

### Fireworks with a purpose: Bombers PTO fundraiser supports students

By Valley News and Views Staff

What began as a successful fundraiser for one longtime community organization has become an important source of support for Drayton Public School students through the Drayton Bombers PTO.

In 2024, the Bombers PTO was approached by the dissolving Drayton Knights organization about taking over its annual fireworks stand. After years of operating the popular fundraiser, the Drayton Knights were looking for another local organization to continue the tradition.

"Due to many factors, the incredible community group called the Drayton Knights had to cut back and was looking for another group to take over their successful fireworks sales stand," said Bombers PTO Director Kallie Christenson.

Although members of the PTO had little experience in the fireworks

business, Christenson said the Drayton Knights made the transition as smooth as possible.

"They had built quite a following and a well-oiled process from ordering, to inventorying and advertising," Christenson said. "Although we as a PTO knew very little about fireworks, they assured us they would help and guide us through the process."

As a relatively new 501(c) (3) organization, the Bombers PTO was looking for fundraising opportunities that could provide ongoing financial support without relying on numerous smaller fundraisers throughout the year.

"Because Bombers PTO is a 501(c) (3) and a fairly new organization, we were looking for ways to raise money without having to do endless fundraisers," Christenson said.

Now entering its third year operating the stand, the organization says

it has successfully carried on the tradition while continuing to make improvements.

With funding from the Drayton Area Community Foundation, the PTO has invested in upgrades to the fireworks buildings, including resurfacing the floor, replacing damaged walls and repainting the exterior of both structures.

"We have been extremely fortunate to have the community continue to support us and trust us the way that they did the Drayton Knights," Christenson said. "We do our best to bring in new products at all price points for all of our shoppers."

The PTO has also implemented new technology to streamline operations this year.

"We have learned a lot along the way and this year are doing a couple things even more efficiently than we have in the past," Christenson said.

"One of our members discovered a point-of-sale system that we now use for inventorying and sales. So far, it has been working great and will be a great asset as we manage inventory and maintain records."

Christenson said the fundraiser would not be possible without the volunteers who donate their time each year.

"Parents and community members have been so supportive and willing to volunteer their time and talents," she said. "As a PTO, we are grateful and proud of our community."

Funds raised through the annual fireworks stand are used to support prekindergarten through 12th-grade students and staff at Drayton Public School.

The stand will be open daily from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 4.

### 'CYANOBACTERIA' CONT FROM PAGE 4

Prasad also provides some management practices to consider to reduce nutrient loads:

- Properly apply nitrogen and phosphorus to fields — rate, time and amount and type of nutrients applied need to be considered.
- Adapt soil conservation practices that reduce erosion.
- Install hay or graze buffer strips to reduce the release of phosphorus as plants decompose.

Contact your local NDSU Extension agent for more information on cyanobacteria and nutrient management. Additional information regarding water quality can be found at [ndsugov/water-quality-26](http://ndsugov/water-quality-26).

### Homeownership program eligibility limits updated

The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) has adjusted eligibility limits for programs that assist state residents, typically first-time buyers, with a home purchase. NDHFA provides down payment and closing cost assistance and reduced interest rate mortgage loans to income-qualified households.

"NDHFA has helped more than 56,000 North Dakota families buy their first home," said Brandon Dettlaff, NDHFA executive director. "Through our agency, thousands

of new and returning residents have been assisted in establishing themselves in our communities."

Through NDHFA's FirstHome™ program, low- to moderate-income buyers who have not owned a home in the last three years can receive the purchase assistance. The agency's HomeAccess program provides similar benefits to single parents, veterans, and families with disabled or elderly household members.

The new maximum income limits

for the programs are \$105,730 to \$121,590, depending on family size. The acquisition cost limits were set at \$500,000 for a single-family home and approved higher limits for existing two- to four-unit properties.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Internal Revenue Service regulate the income and acquisition cost limits, respectively.

"Last year, with the support of our private-sector partners, NDHFA provided 1,739 first-

time homebuyers with more than \$10 million in purchase assistance," said Dettlaff.

The average FirstHome loan purchased by NDHFA in 2025 was just under \$240,000, and the average borrower's household income was \$74,336.

Approved, private-sector lenders originate the loans on NDHFA's behalf and sell them to the agency when they are closed. Parties interested in learning more about the agency's

programs will find information online at [ndhousing.nd.gov](http://ndhousing.nd.gov) or by contacting a participating lender.

NDHFA is a self-supporting and mission-driven state agency dedicated to making housing affordable for all North Dakotans. The North Dakota Industrial Commission, consisting of Gov. Kelly Armstrong as the chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, and Attorney General Drew H. Wrigley, oversees the agency.



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