



The Voice of Progress

A Publication of the Epworth Community Historical Society

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February, 2018

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The Easter Bunny Is Coming to Epworth!



The Easter Bunny will arrive early this year on

March 24, 2018,
11 AM
SHARP.

Please be on time as the Easter egg hunt is over in minutes. Have your children, up to age 10, bring a basket or bag to collect the many goodies that the Bunny will bring. In case of snow, we will change to a "meet and greet" at the Epworth Legion at 11 AM. Watch the City website as well as posters for further updates. Hope to see you there.

The First Days of WDHS

by Bill Mausser

In the spring of 1962, the Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman classes at the old Epworth High School anticipated attending the new Western Dubuque High School that was in the process of being built in the southwest corner of Epworth. The 1962 Senior class was the second high school class to graduate in the new Western Dubuque School District and also was the last to graduate from the old Epworth School. Most of the conversation during our summer activities, especially among WD band members, was about the new school. We expected to be attending a brand new, functional, and finished school building that fall. Boy, were we ever in for a surprise!

The construction on the school lagged behind the expected completion date and caused the school to finally open for classes in late September. This late opening date was not as bad as it would seem to us currently because, back then, all schools started after Labor Day, including colleges. However, even given the later starting date, the new WDHS opening was still several weeks late. I remember the first day as being overcast and cool, and I was glad to be wearing my new WD letter jacket. Mr. Buchman was out front of the new school organizing the students into some semblance of order and then directing the students toward their first classes for the morning.

To our surprise, the classrooms were not exactly complete! All the classrooms did have desks and chairs; some had lighting, others did not. Some of the classrooms were without windows or doors. The weather did have some effect on the classes. I remember one unusually hot day when Mr. Wickham took our Junior U.S. History class up on the hill, which is now Buchman Field, and held the class under a tall, leafy tree that offered cool shade, located on the western fence line. The new cafeteria did operate the first day, so we were able to eat a noon meal, but I think it was a cold lunch. The priority of the construction crew was to get the doors and windows installed inside and outside of the building, along with the central heating system, before the cold weather of late fall arrived. They did manage to do this.

At the beginning of the school year, the gymnasium was just a piece of bare ground covered with gravel. It had no roof and was surrounded by classrooms, hallways, the administration office and the cafeteria. Hence, all the basketball games for the first semester of the 1962-63 season were played away. When the priority teaching areas were



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- **Annual advertising rates (4 editions)** - \$60 for half business card size.
- *Voice of Progress* is published quarterly - February, May, August, November.).
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Everybody in Epworth Has a Story

Janet Berger—A Woman Who “Gets Her Done”

by Dianne McDermott

Janet Berger’s office in City Hall is, by anyone’s estimation, huge. Yet one can’t help but notice, Janet has the double desk, tables, and files stacked with paper piles. Proving organization is one of her strongest traits, she can walk right to the pile that has the answer to any question presented to her. Each of the piles represents a project, a committee, or a work detail that “isn’t quite finished.” Though technology has helped her progress from the days of yellow and green ledgers, which needed to be balanced each month to show the finances of the town, the paper work and steps needed to complete any project have multiplied since April, 1986, when she began the job of Epworth City Clerk.



Janet detailed many changes in both the city and her job in the thirty-one years she has worked at City Hall; however, one thing that hasn’t changed is almost every project takes years to complete. An example is the City walkway, which began in the ‘90s with Mayor Willie Eck and may be nearing completion this year with the installation of lights, unless, of course, more workout stations are added. Another example is the addition of subdivisions, which didn’t exist when Janet started.

She has become very familiar with IDOT, DNR, and state and local regulations. About 50% of her job is accounting, with the balance spent on project management and day-to-day operations. Janet likes the variety her job offers, plus “I’ve always liked working with numbers and staying busy.” She has worked with five mayors, ten assistant clerks, and numerous council members. She says one of the reasons for her longevity is she has always felt respected for her knowledge and work ethic by those for whom she has worked. She feels fortunate that all of the mayors (Willie Eck, Phil Silker, Jacob Reuter, Tom Gassmann, and Sandy Gassman) were people who really cared about Epworth!

An ever-increasing part of her job is researching and applying for grants for city projects. For this she wants everyone to know that citizen input is important. An individual can come to her with an idea and, with council approval, she will begin looking for possible grants to help pay for the project. Three recent examples of this are the Epworth Dog Park, East Park, and the old tennis courts, which are being renovated into a multi-sports court. She has learned that most grants are very specific and require evidence that the money has been used as per requested. Even though, it is rare to get 100% of what is asked for, each grant saves Epworth citizens money.

Many may not realize that another aspect of her job is serving on committees as the city representative. She is part of the Smart Planning Consortium, networks with the Dubuque County Clerks group, and attends workshops annually held by the Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association and other support agencies.

Janet has been married to Marty Berger for thirty-nine years, and they have two children, Jaime and Rod. The City of Epworth is indeed fortunate to have a city clerk with the experience and expertise that Janet possesses. May she consider “staying busy” as Epworth’s City Clerk for many more years to come.

News Around Town

Recycle Those Old Electronics

With all the Christmas presents now opened, residents are probably looking for places to stash the new stuff and wondering what to do with the old or outdated things. Epworth hauler, Roling Sanitation, offers weekly pickup of the following items: chargers, power cords, remotes, keyboards, printers, VCRs, routers, modems, clock radios, cords, CDs, DVDs, DVD/CD players, batteries, ink/laser cartridges, stereos, electronic components, and speakers. These items are recycled and are conveniently picked up curbside through Roling. Because of screens, items like TVs, monitors, laptops, tablets, and smartphones do require a \$10 tag purchased from City Hall, but, once tagged, items can also be picked up curbside and will be taken to the Landfill Recycling Center.



Note that the hard drives on the electronics are not erased, so if that is a concern, you may want to contact a local computer repair shop, such as Thede's Computer Repair and Recycling shop in Manchester (563-822-1143). A little more inconvenient than curbside pick-up, but the owner will erase the hard drives and take any flat screen electronics for free, even electronic toys.

Hall of Famers

Congratulations to two of Epworth's own, **Jerry Ross** and **Ryan Hoerner**, who were inducted into WD's Athletic Hall of Fame on October 7th. Jerry earned five varsity letters while attending WD and seven varsity letters from Loras College. He returned to teach and coach at Western Dubuque from 1977 to 2016. During this time, the WD football teams qualified for state nine times. In 1996 and 2000, the Bobcats were semifinalists and state champions in 2001. Jerry was named the IFCA assistant Coach of the year in 2003 and 2015. Jerry also coached wrestling and girls track. Jerry was named girl's track conference coach of the year seven times. Jerry is married to Sue, and they raised five sons. Jerry is a teacher and coach who has touched many young peoples lives. Congratulations, Jerry!



Jerry Ross

Another 2017 Athletic Hall of Famer is Ryan Hoerner. Ryan is a WD alumni, who also returned to teach and coach. While a student at WD, he participated in four sports: football, wrestling, track, and baseball. He earned awards and accumulated school records in all four sports, still holding the record for the highest batting average in a season (.518). After WD graduation, he attended Wartburg College where he played football all four years. He helped the Knights earn two conference titles and an invitation to the Elite 8 in the NCAA Division III Tournament in his senior year. After college graduation, he taught at Dubuque Senior for seven years before returning to teach math and coach at WD. Ryan's parents are Rob and Laura. Congratulations, Ryan!



Ryan Hoerner

Changes to the ECHS Committee

A few changes are taking place within the Epworth Community Historical Society/*Voice of Progress* Committee. You may notice a slight difference in the look of the *Voice of Progress* as **Sandy Wilgenbusch** will now be doing design and layout for our publication. **Judy Then** has done a tremendous job laying out the VOP for the last three years. Judy also acted as treasurer for the organization, so **Betty Mausser** has agreed to take on the duties of treasurer. You know you are good when it takes two people to replace you! A big thank you, Judy, for your work and commitment to the VOP.

Eagle Scout Pavilion at Epworth Dog Park

Boy Scout Troop 70 of Epworth, Iowa, is proud to announce that **Cole Kelchen**, son of **Kyle and Mary Jo Kelchen**, is currently working towards his Eagle Scout Project. In collaboration with City Hall, Cole built a pavilion for the Epworth Dog Park to provide shade for the people who are exercising their dogs. The project was a challenge to design, build, and to raise the money for, but Cole was able to keep the cost low by asking Bard Materials to donate the concrete and Lowes for a percent off of all the materials. All remaining costs were covered by the Out Run the Rays organization. Much of the pre-cutting labor was done at the Kelchen family barn. When the pieces were brought to the park the two sides were connected with beams. Finally, the concrete was poured and the roof was sheathed on. All labor was done by volunteers. The pavilion is a great addition to the Dog Park and is another example of what volunteers add to our town. Thank you, Cole Kelchen, and congratulations on earning your Eagle Scout award!



Epworth Is Growing

Those driving along Highway 20 past Epworth are starting to see changes in the southern topography as Greg Rausch begins developing the 39 lots that will become Fox Ridge. Water lines have been extended under the highway from the town and sewer lines have been added west from the sewer plant. Greg's hope is to have streets constructed by May. Average costs will be around \$60,000 for 20,000 square foot lots.



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United Methodist Church Pastor Stephanie Schlimm (563) 876-3193	

Dubuque County Library District-Epworth Branch



NEW HOURS FOR 2018!

Monday	10:00 AM-6:00 PM	Tuesday	3:00 PM-7:00 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM-7:00 PM	Thursday	3:00 PM-7:00 PM
Friday	2:00 PM-6:00 PM	Saturday	9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Let me introduce myself!

I'm the new library clerk for Epworth. I live in Galena and grew up in that historical town. I share my home with a grown son, Adam, and a polydactyl orange tabby named Hemingway. I am an eclectic reader. My college major was literature, and I've been known to read "classics" without having them assigned as homework.

I am currently finishing Mark Twain's *Life on the Mississippi* and starting F. Scott Fitzgerald's *I'd Die for You and Other Lost Stories*. Intermingled and in between, I read 'cozy' mysteries – ones set in yarn shops, tea shops, post offices and then, once in a while, I pick up nonfiction (top of the pile, a book about Grant and Twain's friendship).

When I'm not reading I enjoy spending time with friends, one of whom is a member of the Galena Generals, a group of men who portray the nine generals who came out of Galena to fight in the Civil War. I often portray his wife, Mrs. John E. Smith. I also do some geocaching with him.

Hoping to see you at the library! Stop out and introduce yourself ~ **Julie Eggleston**

SOMETHING SPECIAL... "Our Neighbors, the Amish"

Saturday, February 3rd, 10:00 AM-noon

Farley/Drexler Branch, presented by Dianne and Don Kramer

This is a special presentation that you won't want to miss. Invite a friend.

If you have further questions, contact Terrie at 563-582-0008, ext 204.

February

Story Time (Ages 2 – Preschool, but the whole family is welcome)

Epworth Branch, Mondays, 5:15-5:45 PM

February 5th, 12th, and 26th (Library CLOSED February 19th)

As always, each week will focus on a specific concept with stories, fun early literacy activities, and projects that fit the theme.

Fictional Valentine (All ages)

Friday February 9th, 1:00-2:00 PM

Show the library some love and decorate a Valentines card for your favorite fictional character! Valentine snacks provided.

Mat Yoga (Young adults and older)

Saturday February 10th, 8:00-9:00 AM

A gentle moving yoga class. Students should be able to get up and down off the floor. Bring a mat if you have one; we do have a couple of extra mats available.

Guess How Much I Love You - Story Time (Preschool-Kindergarten)

Thursday, February 15th, 10:30-11:00 AM

In conjunction with UD Heritage Center's Family Series, join us for this Valentines-themed story time. We'll read *Guess How Much I Love You* and *I Love My Little Storybook*, participate in some activities and a craft, with light snacks. All children will receive a copy of *Guess How Much I Love You* and a child's voucher to the community performance with adult ticket purchase.

Movie Night at Your Library (Young adult and older; most movies rated PG-13)

Thursday February 22nd, 7:00-8:45 PM

Movie titles will be posted on the monthly calendar, available at the branch or check our website.

Random Fandom! (3rd- 6th grade)

Tuesday February 27th, 3:45-4:45 PM

Fandom: a group of fans devoted to a book, movie, game etc. Each month we'll have crafts, snacks, and discussion around a popular fandom. February's fandom is Harry Potter. Fans unite!

March

Lego Explorers! (Ages 4 and up)

Saturday, March 3rd, 10:00-11:00 AM

Theme: “Escape the Labyrinth”

Come armed with your most creative ideas for our monthly Lego experience. We provide the Legos, the theme, and a story with building challenges for you to complete; you do the rest. Duplo blocks available for the younger age.

Story Time (Ages 2 – Preschool, but the whole family is welcome)

Epworth Branch, Mondays, 5:15-5:45 PM

March 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th

As always, each week will focus on a specific concept with stories, fun early literacy activities, and projects that fit the theme.

Mat Yoga (Young adults and older)

Saturday March 10th, 8:00-9:00 AM

A gentle moving yoga class. Students should be able to get up and down off the floor. Bring a mat if you have one; we do have a couple of extra mats available.

Space Blast with Moon Mouse (Pre-Kindergarten - 5th grade)

Saturday, March 17th, 10:00-11:00 AM

With the UD Heritage Center’s Family Series, the library is throwing a party that’s out of this world! Space trivia, stellar snacks, science experiments, and a build-you-own-rocket ready to launch! Every child will receive a voucher to the UD performance (with an adult ticket purchase) and a space-related children’s book. Please register online to reserve your spot for this moon mission.

Movie Night at Your Library (Young adult and older; most movies rated PG-13)

Thursday March 22nd, 7:00-8:45 PM

Movie titles will be posted on the monthly calendar, available at the branch or check our web page.

Random Fandom! (3rd- 6th grade)

Tuesday March 27th, 3:45-4:45 PM

Fandom: a group of fans devoted to a book, movie, game etc. Each month we’ll have crafts, snacks, and discussion around a popular fandom. March’s fandom is Minecraft. Fans unite!

April

Story Time (Ages 2 – Preschool, but the whole family is welcome)

Epworth Branch, Mondays, 5:15-5:45 PM

April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th

As always, each week will focus on a specific concept with stories, fun early literacy activities, and projects that fit the theme.

Lego Explorers! (Ages 4 and up)

Saturday, April 7th, 10:00-11:00 AM Theme: “Wild West”

Come armed with your most creative ideas for our monthly Lego experience. We provide the Legos, the theme, and a story with building challenges for you to complete; you do the rest. Duplo blocks available for the younger age.

Mat Yoga (Young adults and older)

Saturday April 14th, 8:00-9:00 AM

A gentle moving yoga class. Students should be able to get up and down off the floor. Bring a mat if you have one; couple extra mats available.

Random Fandom! (3rd- 6th grade)

Tuesday April 24th, 3:45-4:45 PM

Fandom: a group of fans devoted to a book, movie, game etc. Each month we’ll have crafts, snacks, and discussion around a popular fandom. April’s fandom is *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Fans unite!

Movie Night at Your Library (Young adult and older; most movies rated PG-13)

Thursday April 26th, 7:00-8:45 PM

Movie titles will be posted on the monthly calendar, available at the branch or check our web page.

During winter months, events/programs may be cancelled due to weather. Call or check our web page to verify. For additional information on all our events and activities offered at the Dubuque County Library District Branches, visit our web page at: www.dubcolib.lib.us.ia. Library address is 110 Bierman Road. You can phone at 563-876-3388.

City News

February, 2018

Visit our website at www.epworthiowa.org for additional information and updates

Passports City Hall accepts passport applications on behalf of the US Department of State. US citizens planning international travel may apply for their passports during office hours. Contact us at 876-3320 or email epworth@yousq.net for more information. You will need a certified birth certificate, a driver license photo ID, and passport photos.

Calendar

Spring Garage Sales set for April 26th - 28th, Thursday and Friday 4 PM-dusk, Saturday 8-11 AM. Contact City Hall by April 16th to participate. A Goodwill truck will accept usable items on Saturday 11 AM-1 PM at the Community Center lot, 110 Bierman Road.

Family Swimming at Divine Word College Indoor Pool on Thursday evenings 6 PM-8 PM and Sundays 1 PM- 3 PM through April. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost for adults: \$4.00. Students, 17 years old and younger, \$3.00. If school is canceled on the day of a family swim, there will be no program. Cancellations are posted at www.dwci.edu

Trees Forever Our local committee received a Black Hills Energy - Power of Trees grant to offer select shade trees at a cost of \$50 each. To maintain diversity in our community, maple trees are not included in this offer. Please contact City Hall at 876-3320 to reserve your tree as the number of trees is limited.

Open Burning Restrictions The open burning of yard waste originating on the premises is permitted during daylight hours from April 1st to May 15th. The burn site must be attended and reported to the County non-emergency dispatch by calling 583-1711.

Yard Waste Midwest Organic Solutions will NOT be accepting yard waste. Curbside pickup is available by the Epworth garbage hauler with the purchase of \$2 yellow tags sold at City Hall. The County landfill accepts yard waste for a fee.

Large Item Disposal \$1 tag for each 50 pounds; tags sold at Quik 'n Handi and City Hall. Appliance tags are required for large appliance disposal at \$10 each and are only available at City Hall

Electronics will be picked up for recycling, but items with a circuit board or picture tube will require a fee. Laptops, monitors, and TV's require a \$10 disposal tag. All other electronics such as printers, towers, and VCRs will not require a fee at this time.

Recycling Tips

- bag loose paper and envelopes, all magazines and catalogs,
- plastics (recycling symbol), cans and aluminum,
- used motor oil in container with a screw on lid, empty oil jugs must be drained and without the cap
- paint cans (air dry)

NOT ACCEPTED: styrofoam, book covers, plastic bags, wax coated items, wrappers, liners, or wrapping paper

Glass is accepted for recycling by our hauler.

Test your home for RADON. Kits are available for Epworth residents at City Hall for a cost of \$5.00 each.

The Phil Silker Pavilion, located in Tower Park, is available for your next gathering. Bookings will be taken at City Hall. Carry-in food and beverages are allowed.

Property tax abatement incentives are available for new home construction in defined areas and qualified commercial improvements. Please contact City Hall for eligibility, filing deadline, and more information.

Storm Water Storm water (including gutters and sump pumps) must be discharged on your own property and may not be discharged, drained, or directed onto public property or the private property of another party. Any discharge lines must terminate at least five (5) feet from a side yard or ten (10) feet from the front or rear yard if the slope is less than 3:1. For slopes greater than 3:1, these measurements apply from the top of the slope. No connections are allowed into the street or city storm sewer system, including any city-owned or maintained pipe that may cross your property. Please contact City Hall for additional information.

Seasonal Mowing Job

Temporary position April through October. No guaranteed hours. Job applications at City Hall.



Message from the Mayor

Sandy Gassman

Welcome to new City Council members Rob Hosch and Dan Wilgenbusch and re-elected member Karen Conrad. I want to thank outgoing council members Gary Gansen and Marty Horsfield for their time and dedication. Epworth is fortunate to have people willing to serve.

Thanks also goes out to all of the people who helped bring Santa to Epworth. Many children in our community look forward to seeing Santa. Many of the same people will also help with the Easter Egg hunt, which will be in March. Both of these events are traditions that have been happening since I was a child and will, hopefully, continue for years to come.

The trail lights along Jacoby Walkway are completed. They look great and it is nice to have light along the trail. A reminder that the City is still taking donations for the lights, and for \$500, you can have a plaque placed on a pole.

Midwest Organic will no longer be taking yard waste. The City offers curbside pickup with a \$2.00 tag that can be purchased at City Hall, or the County landfill will take yard waste for a fee. Open burning of yard waste is allowed during daylight hours April 1st to May 15th. The burn site must be attended and reported to County non-emergency dispatch at 583-1711.

The First Days of WDHS, continued from page 1

completed, the crews started working on building the gym and locker rooms. They were completed by January, allowing the basketball teams to finally play games at home the second semester.

How did the late start of the school year affect the students? Well, we did not get the Friday off after Thanksgiving, and we had to attend school for a couple of days during that year's Christmas vacation to make up for the days we had missed at the start of the scheduled school year. A couple of snow days during that winter also caused us to have to attend classes on several Saturdays to complete enough class days to meet the requirements for a complete scholastic year. The hardships were well worth the effort, though, because in the end we were part of a new school system with a new high school building and the future was looking bright.

Epworth Police Department

James Kauffmann, Epworth Police 563-876-3050

The Epworth Police Department hopes that everyone is having a safe winter. As most everyone knows, the City of Epworth allows golf carts and ATV/UTVs on its “non primary” roads; however, there were a few changes made to the ordinances last year. Below are the ordinances regarding golf carts and ATV/UTVs. Please make it a point to follow the ordinances as they are in place for the safety of everyone and violations can result in a fine of \$127.50.

10.74.010 Definitions “All-terrain vehicle” means a motor vehicle designed to travel on three or more wheels and designed primarily for off-road recreational use. “All-terrain vehicles” includes off-road utility vehicles, but does not include farm tractors or equipment, construction equipment, forestry vehicles, or lawn and grounds maintenance vehicles.

10.74.020 All-terrain vehicles The operation of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) is governed by Iowa Code section 321.234A and 321I . An all-terrain vehicle may be operated within the city limits in compliance with the following:

- A person operating an all-terrain vehicle on a city street shall have a valid driver’s license; proof of financial responsibility, registered with the county, and the vehicle shall be operated at speeds of twenty-five miles per hour or less.
- With the exception of all-terrain vehicles used for emergency response or city maintenance functions, an all-terrain vehicle shall not be operated upon a city street which is a primary road extension through the city but shall be allowed to cross a city street which is a primary road extension through the city. Primary road extensions are defined as the truck route and shall include Center Avenue, Bierman Road, Jacoby Drive, 5th Avenue SW, Main Street, 2nd Street NW, and 1st Avenue NE.

10.74.030 Penalties Violation of this chapter will go in accordance with the Iowa Code 321I. The peace officer may impound an all-terrain vehicle for any violation in this chapter.

10.74.040 Golf Carts Reference Iowa Code 321.247. Golf carts may be operated on city streets by persons possessing a valid driver’s license and proof of financial responsibility. However, a golf cart shall not be operated upon a city street which is a primary road extension through the city but shall be allowed to cross a city street which is a primary road extension through the city. Primary road extensions are defined as the truck route and shall include Center Avenue, Bierman Road, Jacoby Drive, 5th Avenue SW, Main Street, 2nd Street NW, and 1st Avenue NE. The golf carts shall be equipped with a slow moving vehicle sign and a bicycle safety flag and operate on the streets only from sunrise to sunset. Golf carts operated on city streets shall be equipped with adequate brakes. Golf carts are not subject to the registration provisions of the Iowa Code.

When getting your yard ready for spring, remember that you are allowed to burn yard waste that originated from the premises during daylight hours from April 1st to May 15th. These burn sites must be attended and reported to the Dubuque County non-emergency dispatch at 563-583-1711 prior to lighting. Also remember that when mowing your yard, it is unlawful for any person to throw or deposit any ashes, leaves, grass, refuse matter, waste paper or any obstruction of any kind onto the street, alley or public place. Doing this is considered littering and can result in a \$100 fine.

These are just a few of the cities ordinances. *All ordinances can be found on the city’s web site www.epworthiowa.org* Have a fun and safe spring!

Epworth Fire Department

Chief Thomas I. Berger, Epworth Fire

2017 was a record year for the Epworth Fire Department as we responded to 225 calls for service over the past twelve months, 26 more calls than in 2016. Over 75% of the calls were for the ambulance service, which is consistent with national trends. I would like to publicly thank our volunteer members for their dedication and commitment to make sure each call for service is answered promptly. Remember to please dial 911 for emergency and non-emergency ambulance transports, fire, or for law enforcement.

The numbers are still being compiled for fire deaths in Iowa and the United States for 2017; however, it is looking like there was an increase in the number of people killed by rampant fires. 2018 started out being very cold for multiple days in a row. This extreme cold can be especially concerning for fire safety and prevention as folks tend to try additional heating sources in order to keep warm or thaw frozen pipes, etc. Space heaters need to be used as recommended, clear from any combustible materials. Many of the fire fatalities occurred in homes with no smoke detectors or non-working smoke detectors. Please check your detectors regularly, ensure you have enough detectors for adequate coverage, replace the batteries when you change your clocks and replace your smoke detectors per the manufacturer's recommendation. Many smoke detectors have an estimated life span of 10 years. It is also recommended to have an operable carbon monoxide detector on each floor of your home. Please stay warm and stay safe.


In January, we held our annual recognition President's Party. During the ceremony, Firefighter Dale Snyder was awarded the 2017 Firefighter of the Year. Dale is in his twelfth year of volunteering for the department and lives near our second station on Hwy 20 and Swiss Valley Road. Dale is one of the many members dedicating extra time to the fire department and recently served as President of our 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. Steve Silker and Marty Berger were recognized for completing forty years of service to the department during 2017. Dan Neenan was also presented a Length of Service award for completing twenty-five years of service to the department in 2017. Please congratulate all of these very dedicated volunteers, as they keep your community safe on a daily basis. The annual appreciation dinner is also a time to thank and recognize all the wives and families for their patience and understanding. The training, meetings, and the calls for service are demanding of the volunteers' time, and their families sacrifice by allowing the members to attend.

In November, we mourned the loss of honorary member Vince Kramer. Vince volunteered twenty-four years for the department from 1960-1984 and retired with the rank of Captain. Vince was the first recipient of the Firefighter of the Year award when it was started. Our appreciation and sympathy is extended to the Kramer family.

The Epworth Fire Department will soon be starting the process of our annual fundraising season. This year the dance will be held on Friday, May 25th, and will again serve as a great kick off to the Memorial Day weekend. The 70th annual Epworth Firemen's Picnic and Silent Auction will be held at the Epworth Fire Station on Friday, July 13th. More information about these events will follow in the next issue of the *Voice of Progress* and on our website at www.epworthiowafire.org.

We wish everyone a safe and wonderful winter, and we hope that spring is just around the corner. Please check out our website at www.epworthiowafire.org for updates and information about the department.

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Owner, **Dan Bourek**, grew up in the Farley area. Since his 2009 graduation from Scott Community College, with a degree in Automotive Technology, he has worked in the auto service industry. Moving back to the area with his family, he has now settled in Epworth. In November 2017, he opened his auto repair business at 625 East Main St., Suite B. Dan is an ASE Certified Master Automotive Technician and ASE Certified Advanced Level Specialist.

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Divine Word College seeking volunteers

Divine Word College would like to increase the number of community volunteers willing to help its international students, who are trying to become fluent in English. If you are able to give an hour or more each week during the 2018 Spring semester, please contact **Dr. Seo Hyun Park** at 563-876-3353 (Ext. 394) or email her at spark@dwci.edu. In order to assign students and tutors appropriately, some background information will be asked of potential volunteers.



Students come from a variety of countries around the globe and are preparing for a life of service as missionaries, clergy, or lay leadership. Tutors help students with pronunciation, vocabulary, and general conversation as well as reviewing writing assignments or oral presentations. Volunteers receive an introductory training and orientation session.

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Minister's Musings



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 Pastor Stephanie Schlimm
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 563.876.3193 office
 epworthumc.iowa@gmail.com
 www.eumc-ia.org



I have grown to love the different seasons of the Church year. My friend said that the church year isn't us going around and around in the same circle. It is like walking a long spiral staircase that leads to nearness to God. The seasons come around right when we need them.

Lent is right around the corner, just as the New Year's resolutions are waning. Lent reminds us to keep up the spirit of self-reflection and do the best we can to draw near to God. This year, the church calendar is actually a bit funny. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season is on February 14th (Valentine's Day). On the day when many people will be buying chocolate and roses, our faith calls us to consume *less* and long for God *more*. On Ash Wednesday, we begin the journey of remembering God's unfailing love for us, and we do the heart-work of drawing nearer to our Creator.

Easter this year falls on April 1st (April Fool's Day). On a day when it's safe to assume that there will be a joke or two coming your way, we celebrate that God surprised the world with a resurrected Jesus. The worldly powers thought it could snuff out His Light, but, boy, were they the fools. According to our human nature and to many who are in power in our society today, it is foolish to love as Christ did. Self-sacrifice and radical hospitality are not what help us "get ahead." The joke's on them because we know that living in the example of Christ with the hope of life beyond this world is no joke.

May your Spring be filled with new life, with unconditional love, and wild hope for the future that God will bring you.

Peace,

Ash Wednesday, February 14th

6:30 AM—St. John the Baptist, Peosta
 8:00 AM—Divine Word College, Epworth
 10:00 AM—St. Joseph, Farley (School Mass)
 4:30 PM—St. Patrick, Epworth
 5:30 PM—St. John the Baptist, Peosta
 7:00 PM—St. John the Evangelist, Placid
 7:00 PM—St. Clement, Bankston

6:30 PM—United Methodist Church, Epworth

Holy Week Schedule, March 29th - April 1st

Holy Thursday

7:30 PM—Bankston
 7:30 PM—Peosta
 7:30 PM—Divine Word

7:00 PM—United Methodist Church

Good Friday

12:00 noon—Farley
 3:00 PM—Bankston
 3:00 PM—Epworth
 3:00 PM—Divine Word
 5:30 PM—Peosta
 7:00 PM—Placid

Easter Vigil

8:00 PM—Farley
 8:00 PM—Divine Word

Easter Sunday

7:30 AM—Epworth
 8:00 AM—Peosta
 8:30 AM—Farley
 9:00 AM—Placid
 10:00 AM—Bankston
 10:00 AM—Divine Word
 10:30 AM—Peosta
 No Sunday 5:30 PM—Peosta
 10:00 AM—United Methodist Church

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June 876-5562

Patty 876-3890

Karen 876-3005

