

- For the betterment of the community and a bright future for the library.

About Woodward January 2026

SOCIAL CENTER LUNCHEON

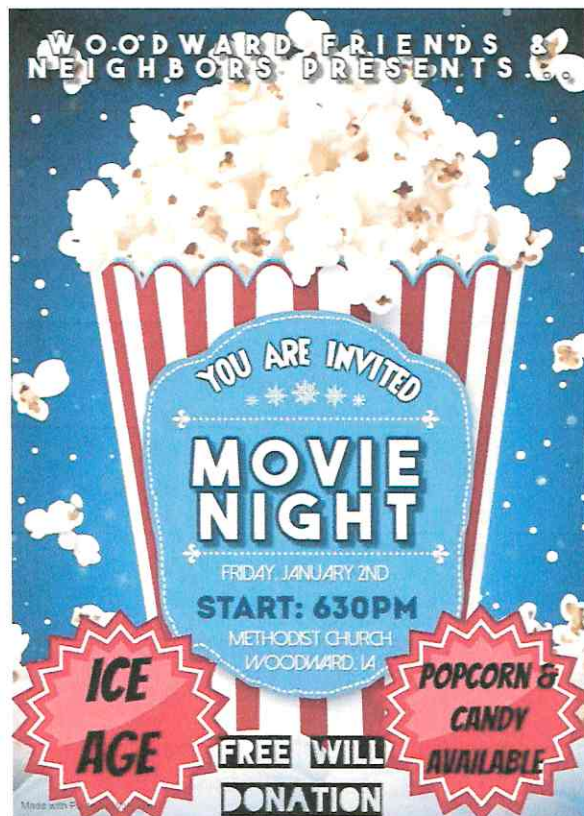
WHEN: Monday, **January 5th,**
11:30-12:30

WHERE: Woodward Methodist Church

MENU: Spaghetti, Bread,,

Salad & Dessert

Free Will Offering Proceeds to the
Woodward Social Center



Local Government in Action: Serving Communities, Shaping Futures

By Victor Kersey, Ph.D., SOTP-II,
MHRT/C

LNCM, U.S Navy Reserve (Retired)

**Our City Council: Mayor: Todd Folkerts /
City Council Members: Jim Gough, Tyler
Randall, Kelly Kirts, Rick Bice, and Jared
Stone.**

The mayor and city council play central roles in local government, working together to ensure that a city operates efficiently and meets the needs of its residents. The mayor typically serves as the chief executive officer of the city, responsible for overseeing the administration, implementing policies, and managing city departments. This includes tasks such as preparing the budget, enforcing local laws, and representing the city in official matters. The city council, on the other hand, acts as the legislative body, creating and passing ordinances, approving budgets, and making decisions on policies that affect the community. Council members represent different districts or wards within the city, allowing residents to have a voice in local government. While the mayor often has the authority to propose initiatives and make executive decisions, the city council provides oversight, ensuring transparency and accountability in government actions. Together, the mayor and council collaborate on community planning, public safety, infrastructure, and economic development, making decisions that directly impact the quality of life for residents. Their partnership balances executive leadership with legislative oversight, creating a system that promotes both efficient management and community

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representation. This structure allows citizens to participate in local governance through elections, public meetings, and open forums, fostering civic engagement and ensuring that local government reflects the needs and priorities of the community.

Board of Adjustments and Appeals: Alan Noland-Chair, Dee Crane, Toby Ramsey, Mike Danti, and Craig DeHoet

The Board of Adjustments and Appeals plays a crucial role in local government by ensuring fairness and flexibility in the application of zoning and land-use regulations. This board is typically responsible for hearing requests from property owners who seek variances, exceptions, or special permits that deviate from existing zoning laws due to unique circumstances. For example, a property owner may request a variance if strict compliance with zoning rules would cause undue hardship, such as building on an irregularly shaped lot or modifying a structure for accessibility. The board carefully reviews each case, considering factors like public safety, community impact, and consistency with the city's comprehensive plan before making a decision. In addition to handling variances, the board may hear appeals from decisions made by city officials, such as zoning administrators or building inspectors, providing a mechanism for residents to challenge interpretations of local regulations. By performing these functions, the Board of Adjustments and Appeals helps balance individual property rights with the broader interests of the community, ensuring that development is both reasonable and in line with local standards. Their work supports orderly growth, equitable treatment, and transparency, making it an essential component of local governance and citizen participation in planning and development processes.

Planning and Zoning Commission: Kelsey Beasley-Chair, Tyler Randall, Victor Kersey, Ken Hageman, and Kelli Noland

The Planning and Zoning Commission plays a vital role in shaping the growth and development of a community. This commission is primarily responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on land use, zoning changes, subdivision plans, and development proposals. By evaluating how land is used and how new projects fit within the city's comprehensive plan, the commission helps ensure that development is orderly, sustainable, and in line with community goals. Members of the commission assess factors such as traffic impact, environmental considerations, public safety, and the overall aesthetic and functional design of neighborhoods and commercial areas. While the commission does not typically have the final authority to approve projects, its recommendations guide the decisions of the city council or other governing bodies. Additionally, the commission often holds public hearings, allowing residents to provide input and voice concerns about proposed developments, which promotes transparency and community engagement. Through careful planning and oversight, the Planning and Zoning Commission helps balance the needs of property owners, developers, and the public, supporting a well-organized, safe, and attractive community that aligns with long-term goals.

Library Board: Jim Gough City Representative; Zane McGlade, President; Sandra Dickson, Vice President; Kathy Butler, Secretary; Jessica Hass; Peggy Nieland; Dave Brown; and David Elliott

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The City Library Board plays an important role in overseeing and guiding the operation of public libraries within a community. This board is typically responsible for setting policies, establishing long-term goals, and ensuring that library services meet the educational, informational, and recreational needs of residents. Members of the board often collaborate with library staff to review budgets, approve major expenditures, and support programs that promote literacy, lifelong learning, and access to technology. The board also advocates for the library within the community, helping to secure funding, partnerships, and public support. By monitoring the library's performance and ensuring compliance with local regulations, the board helps maintain a high standard of service while addressing the evolving needs of the population. Through these efforts, the City Library Board ensures that libraries remain valuable community resources, fostering knowledge, creativity, and engagement for people of all ages.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Rick Bice, Chair; Stephanie Danti, Larry Nelson, and Mary Jo Nelson

The City Parks and Recreation Committee plays a key role in enhancing the quality of life within a community by overseeing the planning, development, and maintenance of parks, recreational facilities, and community programs. This committee is typically responsible for making recommendations on the use of public spaces, reviewing proposals for new recreational projects, and helping to establish policies that promote safe and accessible facilities for all residents. Members often work closely with city staff, community groups, and residents to identify needs, prioritize improvements, and organize events or programs that encourage physical

activity, social engagement, and environmental stewardship. Additionally, the committee may provide input on budget allocations, grant opportunities, and long-term planning for park development or renovation. By guiding the management and growth of recreational resources, the City Parks and Recreation Committee ensures that residents have access to well-maintained spaces and programs that support health, community involvement, and overall well-being.

Streets and Alleys: A.J. Patel (Chair), JC Stone, Chris Newland, and Steve Godwin

The City Streets and Alleys Committee plays an essential role in maintaining and improving the infrastructure that keeps a community safe, functional, and accessible. This committee is typically responsible for reviewing plans and making recommendations related to the construction, repair, and maintenance of streets, alleys, sidewalks, and related public pathways. Members of the committee evaluate issues such as traffic flow, road safety, drainage, and accessibility, ensuring that public roadways meet both current needs and future growth demands. The committee may also advise on budgeting priorities for street repairs, paving projects, and improvements to public alleys, as well as consider community concerns or requests regarding roadway conditions. By providing oversight and guidance, the Streets and Alleys Committee helps the city plan for long-term infrastructure sustainability, promotes safe and efficient transportation, and contributes to the overall quality of life for residents. Their work ensures that the city's streets and alleys remain functional, well-maintained, and supportive of community development.

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Water and Sewer: JC Stone (chair), Chris Newland, Trent Fleshner, Mike Danti, and Missy Lantz

The City Water and Sewer Committee plays a critical role in ensuring that a community has safe, reliable, and efficient water and wastewater services. This committee is typically responsible for reviewing and advising on policies, projects, and budgets related to the city's water supply, treatment, distribution, and sewage systems. Members assess issues such as water quality, infrastructure maintenance, system upgrades, and compliance with state and federal regulations to protect public health and the environment. The committee may also review proposals for new water or sewer lines, rate adjustments, and long-term planning for sustainable resource management. By providing oversight and recommendations, the Water and Sewer Committee helps the city maintain essential services, respond to community needs, and plan for future growth. Their work ensures that residents have access to safe drinking water, reliable sanitation, and well-maintained infrastructure, which are vital components of a healthy and thriving community.

WOODWARD COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

From Mike Green, Program President

The Woodward Community Food Pantry located at the United Methodist Church, 108 W 5th St., started serving the Woodward Community and surrounding communities of Granger, Bouton, Madrid, and Perry in late June of 2024. The pantry was open two Saturdays a month. During 2025 we changed our services to include only Woodward, Granger, and Bouton communities

In the summer of 2025 the pantry operated a one month weekly trial food program for middle and elementary school children working with the schools and food distributed through the Woodward and Granger libraries. The pantry also supplied snacks for the kids winter program at the library.

The year, 2025, also brought in many volunteers, doubling the number we started with. Grant writing, monetary donations, business support, and Woodward non-profit groups have made the pantry sustainable.

What's new in 2026? We are constantly improving our food sourcing and buy the average canned or dry food at around 30% less than food stores in the area. The big change will be additional monthly open dates, **two Wednesdays 5PM - 7PM will be added to the schedule.** Check out the pantry schedule on Facebook.

If you would like to make a food donation, please call 515-782-0966. For monetary donations simply go to Earlham Savings Bank in Woodward and let the teller know that you want to donate to the Woodward Community Food Pantry. You can also send it to P.O. Box 124, Woodward, IA 50276.

Thanks to the many volunteers that have made this program a success!

BIG NEWS Aspire Fam!

Starting 12/3 we will also be serving **HOT DRINKS!** Hot teas - Hot protein shakes- Hot coffees! Warm up, fuel up, and feel your best this winter. See you soon!

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COMMUNITY CHAT

Woodward area residents come meet your neighbors at a Community Chat.

WHERE: Woodward Methodist Church

WHEN: Monday, JAN. 12TH, 10:30



Sara Gilbreath, Family Services Librarian

AT THE LIBRARY

Come in and meet the newest addition to the library team. Sara Gilbreath will begin on December 2nd as Family Services Librarian. She will be planning programming for Families, Teens, Early-Outs, Early Literacy, and the Summer Reading Program.

Jan. 5th Family Night 5-7 PM
Snowflake Craft

Jan. 7th Early Out K-12th Grade 3-4PM
Art By Sticker

Jan. 9th Teen Night 5-7 PM
DIY Art Night

Jan. 14th Early Out K-12th Grade 3-4 PM
History Adventures

Jan. 21st Early Out K-12th Grade 3-4 PM
Location Tracker

Jan. 26th Family Night 5-7 PM TBA

Jan. 28th Early Out K-12th Grade 3-4 PM
Diamond Painting

[ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

This program has been purchased for use at our library with the Green Clothes Bin money. Thank you Woodward community.

BOOK CLUB

JANUARY 15TH 5 PM

TIFFANY BLUES BY M.J. ROSE

LIBRARY WEBSITE

woodward.lib.la.us

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KC'S DETAILING 108 Cedar Ave. Detailing and Window Tint. Contact Kannen Carrick at 515-344-0401.

ALLURE PAINTING Contact Johan Larson at 515-419-9339. Choose Allure Painting for all your painting needs.

MAIN STREET MERCANTILE Text Barbie Harney 515-326-5521 if interested in consigning items. Located on 215 Main Street. Open T, Th, F 11-5 Sat. 10-4

RIDLER LUMBER Locally sourced, native lumber, live edge boards. Call Brian for an appointment 515-669-7044.

MKS RENTALS 10 X 10 AND 10 X 20 Storage Units available. Contact Merle Kent Shawd 515-402-5039.

ACTIVE HEALTH SOLUTIONS Visit activehealthsolutions.org or call 641-757-2292. Dr. Calmer plans to be in Woodward on Tuesdays, 8AM to 6PM.

Wuebker Sun City Solar, LLC
Jeremy Wuebker 515-238-9998
wuebkerscs@hotmail.com

CINDY L. WHITE, ATTORNEY AT LAW
Estate Planning 515-916-4824 207 S. Main.

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WHISTLIN' DONKEY. Check their daily specials.

CAYANNE'S. Salad bar and specials. Great pizza! Stop in for BREAKFAST to get your day started.

LAKE ROBBINS 26726 150TH ST. Great variety of dances on Saturdays and Sundays. Check out their website.

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JOE'S BARBER SHOP. Contact Joseph Skalicky 515-401-2201. WALK-INS ONLY 124 S. Main St.

Businesses, we would like to put a few lines about all of our local businesses. Contact Kathy Yager. 515-240-7476 or kathyyager48@gmail.com

Together for a Better Tomorrow