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 Levar, right, enjoyed playing. Book bingo takes place every second Monday of the month at 11 a.m.

Plan Board OKs Changes To Flood Insurance Rate Map

By Sarah O'Daniel

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 Don Lamberger attended the meeting.

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 advises him to work with the commission to bring the FIRM into compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The FIRM is a tool for floodplain management and is required by the NFIP for the city’s flood plain insurance program.

According to FEMA, the FIRM has been updated from the previous study, which was approved on July 27, 2000. The new FIRM is an update of Franklin County’s FIRM, which was approved on April 28, 1987.

The new FIRM shows that the flood plains of many St. Clair residents are considered to be in a 100-year flood plain, or a flood that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. The 100-year flood plain is shown in red on the map and is considered to be a floodplain with a 100-year floodplain elevation.

The new FIRM shows that the flood plains of many St. Clair residents are considered to be in a 50-year flood plain, or a flood that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. The 50-year flood plain is shown in yellow on the map and is considered to be a floodplain with a 50-year floodplain elevation.

The new FIRM shows that the flood plains of many St. Clair residents are considered to be in a 25-year flood plain, or a flood that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. The 25-year flood plain is shown in green on the map and is considered to be a floodplain with a 25-year floodplain elevation.

The new FIRM shows that the flood plains of many St. Clair residents are considered to be in a 10-year flood plain, or a flood that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. The 10-year flood plain is shown in blue on the map and is considered to be a floodplain with a 10-year floodplain elevation.

The new FIRM shows that the flood plains of many St. Clair residents are considered to be in a 5-year flood plain, or a flood that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. The 5-year flood plain is shown in black on the map and is considered to be a floodplain with a 5-year floodplain elevation.

The new FIRM shows that the flood plains of many St. Clair residents are considered to be in a 1-year flood plain, or a flood that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. The 1-year flood plain is shown in red on the map and is considered to be a floodplain with a 1-year floodplain elevation.
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 Library 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 manager.

The dedication ceremony officially marks the beginning of the growing season for the garden.

Land Donation

In the spring of 2016, the St. Clair Farmers’ Market expressed interest in the creation of a community 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 constructing a community garden following the library’s renovation. 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 Library group agreed to take on the community garden project by providing both financial support and physical 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 garden looking nice,” stated Bell.

Local landscaper Cozy Bailey, owner of Cozy by Nature, and her mother, master gardener Caro-
GARDEN
CONTINUED FROM 1S

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 about 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.”

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; Preprints - 8 a.m. Wednesday; Legals - 4 p.m. Thursday.

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CLINIC
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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 clinic the same day to check the day of availability.

Of the eight seen Thursday, Bira said patients had a variety of complaints, which included diarrhea.

“Because our patients are required to be insured, many of them have had any financial barrier to health care,” he said.

“They have more complications, more complex disease, and I have multiple symptoms, which have gotten worse and some clinics were willing to see them,” Bira said.

Bira said he’s looking forward to future growth in St. Clair and the future positive about the community’s response to the clinic’s success.

“I feel very positive about the future of the clinic,” he said.

Gaming at the Library
Nanette Kingston, left, and Katherine Sikes play a game of Scenic Regional Library's Monday, March 2. The library offers video games available for visiting patrons to play.

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

Gaming at the Library

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

CLINIC

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