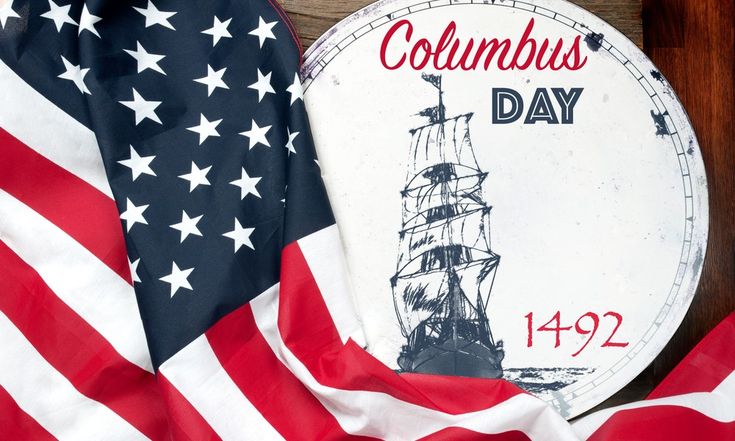
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

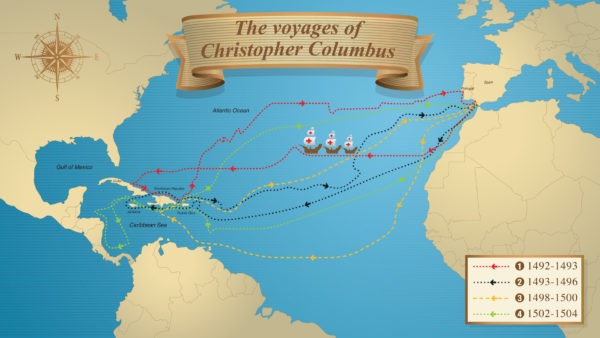
## Columbus Day, which is on the second Monday of October, celebrates Christopher Columbus' arrival to the Americas on October 12, 1492. This is an important date in many Italian-American communities; it is controversial in some Native American communities.

Christopher Columbus is often portrayed as the first European to sail to the Americas. He is sometimes portrayed as the discoverer of the New World. However, this is controversial on many counts. There is evidence that the first Europeans to sail across the Atlantic were Viking explorers from Scandinavia. In addition, the land was already populated by indigenous peoples, who had 'discovered' the Americas thousands of years before.

Columbus Day originated as a celebration of Italian-American heritage, due to the explorer´s origins in Italy. The holiday was first held in San Francisco in 1869. The first state-wide celebration took place in Colorado in 1907. Thirty years later, Columbus Day become a holiday across the United States. Since 1971, it has been celebrated on the second Monday in October. The date on which Columbus arrived in the Americas is also celebrated as the Día de la Raza (Day of the Race) in Latin America and some Latino communities in the USA. However, it is a controversial holiday in some countries and has been re-named in others.

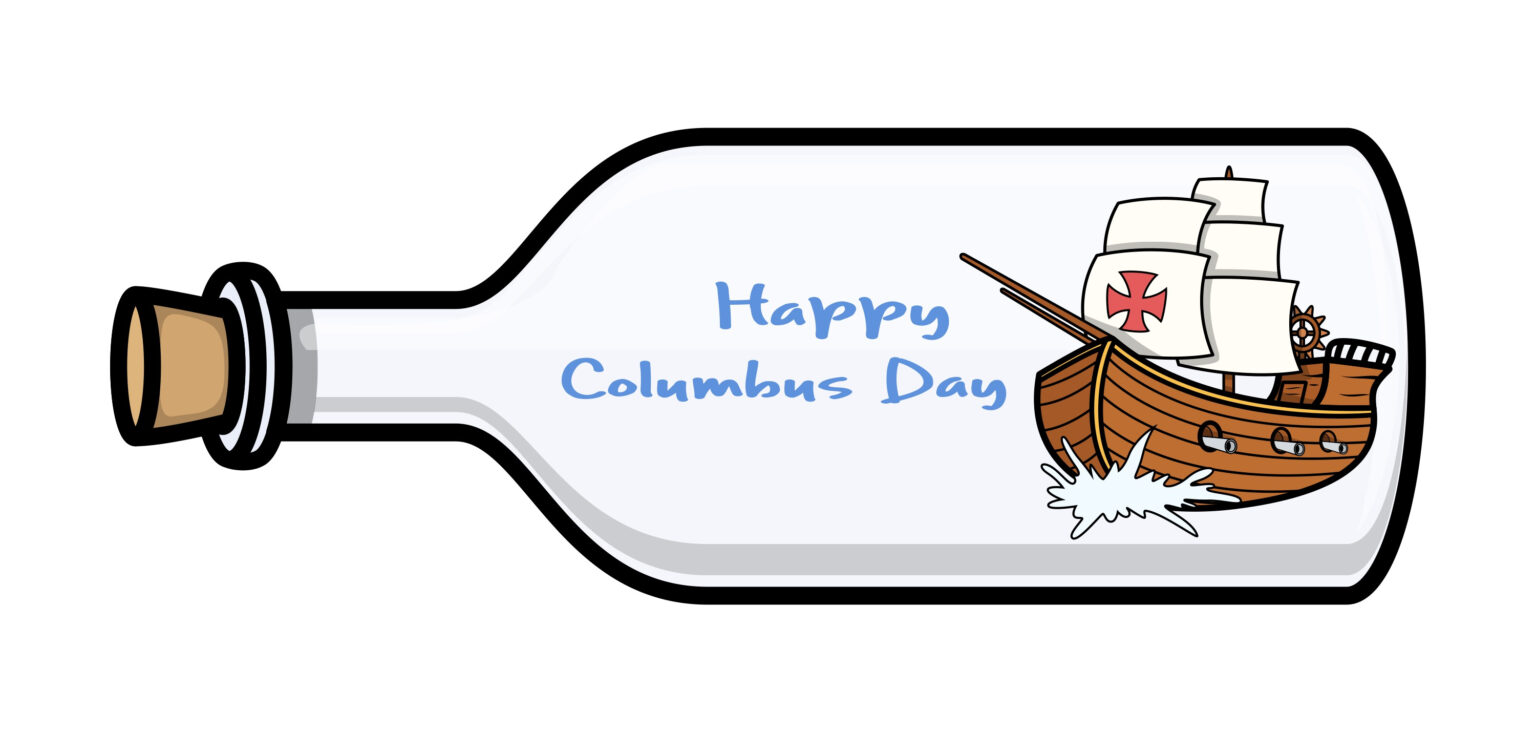
Columbus Day celebrations are controversial in some American communities because the settlement of Europeans in the Americas led to the deaths of a large proportion of the native people. Some have argued that this settlement was a direct result of Columbus' actions. It has also been argued that Columbus should not be honored for discovering North America, as he only went as far as some islands in the Caribbean and never set foot on mainland America.

## The Famous Voyage of Christopher Columbus



As early as 1420, Portuguese explorers were sailing south along the West African coast and around the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, transporting riches of the land: gold, spices, and other goods from Africa and Asia to Europe. Instead of sailing around the huge continent of Africa as the Portuguese were doing, Columbus thought he could find a more direct route by sailing west instead. Understanding that the world was round and not flat, Columbus had no fear of venturing in uncharted waters. Securing financial support from King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, Columbus set sail in August of 1492. He sailed across the “Ocean Blue”—the Atlantic Ocean. Thinking he had reached Asia on October 12, 1492, Columbus actually landed at an island in the Bahamas. Continuing the voyage, he spotted Cuba, assuming it was China. For the next few months, Columbus sailed and explored the Caribbean islands in search of riches to bring back to Spain.

He founded a colony for Spain in the Americas on the island of Hispaniola, (present day Dominican Republic and Haiti) with 39 of his men before returning to Spain in January 1493. Columbus sailed across the Atlantic three more times. On his third voyage, Columbus finally realized that he had never reached Asia, but landed on a continent he hadn’t previously known existed.





Halloween 2024 is a widely celebrated holiday known for its spooky and festive atmosphere. It’s a time when people of all ages come together to enjoy costume parties, trick-or-treating, haunted houses, and various other Halloween traditions. This holiday, which falls on October 31st each year, allows individuals to embrace their creativity, dress up in fun or scary costumes, and indulge in delicious treats. Halloween is also a time to celebrate the supernatural, with a focus on ghosts, witches, and all things eerie.

**When is Halloween 2024?**

Halloween is celebrated annually on October 31st. In 2024, this popular holiday falls on a Thursday this year, providing a perfect opportunity for mid-week Halloween festivities.

**How to get involved with Halloween 2024?**

Participating in Halloween offers a variety of exciting ways to celebrate the holiday. Here are some fun and spooky ways to get involved:

1. **Create a Costume:** Design or choose a costume that reflects your creativity and personal style, whether it’s scary, funny, or fantastical.
2. **Host a Halloween Party:** Organize a Halloween-themed gathering with friends or family, complete with spooky decorations, themed snacks, and activities.
3. **Go Trick-or-Treating:** Join the tradition of trick-or-treating by dressing up and collecting candy and treats from neighbors or local businesses.
4. **Visit a Haunted House:** Explore a haunted house attraction for a thrilling and spooky experience.
5. **Carve Pumpkins:** Carve creative designs or spooky faces into pumpkins, and display them as jack-o’-lanterns.
6. **Watch Halloween Movies:** Enjoy classic Halloween movies or spooky films with friends or family for a cozy night in.

**History of Halloween**

Halloween has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. Over time, it evolved into a holiday with a unique blend of customs, incorporating elements from various cultures and traditions. Today, Halloween is celebrated in many countries around the world, with an emphasis on costumes, decorations, and festive activities.

This holiday brings people together to enjoy spooky fun and imaginative festivities, making it a cherished occasion for communities.



 LOCAL NEWS

* Are you in need of grocery delivery service? Call 620-228-5570 for more information on this new service.
* La Harpe Days T-Shirts available at City Hall.
* Pay your city utilities online at [www.cityoflaharpe.org](http://www.cityoflaharpe.org) by clicking on “Credit Card Payments”.

**If you need assistance after-hours, please call the Iola Dispatch Center at (620) 365-1437, they will notify the proper personnel.**

 *HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL LAHARPE CITIZENS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!!!! MAY YOUR DAY BE AS SPECIAL AS YOU ARE TO US!*



La Harpe Public Library October Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday

1pm to 4pm



 Follow us on Facebook – La Harpe Public Library





**Dates to remember:**

A group of people sitting around a table

Description automatically generated with low confidenceOctober 9th: Council Meeting at City Hall at 7:00 pm

 October 14th: City Hall closed in observance of Columbus Day

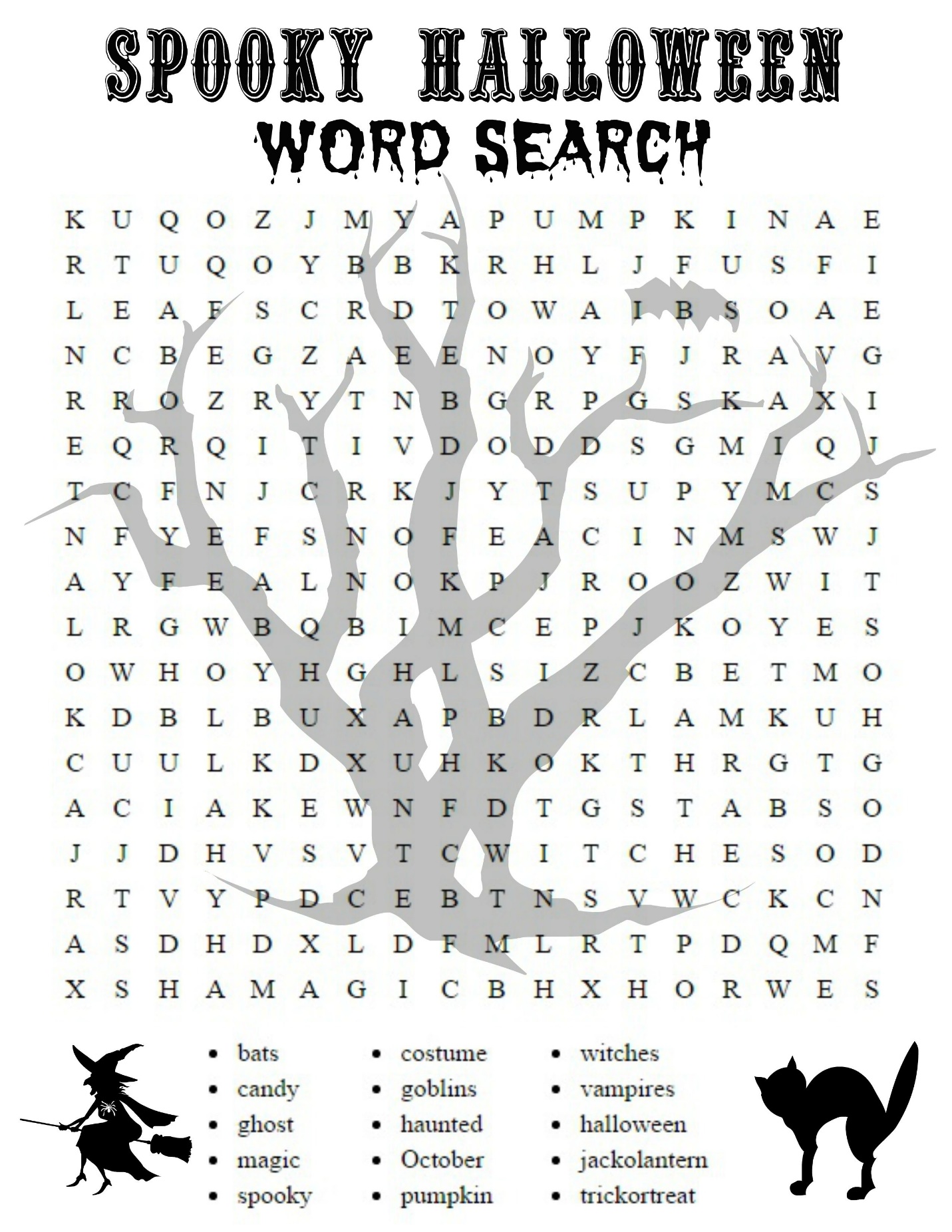
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Description automatically generated October 21st: PRIDE Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiI3_mmgoLLAhVW9mMKHe22Ar8QjRwIBw&url=http://www.paymentus.com/industry-utilities.html&psig=AFQjCNF-5ANx5SktbJug46KiWwMehsjzzw&ust=1455908868261283) October 25th: **Past due Utility shut off date.**

*If you can’t pay your account in* ***full*** *at this time then you must submit your reasoning to the City Clerk* ***BEFORE*** *October 25th.*







**CITY COUNCIL NEWS**

**CITIZENS REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE HEARING**

Mayor Crowell opened the revenue neutral rate hearing for public comments; Kelcie Lampe stated she wasn’t familiar with the RNR and had a few questions. Mayor Crowell stated the increase of the mill levy is due to our sewer project and water tower maintenance that is needed. Kelcie asked if it could be lowered next year and will this increase cover those costs. Danny Ware Jr stated, we haven’t raised the mill levy in 5+ years, costs are going up and unfortunately, we still have the same amount of infrastructure but fewer citizens, that make it hard to keep up while trying to keep costs down. Kelcie asked about the quest for raising the city sales tax by 2%. Danny Ware Jr stated, the sales tax is going on the ballot, it’s up to the citizens but the sales tax goes towards the special highway fund to help in maintaining the streets. He stated, last year the street project was supposed to cost $80,000.00 but ended up being $125,000.00 because of costs. Mayor Crowell stated, COVID hammered everyone and the really cold spell in the weather shot our electric bill up to almost $35,000.00, which the city had to pay and did so without passing the extra cost to our citizens. Mayor Crowell stated, this council is looking into and going after any grants possible to help keep costs down, we are just trying to keep up. Mayor Crowell requested a motion to allow her to sign resolution #2024-5. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to give the mayor authority to sign the resolution. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor Crowell performed the required roll call for the RNR: Danny Ware Jr – Yes, Cynthia Carr – Yes, Sharlyn Thompson – Yes, Ron Knavel – Yes and Angela Barker – Yes. Mayor Crowell closed the RNR hearing.

**2025 BUDGET HEARING**

Mayor Crowell opened the 2025 budget hearing for public comments, no comments were made. Mayor Crowell requested a motion to approve budget. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to approve the 2025 budget as presented. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor Crowell closed the 2025 budget hearing.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Kayla Knavel asked the council if there was a way the council meetings could be live streamed. Michelle Altis stated we are working on that, either looking into a You Tube channel or Facebook live, it is in the works and part of a communication grant the city was awarded.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Street Signs – Police Chief, Joe Stotler, stated we have a lot of signs that need to be replaced and raised to the legal height. He shared a quote in the amount of $3,765.90. Mayor Crowell asked if there were any stop signs that could be removed, Joe suggested removing the stop signs at 4th and McKinley and move the stop signs that are place at the corner of 5th and Washington, right now they have to stop at 5th and I am suggesting they stop at Washington. Joe shared some very faded signs that need replaced and stated, if I write a citation in these areas they could easily be dismissed because of the visibility of the sign. Mayor Crowell recommended getting the stop signs and posts now and then look at the others after the city has received money from the county. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to purchase the stop signs and posts for $986.52. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to remove the stop signs at 4th and McKinley and switch the stops signs at 5th & Washington around so that Washington traffic will have to stop. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Advantage Computer Contract - JCS – Michelle stated, the invoice we received last month was for the utility side of our software and this is for the court side. Cynthia Carr made the motion to approve and pay the invoice out of law, animal control and code. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
2. New Ordinance book – Joe stated that Fred, Penny, Michelle and myself are supposed to get together with Fred to go over the ordinance book which we have not been able to do. With Fred having the original ordinance book it’s hard to look things up because not everything is online. The ordinance book was supposed to be ready in October but I think we will probably be looking at the beginning of next year. Michelle stated, everyone has a copy of our incentive ordinance, it needs cleaned up and added to the new ordinance book. Mayor Crowell suggested the council look it over and note any changes you think we might need, if you want to get together in a workshop we can do so.
3. Dump Truck – Larry stated he looked everywhere for someone that could fix the dump truck and no one was interested other than Austin Sigg. The power boost to the brakes is out and Austin stated he would come to our shop and fix it for $1,000.00; $500.00 for parts and $500.00 labor. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to fix the truck and not exceed $1,200.00 and the funds will come out of electric, water and sewer. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Absent from meeting
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Nothing to report.
3. Joe Stotler, Police Chief – Shared his monthly time cards and report. Joe stated, last month there were 67 dogs not registered with the city, since the letters went out 43 have been tagged, 4 are no longer in town, a few others have received a notice to appear in court. On the code side of things there are 5 cases already scheduled to appear, 29 total code letters have been sent in August, 3-4 cases of inoperable vehicles. Myself, Larry and Penny have been doing a lot of mowing, it’s a full-time job by itself. Cynthia Carr asked about the 11 acres the city had to mow. Joe stated a request was made and approved to vacate streets and alleys on that property but was unaware of his intentions, he was growing that to attract deer so that he could bow hunt, which he can’t do in the city and since those 11 acres are in city limits and the original motion in vacating streets was made on the stipulation that the property was in code compliance which was not, that’s why we mowed it. Joe also mentioned the city now owns 406 S. McKinley, the mayor suggested the city tear down the trailer and clean the property up then we could look at sitting it out for bids for people to build on.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports. Penny stated we have 3 new homes coming in and we are doing our best to keep up.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Shared the fire meeting minutes; The La Harpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present: Josh Sparks, Marc Waggoner Sr., Ronald Splector, Kiefer Endicott, Matthew Waggoner, Dennis Sidebottom, Bill Gay, and Meghan Sparks. Absent were Pamela Waggoner and Justin Pritchard. La Harpe firefighters had their meeting, took out the trucks and did water exercises with pumper and ladder unit then returned to station and adjourned meeting. Michelle asked Marc if there as a different way we could handle the burn permits. She stated she is getting a few complaints that people can burn because they didn’t receive their permit. Sharlyn Thompson suggested the city employees start looking at the burn piles, just make sure they are in compliance and then sign off on them and get Marc a copy. Marc said that would work as well, just remember no shingles or tires can be burned. Mayor Crowell suggested Michelle email Marc and her with those copies. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to allow city employees to approve burning permits and copies be sent to the mayor and fire chief. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Maintenance Department - The workorders were shared.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Danny Ware Jr asked about court and 50 cases on the docket, would court be done in time for council. Mayor Crowell stated our new court time is now at 2:00pm starting October 9th.

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into an executive session on non-elected personnel for 30 minutes. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to go into an executive session on non-elected personnel for 30 minutes. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to extend the executive session another 15 minutes. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0.



***Mayor****: Ella Mae Crowell (620) 496-6219*

***City Attorney****: Fred Works*

***City Municipal Judge****: Patty Miklos*

***Police Chief****: Joseph Stotler*

***Fire Chief****: Marc Waggoner*

***Assistant Fire Chief****: Dennis Sidebottom*

***City Clerk****: Michelle Altis*

***Assistant Clerk****: Teresa Driskel*

***City Treasurer****: Audra Riggins*

***Maintenance Staff****: Larry Laird & Travis Doolittle*

***Code & Animal Control****: Penny Miller*

***City Council Members:***

***Ron Knavel (496-2508) Danny Ware Jr. (496-2156)***

***Cynthia Carr (496-7500) Sharlyn Thompson (496-3348)***

***Angela Barker (224-6209)***

***Laharpe City Hall Hours: Monday-Friday***

902 S. Washington 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00

P.O. Box 10 Ph. (620) 496-2241

Laharpe, KS. 66751 Fax (620) 496-2240

***CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE; CITYOFLAHARPE.ORG*** ** *Follow us on Facebook – City of La Harpe*



**Chicken Noodle Casserole**

**Ingredients**

* 6 cups uncooked egg noodles (about 12 ounces)
* 2 cans (10-3/4 ounces each) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
* 1 cup sour cream
* 3/4 cup 2% milk
* 1/4 teaspoon salt
* 1/4 teaspoon pepper
* 3 cups cubed cooked chicken breasts
* 1 cup crushed Ritz crackers (about 20 crackers)
* 1/4 cup butter, melted

**Directions**

* 1. Preheat oven to 350°. Cook noodles according to package directions for al dente; drain.
* 2. In a large bowl, whisk soup, sour cream, milk, salt and pepper until blended. Stir in chicken and noodles. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. In a small bowl, mix crushed crackers and butter; sprinkle over top. Bake until bubbly, 30-35 minutes.



**Crack Green Beans**

**Ingredients**

* 38 Oz can cut green beans (see notes) drained
* 10 Slices Cooked bacon chopped
* 2/3 Cup brown sugar
* 4 Tbsp butter
* 6 Tsp low sodium soy sauce
* 2 Tsp garlic powder
* 2 Tsp onion powder

**Instructions**

* 1. Heat a large skillet to medium/low. Add 4 tablespoons of unsalted butter to the skillet & melt. Whisk in the brown sugar, low sodium soy sauce, garlic powder, & onion powder until smooth. Cook on medium heat for a couple of minutes until it starts to bubble.
  2. Stir in the drained green beans, tossing to combine with the sauce. Cook on medium/low heat for 20-25 minutes, stirring occasionally. The sauce will thicken up as it cooks.
  3. Stir in the bacon & cook for another 5 minutes on low. You can also opt to stir in half of the bacon & garnish the top of finished green beans with the other half. I do this sometimes for texture.

**Notes**

If you can’t find 38oz cans of green beans, you can also use 3-14.5oz cans of green beans. It bean to sauce ratio will be off slightly but it will still turn out delicious!

Oven preparation instructions: Prepare the recipe up to step 5 then cover the oven-safe skillet and pop them in the oven at 350-F for about 20 minutes. Stir halfway through cooking.



**Pumpkin Dump Cake**

**Ingredients**

* 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
* 1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk
* 3 large eggs, room temperature
* 1 cup sugar
* 4 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
* 1 package yellow cake mix (regular size)
* 3/4 cup butter, melted
* 1-1/2 cups chopped walnuts
* Vanilla ice cream or whipped cream

**Directions**

* 1. In a large bowl, beat first 5 ingredients until smooth.
* 2. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Sprinkle with cake mix and drizzle with butter. Top with walnuts.
* 3. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.



**Pumpkin Pie Spice**

**Ingredients**

* 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
* 2 teaspoons ground ginger
* 1 teaspoon ground cloves
* 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

**Directions**

* 1. Mix all ingredients. Store in an airtight container in a cool, dry place up to 6 months.
* 2. **Homemade Pumpkin Pie Spice** may be used as a substitute for store-bought pumpkin pie spice or to prepare the following recipe: [Spiced Nuts](https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/spiced-nuts/).



**Kids’ Favorite Pumpkin Seeds**

**Ingredients**

* 2 cups fresh pumpkin seeds
* 1/4 cup butter, melted
* 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
* 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
* 1/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

**Directions**

* 1. In a small bowl, combine all ingredients; transfer to an ungreased 15x10x1-in. baking pan.
* 2. Bake at 250° for 45-50 minutes or until lightly browned and dry, stirring occasionally. Cool completely. Store in an airtight container.

***NOTE:* *kids love these pumpkin seeds and want them every fall. A little bit of pulp in the mix really adds to the flavor, so don't rinse the seeds.***

