Vermillion Plain Talk **3A** Prentis Park Project Left Out of 2015 Budget

By Randy Dockendorf randy.dockendorf@plaintalk.net

With Prentis Park improvements headed for the November ballot, city officials are not including the project in the

2015 budget. At Tuesday night's meeting, the City Council unanimously approved the first reading for the

2015 appropriations ordinance. City Manager John Prescott explained the decision not to budget for the Prentis Park project at this time.

"During the budget meetings and the Aug. 4 (council) meeting, funding for Prentis Park improvements was discussed," he said. "The issuance of General Obligation bonds, which would net

\$3 million for construction, has been sent to the November 4, 2014, general election ballot. The proposed 2015 budget does not include funding for the Prentis Park improvements as the election has not taken place."

If the ballot measure passes, the budget will then be modified, Prescott said.

"The 2015 budget will need to be revised to account for the project if the issuance of the bond is approved, and (also) based on the project costs anticipated to be completed in 2015," he said. "Some of the work will stretch into 2016."

Following the budget meetings, the council made revisions that increased the appropriations from the reserve to the general fund from \$232,220 to \$239,797 in 2015.

The West Main Street mill and levy asphalt overlay project looms as one of the larger, more visible projects in 2015, Prescott said.

The budget also continues to work toward achieving community goals or recommendations from the CHLab Talent Attraction Strategy and Workforce Housing Solutions Study.

In addition, the 2015 budget provides funding for the debt service on the Bliss Pointe housing development infrastructure. Other funding would go toward the hike/bike trail along the Vermillion River that experienced damage shortly after completion.

Funding would also assist with a project that would bring public art sculptures in fall 2015; street maintenance funding, library

LAW ENFORCEMENT LOGS

materials and the first year for the Vermillion Now 2! Pledge, along with smaller items.

Other items during Tuesday's meeting included:

• first reading for the 2014 revised appropriations ordinance;

 approval for a resolution extending the cable franchise agreement for one year to continue franchise renewal discussions;

• passage of a resolution fixing Oct. 6 as the public hearing date to levy special assessments for nuisance abatement;

• letting authorization for the West Main Street mill and overlay project from High to Stanford streets:

• approval for the first reading of an ordinance amending zoning regulations, creating a planned

development district (PDD) for health care facilities along a portion of Plum Street;

• passage of a resolution declaring as surplus and authorizing the transfer of expired less-than-lethal munitions from the Vermillion Police Department to the City of Yankton for use by its police department;

• approval of a fireworks display permit on Sept. 18 for the Vermillion High School homecoming;

an executive session lasting about a half-hour, with the council and City Attorney Jim McCulloch discussing a legal matter. No action was taken when the council returned to open session.

Vermillion Police Department

08/24/2014 0:12:00 - Officers contacted two subjects who had come to the jail to bail out a friend. Both here under age and had been drinking. Both were cited.

08/24/2014 0:17:00 - Bike officers stopped a man walking on the sidewalk drinking from a beer can. The man was under age. He was cited.

08/24/2014 1:09:00 - Caller reported two to four people fighting nearby. Officers responded and contacted several people, all denied any fighting had occurred.

08/24/2014 10:17:00 - Officers responded to a local hotel when and elevator got stuck with someone inside. Officers assisted the Fire Department with opening the door and getting the trapped patron out.

08/24/2014 14:32:00 - Caller reported several items stolen from a garage. Under investigation.

08/24/2014 20:31:00 - Caller reported damage to a window where it appeared unknown person(s) attempted to gain access to the caller's home. Officers collected evidence, under investigation.

08/25/2014 21:29:00 - An officer stopped a car for speeding. The driver did not have a drivers license and was charged.

08/26/2014 16:35:00 Complainant reported a relative had threated to hurt themselves. Officers started searching for the subject to check his welfare. The subject was eventually located by family members and medical treatment was obtained.

08/26/2014 20:48:00 - Caller reported a man he knows came into his home while he was napping and assaulted him. The man has multiple injuries consistent with the allegations. The suspect was contacted and

reported he was assaulted by his intoxicated wife. Officers investigated and determined the wife had assaulted her husband. She was arrested for domestic violence assault.

08/30/2014 7:11:00 - Caller reported a possible drunk driver. Officers responded to area and saw vehicle commit an illegal Uturn. The vehicle stopped, the driver was intoxicated and was arrested.

08/30/2014 7:53:00 concerned parent requested help as her daughter had not called her

at the expected time that a road trip was suppose to end. Officers started the process of locating the daughter. The parent was able to get through to the daughter while officers were searching.

08/30/2014 11:24:00 -Caller reported a highly intoxicated man walking near traffic and requested officers check the man's welfare. Officers located the man wearing a shirt and underwear. The man was intoxicated and underage and claimed to be the victim of a Fraternity Prank. He was cited for minor possession/consumption of alcohol and the officers found his missing shorts a few blocks away and had him put them back

08/30/2014 13:38:00 -

on.

detective saw a vehicle parked blocking the roadway. A check of the vehicle showed the owner had two active Clay County Warrants for her arrest. The detective verified the occupant of the vehicle was the person the warrant was for and made contact with her and arrested her on the warrants. She also had marijuana and was charged with the new charge. 08/30/2014 15:30:00 -Sex Crime reported to police. Under

investigation. 08/30/2014 15:45:00 - Caller reported being stranded in Vermillion for a couple days

stay and obtained food and water for them. 08/30/2014 16:09:00 - Caller

reported person(s) unknown entered his vehicle in the night and took several items. Under investigation.

08/30/2014 18:17:00 - Caller reported a relative threatening to hurt themselves. Officers responded and contacted the individual and investigated. The individual denied any intent at self harm.

08/30/2014 18:27:00 - Caller reported person(s) unknown entered her vehicle sometime in the night and took several items. Under investigation.

Office of the Clay County Sheriff

08/24/2014 9:00:00 - A deputy responded to a medical emergency in Wakonda.

08/24/2014 13:10:00 - An inmate was transported from the Charles Mix County Jail to the Clay County Jail after being arrested there for an outstanding Clay County warrant.

08/24/2014 14:24:00 - A vehicle was stopped and the driver was cited for speeding in Burbank.

08/24/2014 15:11:00 - A deputy checked on a report of a stranded vehicle on Highway 50. The vehicle had broken down and the driver had already called for a tow. No other assistance was needed. 08/25/2014 10:01:00 - An inmate was transported from the Charles Mix County Jail to the Clay County Jail after a probation violation.

08/25/2014 18:24:00 - A deputy assisted a Vermillion resident with questions and concerns about a possible protection order violation.

08/26/2014 2:06:00 - A report was received of horses out on University Road. Contact was made with the owner who

walking away from a broken down vehicle on University Road. Upon arrival, the person was gone. Later the vehicle was gone and another was left in its place.

08/26/2014 12:17:00 - An inmate was transported from the Clay County Jail to the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls after being sentenced by the court. 08/26/2014 14:23:00 - A deputy investigated a report of a stolen window air conditioner from a rural Meckling residence.

08/26/2014 16:35:00 - A deputy assisted the Vermillion Police in searching for a suicidal person. 08/26/2014 21:09:00 - An inmate was transported to the Yankton

County Jail to meet a prisoner transport shuttle to Butte County. 08/27/2014 20:03:00 - A deputy encountered a disabled semi on Highway 50 near Meckling. Traffic control was provided while a tow truck removed the vehicle. 08/28/2014 12:17:00 - A patient was transported from the hospital in Vermillion to the Human Services Center in Yankton for an involuntary mental health committal.

08/28/2014 16:24:00 - An inmate was transported from the Minnehaha County Jail to the Clay County Jail after being arrested fro a Clay County warrant.

08/28/2014 16:53:00 - A deputy responded to a report of a 911 call from a rural location. The man who had mis-dialed was found to be wanted for an outstanding Clay County warrant. The man was arrested and then became uncooperative and disruptive during booking in the

jail. He slumped to the floor, crossed his arms and cried. He then plugged the toilet and flooded his cell.

08/28/2014 20:35:00 - A deputy investigated a report of someone not paying for his gas at a Wakonda business.

08/28/2014 22:22:00 - A deputy investigated a report of a light being left on in a vacant residence causing a neighbor to be concerned someone had broken in. No intrusion was detected. The property owner was notified. 08/29/2014 4:36:00 - Deputies investigated a report of a domestic assault at a rural residence.

08/29/2014 5:43:00 - A report was received of a car/deer crash on Highway 50 near I-29.

08/29/2014 7:11:00 - A report was received of a missing person from a rural Meckling residence. The man was later found in custody in Union County. During the course of the investigation, drug evidence was found so a search warrant was obtained resulting in drug charges against the man.

08/29/2014 8:11:00 - Officers and deputies responded to the jail to subdue a belligerent and combative inmate who damaged jail property.

08/29/2014 11:05:00 - An inmate was transported to the hospital after claiming medical issues. The inmate was then returned to the jail after being unable to be consistent about the nature of the injury he was feigning. He often would move his arm forgetting that he was claiming he couldn't move it.

08/29/2014 11:59:00 - A caller reported a dead bobcat along Highway 50 west of Vermillion. The bobcat was picked up and collected by the Game Fish and Parks Department.

08/29/2014 12:47:00 - A caller reported she received a call threatening dire consequences and was obviously attempting to scam the victim. The woman recognized the scam attempt and did not give any money and hung up.

08/29/2014 14:47:00 - A deputy mediated a family dispute at a rural residence.

08/29/2014 21:20:00 - Speed enforcement was conducted in Burbank. Two vehicles were stopped and their drivers were cited for speeding in the 35 mph zone.

08/30/2014 2:14:00 - A deputy assisted a Highway Patrol Trooper with a DWI arrest.

08/30/2014 3:36:00 - A deputy responded to assist with a pursuit from Yankton County which entered Clay County. The driver ran from the moving car into a cornfield. The passenger was wanted for a Clay County warrant so the deputy arrested her and transported her to jail. Yankton County will proceed with charges against the driver.

08/30/2014 12:26:00 - A deputy responded to a report of a dog being struck by a car and injured. The dog's owner requested that the dog be euthanized. The deputy could see that the dog was severely injured and suffering so it was euthanized.

08/30/2014 18:17:00 - Deputies assisted Vermillion Police Officers with a response to a report of a suicidal person.

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made incriminating statements. The suspect was arrested. 08/29/2014 22:40:00 - Caller

waiting for money and needing help. Officers worked with the caller to find a place for them to

resolved the issue. 08/26/2014 7:27:00 - A deputy responded to a report of a person

OBITUARIES

Gloria Mortensen

Gloria Mortensen, age 75, of Vermillion was born on May 21, 1939 and passed away on August 31,

2014 surrounded by her children. Gloria enjoyed life,



long marriage to Mortensen

her high school sweetheart, Larry Mortensen, whom she married on June 2, 1957. Upon her passing, the two are reunited in heaven to continue their lovable bickering in the arms of the Lord.

She will be remembered as a remarkable woman and a beloved member of the community who always had a smile, said what was on her mind and never forgot to send a homemade birthday card.

Those who have taken Gloria's lessons to heart will continue to ensure that every baby be kissed, every stranger be hugged, every bird be fed and most importantly they will heed her famous advice: "the best place to store an onion is in the trash can."

Gloria is survived by her brother, Stan White; her four children: Lori Hammer, Craig Mortensen, Jana Welch and Larry Mortensen Jr.; her eight grandchildren: Paul, Josh, Aaron, Kalli, Amanda, Andrew, William and Maxwell; her seven greatgrandchildren, her beloved cat, Teensey, and friends and family that are too numerous to list but are

not forgotten. A celebration of her life

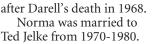
and the burial of her cremains will be held at Cornerstone Church in Vermillion on September 6th at 10:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, her family asks that donations be made to the American Cancer Society and in honor of her lifelong hatred of onions, anyone at the funeral found with an onion in their possession will be asked to leave. hansenfuneralhome.com.

Norma Merrigan

Norma Jean Merrigan, 80 of Omaha NE, passed away on August 29th, 2014 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Norma was born on January 2, 1934 in Yankton, SD and graduated from the Wakonda High School. She married to Darell Merrigan on August 2nd 1954; they were married 14 years before Darell's death in 1968.

Norma and Darell owned and operated Ideal Billards in downtown Vermillion, SD before converting the business into the Charcoal Lounge in 1965. Norma continued to operate the business



Norma is survived by sisters; Ruth Nedved, Geneva Mueller, daughters; Colleen (Tom) Alspaugh, Cheryl Ahlgrim, Carolyn Merrigan, Kellie (Jennifer) Merrigan. Sons: Mark (Denise) Merrigan, Morris (Jeannie) Merrigan, Kevin Merrigan, John (Ali) Jelke, 13 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and other family and friends.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents and her husband Darell Merrigan.

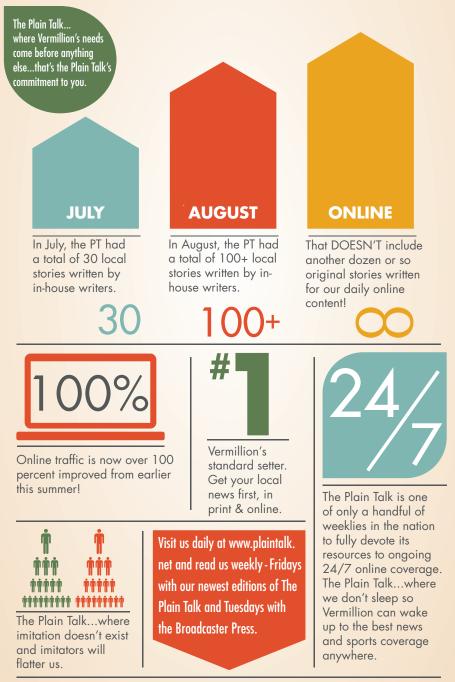
Norma will be remembered by her children and grandchildren as a Loving Mother and Grandmother. She was a devoted Catholic who throughout her life carried out many selfless acts.

A wake will be held on Monday September 1st at 7 P.M. at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion, SD with a rosary followed by photos and music. The funeral service will be held at St. Agnes Catholic Church at 11 A.M on Tuesday September 2nd. hansenfuneralhome.com



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The Plain Talk expanded coverage and Vermillion responded.



We here at the Plain Talk welcome any and all input - good or bad (preferably the latter so we can improve daily), news tips and hopefully more comments online and via email at alan.dale@plaintalk.net or phone 605-624-4429.