Saturday, Dec. 4, at their hall on the corner of Highway 28 and Walnut, Pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs are on the menu.

OWENSVILLE'S Board of Aldermen is scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6 at City Hall. The meeting is open to the public.

HERMANN AREA District Hospital's Board of Directors heard a Nov. 22 report from Christine Lewis who updated them on patient statistical and financial results for October. Patient activity for most departments continues to exceed 2020 activity but is still less than pre-COVID activity of 2019. National predictions are that hospital activity in 2022 will continue to be less than pre-COVID activity which will be reflected in the budget which will be discussed at the Dec. 20 meeting. Even though the hospital was unable to contract with agency nursing staff, the hospital continues to have to reduce the acceptance of some skilled transfers due to losses of staff. The hospital is still showing a year-to-date profit due to COVID funds that were received from the government. In November the hospital received the 2021 unaudited cost report settlement of $730,000 and an adjustment of $820,000 to 2021 Medicare underpayments. This assists in offsetting the over $1.5 million that has been spent out of reserves to maintain staffing. Both these repayments were due to the government having paid less than hospital costs in 2020 and year-to-date in 2021. The hospital currently has 30 less employees than it had in 2017. Twenty positions were eliminated to reduce cost but an additional 10 personnel have also left due to the economics and pressures of COVID. Holiday pay rates were returned to pre-COVID rates to assist in covering holidays.

SPRING-LIKE weather is predicted for the Friday evening downtown festival of Christmas lights parade in Owensville.

OWENSVILLE'S Board of Aldermen is scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6 at City Hall. The meeting is open to the public.

HERMANN AREA District Hospital's Board of Directors heard a Nov. 22 report from Christine Lewis who updated them on patient statistical and financial results for October. Patient activity for most departments continues to exceed 2020 activity but is still less than pre-COVID activity of 2019. National predictions are that hospital activity in 2022 will continue to be less than pre-COVID activity which will be reflected in the budget which will be discussed at the Dec. 20 meeting. Even though the hospital was able to contract with agency nursing staff, the hospital continues to have to reduce the acceptance of some skilled transfers due to losses of staff. The hospital is still showing a year-to-date profit due to COVID funds that were received from the government. In November the hospital received the 2021 unaudited cost report settlement of $730,000 and an adjustment of $820,000 to 2021 Medicare underpayments. This assists in offsetting the over $1.5 million that has been spent out of reserves to maintain staffing. Both these repayments were due to the government having paid less than hospital costs in 2020 and year-to-date in 2021. The hospital currently has 30 less employees than it had in 2017. Twenty positions were eliminated to reduce cost but an additional 10 personnel have also left due to the economics and pressures of COVID. Holiday pay rates were returned to pre-COVID rates to assist in covering holidays.

Scenic Regional offers check outs for Chromebooks, Wi-Fi hotspots

Over 300 Chromebooks with built-in Wi-Fi and 100 Wi-Fi hotspots are now available at all Scenic Regional Library locations for a six-month checkout period. The devices, which have unlimited data, are also available to Washington Public Library patrons.

To check out a device, individuals must be over the age of 18. Only one device is available per household, but up to 15 devices can be connected to a Wi-Fi hotspot at the same time. If interested in checking out one of the new devices, patrons should visit or contact their local branch.

The devices were made available to the library through a $246,498 Federal Emergency Connectivity Fund Grant, awarded Oct. 12. The grant also covers the devices’ monthly Wi-Fi fees.

Columbia Handbell Ensemble presents afternoon concert Dec. 11 in Hermann

HERMANN—After a two-year pandemic shutdown, the Columbia Handbell Ensemble (CHE) returns to Hermann for a free holiday concert on Saturday, Dec. 11, at St. George Catholic Church on West Fourth Street.

This is the 13th year Hermann has hosted this nationally acclaimed community-based handbell ensemble which performs during holiday festivities.

For the first time, however, the concert will take place in the afternoon, so be sure to mark your calendars for a 2 p.m. concert not an evening show.

Included on the program will be songs celebrating holiday favorites like “We Three Kings,” “Ukrainian Bell Carol,” “Sleigh Ride,” and many others.

The concert is free and open to the public.

It is co-sponsored by the Hermann Arts Council, Peoples Savings Bank and the city of Columbia's Office of Cultural Affairs.