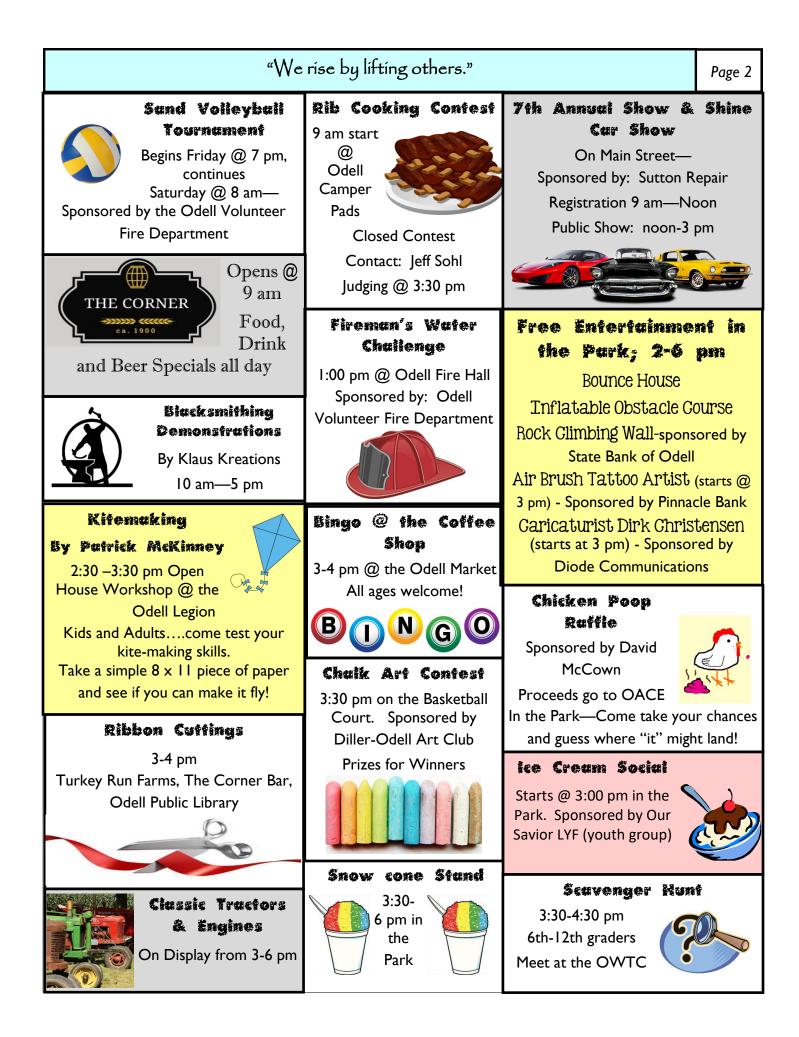
	Village Voice Issue 120 August 3, 2018		
ICE CREAM SOCIAL	Odell Day	Inside this issue:	
Ellis Methodist Church Sunday, August 12, 2018; 4-6 pr Serving BBQ Sandwich chips and cold drinks Pies, desserts, bars, brownies + Ice cream toppings Free will donation	Nes, WOWlook below at all the fun and amazing activities and events happening in Odell on Aug. 25! Please consider coming to town to join in all of the FUN! Sponsored by OACE and many	Odell Day Events2/3Rice Lodge4OWTC9OPL5-7School/Youth News5-7School Supply Drive8Harvest Festival0dell MuralOdell Mural9	
 Odell Day-August 25 Sand Volleyball Tournament Rib Cooking Contest Car Show Corner Bar open ALL day 	COMETOTHEODELLDAYPLANNING MEETINGPLEASE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 7:00 PM @ THE CORNER BAR. Sign up to help at the individual events! WE NEED YOUR HELP!	Henry Weiner Truck 10 Birthdays/Anniver. 11 Corner Bar Are you Relational? ¹² August Events	
 Blacksmithing Demonstrations by Eric Klaus/Klaus Kreations Fireman's Water Challenge FREE Bounce House FREE Rock Climbing Wall Kite Making by Patrick McKinney Bingo @ Odell Market Coffee Shot Ribbon Cuttings Chalk Art Contest Chicken Poop Raffle FREE Airbrush Tattoo Artist 	 Omaha Street Percussion Magic Show & Balloon Art by Happy D Klown Egg Toss Kid's Parade P Parade Movie in the Park—Evening Street Dance @ The Corner— "Repeat Offenders" 	5—Cards@OWTC 9—Odell Day Mtg. 12—Ice Cream Social@Ellis 15—School Starts 20—OACE mtg. 21—Cards@DCC	
 FREE Caricature Artist Classic Tractors & Engines Ice Cream Social Lemonade Stand Watermelon Eating Contest Chicken BBQ Polka Music 	COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE Wednesday, August 29; 12:30-6:30 pm Odell Community Building Contact Jacque @ 402-520-1132	25—Odell Day 28—Cards @ DCC 29—Blood Drive	

SCHOOL STARTS AUGUST 15! PLEASE SLOW DOWN WHEN DRIVING AND BE CAUTIOUS!



Pg. 3 "Don't use social media to impress people. (Ise it to impact them."-Davis Willis				
Watermeion Eating Contest 3:45 pm in the Park Sponsored by: Kotas Construction	Copens @ 2:00 pm in the Park	Constitut Street Percussion 4:30 pm on the Basketball Court in the Park OMAHA STREET PERCUSSION		
Chicken BBC Serving from 4-6:30 pm Odell Community Building Sponsored by our local Knights of Columbus	Polker Music In the Community Building during the Chicken BBQ	In the Park In the Park Magic Show @ 5:30 pm—Sponsored by Wells Fargo Balloon Twisting 5:30-8 pm		
Egg TossThis annual tradition Continues! 6:00 pm on Main StreetSponsored by: Vitosh ConstructionMovie in the PurkFollowing Parade for Kids of ALL ages!	6:45 pm Lineup by Rice Lodge Ride your bikes, walk, strollers, wagons	Clowing for kils of all ages HAPPYD Baracie on Main Street Check In starts @ 6 pm south of the high School Parade starts @ 7:00 pm (form attached to email and available		
Sponsored by Our Savior LYF (Youth Group) Concessions Available.		at local businesses)		
9:00 pm— I:00 am "Repeat Offenders"	CONS1	RUCTION (402) 297-9273		

"When Monday is your favorite day, you know you are winning."

Page 4



School/Youth News

Diller-Odell August Events

6—Start of Fall Practices
9—Teachers Back To School
13—Tech Night; 7-12 grades; 7 pm
7th grade orientation @ 6:30 pm
14—Elementary Open House—5:30-6:30 pm
Softball Gator Raider Scrimmage
15—FIRST day of school
17—Booster bash; Football scrimmage @ 6:30
18—Home Softball Game @ Noon
20—Booster Club Meeting—7 pm in Diller
21—Softball Quad @ Home—5 pm
23—Home Softball Game @ 5:00
24—Home Football Game @ 7:00 pm
29—Band to State Fair

Griffin Connections!

Power School: Here you can see your kids' grades, classes, lunch balances and more! School Messenger:		Odell at the Apple App or google store. OR click on the link on dillerodell.org Follow on Twitter: @DOHS Griffins				
	Notification See dillerodell.org details on this. Mobile APPS: Search for Diller	0) f	Instagra dilleroo Facebo DillerOdellPub	am: dell ook:		
WEBSITE: dillerodell.org Sign up for NEWS UPDATES on the Website!						
It looks like there is an expected 253 Students for Diller-Odell School District this year. Here are the Breakdowns:						
PreK-1				th—18		

PreK-15	3rd—16	7th—22	11th—18
K-20	4th—19	8th—14	l 2th—27
	5th—18		
2nd—21	6th—19	10th—12	

The 2018-19 School Year is just around the corner. Things are already gearing up with Fall Sports practices starting on August 6 and Teachers getting back with In-Services on August 9. Our District will have 3 new teachers this year. Please see other articles for details.

Ready to Roll!?

Don't miss out an any opportunities, notifications, information or upcoming dates. There are SO many ways to stay connected with Diller-Odell and what your kids are doing at school. As a parent, it is your responsibility to STAY ON TOP OF THINGS and now there are no excuses!

See Chart to left for your connection opportunities!

Another way to get involved is to join the Booster Club. This is a way for you to become directly involved in activities that happen to help your kids and their school! This includes parents of kids in grades PreK-12!

There are a lot of exciting things in the future of Diller-Odell if we all keep moving forward together! Always stay positive and teach your children the same! Send them to school and their teachers with great attitudes and a willingness to learn. Remind them that they will soon be back in the school routine and this means that if they have been "relaxing" and doing low key things this summer, they should be mentally prepared to be respectful to their teachers and the administration. They should be willing to try new things and open their learning possibilities. This is how we grow great kids into young adults to be sent out into our world.

PATIENCE is also something we should discuss with our kids.

Remember teachers and their authority figures are NOT digital! They are not able to give instant gratification and entertainment to your kids. Your kids need to be aware of this and ready to be PA-TIENT all day with adults and the kids they are surrounded with each day. Your School IS there for you and your kids. They are always willing to help and inspire. BUT, it has to go both ways! Approach this year with a smile and openness to all the possibilities for your kids futures! Thank your teachers, good luck and have an awesome year! From the editor!

Pg. 6

"Life's most urgent question...what are you doing for others?"

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Diller-Odell Public Schools is accepting sealed purchase offers for 3 lots of real estate in Diller (Lots 16, 17 & 18, Block 5 First Addition), subject to the covenant that the purchaser must construct a single-home residence within two years of purchase. All offers must indicate "Diller Lots" and be delivered to Diller-Odell Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 506 Perry Street, Odell, NE 68415-0188, no later

than 3:00 pm on September 7, 2018. The offers will be considered at a meeting of the Board of Education to be held on September 10, 2018. Legal descriptions and the terms of sale are available from the Superintendent. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all offers, and the Board's decision is final. Ouestions should be directed to Superintendent, Mike Meyerle, 402-766-4210

BOOSTEB CLUB MEETING

Monday, August 20— 7 pm—

Diller-Odell Elementary Library in Diller-

Anyone with kids in PreK-12 are Members of the booster club. Come with your new



ideas and willingness to volunteer!

(other meetings: Oct. 19 @ Odell, Apr. 1 @ Diller)



made by Jill Scheele and seconded by Toni Landenberger. Passed with 6 yea, 0 nay. Approval and adoption of a resolution authorizing the creating of the Diller-Odell Educational facilities Leasing Corporation and authorizing the District to enter into one or more lease purchase agreements with said Corporation in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$3,875,000, for the purpose of leasing certain educational facilities and equipment from the Corporation. Motion made by Paul Kostal and seconded by Chad Lottman. Passed with 6 yea and 0 nay.

Marc Munford, of Ameritas, spoke with the Board about a Lease purchase agreement, financing, and the founding of a Diller-Odell Educational Facilities Leasing Corporation.

The Board instructed Superintendent Meyerle to advertise for the sale of lots in Diller (near old grade school building on Kelly Street). Offers will be made by sealed bid.

Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jill Scheele 2nd by Paul Kostal. Passed, 6 yea, 0 nay. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm. Next regular meeting is August 13 9, 2018 @ 7:30 pm.

<u>Diller-Odell Board of Education</u> <u>Minutes</u> July 9, 2018

7:20 pm

Student Fee Hearing

No Public Comment for this Hearing. Motion to adjourn by Toni Landenberger, seconded by Dean Engelman. Passed with 6 yea, 0 nay. Adjourned at 7:25 pm.

7:25 pm

Parental Involvement Hearing

No Public Comment for this Hearing. Motion to adjourn by Chad Lottman, seconded by Jill Scheele. Passed with 6 yea, 0 nay. Adjourned at 7:30 pm.

7:30 pm

Regular Meeting

High School Media Center-Diller

Members Present: Dean Engelman, Paul Kostal, Chad Lottman, Gary Stohs, Toni Landenberger & Jill Scheele.

Motion to approve minutes of last meeting by Jill Scheele. Second Paul Kostal.

Passed with 6 yea, 0 nay.

Mr. Mezger reported on NSSRS and CDC reporting, summer workshops and preparations for the start of school

Adopt Required policies updates. Motion

made by Paul Kostal and seconded by Dean Engelman. Passed with 6 yea, 0 nay Review and reaffirm Student Fee and Parental Involvement Policies passed with a Motion made by Paul Kostal and seconded by Jill Scheele. Passed with 6 yea and 0 nay.

No action was taken on the review of Athletic Admission Prices for 2018-19. They will remain at \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and \$2 for senior citizens at D-O sponsored home HS games. Prices will differ for state or conference activities that D-O would host.

Superintendent Meyerle recommended increasing student lunch prices by .10 cents and adult prices by .50 cents. The larger increase in adult lunch prices was due to the state audit that found our adult prices were too low. This was approved and passed with a motion from Jill Scheele and 2nd from Toni Landenberger. Passed with 6 yea, 0 nay.

Superintendent Meyerle gave an update on summer projects.

Superintendent Meyerle discussed the upcoming budget process and his recommendations on financing the gym addition with the Special Building Fund. The project would be paid for in seven years or less through the lease purchase option.

Motion to approve bills as presented

ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE INFO TECH NIGHT TUESDAY, AUGUST 14; 5:30-6:30 PM This is an awesome opportunity for you to meet THIS IS A **MANDATORY** meeting to your kids' teachers and for them to see some friends before school gears up. ALSO, it gives you a jump on filling out any pay for activity passes. paperwork or 7TH GRADE ORIENTATION will be @ 6:30 pm signing up for things!

Bus Drivers are ready for the year. Please take a second to thank the bus drivers for all they do to keep your kids safe to and from school.

Remind your kids that the bus can be a tempting place to practice bad behavior, but that they shouldn't. Bad behavior causes distraction for the bus driver and is a bad example to other kids. Tell them to practice being kind and helpful on the bus.

Carol Clark, and Bill Behrends.

New Teachers and new 8 hour period.

Diller-Odell School District has hired 3 new teachers. Along with the new teachers, there are a couple

position changes. Mrs. Abby Kostal will now be the prima-

ry teacher for the Preschool. Mr. Larsen will move from

teaching 5th grade to teaching Jr. High English.

Our new 5th grade teacher will be Mrs. Reba

Hestermann. Mrs. Hestermann grew up in Sterling and is

entering her 4th year of teaching. She is also the

Assistant Volleyball Coach.

Our new 6th grade teacher will be Mr. Dylan Hinrichs.

Diller-Odell Bus Drivers: Marlene Wolken, George Rempel, Mark Liscom, Rick Wallinger, Mr. Hinrichs grew up in Giltner, NE and this will be his first teaching position. He will also be the Head Football

Coach and head coach for IH Football.

Our new HS Science Teacher will be Mr. Devin Garcia. Mr. Garcia is a graduate of Diller-Odell and will also be an assistant track coach for both HS and IH.

The Junior and Senior High School students will now have an 8 period day for their schedules. It has been a 7 period day for quite a few years. This is being implemented in hope that it will allow more students to participate in the

Fine Arts Programs.



Pg. 7

MONDAY, AUGUST 13; 7:00-7:45 PM

attend for parents/guardians and students. Students will receive their devices ONLY if they attend this meeting, sign the necessary paperwork, pay the rental fee and

(prior to the TECH meeting)

BUS O



"You are not required to set yourself on fire to keep others warm."

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Barneston Volunteer Fire Department & Pack 90 Cub Scouts invite you to help kids get back to school!

They are collecting school supplies for local kids from Southern, Diller-Odell and Lewiston schools.

YOU can help area children be prepared in the classroom and reach their dreams. Drop off boxes will be available

until Monday, August 13@ the Following locations: Main Street Bank, Wymore

Security First Bank, Blue Springs

Grand Avenue Bar & Grill

Wymore Public Library

State Bank of Odell

Donation Ideas: Back Packs, #2 Pencils, Crayola Crayons, Erasers Scissors, Glue Sticks/Bottles, Blue/Black Pens, Notebooks, Loose Leaf Paper, Folders, Clorox Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Kleenex, Dry Erase Markers, Monetary Donations.

Contact Information: Jayson Tennant: 402-239-1159 Tyler Goes: 402-520-1560 or Jessie Parrott: 402-806-0217



Penner Ag

45207 SW 61st Rd Odell, Nebraska Sid - (402)766-4268 Tom - (402)766-4444

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Full line of hair care products. AVON available. Scrapbooking supplies.

Call Cathy for an appointment today!

Check us out on Facebook for special offers!

NEW EVENT COMING TO ODELL! MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sunday, September 9th

Hosted by Our Savior Lutheran Church Meal, activities and games for all ages.

Open to everyone!!!

Kids games and Scavenger Hunt 3-5 pm

Children's Message @ 5:00 pm

Taco Bar Meal from 5-7 pm JOIN US FOR THIS ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT!

The Harvest Festival Committee's Mission is to create a fun event for the whole community where kids can come to a safe environment to enjoy each other and play some games. Then families can all stay and enjoy a meal together along with conversation and comradery.

Odell Mural Needs Updating

If you are interested in helping update the Mural on the side of the Corner bar Building, please contact Robin Stanosheck @ 402-520-1661. Possibilities for the mural are to just simply redo the painting as is, but if any one has any ideas, please feel free to share them!

Donations for paint are also greatly appreciated!



IF you can volunteer to deliver Meals-on-Wheels in Odell once a week, please contact Barb Zarybnicky @ 766-3780 or bzary@diodecom.net "It is a privilege, not a burden, to have God use us to serve others."-Renee Cervantes

A 'SUPER' YEAR AT SUMMER READ

Superheroes are not just in the movies. During the month of June, children from Diller-Odell and guests, laughed, learned and created around the theme "Reading is Super". A weekly joke and superhero challenge opened each of the four sessions. Everyone completed a survey and chose "Invisibility" as our favorite super power. Teams competed to win an Ironman challenge and faced danger to handle Kryptonite.

Kids learned about the REAL superheroes in their world during program time. Jeff Nelson of the Diller Fire and Rescue Dept. shared the fire truck and safety tips. KSDS Assistance Dogs of Washington, KS taught the children about the 4 legged superheroes who serve mankind. In week 3, Dennis Kenning of Farmers Coop delighted everyone with a visit from a horse. Dennis also explained the super work farmers do

to feed everyone in the world with quality food. Howard Hill shared the superhero work of those in the military and the veterans. He talked about patriotism and modeled how to fold

the American flag.

Each week children could earn prizes with their reading. During library time, the youngest kids completed a coloring book about everyday superheroes and the 'middles' and 'bigs' played superhero BINGO.

Everyone got to create their own Super Popper made from pool noodles, superhero duct tape, balloons, and puffballs during week 2 in the craft room. Power pellets (Smarties and Sixlets) and tickets along with weekly prizes were given to students for returning their books. Tickets were used to select Jill Duis planned the programs. the winners of the SUPER drawing. Prizes included a \$50 family pass to Lincoln Children's Zoo, Hunt's

> Bros. Pizza, Bonham and Beatrice movie passes, bowling at Landoll



Lanes, Roll-a-Rena passes, swimming at Beatrice Water park and passes to Beatrice Mini Golf. Sponsors include: Diller-Odell Schools, Diller Community Foundation Fund, RJM Design Group, Donna & Dennis Kenning, OACE and the Fun Raisers.

Betty Lawrence and Judy Landenberger were in charge of book checkout. Vonnie Schlichtman and Donna Kenning and Amy Vitosh coordinated activities in the library. Kathy Schroeder and Beth Roelfs organized projects in the craft room. Thanks to ALL the Jr. and Sr. High School volunteers who were SUPER!

> SE Nebraska (402) 414-7052

HELP WANTED



Offering Spray Foam Insulation, Roof Coatings & More! Contact us @ 402-414-7052; Zach Heble & Joe Heble

Spray Foam Insulation & Roof Coatings

SPRAY COATINGS

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."-Winston Churchill

New Life For Henry Weiner Truck

By Bob Evenski

4 years ago when I purchased a Ford truck for restoration on eBay, I didn't realize that I had actually purchased a little piece of Odell's history.

It was after the truck arrived to me in Collinsville, CT from Charleston, SC that I learned it had spent part of its life in Odell, NE. I got that bit of information from the very faded lettering that was on the doors. I felt that I could also make out a small part of the name of the company on the door as: "_____RY WEIN_____", but I had little certainty about that, especially the first name.

So, I set off to taking the truck totally apart, which took 6 weeks. The job of rebuilding and restoring every component is still a work in progress, to be complete in the next month or so. The bed and running boards will be reunited with the rest of the truck shortly. When that happens, the truck will look as it would have looked when it rolled out of the factory in 1938. As I've been reassembling the truck from the ground up, I have continued at intervals to attempt to uncover the truck's history. Recently I devoted a block of time to that search and communicated with a number of different sources. One of the people that I actually spoke with was Jim Stanosheck and he confirmed that the truck had indeed been once owned by Henry Weiner. With that confirmation I was able to fill in the blanks on the door lettering and come up with a sign.

I was able to locate Henry's son, Donald in Colby, KS and spoke with him. Donald told me that his father owned the Weiner Grocery Store with sold Black Bird brand groceries in Odell from 1936-1944. his father also had a meat processing facility and food locker. I learned from Donald that Henry had purchased the truck in 1938 from Dick Callan, the Ford dealer in Odell. It seems that groceries were shipped to Henry's store by rail and that the railroad had decided to increase its shipping rates. In interest of saving his customers money, Henry bought the truck to haul groceries from St. Joe, MO. Donald remembers at a very young age going to in the truck with his father to different

farms where his father would haul a beef cow or a hog into the truck to be processed at his store.

Donald told me that his father was drafted into the army in 1943 and sold the store to Al Buller. He does not recall what happened to the truck at that time. After Henry came back to Odell from serving in the Army he opened the Weiner Auto and Home Supply in 1946. This was a Ford dealership and garage. Henry was an owner of the Weiner Motor Company at least through 1958.

I do know the truck eventually made its way to Anselmo, NE where it was purchased by Ronald White and then to Lenora, KS where it was purchased by Norman Albright. From there it made its way through South Carolina to my location in Connecticut.

I would be very interested if anyone could help me fill in ANY blanks along the way, if you have any bits of interesting information regarding this truck's history, OR any photos at all that have the truck in if....from the 30s and 40s??

Some of my information about Henry and his businesses came from Catherine Renshaw who is updated the Odell History and from Marilyn Coffin at the Gage County Museum.

Thank you for your time. Bob Evenski 860-681-4459 (cell) 860-352-2171 (home) revenski@att.net



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HENRY WEINER CO.

ODELL NEB.





Pg. 11 "Life is 10% of what happens to you, and 90% of how you react to it."-Charles R. Swindoll

Area August Birthdays!

1-Cate Peterson, Dorothy Rockemann & Janet Vitosh

2-Sierra Maginnis & Hannah Penner

3—Steph Shelly

4—Tom Duis, Dana Knabe, Dan Leseberg, Chad Lottman, Mike Meyerle & Logan Penner

5—Armando Jones

6—Deena Day & Hudson Mezger

7-Joe Heble

9—Sandy Cumro, Hunter Heble & Teresa Koch

10-Lynette Duis & Sandy Vitosh

11—Adrían Newby, Ranay Knabe & Dennis Vitosh

13—Sandy Barnts, Andrew Klecan & Alísyn Wenzbauer

14—Eileen Kostal & Barb Sasse

15-Turner Faxon & Carmen Spitsnogle

16—Allen Klecan, Emma Peterson, Ron Rickstrew, Stephanie Rosales & Melvin Weers

17—Esther Freitag, Jacob Penner & Nichole Thorp

18—Keith Bartlett, Sarah Teras, Remi Carpenter, Kyle Duntz, & Judy Humphreys

19-Brandon Blake, Ron Spitsnogle & Tammy Zarybnicky

20-Billy Pipes, Jim Rupprecht & Linda Scheele

22-Mackenzie Gydesen & Jennifer Logan

23—Linda Behrends

24—Jill Duis, Lily Ebeling & Barb Zarybnicky

26—Ashlen Vanover, Darín Weers & Jen Wendland

27-Janet Stuckwisch

28-Jean Weers

29—Jay Hemphill, Austin Kostal, Preston Kostal & Livia Stein 30—Linda Stanosheck & Joely Weers

31—Patty Heble, Sharon Klecan, Hillary Campbell & Kary Rash

Happy 2nd Wedding Anniversary on August 12 to JT and Morgan Toensing! Love, Your Family! Happy Birthday to Brooke Engelman on August 2nd! Love, Your Family & Friends

Happy Birthday to Allison Engelman on August 9th! Love, Your Family & Friends

Happy Birthday to Chloe Jo Rupprecht on August 7th! We Love You! Your Family!

Happy 23rd Birthday on August 8th to Kelsey Hajek! Love, Mom, Dad, Alyssa & Bri!

Happy Birthday to Kristie Sutton on August 21! Love you Lots! Your Family!

Happy 4th Anniversary to Mitchell & Whitney Meyer on August 2nd! Love, Grandpa & Grandma Bures

August at the Corner Bar in Odell

SUNDAYNIGHTS AREWINGNIGHTS

CHOOSE FROM 9 DIFFERENT SAUCES



Thank You to Everyone for your continued Support of the Corner Bar. It is greatly Appreciated! We look forward to seeing you during Odell Day on August 25th. Open at 9:00 am and Street Dance @ 9:00 pm



Beer Garden Open for Your Enjoyment!

ALL NIGHT ON MONDAYS!

WEDNESDAYS: Crappy Beer Night: \$1..50 (Hamms, PBR, Old Milwaukee), \$2.00 Bartenders Choice



 $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty}$

Don't Forget! Keep your green light bulbs in and visible to show your support! Take a photo and post to #greenlightavet



"The greatest good is what we do for one another."—Mother Theresa

Are You Relational?

The dictionary defines the word Relational as: (adj.) concerning the way two or more people or things are connected.

Every time we come into contact with someone else, it matters. Every act, big or small, has an effect on someone else.

This all starts with the "Golden Rule". Treat others as you want to be treated. This term has become a bit clique. We say it often, but do we actually stop and think about each act and interaction we have with one another and how it will affect the other person? Would you want that person to treat you the same? Whether it is just one word you give someone or an hour long conversation...it matters.

Being relational starts with ourselves. First, you need to be self-aware; what are your own flaws? What causes you to react negatively to someone? What causes you to have compassion?

In general, we tend to live the opposite of relational to others around us. Especially in these last years and the way the world has become so "selfinvolved" and "self-aware", we tend to act out of self-interest when we are interacting with others. Our values are placed solely on ourselves and not others. "What is this going to do for me?", "what has happened to me that is better than what this person is talking to me about?" (or worse)....we seem to always be trying to "one-up" each other, in both physical and intellectual interactions with each other. Acting this way towards others shows that we do not place value on the relationships we have with others, we are only placing value in ourselves. We

try to get the best out of a situation at the expense or disregard of the other person.

Our world encourages and even rewards this behavior. Commercials, Advertisements, even the "self-help" advice....it all comes back to "you". How are you treating yourself? Are you giving yourself enough "you time"? Well, let me tell you, we are.

This doesn't mean you shouldn't take care of yourself both physically and mentally....but being at your best should be a goal you strive to attain so that you can positively influence those around you because you are at your best, not because your best can "beat them".

If you have a family, this "selfmotivation" way of living rolls over to our family to encompass them. We start to include them in our self-motivation and soon it is just about our family, and we have no regard for anyone else. If it doesn't directly affect members of our family, then it is no concern for us, it deserves no respect from us. This negative way of living, will influence our children. They learn what they see, so soon they will become solely selfconcerned too, even if they "know better". They don't know how they are interacting with others isn't morally right.

The idea of competition is sometimes used to justify us being "self-motivated" in our interactions with each other. It might be said "It's a competitive world. Compete to get what you want and let the other guy compete to get what he wants." That approach may work when used in healthy contexts, such as sports or business, **but competition should NOT be a "way of life**."

Are you teaching your kids to

be "relational?" Are their reactions to others positive? When another person acts poorly toward them, to they "react" in the same manner? If this happens repeatedly, soon they adapt. They will be the first to act negatively toward that person, wanting to be the "first". They may feel being the first to say something mean to someone may stop that person from saying something mean to them.

We make a mistake when we teach our children "general" ways of reacting to others. We may say "don't be mean to your friends". Instead of teaching them that each relationship with each individual person requires a different approach. How they react to one person can be different than how they react to the next. After all, they can't be rude to someone else and expect that person to eventually not be rude back. Even the most compassionate person may wear out soon enough. I think that sometimes this is why we "run through friends" quicker than they did in the years passed. Loyalty is a thing of the past because people simply get tired of being around each other when we are all acting with selfishness. This can all be a bit overwhelming for kids, but if you teach them in the beginning to be self aware of how their reactions and what they say affects those around them, then it will just be part of who they are and will come naturally. So, what does this all mean? We are all pretty much set in our ways. And, wow, sometimes a change like that can be so hard. Especially when we are all so busy. Who has time to make that effort? It is so much easier just to let everyone walk around just worried about themselves. Judging each other on every little detail.

Every time you judge someone negatively, whether it is a tiny little thing, such as they may not wear the same style of clothes as you are, or they may not get as good of grades as you do,...and you say something to them, you are NOT being relational. Soon, you will see your kids may have a hard time making friends and getting along with others. (and you may have a hard time keeping friends)

I think it is human nature to judge others. I do it too. BUT, as you mentally judge someone, it is your REACTION that matters. Do you say something to them? Do you act differently around them because of your judgement? OR do you mentally take your judgment of them, deal with it in your mind and decide that it doesn't matter, or find a positive about it? Tell yourself whatever judgment you may have about someone, they probably have one about you too. Put a smile on your face, bring compassion into your heart, move on, and be "relational" to that person.

It all comes down to this. We are all living in this world that God gave us. We need to take care of it and take care of each other. Look at each other with compassionate eyes, do not judge. Look at each other with a smile on your face, don't assume others are out to get you.

Being relational is an approach to a life where we have more to think about that our material needs and desires; a world where it's not about how much wealth , comfort and power we can acquire; a world where the health of our soul increases with loving God, ourselves and others. (and believe me, I am not trying to be judgmental!)

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Next OACE Meeting: Monday, August 20, 7:00 pm @ Corner Bar