

NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) May 2020



**MEMORIAL DAY 2020!  
REMEMBER  
JAMES ALEXANDER MYERS,  
JR.**

*by: Dan Barton - May 2020*

May is remembrance month all across America. Memorial Day used be called Decoration Day. The day families and friends went to the nation's cemeteries en-mass to place flowers and wreaths on the graves of our fallen patriots. But, maybe Memorial Day is a more appropriate name. Not for just a day though, but to remember them for the entire month, and more.

The word hero is thrown around in our society today like chaff in the wind. Every pro football player who throws a game winning touch-down pass is likely to be called a hero by America's naive mass media. Honestly, it makes me want to wretch!

Those who served in our Armed Forces, know who the real hero's of America are. They are the ones who never came back to our shores. The ones who gave their last drop of blood and devotion for their country.

Anyone who has served, at home or in a war zone, will tell you that serving gallantly and coming home, even though wounded, does not bring with it the entitlement of being called a hero. It's those who fell, and they alone, who hold the right to be called, Hero!

This month, in this column of the New Harmony Gazette, we recognize a young man from New Harmony, who gave his life in the Vietnam War, on November 12, 1968. He was 23 years of age, born on June 6, 1945. His name is James Alexander Myers, Jr. He was a U.S.Navy Gunner's Mate Second Class and died in Kien Gang Provence, during a sustained rocket and mortar attack against his attack vessel, by the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong. He was Killed in Action.

James was part of Navy Task Force 117, River Assault Squadron 13. Known affectionally as our Brown Water Navy, in Vietnam. The first time it was re-activated since the American Civil War. Assault Squadron 13, joined the U.S. Navy Riverine Force, in June 1968.

James Myers attended and graduated from The New Harmony School. He is fondly remembered by his classmates who remembered him, and who commented to The New Harmony Gazette about his good humor and friendly disposition.

Some of his shipmates also left comments on his Memorial Page about their relationship with Jim:

Leo Kelley said, "Jim had always been my hero and mentor. Jim is always in my memories and is never

forgotten!"

John Butler said, "I fondly remember Jim as a person with a great sense of humor, one who could make the day seem a little better."

Clyde Andada said, " I was with Jim in Vietnam. He was a great sailor. He was a very good friend. He was in RIVIRON 13. We lost a good man!"

There were many more comments.

And so we did lose a good man, all of us did. We lost many more of our best!

**NEW HARMONY  
WATER RATE TAX INCREASE  
ON JUNE 1, 2020, '21 AND '22!**

*by: Dan Barton - May 2020*

One of my least favorite subject's to write about is a tax increase! I know, you're thinking that Water Rates are not tax increases, but just a water rate increase. However, in this case, I believe that they are one and the same.

The definition of a tax, by Oxford Dictionary is: A compulsory contribution to state or local revenue, levied by the government on citizens' income and business profits, or added to some goods, services (water in this case) and transactions. Sounds like it fits!

Just writing about it gives me the blahs! Two weeks after the March 2020, New Harmony Town Council meeting, I spoke informally with Council President Alvin Blaylock.

I asked what he thought was the largest contributing factor causing the Water Utility Operating account “running in the red.” A term he used in the March Council meeting. Blaylock replied that he thought the greatest contributing factor was the amount of money spent by the Town Council replacing, repairing and removing old town fire hydrants.

Now, I have no particular disparaging remark to make about the civil engineering aspect of Mr. Blaylock’s handling of the fire hydrant rehabilitation program, which he carried out over the last few years. Mr. Blaylock had said to me, the fire hydrants, in most cases, were over 75 years old. Certainly, at some point in time, these hydrants needed to be taken out of service, most should have been completely amortized a long time ago. But was it necessary to replace one third of the 87 town hydrants in the brief span of two to three years? Nearly 30 hydrants, at roughly \$7,000 each or around \$210,000 in total, must have been spent in that brief period. Blaylock, as much as confirmed these figures in statements he made at a New Harmony Kiwanis meeting on July 22, 2019. Is there some way the replacement period could have been stretched a few years, so as not to throw the Water Utility Operating Account into such a large deficit?

Well, one answer to that question should have been, “Yes”. That’s if the Council had put together a Long Term Capital Spending Budget, directed at keeping the fire hydrant replacements inside guidelines that would have prevented the Council’s spending into “the red.” Over a longer time period they could have efficiently replaced the old hydrants and not created a disaster in the Town Funds. Fire hydrant replacement was not an emergency operation.

What motivated the replacement of these 28 hydrants was the fire in July, 2016, at 626 Frederick Street. The hydrant at that location was not working, contributing to the loss of that property. It turned out that it was not the condition of the hydrant that prevented it from working, but that it had been disconnected by a work crew when the new storm sewer system was being installed and never reconnected. There was never any evidence presented at any Council meeting that indicated any of the town’s hydrants were in non-working order.

But, here we are, overspent and facing a substantial Water Rate Tax increase. Not to mention the liquidation of the \$100,000, Water Utility Cash Reserve, transferred to the Water Operating account. I mentioned to Mr. Blaylock in March, that I hoped he could keep the rate increase at a minimum, since we have people in New Harmony who rely solely on a small Social Security check each month to survive. He had reminded me that he also would be paying the Water Rate increase, just like everyone. I didn’t ask to see his tax returns!

I suspected my appeal was in vain and that it was already water, or money, over the old dam, and I was right. This Water Tax Rate increase is almost a duplicate of the 30% increase that New Harmonists endured in 2013, ’14 and ’15. That increase was implemented on the basis of costs the town incurred for installing the storm sewer system on the south side of town, and to qualify for a \$500,000 State Bond. There was no Bond involved in the 2020 increase. The rate increases by the prior Town Council began in 2013, and in each subsequent year as follows, based on the first 4,000 gallons of usage: 10% (2013),

10%(2014) and 10%(2015) for a total tax rate increase of 30% over three years. Not moderate increases, by any stretch of the imagination.

The new Water Tax Rate increases, based on the first 4,000 gallons of usage, will be implemented over three years also; On June 1, 2020 the new rate will be \$31.00 per month, ( up 12%). As of June 1, 2021 the rate will increase to \$34.12 per month ( up 10%), and as of June 1, 2022 the rate will increase to \$36.84 per month (up 8%). In total, more than a 30% increase in the three year period. When compounding is considered, it’s more like 33%.

Along with Water Rate Taxes traveling upward in New Harmony, Sewage Tax Rate Taxes could also jump in the future, if the town uses, or runs more water through the Sewage Plant than it has in the past. I spoke to Karla Atkins, Town Secretary/Treasurer, and she said that an increase in Sewer charges will not happen at this time. However, the issue was brought up at the March Council meeting by Councilman Gary Watson, and it’s my obligation to bring it up in the Gazette. An increase in Sewer charges would be mandated by the state if Sewage use increases more than in the past, because of increased water use.

The last multiplying factor concerning Sewage Rate, compared to Water Rate, was two point one. That means that, if all things remain equal, when the Water Rate goes up to \$31.00 per month, if town Sewage usage also goes up, then sewage rates could go up to as much as \$62.00 per month, in the first year. They could then jump to \$68.24 per month, on a second year increase and then up to \$73.68 per month, on a third year increase. We won’t know if these Sewage rates will increase until some unknown date in the future, after the

town usage is audited by the state. But unless the state changes the multiplying factor, these numbers should be about right.

Council President Blaylock also announced, in the March Council meeting, that there will be more infrastructure improvements ahead. Let's hope there will also be a Long Term Capital Budget ahead, so that citizens, who wish to, can engage in a discussion with elected officials before being slapped with another new Tax Rate Increase.

Blaylock said that a second reading of the Water Rate Tax increase ordinance, which was read at the April, Council meeting, will be read again at the May 2020, Town Council meeting, if they have one.

### TOWN COUNCIL

**HI-LITES APRIL 21, 2020**

*by: Dan Barton - May 2020*

\*Councilwoman Virginia Alsop announced that the River Trail Golf Cart Path is now open.

\*Councilman Tom Williams wanted to know about re-opening the Murphy Park to vehicular traffic. President Alvin Blaylock responded that until the Governor of Indiana lifts the ban on children's playgrounds being closed, the park would remain inaccessible to vehicle traffic. It is open for hiking, walking and biking, however.

\*Spring Cleanup day is May 8, 2020.

\*Council hired Glen Boyster as Deputy Asst. Town Marshal



### Donald Kenneth Parker Obituary

Here is Donald Kenneth Parker's obituary. Please accept Everhere's sincere condolences.

We are sad to announce that on April 23, 2020 we had to say goodbye to Donald Kenneth Parker (New Harmony, Indiana). You can send your sympathy in the guestbook provided and share it with the family. You may also light a candle in honor of Donald Kenneth Parker.

He was predeceased by : his siblings, Wilma Heriges, Clarence Gilbert, Ted and John Parker. He is survived by : his wife Shirley Ann (Martin); his children, Douglas Wayne Parker, DeeAnn Martin Parker and David Scott Parker of New York City; his grandchildren, Paige Patterson, Samantha Robinson and Melissa Williams; his siblings, Sara Foster, Glen and Steve Parker; his sister-in-law Sharon Greenwood; and his friend Bill Cox.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to: Linda E. White Hospice House, 611 Harriet Street, Evansville, Indiana 47747 or to Maple Hill Cemetery Maintenance Fund, PO Box 340, New Harmony, Indiana 47631.

### ATTITUDE

*by: Ann Rains*

Robin Roberts said on the Good Morning show, "Have an attitude of gratitude." I thought that jingle may be the key to a civilized survival during this world wide pandemic of the coronavirus and I hurriedly wrote it on a scrap of paper. Then I thought of the notebook Mother's Day gift from our church in which we were to write five blessings each day. That notebook was a training journal. It has helped me focus on the good.

Awakening each day to crisis can psychologically impede that attitude of gratitude. But I, for one, am grateful beyond words for our doctors and nurses who are risking their lives each day to care for the sick, knowing full well the danger. Or, the policemen, firefighters and ambulance personnel who are putting themselves in harm's way. All heroes—points of light in the darkness of days.

Even though the virus has not hit our tristate area with vehemence as in New York, New Orleans and other areas, it is finding its way here. I think about people in impoverished countries who have no medical care whatsoever and I am grateful that I was born an American. I am especially grateful for emergency rooms!

My neighbor came walking across the yard while I was trying to get a little area prepared for a garden. She stayed a good distance away, and called out, "Do you need anything from the grocery? We are going shopping." That was a kind, thoughtful gesture and filled my heart with gratitude.



Truly, the dominating attitude one relies upon comes to the forefront in times of uncertainty and stress. It is not easy to wait in lines as people have done to sign up for unemployment, but heads of households are doing what they can to keep their families fed, even if it means spending hours waiting their turn to register. You cannot hear their voices but what good would it do to complain?

Face masks are easy to make and the directions for their construction can be found on UTube. I found two sites with instructions and utilized information from both of them. I used a tightly woven, lightweight insulating material for the liner and some yard good remnants of brightly colored flowers for the exterior. I've kept two and given away the others.

When I picked up my 60 year old Singer portable sewing machine, which must weigh a ton, putting it on the table top was a challenge! You better believe that I was grateful to not have wrenched my back performing this Herculean feat! How did the machine get so heavy?

A short news item told of South Korea requiring all their citizens to wear masks. That, along with other measures, slowed or halted the

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spread of the virus in that country. It is important to wear a mask if you are in a clerk in a grocery store, filling station or any other service industry. You are most likely not able to distance yourself the necessary six feet from customers.

Now that the coronavirus has arrived in the tristate, remember all the guidelines and stick to them. Awaken each day with an attitude of gratitude. Your light will dispel the darkness. Stay healthy, dear friends.

Philippians 2:14-15 "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, Children of God, without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe..."

planetprayers@gmail.com  
©Ann Rains March, 2020

**May Gazette Recipe**  
**Beef Tenderloin**  
*by: Denise Rapp*

If you're looking for a recipe that will impress the masses, then you need to make a beef tenderloin. This cut of beef is so tender and delicious. It just melts in your mouth. Throw together some whipped potatoes with brown butter and cream spinach and you have a culinary masterpiece.

Serves 6-8

**Ingredients:**

Beef Tenderloin  
6 Tbs Coffee Rub Spices  
8 Medium Potatoes - for mashed potatoes  
Stick of Butter  
16 oz fresh spinach

1 onion  
Salt & pepper  
Granulated garlic  
4 Tbs butter  
1 c. Heavy cream  
1/2 Asiago Cheese

**Directions**

Beef:

Trim tenderloin and tie loose ends with kitchen string.

Rub with spices and set meat in counter until room temperature.

Sear meat in all sides and bake in 350 degree oven until meat reaches 135 degree internal temperature in the largest section of meat.

Cover with foil and let it rest for 10-15 minutes before you slice.

Potatoes:

Make your mashed potatoes. But top with brown butter.

In a small skillet add a stick of butter and cook at medium heat. Stirring constantly until fat solids turn a brown nutty color.

Note: it will begin to foam and that is when it is ready. Pour over mashed potatoes.

Spinach:

Sauté onions in olive oil until golden brown.

Add 4 tbs butter and spinach.

Season with salt, pepper and garlic.

Once spinach has wilted add heavy cream and cheese .

Enjoy!

