

KENYON • WANAMINGO Messenger

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OCTOBER 15, 2026

Volume 19 • Issue 19

Bill Hermann Honored for Military Service



Members of the Red Wing American Legion and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon organization presented Bill Hermann with several gifts and thanked him for his military service on September 15th.

(see page 2)

Kenyon Market Sold to New Local Owners

After announcing earlier this summer the market was for sale or may close, Pete Wagner, owner of Kenyon Market in Kenyon confirmed a deal has been reached to sell the

store to new local owners, keeping this important local business open in Kenyon.

(continued on page 19)



Six Vie for Four Open Council Seats in Kenyon



Sue
Dodds



Deanna
Gard



Michelle
Kreisler



Kevin
Maring



Ron
Peterson

Sue Dodds

• Tell me more about your involvement with the City of Kenyon. What inspired you to run for the city council this term?

I have lived in Kenyon my entire life, both in the rural area and within the city limits, where we raised our family. I would like to see the City of Kenyon and the families who call it home continue to prosper.

I believe my experience as finance clerk for the city could be an asset, especially in the area of budgeting and reviewing financial reports.

In the current economy, keeping expenses at a level where residents can afford to continue their current lifestyle is difficult.

(continued on page 10)

A New Season: KW School Board Candidates Up for Election



James
Jarvis



L.J. (Jeff)
Gearhart



Stephanie
Brezina

With a new election season in full swing, many changes are on the horizon. Candidates are running for many offices this season, including the KW School Board. *The Messenger* recently was able to hear from each of the four candidates running for a seat on the KW School Board. Here is what each member had to say about some of their hopes and goals for the future of the KW School District.

(continued on page 12)

Announcements

• Stordahl Lutheran and Lands Lutheran Churches have teamed up to bring back the Klubb Supper on Oct. 17th at Lands Lutheran Church, 16640 Highway 60 Blvd, Zumbrota. The supper will be held from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The price is \$20 per meal for adults, \$5 for under age 12 and individual Klubb can be purchased \$5 for 3 Klubb. Dine in or take out.

(continued on page 3)

Three Way Kenyon Mayoral Race

Diane Barrett for Mayor

1. I have lived in Kenyon all my life. My 3 girls grew up here and attended school. I have always been very dedicated to Kenyon. I became Mayor of the City of Kenyon from 2007 to 2013.

(continued on page 8)



Diane
Barrett



Don
Kirchmann



Diana
Tomlinson

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Bill Hermann Honored for Military Service

By Beth Brekke

Well-known Wanamingo resident and area businessman, Wilfred "Bill" Hermann was honored on September 15th for his military service.

The We Honor Veterans pinning ceremony is a joint program of the Hiawatha Valley Family Beyond the Yellow Ribbon community and Mayo Clinic Hospice. The recognition program was held at Bill's Goodhue Living apartment where he has lived since June.

Bill grew up in Zumbro Falls and married Jeanne on September 5, 1952. When the Army sent Bill to serve in Germany, Jeanne said, "I'm going too". The couple lived there from 1954 to 1955 when they came back to Minnesota and moved to Lake City. In 1959 they relocated to Wanamingo and founded Hermann Implement, the John Deere dealership which they ran for the next 36 years.

Bill was a member of the Wanamingo Fire Department and Lion's Club and he and Jeanne were active members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Their son, Wayne (Bonnie) was born in Germany, followed by daughters, Debra (Gregg) Erickson and Lori (Todd) Gresheth when they returned to Minnesota. The family now includes 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, although Jeanne passed away in 2009.

Three members of the Red Wing American Legion and the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon or-

ganization, and Pam Roe, a social worker with Mayo Hospice, joined Wayne, Bonnie, Debra and Gregg at Bill's apartment to present him with a special military recognition certificate and other gifts.

Roe began by saying, "It's our honor to gather today to present Bill with this certificate of appreciation from the United States Army. It says, 'We pay special tribute to you for your military service to America and for advancing the universal hope of freedom and liberty for all.'"

An Army veteran placed a special pin with the Army and American flags on Bill's collar and said, "Looks good!"

Roe continued the presentation saying, "Thank you for your service to our nation, thank you for the sacrifices you made, and your willingness to serve our country. You endured hardships and were willing to risk your life to maintain our freedoms and on behalf of the Mayo Clinic staff and volunteers, the Veterans Administration, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and our local legion, we want to thank you, and please accept our sincere gratitude. When you see that pin, know that your service to the nation is deeply appreciated and we thank you."

With each presentation, Bill responded with a quiet, mystified but thankful, "Oh boy". He later made sure that the certificate was displayed prominently in his room for everyone to see.

In addition to the certificate and pin, Roe and the veterans gifted Bill some commemorative coins. "This is called an honor coin," Roe began. "The Mayo brothers were actually service members, so our appreciation

from the Mayo Clinic goes right from the very roots of our organization. So this is a special coin that says, 'Dedicated to the American soldier by William and Charles H. Mayo'". A coin given by the servicemen shows the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon logo with all the military branches on the back, including the Space Force. Another one says, "Thank you for your service".

The last gift Roe handed Bill was a red, white and blue pillow case from the Evening Star Quilting Guild of Red Wing. They included a note saying they are, "honored to present this pillow case to thank you for all you have done to protect our freedom. Gratitude and appreciation have been sewn into every stitch".

Bill, a bit emotional, acknowledged his gifts and visitors saying, "I appreciate you. That was quite a time. Shooting people, I just didn't believe in that." He may not have agreed with the tactics, but he served his country proudly.

Bill shared stories of his time in the service. "I still remember the day my two brothers took me down to Wabasha to get into the Army. One thing they said was, 'anytime there's an officer around, salute him.' I thought, 'Well, why is he so much better?' I found out in a hurry!" He described the vaccination process for going overseas as walking through a line and taking a painful shot in each arm, "But, I lived".

Bill spoke of his job in the military. "I wanted to be a mechanic, I thought that would be good." Then he was told, "You excelled in math in the test that you took and we have a better job for you ... with that job,



Wayne and Bonnie Hermann and Debra and Gregg Erickson attended a We Honor Veterans pinning program for Wayne and Debra's dad, Wilfred "Bill" Hermann of Wanamingo.

you'll always be at least 20 miles behind where they're firing and you'll always be in where it's warm because you'll be in a van or something and it will be clean." "I said, 'I'll take that job!'"

Before leaving, the servicemen declared, "We want to give you a salute". The gesture was returned by Bill and the group sang a verse of My Country 'Tis of Thee.

Roe again thanked Bill for his service and he responded by saying, "It was good, I guess. I came back alive. Here I am!"

Do You Have an Announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Everyone's Invited to our

TURKEY DINNER

Sunday, November 1st
at Dennison Lutheran Church
Serving 11:00am-1:00pm

Menu:
Turkey Roast,
Dressing,
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Corn, and Pies

Adults \$15.00 • Children \$5.00
Children Under 5 Years Free

Proceeds will support the Kenyon Area Food Shelf and Dennison Church Outreach.

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Kenyon VFW Presents

Oktoberfest

October 17, 2026

SCHNITZEL FEED
5:00-7:00 PM

\$5.00

Schell's Oktoberfest Taps

LIVE MUSIC!
CHARLIE STICHA BAND
7:00-10:00 PM



Conrad Osthum Post 141
Veterans of Foreign Wars
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VOTE

ELECTION 2026



KEITH ALLEN

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE 19A

PAID FOR BY KEITH ALLEN FOR HOUSE COMMITTEE

Gol Harvest Luncheon

Soup's on at Gol Lutheran Church for its annual Harvest Luncheon 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, October 18 at the church just west of Kenyon at 1500 Highway 60 Blvd. Take-out orders are also available.

Gol invites the community for the church specialty, homemade vegetable beef and barley soup, mixed and simmered under direction of Julie Hogy, Gold Soup Crock Pot Honor winner at the spring Kenyon area internship soup cookoff. Complementing the soup, the menu features barbecues, potato salad and pie –and neighborly conversation--at this seasonally inspired event.

In addition to the delectable food, there will be a silent auction for art, fall décor, Christmas décor, baskets for readers and other items.

Proceeds will help support Lutheran Campus ministries on state college campuses, Ruth's House, Kenyon Food Shelf, Dorothy Day House, Hope Coalition, Goodhue County Christmas Project and several more organizations. Thrivent funds is also providing funds for the luncheon. For further information or take-out orders, call or text Julie Hogy at 507-491-3505. - Submitted

Announcements

• Dale Lutheran Church Fall Festival will be held Sunday, November 8, 2026.

Serving will be from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. The menu will include pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, pie, coffee and milk. Take outs are also available by calling Helen (507)789-6229 or Sharon (507)838-8572. Take out orders are also welcome on the day of the luncheon. There will also be a bake sale, quilt raffle and crafts for sale. Dale Church is located 6 miles east of Kenyon on County Rd. #12. Everyone welcome.

• **Hiawathaland Transit:** Service hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday 7:00am-5:00pm. Visit threeiverscap.org for more information.

• **All are welcome to breakfast, fellowship, bible study, and prayer time every Saturday morning at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon.** Breakfast and fellowship start at 8:00 am. Followed by a verse by verse bible study. Finishing with prayer time at 10:00 am. All are welcome (men, women, and children) each Saturday morning!! Any questions, please contact Loren Bauer: 507-450-6623.

• **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Zumbrota, Mazepa, 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@threeiverscap.org

• **Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard invite you to become a member.** Join us and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Eric Dierks 507-321-1967, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.

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

DENNISON LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Dwaine Sutherland Office: 507-645-6042
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN 55018
Website: www.dennisonvang.org

VANG LUTHERAN CHURCH

507-789-5186 • www.dennisonvang.org
Rural Dennison
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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

301 2nd Avenue, Wanamingo • 824-2155

WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

130 West 3rd St., Wanamingo • 824-2457
www.TrinityWanamingo.org

ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Rob Edwards, Pastor
42957 County 1 Blvd, Kenyon • 507-824-2307
www.emmanuelafle.org
8:30a.m. Prayer Time
9:00a.m. Sunday School
10:00a.m. Coffee Time
10:30a.m. Worship Service

FIRST EV. LUTHERAN

D.J. Chatelaine, Pastor
309 Forest Street, Kenyon • 507-789-5261
website: fickenyon.org
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.;
Noon-1:00p.m. Open Prayer Time,
1st Tuesday each month

GOL LUTHERAN

Joe Jorgensen, Pastor • 507-838-2100
Sunday Worship 10:30a.m.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NERSTRAND

Dwaine Sutherland, Pastor; Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9am. Coffee hour follows @ 10 am
Sunday School 10:15 am

STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Pastor Kathleen Lowery
15049 Cty. 12 Blvd., Zumbrota • 732-5711
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Worship

GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH

Pastor Steve Roberts
2140 Highway 3 South, Northfield • 507-259-2644
srobertsdl@frontiernet.net
Facebook: [calvarychapelnorthfield-jesus saves](https://www.facebook.com/calvarychapelnorthfield-jesus-saves)
Website: calvarynorthfield.org
Sundays 1:00 pm

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Twp) 19086 Jacob Avenue, Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor • 507-330-0025
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

HAUGE LUTHERAN

Larry Grove, Pastor • 507-271-9761
302 Bullis Street, Kenyon
Sunday Worship 10:00a.m. with lunch following
Services at the Old Stone Church on the 4th Sunday of each month through the summer.
Service time is 10:00 with lunch following.

*Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the
Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger at:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com*

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Jesus, Name Above All Names

*God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name above every
name, that at the name of Jesus every
knee should bow. . . .*

— **Philippians 2:9-10**

There are a lot of big names out there: Zuckerberg, Apple, Xi, Trump, Oprah, AI. Does our world rise or fall with these names?

Or how about some names closer to home: Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, ALS, Down Syndrome? Or what about labels that society might apply to us: divorced, disabled, addicted, infertile, fired, foreclosed, forgotten, paroled? Do any of these have the power to make or break us?

No. Our reading today proclaims that no name, whether it carries princely power or brings us problems or roadblocks, is greater than Jesus— not even light years close.

None of those names went down low, “taking the very nature of a servant” and “becoming obedient to death” to raise us up. None of those died on a cross to give us new life.

Jesus is the only One whom God gave the name greater than any other name. He is the only One we should bow to. We can take him more seriously than any other name or label, for he himself is God, and he rules over all things.

This month, let's reflect on the various names of Jesus and what they show us about him. Each one reveals something marvelous and matchless about Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom every knee and power and threat will bow, “to the glory of God the Father.” We are in his hands, and he puts all things in their place.

*Thank you, Jesus, for all you have
done to give us new life and faith in
the power of your name. May we
honor your name above every name.
Amen.*

LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH

P O Box 225/16640 Hwy 60 Blvd
Zumbrota, MN 55992-5105
(507) 732-5482

Web Site: www.landslutheran.org

Facebook: Lands Lutheran Church

Pastor: David Krinke

Email: pastordavid@landslutheran.org

Pastor: Nikki Rockne

Email: pastornikki@landslutheran.org

Sunday mornings:

8:30a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

& on Facebook; 9:30a.m. Sunday School;

10:30a.m. Traditional Worship Service

& on Facebook

Wednesday Evenings: 6:15p.m. Confirmation;

6:15p.m. Worship & on Facebook

7:00p.m. Adult Study

HOLDEN AND DALE LUTHERAN CHURCHES, ELCA

Pastor Dustin Haider

507-789-6677

holdendalsecretary@gmail.com

Holden: 6949 County 30 Blvd, Kenyon

Dale: 9210 County 12 Blvd, Kenyon

www.holdenlutheranchurch.org

Holden/Dale on Facebook

Holden Lutheran Church on Facebook

Worship Services

Oct 18: Dale 9:00, Holden 11:00

Sat Oct 24: Holden 6:00pm

Oct 25: Dale: 11:00

Nov 1: Dale 9:00, Holden 11:00

Nov 1: All Saints Dinner Holden 12-2, 4:30-6:30

MOLAND CHURCH

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

NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Gary Liker, Pastor, 12 Maple Street

507-330-0025

Worship 9:00 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Reverend Daren Flinck

429 4th Street, Kenyon • 507-951-1271

Worship 9:30 a.m.

KENYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

651-283-5754 • Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Sunday Worship 9:30a.m., Live stream on Yahoo

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Cory Rohlfing • Deacon Newell McGee

108 Bullis St., Kenyon

Sunday Mass 8:00a.m.; Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

Pastor Vince Derr

525 Beverly St, Wanamingo

Phone - 507-824- 3019

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(Online Services also available)

OFFICE@NLCWANAMINGO.ORG

Sunday School for preschool - adult 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Services 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Available)

New Life Kids (K- 6th) Wednesdays 6 - 7:15 pm

Youth Group (7th- 12th grade)

Two Sunday evenings per month

Women's ministry, Men's ministry and more.

Contact the church for more information.



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Spiritual Battle Plan



By Ashley Dudek,
founder of Isaiah Ministries, bringing
Biblical teaching to help overcome
life's everyday challenges.
www.isaiahministries.cc

Eyes awaken; I see the bright rays of sun shining through the window. The exact opposite of the pain shooting through my abdomen. I quickly tell myself, "It will be okay, and it will pass." I scoop myself up and make my way to feed sweet Caleb, my beagle, her breakfast.

The cramping continues as I finish my morning routine. With slight frustration I continue to strengthen myself. "Ashley, not a big deal. It will be over before too long."

You see, I have been dealing with Crohn's disease and other gastrology stuff for about seven years now. I am very used to severe gas pains, bloating, and every possible bowel movement you can think of, manifesting many times throughout the day. Yeah, I know, gross, but those are the facts.

It all started after my dad's first bout with cancer, which is a story for another day. All I can say is that during the times I took care of my dad, the weight of his sickness affected my body, and affected it severely. Trauma and stress can do so much to the body.

I make my way to my couch with no creamed coffee, just water. I lay down and read a little of the Bible on my phone as I think, "If I just rest a little, my stomach will ease up." Hours go by, and the pain only increases.

I sprawl out on the floor trying to do anything I can to ease the pain. I start to cry. Emotions of all kinds stir up. "What caused it this

time? I can't be sick. I have so much to do. The book, teaching prep, ministry stuff, meetings, ugh." I reach out for prayer coverage, and people start to intercede on my behalf.

The day ended, and I crawled into bed around 8:30 p.m. I eventually drifted off to sleep. I awoke to the physical pain a couple of times throughout the night but stayed calm and thankfully was able to fall back asleep. Morning came, and the sun rays shone in the window once again, and this time, the sunshine mirrored how I felt! My stomach was so much better, and the pain was practically gone!

"Thank you, Jesus!" I hopped out of bed, tested my tummy by pressing on it, and yep, my stomach had calmed down significantly. Jon awoke as well and made his way to the living room and said, "People must have been praying last night." I replied, "They sure were!"

Later that afternoon I was reminded of a verse I recently heard a pastor teach on:

"For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape" (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

In my spirit I felt, "That is what happened with my stomach the last couple of days." The pain that was shooting up in my stomach and around the tummy, as well as into my back, was unlike any pain I have ever had, and it did come on suddenly.

I then felt the Lord say, "Remember the battle plan." "Yes, the battle plan," I responded in my inner core. Many years ago, I felt the Lord place on my heart the importance of a battle plan for when the going gets tough. It was made up of various things to be remembered when I need strength.

We can be really good at reading the Scriptures, praising the Lord, and doing spiritual warfare when life is peachy, full of rainbows, cupcakes, and sprinkles. However, when the storm clouds roll on in and it gets dark, it can be really hard to call to remembrance the Lord's strength, love, guidance, and various Bible verses.

With that said, I felt a nudge from the Lord to create a battle plan template for me and you! This battle plan can be for things we are facing like health, marriage, legal issues, children, or school situations. The battle plan can be for emotional struggles like depression, anxiety, or loneliness. The battle plan can be for, as the true context of 1 Thessalo-



Spiritual Battle for Health



1. Praise and Worship: Jesus, you are healer, counselor, and provider.

2. Specific Scriptures for What You are Facing:

But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. Job 2:10

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine." Isaiah 43:1

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all. Psalm 34:19

3. Truth Statements/God Statements:

- You will be healed. You will not know when or how, but you will be healed. (What I sense is from Jesus.)
- I slept in the storm; you can sleep in the storm too. It will pass. It will pass. It will pass. (What I sense is from Jesus.)

4. Put on the Armor of God:

Ephesians 6:10-18
- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Feet Fitted with the Readiness of the Gospel of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit



5. Thanksgiving: Jesus, thank you for this day. Thank you for your creation. Thank you that you hear my prayer and are working in the unseen!

nians 5:3 alludes, the end times (which we will discuss next month).

With the following five-step battle plan, you could copy these suggestions on a piece of paper, type them on your computer, or even enter them on your phone. Make sure to spend time and respond to the following recommendations now, so if crap does hit the fan, you have something to strengthen yourself in. Prior to writing out and doing the five steps, on top of your paper (or screen), state what you want the battle plan for.

Spiritual Battle Plan Template

Subject: _____

1. Do Praise and Worship When the Situation Arises. (Speak out Jesus's attributes and put worship music on.)

2. Read Specific Scriptures for What You Are Facing. (Find verses that you can eat, swallow, and digest to give you strength during this difficult time.)

3. Lean into Truth Statements/God Statements. (Ask the Lord what He says about the situation you are facing. If He presses some-

thing specific on your heart, record it.)

4. Put on the Armor of God. (You could draw it on a piece of paper too!) The Armor of God is made up of six pieces and is found in Ephesians 6:10-18. They are the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit.

5. Thanksgiving. (Tell the Lord what you are thankful for.)

I have an example of my battle plan for health below. Since I drafted this battle plan, I have used it around four times already. I pray I will never have gastrology complications again, but if I do, guess what I will go grab again?! That is right—my battle plan. I will encourage you to create a battle plan or even multiple ones for the various things in your life. Jesus has you. He so has you.

You are loved!
Blessings, Ashley

Holden Lutheran Church All Saints Dinner

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Dine In: 12-2 and 4:30-6:30

Meat Balls and Gravy* Pulsa
Scalloped Potatoes * Buttered Carrots
Cranberry Relish * Lefse * Fruit Soup
Rommegrot * Bakings

Cost: \$20/meal • Dine-in: Children 5-12 \$10, 4 and Under Free
Delivery available upon request.
Cash or check only, Holden WELCA
Address: 6949 Co 30 Blvd, Northeast of Kenyon

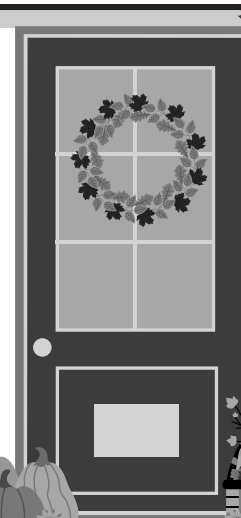
To Go Meals are available
but reservations for these
meals are preferred.
Call (507) 789-6677
Email:
holdendinner@gmail.com

Get Moved In This Fall Before Winter Sets In!



Edina Realty
Chris Mallery
507-273-0422

chrismallery@edinarealty.com



Rosella LaVerne Rodde Overby Strandemo

Rosella LaVerne Rodde Overby Strandemo, 99, of Kenyon, died peacefully with her children at her side on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at her residence.

Rosella was born to Alfred and Marie (Langemo) Rodde on November 22, 1926, at the family farm in rural Kenyon, the fifth of six children. After attending country school, she graduated from Kenyon High School in 1945. She then went on to take a business course and worked for Butler Bros in Minneapolis. Shortly after, she returned to Kenyon, and worked for the Kenyon Creamery.

On May 15, 1948, she married Stanley Overby. Together with children Charles and Sarah, they had many wonderful times as a family, fishing, camping, and traveling. Life-long members of Gol Lutheran Church, they also led many Luther League activities, which impacted kids' lives. Rosella also volunteered with conducting the church choir and Sunday School and VBS, and she was honored to be the secretary for the Women's Synod in the 70's.

After Stanley passed away in 1973, Rosella worked at the Kenyon Farmer's Elevator as a bookkeeper until her marriage to Alverne Strandemo on June 19, 1982. Together they enjoyed many activities, including golfing, bowling, and cross country skiing, and traveled to Arizona and Florida numerous times. He passed away in 1999.

Rosella was always physically active, preferring outside activities to being inside to her last days. She won many trophies for her bowling and golfing, and also enjoyed gardening and bird watching, with her back yard being her lifelong sanctuary.

Rosella was a quietly inspiring person who lived with joy and optimism, despite a lot of hard times in her life. Her optimistic attitude tied directly back to her personal relationship with God, which she considered the most important thing in her life. She was a role model in every way to her children and grandchildren, and her quiet love and wicked Scrabble moves will be missed by each of us who was on the receiving end of both.

Rosella is survived by her children, Charles Overby (Laurel Flynn) of Sutton, AK and Sarah (Daniel) Jystad of Kenyon; grandchildren, Jason, Alyssa, Rachel, Adam, and Erin; and seven great-grandchildren. Rosella was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley; husband, Alverne; children, Cleone Marie, Baby Boy, and Paul Richard; parents, Alfred and Marie Rodde; brothers, Albion (Marian) Rodde, Phillip Rodde, and Fritz (Shirley) Rodde; and sisters, Aldora (Harris) Lee and Alice (Bud) Bishop.

Memorial Service was held 10:00 AM, Saturday, October 10, 2026, at Gol Lutheran Church in Kenyon. Pastor Joe Jorgensen officiated. There was a time to visit with Rosella's family following the service. Interment was in Gol Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to Union Gospel Mission or Gol Lutheran Church. Arrangements are with Michaelson Funeral Home of Kenyon. Please visit www.michaelsonfuneral.com to leave a condolence for Rosella's family.

Joann Rosemary (nèe Bird) Atkinson

Joann Rosemary (nèe Bird) Atkinson, 89, of Zumbrota, passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 27, 2026.

She was born on October 15, 1936, in Minneapolis, MN to Robert and Hazel (nèe Christians) Bird, the only daughter of their five children. She fondly remembered being able to spend her Saturdays at the movie theater for 25 cents and summers at her grandma's farm. Joann graduated from Wanamingo High in 1954.

She spent many decades working at the Bank of Zumbrota; her final role was as a loan assistant. She enjoyed hiking, reading, cooking, watching movies, and spending time with family. On July 25, 1981, Joann married her beloved husband, Richard Atkinson. They spent many wonderful years together making trips out west, hiking, camping, and spending time with family.

Joann is survived by her sons, Michael and Nathan Hamblin; daughter, Laurie Hamblin; daughter-in-law, Corrie (Brett) Hamblin; stepdaughter, Rita Rozea; six grandchildren, Jonathan and Elizabeth Hall, Alex (Ayshlan) Hamblin, Hollie (Brady) Wood, Ethan Hamblin, Gretchen (Garrett) Purvis; and six great-grandchildren, Alex Garrison, Jasper, Milo, Wells, and Posie Woods, and Chloe Hamblin.

Joann is preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Jim, Pete, John, and Bob; son, Brett Hamblin; and husband, Richard Atkinson.

A Celebration of Joann's Life was held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, October 9, 2026, at the Mahn Family Funeral Home Larson Chapel in Zumbrota. A private burial took place at Zumbrota Cemetery. Arrangements made by Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel.

Cathie Jo Spaulding

Cathie Jo Spaulding, age 66, of Faribault, Minnesota, passed away on September 29, 2026.

Cathie was born on February 26, 1960, in River Falls, Wisconsin, to Milburn "Red" and Marlys Jackson. She grew up in Dundas, Minnesota, alongside her two older sisters,

Sue and Linda.

But Cathie's family extended well beyond the walls of her home. She was fortunate to be part of the "Dundas Crew," a close-knit group of friends who formed a special bond in their younger years—one that stood the test of time and remained a treasured part of her life. What began as childhood friendship grew into a lifelong family, held together through the years by countless memories, laughter, and a connection that never faded.

Cathie married Richard Tussing, and together they shared 20 years of marriage and raised their two children, Whitney and Andrew. Although their lives eventually took them in different directions, their years together gave Cathie what would always be one of the greatest joys of her life—the gift of being a mother.

Later in life, Cathie found love again and married Thomas Spaulding. They shared their lives together until Thomas's passing in 2010.

Cathie dedicated more than 30 years to working for the State of Minnesota. She began her career as a Human Services Technician at the state hospital in Faribault and continued her work with the state through its transition to the correctional system and later in community group home settings. Caring for others came naturally to Cathie, and it was a quality that extended far beyond her career. Whether she was caring for her children and family or showing up for a friend who needed her, Cathie could always be counted on to lend a hand and be there when it mattered most.

Cathie had a generous heart and believed in helping others whenever she could. She volunteered her time delivering Meals on Wheels to older members of her community and was a faithful monthly supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Her generosity was simply part of who she was. If someone needed help, Cathie was the kind of person who wanted to do something about it.

As much as Cathie worked and cared for others, she also knew how to enjoy life. She loved traveling and taking vacations with her family and friends—and anyone who knew Cathie knew there would be plenty of pictures to prove it! She treasured those adventures, the people she shared them with, and all the memories made along the way.

When she wasn't traveling, Cathie was perfectly happy settling in for a good thriller, an old Western, or just about any Netflix series that caught her attention.

Cathie was someone you could laugh with, have a good time with, and spend hours sharing stories and memories. She cared deeply about the people in her life and was never afraid to speak her mind. If Cathie didn't agree with you, chances are you knew it—and those who knew and loved her wouldn't

have expected anything less. She was caring and generous, fun and strong-willed, honest and loyal, and always unmistakably herself.

Of all the roles Cathie held throughout her life, being a grandmother was among those she treasured most. Her six grandchildren were truly the light of her life. After being blessed with five granddaughters, she was delighted to finally welcome a grandson into the family.

Cathie made it a priority to be present in her grandchildren's lives, for both the important milestones and the ordinary moments that often become the most treasured memories. She was there to babysit when needed, cheer them on at sporting events, attend orchestra concerts, and enjoy an occasional movie and dinner together.

More than anything, Cathie gave her grandchildren her time, attention, and love. She was someone they knew they could talk to about anything—someone who would listen, offer advice when they needed it, and always remind them how deeply they were loved. The time she spent with her grandchildren brought Cathie tremendous joy, and the memories they made together will forever be a special part of the legacy she leaves behind.

Cathie leaves behind a family who loved her dearly and will forever cherish the memories they shared with her. She is lovingly remembered by her children, Whitney (Brian) Bengen and Andrew (Abbey) Tussing; her six grandchildren, Muriel Bengen, Sophia Bengen, Sloane Tussing, Emery Tussing, Charlotte Bengen, and Case Tussing; her sister, Linda (Robin) Gillian; her niece, Holly Hubers; her mother-in-law, Sandy (Gordy) Boyle; her sister-in-law, Ramona Eads, and her children, Shane, Alex, and Cassidy; as well as many other relatives, friends, and loved ones who held a special place in her heart.

Cathie was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Spaulding; her parents, Milburn "Red" and Marlys Jackson; her sister, Sue McCallister; and other cherished family members and friends who passed before her.

Our lives will never be quite the same without Cathie, but her presence will remain with us—in the traditions she began, the stories we continue to tell, the way we care for one another, and, most of all, in the laughter and memories she gave us.

Cathie leaves behind a lifetime of love and a family forever changed by having had her in their lives. She was deeply loved, and she will be deeply missed.

Memorial services will be held at Boldt Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Faribault, on Friday, October 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Private interment will take place at Pine Island Cemetery, Pine Island.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that memorial contributions be made in Cathie's honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a charity that was especially close to her heart.

In honor of Cathie, her family encourages those who knew and loved her to share their favorite stories and memories of her, to laugh together, and to remember the many ways she touched their lives. In doing so, her stories will continue to be told, her laughter will continue to be remembered, and a little piece of Cathie will always remain with us.

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Lois Geneva Estrem

Lois Geneva Estrem, 82, of Kenyon, died on Monday, October 5, 2026, at her home. She was born December 7, 1943, in rural Sogn, Minnesota, to Everett and Gladys (Esterby) Hommedahl. She grew up in Cannon Falls. She started her schooling at District #47 school southeast of Urland Church. From there she went to Wastedo school and graduated from Cannon Falls High School in 1961. During school Lois worked at the Edgewood Restaurant. Lois was engaged on April 3 1961 to John Estrem, and they were united in marriage on Saturday, February 17, 1962, in Urland Church in Cannon Falls. They were blessed with three children, John, Troy, and Beth. As parents John and Lois were at every sporting event and concert that their children were involved in. Lois didn't just watch her kids play sports, she also watched the Timberwolves, Vikings, Twins and the Gophers. While raising her family, Lois started working at the Wanamingo Bank and moved onto Northfield Bank, before working at the Security State Bank of Kenyon. For a couple years, Lois and John decided to manage hotels in Santa Barbra, California and Rochester, Minnesota. Lois would then return to the Security State Bank of Kenyon where she moved from teller to Assistant Vice President, later retiring after 39 years. People



would wait in line just so she could be their teller so they could see her smile. They would also call ahead of time to see if she was working and if she wasn't then they would choose a different day to make their deposits. Lois was very involved with the community of Kenyon, from the Gunderson House to many different hats at church. Lois and John's generosity was felt when they opened their doors to let people live with them when they needed and place to rest their head. Lois and John enjoyed their cabin while raising their family, sharing many memories with their family and friends. When they retired, they had a winter home in Mesa, Arizona, where they enjoyed entertaining and being snow birds. During their life they enjoyed traveling the world going to Norway, Panama Canal, Costa Rica, Hawaii and Alaska cruises, and making it to every state but Maine. Mom would always tell her family to give where you can because you will always get back 10 fold. She lead by example. She is survived by her husband John Estrem of Kenyon; sons, John (and Linda) Estrem of Red Wing, and Troy (and Joy) Estrem of Kenyon; grandchildren, Thor (and Kim), and Jason; great-grandchildren, Paige (and Joshua), Carson (and Samantha), brother, Erling (and Karen) Hommedahl; son-in-law, Noah Cashman, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, step dad (Bill Thomas), daughter, Beth Cashman; brothers, Sherman Hommedahl and Kermit Hommedahl.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Sandy Doehling, Debra Herrlich and Holly Lexvold for their professional care. We would also like to thank all the staff from the Hospice Organization. Visitation will be at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenyon on Friday, October 16, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 11:00 AM at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenyon with a visitation starting one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in the Kenyon Cemetery in Kenyon. Memorials are preferred to First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

John Henry Buck, Jr.

John Henry Buck, Jr., age 88, of Zumbrota, passed away peacefully on October 7, 2026 at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born on March 22, 1938 to John and Rosalie (Puppe) Buck. He was baptized and confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church. He graduated from Zumbrota High School, class of 1956. On April 12, 1958, he married Nancy Berg and the couple raised three children. John devoted most of his adult life to farming, milking cows, raising crops, cattle and hogs. He also delivered for MoorMan's Feed for 19 years and worked for NAPA in Zumbrota for 10 years.



In his free time, he enjoyed hunting and golfing. John also like to entertain and spend time with his friends. He was a fan of card games and made the occasional trip to Treasure Island. He enjoyed singing and often sang to his grandchildren. He was a kind, thoughtful man who truly enjoyed his life. He will be missed by many, including his children, Candice (Clancy) Trendera of Hastings, Terry (Kelli) Buck of Zumbrota, and Renae (Joel) Wolf of Mankato; nine grandchildren, Adam, Lindsey (Tyler) and Nathan Trendera, Ashlen (Travis) Kauffman, Kaitlen (Spencer) Ellingson and Rianne Buck, Stacy (Jesse) Courier, Travis Robinson and Linnea Wolf; 10 great-grandchildren; special friend, Dee Knutson; and siblings, Berdell Gadiant and Joan Moldenhauer. He is preceded in death by brothers, Luverne, Cyrus, and Darold Buck; sister, Ardel Flynn; and his parents. A memorial service will be 11 a.m., Thursday, October 15, 2026 at Christ Lutheran Church in Zumbrota with Rev. Robbin Roberts officiating. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service at church. Burial to follow at Zumbrota Cemetery. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com

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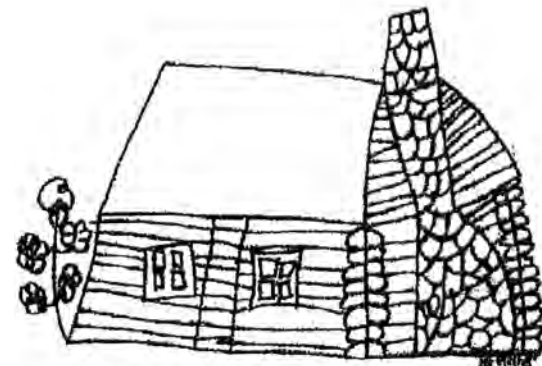
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The Vampire is IN!

By Cheri Roshon

Skylee Gardner, PhD, has a passion for helping people become more informed and engaged in their own health. As we get older, many of us begin paying closer attention to what is happening inside our bodies not simply when we are sick, but as part of maintaining our overall health and wellness.

Gardner holds a doctorate in holistic medicine and is Board-Certified through the American Association of Drugless Practition-

ers.

She is also a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) and Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT) through the National Healthcareer Association.

Her healthcare background began in 2006, when she started training in medical assisting and phlebotomy. That early clinical education introduced her to laboratory procedures, specimen collection and the important role blood testing plays in healthcare. Over the years, Gardner continued building experience in clinical healthcare and laboratory-related work, eventually combining that foundation with her interest in holistic health and wellness.

Laboratory testing can provide valuable information about many aspects of health, including cholesterol, blood sugar, hormones, nutritional markers and other biomarkers. Rather than viewing laboratory testing only as something used when a person is ill, Gardner believes it can also help people better understand their health over time.

That philosophy became the foundation for Aurora Health Co.

Gardner's interest in this field became more personal after experiencing health concerns of her own and discovering how difficult it could sometimes be to access certain laboratory tests.

"I am not a licensed physician, and I do not diagnose, treat or prescribe," Gardner explains. "My role is in education, specimen collection and helping people understand the laboratory-testing options available to them. I have a clinical laboratory background and a

special interest in holistic health and wellness."

Through Aurora Health Co., clients can access laboratory testing through established laboratory platforms and physician-authorization networks.

Gardner follows established protocols for specimen collection, processing and transport. Testing is reviewed and ordered through an appropriate licensed provider. Aurora Health Co. then provides the local specimen-collection service and prepares the specimen for shipment to the designated laboratory.

Clients can then schedule a lab draw appointment with Gardner at Aurora Health Co., located inside Workout 24/7 Gym in Wanamingo, Minnesota. Depending on the laboratory service being used, orders may come from the client's own healthcare provider or through a physician-authorization network associated with the laboratory platform.

After the specimen is collected, it is sent to the appropriate laboratory for analysis. Results are then made available through the applicable laboratory or patient portal. Clients can review those results and share them with their licensed healthcare provider for medical interpretation, diagnosis or treatment or keep for their record.

Gardner emphasizes that Aurora Health Co. is designed to complement—not replace—traditional medical care.

"Physicians and other licensed healthcare providers play an essential role when someone needs a diagnosis, medical treatment or management of a health condition," she says. "What I want to provide is another avenue for people who want to become more involved in understanding their own health information."

For some clients, accessibility is one of the biggest advantages. Laboratory testing may not always be covered by insurance, and some people face high deductibles, limited benefits or long waits for appointments. Self-pay laboratory platforms and physician-authorized testing can provide another option for individuals who want greater access to their own health information. HSA accounts are accepted.

"I wouldn't continue doing this if I didn't believe it was helping people," Gardner says. "My goal is to make laboratory testing more approachable and accessible while staying within the appropriate boundaries of what I



Skylee Gardner, PhD

am trained and certified to do."

She credits Workout 24/7 Gym for providing a space where Aurora can offer local specimen-collection services.

"It is a natural connection," Gardner says. "People who are already thinking about exercise, nutrition and their long-term health are often interested in understanding their biomarkers as well. Laboratory information gives people objective information they can use in conversations with their healthcare providers and as part of their overall wellness journey."

Aurora Health Co. is located inside Workout 24/7 Gym in Wanamingo, Minnesota.

Gardner continues to work in healthcare full-time. Aurora operates part-time by appointment only. To schedule a lab draw or order your own labs, visit www.LabsandLifestyle.com. Click on "Order Your Labwork" to get started. You can also find Aurora Health Co. on Facebook, give us a like and a follow!

For Gardner, the goal is simple: increase access to health information for the individual, educate people about their options and help them become more active participants in their own healthcare.

Being informed about your health does not replace your healthcare team or emergency medical care—but it can help you work more effectively alongside your team in the changing landscape of healthcare access and technology.

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Three Way Kenyon Mayoral Race

(continued from page 1)

I was instrumental in helping bring Rose Fest back to our community. Served on the Liquor Committee for several years.

2. We need to start living within our means and spending more wisely, work on more bringing more businesses to the industrial park.

Make our town more attractive. Listening to the concerns of our citizens.

3. Retaining our downtown and try to bring new businesses to main street. Bringing our 'boulevard of roses' back to what it was, which Kenyon is known for. A great place to raise your kids and/or to retire. We have a pool, parks, a library, police department, food shelf, workout center, grocery store, etc.

4. I worked for a municipal law firm from 1997 -1999. I then worked for the City of Kenyon as the Administrative Assistant from 1999 to 2002. Worked for Sun Country as the executive assistant to the Chairman of Board and CEO. I was a gambling manager for the Kenyon Snowdrifters in which our club donated a lot of money to the city and the school over the years. I have served on several different boards over the years. I currently farm with my husband.

5. I love Kenyon – this is my home. I am a very determined person. If I am given a challenge, I will do it.

6. Keeping the citizens informed; doing what's right for all of us. Trying to get new businesses in town, cutting our taxes, spending money wisely and working well with other council members and staff to make the best decisions for Kenyon and the future.

Don Kirchmann for Mayor

• *Tell me more about your involvement with the City of Kenyon. What inspired you to run for the mayoral seat again?*

I've been involved in Kenyon for a number of years. I'm currently a firefighter, and I've also been on the Park and Recreation Committee. I like being involved and helping out where I can. I decided to run for mayor again because I want to continue down the path that

I've started. I feel there is still more that needs to be done, and I'd like to continue working on it.

I also feel that before a mayor can really show what they are capable of, they should have the opportunity to serve at least two terms. The first term, you're learning the job and learning how the city works. The second term gives you the chance to keep moving forward with what you started.

• *Should you be elected to the position of Mayor again, what are the top 3 issues you want to address in this upcoming term?*

If I'm fortunate enough to be elected for another term, there are three things I really want to keep working on.

First, I want to continue with the demolition of the nursing home and move forward with the apartments. I also want to keep moving forward with the new house development. I think more housing is important for Kenyon.

Second, I want to continue supporting our current business owners. They work hard, and they've put a lot into our community.

Third, I want to continue our efforts to fill the industrial park. It's nice to see construction starting there, and I'd like to see more businesses come to Kenyon.

• *What positive changes have you witnessed in your time as mayor? Anything you wish to continue should you be re-elected?*

One thing I'm really happy about is the purchase of the Kenyon Market. I'm excited for them and their new adventure, and I want to support them through it. I really believe the grocery store is the heart of the city.

I'm also happy to see construction in the industrial park. We've been working toward that, and it's nice to see things happening.

And I want to continue improving the Boulevard of Roses and getting the rose trees back in place. That's what Kenyon is known for, and I think we need to keep it that way.

• *What aspects of Kenyon are you passionate about? What positive things do you believe Kenyon has to offer?*

What I'm most passionate about is Kenyon and the people here. We have a lot of good people who care about our community and want to see it do well.

The Boulevard of Roses is also very important to me. It's a big part of what Kenyon is known for, and I want to continue taking care of it and getting the rose trees back in place.

I also really believe in supporting our com-

munity and our local businesses. Our businesses are a big part of Kenyon, and I think we need to support the people who put their time and money into our town.

• *What should the Kenyon community know about you?*

There isn't really anything new to add when it comes to my background or qualifications. My biggest experience when it comes to this position is the experience I've gained serving as your mayor. I've learned a lot during my time in office, and I believe that experience is important going into another term.

6) What drives you to make a difference in the Kenyon community?

My love for this community and this town is what drives me. I care about Kenyon and the people who live here, and I want to do what I can to help make it a good place to live, work and raise a family.

• *What do you see as the roles and responsibilities of Mayor? Should you be re-elected, how do you plan to fulfill these responsibilities?*

To me, being mayor is about being there for the community. It's not about me—it's about the people and what they want for their community.

If I'm re-elected, I plan to continue listening to the people of Kenyon, being available when they need me, and working to do what I believe is best for the community. I don't think the mayor should try to control the city. The mayor should listen, work with people, and help move the community in the direction the people want it to go.

• *Anything else you want the Kenyon-*

Wanamingo Messenger to know?

I just want to help set Kenyon on the right path and continue moving us forward. I don't want to make a career out of being mayor, and I don't want to try to control the city. I actually care about this community and the people who live here. I want to do what I can to help Kenyon be a good place to live and continue to move in the right direction.

Diana Tomlinson for Mayor

• *Tell me more about your involvement with the City of Kenyon. What inspired you to run for mayor?*

I have lived in Kenyon off and on for about 10 years. I have lived here for 2 years this time, and I have also worked at the old Schweichs restaurant. I love this town and the people and think they deserve a breath of fresh air in their leadership.

• *Should you be elected to the position of mayor, what are the top 3 issues you want to address?*

I would love to address crime and the lack of officers. I would like to see about getting chickens for the residents, as so many have expressed interest. And lastly, I want to see what the City of Kenyon residents want me to address because it's the residents that we work for.

• *What aspects of Kenyon are you passionate about? What positive things do you believe Kenyon has to offer?*

I am absolutely passionate about the people of Kenyon and what they want for their hometown and lives. I believe Kenyon has a lot to offer in the way of community and togetherness.

(continued on page 9)



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Three Way Kenyon Mayoral Race

(continued from page 8)

This town is like a large family, and they always pull together.

• *What should the Kenyon community know about you? (government/management qualifications, background, etc.)*

I have a background in law enforcement and criminal justice in college. I have family and friends that have been in Kenyon their whole lives. My grandkids live here, as well as my daughter. I am very aware of the political climate and how fragile our way of life is. Our community is a rare small town gem that needs to be protected and nurtured.

• *What drives you to make a difference in the Kenyon community?*

I want to make a difference for the people of Kenyon. Most people want things to change but don't have transparency from their elected officials, so they feel powerless to initiate change. I want to empower the people. I want people to remember that

elected officials work for the people, not the other way around.

• *What do you see as the roles and responsibilities of the Kenyon Mayor? If elected, how do you plan to fulfill these responsibilities?*

The roles and responsibilities are diverse. There are many roles that the Mayor takes on, but I think mostly it is to be a seen, heard, and honorable figurehead for the people of Kenyon.

• *Anything else you want the Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger to know?*

I just want the people of Kenyon to know that if you are unhappy with something that you can change it. You have the power to help your community and to effect change. You are in control of what you say and do to shape your lives, and I want to be the person to help the people with what they need or want from their elected officials.

Halloween on Main

By Cheri Roshon

How many small towns have not one but 2 Halloween parties plus a whole bunch of fun going on for the whole family?

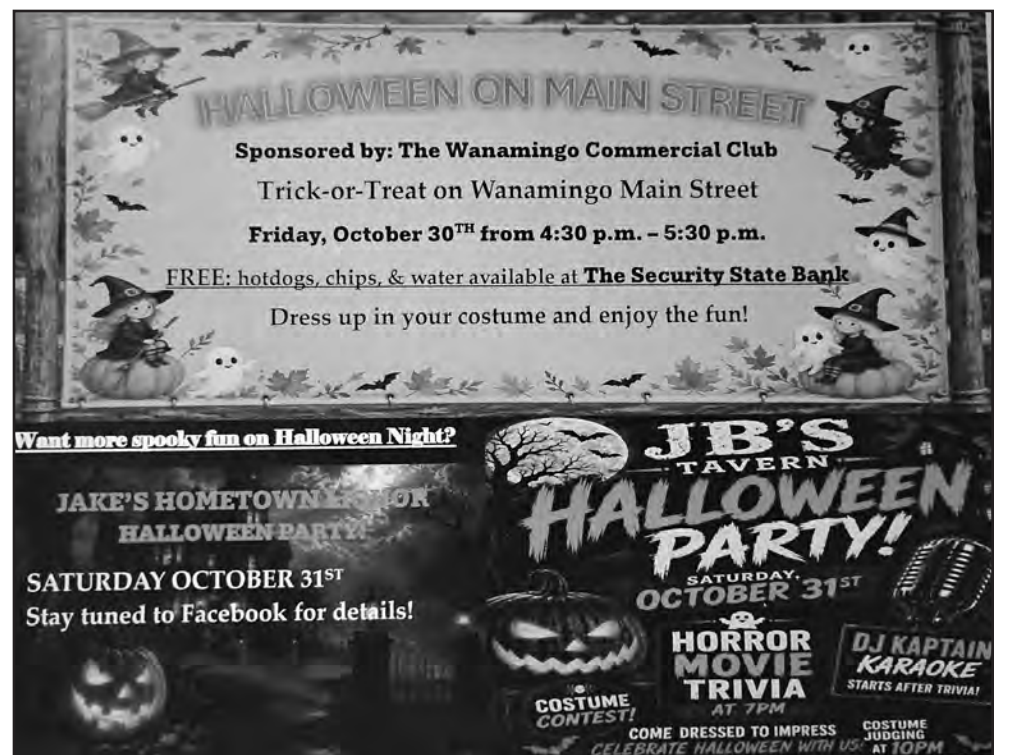
Well, the only one I know in that category is our own Wanamingo! Halloween on Main Street is an annual event sponsored by the Wanamingo Commercial Club, and they would like to invite you all to the festivities. On Friday, October 30th from 4:30pm to 5:30 pm the businesses on Main Street will be giving out candy to the ghouls and goblins roaming around, and the princesses and dragons, too! All are welcome, of course, to wander

the street, chat with their neighbors, take pictures of the costumed participants. If you get some good pictures, feel free to send them to the Messenger for a follow up to the event! Free hot dogs, chips and water will also be available at The Security State Bank between 4:30 and 5:30, so dress up in your costume and enjoy the fun!

On October 31st JB's Tavern will be having a Halloween party you won't want to miss! Come and celebrate the holiday dressed to impress, because there will be a costume contest going on, with judging at 10pm. You can participate in Horror Movie Trivia at 7 pm, and DJ Kaptain Karaoke starts after the Trivia Contest. Be prepared to dance to the Monster Mash!

Jake's Hometown Liquor will also be providing more spooky fun at the Liquor store that evening, so be sure to follow them on Facebook to find out what happenings will be featured there as well! Knowing Jake and the crew, a good time will be had by all!

So get out and about and have a lot of fun! Hope to see you there!



October & early November events, happenings and goings on at WildWood!

315 Main Street | Nerstrand | WildWoodofNerstrand.com

The Savvy Traveler : Modern Trends, Smart Tech Tips and Seamless Planning
Monday, October 19 | 6:00-7:30pm | FREE, but must still register online
Hosted by Linda Dorn of Northstar Journeys by Linda

Ready to reset, reconnect and explore the world on your own terms? Whether you are curious about easing into safe solo travel, seeking a refreshing scenic escape, or eager to join a group of like-minded travelers, this 90-minute workshop is designed to turn your next getaway into a reality. Join Linda, educator, travel advisor, and founder of Northstar Journeys by Linda, for an inspiring, conversational session on today's top travel trends—including emerging “Cool-cations,” luxury rail and immersive ocean and river cruises. Discover how to leverage digital tools and AI as your personal “travel intern” to streamline logistics, cut through research fatigue and unlock authentic experiences without the crowds. You'll leave with practical safety strategies, savvy planning tools and a blueprint to move from dreaming to exploring your next destination. Must pre-register online.

Halloween Cookie Decorating Class {adult/child}
Friday, October 30 | 6-8pm | \$45/ticket
Hosted by Kari of Sweet Q's Cookie Co.

Bring your little ghouls and gremlins this Halloween Eve to learn to decorate cookies with royal icing, with Kari of Sweet Q's Cookie Co.! Come and decorate your very own Halloween-themed cookies to the tune of all your favorite spooky tunes. Halloween costumes encouraged! Everything you need to learn some basic skills to decorate with royal icing will be provided. (All baking and icing prep included in the class will be done for you.) This class is geared toward kids and their adult caregivers or loved ones and is perfect for anyone from beginners looking to enhance their skills to professionals looking to just have a good time! This class is open to individuals of all ages. Participants under the age of 10 must have a ticket *and* be accompanied by an adult ticket-holder. Must pre-pay; details on the website.

3rd Annual Makers Market
Saturday, November 7 | 9am-1pm | Open to the public!

Boasting festive Christmas Market vibes nestled in a quaint small town setting. Peruse indoor and outdoor talented creators, bakers, woodsmen and metal twisters, candle makers and chocolate swirlers, crafters and inventors, tasty food vendors, live music and more!

Live Harp Rejuvenation Evening
Thursday, November 12 | 6:30-7:30pm | free-will donation
Hosted by Sarah Swan-McDonald

Escape the noise of daily life and relax during our Evening of Sound and Rejuvenation with live harp provided by Sarah Swan McDonald. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. so you can settle in and fill a cup with some warm tea before the harp music begins at 7:00 p.m. This is not a concert, but a 30-minute session of simple, quiet music designed to help you unwind. In this dimly lit space, you are invited to bring your own yoga mat, bolster, pillows, or blankets to create a comfortable spot on the floor. As the slow and meditative melodies fill the room, tension will dissolve and your mind will drift into stillness, leaving you feeling restored and refreshed. Admission is by free will donation, making this evening of rest accessible to everyone.

Sourdough 101
Saturday, November 14 | 11am-1:30pm | \$95
Hosted by Ashley of Ten Acre Baker

Join Ashley and enjoy a hands-on, beginner-friendly sourdough baking experience! In this class you will go through all the steps of making, baking and taking care of your own sourdough, no experience needed! You'll head home with everything you need to keep baking, including...your own jar of active sourdough starter, essential sourdough tools, a printed recipe card and informational guide and not one, but TWO doughs — fully mixed, stretched, and ready for you to bake at home. During class, you'll use all of the tools — plus your hands, a bowl, and the dry ingredients provided — as we walk step-by-step through preparing your very first loaf of sourdough. Only one participant per paid ticket. Must be 18+ to attend. Must pre-register online.

As always, WildWood is open for public and private rentals!
More information and event tickets available online at
wildwoodofnerstrand.com/happenings

Six Vie for Four Open Council Seats in Kenyon

(continued from page 1)

I would like to work with the other members of the council to keep our residents and businesses a top priority when making decisions about the budget and other issues.

• Should you be elected, what are the top 3 issues you wish to address?

• Taxes and keeping Kenyon affordable for residents

• Responsible management of city finances

• Communication between employees, the council, administration, businesses and residents

• What drives you to make a difference in the Kenyon community? What positive things do you believe Kenyon has to offer?

I would like to see new residents feel welcomed in our community and have their families thrive here alongside our longtime residents. I want to continue to see our K-W graduates view Kenyon as a place where they would like to stay and raise a family. Kenyon is filled with citizens who care deeply about the city. We have a low crime rate, which helps make it a safe community for children to be out and about. We also have businesses that offer many of the day-to-day items residents need.

• What should the Kenyon community know about you? (government/management qualifications, background, etc.)

I worked for the City of Kenyon as finance clerk for 26 years under the direction of six different city administrators before retiring in December 2021. During this time, I was responsible, along with the administrator, for all aspects of the city's financials, including payroll, for the city departments and Kenyon Municipal Utilities.

I worked with department heads, answering questions that arose concerning their finances during the year, and assisted with budgeting to set the yearly levy. Due to the resignation of finance clerks following my retirement, I returned to help, with the last time ending in April 2026.

• What do you see as the roles and responsibilities of the city council? If elected, how do you plan to fulfill these responsibilities?

The city council is responsible for monitoring monthly expenses and revenues, working with departments to set the annual budget and levy, reviewing reports from committees and department heads, setting ordinances, and discussing other issues that develop. I hope to have open communication with administration so that we have all the information we need to make informed decisions on issues brought before the council. As a council, we should work together to find ways to keep Kenyon an affordable place for retired resi-

dents as well as our younger population.

• How do you plan to work with the other members of the Kenyon government? What is your view on collaboration and communication?

I feel my experience with city finances will be helpful, especially with budgeting, while other council members may have additional expertise in other areas. There will always be different points of view on issues, but there should be constructive discussions with all sides being heard.

• Anything else you want The Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger to know?

The current council has had to deal with many tough issues over the past few years. I want to thank all of these members for their service, and I believe I can continue to make a difference if I am elected.

Deanna Gard

• Tell me more about your involvement with the City of Kenyon. What inspired you to run for the city council this term?

I moved back to Kenyon in 2012, after having lived here as an elementary student and graduating from Kenyon High School in 1976. Since returning, I've enjoyed getting reacquainted with the community, making new friends, and getting to know my neighbors.

Whether someone has lived in Kenyon their entire life or is new to the community, I believe everyone wants to feel welcome, safe, and listened to. Those values are important to me, and they are part of why I chose to become involved in our community.

I have had the opportunity to serve on the City Council for the past four months after being appointed to fill a vacant position in early summer. In that short time, I've gained a deeper appreciation for the responsibilities of serving our community and for the importance of listening to residents and working together to address the needs of Kenyon.

• Should you be elected, what are the top 3 issues you wish to address?

• Hold quarterly town-hall meetings to provide residents with regular opportunities to ask questions, share concerns, and engage directly with city leadership.

• Publish a regular column or blog from the City Administrator to keep residents informed about city operations, projects, challenges, and decisions.

• Ensure that every member of the City Council—including myself—receives education and training on the workings of city government, including municipal responsibilities, procedures, budgeting, and the roles of city staff and elected officials.

• What drives you to make a difference in the Kenyon community? What positive things do you believe Kenyon has to offer?

I want everyone who calls Kenyon home to feel comfortable, welcomed, and connected to the community. My goal is for residents to know where to find local resources and support for themselves and their families so they can feel safe, happy, and at home here.

Kenyon is a slow-paced, quiet town with a strong sense of community. At the same time, there are plenty of opportunities for those who want to stay busy, get involved, and be active.

From community events and local organizations to recreational activities and family-friendly opportunities, Kenyon has something for everyone.

• What should the Kenyon community know about you? (government/management qualifications, background, etc.)

I retired six years ago after a 40-year career in health care, including many years in supervisory and administrative roles. Throughout my career, I learned the importance of leading by example, listening actively, communicating openly, and treating people with respect. I believe effective leadership is built on transparency, accountability, and a genuine willingness to listen to others. These experiences have shaped my approach to leadership and continue to guide how I work with and serve others.

5) What do you see as the roles and responsibilities of the city council? If elected, how do you plan to fulfill these responsibilities?

The procedural role of a city council member is to help set community policy, approve the city budget, enact local ordinances, and provide direction to city administration.

I want to make sure citizens have meaningful avenues to let their council members know about their needs, concerns, and ideas. The people who live in Kenyon drive the activity of the council—not the other way around.

Every citizen matters, and every voice has value. I encourage all residents to participate, speak up, share their ideas, and stay engaged in the decisions that shape our community.

6) How do you plan to work with the other members of the Kenyon government? What is your view on collaboration and communication?

All of us in city government have strengths and weaknesses. The first step is having the humility to acknowledge where we can improve, and the second is using our individual strengths and talents to the best of our ability.

We are one body with many parts, and collaboration is key. There is a time to listen and a time to be heard. I am open to constructive criticism, and I welcome lively, respectful conversation.

When we work together, listen to one another, and make the most of the talents each person brings to the table, we can accomplish more for the community we serve.

7) Anything else you want The Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger to know?

Family is one of my top priorities, and I'm grateful to be able to spend a lot of my time with the people I love. My two sons and their families live nearby, which gives me plenty of opportunities to stay connected and enjoy time together.

My son Greg and his wife, Angela, live in Kenyon with their sons, Joseph and Isaac. My son Brent and his wife, Jamie, live in Dundas with their sons, Landon and Ethan. Being close to my family and watching my grandchildren grow is one of the greatest joys in my life.

I'm a down-to-earth person who values good friendships, honesty, and treating people with respect.

Michelle Kreisler

• I have been a member of the KVFD Ladies Auxiliary, and my husband has been a volunteer for the Kenyon Fire dept since 2018. My family is involved with Kenyon Snowmobile Club. and take part in many of the town's activities. I care deeply about the city of Kenyon and its future.

• Reviewing the cities budget and helping to control spending are among top priorities. We must ensure taxpayer dollars are used efficiently while maintaining the services our community depends on. Together we can work to identify opportunities to reduce property taxes, as a Kenyon resident we currently have the highest property tax burdens in Goodhue County.

• Kenyon is a great community where families can put down roots and build lasting connections. The strong sense of community means residents look out for one another, creating an environment where friends become family. By promoting all that Kenyon has to offer, we can attract new residents, encourage growth, and strengthen our town for future generations. Whether you're starting a family or looking for a place to enjoy retirement, Kenyon is a community where people can flourish.

• I graduated from Hastings and moved to Kenyon in 2003. My husband and I raised our son here and he graduated from Kenyon High School. I am an Insurance Agent for Castle Rock Agency. I love being with friends and family. I am always planning something. Since covid, I have raised money to deliver Christmas gifts to the local Nursing Homes. Last year I was able to deliver gifts to Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, and Faribault.

• I will do my homework by thoroughly reviewing meeting agendas, provided financial reports and city codes so I am prepared for every vote. Second, the council members operate as part of a team, and I will collaborate respectfully with my colleagues. Third, I will listen to our residents and make decisions that serve the long-term interests of Kenyon.

• I plan to work with my fellow members by building open, respectful relationships because we are here for the betterment of Kenyon. Communication is key and listening to the residents on their concerns.

• I am running for City Council because I've lived here for 23yrs. As a homeowner and parent, I want to keep this town a great place. My background with Insurance, banking, and management will help me prepare to be an effective City Council member. I will work hard and make sure your voice is heard.

Kevin Maring

• Tell me more about your involvement with the City of Kenyon. What inspired you to run for the city council this term?

I have lived in Kenyon for most of my adult life. I graduated from KW Schools in 1994.

I really would like to address the issues of high taxes. Taxes are a little scary right now. We're going to tax our young people out of this town. I like this town. We've got to survive in this town. In addition to taxes, the grocery store concerns me. I try to do as much business as I can with it.

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Six Vie for Four Open Council Seats in Kenyon

(continued from page 10)

I think there are a lot of common-sense things that can happen.

• **Should you be elected, what are the top 3 issues you wish to address?**

Common sense. Let's do some positive things. We have to take care of our businesses here before we expand. I want to understand more about what the spending plan is. I want to give back to the city. The town has been good to me. I want to get in there and help people.

• **What drives you to make a difference in the Kenyon community? What positive things do you believe Kenyon has to offer?**

Somebody's got to do it. I want to get involved.

We've got a good community. It's a strong community. But it's also a farming community. We got to be careful with our spending! I want to know what we are doing with our money and why we are doing it.

• **What should the Kenyon community know about you? (government/management qualifications, background, etc.)**

I have lived in and around this community and been in business in Kenyon most of my life. Worked with people on a daily basis. I hold a real estate and auction license. I've been involved in the auction business since I was 15. I have been involved with Rose Fest planning for a few years. I am willing to listen. We don't want to lose our school or our grocery store. I believe communication is key and that better communication is needed. I want to help make decisions based on the facts.

• **What do you see as the roles and responsibilities of the city council? If elected, how do you plan to fulfill these responsibilities?**

We need to look at what we are doing and where we are going. We also need to listen to what the people have to say and serve the people. We need to be transparent, so people know what's going on, and be open to concerns and discussion. Sometimes change is good in the long run.

I hope to bring some different perspectives to the table. I've heard a lot of concerns. Some of them include taxes and the need for more businesses coming to Kenyon. We can have good things happen, but if we don't take care of what we've got... I want more businesses to come here, but we have to have a reason for them to come here.

• **How do you plan to work with the other members of the Kenyon government? What is your view on collaboration and communication?**

I want to have very open communication and put our heads together. We need to get a

good plan together. I think the city is in a bad position right now, and we need to keep businesses and jobs in the town. The priority I have is to get back to the basics. We can do this by checking the spending and asking good questions.

• **Anything else you want The Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger to know?**

I want to be a good steward to the community. I can bring a lot of good perspective. I want to help out. We need some new blood. Let's get some positive things going.

Ron Peterson

1. **Tell me more about your involvement with the City of Kenyon. What inspired you to run for the City Council this term?**

Kenyon has been my home my entire life. I graduated from Kenyon High School, raised my two children here, and have owned and operated my own businesses in the community since 1993.

Over the past two years, my family and I have become more involved in the Kenyon Rose Fest Car Show. My wife, JoAnn, has also taken on a major role in organizing the event and put a tremendous amount of work into making it successful. We traveled to car shows in other communities, handed out flyers, talked with people, and encouraged them to come to Kenyon. Seeing that work result in more than 300 cars participating this year was very rewarding.

That experience gave me a new perspective on community involvement. I saw what can happen when people have an idea, put in the effort, and work together to make it successful. It also got me thinking more about Kenyon's future and what I could contribute.

I have a lifetime of experience in this community and more than 30 years of experience running a business here. I decided this was a good time to put that experience to work in another way and become more involved in helping shape Kenyon's future.

2. **Should you be elected, what are the top three issues you wish to address?**

One of my biggest priorities would be responsible growth and economic development. I would like to see Kenyon attract new businesses while also doing everything we reasonably can to support the businesses that are already here. When our local businesses succeed, the entire community benefits.

Second, I want Kenyon to be a community where families want to move, stay, and raise their children. We have something valuable to offer: a smaller community, a good school, and the small-town values and sense of community that many families are looking for. Attracting families helps our school, our businesses, and our tax base and contributes to the long-term future of Kenyon.

Third, I believe in responsible spending and making thoughtful decisions about taxpayers' money. I've been in business for more than 30 years, and I understand that sometimes you have to spend money to invest in the future. But you also need to understand what you're spending, why you're spending it, and what you're getting in return. I would bring that same approach to decisions on the City Council.

All three of these priorities really work to-

gether. We need businesses, families, a strong school, and an involved community for Kenyon to continue moving forward and grow.

3. **What drives you to make a difference in the Kenyon community? What positive things do you believe Kenyon has to offer?**

I've spent my entire life in Kenyon. This is where I grew up, went to school, raised my family, and built my business. I have a personal investment in seeing this community succeed.

I think one of Kenyon's greatest strengths is something that's becoming harder to find: a real small-town sense of community. People know their neighbors. Local businesses support community activities. People volunteer. Families can become part of the community rather than simply living in it.

I would like to see us build on those strengths. We should be asking ourselves what will make a young family look at Kenyon and say, "That's where we want to raise our kids," or make someone considering opening a business say, "Kenyon is where I want to invest."

If we can attract more families and businesses while maintaining the character and values that make Kenyon special, I believe that benefits everyone—the school, our existing businesses, our community organizations, and our residents.

4. **What should the Kenyon community know about you? (government/management qualifications, background, etc.)**

I'm a lifelong Kenyon resident and Kenyon High School graduate. I raised my two children here, and in 1993 I started my own car dealership and car detailing business.

More than three decades in business have taught me lessons that I believe translate well to serving on the City Council. I've had to budget, manage expenses, work with customers, negotiate, solve problems, adapt when circumstances change, and make difficult decisions.

I've also learned that your reputation matters. If you tell someone you're going to do something, you need to follow through.

I don't come from a government background, and I'm not going to pretend that I already know everything about running a city. What I do bring is decades of real-world business experience, a willingness to ask questions and learn, and a lifetime of knowing this community.

When I take something on, I put the work into it. That's the same commitment I would bring to serving Kenyon.

5. **What do you see as the roles and responsibilities of the City Council? If elected, how do you plan to fulfill these responsibilities?**

I believe the City Council is there to represent the residents of Kenyon and make responsible decisions about the city's finances, services, infrastructure, and future.

To do that well, council members need to listen. They need to hear from residents, business owners, city employees, and one another. They also need to ask questions and understand the facts before making decisions.

I think part of the responsibility is looking beyond what's happening today. Where do we

want Kenyon to be five, ten, or twenty years from now? Are we creating an environment where businesses want to invest? Are families going to want to live here? Are we supporting a community that can sustain our school, businesses, and services?

Those are questions I think the council should continually be asking.

I would approach the position the same way I've approached business: learn the facts, ask questions, consider the financial impact, listen to the people involved, and then make the best decision I can.

6. **How do you plan to work with the other members of the Kenyon government? What is your view on collaboration and communication?**

I believe you accomplish more by working with people than working against them.

After more than 30 years in business, I've worked with all kinds of people and personalities. You're not always going to agree, and I don't think disagreement is necessarily a bad thing. Different perspectives can lead to better decisions when people are willing to listen to one another.

I would expect other council members to challenge my ideas at times, and I would expect to challenge theirs. That's part of doing the job. What matters is being able to disagree respectfully, explain your reasoning, listen to another person's position, and then continue working together.

I've seen through my involvement with Rose Fest how much can be accomplished when people bring different abilities and ideas together around a common goal. I would like to bring that same attitude to working with the mayor, other council members, city employees, and the community.

7. **Anything else you want The Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger to know?**

I've been fortunate to spend my life in a community that has given a lot to me and my family. I've raised my children here, built businesses here, and, more recently, had the opportunity to become even more involved in community events.

That involvement made me realize that I would like to contribute in another way.

I want to see Kenyon grow, but I don't believe growth means changing what makes Kenyon special. I think we can grow while keeping our small-town values.

I would like to see more families choose Kenyon as their home, more businesses see Kenyon as a place worth investing in, more residents support our local businesses, and more people become involved in the community. That kind of growth can help strengthen our school and create a healthier community for the next generation.

I'm not running because I think I have all the answers. I'm running because I care about this community, I'm willing to listen and learn, and I'm willing to put in the work.

I've always believed that if something is worth doing, it's worth putting the effort into doing it right. That's the approach I would bring to serving Kenyon.

Jennifer Sweet is also running for the special city council position but was unavailable for an interview.

A New Season: KW School Board Candidates Up for Election

(continued from page 1)

The Messenger: *How have you been involved with the KW Schools, and what made you decide to run for the school board?*

James Jarvis: I am running for a third term after serving eight years on the Kenyon-Wanamingo School Board.

During that time, we have had to make painful decisions in response to declining enrollment, including closing the Wanamingo elementary school and reducing teaching, maintenance, and administrative positions. These decisions have not been easy, but my focus remains on putting the district on solid financial footing while minimizing the impact on our outstanding students.

L.J. (Jeff) Gearhart: My wife and I have two children enrolled in Kenyon - Wanamingo Public Schools. Our family's connection to the district began four years ago with Knight Kids at the former Wanamingo Elementary School, and we have been invested in the schools ever since. As a parent, I want to help ensure that every student has access to a strong education, caring educators, and opportunities that prepare them for the future. Kenyon -Wanamingo was built by two communities coming together, and I believe its future depends on continuing to make decisions that respect and serve both Kenyon and Wanamingo. I am running for the school board because I want to bring that experience - and my perspective as a parent - to the district. My goal is to support students and staff, strengthen communication with families and the community, and help Kenyon-Wanamingo remain a school system in which both communities can take pride.

Stephanie Brezina: I am a mom of three wonderful boys, Jace, Lucas, and Finnley, and the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District has been an important part of our family's lives. My oldest son, Lucas, graduated with the Class of 2022. My son Jace is currently a freshman and is involved in football, wrestling, baseball, and track and field. My youngest son, Finnley, is entering fourth grade and is also involved in sports. My passion for working with and advocating for young people started well before my childcare career. I graduated with a degree in Law Enforcement in 2011, and I always knew that my main focus would be working with juveniles. That path eventually led me to where I am today. For the past 16 years, I have operated a childcare business in Kenyon, where I have had the privilege of caring for more than 100 children from our community. Those experiences have given me a unique perspective on children, families, safety, development, and the importance of creating an environment where kids feel supported and have the opportunity to succeed. I decided to run for school board because I want to be part of something bigger than myself. I see this as an opportunity to try something new, give back to the community that has given so much to

my family, and use the experience I have gained through law enforcement, childcare, and raising my own children to make a positive impact on our schools and community.

Tim LaCanne: I am a graduate of Kenyon High School, and both of my sons have attended KW schools. I'm running in an effort to help maintain the many excellent qualities our school system already demonstrates, and hopefully come up with ways to improve it as well.

The Messenger: *What do you appreciate about the KW Schools system?*

Jarvis: I appreciate the outstanding students, dedicated teachers and staff, and supportive families and community members who make Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools special. Their commitment, resilience, and school pride motivate me to continue serving the district and working toward a strong and sustainable future.

Gearhart: What I appreciate most about Kenyon - Wanamingo Schools is the strong sense of community. Our children began their experience with Knight Kids at the former Wanamingo Elementary School, and from the beginning, our family felt welcomed and supported by caring educators and staff. KW offers the personal connections of a smaller school district, where students are known as individuals and families can build meaningful relationships with teachers and staff. I also value the opportunities students receive through academics, athletics, activities, and community programs.

Brezina: One of the things I appreciate most about KW Schools is the sense of community. Our schools are an important part of what makes Kenyon-Wanamingo a great place to raise a family. I appreciate the opportunities our students have to participate not only in academics, but also in athletics, activities, and other programs that help them develop confidence, responsibility, teamwork, and leadership. I also appreciate the teachers, staff, coaches, and administrators who invest so much time and energy into our children. Having spent 16 years caring for children myself, I understand how much patience, dedication, and commitment it takes to work with kids every day.

LaCanne: I very much appreciate the hard work and dedication of everyone I've ever interacted with at KW. Without exception, everyone at KW seems to put the best interests of the students at the forefront of their efforts, which is admirable.

The Messenger: *What are the top three issues you wish to address should you become a member of the board?*

Jarvis: My top priorities are getting the district out of debt, rebuilding our general fund balance to a healthy level above 10%, and stabilizing and ultimately increasing student enrollment. Achieving these goals will require difficult decisions, new ideas, and continued cooperation among the board, staff, families, and community. I also want to continue looking for every opportunity to improve our schools without losing sight of what matters most: our students.

Gearhart: 1) Student success and educational opportunity. Every decision should begin with what best supports our students. I want to protect strong academics while ensuring students have access to career and technical education, arts, athletics, activities,

and the skills they will need after graduation. Supporting and retaining quality teachers and staff must also remain central to that work.

2) Financial stability and responsible long-term planning. Declining enrollment has already required the district to make difficult decisions, including closing the Wanamingo elementary site. The board must be transparent about the district's financial position, carefully evaluate spending, and plan beyond the next budget cycle. My focus would be protecting classroom resources while ensuring the district remains financially sustainable for future generations.

3) Communication, trust, and community unity. Kenyon-Wanamingo was formed by bringing two school districts and communities together. Families and residents in both Kenyon and Wanamingo deserve to feel heard, informed, and represented. I would work to improve communication, encourage meaningful public input, and clearly explain the facts and reasoning behind major board decisions - even when those decisions are difficult.

Brezina: 1) Student success and educational opportunities.

I want to make sure every student has the opportunity and support they need to succeed, regardless of their interests, abilities, or future goals. That includes strong academics as well as opportunities in athletics, activities, trades, technology, and other areas.

2) Communication and community involvement.

I believe good communication between the school, parents, students, staff, and community is extremely important. I want to help make sure parents and community members feel heard and understand how and why important decisions are being made.

3) Responsible use of resources.

I believe the district has a responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars while continuing to provide students with a quality education. I would work to understand the financial decisions being made, ask questions, and look for ways to balance fiscal responsibility with the needs of our students and staff.

LaCanne: 1) Finances. I don't think it is a secret that KW has struggled a bit with funding issues in the past, progress has been made, but I think the primary goal of everyone involved should be to get the district into the most stable financial position possible.

2) Excellence. Ensuring that the KW district doesn't provide an average educational experience for its students, but provides an exceptional experience.

3) Growth. KW schools have a lot to offer families and students - we should look at new ways of making KW even more appealing to families when they are deciding where to send their kids for education.

The Messenger: *What should the KW community know about you?*

Jarvis: I live in Wanamingo and have three children attending school in the KW district, so the success of our schools is very important to me. Although closing the Wanamingo school was an extremely difficult decision, I care deeply about both Kenyon and Wanamingo and believe we are one united district. I am proud of KW, and I want people to know that our schools continue to thrive and accomplish great things for our students. I am hardworking, caring, and committed to

doing what is best for our students and the district. I take my responsibilities seriously, carefully consider the facts, and am willing to make difficult decisions when necessary.

Gearhart: Professionally, my career has spanned business administration, food and hospitality operations, human resources, healthcare, and innovation. I have experience leading teams, managing complex projects, evaluating investments, improving systems, and developing long-term strategies. These experiences have taught me to listen carefully, ask thoughtful questions, use data responsibly, and consider how every decision affects people, resources, and the future. Most importantly, I am a parent who is personally invested in the future of KW Schools. I care deeply about the education our children - and every child in the district - receive. I want the community to know that I will approach this role with an open mind, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to making thoughtful decisions that serve students, staff, families, and both of our communities.

Brezina: I am someone who genuinely cares about children and this community. I graduated with a degree in Law Enforcement in 2011, always knowing that I wanted my work to have a focus on juveniles and helping young people. I have since spent the past 16 years making childcare my career and have had the privilege of caring for more than 100 children in our community. I am also a mom who is actively involved in my children's lives. I understand both the parent perspective and the responsibility that comes with making decisions that affect children and families. I am not running because I think I have all the answers. I am running because I am willing to listen, learn, ask questions, have difficult conversations when necessary, and work toward what I believe is best for our students and our community.

LaCanne: Not that athletics are, or should be, the primary goal of a school system, but they are nonetheless important. Anyone that knows me will already know that I would be exceptionally happy if the KW wrestling program won another state team championship.

The Messenger: *How long have you been a member of the KW community? What drives you to make a difference in this community by serving on the school board?*

Jarvis: I have been part of the KW community since 2014. My wife, children, and the friendships I have made here inspire me to help make our community an even better place. I feel called to serve, and serving on the school board is the best way I know to give back and make a positive difference for our students, families, and both communities.

Gearhart: I have been married to my wife for 10 years, and we are proud parents of two children, ages five and six, who attend Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools. Our family moved from Kentucky to Wanamingo during the winter of 2018-2019, and for the past seven years, we have been proud to call this community home. My family are who first motivated me to become more involved, but my commitment extends to every student and family in the district.

(continued on page 13)

A New Season: KW School Board Candidates Up for Election

(continued from page 12)

My wife and I have made Wanamingo our home, and we want to contribute to the community that has welcomed and supported our family. I am driven by the opportunity to help shape a strong and sustainable future for Kenyon-Wanamingo Schools.

The decisions made today will affect educational opportunities, district finances, and the relationship between our two communities for years to come. I want to bring a parent's perspective, my professional experience, and a willingness to listen and work collaboratively. Serving on the school board would be my opportunity to give back, support our students and staff, and help ensure KW remains a school system our entire community can be proud of.

Brezina: I have been part of the Kenyon community for many years, and I have been caring for children in Kenyon for the past 16 years. During that time, I have built relationships with many families and have had the opportunity to watch children in our community grow and move through the school system. My background has always centered around young people. When I graduated with my

Law Enforcement degree in 2011, I knew I wanted my focus to be on juveniles. That passion continued through my years of childcare and through raising my own three boys. What drives me now is the opportunity to take everything I have learned—from law enforcement, childcare, parenting, and being a member of this community—and use it to help make a difference for our schools and our students. I have spent much of my life caring for individual children. I see serving on the school board as an opportunity to take that same commitment to caring for children and use it to help make a difference for our entire school community.

LaCanne: My parents bought our family farm west of Kenyon when I was 5 years old. Other than attending college in St. Cloud, I have always resided in Kenyon, so I've basically been a member of the KW community all my life. My main motivation for serving on the board is to help ensure the school remains viable and offers the best educational experience for all students involved.

The Messenger: *What do you see as the roles and responsibilities of the school board? How do you plan to address those responsibilities?*

Jarvis: The school board's role is to review district policies, provide oversight, and ensure that we are responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. I plan to carefully evaluate how the district spends its money, ask thoughtful questions, and support decisions that strengthen our financial position without compromising our students' ability to learn. My goal is to balance fiscal responsibility

with providing every student a high-quality education.

Gearhart: The school board's primary responsibility is governance. It establishes the district's vision and policies, approves the budget, sets measurable goals, and monitors the district's academic and financial performance. The board must also ensure that the district follows applicable laws and uses public resources responsibly. I would address these responsibilities by coming prepared, reviewing information carefully, asking thoughtful questions, and considering both data and community input before making decisions. I would pursue the training required of Minnesota board members, respect the appropriate chain of command, and work collaboratively with other board members and district leadership. Even when opinions differ, I would conduct myself respectfully and support clear communication about the board's decisions and the reasoning behind them. Above all, I would remain accountable to the entire district - not one group or one community - and keep the long-term interests of KW students at the center of every decision.

Brezina: I believe the school board's primary responsibility is to provide leadership and oversight for the district while keeping students at the center of its decisions. The board needs to establish responsible policies, provide appropriate oversight of district finances, support the superintendent and staff, and make decisions that serve the long-term interests of students and the community. I would approach the position by listening first. I believe board members need to hear from students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and community members. I would come prepared, ask questions, look at the information and facts, and make decisions based on what is best for the district rather than any one individual or group. I also believe it is important for board members to work together respectfully, even when there are disagreements.

Good governance requires being willing to listen to different perspectives and work toward solutions.

LaCanne: As mentioned above, the primary role of the school board should be to assist the school administrators in providing

the best possible educational experience for all of KW's students, while also practicing fiscal responsibility to the greatest extent possible.

The Messenger: *Anything else you want the KW Community to know?*

Jarvis: I look forward to continuing my service on the school board. Although difficult work remains, I believe KW is headed in the right direction. I am confident that we can build a stronger and more sustainable future for our students, staff, families, and communities.

Gearhart: Kenyon - Wanamingo Schools have a proud history shaped by generations of students, educators, families, and community members. My own family became part of that history when our children began their education at the former Wanamingo Elementary School. Preserving the past means honoring the people, traditions, and experiences that built KW. Our history provides a foundation for making thoughtful decisions about the district's future. I want to help KW by learning from the past, listening to both communities, and planning responsibly for the students who will follow - continue building a future for our children in which both Kenyon and Wanamingo can take pride.

Brezina: I am excited about the possibility of serving the Kenyon-Wanamingo community in a new way. I have spent 16 years caring for children, raising my three boys, being involved in their school and activities, and building relationships with families throughout our community. I feel this is the right time to take what I have learned and give back in a different capacity. My education in law enforcement, my focus on juveniles, my 16 years in childcare, and my experience as a mother have all shaped how I view the needs of children and families. I am a regular mom who cares deeply about our kids and our community. I want our students to feel supported, our parents to feel heard, our staff to feel valued, and our community to feel proud of our schools. I am willing to listen, willing to learn, and willing to put in the work. Most importantly, I want to help make decisions that give the next generation of Kenyon-Wanamingo students the best opportunities possible.

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Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund

By Cheri Roshon

Give to the Max Day is November 19th. And, would you consider a donation to our Wanamingo Community Foundation through SMIF --Southern MN Initiative Fund? It's simple to do! With gifts of \$100 donations or more, you will receive our gift of Wanamingo Area Past to Present book.

Mail it to P O Box 224W, Wanamingo, MN 55983,

Give it to a Board member: Mike Alme, Gary Bakko, Susie Beulke, Michael Boulton, Lisa Johnson, Brent Leininger, Barney Neseth, Jennifer Ohr, Patty Prigge, Larry VanDe-Walker.

Go to our website: <https://wanamingofoundation.org/donate>
Scan our QR code:

IF YOU ARE A SENIOR 73 or older, and must do a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), consider donating directly to our Foundation-- You WILL save on your taxes!

Thank you for supporting the Wanamingo area community and many thanks to those who have already and continue to donate. Check the website to see all the good things that the Foundation has done for our community!



Fall Harvest Safety

It's a busy time of year with more farm equipment in the field and on the road.

Motorists:

- Slow down and use caution when approaching farm equipment.
- Don't assume the equipment operator can see you.
- Watch for debris dropped by farm equipment.
- Wait for a safe place to pass.
- Drive with headlights on.

Farm equipment operators:

- Use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible.
- Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.
- Avoid encouraging or signaling motorists to pass. Pull over when safe and let traffic pass.
- Consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.
- Pick up any debris left on the highway by the equipment.

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Randy Hockinson Inducted into the Minnesota Region 1A Hall of Fame

Submitted

Retired Kenyon-Wanamingo Activities Director Randy Hockinson (right) was inducted into the Minnesota Region 1A Hall of Fame on September 21 at the Rochester Event Center.

Matt Nelson (left), a former KW coach and teacher, introduced his longtime friend during the ceremony. Hockinson is also in the Minnesota State Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Kenyon-Wanamingo Athletic Hall of Fame.



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Gordy Kosfeld inducted into the Kenyon-Wanamingo High School Athletic Hall of Fame

Courtesy of KDHL Radio

Congratulations, Gordy!

A well-deserved honor for one of the familiar voices of local sports.

Gordy Kosfeld has been part of the KDHL family since 1987, and for decades he's been behind the microphone, bringing Kenyon-Wanamingo and countless other area high school games into living rooms, cars, phones, and businesses across the area.

This week, Gordy was inducted into the Kenyon-Wanamingo High School Athletic Hall of Fame for his years of supporting and broadcasting K-W athletics.

Anyone who has listened to Gordy knows he's always been about more than the final score. He has a way of highlighting the kids, the coaches and the stories that make high school sports special.

Congratulations, Gordy! We're lucky to have you as part of the KDHL family.



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1-2 tbsp. Best Choice Half-and-Half

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6 Oz. Selected Varieties

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Ea.

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Ea.

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Ea.

Best Choice
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Lb.

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Product of USA
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Lb.

Frozen
Pork
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Lunchables
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2/⁵

Buddig
Lunch Meat
9 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$3⁴⁹
Ea.

Rosina
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Meatballs
24 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$5⁹⁹
Ea.

Best Choice
Brats
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$3⁹⁹
Ea.

Land O' Frost
Deli Shaved
Lunch Meat
8 - 9 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2/⁵

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Bacon
12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$3⁹⁹
Ea.

Curly's
BBQ Sauce
12 - 16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$5⁹⁹
Ea.

Paradise
Kitchens
Breaded
Chicken
4 Lb.
Selected Varieties
\$9⁹⁹
Ea.

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Crab
Delights
Imitation
Crab Meat
8 - 9 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$2³⁹
Ea.

Best Choice
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Shrimp
5.2 - 12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$5⁹⁹
Ea.

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Lb.

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Ea.

Best Choice
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Selected Varieties
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Fresh Express
Salad Blend
5 - 11 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$3⁴⁹
Ea.

Taylor Farms
Vegetables
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$2⁹⁹
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Best Choice
Russet
Potatoes
5 Lb. Bag
2/⁵

Green
Cabbage
69¢
Lb.

Beefsteak
Tomatoes
\$1⁴⁹
Lb.

Minnesota Grown
Acorn, Spaghetti,
Butternut or
Buttercup Squash
99¢
Lb.

Ocean Mist
Crisp Celery
\$1⁹⁹
Ea.

Baby Peeled
Carrots
\$1⁷⁹
Ea.

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Potato or
Macaroni
Salad or
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2.5 - 3 Lb.
Selected Varieties
\$7⁹⁹
Ea.

Kretschmar
Deli Sliced Hickory
Smoked Turkey
Breast
\$8⁹⁹
Lb.

Sabra
Roasted Red Pepper
Hummus
8 Oz.
2/⁵

37th Street
Cinnamon Rolls
4 Ct.
Selected Varieties
\$4⁹⁹
Ea.

The Father's
Table
Cheesecake
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$5²⁹
Ea.

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Vanilla or
Chocolate
Cupcakes
12 Ct.
\$3²⁹
Ea.

Bakery Shop
Chunky
Cinnamon Bread
18 oz.
\$4²⁹
Ea.

Pepsi
Products
6 pk 16.5 Oz. Btl.
Selected Varieties
2/¹⁰

Bubbli'r
Sparkling
Water
6 pk 12 oz. cans
Selected Varieties
2/¹³

Niagara
Drinking Water
24 Pk 16.5 Oz.
Bottles
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Ea.

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Bran
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
\$2⁹⁹
Ea.

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Ea.

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Wood
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Selected Varieties
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McCormick
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Kenyon Market Sold to New Local Owners

(continued from page 1)

Pete stated, "when we announced our challenges earlier this year, one of our goals was to try to new find local owners that could take over the store and take it to the next chapter," Wagner continued, "we shared that news with

the city while there was a solid business in place to allow a potential new owner a solid base while bringing new ideas to the store." The deal is expected to close November 1, 2026.

Barney & Laura Nesseth of rural Wanamingo will be the new owners of Kenyon Market. Nesseth also confirmed the news. Nesseth stated, "We're excited to be the next owners of Kenyon Market. While the challenges still exist that prompted the Wagners to sell the store, we also feel local ownership and our involvement in town is an important aspect of the store's future."

The Nesseth's are no stranger to the grocery business.

Barney has about 15 years' experience run-

ning a grocery store, which he can rely on to make things run smoothly. Nesseth said, "I am looking forward to transitioning the employees into the new organization, and adding more as we get settled in. The deal came together pretty quickly once we decided to make an offer. We wanted to make sure the store would be well stocked for the holiday season". Nesseth continued, "while we have to assess everything, some of the plans include expanding the meat department with more specialty items and homemade recipes as well as a new bakery department that will include fresh bakery items, custom cakes, cupcakes, donuts and breads. We also look forward to working with local farmers seasonally whenever possible to sell local produce and other local vendor items. We have more ideas on ways to better serve customers as we move forward. Our first goal is to get through the traditionally busy holiday season while simultaneously making some changes in the store as well."

The Nesseths are also no strangers to our hometowns of Kenyon and Wanamingo. Barney was born, raised and is a 1983 "Wanamingo Bull Dog" graduate. The Nesseth's were the longtime owners and operators of Buck Stop Grocery and Hometown Wine & Spirits in Wanamingo from 2005 until 2022 — the place locals knew for groceries, a quick chat, and someone behind the counter who knows your name. If you've bought milk, lottery tickets, or something a little stronger in Wanamingo in the last cou-

ple decades, chances are you bought it from Barney. The Nesseth's also own and operate JB's Tavern in Wanamingo and are partners with Angie Anderson at Angie's in Kenyon and with Sara Durhman at the Guilty Goose in Zumbrota. Also in Wanamingo, the Nesseth's recently opened the new laundromat on main-street. In Kenyon, they have purchased and repurposed several mainstreet buildings, including the former Emerson Furniture building and the former Subway building.

Barney served as Goodhue County Commissioner, served on the K-W School Board, and currently as the 7th/8th grade football coach. Barneys says "Laura holds it all together for the family at home and in the community, supporting our businesses wherever she is needed, as well as volunteering at school and church." Laura grew up in Fort Worth, Texas and the family tries to get back to visit family whenever possible. The Nesseth's son Alec is in his third year of law school, preparing for the bar exam. Barney also is a chip designer who has worked on AI chips and many other semiconductor related chips.

The store will be re-named "Viking Meats and Grocery" a tip of the hat to the Kenyon Vikings!

Takeover date is planned to be Nov. 1 or 2 and will be closed a couple of days to get the changeover done. You can watch for more announcements in The Messenger, and on social media.

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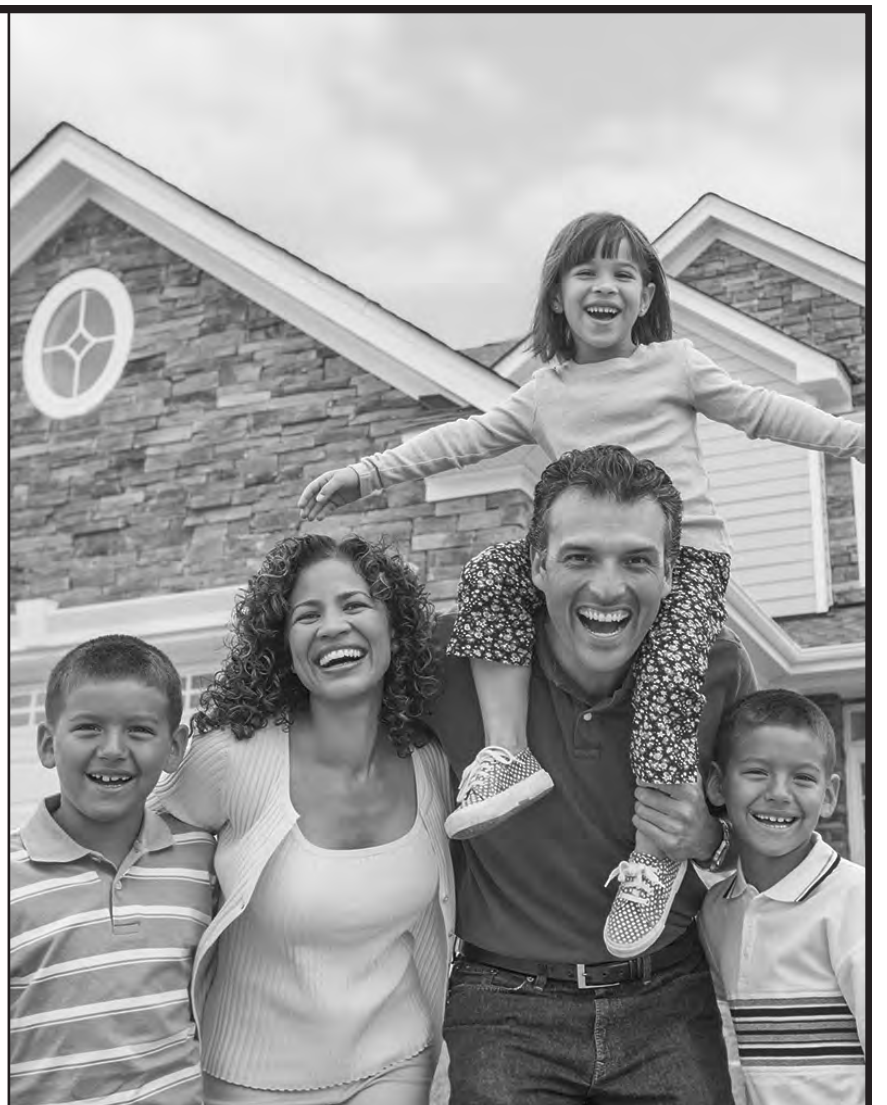
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Farm Girl Chatter

Fall Is Around the Corner... and So Is the Hay

By McKell Lemmerman

livestock are getting hungrier after each bite. This means now that some livestock producers are being pushed into feeding hay much earlier than normal. Those bales that were supposed to sit perfectly stacked in the shed until winter are getting rolled out sooner than planned.

Farmers have enough on their plates already.

Soon the combines will be rolling, trucks will be hauling, and now somebody has to remember to feed hay too. It's a wonderful time of year when the days get shorter but somehow the to-do list gets longer.

For now, we'll keep watching the sky, praying for rain, and counting the hay bales.

Around here, we may not be able to control the weather, but we'll sure find a way to work around it.



My oldest cow "starving" for a sweet corn cob, and she did in fact eat it in pretty much one gulp! Haha

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Well folks, it's that time of year again. Fall is creeping around the corner, which means harvest is coming, cattle work is picking up, and before we know it, we'll be wondering where the heck summer went.

Normally, this is when farmers start getting ready for harvest and thinking about the long winter ahead. But this year, Mother Nature apparently decided to turn the faucet off.

The pastures are starting to look more like the African safari. Grass is drying up, growth is slowing down, and the cattle and other

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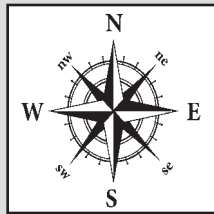
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Oh Canada



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.

We took a trip up the North Shore in September to spend a night in Thunder Bay, Canada. The scenic drive was spectacular as the leaves were turning color and the weather was perfect. One of the stops we made both coming and going was Betty's Pies at Two Harbors. Betty's started in 1958 and sells 700 pies a day during the peak summer rush. The food was great as well as the pies.

I have always considered Canada to be just like northern Minnesota. I used to go skiing in Thunder Bay in the 1970's. The people seem just like us, only friendlier. We stopped at Grand Marais and exchanged our Ben Franklin's for some Canadian currency. The exchange rate was \$133 Canadian for \$100 American. But the Canadian money is so col-

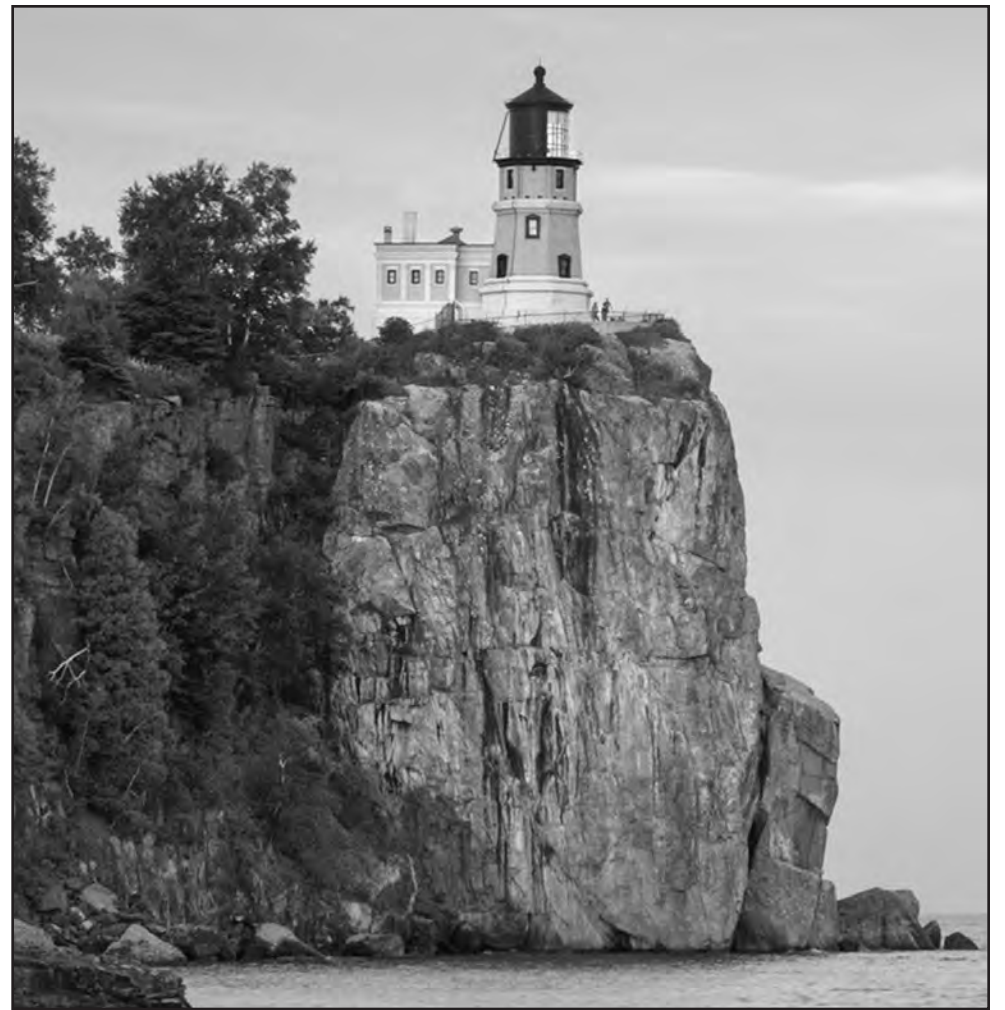
orful. There is a different color for each denomination. And it is a durable plastic coated material with a transparent reflective band in it. The one-dollar coin has a picture of a Loon and is called a "Loonie" The two-dollar coin has a picture of a Polar Bear and is called a "Toonie".

We had to stop at a Tim Hortons as soon as we arrived. We bought a box of "Timmies", which are the donut holes. Next was supper at a Pizza parlor where we enjoyed pizza and my wife was able to watch two hockey games at the same time on the tv monitors. We stopped at a grocery store where my wife bought "Shreddies". I thought they were Wheat Chex, but north of the border they are gourmet breakfast cereal. One is allowed to return to the states with up to \$200 in groceries and we put that rule to the test.

We stopped at Split Rock Lighthouse on the way home to tour the world's most famous lighthouse. There was a movie presentation about the reasons for building the lighthouse. In 1905 there were 29 ships wrecked on the lake and the State appropriated \$75,000 to build a lighthouse, 187' above the waterline to warn ships away from the rocky shores. The 1,000 watt lightbulb cast a beam that was visible 25 miles across the water. At the time there were no roads in the area and all materials and supplies were shipped in on boats. It was completed in 1910 and the road was built in 1924. Quite impressive to tour the lighthouse and see how the staff kept the beam shining across the waves every night to protect the big ships on Lake Superior.

It was quite sobering to realize the number of ships and sailors who were lost in storms on Lake Superior. Since 1816 over 240 ships have been sunk due to storms on the world's largest freshwater lake. The last one was on November 10, 1975 and was immortalized by Canadian Gordon Lightfoot's song "The Wreck of the Edmond Fitzgerald." The winds reached 60 mph with waves up to 35' high that fateful night.

The Edmond Fitzgerald was the largest ore boat on Superior when it was built in 1958. 729' long and carried 27,402 tons of iron ore mined in Minnesota and loaded at Silver Bay. The ore boat made 748 round trips to Detroit Michigan traveling over a million miles. A round trip took 5 days. The ship's hold could be loaded with taconite pellets in 4 1/2 hours. Unloading took fourteen hours. It could reach 16 mph even when fully loaded. The Edmond Fitzgerald had luxury staterooms which accommodated first class passengers



who were guests of the shipping company. There was no one but the 29 man crew on board on the final trip.

It was a 74 degree day and before leaving we took the hike down to the lake to admire

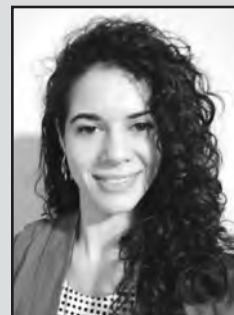
the sight from the water's edge. My wife couldn't resist taking a swim in Gitchee Gumee, an Ojibwe word for "big sea". Had to prove the world's most dangerous lake was no match for her.

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A Minnesotan: Decorations



By RosaLin Alcoser

As the days get shorter, the nights longer, and the air gets colder fall start to bring in the end of the year. While some might be eager to skip over the fall months and go straight to the Christmas holiday season fall holds my favorite month of the year. Which is of course October, because I love Halloween.

Part of what I've always liked about Halloween— and most other holidays— is decorating. And yes, my Halloween and Fall decorations have been up since per season Football started. Because if my husband is going to be watching the Vikings play in August I get to have my leave garlands and skeleton out at the same time.

Decorations are a key part of Halloween. Because decorations are part of the magic that makes Halloween magical and in some cases terrifying.

When I was a child going out to trick-or-treat, after dark it was the decorations that separated the scary houses from the none scary houses. Since even a house decorated in a way that is terrifying after dark isn't too scary during the light of day. Most houses in the area where not the scary and where easily approachable in the dark. There was one house though that scared me enough that I ran away from it crying.

I don't remember what I was that year or how old I was. I do remember wearing a jacket so it was a typical Halloween in Minnesota. What I can remember is that the whole yard was decorated like a grave yard with skeleton hands sticking up out of the ground and colored lights leading up to the grange door. Where I was terrified out of my mind by a Zombie which I fled from abandoning any promise of candy. In reality was a teenager in costume, who did feel bad about scaring me so badly that he did give my sister and extra candy for me.

If I saw that same yard display now I would think it was cool, however, then I was terrified enough to flee the seen and temporarily halt my goal of obtaining candy. Because decorations are holidays matter and at Halloween the decorations separate the mundane from the magical and the down right terrifying.



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Karyn Edelbach Robertson Ends 31-Year Career at Goodhue School

By Beth Brekke

"I don't like being the center of attention," Karyn said as she stood in the Wildcat Den after school on September 23rd. "I'm speechless," she said at her retirement party that came largely as a surprise 3 days before she finished her 31-year career as Goodhue School's main custodian.

The office paged Karyn for clean-up duty in the Wildcat Den where she was instead met by a crowd of current and former school employees wearing purple. Notice went out earlier to teachers and the rest of the school staff letting them know about the party, and that they and the students should "Dress like Karyn," whose favorite attire promotes the Minnesota Vikings. As she looked around and pieced things together, she said, "Thanks for all the Viking's wear—the school never looked so good".

Looking from the crowd to the display set up in her honor, she studied the elementary students' signatures on one poster and another with a list of ideas on how to spend her up-

coming free time. A quilt made by fellow school employee, Riley Krusmark hung as a backdrop to other gifts. The quilt was made from Goodhue Wildcat T-shirts that Karyn had donated back to the school. Riley gathered the shirts and gave them new life in the quilt that unsuspecting Karyn was happy take back home.

Guests marveled at a beautiful treat tower of macaroons created by Kris Luhman, laughed at a golden plunger and a golden mop bucket full of cards from the kids, and wondered at a jar of already-been-chewed gum. "She's scraped so much gum off stuff in 31 years, we thought we'd send some home with her," Sheila Stehr explained.

Other school employees praised Karyn's passion for groundskeeping, her school spirit when decorating the lounge, and the reliable way she showed up at 5:30 every morning. For many years Karyn also operated the flower shop downtown, working at the school from 6 AM-noon, then working at the shop into the evening and often on the weekends.

Aaron Fredrickson has been hired to fill Karyn's position and has spent time learning the duties through job shadowing but everyone agrees that it will be different without Karyn working at the school. Her last day was Friday, September 25th after which she hosted another retirement party at the Bel-lechester Tavern. Among the food and memorabilia was a poster of potential retirement jobs that included: professional dog sled racer, Vikings' cheerleader, and Jamaican tour guide. In reality, Karyn will be vacationing in Jamaica in January and going on a



Karyn Edelbach Robertson stands among the gifts and treats organized by Goodhue school staff and employees for her retirement party. She served as the school's custodian for 31 years.

"cousins' cruise" in February. She also plans to make quilts and spend more time with her 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Karyn describes her time at the school as having "a lot of laughter and a lot of tears," adding that she loves the kids and has so many happy memories. "I never dreamt I'd

spend my whole life here." Having grown up and lived in Kellogg before moving to Goodhue, she found the same small-town atmosphere and fell in love with this community right away. She likes to visit her hometown but says Goodhue really feels like home. "I even bought a cemetery plot – I'm here to stay!"

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Midnight Hounds to Play at Album Release Party

Local band to release their first full length album this week with a live show at Pure Rock Studios in Rochester, Minnesota.

The show will include a full play list of the new album "Atomic Sand, an acoustic set with fiddle player Teresa Walker and finish with some of their new compositions slated

for their next album.

Frontman for the Midnight Hounds, Layne Noser wanted to be a musician from an early age. He grew up in Pine Island area but has lived in Wasioja for the last 20 years. Layne has always been talented artistically and attended school for graphic design. He owns his own business, Ape-X Graffix, and has submitted art displayed at the Larger Than Life exhibit in Mantorville. Ape-X Graffix is a graphic design and fine arts company. "I can design logos, posters, t-shirts, car wraps, etc and with the fine art I can paint or draw: portraits, landscapes, animals/pets, etc." Layne explains, "I also frequently create multimedia pieces with many forms of art combined and comic book pop art."

The group released a few songs on a cd compilation four years ago along with five other local bands in the Rochester area. Layne, Ryan and Jim started playing together



From the Left: Jeff Chilman, Ryan Sexton, Layne Noser, Aaron Wroblewski, Caleb Steiger, Randy Sharp

five years ago and then Caleb joined as bassist. They consider their sound rock and roll, with a touch of folk, influenced by the Doors, Rolling Stones and Pink Floyd. The current line up is; Ryan on lead guitar, Randy on harmonica, banjo, lead and rhythm guitar, Caleb on bass, Aaron on drums and guitar, Jeff on percussion and vocals and Layne lead vocals and rhythm guitar.

All of their material is original. They write from personal experiences, life in general, biographical and fictional themes. They describe the new album as heavy and gritty rock and roll. The songs take form as music first and then they write the lyrics. Some flesh out in one night while others may take a month depending on the style and complexity. They usually practice on a weekly basis and play up to twenty-five gigs each year in the area. They have played the Annadine, Mantorville Art Guild, Mantorville Music, the Riverside band shell in Mantorville and venues in Rochester and surrounding towns.

The new album was recorded in Layne's home studio: Love Wolf Records, Ryan Sexton's home studio: Six Feet Under, and Jim Rumpf's home studio: Second Story Jams. The album will be released on CD and it will be on all the major streaming platforms like Spotify, Youtube, Apple, Amazon, etc. CDs will be for sale at our shows and at The Mantorville Art Guild. Stay tuned on our FB page for other possible retail stores to purchase the CD. Digital sales are through the streaming services. They are scheduled to record a live spot on KTTC television for a 4pm Tuesday broadcast. Layne states that his favorite mix on the new album is the track, "Here It Comes".

The release party live show will be performed at Pure Rock Studios, 515 Rocky Creek Drive NE, Rochester, Minnesota. The doors open at 6:30pm with the show starting at 7pm. Cost is \$5.00 at the door. It will be a two-hour show and is BYOB. There will be T-shirts for sale along with cd's, stickers/bumper stickers, buttons, and posters.

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

A Rebuke From A Longtime Educator An Open Letter

Dear Mr. Ryan:

Every once in awhile something comes down the pike that is so egregious that it is hard to imagine it actually happened. In the military, it is to desert one's post in the heat of battle. In the United States of America, it is trying to turn a Constitutional Republic into what we find in places like China, North Korea, Russia, and the Democrat Party. In K-12 education, it is taking our new Minnesota Social Studies Curriculum and a Marxist leaning state flag, and making our children believe that both Minnesota and the United States of America were built on lies (See American Experiment). And if that is not enough, members of the Kenyon-Wanamingo Hall of Fame Committee took the "face" of our high school program and added his name to the Hall of Fame Board even though he had broken the Cardinal Rule for the conduct of a school administrator. Shame on them!

As I reflect on over 50 years in public education, part of it included you as a student at Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools. Although I was never a principal in your building, I was there when you represented the school district with distinction. There was never a time when I questioned your resolve as a student athlete. Moreover, it is my understanding that you went on to distinguish yourself as an athlete in higher education as well. It was this kind of behavior that your respective alma maters took pride in. Sadly, you would end up letting them down.

Matt, when I look at the "Wall of Fame," I see names like Mr. Lawrence G. Picha (He should have been the first name on the wall), Mr. Ralph Hagberg, Dr. Stephen Sands (a classmate of mine), Dr. Gary Strandemo, and a long list of men and women who were more than just athletes. While it is true that I do not know the history of most of them, two things are for sure. First, you broke the Cardinal Rule for principals when it came to your indiscretion with a member of your staff. And second, numerous students, parents, and members of the KW community I grew up in cannot believe you "beat the rap" and kept your job. Why? Because a school district deserves a leader who can stand before the public and the student body and leave no doubt as to what he/she brings to the table. This leads me to an important question. Where were the Superintendent of Schools and the KW School Board when they heard what had happened? If they had only done their job....

According to the Kenyon-Wanamingo Messenger and the Zumbrota News Record, you are scheduled to be inducted into the Kenyon-Wanamingo Athletic Hall of Fame on September 26, 2026. While I appreciate that your years as a wrestling coach were noteworthy, it does not change the fact that your indiscretion with a member of your staff (she was terminated) should disqualify you from the kind of recognition you are currently scheduled to receive.

Therefore, and based on the aforementioned, I delivered a letter to the school suggesting that you take the initiative to remove your name from consideration for membership to the Kenyon-Wanamingo Athletic Hall of Fame. With Minnesota's public education coming apart at the seams; with Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools long overdue for the kind of quality leadership that once made KHS something special, I offered you a chance to do the right thing or I would go public. Now that you have shown the gall to accept your award, an open letter is the least I can do as a retired educator who proudly claims Kenyon Public Schools as his alma mater.

Finally, and most importantly, the Bible teaches that those who influence others bear a greater responsibility before God. The book of James warns that "Teachers will be judged more strictly; Jesus warns against leading others astray" (Decision: The Evangelical Voice For Today). Matt, it is not only time for you to resign and remove yourself from being the face of the building, but it is time for a new start for KWPS. Just remember, "Fools make fun of guilt, but the godly acknowledge it and seek reconciliation" (Proverbs 14:9).

Respectfully yours,

Dr. James Russell Lehman, '63
Kenyon MN

KENYON-WANAMINGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS of the WEEK



NOBLE KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK FOR OCTOBER 2, 2026

Front Row: Jax Kiffmeyer, KG, Mrs. Cheryl Dahl; Abranna Khaoone, KG, Mrs. Mandi Kylo-Lunde; Caroline Dahlgren, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Leona Chang, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Emma Quam, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Arielle Steinberg, Gr. 2, Mrs. Tanya Short; Marshall Jensen, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Marley Lurken, Gr. 3, Mrs. Sandy Bohaty; Aubrey Frazier, Gr. 4, Mrs. Laura McAnally

Apples and Healthy Weight



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

You have heard the rhyme, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” But what does an apple really do for you? Does any apple work, or only certain kinds? A few answers can be found here.

Medications - A 2015 study published in JAMA Internal Medicine by Davis et al ob-

served that those who consumed one apple a day required less prescription drugs. Those who eat one apple a day probably make other healthy choices as well that contribute to this positive association between apples and reduced drugs.

Heart Disease - A 2017 study published in Molecular Nutrition Food Research by Bon-donno et al compared apples high in flavonoids, which are found in the apple skin, with apples low in flavonoids and observed improved blood flow through the brachial arteries when the high flavonoid apples were eaten. In other words, these apples improved the blood flow through the body. The darker red apples that are not too sweet are the ap-ples with high flavonoid content.

Cholesterol - A healthy control of choles-terol has also been improved with an apple a day. A 2017 study in the Journal of the Sci-ence of Food and Agriculture by GC Tenore compared modern apples with the Annurca apple and observed that two small Annurca apples a day significantly lowered the bad cholesterol and increased the good choles-terol. The Annurca apple is known for its higher flavonoid content. Older, heritage ap-ples typically have high flavonoid and polyphenol content.

Blood Sugar - Those individuals who had a daily intake of apple polyphenols, which are

from the skin of the apple, had an improved ability to manage blood sugar compared to individuals who did not consume the polyphenols. This observation was reported in a 2017 study published in Diabetes Re-search and Clinical Practice by Shoji et al. One possible reason for this improved sugar control is the polyphenols seem to reduce the speed of sugar absorption in the intestines by closing the primary “door” that sugar uses to pass through the intestines, according to Schulze et al in their 2014 published study in Molecular Nutrition and Food Research.

Colon Health - The ability of the polyphe-nols of apples to “close the door” on sugar transport to cells is one of the pathways to stop the growth of cancer cells in the colon, as observed in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chem-istry. A cancer cell has many “doors” to bring in sugar to accelerate growth, so polyphenols help to close these doors and in-hibit the growth of cancer cells. The peeling of the apple contains the highest content of effective polyphenols with antioxidant activ-ity, anti-bacterial activity, and anti-cancer ac-tivity, which was documented in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Food Sci-ence.

The older apple varieties that have high polyphenol content include - Braeburn, Jonathan, McIntosh, Gravenstein, and An-nurca. Avoid the newer varieties that have been bred for increased sugar content and

size. An apple a day is a key principle for im-proved health. A personalized health plan that includes an apple a day as part of a whole food program will provide great benefit to whole body health. Many individuals in southern Minnesota have already received their personalized plan and have observed blood sugar levels decrease, cholesterol levels improve, inflammation decrease, acid reflux disappear, and the body shift to a healthy weight.

A free online webinar with Dr. Noel Aldrich, Nutrition Specialist, will be presented on Tuesday, October 27 at 7 pm. “Feel Stuck in a Rut? How to Finally Reset Your Body and Feel Better Than You Have in Years - With-out Extreme Diets.” This one-hour session will introduce you to how quality nutrition therapy can help you reach your health goals. Free registration for the webinar is available through this website link:

<https://wellness.nutritionproportion.net/registration-page>

Or scan this QR code:

**Information and opin-ions expressed in this arti-cle are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*



Rice County Public Health flu shot clinics open to public

Rice County Public Health has scheduled the following public flu vaccination clinics in Rice County. Both trivalent and high dose flu vaccine will be available. Registration for flu vaccine is onsite. Please bring your health insurance card and Public Health will bill directly to your insurance.

Free flu vaccine will also be available for those who are uninsured. All clinics will serve adults. Clinics listed with an asterisk * will also have flu vaccine for children.

***Monday, Oct. 19, 2026**

HealthFinders Collaborative 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. - 706 Division St. South, Northfield

***Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026 from 2 – 5 p.m. Rice County Satellite Office
1651 Jefferson Pkwy, Northfield**

***Tuesdays 1 – 4 p.m.**

Rice County Public Health Office, 320 NW Third St., Faribault

Rice County Public Health nurses can also provide flu vaccination for those who are home-bound and unable to access vaccine.

Anyone with questions, or needing more information regarding eligibility guidelines or al-ternative vaccination dates and times should call Public Health at 507-332-6111.

Rice County Public Health Mission: To protect, promote and improve the health of ALL individuals and families in our community.

Kenyon we are here for you.

Try our evening hours.



Monday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Kenyon Clinic

225 Huseh St, Kenyon, MN 55946
507-623-0123







FLU & COVID VACCINE CLINICS

Let's protect yourself and your loved ones

Date	Time	Location
Oct. 12, 2026	3:30 - 6:30pm	Goodhue Public School - 510 3rd Ave, Goodhue
Oct. 13, 2026	3:30 - 6:30pm	Goodhue Cty Govt Center - 509 W. 5th St, Red Wing
Oct. 21, 2026	3:00 - 7:00pm	Pine Island School - 223 1st Ave SE, Pine Island
Nov. 2, 2026	3:00 - 5:00pm	Kenyon Wanamingo High - 400 6th St, Kenyon
Nov. 12, 2026	2:00 - 5:00pm	Cannon Falls Elem. - 1020 E. Minnesota, Cannon Falls

KENYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the 8th day of September 2026. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirchmann.

The following members were present: Council Members Don Kirchmann, Lee Sjolander, Deanna Gard, Kim Helgeson

Absent: Mary Bailey

Also, present: City Administrator Scott Lehner, Engineer Derek Olinger, Attorney Scott Riggs, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Heather Dewitz, Doug Henke, Diane Barrett, Sue Dodds, Michelle Kreisler, Katie Orr, Peyton Temple, Pete Wagner, Dan Wagner, Ron Peterson, Todd Kieffer, Officer Armani Tucker, Tiffany Rico, Joseph Rico, Matt Bartel, Andy Grice

Via Zoom: Jessi Sturtz, Macie Stevermer, Jean McGann

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Doug Henke stated he had three questions with the budget. First, he asked why the council was allowing public works employees who make \$40 per hour to mow grass. Second, almost fifty percent of the yearly budget goes to wages/benefits. He feels the council should consider freezing payroll wages for one year. Third, the boulevard of roses is a disaster. He suggested getting a committee to help or take it over. Also, the fire department should contribute money along with other volunteers.

Tiffany Rico stated she got involved when she heard about the Kenyon Market being sold. She suggested possibly forming a food co-op to save the market.

Dan Wagner stated he and his son, Pete, are trying to sell the Kenyon Market. He was wondering where the city stands on this? Could the city possibly help with the parking lot drainage problem or would KMU give a cost break for electricity for the new owner? Any help from the city would be very important to a new owner.

Katie Orr expressed concerns about the potential new apartment building. She felt safety and security may be jeopardized with the type of people these apartments may bring in. She didn't feel this town needs this type of expansion. She ended with her dad, Mike Engel's quote, "be loyal, buy local".

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Sjolander seconded by Helgeson to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Sjolander second by Kirchmann to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes:

Resolution 2026-32: Authorizing a Transfer from the Capital Outlay Fund 202 to the Fire Fund 203 in the amount of \$90,000

Financials and Payment of check numbers, 78495 through 78600; 7567E through 7637E
Minutes of August 6, 2026

Motion carried 4-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLIC HEARINGS/ RECOGNITIONS/PROLAMATIONS

Proclamation in Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Mayor Kirchmann read the proclamation and declared October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Todd Kieffer – EDA Report

Kieffer updated the council on projects that are being worked on including: the industrial park lot, Habitat for Humanity House, Depot Park Building, vacant storefront ideas, and façade improvement projects.

Wayne Ehrich – Public Works and Fire Dept.

Lehner read the public works and fire department updates. Street sweeping is being done throughout town, and the sand is being screened for winter. The fire department is short five members with interviews for new members scheduled for next week.

Jeff Sjoblom – Police Chief

Officer Tucker presented the police department update. The police department is approaching one year of being short of a full-time staff member. An E-bike has been purchased for patrol in the city.

Randy Eggert – KMU

No Report.

Other

Matt Bartel, Liquor Store Manager, stated there were 672 paid admissions to the Rose Fest Street dance. Two thousand dollars was saved by not having to rent a tent. The new off sale is going well. He is seeing many new faces coming in. Some samplings are being planned for Fall Fest.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE Kenyon Market

Administrator Lehner stated he talked with Dan and Pete Wagner. They reviewed several possible options to help the Kenyon Markets new buyer.

Police Department Staffing Update

Lehner stated that Officer Tucker already covered the police department staffing in his update.

KMU Staffing Update

Lehner stated that Blake Waltman was offered the Lineman/Water Operator position. He will start on September 14.

Administrative Assistant Update

Lehner stated that six applications were received for the administrative assistant position. Four candidates will be interviewed on September 16.

Update on Loan from KMU

Lehner stated that the KMU Commission agreed to borrow the city \$350,000 to purchase land on the south side of Kenyon for future development. KMU offered a ten-year loan at two percent interest.

CEDA-Todd Kieffer

Lehner stated that Todd Kieffer will be retiring at the end of January 2027. He is currently in Kenyon two days a week.

Property in Trondheim

Lehner stated that a complaint had been received about a residence in Trondheim. The complainant stated there are piles of branches along the curb, vehicles with expired registration, junk, and other ongoing issues. The city is addressing this complaint.

ENGINEERING

2025 Street & Utility Project

Engineer Olinger stated that the majority of this pay estimate is the partial release of retainage. The contractor plans to return in October for final paving and completion of all remaining work.

2025 Street and Utility Improvements – Fitzgerald Excavating & Trucking -Pay Application No. 9

Pay request No. 9 includes work completed

through September 2, 2026.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Gard to approve pay application #9 to Fitzgerald Excavating in the amount of \$68,602.38. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Lead Service Line Replacement Project- Design Scope & Fee

Engineer Olinger stated that scope and fee for the lead service line replacement was approved by the KMU Commission on August 25. The commission is recommending approval by the city council. Public Facilities Authority currently has a program offering a 100% grant for the replacement of lead and galvanized services that have been identified in the city.

Motion by Kirchmann seconded by Helgeson to approve the scope and fee for the lead service line replacement project. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Kenyon Crossings Development Applications

Engineer Olinger stated that this development agreement is required for development of the Kenyon Crossings Development. He also reviewed the required variances. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on September 1. The commission recommended approval of the plat and variances. Attorney Riggs explained all the needed resolutions.

Contract for Private Development for the Rebound Project Sub-Grant Agreement for the Rebound Project in Kenyon Developers Agreement for Kenyon Real Estate 2

Resolution 2026-33: Approving Contract for Private Development, Sub-Grant Agreement and Developers Agreement with Kenyon Real Estate 2, LLC for Certain Property in the City of Kenyon

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Sjolander to adopt Resolution 2026-33. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Resolution 2026-25: Approving Preliminary Plat of Kenyon Crossings
Motion by Sjolander seconded by Kirchmann to adopt Resolution 2026-25. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Resolution 2026-26: Approving a Parking Variance of Lot 1 Block 1 Kenyon Crossings Subdivision

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Gard to adopt Resolution 2026-26. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Resolution 2026-27: Approving a Residential Density Variance of Lot 1 Block 1 Kenyon Crossings Subdivision
Motion by Gard seconded by Kirchmann to adopt Resolution 2026-27. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Resolution 2026-28: Approving a Front Yard Setback Variance of Lot 1 Block 1 Kenyon Crossings Subdivision

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Gard to adopt Resolution 2026-28. Motion carried 4-0-0.

LEGAL OLD BUSINESS 2027 Budget Update

Jessi Sturtz from Abdo summarized some key items for consideration in this year's budget. The proposed 2027 budget increase started at 19.5% but is now down to 9.26% by eliminating some pool, streets, and police department items. The preliminary maximum levy certification resolution must be

submitted to Goodhue County by the end of September. The final levy must be adopted by the end of December. The levy can be lowered between now and the end of the year, but it cannot be increased.

Resolution 2026-31: Adopting the 2027 Preliminary Budget & Levy

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Gard to adopt Resolution 2026-31 adopting the 2027 preliminary budget and levy, which is a maximum of 9.26%. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Set the Truth in Taxation Meeting for December 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Gard to set the Truth in Taxation meeting for December 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Depot Park Concrete Project

The EDA is recommending approval of Lexvold Construction's quote to install a concrete apron around the Depot building. Replacement of the concrete will provide a safer and more accessible walking surface for people of all ages, along with installation of an approved accessible ramp entrance at the southeast door of the Depot Park building, at a cost not to exceed \$9,980. Most of the funding for the project will come from the \$9,500 in remaining funds received by the Kenyon EDA through

participation in the University of Minnesota Design Center Emerging Small Minnesota Communities Program.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Gard to approve the quote from Lexvold Construction for the concrete work at Depot Park not to exceed \$9,980.00, contingent on what will be done with the existing pavers. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Abdo vs. Internal Finance Director

Administrator Lehner presented the cost of Abdo's proposed services for financial solutions, human resources, and payroll versus the cost of an internal finance director. The cost of Abdo's services was \$164,800 and the cost of hiring a full-time finance director was \$167,100 annually. Lehner's recommendation was to continue to use Abdo.

Motion by Gard seconded by Helgeson to approve the contract with Abdo for a period of three years. Motion carried 3-1-0 with Sjolander voting nay.

Creative Planning Audit Presentation

Andy Grice from Creative Planning clarified the pension liability questions from the 2025 audit. GASB 68 is an accounting rule for state and local governments that makes pension obligations more transparent. Its main purpose is to show the true cost of pension promises made to employees and show any unfunded portion of the obligation as a long-term liability. Accounting Adjustments do not impact cash balances – rather accounts for the long-term liability associated with pensions with the offset to pension expense. Net Pension Liability in the City's financial statements is the proportionate share of the state-wide net pension liability. Each opinion unit (fund) that reports on a full accrual basis of accounting reports its proportionate share of that liability. The adjustment to this liability is offset against the various pension reporting elements

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

KMU Meeting: Tuesday, September 15th @ 3:00 p.m.

EDA Meeting: Tuesday, September 22nd @ 8 a.m.

(continued on page 26)

KENYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING (continued from page 25)

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 13th @ 7 p.m.

COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Council Member Sjolander thanked everyone who took part in Rose Fest. There were 329 cars at the car show, and many positive comments were received. He also stated that with the small city climate change, he would love to see people be kind to one another.

Council Member Helgeson thanked everyone for coming out to enjoy Rose Fest. Next up is Fall Fest on October 10.

Mayor Kirchmann thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Motion by Helgeson seconded by Sjolander to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Deputy Clerk
Donald Kirchmann, Mayor

CITY OF WANAMINGO City Council Regular Meeting Monday, September 14, 2026, 7:00 P.M. Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401 Main Street Wanamingo, MN

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

PRESENT: Council: Ryan Holmes, Eric Dierks, Rebecca Haugen, Stuart Ohr, and Jeremiah Flotterud

City Administrator: Michael Boulton
Deputy Clerk: Laure Musselman

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Brandon Theobald – WHKS, Peter Grimsrud – Zumbrota News-Record, Goodhue County Deputy Caleb Juen, Jacob Vredenburg, Melissa Denckhahn – Hope Coalition, Grace Daiker – Hope Coalition, Olivia O'Connor – Hope Coalition, Jason Grant, Emmett Grant, and State Representative Keith Allen.

ADOPT AGENDA: Ohr motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Haugen motioned, seconded by Flotterud. Mayor Holmes recognized State Senator John Jasinski as the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) Legislator of Distinction. The LMC recognized Senator Jasinski's work on MN Department of Transportation policy changes in cost participation for local governments. Mayor Holmes said that Senator Jasinski was a champion for the North Zumbro Sanitary District receiving \$12 million in capital funding this past legislative session as well. Boulton stated that he had spoken with Senator Jasinski on the recognition and thanked him on behalf of the City of Wanamingo. Passed 5-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

1) Bill's Blacktopping finished the asphalt patches in nine locations around town. First time utilizing Bill's Blacktopping. They specialize in small patches and provide good pricing.

2) Prairie Ridge Estates Park basketball hoop light was removed. The light has a remote control to turn on/off but does not have the ability to set a timer. It was decided that the light be removed due to basketball hoop usage well past the official park closure time.

3) Replaced a "No Trucks" sign on 2nd Av-

enue and a "No Motorized Vehicles" sign on the Nature Trail. The "No Trucks" sign was badly faded while the "No Motorized Vehicles" sign had been vandalized.

4) Pool winterized for season. Before the pool was shut down the heater was repaired.

There are several projects that still need to be completed, including removing the paint from the bathhouse floor and repainting along with replacing pool drain covers. Replacement pool drain covers are difficult to find as they are no longer manufactured. The pool drains that are currently/commonly utilized would require significant remodel. There is a lead on replacement drain covers. Theobald suggested 3D printing new cover replacements if they could not be found.

5) Emptied garbage containers on Main Street; the goal is to check and empty the garbage containers weekly. The new garbage container and pet helper trash bag dispenser will be installed at the Prairie Ridge Estate park shelter this week.

6) Mowed and trimmed along MN TH 60 & MN TH 57 ditch and utility poles. Mowed at the WWTP, community garden, undeveloped lot boulevards, and other various areas around town.

B) Melissa Denckhahn of Hope Coalition reported on:

1) Hope Coalition of Goodhue and Wabasha County

2) There is an emergency shelter in Red Wing while there is an outreach office in Wabasha.

3) Wanamingo was the first community to respond with willingness to adopt the proclamation. Hope Coalition appreciates Wanamingo's willingness to spread awareness of Domestic Violence along with helping those that are victims.

Flotterud asked how many are served. Denckhahn stated that 100-150 are served each year.

C) Goodhue County Deputy Caleb Juen reported on:

1) Asked if there were any concerns that needed to be addressed. No comments or concerns were shared. Holmes thanked Deputy Juen for attending the meeting.

D) Brandon Theobald of WHKS reported on:

1) 2027 Sanitary Sewer & Utility Improvement Project action items are on the City Council agenda, including Professional Service Agreements

2) The City will eventually be part of the North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District (NZSSD). The City assigned itself flow allocations. The City chose to allocate only current peak flows with the understanding that they reduce peak I & I to accommodate growth. The City has been working toward reducing groundwater inflow and infiltration (I & I) by conducting smoke testing, implementing the sump pump inspection program, and televising clay sanitary sewer mains.

3) Staff and engineers reviewed the clay sewer line televising. Staff have monitored flows during rain events and have observed significant increases to the flows on the sewer lines between MN TH60/2nd Avenue and 2nd Avenue/3rd Avenue.

4) Staff and engineers recommend that the sanitary sewer lines on the east side of MN TH 60 be replaced. The first phase in 2027 will be replace sewer lines and manholes within the ten blocks of alleys between MN

TH60/2nd Avenue and 2nd Avenue/3rd Avenue. The second phase in 2031 will be to fully reconstruct the roadway and utilities on 3rd Avenue between 3rd Street and Beverly Street.

5) The 2027 Sanitary Sewer and Alley Improvements has a roughly \$1.5-\$1.6 million scope of work

6) The professional service agreement will include Gopher1 call to identify utilities, soil borings, special assessments process preparation, preliminary and final design of plans, construction administration, and providing final as build plans.

Holmes asked how many blocks of clay sanitary sewer lines are there. Theobald stated that there are at least twenty-two blocks of sanitary sewer lines in the core of town, both sides of MN TH 60. The sanitary sewer lines on the west side of MN TH 60 seem to be in better condition, not letting in as much groundwater I & I. Theobald stated that the Street Pavement Condition Plan (PACER) is also being updated. The original Street Pavement Condition plans were completed in 2016 and updated in 2021. Flotterud asked how the City would be billed for sewer flows through the NZSSD. Boulton said that the City would be billed for actual flows, which would include I & I. Flotterud asked if a large amount of I & I can be reduced with the proposed projects. Theobald stated that these lines show the highest flows during rain events. During smoke testing there was no smoking gun for drain tiles or roof drains anywhere around town. Groundwater I & I tends to be made up of many little things such as separation of pipes, cracks in pipes, leaking manholes, drain tiles, roof

drains, and other items. All these contributions can add up to large increases in volume such as Wanamingo has eight times increase in flow during large rain events. Foundation drains would be next to explore for I & I. We may try to work in televising service lines to check for foundation drains into the project. Holmes said the proposed 2027 sanitary sewer and alley improvement project is not flashy but desperately needed. Flotterud said that we must reduce groundwater I & I before the NZSSD is running and sending flow charges to the City. Flotterud asked if the plan was to wait to do street work until MNDOT completes MN TH 57 reconstruction project. Theobald said that the MNDOT MN TH 57 project is in their 5-10-year plan with no specific date or plans. The City will have opportunity for underground utility replacement and a say in the beautification process.

E) Jason & Emmett Grant reported on:

1) Working on potential apartment ideas for land south of Caseys

2) The ideas would center on if the Council would consider rezoning from I-2 Industrial to a zoning district in which apartments are allowed.

3) Looking at apartments/condos just South of Casey and/or storage units further south next to 9th Street. The apartments could be like those in Kasson, Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, and Pine Island. The project could be phased in with multiple buildings. The complex could be 40-60 units.

4) Would like to gauge Council's thoughts before moving forward with a plan.

(continued on page 27)

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WANAMINGO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(continued from page 26)

5) There is a need for housing in Wanamingo and SE Minnesota. Mayo is looking at adding thousands of jobs in the next decade.

6) Would like to move forward in the next six months.

Ohr asked if low-income housing was being considered. Emmitt Grant said they intended to have higher end units or condos only. Jake Grant stated that they did not intend to seek out State assistance for the project. State funds tend to have caveats for providing a certain number of low-income housing units. Ohr said that there is very little desire for low-income units. Emmitt Grants stated that there are 8.5 acres of land that they own along MN TH 57 between Caseys, Riverview Services, Decker Power & Equipment, Hader Farms Trucking, and Jeff's Welding/Concast. Flotterud asked which is more desirable apartments or storage units. Emmitt Grant stated that apartments are more desirable. Flotterud stated that commercial space on the bottom floor could be desirable. Holmes said the Groth land along MN TH 60 might be a better location for apartments. Holmes stated that he would provide contact information for an architect, Aaron Thompson, that had been suggesting a similar project. Boulton stated that formal public hearing would be required to consider rezoning. Boulton stated that the Council would need to weigh losing potential commercial tax base and lots for residential usage. Boulton stated that it is extremely expensive to purchase land and put in the necessary infrastructure for commercial/industrial land such as being considered and then utilize it for residential purposes (potentially less tax base). Boulton stated that there are easements from the State along MN TH 57 that would need to be considered but could be utilized as parking lot. Boulton stated that a formal development agreement with the City would be necessary. The Council wished to hear more

information, including sketches of site plan and potential tax base considerations.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

26-056 = Adopting 2026 4th Quarter Maintenance Work Plan: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

26-057 = Approving New Hires for the Wanamingo Fire Department: Haugen moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Boulton stated that a committee consisting of eight members, including six fireman, Councilmember Ohr and Administrator Boulton interviewed the four applicants. The committee and fire department recommend the hiring of Ariann Gonzalez, Matthew Gallik, Travis Burt, and Joel Benbrooks. Passed 5-0-0.

26-058 = Adopting Petition and Waiver Assessments for the Emerald Valley Phase 2 Roadway & Utility Improvements Project: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. The project is nearly completed after the installation of the roadway and water/sewer services. There is remaining work to be completed with the installation of stormwater piping into the existing pond once the City receives easements. The total project cost is \$30,407.24. The cost is being assessed to sixteen privately owned parcels along with the City paying its share on the two right-of-way parcels. The property owners are being given eight years to pay the assessments with 5% interest being added each year, starting in 2027. The property owners can pay the assessments to the City before November 15th to avoid being placed on the property taxes. There is damage to the cleanout pipes and drainage tile from the private utility installation from Xcel Energy/Minnesota Energy. WHKS and staff on working on repairs from the private utility contractor. Flotterud asked where the assessments came out compared to estimates. Theobald said that the original assessment estimates were \$22,879 for the townhome parcels, \$25,650.25 for the two larger parcels

on the north side of 3rd Street E, and \$27,035.68 for south side of 3rd Street E parcels. The actual assessments are \$24,294.42 for townhome parcels, \$26,585.44 for the two larger parcels on the north side of 3rd Street E, and \$27,730.95 for south side of 3rd Street E parcels. Xcel Energy charged \$56,600 to install electrical service to the development. The City included the cost with the assessments. Each parcel is eligible for rebate on the share of electrical costs if homes are constructed within three years of installation. The City would then reimburse the property owner once Xcel processes the rebate. Passed 5-0-0.

26-059 = Adopting a Proclamation of Domestic Violence Month: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

26-060 = Approving Professional Service Agreement with WHKS on engineering for 2027 Sanitary Sewer and Alley Improvement Project: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

26-061 = Approving Minnesota Public Facility Authority Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Lead Water Service Line Replacement Master Agreement: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Haugen. Theobald stated that Levanen is the low bidder on the project. We are working with the State to obtain a master agreement for the Mayor and City Administrator to sign. There was indication that the City would have a copy of the agreement before the meeting, which did not occur. This will be a template agreement from Minnesota PFA. To keep the project moving the Council should provide authorization to the Mayor and City Administrator to sign the master agreement. Passed 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Hearing – ORDINANCE #217 – An Ordinance to Administer and regulate the Public Right-Of-Way in the Public Interest, and to Provide for the Issuance and Regulation of Right-Of-Way Permits. Mayor Holmes opened the public hearing at 7:42pm. Boulton stated that the City lacks specific ordinance language to govern pri-

ivate utilities that are not covered by Franchise Agreements for right-of-way work. BevComm will be installing fiber lines throughout the community and the City has no ordinance or agreement to protect City infrastructure. The City Attorney utilized the League of Minnesota Cities sample ordinance language to put together the draft ordinance. Since the August Council meeting, the City Attorney and City staff have worked through BevComm's concerns on the ordinance and application. Bevcomm is working on installing fiberoptics lines throughout Wanamingo. The ordinance in consideration has those changes incorporated since the first draft was presented to the Council in August. Vredenburg asked if the proposed ordinance would prevent citizens from conducting work within the boulevards. Boulton said the ordinance only regulates private utilities. Flotterud asked what brought on the need for the ordinance. Boulton said that the topic was discussed when Midco installed Fiber years ago but agreed that the existing cable television franchise agreement would cover the installation. Boulton said that the cable television franchise agreement will not legally work to protect the City infrastructure during or after the BevComm fiber installation. Boulton said that the State Statutes and Regulations on franchise agreements are antiquated which has led to several pending lawsuits statewide. No further public comments were offered. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:48PM.

ORDINANCE #217 – An Ordinance to Administer and regulate the Public Right-Of-Way in the Public Interest, and to Provide for the Issuance and Regulation of Right-Of-Way Permits – Second Reading: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Haugen. Passed 5-0-0.

*Next City Council meeting on 10/19/2026.

Adjourn: At 8:06 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Haugen and seconded by Dierks. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest:

Michael Boulton, City Administrator

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A promotional graphic for Consumer Cellular. On the left, a large, 3D-style "\$25" is displayed, with a speech bubble above it saying "SWITCH & GET". To the right, a black speech bubble contains the text "Off First Month of New Service!" and "USE PROMO CODE: GZ590". Below this, the "Consumer Cellular" logo is shown inside a white speech bubble. At the bottom, a black banner with white text reads "CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913". A small copyright notice at the very bottom states "© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913".

1. *Piano has at least ____ pedals
2. Part of a glass, pl.
3. Leading oil-producers' grp.
4. Indicate
5. Home to Teatro alla Scala
6. Popular core exercise
7. Deer social group
8. Synagogue
9. Cannabis plant
10. Store posting, abbr.
12. Old-fashioned carry-on bag
13. Straight ones in drafter's toolbox
14. *Louis Armstrong's instrument
19. "And Then ____ Were None"
22. "Wow!"
23. User's "getaway"
24. Sun-dried brick
25. Water wheel
26. Intense anger
27. Painter's prop
28. Angler's basket
29. Former Russian leaders
32. Snatch
33. Toothy fish
36. *Lute family instruments
38. "Perfect" Buddhist
40. Theatrical prompt
41. Former Portuguese money
44. Edible herb
46. Brain teaser
48. Like average Jane
49. British peers
50. Prefix for "beyond"
51. Any minute, arch.
52. Type of fish net
53. Daytime TV program
54. Enameled metalware
55. Federal Communications Commission
58. *Standard number of strings on guitar

[illegible]

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	7	3			5		1	
1			9					
		2	3	6				
					6			3
	6	7				8	5	
9			8					
				1	3	9		
					2			5
	3		5			1	8	

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

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