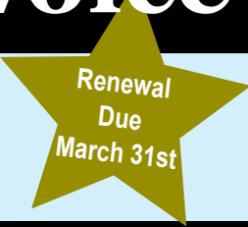


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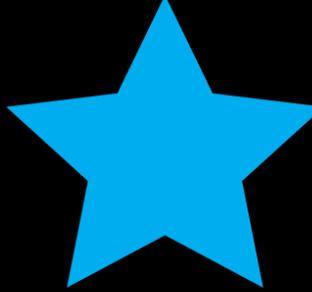
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VelvaareaVoice

Thursday, February 26, 2026 Volume 27, Issue 9 Velva, North Dakota 58790 \$1.50

Word on the Street

FOOD PANTRY:

March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15

The food pantry is open from 5:45-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall of OVLC, Main Street. The pantry is short of these items: canned meats, canned fruit, personal hygiene products and laundry pods and can be dropped off at OVLC Mon.- Fri. 9am-3pm.

VHS HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT:

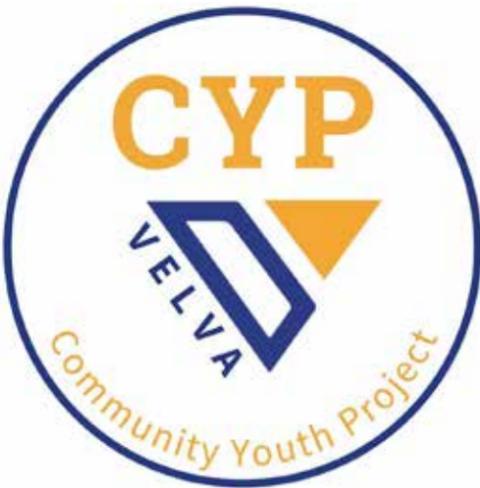
Velva Public School will have their Jr. High and High School Winter Concert on Thursday, March 5th at 7:30pm.

VHS BLOOD DRIVE:

Wednesday, March 11th, 2:30 to 6:30pm. Contact Mrs. Howe at the Velva School for appointment, 338-2022.

Community Youth Project

Submitted by Erica Clemens



The Velva Community Youth Project (CYP) is a small group of volunteers dedicated to keeping our high school students safe during their special celebrations. Each spring, we plan, fund, and host alcohol-free after-parties for prom and graduation, providing food, prizes, and entertainment so students can celebrate safely. All funds for these events come from donations and fundraisers held throughout the year.

This year, Prom is April 11th and Graduation is May 24th. We are currently seeking donations to help make these events possible. Monetary contributions, gift cards, prize items, or other donations are greatly appreciated. We also have an Amazon wish list titled "Velva CYP Prizes," with items shipped directly to Velva School.

Donations may be sent to:
Community Youth Project
% Velva High School
PO Box 179
Velva, ND 58790

For questions, please call Erica Clemens at 701-626-1354. Thank you for supporting our youth!



SRF applications, bridge meetings and nuisance properties are hot topics

Reporter Heather Tudor

The Velva City Commission met on Tuesday, February 17th at 6:00pm at the Velva City Hall.

Commissioners in attendance were Mike Schreiner, Mary Liz Davis, Dave Keller, Gene Jenson, and Ben Zietz was on speakerphone. Other city officials in attendance were Auditor Jenny Johns, City Engineer Emma Lavachek, as well as McHenry County Deputy David Foley.

First item on the agenda was approval of past meeting minutes. Dave Keller made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 20th regular meeting and January 28th special meeting. Gene Jenson to second the motion, motion carried.

Next was approval of payroll and bills. Mr. Jenson made a motion to approve the bills paid and to paid in the amount of \$67,574.65 and payroll in the amount of \$25,992.07. Mary Liz Davis to second the motion, motion carried.

Under Reports of the President, Mr. Schreiner clarified the AED batter replacement process. And stated that the Velva Fire Department gaming will pay for the replacement pads every two years. Schreiner asked the commission to think of ways to establish an ordinance that can be more successfully enforced to abate nuisance

properties in town. There was one letter of complaint for the commissioners to review in the additions packet.

Mr. Schreiner addressed the Commission and asked if anyone would be interested in the Spring Workshop of the North Dakota League of Cities Convention in Dickinson in March 2026, if anyone is interested in attending, they should contact Jenny Johns in the City office as soon as possible.

There was a liquor license application submitted by Iron & Ember, LLC for on and off sale, located at 510 Highway 52 West. Mary Liz Davis made a motion to approve the liquor license as presented. Mr. Jenson to second the motion, motion carried.

Jenny Johns shared the "notice of filing deadline" for any candidate wishing to run for a city office as April 6th, 2026, by 4:00pm to the City Auditor's office. Jenny Johns also presented an email received by an HDR Engineer representative for the Highway 41 bridge project. They are asking if March 9th or 12th would work better for a preconstruction meeting. Commission agreed to the recommended Monday, March 9th date.

Under Reports of the Commissioners - Mary Liz Davis had nothing

new to report.

Mr. Keller discussed the bridge project and asked for more signage and the best location for the blinking light. The commission agreed to ask during the preconstruction meeting.

Mr. Zietz asked for an update on the elevator on the west side of the underpass. Johns stated that she is still waiting to hear back from CP Rail as to who is currently leasing the property, as they were unsure. Johns will call again tomorrow, Wednesday, February 18th to see if she can get more information. Mr. Jenson had nothing new to report.

City Engineer Emma Lavachek gave a rundown on the items for Velva she has taken care of, including the lead service line inventory funding. Lavachek has Velva on the list for the 66% loan forgiveness grant being offered by the NDDEQ. Lavachek ran quick numbers, and worst-case scenario has costs totaling over 2.5 million dollars. 155 residents have yet to respond to the lead line inventory project, and 421 unknown public service lines. Deadline for reporting to the NDDEQ will be November 2027; at that time, the city will need to have a plan in place to replace lead lines. Johns stated that public works Jemtrud plans to help

identify the 155 residents who have yet to respond. Lavachek will get Johns an updated map and spreadsheet.

City Auditor Jenny Johns had nothing new to discuss. City Assessor/Building Inspector had a building permit list that was included in the Commissioner's meeting packets for review.

Public Works had nothing new to report.

Mr. Schreiner presented the 2nd reading of the ordinance change no 2026-01 Sec 12-6 Floodplain Management. Mary Liz Davis made a motion to approve the 2nd reading Ordinance change no 2026-01 Sec 12-6 Floodplain Management. Roll call vote - All aye votes with one nay vote. Motion carried.

One complaint form was submitted for a dog at large at the Dietrich/Erdmann residence, chasing another resident whilst our jogging.

There was no business to discuss.

The next City Commission Meeting is set for Monday, March 16th at 6:00pm. If you wish to be on the schedule, deadline is the Thursday at 12 noon before the Monday meeting.