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OCTOBER 23, 2024

Volume 21 • Issue 10

Missing Nicole Anderson \$45,000 Reward

By Sheriff Joe Leko

The Dakota County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate the disappearance of 56-year-old Nicole Anderson who left on foot from her Randolph Township home the morning of July 6th and did not return.



(continued on page 7)

Former MN Viking Tommy Kramer to Visit Dennison



Former Minnesota Viking Tommy Kramer will be visiting Dennison on Friday, November 1st, at 625 Bar & Grill.

The event will start at 6 PM. For many years, Kramer has made his way around the state to different events and venues meeting and greeting fans. Kramer announced earlier this year this will be his last year of doing regularly scheduled events.

Halloween at Dennison City Hall

Mark your calendar, The Dennison Lions Club will host their annual Halloween Party at Dennison City Hall Thursday October 31st from 5:00 - 6:30 pm.

Kids and Adults can enjoy hot dogs, beverages, treats and games at this annual event.



Announcements

• Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church hours are Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12. Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books.

All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

• Dennison City Council meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

• The Nerstrand City Council meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Monday 8:30-11:00; Tuesday by appointment; Wednesday 8:30-11:00; Thursday 5:00-7:00; Friday by appointment. 507-332-8000.

• Warsaw Township Meeting is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.

• The Wheeling Township meeting will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

Do you have an announcement?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Annual Turkey Dinner at Dennison Sunday, October 27th

The Dennison Lutheran Community Church will hold their annual Turkey Dinner again this year, Sunday, October 27, 2024 from 11:30 to 1:30 in Dennison.

Diners can sit down and enjoy a delicious dinner and help support the community.

Take out orders are also available by calling or texting 507-645-6042 anytime ahead of the event. If you have a group coming, calling ahead to let them know is welcome.

All are welcome to enjoy this annual event!



Dishing up the lutefisk carry out dinners photo by Doug Jones

2024 Vang Lutefisk Dinner a Success

After four years of carry out only, lutefisk was back October 5th, both indoors and carryout.

This year 525 pounds of lutefisk, firm and quivering, swimming in melted butter were sold.

The church hopes to bolster its budget by \$10,000 this year.

Past peak attendance was 1,500. This year about 750 tickets were sold. Total of fifty volunteers participated. There were four separate settings indoors, 11 am to 5 pm.

Two Candidates for District 19A



Keith Allen



Jessica Navarro

The Messenger does not endorse any candidate, only to inform the readers of the choices on the ballot for these offices.

The Minnesota House of Representative candidates for District 19A are Keith Allen of Wanamingo and Jessica Navarro of Faribault.

(continued on page 15)

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A Word from the Lord about Harvesting

By Pastor Marty Weigand

October is not only for football games and fall color; it's a month of combines, gravity boxes, and bright lights in the middle of a field as farmers work late into the night to get the harvest in. Listen to what the Bible tells us about a harvest time many years ago with God's Old Testament people Israel, and the lessons God has for us in this.

It was around 500 B.C.—the people of Israel had recently come back from 70 years of captivity in Babylon (present day Iraq) and were in their own land again. They were living in their own houses, which they had rebuilt, and planting and harvesting in their own fields again. But the harvest was not what they hoped. "You planted much, but harvested little," God told them through the prophet Haggai (Haggai 1:6 NIV).

Why was that? God explained it to them. "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why? declares the LORD Almighty. Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have

withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands." (Haggai 1:9-11 NIV)

The people didn't want to be bothered with rebuilding the Lord's temple, which had been torn down when the Israelites went into captivity. They wanted to have their own houses and stuff all the way they wanted first. Only after that—maybe—would they find time to rebuild the temple. Logically, this should have resulted in greater harvests and more prosperity for them, since by not spending time or wealth on the Lord's house, they had more time and wealth to put into building their own houses and planting and tending their own fields.

But God didn't let it work out that way. He made it so that when they put God last in order to have more for themselves, they ended up with less for themselves than if they would have put God first.

God is still in charge today of how success-

ful our work is on this earth—whether it's farming, factory work, construction, retail, or fixing up our own house or vacation home. He's also in charge of how our day goes—whether we have time to spare; or unexpected complications eat away all the extra time we thought we had set aside for ourselves.

When we put God last, in order to have more money for ourselves, or more time for ourselves, he may do like he did with the Israelites, and we end up with less money to spare to buy things we wanted to, or less time to enjoy them, then if we would have put the Lord first with our time, wealth, or energy.

The reverse is also true. God inspired the Apostle Paul to write these words to Christians in Corinth around 55 A.D., who were willingly taking part in an offering to help needy fellow Christians around Jerusalem. "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the har-

vest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion." (2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NIV) Instead of the Christians making themselves poorer by giving away what they had, God would bless them and make them richer than if they hadn't given, so they could bless yet more people with their gifts. God can do that with our time as well, blessing us so that when we take time to worship him, and to serve him by serving others, he lets our day go in such a way that we get more done and still have more time left than if we hadn't taken that time out to serve him.

Dear Christians in our community, let these things encourage you to do what your new Christian heart already wants to do. Put your Lord Jesus first, with your time and your wealth, in thanks to Him who put serving and saving you ahead of his own time, health and life; but then rose from the dead to live forever as your Savior!

Dale Lutheran Church Fall Festival

Dale Lutheran Church Fall Festival will be Sunday, October 27, 2024. Serving from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.

Menu includes shredded pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, pie and beverages. \$10.00 for meal with beverages extra.

There will also be a bake sale, produce for sale and a quilt raffle.

Dale is located 6 miles east of Kenyon on County Road 12 Blvd. Everyone welcome!

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Dennison/Vang Lutheran Parish
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Website: www.dennisonvang.org
Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
Pastor Paul A. Graham

Gol Lutheran Joe Jorgensen, Pastor
507-838-2100
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. September-December

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand
Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran
9:00a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Coffee Time 10:30a.m. Worship Service

Hegre Lutheran
Pastor Chris Brekke
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

Moland Lutheran
507-456-4242
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

First Ev. Lutheran, Kenyon
David J. Chatelaine, Pastor
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC
Shannon Bauer, Pastor
24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls
Sunday Worship at 9:00a.m. followed by fellowship.
Thursday Bible Study at 9:00a.m.

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.

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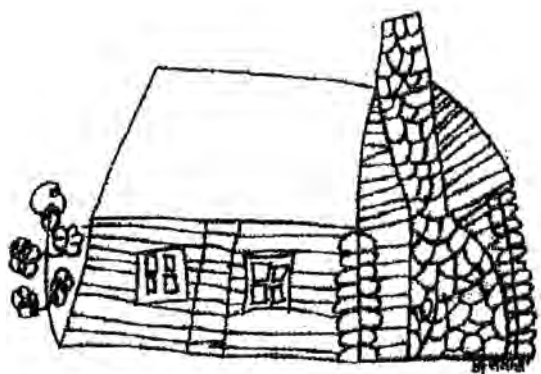
Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Mainstreet Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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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OBITUARY

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.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

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Dorothy Louise Vesledahl (Grimes)

Dorothy Louise Vesledahl, 94, of Northfield, formerly of Nerstrand, passed away on October 10, 2024 surrounded by her family at the Northfield Retirement Center.



Dorothy was born on June 11, 1930 in Dundas, MN to parents Howard William Grimes and Martha

Josie (Jackson) Grimes.

She attended the Dundas School and Northfield High School. Dorothy worked as a waitress at the Sweet Shop and then as a clerk at the Paper Shop, both in Northfield. She married Elmer Vesledahl on October 18, 1947 at the Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Dundas. Elmer and Dorothy lived in Dundas for 2 years until moving to the family farm near Nerstrand where they had four children, Kenny, David, Danny and Sandy. Dorothy continued to work at the Paper Shop for 9 years then stayed home with the children and helped on the farm. The farm was also a favorite place for several nieces and nephews to visit and stay. In 1965 Elmer and Dorothy built their house on a portion of the family farm. Dorothy served on the Holy Cross Church council and was a Sunday School teacher. Elmer and Dorothy eventually became members of Vang Lutheran Church in Dennison where Dorothy served on the church council for a time.

Elmer and Dorothy loved spending time with neighbors, relatives and friends snowmobiling, fishing in Canada, going to the lake, camping and playing cards. After Elmer retired, they made several trips south in the winter. They were active members of the Jesse James Wheelers local Good Sam Camping Club, once holding a State Good Sam Campout on their farm during the Defeat of Jesse James Days with over 300 campers. They hosted family reunion "Corn Feeds" at their home which was a favorite annual event of the extended family for many years.

Elmer and Dorothy cooked the pig and carved it at the annual Defeat of Jesse James Days Hog Roast during the 90's and early 2000's. They were at one point given a plaque declaring them the "Official Mom and Dad" of the Defeat of Jesse James Days committee.

After Elmer's death in 2004, Dorothy continued to live in the family home until the age of 93, mowing her 3 acre lawn until the age of 90 when she was "convinced" to let someone else do it. She loved mowing her lawn and was very particular about its appearance.

Dorothy was known for her chocolate chip cookies. Anyone who ever visited her was sent home with a bag of cookies. She made many quilts over the years and sewed hundreds of quilt tops for the Vang Church missions. She also sewed catnip pillows for the Prairie's Edge Humane Society for several years which she would donate to them. She made thousands of these and was featured in a front page newspaper article for doing so. She loved Thursday coffee at the VFW and monthly coffee with the Dundas ladies. In the past year she has loved playing bingo at the Northfield Retirement Community.

She enjoyed spending time at Ken and

Fern's cabin in Wisconsin with family and was always up for an adventure whether it be riding the ATV trails at 91 years old, visiting the winery, joining in the family "Olympic" games or going for a paddle boat ride with grandkids in her 80's. Her most recent adventure was declaring she was going on a motorcycle ride at the age of 93. The staff at Parkview East and her family made sure she got her wish and she rode a Can-Am Spyder several trips around the parking lot with her son.

She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt and friend who was so loved and will be missed dearly.

Dorothy is survived by her children Ken (Fern) Vesledahl of Nerstrand, David (Jody) Vesledahl of Nerstrand, Dan (Donna) Vesledahl of Nerstrand and Sandy Vesledahl of Northfield; seven grandchildren Tara (Fred) Berndt, Kristy (John) Campbell, Holly (Cody) Carroll, Jacob Vesledahl, Carly (Alex) Strouth, Shannon (Jeremy Hullett) Vesledahl, Derek (Marilie) Vesledahl; ten great-grandchildren Connor Berndt, Claire Berndt, Carter Campbell, Kaylee Campbell, Cooper Campbell, Kinzey Vesledahl, Teal Vesledahl, Gunnar Vesledahl, Isaac Carroll, Hans Carroll; several nieces, nephews; and many other family and friends. Dorothy was preceded in death by her spouse, Elmer Vesledahl; three sisters, and two brothers.

The family would like to thank the staff at Parkview East, the Northfield Retirement Community Enhanced Care facility and Minnesota Hospice for the wonderful care of Dorothy.

Memorials preferred to Prairie's Edge Humane Society, Vang Lutheran Church or Valley Grove Cemetery Association.

A funeral service was held at 11 AM, Wednesday, October 16, at Vang Lutheran Church, 2060 County 49 Blvd., Dennison. A visitation was held from 4-7 PM, Tuesday, October 15, at Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home and continued at the church one hour prior to the service. A reception followed the service at the church. Interment was in Valley Grove Cemetery,

Nerstrand, MN.

Funeral arrangements are trusted to Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory. www.northfieldfuneral.com

Mary Anne (Ericksen) Skundberg

Mary Anne (Ericksen) Skundberg, 83, of Kenyon, died Sunday, September 29th, 2024 at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis.



She was born on July 26, 1941 to Katherine (Juil) Ericksen and Raymond Ericksen in Minneapolis, MN. As a young girl Mary enjoyed speed skating, camping, Girl Scouts, reading, playing the piano, and keeping up with her two older brothers. At age 15, Mary went to Norway as an exchange student.

Mary graduated from Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis, MN before attending Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. There she received her B.A. and teaching degree in English and German. She also met her husband, Gary Skundberg while attending Luther. They were married on August 17th, 1963.

The couple lived and taught in Iowa and Minnesota prior to coming to Kenyon in 1967. Mary taught piano lessons in their home while their girls were young, and then went back to teaching English and German at Kenyon High School until retirement.

During retirement Mary and Gary enjoyed

traveling as guides on trips to various countries; their favorite and most frequent was Norway. They were members of Sons of Norway. Mary also enjoyed playing cribbage, reading, cooking, and sharing her Norwegian cookies and cakes. Most of all, she cherished spending time with her family and friends.

Mary was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She is survived by her 3 daughters Anne Skundberg Haugland (David Haugland) of Waconia, Sara Skundberg Koehler (Scott Koehler) of Northfield, and Kari Skundberg Franz (Scott Franz) of Northfield; grandchildren Marya Haugland, Sophia Haugland (fiancé, Matthew Staver), Erik Haugland, Katherine Koehler, Sidney Koehler, Jay Koehler, Emma Torstenson, Sam Torstenson, Matthew Franz, Tanner Franz, Stephanie Franz; brother John and Ahna Marie Ericksen of Chippewa Falls, WI, sister-in-law Judy Ericksen Larson of Great Falls, MT, sister-in-law Rachel and Conrad Favor of Stevens Point, WI, sister-in-law Cheryl and James Thompson of Goose Creek, SC, and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Gary, brother Joel Ericksen, and nephew Daniel Favor.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 4th, 2025, at 1 p.m. at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon, MN. A reception following the service will be held until 5:00 p.m. in the church basement.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to the family to establish a memorial in Mary's name via Kari Franz, 11678 Kane Ave, Northfield, MN 55057.

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Vang Lutefisk Dinner

October 23, 2024

- MAINSTREET MESSENGER -

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Deb Sviggum of Sogn Valley

photos by Doug Jones



Greeting the lutefisk guests



Crew chief managing takeout preparation

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It Is Much More Than What Is On The Shelf

By Natalie Jacobson

When you are driving down a dusty gravel road and enter a small town, what is the first thing that draws you in? Are you visiting a friend or family member? The history? What about the local shops?

Personally, I have always been fascinated by the grocery stores. After all, everyone needs their essentials, but when you witness interactions between a small community and a local business, it's much more than that! I spoke with the owner of Kenyon Market, Pete Wagner, about his experience.

Growing up, Pete was very familiar with the environment. In the forties, his grandfather John, had owned a grocery store and later, his father would as well. Pete decided after college that he wanted to get into the business, leading to him being a third generation grocery store owner!

"After being in the grocery business my whole life, it was a natural progression for me," he expresses, "I have always enjoyed meeting new people. Grocery stores bring in every type of person you can think of. A great way to get to know the community!"

Originally, "Fred's," the building was going up for sale and Wagner could not pass up the opportunity. Previous owner, Fred Braegelmann, made Pete's transition to Kenyon a smooth one. It is evident that he cherishes a small town! Growing up in Adams, Minnesota, he acknowledges how important it is for a community to work together while still maintaining that "homey" aspect.

"People working out of town and big box stores competing for business have really taken a toll on small town life. When my grandpa first started in Adams, there were three grocery stores with a population of seven hundred people, each filling its own niche. More and more, I see small towns like I grew up in, becoming ghost towns, but downtown Kenyon is doing amazing! There are so many businesses to choose from here! We do our best to work with our customers, whether that's delivering groceries for seniors that aren't able to get out or collaborating at local events. It's what makes us different from corporate stores. It makes all the difference in the world, having a staff that is so committed and fun as well." explains Wagner.

One of those staff members I spoke to,

Is Leora Albright. She has been at Kenyon Market for four years, being a customer myself, she always welcomes you with a warm smile. Albright has been a grocery clerk and stocker throughout this time, she really enjoys her job.

"What do you find most rewarding about working here?" I ask.

"I would say getting to see all the wonder-



ful locals each day is very rewarding, I have such nice coworkers, a great boss and it is fun helping out different areas of the store. You see people come from all over too, specifically for the meatballs!" she answers.

Speaking of, when it comes to Kenyon, along with many others outside of the community, celebrating Scandinavian tradition is something Pete had witnessed in his childhood but in terms of business, was not ready for this kind of demand.

"It is an amazing thing to see people home for the holidays stocking up on our pulsa and meatballs, the local churches have incredible suppers! The Scandinavian influence here runs deep, more than any place I have seen in Minnesota, and that is really saying something! I grew up with lutefisk suppers in Adams. Like they say with lutefisk - you are either in or out, there is no in between! There is also a surprising amount of young people still keeping this tradition alive."

Pete shares. He continues to say that in No-

vember and December is when everything becomes chaotic, but he has a great team in the meat department, Sonya and Carla who makes sure everyone gets what they need during that holiday rush.

Moving forward, the store is in the process of launching a loyalty app and website. The app assembles coupons and collects points for customers towards rewards, weekly advertisements are also posted. It is available on all App stores. Looking for work? You may just be eligible to be a part of his team! Apply on the website: www.kenyonmarket.com and/or visit Pete!

Living in a small town doesn't mean "there isn't anything to do" you just haven't discovered everything about it yet. One moment you're shopping at your local grocery store trying to get through the line and go on with your day, to later notice the detail, thought, time and effort that an owner and his team went into having a dream become a reality.

All Aboard! Celebrate ZAHS

The Zumbrota Area Historical Society invites the public to celebrate their 25th year along with the 100th Anniversary of their historic building on Sunday, October 27th. All Aboard for a railroad themed celebration and annual meeting.

At 12 p.m. enjoy free hotdogs, chips, & ice cream on the lawn at the ZAHS building, 55 East 3rd St. Inside, a Meet-and-Greet will feature: Mr. B's Hiawathaland Rails, Anthony Bianchi; TJ's Epic Train Channel, Todd Hein, running old model trains; Bluestem Films, Ethan Krueger, 1 p.m. Drone launch weather permitting in the parking lot.

Then, at 2 p.m. at the State Theatre, 96 East 4th St. a short Annual meeting followed by Mr. B's Hiawathaland Rails presents the Duluth Red Wing & Southern Railroad "DRW&S" that once ran from Red Wing to Zumbrota. Remember them, they built Zumbrota's 2nd covered bridge!

After the 2 p.m. event the ZAHS building will open again for a follow-up Meet-and-Greet.

Join ZAHS on Sunday, October 27th for an All Aboard for a railroad themed celebration and annual meeting.

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Missing Nicole Anderson \$45,000 Reward

(continued from page 1)

The previous reward of \$5,000 for information leading to Nicole Anderson's whereabouts or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance is now \$45,000. Private parties have graciously pledged an additional \$40,000 reward to be distributed independ-

ently of the Sheriff's Office.

Only tips received through the Dakota County Sheriff's Office or Crime Stoppers that help lead to the location of Nicole Anderson or prosecution of those involved in her disappearance are eligible for the reward.

We continue our exhaustive efforts to locate Ms. Anderson. This remains an active investigation and no further information will be released at this time.

Tip information can be shared via phone by calling 651-438-TIPS, via email at crimeand-warranttips@co.dakota.mn.us or online in the link ReportATip

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Joe Leko, Sheriff

Bulletin #24-4
10/01/2024

REWARD OFFERED

ENDANGERED MISSING PERSON

Nicole "Nikki" Anderson

- 5' 10"
- 135 lbs
- Last seen wearing a long grey sweater and camouflage pants.

Nicole Anderson was last seen in Randolph Township in Dakota County the morning of Saturday, July 6, 2024.

She was on foot and does not have her cell phone, wallet, or medications.




Last known image of Anderson ^ on 7/6/2024 at 08:54 hours.

The Dakota County Sheriff's Office is offering a reward of \$5,000 for information regarding Nicole Anderson's whereabouts or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance. Private parties have pledged an additional \$40,000 reward to be distributed independently of the Sheriff's Office. Only tips received through the Dakota County Sheriff's Office or Crime Stoppers that lead to the location of Nicole Anderson or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance are eligible for the reward.

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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).

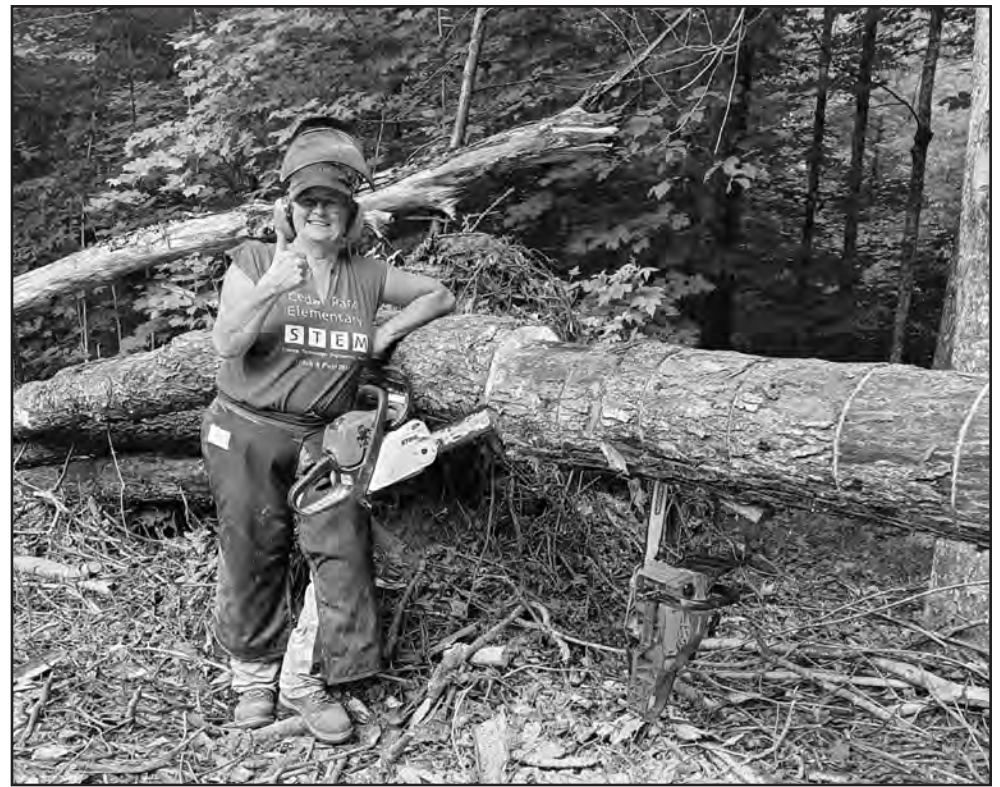
They say that heating with wood heats you more than once. Monica's overgrown woods had a lot of deadfall; felling trees was unnecessary in the first few years unless the ATV

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 fire- wood 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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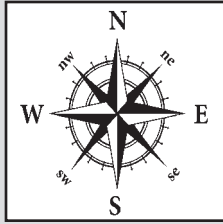
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes **Tennessee Hurricane**



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.

On Friday September 27th the storm surge from Hurricane Helene struck the east side of Tennessee. Hurricanes don't usually affect Tennessee. But Hurricane Helene is one of the strongest to come ashore in many years. There is a town 30 miles south of us named Hurricane Mills, but it is only known as the home of Loretta Lynn.

There had been a couple days of warning about the impending storm as the weather forecast predicted where it would be heading, but the storm stalled out and dumped over twenty inches of rain in one day at the end of a week that had already seen almost a foot of rain. The mountainous terrain created a deluge of water through the valleys. This was the worst flooding the area had experienced since 1916.

Local efforts to rescue families cut off by

the destruction began with private helicopter pilots flying stranded people to safety aided by independent drone operators scouring the hills for signs of life. One man signaled with a large bathroom mirror to flag down help. Tempers flared when FEMA showed up and told the helicopter pilots they would be arrested if they refused to cease the flights. The airflight issue was resolved a day or so into the disaster but the fiercely independent locals had already had their fill of the feds. Private donations were brought in and dispensed from a school building until FEMA arrived and confiscated the inventory. Then the donations were redirected to churches, which were allowed to distribute freely to the needy. Church group t-shirts were handed out to all volunteers as workers wearing the garments of a religious organization were not hassled. Reports of trailers full of water, food, sanitation items and clothing being told to turn around a leave by FEMA officials fueled the public distrust. Some started using four-wheel drive trucks to take the supplies to four wheelers which could reach farther into the hills where the natives resided. From there horses and hikers with backpacks pushed on even further. For some reason many Gen 5 smart phones went into SOS mode and wouldn't communicate when the power grid failed. A few of the residents already owned Starlink Internet systems and were able to communicate with the outside.

Mules were used to haul whiskey into the affected areas for those who were suffering from DT's which was reminiscent of hundreds of years prior when mules were hauling moonshine out of the Tennessee hills.

In our hometown of Dover, Tennessee three large trailers were filled with donations in a couple days during a friendly competition between out friend Madison Campbell and Sheriff Frankie Gray. Madison has a 1977 black Trans Am and the Smokey and



the Bandit challenge was underway. They were East bound and down, loaded up and truckin' supplies to Marshall, North Carolina loaded with bottled water, baby formula, diapers, blankets, non-perishable food items, can openers, garbage bags and work gloves.

The Cumberland Power Cooperative sent some local linemen and trucks to help restore power to east Tennessee and the western Carolinas. One thing the linemen were requesting was Benadryl because the wasps had been displaced as well and were very ag-

gressive and stinging workers trying to do their jobs.

My wife ordered some 10-gallon handheld sprayers from Harbor Freight to be sent to a guy near the flood area who was painting them black and distributing them with bottled water to be used as portable shower units for those with no running water. The sun would heat up the water for a primitive hot shower. Based on the scale of the destruction it may be months before power is restored in the mountain communities.

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A Minnesotan: Water Show



By RosaLin Alcoser

Over the course of my life I have attended and taken part in a number of festivals. From county fairs to street festivals and town festivals I've been to just about little of everything. The most recent one I've had the pleasure to attend was Mantorville's Marigold Days.

The main reason I went to Marigold Days this year is because one of my friends asked me to come down to the firefighter show. Which I readily agreed to do. Now I had never been to a firefighter show before, however, my brian immediately went to the lumberjack show. Which I have seen before. Even though I knew that

was probably not quite the same thing.

I did go in with the assumption that it would be somewhat similar. Instead of watching lumberjacks do their thing we would get to watch firefighter's run their drills. Which sounded like a great time to me.

Well first off I was wrong, that's not what we were going to see. Secondly it was so much better than that. It turned out that it was a firefighter water battle.

If you are like me and have never seen or heard of a firefighter water battle before then you are missing out. Teams of two to three firefighters faced off against each other in the middle of the street with the fire hose. Over their heads was a long rope pulled between two poles.

The rope had a marker in the center and a knot on either end with a big black ball hanging from it. They would pull the ball into the middle and then spray it with the water trying to push it to the other team's side.

Each round lasted one minute or until one of them made the ball hit the other side's knot.

As white jets of water shot out of the fire hoses. Crossing with one another while fighting for control of the ball. It was one of the most existing things ever to watch and something that I now feel should be at more town festivals.

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Chiropractic Care for Colds and Flu



By Shauna Burslem, D.C.



During cold and flu season, many people look for ways to stay healthy and ward off sickness. One option is chiropractic care, which can be a great ally for keeping your body in fighting shape. Chiropractors focus on adjusting the spine to improve how the nervous system functions. This is important because the nervous system is closely linked to the immune system. When your spine is aligned correctly, it can help boost your body's ability to produce more white blood cells and resistance enzymes, both crucial for fighting off colds and the flu. Another benefit of chiropractic care during this time is that it can help your body recover faster if you do get sick. Regular chiropractic adjustments can help reduce stress and improve circulation, which are key factors in maintaining a healthy immune system. When your body is less stressed and your blood flows better, your immune system doesn't have to work as hard to keep up with viruses and bacteria. This means

you might experience milder symptoms and get back on your feet more quickly. Plus, chiropractic care often includes lifestyle advice, which can guide you in making healthier choices all season long.

Monkeypox is a rare viral zoonotic disease similar to smallpox, characterized by fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes, typically transmitted to humans from animals. As of the most recent data available, monkeypox has been associated with a low mortality rate, with deaths being relatively rare. Most cases reported have been mild, with fatalities occurring in less than 1% of those infected. Most individuals infected with monkeypox recover completely. Recovery typically occurs within two to four weeks after the onset of symptoms, although some complications can extend the recovery period. A vaccine approved in August by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for people deemed to be at "high risk" for mpox infection may cause more harm than good, according to the FDA's own medication guide for the product. The FDA medication guide comes with a list of "serious complications," including myocarditis, death and fetal death. The FDA's medication guide also warns that people who receive the vaccine may spread it to unvaccinated people, who also risk developing vaccine side effects, including death.

According to the opinion of respiratory therapist Mark Bishaskey, thousands of patients hospitalized for COVID-19 died because of a rush to put people on ventilators — while denying them medications like ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine and vitamin D. A respiratory therapist is a healthcare provider who helps diagnose, treat and manage conditions that affect the lungs, according to the Cleveland Clinic. They are the clinicians who perform intubation — inserting a tube through a person's mouth or nose, then down into their airway — so the patient can receive oxygen from a ventilator machine. As published in an interview with the Children's Health Defense, Bishofsky tried to convince doctors that "this wasn't the right thing to do." He explained:

"When I started my career in 1999 I went to ... a huge symposium talking about the risks of intubation — the risks of using a ventilator — and even back then it was known that intubation should be a last resort. "At that time, they were reporting a 25% increase in mortality of patients that were getting intubated and put on a ventilator. And now we know during COVID it was upwards of 80 to 85% of people that were on ventilators passed away." Ventilators are "one of the most important life-saving tools we have," Bishofsky said, but they are also "extremely dangerous" because they typically cause bacterial pneumonia. In the first week of the pandemic, the doctors at Bishofsky's hospital used hydroxychloroquine. "We had extremely good outcomes," he said. But then an "absolutely bogus" study came out in the British medical journal Lancet on hydroxychloroquine. "The doctors would cite that." At the end of his tenure at the hospital, Bishofsky told its medical director, "You know, this whole early intubation thing was completely hideous." The medical director admitted it was hideous but said, "We were doing the best we could." Patients were

being intubated "when they were needing as little as three liters of oxygen," according to Bishofsky, who said he'd never seen that before in his 25 years of practice. "That's so little oxygen to the point where if you took the patient off of it, they're gonna be fine,"

he said. "But there was this rush to intubate these patients."

**Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

Constipation Checklist



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

Almost everyone has experienced difficulty passing a bowel movement at least once in their life. For some, the challenge is a regular occurrence. Dr. Alan Gaby defines constipation as having less than 3 bowel movements in a week. Dr. Bernard Jensen raised concern if an individual was not having 3 bowel movements a day. There are numerous reasons why constipation may be happening, but let's consider the basics.

The digestive system starts at your mouth and ends with the anal opening. This amazing system allows food to pass through the middle of your body with only the nutrients your body wants getting absorbed. All the rest of the remains of food will provide some support for the trillions of bacteria in your intestines and then will move out with the next bowel movement. The colon is the last section of the digestive system, and a primary role of the colon is to absorb water so that you do not constantly have diarrhea. When this system is working well, your intestines should be regularly moving food remains through with ease.

In order to see regular bowel movements occur with ease, consider the following checklist:

Water — since a primary role of the colon is to absorb water make sure you are consuming enough water that the colon cannot absorb it all. Other beverages like coffee, tea, and carbonated beverages do not count. These beverages will stimulate the kidneys to pull more water out of the body, so additional pure water needs to be consumed to compensate.

Fiber — fiber is that portion of fruits and vegetables that is indigestible. It serves a purpose in absorbing water and toxins from the digestive track and removing them from the body. Consider fiber to be the broom which sweeps through the intestines and keeps them clean. Beans of all kinds, oatmeal, fruits and vegetables are quality sources of fiber. An adult should consume around 30 grams of fiber per day,

but the average American only consume half that amount.

Probiotics — Probiotics are the beneficial bacteria you need in your intestines to maintain quality health. These probiotics can be obtained by supplement or through fermented foods like yogurt, sauerkraut, or kimchi. These beneficial bacteria feed on the fiber and produce helpful chemicals that stimulate healing and bowel activity. I recommend a probiotic supplement that has at least 10 different bacteria listed in the ingredient list and to take between 50 billion CFU and 100 billion CFU in the evening before bed.

Food Allergies — make a journal of the foods you eat from day to day and note if constipation is experienced after eating a certain food. Any food can produce an allergic reaction. Some common foods associated with constipation include Cow's milk, cheese, wheat, and beef.

Flaxseed — Flaxseed oil and flaxseed meal consumed regularly can improve bowel movements and regularity. Recommended intake is 1 – 2 tablespoons of flaxseed oil, or 2 – 3 tablespoons of flaxseed meal per day. Flaxseed provides multiple benefits to the human body from the essential fatty acids, fiber, and additional nutrients packed into this tiny seed.

Magnesium — The intestines only absorb the quantity of magnesium the body needs. However, most Americans are deficient in magnesium as mentioned in a previous article. When you consume more magnesium than your body needs, a laxative effect will be produced to increase bowel activity. Magnesium citrate is an easy supplement to take and 400 mg in the evening before bed will be appropriate to increase bowel activity for most people.

Vitamin C — The intestines only absorb the quantity of Vitamin C the body can use at that time, so excess Vitamin C will also increase bowel movement. If you notice bowel movements are loose or too frequent, check your Vitamin C intake.

As mentioned earlier, there are numerous reasons for constipation to develop. These causes can include hormone levels, medications, stress, sedentary lifestyle and diet.

This checklist helps to identify some of the ways constipation may be relieved. Review this checklist and apply what seems best to you. I am happy to discuss individual cases and help you experience a more positive life.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you realize greater health freedom in 2024. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

**Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

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GAMES!

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Saturday, November 23

7:00 PM

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-10-20-30-40-50-40-30-20-10-

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Ribbon Cutting held for New Public Safety Center

Courtesy of KYMN Radio News

Last week, Rice County held the ribbon-cutting event for the new Public Safety Center, which will house the county jail, offices, equipment storage for the Rice County Sheriffs, and space for the Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force. At the event there were several speakers including Sheriff Jesse Thomas, the Rice County Board of Commissioners, and county staff. The project has been a long one that started before the pandemic when the Minnesota Department of Corrections downgraded Rice Counties Jail to a 90-day facility. Rice County then had to build a new facility or spend an estimated \$1.5 million yearly to have other countries hold detainees. Sheriff Jesse Thomas said that he was “truly amazed with the outcome” of the safety center and expressed appreciation to the county government, the other members of the Sheriff’s Department, construction crews, and Rice County residents and taxpayers.

The new safety center is an 83,000-square-foot facility with 76 beds for detainees. Among the new features is space for the Sheriff’s Office to store all its vehicles and equipment inside, which the current facility does not offer. There will also be training space for sheriff deputies as well.

The new county jail provides detainees more recreational opportunities and gym space. The new facility also includes a kitchen and laundry, so both services can be done in-house. Detainees will be able to apply for facility work details, which will allow them to work in the kitchen or laundry or do custodial work. That will allow them to get credit for future employment. Rice County Assistant Jail Administrator Stephanie Duhme said that the facility will be better for

the community overall:

“The Public Safety Center Jail facility provides space and technology to enhance and create programs that will promote rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. As you know, most of all, the incarcerated returned to families and their communities upon release. The Dell design and amenities support for positive transition back into the community. ... Overall, the facility itself provides increased privacy, recreation, counseling space and dedicated health services.” – Assistant Jail Administrator Stephanie Duhme

Duhme, who was part of the transition team between the facilities, thanked the staff who worked extra hours to get the facility ready to open.

U.S Senator Amy Klobuchar spoke at the event by phone and put the current facility’s age in context.

“And I think what I learned here was your other law enforcement center has had been around since 1975. So I looked back at 1975. OK, you know, it was happening then. Jaws was the box office smash of the summer and a 17 year old Prince stepped in to a recording studio for the first time” – U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar speaking at the event

Klobuchar praised the work by the Rice County to support law enforcement:

“it’s going to be a symbol of your county’s proud commitment to support your law enforcement professionals. And when we invest in law enforcement, we invest in a safer and more prosperous America.”

The county held one open house of the facility for the public to tour yesterday and is now moving into the final steps before opening. On October 24th, the Minnesota Department of Corrections will review the facility to give the final approval for opening. Then, the Sheriff’s Department will begin moving from the current facility into the new safety center planning to open in November.

Rice County has an extensive page of information on its website about the new project, cost, project details, and reports from the state of Minnesota. Learn more about the project from Rice County Here: <https://www.ricecountymn.gov/563/Public-Safety-Center-construction-projec>



Pictured, from left, Commissioners Gerry Hoisington, Jim Purfeerst, Galen Malecha and Jeff Docken, Sheriff Jesse Thomas, Transition Team Lead/Asst. Jail Administrator Stephanie Duhme, Commissioner Steve Underdahl, Administrator Sara Folsted and Transition Team members, Sgts. Nick Bemis and Karie Francis. (Rice County photo)

Cannon Falls VFW S.A.V.E. Training



By Josh Smith, Goodhue County Health & Human Services

More than 25 Cannon Falls Veterans and concerned community members gathered on Thursday, September 26th to learn about the warning signs of Veteran suicide and how to prevent it.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports an estimated 22 Veterans die by suicide every day. It’s not uncommon to meet a Veteran who knows at least one former soldier that has died by suicide. Suicide is not a Veteran-only problem. The Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner’s Office reported that 13 people died by suicide in Goodhue County in 2023, and the suicide rate is significantly higher than any other county in Southeast Minnesota, and more than double the State of Minnesota’s suicide rate.

The event, which was organized by Goodhue County Health & Human Services, the MPLS VA Health Care System, and representatives from VFW Post 4452 and American Legion Post 142 in Cannon Falls, featured Julia Pawlenty, a clinical social worker and Cannon Falls resident.

She shared the significance of Veteran suicide, potential warning signs, and how to act with care and compassion when a Veteran is experiencing a mental health crisis. The training uses an easy to remember acronym, S.A.V.E.

- S – Signs of suicidal thinking should be recognized
- A – Ask the most important question of all
- V – Validate the Veteran’s experience
- E – Encourage treatment and Expedite getting help

Julia also shared a few easy actions everyone can take to help prevent suicide, including limiting access to lethal means and seeking mental health support. Firearms account for 70% of suicide deaths, so keeping firearms locked and out of sight is a good way to prevent someone experiencing a mental health crisis from accessing them.

We are all responsible for preventing suicide and ensuring the people around us feel loved and supported. If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts or a mental health crisis, call or text 988 or visit <https://988lifeline.org>.



The Rice County Board of Commissioners, with Commissioner Galena Malecha speaking at the podium.

Explainer: Rice County Sales Tax Referendum

Courtesy of KYMN Radio News

Some Background Information –

The Rice County Public Safety Center:

Minnesota Department of Corrections inspectors had long identified the need for additional housing space in the Rice County Jail, but in late 2019, the department notified county officials it planned to reclassify the jail, allowing it to hold individuals a maximum of 90 days. DOC inspectors also noted the need for additional program and leisure activity space. A reclassification would be costly for the county. According to a 2022 estimate, it would total \$1.5 million annually.

In May 2021, the Board of Commissioners voted to build an 83,000-square foot Public Safety Center that includes a 76-bed jail, the county's Emergency Operations Center, and offices for Rice County Sheriff's Office staff and the regional drug task force off Hwy. 3 on the northern edge of Faribault.

In July 2022, the board approved the sale of \$48.86 million in bonds to finance the project.

Question Text:

Shall Rice County be authorized to impose a

three-eighths of one percent (0.375%) sales and use tax for a period of up to thirty (30) years, commencing on April 1, 2025, for the purpose of financing the Public Safety Center at a principal cost not to exceed \$48,000,000, plus associated bonding costs and interest? A YES vote means that the majority of the costs would be financed through the sales and use tax which would remain in effect for 30 years or until the bonds are retired, whichever comes first. A NO vote means that the majority of the costs would continue to be financed through property taxes for 30 years or until the bonds are retired, whichever comes first.

Summary

Written by Rice County

The Rice County Board of Commissioners on Aug. 13, 2024, agreed to ask voters whether to pay the debt incurred from the construction of the new Rice County Public Safety Center — set to open in late October — through a .375% sales tax increase. If a majority of voters vote no, the Board of Commissioners will continue using property taxes to repay the debt. If approved, the tax would take effect in 2025 and last a maximum of 30 years, though it would end sooner if the bonds are repaid earlier than anticipated.

By increasing the sales tax, non-residents who shop in Rice County would also contribute to the debt repayment. The local sales tax follows the state sales tax and doesn't apply to essentials like groceries, medication, baby products, clothing and motor vehicles. If the referendum fails, Rice County will have to pay for the debt through regular

Property Taxes, which could lead to future increases.

If funds raised each year exceed the annual debt payment, the county CANNOT spend that money on other projects.

What Your Vote Will Do

Written by the KYMN News Staff

A YES VOTE would increase the Rice County Sales Tax by 0.375% to pay for the debt from building the Rice County Public Safety Center. The funds from this increase can only be used for this purpose.

A yes vote would not increase a sales tax on essential goods like groceries, medication, baby products, clothing, and motor vehicles.

A NO VOTE would not increase Rice County Sales Taxes.

However, a no vote would not stop construction on the Safety Center project (set to open in October). The debt from the project would be paid from the regular property tax levy.

Rice County Commissioners have indicated that without sales tax, future property

tax increases for the project would be possible.

Fiscal Consequences

Data provided by Rice County

The proposed local sales tax would be 3/8 of a cent or .375%. For example, if someone spent \$5 on a cup of coffee, 2 cents would go toward the local sales tax (if approved) or 38 cents on every \$100 of taxable purchases for 30 years. This would generate an estimated \$3 million each year.

In a study done for Rice County, a University of Minnesota Extension community economics educator estimates nearly 33% of the local option sales tax would come from people living outside Rice County.

On the KYMN Morning Show, Rice County Commissioner Galen Malecha said the following:

"I can't tell anybody how to vote right that they have to choose on their own, but I myself am going to be voting in favor of it because it takes it off the property tax. If you're not a high user of good, you won't be paying a lot."

Two Candidates for District 19A

(continued from page 1)

They are running to replace retiring Brian Daniels. District 19A includes four townships in Goodhue County, Wanamingo township, Cherry Grove Township, Kenyon township and Holden township, eight townships in Rice county and four townships in Waseca county.

Keith and his wife Morgan have lived and farmed in the Wanamingo area for twenty years. Keith was born and raised on a farm near Eyota, Minnesota. They have two children. The Allens raise corn and soybeans as well as milk dairy goats. They sell caramel from the goats milk online and at local shows. Keith also sells seed corn and soybean seed as well as serving as a crop consultant. Morgan is a nutritionist for a company that makes animal milk replacer.

Keith received a bachelor of science from the University of Minnesota. He was a member of the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Class 8, he has served on the Minnesota Farm Bureau board of directors, Goodhue Board of Adjustment, Dale Lutheran Church Board President and is the Cherry Grove township supervisor. He is a member of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and the NRA as well as a longtime member of the Goodhue County Republican Party.

Keith was inspired to run as a Republican for the office because of what he saw happening with the economy to businesses and taxes from what the DFL leadership has done in the state. The DFL controlled state has spent an \$18 billion surplus and proceeded to raise taxes. The direction the state is headed is unsustainable. He believes the politicians at the capitol in St. Paul are not listening to the people. The increasing taxes are causing senior citizens and businesses to move out of state. The state mandates have resulted in the school boards to not listen to their constituents as well.

His priorities if elected will be to eliminate Minnesota state social security taxes on senior's retirement incomes. He will also work to equalize K-12 education funding for rural school districts. He will work to cut back and scrap mandates to schools and give the dollars back to school districts to be independent and allow teachers to teach the basics to students.

Keith grew up in southern Minnesota with strong work ethic, great sense of community and strong school system, all which are important to the fabric of America. He wants to use his leadership skills to give back to the good people of this state.

Jessica Navarro is the DFL candidate for House District 19A. She did not respond to our request for an interview. According to her website she was born in New York. She lives in Faribault with her two children. They moved to the area in the late 1990's to work for the Jennie-O-Turkey store. She has a bachelors degree in social work from MSU/Mankato and is employed by a non-profit connecting families to local resources and services.

Her priorities are affordable and accessible healthcare, affordable and accessible child-care and affordable and accessible housing. She sees public service as a means to address social issues and improve people's lives while creating positive change.



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Meet the Candidates for Rice County Board of Commissioners - District 1

Courtesy of KYMN Radio News

The Rice County Commission oversees all of the county departments, including the sheriff, planning/zoning, and highway department. There are 5 commissioners, each representing part of Rice County and serve a term of 4 years.

District 1 includes: the cities of Dennison, Dundas, Nerstrand, Northfield (Precincts 1, 2 and 3), and Bridgewater, Cannon City, Northfield, Richland, Walcott and Wheeling townships.

Candidates:

Erik Sahlin

Jim Purfeerst (Incumbent)

Jim Purfeerst

Candidate Interview:



Jim Purfeerst

2012-2020

Please list any civic, community, or professional organizations/clubs your a part of. (if any)

Rice County Extension Committee, Northfield Transportation Advisory Board, Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Advisory Board, Zumbro Watershed Board, Rice County Transportation & Ditch Committee, Chamber of Commerce Ag Business Committee, Rice County Fair Board, St. John's United Church of Christ, Rice County Mental Health Advisory Board, Rice/Steele 911 Board, Cannon River Watershed Partnership, Rice County Historical Society, Rice County Farmers Union, Rice County Farm Bureau, MN Agriculture & Rural Leadership Alumni, Faribo SnoGo Club, Paradise Center for the Arts, Elks Club

What qualifies for the office you're running for?

I believe my experience as a current Rice County Commissioner and past Soil & Water Board Supervisor, highlights my qualifications and leadership skills to serve effectively as Rice County District One Commissioner. I feel I bring a wide variety of life experience and personal strength to this position. I understand the value of hard work, dedication, compromise, and the importance of ag and economic development for Rice County. I am an active listener, an experienced ag business owner with strong financial management skills, and I have a common sense approach

to get things done. I am knowledgeable of county governmental processes and have strong relationships with Rice County residents, Rice County staff, and elected officials. I am a lifelong resident of Rice County and have been actively involved in community volunteerism. I enjoy working together to find creative solutions, I care deeply about the future of Rice County, and I am committed to leading in a positive, effective manner.

What inspired you to run for office? If you are running for reelection why do you want to stay in office?

As a lifelong Rice County resident and 5th generation farmer, I am committed to a bright future for Rice County! Rice County has been a great place to raise my family – my wife and children all live and work in Rice County. Serving as a Commissioner allows me to gather constituent input and ideas to help ensure Rice County is a great place for future generations to live and thrive. I am committed to strong business and economic growth, a healthy sustainable environment, safe communities, and quality services which lead to future success for Rice County residents.

What is something that you would like to accomplish while in office?

I am committed to continued economic and ag development, strategically attracting businesses which offer livable wages and good benefits. This broadens our tax base and helps residents thrive. Having a range of affordable housing continues to be a concern in Rice County. I am committed to continuing to explore public/private partnerships which can support expanded housing opportunities, which will in turn attract businesses and a workforce that lives in Rice County. Governmental transparency is important, and something that I believe can be improved upon. I hear from constituents that some county systems are complicated and confusing. I hope to continue to serve as a liaison to lessen constituent confusion and help streamline processes. I'd also like to see more transparency and communication about county spending and budgets. There has been improvement in communications and expanded public comment opportunity over the last two years, however I believe this can be expanded. Transparency and open communication is important so taxpayers can understand how their investments benefit themselves and their community.

What does being a leader mean to you?

Leadership begins with listening and being accountable, honest and open to diverse opinions. Being able to compromise and bridge differences in order to gain greater understanding is critical, with the goal of finding optimal solutions for the betterment of Rice County.

What do you believe the biggest issue facing Rice County in the future is? Is the Board of Commissioners already or addressing it or would like to work on this issue more?

Finding ways to keep taxes affordable while providing essential services for county residents is an ongoing issue, which includes unfunded governmental mandates. The Board, along with county administrative staff continue to evaluate ways to work efficiently and minimize local tax burden, as well as advocate for change in mandated processes. Affordable housing and limited workforce

numbers are also significant issues facing Rice County. It's hard to attract businesses without a trained, competent workforce and adequate housing. We need people to live AND work in Rice County. These issues are being addressed by County government, however we need ongoing input, assessment and evaluation in order to find creative solutions and partnerships which are cost effective and sustainable.

Campaign Websites
Campaign Facebook

Erik Sahlin

Candidate Interview:



Erik Sahlin

part of. (if any)

As a parent of two teens, I'm an active member of the parent community of Northfield Public Schools, supporting the learning environment there, as well as activities including bowling, band, track, cross country, swimming, orchestra, and choir. I'm a member of the Nerstrand Conservation Society, working to protect the values of the broader Nerstrand community, the Big Woods Corridor, and the Prairie Creek watershed. I'm a member of the Valley Grove Preservation

Please list any current political offices you hold. (if any)

n/a

Please list any previous political office you've held. (if any)

n/a

Please list any civic, community, or professional organizations/clubs your a

community, supporting my parents as they have led efforts over decades to maintain and restore the Valley Grove Church stone and wooden church buildings, and to protect the surrounding lands. I'm an adult advisor for the YMCA Center for Youth Voice, Youth in Government program, supporting teens in the calling that "democracy must be learned by each generation." And as part of my service on the Board of Commissioners, I will be building relationships with every community organization I can in District One, so that I'm in the best position to serve the entire community.

What qualifies for the office you're running for?

I've always believed that service is about setting a high standard. And while I hadn't planned to run for office until just this past May, I'm stepping up to the responsibility. I'm meeting with Rice County staff, observing Board of Commissioners meetings, talking with leaders in business, farming, and nonprofit work, reading county reports, and visiting with every voter I can reach. I'm grateful to be able to learn more and more about District One and how to best represent all of us who live here. Professionally, I draw on my extensive background in business operations and communications. That means I have the skills needed to evaluate financials, work plans, and cost-benefit issues. It also means that I'll be able to help Rice County with a major weakness—communicating responsibly and effectively with the public.

District One is the one district in Rice County with a good balance between rural and town areas.

(continued on page 17)

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Meet the Candidates for Rice County Board of Commissioners - District 1

(continued from page 16)

For me, growing up just outside of Nerstrand, I was always one of the “rural kids” — especially when I was bussed all the way to Faribault for junior and high school. But at the same time, I went to church in Northfield and spent a lot of time at St. Olaf College where my mother taught the flute. After years away, I moved back to the county, and now I’m raising my kids in southern Northfield, close to Dundas. My life experience here in District One of Rice County means I am in an excellent position to work with neighbors across rural and town communities, and build con-

nections between lifelong and newer residents.

What inspired you to run for office? If you are running for reelection why do you want to stay in office?

I was inspired by a large group of neighbors working to protect the Big Woods Corridor in our district from a pit mine operation. We set aside our personal lives for weeks to do essential work the county should have done — like evaluating the claims of the mining company, and researching groundwater sensitivity. And we had to press repeatedly for real public participation opportunities. I kept thinking that there must be better ways to conduct county business. So my involvement went from concern about health, safety, and environmental impacts, to disappointment with the response of elected county officials, to the motivation to run for office and be a better voice for everyone in District One. This is why my campaign slogan is “from the Big Woods to a better Rice County.”

What is something that you would like to accomplish while in office?

It’s time to fix Rice County’s broken process for public participation, and here’s

why: We have so-called public hearings that don’t work for the public, regularly scheduled at times when working families cannot attend. Public notices follow the letter of the law — fine print and legal language at the back of the Faribault Daily News — but they clearly don’t give the public the information they need: At a recent public hearing, just *one* of Rice County’s 67,000 residents was present to speak on a major county issue. There are many other examples of this problem, unfortunately.

With our process for public participation broken, a risk is that Commissioners’ decisions can be more influenced by special interests than by the public. In addition, without effective communication to the public, District One neighbors are caught off guard by things like an unexpected asphalt plant, or the unprecedented \$48 million county jail tax question on the Nov. 5 ballot. As a result of all this, our Commissioners miss the opportunity to understand public concerns, and our Rice County government falls out of touch with the people it serves.

As your Commissioner, I’ll be dedicated to fixing Rice County’s process so that public input and communication are taken seriously.

What does being a leader mean to you?

For me, being a leader has always started with the question, “How can I help?” ... Followed quickly by, “What do I need to know?” and “Who needs to be involved?” My model for being a good County Commissioner is to be like a good neighbor — communicating in a straightforward way, treating others with kindness and respect, helping when needed, and staying out of things when not needed. In

an elected office, I believe being a leader also means (1) responsibility to be upfront with the public about tough issues; (2) responsibility to use the office to help people in need; and (3) responsibility to act in a way that reflects well on the community.

What do you believe the biggest issue facing Rice County in the future is? Is the Board of Commissioners already or addressing it or would like to work on this issue more?

There’s no single issue facing Rice County that is separate from all the rest: economic development, social services, housing, transportation — they’re all related. That said, one clear theme stands out from talking with voters: we need to do better in how we care for our natural resources so we can all live well, so our county can thrive. Water we can’t drink coming out of our home wells? Air we can’t breathe downwind of landfill fires? Farmlands being fragmented? Our Big Woods area hit by poorly planned development? It doesn’t need to be this way. Rice County could be a leader in taking on these kinds of problems — making improvements in zoning and planning, strengthening our Comprehensive Plan, taking advantage of Minnesota state tools for better resource management, and advocating actively at the state level for necessary support and funding.

While this is all on the radar of our current Board of Commissioners, we’re not seeing the kind of commitment and coordinated action we need from Rice County.

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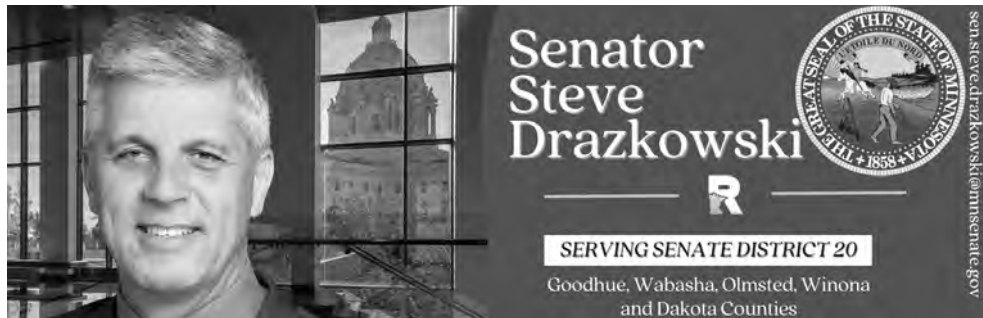
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Fall has arrived in Minnesota and we can look forward to hunting, to glorious fall color and to family get togethers at this harvest time of year. I have several news items about a new MN Supreme Court ruling in the area of self defense, new information for businesses about the new paid family leave law, A field report for the approaching deer hunting season in our area and recent funding for broadband in the district.

New decision regarding "Duty to Retreat" in firearms case

You have no duty to retreat inside your home but what about in defense of another?

In the August newsletter, I detailed a case before the Minnesota Supreme Court that resulted in a decision to put "brandishing" a weapon in self-defense into a gray legal area.

The court determined that an individual cannot brandish a deadly weapon in self-defense if they have a reasonable ability to retreat.

The courts have spoken again on a different self-defense case involving the duty to retreat when defending someone else.

The Valdez case involved two step-brothers who were confronted by an acquaintance who was high on methamphetamines and attacked one of the brothers, choking him. The other brother shot the assailant and killed him. Attorney General Keith Ellison, upholding a lower court ruling, tried to argue that the shooter had the ability to retreat and thus was guilty of murder. The Supreme Court decided against the state, arguing that the law clearly states that self-defense extends to the defense of others. You are not required to abandon your child, brother, spouse, or friend if someone threatens them with bodily harm if THEY cannot retreat safely.

This seems obvious, but we can't take common sense for granted anymore when it comes to liberal, anti-gun courts in Minnesota. Fortunately, the ruling they made here was correct.

You can read the decision here: (opens a pdf): <https://www.mncourts.gov/mncourts-gov/media/Appellate/Supreme%20Court/Standard%20Opinions/OPA221424-100924.pdf>

Paid Family Leave information for business owners

Per Minnesota's Paid Leave Law, Minnesota employers need to report wage details for their employees starting October 31, 2024. Once benefits begin on January 1, 2026, this information will determine the premiums paid by employers and employees, and the eligibility and benefit amount for individuals under Paid Leave.

Paid Leave covers most Minnesota employers with one or more employees, with exceptions for employees of tribal nations or the federal government and self-employed individuals unless they choose to opt in to get coverage for themselves.

Paid Leave will use the same online report-

ing system as Unemployment Insurance (UI). No additional steps are needed from Minnesota employers if all of their employees are covered by UI, as the same account and quarterly wage detail reports will serve Paid Leave. If an employer has some or all of their employees not covered by UI they may need to create an account to submit wage details by October 31, 2024.

More information is available here: <https://paidleave.mn.gov/employers/resource/index.jsp>

Deer hunting report for southern Minnesota

Firearms deer hunting season opens on November 9 in Minnesota. Hunters usually know the deer permit area number for where they plan to hunt prior to buying a license but they should also ensure they understand chronic wasting disease regulations and sampling options for that area. Hunters can find these details using the DPA lookup tool (mndnr.gov/deerhunt).

Deer hunters are required to have deer 1 year or older sampled for CWD in all CWD management and surveillance zones during the opening weekend of the firearms A season Saturday, Nov. 9, through Sunday, Nov. 10, and during late CWD hunts Friday, Dec. 20, through Sunday, Dec. 22. Additional information about CWD requirements and sampling options can be found at the Minnesota DNR's CWD webpage (mndnr.gov/cwd).

The DNR has put out this field report about the upcoming season in our region:

"Deer populations continue to increase in southern Minnesota, and deer fared well over last year's mild winter. Prolonged June flooding during the fawning and fawn rearing season likely had a negligible effect on the population.

River floodplains offer some of the best deer habitat and deer hunting in southern areas of the state. Prior to flooding this year, there were several years without a major flood, and vegetation in these floodplains has grown to the point of offering excellent cover for deer, which bodes well for deer hunters. Bluff lands that overlook floodplains offer oak and other sources of nuts and seeds that saw a moderate to excellent crop in 2024. Large areas of grass with embedded wet-

lands are also prime deer habitat. If water levels continue to lower, hunters will have easier access to this type of habitat."

Broadband funding in District 20

The Office of Broadband Development's newest list of broadband grant recipients has been announced. The grants are from two closely related programs: the Border-to-Border Broadband Program and the Low Population Density Program. These programs are possible through federal tax dollars matched by state tax dollars and state dollars matched by local tax dollars and private contributions. Here are the projects impacting our district:

The Kasson & Mantorville Telephone Company project will extend Fiber-To-The-Home capabilities to locations in rural Olmsted County. This project will enable the delivery of up to 1 GB upstream and downstream for internet access with the ability to add additional GBs as needed, serving 83 locations, including 13 unserved locations.

The MiEnergy Cooperative project is in the rural areas of Winona and Filmore Counties. This project will provide services to 396 addresses, including 342 unserved and 54 underserved, and bridge the digital divide by offering residents access to essential services such as telemedicine, online education, and remote work opportunities.

In addition, a business in Cannon Falls, Pachyderm Studios, a well-known studio in the music recording industry, now has high-speed broadband internet. After connecting

with the Office of Broadband Development, they were directed to the Broadband Line Extension Connection Program, which awards grants for extending existing broadband infrastructure to unserved locations.

Through these efforts, the studio raised a match in local funding to help secure the new fiber line through local provider HBC, which received state funding.

Election information

Here are the key links to find election information for Minnesota Citizens:

Finding a county's election office (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>).

For election day voting, the Secretary of State's polling place finder.

I only send these out about once a month when the legislature is not in sessions (yes, we still have a part time legislature in Minnesota!) but please do contact me at any time to share any issues, concerns, or feedback you have to assist me in best representing you. The best way to reach me is by email at sen.steve.draskowski@senate.mn or by phone at 651-296-5612. My legislative assistant is Margaret Martin, and her number is 651-296-4264. She will be happy to assist you, in or out of session.

*Sincerely,
Steve Draskowski*

Minnesota Senate, District 20, Wabasha, Goodhue, Winona, Olmsted, and Dakota Counties.



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**City of Nerstrand
City Council Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2024,
7:00 P.M.**

**221 Main Street
Nerstrand, MN**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Todd Evavold, Council Members Monica Gernandt, John Harris, Kevin O'Brien

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Frances Boehning, Steve McDowell

GUESTS: City residents – Luanne Kuntz, Skip Voge, Pam Caron, Gretchen Gilmor, Annette Evavold, Karla Ingersoll, Nate Bonde, Amy Harris,

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Council member John Harris made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Council member Kevin O'Brien. All approved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Payment of Claims dated September 10, 2024.

B. Minutes from August 20th, 2024

MOTION:

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Council Member Monica Gernandt, second by Council Member John Harris. All approved.

CLERK'S REPORT:

• New utility billing company options – The clerk reviewed the options available for utility billing companies and recommended moving forward with Banyon. Council Member Monica Gernandt made a motion to approve the utility billing move to Banyon, Council Member John Harris seconded, all approved.

• The Clerk reviewed recent activity during August.

NEW BUSINESS:

• Public discussion regarding proposed levy – The council members reviewed the status of the budget and stated their positions regarding the proposed levy.

• The final levy budget meeting is set for December 10th, at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend and speak

• Resident comments:

• Question regarding existence of emergency fund (Council responded that all funds are combined)

• Resident noted that social security is only going up 2.6% and all other expenses are rising faster than that.

• Resident questioned if the levy increase would be annual or a one-time increase.

• Resident said if we don't save money, we cannot cover emergencies.

• Resident stated that they prefer a small increase annually versus the City taking another loan to cover emergencies.

• Steve McDowell reviewed the estimated road and utility repair costs.

• Resident felt the 2.5% increase was reasonable.

• Council member John Harris stated that grant money is available to cities that need it.

• Council Member Monica Gernandt made a motion to approve a proposed levy with no increase, Council Member John Harris seconded, approved by Gernandt and Harris, not approved by Mayor Todd Evavold and Council Member Kevin O'Brien. Motion tied.

• Mayor Todd Evavold made a motion to approve a proposed levy with 5% increase, Council Member Kevin O'Brien seconded,

approved by Evavold and O'Brien, not approved by Council Member Monica Gernandt and Council Member John Harris. Motion tied.

• Mayor Todd Evavold made a motion to approve a proposed levy with 2.5% increase, Council Member Kevin O'Brien seconded, approved by Mayor Todd Evavold, Council Member Kevin O'Brien, and Council Member Monica Gernandt, not approved by Council member John Harris. Motion passes.

• Discussion regarding alley ordinance change. – Mayor Todd Evavold requested that the discussion be tabled until October. Council Member Kevin O'Brien made a motion to table the discussion until October 8th, Council Member John Harris seconded, all approved.

• Discussion regarding MNDOT snowplow agreement – The proposed agreement with MNDOT was reviewed. Council Member Monica Gernandt made a motion to approve resolution number 2024-16 authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the MNDOT agreement, Council Member John Harris seconded the motion, all approved.

• Alcohol served at recent business event – Mayor Todd Evavold mentioned that alcohol was served at a recent business opening event. All businesses serving alcohol should have approval from Rice County. Council Member Monica Gernandt will speak with the business owner to let them know for the future.

OLD BUSINESS

• Update information for Pickle Ball Court: Sod has been laid and grass seed spread. Bondes will help with painting the lines. Mayor Todd Evavold noted that the net will be installed when the painting is completed.

9. Reports of Officers

• Public Works Director –

• Steve McDowell stated that the Farm Street land transfer should be completed in October. He will obtain quotes for paving next spring

• The federal government's request for the lead service line inventory is due October 1. Steve reviewed that he is attending a class to learn what is required. He feels that the project will be done by October 1.

• The Bollig project was reviewed.

• Fire Department – Nate Bonde said that the firefighters will be voting next week to join a new PERA pension fund (statewide volunteer firefighters association). He reviewed the information regarding the fund and noted that the bylaws would need to be revised. Council Member Monica Gernandt made a motion to approve the transition to the PERA fund, Council Member John Harris seconded, all approved.

MOTION ADJOURN:

MOTION: Motion by Council Member John Harris second by Council Member Monica Gernandt to adjourn. All Approved.

Todd Evavold, Mayor

Frances Boehning, City Clerk
Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for October 8th, 2024, at Nerstrand City Hall

**City of Nerstrand
City Council Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2024,
7:00 P.M.**

**221 Main Street
Nerstrand, MN**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Todd Evavold, Council Members Monica Gernandt, John Harris, Kevin O'Brien

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Clerk Frances Boehning

GUESTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

• Resolution 2024-18 Approving 2025 Proposed Property Tax Levy– The council members reviewed the resolution. This resolution formalizes the proposed levy that was agreed to at the September 10th City Council meeting.

• Council Member Kevin O'Brien made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-18, a proposed levy with 2.5% increase, Mayor Todd Evavold seconded, approved by Mayor Todd Evavold, Council Member Kevin O'Brien, and Council Member Monica Gernandt, not approved by Council member John Harris. Motion passes.

MOTION ADJOURN:

MOTION: Motion by Council Member Monica Gernandt seconded by Council Member Kevin O'Brien to adjourn. All Approved.

Todd Evavold, Mayor

Frances Boehning, City Clerk
Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for October 8th, 2024, at Nerstrand City Hall

**City of Dennison
Meeting minutes
August 1, 2024**

The August Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Flaten on Thursday, August 1st, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Diane Ruddle, Heidi Cooke, Nichole Schloesser, Kaylyn Nygaard and clerk Jessica Page.

Council members requested more time to review the July meeting minutes.

Councilor Ruddle moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0.

Old Business/Committee Reports/Building Permits: None.

Administrative Issues:

Josh from the Clutchman Car Club, asked if Clutchman can hold the car show in the park this year. Council expressed concerns about possible ruts being formed as the ground is still pretty wet. Josh said they can still use Joe's lot on the main street. Josh requested that they be approved to shut down the main street between the hours of 8-2 for the car show (8-12 most likely). They would look to have 2 blocks shut down. Councilor Schloesser move to allow the main street in to be shut down from 8-2. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion carried. 5:0

1.Bryan Caffin from Bollig Engineering was present to discuss the PER. Further discussion regarding the GIS proposal from Silversmith.

(continued on page 20)

Join us for



Trunk
or Treat

Saturday, October 26th

10:30 am

Riverside Park

Wanamingo

Games, Fun and Prizes!

Please bring a canned good, non-perishable food item, or personal care item for the little pantry if you are able!

Dennison City Council Meeting

(continued from page 19)

Based on the annual contract fee per year (\$571) that would amount to about \$6 per household per year. Mayor also asked Bollig if they could produce a map with all the curb stops.

Lead service line inventory. They organized all the plans that they had for the city and made digital copies for us. Everything has been submitted to the state on time. We need to update every year. Eventually will have to do the unknowns.

Silversmith Data systems: Can do it in the future as Bollig will still be using the data points. Hold off for now.

PER: Preliminary Engineering Report: Water system is "stout". They want to pursue funding for the dead ends. Dept of Health wants to end dead ends, so hopefully this is something that funding will be available for. Bryan noted that the City has Cast Iron pipes from the 80's, which usually last about 80 years. Could last for 100 years.

Water tower inspection. Liner is good, structure is good, but there are issues with the mixer. It's been damaged and should be replaced. The stand pipe is on the floor. They propose to bring the stand pipe up several feet. That way the sediment won't go in the water. This would be especially helpful when the mixer is running, as currently when running, the water in multiple homes has lots of sediment in it. The Security fence is an issue with the bent posts, and gates. They also felt that the water tower should have a dedicated electrical system. It is currently shared.

Well/well house. The City of Dennison has one well, Dept of Health wants two wells in each community. The well house needs to be rehabbed due to cracked floors, water leaks, etc. It needs to be brought up to code. Bollig also recommends doing a thorough cleaning of the well pipes/pumps to extend the life of the current well. The recommend getting new chemical feeds, along with a generator to keep water flowing in case of an extended power outage. City should keep in mind to possibility of upsizing the building also.

New development: Expand the capacity of the ponds. Either build another pond or expand the ponds when doing things like replacing the liner, which will need to be done sometime fairly soon.

Storm water: Currently have a good system. But City will want to look at working with the County for any changes as County Road 9 has significant impacts of flooding. There are no improvements needed right now. It was shared with Bollig that a storm water collection basin is likely needed near K. Nygaards house due to past water issues during snow melts/rains. There is currently no collection basin there.

City Hall improvements. Building needs Tuck pointing/painting. Money is available, but very competitive.

Councilor Ruddle move to submit the PER to Rural Development to start the process for funding and and to other funding agencies. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

Bollig wants the City to do an income study for \$20,000 to become available for the Small Cities Development Program, as it appears the City is only a few percentage points away from being eligible for this program. An in-

come survey can get more detailed information, and would likely see the City qualify for this funding. It can go up to \$600,000 and the City can apply twice, so potentially up to 1.2 million available. There are Multiple ways to get the income information. Mail out surveys, knock on doors, etc. Bollig will go down to \$2500 instead of \$5,000. For the down payment. Councilor Schloesser move to go forward with the income eligibility survey with \$2500 down payment. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

Goodhue County Sheriff's Deputy stopped by the meeting. He didn't have any specific concerns for the City.

2. Opus and new billing system: Updates. We worked through the issues from the first billing. They did miss a spreadsheet that was submitted on 6-27, that had payments for 5 folks. Those accounts have been updated and they apologized for missing them. Compiling the quarterly information took a long time, but it should be better for the next quarter, although those 5 missed payments will need to be accounted for. During the last meeting, council members inquired about how many people are using the online convenience/option to pay bills. Lauren said 11 people have used the online portal to pay for 12 accounts.

3. City website: Councilor Cooke forwarded information to the council to review regarding the proposed new city website Ionos. The first year did have an introductory price of \$96 and adding the largest email option will make it \$101 for the year. The usual price is \$10/month so next year it may be more like \$125 per year. If the council wants to discontinue with our current website provider (Catalis), then we need to give them 6 months notice of the City's intention to discontinue, which would be August 29th.

Councilor Schloesser move to switch to the Ionos website, and try it for one year. The City will discontinue with the Catalis website provider. Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0.

4. Dennison 2025 to 2027 police contract rates. The City was informed the Goodhue County Board approved the policing rates for the upcoming years as follows: 2025 \$87.70, 2026 \$90.63, 2027 \$93.68. Compared to what the City is paying for the 2024 rate (\$40.07 per hour), that is about a 120% increase in one year. Mayor contacted the Sheriff's Office and was concerned about the impact on the City budget and asked if the minimum policing hours per year could be lowered to 200 hours. Mayor was informed the County Board would need to be involved in the decision. Mayor contacted the City of Bellechester to gather information. Historically, they contract for 198 hours per year, and they ask the Sheriff's Department to patrol in town from May through September, 11 hours per week. Jeff called Sheriff for Rice County and asked about Law Enforcement services are handled in Nerstrand with no contract.

Through talking with Todd Greseth. Jeff can call John Huneke to talk to the Sheriff's Dept. City would like to go with 208 hours a year from the current 260 hours. The county will not adjust the cost as it was a thorough study as to the cost to provide an officer. Major Johnson will be here in Sept. Mayor was going to ask for 4 hours vs cur-

rent 5 hours a week.

5. City was informed by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation that the grant the City applied for in April for updating our community comprehensive plan, ordinances and map books was denied. They went on to say it was a very highly competitive grant program. Awards were made to only approximately 16% of organizations. SMIF has another grant opportunity for Small Town Grants until August 26th. That grant is capped at \$10,000. Mayor will make another attempt to secure funding through SMIF.

6. Pete Lee Building update. Mayor contacted the city attorney to update her of the situation. No further communication to the City from Pete Lee regarding the sale of the building. No action has taken place to replace/fix the roof since our last meeting. The deadline set by the City for repairs to have taken place will be here soon. A message was left for Pete Lee regarding that.

Council suggested the information be presented to Brittany and she will proceed with sending a letter to the County to continue with the prosecution. (As of August 11th if nothing has been done by Pete Lee)

7. Bids to replace florescent light bulbs with LED bulbs in City Hall and City Shop from Cedar Lake Electric and Muska Electric. At the city shop, the bids included replacing 2 inoperable ceiling lights at the back west wall where Nate has his work area and the bathroom light. The bids also include wiring the water heater to the circuit panel. Cedar Lake included the cost of replacing all the ceiling lights with LED bulbs, too. Provided to the council the lighting retrofit rebate application form. Cedar Lake would help assist the City in submitting the form/cost worksheet, free of charge. Xcel Energy is offering bonus rebates (double the rebate) on LED tubes until November 15th. Mayor asked Cedar Lake who can perform electrical work, since it was brought up at our last meeting that the work could be done by a city employee, possibly. Generally, Minnesota Law requires all electrical work be performed by licensed, bonded and insured electrical contractors and their employees. Homeowners, with strict limitations, are exempt from electrical licensing. At City Hall, to replace the bulbs, the rebates would amount to \$166, not including the bonus rebates, and the best guess in 4-5 years it will pay for itself with energy savings. Councilor Nygaard was concerned with how bright they will be. The hall can have different lighting levels. \$1695 to do City Hall lighting for Cedar Lake, and \$375 to do the shop.

Council would like to look at what isn't working first, so they recommend looking at the shop first. Councilor Nygaard move to pay for city shop water heater and lights for Cedar Lake Electric for \$325 for water heater and \$375. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

8. Propane contract. Current prices? How much left in our tanks? Most tanks are filled over the summer, so should be close to full. \$1.54.9 is contract price. Councilor Schloesser motion to do 2500 gallons at the contract price. Councilor Nygaard second. Motion passed 5:0.

9. Budget meeting. Figure out date and

time. Approved preliminary levy is due to Goodhue County on September 30th. Set August 28th at 6:00 for the work session.

10. Mayor received word that our LGA amount will go from \$13,594 to \$19,115 this year, an increase of \$5,521. We will also be getting funds from the Small Cities Assistance Account. It will be ongoing and dedicated to cities under 5,000 people to specifically help with transportation needs. In 2024, Dennison will get almost \$12,000 from this account. \$10,800 will come in July and \$1,000 in December. These funds will continue to pay out in future years and will see growth and more revenue sources rolled into this funding stream. Mayor sent an email to the council from the LMC about potential uses.

11. Mayor requested that Century Link reimburse the City for the damage done to 5th Avenue Way last fall when the telephone line/internet was installed in the public right-of-way for the Jeff Hasse property. The claim process has started and the mayor will be submitting supporting documents. \$500 cost on that.

12. Mayor requested that Century Link fix beat up/damaged/destroyed pedestal boxes in town. Work is scheduled to begin on 8/9/24.

13. Primary election on August 13th.

14. Filing period for city offices begins Tuesday, July 30 through Tuesday, August 13. Two Council positions for 4 years, and one Council position for two years, along with the mayor for 2 years, are up for elections.

15. AED battery replaced at the cost of \$200.

16. Weed Inspector: several folks were contacted about overgrown weeds on their properties. All have responded back and will be working to cut down their weeds. Follow up in two weeks.

17. 5th Ave way qualifies for FEMA assistance \$3,000 Sewer pond road and discharges for storms are applying for reimbursement.

Citizens Issues:

Saturday night band was playing after midnight. Need to check on the ordinance to see if a band needs to stop at midnight. Can nicely ask if they can stop at midnight. No Ordinance. Joe always stops at midnight.

Mayors Issues:

Utilities:

1. Update from Nate
2. Bob Flom sprayed city streets and sewer ponds on 7-29.
3. Water samples taken by MDH on 7-22.
4. DO calibration paperwork will be available for the council to review before the meeting. Nate didn't have ready for this meeting. Will have ready for next month.

Councilor Cooke move to approve the minutes. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0.

Councilor Cooke move to approve the bills, plus the \$581.10 for Nate Sparrow. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0. Mayor Flaten move to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Schloesser second. Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday, September 5th at 7:00.

City of Dennison Meeting minutes September 5th, 2024

The September Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Flaten on Thursday, September 5th, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Diane Ruddle, Heidi Cooke, Nichole Schloesser, and clerk Jessica Page. Councilor Nygaard was unable to attend.

The August meeting minutes were not completed at the time of the meeting.

Councilor Ruddle moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

Old Business/Committee Reports/Building Permits: None.

Administrative Issues:

1. Dennison policing contract with Goodhue County. Jonathan Huneke is in attendance and representing the Sheriff's Department this evening. The mayor attended a meeting with the Sheriff's Department in Red Wing on August 16th. Representatives from the cities of Bellechester, Pine Island, Wanamingo and Goodhue joined the meeting, too. We had the opportunity to discuss our concerns about the policing rates. August 28th, the Dennison City Council during its budget meeting, decided to contract for 3 hours per week. September 3rd, the Goodhue County Board discussed the policing rates again. The Sheriff's Department recommended revising the policing rates by offering two new options: No overhead costs with phased-in rate approach or 10% overhead with phased-in rates. Goodhue County Board voted to reduce the rates as follows: 2025 71.03, 2026 79.80 and 2027 89.61 per hour. Goodhue County Sheriff's Department will be offering a three year contract and 3.5 hours of coverage per week. Going to still go through at least once per day. Will make a concerted effort to look at the speeders. New contract will be for 182 for new hours, down from 260. Councilor Ruddle move to accept those rates for the new policing contract. Mayor Flaten second. Motion passed 4:0.

2. Review snowplowing bids. One was submitted from Deutsch Excavating. There is a small increase from previous years. Councilor Schloesser move to approve the snow plowing bid. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion approved 4:0.

3. Mayor submitted an application with the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation for the Small Town Grant opportunity on August 26th. Requested funds to update our City's Comprehensive Plan. The grant is capped at \$10,000 but requires a 25% match by the applicant. Mayor did request the full grant amount. We can expect to hear by the

middle or late October if the City was awarded a grant.

4. Pete Lee Building update. On August 12th, the city attorney sent Mr. Lee a letter informing him the city council is pursuing legal action regarding his property due to his inaction. Mayor called the County Attorney and relayed the city's desire to proceed with the criminal prosecution of Mr. Lee. Mayor emailed information pertaining to Mr. Lee to County Attorney. City attorney recommended assessing her time on the case to his property taxes. Should the City go back to late May when the letter was sent to Mr. Lee to fix the roof/abate his property? (Council agreed that the billing should start as of August 12 against his property.)

5. Mayor is asking the City Council to reconsider approving the bid from Cedar Lake to replace the florescent light bulbs with LED bulbs in City Hall. Mayor is donating \$350.00 to the project, and has asked the Dennison Lions Club to match him. With all the rebates available, including the bonus rebates, it would amount to about \$320.00. Cedar Lake would help assist the City in submitting the form/cost worksheet, free of charge. Xcel Energy is offering bonus rebates (double the rebate) on LED tubes/bulbs until November 15th. Proposal from Cedar Lake was for \$1,570.00. Councilor Cooke move to approve the bid from Cedar Lake contingent on the donations from Jeff Flaten and Dennison Lions club. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

6. City website. Mayor sent a letter to Catalis informing them the city council voted on August 1st to discontinue using the website provider. Before sending the letter, the mayor contacted the customer service representative to give him the news. The mayor explained we wanted to sever ties from Catalis at the end of the subscription year, which would be February 28th, 2025. Even though the city requested a non auto-renewal be part of the contract, the customer service representative and his director believe we can't separate after one year. The contract was for three years with escalating costs per subscription year. Mayor is asking to have the city attorney review the Catalis contract to give an opinion about the Subscription Term, Termination and Expiration part, specifically. Council would like the city attorney to review the contract and give us her opinion on it.

7. Mayor met with the Goodhue County engineer on August 22nd to discuss the intersection at County Road 9, Goodhue Avenue, and 1st Avenue Court. The county engineer is still requesting a pedestrian study be done before any improvements occur in

the intersection. The mayor suggested applying for Active Transportation grants available through the state. It would fit the criteria, the cost and being a Non-State Aid City, (under 5,000 in population). If the community wants to make safety improvements at the intersection, the county engineer wants the City to take the lead in doing the pedestrian study and applying for any grant money. They would then sign off on the study and grant application. The county engineer suggests not adding a sidewalk next to the bank until the pedestrian study is done. Jess believes the sidewalk by the bank would require moving the utility pole and potentially getting an easement to place part of the sidewalk on the bank's property. Emails sent out to the council regarding the mayor's discussions with the county engineer. Mayor is going to ask Bollig to attend our October meeting to discuss/offer feedback on the intersection.

Want the county to put in writing as to what the County wants the city to do in an actually pedestrian study. Intersection may be a lynchpin as to where the city wants to go.

8. Preliminary levy is due to Goodhue County on September 30th. City budget meeting recommends that Council set it at \$195,000. There was a request from a citizen that the Council consider putting into the budget the street lighting for 373rd Street. Request was made in 2019 as well as last year. Resolution 9-2024-1 is for setting the preliminary levy. Past talks with Xcel was about \$2000 per pole. Need to get a bid. Councilor Schloesser move to raise the levy to \$200,000. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

9. Goodhue County Hazard Mitigation Plan was available for review and comment from August 20th until September 3rd. It was posted on our city bulletin board and city website. If the council is interested, the Emergency Manager for Goodhue County can talk about the emergency notification system and EM Facebook page and CodeRED.

10. Inventory done of the tables and chairs at City Hall during the State Primary and 14 gray chairs are missing. Last inventory was done in 2015.

11. Mayor met with FEMA on September 4th to present invoices/estimates to hopefully get reimbursed for the flooding events in June. If FEMA approves these expenses, the federal government will pick up 75% and the state 25%.

12. Vehicle noise sign on County Road 9 will be installed this week. Rice County signs will be installed in September, hopefully.

13. Opus and new billing system. Updates: Have finished up the 4th billing period. Have had a few issues. Some

14. Century Link fixed beat up/damaged/destroyed pedestal boxes in town on 8/15/24.

15. Cedar Lake Electric fixed the light fixtures and wired the water heater at the city shop the middle of the month. They also fixed the photo eye on the west security light on the well house. That light had been on constantly for about a month.

16. Mayor and City Clerk met with Lauren Marshall and Jaramie Logelin from the MPCA on 8/27/24 to discuss how the new SIU agreement is working. The meeting went well, and no concerns from Lauren or Jaramie.

17. Toby Kaiser wants to offer his services/proposal to take down several ash trees in town. 14 Ash trees on the boulevard and in the park. Also some dead branches laying in older maples that are just waiting to fall. 2 by fireside are the worst. Action tree service from Nerstrand is who he works with.

Will need to look at regulations regarding how to handle the Ash trees. Boulvarde extends approximately 8.5-9 feet from the street. Will look at trees and recommend immediate removal, or next year.

18. Discuss how much we pay to mow city property. Should get an estimate from Terpstra Companies to see what his cost would be. Councilor Schloesse contacted Charlie and he doesn't have time to mow, so wouldn't be able to give a bid.

19. Approve Fire contract with Nerstrand at \$10,469.95. Councilor Schloesser move to approve the Fire contract with the Nerstrand Fire Department. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

20. Nate and Jess would like to ask the Council to consider providing some basic insurance (dental, disability,) if they can find program that fit into the amount that they are looking at for COLA increases. Would the Council be willing to look at this? Need to collect some information on different options and present to City Council to consider.

21. Cannabis agreement with Goodhue County to provide oversight over Cannabis sales/distribution/use, etc. Does the City of Dennison need to change the Tobacco Ordinance? What about Rice County? Will they be having the contract coming soon. Will contact the City Attorney and see what she has for recommendations.

Citizens Issues: None

Mayors Issues: None

Utilities:

1. Update from Nate

2. DO calibration paperwork will be available for the council to review before the meeting. Nate didn't have ready for this meeting. Will have ready for next month.

Councilor Schloesser move to approve the bills. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

Mayor Flaten move to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Cooke second. Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday, October 3rd at 7:00.

Commissioner Corner

Greetings, elections are right around the corner and I would encourage everyone to get out and vote. Please do your own research on your candidates, we are responsible for who we put into office.

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year and I hope everyone can get out and enjoy the beautiful scenery that is here in Goodhue county and in our State. As farmers are busy in the fields, please remember to allow enough time on the road just in case they are moving equipment.

Road construction is nearing completion for this year, but as we know we will always have road construction in Minnesota and please give our workers plenty of space to do their work.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. GO VIKINGS! Todd



Todd Greseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

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