

**CITY OF  
COLLINS**

# Community news

**October  
2019**

## Recycling

Beginning in November 2019, the large recycle bin that is currently located near the city shop, at the southeast corner of town, will no longer be available for use. The city will soon be mailing out informational postcards courtesy of Waste Management. These postcards will have all pertinent information regarding the new recycling program.

Please keep an eye out for these in your mail next week. We are moving to **CURBSIDE** recycling. The reason that the city made this decision is due to the misuse of the large bin. This will allow for Waste Management to individually address and educate you if there is something that is not recyclable in your recycle bin. Every household/

business, within the city limits, will receive their own 96-gallon cart. This cart will be picked up every other Tuesday. The first pickup date will be **Tuesday, November 12th** and then again on **Tuesday, November 26th**.

Please feel free to visit our website: [cityofcollins.municipalimpact.com](http://cityofcollins.municipalimpact.com)

We appreciate your patience with this new implementation, as we feel that this is going to be a much more efficient way to recycle and will be welcomed throughout the community.

# Let's get back to the basics of recycling.

## Remember these three rules each time you recycle:



**1** Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



**2** Keep food and liquids out of the recycling.



**3** Empty recyclables directly into your cart - NO bagged recyclables.

## “Don't trash our future... Recycle Right!”



#RORR

To Learn More Visit [RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com](http://RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com)





## City Hall Hours

Monday 9am-4pm  
Tuesday 8am-4pm  
Wednesday 8am-4pm  
Thursday 10am-6pm  
Friday 8am-4pm

## Beggar's Night in Collins!

Thursday,  
October 31st  
from 6-8pm



## Veteran's Day- Brett Comegys

November 11th of each year is the day our nation has set aside to honor our Veterans. The day was originally called Armistice Day, to commemorate the end of WWI. WWI ended in 1918 and was supposed to be the "war to end all wars". Sadly, the U.S. was pulled right back into the fight just 20 years later. Imperial Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, while Nazi Germany and Italian Fascists were marching victory across Europe. Only after

WW2, did we realize we could never eliminate war — but we *could* make sure that we set aside a time to honor those who have sacrificed to fight in them.

Collins has a whole cemetery filled with men and women who have served their country. Our local American Legion does a wonderful job every Memorial Day helping us remember them. Veteran's Day, though, is for all those who have served... in

peace and in war. So, please raise your flags high that day, remember to thank those who have served, and always remember the freedoms guaranteed to us were won by the efforts and sacrifices of those who have worn the uniforms.



## Collins Public Library Trick-or-Treat

**STOP BY THE LIBRARY  
WHILE YOU'RE OUT  
TRICK-OR-TREATING ON  
OCTOBER 31ST FROM 6-8PM,  
TO GET SOME GOODIES!!**



## Library Board

The Collins Public Library Board of Trustees is searching for a new member! Requirements and things to keep in mind for this current open position are as follows. Must reside within Collins city limits. This position may be filled by either a male or

female. Must commit to volunteer to work at most/all of the community events planned by The Friends of the Collins Public Library (Easter Event, Collins Days Lunch, Trivia Nights, Santa Visit, etc). Must be able to attend the Library Board meeting

once a month. For additional information or if you are interested in filling this position, please contact Library Director Sara Coree at [collinspubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:collinspubliclibrary@gmail.com). This is a great way to get involved in your community!

## Improvements to the Community Center- Brett Comegys

Councilmembers Dawnell Kennedy and Staci Corbitt put together some suggestions to the council regarding improvements to the community center. These upgrades are focused on the back portion of the building... replacing paneling with drywall, kitchen improvements, southern windows, etc. The conversation has evolved to the possibility of adding a new addition to go along with those improvements. While we are still finalizing some of the details on what that addition may look like, the idea to build will give us a chance to create a dedicated space for our Historical Society, enlarge the kitchen, and to install needed storage space. Considering how vital this location is to our town, the investment seems like it would do a lot of good.

With the larger project in mind, I submitted a \$25,000 grant request to the Story County Community Founda-

tion (SCCF). Expansion of the Mural Walk was also included in the grant language. My personal fundraising goal is \$40,000, which I think will do some great things.

Out of 21 letters of intent around the county, Collins and 3 others were invited to submit a full application. Collins did not get the \$25,000, but we are going to be awarded \$14,000 as a consolation. Along with that, I have applied for \$2,500 from SCEDG (Story County Economic Development Group) and \$5,400 from the Albert and Vera Clement Foundation. In addition, the Collins Days Committee has allocated \$1,500 to the project. There are also several other revenue sources that I have reached out to, but I am still awaiting news or a final commitment from.

I am confident that we can reach that \$40,000 mark within a few months. As I say

that, we still have a lot of discussions to have... and a lot of different opinions to consider on exactly what this project's endgame will look like. All I can say about that is that conversations are usually a lot more productive when you already have guaranteed money set aside... which is why I am getting a head start on raising money.

We still have a lot of flexibility in this project. There has been some great input from a few people already, and this newsletter is an opportunity to solicit even more ideas. So, feel free to share. Your input might help us think up something that hasn't been thought of already.

As this project progresses, we will keep everyone informed. Thanks.



## Play or Learn Mah Jongg!

Join us on Friday, November 1st or Friday, November 15th at the Wright Learning Center of the Collins Public Library to PLAY or LEARN how to play the game "MAH JONGG". We meet from 1-4pm on the first and third Fridays of each month. Please call Lois Rietveld, Karol Armentrout, Carol Newton, or Esther Shaw if you have questions.

## “Meet Your Friends”

The Friends of the Collins Public Library is a committee that helps to raise needed funds for the library. We host at least four fundraisers each year. Some of the ways we have raised money in the past is with the Community Breakfast at the community center once a year,

Trivia Nights, Wine and Canvas events, and the Collins Days Lunch each year. We also host fun and free activities for families throughout the year including the Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny every spring, family movie nights, and visits with Santa at Christmas time. Being

on the Friends of the Library committee is a great way to give back to our community. If you are interested in joining the Friends committee, please contact one of the members listed below. We would love to have you as part of our group!

### Committee Members

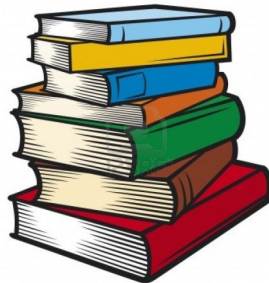
#### Danielle Bell, President

After being away for 10 years, my husband Jason and I decided to move back to his home town with our 3 kids (Seth 11, Brooklyn 8, and Aubree 1-1/2), 2 dogs and cat. Since moving back, we've added a hedgehog to our zoo! We knew we wanted our kids to grow up in a smaller community, so moving to Collins was not a hard choice! I'm also a Girl Scout leader for Collins-Maxwell as well as on the CMB Soccer Board. I'm looking forward to getting to know more people through Friends of the Library and continue to raise money for the library in hopefully not only traditional ways but new and fun ways that the community will enjoy!

#### Dawn Pasquariello,

##### Vice President

I have been on the Friends of the Library for 3+ years now. My husband Nick and I have three daughters who keep us very busy with their school activities. I have enjoyed being on the Friends committee and am excited for the future of Collins and the library!



#### Christi Brown, Secretary

Hello friends, I am the newly elected secretary for The Friends of the Collins library. I have three energetic kids, Malibu, Isaac and Levi. We have lived in town for over 15 years now and love it.

Levi, my youngest, is Autistic and loves to spend his time at the library playing on the computers. The library staff is so sweet and patient with him and I thought joining “The Library Friends” would be a nice way to give back.

I am looking forward to planning some super fun community events and activities with Nita, Katie, Barbie, Dawn and Danielle.

Check us out soon!

#### Nita Kloppenborg, Treasurer

I came to Collins in 1973 after my marriage to John, a long time resident of Collins. We have 2 sons, John and Jimmy. In 1983 John decided to finish a military career, and while he was on active duty, we traveled to Hawaii, Tennessee, and Kansas. In 1993, we returned to Collins, put the boys in school, and I went to work at the VA Medical Center in Des Moines. In addition to my sons, I have 2 grandchildren. Zee lives in Des Moines, and Henry is here in Collins. In addition to the Friends Board, I serve on the CASH Senior Housing Board.

#### Barbie Hyde, Member

I grew up in Colfax and moved to Collins in 2006. I married my husband Jesse Hyde in 2007. Since then we have added three beautiful kids and two crazy dogs to our amazing life. Ava 11, Zeva 7, Sam 6, Colt is 11 and Bear is 3. When I am not working, I like to spend my time with my family and friends. We spend our weekends going from one sporting event to the other. It gets a little crazy but I cant imagine it any other way!

#### Katie Baldwin, Member

I am married to my husband Jake, and we have two kiddos—Jonas is almost 12 and Jaida is 7. We have made Collins our home now for the past 11 years and love it here! I was on the Friends of the Library committee for one year, then transitioned to being a Library Board Member for about 5 years and really enjoyed it. I had to resign from the library board when I accepted the City Clerk position, but I still wanted to be involved with the library in some way. When I was recently asked to re-join the Friends group, I gladly accepted! Stay posted for many great activities coming up!

## Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Collins- Brett Comegys

Many of you that have been reading newsletters over the past few years probably recall hearing something about TIF. This was something that I brought to the council 5 or 6 years ago to try and have them start wrapping their minds around. Initially, those conversations weren't really intended to get the council to adopt TIF practices, but simply to help everyone digest the potential of what it could do for us. Since that time, we have had a lot of new faces join local government... allowing us to jump start those discussions again, and open the door for much more meaningful action on the topic.

As a reminder, TIF is actually something called "TAX INCREMENT FINANCING". The practice has been around since the 1960's and is nothing new to local communities. In TIF, an entity works to identify specific properties that are earmarked for development. As those properties improve, so do their assessed tax valuation. These have to be mapped in an Urban Renewal Plan, and approved through a legal process. Once complete, if these properties do improve, the increased tax collection they provide can be captured by the entity who wrote the plan... and instead of being split between the state, county, school, and city they are in, the revenue goes to the projects mapped out in the plan.

So, in the case of Collins, we put together a renewal plan that identified a number of properties in town. Some of those properties were empty lots. Others were once publicly owned but were now going to private ownership. The council retained a lawyer to help us ratify the plan, send out notices, etc. We will be able to capture the revenue generated from the increased value of properties within the plan, and use that money to tackle projects outlined in our plan. In our case, we have designated our roads as the priority. (But the plan can be modified later to involve additional projects.)

None of this affects your taxes. Simply put; if a property is worth \$10,000, the owner is paying property taxes that go four different directions. If that owner puts a \$100,000 home on that land, the increased value (\$90,000) is now bringing in new revenue that didn't exist before. That is the revenue that our plan captures. With the projected revenue, we go out and shop for debt that is backed with those expected revenues, and we use that debt to do our projects. The debt is paid back yearly from the TIF revenue. We can collect that revenue on residential improvements for up to 10 years, and commercial improvements for 20.

The reason that we never used this option before is because we

just weren't ready for it. A change in clerk, an administrative consultant, and a willing council have all contributed to the right environment. But in reality, we just weren't ready to support enough development for TIF to make sense. With some of the houses going up, selling of public properties, and buildings being torn down, we are in a far better position.

Most importantly to TIF in Collins, though, is the development of the new LANDUS facility, just outside of town. Through some excellent investigative work by Councilman Del Amsden, we found out that Collins has the ability to include TIF improvements that fall within 2 miles of our City limits. This is a big deal, because it allows us to TIF the LANDUS operation and thus add millions of dollars in new development to our Urban Renewal Plan. So, Del was a real hero in the process, because LANDUS will add about \$160,000 to the TIF coffers per year. Adding LANDUS is the equivalent to about 50 new homes going up. This will make a real impact on our town and I hope people can get excited about all of the changes that it will bring to Collins.

## Mural Committee- Brett Comegys

I have been meeting with the mural committee and I am happy to report that we have finally come to an agreement! We agree that we cannot agree. Putting a positive spin on this is pretty easy... because this is actually a positive and it means that there are just too many great things about our town that people would like to see represented on a mural. As a compromise, I suggested that maybe we shouldn't limit ourselves to any one idea. Thus the concept for a "mural walk" on Main Street was born. The council liked the idea and opened the door to development. We believe it will make a wonderful stopping point for folks traveling

through town on the Heart of Iowa Trail, for those visiting our businesses, and for everyone that lives here and wants to celebrate our local heritage. For anywhere from \$300 to \$600, people can sponsor a vinyl mural, celebrating our town's past, present, and future. To help kickstart the idea, my family contributed to the first two. Hopefully, this will inspire other folks around town to want to financially support additional items to be added to the area. Together, I think we can all be a part of creating something really unique and special in Story County. I have had some preliminary conversations with a couple of

members of the Collins Historical Society, as well as others, to help come up with mural ideas that we can put out there for sponsorship. If you or someone you know would like to help finance one of these signs, please contact City Hall and they will put you in touch with me. The Mural Committee will be meeting sometime in the future to continue our conversations about the matter, as well. An added note... there still may be something going on the Hair Hut wall. This is still an ongoing discussion and we can all look forward to seeing where that conversation goes.



**Farmers on Main Street**

Arthur Rothstein was a Pulitzer prize winning photographer, as well as the Photographer-in-Chief of Look Magazine. He was the recipient of dozens of awards over the course of his career, contributed countless works for more than five decades, and is considered by many as one of our nation's premier photojournalists. Prior to those successes though, Rothstein started his career working for the U.S. Government.

As a recent graduate of Columbia University, Arthur Rothstein was recruited to join Roosevelt's New Deal as part of the newly formed Resettlement Administration (later becoming the Farm Securities Administration in 1937). He was the first photographer sent out by the department to document their initiatives to provide relief to people around the country. During his five year stint as a staff photojournalist, Rothstein shot some of the most significant photographs ever taken of rural and small-town America.

En route to Oklahoma (to journal the plight of the American Indians) Rothstein traveled through the town of Collins, stopping long enough to capture several memorable pictures...including this photo of three farmers hanging out on our Main Street. Widely circulated on the internet, the picture establishes a remarkable window to our local past. In doing so, Rothstein's work guaranteed our town's connection to one of the greatest eras in our nation's history...the Great Depression.

Donated by the family of Russ and Mary Smith



**The Bridge Photos**

In the early 80's, an old wooden railroad bridge between Collins and Maxwell, was petitioned for removal by both towns. The bridge was on the last vestiges of the now defunct rail routes of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul rail lines. To commemorate the occasion, students from the newly formed Collins-Maxwell CSD gathered for a photo on the bridge.

Flash forward to 2014, when the viaduct just south of Collins was about to be removed. Students and staff once again gathered to recreate the 1983 picture, marking the event for history.

Looking at both pictures side by side, you will be able to see that many of the kids from the original picture stayed in the area long enough to have children of their own. Many of those kids happened to make their way into the more recent photo. Seeing them next to one another, it is easy to understand the strong roots people have planted in both communities, as well as the generations of commitment that it has taken to keep both towns going strong after all these years.

Donated by the Comegys family

## Competing for Grants and our General Fund- Brett Comegys

Over the past 7 or 8 years, Collins has been extremely competitive with grants. Grant awards range anywhere from \$500 to \$840,000. In all, we have brought in well over \$1.6 million... and are on pace to add another \$60k to that number this year alone.

Please understand that these outside funding sources have been extremely important to our efforts of repairing infrastructure, cleaning up Main Street, and doing a lot of other

things around town. With such a tight budget, Collins would be in a much different place than we are today if it weren't for these sources of income. So, no matter how we move forward, being able to raise money is going to be a continued necessity if we want to keep making improvements to our town.

Speaking to a specific grant, the City of Collins has just been awarded \$23,000 to help us build a new retention pond on the edge of town. Between the generous terms that were of-

fered from a local land owner, the work of past councils, the vision of our current council, and the support of city staff,... we are set to make the next set of improvements to our storm-water system. When I initially presented this grant request to the Board of Supervisors, it looked like we were getting a door slammed in our faces. To their credit, they were open to additional conversations with me and everything seems to be on track. It looks like another big improvement is on the way.

## Cindy Kendall- Brett Comegys

One of those grants has allowed us to hire the services of Cindy Kendall. Cindy, since her retirement from the State of Iowa Outreach and Extension office, has been working with small communities like ours to help better educate cities on budgets, office training, and other vital functions of local government. Early this year, I reached out to her and asked her to put together a proposal and possibly

sign on to help us out. She is a wealth of information and we are extremely lucky to have her. Her expertise is a wonderful asset as we move toward TIF and helping us navigate the transition from one clerk to another.

As an added note to this topic, Jay Christie has worked very closely with Cindy to comb through our budget. Between Jay's background, and Cindy's

experience in municipal finance... we have been able to have a lot of serious conversations about our town's revenues and expenses. We've made a lot of adjustments based upon those discussions and are in a better trajectory because of it.



## Supporting Local Businesses- Brett Comegys

Having new businesses in town is not an accident. A lot of work has been done to create the kind of environment that will attract people to set up shop in our town. If we want to see that growth continue... or keep what we have thriving... we have to support what we have. With the holidays coming up, think about a gift certificate from Hair Hut, Small Town Tat-

too, or Barney's Gunsmith. We have a bank, a bar, a post office, a business that fixes tires, and Gotcha Games... which offers activities for company events. Find ways to spread the news about these businesses and please help support them.

Soon, the old Lody's will be converting to a new business as well. I don't want to steal any-

one else's thunder, but we can look forward to something pretty exciting really soon. In addition, we have a lot of home entrepreneurs that have great things to offer too. If you are one of these businesses, let the City know. We want to help you get the word out and make sure you are supported too.





### Collins Historical Society- Charlene Mullihan

Our Historical Society has been recognized as an official organization in Story County. As such, three of our members attended the Story County Historical Society meeting on October 15th in Nevada. The Story County Board of Supervisors also attend these meetings and are involved in helping with funding. Almost every town in

the county has a Historical Society with a lot of members and local support. Their towns realize how important it is to keep their history alive. On this note, we would like to encourage members of our community to join our local Historical Society. We also welcome any donated items that we can use, and information about Collins. Meetings

are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm in the Collins Area Community Center. Please contact Collins Historical Society President Cliff Dalbey if you would like to get involved, have items you would like to donate, or have history about Collins that you would like to tell.

### Junior's General Store- Brett Comegys

Junior's General Store had their grand opening on October 6th and had an estimated 150 people show up. It was a pretty good crowd considering we only had a couple of flyers up and one Facebook post. Thank you to everyone that showed up and supported the event!

Hours of operation are M-F from 11-2 and 4-7. The store is being staffed by volunteers and

only accepts cash and check for the time being. Quick meals, milk, bread, and other basics will be available. Prepackaged foods that have been prepared at separate licensed locations can be sold there, which include canned and dry goods, milk, bread, and some local novelties such as: Smuck's Kringla, Clear Creek Orchard jams, Salt Lickers Spices, Logsdon's sandwiches, Gym-N-Eat Crickets, State

Center Locker meat, Zeb's Smokehouse products, and George's Pizza.

2006 is when Kum N Go closed its doors. Within the last year we have managed to get a gas station back in town... and now we have a place to get basic food items and other goodies. My wife and I are excited that we have been able to put this together and we are hopeful that it'll be a help to folks living in the area.





### Senior Housing Committee- Brett Comegys

Last year the senior housing was sold to a private owner, giving the committee that managed the housing complex the ability to use the proceeds toward various non-profit causes around our town. They have been instrumental in adding new park equipment at the Trailside Park,

buying trees to be planted, helping tear down some of the old houses in town that needed to go, and much more.

Starting the senior housing project years ago was a huge plus for our community, but doing the work they have been doing

the last year with the money has also been great for Collins. I know they aren't looking for attention, but I really think it is important for people to know the good things they have been doing in our City.

Thank you for everything that you have been doing!

### Beggar's Night- Brett Comegys

Councilman Schleuter added it to the agenda, and the Council approved; Beggar's Night in Collins will be held October 31st (Thursday) of this year. So if you are a clown, a monster, or some other sort of boogie man... your night is right

around the corner. Everyone else... expect a knock on your door with hands stretched out.

Of course, if you don't want to participate, just make sure your lights are turned off. Other than that, we ask that folks drive slowly and keep an extra eye

out for pedestrians. Also, no golf carts driven by anyone under the age of 18 and uninsured. We'd also ask that people don't blow horns or drive other unauthorized vehicles on City streets. We want a safe environment for everyone to enjoy. Let's just hope the weather is on our side.

### Upcoming Elections- Brett Comegys

November is a big month on the calendar. Veteran's Day is November 11th and Thanksgiving is a couple of weeks later. But what really kicks off the month are the elections. In particular for Collins, we have races for School Board and for the City of Collins.

son, feel free to put a name down as a write-in candidate. Either way, please take the time to vote.

In terms of City elections, there is a little more competition. For City Council, there are three names on the ballot, and for Mayor there are two. I would ask that people take the time to really learn about the candidates and what those individuals bring to the table. Try to think about what kind of town you can expect with them taking on a leadership role in our town. This is part of making the kind of informed decisions that are important in moving our City forward in a positive direction.

involvement. In fact, statistically, Collins usually has one of the best voter turnout rates in the county. This isn't by accident. Collins cares about who it is and making sure that we stay a viable community for years to come.


In the end, your vote matters. So, please ask questions. Make informed choices. And show up on November 5th to cast your ballot. Remember, elections have consequences and it would be a shame if you didn't have a say in what those consequences... positive or negative... might be.



Elections are important events and Collins has always had a wonderful tradition of active

(Below is a screenshot of this years ballot, as shown on the Story County Auditor's web page.)

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
November 5, 2019 City/School Election  
County of Story, State of Iowa



Pct. Off. Initials  
19212 Collins - City


Instructions to Voter: To vote, completely fill in the target  to the left of your choice. To cast a write-in vote, you MUST completely fill in the target  AND write the name of your candidate on the line provided.

If you change your mind, or make a mistake, you may request a new ballot.

To vote to approve any question on this ballot, fill in the target  before the word "Yes". To vote against a question, fill in the target  before the word "No".

CITY OFFICES	SCHOOL OFFICES
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collins Mayor (2-Year Term)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vote for no more than ONE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Brett M. Comegys</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gregory Schlueter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in vote, if any.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collins Council At Large</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vote for no more than TWO</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Staci Corbitt</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stacy Howell</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Coree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in vote, if any.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in vote, if any.</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collins-Maxwell Director At Large</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vote for no more than ONE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mike Leslie</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in vote, if any.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collins-Maxwell Director District 2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vote for no more than ONE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Hand</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in vote, if any.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collins-Maxwell Director District 3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vote for no more than ONE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dawn Pasquariello</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in vote, if any.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DMACC Director District 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vote for no more than ONE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Langston</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____ Write-in vote, if any.</p> </div>

TURN THE BALLOT OVER



SAMPLE BALLOT

STORY COUNTY AUDITOR  
AND COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

## Rumored Audit- Brett Comegys

The City is NOT under an audit. The state schedules cities in Iowa to go through a mandatory audit every 10 years or so. They come in and do a walk through of the books, spend a couple of days making notes, and then give a report on what might need corrected. Collins had one a few years ago and is not scheduled to have another one any time soon.

A few months ago, we got a new clerk. She has been going overboard trying to reconcile problems with our software, learning new systems, and trying to get a handle on our financials. Based on discussion with Cindy, it made sense to me that

an audit would actually come in handy right now, so that we could start Katie off with a fresh start. So, I asked Cindy to check with the state to see if we were on a list, and if we weren't, what it would cost to have them come in and go through our books. With that, Cindy came to the council at our last special meeting and reported that even though state audits are free when they are mandated, requested audits actually cost somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

As a continuation of the discussion, Jay Christie asked Cindy what kind of services she could provide as an alternative to pay-

ing for the state's review, and what those services might cost. Cindy said that she would put together a proposal and present it at the next council meeting.

I know that there have been some other versions of this topic... but those are not accurate. We are not under any kind of audit and we have not been contacted by anyone or any agency to discuss an audit. The entire topic was prompted by my discussions with Cindy, and any decision to move forward with such a review will be at the sole discretion of the City Council. No decision has been made on this issue, but when one has been, the City will be sure to give everyone an update.



**OPEN 24/7**

**LOW MEMBERSHIP RATES**

**3, 6, and 12 MONTH OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

**CARDIO/STRENGTH/FITNESS**

**CLASSES TOO!**

**For Details: go to [CollinsIowaWellnessCenter.com](http://CollinsIowaWellnessCenter.com) or message [collinswellness@gmail.com](mailto:collinswellness@gmail.com)!!!  
**Guest-Drop-In forms now available. Members may bring in a guest for only \$5/workout/person!!!****

### Main Street Revitalization- Brett Comegys

Hopefully everyone is starting to recognize some of the changes on Main Street. Between the paint, the new businesses popping up, and the increased level of foot traffic... Collins is showing that it can defy the odds. Every time someone tells us that something won't work, we find a way to make it happen

anyway. From what I have been told, Collins is starting to become the talk of the county in terms of economic development and revitalization. As small as we are, this town looks alive. And that is a great thing. These improvements are the kinds of things that will spark the growth we need to sustain ourselves.



### Holiday Plans

Will you or someone you know be spending the holidays alone this year? We know that some folks live alone or don't necessarily have family nearby to spend the holidays with. We are trying to get a list put together of individuals that might

not have any plans for Thanksgiving or Christmas. In other words, if you expect to spend these holidays alone, please let us know. We don't know what we are going to do with this information yet, but we would like to brainstorm with a few

local groups to see if there is some way we can make sure you aren't left out of the holiday spirit. Please contact City Hall at 641-385-2205 or collinsclerk12@yahoo.com to let us know, as we would like to help brighten your holidays!!!



### Attention- Veterans of Collins

City Clerk Katie Baldwin is compiling a list of all Veterans who live in or near Collins, in an effort to help Brett McLain, with the Story County Commission of Veterans Affairs, be able to reach out to all of our Veterans throughout the year. If you are a Veteran, or you know someone who is, please call City Hall at 641-385-2205 or email Katie

at collinsclerk12@yahoo.com with the Veteran's name, phone number, and address. Having this list will also help should other projects come up in the future.



U.S. AIR FORCE



PO BOX 15  
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COLLINS, IA 50055

Phone/Fax: 641-385-2205  
E-mail: collinsclerk12@yahoo.com

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## **Community Breakfast**

**SPONSORED BY- Collins Area Neighbor Knights**

**WHEN- Sunday, November 3rd, 2019 7:00-9:00AM**

**WHERE- Collins Area Community Center**

**PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOR  
KNIGHTS ORGANIZATION!**