



New Park Director Comes to Moorefield Council Meeting

By Jean A. Flanagan
Moorefield Examiner

Juwana Bridger was very busy her first two days on the job. The new Moorefield Town Park Director presented her first report to the Moorefield Council at their meeting held Tuesday, Oct. 6.

“I met the president of the Little League and I met (former Park Director) Bob Clark,” she said. “The office is just about ready. It needs the carpet and some trim and the door.”

Bridger’s first day was Friday, Oct. 2 and she’s already made some headway in the position that has been vacant for several months. She enrolled in a grant-writing class, for which the council voted to reimburse her. She washed the pool ropes and stacked lounge chairs. She talked to the regional solid waste hauler about disposing of old paint cans. “Tomorrow we’re going to mow at Misty Terrace to get ready for their picnic this weekend,” she said.

In the long term, Bridger said she wanted to inventory and organize the park’s tools, research and make recommendations about the derelict “Memory Trees” and submit a budget.

Public Works Director Lucas Gagnon told Bridger that as Park Director, she is a member of the town’s Tree Board.

“We’re having trouble finding people to serve on that,” he added. “The town ordinance says members must live in town. Perhaps we should look at modifying that ordinance.”

Councilman A. J. Wade expressed his displeasure at the process by which Bridger was hired. In a prepared statement, Wade said he didn’t know that a committee had been appointed to review the applications. He didn’t know there were a total of 11 applicants and that only five were interviewed.

“I didn’t know about these things because I had not been told about them,” he said. “As a member of the town council, I should have been told. I recommend we

go back to square one and starting the process over.”

“This process has been in place for eight years,” Councilwoman Carol Zuber said. “We have started the process over three times. We need to move forward.”

Bridger is the third Park Director selected by the council since May. One was hired, but only stayed a short time. A second was selected but declined the job when offered.

“The council voted to give the committee the authority to review the applications and make a decision,” Mayor Gary Stalnaker said.

Councilman Doug Mongold said a committee appointed by the council was in the process of reviewing applications for the Street Department.

“You are welcome to review the 19 applications we received,” he said. “It is not possible to interview all 19. We’re smart enough to look at the application and see if they might be good for the job.”

A motion was approved that Wade join Mongold, Gagnon and the Street Department Supervisor in reviewing the applications for the open positions.

Proposed Water Plant

Gagnon said members of the council had a good meeting with representatives from the USDA regarding funding for a new water plant.

“They toured the old plants,” he said. “They understand our need. Because of the size of the project and the size of the need, the funding will come directly from the federal office.”

Moorefield has two antiquated water plants and have proposed a new \$26 million facility. Recently some funding became available through the USDA Rural Utility Service and the town will make application.

Gagnon said the interest rate was at 2 percent and financing will be for 38 years.

“We qualify for 75 percent grant funds, but its unlikely we’ll get that much,” he said. “I’m pretty opti-

mistic that things will move quickly once we submit the application. When we submit the application, we will lock in the interest rate.”

Stalnaker said the USDA representatives were pleased with the town’s choice of engineers. Gwin, Dobson and Foreman of Altoona, Pa., engineered the project.

Police Report

Moorefield Police Chief Steve Reckart reported there were 228 calls for service in September. Of those, 169 came from the Hardy County 911 Center and 59 came directly to the police station.

Reckart said the MPD has visits from the West Virginia Insurance Commissioner, Syracuse, N.Y. Police Department and would be hosting Crime Scene Training on Nov. 8.

Reckart said the MPD was very busy, having solved a number of destruction of property and theft cases.

Reckart asked the council to consider banning five individuals from the town park. He did not provide names because some are juveniles, he said.

“There’s a guy who sleeps in the park, there’s drugs and alcohol being done and there’s destruction of picnic tables and the gazebo,” he said. “I’ve asked them to leave and they just come back. If you order no trespassing, they will be arrested if they enter the park. There are a lot of nice families who use the park and these people just make trouble.”

Reckart said he will create a letter informing the people of their status and the consequences of violation.

The council voted to approve the “No Trespass” list.

Planning Commission

Tom Widder, chair of the Moorefield Planning Commission, reported the digital maps of the town are almost complete. “When they’re finished, they have to be certified and filed,” he said.

“We are behind schedule with

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State Farm Insurance Sponsors DUI Simulator



Photo by Jean Flanagan

11th grader Devon Riggle tries his hand at the DUI simulator.

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“Motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of teenagers,” said Judy Ball, State Farm Insurance representative. “It gives them a little taste of reality by showing them what it’s like to be impaired.”

Judy Ball’s State Farm Insurance Agency sponsored the West Virginia Alcohon Beverage Control Administration’s DUI Simulator last weekend. The simulator made stops at Moorefield High School and was part of the tailgating activities at the Hardy Bowl on the East Hardy campus.

“Our real goal is to help young people make good decisions before they get behind the wheel,” Ball said. “We care about our community and we don’t like to process claims where impaired driving is involved.”

Ball said the Driver’s Education classes at MHS would have an opportunity to experience the simulator, but State Farm hoped to reach the larger community by having it at the tailgating activities at the football game. “We want people

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from the community to see what it’s like, not just the school kids,” she said.

The simulator has a 180-degree screen, a steering wheel, gas and brake pedals. The occupant “drives” the vehicle and becomes increasingly “impaired.” LED messages on the screen tell the driver his/her BAC (blood alcohol content). As the BAC increases, the vehicle becomes less responsive to steering and braking. It usually doesn’t take long before a simulated crash happens.

30-Year Observance of Flood to be Held

The Hardy County Historical Society will host a 30 Year Remembrance of the 1985 Flood Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015 at 2 – 4 p.m. at the New Life Center of Duffey Memorial United Methodist Church in an overview of the event.

They will provide a presentation that incorporates hundreds of pictures of the flood and people in Moorefield, as well as live coverage from major television networks. WELD will be present and radio clips will also be shared. Larry Kuykendall, who was then the Mayor of Moorefield, will give an overview of the event. He will provide a presentation that incorporates hundreds of pictures of the flood and people in Moorefield.

Many Moorefield residents have never seen or heard this coverage because they were without power and simply trying to survive the aftermath. The event will show many people who were involved with the flood and who played a role in the rescue and recovery and many will have time to share stories.

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Strawderman Named

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Middle School. She was a Gifted and Behavioral Disorder teacher. Then she taught 7th and 8th grade English.

Strawderman moved to East Hardy High School in 2002 as a Guidance Counselor. For the past seven years, she has served as a half-time counselor and half-time assistant principal.

Strawderman said she’s applied for the principal position at other schools, but was never chosen.

“Perhaps this was meant to be,” she said. “I’m thrilled that I was chosen for this school. It’s really a great school.”

East Hardy High School has been the top high school in the state in math for the past three years. It has been one of the U.S. News and World Report’s Best High School for several years, receiving a National Bronze Award in 2014. This year EHHS was named a West Virginia School of Excellence, the only high school in the state to be given such designation.

While Strawderman admits it’s a tough record to maintain, she understands how those accolades came to be.

“The staff and the students are the ones who did that,” she said. “Mr. Simmons was a great leader, but the credit goes to the staff and the students and they’re still here.”

Not quite all of the staff are still at East Hardy. Some of the most dynamic and successful teachers have retired over the past two years. Strawderman said their replacements are top notch.

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strong teachers who fit well here.”

In addition, the fact that Strawderman is principal and not someone unfamiliar with the school has helped immensely.

“We’ve all worked together for years,” she said. “The staff and the students know what I expect from them. We’re all concentrating on keeping the school going in the direction it has been.”

Strawderman has two sons, both in high school. They are adapting to their mother’s new responsibilities and schedule. “They don’t like getting here early,” she laughed.

When asked why she came back to Hardy County after college, Strawderman is very emphatic.

“I never thought of going anywhere else. I like it here. I like to visit the city and travel, but I always want to come home.”

HARDY TIMES

Flu Shots

Adult and child flu shots are available at the Hardy County Health Department, Monday through Friday from 8 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 3:30 p.m. The Health Department is located at 411 Spring Ave. in Moorefield. No appointment necessary. Bring insurance or Medicare card. For information, call 304-530-6355.

HARSE Meeting

The Hardy County Association of Retired School Employees will meet at N&S Restaurant in Mathias on Oct. 20 at 10:30 a.m. Prior to the regular meeting, officers and committee chairs are asked to

meet at 9:45 a.m. Nonperishable food items for the local food pantry will be appreciated. All retired school employees are encouraged to attend.

EHHS Open House

The East Hardy High School LSIC will host an open house for community members/former students to visit and tour the new building Friday, Oct. 23, from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Students will lead guests through on a tour, and the LSIC will be grilling and serving hot dogs. This is the night of the homecoming football game, so come out and support the Cougars.

TASC Testing

South Branch Career and Technical Center has announced the TASC Testing Center Schedule, formerly known as G.E.D., for the 2015-2016 School Year

- Oct. 22-23, 3:30-8:30 p.m.
- Nov. 19-20, 3:30-8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 17-18, 3:30-8:30 p.m.
- Jan. 21-22, 3:30-8:30 p.m.

Dates are subject to change. Registrations must be made no later than the Monday of the testing week. For more information or to schedule contact Amanda Barger, 304-257-1277, or Amanda.barger@easternwv.edu

Steve Arbaugh, 304-257-1331 or

sarbaugh@k12.wv.us

Vera Shockey 304-434-8000 ex.324 or Vera.shockey@easternwv.edu.

MIS Conferences

For employees of Pilgrim’s Pride, who can’t come to school, Moorefield Intermediate School will have representatives on site, Thursday, Oct. 22 and Thursday, Oct. 29 during break times, to discuss your child or provide information about the school. Call 304-530-3450 for information and specific times. No appointment is necessary.

Survivors Honored

The Moorefield Volleyball Team will honor breast cancer survivors at their game on Monday, Oct. 26, beginning at 6 p.m. Survivors are invited to attend.

LEPC Meeting

The Tuesday, Oct. 27 Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting will be held 7 p.m. at the Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority building at Baker. The public is welcome to attend. This meeting was originally scheduled for Oct. 13.

Conferences

East Hardy High School will have its first parent teacher conference of the school year October 29, from 4 until 6 p.m. Report cards can be picked up from Mrs. Rudy in the main office for a quiz buyback.

Spay and Neuter

Spay Today is our area’s non-profit, reduced-price spay and neutering program. At the time of surgery, initial shots and tests can also be obtained at lower rates. Choose from many vets over a wide area. New vets added! Contact Spay Today: www.baacs.org or call 304-728-8330.