



# Goodhue-Bellechester Messenger

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## Volksfest 2025 Highlights



2025 Miss Goodhue Royalty was crowned Friday, June 13th during Volksfest. From left to right: Miss Congeniality - Sofia Lodermeier, Queen - Libby Thomforde, Princess - Leetta O'Reilly and Princess - Macy Voth. They will be attending various parades, festivals & events throughout the year, representing Goodhue. If there's anything you'd like them to be a part of, please email [missgoodhue@gmail.com](mailto:missgoodhue@gmail.com).

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## Announcements

• **Belvidere Happy-Go-Luckies 4-H Club** (usually) meets the first Monday of each month at 7p.m. at St. Peter's Church, rural Goodhue. New members are always welcome! Contact club leader Michelle Benrud at 651-923-5247 for more information.

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## St. John's Church Celebrating 150 Years

By Beth Brekke

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of

### The Circus is Coming to Dennison

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Dennison Lions Club & Fireside Lounge, the Culpeper & Merriweather Circus is coming to Dennison, MN on Thursday, July 31st, to the lot across from the Dennison Lutheran Church located at 37514 3 Ave. with shows at 5:00 & 7:30 pm.

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Goodhue Township is celebrating their 150th anniversary on July 27th, marking the milestone with special services and a catered noon meal. Former pastor, Andrew Krause will be the featured speaker at a 10 am service and Pastor Mark Henrich, son of Reverend Warren Henrich who served the congregation from 1963 to 1973, will conduct a 2 pm service. Group photos will be taken at 11:30 am.

The congregation's history dates back to the late 19th century. Politics, military threats and religious freedom motivated Germans to



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Goodhue Township to celebrate 150th Anniversary July 27th

leave their homeland, family and friends to seek a better life in America.

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## Goodhue Dedicates New Veterans Memorial



This beautiful memorial stands just North of the Goodhue History Museum and can be seen when approaching town from Highway 58.

By Beth Brekke

A special dedication ceremony on Sunday, June 15th took place under an overcast sky during Volksfest. The well-attended event officially unveiled the newly erected veterans' memorial located near the historical museum.

The memorial honors all military and emergency response persons. The structure is an elongated granite semi-circle engraved with "ALL GIVE SOME SOME GIVE ALL" set between three flag poles and a two-tier hexagon below a silver-tone eagle sculpture.

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## Breakfast on the Farm



Natalie Clemenson, Goodhue County Dairy Princess and Finalist for Princess Kay of the Milky Way and Kristin Schrimpf welcoming Kim Bolin to Breakfast on the Farm.

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# Have a Safe & Happy 4th of July!

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# Pastors Corner Discipline

By Robbin Robbert  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Goodhue

Proverbs 13:24 "A person who withholds his rod hates his son, but one who loves him administers discipline promptly."

With real little children discipline especially has to be prompt or the child will not connect the cause and effect. For children and all of us Ecclesiastes 8:11 has words of wisdom about the promptness of discipline:

"When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people's hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong."

The proverb "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is often attributed to Samuel Butler, an English writer who used it in his poem "Hudibras", although the underlying concept is rooted in Proverbs 13:24.

Christian discipline for children has been changing, especially over the past few decades. While core values like love, guidance, and teaching right from wrong remain central, the methods and attitudes toward discipline have evolved in many Christian communities. Here are the key ways it's changing:

## 1. Shift Away from Physical Punishment

- Traditional View: Many Christians in the past interpreted Bible verses like Proverbs 13:24 ("He who spares the rod hates his son...") as endorsing corporal punishment.

- Modern Shift: Increasing numbers of Christian parents, leaders, and psychologists now advocate non-physical approaches, emphasizing that "the rod" is symbolic of guidance, not violence.

- Influence: Scientific studies on child development and trauma, along with legal and cultural shifts, have influenced this change.

## 2. Greater Emphasis on Grace and Relationship

- Old Model: Discipline was often authoritarian, emphasizing obedience and punishment.

- Newer Approach: There's a stronger focus on grace, communication, and building a trusting parent-child relationship, modeled after God's relationship with His people.

## 3. Use of Positive Parenting and Discipleship

- Discipline as Discipleship: More Christian parents now view discipline as discipling — teaching children how to follow Jesus, not just enforcing rules.

- Techniques Used: Time-outs, natural consequences, positive reinforcement, and active listening are more common than punitive measures.

## 4. Cultural and Denominational Diversity

- Changes vary widely across denominations and cultures. Evangelical, Catholic, mainline Protestant, and Orthodox communities may approach discipline differently.

- In more conservative circles, traditional discipline methods are still more common, though even these are being re-evaluated.

## In Summary:

Yes, Christian discipline for children is changing — moving away from punitive, authoritarian methods toward more relational, grace-filled, and developmentally informed approaches. I think there are improvements to be made from old-school and from new-school.

We have seen that child who needs a spanking to bring him back to reality and on the

other hand we have all felt bad for the child whose parent is disciplining in an exasperating manner.

We should be grateful that we live at times that we understand autism and special needs and even something as simple as left-handedness that up to 80 years ago was still looked upon as demonic and worthy of a beating.

Can autistic children, can any child become a master manipulator? Of course, the thought would not be that such a child does not need discipline but rather being smarter than the child to discipline in a manner that is most effective. Between any two children there can be a wide range of what would be able to be used to get a child to say he is sorry when he misbehaves.

A professor of mine at the seminary talked about the difference between his two daughters in regard to discipline. He said one daughter a mere look of disappointment would melt her but the other daughter would have had to have extreme corporal punishment if that was going to be the route of extracting an apology. Of course, he never beat his daughter but learned effective means to discipline her.

My Dad retired from teaching in the early 2000's and when the newspaper interviewed him about a top reason that made him decide to retire after 40 year his response was discipline. He had worked hard to change with the times in regards to effective discipline, but it was getting tiring. God grant all of our

teachers a restful summer to come back refreshed to effectively discipline. God grant our parents and students a relaxing summer to make sure they come back in Fall ready to listen to the teachers as representatives God has put in place.

Are you having problems with discipline? James 4:2 reminds us that sometimes we have not because we ask not. Take discipline and everything to the Lord in prayer. Be consistent. Hebrews 12:11 "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."



## Contemporary Music Director Job Opening:

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St. Luke Lutheran Church in Goodhue is looking for a Contemporary Music Director. The Director would lead music ministries for a once-a-month contemporary worship service at St. Luke.

*Interested in hearing more?*  
Please reach out to Pr. Eric Hanson at  
anspachh2002@gmail.com  
or the office of St. Luke Lutheran at  
office@stlukegoodhue.org



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Father Thomas McCabe • www.holytrinitygoodhue.org  
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(Holy Trinity Parish Office has sacramental records for St. Mary, Bellechester, and St. Columbkil, Belle Creek, since merger in 2013).  
Sat.: 4:45PM - 5:20PM Confession, 5:30PM Holy Mass (Sunday vigil)  
Tues.: 8:00AM Holy Mass  
Wed.: 8:00AM Holy Mass, 9:00AM - 2:00PM Eucharistic Adoration  
Rosary said 25 minutes before Holy Mass  
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All are WELCOME! But receiving Holy Communion are for those who are of age and practicing the Catholic faith.  
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## GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Pastor Martin Weigand  
39774 Co. 4 Blvd., Goodhue • 651-923-4624  
gracelutheranchurch@gmail.com • www.gracestpeters.org  
Sunday Morning Worship 8:30a.m. with communion on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.  
Sunday School at 9:30a.m., Sunday Bible Study at 9:45a.m., Confirmation Class 5:45 on Wednesday at St Peter's.  
8:30a.m. Quilting and Bible Study on Wednesday at St Peter's, and 10:30a.m. Midweek Bible Study on Thursday at St Peter's.

## AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Light Rising in the Darkness

*If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. — Isaiah 58:10*

The roles of mom, dad, brother, and sister can be broader than traditional definitions suggest. My mom has embodied an expansive view of motherhood throughout her life. She not only raised my siblings and me alongside our father, but she also served as a Christian school principal for 35 years and as an elder in her church. Her influence reached far beyond our home—spending summers in Ukraine, Uganda, and Russia, as well as three years in Bangkok to help establish Christian schools.

When I was a single father with sons ages 7, 4, and 1, my mom stepped in to help me, sharing as a grandmother the same energy and devotion she had shown as a mother. Her love, especially in times of need, reflected God's calling to spend herself on behalf of others. She's always been a square peg in a world that tries to fit people into round holes, and that uniqueness is her strength. The churches, orphanages, and schools she has served have benefited deeply from her gifts—as have we, her family.

God promises his servants: "You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." Is there someone in your life whose faith and service reflect God's light and bless others in remarkable ways?

*Lord, thank you for all whose love and service reflect your light. Bless those who give generously of themselves. May their lives be like well-watered gardens, ever refreshing others. Amen.*

## ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN (WELS)

Pastor Randall Kuznicki  
Minneola Twp. Co. Rd. 7, rural Zumbrota  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.; Communion 3rd Sunday  
Sunday School and Bible Studies (Adult & Teen) 11:00a.m.

## ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD

Pastor Steven Frentz  
28961 365th St., Goodhue  
651-923-4438  
Email: stpeter@sleepeyeytel.net  
9:30a.m. Sunday School  
10:30a.m. Worship

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

## MINNEOLA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Hannah Bergstrom de Leon  
www.minneolalutheranchurch.com  
13628 Cty. 50 Blvd., Goodhue  
Office line: (507) 218-7177 • Pastoral Care: 507-218-9063  
Summer worship time is 9:00am on Sundays - location varies - check the website/Facebook for updates.

## ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Pastor Robbin Robbert  
36620 Co. 4 Blvd., Goodhue • 651-923-4773  
Sunday 9:00am Worship  
Communion offered on the 2nd & 4th Sundays.

## ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Pastor Eric Hanson  
37750 County 6 Blvd., Goodhue, MN 55027  
Email: office@stlukegoodhue.org • 651-998-7106  
8:30a.m. Sunday School  
9:30a.m. Sunday Worship  
6:45p.m. Wednesday Worship  
www.stlukegoodhue.org

## ST. PETER'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Pastor Martin Weigand  
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Sunday Bible Study at 9:30a.m., Confirmation Class 5:45p.m. on Wednesday, 8:30a.m. Quilting and Bible Study on Wednesday, and 10:30a.m. Midweek Bible Class on Thursday.



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## St. John's Church Celebrating 150 Years

(continued from page 1)

Later immigrants knew people in the Flower Valley/Hay Creek area thereby settling in the

### Announcements

• **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon and Wanamingo.** Receive a hot meal delivered to your home by a volunteer at lunch time up to 5 days per week. To qualify you must be 60 or older, live within city limits, have limited mobility and/or are unable to prepare nutritious meals. The suggested donation is \$5-\$10 per meal. For more information on how to sign up for meals or to be a volunteer driver, please contact Dana Bergner at 507-421-6067 or dbergner@threeriverscap.org

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

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nearby Goodhue area. They joined Immanuel Lutheran church, already established in Hay Creek in 1858. According to historical accounts, members soon found it to be "Quite a little jaunt by horse and buggy for Sunday morning worship services". A more convenient option was for the Immanuel pastor to travel to them, conducting services in Goodhue area members' homes.

On May 28, 1875, a group of 18 men met to organize their own congregation, choosing the name St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The church's founding fathers had last names that are still familiar in this area and congregation including Matthees, Benidt, Hadler, Reese, Augustine, Diercks and Nibbe. Only three of them were over the age of 40 when they purchased two acres of land from Johann and Catharine Bode for \$80.00 and began erecting a church building. They soon purchased another two acres from the Bodes and four acres across the road. The four-acre parcel cost \$850.00 and included a house which served as the parsonage and later the teacherage.

The new congregation continued some affiliation with the Hay Creek church until 1880 when members of St. John's and nearby Grace recognized that it would be beneficial to share a pastor and also a teacher for their youth. Pastor William Vomhof served the two congregations until his death in 1890.

(continued on page 4)



St. John's Pastor Robbin Robbert with the recreation of the round rose window that was originally part of the church's exterior. The project was completed in preparation for the 150th anniversary celebration scheduled for July 27th.



Reinarts Studio workers placing the recreated window inside St. John's entryway. The Winona company also restored all of the church's stained glass windows. The project was mainly funded through an endowment given by the Paul and Linda Betcher estate.



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## St. John's Church Celebrating 150 Years

(continued from page 3)

In 1888, Vomhof requested a chicken coop and in 1916 a horse barn was built with each man paying for his own stall.

A grove of trees was planted in 1900 as a spot to host Mission Festival services. These services were an all-day joyous occasion with members visiting neighboring congregations. St. John's spurred the organization of St. Peter's congregation in Goodhue and a tri-parish was served by the same pastor from 1912 to 1918 when St. Peter's became a dual parish with St. John's Minneola.

Grace closed its school in 1966, sending students to St. John's. They continued as a dual parish until splitting into separate congregations in 2016. Today, Grace and St. Peter's are sister congregations working cooperatively with the two St. John's churches. The Mission Festival tradition is now observed at the high school gym with a joint service during Goodhue's Volksfest.

In 1903, St. John's celebrated their 25th year by completing a new church building. A bell that weighed 1200 pounds was shipped from New York and installed in the belfry. The total cost of the church and furnishings was \$7,116.15. The original church was converted into the schoolhouse and used until 1958 when the current building was erected. Most of the classes were taught in German until 1920. Church services were offered in English once a month in 1904, but due to lack of interest were dropped until 1920. German services then became fewer but were not discontinued entirely until 1962.

Physical changes to the church marked its 75th anniversary in 1950. A fellowship hall was added, walls and floors were upgraded and a new organ was installed. The steeple that had been damaged in 1947 was removed and not replaced until 1983 when a pre-built one was bought from Campbellsville, KY for \$19,330.00.

## 150th Anniversary

St. John's Lutheran Church Goodhue will be celebrating their **150th Anniversary on Sunday, July 27, 2025** with services at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Church picture at 11:30 am. Meal 12:00 to 1:30pm. Beverages and treats following the 2:00pm service with music and fellowship until the last Minnesota goodbye.

Guest preachers will be Pastor Andy Krause at 10:00am & Pastor Mark Henrich at 2:00pm.

You can purchase St. John's memorabilia ahead of time, through JoAnn Hilleshiem, at the website provided, <https://www.jhillpromotions.com/150th-st-johns-goodhue.html> then the items can be picked up on the day of the celebration, at church.

*"I'm glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." — Psalm 122:1*

In the early 1950's, a fund was started for new windows in the church. Money donated by the Henry and Anna (Voth) Hadler estate was used to install stained-art church windows with protective storm glass in 1963. Thanks to a generous memorial gift from the Paul and Linda Betcher estate, work to reseal all of the stained glass windows, the outside film having yellowed, began in 2023. Reinarts Studio of Winona was hired for the project.

With restoration work in progress, someone remembered the rose window original to the front of the church. The window that appeared in old church photos and many family wedding pictures. The window that was removed when a new, enlarged entrance was constructed to allow wheelchair accessibility. The window that was put into storage in 1985 and forgotten.

The window was retrieved from storage, unfortunately reduced to "A pretty rough pile of pieces", the frame completely rotted and the glass parts unusable. With approval of the Betcher family to allocate more endowment fund money, the round rose window was sent to Reinarts Studio. Duplicating the original design, the all-new window took several months to create. LED lights were added to mimic the sunlight that would have shown through the original exterior placement. On April 5, 2025, the new window was hung inside the church entrance that displaced it 40 years ago.

Looking back at the congregation's past 150



A duplicate of the original round rose window is backlit with LED lighting and hangs in the church entryway above the main entrance. This approximates the exterior placement before a 1985 remodeling project displaced the original window.

years, many changes have taken place. More land has been acquired through purchase and donation. Old buildings have been removed and new ones built. Membership and school enrollment has both waned and flourished. Eyeing an expansion in the near future, more changes will follow. The one thing that has not changed is the desire to celebrate God's

grace and blessings.

Everyone is invited to join the anniversary observance July 27th. For questions or more information, contact Pastor Robbin Robbert at 907-315-3851 or [pastrob2@yahoo.com](mailto:pastrob2@yahoo.com). St. John's Church is a Wisconsin Synod Lutheran congregation located at 36620 County 4 Blvd, Goodhue, MN 55027.

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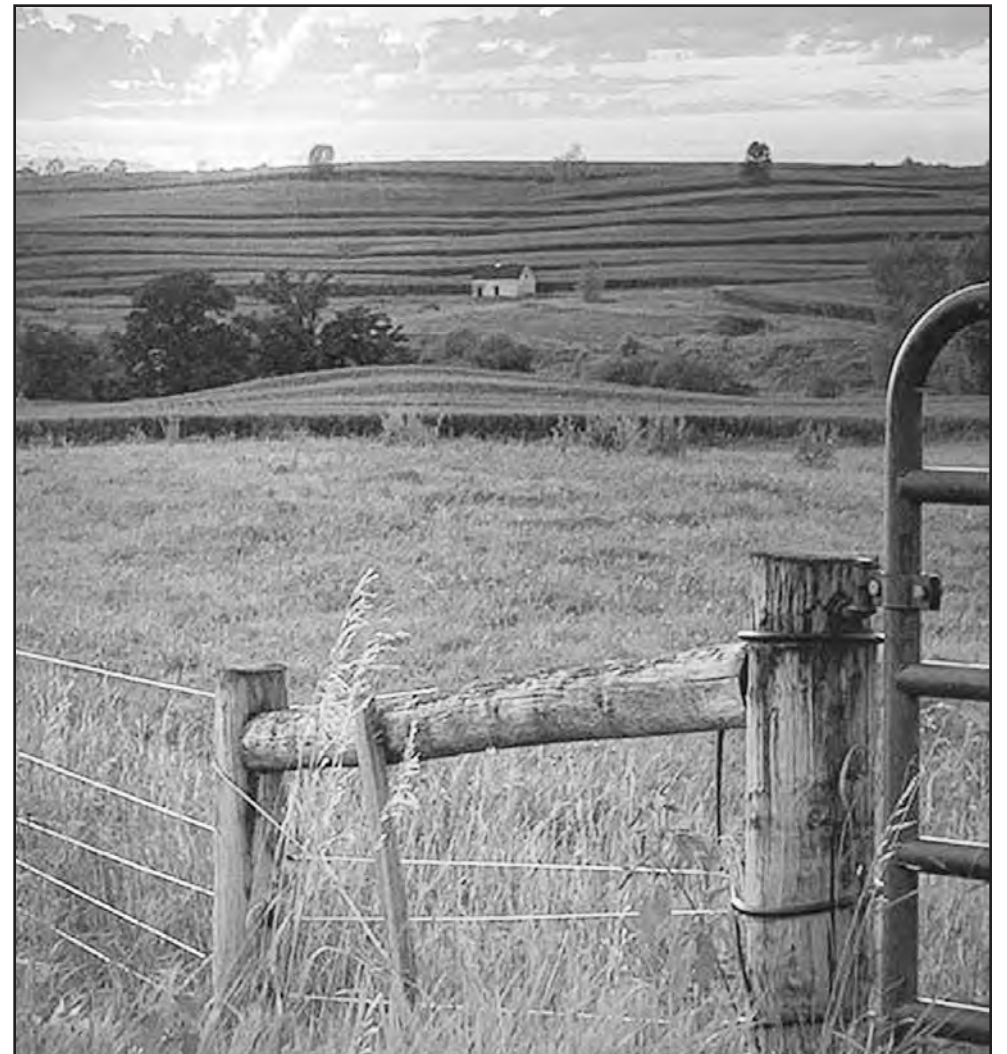




## Taste of Summer at Cannon Valley Ranch

Cannon Valley Ranch is presenting an experience at their annual Taste of the Ranch this Summer!

Bruce, LeeAnn, & Taylor Waugh are owners of Cannon Valley Ranch. Their son Aaron manages the event details & activities. Community members are welcome to come out to enjoy the high quality beef burgers, hot dogs, and fries made with beef tallow, as well as participate in ranch activities, music, games and fun for all ages. The Waugh Family raises registered Angus and Akaushi (Wagyu) beef cattle, conduct an annual bull auction, and provide USDA inspected beef for the general public. Cannon Valley Ranch is located on 390th street a 1/2 mile off of county road 7. Come out and enjoy your



time at the farm & ranch this summer!

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**Sunday Funday July 27th**

Sunday 12-4

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# Volksfest

## Volksfest 2025 Highlights

By Beth Brekke

A chill in the air and a few rain showers did not dampen spirits or hamper another successful Volksfest celebration. The 5-day event was jam-packed with fun for the whole family. There was something for everyone beginning with pool games and the medallion hunt on Wednesday, June 11th and ending with a new event-a presentation by the National Eagle Center-on Sunday, June 15th.

Volksfest King and Queen, Mark and Sue Thomforde, and parade Grand Marshalls, Dave and Cindy Ryan were surprised when the honors were announced during the Miss Goodhue coronation Friday evening. The Ryans led the Sunday parade in a side-by-side and the Thomfordes rode in their own convertible driven by a granddaughter.

Miss Goodhue, Libby Thomforde (also Mark and Sue's granddaughter), was chosen from a field of six girls going into their senior year. Attendants were Leetta O'Reilly and Macy Voth with Sofia Lodermeier picked as Miss Congeniality. Also participating in the competition were Madison Poston and Isabel Germann-Hutter, who said that even though she didn't win, she had a lot of fun being a part of the judging and helping at weekend events. Royalty received scholarships from the Goodhue Chamber and those attending the coronation had a chance to win gift cards donated by The Bakery, J-Hill Promotions, The Depot, Blooms on Broadway, Goodhue Market, Royals Auto, Shear Enhancement and the Country Station. Coronation was followed by the Friday street dance featuring Fire at the

Falls and Hairball.

Kids enjoyed a bounce house party at the school both days and a new event dubbed, "Touch a Truck" allowed a close-up look and inspection of emergency vehicles, a semi, skidloader, tractor and other equipment. Although there needed to be a last-minute schedule change, the pedal pull remains popular. The garden tractor pull down Third Avenue takes lawnmowers to a new level.

Those athletically inclined could participate in the annual Saturday morning Udder Run, Volleyball, basketball, or bean bag tournaments. There was no shortage of food options to refuel including St. Luke's Concessions Saturday at GHS, the Wildcat Dance Team sponsored pulled pork sandwich meal Saturday in Rosie Park, and Lion's brats and hot dogs, Big River BBQ, and other food trucks downtown. Dad's Belgian Waffles were back at the Lion's building Sunday morning and the St. Peter's Church burrito breakfast on Saturday raised \$1200.00 for the Goodhue Fire Department.

The medallion was eventually found under the home football bleachers by Chad Christianson and Dave and Jill Voth. More passive events included BINGO, a car show, quilt show, Craft and vendor show, community worship service, and a visit from Latsch, Wabasha's National Eagle Center's ambassador.

A brief rain didn't stop Saturday night's fireworks and street dance featuring Jesse Becker and the Neon Revival, Wild Bill and the Bruisers and country music headliner, Craig Morgan. The sun came out on Sunday after the dedication ceremony of the new veterans' memorial and time to explore the museum - warming the expanded parade route and the fire department's water fight.

**Thank you to all the local businesses and organizations that planned, sponsored, and executed events and the many volunteers who made it all happen. Mark your calendars for June 12-14, 2026!**

*See all the photos in color on our website, [www.goodhuemn.com](http://www.goodhuemn.com)*



Miss Goodhue candidate, Sophia Lodermeier escorted by her dad, Brent.



Macy Voth pulls an interview question from Emcees, Allison Arndt and Rachel Baska.



The six Miss Goodhue candidates (L-R) Isabel Germann-Hutter, Sophia Lodermeier, Leetta O'Reilly, Madison Poston, Libby Thomforde and Macy Voth.



Kids bounce party held inside the school Friday and Saturday.



Hairball on stage in front of a large crowd at the street dance Friday night.



# Volksfest

July 2, 2025

- GOODHUE-BELLECHESTER MESSENGER -

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This garden tractor pull entry named "Rattitude" came from Stillwater and pulled a distance of 390.62 feet.



Touch-A-Truck was a new Volksfest event held in the school parking lot. A semi, skid-loader, service truck, and emergency vehicles were some of the things kids could see and explore.



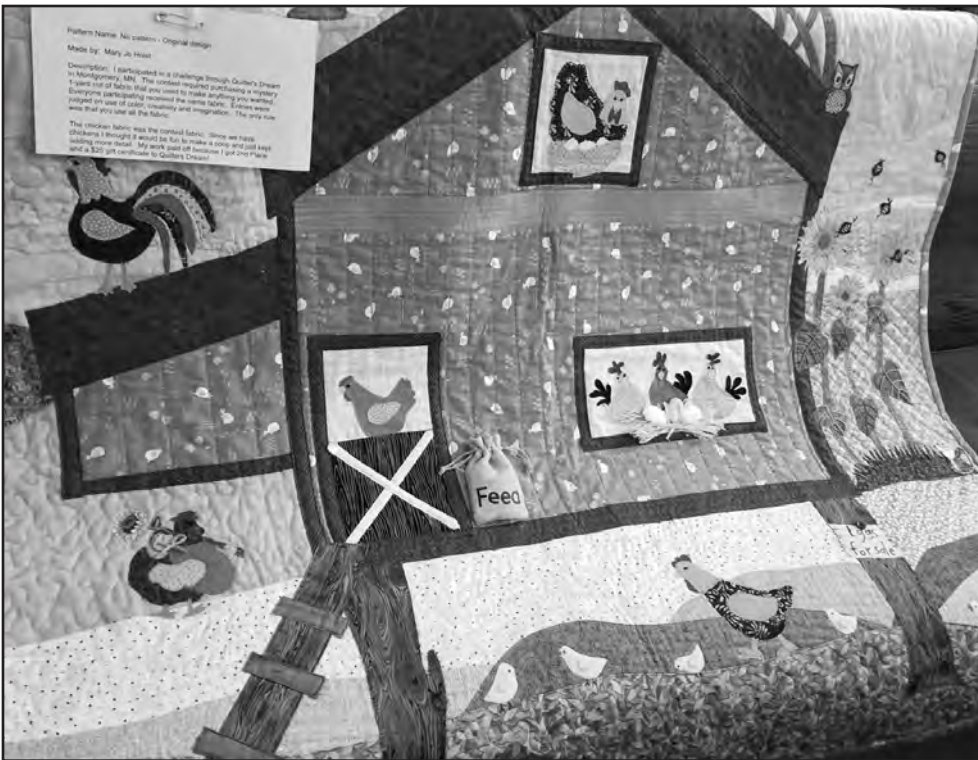
James Bye sits on his dad, Aaron Bye's tractor at the St. Peter's car and tractor show held on Saturday. The Byes live in Zumbrota.



This Wildcat T-Shirt quilt was made by Kay Kurtti and displayed at the quilt show in St. Peter's Church on Saturday.



BINGO in the firehall was a popular event. Kay Hainka won the grand prize.



This original quilt design by Mary Jo Holst was on display at the show hosted by The Third Place Quilters and St. Peter's Church.



# Volksfest

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- GOODHUE-BELLECHESTER MESSENGER -

July 2, 2025



A flag hanging from the Phantom Fire truck courtesy of Hilbert Strusz welcomed folks to town.



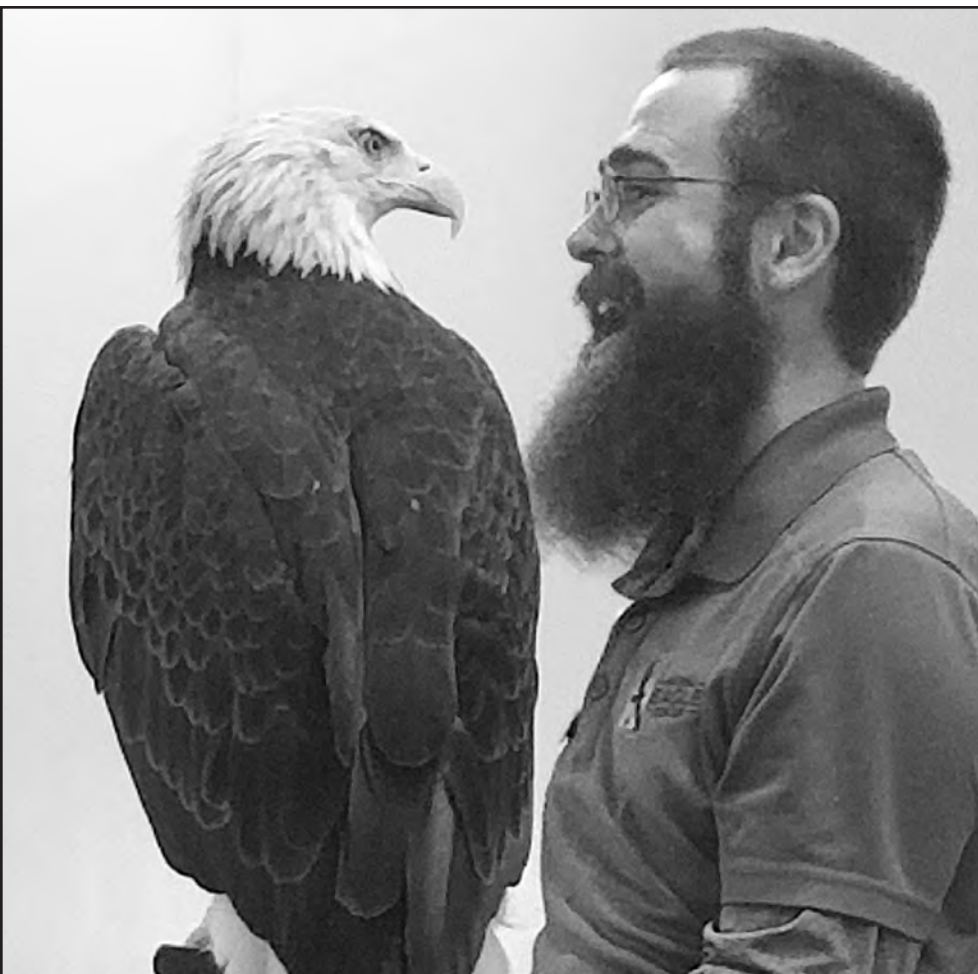
Kids lined up along the street to catch the spray and play in the water as teams of fire-fighters battled for the top position in the annual water fight.



2025 Volksfest King and Queen Mark and Sue Thomforde



Parade Grand Marshalls Dave and Cindy Ryan



Conor Masak, self-described "bird nerd" representative of Wabasha's Eagle Center, gave an informative presentation and demonstration with Latsch the eagle. He is named for Latsch Island where he was found and brought to rehab due to being blind in his left eye and having no depth perception. Latsch is 9 years old, weighs 8 pounds and has a 6-foot wing span.



"Final Ride." A sheriff's posse horse without a rider honors former member, the late Cal Fulton.





Brett Dankers, Dankers Enterprises parade float entry.



Marty Kehren gives a thumbs up to parade watchers while towing the Goodhue Lion's entry promoting the chicken BBQ coming up August 17th.

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## The Circus is Coming to Dennison

(continued from page 1)

C&M Circus has been providing quality, local family entertainment for 40 years.

This authentic One-Ring, Big Top Circus has been featured on the A&E Special: Under the Big Top, Nick News: On the Road with Circus Kids and most recently OETA's Big Top Town.

This year, we're very excited to bring you our brand new 2025 performance featuring Big Cats presented by Trey Key, our Aerialist Extraordinaire Simone on the trapeze, the Perez Daredevil Duo on the Tight Rope and Wheel of Destiny, the high energy Macias family hand and foot juggling, and everyone's favorite Circus Clown Leo Acton.

### Circus Day Schedule

#### 9:30 a.m. - Tent Raising & Tour

Everyone is invited to watch the Big Top rise! You'll also get a chance to tour the grounds and get a behind-the-scenes look at our show! Learn about life on the road and the care our animals receive.

#### 4:00 p.m. - Midway Opens

Pony Rides, Moon Bounce, Giant Slide, Face Painting, Concession Stand and Box Office open up for some extra fun!

#### 5:00 & 7:30 - Circus Performance

Get ready for an amazing show the whole family will love! Each show lasts about 90 minutes.

### Tickets

#### Advance Tickets Prices

Adult Ticket - \$13 Child (2-12) or Senior (65+) - \$8 Advance tickets can be purchased BEFORE Circus Day from these locations:

*Heritage Bank - Dennison*

*Dennison Depot*

*Fireside Lounge & Supper Club*

*Parkside General Store - Nerstrand*

A higher percentage of advance tickets goes back to the sponsor, meaning more money back into your community! You'll also save money and can skip the lines at the box office!

#### Box Office Prices

Adult Ticket - \$16 Child (2-12) or Senior (65+) - \$9 Box office tickets go on sale at the Circus grounds starting one hour before each show.



## Rediscovering Connection: The Benefits of Family Camp



By Emmarie Moon

In today's fast-paced world, it's not uncommon for families to feel more like a collection of individuals than a unified team. Between work, school, sports, social media, and screens, families are busier than ever—often at the expense of meaningful time spent together. That's why Family Camps are making a powerful comeback as one of the most rewarding investments a family can make in their relationship with one another. More than just a getaway, family camps provide an intentional, immersive experience designed to help families reconnect, reset, and rediscover

joy together.

### 1. Unplugging to Reconnect

One of the most immediate benefits of family camp is the opportunity to unplug—literally. Many camps have limited cell service or intentionally create “device-free” zones to encourage families to focus on what matters most: each other. For parents and children alike, it can be refreshing (and even a little challenging at first) to step away from screens. But once the distractions fade, meaningful conversations, laughter, and real connection begin to take their place.

When was the last time your family sat around a campfire sharing stories, played a board game without interruption, or went an entire day without checking a device? Family camps provide the space and structure to make those moments happen.

### 2. Shared Adventures Build Stronger Bonds

Family camp is packed with activities designed for all ages and skill levels. From canoeing and hiking to zip-lining, archery, or crafting, families are encouraged to participate together in new and sometimes challenging experiences. These shared adventures create memories that last far beyond the final campfire sing-along.

When families try something new as a unit—whether it's a high ropes course or a silly skit night—they grow closer. Accomplishing goals together fosters trust, communication, and a sense of unity. Even the occasional failure or funny mishap becomes a cherished inside joke.

### 3. Intentional Time Strengthens Relationships

Family camp offers something that's in short supply during normal life: intentional, uninterrupted time. Meals are eaten together without rushing, schedules are simplified, and the pace is slower. Many camps include guided family devotionals, reflection times, or parent-child discussion moments that help deepen emotional and spiritual connections.

These moments of intentionality can strengthen marriage relationships, open new lines of communication with teens, or simply allow parents and young kids to delight in being together without distraction.

### 4. Encouraging a Healthier Family Rhythm

Sometimes families don't realize how fast they're moving—or how disconnected they've become—until they experience something different. Family camps often provide a much-needed reset for stressed-out parents and overstimulated kids. The slower pace, natural setting, and wholesome fun help families experience what it's like to live with more balance.

Many parents leave family camp with a renewed commitment to setting boundaries around tech, creating family traditions, or prioritizing Sabbath rest. Camp doesn't just refresh; it reorients.

### 5. Positive Role Models and Supportive Community

Another great aspect of family camps is the chance to interact with other families who share similar values. Camps are often staffed with caring leaders, mentors, and volunteers who model healthy family relationships, spiritual growth, and joyful service. This environment can be especially encouraging for

families navigating challenges, blended families, or those seeking to establish a stronger faith foundation.

Some families find lifelong friends at camp. Others are simply comforted to know they're not alone in the struggles of modern family life.

### 6. Faith and Fun Interwoven

Many family camps are rooted in Christian values and offer families a space to grow in their faith together. Through chapel services, worship nights, campfire devotions, and prayer times, families can draw closer to God and each other. Faith becomes not just something talked about at home or church—but something lived out in everyday moments, shared under the stars or after a morning paddle.

It's these spiritually formative experiences that often stick with kids long after the week is over. For parents, it's a rare and beautiful opportunity to disciple their children in a hands-on, heart-first way.

### In Conclusion

Family camp is more than just a vacation—it's an intentional step toward building stronger family bonds, creating lasting memories, and rediscovering what it means to rest, play, and grow together. Whether you're looking to reset your family rhythms, unplug from the noise, or simply laugh more together, family camp offers a unique and powerful way to invest in what matters most.

So pack up the car, leave the Wi-Fi behind, and head into the woods—you may just come home with more than mosquito bites and souvenir T-shirts. You might come home with a stronger, more connected family.

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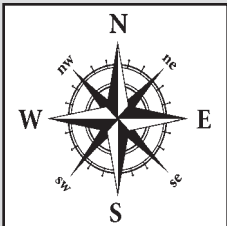




# Community

## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

### Retirement, heading south and taking it easy



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 was born to be a farmer, it was in my blood from birth. I probably got that from my father. I couldn't imagine doing anything else for the rest of my life. It was the greatest vocation you could ever aspire to. Farmers were the best people. Most of them stayed farming until they tipped over. It was the thing a man did. You died with your boots on. Leaving the

farm wasn't going to happen for most farmers. So, I never imagined I might ever move south to somewhere warmer.

In 1964 my dad took the family on a trip south over Christmas vacation. He made the decision after he had survived a helicopter crash, with a desire to spend more time with the family. We traveled through Tennessee. I was mesmerized by the state. It wasn't bitter cold in December like Minnesota. And there was interesting history there. And it was beautiful. Tennessee had rivers, lakes and pine trees. You would think you were in northern Minnesota, without the winter. Those trips as a young child put the bug in me to vacation in the south. Just about every winter after that included the family heading south.

Years of raising livestock through a Minnesota winter takes it out of a guy. Many times, I have been stuck in a snowdrift with a tractor hauling manure into the field, froze my fingers crawling up a silo to fix an unloader, thawed out countless outdoor water fountains for cattle, fought with barn cleaner chains buried in ice and been so cold I couldn't feel my extremities while cutting and splitting firewood to keep the house warm. These memories are permanently imbedded in my mind.

I think of these things over the last eight years that I have spent the winters down south. I wrote this the first week of February while relaxing on my porch where we live on Kentucky Lake. Kentucky Lake is the Tennessee River where it is about a mile wide. The Tennessee River starts in the east of the state and meanders all the way to the west



View of Kentucky lake from Lodge dining room

where it eventually makes its way into the Mighty Mississippi.

Back to the first week in February in Tennessee. It is sunny and well into the 70 degree range. A perfect day by any standard. But even better in contrast to a February day in Minnesota. I went for a walk with the dog along the road by the river. Then we sat on the front porch together and relaxed, the dog snoring while I dozed off. Then I picked up my neighbor, Harry, and we drove to the Paris Landing Lodge Restaurant. This is a great place to eat and is only a few miles from our house. We sat by the window over-looking the lake enjoying a burger and talking for over three hours. He grew up on a farm in Indiana and operated heavy equipment all his life. We have a lot in common and enjoy

doing things together, even though he is more than ten years older than me. Funny how the age difference doesn't mean anything when one gets old.

When I am not on the farm, I do not have the constant call of things to do. No fences to tear down or build, no barns or buildings to maintain, nothing to feed or clean, no mowing, tilling, planting or fixing. Somedays down here I sweep out the shop and organize the tool bench, just because there is nothing else pressing to do. Many an afternoon I have fallen asleep in the porch chair on the front deck with my dog laying their head on my lap. I never saw this coming. But it is hard to beat having lots of spare time and not much to do with it.

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## A Minnesotan: Fair Season



By RosaLin Alcoser

We've hit the point in the summer when things start to turn hot and sticky. Which also means that we've hit the beginning of the county fair season.

While the people living in the cities tend to only care about the state fair at the end of the summer. The rest of us know that to get there first we have to go through all of the county fairs.

When I was a kid I clogged at the Goodhue county fair every year until I left for college; right over in the small entertainment tent across from the beer garden. Every year before and after I clogged I spent my time wandering in and out of all

of the fair exhibits.

Now that I'm grown I pretty much do the same things no matter which county fair it is. Because we all know that you have to hit up the 4 H building, all of the barns, plus the craft and agriculture buildings. After all, how else would we know which locals would be going onto state at the end of the summer?

Personally I think that the barns are always some of the most interesting to visit. After all you have wide variety to go to. You have the dairy barn, the goats, the pigs, the rabbits, the poultry, and of course my mother's favorite, the horses. Every year my mother has tried to use the county fair as a means to get us interested in one of her childhood interests. Horses.

This includes this year's visit to the county fair. When we were in the horse barn looking at all of the horses participating this year she was excited about me correctly identifying a Shetland pony. It was once she started pointing out all the reasons that I could tell it was a Shetland pony that I had to admit that I knew none of that. I was doing what I often do when telling people about whatever is right in front of me and was reading the sign telling what I was looking at.

Needless to say she was less impressed with me upon my admittance of this. However, this was soon remedied with the Minnesotan fair staple of cheese curds and a turn around the poultry barn.



## Goodhue Dedicates New Veterans Memorial

(continued from page 1)

Two police officers, two firefighters and two veterans opened the ceremony by raising the United States flag centered between the POW and Minnesota state flags. The crowd joined in the pledge of allegiance before the flags were lowered to half-staff out of respect for recently slain Representative Hortman and her husband. The Bellecheester American Legion Color Guard and Goodhue High School band and choir also participated in the observance.

Legion spokesperson, John Huneke welcomed guests and Chaplain, Reverend Kelly Ackerman delivered the invocation. Some local veterans were honored guests including Neil Stemman who still fits in his uniform. Other uniforms donated to the museum were modeled by young volunteers. The veterans and stand-ins represented all military branches and EMS services, a symbolic tribute to the many who gave their lives in the line of duty including approximately 250 Minnesota firefighters and 275 police officers killed since 1881.

The initial idea for a local memorial came from life-long Goodhue resident and Army Veteran, Harold Lensch. Harold shared this idea with John Rambolt who worked tirelessly to make it a reality. Funding for the project came largely from MaryAnn Banidt Sitta, guest speaker at the dedication.

"I grew up here and I love this town. I'm so happy to have been able to fund this beautiful memorial but I didn't do it alone." MaryAnn shared that the donation was an inheritance from her brother, Dick, and parents, Lester and Jeanne Banidt. "I know that they are all with us today and happy for this amazing addition to the community." She went on to say, "I may have written the checks, but John Ramboldt is responsible for making this



Veterans, family members in museum property uniforms and active emergency persons were front row honored guests among a large group gathered for the new memorial dedication ceremony.

dream come true". She also credited her stepson, Matthew Perry, the architect that designed the memorial and worked with numerous companies to make it a reality.

"Another very, very generous donor is the Goodhue Area Historical Museum for the land the memorial sits upon. Many locations were considered but this one is the best," Sitta said, praising the site's visibility from Highway 58. She also thanked all who helped with the project including Ron Frederickson, Jason Fitzgerald, Jim Perry, Karen O'Reilly, Rocky Ramboldt, Jill Ramboldt and Lodermeier Implement. She acknowledged John Huneke for helping in many ways including planning and organizing the dedication program.

Huneke then took to the podium saying, in part, "Goodhue will never forget its heroes. To our veterans, you have carried the burdens of freedom. Your service has shaped the soul of this community and this nation. Today we also honor another group of selfless individuals, the Goodhue Fire Department, first responders and police officers. In times of emergency, when every second matters and every decision counts, they step forward. They deserve our unwavering gratitude. On the worst days of our lives, when we make the call, we know they will come and do everything humanly possible to help. They deserve continued community support."

"This memorial stands as a tribute to all who answered the call. Let this memorial be a place of reflection, of education, and remembrance. Never, ever forget the cost of freedom."



John Huneke welcomed guests and gave a moving speech during the Veterans Memorial dedication ceremony. He and the other members of the Bellecheester American Legion participated in the flag raising and gun salute and also walked in the Volksfest parade June 15th.



Isaac O'Reilly aspires to be a firefighter like his dad, Luke, who is on both the Goodhue and Red Wing departments.



Jack O'Reilly, whose grandfather was a serviceman, models a uniform that was donated to the Goodhue History Museum by Elroy Strusz.

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## Breakfast on the Farm 2025

(continued from page 1)

Green Acres Organic Dairy Farm welcomed approximately 2000 people on Friday, June 20th from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The O'Reilly family was blessed with weather for all to enjoy a complimentary breakfast that served egg bake, donuts and donut holes, bananas, Go-Gurts, and Organic Valley cheese sticks and milk. Again, this year there was ice cream and 240 lbs. of battered fried cheese curds fresh from Ellsworth creamery.

Princess Kay, Rachel Visser, along with Goodhue County dairy princesses and ambassadors welcomed over 200 children from school age day cares and chaperones as they got off the buses. They all received a cow bag with many goodies from local businesses and Midwest Dairy as did others who attended.

There were many activities for kids and adults to enjoy, such as name a calf contest, O'Reilly family bingo, ag cab lab, tours of the farm, Goodhue FFA petting zoo, tractor and farm equipment display, "Annabelle" the cow to be milked, tub train ride for kids, face painting, princess crown making, dairy tat-

toos, and butter making. New this year was a bounce house, cow bell hunt in a sand pile that kids could redeem for a prize, balloon breeding gloves, live musical entertainment by "Sing Out Loud"! from Rochester and area music students studying under Mark Weorpel and Goodhue County Sherriff's table with information and give aways.

The winners of the Name the Calf contest are; Bull calf (boy) - "Tofu" by Rowan Larson. Heifer calf (girl) - "Mrs. Curds" by Sandy Christensen. Bingo winner - Allison Lubann

As generations have less exposure and connections to dairy farms, Breakfast on the Farm is a great opportunity to share with the public how the local dairy industry works and contributes to the local economy and way of life. Events like this provide visitors with the opportunity to get a first-hand look at where their dairy products come from, and how dairy farmers care for their cows and land.

The Goodhue County Breakfast on the Farm was sponsored by local businesses, Goodhue County dairy farmers and Goodhue County American Dairy Association, Organic Valley and KCUE Radio. It is a unique day that bridges educational outreach, farming, and cultivates a sense of belonging between the dairy industry and consumers.

"Thank you" to the O'Reilly family and extended family for showcasing their farm for another successful breakfast!

(additional pictures on page 14)



Combined farm families including Chris & Tony's parents Dave & Mary Jo. Back row, left to right: Chris, J.J., Dave, Mary Jo, Eleanor, Tony, Carrie Front row, left to right: Jenna, Josie, Glen, Michael, Phillip, Francis, Louise, Patrick



Goodhue County Princesses and Ambassadors helping out at Breakfast on the Farm: Troy Clemenson, Jenna O'Reilly, Hanna Gudknecht, Chloe Sjoquist, Eleanor O'Reilly, Natalie Clemenson, Garrett Pearson



Libby Thomforde, Macy Voth and Leeta O'Reilly, Goodhue Princesses enjoy battered fried cheese curds from Ellsworth Co-op Creamery: Shane Bohlman, John Freiholz, and Dean Hines, served 240 lbs. of cheese curds during the Breakfast



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# Breakfast on the Farm



The Goodhue County Sherriff's Department had a table with materials and merchandise. Left to Right- Jill Weber, Dedre Wondrow, Sara Freiburg, Josh Kurtti, Jenny Jannett, Kathleen Lachance, Jon Huneke, Tris Matthews, Cody Tiedeman



One of the school groups that came to Breakfast on the Farm



Live music entertainers from Sing Out Loud! Luke Husfloen and Mark Woerpel



Princess Kay Rachel Visser interviewed by Logan Breuer from KCUE radio at Breakfast on the Farm

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## Multiple Sports Improve Children's Health



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

A study published in the Journal of Sports Science followed 627 children in Finland over three years to explore how early physical activity influenced their coordination and movement skills by age 11. Researchers examined two types of physical activity: organized sports, such as team sports or lessons, and unstructured outdoor play. The aim was to understand how these different forms of movement impacted motor coordination, balance, and overall movement abilities in the long term.

The children underwent assessments that measured jumping, throwing, running, and balance using standard physical skills tests and a jumping test. These tools are commonly used to evaluate basic motor functions. The

study categorized movement into four areas: locomotor skills like running and hopping, object control skills such as throwing or dribbling, a combined score of these two, and dynamic balance, which was tested by counting how many side-to-side jumps a child could complete in 15 seconds. Findings revealed that children who participated in multiple sports showed greater improvements in motor skills compared to those who played just one sport or none at all. Specifically, children involved in two or more sports achieved 10.1% higher jumping scores and up to 14.5% better coordination than their peers who did not engage in sports. While playing a single sport still provided benefits, the improvements were less pronounced, particularly in tasks involving jumping and running.

The study highlights the significant advantages of engaging in diverse physical activities during childhood. Participating in multiple sports appears to enhance a broader range of motor skills, including coordination and balance, more effectively than focusing on just one sport. This suggests that varied physical experiences may better prepare children for physical challenges and activities later in life. Overall, the research underscores the importance of encouraging children to explore multiple sports and forms of physical activity. By doing so, they can develop stronger coordination and movement skills, which are essential for their physical development and overall well-being.

Florida has become the second U.S. state,

after Utah, to ban water fluoridation, with the law taking effect on July 1, 2025. Governor Ron DeSantis described fluoridation as "forced medication" without informed consent. Public water systems must cease adding fluoride, and state regulators will enforce the ban. A National Toxicology Program review of 72 studies found consistent evidence linking fluoride exposure to lower IQ scores and impaired cognitive development in children. Research also associates fluoride with thyroid dysfunction and neurological harm, even at doses as low as 2 to 5 milligrams daily. While fluoride was introduced in 1945 to reduce cavities, mounting evidence suggests the risks, including neurodevelopmental and endocrine issues, outweigh the benefits. Many European countries rejected fluoridation decades ago, with 98% of Western Europeans now drinking non-fluoridated water. Other states, such as Ohio and Texas, are considering similar bans, and federal agencies are reevaluating fluoride recommendations. Currently, 63% of Americans drink fluoridated water, but this policy shift may prompt widespread reassessment of its safety.

Sitting too long many decrease your life span: Prolonged sitting has quietly become a major risk factor for heart health, even for those who regularly exercise. Research reveals that sitting more than 10.6 hours daily increases the risk of heart failure by 45% and cardiovascular death by 62%. This underscores the urgent need to break up sedentary time, as reallocating just 30 minutes of sitting to light activity can reduce heart failure risk

by 7%. Sitting still for too long impairs circulation, decreases insulin sensitivity, and hampers mitochondrial activity, progressively damaging cardiovascular health over time.

The detrimental effects of sitting aren't offset by regular exercise alone. Movement throughout the day is critical to protecting heart health and metabolic function. Even active individuals who meet the recommended weekly 150 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous exercise remain at risk if they spend prolonged hours seated. The key lies in shifting how we perceive movement—not just as a scheduled task but as a consistent practice integrated into daily life.

A study involving over 89,000 participants, tracked using wrist-based activity monitors, reinforced this point. It revealed that people who sat for over 10.6 hours daily faced significantly higher risks of heart-related conditions compared to those sitting less than 9.4 hours. Importantly, participants who incorporated small breaks in their sitting patterns by standing or walking benefited from observable reductions in heart health risks. Even minimal changes, like standing for 10 minutes every hour, have meaningful health pay-offs.

The bottom line is simple yet powerful. Our daily routine, often centered around desks, cars, and screens, may be undermining our health without obvious signs. By incorporating regular movement into our days and breaking up sedentary periods, we can safeguard our cardiovascular health and overall well-being. The solution doesn't require monumental changes but rather mindful action to stand, stretch, or take light walks consistently throughout the day. Small steps can lead to life-changing improvements.

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



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## Sunshine Vitamin



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS  
Licensed Nutritionist

As we enter the summer season and experience the longest daylight hours of the year, this is a good time to consider our dependence on the sun for daily life. Our modern conveniences of electricity, natural gas, and supermarkets can distract us from recognizing how important the sun is. The sun is the source of all energy on the planet from coal to oil and natural gas, to the fresh food in the market place, all the chemistry involves energy input from the sun. In addition, the sun provides another critical chemistry creation in your body with the formation of Vitamin D, the true sunshine vitamin.

Have you noticed how fewer people have flu symptoms and colds during the summer months? A key reason for this is the increased exposure to sunshine. Sunshine is the neces-

sary energy boost your body uses to convert cholesterol into Vitamin D. The ultraviolet light from the sun is a powerful energy packet that transforms cholesterol in your skin into Vitamin D. This is the only vitamin the human body has the ability to construct and it can only be made with the ultraviolet rays from the sun.

Vitamin D is an essential fat-soluble vitamin that has steroid strength in your body. Vitamin D is able to start actions in the nucleus of your cells that no other vitamin can turn on. Bone strength and immune cell response are two key areas of health dependent on stable levels of Vitamin D. This vitamin is essential for a healthy pregnancy and can pass through the placenta to the baby as well as moving through the placenta back to the mother. Vitamin D is essential for a healthy start to life as well as sustaining through all the stages of life.

A healthy level of Vitamin D in the human body is between 40 – 80 ng / ml. According to Grassrootshealth.net, the average American has a measure of about 30 ng / ml. During the COVID pandemic, those individuals who were placed in Intensive Care Units at the hospital typically had Vitamin D levels lower than 30 ng / ml. Contrast with those who work outdoors for a living, such as landscapers, construction workers, and lifeguards, whose average measure is around 50 ng / ml. The sun is not to be avoided as some might suggest, for it is our source of life.

Healthy exposure to sunshine includes timing and quality foods. Sunburn is a result of overexposure and some unhealthy food sources. Spend time in the sunshine before



11 am and after 4 pm to avoid the intensity that can burn. In addition, increase intake of Omega 3 fatty acids like extra virgin olive oil and flaxseed oil while reducing intake of Omega 6 fatty acids, which are found in vegetable oil, corn oil, and deep-fried foods. The high consumption of Omega 6 fatty acids increases the chance of sunburn because Omega 6 fatty acids are unstable in ultra-violet light. An individual who consumes healthy oils can spend more time in the sunshine without concern of getting sunburn.

For those who do not get outside frequently, a quality supplement for Vitamin D is cod liver oil. This supplement is available with lemon or orange flavoring, so it is easy to take with food. I recommend taking cod liver oil with your meal. Cod liver oil is a wonderful combination of Vitamin D, Vitamin A, and omega 3 fatty acids, so you are getting a quality supplement with every spoonful.

Ask your doctor for a Vitamin D test or go online to [grassrootshealth.net](http://grassrootshealth.net) to request a simple kit to be mailed to your home so you can test where your Vitamin D level is. The common lifestyle of many Americans involves staying indoors out of the sunshine doing office work and sheltered in air-conditioned settings. A test of your Vitamin D level can provide you with a good evaluation of the next steps you need to take in lifestyle and healthy food choices.

Every health challenge you face in the year ahead has a nutritional answer to it. Your health challenge can be successfully addressed with a quality nutrition plan. Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. I can help you realize greater health freedom in 2025. You can contact me at [nutritionproportion@gmail.com](mailto:nutritionproportion@gmail.com), or check out my website at [www.nutritionproportion.net](http://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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## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,  
Minnesota State Patrol



**Question:** I heard something about kids needing to ride in the back seat if possible. What is the age on that?

**Answer:** Back on August 1, 2024 there were new car seat guidelines put in place along with this. The back seat is the safest place in most vehicles. Children under 13 must ride in the back if it is available.

- Children under 2 years of age must ride in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the weight or height limit of the car seat. If they are too heavy or too tall for the car seat, they must switch to a front-facing car seat. Once they turn 2 years old, if they are under both the height and weight limits, they must stay in the rear-facing car seat until they are too tall or heavy for the seat.

- Children older than 2 who exceed the rear-facing height or weight limit of the car seat must sit in a forward-facing car seat until they reach the height or weight limit (typically 40-60 pounds, depending on the manufacturer).

- A child from 4 to 9 years old must use a booster seat and be secured with a safety belt if they are too tall or too heavy for the car seat.

- When a child is 9 years old, or they exceed

the weight or height limit of the booster seat, they must sit without the booster and be secured with a seat belt.

**Question:** I thought I heard something about a new law in regards to caretaker information included on driver's license or identification card record. Do you have any information on this?

**Answer:** You can now use your Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) records to let law enforcement know if you're the caretaker for someone else. That way, if you are involved in a crash, law enforcement officers will know that there is someone at home who depends on you. They can quickly respond and ensure that the people you care for are not left alone. The new law gives you reassurance that your loved ones will be taken care of if something happens, reducing your anxiety and stress about leaving them alone.

**Question:** I was just talking with someone the other day and they mentioned there is an age requirement for operating an "e-bike." Can you get me more information on this?

**Answer:** When it comes to E-bikes, a driver's license or permit is not required. However, the minimum operator age is 15 years old. E-bikes are primarily regulated in the same manner as bicycles and nearly all bicycle laws apply.

Riding a bike, walking or using a wheelchair on your neighborhood sidewalks can be a safe and convenient way to get around, but only if everyone follows the laws. Whether you are on the sidewalk or driving near a bicyclist or pedestrian, always be aware of your surroundings and keep the state laws in mind.

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



Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Troy Christianson –

Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us.

## Slow Down, Pay Attention. Do it for Them.

The Minnesota Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (MN NETS), Minnesota Safety Council and State Farm are calling on drivers to think of the lasting consequences of risky driving behavior. Their newest statewide campaign "Slow Down. Pay Attention. Your Driving Matters. Do It for Me" encourages all of us to think about the real, lasting impact of our driving choices — not just for ourselves, but for the people who care about us most.

**The campaign includes:**

- Two new videos highlighting everyday distracted driving risks.

- Shareable social media messages.

- 5-Minutes for Safety talks and workplace reminders.

- Fact sheets and conversation starters for families and coworkers.

Let's be the example, both at work and on the road. Together, we can protect one another, reduce crashes, support a culture of safe, intentional driving, and drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.



## Know the Sign. Save a Life.

Trains can't stop quickly. A freight train going 55 mph can take a mile or more to come to a full stop — that's the length of 18 football fields. In Minnesota, from 2020 to 2024, there were 178 rail crossing incidents resulting in 12 deaths and 58 injuries — most of which could have been prevented.

Emergency Notification System (ENS) Sign Awareness Day! The campaign is dedicated to shining a spotlight on the lifesaving importance of the Blue and White ENS Signs posted at railroad crossings. The ENS signs provide a phone number and location information needed to quickly report emergencies or safety concerns around tracks and trains directly to the railroad. These signs can help you save a life, but only if you know where to find them and how to use them.

**As a safety refresher, here are key tips:**

- Always expect a train. Trains can come at any time from either direction.

- Slow down, look both ways, and listen. Don't rely only on signals.

- Never stop on the tracks. Make sure there's space to fully cross.

- Obey all signs, signals, and gates. Never try to beat a train or drive around lowered gates.

- At multiple tracks, check each direction. Another train may be coming.

- If your vehicle stalls on the tracks, exit immediately and move away in the direction the train is coming from. Look for the blue Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign or call 911.

- Stay alert, stay safe to help prevent crashes before they happen. Together, we can drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.



## Keep Grass Off the Road. Keep Riders Safe!

Yard work season is in full swing, and as we fire up our mowers and tidy up our lawns, it is important to keep in mind that grass clippings on the road can be deadly for motorcyclists. Even when they look dry, grass clippings are still about 85% water, making them as slick as ice. Add a little rain, and they become even more dangerous, especially on curves or during sudden stops.

**Preventing this is simple:**

- Mow with intention: Make your last pass the one closest to the street, so clippings stay on your lawn.

- Aim wisely: Position your mower to blow clippings back into the yard. They naturally fertilize and hydrate your lawn as they decompose, so it's a bonus!

Most people don't intend to create a dangerous situation, so with a little extra care, we can make our roads safer for everyone during motorcycle season.

Thanks for doing your part as we work together to move Minnesota toward zero deaths.





## Courageous Listening



By Benya Kraus  
President & CEO Southern  
Minnesota Initiative Foundation

My Grandma Vivan Zimmerman was one of Tim Penny's earliest and most emphatic supporters during his initial run for Congress – so much so that she convinced my Grandpa Jim, an active member of Waseca County's Republican Party, to vote for Tim despite the "D" behind his name.

This traversing across political identities seems almost miraculous in today's eyes. But I am told that it was Tim's willingness to listen, his commitment to knock on the doors of every house in the district, to see national problems with the specificity of a local context, that won my Grandpa over. Tim brought these virtues to his role as President of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) for nearly two decades. As I now step into the role of the next SMIF president, I can't help but feel my Grandma's pride and hopefulness that I, too, may carry forward Tim's legacy of service and courageous listening.

It is a courageous thing to listen.

In light of the recent acts of violence that have shaken our state, I've found myself reflecting on what it means to truly listen — especially in difficult, divided, and uncertain times. These moments test our belief in the goodness of our neighbors and the strength of the communities we call home. And yet, I come to my first week in my new role with a deep sense of gratitude and knowing that this spirit of connection and care still defines who the vast majority of Minnesotans are — thanks in large part to the civic institutions, like SMIF, that model the virtues of empathy, trust and shared responsibility. Our work to foster belonging across our programs and region feels all the more urgent. I'm grateful to step into this role with all of you, to live out our values more boldly, and to keep listening — one of the most powerful tools we have to

build community — as we move forward together.

Listening requires us to temporarily suspend our own judgments and ways of thinking of the world, in order to make space for another's story to take shape in our mind — and potentially, to take hold of our heart. We may find that when we listen, we see problems and uncover new solutions we didn't see earlier. Or maybe we listen, and the stories we hear don't change our minds at all and instead, give us a perspective on why others may see things differently. However, sometimes when we really listen, we are called to hold two opposite things true at the same time. Living in paradox runs almost counter to the very human, biological desire to sort and categorize the world around us.

Yet, I am no stranger to paradox.

For one, I am both native and newcomer. I was born in Bangkok, Thailand where I spent most of my childhood and high school years, but I also enjoyed summers on the family farm in Waseca County, where my dad's side of the family has farmed for six generations. As the daughter of a first-generation Thai immigrant and a blonde-hair, blue-eyed Minnesota farm boy, I've had the gift of seeing southern Minnesota through the eyes of both parents. Since moving back six years ago, I feel connected to a family history tied to this prairie land, yet still miss the taste of lemon-grass and scent of jasmine flowers from my childhood home.

I am a social entrepreneur who co-founded a national nonprofit that encourages young people to return to their rural hometowns, embracing fresh perspectives and new ways of building community. And yet, I'm also a Rotarian and a Catholic who loves tradition and the wisdom found in faith institutions and having friendships with people older than me. I'm a humanities student who also earned her master's in business administration, energized by private sector solutions while also attentive to community needs that arise from market failures. I worked to redirect national philanthropy toward rural America, and also believe that the most innovative investment strategies are forged at the local level.

Living in paradox takes courage because very often, you don't feel "enough" of either identity. And when one part of myself gets territorial of the other, it takes courage to remind myself that all the parts of me need each other.

I believe this is true for us as a region, too. We need all of each other.

At SMIF, we are a funder, convener and capacity builder for southern Minnesota. Our issue areas focus on Entrepreneurship, Early

Childhood Education, and Community Vitality — and while almost all of us can agree that these are important factors for a thriving community, we likely have different, perhaps paradoxical, ideas on how to get there. Rather than see paradox as a peril, I see it as a promise. It is a promise to listen deeply and courageously, to build a region that is resilient because of its dynamism and diversity, to strive for a culture that balances the needs between old and young, newcomer and native, private and public, small and large.

In my first 100 days in this role, I'll be hitting the road to every corner of our region,

eager to listen with the same courage and persistence as my predecessor, Tim Penny. I look forward to hearing your stories and weaving together the paradoxes of our region as we craft a shared path, and shared identity of who we are, together.

I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at benyak@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.

*About Benya Kraus*

*Benya Kraus is the President & CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. Benya is the co-founder of Lead for America and served as the Network Advancement Director at Resource Rural.*

## Tribute to Speaker-Emerita Melissa Hortman



Rep. Pam  
Altendorf (R)  
District: 20A

It has been just over a week since we learned that Speaker-Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband were murdered, and State Senator John Hoffman and his wife had been shot in their homes by a lunatic.

The following days were filled with mostly shock and sadness.

This is an unthinkable tragedy for the State of Minnesota. Politics should not operate this way. Sometimes it's difficult for people to remember that lawmakers are human too. We all have families. We all have feelings. No sane person would wish this catastrophe on anyone.

Representative Hortman sat roughly 10 feet away from me on the House floor and no matter our party differences she always had a genuine smile and greeting. It was apparent she was a woman of grace and kindness. I appreciated her quick sense of humor, which is a great tool to possess when politics get tense.

Melissa was a highly intelligent and gifted legislator. The Democrat House caucus tragically lost a great leader.

As many now try to process this horrific event, there is one thing we all agree on and that is there is no place for political violence in Minnesota.

I want to thank law enforcement agencies from across the state for working day and night to find and arrest this assassin. I'd also like to thank the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office who had a squad car in our driveway and have been patrolling the area by our home. Their presence meant a lot to my family!

This month I was set to give you an update on special session, but instead, I'd like to use my column this month to share the words given by the Hortman children, Sophie and Colin, after learning their parents had lost their lives. Hopefully, you will be moved by their message as much as I was. Please pray for them, for the continued healing of the Hoffmans, and pray for our state and for our country!

"We are devastated and heartbroken at the loss of our parents, Melissa and Mark. They were the bright lights at the center of our lives, and we can't believe they are gone. Their love for us was boundless. We miss them so much.

"We want everyone to know that we are both safe and with loved ones. We are grateful for the outpouring of love and support we have received, and we appreciate your respect for our family's privacy as we grieve.

"Our family would like to thank law enforcement for their swift action that saved others and for the coordination across communities that led to the arrest of the man who murdered our parents. We especially would like to thank the officers who were first on the scene to our parents' home and their heroic attempts to rescue our mom and dad.

"Our parents touched so many lives, and they leave behind an incredible legacy of dedication to their community that will live on in us, their friends, their colleagues and co-workers, and every single person who knew and loved them.

"If you would like to honor the memory of Mark and Melissa, please consider the following:

Plant a tree.

Visit a local park and make use of their amenities, especially a bike trail.

Pet a dog. A golden retriever is ideal, but any will do.

Tell your loved ones a cheesy dad joke and laugh about it.

Bake something — bread for Mark or a cake for Melissa, and share it with someone.

Try a new hobby and enjoy learning something.

Stand up for what you believe in, especially if that thing is justice and peace.

"Hope and resilience are the enemy of fear. Our parents lived their lives with immense dedication to their fellow humans. This tragedy must become a moment for us to come together. Hold your loved ones a little closer. Love your neighbors. Treat each other with kindness and respect. The best way to honor our parents' memory is to do something, whether big or small, to make our community just a little better for someone else."

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Goodhue-Bellechester  
Messenger





**Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes**

**May 21, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**

Call the meeting to order at 4:00. Meeting is recorded, and the recordings belong to the City of Bellechester.

**Pledge to the flag**

**Roll call was taken:** The council in attendance: Mayor Jody Gordon, Council member Mark Gerken Jacob Gilsdorf, Nick Keller and Rich Majerus as well as City Clerk Lisa Redepenning, treasurer Kyle McKeown, City Engineer Matt Mohs Bolton Menk and Jon Huneke and Mat Jacobsen from Goodhue County Sheriff’s Department were also present.

**Minutes of the April 17, 2025 board of equalization and regular meeting were reviewed** and motion was made by Mark Gerken with a second by Rich Majerus to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills were reviewed with a motion by Mark Gerken with a second by Jake Gilsdorf to approve and pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**Sanitary Sewer CIPP Project Update** – some final work was done on manhole covers.

- **Pay Application** - there is none for last month.

- **Engineering Amendment No. 1 for sewer lateral liner planning and coordination.** All 3 parties came to an agreement with a individual lateral service repair plan for each properties. It has all been approved. Any additional work during this project that was needed was paid for by Bolten Menk. Now that the project is fully complete, we need to reimburse them. Rural Development has looked at these expenses and has approved them. Motion was made by Nick Keller with a second by Jacob Gilsdorf to approve \$14,512 for Engineering Amendment No. 1. Motion carried.

**Water Meter Project Update**

- **Approve Final Pay Application No. 4 contingent on RD concurrence and submittal of project closeout documentation - \$2470.55.** Contractor has submitted all of their paperwork to finalize this project. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Nick Keller to approve Pay Application No 4 contingent on Rural Development’s final approval. Motion carried.

**Lead Service Line Inventory Grant Update** – We applied for additional funds to do the inventory. The state has taken some time on this process. Matt will keep us updated.

**Lead Service Line Replacement Grant Update** – Application was done to put us on a list for grant money to fix the unknown lines in our city. Some additional work still needs to be done. In June, we need to submit a letter to the State that we have requested these funds. City pays for planning and bidding, but we would be reimbursed for this. We currently have 6 unknown lines that we need to identify.

**New business:**

- **Park Grant/Field Updates** – Council was in agreement that we need park improvements. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Jacob Gilsdorf to approve a resolution to move forward with park improvements which may include a grant writer to assist in securing a grant to assist with this project. Motion carried.

- **Ordinance enforcement** – ordinance procedures were discussed with GCSO. We need

to document each violation with pictures and details. This will be process moving forward.

**Engineer Report** – See above

**Clerk Report** – Legion Insurance Reimbursement – We received their insurance reimbursement of \$599.00 for this year – FYI. Payoff of Interim Lining Project Loan – it has been paid in full.

**Treasurer Report** – Past Due list was distributed.

**Water/Wastewater/Facility Report** – Well parts have been ordered for the well.

**Mayor Concerns:** Ag Partners will be blacktopping their lot in the next month to address the dust issues that we discussed with them last fall. Someone is living in a camper on a property

**Council Concerns:** Council is requesting Poncelet Metals put rock on the north side of the old hardware store, due to their vehicles driving on this area and mud coming onto the road. Open roof and boarded up windows also needs to be addressed. Park mowing was discussed.

**Adjourn**

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Nick Keller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:11. Motion carried.

Submitted by Lisa Redepenning – City Clerk

\*\*\*

**Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes**

**City Hall ~ May 14, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Mayor Ernie Valenzuela, Council Members Joe Benda, Michael Brunkhorst, Chris Schmit, Jeannine Nagel

**Staff:** Lisa Redepenning, Lori Luhman

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** McCrae Olson

**Call to Order**

Mayor Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approve or amend Agenda**

Agenda was approved as written, motion by Brunkhorst, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 5-0-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the April 23, 2025 City Council meeting minutes was made by Brunkhorst, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 5-0-0.

Motion to approve the April 23, 2025 City Council and Gas Commission meeting minutes was made by Nagel, seconded by Benda, motion carried 5-0-0.

**New Business**

Resolution No. 25-08 Approving the CUP for The Goodhue Sanctuary can be added to the consent agenda for the next regular council meeting on May 28, 2025.

Administration presented the idea for offering an annual City-Wide Clean Up Day like what other cities provide for their residents to properly dispose of items such as metal, appliances, mattresses, tires, etc... Council agreed that it would be a good idea to test the City-Wide Clean-Up Day program in Goodhue once this fall and if successful, continue to do it in the spring after the City-wide garage sale. Logistics and liability of staffing and volunteers need to be addressed. Options for volunteers in the fall could include the school athletes for help.

Local disposal companies can be notified and see what services can be provided free of charge and what costs would need to be sat-

isfied to determine fee for residents utilizing the service. A flyer would be sent with the water bills and placed on the website for advertising the event.

The City of Goodhue Subdivision Form for the sale of the property to the school is the final form that Kennedy & Graven need to finish the process of the sale of the property. The reason for the subdivision is, the City needs to retain a narrow strip of the land for the purpose of snow placement during snow removal. The school is willing to split all the expenses involved in the purchase. The competed paperwork for the sale of the property to the school will be prepared for approval on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Counselor Brunkhorst reminded members and staff that Volksfest is a festival that is held to give back to the community. Volksfest handlers have changed over the years and when the City ran the event, vendor fees were collected to operate in the City. The Street Dance is run by the Jaycees, and the rest of the event is run by the Volksfest Committee. The vendor fees are now going to the coordinator of the event. The City and staff help with barricades, “No Parking” signs, garbage disposal and storing the float in shed and in the garage during the parade season. We are currently also allowing people who are not City employees to access the float in City buildings. This is not recommended by the City Attorney for liability reasons. Staff is suggesting that we not allow the continuation of this without a City staff member unlocking and being present during float repair and decorating. Certain council members mentioned they would volunteer if needed but didn’t seem to think it was necessary. Suggestions of an event fee were brought up to offset costs for permit fees, supplies or staff labor before, during and after the event. Council members did not feel a festival permit fee was needed. Nor do they feel the City has a need to charge any fees for the Volksfest event supplies and labor.

Counselor Schmit mentioned that the Dance team has a food vendor for a fundraiser and the Jaycees tried to find local food trucks within a 20-mile radius to accommodate the event. He will also talk to Jaycees regarding the alcohol server responsibilities and expectations during the event.

The City plow truck replacement was discussed at the last meeting and Jason has quotes and council was fine with following through.

The crosswalks that are currently at an angle by the school are illegal. To be enforced by law, they need to be legal. They were painted with intentions of being safer for the kids to be noticed. The Safe Routes to School program is still in progress and will help with the problem when that is complete.

The next street improvement will be 4th Street. This will also involve replacement of some water connections that are galvanized or “unknown” located in the area being repaired.

The City Golf Cart Ordinance needs some updated language. The permit is for the golf cart, not the person. The ordinance does not clarify age restriction for operation, only for obtaining the permit. Since it is being amended, we should correct the policing language also. Council agreed the changes should be made and added to the consent agenda for approval at the next meeting.

Most of the items were already discussed in the Public Works Report.

No discussion for administrator report or EDA report.

Council asked if staff have heard anything more about the Lions’ agreement moving forward. They are getting another definition of “Net Profit” before they continue with the agreement. The City does not need to allow gambling. The council feels the Lions did not need a permit from the City since the Gambling goes directly to the State and is managed there.

The Ordinances are being enforced and reviewed that those pools at 5000 gallons or more need a 4-foot fence self-locking from the inside. The Ordinances that were set in place are what we must work with, and we need to do our job by enforcing them. We also want residents to enjoy their pools.

Mayor Valenzuela kindly reminded members and staff to avoid having certain conversations with others outside of meetings. The public can bring their issues to the 2nd meeting of each month. It is ok to disagree and disagree with respect.

Staff informed Council of the trees that were donated to the City and that we will be sending a “thank you letter” to the

Goodhue SWCD for that generous donation.

**Approval of Bills**

A motion was made to approve the bills by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 5-0-0.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:45 p.m. by Council Member Brunkhorst, seconded by Benda 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/  
City Clerk

\*\*\*

**Goodhue City Council Meeting Minutes City Hall ~ May 28, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Mayor Ernie Valenzuela, Council Members Joe Benda, Michael Brunkhorst, Chris Schmit, Jeannine Nagel

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Lisa Redepenning, Lori Luhman, Melissa Thomforde

**Call to Order**

Mayor Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approve or amend Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Benda, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 5-0-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the May 14, 2025, work meeting minutes made by Nagel, seconded by Schmit, motion carried 5-0-0.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve Consent Agenda made by Schmit, seconded by Nagel motion carried 5-0-0.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Resident, Heather Evenson, addressed her concerns about the letter of violation they received about their vehicles parked in the yard. She wondered why the city could not just talk to them. She admitted that they parked on the yard during the winter. Mrs. Evenson had 18 other pictures of residents around town that are parking in their yards and not getting violation letters. She calls this bullying and ha-

(continued on page 20)



## Goodhue City Council Meeting

(continued from page 19)

rassment. Council and staff reminded that the process does not target individuals but is based on complaints. Mayor thanked resident for sharing and complaint will be reviewed.

Jeremy and Melissa Thomforde spoke about their violation notice and stated that none of their items were listed on the ordinance and didn't feel that it pertained to them. They have equipment located there that is being used not stored. Also, the screen would not work for their property because of the setbacks from the road for the screen, which would not allow enough room for them to move equipment around. Complainant also did not agree with the timing of the letter and 14-day notice to correct violation when it fell the day before a council meeting. Staff reminded that all violations are treated the same and given the same amount of time for correction as advised by council. Council commented this violation may have been a mistake on our part and will be reviewed.

Council discussed the annual license renewal for 2nd Street Pub. A motion was made to approve the liquor license renewal by Schmit, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 5-0-0.

Secondly, for the 2nd Street Pub, Council discussed the request for a special liquor license for a Whiskey & Wine Summer kick off social on June 5, 2025, and the Summer Farmers Market Series weekly permit request. Council commented that it looks like they did their homework and noticed the Farmer's Market series will be on City property in the Lions Club parking lot. Council member Schmit made a motion to approve the Specialty Liquor License request for 2nd Street Pub Whiskey & Wine Summer kick off social on Thursday, June 5 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. as well as the Summer Farmers

Market Series weekly permit request every Wednesday evening from July through September, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 5-0-0.

A request came in for a donation of \$250 to the Farmer's Market. Council member Schmit made a motion to donate \$250 to the Goodhue Farmer's Market, seconded by Benda, motion carried 5-0-0.

Council asked why there is still the hold up for the Lions Club to sign the agreement. Council asked administration to send an email with some questions and a deadline to keep things moving along.

Council and staff discussed certain ordinance violations and had some suggestions on how to handle the complaint process.

Council Member Brunkhorst gave a brief update on the Fire Board and how it will af-

fect the levee.

Mayor Valenzuela reminded the council to keep communication of council items at the meetings and not in the public.

The two swimming pool issues that we were working on have both removed their pools.

Council Member Schmit spoke with Mr. Kennedy regarding the Volksfest event services held by the Jaycees regarding underage drinking. It was strongly suggested they keep a closer eye on the servers doing their job responsibly. The Jaycees member's minimum age changed. It was 16 but now members must be 18 or graduated from High School.

There will be a request for lifeguard recertification amount of under \$2000 that will be coming through and will not be on this claims list. Staff is requesting a pre-approval of this along with paying the bills.

### Approval of Bills and annual recertification for lifeguards

A motion was made to approve the bills by Schmit, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 5-0-0.

### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:09 p.m. by Council Member Benda seconded by Schmit 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/  
City Clerk

\*\*\*

## Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes

City Hall ~ June 11, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mayor Ernie Valenzuela, Council Members Joe Benda, Michael Brunkhorst, Chris Schmit, Jeannine Nagel

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Lisa Redepinning, Lori Luhman

**Guests:** McCrae Olson, David Kylo

### Call to Order

Mayor Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### Approve or amend Agenda

Council member Nagel motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Schmit, motion carried 5-0-0.

### Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the May 28, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Nagel, seconded by Schmit, motion carried 5-0-0.

### New Business

Mayor Valenzuela addressed the flow of the process of the last meeting, taking responsibility and reminded that it is necessary to be consistent with the five-minute time limit for public comment and that it is their time to speak. Mayor thanked the residents for

speaking and council can discuss the issues at the next meeting. A timer will be used from now on to be fair to all those speaking. After much discussion about the Thomforde violation notice and ordinance wording, Council asked Attorney Vose how to proceed with a violation that they deem was sent in error. Attorney Vose defended this letter being sent in error could be debatable, but if Council chooses to see that the violation is indeed an error, then you can choose to have staff stop the process of the violation, and it is legal to handle it in person. It is not recommended in larger cities, but in small town cases, there is nothing wrong with speaking directly with the property owner and requesting them to clean up the area. Council agreed to let Council Member Schmit personally ask Mr. Thomforde to remove garbage and clean up the area.

In previous years an aerobics class was held at the pool by an instructor who charged a fee for the class, yet no information or money was given to the city. This was all handled by the pool manager. The aerobics instructor was told to check this year with the Goodhue School Community Ed Dept to see if they were going to handle the schedule. They responded that the school was not going to coordinate the aerobics classes since they did not own the pool. Thus, there are no aerobics currently being held at the pool this year. Council agreed that the fee for use of the pool for aerobics should be a set rate like pool parties and that the instructor would also need to have a Facility Use Agreement with the City and insurance listing the City as an additional insured.

The EDA presented the Business Facade Improvement Program Application for The Goodhue Depot to receive funds for signage and banners. There is a \$6000 budget for this year for the Façade program. They can request a façade grant once every three years and can get up to \$2000 or 50% of the requested amount. Council agreed to accept the application and moved it to the Consent agenda for the next meeting.

It was determined to move forward with the Joint Powers Agreement with the Fire Department. The Fire Department needs the city to present an expression of interest in joining the Goodhue Community Fire Association and would need to do so by Resolution. Council Member Schmit made a motion to create a Resolution to express interest in being in a Joint Powers Agreement with the Goodhue Fire Association, sec-

onded by Benda, motion carried 5-0-0.

Council discussed The Corner Bar & Grille liquor license renewal and agreed to move it to the Consent agenda for approval at the next meeting.

Annually the Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Operation Round-Up program has an application process that organizations can apply for donations to support the community in various ways. We applied for funds to help pay for lifeguard seats and chairs at the Goodhue Pool. The council graciously accepted the donation and will place Resolution No. 25-09 Accepting the donation from Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Operation Round-Up program of \$500 on the consent agenda for approval at the next meeting. Mayor requested a thank you letter be sent to them.

### Public Works

Council discussed the sensaphone dialer for the new well-house going to a generic number, so it doesn't need to be changed as employees change. Staff will confirm this with the Public Works Director. The stumps will be ground out by public works staff when the grinder is reserved the week of June 23rd. New Public Works summer employee, Taylor Thomforde, started working.

### Council Comments

Council asked about options for residents to get rid of extra garbage or have an extra can. Staff will look into this with our provider to be sure they will pick up the extra cans and how that will affect our billing both from the provider and to the customer.

Council requested that we confirmed that City Hall hours are posted correctly online from Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Mayor Comments

Mayor thanked everyone in the meeting for adjusting and being patient through this learning process.

Mayor noted that the event porta-potties will not be dumped in Goodhue. They will need to be dumped in Red Wing.

### Approval of Bills

A motion was made to approve the bills by Nagel, seconded by Benda, motion carried 5-0-0.

### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:54 pm by Council Member Brunkhorst, seconded by Benda, motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/  
City Clerk



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1. Staff symbol
2. Zoo sound
3. Gumbo pod
4. Separate grain from chaff
5. Model-building wood
6. Smart ones?
7. 100 centavos
8. Refrigerate
9. Commits a faux pas
10. Mont Blanc, e.g.
12. a.k.a. meditation in motion (2 words)
13. Ranch grazer
14. \*Bette Midler's 1981 Grammy winning song (2 words)
19. Dungeness one and snow one
22. \*Poppy's seed container
23. Banned camera setting, in a museum
24. Falcon's home
25. Boreal forest, in Russia
26. Ma tre d's list
27. Raccoon's South American cousin
28. \*2024 Grammy winner for "Flowers"
29. Hop-drying kilns
32. \*Lis in fleur-de-lis
33. \* \_\_\_\_ Goo Dolls of "Gutterflower" fame
36. \*"Flowers in the Attic" author V.C. \_\_\_\_
38. One of journalism's Ws
40. Declare
41. Costing nothing
44. Want to
46. \_\_\_\_ Beach, SC
48. Belonging to duke
49. Miuccia Prada's homeland
50. Like traditional storytelling
51. Lose skin
52. Tea servings
53. Tobacco
54. Strong desire
55. Standard's partner
56. Govt. property org.

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