

The Clipper



Happy Valentine's Day!

Volume 20 No. 6

Feb. 4, 2021

Next Bloodmobile set for Feb. 5

The next Red Cross Bloodmobile will be held in Brainard on Feb. 5 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Klein Center. Other future dates include April 13, June 8, Aug. 6 and Nov. 2. Dates 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. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

When it comes to holiday lights, the whole town was a winner

If there was ever a year when holiday lights were needed to brighten the mood and raise the spirits, it was 2020. And Brainard residents came through with some of the best displays ever.

Previous winners of a local Christmas lighting contest did not rest on their laurels but instead put up even more lights. Brainard residents who had not put up lights or a display before chose to do so in 2020. The downtown area featured lights hung over the street, highlighted by sparkling stars. Evergreen Park was hard to miss with its large decorated tree. New decorations, courtesy of the Village of Brainard, adorned light poles throughout town.

Although it was tough to judge, four winners were named in late December in the fourth annual lighting contest, sponsored by the Brainard Community Club. Each received by mail a \$25 gift certificate to a local business.

Winners (in no particular order) were Mark and Robin Sullivan, Jim and Sharon Bruner, Darren and Susan Wright, John and Margaret Bruner.

Honorable mention goes to everyone else who put up Christmas lights, set out a Santa or displayed decorations. It was all appreciated.

Ross Benes writes another book

Ross Benes lives in New York City but his most recently published book focuses on and is dedicated to his hometown, Brainard. *Rural Rebellion: How Nebraska Became a Republican Stronghold* is Ross' third book and explores Nebraska's shifting political landscape to better understand what's plaguing America. Extended interviews with U.S. senators, representatives, governors and state lawmakers illustrate how local disputes over topics such as health care coverage and education funding became examples for our current national crisis.

According to an Amazon review: "Benes tells real-life stories to add depth and nuance to our understanding of rural Americans' attitudes about immigration, big government and other contentious issues. His argument and conclusion are simple but powerful: that Americans in disparate places would be less hostile to one another if they just knew each other a little better. Part memoir, journalism and social science, *Rural Rebellion* is a book for our times."

Covid hits Brainard with John Bruner's death

Brainard was hit hard by Covid-19 with the death of John Bruner, 68, a lifetime resident and longtime community leader, who died Jan. 16, 2021 at Bryan Medical Center East Campus in Lincoln.

John Charles Bruner was born June 4, 1952 to Leonard and Marie Bruner. He attended Holy Trinity Catholic School in Brainard and graduated from East Butler High School in 1970. After graduation, John attended Milford Trade School and graduated with a degree in building construction. He

built and repaired numerous homes in the area; he also renovated Holy Trinity Church and oversaw construction of the Monsignor Klein Center.

John was a member of the Knights of Columbus and served as a Holy Trinity Church trustee.

John served numerous positions in local and county governments. He was a member of the Brainard Village Board at the time of his death and also served as a county supervisor, on the Brainard Volunteer Fire Department

and as an EMT.

John was instrumental in many village improvements including the swimming pool, parks and Evergreen Court.

Funeral services and burial were held Jan. 23 at Holy Trinity Church and Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife Margaret Bruner; brothers James (Sharon) and Norman (Denise), all of Brainard; in-laws, many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews.

Quilting goes on, despite pandemic

The Holy Trinity Quilters had a different kind of year as did many organizations and the entire world. The last meeting of the Quilters was March 9. And yet, during 2020, eight large quilts, 60 lap robes and 15 baby quilts were made for a total of 83. Since the Quilters were organized in 2006, a total of 923 large quilts, 733 lap robes and 217 baby quilts have been made, totaling 1,873.

Quilts were donated to Lincoln City Mission, Matt Talbot Outreach, Columbus Rescue Mission, Santee Indian Rescue and Genesis House. Quilts have also been given to local fundraisers and projects, such as the American Legion Potato Bake, Knights Pork Chop Dinner and car show, as well as to parishioners who have been hospitalized and those moving into care centers.

The most exciting project was the donation to the East Butler Caring for Care Centers Christmas project. Twenty-two lap robes, several afghans and a variety of games, gifts, books and cash donations were given to the organizations heading the project. "Thank you to all of the Quilters for helping to make the project a success even though we worked from home," said organizers.

Those who would like to tie a quilt at home, cut blocks, sew quilt tops or anything else to help the Quilters is asked to call Sharon Bruner at 402-545-3901. "We have plenty of material but are running low on lap robes and quilts," she said. "They are definitely needed with winter just getting a good start."

"Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to help this group contribute to the welfare of others as well as those who have donated material and supplies," said organizers. "Thank you to those who have purchased quilts as gifts for family and friends. Hopefully, we'll be able to meet again in the spring and continue our mission."

Heavy snow? Residents asked to park off streets

In the event of a heavy snowstorm, 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 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.

Dogs need to be licensed

All dogs in Brainard must be licensed and vaccinated per village code. Dog owners can license their pets at City Hall. Items needed at the time of registration include 1) a certificate proving a current rabies shot; and 2) \$6.25 registration fee.

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

Feb. 6 - Emily Havlovic
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. Pytlík
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. Pytlík
March 26 - Cora Grace Novacek
March 26 - Asher Radke
March 29 - Jett Schommer
March 31 - Jaydyn Schommer
April 1 - Tracy Spatz
April 1 - Julie Novacek
April 1 - Greg Janak
April 2 - Ashley Zysset
April 4 - Bern Kozisek
April 6 - Jaxon Miriovsky
April 7 - Twila Petrzilka
April 10 - Alan & Tammy Tejral
April 10 - Jeff Ingwersen

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All submissions subject to editing

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