

AGGIES
2025 HOMECOMING
ROYALTY

**Homecoming Royalty & Spirit Week
on Page 8**

InsidethisIssue

Northern Celebrations	2
Legal Notices	3
From the Bleachers	4-5
From the Students	6
Classifieds / Business Directory	7
Aggies Homecoming Week	8

VelvaareaVoice

\$1.50

Thursday, September 25, 2025 • Volume 26, Issue 39 • Velva, North Dakota 58790

Record Produce Harvest for The Lord's Cupboard at Simcoe Farm

Submitted by Kathy Holte

In the spring of 2019, Duane Brekke, who owns a farm north of Velva and just south of Simcoe, donated raised garden beds on his farm to The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry in Minot so that people could have fresh garden produce. Additional beds were added in the spring of 2020 and production increased to over 14,000 pounds of vegetables from the two gardens - Minot and Simcoe. Everything harvested is weighed and documented.

Last Tuesday, a group of twenty-one volunteers processed tomatoes by forming groups on both sides of the first row of raised beds. The first group pulled all the tomatoes with color, and the second group picked the remaining green fruits (botanically known).

The Lord's Cupboard garden season begins in the spring with a group of about twenty volunteers who go out to plant the transplants donated by local nurseries. When it's time to plant seeds "their normal people" which is a group of 16, who tend the garden throughout the year, come out and handle the rest of the seeding.

The labor that's required for transplants is significant because at that time they put up tomato cages and use shrink wrap around those cages to

protect them from the wind and add supports, so the tomato plants don't tip over.

During the summer, the beds need weeding all through the growing season. Volunteers go out every Tuesday and Thursday for about two to three hours to weed and tend to whatever needs to be done like thinning plants, trimming tomato plants, and other general garden chores.

A drip system drip irrigation system was installed so they did not need to rely on Mother Nature for moisture. This system waters plants in each bed for up to two hours a day, when necessary, which can take 8 to 10 hours to water every row of raised beds. If it's really hot, they will water every two to three days.

They will continue to harvest the remaining vegetables until they freeze up. The food pantry is not concerned about storing any of the vegetables as they are harvest because people need fresh produce and they use it up right away.

The Lord's Cupboard food pantries has started a Welcome Table that is a Saturday soup kitchen. One of the advantages of having a kitchen is we can prepare food as a demonstration so people will learn how to prepare and cook the produce in diverse ways.



Volunteers help pick and load tomatoes for the Lord's Cupboard.

The Lord's Cupboard is considering this as a long-term educational event. On a weekly basis they are seeing an increase over the past two years with over 150 families coming to pick up fresh produce.

The Lord's Cupboard gardeners have many good volunteers, but they are always looking for more younger people. To date the average age of their volunteers are late 70s and early 80s. For some it's a long drive to and from Minot to Simcoe. Locals from Velva included Bruce and Cindy

Carlson who always came out to help. They would take fresh produce back to Velva for the food pantry. Other local volunteers, even for a day, included North Star Community Credit Union in Velva and the employees of the Bravera Bank in Drake who helped as part of their volunteering and community service program.

If you are interested in volunteering next year, please contact the Lord's Cupboard, 839-1990 or Mark Schumaker, 701-340-9373.

New streets, new sidewalks, and special assessments

Reporter Heather Tudor

The Velva City Commission met on Monday, September 15th, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Velva City Hall. Commissioners present were Dave Keller, Gene Jenson, Mary Liz Davis, and Mike Schreiner. Other city officials present were Auditor Jenny Johns, Public Works Kelly Jemtrud and Chad Prellwitz, City Engineer Emma Lavachek and Deputy Dave Florey. City residents present were Zack Vandermark and Brent Fischer.

First item on the agenda was approval of previous meeting minutes. There was regular meeting on August 18th, and a special meeting held on August 25th. Commissioner Keller made a motion to approve previous meeting minutes. Commissioner Jenson seconded the motion, motion carried.

Next on the agenda was approval of payroll and bills. That total came to \$509,272.91 for the month. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve payroll and bills totaling \$509,272.9, Jenson to second the motion, motion carried.

Next under reports of the President, Mr. Schreiner mentioned there was an applica-

tion for a raffle permit from the St. Cecelia's Catholic Church. Commissioner Keller made a motion to approve the raffle permit. Jenson to second the motion, motion carried. Next there was some discussion about the Star City Golf Course and the loan for the land that it sits on. Mr. Schreiner explained that he and Commissioner Davis had a meeting with Mr. Kramer at People's State Bank and it was agreed between the parties present that the loan for the Star City Golf Course will be modified and will be paid off in full in nine years and the Golf Course won't need to make a balloon payment anymore. Commissioner Jenson made a motion to authorize Mr. Schreiner and Commissioner Davis to go ahead, and sign paperwork needed at People's State Bank to finalize this agreement. Commissioner Keller seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mr. Schreiner also made it known that the city had paid off nine loans thanks to the ladies in the city office and City Commissioners working together.

The next item on the agenda was the 2026

final Budget approval. Commissioner Jenson made a motion to accept the 2026 final budget review. Commissioner Davis to second the motion, motion carried.

Next was reports of the Commissioners. Davis didn't have anything new to report. Keller mentioned that the new streets looked good. Keller and Jenson agreed that there are a couple of spots around town that need mud-jacking to help lift them up so that water can drain properly. Commissioner Jenson reported that the cemetery is all cleaned up and looks good, even though there is one headstone that needs to be repositioned.

City Engineer, Emma Lavachek reported on the lead service line update and mentioned that she filled out and submitted reimbursement for the trees that were placed up at the cemetery and didn't make it.

City Auditor Johns reported that there were special assessment letters that were sent out to residents for water bills that weren't current and also for lawns that needed some attention.

Public Works Director Kelly Jemtrud report-

WordontheStreet

ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH FALL SUPPER:
Sun., Sept 28 / 4-7pm / Velva.
Delivery in Velva Available.

NDDOT HWY 52 PUBLIC INPUT MEETING
NDDOT is hosting a public input meeting to discuss proposed improvements on US Hwy 52, on Mon., Sept. 29, 5-7pm at the Velva Public School Gym, 101 4th Street West.

VELVA COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE
Wed., Oct. 8. Church youth will start collecting at 5:30pm-7pm. If you're not home, leave your donation in a bag by your door.

VELVA PUBLIC SCHOOL PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING
Wed., Oct. 1 for ages 3, 4 & 5. Please call the school office to make your appointment, 338-2022.

VELVA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY:
2025 Dates: Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16.

The food pantry is open from 5:45-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall of OVLC, Main Street. The pantry is short of these items: canned meats, canned fruit, personal hygiene products and laundry pods and can be dropped off at OVLC Mon.- Fri. 9am-3pm.

VELVA FARMERS MARKET:
Thursdays, 4-7pm, Main Street. Vendors welcome.

VALLEY VIEW MANOR MEN'S COFFEE CLUB:
Inviting area men to the Valley View Manor "Men's Coffee Club", every Thurs. at 9am, in the Valley View Manor dining room. Stay connected with friends and neighbors.

ed that there was a building permit application submitted on behalf of public works as some sidewalks around town need some cleanup and/or repairing, as there was a report of a someone falling. Jemtrud also reminded the commission that they would be flushing water lines on Monday, September 15th through Wednesday, September 17th.

Continued to Page 6