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# The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

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## Claremont City Candidates



Tasha Dahl



Deb Ellis

There are two city council positions open and the mayor's race is open in Claremont. Tasha Dahl is running unopposed in her re-election bid for Mayor.

Council member Jacob Klejeski is not running again for the office. David Stein had filed for the city council position but did not respond to requests for an interview.

**Tasha Dahl** has served two terms as mayor of Claremont.

Some accomplishments she has noted are the water tower rehab and starting the new ballfield. *(continued on page 5)*

## Help Our Veterans

By Cheri Roshon

What could be better than being served an all you can eat breakfast of luscious biscuits and gravy, while watching the Vikings play the Jets? Well, being a die hard football fan,

and loving to be served a meal with no clean up required, I would say that that is a hard combo to beat! This coming Sunday, October 6th. The Kasson American Legion Post 333, located at 212 Main Street in Kasson,



Blaine M Halvorson, *United States Marine*

will be doing the honors. For only \$8, you can show up from 8 am until the food runs out and get served while you cheer on our undefeated Vikings while they face Aaron Rodgers and the Jets in an early game to kickoff the rest of the NFL games. *(continued on page 8)*

## West Concord City Council Candidates

There are three candidates for the two West Concord city council seats this fall. The Mayor, Jeff McCool is running unopposed.

**Nick Kilen** is running to be more involved with the our city and our community. Nick introduces himself, "It's currently just me and my dog, Davina, who I am sure you have seen us out walking, we go every day some days more than once."

**Jeff Burse** has held the city council position for five years. One of the important things that he feels he has accomplished has



Jeff Burse



Karen Johnson



Nick Kilen

been keeping the taxes down for citizens of West Concord. *(continued on page 5)*

## Announcements

• GriefShare support group for those seeking support and healing from loss of a loved one through death meets at Anchor Of Hope Church, 203 E. Main St, Dodge Center, at 6:30 pm. Contact Rev Dale Rood at 507-633-2772 for further information.

• The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center at 20 First Street NE offers a dine in and carry out meal from 5:00-6:00pm the third Wednesday of each month.

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



## Faith In Action Soup and Pie Supper

Your local Faith in Action is supported through donations, grants and fund raising activities.

Perhaps you purchased a cup of ice cream from one of our volunteers at Kasson Festival in the Park or Marigold Days. You soon will have another opportunity to support the activities of Faith in Action.

On Monday, October 14, 2024, our annual Fall Soup and Pie Supper will be held at the Grace Methodist Church, 801 5th Ave. N.W., Kasson.

*(continued on page 4)*

**West Concord Fire Department**  
**Annual Pancake Breakfast**  
**Sunday, October 13th from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
**at the West Concord Fire Department**  
 Serving: Pancakes,  
 Scrambled Eggs & Sausage



Cost: \$8.00 suggested donation for adults;  
 \$6.00 for kids ages 7-12  
 (children 6 & under free)

A fundraiser for the West Concord  
 Fire Department Relief Association

**LIVE MUSIC!**  
 Thursday, October 3:  
**Lady's Happy Time 4:30-7:00 PM**  
 Guest Pianist *Phyllis LaRue*

Friday, October 11 from 7-10 PM *Sister Luv & Men in Back*

*THE Annadine*  
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 507-273-9530  
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## No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

No good deed goes unpunished- what a phrase- yet, you have heard it said and have experienced it in your life- It's one of those things that you were sure you were doing everything right- and maybe it begins pretty good- then something happens, the person your helping, the act of kindness you did, the excellent job you did; instead of receiving an attaboy or great job you were criticized and unappreciated! The rug was pulled out from under you- it's almost like someone gut-punching you and all the air leaves your body! Is this resonating with anyone? Been there done that?!

This happens in life, and it happens in our faith journeys as well. You've accepted Jesus, you are going to church, reading your Bible, and you've made some commitments and headway in your faith- and then BAM! This faith stuff- this relationship with Jesus isn't what we signed for. Jesus said, "follow me" but it feels like you fell off the map and that He's left you in the lurch. You are in good company- we have all been there.

In Matthew chapter 2, Jesus was 4-6 years of age moving back to Nazareth. Matthew doesn't mention Jesus again until chapter 3 when he introduces us to John the Baptizer and the ministry down by the Jordan River. The main focus of John's ministry is to prepare the way for the Messiah, Jesus Christ, to begin His ministry on earth. And now Jesus arrives on the scene at the Jordan River.

Jesus went to John for the purpose of being baptized by him. Jesus wasn't being baptized to show that he was repenting of his sins- He went there to be our example and to have this event be the beginning of His ministry on earth! This was an act of amazing humility on Jesus' part-He who knew no sin became the atonement for ours. "Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned,

but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit." 1 Peter 3:18. Jesus, in obedience to His Father- God, went to the Jordan river to be baptized and to submit to going under for your sins and my sins.

As Jesus exited the water the Father God made it known He was pleased and that what Jesus did would not go unnoticed. God said, "This is my beloved Son, and I am wonderfully pleased with him." Jesus received affirmation from His Father God- He was right where He was supposed to be, doing exactly what He was supposed to be doing!

You and I need encouragement and the affirmation from God that tells us- affirms us that we are on the right track or that we are doing exactly what we are supposed to be doing.

For Jesus this was a mountain top experience. It was a time to enjoy His position in the Trinity and build on this to begin His ministry to the masses. Jesus could have gone straight out of the Jordan and begin preaching and telling everyone that He was the Messiah sent by God. He could have chosen his disciples and gotten started on the city-to-city tours that He led for the next 3 years. He could have, but He didn't!

Instead, as we read in chapter 4, God the Father had other plans for Jesus. "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry."

Jesus faced this time in the wilderness for 40 days. 40 days of fasting and praying. 40

days in the wilderness- 40 days of solitude to think and pray and prepare for the next 3 years. 40 days without food! 40 days of preparing and thinking. Then at the end of the 40 days- Jesus got a huge reward! NOT!!! In fact, the opposite happened! Instead, what happened to Jesus happens to most of us at one time or another. For every good and great event in our lives- the time that follows can almost feel like we are being punished. Jesus experienced a huge high event in his life- hearing His Father affirm him and having the Holy Spirit physically alight on his shoulder. And then 40 days later He is faced with terrible testing from Satan himself. Just when Jesus is hungry and tired and ready to go home and get a good meal and a bed to sleep on- here comes the enemy- to destroy Him if possible.

Again, you and I have faced these times too. I've went away on a retreat- heard some great speakers, made some decisions about vision, and the future. I'll come home feeling confident and ready to take on the world! And then, everything hits the fan. The plans are shot down by people I respect, the everyday workload is super heavy, family problems appear and the time on the mountain, the time of hanging out with God meets reality and lies shattered all over the ground. When we are in this time of 'why God, didn't I hear you right?' This is when the enemy will attack- when we are tired, hungry, and spiritually spent!

It doesn't seem fair- but such is life. Jesus lived it so that He could better identify with us and so that we could see that we too can say no to the temptations of the evil one. The

writer of Hebrews puts it this way, "So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. 15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testing's we do, yet he did not sin." Hebrews 4:14-15.

As followers of Christ temptation is going to happen. We aren't sinning when we are tempted- that happens when we decide to follow that sin- that's when we sin against Christ. Jesus was without sin, yet He too was tempted.

Jesus went from the 'mountaintop' experience to experience a difficult time alone. He didn't have an 'easy' time of it. Even after this time of testing, His life was full of ups and downs- good times, high times, and terribly bleak times too. He experienced life as we do.

Our faith journey will be filled with those same ups and downs too. If Jesus went through it- we will as His followers as well. Jesus said to his disciples, "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."-Jesus. God is taking away His hand so that we can learn to walk with Him. God isn't punishing you. God is shaping you into the son and daughter He wants you to be.

Are you in a tough place right now? Walk with Jesus - don't fall for the lies of the devil. Keep walking! If you are experiencing the mountaintop- enjoy it and appreciate it and be prepared for the days ahead. Follow Jesus!

He is with you, and He is for you.

### DODGE CENTER

#### Faith Lutheran Church

308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center  
Pastor Jessica Bakken Busch • 507-374-2174  
Traditional Worship 9a.m.; Fellowship 10a.m.

#### Grace Lutheran Church

404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center  
Rev. Elliott Malm • 507-633-2253  
<https://gracede.church>  
Worship 9a.m.; Sunday School 10:30a.m.

#### Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center  
Roger Langworthy • 507-374-6400  
Kidz Church 9:15a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.

#### Dodge Center Methodist Church

201 1st St. NE, Dodge Center  
Rev. Chad Christensen • 507-374-6885  
Sunday Morning Worship at 8:15a.m.,  
Fellowship Time Following

#### St. John Baptist De La Salle

20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6830  
Mass Saturday 5p.m.

#### Living Water Assembly Church

104 1st St. NW, Dodge Center  
Roy Andrews • 507-374-6561  
Sunday 10a.m.

#### Dodge Center SDA Church

410 3rd Ave. SW  
Dodge Center • 507-374-6895  
Sabbath School 9:15a.m.; Saturday Worship 11a.m.

#### Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

203 E. Main St., Dodge Center • 507-374-6755  
Saturday 10a.m. Worship; 11:45a.m. Sabbath School

#### Bible Lutheran Church

(American Assoc. of Lutheran Churches)  
11 1st Ave. N.E., Dodge Center  
[www.biblelc.org](http://www.biblelc.org) • 612-803-1212  
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.  
(weekly sermons available on YouTube and on website)

#### First Congregational Church

12 Second Street NW  
Dodge Center, MN 55927 • 507-633-6873  
[www.congregationalchurchdc.com](http://www.congregationalchurchdc.com)  
Keith Mosier, Pastor

### Area Church Directory

#### Wake Up

"Young man, I say to you, 'Get up!'" — Luke 7:14  
I am not a morning person. I wish I were. I have learned to get up early out of necessity, but it takes some time and coffee to get me going.

In our reading from Luke 7 today, we see a remarkable awakening. A young man has died. Jesus sees the funeral procession, and his heart goes out to the young man's mother, who is also a widow. He walks up to the funeral stretcher and says, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" Jesus uses a Greek word here that literally means "wake up." Jesus treats the young man as if he is not dead but asleep. And when he wakes up, the young man starts to talk, which seems like a funny detail to include. Maybe he is a morning person!

Later in the passage, the same word is used again. The crowd that had seen this miracle declared with awe, "A great prophet has appeared among us." More literally, this can be translated: "A great prophet has awoken among us!"—meaning that the people could see they were in the presence of someone specially sent by God. They didn't know much about Jesus yet, but they would soon learn.

I don't know if you are a morning person or not, but here is a helpful prayer we can offer anytime: "Jesus, please awaken me!" Ask the Lord to wake you up to see and care about the people around you.

Dear Jesus, as you worked your resurrection power in that young man, will you work the same power in my life and spirit today? Help me to serve you faithfully. Amen.

### CLAREMONT

#### 1st Presbyterian Church

200 East Street, Claremont • 528-2320  
Pastor Doug Walters  
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.

#### St. John Lutheran Church

4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont • 528-2404  
Pastor Alan Broadwell  
Sunday Service at 10:30a.m.

### WEST CONCORD

#### Faith Community Church

305 State Street N, West Concord • 507-527-2244  
Pastor David Brederland  
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship; 10:45a.m. Sunday School  
[www.fcwc.org](http://www.fcwc.org)  
Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

#### Hegre Lutheran, ELCA

51939 Highway 56 Blvd., Kenyon • 507-527-2353  
Sunday: 9:15a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship

#### Trinity Lutheran, ELCA

301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778  
Pastor Chad Christensen • [trinitychurchwc.net](http://trinitychurchwc.net)  
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook  
[Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn](http://Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn)  
Sundays 9:45a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on Facebook  
Sunday School 10:30a.m.  
Tuesday Men's Bible Study, 7:00a.m.  
at church and via Zoom  
Call church for more information on ministries and events.

#### Church of Christ

55087 200th Ave., West Concord • 507-527-2723  
Pastor Peter Moen  
9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:00a.m. Worship  
[concordchurchmn.com](http://concordchurchmn.com)

#### Zwingli United Church of Christ

"The Berne Church"  
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340  
Pastor Karen Larson  
Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the The Messenger at: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

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Keep It  
**Local**

## David James Buck

David James Buck, 34, of West Concord, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, September 13, 2024, in Faribault, Minnesota.



David was born on December 30, 1989, in Rochester to Jim and the late Lori (Reding) Buck. He grew up surrounded by the love of his family on their cherished farm, where his heart remained throughout his life.

David was an extraordinary man, who touched lives with his quiet strength, boundless kindness, and tireless work ethic. He was more than just a 34-year-old who loved fast sports cars, working as a union operator in construction, farming crops and tending to livestock, or cheering on his Vikings. He was someone with passion and determination in everything he did. He had a huge heart, someone who would drop everything in a moment to lend a hand. Whether it was bringing over a truck/trailer to help a friend in need, or quietly pushing you to achieve more than you ever thought possible. His quiet encouragement always came from a place of love and care. He believed in people, even when they didn't believe in themselves.

In 2021, David's life changed forever when he met the love of his life, Michaela Neuzil, at a Halloween party. From then on, they were inseparable, sharing a fun-loving relationship filled with laughter, adventures, and dreams for the future. Together, they embraced life with high hopes of building a beautiful life together, filled with love and possibility. David wasn't just a partner to Michaela—he was her best friend, confidant, and the foundation of the future they both envisioned.

David is survived by his father, Jim, of West Concord; his beloved fiancée, Michaela; and his aunts, Dorothy (Carvel) Munnikhuisen of Dodge City, Debbie (Kent) Ruport of Kasson, and Judy (Roger) Quimby of West Concord; and his uncle, Bob (Lori) Buck, of Elysian, the entire Reding Family, and Michaela's family, who cherished him as part of their own. And let's not forget his French Bulldog, Zeus. David now joins his mother, Lori, his

older sister Ashley, and Remington, his donkey in eternal rest.

Family and friends were invited to gather in celebration of David's life on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 10 am to 12 Noon at Michaelson Funeral Home, 1930 Austin Road, Owatonna. A prayer service followed at Noon, with all invited to share memories and fellowship over food at the Dodge Center American Legion Post #384, 401 Hwy St W, Dodge Center, MN 55927 from 2 to 5 pm.

We mourn his loss deeply, but we also celebrate the incredible man he was. We carry with us the lessons he taught us, the love he gave us, and the memories of a life lived fully, with courage, kindness, and an unwavering dedication to those he loved. Rest in peace, David. You will forever be in our hearts.

## Reverend Dale Loren Phelps

Reverend Dale Loren Phelps, 86, of Kasson, MN passed away on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, in Kasson, MN.



Dale was born on July 27, 1938, to Frederick and Dorothy (French) Phelps. He was born in his paternal Grandparents home,

William and Katherine Phelps, northwest of Dodge Center, MN. He had the privilege of growing up in a Godly home. His parents and their family, which included his brother Darrell and sister, Connie, attended First Baptist Church in West Concord. They attended Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday prayer meeting. When Dale was ten in February of 1948, his parents took the family to an evangelistic crusade in Rochester where Dale went forward during the invitation and invited Jesus Christ to be his Savior.

Dale enjoyed growing up on the farm, being involved in haying and harvesting. His parents encouraged their family to be involved in church activities. He enjoyed Vacation Bible Schools, the youth activities, especially under the leadership of Pastor Marvin and Helene Kannengieter, who had a major influence on his life, and also the music ministries. In the summer of 1954, at Bible Camp he dedicated his life to full time ministry. Upon graduating from Dodge Center High School in June of 1956, he attended Northwestern College in Minneapolis for one year and then attended Pillsbury Baptist College in Owatonna, where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree on June 3, 1960. On June 7, 1960, he married the love of his life, Karen

Renner, the daughter of Al and VaLeeta Renner of West Concord, MN. Dale and Karen moved that summer to Winona Lake, Indiana, where he attended Grace Theological Seminary. His dear wife worked to put him through Seminary. He graduated from Grace Seminary in May of 1962, with a Master's Degree in Christian Education. Following that, as a couple, they enjoyed serving their Lord and Savior for 53 years. The first 13 years as Youth, Music, and Christian Ed Pastor. Then for 40 years as Senior Pastor. His dear wife served as his church secretary for over 30 years. They thoroughly enjoyed serving their wonderful Lord together.

"If you could see me now, you wouldn't shed a tear. Though you may not understand why I'm no longer here. Remember my spirit; that's the real me. I'm still very much alive, oh, if you could only see! I've beheld my father's face. I've touched my Savior's hand. The angels all rejoiced when I entered the Promise Land. Beyond the gates of pearl, I walk on golden streets! I've touched the jasper walls, dipped my feet in the crystal sea. The beauty is beyond words, nothing can compare. I've seen my mansion; someday I hope I will see you here. Allow Jesus to be your Savior and guide, His word will show you the way. So please don't cry! I hope we will meet again someday!"

Dale is survived by his wife, Karen Phelps of Kasson, MN; children, Barbara (Paul) Ragle of Decatur, IL, Keith (Debbie) Phelps of Three Lakes, WI, and Sharyl (Brent) McDonald of Murphy, TX; sister, Connie (Chuck) Avery of Albert Lea, MN; sister-in-law, Connie Bjornberg of Rochester, MN; brother-in-law, Larry (Christa) Renner of Colorado Springs, CO; and 9 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Dorothy Phelps; brother, Darrell Phelps; parents-in-law, Al and VaLeeta Renner; sister-in-law's, Nancy Renner and Laurel Phelps; and brother-in-law, Ronald Bjornberg.

A funeral service was held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, September 27, 2024, at First Baptist Church, 304 4th St NW, Kasson, MN. Pastor John Todor officiated. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment was in Old Concord cemetery in Concord, MN.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit [www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com](http://www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com), Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE Kasson, MN 55940 (507) 634-6510. Blessed be his memory.

## Ellen Wilma Amy

Ellen Wilma Amy died unexpectedly at her home on Thursday September 26, 2024



Ellen Wilma Edelbach was born at home on the farm near Alma (Buffalo County) Wisconsin on September 13, 1935 to parents Melvin and Wilma (Fink) Edelbach. She attended school in Buffalo County Wisconsin and began working out of the home for various farm

families in her teenage years, and met her future husband, Loren Amy in 1951. Ellen and Loren married in Fountain City, Wisconsin on September 19th, 1953. They farmed on shares for several years near Kellogg, MN before purchasing their dairy farm in Dennison, MN in 1961. Ellen was a life long farmer and homemaker. Although they discontinued dairy farming in the early 1970's, Ellen and Loren continued raising beef cattle and working the farm. She provided daycare to several area farm families as well as many of her Grandchildren as the family grew. In later years, after Lorens retirement from McQuay, they were able to travel to see family, including Texas, Oregon, California, Arizona as well as many trips to Wisconsin Dells with the family, and continued to enjoy the farm. After Lorens death in 2009, Ellen continued to live and take care of the cattle on the family farm in Dennison, actively gardening, cooking, canning and continuing the traditions she loved so much. Ellen held a strong Christian faith and supported her children and family to the fullest.

Ellen is survived by her children, David (Mary) Amy of Dundas, Bonnie (Favorite Son-In-Law, Randy) Ascherman of Faribault, Dallas (Rebecca) Amy of Dennison, Darwin (Lori) Amy of Dennison, Daniel (Sarah) Amy of Dundas, Jeff (Paula) Amy of Wells, and Joe (Michelle) Amy of Dennison, along with 21 Grandchildren, 31 1/2 Great Grand Children\*, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation was at the Bierman Funeral Home Monday, September 30, 2024 from 4-7 PM, and one hour prior to funeral services at Dennison Lutheran Church Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 11 AM with her final resting at Prairie Creek Cemetery, rural Dennison.

Lunch followed at The Fireside Lounge & Supper Club in Dennison.

## Robert f. "Bob" Doyle, Jr.

Robert f. "Bob" Doyle, Jr. age 77 of Inver Grove Heights, MN, passed away September 25, 2024



Bob was a proud Vietnam veteran serving in the US Air Force. He worked as an air traffic controller for many years and later as a project manager in the computer industry.

Preceded in death by parents, Robert Sr. and June Doyle; and sister, Lee Ann Leary.

Survived by wife, Patricia; children, Brett (Jill Isebrand); and Natalie (Brendon) Stoen; grandchildren, Hannah Doyle, Collin Doyle, and Max Stoen; siblings, Connie (Tony) Cox, and Patrick (Marilyn); and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Bob was a loving and devoted family man, devoted to his church and community. His playful personality endeared him to children of all ages. He was dedicated, self-less, and ever protective of his entire family. He used his many talents to assist anyone in need. His strong and loving presence will be terribly missed.

**MomCo**

(Formerly known as MOPS)

**Mom's & Children's Programs**  
(nursery provided)

Faith Community Church, West Concord

**KICK-OFF**

Friday September 20th  
9:30-11:00 AM

\*Meeting every 1st & 3rd Friday throughout the school year

CONTACT: Cindy Breederland 507-272-2600  
or Louise Severud 623-695-3813.

**JOIN in PRAYER  
FOR AMERICA  
Rosary Rally**

**Saturday, October 12, 2024**

**Noon - 1:00 pm**

**Centennial Park, Main St & State St  
West Concord**

Contact Karen Johnson  
319-239-4639

## **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.*

## **Faith In Action Soup and Pie Supper**

*(continued from page 1)*

We will be serving Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup and/or Vegetable Beef Soup and assorted pies from 4:30pm to 7:00pm.

Faith in Action is a non-profit, volunteer organization in Dodge County that connects community members with their elderly neighbors in need. Our mission is to provide services that help support the independence of senior citizens. Through the service of our dedicated volunteers, we are able to provide needed transportation, assistance with household chores and maintenance, handyman and yard work services, respite for full-time caregivers, friendly visits and wellness calls. Our volunteers are able to choose the services they are comfortable in providing and the times they can serve. Providing these simple, yet often vital services, may enable seniors to successfully age at home. Faith in Action currently serves approximately 120 Dodge County seniors 60+ years old and individuals rehabilitating from a short-term physical disability.

Volunteers are the heart of Faith in Action. If you are interested in helping provide these important services to seniors please complete and submit an application found on our website: [fiadodgecounty.org](http://fiadodgecounty.org) or to call 507-634-3654 to have an application mailed to you.

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## Supporting the Local Foods Economy



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

This time of year, the farmers' markets in southern Minnesota are rich with vegetables, bread, meat, jam, honey and apples. It's a visual testament to the abundance of our region and the ever-growing local foods economy that is sustained by consumers who want to buy directly from area farmers. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we support the local foods economy through a variety of initiatives.

Since 2014, SMIF has supported the FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace, an event where over 1,500 people gather to shop for gifts from regional food vendors. This event is the region's largest local food festival, and the premier place to find outstanding food and beverage companies from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. The local foods scene has grown so much that last year Mayor Kim Norton of Rochester declared the first Satur-

day in November "Local Foods Day." The Marketplace will be held on this day, November 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.

The FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace will also feature cooking demos, music, kids' activities, craft alcohol tastings, prize drawings and more. FEAST! is presented by SMIF, Renewing the Countryside, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and Compeer Financial and participating members of the FEAST! Local Foods Network. Tickets for the event can be purchased online at [www.local-feast.org/buytickets](http://www.local-feast.org/buytickets) or at the door.

SMIF also champions local entrepreneurs, many of whom are deeply invested in the local foods movement, directly through our business financing services. From the farm-fresh slices at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm in Waseca to the handcrafted spirits at Black Frost Distilling in New Ulm, our loan clients are helping to transform the regional food scene. But it doesn't stop there—SMIF also fosters collaboration through its Local Foods Peer Network, a vibrant community where entrepreneurs regularly gather to exchange ideas, tackle challenges, and celebrate their successes together.

What I truly appreciate about our region is the abundance of organizations dedicated to uplifting local food producers. Alongside our support for FEAST!, SMIF is proud to have

provided grants to numerous other organizations throughout the region over the years. Cannon Valley Grown and Driftless Grown are both networks of farmers, makers and producers that are located in either the Cannon River Valley or in the Driftless Region which covers parts of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. Sharing Our Roots (Northfield) and The Village Agricultural Cooperative (Rochester) both provide land access and resources to farmers and gardeners, many of whom are immigrants and refugees.

As we enter this season of abundance, it's clear that supporting local food producers not only strengthens our communities but also sustains the heart of our regional economy. By attending events like the FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace and choosing to buy from local farmers, makers, and artisans, we help preserve the vibrant, sustainable food system that makes southern Minnesota so unique. Together, we can ensure that these hard-working producers continue to thrive, contributing to the health and vitality of our region for years to come. Let's celebrate and support the incredible diversity and richness of local foods this season and beyond.

You can learn more about the regional food scene by picking up the most recent copy of the Local FEAST! Magazine in different locations around the region, or by viewing it online.

## West Concord City Council Candidates

(continued from page 1)

He would like to see more of the unoccupied buildings purchased and renovated for businesses to grow in town. Jeff believes the strength of West Concord is everyone knowing their neighbors, which helps keep crime down and maintains the cleanliness of the town. He would like to see more activities in town to keep young families around. Jeff is originally from Mississippi and has a wife and two teenage sons. He enjoys outdoor activities and target shooting.

**Karen Johnson** and her husband moved to West Concord in March from Waterloo, Iowa to be closer to grandchildren. They have found the community to be welcoming and friendly. She names the parks and activities such as ballfields, volleyball, tennis, basketball & pickleball court, playgrounds and swimming pool as wonderful amenities for the city. Especially the library, bowling alley and Ginny's Drive In. She believes in shopping local and looks forward to getting to know more of her fellow citizens and help the town grow.

## Claremont City Candidates

(continued from page 1)

One of the tasks she is working to address is fixing problems correctly instead of using the band aid approach which seemed to have been used in the past. She likes the input from the community and cites that recently a citizen brought an idea to the council and it was implemented. She would like to see more input from the residents on topics concerning the city and welcomes the communication.

Tasha is married to Casey and they have two daughters, two dogs and a turtle. She is a

volunteer firefighter, and an EMR for Claremont and coach basketball. She is also a Chamber member and works for Bemer Bank as a Commercial Banking Associate. In her spare time she enjoys spending time outside with family.

**Deb Ellis** has served one four-year term as a council member. She states that she has gained a lot of knowledge of city policy and ordinances. She would like to see more residents attend city council meetings and ask questions and make suggestions. She likes the way Claremont residents come together and help each other. One goal she has is to see small businesses in some of the empty buildings in town. Deb is sixty-eight years old and has two adult children and two grandchildren two dogs and two cats. She also works part-time as assistant city clerk for the city of Claremont.

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## Talking Fall Allergies with U of M



Neal Godse MD,  
University of Minnesota  
Medical School

The charm of changing leaves and crisp autumn air has arrived, and many look forward to the cozy comforts of fall. However, this time of year can also bring some challenges for those prone to allergies.

Neal Godse, MD, with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview, talks about the causes of fall allergies, common symptoms and advice on how to manage them.

*Q: What are the most common allergies people experience during the fall season?*

Dr. Godse: Common triggers for allergies in late summer and fall include grasses, ragweed and molds as leaves begin to fall and

break down. As temperatures cool down and people start their heating, dust in air ducts and furnaces can also cause problems.

*Q: What are the typical symptoms of fall allergies?*

Dr. Godse: Common allergy symptoms include sneezing, itchy or watery eyes, runny nose, difficulty breathing through the nose, headache, facial pressure and ear fullness/popping.

*Q: How can someone distinguish fall allergies from a cold or flu?*

Dr. Godse: Allergies tend not to cause symptoms like fevers, chills, muscle aches and sore throat. Additionally, allergic nasal drainage tends to be clear to white/yellow, whereas nasal drainage from infections, like the cold and flu, tends to be very cloudy and can be yellow-green.

*Q: How can people combat their fall allergies?*

Dr. Godse: Avoiding known triggers and using air purifiers can help reduce the allergen burden that people encounter in the fall. Oral antihistamines, nasal antihistamines and nasal steroids are generally the best medications for reducing the inflammation that causes allergies. Saline sprays and rinses, like a neti pot, can help remove allergens from the nose for natural decongestion. Lastly, people should be careful when using oral and nasal decongestants as these medications can make congestion worse over the long term and do not treat the allergic inflammation at all.

*Q: How does your research at the U of M impact clinical care?*

Dr. Godse: Our research at the University is focused on understanding how a variety of



types of inflammation, including allergic inflammation, can affect the nose and sinuses, particularly in patients with chronic rhinosinusitis.

Dr. Neal Godse is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School and a rhinologist and skull base surgeon at M

Health Fairview. His research focuses on better understanding and treating patients with cancer of the nasal cavity and skull base. He is also interested in the novel applications of emerging technologies to patients with these issues and chronic inflammatory sinus disease.



## West Concord Dance

**Saturday, October 19th, 2024, 6:30 PM**

**Old time polkas, schottisches and waltzes  
Featuring guest artist, fiddler and dancer,  
Beth Hoven Rotto**

Free and open to the public at the WCHS gym.

Workshops during the day for string musicians

At 2pm, a Panel Presentation, also free and open to the public, will feature the music and history of two fiddles at the museum that date back to before 1900.

West Concord Historical Society

600 West First Street, West Concord, Minnesota

[www.fiddlemn.com/west-concord-dance](http://www.fiddlemn.com/west-concord-dance)

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West Concord Historical Society



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## Grants Available to Support Minnesota Livestock Operations

*Farmers and ranchers eligible for over \$1 million in funding*

St. Paul, MN: Minnesota livestock farmers and ranchers looking to improve their opera-

tions can now apply for over \$1 million in funding currently available through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Agriculture Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Livestock Investment Grant program.

The AGRI Livestock Investment Grant provides funds to be used for equipment purchases, physical improvements, and acquisition of facilities to assist in starting, improving, or expanding livestock operations within Minnesota. Applicants may apply for an award of up to 10% of a project's total cost, with grants ranging in size from \$400 to \$25,000.

Eligible projects include but are not limited to buildings or facilities for raising livestock, watering systems, fencing, feed equipment,

and waste management equipment. This round of funding will prioritize projects relating to beginning farmers and farms owned or principally operated by beginning farmers (those who have farmed 10 years or less), generational transitions, production of livestock for kosher or halal markets, and robotic milking equipment.

Applicants must be the principal operator of a livestock operation in Minnesota that produces and sells at least \$1,000 of livestock products annually or normally would sell at least \$1,000 of livestock products in a typical year.

Only expenses incurred after the grant contract has been signed by all parties are eligible for reimbursement. The MDA expects to have contracts to grantees by March 1, 2025.

Applications for the grant will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, 2024, through the MDA's online application portal. Full grant eligibility and application details can be found on the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant webpage.

Funding for the Livestock Investment Grant is made available through the MDA's AGRI Program, which administers grants to farmers, agribusinesses, schools, and more throughout Minnesota to advance the state's agricultural and renewable energy sectors.

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*48th Annual*

## All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast Fundraiser

**Sunday, October 6th from 8am to 12:30pm**

Dodge Center Fire Hall, 130 E. Hwy St., Dodge Center

Biscuits & Gravy, Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs,  
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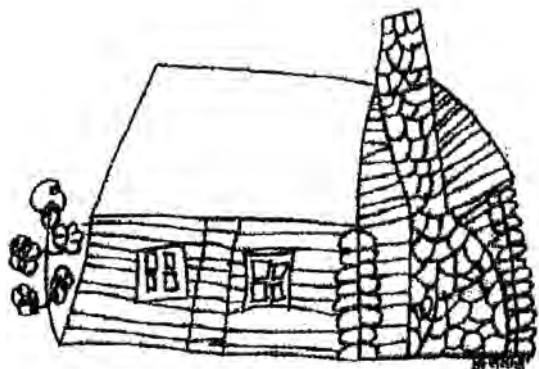


# Harvest Thyme Craft Show

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

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

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



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*Tickets are \$26.00*



Meal Includes:

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# Help Our Veterans



AED we donated to Kasson American Legion Post 333

(continued from page 1)

There will also be a limited amount of gluten free biscuits and gluten free sausage gravy. To make it really special, there will be a Bloody Mary Bar, too! This is a fundraiser to help our veterans get the support they need in many ways.

Founded in 2022, the Blaine M. Halvorson Memorial is an organization dedicated to helping veterans in crisis, and other military and service animal organizations. Since 2022, this organization has chosen to honor the selflessness and gratitude displayed by Blaine Halvorson.

Blaine Halvorson Memorial was organized as a non-profit after Blaine's death in September of 2021. Blaine, 27, was a Gunnery Sargent in the United States Marine Corps. The organization provides monetary donations to veterans in crisis, veterans charities and other veteran and military organizations. The governing board consists of 6 non-paid members who reside in Minnesota, Iowa and Virginia. They coordinate volunteer fundraiser events to raise funds to help United

States veterans and active duty military.

A few of the accomplishments that have touched our area are a scholarship granted to a Kasson/Mantorville High School student, several grants to veterans in need, fundraising and placing of wreaths in conjunction with "Wreaths for Veterans" in Dodge County, and volunteering with Adopt a Highway of MNDOT.

As you can see, this program is very important to helping our military during and after service to our country. The organization is not affiliated with or sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps, or Department of Defense. It was started as an act of love to honor Blaine Halvorson, and is working to help support our military men and women in need. In other words, come on down and have yourself a hearty breakfast for a very reasonable price, and bring your family, friends and your appetite. You will not only have fun, be fed, and get to watch the game, but you will be making a contribution to our service people who have given so much to all Americans.



Wreaths for Veterans project



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## Dodge Center Council Candidate



Correction from last issue as we spelled this candidates name wrong. Matt Legler is a Minnesota native and moved to Dodge Center and bought a house in 2022. He became a heavy equipment operator after graduating from High School in 1995 and later enlisted and served eight years in the Army. After his service as a combat vet he returned to construction and farming. He has two sons, a daughter and two grandchildren. His oldest son is currently serving in the Air Force and the second son is employed in the private sector. His daughter is an honor student still in high school. His reasons for running for city council include to bring transparency to local government, help people wherever he can, bring fairness to code enforcement and work to keep taxes from increasing.



# West Concord Historical Society Celebrates 30 Years



On Saturday evening the Flame Room at the West Concord Historical Society was filled with a group celebrating the 30th anniversary of the formation of the society. In 1994 a group of West Concord High School alumni got together and purchased the old building saving the structure from demolition. The original building was constructed in 1902 and the addition with the gym was built in the 1930's. This sparked the idea to hold a fundraiser with a Hollywood 1930's glamour theme. Many dressed in period appropriate attire and attended the event.

A trivia contest started out the evening with questions pertaining to the era in four of the historical society rooms. Most were stumped since they couldn't recall the events of that decade very well. The air conditioned Flame Room featured a bar and light snacks to keep everyone enjoying the time visiting together. Emery entertained with memories of elementary hi-jinks of sixty years ago. People took pictures in front of the Golden Era of Hollywood backdrop



## 2024 Budin Barn Sale at Old Concord



One week left for the annual 2024 Budin Barn sale at Old Concord. Doors will be open on Friday October 4th from 3pm to 7pm and on Saturday October 5th from 8am to 4pm. You can find the craft sale at 55241 201st Ave, West Concord, Minnesota, right behind the Concord Locker.

**Twig Fest**  
 Saturday, October 5  
 7:00pm to Close

Tap Beer Special  
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## Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin The Second Winter

By  
Monica & Claudia Vanderborcht

One year after Monica settled into her Wanamingo farm, Claudia and her husband joined her there. (Claudia's husband passed about one year later.) Monica would be in charge of the livestock (Claudia would help); Claudia would be in charge of the gardens and firewood (Monica would help). Both continued teaching: Monica in Apple Valley, Claudia as a substitute teacher in several neighboring school districts.

The previous winter had been long and cold (as winters in Minnesota are), but Monica had become comfortable running the downstairs fireplace 24/7. On warm days, Monica and the grandkids used the ATV and trailer to bring in load after load of firewood, filling the basement floor around the fireplace, hoping not to run out before the next nice day. Monica regularly checked the electric baseboard registers – seldom did they feel warm. That first winter, Monica's highest electric bill was \$280 – a fabulous improvement of the feared \$700 the previous owner had mentioned!

But Claudia was the expert on heating with wood. She could identify the different tree species (summer or winter) and knew their BTU capacities. Claudia was very particular about the firewood's dryness (both interior and surface moisture), and began stacking wood in a two-year rotation. She refused to run the chainsaw (which was fine with Monica, because she thought it was a lot of fun!), but Claudia was an ace at finding deadfall, hauling it to the house, using the hydraulic splitter, and stacking it. (Claudia loves stacking wood! She claims it's a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle.) Current year firewood was stacked in the pole barn – one area for kindling, another area for autumn / spring fires, and another for "rocket fuel" which would be saved for the coldest January and February nights. All the stacks were easily accessible and very stable (many years ago Claudia had learned to keep the firewood stacks from collapsing onto the cats while they inevitably climbed to the top).

They say that heating with wood heats you more than once. Monica's overgrown woods had a lot of deadfall; felling trees was unnecessary in the first few years unless the ATV trail needed to go through. But (in the warm days of August and September – before the

temperature dropped and the house needed to be heated) the deadfall had to be cut into fire-  
place-sized logs, carried to and lifted into the trailer, lifted out of the trailer (back at the pole barn), lifted onto the hydraulic splitter, tossed into ever-growing piles on the ground, then lifted one more time to be stacked. (Handling count: seven times). To keep the homefires burning, the firewood had to be loaded back into the trailer, driven to and then carried into the house, placed in stacks, and – eventually – loaded into the fireplace. (Handling count: four more times). So firewood heats you a minimum of 11 times, not counting burning it in the fireplace.

Occasionally, over the 20+ years that Claudia and Monica had been heating their homes with firewood, someone would claim burning firewood pollutes the environment. Not true. Anything that rots (meat, autumn leaves, dead trees) creates gasses, including carbon dioxide gas. Leaving a log to rot on the ground creates just as much carbon dioxide as burning that same log in the fireplace. Actually, burning a log releases just as much carbon dioxide into the air as the photosynthesis and carbon dioxide it took in to grow that log in the first place. If a forest is sustainably managed, burning firewood to heat one's home is carbon neutral. (And the newer wood stoves practically eliminate any soot that might escape into the atmosphere.) According to Jim Bowyer, professor emeritus from the University of Minnesota, there is no environmental reason not to use the wood on your property as a source of energy. (Source: Climate Curious: Is burning wood for heat carbon neutral, Elizabeth Dunbar, MPSNews November 9, 2019)

Claudia does not like garages. Yes, silly. She hadn't had one for years and learned to cover her windshield with a tarp for no hassle snow removal before driving. But she still did need a shelter for the car and we needed a better spot for wood. This time getting the building permit for a farm structure was easy. No big hoops to jump through with the county. The building would hold whatever machines it needed, including cars, and we had a specific area set aside for five cords of wood.

Before we knew it, fall had arrived and so did the school year. Monica was off every day to Apple Valley to teach fifth grade; Claudia was substitute teaching at the various high schools in the area. The chickens were happily laying eggs in the insulated coop, the cattle and goats got along great across their shared fences. A few big square bales were in the barn for the goats when it snowed (goats hate precipitation; who knew?). The dog was still enjoying the farm



(and after killing only 2 chickens learned to leave them alone). The only drama was between the cats: Claudia's cats did not like the upstairs neighbors at all (human, canine or feline), and the feeling was mutual. Everyone had settled into a comfortable routine.

But the days were getting shorter and colder. Caring for the goats was getting more difficult. The goats were mature, and had been purchased for meat. When Christmas

break came Monica decided it was time to take the goats to freezer camp before the new year. Monica didn't have a livestock trailer, but did have an older, somewhat decrepit minivan. It had worked to bring the kids home, now it would suffice to bring them to the butcher. Ten or so days later we picked up the boxes of meat. Those goats were loved TWICE!



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## Anhydrous Safety Key Goal for Farmers This Fall

*The MDA offers safety tips for those maintaining equipment and applying and transporting NH3*

Many farmers and custom applicators will soon apply anhydrous ammonia (NH3) after harvest. Even with a rush against time and the weather, safety should never be compromised. Accidents involving NH3 have proven how dangerous and deadly the fertilizer can be when not handled properly.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) offers the following tips to farmers, fertilizer dealers, and custom applicators to safely field apply NH3.

Always wear NH3-rated goggles and gloves. Never wear contact lenses.

Be sure to have a clean and accessible emergency water supply of at least 5 gallons available.

Exercise caution when making connections and disconnections of transfer lines, treating them as if they always contain NH3.

Stand upwind when connecting, disconnecting, bleeding lines, or transferring NH3.

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Also, close, bleed, disconnect, and secure valves and transfer lines when taking breaks or disconnecting lines, and be sure to handle hose end valves by the valve body.

Position equipment away and downwind from homes, people, and livestock.

Safety is also key to those maintaining NH3 equipment, operating NH3 storage facilities, and transporting NH3.

Never assume NH3 lines are empty.

Always wear the required protective safety equipment.

Have access to safety water (NH3 storage facilities must have a minimum of one open top container holding 150 gallons of clean, accessible water or an accessible emergency shower with a plumbed eyewash. A 5-gallon container of clean, accessible water must accompany NH3 nurse tanks).

When towing a nurse tank down the road, drive sensibly. Do not go any faster than 30 miles per hour, display a slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem visible from the rear, and be sure the tank is secured to the tractor or truck with two separate, independent chains that supplement the hitch pin/clip.

If an accident or spill occurs, seek medical care if needed, immediately call 911, and then the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798.

You can find more safety, storage, and transportation information on the MDA's website.

As a reminder, fall application of NH3 should happen after average soil temperatures reach 50 degrees F or cooler to help prevent nitrogen loss and ensure more nitro-

gen will be available for next season's crop. View the MDA's interactive map to find the current 6-inch soil temperature and the past week's history.

Under the MDA's Groundwater Protection

Rule, fall nitrogen fertilizer application is prohibited in vulnerable groundwater areas of Minnesota due to environmental concerns or risks. View a map of the vulnerable regions of the state.

## Funding Available to Assist with Sustainable Agriculture Research

*Applications are due December 12, 2024*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for grants to support innovative sustainability-focused research or demonstration projects on Minnesota farms.

The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant funds projects that explore the energy efficiency, environmental benefit, and profitability of sustainable ag techniques, from the production through marketing processes. Minnesota farmers or individuals from organizations including agricultural cooperatives, educational institutions, nonprofits, tribal governments, and local units of government (such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts) are eligible to apply.

Eligible projects must test and demonstrate on-farm practices that will benefit a broad range of farmers. Past grants have explored topics such as cover crops and crop rotation; conservation tillage; pest management techniques; input reduction strategies; and alternative energies such as wind, methane, and biomass.

The MDA will award approximately \$350,000 in this round of grant funding, and applicants may request up to \$50,000 per project. No cash match is required for requests below \$25,000. However, for requests between \$25,000 and \$50,000, applicants must provide a dollar-for-dollar match.

Projects must last two to three years, and grantees are asked to share what they learn through outreach efforts. Project updates are published annually in the MDA's Greenbook, which provides a summary of each project along with results, management tips, locations of previous projects, and other resources.

The AGRI Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant program will accept applications through 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024. To apply and read the full request for proposals (RFP), visit the grant webpage.

Funding for this grant is made available through the MDA's AGRI Program, which administers grants to farmers, agribusinesses, schools, and more throughout Minnesota to advance the state's agricultural and renewable energy sectors.

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## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol



**Question:** This week it has been extremely foggy on the morning commutes, can you give some advice on driving in fog?

Answer: Driving when the

weather limits your visibility can be a challenge for all of us on the road. You can reduce your chances of being involved in a crash by eliminating distractions and by following a few safety tips.

Minnesota law states that every vehicle on a roadway shall display lighted headlamps, lighted tail lamps, and illuminating devices from sunset to sunrise. The law also applies when it's raining, snowing, sleeting, or hailing and at any time when visibility is impaired by weather or insufficient light, at a distance of 500 feet ahead.

Basic automatic headlights work through sensors which

detect how much light is outside. These sensors are located on the dash of the vehicle. The headlights turn on when the sensors detect a certain level of darkness or the level of ambient light.

The problem is there are limitations to automatic headlights. Sometimes they do not turn on during heavy rain, snow or fog, as the light sensor still detects some light.

Many drivers fail to physically turn on their headlights, which will also activate the rear taillights and marker lights. Some drivers assume the sensors will activate all of the vehicle's lights in reduced visibilities, but that is not al-

ways the case.

We recommend what's called the 3-second-plus following distance rule. Watch the vehicle in front of you. When that vehicle passes an object such as a sign, pole, bridge, etc., count off three seconds. You should not arrive at that spot sooner than your count to three. If you do, you are following too close! Also, you must add one second for every hazard that exists. Hazards include but are not limited to heavy traffic, rain, snow, fog, driving into the sun, etc. In some cases you might have to allow six, seven seconds (or even more) to be safe be-

cause of existing hazards.

We also recommend when driving in dense fog, heavy rain or snow to drive in the right lane of a two lane roadway going in the same direction. In the event that a vehicle is traveling the wrong way, chances are that they will be in your left lane as they approach and pass by you.

When visibility is reduced, slow down, increase your following distances, manually turn on your lights and eliminate all distractions.

**Question:** I have a medical condition that causes me to lose consciousness on occasion. I am hoping to get a

**driver's license. Is there anything I need to do?**

Answer: When applying for an instruction permit or driver's license, you will be asked questions about medical conditions. Providing false information on the application could result in losing your driving privileges.

If you have a medical condition, you may need to provide a statement from a physician indicating whether or not the condition affects your ability to drive safely. If you already have a permit or license and are diagnosed with epilepsy or a condition that could cause loss of consciousness, you must submit a physician's statement within 30 days of the diagnosis. The statement must indicate whether or not the condition interferes with your ability to drive safely.

Send medical statements to: Driver and Vehicle Services Driver Evaluation Unit 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 170 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-5170

For more information, contact the Driver Evaluation Unit at 651-296-2025.

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)

### NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2125  
(TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS)  
Claremont, Dodge Center and West Concord, Minnesota

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 2125, (Claremont, Dodge Center and West Concord), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 5th day of November, 2024, for the purpose of electing four school board members for four year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

#### Instructions to Voters

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s), like this: 

#### School Board Member Vote for Up to Three

- REBECCA KNUTSON
- JIM JENSEN
- SCOTT CURRAN
- \_\_\_\_\_  
write-in, if any
- \_\_\_\_\_  
write-in, if any
- \_\_\_\_\_  
write-in, if any

The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places shall be the same as those for the state general election.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. Most polls for said election will open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on election day.

Dated: September 16, 2024

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ Lloyd Henslin  
School Board Clerk

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*\*Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.*

**To the Editor,**

“The nine most terrifying words in the English language are ‘I’m from the government, and I’m here to

help.”

- Ronald Reagan

While comical, Ronald Reagan’s words do speak to the truth that sometimes one’s government will take pains to do more and more with the result not being the benefits it promises. The Minnesota DFL has had a Trifecta for now almost two years, prov-

ing the validity of Reagan’s words.

At its start, the Trifecta took a \$17 billion surplus from 2022, spent it, failed to follow through on a promised major tax refund, increased spending by 40% (\$19 billion), and destined Minnesota for a deficit (see American Experiment link below). Both high

taxes and the inflation resulting from this spending will degrade the value of the citizen’s dollar. Have you felt this? Moreover, their energy policies (namely bill HF7/SF4 which outlaws fossil fuels by 2040) will only steer Minnesota deeper into high energy costs. Citizens are being fleeced by taxation and robbed through inflation by an indifferent government.

The Trifecta has also incentivized illegal immigration with the passing of bill HF4/SF27 which gives illegal immigrants driver’s licenses even though they cannot drive

without insurance and get insurance without a social security number. Not only is fostering illegal immigration a robbery of citizens’ jobs, college opportunities, and other resources, but also it resigns the immigrants to a form of serfdom, without the benefits of citizenship. Imagine if you could not call the police for fear of deportation. For the DFL to subjugate immigrants to a fearful, deprived, second-class citizenship is cruel and trending Minnesota towards slavery which decades have been spent trying to reverse.

I think we need to listen to Ronald Reagan’s other quote, “Government is not the solution to our problem; government [DFL Trifecta] is the problem.”

<https://www.americanexperiment.org/minnesota-state-budget-is-a-disaster-waiting-to-happen-thanks-to-gov-walz-and-the-dfl-controlled-legislature/>

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**952-491-3711**  
**31496 Oxford Mill Rd**  
**Cannon Falls, MN 55009**

**DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Monday, September 9, 2024**

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the September 9, 2024 Dodge Center City Council meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at [www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us](http://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us).

Present: Bill Ketchum, Cathy Skogen, Matt Maas, Paul Blaisdell, Lee Mattson, Jeremy Dostal, Deputy Josiah Rehmann, Vanessa Hines, Widseth, Meredith Brose and others  
Absent: Gary Trelstad

City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda to include: Minutes from August 26, 2024 City Council Meeting; Payment of Bills; Termination of Seasonal Pool Employees; Request from Harold’s to close off alleyway from September 12-15, 2024;
  - Adoption of Ordinance 163, Second Series – Floodplain Ordinance. Council also approves summary of ordinance for publication;
  - Hiring of Paige Olson, Paid On-Call EMT;
  - Two quotes from Bargaen, Inc. Mastic gap repairs - \$18,906 and RePlay project - \$83,440;
  - Quote for Fortress Flooring for Fire Department of \$10,112;
  - Funding of Team Talk for the Fire Department in the amount of \$58,000;
  - Resolution 2024-022 – Resolution Ordering a Report on 2025 Improvement Project;
  - Resolution 2024-023 – Resolution Receiving Report and Calling for Hearing on Improvement. Public Hearing scheduled for October 28, 2024;
  - Authorizing Ketchum and Mattson to represent the City of Dodge Center in negotiating with the taxing districts serviced by Dodge Center Ambulance Service.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS**  
**FOR THE 2024 Utility and Street Improvement Project**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

**TIME AND PLACE:** Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of West Concord, Minnesota, will meet at City of West Concord Bell Tower Center located at 401 Main Street on October 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM to conduct a public hearing to consider, and possibly adopt, the proposed special assessments for street, concrete curb and gutter and utility improvements along a portion of Irvin Street and Second Street. Adoption by the City Council of the proposed assessments may occur at the hearing.

**AREA PROPOSED TO BE ASSESSED:** The area proposed to be assessed for the project includes properties within the following areas: Parcels abutting Irvin Street between State Street (TH 56) and Highland Street and abutting Second Street between Arnold Street and Main Street. All the proposed project improvements are located in the City.

**ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:** The total estimated cost of this project is \$1,346,892.49 of which the City’s portion of the total cost of such improvement is \$998,865.44.

The total amount to be assessed is \$348,027.05. A copy of the proposed assessment roll is on file with the City Administrator and open to public inspection.

**OBJECTIONS:** Written and oral objections by the affected property owners concerning the assessments will be considered by the City Council at the hearing.

**RIGHT OF APPEAL:** An owner of property to be assessed may appeal the assessment to the district court of Dodge County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the Mayor or City Administrator within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the District Court within 10 days after service upon the Mayor or City Administrator.

**LIMITATION ON APPEAL:** No appeal to District Court may be taken as to the amount of any assessment adopted by the City Council unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the City Administrator prior to the assessment hearing or is presented to the presiding officer at the hearing.

**DEFERMENT OF ASSESSMENTS:** Under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Sections 435.193 to 435.195 and Chapter 15 of the City Code, the City Council may, at its discretion, defer the payment of assessments for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older or retired by virtue of a permanent and total disability for which it would be a hardship to make payments. When deferment of the special assessment has been granted and is terminated for any reason provided in the statutes or the City Code, all amounts accumulated plus applicable interest becomes due. Any assessed property owner meeting the requirements of the statutes and the City Code, may, within 30 days of the confirmation of the assessment, apply to the City Administrator for the prescribed form for such deferral of payment of this special assessment on his or her property.

DATED: September 19, 2024

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula Trenda, City Administrator

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