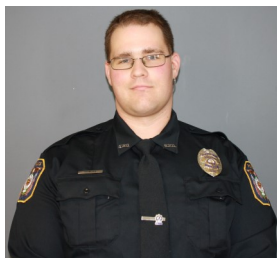


# Silvis News



## Meet Your Patrolman



Seth Rohweder grew up in Moline and was a graduate of Alleman High School. Officer Rohweder attended Monmouth College, majoring in History

and was a member of the Monmouth College football team. After obtaining his Bachelor's Degree, he enlisted in the US Marine Corps in the infantry division. Seth was hired as a patrolman for the Silvis Police Department in 2012.

## Gomez Sparks Conversation at Public Safety Meeting

At the February Public Safety meeting, Anthony Gomez, a resident in the 1200 block of 13th Street, requested an additional street light. Little did Gomez know, his request would spark a much larger conversation. Upon granting Gomez's request for a new street light, Chairman Tony Trulson went one step further, suggesting an audit of all city street lights.

The committee suggested legislators in all four wards review street lights in their neighborhoods and gain feedback from residents if additional street lights are needed. Any additional street light requests will be considered on a case-by-case bases at a future public safety meeting.

Each street light cost a flat rate of \$6.87 per street light per month. Citywide, Silvis has a total of 607 street lights, as shown in the audit. It's essential if you see a street light not working, report it right away to MidAmerican Energy, said Mayor Carter. As taxpayers, we are all charged no matter if the street light is working or not.

To report a street light out please call 1-888-427-5632 or [midamericanenergy.com/streetlight-repair-form](http://midamericanenergy.com/streetlight-repair-form)

## Team Robo Gators Pitch's Idea to Playground Park and Rec Board



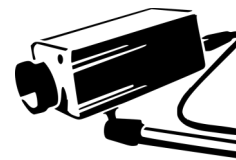
Left: Morgan Roman, Gracie Phaff, Talia Stevens, Lillie Slyter, Landon

Five of the seven-member team Robo Gators stood before the Playground and Rec committee on February 13th to showcase their solution to a problem. The team identified the lack of a

self-driven miracle round in the parks for children and adults with special needs. A miracle round in which someone in a wheelchair can turn without the assistance of a second person.

Team Robo Gator, consisting of 5th-7th graders from Glenview Middle School, competed against 550 teams state-wide for top honors and finished in the top 10 in the category of core values. The team worked non-stop since September 2019, meeting three days a week identifying a problem in the community and coming up with a solution. The team presented a mock-up design of an all-inclusive, one-person driven miracle round (similar to a sit-and-spin concept), and the committee was very impressed with the team's concept. Landon Slyter, a team member, spoke on behalf of the team and stated, the team spoke to several playground manufactures about their idea. Still, no one had an all-inclusive miracle round to offer that was self-driven without the assistance of a second person; "they just wanted to sell us what they offered," said Slyter. Bob Roman, a member of the Park and Rec Board, said: "Somehow, someday, we need to get this done." The committee and the team will continue exploring the possibilities of a custom-built miracle round- the anticipated cost of the one-of-a-kind piece of equipment estimated at between \$5000-\$7000.

## Silvis Police Asking For Assistance



Silvis Police Department is asking for assistance from residents with private security cameras to help solve neighborhood crimes. This program is known as a video sharing partnership that works on a voluntary basis with property owners who have individual video security systems. Police responding to various crimes would be able to identify locations of private security systems and will only contact the owners of the cameras as if a criminal incident took place in the vicinity of the camera. The partnership will not be active or intended for active live-feed surveillance, nor will the Silvis Police Department ever have remote or direct access to private video systems. The Police Department will only ask to view footage relating to a specific criminal act for the use of evidence to aid in an ongoing investigation. Any information provided will-be housed in a secure database, and all data will be held confidential.

To become a video sharing partner with the Silvis Police Department, residents may enroll at the Silvis Police Department, email Detective John VanHyning at [jvanhyning@silvispd.org](mailto:jvanhyning@silvispd.org), or contact the Police Department directly with any further questions 309-792-1841.

## City Council OK's K9



The Silvis Police Department has received a grant from the Rock Island County States Attorneys Office in the amount of \$11,500

towards the purchase of a new K9. Silvis Police has been without a K9 since the retirement of Elko, who retired in the spring of 2019. The grant will cover the cost of purchasing a new K9 and will help cover the training of a new K9 officer. Silvis Police anticipate the new K9 unit to be in service by September.

## Downtown Brown



Roberto Brown, a local postman working the downtown route, and native of Costa Rica, recently was asked, "what brings you to the Midwest?" His simple response with a smile, "I love the cold weather."

Brown was born on the Caribbean side of Costa Rica into a large family. His father Panamanian, mother Costa Rican. Brown's great grandparents emigrated from Ireland to Costa Rica to work the banana plantations, "that's where the last name Brown comes from", said Brown.

At a very early age, Brown was encouraged to come and visit his aunts in East Moline and Silvis often and urged him to consider immigrating to the United States one day.

At the age of 14, Brown began to compete in a Costa Rican Yo-Yo National Tournament, and by the age of 17, Brown caught the eye of the global Yo-Yo promotor Russell Promo-

tions and Coca-Cola. At the age of 18, Brown began touring with a group of ten Yo-Yo masters promoting the Yo-Yo in schools all over Latin America. Brown's Yo-Yo skills eventually lead him to travel thousands of miles to over nine countries in Latin America. At the age of 24, Brown visited extended family in Miami, and the same year, he visited his Aunt in Silvis once again. Although he was already thinking of settling in the U.S., one extraordinary experience gave him the push he needed to decide where he wanted to call home. Brown recalls, "I was playing catch with my younger niece in Silvis when a neighbor phoned my aunt, informing her that an older man was playing catch with her daughter in her yard. My aunt explained it was me, a relative visiting from Costa Rica. The neighbor in-return brought over an apple pie and gave it to me as a welcoming gift. I realized this is home; this is where I want to be. The people of Silvis have always been so kind, generous, and welcoming," said Brown.

The very first thing Brown did after gaining his citizenship, was attempt to enlist in the military. Brown, very proud to be a United States Citizen, wanted to serve his new coun-

try only, to be denied, not once but twice. The first time was for a medical reason which, was later corrected, and the second time because of a foreign high school diploma. "A Costa Rican high school diploma may not have been an issue perhaps in most cases, but this happened during the recession, and the military was getting picky who they would accept into the military," Brown.

Brown took on several jobs. He was a cook, roofer, truck driver, or whatever he could find, then finally hired by the US Postal Service, which he loves dearly, and his attitude reflects it. "You have to be brave to be an American; you have to work so hard if you want to live in the United States. Not everyone who comes to the United States stays. For many, the work is too hard, and they end up leaving and going back to their native country", said Brown.

Brown has a hard time putting into words how much he loves America and gets a little emotional thinking about it. "If there is one suggestion I could give to all Americans, spend more time with your family. Where I come from, family means everything, and you don't have to have a lot to be happy."



## SFD

### Silvis Fire Department December, January & February Raffle Winners

**\$300** Joni Nache, Ace Richeal, Chris Berry, **\$50** Anthony Greer, Todd Cantrell, Amy Page, Blaine Scott, David Bein, Mary Bein, **\$25** Matt Carter, Erin Thompon, Melissa Sweeney, Kevin Wright, Tony Trulson, Megan Johnson, Bill Hyde/Mike Johnson, Charles Hobart, Lisa Comeaux, Nadine Kroll, Matt Comaux, Wendy Alonza.

## Winter Cost

Jim Grafton, head of Public Works, reports the city had experienced seven fewer storms this winter compared to last year. During the 2019-2020 winter season to date, the city recorded 13 winter storms, and 745 tons of salt applied to the streets, compared to 20 storms the previous season. The hours spent on overtime during the 2019-2020 winter season was 407 hours outside the regular working hours. This winter season cost a total cost of \$80,971, which was about half the cost of the previous season.

## A Letter From The Director of Silvis Main Street

As the Director of the Silvis Main Street, I am excited to announce that I will be taking over the responsibilities of the Silvis Business Association along with assuming my role as Main Street Director. Not only will I be helping in promoting and revitalizing our downtown area, but I will now have the privilege of working with all of our Silvis Business. I am excited about this opportunity to help our business grow, help our community, and create some memorable events. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you would like to become a volunteer at one of our events. Also, please "like" our Silvis Main Street Facebook page to receive information about our business and our community events.

Amanda Sherwood  
[director@silvismainstreet.org](mailto:director@silvismainstreet.org)  
309-429-9238.

## Greenhouse Opening Day!

Opening Day April 21st

Tues. thru Sat. 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Closed Mondays

**SILVIS**  
**E-WASTE**  
**RECYCLING DAY**  
Saturday, April 11th  
Silvis Public Works Yard  
12th & 1st Ave North  
8am-10am



**SILVIS**  
**BULK TRASH**  
**PICK-UP**  
Spring - Apr. 6th  
Fall - Oct. 26th  
All Items must be placed out by 5am on Monday morning

Items below will NOT be picked up!  
Construction Mat'l  
Wood Pallets  
Electronics  
Tires  
Appliances  
Hazardous Waste  
Water Heaters

Please call City Hall  
for more info: 309-792-9181