets and earlier sunrises, the beautiful city of Nauvoo is preparing for another busy tourist season.

Rebecca Williamson, our Tourism Director has been busy applying for grants and is please to have received one for almost \$17,000 to be used as matching funds for promoting events, attractions and destinations.

She also spent several days at a large travel show in Utah and met with her many contacts to help promote visitors to include Nauvoo in their travel plans.

Outdoor tourism is a priority this year, focusing on seasonal visits.

Social media posts from Erin Jespersen have highlighted many of the “ordinary” times in our town. If you haven’t seen them, be sure and check out her adventures.

Rebecca has spent many hours updating the Beautiful Nauvoo website with upcoming events, experiences, birding activities and everything Nauvoo, so check out the website for all the new items.

Our community is fortunate to have these two ladies promoting our town—they are an outstanding team!

Harvesting Sunlight

In 2018, Dusty Walker, life-long area resident and sixth-generation farmer living six miles east of Nauvoo, was looking toward the future. At that time, he and Tim Wollbrink, of Tri State Renewable, were interested in solar energy and the possibility of creating a solar farm locally on a 40-acre farm that Dusty had purchased in 2012. For various reasons, the timing wasn't right. (Eventually, in 2021, Dusty purchased the adjacent 40 acres.)

Having been a farmer all his life, Dusty, now in his fifties, recognized the diverse opportunities of a landowner, among them agricultural, recreational, residential, etc., and included a commercial solar energy facility as one of them. He did his due diligence in choosing a developer, who guided him in advocating for his proposed solar farm at Hancock County Board meetings in order to receive their blessings to move forward. (Note: The landowner relies on the project developer, who does all the “in-between” work, including finding installers) and the project owner—in this case Nexamp, who owns the majority of this solar project—to put it all in motion.

A myriad of details to be attended to: project developer's working closely with the Hancock County Board and the project owner, tiling the farm, and meeting with solar energy lawyers. In December 2025 work began in earnest on the 40-acre field, of which 32 will have solar panels, with an anticipated “energized date” (start production) by the end of 2026. (Hurdles remain after installation to prepare the project for producing power to the grid, including electrical hook up, and Ameren's testing for readiness.)

As of this writing (March, 2026) there are five projects in the Nauvoo power station area that are in various stages of development (amount of power produced in parentheses). Two are being done by the same developer: Dusty's (5MW) and another solar farm (3MW), located behind the Pageant Building /old go-kart track) off Rte. 96. A different developer is in construction of a 40-acre farm (5MW) on Rte. 96 directly south across the highway from Dusty's. Nauvoo-Colusa Junior High's project (.28 MW) has already been energized. An additional 40-acre, 5MW solar farm (unknown landowner with location somewhere between Nauvoo city limits and the Junior High) is pending review. To be solar-farm eligible, land must already be on an electrical grid of sufficient size to bring electricity generated into a power station.

According to Dusty, the tax revenue from his 40-acre solar farm will go from \$1,900 a year to ca. \$18,000 for the School District and from \$150 to ca. \$2,800 for the Fire District's share, (Notes: Both examples are based on previous taxes on bare farm ground. Depreciation will reduce taxes over time. For a much more accurate assessment of the real estate tax implications, contact the Hancock County Assessor's Office.)

FYI: Presently, ca. 24 homes in Nauvoo “harvest the sun” via solar panels on roofs or in yards. However, anyone with a utility bill in their name may elect to sign up with a community solar farm provider to receive similar cost benefits.

Here are some answers to often-asked questions:

Yes, solar farms take farmland out of producing corn and soybeans, which also “harvest sunlight,” as do the solar farms. For perspective: In Hancock County, there are 417,000 acres of farmland and 338,000 acres of cropland (USDA). If there were 30 solar farms at 40 acres each, only 1,200 acres would be affected.

The oft termed “wasted space between the rows of panels” is being studied. Cool-weather crops, like green peppers, thrive under the panels, as do plants that are known pollinators (such as the ones that grow between solar farm in Monmouth). Cool-season grasses with deep roots will be planted on Dusty's solar farm, thus reducing maintenance and refurbishing the soil over time, With design-spacing modification, sheep graze under them with no adverse issues: natural “lawn mowers” that also can be marketed for their meat and wool. (Go to Iowa State Research Farms website “Solar Panels” for more information.)

Electricity goes off? Solar panels will not provide electricity UNLESS system has battery storage, While some have this option, it is yet to be perfected, which is still a work in progress

Yes, the silica panels have a life span of ca. 20-25 years. At present, California and Florida are the main recyclers for the panels. Modern technologies can recover over 95% of material value of the weight of a project, which consists of steel, aluminum, copper, and glass, and silicon. Efficiency and costs are still works in progress.

The land used for solar farms is either leased or purchased outright. Leasing provides generated income—generally higher net income than farming the land—to use for supporting other farming activities or for setting aside for their children to carry on with ever-increasing farming operations.

Submitted by Karen Ihrig

