

AROUND THE AREA

Rodders host local Swap Meet Oct. 12



The 29th annual Clay County Rodders Swap Meet is set for Sunday, Oct. 12, at the Clay County Fairgrounds. Gates open bright and early at 7 a.m., rain or shine. This long-running automotive and transportation swap meet

brings together enthusiasts, vendors and collectors from across the region. Visitors can expect to find a wide variety of automotive parts, accessories, tools and treasures. General admission is \$5 at the

gate — children under 12 are free with a paid adult admission. Spectators are asked to enter through Gate C on Fourth Avenue West. Vendors are welcome, with outside spaces available for \$25 each and indoor spaces for \$35 each.

Vendor setup will take place from 2-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 11, or beginning at 7 a.m. Sunday. Vendors should enter through the north gate off West 18th Street. Concessions will be available throughout the day.

SEWER STUDY

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Parts of Spencer's waste and stormwater collection systems date back to the 1950s and '60s. The wastewater treatment plant, meanwhile, was built in 1975 and had been expected to reach the end of its useful lifespan by 2030. The 2024 flood and the damage it caused shortened the wastewater treatment plant's lifespan, and the city is facing an estimated \$55 million bill to modernize the plant. The City Council raised Spencer's base sewer service rates beginning on Oct. 1 to start building a cash reserve to pay at least some of the sewer project's costs upfront and save money on interest.

The flood also likely damaged the city's sanitary and stormwater collection systems, Robinson said, but the extent of the damage is unknown. The study of the sewer system and wastewater treat-

ment plant, which began the week of Sept. 29 with smoke testing of sewers, will provide a detailed report of needed repairs and a more exact cost estimate for the wastewater plant overhaul.

Robinson said a flow meter study will be conducted in the spring, when Spencer's sewer system sees peak flows, to help determine its existing capacity. Another part of the infrastructure study involves examining future needs, as well as determining the best ways to accommodate industrial, commercial, and residential growth. All told, the study is expected to take up to 18 months to complete fully.

Robinson said. "We want to make good decisions for the next 30, 40, 50 years."

The infrastructure sewer infrastructure study is also set to play a pivotal role in shaping how the community pursues economic development for decades to come. For example, Spencer is expected

to have access to tens of millions of dollars to build new housing as part of the federally funded, state-managed Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program, which is currently being developed in response to the 2024 flood.

Robinson said the study of Spencer's sewer systems will provide the critical data needed to identify, justify and prioritize projects eligible for disaster recovery funding.

"To be able to write a good DR project, we have to have the study results," Robinson said.

Federal CDBG-DR funds, which are allocated to help communities recover from disasters and build future resilience, require detailed project proposals backed by engineering studies and cost estimates. Robinson explained that the results of the infrastructure study will directly inform which projects the city pursues, from flood mitigation to

new housing developments. Robinson said the city is also working to ensure it is ready to submit high-quality applications as soon as the state opens the CDBG-DR program for project applications.

"Our goal is to be able to submit quality projects at the earliest time window allowed by the state," Robinson noted.

He expects community engagement to be a critical part of the CDBG-DR process, with town hall meetings and listening sessions planned to gather input on project priorities. Much of the housing built with CDBG-DR funds must be reserved for low-to moderate-income residents.

While the process is expected to take several years, city officials are optimistic that the result will be a more resilient, efficient and forward-looking Spencer.

"It's a long process," Robinson said, "but it's one that will benefit the community for generations to come."

COREY'S, WEASY'S DONATE TO UDMO



Corey's Auto Detailing donated \$1,456.19 raised during its 11th anniversary celebration to Upper Des Moines Opportunity. Weasy's provided lunch with a freewill donation at the celebration on Saturday, June 28. (Photo submitted)

HABITAT

From Page 1A

of Spencer, the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Homes for Iowa and the Faster Horses Flood Relief effort following last year's weather event and donations from the public.

"Together, these partners have helped us take meaningful steps forward in Spencer's long-term recovery from the devastating 2024 floods," Bjornstad said.

Bjornstad indicated, as with every Habitat project, organizers are actively inviting volun-

teers from Spencer and the surrounding communities to lend a hand.

"Whether it's helping with decking, landscaping or general construction tasks, every contribution of time makes a difference," he said. "We have been deeply moved by the generosity and support already shown here in Spencer, and we are sincerely grateful for the way people have stepped forward."

The regional Habitat for Humanity can be reached at 363-3479 or northwesternhabitat@gmail.com for volunteer information.

FORUM

From Page 1A

ad valorem property tax for the purposes of creation and maintenance of a stable revenue stream for the purpose of funding its essential emergency medical services in Clay County including but not limited to, ambulance service, personnel and equipment.

Audience members and the community will be allowed to

submit questions for the candidates — answerable by each one in the council and mayoral elections — in advance by sending them to rcauthron@spencerdailyreporter.com or writing them down at the event.

No seat saving or candidate signs will be allowed in council chambers. Both SMU Channel 2 and KICD 1240/102.5 will carry the event live.

The election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 4, and includes city and school board elections.

WETLANDS

From Page 1A

out in early October, providing landowners with sufficient time to consider their involvement.

The county supervisors, for their part, emphasized the need to maintain confidentiality regarding specific landowner iden-

tities until outreach letters are formally distributed. They also stressed the importance of coordinating with the county's conservation board and relevant state agencies to ensure all stakeholders are included. Board members agreed to review the outreach letter and provide feedback within a week of the Sept. 30 meeting.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

SPENER CAMPUS
Snow Removal Services

Iowa Lakes Community College is accepting bids for **snow removal services**, including plowing of the parking lots, and around the dorms. **Proof of insurance is required.**

FOR BID SPECIFICATIONS, CONTACT:
Mike A. Olson • Ph: 712-298-0329
Email: maolson@iowalakes.edu

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State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

Attention kids of all ages

Fall HARVEST

at Gary's Gardens

18TH ANNUAL

Saturday, Oct. 4th
9am - 3pm
Southeast Spencer
(1 block S. of St. Luke Nursing Home)

Free Will Offering
Proceeds going to provide food to people in need

BAKE SALE

The family of Ina Faye Underwood

wishes to thank all those who sent flowers, donations to St. Luke Lutheran Home and other excellent organizations, and the many fine tributes to her life. Special thanks to the staff of St. Luke for their wonderful care, Pastor Shazzy and all at First Congregational Church and her many friends and neighbors.

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