

The Clipper

Email news:
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Swanda retires; new owners for Spark Electric

After about 30 years of owning and operating Spark Electric Co., Inc. on a fulltime basis (and an additional 20 years part time), Jerry Swanda has retired from the business.

As of Jan. 1, 2023, the new owners are Steve and Lynn Hummel.

Steve is an electrical contractor who has been working for the company since 1994. Steve can be reached at 402-641-2445.

Fire department hits 100th year

"On Tuesday evening, Jan. 2, 1923, a meeting was held at the Brainard ZCJB Hall for the purpose of organizing a fire department for the village of Brainard," according to a story in the Brainard Centennial book, published in 1978. "The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sobota as chairman and proceeded to organize and elect officers."

In all, 21 members signed the first roll call for the group named the Brainard Volunteer Fire Department.

The department treasury began with \$18.05, the amount that had been in Theo. Smersh's care since about 13 years prior, when a similar effort to form a fire department had been unsuccessful. "Initial equipment consisted of a hose cart and, later on in 1925, the city of Brainard converted their 1924 Oldsmobile Chassis with \$1,570 worth of fire apparatus into a fire truck."

The department expanded into the rural area in 1939 when it was decided to start a drive among "rural people" for a truck to serve those areas.

Next Bloodmobile set for Feb. 3

The next Red Cross Bloodmobile will be held in Brainard on Feb. 3 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Klein Center. Other future dates include April 7, June 9 and Aug. 4. Dates and times are always subject to change.

To make an appointment, call local organizer Denise Bruner. Donors are encouraged to eat a snack or meal and drink liquids such as water and juice before arriving. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

Winners named in lighting contest

Winners in the Brainard Community Club Light Decorating Contest were Mike and Tasha Eldridge, James and Mollie Kriz, Nicole Janak, Dylan and Katie Kost. Each received a \$25 gift certificate to Brainard Meats from the sponsoring Brainard Community Club.

Club officers said they appreciated seeing all the holiday lights: "Thank you to all who decorated their homes and yards to make Brainard so festive looking during the holiday season! A special thank you to the Village of Brainard and Frontier Coop for their amazing decorations."

Super Bowl Brunch set for Feb. 12

A Super Bowl Sunday Pre-Game Brunch is set for Sunday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Klein Center.

The menu will feature pancakes and sausage, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, fruit, French toast and omelets to order, all for a free will offering. The event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 8889.

The day will also include a PCCW bake sale.

Broasted pork chop meal on Feb. 19

The American Legion Rejda Post 273 will host a Broasted Pork Chop meal on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

In addition to the broasted pork chops, the meal will include potato dumplings, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and gravy.

A freewill donation will be accepted for the meal, which will be held at the American Legion Hall in Brainard.

Sons of American Legion considered

American Legion Rejda Post 273 of Brainard is discussing the possibility of establishing a chapter of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) in Brainard. The purpose of the SAL would be to carry on the patriotic and community activities of the American Legion and provide an organization where members could work together and enjoy comradeship.

Sons and grandsons of all U.S. veterans are eligible to join. A meeting to provide information about the SAL and how it may function will be held at the Legion Hall in mid-March.

Quilters complete another year

The Holy Trinity Quilters were organized in September of 2006 and have completed another year making U.G.L.Y. quilts, which stands for Unconditionally God Loves You. The quilts are made from donated fabric, thread, sheets and blankets. They are given to the needy through Columbus Rescue Mission, Matt Talbot Kitchen, Goodwill and Blue Valley Community Action. Lap robes are given to nursing homes. Quilts are also given to local organizations to be used as fundraisers and to those who are sick, hospitalized or in need of a warm blanket.

In 2022, the 10 ladies made a total of 88 quilts, which includes 44 large quilts, 39 lap robes and five baby quilts. Since the organization began, the Quilters have made 970 large quilts, 850 lap robes (smaller quilts) and 236 baby quilts for a grand total of 2,056 quilts.

How can you help? "We need help cutting fabric, tying quilts and sewing quilt tops," said organizers. "You can do this at home or on alternate Monday afternoons at the Klein Center. We do NOT need more material. We hope you can help us by bidding on quilts at local events or by praying for our mission of helping people."

"A special note of appreciation to all who have helped since our organization began in 2006. Thank you to the wonderful community of Brainard."

Heavy snow? Residents asked to park off streets

In the event of a heavy snowstorm, Brainard residents are asked to park vehicles off streets to help with snow removal. "It can take several hours, even days, to get snow removed from all streets and alley ways," said village officials. "Please refrain from calling City Hall, requesting immediate removal of snow or ice from your street or alley. Village personnel will be working diligently and your patience with this matter is appreciated."

Residents and property owners are reminded that snow and ice must be cleared quickly from ALL sidewalks in the Village of Brainard. An ordinance states that all residential sidewalks be cleared of snow within 24 hours after the cessation of snow fall, while the business district is to have sidewalks cleared within 12 hours after the cessation of snow fall. This includes all vacant lots and vacant residential and business dwellings as well.

Cooperation in keeping the village sidewalks safe is appreciated, said local officials.

Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

Jan. 15 - Clayton Kastl
Jan. 18 - MaKayla Bankson
Jan. 23 - Don Ingwersen
Jan. 24 - Jenny Ingwersen
Jan. 27 - Dylan Kost
Jan. 29 - Dan Zysset
Jan. 30 - Julia Dvorak
Jan. 30 - Justin Dvorak
Feb. 6 - Lynn Hummel
Feb. 7 - Dianne Makovicka
Feb. 8 - Ray and Gail Stolze
Feb. 13 - Steve Rezac
Feb. 15 - Fred and Sue Bougger
Feb. 16 - Karen Dvorak
Feb. 17 - Taylor Schommer
Feb. 17 - Keaton Lynn Novacek
Feb. 18 - Lucas Zitek
Feb. 19 - Michael Janak
Feb. 20 - Vickie Hines
Feb. 22 - Reid Glasshoff
Feb. 22 - Kallie Zitek
Feb. 22 - Hannah Swanda
Feb. 22 - Steve Hines
Feb. 24 - Blaire Glasshoff
Feb. 27 - Cora Rezac
March 1 - Statehood Day (1867)
March 2 - Alex Beckman
March 4 - Rick and Julie Novacek
March 6 - Ryan Sullivan
March 7 - Donna Rae Steager
March 8 - Debbie Behne
March 9 - Carolyn Dvorak
March 12 - Kale Glasshoff
March 15 - Kolbe R. Pytlik
March 15 - Tim Steager
March 15 - Joel Vrbka
March 16 - Alan Snyder
March 19 - Skyler Robeson
March 21 - Kathy Pelan
March 23 - Sadie Struebing
March 24 - Tom Janak
March 25 - Chris & Brenda Janak
March 26 - Elaine Fortik
March 26 - Paul R. Pytlik
March 26 - Cora Grace Novacek
March 26 - Asher Radke
March 29 - Jett Schommer
March 30 - Phyllis Edwards
March 31 - Jaydyn Schommer

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All submissions subject to editing

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