



**Council Bluffs Mayor**



Mayor Matt Walsh, Council Bluffs city mayor, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on May 3. He is the first new mayor in Council Bluffs in 25 years. He ran for mayor based on his administrative skills, looking for ways to save money in the city.

Matt has a busy schedule. In his first three months in office, Matt said he had 10-12 people coming in his office each day. That has slowed some. One memorable experience is that he visited a couple in the Amelia House who have been married 79 years.

The city is working on a new recreation center for basketball, volleyball, and soccer. It is a public/private partnership and will cost \$50M. It will include a hotel, workout facility, and arena, with six soccer fields next to the facility.

Cesars' management has been able to reduce losses at the Mid America Center.

About \$150M has been spent on the Interstate over the past four years. That much will be spent each year for the next few years. There will be a four way interchange to Broadway. The state currently maintains Broadway, which has no storm sewers. Council Bluffs proposed taking over from the river to 16<sup>th</sup> street, if the state helps with needed infrastructure upgrades.

Loess Fest will return again this week with three weeks of free entertainment, starting Memorial Day.

**Calendar**

- May 14 – Can kennel sorting for Zion Youth
- May 28 – Can kennel sorting for Zion Youth

**Birthdays**

- May 11 – Keith Denton
- May 21 - Steve Irvin
- May 22 - Kirk Vorthmann

**Anniversaries**

- May 27 – Bob & Mary Francis Abbott (recognized)
- May 29 – Bill & Rhonda Matthew

**Speakers**

- May 10 – Dr. Drew Whigham – preventing ACL injuries
- May 17 – Highway Commission
- May 24 –

Mayor Walsh said one of his biggest challenges is property taxes, especially the commercial tax rate. Pottawattamie County raised taxes 19% this year, 8% last year, and about 4% the year before. It is difficult to attract new businesses when taxes are going up that fast.

Many department heads are retiring in Council Bluffs. The Fire Chief already retired. The Human Resources, Police Chief, and finance director will also all leave this year.

**Meeting Minutes**

Bill Vorthmann opened the meeting on May 3 and led the Pledge of Allegiance after jokes by Matt Walsh and Gary Gutttau. Mick Gutttau gave the opening prayer.

Chad Gutttau contributed to the Youth Fund to announce that all Godfathers in Council Bluffs will be run out of Omaha. Marsha and Kevin Underwood contributed because Marsha was the Face of the Day in no Daily NonPareil. Gary Funkhouser contributed because Treynor won the quiz bowl contest yesterday. Jim Clausen contributed because his son Justin announced that they are expecting.

The club celebrated Bob Abbott's 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He met his future wife when he was teaching his third year and his wife was student teaching. They were married five weeks later. He was the Superintendent in Tabor for 22 years.

Dee Gutttau, Gary Funkhouser, and Kevin Underwood worked in the kitchen for Youth Appreciation. Gary Gutttau, Gary Funkhouser, Ken Graham, and Bill Vorthmann helped with can sorting. They had 30½ bags of cans, 15 bags of plastic, and 922 bottles.

Linda Danker joined the club. Congratulations!

Richard Vorthmann won the 50/50 drawing. Gene Seran won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 14 members and 1 guest at the meeting.

- May 31 – Amanek – national director for Child Evangelism Fellowship in Southeast European countries
- June 7 – Rachael Brockway – Indian Relations
- June 14 –
- June 21 – Candice Gregory – Open Door Mission
- June 28 –
- July 5 –
- July 12 – Brad Silvey – Girl's Soccer Coach at IWCC

**Prayers**

- May 3 — Mick Gutttau
- May 10 — Dee Gutttau
- May 17— Richard Vorthmann
- May 24 — Chuck Nielson