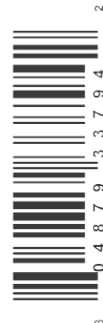


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VOLUME 139 | ISSUE 16

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023

ONE SECTION | 14 PAGES

New officer sworn in at city council meeting

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

The City of Hillsboro swore in a new full-time officer during the April 17 meeting of the Hillsboro City Council. Matt Nundahl, a Coon Valley resident, has been working with the department on a part-time basis for the past couple of months before applying to fill the vacant third full-time position.

Nundahl began his career in law enforcement by enrolling in the police academy in 1995, and has worked for various regional police departments throughout his career, including Richland Center and the Vernon County Sheriff's Office. After seven years with the Sheriff's Office, he had considered leaving law enforcement entirely, but ultimately opted to continue his career.

"I still felt that there was purpose in the job," says Nundahl. "I always enjoyed it."

He opted to go back to school for his Bachelor's through Winona State University, working part-time with the Westby Police Department as he completed his degree. Nundahl had been working with the Westby Police Department prior to setting his sights on Hillsboro.

When Nundahl became aware of an opening in Hillsboro's police department, he submitted his application.



Officer Matt Nundahl (right) was sworn into his new position by Shelia Schraufnagel, Hillsboro's City Clerk, during Monday night's City Council meeting. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

His work with the Sheriff's Office had seen him taking calls from the Hillsboro area, so he was already familiar with the lay of the land. Nundahl had also known Hillsboro Police Chief Pat Clark for going on twenty years, which further encouraged him to apply.

For Nundahl, the most enjoyable aspects of the job involve opportunities to meet new people and to advocate for others in need. When he applied to Hillsboro, it was the only opening he submitted an application for, citing that the Hillsboro community as a key aspect of his interest in the position.

Nundahl describes Hillsboro as a community which supports their police

department, something he finds important to enabling him and his fellow officers to efficiently carry out their duties.

With his wife of nearly 20 years having recently accepted a position with Scenic Bluffs in Cashton, Nundahl and his family will be looking to relocate to the Hillsboro area over the next few months.

Although Nundahl was formally sworn in to his new position, he will not officially make the switch to full-time until April 29, at which point he will be working the day shift along with Chief Clark. Officer Chris Kucinsky, who was promoted to the rank of Sergeant during Monday night's city council meeting, will continue working the night shifts.



Rich Moyer will be taking on the role of Hillsboro Superintendent beginning on July 1, assuming the role from current superintendent Curt Bisarek. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

Hillsboro Schools select new superintendent

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

The Hillsboro School District has selected a new superintendent to replace current superintendent Curt Bisarek. Bisarek submitted his intention to step down as Hillsboro's superintendent earlier this year, citing a desire to focus more time on the business he and his family have built with Mr. B's Smokehouse.

Bisarek will be serving out the remainder of his current contract with the school district, with his last day as superintendent set for June

30. His replacement, Rich Moyer, will be assuming the position beginning on July 1, with the start of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Originally from northern Illinois, Moyer never anticipated a career in education. He joined the workforce right out of high school, working in areas such as management sales and management for small grocery stores. However, his interest in learning prompted him to keep taking classes and led him to completing an associate's degree. Eventually, life led Moyer into education.

He received his bachelor's from Rockford University, and continued his education, eventually earning his superintendent certification from Viterbo in La Crosse.

In his early education career, Moyer taught at the middle school level and served as an athletic director for an Illinois school district. He eventually left Illinois for Wisconsin, taking up an assistant principal job. He served as a 4K-12 principal in Belmont, and currently works as a high school principal in Darlington.

'SUPERINTENDENT'
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City parks examined in next phase of park management plan

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

On Wednesday, April 12, Hillsboro City Administrator Josh Finch and a pair of MSA representatives examined Hillsboro's parks to collect ideas and build the foundations of a park management plan for the city.

A park management plan is a detailed overview of all of the parks within a city, town, or village, and what areas are in needed of maintenance or replacement and what improvements, upgrades, or updates can be made. Once the plan is developed and approved, Finch and the city can use the plan to apply for grants and other opportunities to support and improve Hillsboro's parks.

Finch began with Albert Field Park, which played host to the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8. Albert Field Park has been a Hillsboro feature since 1914, with the land donated by Albert Field's daughter in

his memory. Field was one of the founding residents of Hillsboro.

Conversations included driving and parking issues, with the possibility of expanding the current road in the park to a two-lane, with one lane strictly for parking. Currently, visitors to the park either park their vehicles on the roadway itself—blocking it for anyone driving after them—or on the grass.

The current playground equipment was looked over, with Finch noting that the equipment hasn't been updated much since it's installation roughly 30 years prior. While the equipment is largely in good shape, possible updates or upgrades have been discussed as possible items to include in a final plan. The possibility of partnering with Gundersen St. Joseph's to install some outdoor workout equipment into the park was also discussed.

Albert Field Park contains two existing shelters, with the lower shelter dating back to the

1960s. Finch would like to see lighting fixtures installed in the shelters, providing additional light for groups hosting events in the shelters and lengthening the time a shelter could be utilized.

Solar light fixtures in the playground were also discussed, as were the installation of a few RV camping sites in the upper half of the park.

Beyond the more ambitious projects, discussions regarding repair projects—such as repairing the cracks in the concrete pad of the lower shelter or fixing leaky roofs—came up through the tour.

City alderman Tom Hotek was present for the Albert Field Park tour, commenting on the Historical Society's presence in the park, from the museum to the cabin and the replica one-room schoolhouse.

After examining Albert Field Park, the group moved on to examine Cheyenne Settlers Park, Field Veterans Memorial Park, and Hammer and Klopffleisch Park.



Josh Finch (center) met with MSA representatives Emily Soderberg (left) and Daniel Schmitt (right) on Wednesday, April 12, to examine Hillsboro's parks and compile a list from which a detailed park management plan can be built. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

Surveys of the city parks were completed earlier this year, and a core draft of the parks plan is expected to be

presented to the Hillsboro City Council on May 9. Any changes or additions to the plan will be considered, with a

final draft likely to be adopted by the council during their June 19 meeting.

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