

Catching up with Coleharbor

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
Editor
McLean Independent

The Coleharbor City Council missed publishing minutes from its Jan through Sept. 2025 meetings.

January 2025

On Jan. 15 Mayor Heith Pochant called the meeting to order.

Pochant announced that he received the resignation letter from City Auditor Amy Owens. The council accepted the resignation.

Pochant also said Shirley Wilson donated dishrags and towels to be used at the Coleharbor Community Center. The council was appreciative of the donation.

February 2025

No meeting notes were available.

March 2025

On March 18 Mayor Heith Pochant called the meeting to

order.

Pochant requested \$5,000 from gaming for community improvements, including emergency services, fire hydrants, monuments, improvements to public areas and other items.

The mayor also brought up concerns that the Underwood Fire Department needs to know what fire hydrants work for future fire protection.

Discussion was had on the proposed camper ordinance and the necessity to raise fees to match proposed camper and RV park.

The mayor approved the first reading of the short-term rental agreement.

Councilman Chris Holt moved to accept the resignation of Mayor Pochant. The council agreed to hold a special meeting to reorganize to fill the mayor’s vacancy.

April 2025

After the equalization meeting was called to order, Ry Oberg reported that there will be a 5% increase in real estate for property tax, and 3% increase on commercial properties, .5% decrease on agricultural properties within city limits. This motion carried.

Chris Holt called the regular meeting to order.

The camper ordinance and short-term rental ordinance had their second readings. Both motions were approved.

There was discussion on holding a special election for to convert to a Home Rule Charter. The election was set up for June 18.

May, June, July 2025

No meeting notes were available.

August, Sept. Oct. 2025

These meetings were covered in previous editions of the McLean County Independent.

Safe Starts MFRC expands services with donation from Leathernecks

BY PHAIDRA YUNKER
Reporter

A \$12,000 donation from the Dakota Leathernecks Detachment No. 1419 is helping the McLean Family Resource Center launch a new initiative aimed at easing the burdens of pregnancy and early parenthood.

The program, called Safe Starts, will provide families with safe-sleep setups, recovery kits, baby essentials and food deliveries. These practical resources are designed to lower stress during one of life’s most challenging transitions.

“This donation allows us to launch a program that meets families at one of the most overwhelming moments of their lives,” said Lisa Gusewelle, director of the McLean Family Resource Center. “Parents who feel safe, supported and less alone can breathe again. And when a parent can breathe, they can parent.”

With seed funding secured, Gusewelle said the center will begin working with hospitals and clinics across McLean County to place safe-sleep equipment inside local facilities, prepare support kits and establish referral pathways.

“We want families to feel like someone is stepping in with them not after the crisis, but before it ever has the chance to grow,” she said. That includes delivering fresh food to new mothers, who often struggle to balance recovery with the demands of caring for a newborn. The program’s first priority is reducing stressors that can escalate into crisis, particularly during pregnancy and postpartum, times when domestic violence risk is highest.

“Exhaustion, financial pressure and isolation stack up fast,” Gusewelle said. “Sometimes the most life-changing support isn’t dramatic. Some-

times it’s a warm meal, a swaddle or a safe-sleep setup that gives a parent three uninterrupted hours of rest.”

Local hospitals and clinics will be able to refer patients directly to Safe Starts, offering more than just a brochure or phone number. Families will receive essentials delivered to their door, follow-up care and support tailored to situations involving domestic violence.

“This creates something families in rural areas rarely get: a handoff that actually hands them something,” Gusewelle said. “Not another list of phone numbers. Not another ‘good luck.’ Actual support they can feel when they get home and open the door.”

Safe Starts will provide postpartum kits, baby-care supplies, advocacy and safety planning. Food deliveries will ensure families don’t have to choose between healing and stocking the fridge. For those in crisis, the program will offer comfort items such as weighted blankets, hygiene

supplies and stabilization support.

“We show up with the things that help a home feel like a place where a new baby can thrive,” Gusewelle said. “Safe Starts is about creating the kind of community where no one faces pregnancy or early parenthood alone. This program is compassion in motion. It’s meals delivered, cribs assembled, rooms made safe and parents reminded that someone is cheering for them.”

Ashley Eckroth, secretary-treasurer of the MFRC Board, said the organization is grateful for the support that makes new programs possible.

“Without the amazing support and contributions from any and all resources, newly introduced programs would not be possible,” Eckroth said. She added that the Dakota Leathernecks’ donation, made through gaming at The Cabin Bar and Grill in Washburn,

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- Pastor Paul Stout
- Sunday School, 10 a.m.
- Worship, 11 a.m.

REGAN

Assembly of God Church

- Rev. Steve Denn
- Sunday School 10 a.m.
- Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

RIVERDALE

Riverdale Community Church

- Pastor Alan Hathway
- Sunday worship service, 9:00 a.m.
- 463-2665, pastor’s office

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

- Pastor Van Vechten Crane
- Sunday worship service, 11 a.m.

TURTLE LAKE

St. Catherine’s Catholic Church

- Father Logan Obrigewitch.
- Saturday mass 5:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

- Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.
- 448-2551

Turtle Lake Baptist Church

- Steve Vetter
- Worship Service, 8:30 a.m.
- Prayer time, 9 a.m.
- 448-2222.

Seventh-Day Adventist

- Pastor Casper du Plessis
- Sabbath School, 10 a.m.
- Church Service, 11:10 a.m.
- 485-2698

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

- Worship, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School 10 a.m.
- 448-2698.

Turtle Lake Methodist Church

- Pastor Charles Springer
- Sunday Worship Service, 9 a.m.
- 448-2277

UNDERWOOD

Faith Evangelical Church

- Pastor Steve Gage
- Family Worship 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School 11 a.m.
- We also offer a Facebook Live worship service through the church’s Facebook group.
- Website: faithevangelicalunderwood.org.

Augustana Lutheran Church

- Worship Service, 10 a.m.
- Pastor Giselle Loucks
- Sunday School for Pre-K - 6th Grade at 10:00am

New Life Curch

- 519 BORCHARDT AVE.
- Morning Worship, 11 a.m.
- 701-707-9852

St. Bonaventure Church

- Father Logan Obrigewitch
- Sunday Mass, 8:30 a.m.

St. John’s Lutheran Church

- Rev. Matt Thompson
- Worship Service, 2 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

- Rural Pick City
- Worship service, 11 a.m.

WASHBURN

Birka Lutheran Church

- Worship Service, 8:30 a.m.
- Pastor Giselle Loucks

Journey Church

- Pastor Kayla Buckley
- 10 A.M. Worship Service
- Nursery (0-2), Preschool (2-5), and Elementary Kids Church (K-6th Grade) at same time as morning service

First Lutheran Church

- Pastor Paul Krueger
- 709 Fifth Ave.
- Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School, 10:45 a.m.
- Holy Communion first and third Sunday of each month; 462-3775.

St. Edwin’s Catholic Church

- Father Logan Obrigewitch
- Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
- Rosary prayed 1/2 hour before services.

United Methodist Church

- Pastor Annie Carlson
- Sunday School for preschool to sixth grade, 9:30 a.m. (Sept. through May)
- Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
- 462-3220

Washburn Baptist Church

- Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
- Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

WILTON

First Presbyterian Church

- Rev. Dr. Chuck Pedersen
- Sunday School 10 a.m. for both children & adults.
- Sunday: Morning Worship, 11 a.m.
- Thursday: Women’s Bible Study, 1 p.m.

Mission Evangelical Free Church

- Adult Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
- Awana, 6-7:30 p.m. Wed. during the school year.
- 734-6959.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

- Sunday Mass/Eucharist, 8:30 a.m.
- Holy Days: As announced.

St. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church

- Rev. Fr. George Pruys
- Saturday Confession, 4:00p.m.
- Divine Liturgy, 4:30 p.m.
- Holy Days: As Announced

Sunne Lutheran Church

- Sunday School, 9 a.m.
- Worship Service, 10 a.m.
- Website: sunnellutheran.org

WING

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

- Pastor Trisha DeBoer
- Sunday School, 10 a.m.
- Worship Service, 11 a.m.
- Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and major festivals.

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