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Trustee Lindsay: Harris Township taking the lead on Granger parks

In 2016, Trustee Lindsay and the Harris board (Jeff Broadwick, Karen Vargo and Chuck Sulok) transformed township-owned land into Harris Township Park at Elm Road, between the library and fire station just north of State Road 23. It offers basketball, pickleball, a ball diamond, a playground and a connection to the Granger Path. Community input was sought and highlighted the unmet demand for spaces that allow play and recreation.

Despite the township stepping up, it has no employees including no parks department. The City of Mishawaka and St. Joseph County are far better prepared and funded to provide parks in Granger.

The county parks department is taking input as it sets its direction for the next several years. You can request they focus on the Granger area by contacting them at their website or at 574-277-4828. Granger residents pay county taxes, so asking for a county service seems fair. And even though you might not be a Mishawaka resident, they might like to hear from you as well.

New ambulance at Granger fire station

As part of an ongoing fleet upgrade, a new ambulance was recently put into service at the Harris Township fire station located at State Road 23 and Elm Road in Granger. It will be used by the Clay Fire Territory (CFT) to provide emergency medical services. Harris is a participating member of the CFT.

Advantages of the new ambulance will benefit both patients and responders and include an automated stretcher lift, more secure passenger restraints, improved IV storage and use, privacy window functionality, and overall increases in equipment reliability and comfort.

The new vehicle replaces a 2004 ambulance owned by the township, which was made available for use by CFT when Harris joined it several years ago. CFT strategy and budget decisions, including the fleet upgrade, are affirmed by its five-member Fire Commission, two members of which are Harris board member Jeff Broadwick and trustee Ken Lindsay.

The upgrades over the last few years include a ladder truck, new main fire engines capable of bringing more water to every fire, and another new ambulance in 2016. The ambulance replaced by the 2016 unit also owned by Harris township and subsequently donated to the county police for use as a SWAT vehicle.

Pickleball tournament a success

The All in for Alzheimer's pickleball tournament, coordinated by the Michiana Pickleball Association was held at the University of Notre Dame's Compton Center in August. Based on the strength of player registrations and local sponsors, the event raised \$4,000 to fight the disease.

Pickleball is a growing sport, suitable for all ages. It can be fun, competitive and good exercise. Four courts were included in the construction of Harris Township Park at Elm Road, as developed by the Harris Township board and trustee Ken Lindsay. The park is located just south of the Harris branch library, where paddles and balls can be checked out at no charge.

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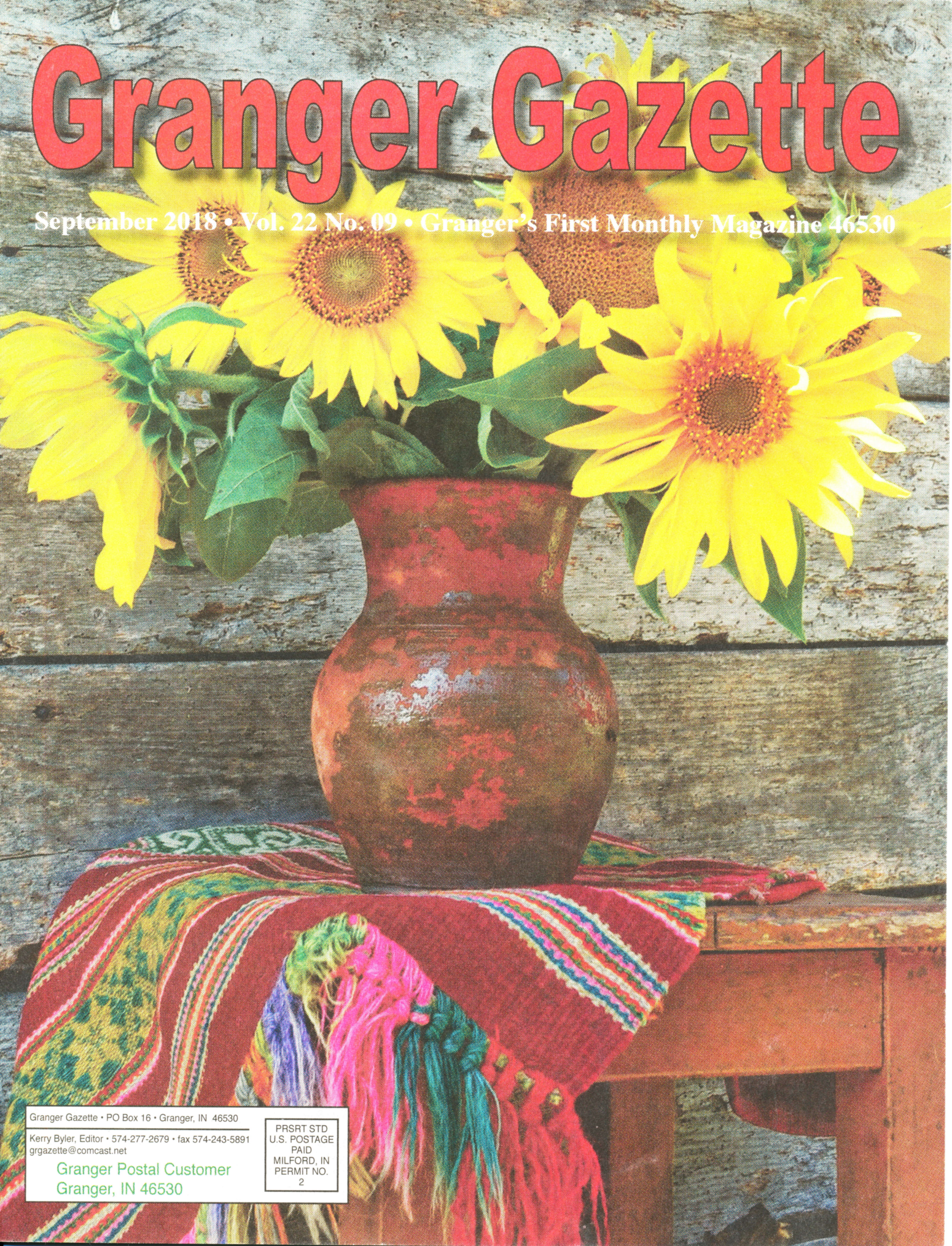
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