

# OUR TOWNS

Gayville  
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Volin

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## Horizons Project Seeks New Volunteers For New Year

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VOLIN — Progress is still rolling along with the Volin-Gayville Horizons Project, and members of the planning committee are gearing up for the new year with a call for volunteers.

"There's a lot of committees out there that do need more help," said planning committee member Chuck Flemming during a Tuesday night meeting in Volin.

Planning committee member Marie Fleming said people are needed to develop a phone directory and calling trees, as well as to serve with groups like the Community Wellness Program, which focuses on physical as well as mental wellness.

"The community garden is one area of community wellness where we need people to step up," she said. "First, we need to see if it's a viable idea, and if it is, then we need the foundation builders of that project."

Horizons focuses on community leadership to reduce poverty, and is funded with grants from the Northwest Area Foundation.

Overall, the Horizons project is going well, said community coach David Olson.



Barbara Egbert, member of the planning committee for the Volin-Gayville Horizons Project, and community coach David Olson discuss ongoing Horizons progress at a meeting Tuesday night.

"I'm really pleased with how they're doing and the progress that they're making," he said. "That's why I keep coming back to learn from them and encourage them and connect them with resources."

"It's going pretty good," Chuck Flemming added. "It started out hard and fast, but it slowed down, and now we should see it start picking up."

Marie Fleming agreed, saying, "I think a lot of the community are very interested in seeing how things

grow. I think there's a few people who think things are going slower than anticipated, but it's all a process that needs to be worked on. Any good project has plans laid and foundations built before they get bigger than what they can handle."

Olson said the project benefits from the fact that the community plan has been established, with continuing modifications.

"They're already beginning to think about changing, depending on what's going on, depending on inter-

est that's involved or not involved," he said. "They've kind of put (some) things on hold, and they're probably going to eliminate one or two of the objectives because people who were initially interested either moved away or have gone on to other things."

"But they've begun to change the structures in the community and get people together on issues," he said.

Changing goals should be "a basic part of community planning," Olson said. "You're always modifying and evaluating goals as you go along. This is a working plan, which is not cast in stone... and sometimes things don't work out to implement the objectives, so we change them. Most of the communities that are in the first phase — all of them that I've dealt with — have all added new goals after the plan was adopted the first time."

Some of the projects organized under the Horizons banner are already benefiting the communities. One of these is the Volin-Gayville Food Pantry, which was established last month.

"I'm really enthused about the response we've gotten from the community, and even from the broader community — just a lot of contributions," said Barbara Egbert, one of the pantry's organizers.

As a result of drives from locals schools, churches and organizations, the food pantry is fully stocked. More than \$600 has been raised, all of which will go toward the purchase of more food.

The pantry is mobile, meaning the food is stored at a certain area and then taken out once or twice a month to be distributed in both Volin and Gayville.

"The idea was, these are small communities," Egbert said. "They don't need a huge facility, but there is need. People can't get to other areas — to Yankton, Vermillion — or they just aren't as familiar with the situation."

"And maybe a year, five years from now, the economy will be so good that it won't be necessary. We don't know," she said. "It just seems like right now, it was a need that we didn't anticipate."

In the future, a more permanent home for the pantry may be built using grant money, Egbert said. This would mean "we could get a refrigerator and have more food available, and then only move it when we bring it to Gayville. That would be the mobile component."

Horizons is a partnership between the South Dakota State University Cooperative and the Northwest Area Foundation of St.

Paul, Minn.

For more information about the local Horizons project, visit <http://gayvillevolin.communityblogs.us/>.

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## Lights/ from page 1

ta Hospital Foundation. We usually try to do something like this every year, consistently on the second Sunday in December.

The Dakota Hospital Foundation "sells" the lights that decorate a large evergreen tree located on the Sanford Vermillion campus.

"For anywhere from \$5 to \$25, people can purchase a light as a means of recognition, or in memory, or honoring someone, or as a way to express season's greetings to a friend or a relative," Lunn said. "It's a fundraiser for us, and we always get some really good comments from people who see the tree, and the way the entire hospital campus is lit up for the holidays. It adds to the community, I think, and definitely adds to our fundraising efforts for the digital mammography program."

The holiday concert serves not only to raise needed funds to improve the quality of health care in the region. It also gives university musicians the opportunity to perform.

Sunday's concert featured USD's brass choir, chamber orchestra, Chamber Singers, concert choir, jazz ensemble, men's and women's chorus, symphonic band, and symphony orchestra.

"It gives our students and our faculty a chance to show



Dr. Rolf Olson conducts the USD Symphonic Band, which concluded Sunday's holiday concert by providing music for an audience sing-a-long of popular Christmas songs. (Photo by David Lias)

off all of our talents in the music department. All of the ensembles perform on the main stage, and it's actually grown the past few years to where we have small groups, including two string quartets, a horn group, a woodwind choir and a woodwind trio that performed out in the commons area before the formal concert for the audience," Schou said. "So we're adding music upon music."

"This is always a fun event, it's showcasing music and the university and it's getting townspeople involved, and also parents," he said. "A lot of the audience members were parents of the students who were on stage."

the other, and then come back and enjoy one of our regular concerts during the year," he said. "Many people don't realize that we have string quartets, a chamber orchestra, a large symphony orchestra, multiple bands, including a jazz band, and multiple choirs. There's a lot of music going on in Vermillion."

The fundraising that took place Sunday will help the Dakota Hospital Foundation achieve its goal of providing a minimum of 50 free mammography tests for the uninsured, the underinsured and the elderly.

"Research from the South Dakota Department of Health and the American Cancer Society indicates that we have a much higher mortality rate in Clay County than in surrounding areas," Lunn said. "There could be many factors involved in that, including lack of education about testing, or perhaps an inability of some women to pay for the testing so they don't have the pro-

cedure done.

"So the foundation is partnering with Sanford Vermillion in doing a marketing and education program, and hopefully we can attract some of that underserved population to come in and request and get a free mammogram," he said.

Last year, a blizzard struck Vermillion on the day the holiday concert and tree lighting was scheduled. The event was still held, and still attracted a sizeable audience.

This year, with the weather cooperating, turnout was stronger, and both Schou and Lunn are encouraged by the community's participation.

"This is something that we want to continue to do as a holiday event, and there are

a lot of different things going on in Vermillion," Lunn said. "This event is focusing on the fundraising efforts for the digital mammography program."

"We were very pleased, and even Mother Nature cooperated this year. There is always more room for more people to participate, but we've been really pleased with the turnout, and the way that people are supporting our fundraising project," he said. "It's growing, and it's something that we look forward to doing annually on an ongoing basis."

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*Thank You*

I wish to thank the businesses of Vermillion for donating items to the Christmas tree contest winner's basket. Your gifts are much appreciated.

Maria Heimstra

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**Doug Hanson Benefit Fund**

The Hanson family of Meckling lost their home in a fire on Wednesday morning. No one was injured but the Hanson family lost most of their possessions. Doug serves the Yankton Community on the Yankton Police Department and one of his sons works for McDonald's in Vermillion. He has four children and one grandchild at home.

**Please help us make their holiday season a little brighter!**

**Cash Donations Can Be Made At:**

First Dakota National Bank  
111 Court Street, Vermillion, SD 57069  
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Checks must be made to Doug Hanson due to how the fund is set up.

**Gift Cards Are Being Accepted**  
and will be delivered to the Hanson family by the Yankton Police Department, 410 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078  
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Thank you to the Yankton Police Department, Vermillion Police Department, McDonald's of Vermillion, Vermillion Chamber of Commerce, First Dakota National Bank of Yankton and Vermillion, Broadcaster Press and Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan.