

The Rural Parish Clinic, a free mobile clinic operating out of a 40-foot van, had a successful first visit to St. Clair Thursday, March 5, according to Pat Bira, the clinic's executive director.

"They had a very busy day," Bira told *The Missourian*.

The clinic is located behind the former St. Clare Catholic School at the St. Clare Catholic Church and is open every Thursday from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m.

The clinic offers free health care to uninsured adults ages 19 through

64, whose household income falls at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Bira said the clinic is an initiative of St. Louis Archbishop Robert Carlson to provide medical services to all needy uninsured.



Playing for Books

A large crowd showed up to play book bingo Monday, March 9, at the St. Clair branch of Scenic Regional Library.

All winners of book bingo received a book as a prize.

Sallie and Kevin Levart, right, enjoyed playing. Book bingo takes place every second Monday of the month at 11 a.m.

Missourian Photos.



Plan Board OKs Changes To Flood Insurance Rate Map

By Sarah O'Daniel
St. Clair Staff Writer

The St. Clair Planning and Zoning Commission voted Monday night to approve the updated Franklin County flood insurance rate map (FIRM), and the new flood insurance study for the St. Clair community.

The commission board voted 4-0 to recommend approval to the board of aldermen. Commission members Wayne Dierker, Pat Wilson and Devin Slater were not present at the meet-

A public hearing was held before the meeting, giving residents a chance to address the commission on the FIRM. No public comments were made.

According to St. Clair City Inspector Michael Bursey, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has updated its flood plain maps.

"Basically, we're incorporating that into our city ordinance to be approved," he said.

A letter sent to Mayor Ron Blum from FEMA

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At St. C*

By Sarah O'Daniel
St. Clair Staff Writer

The community garden at St. Clair branch library March 21, following

Speakers at the event included the president of the St. Clair Library, Kevin Levart, vice president of the Library; Pat Wilson, member-at-large of the Library committee.

The dedication ceremony is the beginning of the growing season.

In the spring of 2019, the library expressed interest in a community garden. At that time, the library was looking for ideas for creating a facility and thought a garden was a great fit.

In the summer of 2019, the United Methodist Church donated an acre to the library for a community garden. The newly opened August of 2019.

"I think it was a great opportunity for all parts to think of the entire community," Bell said.

In 2019, the St. Clair branch library group agreed to a project by providing local labor.

According to Bell, the garden and provided leadership for the garden looking nice," she said.

Local landscape Nature and her



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Community Garden to Open Soon

■ *Dedication March 21
At St. Clair Library*

By Sarah O'Daniel
St. Clair Staff Writer

The community garden at the Scenic Regional Li-
brary St. Clair branch will officially open Saturday,
March 21, following a dedication ceremony at 10 a.m.

Speakers at the event will include Roger Bardot,
president of the St. Clair Farmers' Market; Kevin
Levart, vice president of the St. Clair branch Friends
of the Library; Paula Dace, master gardener and
member-at-large of the St. Clair branch Friends of
the Library committee; and Kara Bell, branch man-
ager.

The dedication ceremony officially marks the be-
ginning of the growing season for the garden.

Land Donation

In the spring of 2016, the St. Clair Farmers' Mar-
ket expressed interest in the creation of a commu-
nity garden. At that time, the library was in search
of ideas for creating unique public spaces at its new
facility and thought a community garden would be a
great fit.

In the summer of 2016, First Baptist Church and
United Methodist Church each donated one-tenth of
an acre to the library for the purpose of construct-
ing a community garden following the library's reno-
vation. The newly renovated and expanded library
opened August of 2018.

"I think it was a nice gesture on those churches'
parts to think of something that would benefit the
entire community when they made that donation,"
Bell said.

Friends of the Library

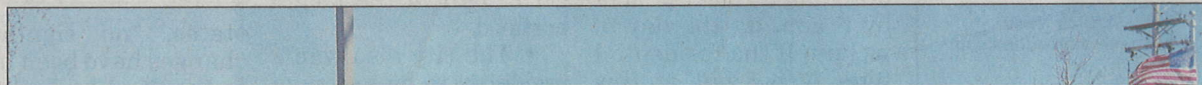
In 2019, the St. Clair branch Friends of the Li-
brary group agreed to take on the community garden
project by providing both financial support and phys-
ical labor.

According to Bell, Dace directed construction of the
garden and provided many hours of volunteer labor.

"She (Dace) provided a lot of the sweat equity and
the leadership for the Friends on how to get the gar-
den looking nice," stated Bell.

Local landscaper Cozy Bailey, owner of Cozy by
Nature, and her mother, master gardener Caro-

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GARDEN

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lyn Cikovic, also volunteered their time to help create the garden.

Bill Snow, the library's facilities manager, constructed the beds, installed the fencing and built the pergola and the attached benches.

In addition to paying for the lumber, the Friends of the Library group covered the cost of mulch, liners, topsoil and a motion-activated spotlight.

"I am very pleased that the Friends of the Library organization supports our library and has taken it upon themselves to financially support the garden," said Bell. "The group also gave us other support with the planning of the garden, the design of it and some of the work that's been done with it."

"I think they've really invested a lot in the garden, and I think it's going to be fruitful," she added.

Immediately following the garden dedication, the Friends of the Library will host a member drive in the library's meeting room.

The membership drive is for those who are interested in learning more about the Friends of the Library group and possibly becoming members.

Garden Beds

The community garden is located behind the library and features 14 4-foot by 8-foot raised beds for vegetables, eight smaller beds for flowers and herbs, and a water spigot.

According to Bell, the library held a mandatory meeting for those interested in checking out a bed Saturday, Feb. 22. Four patrons attended the meeting.

"Each of them checked out a bed and they seemed really excited about the opportunity to have a garden space," said Bell, adding that seven of the small beds and nine of the large beds are still available.

If a patron wishes to check out a garden bed, they need to either visit the library or call to inquire.

At the beginning of the checkout process, Bell will go over the community garden agreement with interested individuals and explain the guidelines for garden usage. After filling out the agreement, patrons will need to present their library card and will then be able to choose from available beds.

Interested individuals can find the user agreement under the About Us tab on Scenic Regional Library's website.

Along with the garden beds, patrons who check out a space in the community garden also will be able to check out gardening hand tools upon request.

"I imagine a lot of people probably already have their gardening tools, but if somebody doesn't, we

don't want that to be an impediment to them actually gardening," said Bell.

Those who check out a bed for the 2020 growing season will be required to attend the end of the year meeting scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, at 10 a.m.

According to Bell, at that time, everyone who has checked out a garden bed for the season needs to have their gardening space cleaned out and left neat and tidy.

Garden Programming

According to Bell, the construction of the garden will allow for a variety of different programming opportunities, and the library is already in the process of planning garden-focused programs.

One program that is being planned is a garden pizza program.

"We're going to have planted in our bed some vegetables appropriate for a pizza, like bell peppers, tomatoes and things of that nature, and at some point we will have a program where we'll have families harvest the vegetables that are ready and make pizza out of the fresh produce they harvested from the garden," said Bell.

In addition to programming, Bell is excited for what the future of the garden means for the St. Clair community.

"I think we'll see benefits from the garden every year, and I think it will grow and develop into something really wonderful," she said. "St. Clair has a lot going for it, and the Farmers' Market and the library are, I think, two gems in the community, and I think adding the community garden to that space is only going to enhance both of those gems."



Gaming at the Library

Nanette Kingston, left, and Katherine Sikes cala at the St. Clair Library Monday, March games available for visiting patrons to play.

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of St. Louis," said Dr. Sister Marie Paul Lockerd, the clinic's medical director.

One of the target populations for the clinic is the working poor.

According to Bira, at least half of the patients seen on Thursday were walk-ins.

"We wound up seeing eight patients on the first day — four scheduled and four walk-ins," he said.

The clinic accepts both appointments and walk-ins. While scheduling an appointment is encouraged, Bira says it is not necessary.

"Patients certainly don't need to schedule, but the more we can schedule, the more priority we can give them," he said.

Bira added individuals may call the day to check the availability.

Of the eight seen Thursday, Bira said patients had a variety of acute issues.

"Because our patients are required to be insured, many of them have not had any access to health care," he said. "They have more chronic, more complex, more acute, some multiple symptoms have gotten worse, some clinics are unwilling to see them."

Bira said he's looking forward to future visits in St. Clair and is positive about the day's successful day.

"I feel very positive

AD DEADLINES

Wednesday Missourian: Real Estate Ads — 2 p.m. Thursday; Auction, Farm, Garage Sales, all other Display Ads, Classified Line and Classified Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday; Preprinted Supplements 8 a.m. Wednesday; Ads with proof required — 2 p.m. Monday; Legals — 4 p.m. Monday.

Weekend Missourian: All Ads, Classified Line, Classified Display, Garage Sales, Real Estate — 4 p.m. Thursday. Special Sections — 10 a.m. Wednesday; Preprinted Supplements — 8 a.m. Wednesday; Legals — 4 p.m. Thursday.

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showcased their musical talent at Saturday, Feb. 29. Missouriian Photo.

Big Crowd at Banquet

Many community members attended the annual St. Clair Historical Museum banquet Saturday, Feb. 29. Jerron's Catering provided the food for the banquet. Missouriian Photo.

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Gaming at the Library

Nanette Kingston, left, and Katherine Sikes played a rousing game of Mancala at the St. Clair Library Monday, March 9. The library has many board games available for visiting patrons to play. Missouriian Photo.

CLINIC

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Bira said he's looking forward to future visits in St. Clair and feeling

One of our new nurses, Jackie Daugherty, is from St. Clair and it's great to have a local person willing to volunteer who knows the community," he said. "The staff and the parish of St. Clare were very accommodating and generous, and we think it's going to be a very busy clinic."

National studies have shown the benefit of mobile health clinics. Data from Mobile Health Map found each visit to a mobile clinic saves an average of \$200 due to avoided emergency room visits, and \$1,500 due to long-term impact of preventive services.

To schedule an ap-