

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

## NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) March 2020

### News Release from the White County Bridge Commission February 25, 2020

#### HARMONY WAY BRIDGE OWNERSHIP TRANSFERS TO HARMONY WAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY

Carmi, Illinois - White County Bridge Commission (WCBC) was created by an Act of Congress on April 12, 1941 to acquire and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Wabash River just west of the city of New Harmony, Indiana, and all or any ferries across the river within a mile of the bridge. The bridge is commonly referred to as the New Harmony Bridge but was originally known as the Harmony Way Bridge.

The White County Bridge Commission has been regarded by the federal government, the State of Indiana and the State of Illinois as a “private” entity, even though the Commission was exempt from paying all federal and state taxes, but did pay real estate taxes to Posey County, Indiana and White County, Illinois.

Because of the “private” entity determination, the WCBC was never eligible to apply for any state or federal grant opportunities to rehabilitation of the bridge. The Harmony Way Bridge was operated and maintained throughout the years mainly funded by the tolls paid by those who used the bridge. The bridge was closed in 2012 because of the lack of funds to make structural repairs that were needed following an engineering study of the bridge.

Since 2005, the late Dr. David Rice and Spud Egbert have never given up working to transfer the Harmony Way Bridge to a governmental entity or entities to fully rehabilitate the bridge as an economic engine for the southern Indiana and Illinois region. Egbert stated “It saddened me that Dr. Rice did not live to experience this new chapter in the restoring the Harmony Way Bridge.”

One of the last official acts of the White County Bridge Commission by the last member of the Commission, Spud Egbert, Carmi, Illinois, was to transfer ownership of the Harmony Way Bridge to the Illinois

New Harmony River Bridge Authority and the Indiana New Harmony and Wabash River Authority. Effective February 19, 2020, that transaction was completed and both authorities received joint ownership of the Harmony Way Bridge connecting Indiana State Road 66 and Illinois Highway 14.

In a bi-partisan attempt at the federal level, the State of Indiana and State of Illinois, the two authorities were established to attempt to bring the bridge back to its intended use as a vehicular bridge with a potential bike-hike patch component. Both the Indiana and Illinois Authorities are eligible to apply for federal and state grants for the rehabilitation of the bridge.

Specifically, according to the Illinois Act of 45 ILCS 185/New Harmony Bridge Authority Act, “the White County Bridge Commission, a private entity created by Congress in 1941, lacks the resources necessary to rehabilitate and maintain the bridge. The New Harmony Bridge provides an important link between this State [Illinois] and Indiana. The rehabilitation and continued use of the New Harmony Bridge is essential to preserve and improve the public welfare and prosperity of the people of this State [Illinois]. It is in the best interests of the public welfare and public safety that this State [Illinois] and the State of Indiana work together to repair and maintain this historical bridge. The intent of this Act is to ensure that the New Harmony Bridge is rehabilitated and maintained so that it can meet the needs of motorists for years to come.”

The first significant step in the process to re-open the Bridge is an in-depth study to determine the current structural integrity, safety, and rehabilitation feasibility of this historic landmark. In November of 2019, with assistance from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the study was published on IDOT’s Professional Transportation Bulletin #194-64. Six pre-qualified structural engineering firms from the Illinois and Indiana area submitted proposals. A selection committee comprised of members from the Illinois and Indiana Authorities reviewed the proposed Statements of Interest, and through an intensive vetting

and voting process, negotiations with the first choice are underway.

#### NEW HARMONY WATER RATES UP? *by: Dan Barton* March 2020

Town Council president Alvin Blaylock said, that there is a possibility that there will be an increase in the New Harmony Town water rates somewhere in the near future.

Town Clerk/Treasurer Karla Atkins requested that the Council approve a transfer of \$100,000 dollars from the Water Utility Cash Reserve account to the Water Utility Operating account.

Blaylock said that this was because the Operating account was running in the red. He indicated that this may cause a possible increase in New Harmony’s water rates. He didn’t specify how much of a change that would be. All he would say was that he will have to take a closer look at the accounts and will know more by the March meeting. He added that it has been seven years since the last water rate increase.

The Town Council approved the \$100,000 transfer request.

#### RESTROOM COSTS NOT SITTING WELL WITH COUNCIL PRES. **BLAYLOCK!** *by: Dan Barton* March 2020

Council President Blaylock reported that the Town paid a total of \$1,675 to keep the Ribeyre Gym Restrooms open to the public from April to October, 2019. That was \$750 for rent and \$925 for cleaning the restrooms. Now, the New Harmony Business Associates are proposing that the Town pay them \$1,800, over the same 180 day period, in the new 2020 contract.

What follows is a draft of the discussion between Alvin Blaylock and Council members:

Council President Blaylock: Before we get into this any further, the Business Associates say that keeping the Restrooms open at the Ribeyre Gym to the public, helps

the citizens of the Town of New Harmony. But, I say that it doesn't. The taxpayers and the normal citizens of New Harmony are the ones who pay the bills to keep them open. I don't think that they (tourists) help at all.

It's odd to me that the Town is paying more for this service than the Business Associates, who are the ones that really benefit from more people coming to town, not the Town of New Harmony. In the Winter of 2016/17 they (Business Associates) paid \$900. Last year, in 2018/19, they paid nothing. Well, I'd like to help them, but I think they need to step up to the plate and contribute a bigger share toward covering these costs. I need to discuss this with the Business Associates.

Councilman Roger Wade: I think we should table this and you and Jeff (Smotherman) sit down, because Jeff does not understand. He thinks they're paying more than us. When you sit down with him, make sure he understands. See what we can do about splitting this cost between all of us.

There was a motion to table for further discussions and negotiations by Councilman Wade and a second by Councilman Watson.

Councilman Tom Williams: I would disagree with you a little. I think the downtown does benefit. It's an asset to everyone in town.

Blaylock: I've lived in the New Harmony town limits for 52 years. I'm not entertaining doing away with anything. I do not want to do away with it (Restrooms). Absolutely not. But for lots of people in New Harmony, they don't see what you're saying. I will call Jeff Smotherman, he is the president of the Business Associates and get a meeting with him, and start talking.

Motion to table passed Unanimously.

## RIVER TRAIL CLOSING SIGNS

*by: Dan Barton*

March 2020

Councilwoman Virginia Alsop announced at the March meeting of the New Harmony Town Council, that the River Trail closure cables and no trespassing signs have been installed at several Cart Trail entrances. The signs are yellow with black and white lettering. They say: "TRAIL CLOSED TEMPORARILY DUE TO FLOOD DAMAGE. NO TRESPASSING!" At the February meeting the Councilwoman stated that the trails will be closed until further notice.

## NEW HARMONY TOWN COUNCIL HI-LITES - FEBRUARY 2020

*by: Dan Barton*

\*Town of New Harmony has submitted the applications for the next phase of Community Crossing Grant Funds for 2021

\*The 2019 Community Crossing Grant has been approved for street paving that will be done in the Summer of 2020.

\*Jim Bush announced that the New Harmony Peace Run at Murphy Park will be moved to May 9th. It was originally scheduled for April 17th.

\*The Town will be replacing one of its well used pick-up trucks with a new single cab, long wheel base, eight foot bed, Chevy pick-up truck. The total cost will be \$22,300. The Council passed this unanimously with Gary Watson abstaining. He works for Expressway Dealership.

\*New Harmony will also be considering the purchase of a used Dump-Truck to replace the old truck presently in use. The Dump-Truck being considered will cost approximately \$19,900. It is a GMC with low miles and all of the safety equipment and strobe lights.

\*Audience member, Christine Laughbaum, stated that rental golf carts are still using Church Street as a roadway. She suggested that the Harmony Inn should post a picture of the new "No Turn" signs in their registration office and bring it to the renter's attention. Alvin Blaylock said that he discovered that the Inn has not been giving a copy of the contract with the driving rules, back to the renters and will bring it to their attention. Councilman Tom Williams suggested that maybe the Inn could also have stickers made up to paste on the outside of the glove boxes in the golf carts to draw attention to the new signs.

\*Town Council OK'd police training in Indianapolis for our Town Marshal, Aaron Straub.

\*Town Council approved the New Harmony Alumni Association request to hang their banners on town lampposts, one week prior to the Alumni Weekend and the Alumni Celebration.

\*Councilman Roger Wade brought up the issue of people riding their horses through

town and not cleaning up after them. He said he will consider introducing an extension to the present ordinance that mandates cleaning up after dogs, to include all animal pets.

\*Council president Blaylock announced that mowing bids for Maple Hill Cemetery will be looked at during the March meeting.

## KIWANIS SPONSORED, MARTY'S ITALIAN BAKED ZITI DINNER TUESDAY - MARCH 10, 2019 \$12 PER ADULT - \$6 CHILDREN

Local Food Personality, Marty Crispino, invites you to join him for a homemade Italian Pasta Dinner. It comes complete with Baked Ziti, a Salad, Garlic Bread and an Ice Cream Dessert and a drink such as Lemonade or Iced Tea.

This Dinner is sponsored by Kiwanis New Harmony, who hopes that all of you come out and show your support. All of the proceeds of the Dinner will go to support Kiwanis' local outreach activities, like our 4th of July celebration.

The Dinner will be held at the Holy Angels Catholic Community Center at 419 Steammill Street in New Harmony, Indiana.

\$12 for each Adult, \$6 for Children age 12 and under. Doors open at 5 p.m. Close at 7 p.m.

## MIKE WEBSTER ANNOUNCES RUN FOR CONGRESS IN 8TH DISTRICT

Committed to Bringing Competence and Decency back to Southwestern Indiana Press Release, Submitted by Mike Webster for Congress

Tough Democrat Mike Webster announces his candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives in Indiana's 8th District.

"Expensive health care that doesn't cover anything. Jobs with low pay and lousy benefits. Crippling student debt. Rampant corruption and indecency in the Republican Party. A society and changing climate in which our children's and grandchildren's future is increasingly bleak - that's what the Larry Bucshon's of the world have inflicted on us," said Webster. "But it doesn't have to be this way. We know that, because it hasn't always been this way. Republicans and weak Democrats have done this to us, not in the distant past, but recently. But what they

have done can be undone, and then made better still.”

Webster is a relative newcomer to political campaigning, but has had some important successes in local politics. He was elected to the Black Township Board of Trustees in Posey County. He successfully fought and helped overturn an illegal drug testing program, exposing it as a colossal waste of taxpayer money. He helped expose government corruption, resulting in a state investigation that uncovered an embezzlement scheme in which an elected official stole money that was meant to help the poor and fund fire and rescue. He didn't just save taxpayer money, he made a profit for the taxpayer by getting banks to bid for the Township accounts, resulting in higher interest rates. He also served as a volunteer on the Community Corrections Board where he worked with law enforcement, the judiciary, and community groups to fight recidivism and keep the community safe.

“Local politics isn't like national politics,” said Webster. “At the local level, Democrats and Republicans routinely work together for the good of the community. National politics, however, is poisoned by toxic ideologies and rampant corruption that harms our local communities. Washington Politicians like Larry Bucshon put ideology before doing what works, and get enormous paychecks from lobbyists for their efforts.”

On all issues, Webster stresses practicality over ideology. On many issues, such as affordable healthcare, quality jobs, and education, he recognizes the past as a guide.

“It wasn't so long ago, going to work every day ensured a solid middle class existence. It wasn't so long ago, that your health insurance paid for treatment. It wasn't so long ago a college education was easily affordable. Acts of God did not take those things away from us. Acts of Congress did. So it's no great mystery how to fix these things. Roll back the massive tax cuts for the wealthy, swing the pendulum back towards workers over Wall Street, and institute the kind of universal healthcare system that is proven to save money and provide better care in so many other countries worldwide.”

Webster recognizes that the 8th District has voted overwhelmingly Republican, but believes most Republicans are sickened by what their national party has become. He offers them a good alternative, consistent with old-fashioned American values.

“Like just about everyone in Southwestern Indiana, I know many Republicans,” says Webster. “My father is a Republican, my mother was independent, but usually voted

Republican, including for Donald Trump. I've worked with many Republicans, both in local politics, law enforcement, the judiciary, and in business.”

“I know that the great majority are normal, decent people. You are not racists. You are not haters. You are basically honest. You don't cheat people in your business dealings. You don't refuse to pay for work and make people sue you. You don't sue others just to torture them. You don't set up phony charities and take the money for yourself. You don't cheat at golf or other games. Like just about everyone, you are not perfectly honest about everything all the time, but are far from being a pathological liar. You are probably a Christian, and even if not, have great respect for traditional Christian values. You love this country. You know the words of the Pledge of Allegiance. You respect the military, veterans, police and other national security and law enforcement professionals. You believe in our constitutional Democracy and respect the rule of law. You are good Americans. You are good people.”

And you are appalled - sickened even - by the corruption and indecency going on in Washington, D.C. And you know, even if you don't want to admit it publicly, that your party has been taken over by hustlers and crooks who don't share your values.

You know it's time for a change.”

Mike Webster can be reached at:  
mike@mikewebsterforcongress.com  
or at 812-604-2768

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**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE GALLERY  
CELEBRATES THE ART OF THREE  
HOOSIER ARTISTS!  
by: Dan Barton  
March 2020**

Lena Feiner's, Women's Institute Gallery at 916 East Granary Street, is currently featuring the art of three Indiana artists, Rebecca Hostetler, Ann Rains and Br. Martin Erspamer OSB.

1) Rebecca Hostetler of Newburgh, Indiana, is exhibiting Acrylic, Oil and Watercolor paintings. She has participated in exhibitions at the Evansville Museum of Art and Science, The New Harmony Contemporary Gallery of Art and several local art fairs; such as Evansville's, Funk in the City and New Harmony's, Arts in Harmony festival.

Rebecca enjoys working with acrylic, watercolor, oil, mixed media, ink, and collage. Nature inspires her, and so do abstract expressionist artists.

2) Ann Rains is one of New Harmony's own artists and has an exhibit of her pottery pieces that she's done from past years, and through 2019. Creating pottery has been an integral part of Ann Rains life. While living in Maine, she had her own pottery studio/workshop and sold one of a kind clay art to tourists, as well as local residents in the Rangeley, Maine Four Season Resort area.

Ann also accepted commissions. Perhaps her largest commission was for the Episcopal Bishop of Maine, who asked her to create an altar set for the Portland, Maine cathedral. Ann made all the pieces required and hand carved a cross on each item, which she glazed with pure gold. They included the cruets, ciborium, chalice, breadbox and other vessels.

The diversity of creating techniques which clay offers is one of the aspects of clay that Ann finds intriguing and enjoyable. She is also challenged by the dictation and limitation the clay demands of a potter. “Clay is a therapeutic and yet, challenging medium. One can become lost in time while engrossed with a lump of clay.” Ann says.

Ann's work can be found in Scotland, England, Germany, Canada and the United States. Ann currently resides in New Harmony, Indiana.

3) Br. Martin Erspamer OSB is a Benedictine monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. He earned a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Boston University in 1986 and began his career as a liturgical artist, working in paint, illustration, ceramics, stained glass, and worship space design.

His work has taken him throughout the United States and as far away as India. His art celebrates the Benedictine ethos, “that in all things may God be glorified.”

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**RECLINER ACROBATICS  
by: Ann Rains**

When I was a skinny, freckle-faced kid growing up on the Point/Black Township line, there was no recliner in the house. We did have a rocker which we tipped over, put a sheet over the top and used as a playhouse, but no recliner. Even up through high school and beyond, we never had a recliner.

Alas, recliners did come into my life when I was in my 60's. I quickly learned that one can truly become attached to a recliner. This one is small and fits me perfectly. But as



I have grown in age, the limited height of the chair has presented challenges. I am not a short person. Definitely shorter than my 20 age height by one and a half inches, but I'm not diminishing fast enough for my chair. It has become progressively difficult for me to arise from the recliner with any modicum of gentility.

I found the answer in a catalogue—risers. Yes, just like you can buy risers that elevate your bed a good four inches, you can also purchase recliner chair risers. They have a groove down the center.

Purchasing some and thinking how pleasant it would be to gracefully exit the chair, I placed them on the rungs. But, they would slip out of place and I often found myself perched at an angle, with even more difficulty getting out of the chair.

Finally, in desperation, I went to Bud's Hardware and demanded, "I want the stickiest, double-sided tape you have!" Never failing me, they brought back the Gorilla.

Tipping the chair over, I followed the directions to clean the surface area with alcohol, applied the tape to the risers, then stuck them on the rungs.

I could see that the front rungs were not level. Therefore, I placed the front risers just a little farther back where it was level. (No cross beam there at a different height.) Problem solved.

I sat down with great satisfaction and extended the chair back and leg rest as far as they would go. Suddenly my legs were sticking straight up in the air and the top of my head resting on the floor. I laughed, thinking that they make contraptions that people use to get in this position and I have my own, until I tried to figure out how to get out of this predicament. I was reminded somewhat of being stuck in my garden cart and unable to get out. After pondering my position for a while, I could see no other

alternative but to crawl upwards until the balance of the chair brought me back to Earth—recliner acrobatics!

Okay, so when I use the chair, I just cannot extend it to its full stretch out capacity. That works but one does not enjoy the full benefit of reclining. Oh well, it still works, I thought as I plopped down in the chair a few days later. The chair had other ideas. "No plopping on me!" When I dropped heavily into the chair, it quickly inverted and once again I found myself an unlikely candidate for inversion therapy.

If one had said that a recliner could teach one how to sit, I could have scoffed at them. But truly, you should see how demurely I lower myself into that chair.

Who invented this apparatus? Although it has some innovative beginnings in the dentistry field starting in the late 18th century and again in 1928 by two Americans, named Edward Knavish and Edwin Shoemaker, the recliner did not become a household necessity until 1960. A furniture maker by the name of Daniel Caldemeyer from Evansville, Indiana has been called the "father of the modern recliner." He used his air force knowledge of kinetic science to develop the recliner. The chair was used by president Lyndon Johnson and NASA. With good marketing skills, Caldemeyer boasted the recliner to great popularity.

Now I don't plop or invert anymore. Yet, it is a little like walking on egg shells. What if I go to sleep and inadvertently straighten the chair, moving it to its full extension? No doubt it will be inversion awakening time. Yes, I know I disturbed the chair's kinetic balance. Time to consider a different recliner.

planetprayers@gmail.com

©Ann Rains February, 2020

**MARCH GAZETTE RECIPE 2020  
SALTED WHITE CHOCOLATE  
LAVENDAR COOKIES**

*by: Denise Rapp*

When I think about spring I think about new life, fresh bright smells, budding flowers and eating healthier and lighter. Although eating cookies might not be the healthiest food option, the freshness of this cookie is gonna definitely be the spot. There is just something about sweet and salty treats that drives me wild. I hope you feel the same.

**Salted White Chocolate  
Lavender Cookies  
YIELD: 20-22 cookies**

**Ingredients:**

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 tsp cornstarch  
3/4 tsp baking soda  
1/2 tsp kosher salt  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
2 tsp lavender  
1/2 c butter room temp.  
6 tbsp veg. shortening  
1 large egg + 1 large egg yolk, at room temperature  
6 oz. white chocolate chunks (about 1 and 1/2 cups)  
sea salt, for sprinkling

**Directions:**

\*In a small bowl, combine flour, cornstarch, baking soda, and salt; set aside.  
\*In a food processor, process the sugar and lavender for about 10-20 seconds.  
\*Now beat together the butter, shortening, and lavender sugar at medium-high speed for 3 minutes. Add in the egg and egg yolk and beat, until fluffy. Add in the flour mixture and chocolate.  
\*Scoop the dough onto parchment paper. Chill the portioned out dough for 15 minutes.  
\*Preheat your oven to 375 degrees.  
\*Bake for 12 minutes. It should look a little underdone when you take it out.  
\*Immediately sprinkle each cookie with a small pinch of sea salt  
\*Allow to cool for 10 minutes on the baking sheets before moving to a wire baking rack to cool completely.  
Enjoy!

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Dan Barton  
*Publisher*

New Harmony Gazette  
P.O. Box 551  
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**Contributing Writers**

*Dan Barton  
Ann Rains  
Denise Rapp*

