

METROPOLIS PLANET



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Brookport receives \$175,000 grant

BY ANN DOUGLAS

Tami Wessel, mayor of Brookport, was pleased to have received word from Tara Huffman, of Southern Five, that Brookport was awarded \$175,000 from the Illi-

nois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) through the Strong Communities Program (SCP).

"Tara and I worked four days on this grant, and it was the first grant applica-

tion in which I was personally involved. It felt really good to have received it, especially since I only have four months left in my administration," she said.

Wessel had been keeping

a list of properties that needed attention since 2017. The list of 175 was narrowed down to 75 for the grant. The fact that the city had cleaned several properties was helpful in reaching the 100 point

requirement. Many properties were in disrepair and the owners just couldn't afford to either rehabilitate or tear down on their own.

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Contributed photo

Whitney Bradford, a phlebotomist, is among the frontline healthcare workers at Massac Memorial Hospital who received the initial dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Workers were asked to share their reason for getting the vaccination. "My father and uncle had kidney transplants, and my son is asthmatic. I am doing this for them," Bradford wrote.

MMH workers get COVID-19 vaccine

BY TERRA TEMPLE
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When frontline healthcare workers at Massac Memorial Hospital were asked why they were getting the vaccine against novel coronavirus (COVID-19), it didn't take long for Whitney Bradford to state her reason.

"My father and uncle had kidney transplants, and my son is asthmatic. I am doing this for them," she wrote on her "because" banner.

Massac Memorial began its first-round COVID-19 vaccination process on Dec. 30, which has completed on the hospital's 100-plus employees. Bradford and Dr. Jonathan Walters, medical staff president, were among the first to receive the vaccine produced by Moderna.

"The power of modern science is absolutely amazing. I believe in the vaccine and proudly receive my dose. I am proud to work alongside such an amazing group of individuals at Massac Memorial," Walters said.

For Bradford the reason hits closer to home. Her father, Larry Bradford, of Metropolis, had a kidney transplant in October 2012, while his brother, Billy Bradford, of Metropolis, had a kidney transplant in December 2012. Her 3-year-old son Adrenaline Craig Rush was hospitalized in August 2019 with breathing issues.

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Pandemic puts end to Harris' 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity'

BY TERRA TEMPLE
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Natalie Harris will have a much different view of the Jan. 20 inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice president-elect Kamala Harris than she imagined a few weeks ago.

On the cusp of traveling to Washington, D.C., her military orders were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Disappointed and "bummed," Harris is glad she at least had the opportunity.

Harris is the superintendent of the City of Metropolis wastewater department. Serving in the Navy Reserve, she was set to be an usher at the inauguration — until a phone call came four days before she was to fly out.

"They reached out to me and told me there was no need for capitol ushers because they were going to be downscaling the event due to COVID," she said. "I was sad over it. The chief told me I was the only one who'd been honest with him" when he called with the news.

Reservists are required to do a monthly weekend drill plus an annual training lasting two weeks.

"I have it set up do get emails for different things you can apply for (the annual training). I saw those come through and I applied for those orders," Harris said of the inauguration usher detail. "It was a lengthy process — some orders you just get them. Because of the event, these were special orders — there was an interview process where



Contributed photo

Naval reservist E6 Natalie Harris was selected to serve her two-week annual training as an usher at Wednesday's inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice president-elect Kamala Harris. But just days after they were received, those orders were cancelled because of COVID-19.

they interviewed my package."

The package consisted of Harris' military biography, her civilian resume, her evaluations, a fitness report and a photo. The interview process started in late August.

"They want to see what kind of people they're putting in that position," Harris explained. "If I haven't done well on my evaluations or not

doing what I need to for my commitment, they're not going to pick you for that. They want to make sure you're squared away before they put you in a position. that way that there's no issues with credentialing."

From the applicants, around 50 were chosen to fulfill the orders, which came in December.

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Planet's 2020 Year in Review continued



DAVE THOMPSON | The Planet

Josh Reagor (left) and Don Gower (behind statue) prepare to place the Metropolis Planet globe near the Lois Lane statue in view of Superman Square on Saturday morning, Aug. 8. The globe was donated by the Planet to the Metropolis Chamber of Commerce, which chose the site as the perfect landing spot.

BY PLANET STAFF

Enjoy a continuation of the year in review looking the news that made headlines in 2020.

JULY

• **Massac COVID-19 count up to 11:** After several weeks of only seven cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus in Massac County, that number has increased to 11 since June 24.

• **LPGA's Talley hosts golf clinic:** Metropolis Country Club hosted an appearance from Princeton, Kentucky, native and LPGA Tour professional Emma Talley on Wednes-

day morning, July 15.

• **Moving day:** Massac County offices that had to move to the annex three years earlier when renovations to the courthouse began moved back in late July.

AUGUST

• **Metropolis Planet globe has a new 'home':** When Noel Neill, better known as Daily Planet reporter Lois Lane, would come to town during the annual Superman Celebration, she always made a point to visit the Metropolis Planet newspaper office

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