

Features



[TOP](#)

Dexter's Mayor Banken signs Arbor Day Proclamation

APRIL 12TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter's Mayor Banken signs Arbor Day Proclamation

Dexter, Missouri - Mayor Jason Banken signed a proclamation on Thursday, April 11, 2019 declaring that Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 26 in Dexter.

The signing was attended by Dexter Tree Board representative Corey Bennett.

The tree board will have a tree sale behind the Jean and Co. Accounting Office in downtown Dexter on April 27th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The proceeds from the sale will go toward the conservation of trees and planting of trees in Dexter.

The tree board is a non funded part of the city government.

The Proclamations states: "In 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, and heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen and provided habitat for wildlife, and trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and beautify our community and trees, wherever they are planted are a source of joy and spiritual renewal."

Therefore, I, Jason Banken, Mayor of the City of Dexter, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2019 as the celebration of ARBOR DAY in the City of Dexter, Missouri, and I urge all citizens to celebrate ARbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart, and promote the well-being of this and future generations."

Pictured are Mayor Banken signing the proclamation as Corey Bennett looks on.

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Drive 4UR Community with Bud Shell Ford

APRIL 08TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Drive 4UR Community with Bud Shell Ford](#)

Dexter, Missouri - Bud Shell Ford is teaming up with the Dexter Dog Park to raise much needed money for all of our fur babies. Every vehicle that is test driven during the event,

Ford will make a donation to the Dog Park.

The more test drives they have, the more money they raise!!

Come out and show your support, enjoy a hot dog, and see the future home of the Dexter Dog Park.

On Saturday, April 13th from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Southern Bank located at 303 Market Street, right next to where the dog park will be placed.

Take the wheel and help your community. Test drive a Ford vehicle on Saturday!!!

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Mayer and Morse Sworn In Sunday Afternoon

APRIL 07TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Mayer and Morse Sworn In Sunday Afternoon](#)

Dexter, Missouri - The Dexter R-XI School Board met in a Special Meeting on Sunday afternoon to swear in two elected school board members. Nancy Mayer and Herman Morse each retained their seats on the board.

Mayer received 991 votes and Morse received 932 votes.

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Dexter Schools Ask for YOUR Vote on April 2nd K.I.D.S. Bond Issue

APRIL 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Dexter Schools Ask for YOUR Vote on April 2nd K.I.D.S. Bond Issue](#)

Dexter, Missouri - The second of two public meetings were held on Monday evening to explain the new bond proposal. Unfortunately both meetings were not attended well by the community as a whole, but there is great support among the teachers and school staff who came to the meeting. Perhaps people have already decided to vote YES and that will be a good thing for Dexter Schools, teachers and students. We hope so!

Let's explain this Bond Issue!!

WHAT IS THIS BOND EXACTLY!

A bond measure to borrow money for improvement projects districtwide. OK so then what?

HOW MUCH IS IT GOING TO COST?

Proposition 2 (or Proposition K.I.D.S.) would be for a \$15 million bond. District officials have said this could generate up to \$15.7 million in cash for the projects.

The district also anticipates providing another \$2.5 million to the project from other funding sources, which could include cash reserves.

HOW WILL IT BE PAID FOR?

The \$15 million bond would be paid for through an extension of the current 80-cent debt service levy, if approved April 2 by voters. There will be no decrease in tax if the bond fails the votes needed. The current tax will continue.

The current debt service is expected to be repaid in eight years. With the addition of the new bond project, repayment would extend approximately 20 years.

The additional \$2.5 million could be covered through a lease purchase. Payments on the lease purchase would be about \$100,000 per year until 2024. The district's classroom trust fund income would be used to make the payments.

The new bond issue would be used to repay the \$2.5 million, with the remainder going to other projects. This option would require another vote of the public on a bond issue.

WHAT DOES IT PAY FOR AND WHAT IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE MADE?

Improvements for Southwest Elementary

Addition of six classrooms. Four classrooms for preschool to serve 4, 5-year-old students.

Added access to One Mile Road for safer pickup and drop-off of students. Yes a new road for people to leave the school. If you have ever been to the school right before and after school you would see the need is great!

Additions to Central Elementary

Building a new gymnasium and two classrooms for art and music. Right now the gym is used for lunch as well so students have to give up PE time and either have it in a classroom or in the hallway. Anytime there is an event in the gym on stage they have to move PE to another location.

Improvements T.S. Hill Middle School

Expansion of the kitchen and cafeteria will also provide new rooms for music, choir and band. They have truly outgrown their music/choir and band rooms to the point it is almost impossible to get everyone in the room at the same time.

More parking and new drainage flow in front of the school will make it for safer and quicker pickup and drop-off of students. Have you ever been to a basketball or volleyball game at night? Parking is practically non-existent having to park on the road or at the high school. Young student shave to cross a busy street if they park with their parents at the high school and walk over.

Improvement to the Dexter High School

Upgrading the Ag building to include new welding stations and added 2,800 square feet of space.

Facelift to entire building with new doors and windows.

Auditorium facelift will see new lights and sound systems as well as new seats and ADA-compliant seating.

New lobby and cafeteria expansion will bring the West Lobby a new, modern look and give students much-needed space.

Security

Modify existing facilities to create secure, one-point entry systems with state-of-the-art fob-entry keyless systems.

District-wide Improvements

Roof replacements over much of the campus.

Replace the six-lane track with MSHSAA-regulated eight-lane track and lower football bleacher replacement. At the current time the district is unable to host a home track meet for middle school or high school athletes. They have to travel.

New ADA-compliant restrooms and concession stand at the stadium. A new two-story building would feature locker rooms in the lower level and a concession area in the top.

New junior high and high school football locker rooms, along with storage for tennis, track and football.

New synthetic football turf.

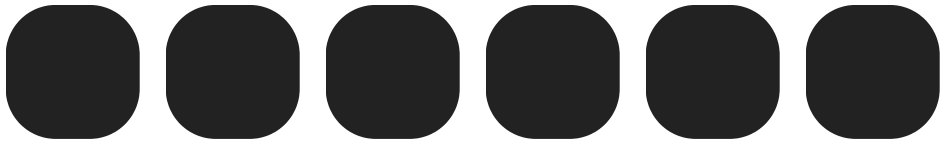
WHAT IS THE TIME LIMIT TO GET PROJECTS COMPLETED?

With the exception of the Southwest construction and gym addition at Central, everything would be completed before the beginning of next school year, AUGUST 2019!!

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[TOP](#)

Keller Public Library Receives Grant

MARCH 28TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Keller Public Library Receives Grant

Dexter, Missouri - The Keller Public Library has been awarded a \$3,467 Technology Grant which will be used to upgrade four public access computers.

It is the goal of the library to maintain reliable technology services for the public and to offer an optimum technology environment, ensuring that patrons have equal access to information, training, and longtime learning opportunities.

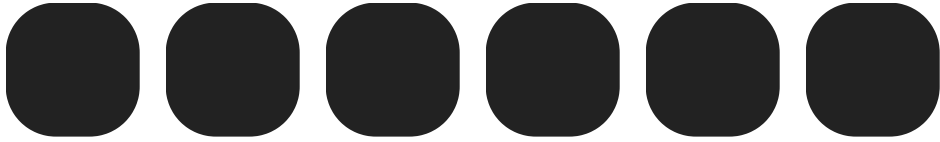
The total cost of the project is \$4,623, with the library supplying a 25% grant match of \$1,156.

This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the office of the Secretary of State.

Pictured from left to right are: Brett Miller, Treasurer Library Board; Renee Trout, Library Board President; Robin Westphal, Missouri State Librarian; Pam Trammell, Library Director; June Lawrence, Library Board member; Bree Goldschmidt, Children's Librarian; and Alan McCollough, Assistant Librarian.

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