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★ Velva *area* Voice

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The Thexy Griswold Christmas Light Show is gearing up for the holiday season

Reporter Heather Tudor

Royce and Maria Thex sure have the holiday spirit, and it shows when you drive up to their house and see all the work they do each year to decorate their house and their yard with thousands and thousands of lights and displays, plus Royce also programs the light show to the radio so you can sit in your car and tune in and watch the lights flicker on and off that matches the music you hear on the radio.

Royce starts his game plan in August and really gets serious about it in September and October when things start to get put together, which they have to pay attention to the weather so they can be sure to get things anchored in the ground before it freezes and they can't get anything in the ground.

The past couple of years, the Thex's have put together a Christ-

mas lights friendly contest in Velva to help get the community all excited for the holiday season. They encourage everyone to decorate their homes and/or businesses to get revved up for the holidays. Slowly but surely, each year they get a little more participation. This year they made a Facebook page where community members can go and check out what's happening. They also have a link on their Facebook page where residents can go to enter their homes for the light display contest. Check out The Thexy Griswold's Christmas Display on Facebook for all the info. "We have made some trophies this year and we have some pretty neat prizes as well, not to mention who ever wins the Christmas Lights competition, will also get bragging rights for the year!" mentioned Royce and Maria.



They will have lights on display at their home located at 505 2nd St West in Velva, from 6 – 10pm everyday up until December 26th. They may also have a display up to help ring in the New Year as well. You can also tune into 89.7 FM radio station to watch the display that is synced to music on the radio for an enjoyable hour long display.



WordontheStreet

HOLIDAY CONCERT:
Velva Public School Elementary Holiday Concert will be on Thurs., Dec. 4 at 6:30pm in the school gym.

SANTA PHOTOS:
The Velva Senior Center will have Santa photos 10am to noon, Bake Sale and Lunch 10am to 1pm on Saturday, December 6th.

VELVA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY:
2025 Dates: Dec. 16.
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.



Pieces of the Community Puzzle

Submitted by Elizabeth Colby

If you've been following these articles, you may have questioned the logic behind the title. Puzzles have many pieces and they all fit together to form a bigger picture. There are corners. These are the foundation often being the first part of the puzzle assembly process. They establish the boundaries. Then there's the edge pieces. These pieces provide structure and framework. They facilitate teamwork and collaboration. And lastly, there are the remaining pieces that are the meat of the puzzle or referred to by some puzzle enthusiasts as whimsy pieces. These are the pieces of the puzzle that add artistic flair.

Karen Kittelson is just one of the whimsy pieces in Velva's community puzzle. You may have seen her working as a paraprofessional in our local schools. Or maybe you've seen her selling goods at a booth at the Velva Farmer's Market. But

did you know that Karen is also a hairdresser? Karen is celebrating 30 years of cutting and styling hair. Karen continues to proudly run "Karen's Country Stylen Store" out of her home which is located south of Velva off Hwy 41. Karen graduated from Josef's School of Hair of Minot in 1995. However, Karen's skills of cutting hair started much earlier. Karen was in the 5th grade when she started cutting her sisters' hair for them.

In preparation for our interview, Karen was looking through some of her old documents and recalled that when she first started her business haircuts were \$8, a color was \$25 and perms were \$35. From prices to hair styles, hair colors, and even eyebrow shapes, a lot has changed in the industry over the years. But one thing hasn't changed, Karen still loves what she does. "I love doing hair. I love listening to stories my clients



share." Karen loves genuinely getting to know her clients and going above and beyond for them.

Karen has appreciated the flexibility that entrepreneurship offers. Karen loved being able to be at home with her kids while they were growing up and now loves that she has the flexibility to be available for her grandkids. Karen and her husband, Curt, have lived in the Velva area for 35 years. They have 3 grown kids and 6 grandkids. Karen would love you to know that she is currently welcoming new clients. She offers haircuts for kids and adults, special occasion up-do's, colors, perms, body waxing, and nail painting.

Karen's business hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday by appointment only. You can call or text Karen to book your appointment at 701.509.4697.