

Features



[TOP](#)

Bloomfield Chamber Welcomes Guest Speaker Carl Hefner

JULY 25TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bloomfield Chamber Welcomes Guest Speaker Carl Hefner

Bloomfield, Missouri - Stoddard County Sheriff Carl Hefner spoke to a small crowd of interested voters Friday, July 13, 2018 at the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting held at Elderland Restaurant.

His main topic of discussion was the two propositions on the ballot for the August primary. Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 both need to pass according to Sheriff Carl Hefner.

"Shall the County of Stoddard impose a county wide sales tax at the rate of one half (1/2) of one (1) percent for a period of seven (7) years from the date on which such tax is first imposed for the purpose of the renovation of the existing jail, construction, equipment, and design cost of a jail addition. Collections for this Proposition are not to begin until the the one half (1/2) of one (1) percent sales tax of Proposition 1 is approved."

This means on August 7, 2018 Proposition 1 must pass first before Proposition 2 can also be enacted. Both are needed for the survival of the Stoddard County Sheriff's Department.

Let's look at the past and see how the Sheriff's department has gotten to this point. First the jail was original constructed in 1983 to hold about 8 inmates. Then in 1991 the jail underwent an addition offering 4 more cells, two showers, dispatch area, laundry room and sheriff's office along with a booking area that is now an inmate property storage area. By the end of construction in 1991 the jail was designed to hold 28 inmates.

Since that time the jail has grown to over capacity, but not much renovation has been done. The average daily inmate population in 1998 was 34 making the jail capacity at 121%. During the 2016/2017 years the average daily jail population was 76 meaning jail was at 271% capacity.

The jail is now housing 4 people per 2-man cell and the day room is being used to house inmates for sleeping, etc. The kitchen is smaller than most apartments and they use residential washer and dryer constantly purchasing more than one a year to replace each as they run them almost 24 hours a day. Their food storage is outside and cold food storage is in refrigerators in the hallway. Safety of the officers is impaired because of the space and inmates having to go outside to get items to prepare three meals per day. There is always plumbing issues which need to be upgraded.

One of the most serious problems is not being able to segregate inmates. Which means if you are arrested for a minor violation you will be housed with violent sex offenders. There is simply no ability to segregate inmates. There is not even a holding area while they process new inmates.

Another serious issue is that the corrections officers do not have visual supervision of inmates at all times. Over crowding leads to jail assaults and increased costs in medical and manpower etc to transport to the hospital as well as the potential for officers to be injured due to increased assaults on staff. Also if there were a fire or emergency the hallways are filled with storage, refrigerators, and other clutter because of lack of proper storage.

The third most important safety issue for corrections officers is the fact that the cell doors don't latch properly. They are using an antiquated key system and many parts on the cell doors are not available or have to be specially made. Another cost and safety issue for our deputies.

The new addition to the jail will include a full basement, a separate booking area with line of sight to padded cells and holding cells, an full kitchen and food prep area, industrial laundry area, cold and dry storage and four isolation/observation cells and a holding area for booking. Most importantly it will include a secure "sally port" for transportation of inmates. This is extremely necessary not only for the safety of the officers, but to the public as well.

The main level of construction will house a control center for the entire jail where all doors will be operated from a "pod" system. This new construction will also house approximately 120 inmates which should then last for years.

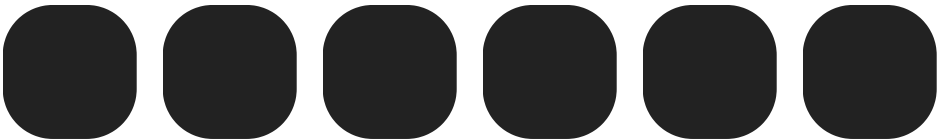
The preliminary cost of the entire project is estimated to be a little over 9 million dollars. The proposed funding would come from the passage of this sale tax to fund the jail until the bond is paid back which should be 7 years. This tax will end in 7 years.

If you have any questions or would like Sheriff Carl Hefner to speak at your organization about Proposition 1 and 2 please contact him at 573.568.4654

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Are You Concert Ready? Amanda Walker and Lynn Drury to Perform

JULY 18TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Are You Concert Ready? Amanda Walker and Lynn Drury to Perform

SATURDAY | AUGUST 25th @ 7PM | DHS AUDITORIUM

Get Ready for an incredible night of New Orleans American Rock as the Bearcat Event Center hosts another great musical event at the DHS Auditorium featuring the New Orleans sounds of music recording artist Amanda Walker along with special guest New Orleans-based singer/songwriter Lynn Drury.

Amanda Walker is a New Orleans-based indie pop/ Americana/ folk rock artist, specializing in original songs, piano and vocals. Born in rural Missouri (Alumni of DHS & SEMO) and adopted by New Orleans, Amanda writes and plays mesmerizing sets dripping with Mississippi River delta soul and Ozark Mountain folk sensibilities that have seamlessly melded with the funky Voodoo that New Orleans music is famous for.

<https://www.facebook.com/amandawalkermusic/>

Lynn Drury is a New Orleans based songwriter, originally from the Mississippi Delta. Her style is influenced from her Country upbringing and mixed in with the funkiness of New Orleans, which has surrounded her for the past 20 years. Her distinctive voice and songwriting style has been compared to Van Morrison, Lucinda Williams & Neil Young, to name a few. A sound she calls "Mississippi Grit~New Orleans Groove."

<https://www.facebook.com/lynndrurymusic/> <http://lynndrury.com/>

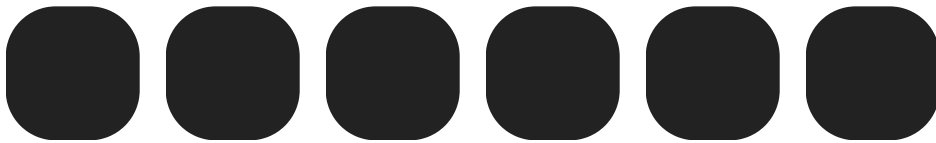
Tickets are \$20 at the Door and \$15 Online. Doors open at 6 PM and the show begins at 7 PM. Limited Seating available so get your tickets online now at

<http://buytickets.at/amandawalkermusic>.

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Amanda Walker and Lynn Drury to Perform in Dexter

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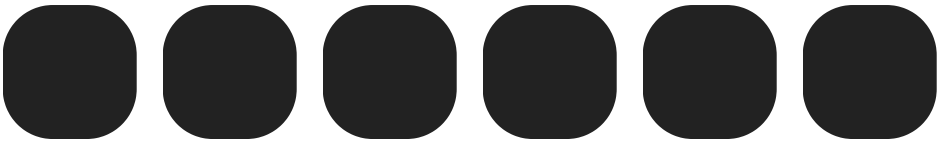
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Bernie Parents as Teachers July Student of the Month

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Bernie Parents as Teachers July Student of the Month

Bernie, Missouri - The Bernie Parents as Teachers Student of the Month for July is Emerson Clair Murphy.

She is the 9-month old daughter of Dylan and Sami Murphy.

Emerson enjoys playing with her baby dolls, snuggling with her mommy, trying all kinds of new foods, and playing with her big sister Addison.

During the family's PAT visits, Emerson enjoys all of the fun toys and activities Mrs. Casey brings, along with the new book they read together at the end of each visit.

If you would like to know more about Parents as Teachers contact Courtney McGarity or Casey Arnold at 573-293-5335, ext 293 or find them on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#).

The following information was taken directly from the Parent as Teachers Missouri website. For more information click [HERE](#).

Our Vision

All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

Our Mission

To provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

Our Values

The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and in life.

Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.

Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials and services.

All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic or economic considerations.

An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

History

In 1981, Missouri pioneered the concept of helping parents embrace their important role as their child's first and best teacher. Today, Parents as Teachers continues to equip early childhood organizations and professionals with information and tools that are relevant and widely applicable to today's parents, families and children.

The Parents as Teachers leadership team and Board of Directors is engaged in a three-year strategic plan, which positions the organization as a valued partner to support the organizations and professionals who serve families and children, especially those most vulnerable.

The concept for Parents as Teachers was developed in the 1970s when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of school readiness. Research showed that greater parent involvement is a critical link in the child's development of learning skills, including reading and writing.

Early childhood professionals suggested that a program to provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, and parent education to help parents understand their role in encouraging their child's development from the beginning could help improve school readiness and parent involvement.

With funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and The Danforth Foundation, Parents as Teachers began in 1981 in Missouri as a pilot project for first-time parents of newborns. Recognizing the program's benefits and cost effectiveness, the Missouri legislature provided state funding in 1985 to implement Parents as Teachers programs in all Missouri school districts. Since 1985, Parents as Teachers has expanded to all 50 states and six other countries.

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Vote Yes on Proposition 2 on August 7, 2018

JULY 10TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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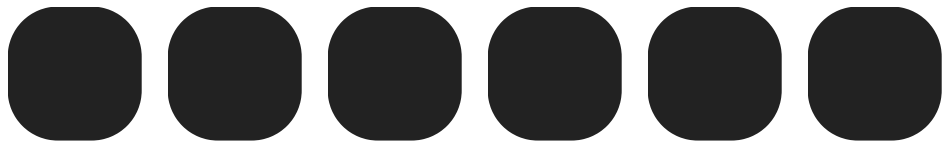
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