



# Dundas Messenger™

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SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Volume 18 • Issue 9

## Announcements

• The City of Dundas will be hosting the Trunk or Treat event on Friday, October 25th from 6 to 7 pm at Memorial Park.

• Early voting by runs from September 20th to November 4th. You may vote by mail or in person at Northfield City Hall. More information about mail in voting can be found at [mnvotes.gov](http://mnvotes.gov)

• Annual Vang Lutheran Church Lutefisk Dinner, Saturday, October 5th, beginning at 11 AM.

*(see ad on page 6)*

• Nerstrand United Methodist Church Fall Festival October 5.

*(see ad on page 7)*

• Morrow's Craft Sale

*(see ad on page 7)*

City of Dundas Presents

## TRUNK OR TREAT

6 TO 7 PM  
Friday, October 25th

Memorial Park  
214 1st Street South

The City of Dundas Parks and Recreation Board invites the community to a Trunk or Treat in Memorial Park. Area organizations and businesses will be there with decorated car trunks ready to hand out candy and prizes. Come join the fun!

Do you have an announcement?  
Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## Dundas City Council Votes to Keep Tax Rate Flat and 5.1% Preliminary Tax Levy Increase

Courtesy of KYMN Radio News

At their September meeting, the Dundas City Council voted to approve the 2025 Preliminary Tax Levy with a 5.18% increase. The tax levy increase is fueled by market values increasing and not an increase in the city's tax rate. The Dundas city tax rate has

remained flat since 2021, and in August, the council asked city staff to limit any increase in the property tax rate. In the proposed budget, the city's tax rate will remain flat. This means that Dundas residents will only see a tax increase in their city portion of property taxes if their house values increase.

Here is Dundas City Administrator Jenelle Teppen with more:

"Annually and direction from the Council was, after looking at all over through these two work sessions, was to come back with a flat tax rate for 2025.

*(continued on page 5)*



Dundas City Administrator Jenelle Teppen

## Dundas Opens a New Dog Park and Parking Lot for the East Cannon River Trail

Courtesy of KYMN Radio News

The City of Dundas opened a new dog park earlier this week. The old park has already had the fence removed, and in 2025, the city will be conducting maintenance work on the drainage ponds next to the park. After the maintenance work next year, the city will decide on a plan for the old park.

*(continued on page 4)*



photo courtesy of KYMN Radio News

## Meet the Candidates for Rice SWCD Supervisors



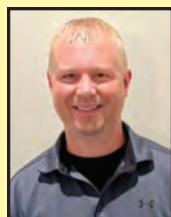
District One:  
Alexander Malecha



District Two:  
Gene Kuntz



District Two:  
Dante Rand



District Four:  
Adam Conrad



District Four:  
John Larson

This year, the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District has three Supervisor positions up for election. SWCD candidates appear on the ballot for the general election which will take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

*(continued on page 8)*

## The King with Cash & Diamond Show Returns to Dennison September 28th



28th, under the big top.



The popular Vegas Style Tribute Show featuring the music of Johnny Cash, Elvis, and Neil Diamond returns to Dennison Saturday, September

*(continued on page 11)*

## Sogn Valley Orchard

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## Forgiveness Gives Freedom

To err is human to forgive divine...Most of us have experienced the relief of receiving forgiveness from someone we hurt. And as believers we have experienced the forgiveness of Jesus Christ for our sins. Sadly, we have times and people that we struggle to forgive; those that have sinned against us. There's a warning that deals with that in a pretty well-known passage in the Bible-the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:12-15, "and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. 13 And don't let us yield to temptation but rescue us from the evil one. 14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Pretty tough standard put into place by Jesus- Forgive as we have been forgiven- or you will not be forgiven.

It had been over 22 years since Joseph had seen his brothers. The Bible tells us that he was 30 years old when he stood before Pharaoh and was made the 'prime minister' over all Egypt. For thirteen years, after being sold into slavery, he spent time as a slave and a prisoner. All through no fault of his own. Now, before him stands the very ones that sold him into slavery and caused all his pain and the separation from his family. But, despite the pain that his brothers had caused him we see an amazing response to his brothers.

Instead of vengeance Joseph gives forgiveness. Did they deserve it? No. Yet Joseph knew God and he knew the hand of God. He also understood that no matter what happens to us in life "Everything works good for them who love the Lord". (Romans 8:28.) The bad in our lives may be caused by someone else but God always brings good. Not always as we think it should be or even when we think it should be. God redeems those bad things in our life and brings about something amazing- if we keep our faith and trust in Him. And that's where Satan will attack! He desires to destroy anything good- especially our family.

We see it here in full force- Satan wanted to

destroy the people of Israel and what better way than through envy and fear within the family of Jacob/Israel. If he could destroy Jacob's family- God's plan for the Messiah would have been stopped (in Satan's mind anyway.) Allowing bitterness and hatred into our family is a powerful tool of Satan. This often comes from unforgiveness. We have to remember that "Conflict is inevitable, but combat is optional."

It is extremely important that within our families we learn to forgive one another. Sadly, there are people who carry around unforgiveness toward their parents or siblings for years. They are eaten up with unforgiveness which turns to hatred. If you or someone in your family has done something to hurt another person, your best recourse is forgiveness. Forgiveness can mend our relationships- even those of our families. Forgiveness may even help win our relatives to the Lord.

We must learn to forgive.

- Forgive as you have been forgiven, "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13.

- Forgive as often as necessary Back to Matthew 18:21-22, "Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" 22 "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

- Forgive unconditionally "Love keeps no record of being wronged." 1 Corinthians 13:5. Forgiveness is to forgive unconditionally. This is why we are told to forgive so many times.

Steps to forgiveness

- Decide to forgive
- Demonstrate forgiveness. This is more than just words and mere decisions this is when we physically say we have forgiven.

- Depend on God to help you forgive

Joseph forgave his brothers. He determined that he would not be a prisoner of his past. And because he forgave, God made him to be fruitful in the land of Egypt. (Genesis 41:51-52.)

It is impossible to reach and stretch for the future when we're living in the pain of the past.

Being hurt by someone, particularly the ones you love and trust, can cause anger, sadness, confusion and other emotional wounds. If we dwell on situations, grudges filled with resentment, vengeance and hos-

tility can take root. Jesus commanded us to forgive! "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us." The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6

You and I have mountains to be subdued, and victories to be won. Perhaps, someone has offended you and today, God has convicted them, and they are coming to you to seek forgiveness. Please forgive them. God forgave you; please do the same for them!

Forgiveness brings freedom! It gives you freedom to love, to trust, and to become more like Jesus. When you hang unto unforgiveness you develop a hang-up that will

bring you down and threaten to destroy you. Desire God's healing, His strength and power to forgive- He will give it to you. He will equip and empower you to forgive those that have hurt you.

Our best example is Jesus himself- if he can forgive those that put him on the cross- and if He is willing to forgive all that call upon His name- no matter what they have done or who they are- How can we do any less? Forgive- and you will be forgiven! Be free from the sin of unforgiveness. Forgiveness Gives Freedom!

## Area Church Directory

### What Things?

*"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" — Luke 24:32*

At a concert, the usher at the door looked so familiar to me. But I could not recall where or when I might have met him before. After a brief conversation with him, we recalled that years ago he had been our son's grade-8 teacher. We enjoyed sharing a few memories of that time in our lives.

I think the situation was slightly different as the two followers of Jesus walked along toward their home in Emmaus. They didn't recognize that they were talking with Jesus, even though they had seen him recently. Did he not look the same? Jesus asked questions and taught them about the Scriptures, but it wasn't till they sat and shared bread together that their eyes were opened to see him. What a wonderful feeling that must have been!

Then, after Jesus "disappeared from their sight," they joyfully made the long trip back to Jerusalem to share their story. They could not wait to share their experience. Their love for Jesus and the others was enough to propel them back to Jerusalem to share.

With a text message from my cell phone, we eagerly shared with our son that we had talked with his grade-8 teacher at the concert that night. And it was fun to share that with him.

Are we eager in a way like that to share with others about our times with Jesus?

**Lord, thank you for moments when you meet with us in a fresh new way. Open our eyes and hearts to your work in our everyday lives, realizing you are closer than we might think. Amen.**

#### CANVAS CHURCH

404 Schilling Drive, Dundas

Lead Pastor: **Jed McGuire** • [www.canvaschurchmn.com](http://www.canvaschurchmn.com)

Sunday service 9:00a.m. and 10:45a.m.

YTH Wednesdays at 6:30p.m. Canvas Recovery Group meets Thursdays at 6:30p.m.

**LITTLE PRAIRIE UNITED METHODIST** 2980 130th St. E.

Pastor **Penny Bonsell** • [pastor@littleprairieumc.org](mailto:pastor@littleprairieumc.org)

507-663-6150 church phone • 651-503-4279 Cell

9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship; Sunday School & Nursery; Adult Group 8a.m.

**CITY LIGHT CHURCH** 2140 Hwy. 3 South, Northfield, MN

Pastor **Pete Haase** • 507-645-8829 Call for service times

**LIFE21 CHURCH** 2100 Jefferson Road (just north of Target)

Pastor **Brent Bielenberg** • 645-7730 [life21church.com](http://life21church.com)

10:00a.m. Worship Experience

**NORTHFIELD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH** 5600 East 110th Street

Pastor **Dan Runke** • 663-0133 • [northfieldefc.org](http://northfieldefc.org)

9:30 a.m. Worship; 11:00 a.m. Christian Life Classes

**HOSANNA CHURCH - NORTHFIELD** 205 2nd St. S., Dundas

Pastor **Dean Swenson** • 507-664-9007 • [www.hosannalc.org](http://www.hosannalc.org)

Sunday: 9am & 10:45am Worship with Hosanna Kids Church ages 3-5th grade and Child Care for ages 6wks-3years at both services

Fellowship time with refreshments between services.

Wednesday: Middle School Ministry - doors open at 5:30; programming 6-7:15;

High School Ministry - doors open at 7pm; programming 7:30-9pm

**MAIN STREET MORAVIAN CHURCH** 713 Division St., Northfield

Tel: 507-645-7566 • Worship Services at 10:30a.m.

**GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH**

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[www.gospeloflifechurch.org](http://www.gospeloflifechurch.org)

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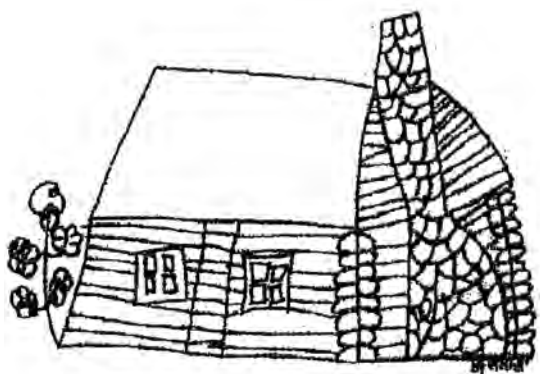


## Harvest Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26

Sundays: September 29, October 6, 13, 20, 27

Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.



Place:

Lori & Darwin Amy  
2290 County 49 Blvd. Dennison, MN 55018

Phone: 507-649-1009

Email: cabincrew@frontiernet.net



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### Lynne Marie Weierke

Lynne Marie Weierke, 60, unexpectedly passed away at Northfield Hospital on September 13th,



2024. Lynne was born on December 17th, 1963 in Madison, WI, 18 months after her beloved sister and best friend, Leanne. Lynne, Leanne, and their

mom spent many years together where they grew an unbreakable bond.

Family was what meant most to Lynne. Her daughter, Chelsey and son, Charlie along with their dad, spent as much time as possible as a family of four. Lynne did not miss a single moment of Chelsey or Charlie's accomplishments. Becoming "Memaw" to her granddaughters, Evelynne and Harlow, was everything to her. Lynne was always ready to share her unforgettable, larger than life personality. She was the strong one who could

speak at funerals, hold your hand through the tough times, officiate weddings, or share a laugh. Losing Lynne so unexpectedly will undoubtedly leave a large void in the lives of those that love her.

Lynne is survived by her daughter, Chelsey (Dylan) Meyer, her son, Charlie (Olivia) Weierke, her beloved grandchildren Evelynne and Harlow, sister Leanne (Davey) Neuenfeldt, Fiance, Dave Warweg, niece Kristen (Nick) Estrem, Terry Weierke, Dan (Betty) Heltness, countless cousins, and numerous friends that made her life whole. Lynne joined her loving parents, Charlie and Kay Tomfohrde in heaven, as well as her aunt, Carol (Nurnberg), uncle, Ron (Nurnberg), cousins, Joe and Steve Nurnberg.

A Celebration of Lynne's Life was held at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, September 21 at the Canvas Church of Dundas. Visitation was held for two hours prior to the service from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Arrangements are with Bierman, Benson & Langelough Funeral Home & Crematory. [www.northfieldfuneral.com](http://www.northfieldfuneral.com)

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## Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin Farm Vehicles: More Power!

By  
Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

It seemed silly to pay someone to plow the 1/3 mile gravel driveway when Monica owned a perfectly good F250 farm truck. (Plowing couldn't be that difficult, could it?) So she bought a plow blade, had the installers give her a quick "How To" for running it, and figured she was good to go.

Now Monica wasn't inexperienced with vehicles: besides driving sedans and minivans in the suburbs, Monica had toured 49 states on a motorcycle. She had also slow-crawled through many back-country trails with her Jeep Wrangler, equipped with an air-actuated front differential locker, big Super Swamper radial tires, and a 4" suspension lift. She had conquered "Baldy" – a steep, sandy hill at a private off-road camp in northern Wisconsin, disemboweling a rear shock while navigating over some large boulders. In Colorado, she negotiated 12-point turns on the old single-lane mountain trails. And at her elementary school, Monica routinely parked at a 45-degree slant on the snowbank. (The kids loved it; the principal hated it).

The most important lesson from the Dakota Dirt Diggers 4WD club (a great bunch of guys who were happy to teach Monica about their favorite hobby) was probably, "If you never get stuck, you're not doing it right." Glorious freedom to make mistakes! Other important lessons were how to avoid getting stuck (usually) and what it took to get unstuck (tow-ropes, chains, and winches). Yep, thanks to her Dirt Digger buddies, Monica was somewhat fearless behind the controls of farm vehicles.

The first few snowfalls, light and fluffy, were great practice for the plow controls.

Then one beautiful winter day Monica got overzealous plowing around her pole barn and did, indeed, get stuck. (There was a dip in the lawn that she had forgotten about.) The truck had great clearance, but the snow plow frame didn't. Out came the shovel, the high-lift jack (which she had owned for years but never had a reason to use) and the camera (to memorialize the event). Lesson learned: the plow has less clearance than the truck.

It was a great first winter learning to snow-plow! Only a few times did Monica back into

a rock-hard snowbank (going too fast). Or get stuck up to the windows in the hard-packed drift snow across the driveway (going too fast). She volunteered to plow out a friend a few times (only once getting so stuck they had to call the tow truck). And she helped plow the church's parking lot – several times pulling vehicles out of ditches (neither going too fast nor getting stuck).

In the spring, Monica ordered several loads of Class V to firm up the driveway and around the barns. The trucks came once the roads were cleared for heavy equipment. After one dump truck dropped its load and was turning around, the rear tires sunk into the soft spring lawn. The trucker tried, but the tires only spun and sunk deeper into the soft earth. No stranger to stuck vehicles, Monica – friendly and helpful person that she is – offered to help, explaining that she actually had experience pulling vehicles.

Out came her heaviest chains! A quick hook-up between the dump truck and her little F250 – one tug and he was out. Although he probably never shared that story with his buddies over a bottle of beer.

New livestock necessitated new vehicles. Monica purchased a Kubota tractor to move the 1000-pound round bales for the two cattle and a few 700 pound square bales for the six goats. All was good until after a few thaw-freeze-thaw cycles ... Yes, the Kubota could lift a dry round bale without too much trouble. But when the top few inches had absorbed water and the base had become encased in ice – oops! In the end, Monica took the bales apart and fed the cows one scoopful of hay at a time. Lesson learned: store the hay in the pole barn so it doesn't freeze to the ground.

By winter, the farm had grown to 80 chickens, 14 cows, and 10 goats.

Yes, the Kubota could lift a round bale if it was kept in the pole barn over winter, but it was very difficult to maneuver: with the bale in the front and an implement on the back for ballast, the now very-long tractor required multiple-point turns. She dreamt of something that was both stronger and more maneuverable.

Monica started looking for a skidsteer (just what every retired elementary teacher dreams of!) She had never driven one – had never even sat in one – but fearless Monica started shopping. It wasn't too long before she found one, in-budget, and with acceptable hours.

She drove the F250 with 20' trailer up to get it, but made the sales guy drive it onto the trailer (not willing to look foolish with an audience).

The skid loader was perfect – maneuverable, stronger, and more power! The new



snow on the driveway was the perfect place to practice. (And so cozy warm in the cab compared to the chilly open seat of the Kubota.) Who knew the skid loader clearance was only 3 inches? Yup, stuck again. (Towing skills certainly come in handy on a farm.) Claudia in the truck, Monica in the loader – it was out in seconds. Another lesson learned!

Remember the Dakota Dirt Digger motto: "If you never get stuck, you're not doing it right." Monica regularly found herself stuck in the mud with the riding lawnmower, stuck on a high rut in the skidloader, stuck in a ditch with the ATV (who put that ditch there by the silo?). Once, trying to deliver a hay bale to the goats, Monica got the skidloader stuck in the snow ... tried to pull it out with the truck but got it stuck, too ... and then fired up the tractor, driving it out of the summer barn (intending to free the truck and skidloader) but got the tractor stuck in the drifted snow. Claudia headed to the garage for the snow shovels.

That spring, Monica was moving a round bale across the yard to the goat pasture. The frost was starting to come out of the ground and it was slippery. Heavy machines make deep mud ruts; low clearance makes heavy machines stuck. Usually not a big deal. But this time she couldn't go forward, she couldn't go backwards, and she couldn't get out – trapped inside the cab by the round bale!

Oops.

Monica enjoys farm vehicles; Claudia not so much. The most helpful thing Claudia could do was phone Heather: a neighbor, stay-at-home mom, and very experienced farmer. As Claudia reached for the phone, it rang – it was Heather! Calling out of the blue! Within minutes she and her kids were at the farm studying the predicament. Her oldest son had just received a winch for Christmas and was really excited to try it out. He winched the bale off the forks and Heather used the forks to push the loader slowly backward.

And Monica drove the skidloader straight back into the barn until the ground was solid again. Lesson learned!

In time, Monica got quite proficient with the skid steer, able to unload the 20 foot trailer full of round bales as if she had been doing it for years. She could load and unload any farm vehicle onto the trailer without assistance (ATVs, tractor, skid loader) – for which Claudia was grateful because just watching the operation scared her silly.

Guys like to brag about their vehicles – make, model, even the number of cylinders. Let's see: F-250 (10 cylinders), minivan (4), second minivan (6), tractor (3), skidloader (3), mower (4), ATV (4), second ATV (4) – not bad for a suburban gal turned farmer. Not that anyone cares, but the tire count, including all the trailers, was 40.

## Dundas Opens a New Dog Park and Parking Lot for the East Cannon River Trail

(continued from page 1)

While the new park, located on 1st Street North in Dundas, is open, City Administrator Jenelle Teppen noted that the Canines at Play group that adopted the park is interested in building a picnic shelter and will work with the city on the project in the coming months.

The park also has a new parking lot that serves the adjacent East Cannon River Trail as well. The trail forms a 5-mile loop with Mill Towns State Trail on the other side of the Cannon River. From the new park, you can follow the trail up to the pedestrian bridge near Kwik Trip in Northfield, cross the river, travel back along the trail through Sechler Park toward downtown Dundas, and then cross the river again.

Teppen described the area as a "beautiful space."

## Dundas City Council Votes to Keep Tax Rate Flat and 5.1% Preliminary Tax Levy Increase

(continued from page 1)

And So what that equates to is a 5.18% increase for the preliminary levy in 2025 and

E-mail your engagement, marriage or birth announcement to the Dundas Messenger  
[hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

how that affects Properties in Dundas will depend on where the county comes in on assessments.” – Dundas City Administrator Jenelle Teppen

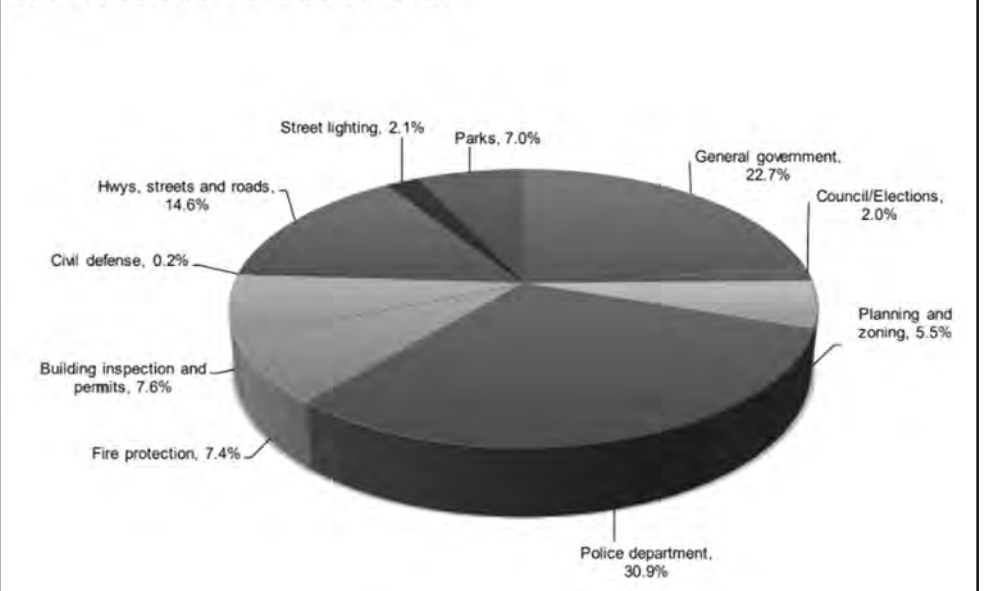
Preliminary Tax Levy can not be raised but can be lowered, though Teppen does not expect that to happen. The Preliminary Tax Levy passed unanimously.

Overall, the police department makes up the largest portion of the proposed budget, at 30%, followed by the general government at 22.7%, and the streets and roads make up 14.7% of the budget. The Northfield Area Fire and Rescue is the largest portion of the increase in the city’s budget. The city Street Departments also saw an increase in expenses with the hiring of a new seasonal part-time position, and the Parks Department saw an increase in costs primarily related to the rise in repair and maintenance costs.

The city council will approve the final budget and tax levy on December 9th.

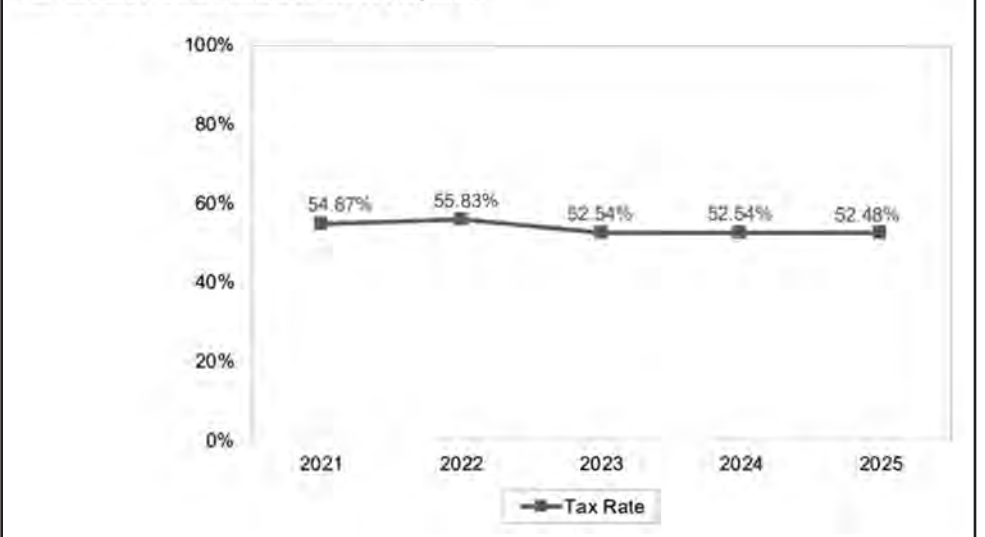
During the meeting the council also approved a grant from the State of Minnesota to install pedestrian crossings and sidewalks to cross Highway 3 at County Road 1. Currently there is no pedestrian crossing in Dundas across Highway 3. The council voted to sign the grant agreement, which will set the project up for construction next year.

General Fund Budgeted Expenditures (Continued)



A break down of city expenses in the proposed budget, from the 9/9/2024 City Council Packet. Courtesy of KYMN Radio News

Tax Rate 2021 to 2024 Actual and 2025 Proposed



The city tax rate since 2021, from the 9/9/2024 City Council Packet.

Courtesy of KYMN Radio News

## Dennison & Vang Lutheran Church Community Night at Windy Willow Farm!

Wednesday October 2nd, 5-7:30pm



Fun for all ages!

Come enjoy the farm and activities!

New this year we will be doing a blessing of the animals and group games followed by Red Barn Farm Pizza dinner!

\*Please bring a photo or a stuffed animal for the blessing of the animals!

**WE'RE ONLINE!**  
[www.dundasmn.com](http://www.dundasmn.com)

## Nerstrand United Methodist Church

### Fall Festival

Saturday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>  
 10 am – 1:00 pm

Lunch Menu:  
 Hot beef Sandwiches  
 Potato Salad  
 Chicken and wild rice soup  
 Pie/Cake

Bake Sale

Home and holiday décor/baskets

Thrift clothing

Puzzles

Produce

Web page: [Nerstrandumc.org](http://Nerstrandumc.org)

facebook: Nerstrand United Methodist Church

## The View From the Back *Part 3*

By Ted Gamble

*Ted Gamble is an avid runner and friend of The Messenger. This is the third of a 3 part series on his recent adventures. We hope you enjoy it.*

The rest of the lap was somewhat uneventful. We just kept going—"relentless forward progress!". As one racer passed us he said the fifth lap is awful because you've done everything five times and you still have to do it once more before you're done. He was on the best lap, the sixth one—it is the best because each time you hit one of the harder portions of the trail you get to think and say to yourself, "I don't have to do that again--you can even give it an obscene gesture if you want!"

Anyway so we finished lap number five. Chad was pretty tired so he stayed there and rested up with plans to run the loop in reverse so he could meet up with me somewhere along the way and then we could finish together. It was just a few minutes after 6 AM when we finished the fourth lap, and it was just a few minutes before noon when I began lap six. Still on pace.

We did some run/walk intervals a bit on the fifth lap to build some extra cushion into the final lap which would probably be needed. There was still six hours to go, but I didn't

want to have to push it too hard, I'm already sore and tired, and now it's getting stressful! With the various shortcuts and his fresher status we assumed that Chad would be meeting me before I was halfway done.

Anyway, I'm on my own again and looking forward to him Chad later on. That's when the hallucinations started to come hard and often. The first one occurred where I saw the woman with the large dog on the side of the trail that goes down to the first water stop; this time it was a little girl putting up a garage sale sign. I thought it could be real, this part of the trail is an old logging road that leads to a gravel road that I'm sure goes by some farms and rural homes. There could be a garage sale around here somewhere. Makes sense, right?

But once again, this was a tree stump. Earlier, I wrote about trying to find the downhill that goes down to the Sand Coulee area. As I was moving along the trail looking for this and not finding it, I realized that I hadn't seen any of the orange ribbons along side of the trail for quite a while.

Oh no, am I lost? Now what? I will never finish on time now! Deep down...here's my excuse...

So I backtrack for a little bit until I found one, touched it to make sure it was real, and then turned around assured that I was on the right trail. I didn't backtrack much, but it was wasted time, and it took away from my "relentless forward progress" motto.

It still seemed to take a while before I finally found the downhill turn. When I finally found it, there was a young man sitting with his girlfriend at the top of the hill.

I'm wondering what they're doing there?

Are they suffering as much as I? Maybe I can rest with them a bit before we tackle Sand Coulee, the company would be nice.... Turns out they weren't doing anything. The young man and his girlfriend were just a couple of bushes. Anyway, when I finally got to the bottom there was an old rusty pickup truck parked off to the side in the woods. Just another large stump on the ground.

I'm about halfway, where is Chad?

Anyway, time to climb up to the Scenic Overlook Trail for the last time. I am not sure if this guy was real or not, but he was sitting on the side of the trail near the top. Shirtless (it was pretty warm again by then) and wearing a hydration pack. I looked down for a bit, and he had moved to the last switchback. He did not reply when I greeted him, but I didn't stop either. Was he real? I don't know.

I stopped and admired the view from the top (for the last time!) and continued down the trail. I really like this part of the trail, and just enjoyed slowly trotting along. The next phase that I had to look forward to was my final descent down Ant Hill.

It was really tempting to cut some corners or take some shortcuts that would make the journey a little easier. But, I knew deep down that I wouldn't/couldn't do it. Even though nobody would see, I would know that I cheated. So I didn't. Why even consider it, then?

"Lord help me make it through this!" I prayed.

Anyway, as I'm approaching Ant Hill, I started to imagine taking a short cut along a trail that runs along the ridge that meets up at the top of Paddy's hill. This would elimi-



Finishing the "Death March"

nate the descent down Ant Hill and the equally brutal trip up Paddy's Hill. Nobody would know, maybe if I ...and then I saw a flatbed truck with a wooden gate around the bed filled with about a dozen large propane tanks--the kind that you see at older gas stations in rural areas. To the side of the truck was a farmer and his wife. Both were wearing flannel shirts—that's weird, it's kinda hot today, I thought. He was posing next to the truck while his wife was taking photos. He looked very proud. There were others standing behind the truck. There's no way I can take my shortcut now!

As I turned onto Ant Hill the entire scene disintegrated into the trees and bushes that were always there.

Maybe only five miles to go? I glanced at my phone and it's getting close to 4:30. About 90 minutes to go.

Normally, on any other day this would not be a big deal. But, today was different. I have been up for roughly 36 hours, and been moving since 8 AM the day before.

*(continued on page 7)*

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## The View From the Back

(continued from page 6)

Am I going to make it? Everything hurts, I'm tired, and starting to worry. I just want this to be done.

As I got to the bottom of Ant Hill just before making the turn up on Paddy's Hill I saw a guy come off the road, and he is "sneaking" (high stepping it, elbows out, looking from side to side—did I really just see that?) onto Paddy's Hill. He just gets on the hill and starts hiking up, did he just cheat?

That makes me kind of mad! Maybe it bothered me because earlier on I had thought about doing the exact same thing. At the bottom of the Scenic Overlook Trail there is a road that cuts to where the bottom of Ant Hill and Paddy's Hill join up. Taking that route cuts a few miles off the route, and eliminates a couple of very tough hills. But, I also knew as soon as I had the thought that if I cheated I would regret it because I would know that I cheated, even if no one else did.

Anyway, I followed him up the hill and did not see him again until I passed him about a mile later just before starting the final "Death March". He looked like he was in a lower place than I was, no wonder he took a short

cut!

Just before leaving the woods, I could see a few people running up the gravel road. What is going on? Maybe they're aid station workers getting a little exercise?

When I got on the road I notice off on the side in there were three or four people sitting in camp chairs enjoying some cold drinks. Only they weren't there. More hallucinations.

Even weirder than the hallucinations was the fact that they were coming so often and I did not think it was weird. It just was.

There was a small portable TV on the side of the road that probably should have been a hallucination but wasn't. It was really there and had been since the first lap. Thankfully, nothing was playing on the TV whenever I saw it. Now, that would have been weird!

One of the aid station workers that was running on the road approached me and asked me if I needed any help to finish this thing.

"I will take any help that you can give!" I replied, grateful for the offer.

We exchanged introductions, her name was Jeannie and she was from Milwaukee. She was here to

"give back to the community". It seems foolish now, but I had to ask if she was real, I had been seeing too many things that weren't for the last few hours.

She was real all right. We started down the hill together and she reassured me that we had plenty of time to make it. As long as I crossed the finish line before 6PM, I would be happy. But Jeannie had other ideas and wanted to push me. She wanted a bigger cushion than I did. Why? I don't know; she



was kind of harsh.

Hey, where was Chad? He should have been here hours ago!

"I can see physically you're wasted, but mentally you still have something in the tank. Now let's run to that tree. Not that tree—the next one! Keep going!"

I would have preferred Chad; he would have been nicer to me.

I told Jeannie that I was still expecting him, even though he was late. But, remember my prayer earlier? Jeannie was an answered prayer—God gives you what you need, not what you want.

We cross the bridge, for the final time. Now we're now on the last stretch of road before the turn back into the campground and the Finish Line.

"Hey, is that your buddy coming towards us?"

It was Nick and Linda.

"Yes, but not the one I was expecting! Hey, and that's my wife, too!"

I was really happy to see them; seeing Linda was an extra surprise.

But, I was not finished yet, I still had about a half mile to go. Eventually, finally, we see the sign indicating the turn into the campground.

And the Finish Line.

Suddenly, it wasn't hard to run. I trotted into the campground following the line of orange flags to the Finish. As I passed our tents, I noticed my daughter, Katey, sitting out front. She jumped out of the chair and headed to the Finish to meet me.

I didn't expect to see a lot of people there, but some of my crew was there and there were several race volunteers still hanging out.

They probably had to stay until everyone was finished.

When I crossed the finish line, I expected elation. But I was too wore out and there was only relief. The people that were still there cheered as I was handed my belt buckle and



Adding my name to the 100 Mile Finisher poster. I'm grabbing wood below so I don't fall over.

a wooden race medal was placed around my neck.

Then I had the honor of signing the Zumbro 100 Finishers poster. My name next to the legends of Zumbro.

Derrick and Chris waited see me finish. The rest of our group had packed up and left. Chad had fallen asleep—that's why he never met me. He woke up from his nap, and was there too.

Pretty soon Nick and Linda joined us.

I was officially the last finisher. Number 44 out of 69 that started. So, really, technically, not last!

As I conclude, I'm thinking back to my father's question above, "Why the hell do you want to do that?" Well, here's an answer from Dean Karnazes that I really like:

"Western culture has it a little backwards right now. We think that if we have every comfort available to us, we'll be happy. We equate comfort with happiness. And now we're so comfortable, we're miserable. There's no struggle in our lives. No sense of adventure. We get in a car, we get in an elevator, sit at a desk. It's all comes so easy. What I've found is that I'm never more alive than when I'm pushing, and I'm in pain, and I'm struggling. And in that struggle, I think there's a magic."

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## Meet the Candidates for Rice SWCD Supervisors

(continued from page 1)

Candidates are elected countywide\* but must reside in one of the nomination districts up for election. The nominating districts and candidates running for election to the Rice SWCD Board this year include:

### District One: Alexander Malecha

"I am eager to bridge the gap between government agencies, local conservation non-profits, and farmers. Over many decades I have farmed in Forest Township and have actively sought education and opportunities to improve our land for the long term. I grow no-till soybeans and have experienced the challenges of switching agricultural systems as well as the detriments of erosion. My family enjoys fishing and recreating on the local lakes, and we want to support a healthy watershed. The benefits of today's soil and water conservation efforts will be reaped for generations to come. I believe we can do it in a way that we can maintain profitability on the

farm."

### District Two: Gene Kuntz

"I am running for a position as an SWCD District supervisor because of my commitment to soil health and clean water in our area lakes and rivers. I spent seven years managing 360 acres of farmland for Farm America in Waseca. During my tenure, we converted to all strip tillage and implemented a 15-acre cover crop study that lasted for 5 years. In addition, I implemented a NRCS/MDA controlled drainage project on 120 acres. We need to support agriculture in our county with all of the resources available from our SWCD and NRCS."

### District Two: Dante Rand

"I am running for district supervisor because I have a passion for soil and water conservation, and I want to make a positive difference in our district. I have been involved in soil and water conservation for over 20 years, as an active lake association member and president, as a Master Water Steward, and as a lake homeowner. I have seen firsthand how soil and water conservation can improve the quality of life for people and wildlife, as well as the health of our ecosystems. Soil and water health are critical foundations of a healthy world and we need to protect them from erosion, pollution, and degradation. Soil and water conservation can also benefit our economy by enhancing agricultural productivity, reducing flood risks, and supporting tourism and recreation. As a district supervisor, I will work with farmers, landowners, and local and state agencies to support the implementation of best manage-

ment practices, promote education and outreach, and help inform our district members of the funding and resources available to them for soil and water conservation projects within our district."

### District Four: Adam Conrad

"I am running for the position of Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor in District 4. I grew up on a corn and soybean farm in Rice County and have watched the changes in my family's and neighbors' operations from 'the blacker the better', to today where we are using little tillage and cover crops to protect the soil and the water. These changes have greatly improved the soil health, and decreased erosion issues on the farm. I believe continuing to protect our soil and water health is imperative so future generations can continue to farm and enjoy the rivers and lakes in our county and that is what I will promote if elected."

### District Four: John Larson

"I am running for the Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor to continue to improve Rice County's soil, water and natural resources. I grew up on a farm just outside of Northfield and learned the importance of crop rotation and using crops like alfalfa to reduce erosion and save topsoil. As an avid outdoorsman and part-time farmer, I've seen first-hand how good policy

and education can strike the right balance to allow production, wildlife habitat, and clean water to all coexist. If elected, I hope to support residents, farmers, and landowners in their efforts to conserve soil and water, leading to an environment that benefits all of Rice County."

SWCDs are special-purpose units of government that manage and direct natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work in both urban and rural settings to carry out a program for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources. SWCD Supervisors serve four-year terms and meet monthly, discussing the business of the SWCD, distributing state grant allocations to landowners, setting conservation priorities, and coordinating conservation efforts with other local units of government and state agencies. SWCD Supervisors are not paid a salary; however, they do receive compensation for attending meetings and are reimbursed for expenses.

Remember to vote for the SWCD Supervisors at the November 5th Election.

\* Except for SWCDs in the seven-county metro area, where candidates are elected by the voters within that nomination district of the SWCD.



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## Rebuilding Soil After Flooding – Soil Health Incentive Program Now Available



By Al Kraus, Soil Health Specialist

As I begin my new position as a Soil Health Specialist with Rice and Steele SWCDs, it's humbling to see the challenges farmers face following this year's heavy rains. Many, if not most fields in our area had standing water on saturated soil for extended weeks. Some of those flooded zones are standing bare still.

When soil is under saturated conditions for an extended period of time and is left unplanted to any crop or cover crop, the change in the biological health of the soil can be carried into the next season. Growing plants



Cover crops grow in a field near Northfield, Minnesota

build up the microbial community in the root zone, which is essential to nutrient cycling, especially phosphorous. Cover crops can also prevent weeds from establishing in areas where the commodity crop failed.

In addition to unplanted areas, many fields had significant soil erosion representing a serious and costly loss of valuable topsoil and crop nutrients. Reduced tillage such as strip-till and no-till, along with cover crops, will prevent erosion and rebuild the soil.

Help is available for farmers to improve and protect their soil. Sign-up at Rice SWCD for cost-share incentives for strip-till, no-till, and cover crops is now open. This year, the cost-share for cover crops is \$5 higher per acre than previous years and for the first time, Rice SWCD has cost share available for strip-till, no-till, and planting commodity crops into a green cover crop – “planting green”.

Fields that do not have a long history of



Strip-till on a farm near Nerstrand, Minnesota

cover crops, strip-till, no-till, or planting green (only received the practice three out of the last ten years) are eligible to be enrolled. The Rice SWCD Board established the Soil Health Incentive Program and set the following rates for a maximum of 80 acres per farm:

Cover crops: \$30/acre for a 1-year contract (single or multiple species); \$35/acre for a 3-year contract – single species, or \$40/acre – multiple species

Strip-till or No-till: \$15/acre for a 1-year or 2-year contract will allow using the practice on different fields; \$25/acre for a 3-year contract will allow using the practice (or combination of the two practices) on the same field.

Planting green: \$5/acre can be added to these cost share incentives when the commodity crop is planted into the cover crop ahead of, or within 7 days after, terminating the cover crop

Stackable: These cost-share incentives can be stacked together on the enrolled acres. Also, they can be stacked with other non-state funding sources such as NRCS EQIP and CSP cost share and the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition cover crop incentive (\$10/acre).

In addition, the Rice SWCD has several scholarships for farmers (first come first served) who enroll acres to attend either the Premier Soil Health Event for free on December 3-4 in Mankato or the Soil Management Summit on January 29-30, 2025 in Mankato, MN.

The Rice SWCD Soil Health Incentive Program is an excellent opportunity for Rice



Planting green on a farm near Circle Lake in Rice County, Minnesota

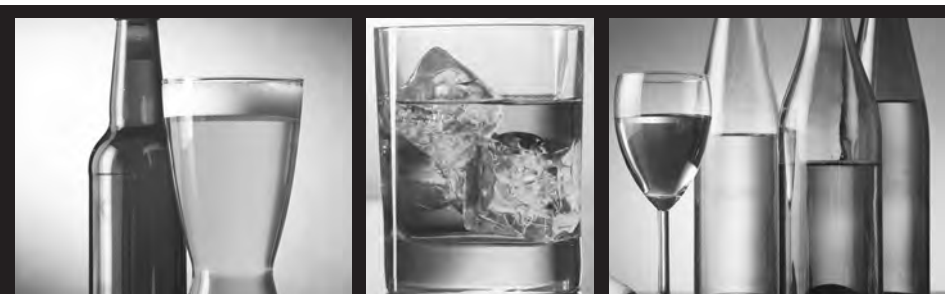
County farmers to either get started or continue on their own soil health journey. Call the Rice SWCD Office at 507-332-5408 for more details and get your acres enrolled soon.

### Learn More about Soil Health and Available Conservation Funding

- Rice SWCD Soil Health Incentive Program
- Rice SWCD Custom Interseeding Program
- Visit our Cover Crops webpage
- Visit our Conservation Tillage webpage

Alan Kraus is a Soil Health Specialist with the Rice and Steele SWCDs. He works with producers and landowners in both counties to implement soil health conservation practices. In Rice County, he also promotes the Soil Health Incentives Program and Custom Interseeding Program. Contact Alan with your conservation questions at 507-332-5408.

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District is a subdivision of state government. It is overseen by a five member board of supervisors elected countywide to represent the soil and water conservation needs of the county. The board of supervisors make policy decisions, approve cost-share contracts, and promote soil and water conservation. The mission of the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District is: "To assist land users in the management and conservation of our soil and water resources by means of educational, financial, and technical assistance." Learn more about the District at our website: [www.riceswcd.org](http://www.riceswcd.org).



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## Staffing Changes at the Rice SWCD

This summer has brought several staffing changes to the Rice SWCD. Jarett Spitzack has taken a job as the new Ditch Inspector for Rice County. Kourtney Spitzack has also taken a new position with the Le Sueur SWCD as their Outreach Specialist. We wish Jarett and Kourtney the best of luck in their new positions.

The Rice SWCD would also like to welcome Alan Kraus as our new Soil Health Specialist. Alan will be splitting his time with the Steele SWCD, working with producers and landowners in both counties to implement soil health conservation practices. Contact Alan with all your questions about cover crops, conservation tillage, and conservation program opportunities.

Alan earned an M.S. in Agricultural Economics and a B.S. in Dairy Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has 25 years of experience dairy farming in Central Wisconsin where he implemented managed grazing and no-till planting of corn and soybeans. As Chair of the Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee, Alan worked with numerous local, regional, and state organizations to advance community goals of agricultural profitability and environmental sustainability. Since 2017, Alan was the Conservation Program Manager for Clean River Partners where he organized and led numerous soil health outreach events as well as on-farm cover crop and water quality research projects. Alan and his wife Emily live in Northfield, MN.



Alan Kraus, Soil Health Specialist with the Rice SWCD

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**The King with Cash & Diamond Show Returns to Dennison Sept. 28th**

*(continued from page 1)*

For fans young and old, if you have ever been to the show in Dennison or to the popular Breezy Point Resort up north in Minnesota, you may have caught The Memories of Elvis Show ([www.espking.com](http://www.espking.com)) with Chris Olson.

You may have seen the show on the dockside bar at Breezy Point or the popular up north spot, Zorbaz. Chris Olson performs



this entertaining tribute of The King, and will be bringing his talents and show back to DENNISON, MINNESOTA on Saturday, September 28th. Show time will be at 7:30p.m.

This will be a rain or shine event under the big top at the Fireside.

Doug Allen Nash will again join the show this year with is tribute to Neil Diamond and also his "Johnny Cash Tribute - American Icon". ([www.dougallennash.com](http://www.dougallennash.com))

It is in this production, Nash includes one of his own songs "June" co- written and co-produced with Jeff Silverman in Nashville, TN. Engineering mix by Grammy Award

Winners John Carter Cash and Chuck Turner at Cash Cabin Studio in Hendersonville, TN.

You can see both of these great artists in Dennison Saturday, September 28th.

Advance tickets are just \$25.00. \$30.00 day of show. Call Fireside at 507-645-9992 during normal business hours, or e-mail them at [firesideloungedennison@gmail.com](mailto:firesideloungedennison@gmail.com) to order tickets.

You can also make dinner reservations that evening ahead of the show. Space is limited, so make your reservations early, as Fireside Lounge celebrates 22 years of Amy Family Hospitality, Saturday, September 28th.



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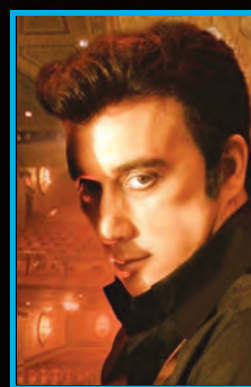
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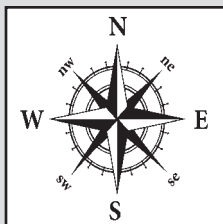
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- Consider using a following vehicle when moving large equipment on roadways, especially at night.
- Get Some Sleep - Make sure to get enough sleep and rest to refresh the mind and body. If you are spending long hours in a combine or tractor, be sure to take short breaks often.
- Don't Rush - It may take an extra moment or two to walk down every step or double-check a piece of equipment. But that extra time may be a lifesaver. Don't cut corners when it comes to safety.
- Identify hazardous areas on equipment and make sure you stay away from moving parts. Beware of pinch points, shear points, wrap points, pull-in areas, thrown objects, crush points, stored energy hazards and freewheeling parts.
- Shut down equipment, turn off the engine, remove key and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting equipment.
- Lock entrances to grain handling areas.
- Install ladders inside bins.
- Do not enter grain bins that are being loaded or unloaded. Flowing grain can trap and suffocate you in seconds.
- If it is necessary to enter a bin, shut off and lockout power before entering. Use a safety harness and safety line. Have several people available outside the bin to lift entrant out in case of an emergency.
- Wear proper dust-filtering respirators when working in and around grain handling areas. High amounts of dust and molds could be present and could be very dangerous.

## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Vacation Homes and Winter



By Terry Campbell

*This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.*

I built our home on Kentucky Lake in 2021. I had purchased the land a few years earlier but kind of left it alone while we worked on other projects. I hadn't scoped out the property before purchasing it, because it was sort of an impulse buy. I was quite surprised to find it was right over the hill from the lake. Once the leaves came off the trees, I could see the water.

As I started to rough in the structure I began to fall in love with the area. It was peaceful and so quiet. There was nobody around. Just my neighbor Gloria and her two beautiful Golden retrievers who came by every day to visit. She lived about a half mile up the road and would drive her golf cart over so see the crazy longhaired guy building a house all by himself. These were all rich people who hire everything done. I think they were intrigued by the working class in action.

What I learned with time was that all these houses along the lake were summer homes for most of the owners. Big beautiful homes. Million-dollar properties with \$150,000 boats sitting in a shed next to the house. All vacant during the winter. After I finished the house and we were living there, I would walk the dog up to the lake and along the road where all these fancy, empty homes were located. About one in ten had a resident. They did show up over Christmas and New Year and then vanished again. The year-round residents soon became our friends. They are always happy to visit when I go by. John at the end of Dogwood mows our lawn and trims weeds all summer. He makes a living mowing everyone's lawn in the area. Harry is a retired farmer from Illinois, who lives about a mile down the road from us. He has a John Deere tractor with a loader. He loaded the logs on my trailer,



landscaped our property and bladed gravel for our driveways. Bob and Linda live across the valley from us and keep an eye on our house when we are gone.

Building this house down by the lake was relaxing for me. I would work on the newspaper all morning online and then drive over from our small farm by Dover, to build all afternoon. A half-hour drive each way. The hardware store in Dover was also a lumber yard so I could pick up supplies on the way for each day. The only downside was that the pandemic panic had driven the price of lumber sky high. I was paying \$9 per 2x4, during 2021. Pretty shocking to haul \$1,000 of lumber to the building site each day. Fortunately, I had drawn up the plans for the house two years prior and I had purchased all the exterior log siding and interior rustic pine tongue and groove lumber while prices were good, and they were stored on the car trailer in the pole shed on the farm.

My plan had been to spend a couple winters completing this project and enjoy the summers in Minnesota. But the spring of 2022 ushered in an overheated housing market and when my wife listed our hobby farm outside of Dover, she had an offer in four days. Suddenly I was going to finish a house

in four months, or we wouldn't have a winter home to go to. I worked from 6am to 10pm seven days a week. Just like farming, only I was quite a lot older now. July and August are quite hot in Tennessee, everyday can reach 100 degrees. I got the house but-toned up before we closed on the old one and then spent the rest of the year finishing the interior.

Back to the million-dollar mansions on the lake shore. We got in the habit of driving the golf cart for miles along the waterfront roads each day with the dogs. Smaller gravel roads lead away from the paved roads and down these little paths you find a different life. Old run-down shacks where the hillbilly's live looking right out of a century ago. Some you wouldn't think were habitable but the lights were on. Most were surrounded by years of junk and trash. We have seen houses with so much garbage in front of the door, one can hardly get through. It is sad to find that within a mile from the most affluent lifestyle was a most depressing and primitive one. Most of these were home to people with no motivation to pick up after themselves or try and improve their lifestyle. The locals call them hillbilly's.

## Yelloh™ (Formerly Schwans Home Delivery) Announces November End of Operations

*Facing economic and market headwinds, Yelloh prepares to close operations and permanently park its iconic yellow delivery vehicles*

MARSHALL, Minn. – Yelloh has announced it will cease all operations in November 2024, closing out a storied 72-year history as a Minnesota pioneer in the food home-delivery market. Founded in Marshall, Minn., where it still maintains a headquarters, the company grew to a nationwide frozen food delivery leader with the country's largest fleet of freezer trucks.



Since its founding in 1952, Yelloh made high-quality frozen meals, foods, treats, and ice cream accessible to American homes by delivering products to neighborhood doorsteps with its fleet of iconic yellow trucks. The company set itself apart with the friendly, trusting relationships it built between customers and team members, some of which lasted for decades.

"It's with heavy hearts that we made the difficult decision to cease operations of Yelloh," said CEO Bernardo Santana. "We are thankful to our many loyal customers and hard-working employees for everything they have done to support us. I am deeply grateful for our employees' tireless and bold efforts, and our customers' dedication. It has been our utmost pleasure and honor to serve our customers their favorite meals and frozen treats."

"As it is for the people of Yelloh, closing this company is a heartbreaking decision for me personally," said Michael Ziebell, Board Member, who was a 22-year veteran of the company holding leadership roles in the 1990s and early 2000s before returning recently as a Board member. "Our concern is now for our employees and caring for them as we all come to terms with the fact that this business – that served millions of families and provided a livelihood for thousands over the decades – has regrettably run its life cycle."

The company cited multiple insurmountable business challenges for the decision, including economic and market forces, as well as changing consumer lifestyles.

"The current Yelloh team has worked hard against external headwinds such as the nationwide staffing challenges and crushing food supply chain disruption caused by the pandemic," said Ziebell. "These challenges, combined with changing consumer lifestyles and competitive pressures that have been building for over 20 years, made success very difficult. Digital shopping has replaced the personal, at-the-door customer interaction that was the hallmark of the company."

Yelloh will wind down operations over the next two months, taking care of employees with notice and pay in accordance with the WARN Act. The last day products may be purchased via Yelloh trucks will be Friday, November 8.

*Yelloh - the former Schwans home delivery business, is separate from the Schwans Company, which continues operations serving retail, grocery and food service customers. The home delivery business was split off in 2019 when new majority owners took over the Schwans Company.*

## A Minnesotan: State Fair



By RosaLin Alcoser

The Minnesota State Fair is something to look forward to with great anticipation.

Unless you are one of the Minnesotans, like me, who did not think through living near the State Fair grounds before moving there.

For everyone else it is a time to be excited about. From the farm expositions, 4-H projects, musicians, to the rides everyone has something to look forward to at the fair. The thing I have heard most about this year has been the food from my

co-workers. Mostly about the variety of things that have been deep fried. The most heavily discussed one has been the new deep fried ranch dressing that has been there this year. While no one I have spoken to has actually tried this it has been one of the more curious deep fried foods I have ever heard of.

While I did not go this year I have gone before in years. My favorite trip to the Minnesota State Fair was the year we went as soon as the gates opened. Which is really the ideal time to go to the fair.

That year we had a great parking spot at the fairgrounds and got in before it started getting crowded. We had a great time walking around before everything was open drinking coffee from the Farmers of America stand while eating mini-donuts. If you have never had mini-donuts for breakfast I would highly recommend doing so.

By the time we had been there roughly eight hours we were tired of the fair and ready to go at about 1PM or 2PM. Which is just about the time the fair really starts to get overly crowded in my opinion. We had seen all of the attractions we had wanted to see and tried all the fun fair foods we had gone for. Making a perfect trip to the State Fair.

## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,  
Minnesota State Patrol



**Question: I heard the Minnesota State Patrol got a new design for your patches and squad cars. Can you talk about that?**

Answer: You are correct. For the first time in more than 50 years, the Minnesota State Patrol has a new look.

Last year when the Minnesota Legislature approved a replacement design for the Minnesota seal and flag, State Patrol leaders took note.

"That decision presented us with a unique opportunity to create something different to represent our division and culture within the State Patrol and its staff throughout the state," said Col. Christina Bogojevic, chief of the Minnesota State Patrol.

A working group made up of 13 sworn and non-sworn members of the State Patrol worked for four months with a design agency to come up with and refine the new design. "We wanted something that represented the strong history and legacy of our division, something that is identifiable with the state of Minnesota, all while giving it a more modern update. The redesign was an opportunity for us to create something highlighting our pride in serving Minnesota," said Lt. Col. Jeremy Geiger, who led the group.

The new look — with heavy ties to symbolism — reflects the values and history of the State Patrol. The North Star — a four-pointed star and the same one used on the redesigned state seal — represents the cardinal directions, just as we serve Minnesotans to the north, south, east and west. The Mississippi River, abundant in its contribution to our state and serving as a critical artery for transportation, lends itself to our role of maintaining and securing an efficient transportation network and connecting with others. The Norway pines, the state tree of Minnesota, underscore the steadfast and reliable commitment of the State Patrol, working for Minnesotans 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through all seasons, all year long.

The new look for the State Patrol isn't just a redesigned patch on our troopers' shoulders. It includes badges, hats, squads, license plates, buttons on uniforms, signage and so much more. In fact, there are more than 188,000 pieces of equipment that will need to be updated with the new design. State Patrol leadership is prioritizing updates on squad cars and uniforms, and being diligent about updating items where they were already scheduled to be replaced. To complete the whole process will take somewhere from six to nine months and an estimated \$4 million.

**Question: I dropped off my grandchildren at school the other day and I encountered someone waving a flag around the school**

**buses. Do you know what that would be about?**

Answer: I am guessing it was a school bus flagger. Some schools have people in place to assist with school buses exiting their school zones and parking lots. If you encounter one, you must stop for a school bus flagger directing traffic to allow school buses to leave school property. After being stopped by a school bus flagger, you may not proceed until directed to do so by the flagger or a police officer.

**Question: I heard some talk about new car seat laws and how kids are to be seat belted. Can you explain it in depth please?**

Answer: Yes, I can and as a matter of fact it is National Child Passenger Safety Week. Here is some information that we shared on our Minnesota Department of Public Safety Blog.

Figuring out the best way to keep kids safe in your vehicle can be complicated. The Minnesota Legislature has updated the Child Passenger Safety Law offering new guidance on child seats, booster seats and seat belts, adding increased safety measures to protect children. The law went into effect Aug. 1, may change how children ride in your vehicle.

Crashes are a leading cause of injury and death among children. Proper car seat use helps protect and minimize injuries to our youngest passengers. That's why our Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), along with the Minnesota Safety Council, are working to make sure you're ready for the new rules, which mirror the American Academy of Pediatrics child seat recommendations.

"We all want our children to be as safe as possible while we're driving, and that means making sure they are in the proper child restraint," said OTS Director Mike Hanson. "The new law lays out best practices and will help parents make the best decision to protect their child."

Prior to the changes, state law required car seats to be used according to manufacturer's instructions on height and weight. Now, instead of just relying on the child's size, the law specifies ages for rear- and forward-facing car seats, booster seats and seat belts (subject to weight and height depending on the child seat manufacturer). In addition, the booster seat requirement has been increased from 8 to 9 years old. The age guidelines, which you can find here, include:

- Birth to at least 2 years old:
  - Rear-facing in an infant or convertible child safety seat.
  - At least 2 years old AND has outgrown the rear-facing seat with internal harness by height or weight:
    - Forward-facing with an internal harness.
  - Four years old AND has outgrown the forward-facing seat with internal harness by height or weight:
    - Ride restrained in a belt-positioning booster seat using the lap belt and shoulder belt.
    - Nine years old or has outgrown the booster seat AND the child can pass the five-step test that demonstrates how the seat belt fits correctly:
      - Ride restrained with a lap belt and shoulder belt secured correctly on the vehicle seat.
- Additionally, children under 13 years old must sit in the back seat if possible.



If a child falls into more than one category, then the child must be placed in the safer restraint for them. For example, a child who is 2.5 years old and weighs 35 pounds but has a car seat with a rear-facing limit of 40 pounds must stay rear-facing even though they are over 2 years old. It's very important for parents and caregivers to always read their car seat and vehicle owners' manuals for proper installation.

If you need help installing a car seat or need more information, go to

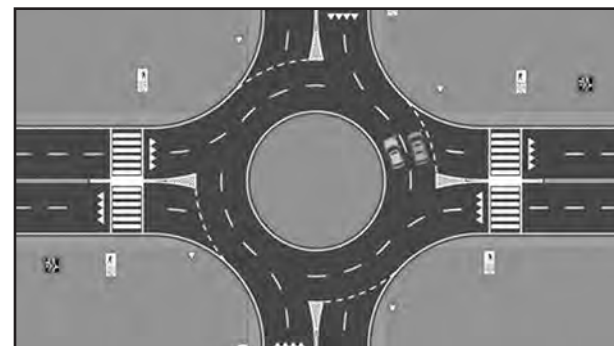
[buckleupkids.dps.mn.gov](http://buckleupkids.dps.mn.gov)

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, [Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us](mailto:Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us))

## Love them or hate them – roundabouts work!

This circular intersection moves traffic in a counter-clockwise direction around a center island. This curved approach forces vehicles to slow down and yield to crossing pedestrians or bicyclists and traffic already in the circle. A roundabout used at the right location will help drivers get through an intersection more safely – and in less time.



Review these helpful tips from MnDOT to learn more about what drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists need to know about navigating roundabouts in Minnesota.

### Drivers

Slow down when approaching a roundabout. For multi-lane roundabouts, as with any intersection, get into the appropriate lane.

Yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. It is the law.

Yield to vehicles already in the roundabout. Merge into the traffic flow when it is safe.

Continue through the roundabout until you reach your exit. Do not stop or pass in a roundabout.

Exit the roundabout immediately if an emergency vehicle approaches, and then pull over. Do not stop in the roundabout.

Yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk when exiting the roundabout.

Give large trucks extra space in a roundabout. Large trucks may straddle both lanes while driving through a multi-lane roundabout.

### Pedestrians

Cross only at crosswalks, and always stay on the designated walkways.

Never cross to the central island.

Cross the roundabout one approach at a time. Use the median island as a halfway point where you can check for approaching traffic.

### Bicyclists

Ride with traffic inside the roundabout or use the crosswalks appropriately.

Follow the same rules as vehicles when riding with traffic and yield when entering the roundabout. Since traffic is slower inside the roundabout, cyclists should be able to travel at or near the same speed as motorists, staying in line with the circulating traffic.

The data about roundabouts show an 86 percent decrease in fatal crashes. Learning to correctly navigate this type of intersection, and by sharing these tips, you can help drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.

## Public Input Wanted as Rice County Updates Hazard Mitigation Plan



Rice County residents, community leaders, business owners, area agencies and organizations now have an opportunity to share how severe weather events impact their property

and lives. There is also an opportunity to share their ideas on how to reduce local impacts in the future.

The Rice County Sheriff's Office - Emergency Management is working with U-Spatial at the University of Minnesota Duluth to update the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The plan assesses the natural hazards that pose risk to the county, such as tornadoes, straight line winds, ice storms, blizzards, wildfire, flooding, and extreme temperatures and identifies ways to minimize the damage of future events. As the county works to update the plan, it wants to hear from the public.

The Rice County HMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers Rice County, including all cities and townships within the county.

The Rice County HMP also incorporates the concerns and needs of school districts, watershed districts, and other related agencies, organizations, or businesses participating in the planning process. The plan will be up-

dated by a planning team made up of representatives from county departments, local municipalities, and other key stakeholders. When completed, the plan will be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approval.

"Hazard mitigation planning is a central part of our emergency management program," said Joseph Johnson, Rice County Director of Emergency Management. "Understanding the natural hazards that can cause serious impact to our communities and taking action to reduce or eliminate the impact of future disasters makes us more resilient. Hazard mitigation helps us to break the cycle of damage and repair caused by things like flooding, ice storms, and severe wind events that can damage property, stress economies, and threaten life safety in our county."

- Examples of hazard mitigation include:
- Conducting public outreach on severe weather awareness and preparedness
  - Improving stormwater management systems to better handle high-rain events
  - Removing existing buildings from flood or erosion prone hazard areas
  - Increasing defensible space around homes in high-risk wildfire areas
  - Constructing tornado safe rooms in vulnerable areas such as mobile home parks
  - Burying overhead powerlines that may fail due to heavy snow, ice, or windstorms
- Some mitigation activities may be eligible

for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding.

Public input is an essential part of the plan update. As part of the planning process, Rice County is seeking feedback from residents and businesses to incorporate into the plan. Your input will be recorded and incorporated into the planning process:

- What are the natural hazards you feel pose the greatest risk to your community?
- Are there specific populations or assets in your community that you feel are more vulnerable to future storm events?
- What concerns do you have, and what sorts of actions do you feel would help to reduce damages of future hazard events in your community or the county as a whole?

Your feedback is wanted. Comments, concerns, or questions regarding natural disasters and your ideas for mitigation projects should be submitted to Rice County Sheriff's Office - Emergency Management by phone, email, or by posting a comment via a social media posting of this article.

There will be additional opportunities for public feedback throughout the planning process. A draft of the plan will be made available for public review prior to submission of the plan to the State of Minnesota. Future news releases will be shared with the media to notify the public of these opportunities.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires counties to update their plan every 5 years to maintain eligibility for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs.

## Do You Have a Story Idea?

Contact Rebecca at:  
 Rebecca.Niebur@gmail.com  
 or hometownmessenger@gmail.com



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## Action needed to address disappointing student reading and math scores

By: SENATOR BILL LIESKE

More than half of Minnesota public school students cannot read or do math at grade level.

That is according to the Minnesota Department of Education, which recently released the results of 2024's Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. If you have school-aged kids, you are familiar with these statewide tests that measure overall student proficiency

in reading and math from grades 3 through 8. An additional reading test is given in grade 10, and a final math test in grade 11. Students also take science MCAs in grades 5 and 8.

The tests found 50.3% of students are not meeting grade level reading standards. In math, it is 54.7%. These figures are roughly the same as 2023 results.

We all should be alarmed by the sharp decline in academic foundations such as reading and math over the years. I want to be crystal clear: This is not the fault of teachers, most of whom are doing their absolute best and who commit considerable time, energy, and resources to teach our children.

It's also not a failure of funding. Over the last decade or so, Republicans and Democrats alike have committed record levels of funding to schools.

So what are the issues?

One big problem is mandates that have hurt school budgets. In 2023, for example, the big investments in public schools were effectively canceled out by Democrats' excessive and unnecessary mandates. Districts across Minnesota have been forced to go to the voters for levy requests as their budgets have been pushed into the red. We have to give schools some relief from these heavy mandates.

We also need to adjust our priorities. Too often I hear from parents who are worried about the distraction of divisive political or social agendas being imposed in schools. We have to get back to the basics of reading, writing, math, and science.

Our children's futures depend on us equipping them with strong foundational skills. It's time to refocus on academic excellence, empower educators, and ensure every Minnesota student can reach their full potential. We must set politics aside and make bold changes that put students first.

Thank you, first responders!

Like many of you, my memory of Sept 11 is still crystal clear. I was home sick from 6th grade, my dad walked in the house from dropping my brother off at school and told me to turn on the news. We sat together and watched a replay of the first tower being hit. Moments later, the broadcast switched to a live feed and we watched the second plane hit. Shortly after, my mom – who worked in the IDS Tower -- called to tell us she was being evacuated.

The day was especially scary because my

mom's extended family lived by, and worked at, the Twin Towers. Thankfully they were out of the office that day and safe.

The anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is always a powerful reminder of this country's resilience in the face of tragedy. I will never forget the heroism of the first responders who ran toward danger that day. Their courage in the worst possible circumstances saved countless lives, and their sacrifices remind us of what it really means "to protect and serve."

Our local heroes — our police officers, firefighters, and EMS providers — continue to answer the call, facing unpredictable dangers each day. Unfortunately, too many of our own communities like Lonsdale and Farmington are facing serious challenges. Police departments are struggling with officer shortages. Fire departments are worried about their own staff levels. EMS providers in rural areas have been in a crisis for a while. They are doing so much with so little, and they need our support now more than ever.

I want to give a heartfelt thank you to all our local first responders for your tireless dedication, your sacrifices, and your willingness to put others first. Know that I am committed to ensuring you have the resources you need to keep our communities safe. We already passed emergency funding for rural EMS. Republicans are continuing to prioritize getting more good cops on the streets, and we are looking at ways to address firefighter shortages as well.

Thank you for everything you do. We are eternally grateful.

### DUNDAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Monday, August 26, 2024 7:00 p.m. City Hall

Present: Mayor Glenn Switzer Councilors Luke LaCroix, Ashley Gallagher, Grant Modory, Luke Swartwood

Staff: City Administrator/Clerk Jenelle Teppen, City Engineer Dustin Tipp, City Planner Nate Sparks

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Switzer called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Modory, second by Gallagher, to approve the agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously (MCU)

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- Regular Minutes of August 12, 2024
- Construction Pay Voucher #3 Forest Ave and Depot St Reconstruction
- Resolution 2024-21 Appointing Election Judges for the November General Election
- Disbursements - \$119,851.76

Motion by LaCroix, second by Swartwood, to approve the consent agenda. MCU

#### REGULAR AGENDA

- Consider Approving a Letter of Support to Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board Regarding Northfield Hospital and Clinic EMS Licensure

Brian Edwards, EMS Chief for the Northfield Hospital and Clinic presented a draft letter of support to the City Council that seeks their support for a change of licensure from a full-time Advanced Life Support to a full-time Basic Support license with a part-time Advanced Life Support license to ensure compliance with state statues on staffing.

Motion by Modory, second by Swartwood, to approve the Letter of Support to EMSRB regarding Northfield Hospital and Clinic EMS Licensure. MCU

- Consider Ordinance 2024-01 Amending the Zoning Code to Allow Solar Carports

Motion by LaCroix, second by Swartwood, to approve Ordinance 2024-01 Amending the Zoning Code to Allow Solar Carports. MCU

- Consider Resolution 2024-23 Approving a Conditional Use Permit for 430 Railway St S for a Solar Carport

Motion by Swartwood, second by Gallagher, to approve Resolution 2024-026 Approving a Conditional Use Permit for 430 Railway St S for a Solar Carport. MCU

- Consider Receiving Quote and Awarding a Contract for the 2024 Sanitary and Storm Sewer Cleaning and Televising Project

Motion by Modory, second by Gallagher, to receive Quote and Award a Contract to Pipe Service for \$43,232.26 for the 2024 Sanitary and Storm Sewer Cleaning and Televising Project. MCU

#### REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

##### City Engineer – Dustin Tipp

City Engineer Dustin Tipp reported that the street lighting project is expected to begin the week of September 9. He also reported that a meeting with staff of the various agencies affected is scheduled to review the Decker Avenue Corridor Alternatives.

##### Work Session

- Discuss Proposed Marketing Project

Staff presented local storyteller Jonny Weaver regarding the City Council's desire stated in their 2023 Goal Setting to tell the story of Dundas through photos and videos intended to support development efforts, attract and retain residents, and draw visitors.

The Council and Mr. Weaver spent some time discussing what they hoped to get out of a project like this. Mr. Weaver will make a proposal to the City Council that they would consider at an upcoming meeting.

#### ADJOURN

Motion by Swartwood, second by LaCroix, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM. MCU  
*Minutes prepared by Jenelle Teppen, City Administrator/City Clerk*

## Application Deadline Extended for FEMA Individual Assistance

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ST. PAUL –Homeowners and renters who suffered damage to their property from the severe storms and floods of June 16 -July 4 have additional time to apply for federal disaster assistance. FEMA has extended the application deadline to October 27, 2024, for survivors in the 21 Minnesota counties designated for Individual Assistance.

FEMA assistance may include funds for temporary housing while you are unable to live in your home, such as rental assistance or reimbursement for hotel costs; funds to support the repair or replacement of your primary home, including privately-owned access routes, such as driveways, roads, or bridges; and funds for disaster-caused expenses and serious needs, such as repair or replacement of personal property and vehicles, funds for moving and storage, medical, dental, child care, funeral expenses, and other pre-approved miscellaneous items.

Disaster survivors who have not yet applied for FEMA assistance should apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov, use the FEMA App on your phone, visit a Disaster Recovery Center or call 800-621-3362. If you use a relay service such as video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service when you apply.

For even more information about the disaster recovery operation in Minnesota visit [www.fema.gov/disaster/4797](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4797).



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- ACROSS**
1. Marriott hotel chain
  6. Lockheed Martin Corporation @NYSE
  9. Desert in central Asia
  13. Tinder user?
  14. Distinctive period in history
  15. Munchausen's title
  16. Likewise
  17. Campfire leftover
  18. Jason Bateman/Laura Linney TV drama
  19. \*Traditionally clipped
  21. \*OS in POS at the supermarket
  23. Bro's sibling
  24. "\_\_\_ there, done that"
  25. T in Greek
  28. FBI's cold one
  30. Windshield \_\_\_\_, pl.
  35. "The \_\_\_ for Red October"
  37. Coach of Dallas Mavericks
  39. Bow's partner
  40. Black and white killer
  41. Be in accord
  43. First word in fairy tale
  44. Formerly known as Pleasant Island
  46. Long-lasting Steelers coach
  47. TV's "man named Brady"
  48. \*GO in BOGO
  50. French "place"
  52. 6th sense
  53. Adored one
  55. What cruelty and crush have in common
  57. \*Dairy aisle package
  60. \*S&H Green \_\_\_\_
  63. Non motorized vessel
  64. I have
  66. Nev.'s neighbor
  68. Offspring, collectively
  69. Rank above maj.
  70. Visual
  71. QBR in football, e.g.
  72. Will Ferrell's Christmas classic
  73. Like a gymnast

- DOWN**
1. \*What registers do
  2. Nonclerical
  3. Football legend Graham
  4. Unborn vertebrate
  5. \_\_\_ of Cancer
  6. \*Like freezer aisle "Cuisine"
  7. "\_\_\_ Robinson" by Simon & Garfunkel
  8. California/Nevada lake
  9. Mediterranean Strip
  10. Not written
  11. Dull one
  12. Pen juice
  15. Home to Sarajevo
  20. Port city in Japan
  22. Like marines in slogan
  24. Cowboy's bedding
  25. Flip-flop
  26. Plural of aura
  27. Adam Sandler's "\_\_\_ Gems"
  29. Manual communication gesture
  31. High school ball
  32. Bert's TV buddy
  33. Ice in a cocktail
  34. \*TV's "Supermarket \_\_\_\_"
  36. Tropical tuber
  38. \*Sliced items section
  42. Choose a president
  45. "\_\_\_ we stand, divided we fall"
  49. Tokyo, once
  51. Adenine's partner in RNA
  54. Chilled (2 words)
  56. Savory taste sensation
  57. \*Rolling supermarket carrier
  58. Dwarf buffalo
  59. Type of canal, in dentistry
  60. Ego's main concern
  61. Surveyor's map
  62. Accompanies relief
  63. "Big Three" TV network
  65. Radio knob, abbr.
  67. ATM extra

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