

Dear Residents,

The Board of Trustees are pleased to announce that despite a Alvo residents outlandish and baseless accusations of the Village of Alvo designating \$1,000 from the Village of Alvo's community events account to pay for a raffle, hosting an illegal raffle using public funds, intend to have minor children operate the raffle stand, militia training of children, the raffle that is organized to happen during the 2024 Alvo Days, June 1st Annual Car Show is still happening.

While it was intended for the raffle to be for funds to contribute to the Alvo Park, as of May 14, 2024 the Village of Alvo has decided to not proceed with utilizing Alvo Eagle Recreation Association to handle a raffle on behalf of the Village of Alvo. However, Alvo Eagle Recreation Association will still be funneling any donations toward the park on behalf of Alvo. This decision was made due to;

- 1) The AE Rec. representative ("The Representative") being fully informed about the items donated by locals for the raffle, as this was thoroughly discussed during her initial attendance at an Alvo Days organizational meeting. During this meeting, the Representative proposed that AE Rec. serve as the sponsor to funnel the park's proceeds, a topic previously discussed in open sessions of Board of Trustees meetings.
 - a. The Representative with Alvo Eagle Recreation Association expressed her concern for AE Rec. being adversely effected by the Alvo residents' erroneous fabrications.
 - b. The Representative conducting a google search after reading the Alvo residents blog, which immediately caused concern for AE Rec. receiving potential push back.
 - c. The Representative desire to keep the AE Rec. Board out of the drama.
- 2) Carri Fitzgerald, Senior Gaming Specialist with the Nebraska Charitable Gaming Division being repeatedly contacted by the Alvo resident with their false dissemination of information despite Carri Fitzgerald already having provided the Village of Alvo the requirements for organizing a raffle, as well as previously speaking directly to the Village of Alvo Board of Trustees Chairperson.
- 3) The Alvo resident including their grossly false statements in their amended complaint to the Cass County Courts which include but are not limited to:
 - a. During the April Meeting, the Board also voted to designate a checking account as a community events account, and voted to use \$1,000 of the funds to pay for a raffle, to take place during Alvo Days in June...(continues on)
 - b. Relator has reason to believe that board member Schueth and Ms. Shinkle intend to have their minor children operate the raffle stand.
 - c. Relator also requests this Court to address the violations of Nebraska Charitable Gaming Regulations by the Defendants hosting an illegal raffle using public funds.
- 4) The Village of Alvo's goal to offer a community event for its residents that is free from drama, misinformation, and fear of potential repercussions due to the Alvo resident.

Sadly, it is due to the Alvo residents' extreme nature of detrimental conduct and the Village of Alvo's desire to respect The Representative, as well as the AE Rec. as a whole, that the Village of Alvo has

decided to not proceed with utilizing AE Rec. to funnel the funds for the raffle and only to utilize AE Rec. for proceeds gathered through donation contributions for the Alvo Park on behalf of Alvo.

Since there are no 501c(3) licensed non-profit organizations within the Village of Alvo, the Village of Alvo Volunteer Fire Department will be assuming control of the raffle. Unfortunately, this means that instead of the proceeds benefiting the Alvo Park as originally intended, they will be directed to the Village of Alvo Volunteer Fire Department. While both are worthy causes within the Alvo community that would benefit from the raffle's proceeds, the Village of Alvo had intended to allocate the funds to the park due to there being nowhere for the growing number of children in the community to play.

The Village of Alvo would like to correct the inaccurate and uninformed assertions of the Alvo resident regarding the Village of Alvo and the Nebraska Charitable Gaming Regulations;

- 1) Per Sec. 9-501-513 and Reg. 35-500-504 No license is required for small raffles with proceeds of \$5,000 or less
- 2) Per Sec. 9-501-513 and Reg. 35-500-504 No license is required for small lotteries with proceeds of \$1,000 or less
- 3) To be eligible for a lottery/raffle license, an organization must be:
 - a. Organized or incorporated in Nebraska as a nonprofit organization or corporation and have tax exempt status under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) § 501; **or**
 - b. Be a volunteer fire company or volunteer first-aid, rescue, ambulance, or emergency squad
- 4) The Village of Alvo as well as the Village of Alvo Volunteer Fire Department has confirmed its understanding of the Charitable Gaming Regulations and how the raffle is to operate now under the Village of Alvo Volunteer Fire Department with Carri Fitzgerald, Senior Gaming Specialist with the Nebraska Charitable Gaming Division
- 5) No license will be required for 2024 Alvo Days raffle if raffle proceeds are \$5,000 or less

The Village of Alvo would additionally like to correct the inaccurate and uninformed assertions of the Alvo resident regarding some donated raffle items:

- 1) The Community Preparedness Training Center, LLC- practices
 - a. Firearm safety and fundamentals
 - b. Does not offer militia training
 - c. Conceal to carry classes to promote safety
 - i. The Constitutional Carry Bill (LB 77) passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 2023 allows any person, other than a minor or a prohibited person, to carry a concealed handgun anywhere in Nebraska, with or without a permit under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act.
 - d. Women's only basic handgun classes
 - e. Educational and skills event such as
 - i. Night Vision Shooting
 - ii. Rifle Scope with minutes of angle for long distance shooting
- 2) The Home Defense 12 Gauge Pump Shotgun

- a. Firearm Prize winner will have to pick up from a federally licensed firearms dealer and complete a background check as required by federal law

The Alvo resident claiming to be a community developer appears to lack the essential skills needed to promote positive growth, improvement, and sustainability within any community. They demonstrate a failure to collaborate effectively with community members, local organizations, and government agencies to identify needs, develop strategies, and implement initiatives aimed at enhancing various aspects of community life. Rather than promoting empowerment and inclusivity, this individual's actions appear to hinder progress and propagate unsubstantiated opinions devoid of factual basis. Unlike the ultimate goal of a community developer, which is to empower residents and create a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving community, there is no evidence to suggest that this individual has contributed to achieving these objectives in any meaningful way within the Village of Alvo.

Once again the Village of Alvo apologizes to The Representative, AE Rec., any other sponsor, or residents who adversely felt the effects of this person's outlandish and baseless accusations. The Village of Alvo Board of Trustees encourage community members to continue to be engaged, review facts for credibility, use their best judgment, approach things with practical thinking, ask questions, and never make assumptions.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.