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OCTOBER 15, 2026

Volume 11 • Issue 39

Meet the Kasson City Council and KM School Board Candidates



Dan Egger



Johann (Yo'hann) Marsland



Ryan Christensen



Justin Thurmes



Jilaine Rendler



Mark Torkelson



Mark Gransee



Albert Brand



Patrick Madery

Kasson City Election

Mayor Dan Egger is running for re-election unopposed this year.

He has served on the Kasson City Council since January 2013, becoming Mayor 2 years ago.

He has lived in Kasson for many years and the region his whole life.

He and his wife have 2 adult daughters.

He works for Progressive Tool and Manufacturing. PTM is a Minnesota-based contract

manufacturer providing plastic injection molding, sheet metal fabrication, tooling, machining, assembly, and shipping.

As Mayor, he is proud of balancing the

budget in a very transparent way, with reductions in the tax rate over the last 5 years. Other accomplishments include using incremental development strategies to fix up in-

frastructure without crushing local taxpayers and fostering local business startups, filling empty storefronts, and hosting community events for Economic Development.

(continued on page 5)

Lions Park Wooded Walking Path and Disc Golf Course

A student involved initiative

KASSON - What began as a search for more soccer fields has grown into an ambitious community project: an 18-hole tournament-level disc golf course paired with a scenic wooded walking trail at Lions Park.

Kasson's growing youth soccer club had been using Lions Park, which already featured a nine-hole beginner disc golf course. Students at the Train a Child Center (TACC) along with their gym teacher began exploring the park's unused outer areas. What felt at first like trekking through a jungle soon revealed beautiful scenic spots.



(continued on page 4)

Midnight Hounds to Play at Album Release Party



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

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

(continued from page 5)

Announcements

• GriefShare support group for anyone experiencing loss of a loved one, friend, or other significant person in their lives, meets Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, at Anchor Of Hope Church, 203 E. Main St., Dodge Center, MN. Contact Dale E. Rood, pastor emeritus, at 507-633-2772, or go to the GriefShare website.

• The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center at 20 First Street NE offers a dine in and carry out meal from 5:00-6:00pm the third Wednesday of each month.

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Spiritual Growth for People of God

By Pastor Elliott Malm

Nobody begins their life as a fully mature person. Biologically, everyone passes through distinct stages of development: prenatal, newborn, infancy, childhood, adolescence, and finally adulthood. Naturally occurring processes in the body and proper nourishment aid a person's physical growth. But a human being is more than their physical body. Holy Scripture teaches that human beings are composed of a body and a soul (or body, soul, and spirit). Christ Jesus makes clear references to human nature as consisting of both body and soul (e.g. Matt. 10:28). The writings of Peter and Paul, the "Prince of the Apostles" and Apostle to the Gentiles, also make explicit the truth about this inner nature of human beings. Ignoring or failing

to apply the scriptural truth that we have a body and a soul results in an incomplete understanding of human life and therefore an inability to tend to the needs for spiritual development and wholistic personal health.

In the closing of his letter to the church in the ancient city of Thessalonica, the apostle Paul wrote, "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:23, ESV)." Although there was awareness and consideration given to the spiritual realm in ages past, modern scientific models do very little to incorporate or acknowledge what is taught by Holy Scripture. All sorts of rationalization are frequently

given by defenders of this new orthodoxy, where the secular view of human life reigns supreme. We must ask ourselves: how long will we be able to endure the pride, ignorance, and the spiritual neglect that is common with the rejection of biblical teaching today? To be made whole and right with the almighty God who created us in His image, we must return to the truths which are communicated in God's Word and diligently apply them to our lives.

St. Peter writes, "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good (1 Peter 2:2–3, ESV)." God has created us for life with Him, and that takes shape in our life when we come

to accept God's Word and walk in the light of its truth. In his magnificent letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul instructs and exhorts members of the young church to "grow up" to "mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:13, ESV)." Understanding what is required for spiritual growth begins with recognizing that we have been created in the image of God and been given a body and soul. What follows is tending to the needs for our development, not just in body but soul, so that by God's grace and the help of the Holy Spirit we can become mature people of God.

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Church of the Nazarene
Pastor Johannes Marsland • 507-721-2500
205 Mantorville Ave S, Kasson
Sunday 6pm worship

Community Celebration Church
Pastor: Steve Larson • 507-634-1463
27337 Co. Hwy 34, Kasson
Sunday worship 9am & 10:30am

First Baptist Church
Pastor: John Todor
305 4th St, Kasson
Sunday 9:30am Sunday school; 10:30am worship

Church of the Holy Family
Father John Lasuba • 507-634-7520
1904 Mantorville Ave N, Kasson
Sunday 8:30am Mass; Wednesday 9am Mass

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Pat Dee pastoral asst. • 507-634-6081
101 1st St, NE, Kasson
Sunday 10am worship; Wednesday 5:30pm community meal

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pastor Karl Christie • 507-634-3183
600 8th Ave NW, Kasson
Sunday 9am worship

South Zumbro Lutheran LCMC
Pastors: Pete Wyttenbach & Jeff Bernards
4830 120th Ave SW, Kasson
Sunday Worship 9:00a.m.

St. John's Lutheran ELCA
John Welsenburger, Deborah Lyanga, Kristin Schlauderaff
507-634-7110
301 8th Ave NW, Kasson
Sunday 9am; Wednesday 6:30pm

Pleasant Corners Evangelical Church
Pastor: Jacob Hanson • 507-634-7823
21927 650th St. Kasson
Sunday 11am

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.

KASSON

Grace Methodist Church
Pastor: Jacob Hanson • 507-634-7823
801 5th Ave NW, Kasson
Sunday 9am worship; 10am fellowship
10:30am Sunday school

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Loren Olson • 507-634-7481
101 6th Ave NW, Kasson
Sunday 10am worship; 11am fellowship

Kasson Church of Christ
Pastor: Dale DePeel • 507-254-7258
901 8th Ave NW, Kasson
Sunday 10am worship
Wednesday 7:30pm prayer service

HAYFIELD

Cedar Creek Church
Pastor Barry Durkee • 507-477-2255
30 East Main Street, Hayfield
CedarCreekChurch.org
Worship 10:00a.m. Sundays

West St. Olaf Lutheran, ELCA
Pastor Paul Thompson • 507-365-8222
West: 70640 260 Ave, Hayfield • WestStOlaf.org
Worship 10:00a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church
Pastor Kristen Anderson • 507-477-2248
104 1st St SE, Hayfield • churchoffice@trinityhayfield.com
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Obituaries

October 15, 2026

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD, KASSON, MANTORVILLE, HAYFIELD MESSENGER -

Page 3

Lois Lorraine (Langworthy) Pederson

Lois Lorraine (Langworthy) Pederson, 78, of New Auburn, Wisconsin, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday morning, September 27, 2026. After spending time with family the day before, she rested peacefully through the night and went to be with the Lord before she woke.

Lois was born July 26, 1948, in Owatonna, Minnesota, to Roy and Joyce Langworthy and grew up in Dodge Center with her sister, Loretta, and brothers, Roger and Randy.

On May 28, 1967, Lois married Duane Pederson in Dodge Center. They spent their first several years together in southern Minnesota before moving to the New Auburn area and settling on the Pederson family farm, where they raised their family and farmed for many years. Their 59 years of marriage eventually took them from a Wisconsin family farm to mission fields around the world.

For more than 25 years, Lois and Duane served in missions throughout Asia and other parts of the world. They formed friendships that crossed the boundaries of nations and experienced firsthand how expansive the body of Christ really is.

Lois was a quiet listener, a steady encourager, and a practical helper. Whether on the farm, overseas, or at home with family and friends, she expressed God's love in simple

acts of service, often without recognition. She sewed and quilted, made baskets and crafts, walked alongside people through difficult seasons, and found countless small ways to care for the people God placed around her.

Her family remembers the familiar sound of her sewing machine and the many hours she spent working with her hands. Her son Jon remembers sitting on the floor beside her sewing table as she worked and watching her stitch quilts in her chair beside the window, where the natural light was best.

Lois also loved quiet days by the lake and warm days on the beach, although she was considerably less enthusiastic about actually being in the water, particularly when her children thought flipping the boat over with Mom in it was a great idea. Through all their teasing, her children never doubted that their mother loved them unconditionally.

Perhaps Lois's greatest legacy is something she taught without saying very much at all: how to be a quiet and willing servant to others. Her children and grandchildren learned from her that following Christ does not require recognition or being the loudest person in the room.

Sometimes it simply means noticing what needs to be done, caring for the person God has placed in front of you, and faithfully doing the work.

Lois is survived by her husband, Duane; her children, Robin (Rod), Renae (Chris), and Jon (Megan); 13 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; her sister, Loretta; her brothers, Roger and Randy; and extended family and dear friends throughout the world. She

was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Joyce Langworthy.

Lois's family grieves her absence, but not without hope. "His mercies are new every morning."

On Sunday morning, September 27, those mercies were new for Lois in a way her family can only begin to imagine.

A memorial service and celebration of Lois's life will be held Friday, October 16, 2026, at 4:00p.m. at Faith Baptist Church in Chetek, Wisconsin. A meal and time of fellowship will follow.

Susan "Sue" Ronning

Susan "Sue" Ronning, age 78, of West Concord, Minnesota, passed away peacefully at her home on October 3, 2026.

Born on December 20, 1947, to Norman and Carol Ronning. Sue spent her life rooted in the community and countryside she loved. She graduated from West Concord High School with the Class of 1965 and went on to work a variety of jobs throughout her life, always bringing her hardworking spirit, kindness, and enthusiasm wherever she went.

Sue's heart belonged to farm life. She found joy in caring for her animals, exploring her farm, and tending to her home with pride. Whether she was checking on her animals, setting off on one of her farm adventures, or making sure her lawn was perfectly green and level, Sue approached each day with energy and determination.

One of Sue's greatest gifts was her hospi-

tal. If you stopped by her home, you could count on being welcomed warmly and encouraged to stay for a meal. She loved to cook and took genuine pleasure in feeding others, making sure everyone was comfortable, cared for, and never left hungry. Her kitchen was a gathering place filled with warmth, laughter, and love.

Sue will be remembered for her generous spirit, adventurous nature, strong work ethic, and her love for her family, friends, animals, and the life she built on her farm. She had a unique way of making people feel at home and leaving them with a smile.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Norman and Carol Ronning; her brother, Terry Ronning; and her sister-in-law Sharon Ronning.

Sue's love for animals remained constant throughout her life, in accordance with her wishes, she will be laid to rest alongside her beloved dog, Saddle, whose companionship brought her great comfort and joy.

Although Sue's presence will be deeply missed, her memory will live on in the stories shared, the kindness she showed to others, and the countless lives she touched with her generous heart.

"Those we love never truly leave us. They live on in every memory, every smile, and every act of kindness inspired by their lives."

May we remember Sue not for the day she left us, but for the many years she spent making the world a warmer, more welcoming place.

There was a graveside committal service at the Kenyon cemetery on Monday, October 12, 2026 at 11:00 AM. The Kenyon Cemetery is located at Mogren Hill, Kenyon, MN 55946.

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Lions Park Wooded Walking Path and Disc Golf Course

(continued from page 1)

The TACC class designed a full 18-hole layout that makes use of the park's outskirts making its natural beauty available for all to see.

They brought the design to the Kasson Park and Recreation Board, which approved the plan pending funding. The students helped build a budget and collaborated with the Rochester Area Disc Golf Club to refine the course.

The project gained official support when the Kasson City Council allocated \$10,000 as a matching fund to encourage private fundraising. The Kasson-Mantorville Joint Ventures Board then agreed to purchase the new baskets for the course.

Work began in June 2026. Local volunteers, working with equipment providers such as Hardware Hank, have cleared thorns, thistles and buckbrush. The effort has opened views of 120-year-old trees and hidden pools along Masten Creek. The walking trail and 16 of the

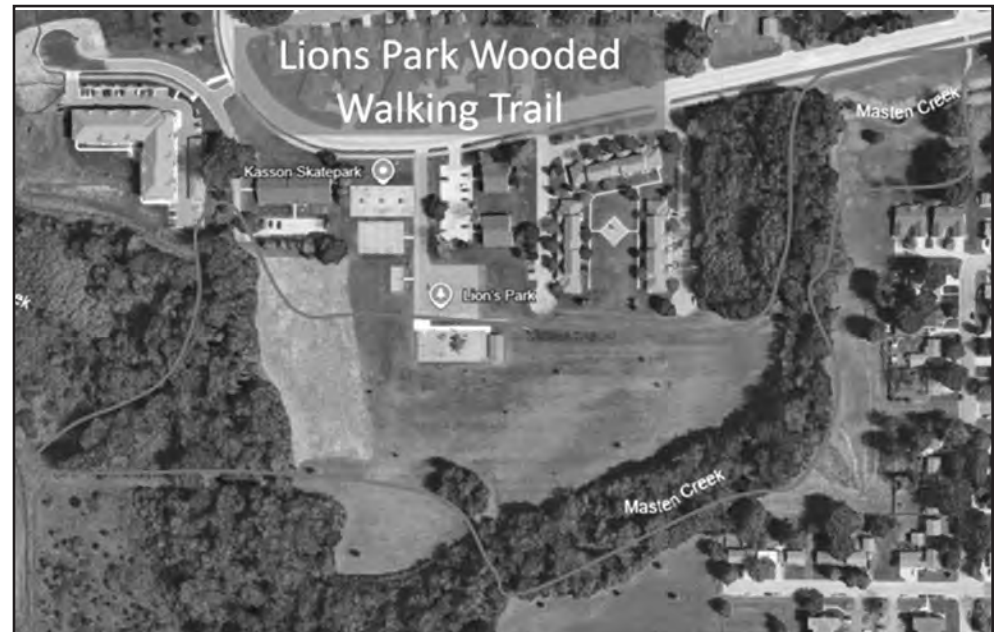
18 holes have already been roughed in. Fundraising currently stands at about one-third of its \$20,000 goal.

The first event on the new course is scheduled for Nov. 6: a night disc golf tournament called The Space Race. Players will tackle 36 temporarily set up short holes with lighted baskets and specially illuminated discs. Proceeds will support the fund drive. Details are available at discgolfscene.com/tournament/Space_Race_at_Kasson_2026.

Fundraising will continue through the winter. If the goal is met, full installation of permanent tee pads and trail amenities is planned for spring 2027. Sponsors can have their names or logos appear on the course map, hole signs, or trail features, depending on the level of support.

Sponsorship opportunities range from any amount (name on the course map) to \$5,000 Legacy Sponsors, who receive prominent map placement and the chance to propose a course name to the Park Board and City Council. Intermediate levels include Trail Guide (\$200, logo on map), Hole Sponsor (\$500, space on a hole sign) and Bench & Trail Amenity Sponsor (\$1,000, recognition on a sponsored feature). Those interested in sponsoring this project or volunteering their time can contact Johann Marsland at taccask@gmail.com or via phone at 218-831-7559.

The improvements will create a naturally shaded walking trail in the heart of Kasson as well as the expanded disc golf experience for residents, families, visitors, and outdoor



enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. The project offers an opportunity for local residents to help expand recreation and outdoor life in Kasson while building a lasting community asset.

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Meet the Kasson City Council and KM School Board Candidates

(continued from page 1)

Goals for the next term: Getting potholes patched, upgrading park equipment, improving water treatment, and making sure public safety and mental health resources are accessible while maintaining a fiscally conservative approach to budgeting.

Johann (Yo'hann) Marsland is one of three candidates running for two city council seats in Kasson. Here he introduces himself in his own words.

I have called Minnesota home since 1997, when I returned from missions work in India and landed in Kasson with my brother Sam.

In 2000 I married Stephanie. Together we raised three children—Elliah, a licensed psychologist; Avellah, who works at the elementary school; and Josiah, who works with Simply Tidy.

In 2010 we moved back to Kasson to start a new church after pastoring up north for five years. I supported our family by running a fire-safety company and later became involved in education and cognitive development through LearningRx. That work led me to found the Train a Child Center (TACC), which provides a 3rd- through 12th-grade school for families seeking a family-style learning alternative to the public system. TACC also offers brain-training and cognitive-development programs that help struggling students turn frustration into success. In 2016 I started a Hispanic church, and in 2024 I helped launch a new congregation in Mantorville.

My first real contact with city government came when my oldest daughter petitioned for a chicken ordinance so she could keep hens in our backyard. We worked with city staff and elected officials to make that change. Later I saw the harder side of local decision-making when our small school's request to rezone a building on Mantorville Avenue was denied by Planning and Zoning and the City Council. For the past six years I have attended council meetings in order to offer informed

prayer over the issues facing our city. During one of those times of prayer I felt prompted to run for office. After much consideration and further prayer, I am responding to that call and asking the residents of Kasson to vote for me in the upcoming election.

Earlier service has prepared me for this role. From 2007 to 2010 I served on the city council in Hewitt, Minnesota, while pastoring there. As a pastor I have learned the relational side of community life and hope to bring patience, grace, and genuine care into the way residents and government interact. Before entering pastoral ministry I served as property manager of a 400-unit mobile-home community, where I handled new construction, utility billing, street maintenance, snow removal, and resident concerns. These experiences, together with my years of attendance at Kasson meetings, have given me a clear picture of current issues so I can contribute immediately.

If elected, I want clearer, more personal communication with the people who take time to engage city government. Impersonal notices should be supplemented—and sometimes replaced—by phone calls and face-to-face visits. Residents who invest their time deserve to be heard and responded to thoughtfully.

I am financially conservative and believe government should enable private investment in the community. Every tax dollar needs to be spent carefully. I applaud the efforts of the current mayor and council to slow the growth of government; yet more work remains to ease the tax burden on our citizens. Property taxes have risen dramatically over the last six years, as have the costs of running the city. I would work to ensure that the city budget does not increase beyond the cost-of-living increase, balanced with growth in the area's median income.

When people disagree, I operate by one simple principle: let truth triumph over victory. I look for what is true rather than who is right. If another perspective proves better, I can rejoice. I am willing to set aside my own preference when careful examination shows a different course better serves the whole community. Pride is part of human nature, but seeking truth over personal victory keeps me accountable.

I see myself as a servant. My faith teaches me that the greatest example of leadership is service. Whether or not I am elected, I intend to keep attending meetings, praying for our city, and working for the good of Kasson in whatever role I hold. I ask for your vote so I can serve you on the City Council with that same attitude.

Ryan Christensen is also running for one of the two open seats on the Kasson city council. My parents, sisters, and I moved to Kasson in 1989, and I have called the Kasson-Mantorville area home for most of the past 37 years. I currently live in northwest Kasson with my wife, Angela, and our daughter, Nora. I am a proud 2001 graduate of Kasson-Mantorville High School and have been a teacher in the KM School District since 2010.

My involvement in local government began when I served on the Mantorville City Council from 2016 to 2020. Since 2021, I have had the privilege of serving on the Kasson City Council. In addition to my council responsi-

bilities, I serve on the Kasson Park Board, the Dodge Hockey Rink Committee, and the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee.

After five years on the Kasson City Council, my goals and priorities for our community remain unchanged. I want to continue being fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars, finding ways to strengthen communication between city staff, the City Council, and the residents of Kasson, and supporting thoughtful development and growth within our community. This includes opportunities for single-family housing, multi-family housing, and recreational spaces that support youth sports and activities.

When I first joined the Kasson City Council in 2021, I was appointed to fill a vacancy created when a council member moved outside city limits. When I later ran for election, I did not campaign on a specific agenda. Instead, I focused on listening, learning, and making decisions based on what I believed was in the best interest of our community. That approach has not changed. I believe effective local government requires collaboration, open communication, and a willingness to consider different perspectives before making decisions.

Throughout my years in local government, I have had the honor of serving alongside some outstanding individuals. Don Hofstad, Henry Blair, Will Lambert, and Duane Burton have all been tremendous mentors who helped shape my approach to public service. I am grateful for their leadership, guidance, and dedication to the communities we have served.

I am proud to call this area home, and I remain committed to helping Kasson grow responsibly while maintaining the qualities that make it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. It has been an honor to represent the residents of Kasson, and I hope to continue earning their trust and support in the years ahead.

Hi, my name is **Justin Thurmes** and I am running to be a councilor for the city of Kasson. I have raised my children in Dodge County and am currently a deputy for the Sheriff's Office, a position I have been in for nearly 15 years. My family has roots in Dodge County and I have lived in and around the Kasson-Mantorville area for the majority of my life. I'm a very proud father of three beautiful children (Brooklyn 17, Jude 15, and Harry 6) who keep me busy most days.

I have dedicated the majority of my adult life to public and community service. I started out, while in college, as a first responder. I continued to serve on the local Sheriff's Posse, in our 911 dispatch center, and finally as a deputy for the Dodge County Sheriff's Office. All of this has allowed me to meet my fellow citizens and neighbors while also forming lifelong, positive relationships with our local police officers, fire fighters, EMT's, and city employees.

As a dad of three Komets, I have a very real and vested interest in continuing to find ways to improve Kasson for all its citizens. We need to work together to keep our streets safe, our parks and neighborhoods clean, and attract patrons and businesses to thrive and grow going forward.

(continued on page 6)

Midnight Hounds to Play at Album Release Party

(continued from page 1)

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 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.

Meet the Kasson City Council and KM School Board Candidates

(continued from page 5)

I have always been interested and involved in public service and, if entrusted and elected, I feel like this would be a great way to give back to the community I've grown to love.

From talking to the public and listening to concerns, I have gained a fresh perspective on the issues most people feel directly affect them.

Rising utility costs, the continual increasing costs and shortages of our local housing market, rental amounts, and property taxes have been mentioned to me numerous times. Although I feel we have been more fortunate here in Kasson than in some other local communities regarding some of these increased costs, there is always room for improvement and ideas to better our community. I am eager to listen, learn, and be a voice for all Kasson citizens.

Sheldon Torkelson is running for a special election Kasson city council seat but was not available for an interview.

Kasson Mantorville school board candidates

There are six candidates for three open seats on the Kasson Mantorville School Board.

Jilaine Rendler has lived in KM school district for 40 years, and lived in Dodge County most of her life. She is married and with her husband have 3 children, 5 grandchildren. She has been employed for 35 years in Radiation Oncology at Mayo Clinic, 25 of those years were spent in management.

This would be her first public office position. These are her goals as a school board member. "I hope to help navigate the budget/levy issues. Help maintain a positive trajectory of the school programs. If possible, would like to define a better form for accountability for all students and faculty to include parents. I would like to increase community involvement to improve and revive school spirit and respect for oneself, for others, community and country"

Mark Torkelson is running for re-election and introduces himself. My wife, Ann, and I have lived in the Kasson/ Mantorville area since 2000. Over the years we have come to really appreciate this community and the people who make it a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

We have enjoyed being involved in the community and watching our area grow while maintaining the qualities that make it a special place to live.

We have two college aged daughters. Our

family has always valued being involved in the community and supporting young people. Ann and I both serve on our church worship team and we really enjoy having the opportunity to serve together. I am also one of the youth leaders at our church, which is something I particularly enjoy because I enjoy working with and mentoring young people.

I owned and operated a landscaping and excavating business for 20 years. That experience taught me the importance of hard work, managing finances, making difficult decisions, and being accountable to employees and customers who depended on me. Today I spend much of my time maintaining our acreage near Mantorville and volunteering where I can. One of the things I especially enjoy is working with young people and mentoring those who are considering careers in the trades.

I have served on the Kasson-Mantorville School Board since January 2019 and currently serve as board chair. During nearly eight years on the board, I have been part of a lot of important decisions and have seen the district face significant challenges, including changes in leadership, COVID, financial pressures, and difficult decisions about how to best use limited resources. That experience has given me a much better understanding of

the responsibility that comes with serving on a school board. It has also reinforced for me that good board leadership requires listening, asking questions, working together, and keeping the focus on what is best for students and the community.

I want to continue helping Kasson-Mantorville provide a strong education while being responsible with taxpayer dollars. I want our students to have opportunities to succeed in whatever path they choose, whether that is a four-year college, a technical program, the military, or going directly into the workforce. I also want to continue supporting strong academics, career and technical education, fine arts, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Schools should help students discover their strengths and prepare them for life after graduation.

I want Kasson-Mantorville to remain a school district that families are proud to be part of and that people want to move to and stay in. Strong schools are an important part of a strong community. My goal is to help maintain that strength by making thoughtful and financially responsible decisions, supporting our teachers and staff, and keeping students at the center of what we do.

(continued on page 8)

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BAKE/QUILT SALE

Wednesday, November 4, 2026
Bake and Quilt Sale 4:30 pm
Dinner: 5:00 - 7:30 pm

Meatballs and Ham
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
Cole Slaw Corn
Rolls Relishes
Pies

Adults-\$20 Youth (ages 5-9)-\$5
4 years and younger free

Dine in family style or take-outs available



West Concord Fire Department Breakfast



West Concord Fire Department Breakfast was held Sunday, October 11 at the West Concord Fire Hall. Pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage links were served all morning.



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The Caring & Sharing Tree provides the opportunity to help those in need at Christmas.

This program is available to full time residents of West Concord, MN with children 18 years and younger, living at home and attending school.

Applications are available at Casey's, Heritage Bank and City Hall, West Concord, MN. Return applications to WC City Hall by November 13, 2026

Meet the Kasson City Council and KM School Board Candidates

(continued from page 6)

I believe good school board leadership is about being a servant to the community, listening to different perspectives, asking the right questions, looking at the facts, and making decisions that are in the long-term best interest of our students, families, staff, and taxpayers.

Mark Gransee is running for the first time for the school board. He was raised in this community and graduated from K-M in 2007. He is married to Stevie, and they have two daughters, a newborn and one in middle school.

He has worked for McNeilus Steel for over 16 years in various roles. This will be his first time running for the school board position.

His goals would be to raise proficiency levels among all schools. “We need to make sure K-M students are able to read, write, and do math at grade level. We should strive to lead the state, and nation, in student proficiency levels,” Mark comments. “I would like to involve more of the community on a front-line basis. Too many people are content to sit in the background. We need to step up and make our choices heard in order to make a difference at K-M schools”.

Albert Brand moved to the Kasson-Mantorville area roughly six years ago and recently put down deeper roots in Mantorville. He has five kids. Four are currently students in Kasson-Mantorville schools, and the youngest will be soon.

He is a business owner and runs Kratos Athletic Center, a local gym here in the community, and also owns Embarc Solutions, a marketing company that serves clients nationwide. Running both has meant managing budgets, meeting payroll, leading teams, and being accountable to the people he serves.

This would be his first time serving in elected office. He ran for this same school board seat last year and came up just 30 votes short, and is back because he is even more committed to serving our schools.

(continued on page 9)

Dodge County Public Health to Host Flu Vaccine Clinics in the Community

Dodge Center, MN – Dodge County Public Health (DCPH) will be holding community clinics for the flu vaccine throughout October. Clinics will have the following vaccines available:

- Fluzone Trivalent - \$55
- Fluzone High-Dose Trivalent (65+) - \$101

Flu vaccines will be administered to anyone ages six-months and up on the following days and locations:

- October 19 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at Dodge County Public Health
- October 20 from 10:30am – 12:00 pm at West Concord City Hall
- October 21 from 9:00 am – 10:30 am at Hayfield Senior Center
- October 22 from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm at Dodge County Public Health
- October 23 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at Dodge County Public Health
- October 26 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm at Dodge County Public Health
- October 27 from 1:00 pm – 3:00pm at Dodge County Public Health

If you would like to receive a vaccine at one of these clinics, please register in advance by calling DCPH at 507-635-6150. Walk-ins will be accepted if there is availability. Accepted forms of payment include Medicare, Medical Assistance (Medicaid), cash, and check.

DCPH is also accepting appointments outside of these clinic hours. Please call for availability.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 204 (KASSON-MANTORVILLE), MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 204 (Kasson-Mantorville), Minnesota, on November 3, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to vote on the following question:

School District Question Approval of New School District Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 204 (Kasson-Mantorville), Minnesota has proposed to increase the School District’s referendum revenue by \$500 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2026 for taxes payable in 2027 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Shall the new referendum authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 204 (Kasson-Mantorville), Minnesota, be approved?

PASSAGE OF THIS REFERENDUM WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The property tax portion of the revenue authorized will require an estimated referendum tax rate of 0.07686% for taxes payable in 2027 of the referendum market value of all classes of taxable property in the School District, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.01, Subdivision 3, which excludes certain agricultural property, seasonal property and post-secondary student housing.

The projected annual dollar increases for typical residential homesteads, apartments, commercial-industrial properties, and most other classes of property within the School District are as shown in the table below, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. Agricultural property will pay taxes for the proposed referendum based only on the value of the house, garage and one acre of land. Seasonal recreational residential property (i.e., cabins) will pay no taxes for the proposed referendum.

The figures in the table below are based on School District taxes for the new referendum revenue authorization only and do not include tax levies for other purposes:

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Taxes for Referendum Only*	
		Annual	Monthly
Residential Homesteads, Apartments, and Commercial-Industrial Property	\$100,000	\$77	\$6
	125,000	96	8
	150,000	115	10
	175,000	135	11
	200,000	154	13
	225,000	173	14
	250,000	192	16
	275,000	211	18
	300,000	231	19
	325,000	250	21
	350,000	269	22
	375,000	288	24
	400,000	307	26
	450,000	346	29
	500,000	384	32
	550,000	423	35
	600,000	461	38
	650,000	500	42
	750,000	576	48
	1,000,000	769	64

The precincts and polling places for the special election will be the precincts and polling places used for the state general election.

All qualified electors residing in said School District may cast their ballots at the polling places for the precincts in which they reside during the polling hours specified above.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in the special election. Unregistered individuals may register to vote at the polling places on election day.

Dated: June 29, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ , Clerk
Eric Mesa

Community / Legal Notices

Meet the Kasson City Council and KM School Board Candidates
(continued from page 8)

Albert states his goals as a school board member. "I

want the district to budget responsibly and protect the classroom first, especially with rising costs and unfunded state mandates. I want to support great teachers and strong academics, including hands-on and career-technical programs that prepare kids for the real world. And I want decisions made locally and transparently, so families understand how and why they get made, in schools that stay safe and welcoming.

Strong schools are the heart of a strong community. My goal is a district our families trust and are proud of: one that spends their money wisely, prepares kids for life after graduation, and brings people together instead of dividing them. When our schools are thriving, Kasson-Mantorville thrives."
Patrick Madery is a proud graduate of Kasson-Mantorville High School and a lifelong supporter of this

community. He is running for re-election for the Kasson Mantorville School Board. Patrick and his wife chose to return to Kasson-Mantorville to raise their family, and are blessed with three children who benefit from the opportunities our district provides. Here he explains why he is asking for your support on November 3rd.

Professionally, I serve as a Business Development and Account Manager, where I work with customers across the country, build relationships, and make strategic decisions that balance long-term goals with responsible budget management. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, youth and community sports, trail riding, hunting, and fishing.

I am seeking a second term on the Kasson-Mantorville School Board because I care deeply about the future of our schools and our community. As both a parent and a current board member, I understand the importance of making thoughtful decisions that support students, staff, and taxpayers. Over the past four

years, I have worked to uphold the district's Commitment to Excellence while maintaining a focus on academic achievement, fiscal responsibility, and long-term planning. I am running to continue providing steady leadership, representing the voices of our community, and ensuring that every decision keeps students at the center of our work.

Since being elected to the School Board in 2022, I have invested significant time in training and professional development through the Minnesota School Boards Association. I have served on the Policy, Land & Facilities, and Finance Committees and have held the role of Board Treasurer. These experiences have strengthened my understanding of school governance, budgeting, facilities planning, and policy development. In my professional career, I have also developed skills in leadership, collaboration, strategic planning, and financial accountability. Together, these experiences have prepared me to thoughtfully evaluate complex issues, listen to diverse

perspectives, and make decisions that serve the best interests of students, staff, and the broader Kasson-Mantorville community.
One of the most important issues facing our district is student enrollment, as it impacts nearly every aspect of school operations. I will continue supporting efforts that make Kasson-Mantorville a destination district for families by promoting the excellent work of our staff and maintaining strong academic, athletic, arts, and extracurricular programs. I am committed to ensuring students have access to a wide range of opportunities, including college-level coursework, career and technical education, and real-world experiences that prepare them for success after graduation. I also believe in responsible financial stewardship, thoughtful facility planning, and maintaining a positive culture where students feel supported, challenged, and prepared to pursue their individual goals, whether that path leads to college, the trades, military service, or the workforce.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of Claremont, Minnesota, will meet in Claremont City Hall on Monday, October 26 at 6:00 p.m. to hold a Public Hearing for a Variance Request. The Variance Request is to install a fence on the property line. This request is made by the City of Claremont and the chain link fence installation will be at Harmer Park.

All persons desiring to be heard with reference to the above-named request should attend this meeting. Written comments must be received by 2:00 p.m. on October 26, 2026. Comments can be sent to Claremont City Hall, c/o Variance Request, P.O. Box 235, Claremont, MN 55924.

Elizabeth Sorg, City Administrator

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2125 (TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS) CLAREMONT, DODGE CENTER, AND WEST CONCORD STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 2125 (Triton Public Schools), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November 2026 for the purpose of electing four school board members for four year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:



School Board Member Vote for Up to Four

- ☐ WALTER ALAN BLUHM
- ☐ BRIAN GINDER
- ☐ LLOYD HENSLIN, JR.
- ☐ BRUCE HUBER
- ☐ DALE JENSEN
- ☐ WENDY KENWORTHY
- ☐ CHRISTI RUNNELLS
- ☐ Write-in, if any
- ☐ Write-in, if any

The precincts and polling places for this general election are the polling places and precincts, or parts of precincts located within the school district's boundaries, that have been established by the county or municipal governing bodies as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.14.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. Most polls for said election will open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: August 17, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ Dale Jensen
School District Clerk

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 204 KASSON-MANTORVILLE SCHOOLS STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 204, (Kasson and Mantorville), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026, for the purpose of electing three (3) school board members for four-year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s), like this:



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

- ☐ PATRICK MADERY
- ☐ MARK TORKELSON
- ☐ JIL LAINE RENDLER
- ☐ ALBERT J. BRAND
- ☐ MARK GRANSEE
- ☐ write-in, if any
- ☐ write-in, if any
- ☐ write-in, if any
- ☐ write-in, if any
- ☐ write-in, if any

The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places will be designated by the county for the state general election.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. Most polls for said election will open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on election day.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
Eric Mesa
School Board Clerk

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION

The City of Dodge Center will conduct a Municipal General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Polling hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Dodge Center City Hall, 35 East Main Street, Dodge Center. The City will conduct an election for two (2) Councilpersons for four-year terms and one (1) Mayor for a four-year term.

Given under my hand this 14th day of October 2026.

Lee A. Mattson, City Administrator

NOTICE OF STATE GENERAL ELECTION DODGE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

To the clerks and voters of Dodge County in the State of Minnesota.

Notice is Hereby Given, that a General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at the polling places and times designated below, for the purpose of voting for candidates for the following offices:

Polling Place Location and Times:

Dodge Center – South and North Precincts	Dodge Center City Hall 35 E Main St Dodge Center, MN 55927	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
---	---	---------------------------

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Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor, Districts 3 & 4

CITY OF DODGE CENTER OFFICES

Mayor
Council Member (vote for up to two)

Sarah Johnson
Lead Accounting Services
Dodge County, Minnesota

507-635-6239

Dated: October 8, 2026

State of Minnesota

Dodge County District Court Third District

Court File Number:
20-PR-23-644

**Case Type: Informal
Probate**

Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors Estate of Betty Ann Staffon aka Betty A. Staffon, Decedent

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS AND CREDI-
TORS:

Notice is hereby given that a second amended application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's Last Will dated May 25, 2000, Separate Writing sated January 17, 2013 has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the second amended application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed Faron Dean Staffon whose address is 59279 205th Avenue, Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative or may object to the appointment of Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. §524.3.607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the will, or to the appointment of the personal

representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. §524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 9-30-2026
Deanna Verdick, Probate Registrar
Brooke Delano, Court Administrator
Personal Representative,
Faron Dean Staffon
59279 205th Avenue
Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927
(507)-272-3281

DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, September 14, 2026

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of September 14, 2026, Dodge Center City Council regular meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.

Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Cathy Skogen, Gary Trelstad, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal, Lee Mattson, Stephanie Gonzalez, Meredith Brose, Mark Barwald, John Fox, Vanessa Hines, Melanie Leth, Randy Langworthy.

City Council approved the following items:

- Approve and accept the consent agenda to include: Minutes of the August 24, 2026 City Council Meeting, Minutes of the August 2026 HRA Meeting, Termination of Aquatic Center Employees, purchasing Administrative Assistant Computer, Center Clinic Event request, City Hall Keypad/Fob locks, Community Development Office Space, Dodge County Ordinance Proposal, purchasing Aquatic Center Umbrella Frames, 2027 Law Enforcement Contract, Truth in Taxation Hearing, Triton Homecoming Parade Route, and Payment of bills,
 - Move forward with the abatement process on 406 1st St NW,
 - Approve the additional funds for repairing a catch basin,
 - Approve the purchase and install of a mini split A/C unit for the Aquatic Center concession kitchen, not to exceed \$6,500,
 - Authorize demolition of the wall between the east bay of the Fire Hall equipment bays and the rest of the room with final evaluation and input from the Fire Department before moving forward,
 - Approve the 2026 Dodge Center Water Service Replacement project, moving forward with construction beginning Spring 2027 with 100% State funding,
 - Waive Community Center rental fees for Community Ed classes,
 - As authorized by Minnesota statute 13D.05, subd 2(a)(3), closed meeting for the purpose of discussing data that is not public,
 - Authorize a letter of agreement with Jodi Hill.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

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