

"IF WE CANNOT RECONCILE ALL OPINIONS, LET US ENDEAVOR TO UNITE ALL HEARTS."

NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) December 2019

NEW HARMONY TOWN ELECTION RESULTS FOR NOVEMBER 2019!

by: Dan Barton

The 2019 New Harmony Town Council election is in the can, as they say. Most of you know the results by now, but just in case, here's how they finished. The winners, who will be your Council for the next four years, are the first five:

Virginia Alsop - 207; Tom Williams 192; Roger Wade 191; Alvin Blaylock 184, Gary Watson 172. Karla Atkins was re-elected as the town's Clerk/Treasurer with 191 votes.

Those candidates who fell short and did not get elected were:

Rod Clark 151; David Campbell 120; David Flanders 113 and Dan Mason 54, to be fair, Mr. Mason had indicated that he was withdrawing from the election but the word apparently did not get around to everyone and so he managed a few votes anyway.

I spoke to Council president Alvin Blaylock several days after the election and he informed me that somewhere between 315 and 317 New Harmony residents, who were registered to vote, cast ballots in this election, or about 60% he said.

That is outstanding participation for such a small town. But with over 750 residents in New Harmony, it indicates that everyone is not registered to vote. All New Harmony residents who are eligible to register should do so. It's very important, especially in County elections, where any candidate from New Harmony is in an uphill fight.

THAT BRIDGE OUT THERE BETWEEN NEW HARMONY AND CROSSVILLE!

by: Dan Barton
December 2019

Odd title for a story, wouldn't you say? Even so, I had to come up with something different and eye-catching since I've done

so many stories on our bridge, and used so many repetitive column titles.

I contend, and it's only my humble opinion, that the New Harmony Theatre closing is only one more example of another loss to New Harmony caused by the closing of the Harmony Way Bridge. There are those here in town who adamantly disagree. I'm afraid they will continue to disagree till the time that they see the last shovel of dirt thrown onto the last remaining business that manages to survive the loss of 300,000 cars per year.

It's the eve of Thanksgiving as I write this piece. For most of the day I've been calling, emailing and texting Harmony Way Bridge Authority Commissioners to get a progress update on the Bi-State Authority. I got some guidance from Commissioner Jerry Walden, who believes things are moving along well. Although, the members of the Bi-State Authority, it would appear, have not been named as yet. If no Bi-State Authority, then no transfer of the bridge title from Spud Egbert, the last White County Bridge Commissioner. In the meantime, the search for funds is underway and they are investigating which direction, and which State, would offer some assistance.

As soon as I get an answer from Rod Clark, the Indiana Bridge Authority Chairman, I will, of course, pass it on in the Gazette. Mr. Clark emailed me on the 27th and said that he thinks it's an important matter, but that he is out for the holiday. He says that there might be an Authority meeting next week on December Fifth. He might touch base with me next week.

Lora Arneberg, who has so successfully spearheaded this endeavor since it started, texted me on the evening of the 27th and said, "There has been a lot of movement forward, but it's not a simple explanation...as everything with this. The IN Authority is setting a meeting for next week (Thursday, December 5th). I believe it will be Thursday. But I'll let you know for sure."

That's about as much as I know at the

present. It sounds like they are reaching an important time period; but haven't they all been?

USI DISCONTINUES NEW HARMONY THEATRE AFTER 32 YEARS!

by: Dan Barton
Nov. 27, 2019

The New Harmony Theatre has been a program of the University of Southern Indiana for 32 years. From the beginning, the University wanted to provide professional, equity theatre at an affordable rate to diverse audiences in the region.

However, dwindling audiences and reduced charitable giving to New Harmony Theatre have meant that USI has been funding far more than the program has been able to generate in revenue. Despite several years of efforts to turn this around, these attempts have been unsuccessful. Therefore, USI finds it necessary to discontinue the New Harmony Theatre program. There will not be a Summer 2020 season.

NEW HARMONY TOWN COUNCIL HI-LITES FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2019!

by: Dan Barton

The following townspeople and guests attended this meeting: Carlene VanLanningham, Michael Sears, Lois Gray, Rod Clark, Dan Barton, Dan Mason, Sue Krozel, and Aaron Straub.

Jeff Moore had removed a hornet's nest from the riverfront trail two days prior to Kunsfest. Publisher's note, "Funny, but a family of hornets happened to find their way into the crawl space of my house that same week. Hmmm."

Over 30 volunteers from United Way Caring painted town curbs and put sealer on Playtopia.

Council President Blaylock announced that all fire hydrants had been flushed in New Harmony on the week before this October 15th meeting.

Councilman Flanders reminded those who use the New Harmony Recycling Center to wash out any containers before dropping them off.

FEMA FLOOD ZONES:

Councilman David Flanders announced that the Town had received a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration) letter in April regarding the two year zoning process of remapping the Wabash Flood Zone, recognizing the 2014 mapping as inaccurate. To assist the Town Council in their efforts to assess the data, Flanders solicited a proposal from Morley and Associates. Michael Sears, from Morley, stated that their main role would be to assist with coordination and communication with FEMA. He said that he did not know for sure how long the remapping would take FEMA to complete, but speculated that it would be over a year and maybe two. Sears said that Morley would provide the Council with "What If" scenarios regarding different changes that could be made to the base flood elevation and what the impact might be. Sears said that amending the Town's Flood Plain could result in lower flood insurance premiums for property owners. Councilman Flanders made and Blaylock seconded a motion that the Town enter into a \$5,000 contract with Morley and Associates per their proposal date August 9, 2019. The vote was Ayes - Flanders and the Nays - Alsop, Wade and Blaylock. Motion denied. President Blaylock said that he wanted time to review the information before committing the Town to this contract. Wade made and Alsop seconded a motion to table and all were in favor.

Publisher's note: A few days after this meeting, I contacted Council president Blaylock and asked him to elaborate on his decision to table this contract matter. He said to me that, although it was the Town's \$5,000, he felt that if it was his personal \$5,000 he would want to take the time to give all of the details a close look. He said, he had to give the same consideration to the people of New Harmony. After all, he mentioned, Sears, spoke for nearly a half an hour.

As publisher of the Gazette, I obtained a copy of the proposed contract from Town Hall and noted that although Mr. Sears had said that there was a \$5,000 cap on the agreement, the 2019 rate schedule attached to the agreement indicated that an Engineer, such as Sears, shows a per hour rate of pay as \$150 per hour. If Sears worked an entire 35 hour week the \$5,000 would be eaten up that quickly and the Town would be back at square one.

If Sears used assistance it would go even more quickly. Not to mention that Morley would also be submitting all reimbursable expenses incurred relative to their consulting services, such as overtime work over eight hours per day or Saturday or Sunday or any holiday. Add to that, travel time for any survey field crews, if needed, inspections, meetings away from their office at a charge of door to door. Also a fee of \$60 per day per vehicle to a job site more than a 100 miles from Morley's office in Newburgh, Indiana. They charge \$100 per day for ATV fees. If they have to use a boat the added fee would be \$200 for a 14' Jon boat or \$500 for a 20' Jon boat, for any part of the day, in addition to the survey crew's hourly rates. Etc. etc.etc.

Then once the \$5,000 ceiling cap is reached, Morley could begin billing at a strictly time and materials rate, if providing service, until a new contract was agreed upon. There was no discussion of this matter at the subsequent November 2019 meeting of the Town Council.

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS:

Councilwoman Alsop announced that the Town had received a Community Crossings matching grant in the amount of \$143,427.75.

Dan Mason, Assistant Director of Historic New Harmony, announced that the recent activities held in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Atheneum was very successful. (Reportedly, they raised over \$250,000 in the event for the Atheneum)

NOVEMBER HI-LITES:

Townpeople and guests in attendance: Tom Williams, Dan Barton, Sally Denning, Dan Mason, Paul Goodman and Sue Krozel

Dan Mason, Historic New Harmony,

reported on the scope and priorities for Historic New Harmony for 2020 are being developed. He would like to present this to the Council once it is complete, at either a regular or special meeting. Mason introduced new employee Paul Goodman, who was in attendance.

Council president Blaylock announced that the 2020-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant application is due in January 2020. Council is looking into a list of streets to include in that application. Publisher's note: If my information is correct, there are only about two miles of town streets left to pave before this Town Council reaches 100%. Some achievement!

WIND ENERGY!

by: Dan Barton

Back a few days ago, on November 20th, there was a public meeting held at the Posey County 4-H Center about Wind Energy. As most of us are aware by now, a company named RWE or E.On, take your pick on the name, a German company, is aggressively moving into Posey and Gibson county, establishing lease arrangements with farmers in the area in order to build massive wind farms. They will build wind turbines that will be used to produce wind energy.

Some people here are in favor of wind energy from an environmental stand point, and some who will receive money for lease arrangements are also in favor of the wind farms. Others, who believe that these wind turbines are unsafe and will be built to close to residential areas, causing ice throws, blade failure, shadow flicker, noise, loss of property value, the loss of advanced Doppler warning during severe weather, and trespass zoning that violates the property rights of neighbors, are against it.

I spent some time over the past week, just in New Harmony, looking for citizens who might had gone to the event and had an opinion. Sorry, but I found no one. Our Town Council opted out of getting involved with, and of sending a formal letter of position on this controversy, several months ago. I'm just not finding a whole lot of concern here in New Harmony on this issue.

Elsewhere, homeowners in North Posey

are concerned, there are PoCo Wind Safety & Rights signs up in many yards around Griffen and Poseyville. I even had a call from a North Posey resident who was very concerned about some of the safety issues, especially the Doppler Radar interference that these farms can purportedly cause. I'm afraid, though, that this is the wave of the future and there will be battles ahead. It may take some time getting used to before folks accept these wind turbines. But it looks like these windmills are coming to a bean field near you very soon!

I saw them in Kansas ten years ago. A startling sight at the time.

Humans have been in a quandary about energy and how to provide themselves with it efficiently since they started their trek north from equatorial Africa thousands of years ago. Maybe even before that. It's certainly considered a luxury now to have a big ol' log burning in the fireplace, most of our nation's open access forestlands have already been cut and burnt. Much the same in Europe, and the way it's going, the Amazon Rain Forest will soon suffer the same fate.

We went to coal here in America and in most of the industrialized nations of the world. Now, that form of cheap energy has been totally rejected by environmentalists as a major cause of climate change, global warming, or whatever term is currently in vogue. Hydrocarbons!

NO NUCLEAR! I've read where it takes about 6,000,000 years for a nuclear rod to become completely spent. Like, where do you put 'em? Do you want a nuke plant in your backyard? Remember Three Mile Island or Chernobyl?

Then there's geothermal. That works, but is limited to those who live in Iceland or somewhere near Yellowstone National Park or believe it or not, California. The far western part of the United States has access to geothermal in many areas. They are trying, and have been trying, for many years to fully develop usable access to it. It is coming along, but seemingly at a slow pace.

Hydroelectric power is a thought. You, of course, have to be near a source of flowing water, like the Wabash River, for instance. But, then you would have to resort to damming, which alters the course of rivers and streams and can effect fish and wildlife habitat. But it is non-polluting.

Oil and gas are abundantly used for heating our buildings and running our vehicles, planes, trains, and in some cases even Municipal Power Plants. But again, those are fossil fuels and produce hydrocarbons, just like our most abundant and commonly used fuel, coal.

I happen to like Solar, but even this has drawbacks. First, it's a good idea to live in a sunny climate where you can take advantage of lots of radiant heat or have photovoltaic cells to produce electricity. But, here we go again, to store energy for use on cloudy days or at night, photo cells must have batteries. These batteries are very expensive and contain chemicals like Mercury. Disposing of them when they have become useless is difficult.

Former President Jimmy Carter, in 1979, had 32 solar panels installed on the White House roof. I wonder if they're still in use? Or even still there?

Back in Plains, Georgia, Mr. Carter had 3,500 solar panels installed on 13 and a half acres of his farmland, about 150 yards from his house. "On a good day," he says, "we can produce about 1.3 megawatts. (See next paragraph on number of megawatts produced by one wind turbine..) They have 215 houses in Plains, about half as many as New Harmony, and the solar panels at full power would provide enough for 200 of them. The panels rotate during the day, following the sun across the sky. It took three months to install the system, by a company called SolAmerica. SolAmerica is a link, like E.ON, between the landowners and the power company. Folks in Plains just rent the land to them, just like the wind turbine company will do. SolAmerica paid for the complete installation. Carter says they could go to 5 megawatts, but that would take about 50 acres.

Benton County Indiana has 600 turbines across their county and their turbines are between 1.5 and 2.3 megawatts of energy each, compared to 2.2 and 4.2 megawatts proposed in the Posey and Gibson Counties turbines. The height of turbines proposed for our area are about 500 feet. E.ON is looking to lease 15,000 acres, more than 23 square miles across two counties. The company is proposing a 200 megawatt wind energy project near the Posey - Gibson county line. It will take up to 81 turbines to generate the 200 megawatts. Power generated by

the project will be uploaded to the grid, operated by Mid-continent Independent System Operators. They will sell energy to the Utilities or other buyers, wherever the energy is needed.

For sure, I'm no expert on alternative sources of power. But if I were to desire something to power my light bulbs, besides coal, I guess it would probably be Solar. It does look like the wind farms are coming, though. We have the wind and they are looking for it. Hold onto your hats!

AUTUMN RETROSPECTIVE, DECEMBER 2019!

by: Dan Barton

Late Spring and early Fall are two of my favorite seasons. Not too hot. Not too cold. But if I had a choice between Spring and Fall, I would choose Fall. All of it! The rains are not usually as heavy as in the Spring, and the trees put on a show before going into their Winter suspended animation.

The old Maple tree in front of my house on Steammill, must be pushing a hundred, or maybe more. What the heck, I'm almost pushing a hundred!

There was once a row of them, many years ago, lining the street side of the public sidewalk. Four, I am told. Three are now gone. The last one, for whatever reason, seems to have a resilience that so far has defied old Father Time, and the annual torment of wind and ice storms that visit us over each winter. The Maple cloaks itself, in late October, and early November, in a golden aura of Autumn foliage. It seems to be saying, "See you in the Spring!" As it slumbers off for six months.

The leaves have now fallen. And don't you know it? Everybody in town is raking and running leaf blowers from dawn to dusk. Everybody hoping to get their leaf piles placed along the town roadsides before they run out of time for the fellas on New Harmony's maintenance crew to make the pick-up. Raking and leaf blowing are by far the most popular two approaches to ridding yards of the fallen leaves.

I, however, take a different approach! Remembering a discussion by local tree

specialist, Dr. Tom Guggenheim, about taking care of our personal trees through the process of using mulch, I began mulching my leaves each Fall, for the benefit of my own trees.

The venerable Maple out front, the Walnut Tree in my east yard and the "Martian Tree" in the back yard of my property, all get the potential good benefit of those mulched, biodegradable leaves, every year now. I wait until all of the leaves have pretty much fallen and then run the mulching mower over them. I do it twice, on two different occasions, before Winter sets in. By the end of Winter, in early Spring, the mulched up leaf confetti has disappeared into the soil.

That's just my own personal approach to saving my trees, my back, and the taxpayers of New Harmony a few bucks on the town leaf collection service.

Here's wishing you a happy and healthy Winter, and an early Spring, 2020!

CHRISTMAS TREASURE

by: *Ann Rains*

There are moments to treasure in life. Often, they seem insignificant. But in retrospect one realizes the depth of their reach into your soul. Mid-November I cut a long-stemmed rose bud from a bush in the yard.

To have a long-stemmed rose survive hard frosts and give forth with a bud ready to blossom in November is a rarity. But the memories it evoked overflowed my heart.

My son, Jimmy, and I were shopping at the mall. It was late November. Jimmy was nine years old with small change in his pocket he had shaken from his piggy

bank. Since we rarely went to the mall, the sensory impressions were almost overwhelming—the smell of pizza, flashing Christmas lights and decorations, music, people, lots of people.

We passed a flower shop. There were a profusion of fresh long-stemmed roses in water buckets sitting just inside the front windows. Colors of coral, yellow, red, pink and white. Combinations of white and red, pink and coral and more! So many beautiful roses.

"Which do you like best, Mommy?" my son asked.

That was easy to answer. "Red. If a guy I deeply cared for were to give me a red rose, I would love him forever," I replied.

We moved on to the next shop. I saw inside an item I had been looking for as a Christmas gift for Jimmy. There was a bench facing the shops located between the flower and novelty shop. I asked Jimmy if he would sit on the bench and wait for me for a couple of minutes. "Okay, Mom." A quick review of not talking to strangers and not wandering off followed. "Okay, Mom."

There was a short line at the checkout counter and I tried to curb being impatient. I could see my son on the bench looking at me as I tried to keep his gift below the counter so he could not see it. I whispered to the clerk to keep it behind the display on the counter so it would be a surprise for my son who was watching.

When I left the store, Jimmy was gone. He was not on the bench. Trying to curb my panic, I looked both directions and did not see him. I turned in a circle feeling my heart seize in my chest and tears brim my eyes. Suddenly, he appeared.

"Hi, Mom." Relief, then anger.

"Where did you go? Didn't I tell you to stay put?"

From behind his back Jimmy produced a long stemmed red rose and handed it to me. I knelt down and hugged him.

"Thank you, Sweetie. But, oh Jimmy, how could you afford this?"

"The ladies said I had just the right amount."

That rose is pressed in a Bible. And yes, my dearest son, I will love you forever. Christmas treasures and happiness to all.

planetprayers@gmail.com

©Ann Rains December, 2011

December Gazette Recipe 2019

Pineapple Side Dish

by: *Denise Rapp*

This pineapple dish is a must have at every family event. It can be served as a side dish for dinner, or it can be brought to a pitch in for dessert. Either way this dish is a winner. Sweet, cinnamon pineapple custard...yes please.

Try it...you'll love it!

Pineapple Side Dish

2 eggs

1 1/4 c. sugar

1 stick melted butter

1 can chunk pineapple drained

3 slices white bread- cut into small cubes

Cinnamon

Beat eggs, sugar, butter and pineapple. Then fold in the bread crumbs. Place in a greased baking dish, sprinkle with cinnamon and bake 45 minutes 350 degrees.

A HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISH!

by: *Dan Barton*

It has slipped out to me that one the New Harmony Gazette's most avid and favorite New Harmony Gazette reader's is having a birthday in December. Happy Birthday, Martha Mathews! We at the Gazette are hoping you are well and warm, and will celebrate many more birthdays with us



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