



Shalimar Mazetis



Shalimar Mazetis is the Manager of Rural Development of Advance Southwest Iowa Corporation and her office is in Oakland, IA. Her role is to make sure companies in **rural Pottawattamie County** are happy, healthy, and thriving. If a company is choosing to expand, close, or seek a succession plan, she is

there to give support.

A lot of Shalimar’s job is connecting the dots! She helps companies find locations and accompanies them to the state to see what incentives are available. 2022 was a big year bringing in \$79MM capital investment with expansions for Menards and Jack Links. But that was unusual, and she stated it’s primarily small businesses that she works with.

The Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors is the main funder of this work. WIDA served in rural economic development in the past, but now focuses on marketing and promotion of SW Iowa.

Advance Southwest Iowa Corporation is made up of a team besides Shalimar. Paula Hazelwood manages economic development for the city of Council Bluffs through this corporation. Their annual growth of capital investment is approximately \$100MM. Nikki Ferguson is the Manager of Entrepreneurship for Pott Co. helping people who have an idea for a business develop their plan. The Kitchen Council at PACE (Hoff Family Center) managed by Holly Benson Mueller offers a great commercial certified kitchen service to start up caterers and food trucks, saving them lots of dollars to use the space at PACE to experiment and prepare.

Shalimar was raised in Seattle, but spent wonderful summers with her grandparents in Oakland, IA – Marion and Donna Wright. After graduating from Colorado Christian University

and getting her Masters at Seattle Pacific University in Industrial Organization Psychology, she came back to live with her grandparents for four months. She found a job in Omaha, met her husband and has lived here now 12 years. She loves the sense of community and absolutely loves rural Pott. Co. Shalimar is also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute.

The group discussed possibilities for future economic development in Treynor. We do not have a large industrial base, but we are a solid, wonderful, beautiful bedroom community to Omaha/Council Bluffs and that’s what we are.

Thoughts were discussed with members about what Treynor could support. “The T” will most likely generate future development. Service based businesses such as plumbers, carpenters, electricians, even co-working spaces where a desk is needed for a short time were suggested.

Mike Holton, City Administrator was present and shared the following: Treynor has the need for future growth for a large waste water project which will cost \$6-7MM and is VERY appreciative to be the recipient of a large allocation of money that was granted from a coalition to help rural Pott Co. communities and matched further by Iowa West to total \$1.4 M. Treynor was also the recipient of \$125,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act for a project that was ready to go – moving city hall. This upgrade was done at zero cost to taxpayers.

Shalimar can be reached at 402-960-8505, 120 N. Main St., Oakland, smazetis@SelectGreaterOmaha.com.

Next week’s Speaker:

Brian Edick – Memorial Day Discussion

Famous Quote

“You can’t steal second base if you don’t take your foot off first.” Mike Todd

Meeting Minutes

John Klein called the meeting to order and led the pledge. Fourteen members were present. Two guests, Mike Holton and Shalimar Mazetis were present. Ken Graham offered the prayer. Chad Gutttau, Steve Chambers and Shalimar Mazetis shared jokes.

50/50: Dee Gutttau won.

Attendance: Phil Waggoner won, but it went unclaimed.

Birthdays: We observed the birthdays of Steve Irvin (May 21) and Kirk Vorthmann (May 22). Mike Holton contributed also for the birth of his new grandson on Monday.

Anniversaries: None

Bragging Rights: (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Jim Clausen contributed to announce his granddaughter is graduating from Elkhorn South with a 4 point plus grade average.
- Marsha Underwood donated \$11 as it has been eleven years since her brain aneurism.
- Marsha Underwood and Kevin Underwood each contributed a dollar to announce Bailey White's graduation from the College of St. Mary.
- Ken Graham donated because he had free coupons from Casey's for free donuts this morning and he has five coupons for five dozen cookies as well. He encouraged members to eat or they will end up in Jim Clausen's garage!
- John Klein announced that his grandson, Preston Jones is graduating from Treynor this weekend.
- Judy Gutttau announced that their granddaughter, Joslyn Gutttau, and exchange grandson, Jona Kuentler, graduate from Treynor this weekend.
- Gary Gutttau said Clara Tiegland was flying high as she set a new record at the State Track Meet in the 400 meter hurdles.
- Kirk Vorthmann announced his grandson Kale is graduating this weekend from Treynor.
- Dennis White contributed because his grandson is graduating from Lewis Central and made it to Substate with a tennis match, but was beaten by Glenwood.

- Mike Holton contributed in honor of the children of two city employees: Rachel and Brook. Rachel's daughter attends Riverside and participated in the 4x800 and set a new school record at the State Track meet. Brook's son plays soccer for Underwood and is in the Substate game this week.
- Kirk Vorthmann also contributed to announce that the granddaughter of Bill Vorthmann (Avery Dyke) is graduating this weekend in Treynor and her party was this morning at Arrowhead Park.
- Chad Gutttau announced he would be on Boomer Radio, Jon Jacobsen's radio show at 11 AM today.

Community:

1. Free streaming is available today to watch the State Track meet with Treynor participating in three events today.
2. Sunday is Treynor's graduation at 2 PM.
3. Monday, May 22 is the Boys Sub-State Soccer game in Treynor starting at 7:30 p.m. The next game would also be in Treynor at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday night.
4. Tuesday at 7 PM is the Treynor Middle School musical, Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (junior version).
5. Judy Gutttau announced that Tuesday, May 23 is the ribbon cutting celebration of TS Bank's 100th Anniversary at the Downtown Branch (43 Scott St.) in Council Bluffs from 2-4 PM. Zalt's Ice Cream truck will be present to serve ice cream while it lasts. All are welcome to attend.
6. Judy Gutttau adds that TS Bank will continue to celebrate on Wednesday, May 24. Sweet treats will be served at TS Bank's HyVee Branch and the West Broadway Branch in Council Bluffs while supplies last.
7. Gary Gutttau announced that the Nonpareil carried an article on the front page early this past week, "Seniors, Veterans can Apply for New Tax Break." Judy Gutttau shared copies of the article. Gary has turned in his application and figures he will save \$300 in property tax this year and \$600 next year. Go to PottCo.org to learn more about this new tax exemption. (See the newspaper article at the bottom of this newsletter.)

8. Mike Hoy has invited all Optimists and people interested in joining to attend a free meal at Hoy Kilnowski Funeral Home on Tuesday, May 23 at 6 PM. Dee Gutttau said she talked with Mike and some desserts would be appreciated.
9. Mike Holton, City Administrator, stated that the Open House for the relocation of City Hall was successful and that the new location has been extremely well received.

Business:

1. The Can Kennel was overflowing so sorting took place a week early. Can kennel sorting helpers Wednesday were John Klein, Gary, Dee and Chad Gutttau, Bill Vorthmann, and Steve Chambers. Plan on sorting cans again this week on Wed. at 2 PM unless you hear differently.
2. Flags will be put up this coming Saturday, May 27 after the meeting starting at 9:30 AM and will be taken down Tuesday, May 30 at 4 PM.
3. John Klein reported the mural project is still in discussion with Home Depot.
4. John Klein explained that the coupons from Casey's for cookies, etc. were donated for the Mulch Madness, but the school didn't feel they could feed them to the students.
5. President Jordan Campbell presented scholarships at Awards Night Wednesday night.
6. The Optimists have been asked to consider hosting the kite flying event during Treynor Days. Treynor Days will occur June 23-25.

Auction:

Dee and Chad Gutttau donated three pots of Autumn Joy Sedum, Sedum Forever, a succulent, and very hardy. Mike Holton purchased all three for \$40. Thank you, Mike!

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR

"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened."

Mark Twain

Calendar

Events

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 23 | 6 PM. Free Optimist Dinner at Hoy Kilnowski for all Optimists and potential Optimists. |
| May 24 | Can Kennel sorting at 2 PM |
| May 27 | Put up flags for Memorial Day, 9:30 a.m. |
| May 30 | Take down flags, 4:00 p.m. |

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------|----------------|
| May 21 | Steve Irvin |
| May 22 | Kirk Vorthmann |

Anniversaries

- | | |
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| May | None |
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Programs:

- | | |
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| May | Dale Willenborg |
| June | Steve Irvin (first 2)
Jeff Jorgensen (last 2) |
| July | Chad Gutttau |

Speakers

- | | |
|---------|--|
| May 27 | Brian Edick - Memorial Day discussion
Alex Harrington. He is a high school science teacher and one of his classes is robotics. (He is married to Danie Floerchinger.) |
| June 3 | |
| June 10 | Steve Owens. Steve is a former teacher and coach at Treynor High School. He is currently on staff with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska. |

Seniors, veterans can apply for new tax break

Applications are due July 1 under new law that provides new tax exemptions

TOM BARTON

Lee-Gazette Des Moines Bureau

Iowa seniors and veterans can begin applying for a new property tax break created by legislation

signed into law earlier this month by Gov. Kim Reynolds.

The new property tax law, House File 718, was approved with near-unanimous support in the Iowa Legislature. The bill is designed to limit the amount of new property tax revenue growth that local governments can use in their budgets.

Republican legislative leaders estimate the legislation will result

in a \$100 million property tax cut statewide.

It also provides new property tax exemptions for Iowans age 65 and older and for military veterans.

The law provides a \$3,250 exemption on the taxable value of a home owned and lived in by Iowans 65 and older as of Jan. 1 of this year. The exemption applies for the 2023 assessment year that would have associated taxes due

in fall 2024 and spring 2025. The homestead property tax exemption increases to \$6,500 for the 2024 assessment year. The exemption is a reduction in the taxable value of the property — not a direct reduction in the amount of property taxes owed.

And that is in addition to the Iowa Homestead Tax Credit, which

Please see **TAX CREDIT**, Page A2

Tax credit

From A1

reduces the taxable value of an owner-occupied Iowa home up to \$4,850. Persons in the military or in nursing homes who do not occupy the home are also eligible.

The Iowa Department of Revenue announced Monday it has amended the homestead tax credit exemption form to allow seniors to apply for the new exemption. Applications are due July 1 to local assessor offices.

Forms are available at tax.iowa.

gov by searching for “homestead pdf”

If granted, the exemption will be allowed for future years without future filing as long as the claimant continues to qualify, according to the department.

Unlike the Iowa Homestead Tax Credit, however, local governments will not be “backfilled” for the loss in revenue from this part of the new law.

The new law also more than doubles a property tax exemption for veterans by increasing it to \$4,000 in taxable value from the current \$1,852 in taxable value.

As with seniors, applications are due July 1 to the local assessor. However, military veterans currently receiving the exemption do not need to file a new application as long as the veteran or the veteran’s spouse is the legal or equitable owner of the property on July 1 for which the exemption is allowed, said John Fuller, a spokesperson for the Iowa Department of Revenue.

The exemption applies for a honorably separated, retired, furloughed to a reserve, placed on inactive status or discharged veteran. Lawmakers passed the bill

shortly after the latest round of property assessments across Iowa showed widespread, dramatic increases in the assessed value of homes — up a statewide average of 22 percent this year — to keep the rise from triggering dramatic increases in homeowners’ local property tax bills.

While calling the bill the most significant property tax reform in state history, Reynolds and Republican lawmakers have said the measure is just the first step in addressing property taxes, and intend to revisit the issue during next year’s legislative session.