

Peterson looks to spotlight city's monuments

Lancaster resident Dave Peterson approached the Grant County Administrative Committee this week, looking to spearhead a project to light the Civil War monument, as well as the Blue Boy fountain and statue.

Peterson has worked with the county to clean the monument, which marks the names of those who fought and died in the Civil War.

Having spent at least 100 hours cleaning it, and more documenting each of the names on the cenotaphs around the perimeter, Peterson wanted to have the monument shine at night, much like the flag on the courthouse now does.

Just like that project, Peterson wanted to have the venture funded through donations. He said that he has gotten donations from people for \$2,000 who heard about what he has done with the monument, and thinks actual fundraising would easily raise at least the \$3,600 estimated to install lights.

If there were any money left over, he hoped it could create a fund for maintenance for the lights and the monuments.

In 2012, when the Blue Boy statue and fountain were refurbished, it was discussed to create a fund for the many monuments around the square. At the time, the Nelson Dewey statue was also noted for needing to be refurbished.

A passion

Dave Peterson grew up in Lancaster, and as a kid, he ran around town, like any young kid would. He went past the Civil War Monument day after day, would cut through the Westwood Cemetery (the one with first Wisconsin Governor Nelson Dewey buried in it along Jefferson Street) to get over to the Pink Pony.

They were shortcuts to his destination, or markers he passed as he went along his day.

But for Peterson, as he got older, those monuments mean something more, and he spent this past summer trying to peel back the ravages of Mother Nature and time from them so that others in the community can appreciate their past.

It started when Peterson looked to clean up the headstones of his grandparents, and began following the Good Cemetery on Facebook. The Good cemeteries specializes in cleaning markers for veterans, and was a wealth of information on what, and what not to do when cleaning a headstone.

For example, never use household cleaners, nor bleach, in cleaning a stone.

Peterson reached out, and



got a lot of information on what to do to preserve the markers, including the special cleaner that is used by many restoration experts.

That stuff is not cheap, at \$54 a gallon.

Dave began noticing the Civil War monument on the square, and just how dirty it was. He was noticing the mold and grime that had collected on the monument, Mother Nature penetrating the brick walkway up, and the crushed stone bed surrounding the monument, and just felt the urge to clean it.

Peterson contacted County Board Chair Robert Keeney,

and asked about cleaning the monument. Keeney shot right back to meet him at the monument a few days later, as he and courthouse restoration consultant Stephen Mar-Pohl, who worked on the recent brick and stonework on the courthouse. Keeney said they wanted Peterson to clean a test area, and if that worked, he could work on the rest of the monument.

Then Keeney wondered what Peterson wanted to cover his time and effort. Nothing, he responded, but if they could cover the cost of the cleaning mixture, that would be great.

"You pay for the cleaner,

I will do the rest," Peterson remembered.

He got to work, bringing up a sprayer and misting the marble and granite stone of the monument. Dave joked that the cleaner kills the mold, and the monument turned a pink color, and not anyone said anything about it.

Actually, that wasn't true, as Peterson said that while he was cleaning a number of people, mostly from out of town, stopped at the memorial, and snapped pictures as he cleaned.

Peterson's technique was a simple one - spray scrub it, rinse it, and repeat. And repeat again.

Costs make daycare move uncertain

Maple Street Kids Daycare is two years shy of its 30th anniversary, but what the non-profit childcare provider will look like for its milestone is not quite certain.

Currently, the daycare, which has been located in the Lancaster Community Schools former middle school building/Winskill Annex since its inception, is looking for a new space as the school district looks to wind down operations in the 97-year-old building.

Representatives of the daycare had found a location that they could move to, but the cost to move in there and remain at the capacity of up to 70 children may be fiscally impossible. The new location is more than twice the cost in rent than what the daycare pays the school district, but the bigger issue is the amount of work that would need to take place to be licensed for 70 children.

Initial engineering estimates put the cost of

renovating the space at up to \$400,000. Because the space would still be leased, it would likely be difficult to find enough grant funding to cover the cost on space they do not even own.

The daycare could move into the space without spending that amount of money, but would have to reduce the number of children they could enroll. Currently the daycare is at capacity for enrollment, and has been getting requests as another daycare within the county recently closed.

The daycare signed a one-year agreement with the school district for the next school year, with the only change being that each side has the ability to break the lease after giving 30 days notice.

The daycare was started in 1994 by a group of Lancaster area teachers who wished to create a daycare for their young children to attend before they were of school age.

No PFAS in drinking water

The Lancaster Water Utility recently completed testing for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in our drinking water supply. The test results can be found on the WI DNR PFAS Sampling Project Page - <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/PWSampling>

PFAS compounds were NOT found.

"We are committed to providing our customers with quality drinking water," a news release stated. "As the Lancaster water supplier, we will continue to work closely with WI DNR

to do so."

This test was part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) statewide investigation into the occurrence of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water at select municipal drinking water suppliers in WI during 2022. We voluntarily took part in this investigation and decided to sample for PFAS to proactively assess the potential impacts of PFAS in the drinking water and to quickly take steps to protect the health of our customers if needed.

LOUIE WACHTER'S
MT. HOPE AMERICAN LEGION POST 229
ANNUAL FISH FRY
SATURDAY
JULY 16 • 11AM - 4 PM
AT HOME-A-GINS, MT. HOPE

7 RAFFLES
\$15,000 & \$2,000
IN PRIZES IN DOOR PRIZES

QUILTS OF VALOR
PRESENTATION AT 1PM
RAFFLE DRAWING
BEGIN AT 3PM

FOOD IS FREE WILL DONATION

CATFISH FEED
CARRY OUT ONLY!

FRIDAY, JULY 22
At Waterloo Town Hall, Burton
Serving from 4:30-7:30pm
OR UNTIL SOLD OUT

MEAL INCLUDES: Fish, Potato Salad, Cheese, Bun, Dessert & Bottled Water

\$13

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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

13th Annual

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN
Tractor Ride

Saturday, July 23rd, 2022
Leaving John Collin's Shop at 9AM Sharp
1650 Lafollette Street - Fennimore, WI 53809
Coffee, Milk, Rolls Available at 8 AM

FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE
• ALL MODELS NEW AND OLD •
You may join the group anywhere along the route.

SMV SIGNS REQUIRED
WAGONS WELCOME

LUNCH AVAILABLE AT
BOSCOBEL FIRE
DEPARTMENT

SPONSORED BY: Wehrle Bailing & Wrapping, KC Trucking & Agnition

No ATV or UTVs • Not responsible for Accidents.

FOR INFO OR LATE ARRIVALS
John Collins 778-7910 • Doug Moris 379-1294
Matt Kreul 778-7750 • Kaleb Cauffman 379-0717

EST 1867

BLAKE'S PRAIRIE JR.

Fair

BLOOMINGTON FAIRGROUNDS

Events

Friday, July 22

- 9 - 11 AM.....Market Animal Weigh-Ins**
- 3 - 6 PM.....Cloverbud Judging**
- 5 PM.....Exhibit must be in place**
- 5 PM - Close.....Carnival Open**
- 6 PM...Poultry, Sheep & Swine Judging**
- 7:15 PM Crowning of Royalty Announced**
- 7:30 PM.....Demolition Derby**
- Dusk.....Fireworks**

Saturday, July 23

- 9 AM.....Dairy and Beef Judging**
-Goat Judging**
-Cut Flowers, Food and Nutrition**
- Exhibits in Place Exhibit Judging Starts**
- 10 AM.....Rabbit Judging**
- 12 PM - Close.....Carnival Open**
- 3 PM.....Meat Animal Auction**
- 6:30 PM.....Local Tractor Pull**
WITH TOO HOT TO FARM CLASS

Sunday, July 24

- 9 AM.....Horse and Pony Judging**
- 9:30 AM.....Cat Judging**
- 10:30 AM - 1 PM.....River Ridge FFA**
Chicken Barbeque
- 12 PM - Close.....Carnival Open**
- 1 PM.....Kids Games**
- 2 PM.....Kids' Pedal Tractor Pull**
Pie Contest Open to All
- 4 PM.....Exhibits Released**
- 5 PM.....Horse Pull**

WENZEL AMAZEMENTS
CARNIVAL RIDES

ADMISSION PRICES

Advance Button.....\$15.00
Advance prices are good until Thursday, July 21, 2022 until the gate closes.

Friday, July 22.....\$18.00

Saturday, July 23.....\$18.00
Daily Admission (no button)....\$10.00

Children 6 & Under.....FREE
Buttons available from 4-H and FFA members, Ma's Bakery, Peoples State Bank (Patch Grove and Bloomington), Bloomington Stop N Go and UW-Extension Office.

FREE
★ PARKING ★ GRANDSTAND

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County

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space for a maintenance shop.

It had been cut when funding was a concern, but now, with funding from an environmental payment for the construction of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line in the county, County Board Chair Robert Keeney thought that money could be used to cover a shop.

Prisoner release

One area not covered in the insurance reports, but is a growing concern is the impact released inmates is having on the other offices in the Community Services Building, as well as nearby homes.

For a number of people who are being released from the Grant County Jail, they do not wish to spend any more time in the jail, even if it is an open room, complete with sitting areas, phone chargers, and a public phone.

They leave the room, and either walk around to the front of the building, where the ADRC and Social Services offices are, or they walk to a nearby home, and ask to wait inside and use the phone.

Residents and county offices have expressed problems with the visitors.

Before, when the jail was located within the city of Lancaster, individuals could walk to local convenience stores or the library, but outside of the city, there are few places within walking distance.

Transporting former inmates to their home communities is seen as cost, and personnel prohibitive.