



**GARC** AND The Thrift Store  
Garrison Area Resource Center  
& **FOOD PANTRY**  
71 S. Main • Garrison

**The Thrift Store Hours:**  
Wednesdays 11-5  
Saturdays 10-1  
Distribution Day 12-7  
All free-will donations support the GARC Food Pantry

**Food Pantry Distribution Day - Garrison**  
**Thursday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> • Noon-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.**  
**DRIVE-BY PICK-UP ONLY IN ALLEY**  
Donations/memorials accepted at: GARC, PO Box 1002, Garrison, ND 58540 or make a donation directly to our account at Krause's.

# Free PO Boxes are a thing of the past

BY TYSON MATTHEWS  
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During the public comment period at last December's Garrison City Council meeting, Wayne Peterson and LeeAnn Pepperworth brought up concerns about the changes to the mail service at Northview Trailer Park.

has provided free post office boxes for trailer park residents in the past because individual mailboxes could not be placed within the trailer park. Alderman Otto Kinn spoke with the new postmaster about this matter. The Garrison Post Office is under new leadership. Garrison's new Postmaster has reviewed local operations

and found that they are not in compliance with official nationwide policies. Since the Garrison Trailer Park is within Garrison city limits and its free delivery area, the residents are required to pay for the post office box. The city council has no authority to override the post offices regulation or fees.

A letter from the Garrison City Council explaining this change will be sent to residents of the trailer court. "The city remains committed to maintaining the park and providing a safe, affordable place to live," Kinn stated in the letter. "Thank you for your understanding as we navigate these federal policy updates together."



# Garrison Rural Water District discusses backflow, clarifiers, budget

BY TYSON MATTHEWS  
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Garrison Rural Water President Diane Stockdill called the Garrison Rural Water meeting to order on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

**Backflow Preventor**  
The backflow preventor will be installed in the vault where the north meter is now located. It will be a u-shaped system, similar to the setup the City of Garrison installed a few years ago by the swimming pool. The new plan was never approved by the Board of Directors. Dave made a motion to approve the new plan for the backflow preventor project. The motion was approved unanimously. This project has been started by Nygard Construction. They are currently waiting for additional materials they will need to complete the project.

**Douglas Bay Reservoir**  
Marlowe Miller has signed the Purchase Agreement for GRWD to purchase land from him for the Douglas Bay Reservoir. The Title Company is working on the abstract for land purchase. Diane questioned whether the earnest money had been paid. Reed Soderstrom doesn't think we need to pay it as we are now paying for the cost of updating the abstract. Steve Eberle informed the board that the cultural and environmental field surveys have been completed for the Miller land. The boundary survey has also been completed. These evaluations need to be completed to comply with DWSRF loan application.

**Water Treatment Plant and Water Intake**  
Keith Hunke and Steve Seidler met with the City of Garrison regarding the Water Treatment Plant and the Water Intake project.

The clarifier in the Water Treatment Plant needs to be repainted. The estimated cost is \$200,000. It will have to be sand blasted and then repainted. This project can be completed during the winter months. The total liquidated damages received by the City of Garrison is \$611,000.00. \$300,000 has been used on change orders. The cost should not exceed the budgeted numbers. The Water Intake project was discussed. The caisson is currently in question. The engineer for the City of Garrison is not sure if the current caisson can be used and if it cannot be used, the project could increase in cost, possibly one million dollars.

**Lead and copper project**  
The State of ND had funds available for the lead and copper project, so they allocated funds to engineering firms to help complete the project for their customers. Ackerman-Estfold, will be working on this project for GRWD. Photographic proof is needed for this project to be completed properly. Karmen will get the updated information to Ackerman-Estfold.

**Budget**  
Included in the budget numbers are two, three, four and five percent increases in the base rate and water sales. Hunke requested these numbers to see the impact on the income and expenses. He would like to see what budget figures may look like in the future. He would like to establish a maintenance budget for future projects. Discussion on a possible maintenance fee line to be added to monthly bills. The board discussed starting a maintenance committee for next year. Iverson questioned the increase in the budget numbers for the board of directors' expenses. The budget number was determined by including the meet-

ing per diem and the mileage from the director's home to the Garrison Rural Water office for monthly meetings attended on site.

**Operation / Office Report**  
Operator Clarence Ruhland stated the water loss percentage is about nine percent. The number of gallons of water used per Black Mountain is less than what the City of Garrison is charging the GRWD for. Ruhland is talking with MicroComm about the issue. The board is looking into having the meters recalibrated. There are currently three accounts in the De Trobriand Bay subdivision that have not paid the monthly base rate of \$62.00 since the mandatory payments were scheduled to start in May of 2024.

The curb stops at the properties have been locked, and the owners will need to pay GRWD all fee accrued before they are able to connect to our water line. The fees include the monthly \$62 base rate, the connection fee of \$3,000, reconnect fee \$1,500 and all monthly past due fees. Karmen will send a certified letter to the three delinquent customers, letting them know of these charges. The board has made changes to the bylaws. The changes are as follows:  
- Per diem and mileage for special meetings attended by directors was discussed.  
- Change the quorum information to "Of the members present a quorum would be constituted with the majority of those members' votes."  
- Add: Section 6 – "Each participating member seeking election to the board shall present a petition containing the signatures of ten (10) participating members. All petitions must be submitted to the secretary of the board or the nominating committee

**WATER**  
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# New heating and air business begins

BY STU MERRY

GARRISON – There's a new business in Garrison. The owner is Kelly Schauer. The business is Garrison Heating and Air. Schauer is a 1993 graduate from Garrison High, and for the time being, he's working out of his van. "And I plan to build from there," he told Garrison Chamber of Commerce members. Schauer said he picked the heating and air conditioning field out of a book while first attending Bismarck State College. "It just sounded like something nice to do," he said. Honing his skills, Schauer previously worked for Bismarck Heating and Air, and also Cooling and Heating Unlimited. But the desire to return to Garrison was strong. He said he's been wanting to come home for years. "I missed it," he said. "It's quiet and there's not much traffic." For the time being, his focus is on service work, fixing things that break down. Schauer began working in Garrison and the area around the first of November. He said so far, he's seen business beginning to pick up. He is available by phone, 701-934-0721. He also has a Facebook page that's under construction. Schauer said his goal is to build the company, so it carries on ... "so the community has something established here."

He said he's looking forward to meeting the community and with a familiar face he hopes to get re-acquainted with a lot of residents in Garrison and the area. "I'm glad to be back," he said. In other news, chamber members were introduced to the Executive Committee for 2026. They include: President Adam Maus, President Elect Alea Zeiszler, Past



Kelly Schauer of Garrison Heating and Air (Photo by Stu Merry)

President Megan Carlson, Treasurer – Sharon Jungling. Board members include Laura Hellebush, Amanda Fetzer and Janis Sloka. Secretary is Chad Trautman. One open seat remains. Sloka was named to represent chamber on the Sales and Use Tax Committee. Chamber members also OK'd the budget for 2026. Members heard Gifts from the Heart had a successful year. Better Living for Garrison meat raffles continues every other week at the Hometown Tavern. The Community Chest drive wrapped up. Joint annual meetings with GAIA and BLFG are coming up in February. Dickens Committee members met with sponsors, vendors and businesses to discuss the festival Tuesday. At Fort Stevenson State Park, Manager Chad Trautman said the annual First Day hike saw more than 68 attendees. Another hike, the Full Snow Moon Hike, is set for Jan. 31 and includes a snow sculptor, providing there's enough snow, Trautman said. In GAIA news, work is ongoing for lighting at the proposed day-care center on Trooper Avenue.

# City Council Round up

**Ryder**  
Ryder City Council met on Monday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Ryder City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jody Reinisch. The council reviewed National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In the more than 119 years that Ryder has been incorporated, catastrophic rain or flooding has never occurred. Ward County/FEMA assessment rated Ryder for potential flooding vulnerability as "low risk, low probability and low impact." The council declines participation in the NFIP for those reasons. The council received a thank you for the donation to the Community Thanksgiving and Christmas Turkey and Ham giveaway. Ryder City Auditor Teru Petz will contact the water operator for the quarterly report. Per Council decision, the city will no longer carry serious past due accounts. Accounts two or more months past due are con-

sidered serious and water will be shut off. The next city council meeting will be Monday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m., at Ryder City Hall. Those in attendance were Reinisch, councilmen Rick Sher-ven, Matt Sholar, Harlan Skarphol, Merle Dreher and Petz.

**Butte**  
Butte City Council met Monday, Dec.1, and was called to order by Mayor Amy Nechiporenko at 7 p.m. at Butte School. The Christmas party was held December 21 at the Butte School. Community members brought snacks and games. Butte street signage was discussed. Grants and donations covered some of the costs and the city covered the balance. All members voted in favor. Council people in attendance at the meeting were Vern Schatz, Perry Moseanko, Jodi Gullickson and Auditor Jen Loken per phone. Absent Mirissa Anderson. The next meeting was Monday, Jan. 5.