



Goodhue-Bellechester Messenger

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Announcements

REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION

*Keep The Messenger coming!
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• **Open play day at the Goodhue Sanctuary, 308 1st Ave, February 14th 10 AM- 1 PM.** Toys and crafts geared towards ages 0-6 but everyone welcome. Next open play, March 7th.

• **Annual Goodhue Day: Chamber businesses offering treats and prize drawings February 20th.** Check the Goodhue Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for details.

• **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.

• **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Bellechester, Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon, Wabasha 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. Please contact Three Rivers at 507-316-0610 or email: oas@threeriverscap.org

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

Casual Eats and Treats Opening Soon

By Beth Brekke



Special flavors of cinnamon rolls like Maple bourbon bacon available from Casual Eats and Treats.

photo submitted

Tracy Reese, owner of Goodhue's Corner Bar and Grille is starting a new venture. With more than 20 years in the food industry, she is adding a micro bakery and catering to her business profile. Casual Eats and Treats will open as a roadside stand and special orders and catering will be done

through the bar.

Reese began planning the offshoot business

months ago. Already busy with the bar and grill, she decided to branch out. Noting that she spends so much time cooking and baking anyway, she wanted to offer more to the public. She holds a commercial food license through the bar and a cottage food license allows her to sell other items made at home. Patrons already have the opportunity to purchase cinnamon rolls and loaves of sourdough bread at the bar on occasion or by special order.

(continued on page 8)

Pictured to the right: Tracy Reese and daughters, Ashlyn and Autumn are converting the girls' former playhouse into a roadside stand in Hay Creek where they will offer items from their micro bakery.

photo submitted



Goodhue FFA Chapter Highlights



The Goodhue FFA Chapter has had an exciting and successful year filled with strong competition results, meaningful community involvement, and hands-on learning in the classroom. *(continued on page 4)*

Goodhue-Bellechester Railriders Vintage Snowmobile Ride & Show Set for February 7th



This Saturday, February 7th, will be the annual vintage snowmobile ride and show in Goodhue. Registration starts at 10am with the show from 11am to 1pm. Judging will commence at 1pm with trophies and cash for several categories as well as door prizes.

(continued on page 4)

Give us a call on your crop insurance needs.

Review coverage with more affordable options in 2026.

Jerry Tipcke
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Pastors Corner

By Pastor Robbin Robbert
St. John's Lutheran Church,
rural Goodhue

My last three articles have been mostly concerned about our lives as Christian citizens of the USA. In my article for today I want to switch the emphasis from our responsibilities as Christian citizens in this nation to our response as Christian citizens to the Mercy of God.

A Living Response to Mercy

In Romans 12:1, Paul urges believers, "in view of God's mercy," to present their bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. The Christian life does not begin with what we do for God, but with what God has already done for us. His mercy—shown most fully in the cross of Christ—changes the way we see ourselves and our lives. Because God has withheld the judgment we deserve and instead given us forgiveness and life, our whole selves now belong to Him. Worship is no longer confined to words or songs; it becomes the offering of our daily lives in grateful response.

That mercy is grounded entirely in grace. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Salvation is God's work from beginning to end. We did not earn it, contribute to it, or deserve it. Grace is the motivator, not guilt. The Christian does not serve God to gain His favor, but because His favor has already been freely given in Christ.

Yet grace does not leave us unchanged or idle. Immediately after proclaiming salvation by grace, Paul adds in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Good works are not the root of our salvation, but the fruit of it. God, in His mercy, not only saves us but also shapes our lives for loving service to others.

So the Christian response to God's mercy is not fear-driven obligation, but joyful surrender. We live as living sacrifices because we belong to a merciful God who has saved us by grace and now invites us to walk in the good works He has lovingly prepared. Our lives become a daily "thank you" to the God who first loved us.

Interesting fact as we begin Lent February 18 is that there really are 46 days during Lent not 40. However, historically the Church recognizes that even during Lent as we prepare for Holy Week leading to Easter that every Sunday during Lent is a mini-Easter and not counted in the 40 days. Even as we lament and repent of our sins during Lent it is in view of God's mercy.

What love could remember, no wrongs we have done

Omniscient all-knowing, He counts not their sum

Thrown into a sea, without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
What patience would wait as we constantly roam

What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.
What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more

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Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.
(Matt Papa. Matt Boswell)"

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Tues.: 8:00AM Holy Mass
Wed.: 8:00AM Holy Mass, 9:00AM - 2:00PM Eucharistic Adoration
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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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Thurs.: 8:00AM Eucharistic Adoration/Confession, 9:00AM Holy Mass
Rosary said 25 minutes before Holy Mass
All are WELCOME! But receiving Holy Communion are for those who are of age and practicing the Catholic faith.
We practice because we are not yet perfect!

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 The Newness of Eternal Life

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. — John 3:16

The newness we celebrate at the start of each year pales in comparison to the ultimate newness we receive through Christ. Eternal life isn't just about a future promise; it's about a present reality that transforms how we live today. When we embrace the newness of eternal life, we accept that we are part of something far greater than ourselves—an unshakable kingdom that will never fade.

I remember when I first understood this truth fully. It wasn't until a hard season in my life that I truly grasped what it meant to have eternal life through Jesus. I realized that no matter what happened in the world or in my circumstances, the gift of eternal life could not be taken away. This profound shift in perspective gave me the peace that surpasses understanding. I knew I had a hope beyond what this world could offer.

Eternal life changes everything. It shifts our values, our priorities, and even the way we see hardship. Each day becomes a step closer to the fulfillment of God's promises. So when the trials of life come, we can face them with the confidence that we are secure in the love of God, which never ends.

As we conclude this devotional journey, let's remember that the newness we experience now is just a foretaste of the life we have in Christ that will never fade but last forever!

Lord, thank you for the gift of eternal life. Help us to embrace your love and the hope you have given us, trusting in your promises. Amen.

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN (WELS)

Pastor Randall Kuznicki
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ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD

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

Email your church announcements,
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Janet Ann Benidt

Janet Ann Benidt, 82, of Goodhue, died peacefully on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at Elysian Fields of Red Wing, with family by her side. Janet was born on December 8, 1943, to Russell and Jean (Caldwell) Growden. Janet was one half of the second of two sets of twins (Jeannie and Janet) and (Jerry and Geraldine) born 18 months apart. She grew up in Fountain and West Concord and graduated from St. Cloud Tech High School in St. Cloud. She married Larry Dahle and to this union they were blessed with two sons, Ed and Jim. They later divorced. In February of 1975, she married David Benidt. In 1976, they moved to rural Goodhue where she and Dave farmed for many years. She was a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church. Janet enjoyed gardening, canning and tending to her strawberry patch. She also looked forward to going to the casino.

Janet is survived by her loving husband, Dave of 50 years; sons, Ed (Darlyne) Dahle of Ellendale and Jim (Anne) Dahle of Fort Collins, Colorado; three grandchildren, Emily (Matt) Theisen, Matt (Karen) Dahle and their two sons, Charlie and Tommy and Gabe (Megan) Dahle and one brother, Gerald "Butch" Growden of the Twin Cities along with several nieces and nephews. Janet is preceded in death by her parents; twin sister, Jeannie and sister, Geraldine Harrer.

Memorial service was at 11 a.m. Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 37750 Cty Rd 6, Goodhue. Reverend Eric Hanson officiated. Burial was at the Zion Cemetery rural Goodhue. Visitation was for one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are by the Mahn Fam-

ily Funeral Home, Bodelson-Mahn Chapel in Red Wing.

Toni Lee Holm (Heinrich)

June 25, 1978 – January 18, 2026



friends.

Toni was born on June 25, 1978, to her loving parents, Lawrence and Osce (Jarmin) Heinrich. She entered this world quickly, prompting Lawrence to race from a tournament to reach Osce in time for her birth in Goodland, Kansas. She left this world quickly as well, leaving everyone deeply saddened. From the very beginning, she was the light of their lives.

Toni was a beautiful blend of her parents. She inherited her love of reading and science fiction from her father, and her passion for sports from her mother. Growing up, she played many sports, including softball, basketball, track, and swimming. She graduated from Sidney High School in Sidney, Nebraska.

The middle of three sisters, Toni shared a close bond and had long, meaningful conversations with Shauna (Heinrich) Johnson and Kristen (Heinrich) Diaz. Though more reserved than her sisters, she possessed a quiet strength and feisty spirit—living proof of the "redhead fire." Toni was a beautiful woman—sweet, loving, and full of fun. Her kind and virtuous personality shone through even in the little things, including one of her sayings, "cotton-pickin'."

In 2005, Toni met the love of her life, Travis. Together they shared 21 wonderful years filled with golfing, shopping, watching sports, fantasy football, movie nights, and traveling. Travis was her soulmate, best friend, and greatest love.

Family meant everything to Toni. Though she and Travis were unable to have children of their own, her nieces and nephews held an incredibly special place in her heart. She treasured time spent with Brady and Jaxon Harrell, Lance Brauer, Coy, Dusty, and Chase Johnson, and Leslie, Jorge Jr., Marissa,

Manuel, and Madeleine Diaz—playing with them, cheering them on at sporting events, and capturing memories through photographs.

Toni enjoyed playing volleyball and softball, reading, watching the Minnesota Timberwolves and Nebraska Volleyball, and indulging in her favorites: Mountain Dew, ranch Corn Nuts, Mike and Ike's, Hot Tamales, Taco John's, and anything Travis cooked.

Toni was preceded in death by her mother and her great-grandparents.

She is survived by her husband, Travis Holm; her father, Lawrence Heinrich; her sisters, Shauna Johnson and Kristen Diaz; her grandparents, Waldo Jarmin and Glenna (Richards) Jarmin; her in-laws, Dale and Char Holm, Shannon and Tiffany (Holm) Harrell; and many beloved nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

In keeping with her generous spirit, Toni was able to donate some of her organs, giving the gift of life to others. Even in passing, her kindness and selfless love continue to make a difference.

A service celebrating Toni's life will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 702 3rd Ave, Goodhue, MN 55027. Visitation with family and friends will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by the service at 11:30 a.m. A luncheon for family members will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations or acts of kindness in Toni's memory.

Some people shine too brightly to ever be forgotten—and Toni was one of them.

Edward August Stern

Edward August Stern, age 76 of Goodhue, died in his home on January 29, 2026.



Ed was born on May 2, 1949 to Peggy and Ewald Stern in Springfield, Minnesota. He graduated from Springfield High School in 1967, and from Winona State College in 1971. Ed married Deborah Kinlund in 1971, and together they welcomed five children, one of them exceptional.

Ed began his 39-year teaching career in Goodhue in 1972. Over the years, he coached

volleyball, basketball, softball, math league, ran the clock and emceed almost every event held at the school for most of his career. Ed's favorite place to be was at school, especially on Friday mornings for "old guys" basketball and doughnuts. Nothing could disrupt a quiet, orderly kindergarten line in the hallway like high fives outside Mr. Stern's room. He loved teaching, coaching, mentoring/hassling the students, and spending time with colleagues who became friends. The Goodhue Wildcats have never had a more Incredible Fan.

Ed loved people. He had a gift for making everyone feel like he had known them forever. Once you were his friend, you were family, and there was always room for you in Deb's kitchen, even if she didn't know you were coming. When he wasn't at school, Ed loved fishing, hunting, gardening (not actually eating the vegetables), being the self-appointed commissioner of Wednesday night volleyball, umping softball, teaching Sunday School, and "organizing" the garage, most of which included a long break to grab a treat or visit with a passing neighbor. He enjoyed having lunch with the boys, stopping down to the C-Store to pick up some onion rings, outings with the retired guys breakfast group, peanut butter, and White Castle.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah, four daughters Heidi (Jeff) Miller of Goodhue, Brigitte (Jack) Rol of Lake City, Gretel Stern of Prishtina, Kosovo, and Meta (Jon) Olson of Zumbrota, grandchildren Darby, Atticus, Rhett and Beatrix Miller, Carl, Sam and Margaret Rol, Vernon, Scarlett and Gregory Olson, honorary Stern Greg Nixon, sister Carol (Norbert) Evers, brother-in-law Bruce Kinlund, sisters-in-law Sharon Stern, Sheila (Jim) Schmitt, and Lisa (Tim) Comstock, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, son Cole Stern, and brother Lee Stern.

In lieu of flowers, the family will be using memorial gifts to fund accessible seating for senior citizens at the Goodhue High School gymnasium.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 8 from 1-4 pm at the Goodhue Public School - Gym 1. A memorial service will be on Monday, February 9 at 11 am, with visitation from 10-11 am, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 702 3rd Ave, Goodhue. This service will be live-streamed and available to watch at www.LundbergFuneral.com under his obituary.

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Goodhue FFA Chapter Highlights

(continued from page 1)

Several Goodhue FFA Career Development Event (CDE) teams have qualified to compete at the State FFA Convention in April. The Dairy Judging Team, consisting of Clara Benrud, Garrett Pearson, Joe Waccholz, Curtis Klindworth, and Liesl Veiseth, earned their spot at state through their hard work and dedication. The Livestock Judging Team—Haley Betcher, Brooke Betcher, Abby Dicke, Trevin Dicke, and Allison Lubahn—also qualified for state competition. In addition, the Floriculture Team, made up of Summer Scheele, Lillian Raasch, and Isabel Germann-Hutter, will represent Goodhue FFA at the state level.

We had a full number of participants in indi-

vidual Leadership Development Events this year at the University of Minnesota Invitational and at the Regional Contest. Gus Raasch, Curtis Klindworth, and Brayden Schmit competed in Extemporaneous Speaking, Summer Scheele competed in Employment Skills, Lillian Raasch competed in Prepared Public Speaking, Joe Waccholz and Atticus Miller competed in Discussion Meet, and Haley Betcher competed in Creed Speaking.

Haley Betcher moved on to represent Goodhue FFA at the State LDEs in December and earned 2nd place in the state in Creed Speaking, which is a tremendous accomplishment for Haley.

Goodhue FFA had two Proficiency Award applicants this year. Garrett Pearson applied in Dairy Production Placement, and Haley Betcher applied in Goat Production Placement, highlighting their strong Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs.

Community involvement continued to be a priority for the chapter. The annual Corn Drive was very successful, and during the drive, members also handed out meals to

local farmers as a way to show appreciation for their hard work. The chapter also hosted the Farmers Feed, where farmers and their families were invited to enjoy a meal priced at the value farmers receive for their commodities. Our Fruit Sale was another success, and we would like to thank our community for their continued support.

Inside the classroom, students experienced engaging, hands-on learning opportunities. The Minnesota Wildlife class traveled to the Minnesota Zoo for a behind-the-scenes tour of animal exhibits and the kitchen where animal meals are prepared. The Animal Science class raised and cared for a litter of kits (baby rabbits), providing valuable real-world expe-

rience. All of the rabbits have since found homes, and the dam has returned to her owner. It was exciting to see all students be able to spend time with these animals. Meanwhile, the Ag Business class developed Shark Tank-style presentations, pitching innovative business ideas and products to teachers in the school.

The Goodhue FFA Chapter is proud of its members' accomplishments and looks forward to continued success in leadership, competition, and community involvement throughout the year.

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL FFA WEEK
FEBRUARY 21-28!**

See page 16

Goodhue-Bellechester Railriders Vintage Snowmobile Ride & Show Set for February 7th

(continued from page 1)

A ride will follow the show making a scenic fifteen mile look to Bellechester and back again.

All sleds are welcome and one may enter the show for a donation of \$10.00 or \$25.00 for a family. Food and beverages will be available throughout the day and the event is sponsored by the Goodhue-Bellechester Rail Riders club.



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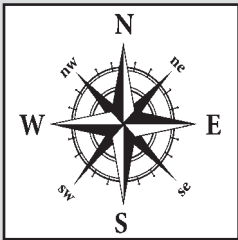
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Vacation Funland or Fraud



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.

Timeshares, we all have heard of them. Most have heard bad things about them. I owned one forty years ago when I had young kids. I paid \$6,800 for one week in Florida. We used it twenty-years and it worked out to \$120 per night. Couldn't get hotel for that price. Gave it to my ex-wife so I no longer owned it.

So, this year we rented the same vacation villa for \$99 per night when we visited Disney World. We love the condo, the pools, the loca-

tion, the restaurants and amenities on site. A great deal for \$99 per night. Then they offered us \$200 to attend their sales presentation. Only 90 minutes of our time. That is where it went off the rails. First of all, my wife and I knew there wasn't a snowball's chance on a Florida beach we were buying. The sales guy wasn't aware of that. He hadn't been told that some tourists weren't gullible.

They fed us breakfast, they gave us the tour, we saw the kids arcade, water park, paddle boats on the lake, bar and restaurants. They said no pressure, if it wasn't for us to not even consider buying. They wouldn't even tell us the price, just said that it would pay for itself. We would save so much money, our vacation would be almost free. It was a legacy to hand down for generations. Then a closer stepped in and was going to clinch the sale. She said to forget that "pinky" promise we made before we came that we would not buy.

All of this fanfare and we were shown the price. \$39,900 for one week per year. Why, this was an investment better than any we had ever seen. We should pull our money out of whatever we were vested in and place it with them. And maintenance and taxes were only an additional \$1,500 per year.

I am a farmer and I have hauled a lot of manure and have never seen this much shoveled out in such a short time. I replied that my investments made over 14% last year and that \$40,000 would generate \$5,600. Add in the \$1,500 maintenance fee each year and I was throwing away \$7,100. I could rent the



condo for \$700 a week and have \$6,400 to spend on vacation a week without risking a cent of my principal. Poor sales kid was speechless. They called in the boss.

This guy was certain he had us with a \$10,000 price reduction. We didn't even flinch. Then because, I had once been an owner he said he would sell us this unit for the incredible price of \$15,000. We still didn't blink an eye. He lowered his voice and said that for this hour only and never again offered, we could steal it for the measly sum of \$8,900. Three strikes and this guy's pitch was over.

By this time, we were three hours into the presentation and my wife had a spa appointment, she had booked the day before, in half an hour. So, we stood up to leave. A short woman with long black hair stormed onto the

scene. She was the clincher, all business, she was going to save the day, she was their last hope, she would make the sale. When she realized we were leaving she became rather insolent, demanding extra time to speak to us. I said we have a prior engagement and we were going. She looked right at me with fire in her dark eyes and scolded me for scheduling something the day of the presentation. I replied that her 90-minute presentation ended an hour and a half ago and walked away. Still part of me wished we could have stayed to have seen just how low they were willing to go.

We will go back again, we love the facilities. For \$99 a night it is a great deal. And after all, they will pay you \$200 to sit thru the ordeal.

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A Minnesotan: Cats



By RosaLin Alcoser

Growing up in rural Minnesota cats were mainly an outdoor animal that spended into existence in barns. Yes, there were plenty of people who had house cats, but the ones I saw were mainly outside cats.

Working cats who knew how to survive out in the world. And who may or may not scratch you if you got too close depending on the cat. Not indoor cats of leisure like all city cats appear to be.

My family did not have any cats; inside or outside. Mainly due to the fact that half of the family unit was allergic to them. We were a combination inside outside dog

family; the combination really depended on the dog. Since our first dog basically refused to come inside until she was quite old and my parents current dog panics if she accidentally gets left outside alone.

My husband, however, is from a cat family and he has two inside cats; because we live in the cities and outside cats are not a thing here. Which means that I now have two cats for the first time in my entire life. And I don't mean that they are a cat family like my family is a dog family. Where we have a dog and we love it because it's part of the family. I mean they are a cat obsessed family who takes their cats to the cabin with them and has cat images everywhere. It doesn't even have to be their cats or past cats, it just has to be a cat, and can be on literally anything.

I do like cats and I absolutely love our specific two cats; and with the cold weather we've been having, I am very glad that they don't need to be taken outside. There have been things that I have had to learn though to live with in order to live with indoor nonworking cats. Such as they will stand on us in our sleep and if they choose to sleep on your lap you're just sitting in that chair until they get off on their own.

Farm Girl Chatter

The Ones That Have Taught Me Life Lessons and True Love

By McKell Lemmerman

This article is dedicated to the animals that shape a farmer's life and give meaning to the work done before sunrise and after dark. While family and friends are essential, the deeper connection often lives in the pasture and the barn. It can be found in frost-lined fences at dawn, in the creak of a barn door opening, and in the quiet sound of hooves shifting. For many farmers, animals are the reason the day begins early and ends late. They are constant companions—silent speaking with no words back to you, but always present.

Many farmers, like me, grew up around animals, yet it is often with age and experience that their true value becomes clear. Farming teaches responsibility early, but devotion is learned over years of repetition. They depend on us whether the winter wind strikes through a coat, or the summer dust clings to our sweaty skin. They wait for us, they trust us, and they require our consistency. In your daily routine, you learn patience, and the quiet discipline that defines rural life.

Horses are often dismissed as “hay burners,” but their worth has never been measured by profit at my farm. Horses offer something deeper; they bring peace. Stepping into the saddle, feeling the leather between your legs, you escape your reality. There is saying that there is no better view between the ears of the horse, the land stretches wide and open, offering perspective that few other places can. They are the ones who are spirited with attitudes, but when they know you have a hard time, they understand what you are going through. Galloping through the fields, they are the ones who give you the imagination of flying like a bird, arms out, soaring through the sky with the air bouncing off your body. They are the animals that can carry you for miles without hesitation, go through unwanted territory like they are a boy scout wondering about the woods. While horses still serve practical roles, such as helping me gather cattle, their greatest contribution is the calm they bring to an otherwise demanding life.

Then there are the dogs—the always present helpers and loyal shadows. Farm dogs are the hired hands who never ask for wages, just a treat or a good scratch. Farm dogs are up when you are up and go to bed when you go to bed. They follow their owners across every stage from sun baked pastures to snow kissed ground. They are always ready and always watching. A good farm dog understands your routine, the long hard days that are worked. No matter how busy the day becomes, the dog remains.



And finally, the heart of the farm is the cattle. For many farmers, appreciation for livestock grows with time. Calving season brings long nights and early mornings, but also moments that remind farmers why they chose this life. Kneeling in straw as a calf takes its first breath, watching a cow instinctively turn to her newborn. The cow gives a gentle moo of appreciation, thanking the farmer much like a new mother thanking the doctor who helped bring her baby into the world. Farmers help the cows raise these calves through storms and sunshine, knowing each one represents hours of care, effort, and hope—whether it becomes replacement stock or is eventually sold, they all have a purpose. The cows eventually know your routine and patiently wait at the gate for every meal that is served. They learn your voice and your body language. They know the sounds that follow every action you do. So, when you give a call to the herd that is dispersed in open green fields, they shout back, saying I am here. They know you and because of that they come running, jumping, kicking with joy of excitement to see the person they trust most.

Farmers love their animals not because the work is easy, but because there is a bond built. Loving animals means sore muscles, sleepless nights, and heartbreak when one is

lost. But it also means purpose. These animals shape daily routines and give meaning to the labor that often goes unseen.

In the end, farming is not just about land or livestock. It is about a bond formed through routine, trust, and responsibility—a bond that demands everything and gives back just

enough to make it worth it. That is why farmers love their animals: because in caring for them, they find not only their livelihood, but their identity.

Silent appreciation never goes unnoticed from the eyes of your four-legged animals.

Mazeppa Lions present Winterfest

Mazeppa will be celebrating the annual Winterfest on Saturday February 14th this year.

The Mazeppa Lions Club Double Elimination Bean Bag Tournament fundraiser begins at the American Legion Hall with a 12:30pm registration and draw for partners at 1pm. \$10 entry with a 50% payback and 50% to the Mazeppa Lions Club.

Silent Auctions at W.D.'s begin at 3pm and continue until 7:30pm. Included are a couple half hogs, donated by Holden Farms, a quarter beef donated by Lexvold Farms. There will be live auctions for deck parties, misc. prizes and Mystery Bags at 7:45pm

Mazeppa Lions Club Bar Bingo will start at 6pm sharp at W.D.'s and children are welcome.



Benefit for Milton in Zumbro Falls

A benefit in honor for Michael Koop will be held this weekend, Saturday February 7th starting at 11am at the Zumbro Falls VFW.

Michael was a friend and neighbor to many and worked for Central Livestock since he was fifteen years old. He had recently started his own business, Koop Livestock. Micheal passed away from a heart attack on December 17, 2025.

The benefit is for his son, Milton, and all proceeds will be held in a trust for the young man.

The benefit will include a meal starting at 11am as well as raffles and a silent auction. You may drop off donations at the Buck Wild Bar & Grill in Zumbro Falls prior to the event.



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W.D.'s had been an icon in Mazeppa for over a century. The large three story brick

building on the corner had been a hotel, bar and restaurant over it's many years on Main Street. When it was destroyed by fire in the early spring of 2018, along with the building next to it, there was a void in the city.

The Haugen's plans to rebuild W.D.'s were delayed by construction setbacks from the covid years and permit approvals from the state.

The new restaurant is now more than double the original size and cost nearly \$1 million to complete. The building is a log construction built by an Amish company and the interior finished by local crews.

It is a beautiful facility inside and out and



comfortable for large crowds of customers.

The kitchen is open Monday through Friday from 7am to 9pm and weekends 8am to 9pm.

Every Wednesday there is Bingo at 7pm and a fish fry on Fridays.



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11:00 AM Medallion Hunt - \$150 Cash Prize (Meet at City Hall for Rules and Map)

11:30 AM Complimentary Hot Chocolate Bar at City Hall

12:00 PM HOT DISH COOKOFF
\$5.00/entry. Tasters will pay \$5.00 to taste all entries/vote.
12:00 PM Bring Entry to City Hall • 12:30 PM-2:00 PM Tasting/Voting
2:30 PM Hot Dish Winner Announced (1st & 2nd Place Payout)
Hosted by Dennison Lions Club

2:45 PM Red Neck Pool "Round One" at Cattlemen's Saloon

4:00 PM Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall
\$30/packet, 10 games, designer purses and \$150 gift card packages

6:30 PM 12th Annual Denni Dazzle Parade \$200.00 Prize for Best Float!
Hosted by the Dennison Lions. Call or text Diane at 612-532-0268

6:45 PM Red Neck Pool "Round Two" at Cattlemen's Saloon

7:00 PM LIVE MUSIC Bryan Anderson at Cattlemen's Saloon

9:30 PM Raffle Winners Announced at Sapphire Cocktail Lounge & Event Center

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Community

Casual Eats and Treats Opening Soon

(continued from page 1)

Opening day for the county-approved roadside stand at her home will be February 28th. "I'm excited to start this journey," Tracy

says of turning the love of a hobby into reality. Daughters, Ashlyn, 14 and Autumn, 11 are helping with the bakery business. The family is in the process of converting the girls' former playhouse into the retail shop on their property located near the Hay Creek Saloon and Campground.

Painting and prep work is transforming the shed into a welcoming place for customers. Signs and flags will mark the driveway and plenty of parking is available on site. The store will be attended Mondays 9 AM-3 PM and Saturdays 8 AM-noon with more times added when school lets out for the summer.

Reese describes this venture as a micro bakery and expects it to evolve over time depending on how it is received.

(continued on page 9)



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Casual Eats and Treats Opening Soon

(continued from page 1)

Tracy and the girls will be stocking the shelves with sourdough breads, cookies, bars, bagels, baguettes, focaccia, cinnamon rolls, whoopee pies and other unique things including homemade vanilla flavorings. Items may be ordered ahead and picked up at the stand, the Corner Bar or another place in Goodhue.

Known for serving daily specials and a full bar menu, Tracy has also started catering meals off-site. “Keep me in mind if you have any upcoming events you need catered.” To inquire about catering or any special order,



Special occasion cookies can be ordered through Tracy at the Goodhue Corner Bar. *photo submitted*

stop in to the Corner Bar or call 651-341-8284. Watch the Casual Eats and Treats



Cinnamon Swirl is one of the many different types of breads coming to the Casual Eats and Treats roadside stand. *photo submitted*

photo submitted

Facebook page for updates.

Casual Eats and Treats: Opening day—Saturday, February 28th 8-noon.

Regular hours—Mondays 9-3 and Saturdays 8-noon with more times added in the future.



Casual Eats and Treats will offer home-made vanilla, the perfect addition to any baked good, in bourbon, caramel and original flavor. *photo submitted*

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Fertility



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

While you may remember a discussion of “the birds and the bees,” with a parent or in a classroom setting, nothing of that content provides a helpful foundation for how to create a family. A couple can establish a household and have a stable place for raising children, but there are many more factors that go into creating an environment for conceiving a child. The perfect environment seems to be harder to achieve these days as the fertility rate in the USA continues to decline. The Center for Disease Control has documented a continuing decline of fertility since the “baby boom” of the 1950s, and the British Medical Journal published a report in 2025 that the fertility rate in the US had reached an all-time low. Current fertility rates are not able to sustain a stable population. In order to create a perfect environment for conceiving children, a couple must begin with an evaluation of their nutrition.

My personal journey into nutrition began with this question of fertility as my wife and I learned how challenging conception can be. I am very thankful we were directed to a doctor who clearly outlined for us how important nutrition is for establishing a foundation of health that can support the creation of new life. This discovery has changed my life and the life of my family, which now includes two healthy young adult children. As the statistics from the CDC declare, there is an increasing number of couples across the country who need to know this information too.

Healthy conception is a team effort dependent on the health of the man and the woman. Sperm and egg quality reflect the quality of food that has been consumed in the past six months. In fact, the study of epigenetics points to the impact a grandparent’s diet will have on the grandchild. The children of the “baby boom” were the result of family food practices that involved gardens and farm fresh

foods. Very little processed food existed in the 1950s compared to what is on the store shelves today. But as processed foods, preservatives, fast foods, and sugar have increased in the nation’s food supply, the fertility rate has decreased due to decreased sperm and egg quality.

As my wife and I discovered, there are opportunities to select quality food sources and nutrition supplements that will heal the body and restore fertility. A few of those choices include:

Add healthy fats – Do not purchase any product with “low fat” on the label. Healthy cells egg and sperm cells require quality fats to function well. Whole milk yogurt, whole fat cheese, wild caught fish, eggs, Olive oil, and coconut oil are good examples of healthy fat sources. These whole food sources should be a part of each day to help promote the stable production of hormones that will direct the conception process.

Add protein to each meal – Protein provides the building blocks to make new tissue and new cells. Protein should come from whole food sources like poultry, fish, meat, beans, nuts, and cheese. Avoid protein powders as there can be additives and these products are more expensive forms of protein.

Add fresh vegetables each day – Fresh vegetables will provide the vitamins, minerals, and additional nutrients that will help the sperm and egg to function properly. Dark leafy greens like kale, collard greens, chard, and broccoli are rich in folate and minerals. Make an effort to add a rainbow of colors to your plate with carrots, red onion, cabbage, bell peppers, and black olives. Each color represents a different set of nutrients delivered to fertility system.

Within these primary food categories are important nutrients that sustain healthy fertility and a stable environment for a growing baby. Key nutrients for fertility include: Omega-3 fatty acids, folate, zinc, selenium,

iodine, Vitamin D, iron, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Vitamin B12, and choline. Both the male and female need to give attention to consuming these nutrients to improve fertility and give the next child the best chance of a healthy start. Your grandchildren in the future are affected by your diet now.

I enjoy helping couples develop a healthy food plan for their households that result in greater health and stronger families. Contact

me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. Nutrition is designed for healing. I can help you reach greater health freedom in 2026.

Contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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

Public Health Spotlight

Self-Care Isn’t Selfish

BY KARLI GOODMAN, BSN, RN, PHN

As we are navigating the second month of the New Year, many of us are focusing on resolutions, fresh starts, and plans for the month ahead. February also marks Self-Check Month, a nationwide reminder encouraging people of all ages to pause, pay attention to their health, and take steps that can make a big difference. In rural communities where long drives, busy schedules, and limited health resources can make regular check-ups challenging, self-checks serve as an important first line of defense. Self-Check Month promotes the idea that knowing your own body, and noticing changes early, can help prevent issues from becoming larger health concerns.



A 2020 study published by The BMJ found that 17.5% of emergency department visits could have been prevented by early detection of symptoms. Something as small as checking blood pressure at home once per week or noting changes in appetite, mobility, sleep, or mood, can create an early warning signal that prompts timely care and a phone call to your primary care doctor. Health professionals across rural Minnesota encourage community members to use January as a time to reset. “Checking in on your own health doesn’t have to be complicated,” says one local nurse. “If something feels off, don’t ignore it. Early care is always easier than emergency care.” Clinics, pharmacies, and home care providers all echo the same message: if you’re unsure about a symptom, bring it up. There are no “unimportant” questions when it comes to your health.

Wabasha County Public Health nurses recommend taking 10 minutes per week to check-in with yourself. Follow these steps to get you started:

• How’s My Breathing?

Notice if you’re more short of breath than usual when doing normal things like walking to the mailbox or getting dressed.

• Look for Swelling

Check ankles, feet, and hands for increased puffiness or tightness in the skin

• Do I Have Energy?

Feeling more tired than usual for several days in a row can be an early warning sign

• Have I Been Eating and Drinking?

Think about if you have had a poor appetite or haven’t been drinking enough in the last few days. Are you nauseous or just not hungry?

• Bathroom Habits

Are you going to the bathroom regularly, more than normal, or less than normal?

• Check Your Balance

Notice if you feel more unsteady, dizzy, or like you might fall. Falls are a major reason people end up in the emergency room.

• Skin Checks

Look for new sores, rashes, redness, bruises, or pressure spots.

• Mood and Memory

More confusion, forgetfulness, or sudden personality changes can be early warning signs, not just “signs of aging.”

Self-Check Month isn’t just about individuals—it’s also about neighbors helping neighbors. In close-knit communities, small gestures can make a big difference. Checking on a neighbor, reminding a friend to refill medications, or offering a ride to an appointment can help prevent serious health problems. Social connection also plays a role in overall health. Studies show that people with strong community ties tend to live longer and experience fewer complications from chronic illness.

Self-Check Month serves as a simple but powerful reminder: taking a few minutes to pay attention today can help prevent bigger problems tomorrow. Whether it’s scheduling a long-overdue check-up, taking daily measurements, or simply being more in tune with your body, these small steps support a healthier, more independent life. Self-Care isn’t selfish. Make time to put your well-being first. And while you’re at it, check on a neighbor too—because in rural communities, we stay healthier when we look out for one another.

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Yes! Cold Weather Does Make You Ache More!



By Shauna Burslem, D.C.

Here it is. The answer to the most asked question during winter months pertaining to aches and pains: Cold weather exacerbates arthritis symptoms by affecting joint fluid, circulation, and muscle flexibility. As temperatures drop, the synovial fluid in joints thickens, making movements feel stiff and painful. Reduced blood flow and tightened muscles further amplify discomfort, while shorter days and less sunlight contribute to inactivity and vitamin D deficiency, weakening

bones and increasing inflammation. These combined factors make winter particularly challenging for those with arthritis, as the body struggles to adapt to the seasonal changes.

Barometric pressure drops during cold weather also play a significant role in worsening arthritis pain. When the pressure decreases, tendons and muscles expand, creating additional strain on already inflamed joints. This internal pressure makes joints feel tighter and more sensitive, often causing discomfort even before a storm arrives. Additionally, poor circulation in cold temperatures slows the delivery of oxygen and nutrients to joints, delaying recovery and heightening stiffness, especially in weight-bearing areas like the knees and hips.

Lifestyle changes during winter, such as reduced physical activity and dietary shifts, further contribute to joint pain. Inactivity weakens muscles, reducing their ability to support joints and increasing friction and stiffness. Immune system overactivity in colder months can also intensify inflammation, particularly in autoimmune conditions like rheumatoid arthritis. However, proactive measures like regular movement, heat therapy, and maintaining a nutrient-rich diet can help counteract these effects and improve joint health.

Nutrition and supplementation are crucial for managing arthritis symptoms in winter. Optimizing vitamin D and K2 levels strengthens bones and reduces inflammation,

while consuming anti-inflammatory foods supports overall joint health. Warm bone broth, rich in collagen and cartilage-repairing compounds, nourishes joints and improves circulation. Avoiding inflammatory seed oils and replacing them with healthier fats like grass-fed butter or ghee can also reduce oxidative stress and support cellular health, further alleviating joint discomfort.

Daily movement, heat therapy, and sunlight exposure are essential strategies for staying active and pain-free during winter. Gentle exercises like yoga, stretching, or indoor walking keep joints lubricated and improve circulation. Heat therapies, such as warm baths or saunas, relax stiff tissues and restore flexibility. By combining these practices with proper nutrition and self-care, individuals with arthritis can reduce winter flare-ups, maintain mobility, and confidently navigate the colder months.

Improve Mental Health; Reduce Social Media time: A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association AMA Network Open revealed that reducing social media use to approximately 30 minutes per day can significantly improve mental health. The research found that participants experienced a 16% reduction in anxiety, a 25% decrease in depression, and a 15% drop in insomnia symptoms. However, loneliness scores remained largely unchanged, highlighting the dual role of social media as both a source of connection and stress. These findings align with earlier studies, such as

those from the University of Bath, which demonstrated that even a one-week break from platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook can enhance well-being, though such short resets are not substitutes for therapy or medical care.

The study, which tracked 373 young adults aged 18 to 24, used a digital phenotyping app to measure real-time social media usage and its effects on mental health. Participants were monitored over three weeks, including a one-week "detox" period where nearly 80% voluntarily reduced their social media use from 1.9 hours to just 30 minutes daily. During this detox, participants reported significant improvements in mental health, particularly those with severe symptoms at the start. Depression scores dropped by nearly 50% for those with moderate-to-severe depression, while anxiety and insomnia symptoms also saw notable reductions. Researchers attributed these benefits to reduced opportunities for negative social comparisons and addictive behaviors rather than simply cutting overall screen time.

Interestingly, the study found that behavior changes during the detox were subtle, with participants spending slightly more time at home and maintaining similar overall phone usage. This suggests that the type of content consumed on social media, rather than the total time spent, plays a more critical role in mental health outcomes. Experts emphasized that interventions targeting problematic engagement, such as late-night scrolling or unhealthy comparisons, may be more effective than focusing solely on reducing screen time. While the study's short-term nature limits its ability to predict long-term outcomes, it highlights the potential of brief digital detoxes as a practical mental health strategy for young adults.

Mental health professionals have praised the study for its robust methodology and impactful results. Psychologist Mitch Prinstein of the American Psychological Association noted that the improvements observed in just one week rival those typically achieved after 8 to 12 weeks of therapy. However, experts caution that such detoxes should be approached thoughtfully, especially for individuals who rely on online communities for support. Planning and consulting with a trusted health professional can help integrate these experiments into broader mental health care. Ultimately, the study underscores the importance of mindful social media use and its potential to positively influence mood, sleep, and overall well-being.

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

Order or Anarchy - Choose Wisely



Rep. Pam Altendorf (R)
District: 20A

The State of Minnesota feels like it's in a pressure cooker. We hear weekly reports of rampant fraud happening across our state in multiple agencies. Estimates are now finding that fraud within 14 of our Medicaid programs could exceed \$9 billion. This has caused the federal government to get involved, as federal dollars are involved. Minnesota is being asked to show proof of our records or risk losing certain federal funding.

Inaction is a decision, and due to the decision of Governor Walz and Attorney General Keith Ellison not to act on fraud, the federal government has been forced to take action to stem the tide. Not only are we now at risk for losing federal funding, these same "leaders" will likely pursue lawsuits against the federal government for their actions, which also will cost us money.

In the health and human services areas,

funding has been frozen for Medicaid and childcare funding, putting valid providers and needy citizens at risk. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding is also at risk for thousands of Minnesotans due to the Walz administration's refusal to share applicant information with the federal government and confirm our SNAP rolls are accurate.

Relating to elections, Secretary of State Simon has refused to answer a Department of Justice request for voter rolls and other information to prove it's complying with federal election law. This can have an impact on Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding.

President Trump's "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports" executive order states that schools who allow biological males to compete in girls' sports will be subject to federal funding freezes. Of course, Minnesota refuses to comply.

Finally, there's the issue tearing apart our state and putting community members unnecessarily in heightened fear: Governor Walz's refusal to cooperate with federal officers in detaining criminal illegal immigrants.

For decades, presidents have enforced federal immigration laws. The Clinton administration deported 12 million illegal aliens, Bush: 10 million, and Obama: 5 million. The Trump administration has deported 1.5 million. These numbers are on pace with every other administration.

Yet, the escalation and problems in Minnesota are not happening elsewhere. Other Democrat governors are working with ICE to safely arrest and remove people who are here illegally with criminal records. In Minnesota, we get heated rhetoric from Governor Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Frey. This has escalated a portion of the Minnesota citizenry to act hostile towards federal officers, while the rest of us watch in disbelief.

It was reported three federal officers are

being investigated due to "ruthless tactics." I was told of an instance of racial profiling happening in Red Wing, and to be perfectly clear, this is never acceptable. I am grateful these cases are taken seriously. If anyone knows of a situation where a federal law enforcement officer acted in an unlawful way, that action must be reported. Lastly, I want to warn people about spreading misinformation, which is only increasing fear and anxiety.

Homeland Security has said they are focusing on "the worst first," or people here illegally who have criminal records. I think we all agree that those who have serious records of sexual abuse or murder need to leave ASAP. It's also reported that more than 1300 criminal illegals are in our jails. Walz simply releasing those with detainees to ICE would practically end this operation.

Michigan Democrat Governor Whitmer has cooperated with the federal government and is not seeing these issues. Minnesotans need to demand Walz to do the same: to lead, bring down the rhetoric and cooperate, which will bring the focus back to removing those with criminal records. That is how we de-escalate this situation. It really is that simple.

Fraud has dominated this state and now we need true transparency and leadership. From \$9 billion lost to fraud to sanctuary policies protecting criminals and making citizens victims to crime, it does not have to be this way!

The whole world is watching. Our state is in disarray as our constitutional officers appear to be in no hurry to end any lawlessness.

We can't stay in this bubble forever. Eventually, the choice will be yours. Order or anarchy? Accountability or irresponsibility?

Choose wisely.



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Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Call the meeting to order at 6:00. Meeting is recorded, and the recordings belong to the City of Bellechester.
Pledge to the flag
Acting Mayor Mark Gerken opened the regular city council meeting at 6:00.
Roll call was taken: The council in attendance: Acting Mayor Mark Gerken, Council member Rich Majerus and Nick Keller as well as City Clerk Lisa Redepinning and City Engineer Matt Mohs and Treasurer Kyle McKeown. Absent was Mayor Jody Gordon and Council member Jake Gilsdorf. Jon Huneke and Char Von Knoblesdorff were also present.
Approve or Amend of Agenda – Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Nick Keller to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
Minutes of the November 19, 2025 meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Nick Keller to approve the minutes with noted changes. Motion carried.
Bills were reviewed with a motion by Mark Gerken with a second by Nick Keller to approve and pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.
Old Business:
• **Update on Consideration of Requested Use of Remaining Grant Funds –** Kyle from Rural Development, Rich and Lisa met on Monday to discuss ways to use the remaining funds. There were concerns about money going into the Community Center updates and if it was feasible. Further research on cost of a new building will be done. This approach still needs to be approved by Rural Development in order to move forward. Prepackaged building is being considered as a City Hall for use of meetings. Will be discussed at January meeting.
• **Use of Reserves –** CD option for funds.
New business:
• **Building Permit – Lucais McGovern – Ramp.** Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Nick Keller to approve building permit as presented.
• **Law Enforcement Contract Expectations –** Concerns about how much we are paying and the value we are getting. Violations were also discussed on how they could be done. Will be discussed at January meeting.
• **Community Center Plans –** how the city moves forward will determine their plan.
Engineer Report – None
Clerk Report – billing will be done.
Treasurer Report – None
Water/Wastewater/Facility Report – None
Mayor Concerns: None
Council Concerns: None
Adjourn
Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Nick Keller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:04. Motion carried.
Submitted by Lisa Redepinning – City Clerk

Goodhue City Council Work Meeting Minutes
City Hall ~ January 14, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Members Present: Mayor Chris Schmit,

Council Members Michael Brunkhorst, Jean-nine Nagel, Eric Brandt
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Lisa Redepinning, City Administrator, Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/City Clerk, Jason Mandelkow, Public Works Director, Jon Huneke, Mike Ayres, Marty Kelly - GCSO, Lynn Nardinger - Goodhue Lions, Madyson Thomforde, Jeremy Thomforde, Charlotte Muenzenberger – News Record
Remote: None
Call to Order
Mayor Schmit called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Approve or amend Agenda
A joint powers agreement was not received so there is a request to remove the “Joint Powers Fire Truck.
Association Agreement” from new business. Motioned to approve amended agenda by Nagel, seconded by Brandt, motion carried 4-0-0.
Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve the December 10, 2025, City Council meeting minutes made by Brandt, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 4-0-0.
Approval of Bills
Clarifications made on bond payments and Dairyland Power Cooperative company information. A motion to approve the bills made by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.
Old Business
None
New Business
Approve Resolution No. 26-01
A Resolution Declaring a City Council Vacancy
A motion was made by Brandt to approve Resolution No. 26-01, A Resolution Declaring a City Council Vacancy, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0. The vacancy will be posted until the next work session February 11, 2026.
Approve liquor license for Lions Soup Feed – January 25,2026 before next meeting
A motion to approve the temporary liquor license for the Lions Soup Feed on January 25, 2026, was made by Nagel, Seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.
Approve one-day liquor license for Lions Spring Brunch – March 1, 2026
A motion to approve the temporary liquor license for the Lions Spring Brunch on March 01, 2026, was made by Nagel, Seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.
Committees/official assignments:
Motion to approved First Farmers and Merchants as the official bank, Zumbrota News Record as official newspaper, Robert Vose of Kennedy and Graven Chartered as City Attorney, Reese Sudtelgte of ISG as City Engineer, and Goodhue County as City Prosecutor, was made by Brant, seconded by

Nagel, motion carried, 4-0-0.
Council tabled the Ambulance committee assignment until they gather more information on meeting schedule.
Motion by Brunkhorst to approve committee members for the following:
EDA- Jeannine Nagel
Fire Association – Michael Brunkhorst, secondary Chris Schmit, alternate Jeannine Nagel
Personnel committee - Michael Brunkhorst and Mayor Chris Schmit
Gas Commission - Chris Schmit
Seconded by Brandt, motion carried 4-0-0.
2025 Cash Control Report
Annual cash control report was presented in the state format and needs council approval before submitting it to the state auditor. Discussed budgeting categories and accounting system details. The only changes would be if we receive any 2025 invoices that are paid in 2026, they will be back dated to 2025. Motion to approve the cash control report to be submitted to the state of Minnesota, made by Nagel, seconded by Brunkhorst, motion carried 4-0-0.
Change of meeting times during Lent
Wed Feb 18, 2026-April 2, 2026
After brief discussion the item failed for lack of support. Meeting times during lent will remain the same.
Pool fee schedule
Council discussed pool operations, expenses and fee comparisons with nearby communities. Noted declining revenue despite previous rate increases and donation reductions. Discussed incentives for early pool pass purchases. Council decided against raising pool fees for 2026 and will monitor budget to review next year.
Motion by Brandt to keep the pool fees the same, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 4-0-0.
Snow parking policing policy
Council discussed options for notification of snow accumulation alerts for residents to remove cars from streets for snow plowing. Options were Facebook, website alerts, and encourage subscribing to city notifications.
Alerts on the website are added by the City Administrator. Council suggested that we add a QR code to the city newsletter, Facebook and the website for residents and businesses to get quick access to subscribing to City of Goodhue notifications. Instructions for the alert subscription were also asked to be sent to Nuvera to scroll on the local channel. Sgt. Huneke reminded Council that the current ordinance suggests that any accumulation can result in a ticket whether you are plowing at the time or not and, other ques-

tions are; when are you plowing? and when can they return to park there? He suggested that a time be posted as to when you will be plowing the streets, publicize it, and that is when you are plowing so it is consistent. The Ordinance needs to be changed, but for now the Goodhue County Sheriff’s Office will wait until a snow emergency is declared by City of Goodhue
Public Works Director, then they will start ticketing.
Façade Program- Additional reimbursement request from Goodhue Depot
The Goodhue Depot submitted their receipts with an additional request for reimbursement of the sign purchased on an auction. The sign was donated by the city to the fundraiser auction, so council was not in favor of approving that additional amount added to the submitted receipts. Since the other receipts were already approved, council chose to accept only receipts from original submission. A motion was made by Brandt to accept the amount of previously approved receipts reimbursement match amount totaling \$331.85, seconded by Nagel, motion carried 4-0-0.
Public Works update
Mayor Schmit inquired about the city’s current dump truck/plow truck replacement and what parts were due to be replaced and Director Mandelkow replied with basically the entire plow system. Mayor asked about the pickup truck sanding systems and Brunkhorst replied that the truck sanders are not efficient enough for municipalities.
Administrator Comments
April 18, 2026, is set up as our “spring city-wide clean-up day” and the Goodhue School National Honor Society is scheduled to help that day. Waste Management has offered free disposal for this event. Staff will continue to confirm with Salvation Army and the rest of the organizations that helped last year.
Council Comments
Council Member Brunkhorst confirmed the Goodhue Fire Truck Association hired an attorney to work on the joint powers’ agreement. They are hoping to have it done in a couple of weeks.
Mayor Comments
None
Other
None
Adjournment
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:19 pm by Brunkhorst, seconded by Brandt 4-0-0.
Respectfully submitted,
Lori Luhman, Administrative Assistant/
City Clerk

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