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DECEMBER 18, 2024

Volume 21 • Issue 12

## Christmas at Dennison and Vang

“Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth!” (Luke 2: 14)

There will be a special Christmas program and celebration on Sunday, December 22. This will be a combined service at 9:00 AM at Vang. *(continued on page 2)*

## SERVING OUR HOMETOWNS

We want to Thank You for your continued support of the Mainstreet Messenger this past year!

*(continued on page 5)*



## Memories of Christmas Past

Each year we visit with some of our senior citizens and relate their tales of Christmases long ago. Here are four stories from years in

the past.

Judy remembers celebrating the same Christmas traditions each year with her fam-

## Hot Dish Cook Off and Live Music part of Flake Out Festival Saturday, February 1st



The Dennison Lions Club is planning the 2025 Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade for Saturday, February 1st.

The club is holding a raffle in conjunction

with the days events to raise funds to support Lions Clubs activities, support other area non-profit entities and those in need, which the club donates to and supports throughout the year. *(continued on page 9)*



ily. There was a bustle of cooking going on in the kitchen and her mother would suggest the kids go decorate the tree as a way to keep them distracted and out of the kitchen.

*(continued on page 5)*

## 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](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## Santa Visits Dennison



## Santa Visits Nerstrand



## Keller Christmas lights are on!



Drive thru as many times as you like, roll down your window for Christmas music, bring a whole car load! On till January 6th every night from 5:30 to 10 pm. Merry Christmas everyone! *Courtesy of Keller Farm*

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## Pastors Corner

By Pastor Larry Grove,  
Hauge Lutheran Church,  
Kenyon

“Yesterday’s the past, tomorrow’s the future, but today is a gift. That’s why it’s called the present.”

This quote is from Bil Keene, the famous cartoonist who created ‘Family Circus’.

The reality of this quote has become so salient in my life as the days and weeks go by. I used to plan the 15 things I wanted to get done during the day and many times I strug-

gle to get to number three or four before evening comes and my strength begins to wane. So, I am relegated to working smarter. That doesn’t always pan out positively as smarter is often even slower. But when I consider the fact that each day I have been given is a gift from God, it puts things into a proper perspective for me.

Theophrastus, a Greek philosopher had a very compelling quote. He said, “Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend.” This statement has caused me to reflect on how I allocate this precious resource that I have at my disposal. What do I involve myself in that has an impact on the landscape around me? I often find myself frivolously squandering this perk and later realize that once spent, this prized possession is impossible to recapture.

James chapter 4 verse 14 states, “What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”

When I was younger this verse did not make sense to me. But now, as the hair that I

have left has turned gray, I understand it more fully. I think back to my teen years and they seem like yesterday. So much has happened in my life and yet it has gone by so quickly.

When I was about 35 years old, a precious lady who was in her 70’s explained this concept to me and I found her description to be so insightful. She said, “When I was 10, one year was one tenth of my life. Now that I am 70, one year is one seventieth of my life. It is now such a small piece of my existence.”

In Psalm 90 verse 12, the Psalmist asks God to help us with this. It says, “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

As I go around and visit with the elderly, I am amazed at the wisdom they have gleaned over the years. More than ever, at this point in life, our focus needs to be on the gift that we are given each morning that we open our eyes to a new day.

A portion of scripture I would like to leave you all with is taken from

II Corinthians 4:16-18. The Apostle Paul writes, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Let us look at each day, each minute, each hour as a divine gift from our Heavenly Father. May we always purpose to make the most of this endowment, fixing our eyes on Jesus, and never miss an opportunity to be a blessing to those God puts in our path.

## Christmas at Dennison and Vang

(continued from page 1)

Christmas Eve candle light services will be at 5:00 PM at Dennison and 8:00 PM at Vang.

There will be a Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 29. It will be a combined service at Vang at 9:00

Come celebrate the good news of Jesus birth!

## WARM WISHES FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

The holidays are a time to spend with family and friends.

We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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### LUTHERAN

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

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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

#### The Joy That Comes From Christmas

Scripture: Psalm 51:12  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

A young run-away girl collapsed on the streets of a large city at the beginning of the Christmas season. She was rushed to a hospital, placed in intensive care and finally made it to a room where she made slow progress in regaining her health.

One evening a group of carolers stopped by her room and sang the beautiful songs that describe the birth of Jesus. After they sang, a young lady approached her bed and asked if she knew the Baby that they sang about.

Quietly, barely above a whisper she said, “I heard about Him when I went to Sunday school. But don’t remember too much about Him.”

The young lady reminded her of the story and meaning of the birth of Jesus and the plan of salvation. She accepted the Lord as her Savior. Finally, it was time for her to leave and a nurse said, “Well, now that you’re better, it’s time for you to leave.”

Happily she said, “Yes, but I’m not leaving alone. I’m taking Jesus with me. Do you know Jesus?”

“Oh, yes,” replied the nurse, in a grumpy voice. “Well, then,” she asked, “why aren’t you filled with joy like I am now? If you truly know Jesus, you’ll be happy all the time.”

David said, “Restore the joy of my salvation!”

### METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist  
Gary Liker, Pastor  
507-330-0025  
Worship 9:00a.m.

Stanton United Methodist  
Rev. Tom Countryman  
Worship 10:15a.m.  
Church Phone 507-321-3598

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## Thanks!

A special thank you to the Dennison Lions club for last month's generous donations to both Dennison Lutheran and Vang of \$1000 for each church, and to other local churches as well. It is appreciated!



## OBITUARY

### Nordis Mae Luebke

Nordis Mae Luebke, 81, of Kenyon, passed away on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at Methodist Hospital in Rochester.

She was born April 29, 1943, in Faribault, Minnesota to Norman and Myrtle (Simonson) Nelson. She grew up just outside of Kenyon and graduated from Kenyon High School in 1961. Nordis met Curtis Luebke and the couple was united in marriage on October 27, 1962, at Vang Lutheran Church in rural Kenyon. Nordis help raise their three children until they were of school age, then she helped Curtis run Curt's Cannonball in Cannon Falls. She loved to attend her children and grandchildren's sporting and school events. Nordis also loved watching any Minnesota sporting event that was on. Curtis and Nordis loved to vacation together travelling around the United States watching drag racing, and wintering in Palm Desert, California. During the summer you would see Nordis driving around town on her golf cart with her dog Murphy riding along with her.

She is survived by her children, Brenda (and Todd) Angelstad of Nerstrand, Brad (and Catherine) Luebke of Nerstrand, Lisa (and Paul) Peterson of Kenyon; grandchildren, Mia Peterson, Madi Luebke, Ally Peterson, Tanner Angelstad, Cal Luebke; sister, Janet (and Denny) Greseth; sisters in law, Jean Benson, Helen Porter; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Curtis Luebke; parents Norman and Myrtle Nelson, sister in law and brother in law, Lila and John Cole; brothers in law, Lavern Benson, and David Porter.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2024, at 11:00 AM at First Evangelical Lutheran Church with a visitation starting one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in the Kenyon Cemetery in Kenyon Minnesota. Memorials are preferred to First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenyon.

## Feed My Starving Children



Last month, along with many other volunteers, a group from Dennison and Vang helped pack food boxes with Feed My Starving Children, in Eagan. 26,136 meals were packed in one evening. Thanks to all who helped!

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# Season's Greetings

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## That's the Latest Christmas Past



**By Emery Kleven**

*Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. You can view past columns at his website RoadFarming.com. You can email him at emery@roadfarming.com.*

This time of year probably stirs up more family memories than any other time of year. Families gather during this holiday season to share meals together, share gifts, and maybe watch a movie or football game together but mostly to make new memories, especially for the youngest and newest members of a family. My friend and former publicist, Mychal Wilmes, wrote in a recent article in his 'Farm-boy Memories' column that he writes for the Post-Bulletin, about how on the farm, holiday gatherings were an escape from the bitter cold. They were anyway, until it was chore time again.

We 'older' folks will remember that it was snowier and colder back in the day. At least

that's what we tell the younger generations. And our parents always told us that in their youth, there was even more snow and cold than what my generation experienced as a kid. If you take the time to look at the weather records, there were certainly years that would say this was true. The late 1880's had some of the worst winter weather on record in the Midwest. It was made worse by the lack of good heating and hot or cold running water that we've grown accustomed to in the recent decades. Back then, and well into the 20th century, you had to, during wintertime, put layers of clothes on to use the bathroom, which for many was the little wooden building behind the house. Bathroom is a misnomer because no one took a bath in there unless you fell in. It was the outhouse.

1936 is another year that brings back weather memories. First, it was the decade of the dust bowl era in the U.S. My dad, who grew up in Kanabec County about halfway between Cambridge and Mora, always told me about the winter of 1936, where on the farm near Brunswick, it never got above zero for 6 straight weeks. And to add insult to injury, the summer of '36' was one of the hottest on record. Mychal wrote that his dad, who farmed in LeSueur County, remembered 1936 for the very same reason.

I remember some major winter storms too, but in my day we had more modern conveniences, like indoor plumbing and reliable furnaces. And it was a lot easier to have woodburning stoves and fireplaces. With the advent of chainsaws and wood splitters, harvesting firewood was made easier over the latter half of the 20th century. My dad al-

ways told me that if they had chainsaws back in his day, there wouldn't have been any trees left up north. Not sure that's true but it was harder to harvest firewood and have it cured and dry enough to burn.

Hopefully, our memories of Christmas 2024 will not be related to weather issues. My earliest memories of Christmas time on the farm had to deal with food and Santa Claus. My mom was a big lefse maker and it seemed everyone in my family except me couldn't wait to gorge themselves on the Norwegian potato tortilla. That turned out to be a blessing for my mom. Had I liked the lefse, she would have had to make a lot more to have enough for the holidays. I would just look at that lefse and shiver to think people actually liked it. And what really sealed the deal, was to see my dad make a Norwegian burrito by filling a huge lefse with lutefisk. It would be over a foot long with melted butter dripping out the one end while my dad would

be taking huge bites off the other end. I have no pictures of this, which I'm not sure is fortunate or unfortunate, but I can picture it in my mind and that conjures up some weird holiday memories. Today, I can tolerate a little lutefisk but the lefse, I still pass on that.

As far as the Santa memories, my parents told me that since we did not have a chimney for Santa to climb down, he would probably just stop by the front door and leave something for me. I found it strange on one of the first years I can remember; Santa brought me a new winter coat and underwear. I thought Santa needed to step up his game here. Eventually he did, but then he forgot about me around the age of ten, but yet he remembered my younger sister Maureen. I thought, even then, that Santa ought to see a doctor about his failing memory. But it's all good, I have many heartfelt and happy Christmas memories and I hope you and yours make more good memories this Christmas.

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# Christmas

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## Memories of Christmas Past

(continued from page 1)

They always had a short needle evergreen tree and all the kids would help to put the decorations, old fashioned light bulbs and icicles on the tree.

They celebrated with their extended family of thirty plus people. They would eat supper consisting of turkey with all the fixin's including rice pudding for dessert, starting at 6pm and afterward do the dishes before singing carols and opening gifts. The fun lasted until bedtime around ten pm. Judy would play the piano while the family sang Christmas carols.

Her cousin even wrote a poem about the family event. She usually received clothes but one year she recalls that she and her sister both got the same kind of doll. The kids would play games like canasta, cards, puzzles and board games.

**Elaine** was the oldest of three and they were the only grandchildren of her mother's parents so they were doted on by the grandparents. Her parents were very Lutheran so she remembers being very involved in the Christmas program and church service. One Christmas eve she played piano and organ for the church program.

Her dad worked for a butcher and also had his own smokehouse where he made sausage and smoked hams for the holiday meals.

There was always a big delicious ham for Christmas dinner. In their house they had lots of cookies and her siblings helped make the cookies, decorate the cookies and best of all help eat the cookies.

One year her mother was able to get them a piano for a Christmas gift and their pastors wife gave them all music lessons. The other memorable gift she recalls was when her grandmother gave her a new watch.

**Rosie** was one of six children in her family. They lived on a farm in Iowa but her dad was a preacher. Her grandma and grandpa always spent Christmas with their family.

They would decorate the tree three days before Christmas. When her mother wanted to get the kids out from under her feet, she would tell them to go in and decorate the tree.

She still has memories of the wonderful smells of holiday cooking coming from the kitchen. The menu was the same each year. It included turkey, a roast, rolls and pudding.

She can remember Christmas programs at school and church full of music and Christmas plays with kids acting out Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Her parents didn't have lots of money but they each received a gift. A couple years it was a puppy, and she has done the same for her own children. Some years they all received a new outfit of clothes to wear for the Christmas program. Her siblings and cousins would play outside whenever possible and enjoyed board games like Monopoly when they couldn't go out.

**Don** grew up on a farm with his sister. He recalls when he was a young boy and they would be bad, that someone would dress up in a Santa mask and pound on the side of the house to get the kids attention. Then they would shake their finger at them as if warning them to behave. It always worked and they

would be good until after the New Year. One Christmas when he was about six years old the kids were outside making snow angels when a Santa came around the house yelling Ho Ho Ho. He was so scared he ran for the basement.

During the winter of 1968-69 there was so much snow drifted around the house that he helped put up the Christmas lights without using a ladder. One winter when he was about ten years old, he heard sleigh bells and Santa showed up by his house and asked if he had been good.

His father said, "yes he had". That year he received a bicycle.

The family always put up a Christmas Tree around the first of December where it remained until after New Years Day. His mother would tell them where to put the decorations, tinsel and the bulbs. They would just throw the tinsel on, but his mother was very orderly and would make sure it was perfect. They didn't have a fireplace so she hung their stockings on the window on either side of the tree. He would hang a large wool work

sock while his sister hung a small dress sock. Don figures she must have been a better child because her sock was always over flowing with stuff, while his had only a few things.

His dad managed the coop and his mom worked nights at the hospital. A high school girl would come and baby sit for him and his younger sister. On Christmas Eve the baby sitter and her boyfriend would join them and his parents to celebrate the holiday with a meal of chicken. The boyfriend also drove bulk truck for his dad.

On Christmas Day all the extended family would gather for a meal of turkey and home cured ham with mashed potatoes. His sister played the organ and the accordion while they sang Christmas carols.

Beside Christmas memories, Don recalls farming with a tractor and a team of Clydesdales. His dad would plow with the tractor and a two bottom 14" plow. Don drove the work horses and a one bottom sulky plow. It was so much quieter behind the team than the tractor.

## SERVING OUR HOMETOWNS

(continued from page 1)

In an era of online everything, your monthly local newspaper continues with an unwavering goal to bring hometown news to you.

Thanks to local advertisers and your voluntary subscriptions, we are in your mail box each month.

Without this support, we would not be here.

We hope you continue to see value in the Messenger. While there are plenty of social media sources and on line sites out there,

most don't deliver the hometown news and message like we try to do here.

Every year, many local newspapers are forced out of business. We have watched this happen many times in recent years in small rural communities.

With our small staff of 2.5, we understand this challenge first hand here at the Messenger, which is why we publish the Messenger in its monthly format.

The holidays are our favorite time of year because it gives us the opportunity to express our gratitude and let each of you know, just how very much we value your generous support. We look forward to seeing you, soon!



*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!*

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**Hot Off the Press:  
Our Best Wishes**

Delivering our thanks and warmest wishes to you this Christmas season!

Thank you for your trust in us, and for making Dennison & Nerstrand wonderful places to be during the holidays and all year.





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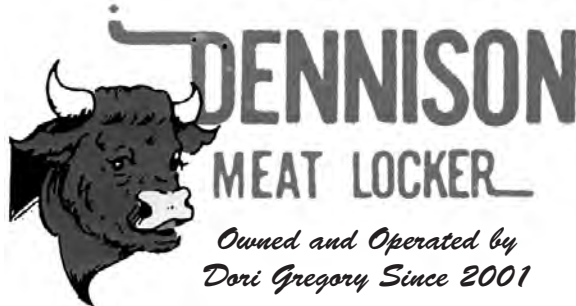


Thanks to Rice County 4-H for gifting a thank you gift basket of treats and goodies at our meeting! *Courtesy of Nerstrand Fire & Rescue*



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Thank you for your patronage this year.  
We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2025.



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*Season's*  
**GREETINGS**

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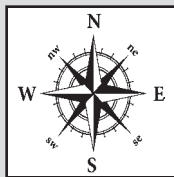
We've enjoyed spending time with friends and customers like you  
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

# My Best Christmas Ever



By Terry Campbell

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

I always liked Christmas, it was a fun season. I remember going to town and walking the snowy cold streets from store to store and listening to Christmas music playing on the outside speakers. I remember high school girls signing Christmas carols on the bus during the ride home. It seemed like such a happy time. And then there was the anticipation of gifts. I would page through the Montgomery Wards, Sears & Roebuck and J C Penney catalogues and make lists in hope my parents would buy me that special thing I wanted.

My parents on the other hand were frugal. We were a farm family in the 1960's. There was not a lot of extra money floating around and they didn't feel like gifts were as necessary as a young kid did. So, I learned that many of those dreams were only going to come true if I took care of them myself.

What I really wanted was a snowmobile. So, I read snowmobile magazines and collected snowmobile literature from every dealer we visited. I tried to convince my dad that a snowmobile was a necessity out here on the farm. I couldn't ride my horse in the winter, so there was only one way left to get around in the snow. But I might as well have wanted a space craft, because it just seemed that far out of reach.

My dad was very logical. I couldn't argue with him and win. He said I would need to be big enough to start a snowmobile myself. He proved it by taking me to the dealership and letting me pull on the recoil cord. An eleven year old boy was just not strong enough. He intended to make me self reliant. A good lesson for a kid, but wait until you

are older was a hard pill to swallow. So, I hoped and dreamed as I watched snowmobiles ride by the farm in the ditch and just did my chores every night after school.

One cold snowy December evening I was in the farrowing barn cleaning, bedding and feeding the sows. I made my spending money caring for the hogs. Kind of a little prodigal son analogy there that might have been the reason my dad assigned me those chores. I heard a strange sound outside and went out to investigate. Some times a neighbor would swing by on a snowmobile and I was always ready to run out and see it. But this time it wasn't a neighbor, it was my dad. And he was driving a snowmobile.

It was a brand new Ski Doo Olympic 12/3. It was beautiful. I wasn't sure of the circumstances but it was looking good, very good. My dad explained to me that the 12 stood for the horsepower and the 3 indicated that it was a third lighter than the other models. That way I could wrestle it out of a snowbank when it got stuck. And it had a decompressor button, so a young kid like me could start it. Suddenly, I was the king of the world. He ex-



plained that I would have to pay for it if I wanted it and we went to the First National Bank in West Concord the following evening and I signed a loan for \$600.

When you are a kid with a tough, rugged old farmer for a dad, you don't really expect much for a show of affection from him. But he found the snowmobile that would work for me and made it possible for me to have it. When I didn't imagine it would ever happen. He had been looking out for me the whole time. What a parent does for their child means more than words. It was the best Christmas ever.

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## A Minnesotan: Oh Christmas Tree



By RosaLin Alcoser

Once again Christmas is rolling around for the year. Christmas is my father's favorite holiday. He loves the presents and the food, but the thing he gets most into with it is the Christmas tree. He's not into decorating it though, he's into going to pick out the Christmas tree.

Some families pick out a tree from a tree farm or lot all together. In my family my father goes to pick out the tree by himself. There was a brief period in time when the local Boy Scout troop would just set aside a tree for us, but for the most part my father has always been the one to pick the tree.

Every year the tree would either go one of three ways. It would fit perfectly, which was normal in the years the Boy Scouts set aside the tree. It would be way too big, taking up most of the room and occasionally having to be cropped to fit. Or it would be what my mother calls a Charlie Brown Tree.

A Charlie Brown Tree is when you bring home the smallest and most scraggly tree

that you can find. The one that most people would never bring home, but you decided to bring home and try to decorate anyway. Because once you do it will look so much better. In reality it won't but that's what you tell yourself while buying it.

The house I grew up had a big living room with tall 9 foot ceiling. Which was perfect for my father's overly zealous Christmas tree selection. The last Christmas we spent in that house was the year he went the most over the top with the tree. It was bigger than any tree he had brought home before. It was also way too big to fit in my parent's tree stand.

Being too big for the tree, the tree, which at this point only had lights and some glass balls on it, of course fell over in the middle of the night. Glass and sap covered everything in the room and my mom spent the days leading up to Christmas trying to get it off of the floor. After that the tree stand was replaced with a bigger one to accommodate the overly zealous trees.

Which worked most years, except the first Christmas that my older sister came home with her husband. That year my dad brought home a Charlie Brown Tree. That he cut down himself. This tree not only had holes in it, but also was way too small for the tree stand. Causing it to fall down, thankfully undecorated, for the opposite reason of the overly zealous tree for a few years before.

That year the tree ended up being tied to the bannister in multiple places at its base and lashed into the stand. Then to keep the tree from leaning it had to be tied again higher up on its trunk, also to the bannister, with a piece of ribbon.

Since then the tree's he's come home with have been nice and reasonable. However, I'm sure there's another overly zealous and Charlie Brown trees to come down the road.

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# Santa Visits Nerstrand & Community



## Hot Dish Cook Off and Live Music part of Flake Out Festival Saturday, February 1st



2024 Parade

(continued from page 1)

A \$500 1st Prize, plus other cash and prizes will be given away. Winner will be announced around 9 PM Saturday night at Fireside Lounge. (Need Not Be Present To Win).

Raffle tickets are available now, and can be purchased at 625 Bar & Grill, Dennison Depot, Fireside Lounge, Heritage Bank, or any Lions Club Member. They Make a Great Christmas Gift too!

The Annual Lighted Parade will take place at 6:30 PM, and anyone can participate. A Cash Prize will be given to the best float.

Other returning favorites include Euchre at

Fireside Saturday morning, with 100% Prize Payout. Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall in the afternoon.

New this year, Cook up your best HOT DISH recipe and bring it down to city hall for judging, with a cash prize for 1st and 2nd place. Live music will also be a part of the evening festivities, with The Devney Brothers returning to Dennison for the festivities!

If you have any questions, contact Lion President Diane at 612-532-0268. Final event details were being put together at press time, so Watch for a full schedule around town soon, in the Messenger and online.

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## Farmers Union honors Rice County Ag Leaders

Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) honored Rice County Farmers Union President Tessa Sadae Parks with a Rising Star award and KDHL Farm Director Jerry Groskreutz as Agriculture Communicator of the Year during a Nov. 23 awards program.

Parks actively advocates for beginning farmers and land access at the state and federal level. She is a first-generation, half Japanese Filipino farmer who co-owns and operates a beef and certified organic hay operation with their spouse Wyatt on 100 percent rented ground in the Northfield area.

"I'm honored to be receiving this award," Parks said. "Previous recipients of this award have been my role models since joining Minnesota Farmers Union. And it is through the knowledge sharing happening among members as well as their presence, participation and resilience that has helped me grow and be able to do this work."

Groskreutz has been the voice of farm programming on KDHL Radio for nearly three decades. He is a trusted resource for the agricultural community and a teacher for people in the greater community. Each year, he visits elementary students in Faribault to talk about

the many products made from commodities grown in southern Minnesota.

"It was an honor to receive the award," Groskreutz said. "It is always so much fun to attend the convention and see and talk to MFU members I have known for years."

"I am honored to recognize Tessa and Jerry," said MFU President Gary Wertish. "Tessa is a Rising Star in Farmers Union. She not only leads the Rice County organization; she also has testified in front of the Senate Agriculture Committee and leads our state policy committee. Jerry is an asset for all of agriculture in southern Minnesota. He shares information in an unbiased way and always has a story to tell to put people at ease. Congratulations and thank you Jerry and Tessa."

The 83rd annual Minnesota Farmers Union State Convention was Nov. 22-24 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Minneapolis Northeast, Minneapolis.

### About Minnesota Farmers Union

Minnesota Farmers Union works to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers and ranchers and rural communities. MFU is a nonprofit membership-based organization. Membership is open to everyone. Learn more and join at [www.mfu.org](http://www.mfu.org) and follow MFU on Facebook, X and Instagram.



MFU President Gary Wertish and KDHL Farm Director Jerry Groskreutz



Rice County Farmers Union President Tessa Parks and MFU President Gary Wertish

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## Discover Your Lands Possibilities with the Web Soil Survey

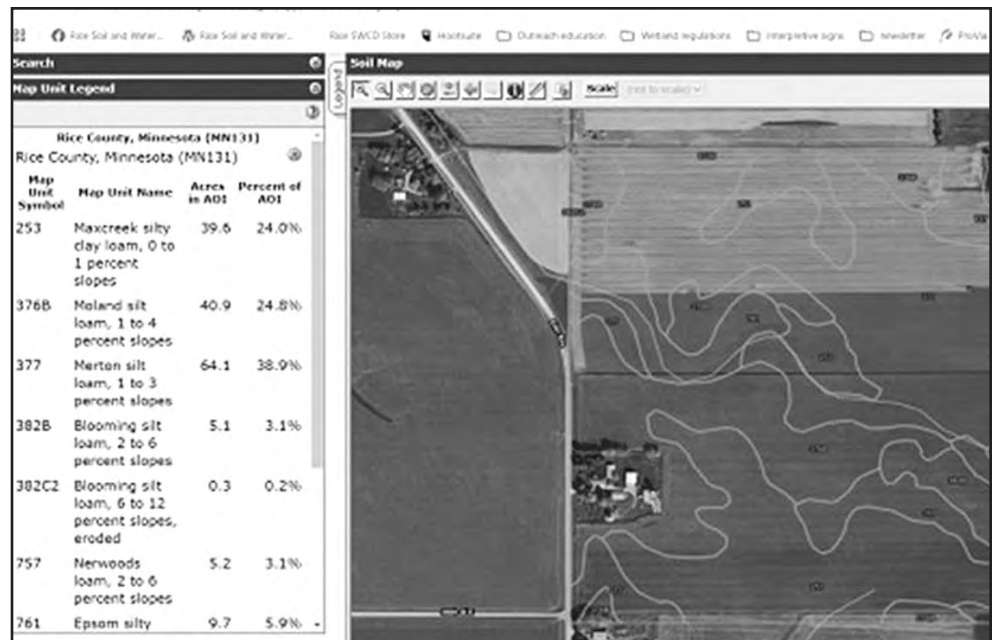


By Emmie Scheffler, District Technician  
Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

A piece of land may have endless possibilities. Without going and trying different options on the land and possibly failing, there is a way to see what limits there may be: soils.

Minnesota is home to a wide variety of soils and one acre could be very different to the one next to it. The reason for these differences is soil is made out of different properties. Texture, the particle size in the soil, is made up of sand, silt, and clay. Most soils are a different combination of these three. Structure is how the soil particles are arranged and indicates different land uses by how well the soil may hold water or be able to compact. Color of the soil can indicate water drainage or different mineral contents, which is useful when trying to determine if a certain vegetation is wanted on the site.

Luckily for us, there was a nationwide soil survey completed that maps out these differences. Back in the 1930's after the Dust Bowl, the Soil Conservation Service (currently known as Natural Resources Conservation Service) began surveying the nation's soils. In 1995, Rice County's soil survey was updated and digitized making the maps more accessible and easier to integrate into land



A soil map created online with the Web Soil Survey tool

management software programs.

Today, soil survey information is available to everyone online through the use of the tool Web Soil Survey, <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>.

Once entering into the tool, anyone can draw boundaries for where they would like to look at the soils. After that, you can see the different soil types in that area under the soils map tab. The soil data explorer tab is where the more use-specific information can be found. Examples in our office are we use data in here to see how erosive the soil may be when designing erosion structures and how

buildable the material may hold for these same structures.

There are a variety of ways different landowners may use this data. Farmers have access to crop productivity index for areas of their choosing, different water management for their fields, chemical properties for nutrient application, and many more. Other landowners can find out suitability for building different structures on the site, allowability for well and septic with the soil types, soil properties to help with landscaping, and more.

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## Hollingers Named 2024 Outstanding Conservationists for Rice County



Joe and Sue Hollinger are the 2024 Outstanding Conservationists for Rice County. They were recognized at the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Convention in Bloomington, Minnesota on December 4, 2024.

By Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District has selected Joe and Sue Hollinger as the 2024 Outstanding Conservationist for Rice County. The Hollingers were honored at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Convention this December, along with other Outstanding Conservationist award winners from across the state.

The Outstanding Conservationist Award recognizes individuals, conservation organizations, or others for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources.

Joe and Sue Hollinger have been farming for forty years, and conservation has become the cornerstone of their operation. From their roots in dairy farming near Dundas to their current farm south of Dundas, the Hollingers have evolved their practices to improve the health of their soil and protect water resources, gaining recognition for their dedication to sustainable agriculture.

Starting out on Joe's family dairy farm, the Hollingers spent two decades in dairy before facing new regulatory challenges around 2005. With more restrictive feedlot rules coming into effect, they sold the farm and moved a few miles south of Dundas. Their new land had its own challenges, including failing grassed waterways and soil erosion in several areas. In response, they installed two water and sediment control basins and began experimenting with different tillage and crop rotation strategies.

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## Connecting, Asking for Help Were Key to Treatment Court Grad's Success

By Rice County

a drug-related crime or whose crime is related to substance abuse, takes 18-24 months; more depending on an individual's progress.

The route wasn't a straight line for Josh Heine, who graduated from Rice County Treatment Court late last month. But Judge Jeffrey M. Johnson knew Heine would succeed the moment Heine reported thinking about repeating past behaviors.

Identifying and sharing those thoughts were critical to maintaining his sobriety, said Johnson, who with Judge Karie M. Anderson oversees the county Treatment Court.

"You're there to help other people, support other people and give to other people," said Johnson. "That speaks to who you are as a human being and a father."

Since his admission to Treatment Court, Heine has regained the trust of his family and the community. He's gotten his driver's li-

Graduating from treatment court is a long and often difficult journey.

The program, which accepts non-violent offenders who have either committed



Josh Heine, second from left, holds his Certificate of Commencement during his Treatment Court graduation Nov. 21. Also pictured are, from left, Judge Karie M. Anderson, Heine's grandmother Beverly Haugen and Judge Jeffrey M. Johnson. *Rice County photo*

### Notice of Public Hearing: Proposed modifications to the 10-year Transportation Capital Improvement Plan

The Rice County Board of Commissioners holds a PUBLIC HEARING at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025 in the Commissioners Room of the Government Services Building at 320 Third Street NW, Faribault.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive and consider comments by the general public and governing bodies of cities and towns within the county, all in regard to the Rice County Board of Commissioners' proposed modifications to the 10-year Transportation Capital Improvement Plan.

Residents interested in commenting may also do so remotely during the public hearing, which will be livestreamed on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3421170614>. Participant Meeting ID: 342 117 0614 Passcode: 1234.



cence back, found real friends and become a peer recovery specialist.

"I'm so, so proud of you. I'm so glad you got sober so we can have our family back," said Beverly Haugen, Heine's grandmother, who he calls his biggest supporter. "I'm so grateful for all the help he's gotten and I'm so grateful, Josh, you responded to everyone trying to help. I love you so much. I knew

you'd make it."

Heine told those gathered for his graduation that he feels "very lucky."

"I just want to say thank you to everyone. It was a rough start in the beginning. You just have to have that connection and ask for help."

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## There's Still Time to Receive Your Flu Vaccination

By Rice County



Rice County Public Health reminds residents that there is still time for those 6 months and older to receive their flu vaccination and ensure they're protected in the upcoming winter months. If you haven't already received your flu vaccination, it's not too late!

Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness that can be serious or even life-threatening. Flu vaccination is recommended annually for everyone 6 months of age and older. Vaccination is particularly important for those who are at higher risk of developing serious flu complications including young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions and those 65 years and older.

The best time to get vaccinated is before flu

has begun spreading widely in your community. It takes about two weeks for the body to respond to the vaccine so getting the vaccination now means a person should reach full immunity before the typical peak of the flu season, between December and February.

Rice County Public Health has flu vaccine available at its weekly immunization clinics held every Tuesday between 1-4 p.m. at the Rice County Government Services Building, 320 Third St. NW, Faribault. No appointment is needed. Both trivalent and high-dose flu vaccine are available.

Vaccine is also available for anyone who is uninsured.

For more information or to schedule a vaccination at a different time, call Angie Nagel at 507-384-6450.

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## Parents, Guardians Responsible for Kids' Safety Around Cold Water

By Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Rapidly falling air temperatures, dangerously cold water, and the likelihood of skim ice on some ponds across Minnesota means it's imperative for parents and guardians to talk with their kids about the importance of safety ahead of the Thanksgiving break.

Whether through thin ice or into open water, falls into the water this time of year can turn tragic quickly, and an unexpected fall can incapacitate even the strongest swimmers in short order. It's up to parents and guardians to teach their kids about the dangers of cold water, and ensure they're properly supervised anytime they're around it.

"Many kids have an innate curiosity about the water, but they likely don't understand the dangers," said Capt. Adam Block, boating law administrator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "All water this time of year is dangerous, from the small neighborhood pond to the state's biggest lakes and rivers."

The best way to stay safe around cold water, or survive an unexpected fall in, is to wear a life jacket. Foam life jackets are better than inflatable life jackets this time of year, since cold water means the latter might not fully inflate. In addition, Block recommends people carry a phone in case they need to call for help, let others know where they're going and when they plan to return, and plan for how they'll deal with an unforeseen incident.

### Did you know?

New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice. The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake. In the past,

this has opened holes in the ice causing snowmobiles and cars to break through.

For more information on ice safety contact the MN DNR and ask for our free ice safety publications, which include the brochures, "Danger, Thin Ice" and "Cold Water Kills" and the wallet-sized reference card and 11X14 posters titled, "Minimum Recommended Ice Thicknesses." Metro (651) 296-6157 or toll free outside the metro area 1-888-646-6367 or email the Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us opens in a new browser tab.

For more information about surviving a fall into cold water, see the cold water dangers page of the DNR website.



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## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,  
Minnesota State Patrol



**Question:** Winter is here. Can talk about tire safety and how a person can tell if their tires are still good?

Answer: Winter season is a good time to remind motorists about the importance of installing and maintaining good tires. Tires must be able to carry your vehicle's weight and grip the surface of the road properly. Inspect tires regularly for cuts, cracks, uneven wear, bald spots, bulges, and punctures. Carry a good spare tire and check its pressure often. Tires do not have as much traction on gravel or dirt roads as they do on concrete or asphalt roads. Tires have been known to lose up to 1 psi (pounds per square inch) every month. Check your tire pressure often and never drive with under-inflated tires.

• The vehicle's recommended tire pressure is located on a sticker inside the driver's door of your vehicle or in the owner's manual.

• Check your tires before you've driven or at least three hours after you've driven your vehicle.

• Insert a pressure gauge into the valve stem on your tire. The gauge will show a measured psi.

• Compare the measured psi to the psi found on the sticker inside the driver's door or in the owner's manual. DO NOT compare to the psi on your tire's sidewall.

• If the measured psi is above the number, let air out until it matches. If below, add air until it reaches the proper number.

• Check your tires often for wear and damage problems. A tire is illegal if the tread is less than one-sixteenth of an inch deep. An easy way to check for wear is by using the penny test.

• Take a penny and hold Abraham Lincoln's body between your thumb and forefinger.

• Select a point on your tire where the tread appears the lowest and place Lincoln's head into one of the grooves.


• If any part of Lincoln's head is covered by the tread, you're driving with the legal and safe amount of tread. If your tread gets below that, your vehicle's ability to grip the road in adverse conditions is greatly reduced.

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## City of Dennison Meeting minutes November 7th, 2024

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

Councilor Ruddle moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from the October City Council meeting. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

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

### Old Business/Committee Reports/Building Permits:

None.

### Administrative Issues:

**1. Assessments for utilities.** Resolution 11-2024-01. See listing of amounts to be assessed to property taxes. Councilor Ruddle move to approve the Resolution 11-2024-01. "Based upon the discussion of the City Council and it's unanimous vote in favor of the special assessments preliminary list, the Dennison City Council hereby approves the Special Assessments for unpaid utility bills for 2024 to be sent to Goodhue/Rice County. Along with the unpaid balance, a 10% fee will be added to the total." Councilor Cooke second. Resolution passed 4:0. These individuals have until November 30th to pay down their accounts to avoid having the amounts assessed.

### 2. Extending the driveway for the City

**Shop/Fire station 6 feet to the south.** Brian Edwards from the Nerstrand Fire Dept had asked the council last month to widen the driveway for more parking for the firefighters during emergencies. The council had asked Brian if the Fire Department could defray the cost of the driveway extension. Bill Deutsch gave the City an estimate of \$1,255.00 to do that work. Nerstrand Fire Dept is willing to split the cost for that. Brian indicated that they may be able to get the gravel donated and will pursue that and will let Jeff know if that is possible.

Councilor ruddle move to approve the following: Deutsch Excavating to expand the parking area in front of the Maintenance Shed/Fire Dept building, and split the cost with Nerstrand Fire Dept. Nerstrand Fire Dept will pursue the possibility of getting the gravel donated. Nerstrand Fire Department will install new signs designating no parking area in the street in front of said building, 20 feet to the south of the driveway, and north to the property line, and Mayor Flaten will paint the curbs yellow to the same specifications, to increase safety and decrease the chance of damage to equipment or vehicles sue to tight turns. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

**3. Building Permit contract.** Councilor Schloesser move to approve the annual building permit contract with the County. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

**4. Liability Coverage Waiver Form that must be approved annually.** Councilor Schloesser move "The City of Dennison does not want to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by

Minn Stat. 466.04." Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

**5. Warsaw Township agreement/contract with the City to maintain Goodhue Avenue North.** Warsaw would grade and add gravel to the road, while the City would snow plow the stretch from Terry Haugen's place to Rice County Road 31. The City would still complete the dust treatments every year. The agreement the City has with Northfield Township to maintain Goodhue Avenue South would still remain in effect. The mayor recommends the council agree/approve before the snowfall begins. Warsaw Township would like to be reimbursed \$750 annually for the maintenance work needed for the road and ditch. They will bill the City for gravel that is put on the road. (which should be about once every three years.) Diane made and Heidi second. 4:0

Need motion and who made

**6. The stub street and gravel maintenance.** Property owner talked with clerk about the road suffering from erosion after the rains in June. The mayor and Dan Storlie had noticed gravel washing onto 3rd Avenue this summer, and large ruts on the stub street. Mayor asked Bill Deutsch to regrade the road this fall. It will require about two loads of gravel and regrading to shape a center crown. Labor and gravel will be \$1,605.00.

**7. Prosecution Service Contract with Goodhue County.** The contract was forwarded to everyone on the council to review before the meeting. Goodhue County is providing the City with a proposal for a one (1) year term misdemeanor prosecution service

contract. For the calendar year 2025, the cost would be \$69 per month, resulting in a total for the year of \$828.00. This is not a new fee, but the contract has not been renewed for a couple of years per the County, and they want to bring it up to date. Councilor Ruddle move to accept the Prosecution Service Contract with Goodhue County. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

**8. Fee schedule.** Mayor and clerk were reviewing the fee schedule and noticed there was not a separate fee for land splits. Most times, when property is split, it is usually rezoned at the same time so falls under that category. City should add land splits as another subject item line under Land Use Fees. Mayor Flaten move to add "Land split without re-zoning. \$250". Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

Also add to fee schedule, the Cannabis fee is set by the respective counties as per the county guidelines.

**9. Cannabis resolutions:** Councilor Ruddle move to accept 11-2024 -02 for Rice County to have the Authority to deal with the Hemp and Cannabis Registration in the Rice County portion of the City of Dennison. Councilor Cooke second. Resolution passed 4:0.

Councilor Ruddle move to accept Resolution 11-2024-03 for Goodhue County to have the Authority to deal with the Hemp and Cannabis Registration in the Goodhue portion of the City of Dennison. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

(continued on page 20)

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**City of Dennison  
Meeting minutes  
November 7th, 2024**  
*(continued from page 19)*

City Resolution for Cannabis: Councilor Ruddle is working on it and wants to wait until Rice County adopts their ordinance so we know what to put in the one for the City of Dennison.

**10. Benefits for Jessica and Nate.** The mayor reached out to the LMC and they referred the City to Gallagher Consulting, which provides health and benefits services to their members. The City was offered a free 30 minute phone call. Gallagher gave the City a proposal from Delta Dental for only two employees who work lower part-time hours. Unfortunately, they couldn't find plans for short-term or long-term disability insurance plans. Does the council want to pay for the premiums, or pay a portion of the cost every month? City would have till the end of November to get Jessica and Nate enrolled in the insurance plans. Councilor Cooke move to approve dental insurance, not to exceed \$50 each in lieu of a cola raise. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

**11. Ash tree removal.** John Miner has completed cutting down and removing all the trees. Joe Amy asked the mayor about the two stumps next to his property (Fireside) and thought they were a hazardous situation. He asked the City to grind down the stumps sooner than later. Xcel also trimmed the Ash tree on the south side of 377th street, next to the alley. John Miner will pick up and remove those branches from the City, at no extra cost. Mayor thanked him for helping the City and going above and beyond his original scope of work. MAK quote is for \$140 per stump. Councilor Ruddle move to have MAK do two stumps by Fireside. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0. Clerk will talk to MAK to see if he can get them done asap.

**12. Cedar Lake fixed the ceiling light fixtures at City Hall on 10-17-24.**

**13. Electrician finished wiring the new water heater at City Hall on 10-22-24.**

**14. Board of Canvassing will meet on Tuesday, November 12th, at 6:30 PM at City Hall.**

**15. Has Nate removed his trailers from City property (city shop driveway and west side of building) yet?** Trailers were moved from the front, but still needs to move the one from the back.

**16. Old checks:** There are several old checks listed in the financial reports that the auditor asked that the City get those reissued and sent out so the old ones can come off the reports. Neal, Diane, Nichole, and Jess have outstanding checks that are 2022 or older. Councilor Ruddle move to approve. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

**17. While at the Goodhue County City Administrators meeting in late October, discussion was held on looking for 1 person from each City to be on their Resource Recovery Committee.** Committee would meet once a year. They are looking to tie that meeting in with the Administrators meeting, so most City's are likely going to utilize the folks already going to that meeting. Mayor Flaten is interested.

**18. Approve street sweeping this fall by Terpstra Companies for \$925.00.** Councilor

Schloesser move to have Terpstra Companies so the street sweeping this fall. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

**19. The mayor was informed by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation that the grant request for "Updating the City of Dennison's Comprehensive Plan" was not approved for funding.** SMIF explained they were overwhelmed with applications this year and unfortunately are not able to fund all, though every project has merit.

**20. Towing.** Updated charges when Valley Autohaus is used:

- \$3.50 per mile unloaded, first 5 miles are free.

- \$5.00 per mile loaded, first 5 miles on the way back are free.

- Hook and tow fee is \$100.00

- Daily storage rate is \$75.00 per day, impounded.

- GOA fee (Gone on Arrival). On the scene but Valley Autohaus hasn't hook up to the vehicle or moved it yet. For example, owner of the vehicle/car comes outside before being towed and moves it. A \$25.00 fee is still charged. Homeowner is responsible.

- Drop fee is \$75.00. Valley Autohaus drives to town and actually starts to hook up to the vehicle/car, then the car owner is charged the drop fee.

**Citizens Issues:**

Dennison Lions are doing year end budgeting and wondering if there is anything they could provide to benefit the City. Councilor Ruddle mentioned that AC to City Hall was something that had been discussed. The City would be interested in the AC. Another idea was to get materials to repaint the inside of City Hall and make some minor repairs to the walls.

**Mayors Issues:**

Mayor participated in a webinar for Solar on Public Buildings on October 14th. He will follow-up with the Minnesota Commerce Department about the costs and viability for our community. Mayor has a pre-application consultation set-up for Friday, November 8th. Council members wanted him to ask if Insurance would cover disposal or how that would work. Same question for Replacement?

Mayor would like to donate two Celebration Maple Trees to the City to help replace the Ash Trees lost because of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. One would be planted south of the well house and another east of the horse shoe pits. Goal would be to plant them before the ground freezes this fall. Mayor would stake and water them next year. Councilor Schloesser move to accept the gift of the trees from Jeff Flaten. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

**Utilities:**

**Update from Nate:** He emailed that he is planning on discharging next week as long as pH is below 9. Hydrants were flushed on October 29th. Water meters have been read. Larson's has been fixed again. Still need Beam's (Tried 4 times but couldn't due to the dog.) and Thompson's. Heidi will write Beam's a letter when she gets some dates that work for Nate to stop by their house, and Jeff will deliver it to the house.

Nate is planning on moving his stuff out of the back of the Maintenance Building this

weekend.

MDH took water samples on 10-21-2024. Lift Station pumps were calibrated on 10-21-2024.

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

Councilor Schloesser move to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Cooke second. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

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

\*\*\*

**City of Nerstrand  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 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, Public Works Steve McDowell

**GUESTS:** City residents - Karla Ingersoll, Betty Voge, Darren, Annette Evavold, Luanne Kuntz

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Payment of Claims dated November 12, 2024.

B. Minutes from October 8, 2024

**MOTION:**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Council Member Monica Gernandt, second by Council Member Kevin O'Brien. All approved.

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

• The Clerk reviewed the status of current projects including the transition from Soft-line Gworks to Banyon utility. The Clerk was concerned about the legal language gworks required before approval to access information. Following discussion, Council Member Monica Gernandt made a motion to approve signing the legal document to access files to transfer, Council member John Harris seconded the motion, all approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

• **Discussion regarding Liquor Ordinance 2024-01** - The Council reviewed the draft ordinance from 2014. There was concern regarding the alcohol limits and their effect on current fundraising and new business in the city. The Council would like to add a section to address the need for an annual business license, expanded days, and concerns regarding the limits of only 3.2 alcohol. The city attorney will be consulted regarding the changes.

Council member John Harris made a request to table the topic until the December meeting when additional information will be available. The council agreed to table the matter.

• **Discussion regarding fee schedule ordinance 2024-02.** - The Council reviewed the current fee schedule. It was decided that the Chicken Fee would be an annual fee.

*(continued on page 21)*

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## City of Nerstrand Meeting minutes November 12th, 2024 *(continued from page 20)*

Following a review of the current utility fees, it was decided that the sewer rates would be increased by 3% with the rates for the first 1,000 gallons being rounded to the nearest whole number (Commercial Sewer to equal \$82.00, Flat Sewer to equal \$71.00, and Residential Sewer to equal \$71.00). The remaining amounts will be raised by 3%. The water shut off fee will be removed. The changes requested will be made and the fee schedule ordinance will be reviewed again at the public hearing in December.

• **Property tax assessment to taxes resolution 2024-19.** – Following a short discussion regarding the aged payment list of utility customers, the Council chose to assess to taxes one resident. Council member Monica Gernandt made a motion to assess the property 21.13.2.50.003 for the unpaid sewer and water utilities that are past due, Council member Kevin O'Brien seconded, all approved.

• **Cannabis resolution 2024-20.** – The purpose of the resolution is to delegate the cannabis licensing authority to Rice County. Council member Monica Gernandt made a motion to approve resolution 2024-20, Council member John Harris seconded, all approved.

• **Cannabis ordinance discussion** – A discussion regarding the pros and cons of cannabis businesses was held. There was a suggestion to limit the size of businesses growing cannabis by acreage. The Council

indicated that they would like to see a draft ordinance to allow cannabis businesses in the agricultural and commercial zoning areas. There was a question regarding how zoning rights within City limits intersect with Rice City zoning. A draft ordinance would be presented to the Council during the December meeting.

• **Bollig SCDP application resolution 2024-21** – Mayor Todd Evavold reviewed the current standing of the grant project and next steps. The resolution states that the City Council is authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to move forward with the applications for grant money for the city. Council member Monica Gernandt made a motion to approve the resolution, Council member John Harris seconded, all approved.

• **Agreement with Goodhue County for Building Permit services** – Council member Monica Gernandt made a motion to approve continuing with Goodhue County to oversee permitting and inspections in the City of Nerstrand for 2025, Council member John Harris seconded the motion, all approved.

• **Sign Fire Contracts** – The contracts for fire service from Holden, Wheeling, and Warsaw Townships, and the City of Dennison have been received and Mayor Evavold will sign them.

• **New House recommendation from the Planning Commission** – Luanne Kuntz reviewed the Planning Commission's meeting and past communications with the future homeowner. Following recommendations from the Planning Commission, the Clerk will send a letter to the applicant with the re-

quest for a survey and revised drawings that meet the setbacks.

### Reports of Officers

• **Public Works Director – Steve McDowell reviewed the recent lead service line inventory project.** A letter to most residents will be printed and sent later this week. Mr. McDowell also reviewed recent road work by CSG on Cherry Street to improve drainage.

• **Mayor – Mayor Evavold requested permission to wire an outlet near the Parkside sign.** This project would then permit the pine tree to be decorated with lights and decorations for the holidays. The Council agreed this would be a welcome addition to the city.

• **Fire Department – Joe Johnson provided a written review of a recent grant application and award.** In order to accept the grant of \$50,000 from Taylor Farms, the department needs to be able to match the amount. If matched, the money would be used to purchase and outfit a new emergency vehicle in 2025. Council member Monica Gernandt made a motion to approve the City allocating up to \$20,000 in matching funds, 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 December 10th, 2024, at Nerstrand City Hall

\*\*\*

## City of Nerstrand City Council Board of Canvass Meeting Minutes November 12, 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: City residents –Karla Ingersoll, Betty Voge, Darren, Luanne Kuntz

CALL TO ORDER:  
The Board of Canvass was called to order at 8:54 pm.

CONDUCT BOARD OF CANVASS:  
Following review of the official results from Rice County, Council member Monica Gernandt made a motion to accept the results of the General Election held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, Council member John Harris seconded, all approved.

MOTION ADJOURN:  
MOTION: Motion by Council Member John Harris second by Council Member Kevin O'Brien to adjourn. All Approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Evavold, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frances Boehning, City Clerk

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## Commissioner Corner

I want to start off with a very Merry Christmas to everyone. There have been challenges this year, with our changing economy, with the increased cost of everything we at the county are working to keep the service that our citizens want and struggle to control the costs to our taxpayers. We did settle on a 3.49% levy over the 2024 budget. I know that some homes did see a reduction in their taxes for next year, this is due to increased values and added property.

I want to thank you all for voting for me this last November, even though I was the only one on the ballot. There will be challenges going into the next 2 years with our State legislatures so please be patient with all of us and please let us know if you have any questions, or concerns or if you feel you have a solution to a situation. Remember we are all in this together so keep informed, and do your own research. Sorry media, sometimes it is hard to believe what we are told.

Again, Merry Christmas and happy New Year to everyone.  
God Bless. Todd



**Todd Greseth**  
Goodhue County  
Commissioner  
District 3

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Christmas*  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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- ACROSS
1. Combat vehicle
  5. Semi
  8. \*Biathlon gear, sing.
  11. Keiko of "Free Willy"
  12. \*Ashi Waza and judogi sport
  13. Audience's approval
  15. Tandoori bread
  16. Ned Stark's daughter, "Game of Thrones"
  17. R'ntgen beams
  18. \*Warning track sport
  20. Monetary "thank you," pl.
  21. Indigo dye shrubs
  22. "Arabian Nights" bird
  23. Destroyer
  26. Danced to certain Polish music
  30. Crematorium container
  31. One without magic powers in Harry Potter stories
  34. Largest volcano in Europe
  35. Do nothing (2 words)
  37. Singer Yoko
  38. Be at the helm
  39. Tropical tuber
  40. \*Player who delivers in a crucial sports moment
  42. Recipe qty.
  43. Display proudly (2 words)
  45. Smells
  47. Lake, in France
  48. Clean a spill (2 words)
  50. #8 Across, pl.
  52. \*Cornerback and direct snap sport
  55. Russian pancake
  56. Pasta option
  57. Go cold turkey
  59. \*Reward for multiple sports championships, pl.
  60. "Breaking Bad" victim
  61. The Beehive State
  62. King Kong, e.g.
  63. Type of lightbulb, acr.
  64. Spooky
- DOWN
1. Boatload
  2. Riyadh native
  3. \*Collegiate sports grp.
  4. Topeka native
  5. Not urban
  6. Short poems of pastoral life
  7. \*Hockey score
  8. \*Powerful shot in hockey
  9. 11th letter of Roman alphabet, pl.
  10. Elvis' "\_\_\_ Now or Never"
  12. White and black stork
  13. Glorify
  14. \*Gully and deep mid wicket sport
  19. Foe
  22. Fish eggs
  23. Corrodes
  24. Heep of "David Copperfield"
  25. Preface
  26. Scheme
  27. Mr. T's TV show "The \_\_\_"
  28. Olden days constipation treatment
  29. \*Bag of nails and baby ton sport
  32. \*Eagle and mulligan sport
  33. African migrator
  36. \*Turkey and split sport
  38. Woody perennial
  40. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
  41. He gets a flag?
  44. Reprieve in a desert
  46. Not light-transmitting
  48. Dots and dashes code
  49. Did like goo
  50. Women's underskirt
  51. Plural of cow, arch.
  52. \*Sports transgression
  53. Plucked string instrument
  54. Pinocchio, e.g.
  55. Type of undergarment
  58. Olden day "your"

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**Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.**



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