

## VIEWPOINTS

## You're needed on July 22

On June 25, the city of Vermillion held a meeting to gather public input on future improvements to Prentis Park.

Reportedly, only two people showed up.

We are in no position to do any finger wagging or scolding of the citizenry.

No one from the *Plain Talk* attended the meeting, either.

We've all been given another chance, however, to tell our city leaders what we believe are the improvement needed at the park.

The city is once again hosting an informational meeting about the proposal to fund Prentis Park

improvements. The meeting will be held Tuesday, July 22, at the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library. Things will kick off at 7 p.m. in the library's Roger Kozak Community Room.

The city is considering a proposal that uses current and future revenue sources to fund approximately \$5.25 million of improvements identified by the Prentis Park master plan. The

## BETWEEN THE LINES



DAVID LIAS  
david.lias@plaintalk.net

city is seeking public comment and input on the proposal before the Vermillion City Council takes any official action.

A portion of that last sentence bears repeating: "The city is seeking public comment and input on the proposal ..."

July 22 is a little more than a week from now. If you care about our community's development, and the way local taxpayers' dollars are spent, we encourage you to take the time to attend the meeting. Listen to the challenges that city officials are currently facing as they deal with maintaining the park, and attempt to make sure it continues to be one of the jewels of the city.

One of the biggest challenges facing our community is our aging, leaking, and -- let's face it -- worn out Prentis Park swimming pool.

We have done our best in recent months to inform the community through our news reports of the pool's deteriorating condition, despite more than adequate maintenance from the city.

"It's like an inefficient house," parks and rec director Jim Goblirsch said of the old pool, which was built in 1967, in a *Plain Talk* story published last summer. "You live in your house and your windows leak air, hot or cold. When do you want to replace them?"

"I can't give you a guarantee and say it'll be open another five years," he said. "These guys are doing a great job keeping it operational, but it is falling apart, and it takes considerable man-hours to keep it operational."

We also reported, in the same story, the pool's less than watertight condition. As of last

summer, the pool level regularly dropped about two inches per day.

"I did the math earlier, and it came out to a little over 10,000 gallons a day going into the ground," parks superintendent Aaron Baedke said. "I don't know what that would be in a year for water and money. It does slow down as the summer goes on because the ground becomes fully saturated."

It's sort of sad, isn't it, to think that greatest relief to the leaky pool problem is provided by the pool itself, when it soaks the ground to the point that the water can't exit through the leaks quite as quickly?

Clearly this is a problem that can't be put off much longer. The city of Vermillion has found itself in similar situations over the years. As time marches on, our population's needs change. Our community has strived, in just the last decade or so, to do its best to keep up.

The city is home to a modern fire hall, a golf course

developed less than 20 years ago that is one of the best in the region, a modern city hall that no doubt is the envy of surrounding communities, and a newly expanded library.

None of these accomplishments came about with ease. Certainly, they didn't happen without a lot of public input and the strong backing of Vermillion citizens.

It's time for that process to begin again. An important part of our community needs to be improved, but that can't happen without citizen involvement.

Please plan to attend the July 22 meeting, and bring along your ideas. The city needs them.

For more information, contact City Manager John Prescott at 677-7050.

*The Vermillion Plain Talk editorials reflect the opinion of Plain Talk editor David Lias. You may contact him at david.lias@plaintalk.net.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Why?

To the people who stole American flags:

I don't know what made you decide to steal the 75 small American flags we put up on West Cherry Street this past week, but I hope you treat them with respect. Although they were only little pieces of plastic with 50 beautiful white stars and 13 red and white stripes, the message and the history they represent is recognized throughout the world. Millions of people risk their lives to get to our shores because of what our flag represents.

Many thousands of brave Americans have died for this flag, and everywhere on earth the American flag is a sign to impoverished people that there is still "Hope". Our enemies know they must defeat this flag and what it stands for if they want to take away the "Hope" of their people. If you care to return our flags, please drop them off at any of the businesses that were proud to display them, and if not, please treat them with the respect they deserve.

Larry Brady  
Vermillion

## A fabulous day

To the editor:  
Bergen, Gayville and Vangen Lutheran Churches celebrated their 150th Anniversary on May 25, 2014.

What a wonderful celebration we had for our 150th Anniversary! The morning worship attendance was 280, the noon meal was served to approximately 290 people and the evening vespers service was attended by over 150 people, with many of them staying for lunch and fellowship. A truly fabulous day!

Thank you to everyone on the committee who worked so diligently for the past year and a half to make this event so special to all who attended. There are many other people to thank who have helped out in countless ways. I don't want to leave anyone out, so, thank you to everyone who has helped, contributed, constructed, fed, prepared, decorated, cleaned, promoted, printed, attended, organized, supported ... whatever your part, you are appreciated!

Now, from 1 Thessalonians 1: 2-3, "We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Blessings to you in Christ,  
Becky Aga  
150th Anniversary  
Committee Chairperson



## Some are days, some are nights

"It was a splendid summer morning and it seemed as if nothing could go wrong." — John Cheever, novelist and short story writer

Rounding summer's bend after the Fourth of July, there's a clingy part of me, call it what you will, dragging heels of reticence, knowing full well autumn and, shortly thereafter, dreaded unapologetic winter will arrive.

My fickle self extends an olive branch to what's left of long hot days and abbreviated nights, now that I have quit sighing over blasted humidity and have dozens of nasty bug bites under control.

As much as I disdain sticky weather, something in my bones longs to bottle this tonic brew, which has caused Mother Nature to draw on her long memory, raising all varieties of flowers and foliage known to these parts.

Lush vistas and blooming roadsides co-mingle with a chatterbox aviary that awakens me each morning, choruses my every step throughout the day and serenades me into slumber.

To my delight, I don't seem to mind July now that it's half over. In fact, I quite like everything that has anything to do with the ongoing birthing of the summer me.

This time of year bears witness to an axis of happiness nourished by a metaphysical symphony of life,

## MY STORY YOUR STORY



PAULA DAMON  
paula.damon@iw.net

never tiring.

My outlook, also on parade, marches forward ever blissfully.

Big problems that may have formerly bowled me over in colder months seem quite surmountable now. Dismissing little irritations as barely noticeable, I squint heartily, casting a bright, unblinking glance toward life itself.

And then, when I think of all of those summer foods straight from the garden, temporal waves of indulgence wash over me.

Sweet corn on the cob.  
Crunchy cucumbers.  
Luscious string beans.  
Juicy tomatoes.  
Tasty cantaloupes.  
Watermelons, too.

Amassed on my kitchen counter, bowls and buckets of fresh picked mulberries and cherries nostalgically

churning and turning my drab old self into a divine specimen of energy and promise.

When I look in the mirror, I hardly recognize myself. Sun-kissed from lingering outdoors with a festival joy, I carry on day in and day out,

promise pies and cobblers for Thanksgiving and Christmas, causing me to salivate while sorting and bagging them for the freezer.

Fresh from the farmer's market, perfectly ripe plums and peaches present as heaven on earth, standing in as complete meals.

Summer places befriend me, as well, while I gladly sink my toes into sandy beaches, splash about in cool refreshing waters and cruise through shadowy parks.

Whatever tiresomeness I had previously suffered from disappears into a brazenly popular way of life, as I head down this final stretch.

Running barefoot through an old-fashioned sense of pure delight, I strong-arm any hint of despair back to its rightful place, a distance from here.

Equipped with a mythical sense of what is possible, summer's sweet dew-kissed mornings, mildly windswept afternoons and buzzing starlit nights come bearing sweet and lovely intonations, bidding all doubt, "So long."

Flinging wide open her broad doors, formerly planked and braced shut for God knows what, summer bestows a dramatic power burgeoning with brawny bravado, causing me to move about with a swagger.

Come what may, I feel as though I can do anything with mid-summer chronicling my sway to and fro on this glistening blue, lush green existence.

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Vermillion  
**PLAIN TALK**

Since 1884 • Official County, City and School District Newspaper

201 W. Cherry, Vermillion, SD 57069 • Publication No. USPS 657-720

Publisher: Gary Wood • Editor: David Lias

Published weekly by YANKTON MEDIA, Inc. • Periodicals postage paid at Vermillion, SD 57069.

Subscription rates for the *Plain Talk* by mail are \$27.56 a year in the city of Vermillion.

Subscriptions in Clay, Turner, Union and Yankton counties are \$41.34 per year.

Elsewhere in South Dakota, subscriptions are \$44.52, and out-of-state subscriptions are \$42.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Plain Talk, 201 West Cherry Street, Vermillion, SD 57069.

Vermillion Plain Talk Staff

**News Staff:** Travis Gulbrandson.

**Advertising Director:** Michele Schievelbein

**Composing Manager:** Kathy Larson

**Composing Staff:** Rob Buckingham, Mathew Wienbar & Sally Whiting.

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