

# Ravenna parish is runner-up in "Cool Congregation Challenge"

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish recently was announced as a runner-up in the "Cool Congregations Challenge," a national competition on sustainability for faith communities.

St. Elizabeth received the honor in the "Sacred Grounds Stewards" category which focuses on native landscaping, water conservation, organic gardening and other sustainable land uses.

"The Challenge is a united effort by religious congregations across the country to address global warming by reducing their carbon footprint and by becoming an inspiration to their members and communities," said a press release by Kentucky Interfaith and Light, a local affiliate of the San Francisco-based Interfaith Power and Light, which administers the challenge.

St. Elizabeth's application was submitted by the Kentucky affiliate.

The small Catholic parish, located in

Estill County, has a longstanding commitment to care for the environment, including the installation of a large bank of solar panels on the roof of the parish life center in November, 2016, and a community herb club and organic garden.

The church is located on a hillside with a spring, which caused drainage problems on the property. The community began a series of projects focused on the creation of a wetlands area to address the spring and sustainable landscaping and gardening, according to the KIPL release. The parish, working with the community, developed a plan for a wetlands catchment to alleviate the drainage problems and promote the flourishing of native species in the wetland habitat.

The wetlands now occupy one-tenth of an acre on the St. Elizabeth of Hungary property and the area was planted with plans from nearby ponds and natu-



St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Ravenna

ral wetlands in the area. The sustainable landscaping and gardening projects that have been included at the parish include the planting of shade trees, the incorporation of edible landscaping, a vegetable and herb garden, a native-species wild border around the church property, and a

composting program.

St. Elizabeth has started a YouTube series called "Earth Healing" that documents many of their projects and views on relationship with the natural world. It can be accessed through <http://www.earthhealing.info/>.

# School board discusses upcoming construction at ECMS Estill Springs, Vo-Tech Center, Bus Garage

Continued from Page 1

The board reviewed a schematic design presented by Roland Mueller. He said the Steering Committee which is made up of two board members, a representative from Carhartt, parents, and a principal had met twice to discuss the technology center and what they would like the facility to look like. Mueller said if the board agrees to leave the existing bus garage in its current location the technology center will be two stories and will cost more money.

If the bus garage is relocated it would mean 1,000 square feet less in the new building which would save the district money. Mueller did not have an exact dollar amount on how much money would be saved but said

he would get those numbers and present them during the special meeting on May 2nd.

Donna Isfort said that she wanted the public to know that a lot of thought and planning went into picking the site of the technology center. She said that for months they drove around and looked at different pieces of property but in the end it made more sense to use land that the district already owned.

Mr. Saylor added that the cost of putting utilities on a purchased site was something they took into consideration as well because they never got a direct answer about the cost of that.

Board member Rhonda Hardy asked if the district had land to put the bus garage if they chose to move

it away from the technology center.

Saylor said that he had been talking with the County Judge-Executive Kevin Williams about the possibility of relocating the bus garage to Industrial Park which would be less than a mile from its' current location. He said he felt like it would create less havoc if the bus garage was located elsewhere.

L.W. Beckley said he would have to see how much money the district would save before he could make a final decision on the schematic design.

The board did approve a BG1 for the bus garage in the amount of 1.4 million dollars. The BG1 is no risk to the board. They will just be getting more information and will be able to look at

numbers before proceeding with the project.

Mr. Saylor said that at this time he thinks the number of teachers the district will be losing is down to 7. That number was projected to be much higher but due to an increase in enrollment in some areas the district was able to keep one teacher that they were certain they would have to let go.

Saylor did say that as of June 30th all GEAR UP positions would be abolished. A new grant for is in the process but they will not know anything until September.

The School Resource Officer was listed on the agenda for discussion of his contract for the 2018-2019 school year. However, due to the fact that some of that discussion would involve students the board decided

to move it to closed session.

The board had discussed the fact that their insurance company was requiring a rider to attend a trip to Belize with the Spanish Club approved during a previous meeting.

Mr. Saylor said he felt like it was only fair to those students for the board to pay the \$2,800 for the rider. That amount would cover for an entire year but he said in the future the students would be required to pay for that expense.

Gary Powell spoke to the board about a new outreach program that is coming to Estill County. Powell said his goal is not to step on any toes but to help feed needy children in the county.

He said right now God's Outreach provides 2,400 backpacks full of food to

students in Madison County.

This new program will feed approximately 200 students in Estill County. Powell said the ministry will be set up at the Wright Place on Thursdays and Fridays of each week from 8-12.

"This is truly a blessing to our community," stated Jeff Saylor.

Mountain Movers for the month of April were recognized by the board. The certified Mountain Mover is Brooke Mays, The classified Mountain Mover is Kathy Chaney, and Danny Wood and William Hardy were recognized as community Mountain Movers. Miriam Richardson, a student, at the Estill County High School, was recognized for her outstanding academic achievements.



Danny Wood and William Hardy were chosen as April Community Mountain Movers. They were recognized by the Estill County Schools for their development of positive relationships that have had a direct and lasting effect on the lives of the students of Estill County.



Brooke Mays is the April Certified Mountain Mover. Brooke is recognized by her peers for her excellence in the classroom, dedication to her students, her creativity and strong leadership ability.

Mountain Mover Photos courtesy of Estill County Board of Education



Kathy Chaney was selected as April Classified Staff Mountain Mover. Kathy was recognized by her peers for her excellent service, her contributions to the Estill County Schools and her positive attitude.

**top ten**

**Oldest Snack Foods\***

1. Pretzels
2. Popcorn
3. Triscuits
4. Oreo cookies
5. Cracker Jack
6. Lay's Potato Chips
7. Fritos
8. Twinkies
9. Jell-O
10. Marshmallows

\* Still in use  
Source: Mental Floss

© 2018 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

## Irvine Council

Continued from Page 1

The city has \$35,155.94 in unpaid property taxes over recent years.

Davis said the city can sell the tax bills, but he recommended foreclosing on properties.

After some discussion, the council asked Davis to write letters to the twenty property owners who owe the most in taxes to the city and advise them if the taxes are not paid, the city will foreclose on their property.

A public hearing was held for comments for the purchase of a fire truck using a grant from USDA Rural Development. If received the fire department must match it.

Davis presented a model sign ordinance to the council to look over because they have talked about amending the city's sign ordinance.

He added the county is also looking at amending its sign ordinance because of campaign and business signs in right of ways and on utility poles.