

Star News Editorials

Volunteers are at the heart of community events

It is your own fault if you were bored in Taylor County last weekend.

With Lublin Days, the Rumblefest Car Show, the Taylor County Fair and the Lions Duck Race going on, the weekend was packed to the gills with events and activities for everyone's taste and budget. Beyond the organized activities, the weather was near-perfect when it came to temperature and comfort.

As the pictures on the pages of this week's issue of *The Star News* and plastering area residents' social media feeds demonstrate, people were hard at work having fun.

As much fun as all these events and activities were, it is important to remember that they don't happen by themselves. Even a small event can take a large number of volunteers to make it successful. The workload only grows as the events grow larger.

Fairs, car shows and community festivals require months, if not years, of advanced planning. Booking a performer or carnival may occur more than a year in advance. Throughout the planning process there are inevitable hurdles to overcome and proverbial fires to put out as personalities or plans go haywire. The committed volunteers working behind the scenes do so because they are passionate about their events and not for any sort of paycheck, because there are none. Any



Community events take a large amount of effort from volunteers who work long hours behind the scenes to make them happen. Next time you are at an event be sure to thank those who are volunteering their time.

money raised goes back into improving events and supporting community activities. The work that goes into planning, organizing and putting on an event is taxing on the volunteers and their families. This burden puts

strain on volunteers' relationships.

For example, fair board members might see family members only in passing in the weeks leading up to the fair as they are busy working with other volunteers to install new coolers, put together rabbit hutches or making sure there is enough power for vendors and rides. Volunteers are there to get signs hung before opening and are there long into the night making sure jobs are done and things are ready for the next day.

This is equally as true for Rumblefest and Lublin Days volunteers and for any other major event. Volunteers are the ones keeping the food and beverages flowing while they themselves may only have the time for a quick bite or a sip of their own drink before it goes warm and flat. They are the ones who are running to make sure the porta potties have enough toilet paper instead of being able to listen to the band. They are the ones at the end of the day who stick around and put things away until the next year.

Events don't happen by themselves. They take commitment from volunteers who are willing to step up and get things done. Next time you are at an event take a look at the people serving and pause to thank them for taking time out of their lives to help make the community a better place to live, work and play.

Do the crime, do the time

It is incredibly easy to run a red light.

The urge is especially great when the roads are empty and no one is around. You are sitting impatiently waiting for the light to turn, knowing that if you simply pulled out the chances of getting caught would be slim.

Yet, the vast majority of drivers don't. They abide by the social contract that says there are rules and rules are in place for a reason.

Likewise, it is relatively easy to sign someone else's name to a check and pass it as your own — this is a crime that shows up as forgery and uttering on the police blotter. While fraudulent checks happen, millions of checks exchange hands every day without incident. The system works because of the trust people put into it, and a reliance on the innate honesty of people.

For the vast majority of people, whatever brief fantasy they have of crossing that line and embracing a life of crime, the line remains a stopping point — no matter how easy stepping over it might seem.

Wisconsin made national headlines over the weekend as a handful of Wisconsin residents intentionally and willfully broke the state's election laws in an effort to prove their conspiracy-fueled fantasy that widespread fraud exists.

A group of self-styled voting security vigilantes broke the law when they fraudulently applied for absentee ballots

under false names.

They flagrantly grabbed the social contract that governs interactions in a civil society and tore it to bits in an effort to suggest there are countless other scoundrels like themselves. Their end goal is to prove a conspiracy-theory fantasy that anytime voters disagree with them, it is because there was something fishy going on. The goal, it seems, is to cast enough doubt on the election system that legislators will rush to impose draconian fixes for a system that isn't broken. Then they will be able to at last slip in voter suppression tactics to ensure that only the right people's votes matter.

While any system should be tested on occasion, there are processes to do so without breaking the law in a headline grabbing stunt which proves only that those involved have no moral compunction when it comes to lying or cheating. Someone with no inherent understanding of morality or of the rules of polite society sees all others as being no better than base animals.

This view of people as inherently being corrupt is nonsense and the people who broke the law to prove how easy it is to break the law, deserve to be punished to the full extent of that law.

Beyond this, there needs to be investigation into the Racine County sheriff for doing worse than nothing when learning about this very real conspiracy to commit voter fraud. Racine County

Sheriff Christopher Schmaling praised those who committed the crimes rather than arresting or investigating them and worked to use the situation to further his own personal political motives.

To someone willing to cross the line

and break the law, many things are possible. But that's why laws are in place, so that those who break them face consequences for their actions.

Members of *The Star News* editorial board include Publisher Carol O'Leary, General Manager Kris O'Leary and News Editor Brian Wilson.



Write a Vox Pop: Vox Pops, from the Latin Vox Populi or Voice of the People, are the opinions of our readers and reflect subjects of current local interest. All letters must be signed and contain the address and telephone number of the writer for verification of authorship and should be the work of the writer. Letters will be edited. No election-related letters will be run the week before the election. E-mail: starnews@centralwinews.com.

The mission of *The Star News*, as a local, community newspaper, is to support democracy by publishing editorials and letters to the editor that stimulate thought and discussion. Due to the ongoing divisiveness following the recent U.S. presidential election, we have decided to put in place a moratorium on editorials and letters that would further inflame partisan rancor and ill-will within our community of readers. We need a period of quiet so we can begin to listen to one another. The newspaper will continue to run editorials addressing issues that have local impact on our communities and readers. *The Star News* welcomes Vox Pops (letters to the editor) from our readers that address local issues and things that we cover in *The Star News*.

Star News Quote of the Week:

"They've put up their own fencing, and have tried other deterrents and nothing has worked they have invested a lot of time and energy into this."

— Wildlife specialist Seth Zesiger supporting a fencing project at the Zuleger farm. See the full story on page 3