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National Diaper Need Awareness Week Proclamation Signed by County Commissioners

SEPTEMBER 05TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

National Diaper Need Awareness Week Proclamation Signed by County Commissioners

John Fisher, Southeast Diaper Bank attended the Stoddard County Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 to ask the Commissioners to sign a Proclamation.

"I have a Proclamation for a Diaper Needs Awareness for Stoddard County plus 9 other counties we serve," stated Fisher. "September 18th thought September 24, 2023 is National Diaper Need Awareness Week."

The Proclamation states:

Whereas, diaper need, the condition of not being able to afford a sufficient supply of clean diapers to keep babies and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy, can adversely affect the health and well-being of children and their families; and

Whereas, national surveys and research studies report that nearly one in two families struggles with diaper need, and 48 percent of families delay changing a diaper to extend the available supply; and

Whereas, a daily or weekly supply of diapers is generally an eligibility requirement for babies and toddlers to participate in childcare programs and quality early-education programs that enable children to thrive and parents to work; and

Whereas, many parents struggling with diaper need report missing an average of five days of work each month due to an insufficient supply of diapers: and

Whereas, without enough diapers, babies and toddlers risk infections and health problems that may require medical attention resulting in medical costs, and parents may be prevented from accessing childcare needed to go to work or school, thereby destabilizing the family's economic prospects and well being; and

Whereas, the people of Stoddard County recognize that diaper need is a public health issue, and addressing diaper need can lead to economic opportunity for the state's families and communities and improved health for children, thus ensuring all children and families have access to the basic necessities required to thrive and reach their full potential; and

Whereas, Stoddard County is proud to be home to trusted community-based organizations including (list state diaper banks) that recognize the importance of diapers in ensuring health and providing economic stability for families and thus distribute diapers to families through various channels; and

Whereas, through their important work of addressing diaper need, diaper banks play a critical role in supporting families, improving infant health and well-being, and advancing our local and state economic growth; now

Therefore, I, Commissioner of Stoddard County, do hereby proclaim the week of September 18th through September 24th, 2023 as

NATIONAL DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK

In Stoddard County, thank the aforementioned diaper banks, their staff, volunteers, and donors, for their courageous service during the crisis, and encourage the citizens of Stoddard County to donate generously to diaper banks, diaper drives, and support those organizations that collect and distribute diapers to families struggling with diaper need, so that all of Stoddard County children and families can thrive and reach their full potential.

"We as a Commission do support this for our region," commented Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis.

Motion to sign the Proclamation for Diaper Need Awareness Week made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All there voted yes and the motion passed.

Signed by Stoddard County Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis

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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - August 28, 2023

AUGUST 29TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Stoddard County Commission Meeting - August 28, 2023](#)

The Stoddard County Commissioner began their weekly meeting with a prayer and Pledge of Allegiance lead by Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis. Mathis got right to business going over ARPA funds.

Katelyn Lambert, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission with ARPA Update

New Lisbon Township - New Lisbon Township did get the bridge completed and are now requesting reimbursement in ARPA Funds.

Motion to accept the request by New Lisbon in the amount \$51.68 for advertising reimbursement and \$60,051.58 to Payne Contracting LLC from the ARPA funds made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart and seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three

voted yes and the motion passed.

Water District #4 - According to Mrs. Lambert Water District #4 has all documents submitted to BRPC for the Commissioners and all procurements have been met. This amount had been pre-approved. The total amount is \$247,000

Motion to authorize the payment from ARPA funds to Water District #4 of \$238,806.11 to Persons & Son, No. 1 and \$8,193.89 to G&C Contracting No. 1 made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell and seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and the motion passed.

City of Essex - The ARPA Distribution Agreement was made available for the Commissioner to sign. The city will now resubmit application for the CDBG grant for their assault roadwork. The request will be a cash match for the city of Essex to use for the CDGB Grant thru Bootheel Regional Planning Commission.

Motion to accept the ARPA Distribution Agreement between the city of Essex and the Commission for \$50,000 for paving project made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and the motion passed.

City of Advance - They are in the process in obtaining a CDBG grant and were to select an engineer at their last city meeting.

City of Bloomfield - They have obtained an engineer and are also obtaining a CDBG grant thru Bootheel Regional Planning Commission.

Justice Center Mold Update

Mathis reached out to consultants and they need to get together and decide on what to do with the HVAC units and make sure this mold issue does not happen again.

Other Business

The Stoddard County Commission will not meet on Monday, September 4th due to the Labor Day Holiday. They will meet on Tuesday morning, September 5th at 9:00 a.m.

On Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 10:00 the Commission will sign a proclamation for National Diaper Need Awareness Week.

10:00 a.m. Public Hearing to set the 2023 Tax Levies for SB40 and County Drainage Districts

Motion to open the Public Hearing at 10:16 a.m. made by Commissioner Jarrell and seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and the motion passed.

Motion to set the Tax Levies for Drainage District 1 Reformed at 1.50 per acre made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and the motion passed.

Motion to set the Tax Levy for Drainage District No. 7 for \$1.00 per acre made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and the motion passed.

Motion to set the Tax Levy for Drainage District 13/33 at 10% Maintenance Levy w/a \$10.00 minimum made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to set the Tax Levy for District #14 at 10% Maintenance Levy w/a \$10.00 minimum made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to set the Tax Levy for District 17 at 10% Maintenance Levy made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to set the Tax levy for District #19 at \$2.50 per acre made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to set the 2023 Tax Levy for the Stoddard County Developmental Disability Board (SB40) at .0794 made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

The assessed valuations are as follows:

Real Estate for 2023 \$286,771,870.00. The prior year was \$365,301,117.00.

Personal Property for 2023 \$221,488,718 and the prior year was \$213,762,230.00

Motion to close the 2023 Public Hearing to set the Tax Levies for SB40 and County Drainage District made by Commissioner Jarrell at 10:43 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to accept the Open Session Meeting minutes from August 21, 2023 made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

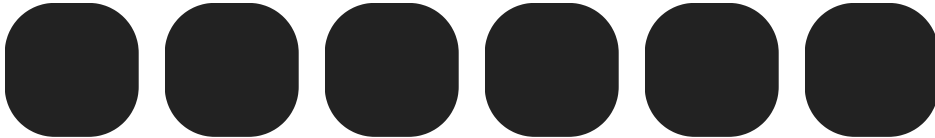
No minutes from the Closes Session meeting from August 21, 2023 were available for the Commission to vote on..

Motion to close the regular session at 11:00 a.m. made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

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Dexter Police to Enforce School Bus Safety with Start of School

AUGUST 23RD 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Dexter Police to Enforce School Bus Safety with Start of School](#)

It's that time of year again to increase awareness regarding school bus stop arm safety! Dexter Police Department reminds all drivers to be extra cautious when

driving during morning and afternoon hours when school buses are on the road.

Displayed yellow flashing lights on school buses does not mean hurry up to beat the red lights! The yellow lights mean the school bus is approaching a bus stop to load or unload children. Be alert, there could possibly be little brothers and/or sisters at the bus stop waiting for their siblings to get home from school and they are not watching for you. Please be prepared to stop!

Displayed red flashing lights, crossing arms, and/or stop signs, on school buses mean all drivers MUST stop and yield to all pedestrians. It's the law and you will receive a ticket if you do not stop.

"Dexter School buses are equipped with digital cameras that record in a high clear resolution," commented Sergeant Forshee, Dexter Police (SRO) School Resource Officer. "Those cameras and recordings are used in identifying vehicles, drivers, and used for prosecution of offenders who fail to stop for school buses."

"At the beginning of 2022 school year, the Dexter Police Department issued approximately 30 tickets for failure to stop for school buses while loading/unloading students in the school's first semester alone," continued Sergeant Forshee. "This is a big safety concern for our children! We will be on patrol and you will get a ticket if caught failing to stop for any school buses while loading/unloading children."

Further, be cautious of all pedestrian traffic in and around the schools when travelling in the area.

"We have two new crosswalks near Dexter Public Schools this year to help with the pedestrian traffic," stated Sergeant Forshee. "One is located at the corner of One Mile Rd and Brown Pilot Rd. The second is located on Grant Street in front of the high school."

"Our student's safety is our number one priority! Please do your part to help keep our children safe as they travel to and from school this year."

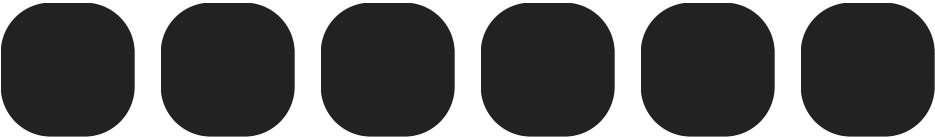
Dexter Public Schools begin their 2023-2024 academic year on Thursday, August 24, 2023.

"Please allow extra time to get to and from school during the morning and afternoon hours," commented Tim Fowler, Dexter R-XI Schools Transportation Supervisor, "Also slow down as the speed limit is 20 mph around the school campus."

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Southeast Missouri Rattled by 4.0 Earthquake on Wednesday Evening

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Asad Successfully Performs First Ion Robotic Bronchoscopy at Saint Francis

AUGUST 23RD 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

Asad Successfully Performs First Ion Robotic Bronchoscopy at Saint Francis

In a groundbreaking medical achievement, Saint Francis Healthcare System is proud to announce the successful completion of robotic bronchoscopy utilizing the Ion endoluminal system. The first two procedures were completed on Monday, August 21, by Hussein Asad, MD, interventional pulmonologist at Cape Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine, a Saint Francis Medical Partner.

"This marks a significant advancement in minimally invasive medical techniques and underscores Saint Francis's commitment to providing state-of-the-art healthcare to its patients and community," Asad shared.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women in the United States. According to the American Lung Association, only 16 percent of lung cancer cases are diagnosed at an early stage.

Utilizing the Ion system, Saint Francis is able to offer minimally invasive biopsies for the detection of lung cancer. The flexible robotic end reaches far into the peripheral lung, where more than 70 percent of nodules exist. By navigating to difficult-to-reach areas of the lung, providers can better diagnose lung cancer at its earliest, most treatable stage.

"The successful completion of the first robotic bronchoscopy at Saint Francis Healthcare System represents a remarkable leap forward in our ability to provide the best possible care for our patients," said Justin Paletta, MBA, Director of Operations (Medical) for Saint Francis. "By harnessing the power of robotics, we can offer less invasive procedures, shorter recovery times and, ultimately, better outcomes for our patients."

Yearly low-dose CT screenings are recommended for individuals aged 50 to 80 who currently smoke or have quit in the past 15 years and have at least a 20-pack-year smoking history. If a low-dose CT detects a lung nodule, a biopsy follows to determine if the nodule is benign (noncancerous) or malignant (cancerous)

To schedule a low-dose CT screening, please speak to your primary care provider or call 572- 331-5111. For more information, visit [sfmc.net/pulmonology](https://www.sfmcc.net/pulmonology).

About Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

Intuitive (Nasdaq: ISRG), headquartered in Sunnyvale, Calif., is a global technology leader in minimally invasive care and a pioneer of robotic-assisted surgery. At Intuitive, our mission statement is we believe that minimally invasive care is life-enhancing care. Through ingenuity and intelligent technology, we expand the potential of physicians to heal without constraints. Intuitive brings more than two decades of leadership in robotic-assisted surgical technology and solutions to its offerings, and develops, manufactures and markets the da Vinci surgical system and the Ion endoluminal system.

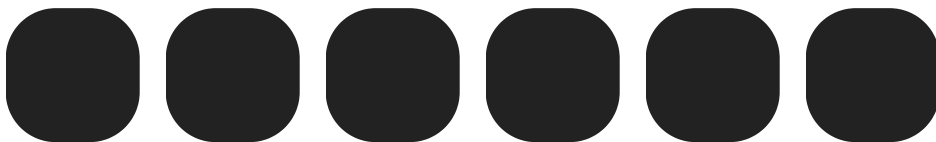
Saint Francis Healthcare System is guided by our Mission to provide a ministry of healing, wellness, quality and love inspired by our faith in Jesus Christ. Founded by Franciscan Sisters in 1875, our priority remains the same: serve all who enter with dignity, compassion and joy. Serving nearly 713,000 people across Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas, our focus is on patients' outcomes, experience and value.

Anchored by Saint Francis Medical Center, a 306-bed tertiary hospital, and supported by nearly 3,000 employees and more than 250 providers in ten communities, the Healthcare System is a driving economic force in the region. Major services include the Cancer Institute, Emergency and Level III Trauma Center, Family BirthPlace and Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Heart Hospital, Neurosciences and Orthopedics.

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St. Francis Medical Center Adds Cardiologist, Dr. Stites

Family Nurse Practitioner
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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Monday, August 21, 2023

AUGUST 22ND 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Monday, August 21, 2023

The Stoddard County Commission meeting began with Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

Water District #4 - Board members present Clarence Smith and Oscar Tallmage, Water Superintendent David Tarkington and concerned citizen Randy Long (former board member)

Randy Long, customer and concerned citizen, had put in a second request of \$253,000 in ARPA funding in April while he was a board member.

"The original water lines were put in around 1974," commented Long. "We are trying to replace all the old water lines, a new pump house and a well. We applied for a USDA loan in March 2021 and had \$1.57 million available. The original pump and well went up in price in the two years it took the USDA to get the loan to us. In order to finish the 6" water lines on AD we need that money. If we get this \$253,000 will get us pretty close to doing all of AD."

"We contacted your engineer, John Chittenden, Waters Engineering, on Tuesday during a work session," commented Mathis. "He told the Commissioners that the water district did

not need that \$253,000 so we cut agreed to cut that ARPA money and give to others."

Clarence Smith, President of Water District #4 Board, stated, "Our board disagrees and John didn't have the authority to take away what we as a board asked for, not him."

Commissioner C.D. Stewart also commented, "As we looked to make cuts and kind of distributed the money across the county and I think each water district got some monies and I think we have distributed the money fairly."

Water District #4 did get previously approved for \$247,000, but are not approved for their second request of \$253,000 in ARPA funds.

The Commissioners made other cuts as well during their work session as over 7 million in requests were made; however they only have 5.2 million in APRA funds to distribute. The funds were distributed based on their decision and need and not in the order the requests were made over the past two years.

Katelyn Lambert, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission

Castor Township - Dale Moreland came in and signed the contract, still need the Commissioners' signature on the contract now. He brought in bid specs, advertisement twice in the paper, meeting minutes to accept Causey Asphalt. The ARPA funds approved were for \$200,000.

Motion to sign the ARPA Funds contract between Castor Township and the Commission made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All voted yes and motion passed.

"Duck Creek Township has all their paperwork in order as well," stated Lambert.

Motion to sign the ARPA Funds contract between Duck Creek Township and the Commission made by Commission Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All voted yes and motion passed.

Dave Wyman, City of Dexter

"We brought the change of the agreement last week to the meeting and a letter would need to be drafted showing that we are not bidding out the meters, but utilizing a sole source procurement," stated Wyman. "The city is still honoring their commitment to the hotel project and will be paying for the water and sewer project out of the city's finances."

The city did review the plans for the hotel, all 100 pages and found them to be in good order. Lambert from the BRPC did send the letter to the attorney and it is sufficient for the sole source procurement.

Wyman is taking the city of Dexter contract to the Mayor Banken to get his signature, now that the Commissioners have signed it as well.

Motion to allow the City of Dexter to change their ARPA request from the hotel water and sewer project to the purchase of ultrasonic water meters in the amount of \$800,000 made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

City of Bell City - David Scherer

" According to Ray Patterson, the original owner, he had the tanks removed and the dirt tested and the area refilled," stated Scherer. Scherer is waiting on the paperwork to show proof it was done so they can build on top of it.

"We took \$50,000 off the Bell City ARPA request during our work session on Tuesday," stated Mathis. "This now takes your request down to \$203,170.00.

Motion to approve a request for the Bell City Fire Department for \$203,170.00 in ARPA funds made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Scherer stated he would get the process started by putting bids in the paper and getting with Mrs. Lambert to start the procurement process.

Water District #5

Paperwork for \$15,864.00 of requests from the ARPA funds was submitted by David Cooper to Mrs. Lambert last week.

Motion to approve the payment of \$15,864.00 request for Water District #4 made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Water District #2 - Bill Knoderer, Donnie Wondel, and Dan Schlosser

Water District #2 requested \$115,460 in ARPA funds.

Motion to approve the approval of \$115,460.00 in APRA funds for meter replacements for Water District #2 made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Stewart. All three

voted yes and motion passed.

Mr. Knoderer will get with Mrs. Lambert on the procurement procedures.

City of Essex

Motion to approve the funding for \$50,000 in ARPA funds to the city of Essex for their street project by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

EMA

There was \$428,000 in ARPA funds were originally requested by his predecessor. There were certain radios that were being needed. "We have discussed decreasing the funds to only a few radios distributed throughout the county. Advance bought enough for their city, Dexter and Bloomfield also have some radios as they are \$6,800 a piece basically," stated Stewart.

Motion \$62,981.59 and not the \$428,000 originally requested in ARPA funds to the Stoddard County EMA to purchase radios made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion was passed.

City of Bloomfield

No update on where the city of Bloomfield is at the current moment. They have requested \$450,000 to replace water lines.

City of Advance

Motion to change in scope for the city of Advance from the Annexation to their Infiltration and Inflow Project made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

The contract for the \$714,000 in ARPA funds requested was made available and the Commissioners are signing today.

Beau Bishop, EMA Director Quarterly Update

The EMPG 3rd Quarter Grant claims for the operating period of January 1, 2023 thru march 31 2023 were submitted and approved. On March 8, 2023 were reimbursed \$8,170.57 for this claim.

The EMPG 4th Quarter Grant claims for the operating period of April 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2023 were submitted and approved. On August 21, 2023 were reimbursed \$8,828.98 for this claim.

The reimbursement received from the FY2022 EMPG Grant Cycle (EM Salary, Benefits, Operating Expenses and Equipment) totaling \$30,678.70.

FY2023 EMPG Grant was submitted July 26, 2023 with a projected Federal reimbursement of \$36,882.17. We are currently waiting on Application approval.

Stoddard County has provided COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting services at multiple buildings owned by the county, to help protect the citizens and employees from the spread of COVID-19. From August 2022 thru December 2022, the county paid \$14,523 for this service. From January 2023 thru May 11, 2023, the county paid \$11,443.00 for this service. Stoddard County emergency Management filed for FEMA Public Assistance under FEMA - 4490 - DR-MO, which was made available to help recover costs for such activities.

For the August - December, 2022 period, we were reimbursed \$13,070.70.

for the January-May 11, 2023 period, we were reimbursed \$10,298.70

HMPG Siren Grant Update: Currently working through the States Procurement Process.

HMPG Generator Grant Update: Grant approval was received. Grant agreements have been signed by appropriate parties with original signatures on file at Stoddard County Emergency Management and SEMA. Beginning the Procurement Process.

June 7th - 9th Bishop attended the 2023 Central States Hazmat Preparedness Conference in Kansas City. As a direct result of the conference, currently working with the Bootheel LEPD to obtain a list from the Missouri Emergency Response Commission, of all registered Tier 2 facilities within the 8 county LEPD coverage and incorporate those locations into a mapping software for better situational awareness during a possible emergency situation that might impact those locations.

On August 1, 2023 we transitioned to NWS Chat 2.0 on the Slack Platform. NWS Chat is used by Emergency Managers, Law Enforcement, Fire, Media, etc. for direct communication to the National Weather Service during severe weather. The old NWS Chat was a stand alone product that was becoming old and outdated. The National Weather Service upgraded to the Slack platform which is web based and more robust than before. Another added benefit is the availability of the Slack app for mobile phones, so users can now have access to it from anywhere, not just a desktop or laptop computer.

Mr. Bishop will be attending the August 22nd - 25th Missouri State Emergency Management Conference in Columbia, Missouri and then August 30th - September 1st he will be attending the MFSMA Annual Conference at the Lake of the Ozark.

Motion to approve the August 14th regular meeting minutes made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Jarrell. All three voted yes an emotion approved.

Motion to enter in closed session at 10:56 a.m. made by Commissioner Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. All there voted yes and motion passed.

The Commissioners will be back in session on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 9 a.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Government building in Bloomfield.

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