

St. Ansgar City Council sets levy hearing, approves appointments

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The Osage Oracle

The St. Ansgar City Council set a public hearing date for the city's proposed property tax levy and approved several appointments during its Feb. 9 meeting at St. Ansgar City Hall.

Council members set the public hearing for the proposed property tax levy for March 26. Iowa law requires cities to hold a public hearing before adopting the annual property tax levy. The hearing will allow residents to comment on the proposed levy before the council adopts the city's final budget later this spring.

The council approved the appointment of Ben Walk as the city's Disaster Services EMT representative. His term will run through Dec. 31, 2026.

Council members also approved the appointment



St. Ansgar City Hall at 111 S. Mitchell St. The St. Ansgar City Council set a public hearing date for the city's proposed property tax levy and approved several appointments at the Feb. 9 meeting.

of Alex Hanson to the St. Ansgar Fire Department.

City Clerk Tammy Woods said the city recently completed work on its trunk line sewer project.

"We had to replace the

trunk line from the city out to the lagoons," Woods said.

Woods said crews completed most of the work last year and are now finishing up minor work related to

the project.

The trunk line carries wastewater from the city to the treatment lagoons, part of the city's sewer system. The project replaced sewer infrastructure that connects the community to the city's wastewater treatment facility.

Council members approved the consent agenda, which included the Jan. 12 meeting minutes, payment of bills and approval of January financial reports.

The agenda also listed a review of the city's capital improvement plan and budget, part of the city's ongoing financial planning process.

Woods said the Feb. 9 meeting lasted about half an hour and did not include extended discussion on additional topics.

The St. Ansgar City Council meets on the second Monday of each month at St. Ansgar City Hall, 111 S. Mitchell St., St. Ansgar.

Public invited to meet candidate for Iowa Secretary Of Agriculture

The public is invited to meet Chris Jones, Democratic candidate for Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, in Osage and Greater Mitchell County on Thursday, March 26. Jones will be touring various sites across the county, and you may meet him at any of these locations. For afternoon stops, please RSVP to Martha Dorow, 612-998-9506 or mdorow1@gmail.com by Tuesday, March 24. (parking may be limited)

- Noon - Stacyville Poultry Processing, 415 Industrial Dr, Stacyville

- 1 p.m. - Twisted River Farm, 195 S Madison St, Mitchell

- 2:15 p.m. - Farm of Rachel and Alec Amundson, 3386 Hickory Ave, Osage

- 3:30 p.m. - Sponheim Sales & Service, 1399 320th St, Nora Springs

- 6 p.m. - Limestone Brewers, Osage (No RSVP necessary for this location)

This is a once-in-a-million opportunity to meet Chris Jones in the field where he'll see some ground-breaking agricultural operations happening right here in Mitchell County. All are welcome to these sites where you'll have a chance to share your own stories and hear his ideas on the future of Iowa ag.

Jones has been speaking to capacity crowds across Iowa already. During a blizzard a few weeks ago, 100 people showed up to hear from him in Emmetsburg, the home county of Iowa's incumbent Secretary of Agriculture. Jones speaks about the malignant tumor in Iowa as being "corporate agriculture." "Consolidation in agriculture and the dominant model for farming have had effects far beyond our water," says Jones. "They have also

contributed greatly to the decline of rural Iowa."

Jones wants his candidacy to be a referendum on water quality in Iowa. "Iowans shouldn't have to choose between prosperity OR safe drinking water, freedom OR safe beaches, livestock OR wildlife, and love it OR leave it. A prosperous countryside AND clean water for all can co-exist, with courageous leadership and vision." Jones has a plan to get there. See his platform here: <https://chrisjonesforiowa.com/chris-jones-platform/>

Jones has a vision and plan for a better, cleaner, and more prosperous Iowa. Jones envisions a renewed Iowa where "The work of prosperous farmers enhances the quality of life for all and not just a tiny fraction. Iowa remains a working landscape but one that fosters the well-being of native plants and animals, which have returned in abundance to come along with a crop and livestock production system designed for human nutrition and environmental outcomes. The commerce from this system has rekindled rural life and reversed the migration of young people to big cities and distant states."

A leading advocate for environmental justice and sustainable agriculture in Iowa, Chris Jones has studied the state's water quality for decades. At the University of Iowa, he worked as a research engineer, studying contaminant hydrology in agricultural landscapes. Prior to that he worked for the Des Moines Water Works and the Iowa Soybean Association. He has a PhD in analytical chemistry from Montana State University and a BA in Chemistry and Biology



from Simpson College in Indianola.

In 2023, Jones published *The Swine Republic: Struggles With the Truth About Agriculture and Water Quality*, which was selected by the Library of Congress as Iowa's representative in the 2024 National Book Festival. He continues to write about water quality and related issues on Substack.

Chris was born in Monmouth, Illinois, where his father worked as a clerk for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. The family returned to Iowa in 1967, where his father continued his railroad career. He spent his childhood in what was then the sleepy town of Ankeny. His mother worked for the U.S. Post-

al Service.

Jones has three adult daughters: a physical therapist, a statistical biologist working for the CDC, and an atmospheric chemist working in Colorado. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and tending his garden and orchard. He lives in Iowa City.

Come one and all. Get acquainted with Chris Jones. Become an informed voter. Contribute your ideas to the future of Iowa rural life.

About Mitchell County Democrats

Mitchell County Democrats seek to promote local involvement in the Democratic Party and its ideals. Follow at <https://www.facebook.com/mitchell-demsia>

what's for LUNCH

<p><i>Breakfast and lunch menus for the Osage Community School District. Juice is served with breakfast. Milk is served with every meal. *High school only</i></p>	<p>Wednesday, Mar. 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast: Oatmeal bar, cereal, fruit • Lunch: Crispos, chips/cheese, romaine salad, tomatoes, onions, peppers, BB salsa, peaches
<p>Monday, Mar. 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast: Yogurt/cereal, craisons • Lunch: Crispy chicken sandwich, tri tater, pasta salad, mandarin oranges 	<p>Thursday, Mar. 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast: Waffles, sausage, peaches • Lunch: Chicken drumstick, cheesy potatoes, peas, mandarin oranges, chocolate swirl ice cream cup, dinner roll, sugar cookie
<p>Tuesday, Mar. 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast: Breakfast sandwich, mandarin oranges • Lunch: Sloppy Joe, tater tots, coleslaw, fruit fluff 	<p>Friday, Mar. 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast: Long John, cereal, applesauce • Lunch: Fish sandwich, french fries, green beans, applesauce

what's HAPPENING

<p>MONDAY, MAR. 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 p.m. - Learning Connection, Osage Lincoln Elementary School 	<p>ness Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 p.m. - Esports vs Clarke Community, Clarke Community Middle/High School - LMC
<p>THURSDAY, MAR. 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 p.m. - Girls Track & Field North Iowa Indoor Championships, Clear Lake Athletics & Well- 	<p>SATURDAY, MAR. 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 p.m. - North Iowa Bulls Free Family Night, Mason City Arena

Correction:

The article titled "Pipeline explosion expected to impact Osage utility bills," published on March 12, mistyped that there were

injuries caused by the pipeline incident. In fact, there were no injuries reported. The Osage Oracle sincerely apologizes for this error.

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Staudt chose family medicine because of its broad scope and the opportunity to care for patients throughout every stage of life.

"I really liked how broad family medicine is," he said. "You get the chance to do a little bit of everything, especially in a smaller community where you may not have specialists right there in the hospital."

During his training, Staudt also developed an interest in sports medicine and pediatrics, areas he said connect naturally with his lifelong involvement in athletics.

"I played a lot of sports growing up, and my dad coached a lot of them," he said. "Athletics has always been a big part of my life, and during residency I've had the chance to cover some football games on the sidelines, which has been really fun."

Preventive care is also a major focus of family medicine, Staudt said.

Routine screenings and regular checkups are an important part of family medicine, he said. He noted that

health screenings remain especially important as Iowa has seen rising cancer rates in recent years.

"We're seeing some rising cancer rates in Iowa, so staying up to date on screenings like colon cancer and cervical cancer screenings is really important to catch things early," he said.

Regular checkups and early detection can significantly improve treatment outcomes.

"Treatment is often much simpler when we catch things early," Staudt said. "Those regular checkups can make a big impact on people's overall health."

He also encourages families to focus on simple habits that support long-term health.

"Trying to stay active wherever we can is important," he said. "Even if it's just getting out for a quick walk, something is better than nothing."

Outside of practicing medicine, Staudt enjoys spending time outdoors, attending sporting events and staying active with his family.

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heavy load of dialogue and music outside of traditional school hours. As a result of the spring production not being tied to a specific choir period, Hoepfner noted that the students have had to put in significant independent effort to stay on schedule.

"They have to put in extra time on their own, and then they also have to put time in before rehearsals," Hoepfner said. "It's been a lot of songs and a lot of extra work with choreography and music."

That hard work began with an audition process that saw several students step out of their comfort zones. While some students seemed destined for certain characters, Hoepfner noted

that the casting process is never entirely predictable.

"They always surprise me," Hoepfner said. "There's always one or two that surprise me. And then there's some who come in and, yep, we were right. They were perfect for that role."

The rehearsal room has now moved into the polishing stage, where the cast is refining choreography and finalizing lines. While the primary set functions as a rehearsal space, the technical side has involved some unique builds. Hoepfner mentioned that a local parent is currently constructing wearable boats for a specific saloon-themed number, a piece of the production that has proven to be the most

complex design element.

With only a couple seniors in the cast this year, those students have taken on substantial leadership roles, including choreographing scenes and mentoring younger peers.

"They're really coming together with leadership... actually creating the choreography and teaching it," Hoepfner said. "They really want to do a good job with this production."

For those on the fence about attending, Hoepfner pointed to high-energy numbers like "Show People" and "Thataway!" as highlights. She also advised that audiences should pay close attention to the transitions between the "real" characters and the fictional

Robin Hood musical they are performing within the story to keep track of the mystery.

Proceeds from the show, including ticket sales and merchandise like the shirts and sweatshirts seen on social media, go back into the school account to fund costuming. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and can be purchased online.

"I just want to get as many people as we can to come to our show because the kids are doing a great job," Hoepfner said. "It's going to be a really fun show for people to come and see."

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