

# West Concord essenger VEST CONCORD MINNESOTA OCTOBER, 2021

**Postal Customer ECRWSS** 

Volume 5 • Issue 9

### Announcements

• Faith Community Church is planning another Senior Festival Hymn Sing on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Come and join us for singing some of your favorite hymns and fellowshipping with others. Note that the event may be subject to change depending on Covid-19 regulations. For more information call the church at 527-2245.

• The City of West Concern received a housing grant to help fix up homes within the City of West Concord. Anyone, interested should stop in at City Hall for more information.

• People can donate for Christmas in West Concord at City Hall.

#### **Trunk and Treat** to be held on Main Street October 30th from 11:00-3:00



#### Stacy Ullom

Triton is thrilled to welcome Stacy Ullom to the team!

Mrs. Ullom is a UWRF graduate and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the art department.

Her husband is a former Cobra Alumni and wanted to move back to Dodge Center and encouraged her to apply for the position. He knew that she would be happy working for a great institution. Stacy is excited to be part of the Triton family and Dodge Center community. She's not only a teacher but a neighbor to some of her students. Stacy and her husband recently bought a new home and realized that some of her students were living in the same neighborhood.

Prior to coming to Triton, she taught Elementary Art for 7 years at St. Clair Public Schools. The art position at Triton is a change of pace that she enjoys. She now teaches Middle and High School Art. She excitedly stated, "It's so different to see the middle and high school students with art projects because they can express their creativity and talent in a way that the elementary level students are still developing."

**Triton Welcomes New Teachers** 

Stacy understands that returning back to school with in-class sessions and routines from the pandemic would prove to have a few challenges. For example, masking is not required, but if students feel more comfortable wearing a mask; it's encouraged to do so.This issue has created a great deal of anx-





**Stacey Ullom** 

**Erica Meyers** 

iety and pressure for everyone. "It's taking more time to get back into the school routine since Covid." Stacy explained, "We are taking more precautions with cleaning the art supplies. (continued on page 7)

### Fun in West Concord **Next Weekend**

The second annual Halloween Hootenanny will be held Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 11 AM - 3 PM at the big white barn at the end of Main Street.

Activities will include: bale climbing, corn pit, hay rides, trick or treating with the animals, a bake sale, pumpkin painting, food trucks and more.

Last year there were over 600 visitors, and we are looking to break that record this vear!

Easy to find. Come into West Concord and turn east on Main Street. The event is held at the big white barn.

### **Timeless Anodyne** at The Annadine

By Megan Ziegler, Staff Writer for the Hometown Messenger

You've been in one of those places yourself at some point in your life. An ethereal place that stays grounded while time and history spin around it. (continued on page 10)



Nadine and Randy Langworthy

Happy Birthday, Magdalen! Magdalen Hutton will be 100 years old on November 2nd. We would like to celebrate

with a card shower. Please send cards to: Magdalen Hutton P.O. Box 284

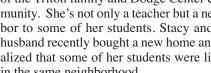
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# Religion

#### - WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

October, 2021

## **Being the** Greatest

**By Peter Moen** 

Have you ever had a debate about who is the greatest at a certain sport or an influencer who was great? Let us take a look at some people that are great:

Who won the greatest number of Olympic medals ever? 28 medals. Michael Phelps who was an USA swimmer who last competed only back in 2016!!!

Who do Americans say was the greatest boxer of all time? Muhammed Ali. Better known as "The Greatest."

Who is the greatest golfer of all time? Jack Nicklaus who won a record 18 majors? Tiger Woods tried but he only got to 15 majors.

Who do Americans say was the greatest scientist of this century? Albert Einstein?

Which singing group sold the greatest number of platinum albums? The Beatles.

Who do Americans say was the greatest American president? Abraham Lincoln in today's polls.

The list of "greats" and "greatest" goes on and on.

It is one thing to BE the greatest Olympian, to BE the greatest boxer, to BE the greatest golfer, to BE the greatest scientist, to BE the greatest president.

It is quite another thing to have a NEED to

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be great, to have a NEED to be number one, have a NEED to be a big shot, a NEED to be better than others.

People who have a NEED to be great often allow that drive to overtake them. They tend to try to win at all costs. They get angry when others succeed and get ahead. They run over others in order to succeed in their goals. They make demands of others that are unrealistic or unhealthy.

We see this NEED for greatness in the disciples James and John; the Sons of Thunder as Jesus called them. They were part of Jesus' inner circle. Along with Peter, they went up to the mountain and saw Jesus transfigured. But they were also the disciples who wanted to reign fire down upon some Samaritans who wouldn't provide housing for the night (of which Jesus rebuked them).

And they were the disciples who demanded Jesus give them whatever they asked. Namely, that they would be placed at the right hand and left hand when Jesus entered his glory. The brothers wanted power. They

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wanted status. They wanted influence. They saw Jesus as the man who would grant them these things.

Instead of Jesus rebuking them again for their thunderous ways, he flipped the script on them. He said in part, "...whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

This was not what these Sons of Thunder were expecting. They were thinking glory and power, Jesus gave them submission and servitude. Jesus was once again subverting the expectations of this followers by showing them a radically different way to become great: Not by power and might, but by humility and grace.

The same is true of us. We too can be followers of Jesus. Walk with Jesus. Talk with Jesus. Hang out with Jesus' friends and still not "get it" about being a servant of others. We can use the right religious vocabulary and attend church, but still not get that basic lesson of life that Jesus was trying to teach the Sons of Thunder and all of us. The greatest person in God's sight is a person who has a heart of humble service towards God and others.

Do you know any true servants? Can you relate to these people? Are you one of these people? These are Kingdom questions that we should be asking of ourselves. Jesus was asking that of his disciples. He is asking that of us.



### **Area Church Directory God is Enough**

Scripture Reading — Luke 23:44-46

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. - Psalm 73:25 Sometimes there is too much wrong in this world! The economy takes your job. Cancer takes your spouse. The river takes your home. Yet even when so much is wrong, God is enough.

But some people skate through life. They seem to have no troubles at all. Their kids run faster. Their jobs pay better. Their dreams shine brighter. And they act like they deserve it, but they don't. It's just wrong! Yet even when so much is wrong, God is enough.

It helps to remember Jesus: accused by his own people, abandoned by his closest friends, stripped naked and nailed to a cross. It was all so wrong! So wrong that the sun quit shining and Jesus cried out, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:33-34). Yet even then, God was enough

Psalm 73 is a long prayer about how there is too much wrong in this world. It's a complaint, until the psalmist gains a new perspective. Then the prayer takes a turn: "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you." In other words, even when so much is wrong, God. you are enough.

At the end of his rope, Jesus releases himself to God: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46). Because even when so much is wrong, God is enough.

Lord God, whom do I have in heaven but you? And besides you, there is nothing on earth I







Minnesota Restaurant Association Restaurant of the Year Award

### **Obituaries**

#### - WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

#### **Pastor John Hagen**

October, 2021

Pastor John Hagen, 88, of Faribault MN.



died peacefully at Pleasant Manor on September 25, 2021. John Holte Hagen was born in 1933 in Crookston Minnesota to George and Evelyn Hagen. He grew up as the oldest of five children on a farm with an old caboose as his play-

house. His family moved to Tokyo after WWII where he graduated from the American High School in Japan. John returned to the US and graduated from St Olaf College in 1956. Later he graduated from George Washington University with a law degree, then worked for the federal government in that capacity.

In 1959 he met Diane Reinertson at a Luther Place event in Washington D.C. When she returned to college in Ohio, he wooed her by writing humorous letters. They married in December 1961 and would have celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. As Diane completed her degree at Capital University, John moved to Ohio to attend Trinity Lutheran seminary. After the births of son Mark and daughter Kristin, John and his family moved to Edinburgh, Scotland where he did postgraduate studies and was interim pastor at a Scottish Presbyterian church.

The family moved back to the USA and to Minnesota in 1973 where for 19 years John served as pastor at Gol Lutheran Church in Kenyon, and Grace Lutheran Church in Nerstrand. While living in Kenyon, John was active in community theater, the Lions Club and hosted AFS foreign exchange students. John and Diane moved to Faribault MN in 1992 where John worked as an interim pastor at numerous congregations around Southern Minnesota for over 15 years. John and Diane became active members at First English Lutheran Church, continued participating in local theater, and became enthusiastic members of the community.

Known for his hearty and infectious laugh and gentle kindness, John had a true generosity of spirit. Not only was he open-minded and accepting of all people no matter their differences but devoted much of his time in service to others. His volunteer projects included

working with refugees from many countries, including Vietnam and Sudan and having fun with participants in Diane's social group for residents of group homes.

Asked to play Santa Claus so many times due to his strong resemblance and rapport with jolly old Saint Nick, John purchased his own costume to make appearances for friends and neighbors, performing at community events, and for children of inmates at the Shakopee women's prison. It was the perfect role for John because he loved interacting with children and spreading goodwill.

No one more loved reading and collecting books more than John, and he was rarely seen without a book in hand. He had an interest in genres ranging from theology and history to science fiction and romance. His collection filled several rooms of the parsonage. John volunteered at the Talking Book Library, reading books and periodicals to create recordings for the blind.

Due to his wide range of interests and decades of reading and watching news and sports, John knew facts of all types and was unbeatable at trivia. John loved to debate. He had strong opinions and many ideas but was just as happy to learn about other people's opinions and ideas. He was fascinated by gadgets of all kinds and intrigued by technology. He especially loved animals and had dogs and cats as pets.

A lover of travel throughout his life, John, Diane and their kids crisscrossed the country on long road trips to visit friends and family-though John was somewhat notorious for not always paying close attention to the gas gauge. John and Diane also enjoyed international travel to Norway and other parts of Europe, the Holy Land, Egypt, China, Japan, and visited their son and family in Tbilisi Georgia (the other Georgia).

In more recent years as his mobility and eyesight decreased, John continued to find pleasure in life, and enjoyed a good conversation with friends and family.

John is survived by his wife Diane Hagen, his son Mark Rein-Hagen and wife Tamar (Piso), his daughter Kristin and husband Paul Newsome, and his grandchildren Marjorie and Peter Newsome, Giselle, Alexandre (Sandro), and Vivian Rein-Hagen; brother Gordon Hagen and wife Roberta; Sisters-in-law Sandra Hagen, Barbara Reinertson and husband Spencer Chen, and Diane Reinertson; Nieces Kendra Hagen and Anna Reinertson and relationships with her neighbors in Berne. Nephews Kai Hagen and wife Kirsten Waller and Kelwin Hagen and wife Kelli; and almost-grandchildren Danika, Kailey, Taryn, Tessa, and Tanner Longshore and their parents Julie and Joe Longshore.

John is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Bruce and Alan Hagen and sisters Gail and Kay Hagen, brother-in-law Craig Reinertson, and niece Shaula Hagen.

Visitation was held at Boldt Funeral Home in Faribault on Friday October 15th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. A celebration of John's life was held on October 16th at First English Lutheran Church in Faribault at 11:00 a.m., a luncheon followed. Due to John's love of bright colors, guests were encouraged to wear colors in their clothing and/or their masks.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lutheran World Relief, First English Lutheran Church, or the Paradise Center for the Arts in Faribault MN.

the Fairview Care

Center in Dodge

Audrey Jean Serie,

the daughter of

Willis and Florence

(Zeller) Miller, was

born on November

27, 1940 in Milton

Township, Dodge

Center.

#### Audrey J. Serie

Audrey J. Serie, age 80, died on Sunday, October 3, 2021, at



County. She grew up near West Concord and attended country school in Berne. She later graduated from West Concord High School and continued her education at the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis. She worked at the IDS center. On April 27, 1963, she was married to Larry Serie in Mantorville. They both worked in both Chicago and Kansas City, for Hartford Ins. They moved back to Berne where she raised her children on the family farm. Audrey was an active member of Zwingli United Church of Christ, serving on several committees and helping with Swiss Fest. She enjoyed Nascar, watching football, drinking Pepsi and having snacks. Bugles and Cheez Whiz were among her favorites. She also enjoyed having coffee and creating



Audrey especially loved her family and rarely missed any of her children and grandchildren's events.

She is survived by her children Michael (Kim) Serie of Mantorville and Lesa Serie of West Concord, grandchildren Kayla (Jordan) Kaehler, Brady Serie and Jacob Lund, and great grandson Laine Kaehler. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Larry Serie, and a brother Garth Miller. The family wants to thank the staff at Fairview Care Center for their wonderful care.

Family and friends gathred at the Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord from 4PM until 7PM on Friday, October 15, 2021. A private family service will be held at another time.

#### **Richard "Dick" Keith Jorgenson**

Richard "Dick" Keith Jorgenson of West



Concord, MN passed peacefully on October 4th, 2021 at St Marys Hospital in Rochester, MN.

Dick was born to the late Olaf and Anna (Peterson) Jorgenson September 4. 1927 in West

Concord. MN. He was the eleventh child born into a family of twelve, a perfect dozen, six boys and six girls. He was the only remaining sibling.

All of his adult life he worked as a carpenter. Many construction projects were enhanced by his capabilities. Dick served his country with occupational forces in Europe during WW II.

He enjoyed many activities including woodworking, playing cards and above all fishing at his cabin on Mille Lacs Lake. If there are fish fries in heaven he's leading the pack with the best walleye dinner around and don't forget the pan fried potatoes which most likely came from his garden. He might not be called a master gardener but he earned the title. Last but not least, deer hunting was another favorite sport.

He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings and his first wife Olive Puck.

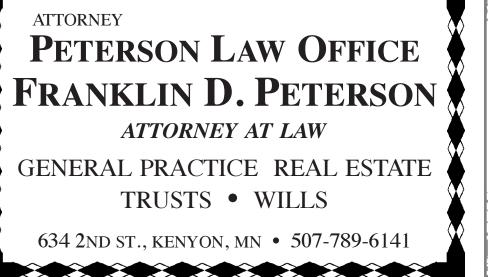
Dick is survived by his wife Helen of 45 years and stepchildren Rodney (Sharon) Massey, Richard (Michelle) Massey and Randy Massey and their families which include five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He had a stoic demeanor which easily transformed into a big smile at the sight of his family and friends. He valued a hard days work.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday October 12th at the Zwingli United Church of Christ in Berne, MN.

Memorials are suggested to the West Concord American Legion and the Zwingli United Church of Christ.

(obituaries continued on page 4)



### Obituaries

- WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

Page 4

#### **Orville Finne**

loved ones on Thursday, September 16th at the age of 78 after a 2 1/2 year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Orville Finne was the most loving father,

grandfather, brother

and friend. He always put other peo-

ple's needs before his

own and would do

anything he could for

strangers. He passed

fully

away peace-

rounded by

even

sur-

others,

Orville was born to George and Norma (Esther) Finne on July 8th, 1943, in Owatonna, MN. After graduating from West Concord High School, he enlisted in the Air Force and served from 1961-1965. He was stationed at Sawyer Air Force Base in Michigan and then at Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska. He returned to West Concord and worked at the State Hospital in Faribault for a few years and then sold life insurance for many years. He married Katherine Langerud in 1967 and they raised four children together. They were later divorced, but remained friends. Orville later drove taxi cab and limousine for Yellow Cab where he met his special friend, Margie Creech. They were together for 13 years before she passed away.

Orville loved his children and siblings dearly and was never afraid to say, "I love you very much" to them. His 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild were such a joy to him. He loved to play with them, tease them, take them fishing, and take them to the "Gucci warehouse". Orville was an avid gardener, fisherman and collector/treasure hunter. If he was not at home, he was either gardening, fishing or finding a good deal somewhere. He was always willing to share his vegetables and help his neighbors, friends, and family. He knew a lot of random things and was always willing to share his knowledge, whether you wanted it or not. Orville's kind heart, generosity, and sense of humor will be missed by everyone that knew him.

He is survived by his children, David, of Lake City, MN; Traci (Scott) Hammer, of Elgin, MN; Mitchell (Sara), of Eden Prairie, MN; and Jason (Lissa), of Mendota Heights, MN: his grandchildren, Lindsey (Zac) Webb, Hannah (Andy) Erickson, Nelson Finne, Isaac Hammer, Anya Hammer, Eleanor Finne, Johan, Greta, Kaia, and Gunnar Finne; greatgrandchild Laurana Webb; daughter-in-law Nicole Finne, of Elgin, MN; siblings Anna Mae (Charles) Victor, of Marysville, OH; Lu-Verne (Paula), of West Concord, MN; Russell (Audrey), of West Concord, MN; and Ginger (Don) Tune, of New Richland, MN; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A celebration of life was held at the West Concord Historical Society on Sunday, September 26th from 1-4 pm with a remembrance at 3 pm. A private family burial will take place at Concord Cemetery at a later date.

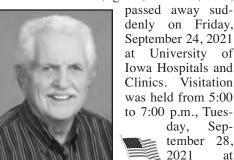
In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to SEMCAC Senior Nutrition to support their wonderful Meals on Wheels program. The family would also like to send a special thank you to Erin Gilbertson for the wonderful care she provided to Dad for the last 2 1/2 years

and also to all of the St. Croix Hospice aides and nurses who helped care for Dad.

Rochester Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements.

#### **Blaine F. Charlton**

Blaine F. Charlton, age 74, of Wilton, Iowa,



September 24, 2021 at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Visitation was held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at

neral Home, Wilton. A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at Zion Lutheran Church, Wilton.

Burial with military rites took place in Oakdale Cemetery, Wilton. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family that will be used to establish a scholarship fund in his memory.

Blaine was born in Faribault, Minnesota on November 7, 1946, the son of Frank and Joyce (Cornwell) Charlton.

He graduated from West Concord High School, with the Class of 1964. Blaine earned his Bachelor and Masters Degrees from Winona State University.

He was drafted into the United States Army and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War.

Blaine married Victoria "Vicki" Guertin on August 3, 1968 in Rochester, Minnesota.

Blaine began teaching math and chemistry in Turkey Valley School District until he was drafted during the Vietnam War. After he was honorably discharged, Blaine taught in Schaller, Iowa, before moving to Wilton in 1977. He taught and coached at Wilton High School, before retiring in 2002. Blaine also taught at Muscatine Community College.

He was a member and former Elder of Zion Lutheran Church. Blaine was also a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Blaine enjoyed the outdoors, especially gardening and fishing. He also enjoyed playing basketball and could often be seen walking around town.

He would say "Why drive when you can

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walk?". Blaine loved spending time with his family and friends, especially his grandkids.

Blaine will be dearly missed by his wife, Vicki; two daughters, Valeri (Jayoma Mc-Gowan) Charlton of Pleasant Hill, Iowa and Melanie (Tom) Wozniak of Naperville, Illinois; eleven grandchildren, Yory, Magda, Zakia, Savona, Navad, Damacio and Via Mc-Gowan and Lydia, Brynn, Alayna and Brody Wozniak; and two brothers, Ralph (Bev) Charlton of Kenyon, Minnesota and Leon (Joanne) Charlton of Rochester, Minnesota; two sisters-in-law, Marge Charlton of Medford, Minnesota and MaryAnn Charlton of Faribault, Minnesota; one brother-in-law, Gary (Janelle) Guertin of Riceville, Iowa; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Blaine was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Richard and Melvin Charlton.

#### Julie Ann Jensen

Julie Ann Jensen, age 61, of Owatonna, Wednesday,

died October 13, 2021 at her home after a long battle with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. was born on July 31, 1960 in Owatonna to Jerry and Janet (Gochnauer)

Kelling. She grew up on a farm outside of West Concord where she enjoyed taking care of the cats, dogs, horses, hamsters, and a rabbit.

Julie Ann Kelling

She was a 1978 graduate of West Concord High School and continued her education at the University of Minnesota, Waseca with a degree in horticulture.

After marrying Dennis Jensen in 1983 Julie moved to Owatonna, where she has continued to live since. She later divorced in 2003. Julie got a second degree from Riverland Community College in Business Administration in 2006. She worked in a variety of positions in Owatonna including administrative secretary at Jerry's Auto and teacher at Kid's Korner Educare.

Julie enjoyed hanging out by the lake and camping with her family, especially at the North Shore and in the mountains of Colorado. Family activities were very important to her and Julie was always a champion of animals, many dogs have been a part of her family. Some of Julie's favorite things were her children, her new granddaughter, butter, popcorn with butter and Dr. Pepper.

Julie is survived by her children, Ben (Casi) Jensen of West Concord, Abby (Gage) Flatness of Hartland, and Claire (Christian) Jensen of Glenville: mother, Janet Kelling of Northfield; sister, Mary Ann (Jerry) Kelling of Apple Valley; brother, David (Ann) Kelling of Lino Lakes; granddaughter, Hannah Flatness of Hartland.

She is preceded in death by her father, Jerry Kelling in 2006.

A visitation took place on Monday, October 18, 2021, from 4:00-7:00 PM at Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord. A graveside Service was Tuesday, October 19,2021 at 11:00 AM at Concord Cemetery. A lunch followed the service at the West Concord Historical Society.

#### Nicholas R. Wilson



Nicholas R. Wilson, age 76 of Lodgepole, NE, passed away peacefully on Monday October 11, 2021 at his cherished hunting cabin in the Town of Belvidere, Buffalo County, WI. He was born to LaVonne and

Harold Wilson on August 4, 1945.

Nicholas was an avid outdoorsman since his vouth.

After graduating from West Concord High School, he attended and graduated from Winona State University, Winona, MN.

Nicholas honorably served his Country as a member of the United States Army.

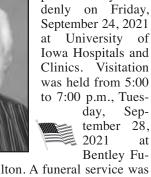
After a 24, year career at Cabela's, Nicholas retired in 2015.

Nicholas will be dearly missed by his four children, Mikel Wilson of Winona, MN, Kelli Wilson of Wabasha, MN, Stuart Wilson of Lodgepole, NE and Brier (Matthew) Hurlbert of Nixa, MO; grandchildren, Cade, Paxton, Gracie, Josie and Bridger; also by nieces, nephews and many friends.

Per Nicholas' wishes, a private family service and celebration will be held at a later date.



325 State St., West Concord • 507-527-2011



## **Triton News**

October, 2021

- WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

### Foolish Production Coming to the THS Stage



Triton High School will be presenting the fable, comic Fools, on November 4, 5, and 6 at7:00 p.m. For our senior citizen crowd, we'll once again be offering a free matinee at 1:00 on Wednes-

day, November 3rd. Tickets for the general admission performances, which are \$4 for students and \$6 for adults, may be purchased in advance or at the door.

This production is under the direction of Anne Schreiber, and joining her as the tech director is John Schreiber, clearly no stranger to the THS stage. As Anne explains, "it's been great having my dad's expertise once again. We work together well, for obvious reasons, but it's also just so nice to have his

added vision for the production." Fools has rich history since it was written by Neil Simon, the successful playwright who is responsible for such hits as The Odd Couple and Barefoot in the Park. The plot centers around a young teacher named Leon, who has arrived in the village of Kulyenchikov to tutor the young Sophia, daughter of the local doctor. Upon his arrival, however, Leon realizes very quickly that all is not right in Kulyenchikov. He meets a shepherd named "Something Something Snetsky" (if only she could remember her first name!), a villager who milks her cow upside down, and a mail carrier who never arrives at the correct house. The situation, Leon realizes, is a curse (or a "nurse" or "purse," as the villagers call it) orchestrated by the ancestors of the evil Count Yousekivitch, and it has placed the villagers in a constant state of stupidity. Hilarity ensues as Leon struggles to break this curse, and ultimately show the villages that the power to breaking the curse lies within them. The cast and crew are busy putting the final

touches to the production, and look forward to showcasing their hard work. The cast includes Weston Haugen, Talia Kelley, Kai Zill, Jenna Kenworthy, Andrew Edge, Mariana Castaneda, Ashtyne Avery, Liam Dostal, Hanna Strom, August Johnson, Litany Peterson, Jasmine Bolster, Lena Moe, Ashley Dominguez, Kianna Peters, Lily Dearborn,



and Alyssa Mulden. The crew includes the talents of Kaitlyn Krupa, Sydney Pluto, Dasmine Marquardt, Raymond Anderson, A.J. Kozisek, Miley Dostal, Anna Anderson, Anyely Dominguez Marquez, Angeleigh Chinn, Poe Broskoff, Emma Esplan, Anthony Crofton, and Connor Koball.



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# **Triton News**

- WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -





Craig Schlichting Superintendent

The Triton Public Schools 2021 Homecoming was absolutely fantastic. I wanted to reflect on that in the Messenger article this month. I think one of the things that made it so fantastic was having it back after having to miss it last year due to COVID. In my first year as the superintendent the administrative team really wanted to make the week of homecoming a celebration of the positive things happening at Triton. The administrators worked hard with staff and community members to bring back the parade and some of the other activities that had been a part of the tradition during homecoming week in 2019. It was a great success and we felt that we had some wonderful momentum going and then lost many of our homecoming activities due to COVID in 2020. I am so impressed with how well everything went this year and it was a great homecoming!

One of the most important elements of a successful homecoming is the planning that happens prior to week of homecoming. It takes a group of dedicated staff working together for all the events of the week to come together. Our new activities director Corey Black was able to work with our returning administrative all-stars Mr. Lutterman and Mr. Van Beek to pick up where we left off in 2019. We also have great leadership in our student council with Ms. Swanson that helps coordinate all of the school activityies with the planning of the community. One of the additions to the festivities this year was the tailgaiting fair. Many of our student groups and the elementary TEAM group put together activities and had food trucks on site.

### Triton FFA Officer Team Attends Fall Leadership Day in Cannon Falls



Pictured left to right: Morgan Styndl, Stella Streich, Jenna Kenworthy, Elyssa Robinson, Kiya Avery and John Moenning. Missing from the picture is Cadence Spearman

Our 2021 officer team had a blast at Fall leadership Day in Cannon Falls! President: Kiya Avery, Secretary: Elyssa Robinson, Treasurer: Jenna Kentworthy, Reporter: Stella Streich, Jr. Advisor: Morgan Styndl , and Sentinel: John Moenning attended the event. We left at 7:50am in our official dress and headed to Cannon Falls high school. We had amazing workshops where we learned more about FFA opportunities and how to grow as a leadership team! We were also gifted with the amazing opportunity to go on one of 5 agricultural business tours. On the tours we learned a lot about how the ag business is doing and that we should do everything we can to get our dream job! I was given the opportunity to go on a Meat Market tour. It was fascinating learning the process of knocking and processing beef. The speaker we had was very excited about her job and clearly explained the meat making process. It was absolutely amazing to hear all the job opportunities in agriculture! Overall the day was a success, many new skills were learned and we left with lots of new ideas for our chapter and for our life!

It was held on our new parking area to the West of the bus garages. It was a great time for all that attended. The TEAM group had bounce houses and the student groups had games that you could play for prizes. The parade this year was as big as ever, and I hope we can continue to get the community involved and participating. A huge thank you to all of the community members that were able to be a part of the parade, and a highlight for sure was the return of our school marching band! They sounded amazing and really brought a great deal of spirit to the pep-fests, playing at the game, and being in our parade.

Our new app was even ready in time for homecoming. This is a great way to get live feeds from the school district or you can pick each school individually to get live feed updates from. I am looking forward to using the features of the new software to communicate weather conditions and things that are happening in the district. It allows us the ability to make voice calls as we have in the past, but it also allows us to send text messages. If you would like to be on our list to receive these please contact the district office and ask to be on the community message list.

The following week two community members treated the staff to a pizza lunch to thank them for all of the extra effort it takes to make homecoming a success. I can't say how thankful I am for our staff to be recognized for the extra effort it takes to work with students on such an event filled and exciting week of activities. I am also thankful to have so many amazing staff and students that were able to show the pride they have in our school district and celebrate the week.

Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at schlich@triton.k12.mn.us or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a time to meet with you or your organization. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

### #WeAreTriton





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**Triton News** 

October, 2021

### - WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

# Triton Welcomes New Teachers

#### (continued from page 1)

And we clean and disinfect tables more often." She explained further, "If a student has to miss class for an extended period of time, I can excuse missed projects and be flexible with how assignments are to be made up. It's better than coming up with a different assignment that they may not have the required art supplies to complete." School staff must now balance the educational, social and emotional needs of their students along with the health and safety of students and staff in the midst of the evolving pandemic.

Stacy is committed to teaching art and wants

to build lasting relationships within her role. She prepared her teaching space and her curriculum in anticipation of a successful year. Stacy Ullom brings a high level of organization and work ethic that will continue to enhance Triton's art department. **Erica Mevers** 

Erica Meyers is excited to be part of the Triton Family! She studied at North Dakota State and earned a Bachelor Degree in Biological Sciences. Then she attended St.Cloud University and earned her Masters Degree in Life Science Education. She had successful student teaching and practical experiences at Kimball High School, St. Cloud Schools, and Ricori High School.

For education majors, student teaching is the capstone, the time when they step into the classroom and immerse themselves in their subjects and their students. Covid affected her student teaching experience, as with many other recent education majors. Traditionally student teachers are trained on implementing classroom procedures, how to create and enforce rules, how to manage students who are off task, disinterested, or misbehaving, and how to keep students actively engaged in their learning. Now student teachers must learn how to effectively manage a class virtually.

Guidelines have been set by the Minnesota Department of Health, and if a significant outbreak occurs in the district; they would require the school to shut down the building. Triton School District will be closely monitoring the data for new Covid-19 cases in Dodge County. Erica is confident that her student teaching experience prepared her to be successful in teaching during such times of uncertainty. "If the pandemic changes the school's learning format, I should be successful in the transition." She has taught online, hybrid, and in-person. Erica was forced to find creative ways to still hold lessons and get students involved without the traditional learning strategies they learned in school.

After graduating, Erica desired to live closer to her family and find a great school to start her career. "I've been told that Triton is known to be a great school and the Triton School District really cares about their students, and the families, and the community." So she applied to Triton and was pleased to accept the offer.

Inspiration can be found in the countless numbers of student teachers such as Erica Meyers, that rose to meet the occasion of educating our youth; despite the unknown challenges that lie ahead. Erica stated,

"I'm here at Triton to give the students experiences that they will remember and be able to use in their life. I want my students to be excited to learn about science by active learning with experiments, projects, and anything that will make science fun to learn." This should be a reminder that teachers are a vital lifeline for their students, now and during whatever is next.

## **Triton Students Tour Al-Corn Clean Fuel**



Claremont, Oct 14 - Seventeen students from Dodge Center's Triton High School toured Al-Corn Clean Fuel yesterday to learn about ethanol production. During the tour, the students, from grades 11 and 12, learned about several components of the ethanol production process including incoming grain grading, grain handling, fermentation, grain storage, dried distiller grain production and storage, ethanol storage and shipment.

"The ethanol industry plays a vital role in boosting the economy here in Claremont and its surrounding towns. By getting a first-hand look at operations at Al-Corn, students have an opportunity to learn about the technologies and processes involved in converting a homegrown ingredient into renewable, clean energy which, in turn, adds value back into our local and state economies," said Randall Doyal, CEO of Al-Corn.

The tour was organized by the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association (MN Bio-Fuels) and sponsored by Novozymes, a global microbe and enzyme provider, and supporter of Minnesota's ethanol industry. Both Al-Corn Clean Fuel and Novozymes are members of MN Bio-Fuels.

"Earlier in the year, we hosted two virtual plant visits at Al-Corn Clean Fuel for students at Triton High School, so it was a welcome change yesterday to be able to bring students into the actual plant," said Tim Rudnicki, executive director of MN Bio-Fuels.

Robert Ickler, Agriculture Economy instructor at Triton High school, accompanied his students during the tour.

"In this class, students have learned about commodity markets and the role that ethanol plants play in them, as an end user of corn. By seeing an ethanol plant, students are better able to visualize commodity markets," he said.

## That's the Latest

- WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

# That's the Latest



By Emery Kleven Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. He's a 1971 graduate of West Concord High School. You can view past columns at his website RoadFarming.com. You can email him at emery@roadfarming.com.

When paging through a newspaper or magazine, most people look at the pictures first and then go to the text if they think there's a better story behind the picture. I hope that's the case here as I was put in charge of cleaning out the garage for our move to Wisconsin.

Wait, what? You're moving where? Portage, Wisconsin. I will still be coming back to West Concord from time to time for important events like Twigfest and the annual flushing of the fire hydrants. I am remaining on the WCHS board of directors so at least once a month, weather permitting, I will be back the second Wednesday of every month. I think it's a state law that starting in October and running through May you are required to qualify any plans with the words 'weather permitting'.

I was in charge of clearing out the garage as it was about 95 percent my 'stuff' in there. This is where I pause to tell you to watch George Carlin's bit about stuff. I was reminded of it every day for the past month. Just cleaning out the toolbox took 3 days. And of course from a toolbox, you can't throw anything away as you might need it someday for something. At least that's what I learned from my dad growing up on the farm. In the picture, there are two old style hacksaws, one with a broken blade and one with no blade at all. That curved hacksaw requires a particular size and length blade which I've not found in my many years of looking for one. The old clothes pin was my mom's that somehow many moons ago found its way to the floor of the machine shed. I asked my dad what to do with it and he said throw it in the toolbox, we might need that out here for something. Well I have not found a use for it yet in the shed or garage but I sure as heck can't throw it now. At the bottom of the picture is some rolled up solder wire that I might need someday. I haven't had a working solder gun for prob-

ably 40 years now but you never know right? I have used it a few times in place of a coat hanger as it's much more pliable. And yes, I do keep a coat hanger in the tool box too. Next to the one hacksaw handle on the right is about a three foot piece of copper wire. I'm not sure how long it's been in the toolbox but it will stay for the foreseeable future and probably to the end of time. In the bottom middle of the picture is an old electric outlet that screws into a lightbulb socket. I'm not sure that these are even made anymore but I have used that a few times. I take the lightbulb out of the porch light and put that in to give me a good place for an outlet for Christmas lights. I think this particular item was in my dad's toolbox back in the 1940's.

The Blatz beer can I found in the far corner of the garage was what gave me the idea to write about all of this. As I was cleaning out my 'stuff' I noticed something hiding between the workbench and the wall. Well I found an old handsaw that was missing for about 6 years and it now hangs with the new one I bought to replace it. There was a caulking gun which also now is reunited with the new caulking gun. Then as I get a flashlight to see if any other items fell in this blackhole of the garage, I found this unopened Blatz beer can. The bottom was round and expanded but it never exploded from freezing every winter. The top of the can has what it calls the EZ Sta Ring. So that would date it back to just after they eliminated those pop-tops' that you peeled off and threw on the ground. There was a date on it that said 1851. But evidently that's when G Heileman Brewing Company was established and not when this beer was



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Pictured are some of the various artifacts from Emery's toolbox and from his garage that he cleaned out this past month. Among the finds were tools his dad Elmer told him to throw in the toolbox because you never know when you might need it.

made. This item will not be staying in the tool box. If fact it has already been removed. I did not open it because I did not want to bother the hazmat team.

The two other items in the picture include a Maytag nameplate from an old refrigerator and a jacket patch from the Governor's fishing opener in 1990. Jack Hyde, the former owner of KDHL informed me in my first year there that the farm director was to go to the fishing opener and report on it. I found out that Hall of Fame broadcaster Dean Curtiss had set this up many years ago. It was one of the best duties I got in 33 years of farm broadcasting. That along with interviewing Miss America Gretchen Carlson when she was wearing a particularly low cut dress that day.

Well if you ever make your way by Portage, Wisconsin, let me know. I'll take you out for a Blatz beer.



October, 2021



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# **Octobers, Octobers, and More Octobers**

#### **By Colleen Sathrum Hayne**

I guess I should have realized when I was kid that I would grow up to be a history buff because I always loved reading what happened 25 and 50 years ago. With the Museum's storehouse of old West Concord Enterprises at my disposal, I had a good time looking back at the autumns of 1996, 1971, 1946, 1921, and 1897 (no newspapers from 1896 could be found).

#### 1996: 25 years ago

The city council was more than happy-there were no delinquent water bills.

Conversations were happening about the old hotel. Ken Tague, the hotel's owner, reported that he felt the building was secure. If anyone was found around the premises, they should be charged with trespassing. Further concerns should be addressed to his attorney.

Boy Scout Troop 58 practiced their camping skills at Big Woods State Park in Nerstrand. Andy Heser was spiffing up the Public Library for his Eagle Scout project. Tritons's football team was the Hiawatha Valley League champion for the 4th year in a row and the cross country and volleyball teams were enjoying their seasons.

Farmers were scouting their fields for corn borer infestations.

#### 1971:50 years ago

Roy Giesler won the Grand Championship trophy at the State Horseplowing Contest with his Percherons, taking first in both the walking plow and sulky plow divisions.

A huge crowd attended the Firemen's Dance. Mrs. Lawrence Witt won the Buick filled with donated prizes. The Firemen were more than pleased with the donations from the community.

46 high school FHA'ers walked the 20 miles from Byron to West Concord to raise more than \$800.00 for Muscular Dystrophy.

The Cardinals were sporting a strong football team. Their Wasioja conference record so far was 4 wins and no losses. Unfortunately, one of their stalwart defensive players, Rick Van Zuilen, was out with a broken leg.

#### 1946: 75 years ago

The Business Men's Association met at City Hall with a dinner preceding the meeting served by the Catholic Ladies Guild. The football team, coach, and recently discharged soldiers were their guests.

A special election was held about this question: "Shall the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors be permitted in the County of Dodge through the establishment of Municipal Liquor Stores?" In a close election the city of West Concord voted 174 to 172 to allow such establishments, but the county as a whole defeated the question by a vote of 2021 to 2005. Dodge County would remain dry for at least 3 more years before the question could be brought before the voters again.

The first PTA meeting of the year was held with a program of accordion and vocal music. The topic of the night was cooperation between parents and school. The evening ended with a drill by the Women's Relief Corps.

#### 1921:100 years ago

Two of the worst freight train wrecks in years happened in town. One was just south of the depot, when 15 cars loaded with wheat from Kansas and one with gasoline, piled up due to the breaking of a defective bar under the third car that let everything loose.

Wheat was piled up in 15 foot hills and luckily only slight damage was done to the gasoline car so the leakage was small. All smokers were kept away from that car.

Things had just been cleared enough that final a freight train could pass through town

once again. Unbelievably, 15 minutes after that train passed through it wrecked near the Dingler farm, 2 1/2 miles north of town. 13 loaded cars were piled up when one of the cars jumped the rails. Furniture, apples, lime, brick, and coal were scattered everywhere.

In school news it was reported that daily high school attendance was better than usual. "After the pestiferous flies have disappeared, cooking classes will begin in the Home Economics department."

George Tibbetts attend the National G.A.R. encampment (Grand Army of the Republic) in Indianapolis and reported back to West Concord about the spirit of patriotism that permeated the event. After the Civil War the G.A.R. was the preeminent veterans organization in America.

#### 1897:124 years ago

The city council hired a night watchman. "Woe be to the individual he finds doing that which he should not."

The Enterprise pleaded, "We need an organized fire company. Get together, effect an organization, elect a leader, and then do a little drill work." Fires were happening all too often.

The bulk of the threshing in the area was complete and farmers were plowing their fields.

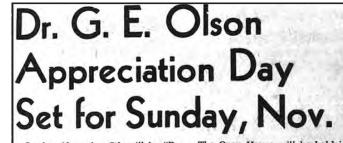
It was a dry year and with no paved streets, of course, the editor of the Enterprise pleaded for the city to sprinkle their streets with water like other cities of their size.

"The expense of a tank sprinkler, with a supply tank at the lower town well, would not be that great."

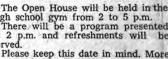
"The finest car of potatoes ever seen was loaded at the station yesterday. They were grown 2 miles east of town." H.H. Orcutt and sons bought some for their store at 35 cents a bushel.

And-that's the way it was!

Happy autumn to you. Thank you for your support of the Schoolhouse Fall Festival—it was a great day.



Sunday, November 7th will be "Dr. G. E. Olson's Appreciation Day" in West Concord, a day in which resi-dents of the village and a wide area surrounding can show their apprecia-tion to the man who has been their doctor for 38 years.



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# Neighbors

- WEST CONCORD MESSENGER

# Timeless Anodyne at The Annadine

(continued from page 1)

Whether it was your grandparent's original red barn, seeping with memories of hard work and the smell of freshly cut hay, or your quaint hometown parish with the creaky floor you found wholly comforting, you left that place feeling a connection to humanity, to ages past, and to dreams woven for the future. One such significant place melding the origins of the building to the aspirations of today is known as The Annadine in Dodge Center. I had the privilege of diving into its rich history and bright future with owner Nadine Langworthy.

It all started in 1880 when Dodge Center needed a drug store on Main Street. Back in the day, the drug store had three sections consisting of a beauty shop, a doctor's office, and a dentist office upstairs. There was also a bakery in the adjoining building. One of the drugs sold at the drug store was anodyne.

The definition in the Merriam Webster dictionary reads, "a drug that allays pain" or "something that soothes, calms or comforts." Keep that in mind, gentle reader.

Time marches on to the 1960s, the property remains, and not too far away a girl named Nadine enjoys growing up with music. Nadine recalls, "My mother was the church organist and was constantly singing throughout the day at home." That love of music was passed from mother to daughter, encouraging Nadine to learn the organ, alto saxophone, violin and ukulele.

A few decades later while teaching piano full-time, Nadine resumes her dream of having a Music Teachers National Association Certificate. She finishes at age 53 in 2008, courtesy of St. Thomas University, recalling, "My love for music and for children makes teaching piano the perfect profession for me, and as more and more discoveries are made on how beneficial learning a musical instrument is not only to a child's brain, but their mental health, I am more passionate about it." Averaging 40 to 45 students a week, she knew a larger studio space would be ideal for her students.

In September of 2011, the original drug store, dentist, beauty shop and bakery property were now 131 years old and in desperate need of some TLC. Dilapidated, but far from done, the building had potential. Nadine and her husband Randy took the leap of faith to pursue a life-long dream of creating a special multi-purpose musical space. With help from a private loan and an Economic Development Loan from the city of Dodge Center, they bought the building as one property and began on work defining the spaces to their needs.

First, they renovated the bakery into a piano studio with a waiting area, a bathroom, and two classrooms. The studio hosted its first students by November of 2011.

Next, the former upstairs dentist area of today's Annadine building was transitioned into a loft apartment staring in January of 2012. By that summer, the first renters had



moved in.

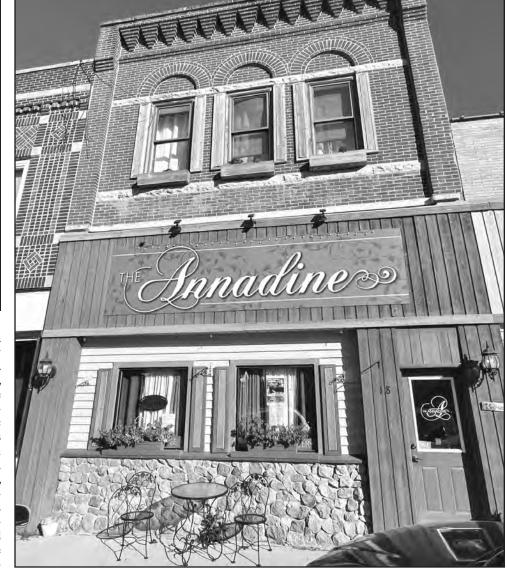
They saved the best for last. Finally, after a few years of working on their loans, they dove into the wine bar and music venue area. It was a labor of love and Nadine recalls, "We lovingly removed the peeling white paint from the 13-foot-high pressed tin ceiling and repainted it with a gold metallic paint." They had the help of one of Nadine's piano student's named Anna who, through her Senior Project, helped design the space. Combining the names of Anna and Nadine, they decided to name the new space The Annadine. Only then did Nadine stumble across the meaning of anodyne when googling "Annadine" out of curiosity. Google asked, "Did you mean anodyne?" Nadine stated, "Some definitions are, a painkilling drug or medicine, something that relieves or takes away stress, something that is relaxing. A source of soothing comfort. Not only was that exactly what my vision was for the place, but it was originally a space that provided anodyne.' Clearly it was meant to be.

In the Fall of 2016, five years ago, the longawaited opening night arrived. Nadine reminisced, "We had our first live music on Friday night, October 28, 2016, featuring Nathan Davidson and the CBB Jazzers."

Nadine describes the space as, "Comfortable, eclectic, a dash of quirkiness, and boho. It's got a good vibe." For example, one of the booths is crafted out of two old pipe organs. And of course, the owners pay homage to the history of the building by showcasing old photos.

The Annadine offers a variety of refreshment. Nadine explains, "We serve a limited menu of three white wines, three red and a variety of domestic and craft beers. We also have a selection of pop, hot tea, coffee and hot chocolate. We are now serving pizza, as well as nuts and snack mix, which we always have had."

As for music options, The Annadine showcases live music and open mic night. The next three players in the live music category are The Dreamers featuring Wayne Owen on Friday, October 22. Nadine describes them as playing, "all the great pop from the 60s and 70s. They were there!" Next is Jaggedease on Saturday, November 6th, featuring a "more jiving, mellow, lush, all in one" sound, according to Nadine. Then on Saturday, November 20th, 2Birdz members Carl and Roberta Stephenson play, showcas-



ing pop and classic rock songs.

Open mic, held the first and third Thursday of each month with doors opening at 6pm, is a great option for people age 16 and over to showcase their talent. There's a white board for sign up and you're allowed three songs each round, working through the list from 7-10pm. Nadine says, "We enjoy much local talent, both professional and amateurs, young and old. We've had from classic rock to opera, country to Christian, originals and old favorites."

There is no cover charge for open mic or live music." To clarify, The Annadine is only open when these specific music events are held. The Annadine is celebrating 5 years this month. Nadine stresses the importance of the go local movement reiterating, "We want everyone to know there is a place to get away very close by that has everything you need: good friends, good beverages, and good atmosphere." Check out their Facebook page for the latest information.

In the past 131 years, the vibe of the building and its spaces has changed a bit, but the purpose? Not so much. Relaxing spaces created for soothing the soul and honoring our humanity are a must have. Go and discover for yourself what the Annadine is like. Revel in the history. Revel in the present. Be part of the future of the Annadine.

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#### WEST CONCORD **COUNCIL MINUTES** September 13, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers and Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas

Council members absent:

City staff and others present: Bryce Lange, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant; Angie Jarrett, Ambulance Director; Marianne Sobek, City Treasurer; Dave Kenworthy, Fire Chief.

#### Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

#### Adopt Agenda

There were two additional items added to the Administrator's Report.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously. Public Participation

### None.

#### Public Hearing - Hobby Kennel License

Mayor Ketchum opened the hearing at 6:03 PM. JoAnne Cormican at 301 5th Ave. NW has applied for the license. They are requesting to have one 35 lb terrier mix and three indoor cats. Being there was no additional comments, Mayor Ketchum closed the hearing at 6:04 PM.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve the hobby kennel license for JoAnne Cormican at 301 5th Ave. NW. Motion carried unanimously

#### Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve minutes of the August 23, 2021 City Council

#### Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approve Payment of Bills** 

There was one addition to the bills, Madison National Life in the amount of \$1,641.14

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve payment of bills as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Staff Reports** Ambulance Director

Angie Jarret presented two names to request to hire as paid on-call staff. Both have been interviewed and had satisfactory background checks.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Skogen, to approve hiring Megan Lucas and Kayla Auger as paid on-call staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Jarrett also stated that call numbers were up 8% from 2020 and up 12% from 2019.

#### **City** Treasurer

Marianne Sobek presented updates to the budget worksheets which included decreased health insurance expenses from 10% to 5%, increased wages to replace maintenance worker with water specialist, reduced swimming pool repair/maintenance expenditures by \$5,000, reduce parks expenditures by \$10,000 for the dog park, and increased ambulance expenditure by \$234,600 for Road Rescue Ambulance.

**Administrator's Report** 

#### A. Proposed Tax Levy Request

The EDA will review their tax levy request at the next meeting on September 20, and on September 27 a resolution to formally approve the preliminary levy request.

B. Community Development Technician

Staff is recommending to hire David Myrom for the Community Development Technician position at \$24.06 per hour. Mr. Myrom has

passed both reference and background checks. Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve hiring David Myrom for the Community Development Technician position at \$24.06 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Assistant Ambulance Director

Staff recommends hiring Anthony Gengler at a salary of \$63,700 for the Assistant Ambulance Director. He has passed both reference and background checks.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve hiring Anthony Gengler for the Assistant Ambulance Director at a salary of \$63,700. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Water Systems Specialist

Staff recommends hiring Charlie Dappen for the Water Systems Specialist position at \$28 per hour. Mr. Dappen has passed all reference and background checks.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to approve hiring Charlie Dappen for the Water Systems Specialist position at \$28 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Clear Seal Coat on Main Street

In the packet is a quote from Bargen Inc. to apply clear seal coat mad from soybean oil to Main Street from 1st Ave. NE to 1st Ave. NW. Bargen Inc. is the only company in Minnesota that does this type of clear seal coat. The estimate is in the amount of \$15, 995.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve the estimate from Bargen Inc. for \$15,995, to clear seal coat Main Street from 1st Ave. NE to 1st Ave. NW. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Pavement Re-Painting

Staff received two quotes from S.L. Contracting and Bargen Inc. for repainting stripes and crosswalks from 1stAve. NE and SE to 1stAve. NW and SW and from 1stStreets NE and NW to 1st Streets SE and SW. Bargen estimated at \$11,750 and S.L. Contracting estimated \$9,375.41.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve the bid by S.L. Contracting for \$9,375.41. Motion carried unanimously. G. Hardware Hank Alleyway

In the packet is a quote from S.L. Contraction to repave the alley by Hardware Hank for \$19,987. After packet went out a quote was received from Rochester Sand & Gravel for \$16.936.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the bid from Rochester Sand & Gravel for \$16,936.

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Scissor Lift

Staff applied for a grant from the Department of Labor and Industry, that gives recipients funding for equipment that improves employee safety. Staff was awarded \$6,250 to use towards the purchase of a scissors lift for the mezzanine storage areas at the maintenance shop. The quote received from Ziegler in Rochester puts the scissors lift at \$13,487. There are enough funds in the budget to cover the \$7,237 that the grant does not cover.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas, to approve purchase of a scissors lift for the maintenance department. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Mayor Terms

At the previous meeting it was requested that staff research changing the Mayor term from four years, as it is currently in City Code, to two years. If Council would like to proceed with this a public hearing would need to be held to approve the change to City Code. Mayor Ketchum asked for Council to vote on whether they would like to proceed with a public hearing.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Ketchum, to pursue changing the Mayor term from four years to two years. Ayes:1; Nays: 3. Motion defeated.

J. Triton Parade Request

City Highlights

www.westconcordmn.com

Luke Lutterman is seeking Council approval to have a homecoming parade on Friday, October 1, beginning at 1:00 PM. They would like to use the same route as in 2019 and will work with County Law Enforcement to ensure proper road closures.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas, to approve the route for the Triton homecoming parade Friday, October 1, at 1:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Seasonal Employee Termination

Since the Aquatic Center has closed for the season staff is requesting that Council formally terminate the employees so they can be removed from the payroll system.

Motion made by Trestad, seconded by Skogen, to approve terminating Aquatic Center employees for the 2021 season. Motion carried unanimously.

L. Scum Pump for Wastewater Treatment Plant

Minnesota Pump Works submitted a quote for a scum pump at the wastewater treatment plant in the amount of \$6,794.54. The current one is failing, and it is unknown when exactly it will completely fail.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Maas, to approve a quote from Minnesota Pump Works for \$6,794.54 for a new scum pump at the wastewater treatment plant. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Miscellaneous None.

#### Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant

### WEST CONCORD CITY COUNCIL

### **SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Councilmembers: Council member Karen Peterson, Council member Sam Schollmeier, Council member Collin Ripley

ABSENT: Council member Jeffrey Burse

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Librarian Nancy Schollmeier, Police Chief Shannon Boerner, Doug Rassman from Peoples Services, and Public Works Superintendent Keith Clammer, Todd Hagen from Ehlers

Consent Agenda:

• Approval of Minutes of:

August 19, 2021 City Council Meeting

August 31, 2021 City Special Council Meetng – Water Meter Quotes

August 31, 2021 2022 Budget Meeting -

Sewer/Water; Police

September 7, 2021 2022 Budget Meeting -Public Works, Pool, and Parks

- September 8, 2021 2022 Budget Meeting -Library, Fire, and Ambulance
- Approval of Payment of Claims

Review EDA Minutes

Motion: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion was made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Schollmeier Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: none

#### **Resolution 2021-13 PROVIDING FOR** THE SALE OF 2021A BONDS:

Todd Hagen from Ehlers was present to present the Sale of the 2021A Bonds for the purpose of the purchase of water meters. The bond sale would be General Obligation Water Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2021A in the amount of \$482,000. The bonds would be to finance the purchase of acquisitions and installation of water meters in the city and to refund with cash the City's outstanding General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012A for an interest cost savings. Mr. Hagen mentioned that there is about \$60,000 left over in the 2007 Bond to close that fund out and the funds could be used to offset some of the fees and cost of issuance of the new bond. Ehlers is not looking at getting a bond rating for this issuance and would like to keep the sale local as it is a smaller issuance. Ehlers is looking at a bond closing at the Council meeting on October 21st. Mr. Hagen mentioned that the interest rates are low currently.

Motion: Motion to approve Resolution 2021-13: Providing for the sale of the 2021A Bonds and authorizing Ehlers to move forward with the bond issuance.

Motion was made by Council member Schollmeier, seconded by Council member Ripley

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley Nays: none

Resolution 2021-14 to Accept the coronavirus local fiscal recovery fund established under the American rescue plan act:

The Resolution will provide funds in the amount of \$81,268.00 for the City of West Concord to use in response to the needs of the city regarding the hardships that the Covid-19 disease caused.

City staff will provide recommendations as to how the funds will be used.

Motion: Motion to approve Resolution 2021-14 to Accept the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established under the American Rescue Plan

(continued on page 16)

#### **CITY OF WEST CONCORD** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING December 16, 2021

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of West Concord, Minnesota, will meet in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 6:15 p.m. to discuss the City of West Concord Municipal Liquor Store.

All persons desiring to be heard with reference to the proposed budget should attend this meeting. Written comments must be received by 1:00 p.m. on December 13, 2021, at the West Concord City Hall, c/o City Administrator, 180 East Main Street, P.O. Box 435, West Concord, MN 55985

Dated: October 13, 2021



#### (continued from page 15)

Motion was made by Council member Schollmeier, seconded by Council member Peterson

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley Navs: none

Resolution 2021-15: Opting to join the Statewide VOLUNTEER Firefighter Plan (PERA)

Interim Administrator Slater-Schulte introduced the Resolution for approval. The volunteer firefighters would like to join PERA (Public Employees Retirement Plan). The plan cost analysis is at the rate of \$1,400 benefit per year of service and would be effective January 1, 2022

Motion: Motion to approve Resolution 2021-15 Opting to join the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan (PERA).

Motion was made by Council member Ripley, seconded by Council member Peterson

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Schollmeier, and

City of West Concord **MINNESOTA** 

> **RESOLUTION 2020 - 33** A RESOLUTION APPROVING 2021 TAX LEVY

Council

Concord.

Nays: none

member

TION HEARING DATE

Interim Administrator Slater Schulte explained

that staff is waiting for some of the tax levy fig-

ures from Ehlers before the resolution could be

approved. She suggested tabling the item and

recess this meeting and reconvene the meeting

on September 23rd to consider the resolution.

Agreement between West Central Wisconsin

Biosolids Commission and the City of West

Interim Administrator Slater-Schulte intro-

duced the item for discussion. The agreement

would be effective December 1, 2021. The city

currently is taking service from the Biosolids

Facility under an agreement dated December

1, 2005. The agreement is for 15 years. The

disposal rates were included in the agreement.

Motion: Motion to approve agreement be-

tween the City of West Concord and West Cen-

tral Wisconsin Biosolids Commission.

WHEREAS, the City of West Concord held a Truth in Taxation public hearing on December 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm to receive feedback regarding the 2021 City Budget; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of West Concord, Minnesota, Dodge County orders that the following sums are proposed amounts to be levied for the year 2021, upon the taxable property in said City of West Concord.

**GENERAL FUND:** \$359,491

EDA FUND: 17,000

EQUIPMENT REVOLVING FUND 20,000

**DEBT SERVICE FUND:** 168,536

2005 G.O. Water Revenue Note (Refunded w/ 2012A)	6,213
2003 G.O. Water Revenue Note	3,200
2017A G.O. Improvement Bonds (Water Portion)	29,111
2014A G.O. Bonds	65,830
2017A G.O. Improvement Bonds	0
2017B G.O. Equipment Certificates	21,053
2020A G.O. Improvement Bonds	43,128

#### **TOTAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY \$565,027**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The West Concord City Administrator is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of the Resolution to the County Auditor of Dodge County, State of Minnesota.

Approved by a majority vote of the West Concord City Council this 17th day of December 2020.

By: Jeffrey E. McCool, Mayor (City Seal) Attest: Mike Plante, City Administrator

Ripley Motion was made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Schollmeier **RESOLUTION 2021-16: APPROVING** Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peter-THE 2022 PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY son, Council member Schollmeier, and Council AND SETTING THE TRUTH IN TAXAmember Riplev

#### Navs: none **APPROVING OPERATION AND MAIN-**TENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WEST CONCORD AND PEOPLESER-VICE, INC.

Interim Administrator Slater-Schulte introduced the item for discussion. The agreement

West Concord City Code

would be effective April 1, 2022 and would be for a duration of 5 years. PeopleService operates and maintains the wastewater facilities on behalf of the city. There is an approximate increase in the contract of 3%.

Motion: Motion to approve the contract with PeopleService, Inc. beginning April 1, 2022. Motion was made by Council member Ripley, seconded by Council member Schollmeier

(continued on page 17)

1310.11

1310.11. Definition. Subdivision 1. A "snow removal period" as used in this subsection means any period of time the quantity of snow warrants the deployment of snowplows.

Subd. 2. Parking prohibition. During a snow removal period, no parking shall be allowed on the road or alley for 48 hours after the start of a snowfall. Warnings and/or citations will be issued to vehicle owners parked in the path of snowplow on the first pass. Any vehicle violating this article may be towed without notice to the property owner, at the owner's expense.

Subd. 3. Public notice. Notice of snow removal period must be published in the official paper each year prior to the snow season. Notice must be posted in the city hall and other available places at the time of publication.

Subd. 4. Piling of Snow. Persons shall not push or deposit snow or ice into a street or alley from private property or public boulevards. Do not pile snow at street corners or at the ends of public drives so it interferes with the view of the traveling public. Property owners will be charged removal costs if such piles must be removed by City staff or another agent of City.

You could get \$1,200 more to cover past-due bills.

Apply at mn.gov/energyassistance

#MNEnergyAssistance

Article for newsletter/ website

#### More Minnesotans than ever before can get help to pay energy and water bills

This year, Minnesotans can access greater financial assistance and newly expanded protections to keep their homes warm and lights on through Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program and Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule.

#### **NEW IN 2021:**

More Minnesotans than ever qualify for the Energy Assistance Program: Over 600,000 Minnesota households are income-eligible for Energy Assistance, significantly expanding who can receive this essential help. Homeowners and renters can qualify for energy assistance. You could receive up to \$1,600 for energy bills and may qualify for an additional \$1,200 to cover past-due bills.

The Cold Weather Rule goes into effect earlier (October 1) and lasts later (April 30). Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (CWR), which is administered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, protects residential utility customers from having electric or natural gas service shut off.

Water bill assistance is newly available and households can also qualify for weatherization. By submitting one application through the Energy Assistance Program, households could qualify for payments to cover both water and energy bills, and qualify them for the Minnesota Weatherization Program, which helps households with home improvements to conserve energy and lower their energy costs permanently.

How do you apply for the Energy Assistance Program? Request an application or find your local service provider with one of these options: 1). Search online for "Minnesota energy assistance" 2). Go online: mn.gov/energyassistance 3). Call 800-657-3710 and press 1

How do you sign up for Cold Weather Rule protection? Contact your natural gas or electric company and request a Cold Weather Rule (CWR) payment plan. Payment plans can be established at any time during the CWR season. If you are unable to agree on a

October, 2021



www.westconcordmn.com

October, 2021

*(continued from page 16)* 

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley Nays: none

#### MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LEAD/COPPER TAP WATER MONITORING REPORT

Staff has received letters from the MN Department of Health regarding the testing of water within the city. The letters report the results of the lead/copper monitoring that was required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Staff was asking for authority to send the letters to the effective residents and complete the compliance.

MOTion: Motion to authorize staff to send the letters and complete the compliance.

Motion was made by Council member Schollmeier, seconded by Council member Ripley

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley Nays: none

#### AČCEPTANCE OF GRANT FROM MIN-NESOTA EMPLOYMENT AND ECO-NOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$594,550.00.

Interim Administrator Slater-Schulte informed the council of the grant. The city received the grant in the amount of \$594,550 to be shared with the city of Claremont. There will be an administrator regarding the distribution of funds. The funds will be used to for housing rehab and there will be 11 grants for each city. Residents would be encouraged to apply for the grant.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Boerner presented his monthly report. The report listed the department activities for the month.

Nancy Schollmeier, Librarian presented her report. She reported that the summer program was completed for the year. They had had story time, music, movement, and art activities. There were fourteen children and one adult that attended. There will be outdoor story time starting September 14th at Lions Park. Ms. Schollmeier will be working with SELCO on a replacement plan for the library computers.

Keith Clammers Maintenance Supervisor reported on the completed work that had been done during the past month. The pool has been closed for the season. Maintenance was done on the equipment, grass mowing, picnic tables refurbished, and other general duties. Mr. Clammers asked about the hiring of part-time on call people for snow removal. There was discussion regarding the wage.

Doug Rasmussen from PeopleService was present. Mr. Rassman reported that the water tower had been cleaned and next week there will be hydrant flushing. The water meters have been ordered. There was discussion regarding asking the residents to make sure the meters are accessible for replacement. The radios for the meters have been back ordered.

Fire Chief Chad Finne was present. The department has a new member. The jaws of life equipment have been ordered. The Department would like to hold off on the purchase of a grass rig this year. They will be holding a fundraiser pancake breakfast on October 1st. Chief Finne informed the council of a new fire fighter Joe Bud and requested approval.

Motion: Motion to approve Joe Bud as fire fighter

Motion was made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Ripley

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Schollmeier, and Nays: none Interim Administrator Slater-Schulte reported that Jeanne Vogt from Ehlers will be working on getting the budget figures for the 2022 Preliminary Levy.

member

RECESS: Mayor McCool recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 23rd to discuss the Preliminary 2022 Property Tax Levy and any other city business. RESESS AT 7:50 P.M.

Next regular scheduled Council meeting will be October 21st at 7:00 p.m.

By: Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Council

Attest: Sandra Borders, Interim City Clerk

#### WEST CONCORD CITY COUNCIL RE-CONVENE SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey McCool, Council member Karen Peterson, Council member Jeffrey Burse, Council member Sam Schollmeier, Council member Collin Ripley

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator Shirley Slater-Schulte, Librarian Nancy Schollmeier, Ehlers Representative Jeanne Vogt, Interim City Clerk Sandra Borders **PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE

#### CITY BUSINESS:

#### Resolution 2021-17 Approving Minor Subdivision Regarding Organ Property

Resolution 2021-17 would approve a parcelsplit for the property creating a minor subdivision. The City Council approved a minor subdivision on September 23, 2021 subject to the conditions and requirement of this resolution.

MOTION: Motion was made by Council member Peterson, seconded by Council member Ripley to approve Resolution 2021-17.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley Nays: None

#### **ŘESOLUTION 2021-16 – APPROVING 2022 PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY AND SETTING TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING DATE FOR DECEMBER 16,**

**2021** Jean Vogt from Ehlers was present to discuss the proposed 2022 Annual Budget. It was reported that the Local Government Aid (LGA) for 2022 would be \$315.63.

Some of the changes were the following:

Council Wages reduced to \$7750.00

Administration wages were increased to \$142.000 to accommodate the increase in personnel needed.

Questions were asked about where the LMC dues and memberships were coded. Staff will check

Accounting and Audit was reduced from \$9,000 to \$0

Staff will check on the Professional Services regarding the allocation to the General Fund or if some should be in the Enterprise funds

General Fund Postage was reduced, and some postage will be allocated to the Enterprise funds

Building Repair was reduced to \$0 and \$25,000 of the funds were reallocated to Capital Outlay for the remodel of Kitchen at City Hall, and Council wishes to carry over \$25,000 from the 2021 budget for the remodel

Eagle Scout project was reduced to \$0 Survival Days was reduced to \$3,000

There was discussion of the purchase of a porta-potty instead of the rental.

Staff will check as to what money was spent in account 101-4194-40500 Capital Outlay

Other items in discussion were batting cages, fire/smoke detectors, city hall parking lot repair where the money came from.

Maintenance Department has scheduled the replacement of the pick-up truck in the Equipment Revolving Fund

EDA has scheduled the purchase of the Organ Property for 2021. The EDA has a potential developer for the property and there was discussion that the developer would pay for the street improvements.

There was discussion regarding fund 225 and adding an additional line item for lease rental. Fire and Ambulance have reduced their budgets for 2022

Fund 260 – TIF will be closed out this year Fund 375 will also be closed in 2021

There are several street projects that need to be considered. There is money in the 2020 street/utility project that needs to be spent. Staff needs to look at water sales regarding

allocation because sales seem too low. Fire Department has \$27,000 in the fire truck

budget that could be used for Turnout gear and batteries for the radios.

\$75,500 was cut from the proposed budget The new proposed General fund levy for 2022 is \$413,347. The Debt Service Levy is proposed at \$157,669 for a total General Fund and Special Funds levy to be \$628,016. This will be certified to the County Auditor. The levy increase for 2022 is proposed to be 11.1%. The proposed levy needs to be certified to the County Auditor by September 30th. The median price home is up from \$95,000 to \$100,000.

The Truth in Taxation Public Hearing is scheduled for December 16th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

MOTION: Motion was made by Council member Schollmeier, seconded by Council member Ripley to approve Resolution 2021-16, 2022 Proposed Tax Levy with the proposed tax levy of \$628,016.

Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley Nays: None

Staff will send Resolution 2021-16 to Dodge County.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Council discussed investments and working with Ehlers Investments regarding the investments. Ms. Slater-Schulte informed the Council that the Organ Property will be closing and that the Stubbs property is moving forward. Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to Adjourn.

Motion was made by Mayor McCool, seconded by Council member Schollmeier Ayes: Mayor McCool, Council member Peterson, Council member Burse, Council member Schollmeier, and Council member Ripley

Nays: None By: Mayor Jeffrey McCool

Attest: andra Borders, Interim City Clerk

#### WEST CONCORD COUNCIL MINUTES September 27, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, September 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers and Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas

Council members absent:

City staff and others present: Bryce Lange, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant; Angie Jarrett, Ambulance Director; AJ Gengler, Assistant Ambulance Director; Marianne Sobek, City Treasurer; Deputy Wohlenhaus. Meeting Called to Order Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill

Ketchum at 6:00 p.m. Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Public Participation**

None.

#### Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Skogen, to approve minutes of the August 23, 2021 City Council Meeting, the July 19, 2021 EDA Meeting, the August 17, 2021 HRA Meeting, the July 8, 2021 and August 12, 2021 Library Board Meetings, and the August 17, 2021 Park Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approve Payment of Bills**

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Staff Reports Ambulance Director

Angie Jarret introduced the new Assistant Ambulance Director, AJ Gengler. She also gave a few updates on the department.

#### Administrator's Report

A. Proposed Tax Levy Request

The EDA met and decided to increase their levy request from \$10,000 to \$20,000. City Administrator Lange presented Resolution 2021-016, A Resolution Approving the Proposed Budget of the City of Dodge Center for Council's consideration.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve Resolution 2021-016, A Resolution Approving the Proposed Budget of the City of Dodge Center and Authorizing the City Administrator to Certify the Proposed Tax Levy Request to the County Auditor. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Airport Grant Agreement

Lange presented Resolution 2021-017, Authorization to Execute Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition for Council's consideration.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2021-017, Authorization to Execute Minnesota Department of Transportation Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Maintenance Shop/Emergency Services Building Parking Lot Staff has received an estimate from Rochester Sand & Gravel to install asphalt in the gravel area south of the maintenance shop and west of the emergency services building in the amount of \$56,628. There was additional discussion about adding a few parking spaces on the west side of 1st Avenue NE.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Trelstad, to authorize City Administrator Lange to proceed with paving the maintenance shop and emergency services building parking lot, 400 feet of 1st Avenue NE, and an additional area on the west side of 1st Avenue NE for additional parking near Veteran's Memorial for a total not to exceed \$125,000. Motion carried unanimously.

#### D. 1st Avenue NE

Staff has received an estimate from Rochester Sand & Gravel to install 4 inches of asphalt over 400 feet of 1st Avenue NE in the amount of \$41,226. This item was discussed and voted on with the previous agenda item.

E. Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association A proposed agreement with MMUA was provided in the packet. The agreement is for services from October

#### Page 17

### 

Ripley



City Highlights

www.westconcordmn.com

(continued from page 17)

1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 in the amount of \$16,050.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to approve the contract with Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association for \$16,050. Motion carried unanimously.

#### F. Triton Color Run

Triton Student Council is requesting approval for their route for the annual color run on October 9 from 9 AM-11:30 AM. A map of the rout has been included in the packet. The student council will coordinate with law enforcement to provide traffic control.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve the route for the Triton Student Council Color Run held on October 9 from 9 AM-11:30 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Health Insurance Quote

After packet was sent out staff received our health insurance quote for 2022.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the health insurance quote for 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Setting a Public Hearing for the 2022 Budget

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to set a public hearing for December 13, 2021 at 6 PM for the 2022 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Dodge Center Farmers Market Request A representative from the Dodge Center Farmers Market has reached out requesting to hold a farmers market in the west City Hall parking lot on Saturdays from 9 AM-1 PM, May until the first snowfall.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to allow the Dodge Center Farmers Market to use the west City Hall parking lot on Saturdays from 9 AM-1 PM, May until the first snowfall. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Miscellaneous

Skogen asked if there was a plan at all for 7th Avenue SE, the street condition is pretty bad. Trelstad asked when work was planned for the Hardware Hank alleyway.

Blaisdell asked if the 2020 improvement project had been wrapped up, and if penalties had been discussed.

#### Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to adjourn at 6:31 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant

### West Concord Public Library

In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, Keith Clammer was our Guest Reader for story time October 5th. Joe Budin, from the West Concord Fire Department, joined him with

the fire truck and firefighter's gear. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the stories as well as seeing the fire truck and equipment. Thank you to Keith and Joe!

We hope to continue our outdoor story time for a while, as long as weather permits.

We have many new books and DVDs, with more expected soon. Stop in to check one (or more) out!



Library hours Monday and Thursday 1:00 pm --- 7:00 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 am --- 5:00 pm

### **Grieving the Loss of a Pet**

Our pets become part of our family. They develop distinct relationships with each family member, human and animal alike. After a pet's death, each family member will go through the grieving process in his or her own way.

Gail Wallis Hague, a counseling psychologist with close to 40 years of experience, says that feelings of sadness, anger, loss, shock, or guilt often arise when a pet dies. Processing these feelings can be overwhelming and seem never-ending, according to Hague, who works as the grief counselor at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana. She also manages the college's CARE Pet Loss Grief Helpline.

Grieving the loss of a pet is a journey that differs for every person and even other animals in the home.

There are as many grief reactions as there are people who are grieving," Hague explains. Each person who is grieving is unique, as is the relationship that person had with the pet. The circumstances of the pet's death and family also play a role in how people mourn the loss.

The grieving process requires time, and there are no shortcuts to get through it.

"Grief will come in waves," says Hague. "As times goes by, the quality of the grief changes and eventually the waves get further and further apart."

"It is important to recognize the various signs of grief and to be supportive of those who are going through the process," she says. A strong support system filled with people who are sympathetic and encouraging to the mourning process makes the journey more bearable.

Children under the age of 7 don't fully understand the permanence of death. They will need information tailored to their developmental stage. Parents may find it hard to explain the pet's death to their children, especially while the parents themselves are grieving.

"There are many wonderful children's books that help explain the loss of a pet in way that is easier to understand," Hague says. There are also books for parents to help them guide their children through the difficult process.

All pets, no matter the species, have the capacity to grieve the loss of a fellow pet in the household.

"A pet going through loss may show signs such as acting bewildered, looking for the other animal to come home, losing interest in normal activities, sleeping a lot, or becoming more needy," Hague says.

Animals may also act out, becoming snippy or just wanting to be alone. It is vital to allow the animal time to work through this, and with time the grieving behaviors should pass. However, an animal that is not eating or drinking, is losing weight, or otherwise

appears ill should be seen by a veterinarian right away.

"I have often seen how a pet will step into the role of the animal who passed away," Hague observes.

For some people, it will take time to be ready to welcome another pet; for others, it won't take long at all. There is no right amount of time.

"One pet cannot replace another. People often feel that they need to wait to get another pet out of respect for the pet that they lost," Hague says. "However, the finest thing a person can do for a pet they lost is to love another animal."

The bond with a new pet will not be identical to the bond that was broken by the pet's death. "When the longing to share a bond with a pet outweighs the grief, then the person is ready to welcome another animal," Hague advises.

Hague advises those going through the grieving process to engage in activities that bring them joy and peace with whatever energy is present. She also emphasizes the need to talk about feelings.

"If someone just swallows his feelings without expressing them, these suppressed feelings will manifest later in unhealthy ways," Hague says. Symptoms of physical or emotional illness may arise. If symptoms of illness occur, seek a physician, counselor, or therapist.

"People must know that it is normal and natural to love a pet as deeply as we love the people in our lives. There is no reaction to be ashamed of while mourning the loss of a pet," Hague reiterates.

If you have questions about pet loss or grief, contact your local veterinarian.



# Savvy Senior & Rural Routes

October, 2021

- WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -



#### How to Write an Online Will

#### Dear Savvy Senior

Writing a will has never been a high priority to me but this lingering coronavirus crisis has changed my thinking. Can you recommend some good do-it-yourself resources to help me write a simple will? --Getting Older

#### Dear Getting:

The coronavirus crisis has changed the way a lot of people look at things, including wills. Currently, fewer than half of American adults have prepared a will. But having a last will and testament is important because it ensures that your money and property will be distributed to the people you want to receive it after your death. If you die without a will, your estate will be settled in accordance with state law. Details vary by state, but assets typically are distributed using a hierarchy of survivors. Assets go to first to a spouse, then to children, then your siblings, and so on.

You also need to be aware that certain accounts take precedence over a will. If you jointly own a home or a bank account, for example, the house, and the funds in the account, will go to the joint holder, even if your will directs otherwise.

Similarly, retirement accounts and life insurance policies are distributed to the beneficiaries you designate, so it is important to keep them up to date too. **Online Will Makers** 

If you have a simple, straightforward estate and an uncomplicated family situation, writing your own will – with the help of a good online will making program – is a viable alternative to hiring an attorney and much cheaper. Like tax software, these online tools will guide you through a series of questions and will insert your answers into a will for you, and it usually takes less that 20 minutes from start to finish. Three top-rated do-it-yourself options include the Quicken WillMaker & Trust 2021 downloadable software (available at nolo.com) that costs \$100 and works with Windows and Macs and is valid in every state except Louisiana; LegalZoom (legalzoom.com), which offers basic wills for \$89 or \$99 if you'd like assistance from an independent attorney; and Trust & Will (trustandwill.com) which charges \$89 for a basic will. If that's more than you're willing to pay, consider FreeWill (freewill.com), which is a completely free will making resource made possible with the support of nonprofit organizations.

#### When to Hire a Lawyer

If you have considerable financial assets or a complex family situation, like a blended family or child with special needs, it would be smart for you to seek professional advice. An experienced lawyer can make sure you cover all your bases, which can help avoid family confusion and squabbles after you're gone. The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org) and the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (naepc.org) websites are good resources that have directories to help you find someone in your area. Costs will vary depending on your location and the complexity of your situation, but you can expect to pay somewhere between \$200 and \$1,000 to get your will made. To help you save, shop around and get price quotes from several different firms. And before you meet with an attorney, make a detailed list of your assets and accounts to help make your visit more efficient. **Make it Valid** 

Be aware that to make your will valid, you must sign and date it and have it witnessed according to the laws of your state. Most states require two witnesses who are not listed as beneficiaries in your will to watch you sign it. Some states also require that a notary witness the signing as well. Nationalnotary.org can tell you if a notary is needed to legalize a will in your state, if remote notary services are available, and how to access such online services to execute your will if you are sheltering at home during the pandemic.

### Funds Available to Improve Safety on MN Farms

Minnesota farmers who want to improve safety on their farms can now apply for funding through two programs from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) that help with the cost of buying, shipping, and installing eligible safety equipment.

"There's very little that can comfort a family who has lost someone due to a preventable accident on the farm," Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen said. "Fortunately, small safety improvements can prevent that from being necessary, and we're grateful to offer support so farmers can make those changes."

Now in its second year, the Grain Storage Facility Safety Cost-Share program reimburses up to 75% of the cost to buy, ship, and install eligible safety equipment for on-farm grain bins or silos. The program will pay up to \$400 per bin or silo, with a limit of \$2,400 per farm per year. The first year of the program reimbursed 91 farmers an average of \$831 to install guardrails, platforms, auger shields, safety harnesses, and more.

For more information and to apply, visit the MDA's Grain Storage Facility Safety Cost-Share webpage.

The Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) Rebate Program makes tractor safety equipment affordable and simple to order. Minnesota's program reimburses farmers and schools at least 70% of the cost to purchase, ship, and install a rollover protection kit, limiting the cost to no more than \$500 per tractor. The National ROPS Rebate Program (NRRP) works with farmers to identify and price the appropriate rollover protection kits for their tractors.

For more information and to apply, visit the MDA's ROPS Rebate Program webpage.

Both programs are accepting applications through June 30, 2022, or until all funds are exhausted. Funding for these programs comes from the Minnesota Legislature and private donations.

### MDA Now Accepting Applications for Noxious Weed/Invasive Plant Grants

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the 2022 Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant. Counties, municipalities, tribal governments, and weed management entities (including weed management areas) may apply for grants to mitigate noxious weeds around the state. Grants for fiscal year 2022 will be



507-789-6321

funded up to \$5,000. The awards are intended to support local projects.

Since 2018, the MDA Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant has awarded over \$1 million to fund a variety of activities such as purchasing equipment and supplies, conducting mapping and outreach activities, and hiring private applicators to manage noxious weeds. One hundred nineteen projects were awarded averaging \$9,000.

Review the request for proposals (RFP) and find the application on the MDA website. Applications are due no later than 3 p.m. on December 3, 2021. Questions can be directed to Emilie Justen, MDA Noxious Weed Law Coordinator, at emilie.justen@state.mn.us.

The grant program is funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).



Farm Equipment Repair DOT Inspections/Welding

# Harvey Mackay

- WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

### Teachers Make a Difference



**By Harvey Mackay** 

Years ago a John Hopkin's professor gave a group of graduate students this assignment: Go to the poorest sections of the city. Take 200 boys, between the ages of 12 and 16, and investigate their background and environment. Then predict their future outcomes.

After consulting social statistics, talking to the boys, and compiling much data, the students concluded that 90 percent of the boys would spend some time in jail.

Twenty-five years later another group of graduate students was given the job of testing the prediction. They went back to the same areas. Some of the boys – by then men – were still there, a few had died, some had moved away, but they got in touch with 180 of the original 200. They found that only four of the group had ever been sent to jail.

Why was it that these men with many disadvantages had such a surprisingly good record? The researchers were continually told: "Well, there was this teacher."

They pressed further and found that in 75 percent of the cases it was the same woman. The researchers went to this teacher, long since retired. How had she exerted this remarkable influence over that group of children? Could she give them any reason why these boys should have remembered her?

"No," she said, "I really couldn't." And then, thinking back over the years, she said musingly, more to herself than to her questioners, "I loved those boys."

Teachers hold a special place in our lives. As we start another school year, it's a perfect time to salute and applaud the people who helped mold us into who we became.

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October 5 was World Teachers' Day, so let's celebrate the important role teachers play in all our lives. I learned many life lessons from my teachers that had a significant bearing on my life.

There is no magic formula for being a success. Sure, natural talent can make a big difference. It takes iron determination and lots of hard, hard work. The harder you work, the luckier you get. Success only comes before work in the dictionary. My mentor Curt Carlson, founder of one of the world's largest privately owned companies, used to say, "You work five days a week to keep pace with the competition. You work Saturday to get ahead."

**Stay focused.** The person who is everywhere is nowhere. If you have the ability to focus fully on the task at hand, and shut out everything else, you can accomplish amazing things.

Respect has to be given to be received. Respect people for what they are and for what they stand for – even if you don't agree. Be respectful or be regretful.

**Dream big.** I was taught to aim high and to have dreams that inspire me to go beyond my limits. Show me someone who doesn't dream about the future and I'll show you someone who doesn't know where he or she is going. If you can dream it, you can become it.

Never be afraid to make mistakes. You're bound to fail at some things. Learn what you can and move on instead of beating yourself up. Embrace mistakes as opportunities to grow. If you're not making mistakes, you're not taking any risks. And that could mean you're not making progress.

**Remain trustworthy.** Trust is the most important word in business, as well as life in general. Trust is central to doing business with anyone. Without it, you have another word that begins with T: Trouble. It takes years to build trust, but only seconds to destroy it.

There are consequences for bad decisions. Bad decisions are quite different from mistakes, as any teacher can tell you. Deciding to take shortcuts instead of doing the job right, making promises you can't keep – there are consequences that are often difficult to overcome which could be avoided by starting off on the right path.

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Look for occasions to display your talents and see where it leads you. There's an old saying that you make your own opportunities. Don't sell yourself short.

You can make a difference. Sometimes all a person needs to hear is that they matter. Great teachers inspire that confidence, no matter what the grade or age level. They also set wonderful examples of making a difference in their students' lives, like the teacher who showed all those boys that they had tremendous potential for success.

Mackay's Moral: The best teachers share lessons not found in books.

Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."





# SMIF

#### - WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

### **Economic Development Opportunities for Entrepreneurs and** Communities



**Tim Penny** So. MN Initiative Foundation

At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), one of the three program areas we focus on is Economic Development. Since our founding in 1986, we have worked to catalyze entrepreneurial activity in our 20-county region by providing early-stage investments, traditional loans, microloans, technical assistance and mentoring of entrepreneurs. Each year SMIF invests around \$2.1 million in economic development initiatives The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently celebrated National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. According to SBA, more than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create nearly two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. This is one of the reasons that SMIF has been involved in lending for the past 35 years. SMIF has supported more than 560 businesses through 741 loans, investing \$33.4 million in the region through lending.

Just within the past few months, SMIF's lending staff closed Small Enterprise Loans, in partnership with SBA, to the following small businesses: Blair Construction Cleaner in Rochester, CannonBelles Cheese in Cannon Falls, Curly Girlz Candy in Owatonna, Merge food truck in Rochester and Wingham Trucking LLC in Albert Lea. Of course, we also know that larger businesses are critical to our economy which is why we offer Business Loans which support manufacturing, technology, health care and other key industries. Most recently we closed a Business Loan to Bio-Plastic Solutions in Ellendale. For information about SMIF's business financing opportunities, visit smifoundation.org/loans.

There are other ways beyond direct lending that support entrepreneurship and eco-

nomic development in our region. We also create opportunities for communities and organizations to grow their local economies through grantmaking. SMIF's Economic Development Grant program aims to fund projects up to \$20,000 that enable communities to create more prosperous local economies. This grant is an excellent opportunity for cities, counties, Economic Development Authorities, other public institutions and nonprofit organ-

izations to grow economic development in their communities. We are currently seeking applications for this grant which is due Oct. Visit our website 26. smifoundation.org/economicgrants or contact Jennifer Heien, grants coordinator, at 507-214-7040 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

Another way SMIF supports economic growth and prosperity is through the Ameri-Corps VISTA program. VISTA is one of the oldest national service arms of AmeriCorps. Members serve full time for a year at nonprofit organizations or local government agencies to increase economic prosperity of diverse groups. SMIF recruits and matches VISTA members to site service partner positions in our region.

SMIF is currently hiring three VISTA members. One member will support SMIF's Prosperity Initiative program which sup-



ports entrepreneurs who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC). Another member, who will also be hosted by SMIF, will support the second year of a regional foods project to build the capacity of small farmers. The third member will work with Red Wing Ignite to establish a more inclusive approach for reaching and serving BIPOC entrepreneurs in rural communities. If you are interested in applying for any of these service opportunities, apply at smifoundation.org/careers or contact Barbara Gunderson, AmeriCorps director, at barbarag@smifoundation.org or 507-456-0353.

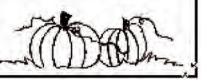
Economic development happens in many forms. At SMIF, we are proud to be able to support economic growth in southern Minnesota through opportunities that support entrepreneurs and the communities that they live in.



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### Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes End of an Era



#### By Terry Campbell This column is written by Messenger editor

and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when its warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

Twenty-one years ago, I began my life in the newspaper business. It was actually quite by accident. I wasn't intending to help out for more than a few months but ended up buying the paper and the rest is history.

One of the first acquaintances I made were the folks who printed the newspaper each week. In those days we would layout the pages by pasting printed copies on a large sheet and then deliver them to the printer. After printing, the bundled papers would be hauled back to the post office and distributed to retail locations.

Leonard, Margaret and Jeff Bauman owned the press, a business called Country Impressions near Waseca, where we printed each week. I would drop the pages off at 8am and return in the afternoon to pick up the newspapers. The smell of printer's ink and the hum of the big machinery rolling newspapers fresh off the press was exciting. Johannes Gutenberg would have been so proud. At one time they printed nearly every small-town newspaper in this area, about twenty-eight by our recollection.

Early on we had a mishap. One week somehow a page was omitted and the press spit out all copies of our West Concord Enterprise with one blank page in the middle. I didn't notice it until I was back at the office with all copies printed and distributed. The next week I pulled out a copy at the printer and paged through it to see if any were missing. I looked up and there was Leonard, Margaret and Jeff looking at me, rather concerned from around the office door. I never found out whose fault the missing page was.

Being an ambitious young man back then I



would spend hours doing sales calls in Owatonna. It was a lucrative market back then and I made lots of ad sales. Actually, too many sales for one certain person. Elsie Slinger was the owner of the Blooming Prairie Times and she took offense at the number of Owatonna businesses I was selling ads to. She called me up and informed me I was to lay off Owatonna sales calls and I should sit in my office like a good sales person and wait for the businesses to call me. I guess that way she could get those sales. Naturally being a farm boy who always took the bull by the horns and made my own way in life, I couldn't believe someone would have the gall to feed me this line of bull. Needless to say, the phone conversation degenerated rapidly and I informed her that we lived in a free country and I could sell to anyone I pleased.

Maybe that would have been the end of the issue, except that when I dropped off the paste up sheets that next Tuesday morning, who should I see but Elsie Slinger, there picking up her Blooming Prairie Times. She was still steaming from our phone call earlier and launched into a tirade at me. This was better now we had an audience for the fight. It is amazing at how calm and articulate one can be when they are right and the other person is crazy. When Elsie stormed out, I looked up and saw Leonard, Margaret and Jeff looking cautiously at me from around the office door. I am fairly certain they were expecting some kind of bloodshed from this confrontation. From then on Elsie picked up her papers later, I sold ads to every business in Owatonna as well as some in Blooming Prairie and I never crossed paths with her again.

Over the years I became great friends with the Bauman's and enjoyed visiting with them every week. The number of newspapers they were printing dwindled down to ours and a couple others and they ceased printing newspapers and retired at the end of September. I am going to miss those guys. As for Elsie, she wrote a murder mystery book.



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### A Minnesotan: Bundled Up



**By RosaLin Alcoser** 

October 31st, 1999 was my very first Halloween in Minnesota. I was three years old at the time, and I went trick-ortreating in my snow boots. It was a light dusting of snow. But as a newcomer to Minnesota, who had minimal experience with snow, I remember it as more than a light dusting.

Halloween of 2002 was my first Halloween in Mazeppa. I remember that my sister and I went trick or treating as a pair of Dalmatian puppies. It was a warm Halloween or at least warm for a Minnesotan Halloween. At least I think that I remember it being warm. Honestly, I have no idea I was six, and the Dalmatian costume was mostly made up of sweats.

There have been relatively warm Halloweens in my childhood as well as years when it snowed. There was one year when it snowed, and I refused to wear my coat up to the houses while out trick or treating. Because if I wore my coat, then my costume couldn't be seen. And really if you can't see the costume then what's the point? The true mark of a good Halloween costume is that it can be worn over a snowsuit if need be.

Which brings me back around to last Halloween; which was really my first truly grown up Halloween meaning that I was the one handing out the candy and not the trick-or-treater or at the high school or college Halloween event meant to keep us contained for the evening.

Last year was 2020 so the trick-ortreaters were really just the kids on our street due to COVID and it was also a cold year. So when the neighbor's child was outside our house for trick-or-treat they were bundled up... and as far as I know to this day that was the costume. The kid was just bundled up; reminding us all that the mark of a truly good Halloween costume in Minnesota is the ones that can go over your snowsuit.







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