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NOVEMBER 26, 2026 **Volume 23 • Issue 11**

City of Nerstrand Seeking a New Clerk

The city of Nerstrand has posted the job opening for the city clerks position.

The city has been sharing the clerks duties between 2 employees for some time, and will be consolidating the position to one Full Time employee.

The full job job description and posting are located on the city website as well as in this issue of The Messenger on page 22.

Sapphire Event Room to Present A King, Cash & Diamond Christmas Shows December 18th

Many have seen the the popular Vegas Style Tribute Show featuring the music of Johnny Cash, Elvis, and Neil Diamond in Dennison, featuring Chris Olson as Elvis, and Doug Allen Nash's Tribute to Johnny Cash and Neil Diamond.

Several years ago, they began performing a special Holiday Show at Breezy Point Resort in December each year, and this year are going to bring the festive show to Dennison December 18th, 2026. The show will include a blend of your favorite everyday tunes from the iconic artists, along with a wide variety of your favorite Christmas holiday tunes.

The show will take place in the all new Sapphire Event Room and Cocktail Lounge in Dennison.

(continued on page 2)





Announcements

• **Dennison City Council** meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

• **The Hiawatha Valley Genealogy Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Goodhue County History Center, 1166 Oak St., Red Wing, MN.** The society welcomes participants of all ages and genders who are interested in discovering, researching, or expanding their knowledge of their family's ancestors. Whether you are just beginning or have years of experience, the group offers a supportive environment to help you build your genealogy skills and connect with others who share your interest. Your first meeting is complimentary!

• **The Nerstrand City Council** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Wednesdays 9:30-11:30a.m. and Thursdays 6:00-8:00p.m. Other times available per request, 507-332-8000.

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Christmas in the Village at Dakota City



The village is buzzing for Christmas in the Village at Dakota City in Farmington December 5 & 6 and December 12 & 13th, Saturdays from from 3-8 pm, and Sundays from 3 -7 pm at the Dakota County Fairgrounds.

All ages will enjoy the many displays and buildings that reflect the sights, sounds, and scents of the season!

The buildings are heated and horse-drawn trolleys will be available to take visitors throughout the village.

Hot chocolate, apple cider, hot soups and ice cream are available in the Drug Store.

Apple cider donuts and popcorn will be available in the Fire Barn with warm up fire barrels and benches set up nearby.

The Dakota Garage will be open and hosted by the IMCA car club members.

Visitors will find a photo booth, kid's activities and a baked potato bar and beverages in this new building. Parents are encouraged to bring their children's letter to St. Nicholas in a self-addressed envelope (not sealed) to this building where the special post office box is located. After the event, children will receive a letter in the mail from St. Nicholas. Saint Nicholas will be visiting with children in the Depot.

The popular model engine train display (scale G) will be back this year again in the Library.

(continued on page 7)

Christmas Events are just Around the Corner



Thursday, December 3rd will be Christmas in Wanamingo. There will be treats at local businesses and bring a non-perishable food item or cash donation to each participating business and get your card stamped. Completed cards will be drawn for cash prizes.

1st prize is $100.00. Stop by the Wanamingo Community Center to see the Santa carving collection. Santa will be at the Olmsted Medical Center at 217 Main Street. Stop between 5 and 7pm for a visit.

Saturday, December 5 from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. downtown Kasson turns into a winter wonderland for the day!

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Sapphire Event Room to Present A King, Cash & Diamond Christmas Shows December 18th

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Tickets are available by calling Fireside Lounge during normal business hours at 507-645-9992.

For fans young and old, if you have ever been to the popular Breezy Point Resort up north in Minnesota, you may have caught The Memories of Elvis Show (www.espking.com) with Chris Olson on the dockside bar at Breezy Point.

Chris Olson performs this entertaining tribute of The King, and will be bringing his talents and show back to DENNISON, along with Doug Allen Nash Friday December 18th, for two shows. A 1:30 matinee show and 7 PM evening show, next door to the Fireside Lounge & Supper Club at the all new Sapphire Event Room and Cocktail Lounge, the areas newest event space and cocktail lounge located on main street in Dennison..

Doug Allen Nash will again join the show this year with is tribute to Neil Diamond and also his "Johnny Cash Tribute - American Icon". (www.dougallennash.com)

Advance tickets are just $30.00. Call Fireside at 507-645-9992 during normal business hours, or e-mail them at firesideloungedennison@gmail.com to order tickets. (In the event of inclement weather, causing the show to cancel Friday. Saturday December 19th will be the make up day for the shows)

You can also make lunch dinner reservations at The Fireside Lounge & Supper Club for that day or evening ahead or after the show. Space is limited, so guests will want to make their reservations early, as Fireside Lounge celebrates 25 years of Amy Family Hospitality.







LUTHERAN

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
Weekly Sunday Service 9:00a.m.

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

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand
Dwaine Sutherland, Pastor; Mike Ahrens S.A.M.
Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran
9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:00a.m. Coffee Time
10:30a.m. Worship Service

Hegre Lutheran
Pastor Carol Sirrykin
51939 MN 56, Kenyon
Sunday School & Confirmation at 9:15a.m. Sundays
Sunday Worship at 10:30a.m.
Facebook - Hegre Lutheran Church

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

First Ev. Lutheran, Kenyon
David J. Chatelaine, Pastor
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC
Shannon Bauer, Pastor
24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls
Sunday Worship at 9:00a.m. followed by fellowship.
Thursday Bible Study at 9:00a.m.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pioneer and Perfecter of Faith

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. — Hebrews 12:1-2

Our reading today invites us to reflect on the life of faith as a race marked out for us.

And who has gone before us to mark it out? Jesus, the pioneer (or trailblazer) of faith.

He did it all, providing this great gift for us. He paved the way when we were so lost in our sin that we were like dead people walking in darkness (Isaiah 9:2; Ephesians 2:1-5). He made us alive to faith. He justified us, he sanctified us, and he sustains us through every trial. Jesus lights the way for us, and he will bring us safely through to where he is. As the apostle Paul describes it in Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

Some Bible translations describe Jesus' role here as the "author and finisher" of faith, and that reminds me of some treasured gifts that grace our family's home. My mother-inlaw and late sister-in-law gifted us with beautiful, handmade quilts. They "authored" these treasures, designing them on graph paper, choosing colors, cutting pieces of fabric, and quilting them together. They also "finished" these artworks beautifully, down to the last binding stitch. I benefit from these gifts of grace, resting under someone else's finished work.

In our life of faith, we depend on Jesus' accomplished work. From start to finish, we can fix our eyes on him, following his lead and relying on his guidance and finished work every step of the way.

Pioneer and Perfecter of faith, where would we be without you? Lead and guide us, Lord, and may we rest in you. Amen.

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

713 Division St S, Northfield, MN 55057
Contact Us: hello@northfieldcc.org
https://www.northfieldcc.org/
10:30 am Worship Service (10:00 am in summer)
9:15am Sunday School

METHODIST

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

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

ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Township) 19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault
Gary Liker, Pastor
651-280-0150
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

525 Beverly St., Wanamingo
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10:00a.m. Worship Service
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN AND DALE LUTHERAN CHURCHES, ELCA

Pastor Dustin Haider
507.789.6677
holdendalesecretary@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

Happy Thanksgiving!

E-mail your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Mainstreet Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Announcements

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• **Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church hours are Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12.** Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

• **Warsaw Township Meeting** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.

• **The Wheeling Township meeting** will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

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

Mainstreet Messenger

Mainstreet Publishing
P.O. Box 125, Dennison, MN 55018
Phone/Text 507-649-3327
Fax 507-645-9878
www.dennisonmn.com
www.nerstrandmn.com

Published in cooperation with
Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

From all of us to all of you, best wishes for a bright and beautiful Thanksgiving!

We will be closed Thursday, November 26th so our employees can enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

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A Battle Plan for the End Times



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

No food! Desolation! Bloodshed! Signs in the heavens! An evil ruler! Empty stores! Corruption! Civil war! These may be a few things you think of when it comes to the end times. However, what does the Bible say?

Last month I shared how I was going through some health complications and how I created a five-step spiritual battle plan to help me when I am faced with not feeling well. I mentioned how a person could make a battle plan for other things such as depression or marriage struggles, and I even mentioned making a plan for the end times.

A spiritual battle plan could be made up of (1) praise and worship, (2) specific verses for what you are facing, (3) truth statements and God statements, (4) the armor of God, and (5) thanksgiving. Let's incorporate these suggestions into a specific battle plan for the end times, but first let's learn some ways we can be prepared for the end of the age.

The number one way you can prepare for the end times is by having a relationship with Jesus. A relationship with Jesus first starts by accepting that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and asking the Lord to forgive you of your sins.

After you have accepted salvation in Jesus, then you get to know Him. You talk to Jesus as a friend. You share your whole life with Him—your struggles, your joys, your worries, everything. Nothing will surprise Jesus, my friends, just be real with Him. Read the Bible and dialogue to the Lord as you do so. Get your oil (see Matthew 25:1–10).

The next way you can prepare for the end of the age is to know the biblical narrative of the end times and not the secular one. How do you do this? You get your sweet nose in the Word of God. You study, digest, and dialogue with Jesus about the verses that talk on the end times. What verses talk on the end times, you may ask? Great question, I will get you started with some key terminology and Scriptures on this very thing.

Take the following vocabulary and verses slow. Look them up in your own Bible.

As you look up these verses, also read before and after these Scriptures.

This will take time. Ask Jesus to help expound these holy words and to give you revelation. Be gentle with yourself as you unpack these Scriptures. YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS. YOU ARE SMART!

Seven-Year Tribulation: I see the seven-year tribulation as the final seven years of the end times. Daniel uses the term week to describe the seven-year tribulation. Part of the Hebrew definition of week can mean seven years (see Daniel 9:27).

The Antichrist: An evil man that will rule, have fierce features, understand sinister schemes, be very powerful (but not by his own power), cause destruction, prosper, and be cunning, deceptive, and prideful (Daniel 8:23–25). He will have a deadly wound (Revelation 13). He will say that he is God in the temple of God (2 Thessalonians 2:4). He will do signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9). He will change time and law (Daniel 7:25). He will persecute the saints—Christians—(Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:7). Although he is evil at his core, I believe he will come off as grand, mighty, and even appear like a savior (see 2 Corinthians 11:14). He will rise against Jesus and be killed by Jesus (2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:20).

The False Prophet: This is the antichrist's "sidekick." He will push the mark of the beast and the image of the beast. He will do signs and wonders in the presence of the antichrist (Revelation 13:11–18, 19:20).

Covenant: The antichrist will make a covenant (peace treaty) with Israel and other nations (Daniel 9:27).

Harlot of Babylon: An evil religious and economic system (Revelation 17–18).

Ten-Nation Confederation: I see this as ten nations that will work together with the antichrist (see Daniel 7:7–8, 23–24; Revelation 13:1; Revelation 17).

Abomination of Desolation: At the halfway mark of the seven-year tribulation, the antichrist will break the covenant (peace treaty). He will bring an end to sacrifice and offerings (this means there will be a temple in Jerusalem). The antichrist will say he is God in the temple of God. An image of the beast (antichrist) will be set up.

The mandate to get the mark of the beast, worship the image of the beast, and follow the beast will be a part of the abomination of desolation, with strong emphasis on the image of the beast being set up (Matthew 24:15; Daniel 8:13, 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Revelation 13). (From my perspective, the beast is the antichrist.)

Mark of the Beast: To be able to buy or sell, a mark—the name of the beast or the number of the beast's name—will be placed on the right hand or forehead of people. The false prophet will enforce the mark (Revelation 13:16–18). DO NOT GET THE MARK OF THE BEAST! If we are here, I believe the Lord will provide for us! (Revelation 14:9–13).

Image of the Beast: An image will be made of the beast. It appears that the image will breathe, speak, and cause as many as would not worship it to be killed. The false prophet will really enforce the image of the beast (Revelation 13:14–15). DO NOT WORSHIP THIS IMAGE! (Revelation 14:9–13).

To incorporate the knowledge we just gained and the five suggestions on what a spiritual battle plan can consist of, here is a proposed end-times battle plan.

End-Times Battle Plan

1. Praise and worship. If we are here when the end times are in full swing, praising the Lord will be of utmost importance. "Jesus, even though the world is chaotic, I trust your leadership. YOU are the King of kings and Lord of lords."

2. Specific verses for what you are facing. If we are present during the seven-year tribulation, we must read the verses mentioned earlier in the article and obey those words, not the world's ways and the antichrist's words. Get to know the above verses. Scriptures that bring comfort would include Joshua 1:9; Philippians 4:19; and Psalms 23 and 91.

3. Truth statements and God statements. If we are here during the end times, here are a couple of statements we can tell ourselves. "I will not get the mark of the beast. If the Lord provided manna for the Israelites, I believe He will provide for me and my family." "If I end up dying for my faith in Jesus, I will instantly be in heaven. Perhaps I will have an experience like Stephen" (see Acts 7:54–60).

4. Put on the armor of God. Please see Ephesians 6:10–17. If you live with other people during the end times, it would not hurt to declare and put this armor on together as a family (or with friends).

5. Thanksgiving. Even if we are here during the end of the age, a person can still find things to be appreciative for. "Jesus, thank you that I have you." "Lord, thank you that I can talk to you at any time of the day in my heart and no one can take that from me." "Thank you that you are coming back and before too long, this all will be done and over."

I know the end times can be a hefty subject to learn and hear about, but it is so very important to know about the things that will take place. Go grab a cup of joe, some tea, or a cold Mountain Dew and talk to Jesus about these things. He will guide, reassure, and teach you about the end times and how to get prepared.

—No fear, Ashley

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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Caterpillars, Cables and Days Gone By



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Here he relates his adventures and recollections including relocating to the state of Tennessee after he turned sixty years old.

As I was digging a plot of land this spring for planting, I turned up a large heavy-duty cable looped and both ends. It was about six feet long, made from ½" steel wire rope and had two clamps on each end with a metal thimble protecting the loop. It was quite rusty but I had no doubt what it was for. I remembered it even thought it had been buried for over sixty years. That is one of the advantages of still living on the farm one was born on. The mere sight of an item can rekindle a memory long thought forgotten. And this cable was a connecting link to times in the early 1960's.

It was a cable that my dad made for pulling things with his Caterpillar. I still have the heavy duty vise my dad used to secure the clamps to the cable when it was made in his shop. It probably slipped off the dozer when he was operating it. And laid in the soil until I unearthed it sixty years later.

As a kid I lived and breathed anything that took place on the farm. Equipment held a sacred place in my mind. It was the backbone of the farm. Enabled a mere man to perform tasks impossible to a human on their own. That was the D2 Caterpillar. A marvel of machinery in my mind. My young mind absorbed all the information my dad related to me about the attributes of this wonderful crawler. I can still feel what that black seat felt like and see the steering levers and hear the pony motor fire to life when he pulled the rope which had to be wound around the engine pully.

The Caterpillar D2 was built from 1938 until 1957. It was the smallest tracked tractor the company built. A 33 horsepower, four-cylinder diesel engine, with five forward speeds and one reverse gear. It had a gasoline pony motor to start it. Weighing in at 8,000 pounds with 12" wide tracks it could outpull a tractor. Many of these were sold for farming applications and my dad used it to pull a three bottom molboard plow.

He also had a blade mounted on the dozer and used it to move lots of dirt around the farm. There is still an earthen dam he built to



catch runoff from the barnyard. It has long since filled in with silt but I recall who built it every time I see the square plateau that did what the designer built it for many years ago. He widened out the cartway which gave us access down the limestone bluff at the backside of the farm.

My neighbor told me one time that he was helping his dad take down a silo by their barn on a Sunday morning. A common way of removing a concrete stave silo is to break out the staves at the bottom of the silo on the side you want it to fall. When enough staves are gone it should fall in that direction. In their case it fell in the wrong way and blocked the entrance of the barn so the dairy cows couldn't get back in. He was only fifteen years old but he had worked for my dad and grandfather, and knew how to run the dozer. My dad was gone that day, and over the protestation of his father, he started the Caterpillar and brought it over to move the concrete debris away from the barn and save the day.

Holly Thyme Craft Show
Saturdays: November 28, December 5, 12
Sundays: November 29, December 6, 13
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.
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A Minnesotan:

Deer Season



By RosaLin Alcoser

Growing up in rural Minnesota fall always brought around many a man's favorite time of the year. Hunting season.

November usually brought around my lest favorite time of the year as a child. Firearm season. Which was my least favorite because my mother would keep us inside for nearly an entire month because of it. As an adult who's handled a firearm I get it, as a child I understood the why of it all but I didn't like it.

Now I have never actually hunted. However, as a teenager and young adult I did participate in part of hunting season. Mainly because grandpa used me as a spare deer and turkey scout at times or on occasion took me to follow a blood trail during bow season. Outside of that and the rare occurrence of helping of cleaning a deer I've never hunted.



Although I did get an eight point buck back in the Fall of 2019 when it ran in front of my Subaru.

I was driving home in rural Minnesota late at night when I had just turned onto the road from the main county highway when I saw the car in the other lane flash their headlights at me. Which made me wonder if my high beams were on, they were not. What they were trying to warn me about was that they had seen the doe run across the road and a buck was likely behind it.

Thankfully I was going under 40 miles per hour — so I came out of this fine— because all of a sudden a 300 lbs monster of a buck was smashing in the front end of my car. It was the end of both the buck and of my Subaru.

That deer was made into jerked afterwards and I was told he was not delicious.

So while I have never and probably will never actually hunt I have gotten a deer. And quite an impressive one at that.

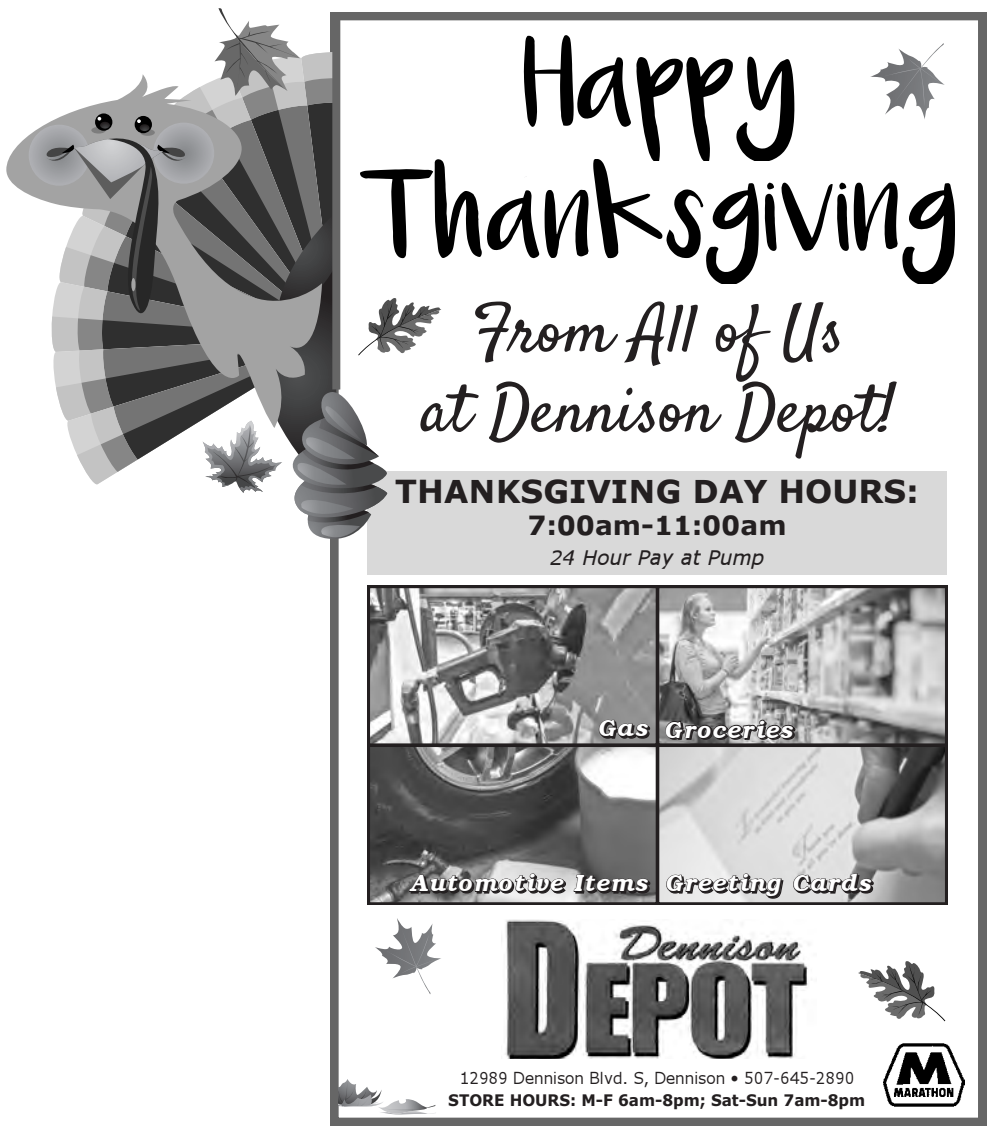
Dennison Lions 2026 Turkey Bingo a Success

Over 120 Pounds of Food Collected for the Kenyon Area Food Shelf





The Dennison Lions Club held their annual Turkey Bingo Saturday, November 21st. A good crowd turned out to support this annual fundraising event, raising funds the club donates to the area food shelves.





Christmas in the Village at Dakota City

(continued from page 1)

The free "Making Minnesota", a children's activity book from the Minnesota Historical Society will be available in the School House where children will be invited to add a paper ring to the paper ring chain decorating the tree and to write their name on the chalkboard.

Choir groups and musicians will be sharing music in the Church. Sing along Christmas carols will also be available there. Some of our choir groups enjoy caroling outside and walking through the village as they sing! Demonstrations will take place in the Carpenter shop, Harris House, McMenomy House and the Blacksmith Shop.





Admission price is $5 (cash) $5.50 (credit card) with children under 5 free.

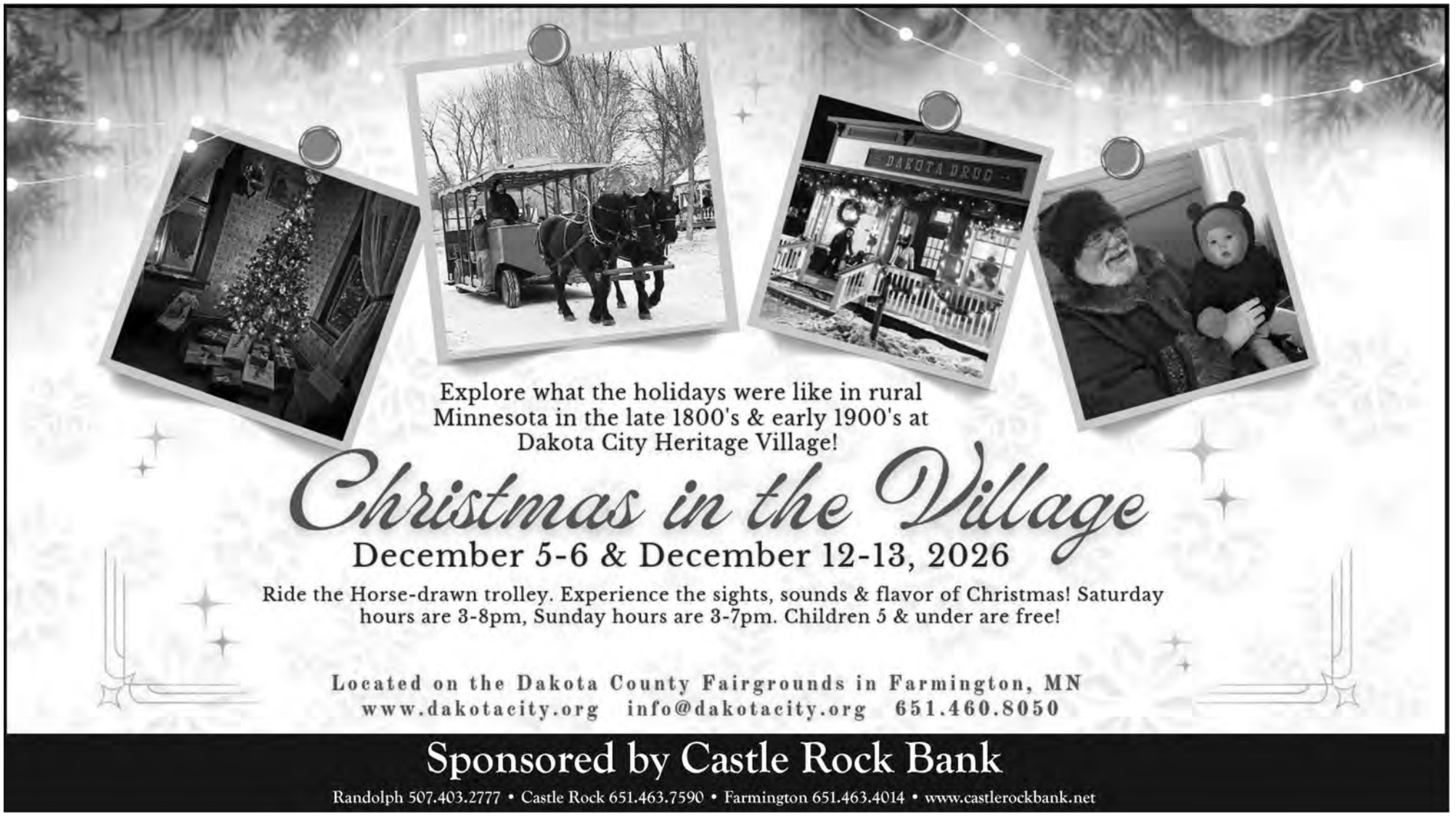
Tickets are available at the gate, or online at www.dakotacity.org

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please have your confirmation receipt viewable on your cell phone or printed on paper to show the gate attendant as you approach the admission gate. Thank you!

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Please call our office at (651) 460-8050. Please leave a message if you get our voicemail.

You can email us also at info@dakotacity.org.

Check them out on Facebook!



A Door of Possibility

By Jocelyn Aldrich



Jill Warner

"Real estate is about people, possibilities, and helping someone take that next step," says Jill Warner, owner of Gold Door Realty in Kenyon. For Warner, these three things are the driving force of her mission at Gold Door Realty. Warner has a passion for understanding what is possible and helping clients see those possibilities. Warner says she started Gold Door Realty to "build a brokerage where personal service, honest advice, and hard work are at the center of everything we do." She notes, "buying or selling a home is a big deal, and people deserve someone who answers the phone, explains their options, and follows through." Warner's passion for the Kenyon area community can be seen in her work at Gold Door Realty and beyond the closing table.

Gold Door Realty employs fifteen agents and serves clients throughout Minnesota. Warner says learning how to support her agents, run Gold Door Realty, and manage her own client list is a full-time job.

But Warner says she is not afraid of hard work, and she is dedicated to keeping people first at Gold Door Realty. Warner says one of the things that makes Gold Door Realty unique is their commitment to explore various options with clients. She highlights, "sometimes buying or selling a property isn't the right next step. It's about putting people first, understanding what they need, and helping them find a direction that's a good fit. I believe having options is one of the best tools you can have. That might mean exploring a cash offer for a quick closing, making improvements before listing, keeping a property as a rental, or looking into whether an Airbnb could make sense. Each option comes with different costs, opportunities, and considerations, and I enjoy helping people work through those details." Each situation brings new challenges and possibilities. Warner says her team is dedicated to understanding the best fit for each client.

Warner loves connecting with individuals and helping make a difference. She understands that selling a property or facing changes is not always easy. Warner says, "real estate can be a joyful time, but it can also mean saying goodbye to a property that has been in a family for generations. With our own family being the fifth generation on our hobby farm, I understand that a property can hold much more than financial value. It holds memories, history, and a sense of belonging…being someone a family can lean on through that process is one of my biggest accomplishments. Some days that means working through options and handling the details. Other days it means sitting down over a cup of coffee, listening, and letting someone share their memories."

Whether it's selling a property, buying a new business location, or simply listening to a family tell their story, Jill Warner is committed to showing care and honesty in any situation. Her dedication to her community extends beyond the office as she loves to be involved locally. She says, "I want the Kenyon-Wanamingo community to know that Gold Door Realty is here to be a resource, even if buying or selling isn't on your radar…We're excited about our newly renovated Gold Door Realty office at 522 2nd Street in Kenyon! This is the second building we've renovated in town, and my hope is to keep bringing buildings back to life and help bring more businesses into our community." Warner is happy to discuss ideas and possibilities with the Kenyon community. She encourages the community to "stop in and see us at the new office—even if it's just to say hello or sit down for a cup of coffee. Sometimes a conversation is where a good idea starts!"

So many reasons to be thankful

We would like to thank our customers for your business. We appreciate your trust in us and wish you the best this season.

Happy Thanksgiving!



GRINNELL MUTUAL

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Annual Christmas Cookie Sale at The Martin T. Gunderson House December 12



The Kenyon Area Historical Society is having their Annual Christmas Cookie Sale. The event will take place on Saturday December 12, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at The Martin T. Gunderson House, 107 Gunderson Boulevard, Kenyon, MN

PREORDERS are available November 12-December 5, 2026, with pick up on December 12, 2026, by calling: Gwen Springer (507) 330-1804, Deb Aase (507) 456-4242 or Coralee Monroe (612) 756-4687, otherwise just come to the Gunderson House on Saturday morning and choose the cookies you'd like.

PRE-ORDER VARIETIES include: Decorated Sugar Cut-Out Cookies, Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies, Kringla, Russian Tea Cakes, Krumkake, Sanbakkel, Lefse, Rosettes, Spritz Cookies, Molasses Cookies and Scandinavian Almond Sticks.

There will be additional varieties of cookies and bakings available on Saturday, December 12 at the Gunderson House. Christmas Tins will be available to create a hostess gift. Visit us on Facebook @ Kenyon Area Historical Society for updates and additional information.

Clean Yard, Happy Home

By Cheri Roshon



Isaac Alan is a young Kenyon entrepreneur that I met through the Kenyon Farmer's Market. A naturally curious young lad, he visited me at my booth a few years ago and we began a friendship that has carried on through the years.

Isaac was 9 years old when we met. He was full of questions, and I have always enjoyed his forthright and candid conversations. One day he announced that he was starting his own lawn care business. I asked him how he came up with that idea, and he replied, "I was asked by my neighbor if I would mow his lawn, and I accepted. I realized other neighbors might need my services, so I knocked on some doors and got a few more customers. In time, that led to doing fall cleanup and brush cutting, and this year I will be adding snow removal. I really do most anything that is outdoor work, except things I have to be older for."

Well, Isaac is now 12 years old and has accumulated 9 lawn mowers and a few other yard machines to work with. Only 2 of them are running right now, but he is learning about small engine repair, and knowing Isaac, he will get them up and running eventually!

This year he met another lawn care specialist, Denny who has been doing lawn care for over 70 years now, and is ready to hand over a few customers to him next year. His business has grown for the past few years, and he expects that growth will continue as he gets referrals from satisfied customers.

Some of the services he offers are mowing, leaf blowing, lawn clean up, garden cleanup (yes, weeding!!) and light bush and shrub trimming for that manicured look. This year he is adding snow removal, using both a shovel and a blower. He offers per time charges, or you can ask him about his seasonal contracts to save you a bit of cash! Being a local member of the Kenyon community, he has a great work ethic, and he offers free estimates to all. He can be reached at (507) 491-7946, and guarantees affordable pricing and promises great results.

I asked him why people should hire him, and he said, "I will do what they don't want to or can't do for themselves. I promise to be on time, every time. You can count on me!" Clean yards, happy homes..... that's the Isaac Promise!



New Hair Salon Opens in Wanamingo



Jill Ofstie

Wanamingo native Jill Ofstie has opened shop in the Core 824 building formerly the Wanamingo School building. Jill grew up in Wanamingo and graduated from Kenyon Wanamingo High School. She loves the town and lives with her significant other, Zach, in the home she grew up in having purchased if from her parents.

Jill attended Empire Beauty School in Eden Prairie and has been a hair stylist for nineteen years. She worked in Rochester until she had her first child in 2024.

She decided to set up shop in town to have a flexible schedule and be closer to her kids. She had her second child in May of this month.

She also wants to be part of the Wanamigo business community and serve the residents of her home town.

Jill operates a full-service salon and specializes in color and extensions, especially in blonde. She does cuts, brow waxes and men's haircuts. She sells Kevin Murphy and Moroccan Oil products. She plans to expand by adding boutique items like hair accessories and candles in the future.

Jill plans to stay in the community because she wants her kids, Ryan and Quinn, to grow up in a worry-free small town like she did. A town where everyone knows and looks out for each other. A place where they can play and go to the pool, something that is more difficult in larger cities. Her sister and nieces, parents and grandmother all live in town. Jill has joined local organizations because she wants to support and give back to the community.

Jill is open Tuesday thru Saturday from 9am to 4pm and until 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings. She is open on some Saturdays and by appointment as well. You can contact her at 507-358-6952 or make an appointment on her booking website @ jillofstie.glossgenius.com

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Christmas in Kenyon
Kenyon, Minnesota • 2026
Thursday, December 10 • 5–7 p.m.
Shop local! Kenyon businesses are open for evening shopping and prize drawings.
Meet Santa downtown and stop by State Farm for photos.
Sign up at local businesses to win a ham from the Kenyon Commercial Club.
Visit the library for its annual Candy Land!
Saturday, December 12
Sip and Shop at the Kenyon VFW.
Shop with local vendors.
Annual Bake Sale & Cookie Walk.
Join the Kenyon Area Historical Society at the Gunderson House.
Don't forget to enter the Christmas Lighting Contest!
Sign up at Ace Hardware.


Wanamingo Commercial Club
Christmas in Wanamingo
Thursday, December 3, 2026
Drawings for Local Gift Cards

1st prize: $100.00 2nd Prize: $50.00 3rd Prize: $25.00
MUST bring in a non-perishable food item or cash donation and receive a card at any business.
MUST have 10 different business stamps to qualify for the drawing.
Place it in the drawing box at the bank by 7:00 pm (Drawing held the following day)

Treats at Businesses
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Industrial Park
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Main St.

Stop by the Wanamingo Community Center to see the Santa carving collection!

Visit with Santa! - 5:00 – 7:00 pm
At: Olmsted Medical Center - 217 Main St. Wanamingo

Fundraiser for Fireworks
$5.00 per entry for drawing for 1 large water tower
Now through Christmas in Wanamingo at Security State Bank of Wanamingo

Lions Club will be collecting for Salvation Army Donations

Christmas Events are Just Around the Corner

(continued from page 1)

Families can snap photos with Santa, pose with our giant Yeti, and hop the trolley for stops all around town. Kids can get their hands busy with holiday crafts and games, warm up with a cup of hot chocolate, decorate an ornament or enter our coloring contest, and keep an eye out for giveaway baskets along the way. It's a full day of holiday cheer, and every participating business helps make the magic happen.

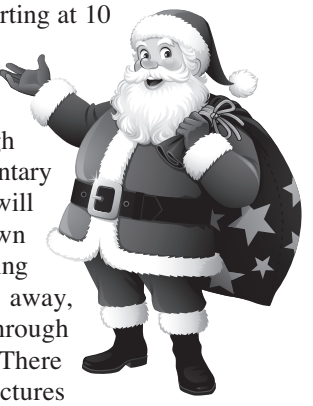
Christmas in West Concord will be held on Saturday December 5th. The Bell Tower Center will have coffee, cocoa and hot cider starting at 9am. Check out the silent auction, festival of wreaths and the Christmas Program at 5pm. There will be a free community supper from 5:30 to 7pm. The American Legion will have fresh homemade doughnuts starting at 7am and there is a Christmas Marketplace at the Historical Society from 9am to 2:30pm with lunch served from 11am to 1pm.

On Saturday, December 5th in Goodhue, you can experience the Christkindlmarket German Christmas Market, featuring German food and beverages, children's activities, artisans, crafter and vendors, horse drawn rides and meet Santa and the Grinch from 11am to 3pm.

Thursday, December 10, from 5 to 7pm Kenyon businesses will be open for evening shopping and will hold prize drawings. Shoppers can also sign up at local businesses for the Kenyon Commercial Club's ham drawing. Santa will stroll through downtown and stop at State Farm for photos. The library will host its annual Candy Land event.

On Saturday, December 12 the Kenyon VFW will host a Sip and Shop featuring local craft vendors open from 11am to 3:30pm. A pork commercial meal will be served from 5 to 7pm. The Kenyon Area Historical Society will hold its annual Bake Sale & Cookie Walk at the Gunderson House. The Kenyon VFW Toy Drive will be accepting donations thru December 21st during normal operating hours. Gifts will be distributed to local families and children in need on Tuesday December 22nd from 5 to 7pm at the Kenyon VFW.

On Saturday, December 12th, Triton's Community Education joins with Dodge County's Salvation Army to bring sweets and treats to all the good boys and girls of all ages. There will be 3 hours of family fun to join in on, starting at 10 am and going until 1 pm.



You can park and enter through the Main Elementary Door. Here you will find horse drawn sleigh rides waiting to whisk you away, maybe even through some snow? There will be free pictures with Santa, and you can decorate cookies with the girl scouts. There will be crafts to make to bring home and hot cocoa to sip on while you do so.

And gift giving just got easier, too! Local vendors and crafters will have unique products on display for those hard to buy presents for, because these gifts are handmade and one of a kind! The winter wonderland will put you in a festive spirit for your holiday shopping pleasure as you peruse the colorful displays of gifts and sweets. As you can tell, the elves among us have outdone themselves again, so be sure to avoid the Christmas Last Minute Shopping Blues and find that special handcrafted gift for everyone on your list

WILDWOOD

Late November and December happenings and goings on at WildWood!

315 Main Street | Nerstrand | WildWoodofNerstrand.com

Slow Flow Yoga Series
Mondays, November 30-chair yoga!, December 7, December 14
6:00pm | $15/class
Hosted by Faith of Wild Wellness
Show gratitude for your body and join Faith for a 45 minute slow flow yoga on Monday nights in November. Bring your mat, water bottle and get ready to get your sweat rolling. Must pre-register online; walk-ins welcome 10 minutes early to register online onsite.

Kinusaiga Art Class
Thursday, December 3 | 6-8pm | $35/person
Hosted by Tami of Nook & Granny
This no-sew fabric art (known as Kinusaiga) has been a fun, relaxing way to explore the world of fiber art. Winter and Christmas-y designs will be available; each participant will need an x-acto knife and a seam ripper so if you have those, please bring them, but we will have some to share! Bring your own beverage and/or snack, grab a few friends and settle in for a relaxing evening learning your new obsession! Register online.

Women in Business Networking Group
Thursday, December 10 | 9am | no charge
Bring your own coffee and come mingle and learn about other women-owned/ managed local businesses {or just come to meet and make some new lady friends!}. * *We will be meeting at a small business in Northfield this month--please contact WildWood for details!!

Christmas Cookie Decorating Class
Sunday, December 13 | 2-4pm | $45/person
Don't forget your ugliest Christmas sweater this holiday season as you learn to decorate cookies with royal icing, with Kari of Sweet Q's Cookie Co.! We'll gather at WildWood as we decorate your very own holiday themed cookies to the tune of all your favorite Christmas tunes. Everything you need to learn some basic skills to decorate with royal icing. This class is perfect for anyone from beginners looking to enhance their skills to professionals looking to just have a good time! Registration and more details online.

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



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Farm Girl Chatter

Fall Harvest: The Season of Thankfulness

By McKell Lemmerman

The month of gratitude, the beauty of the changing seasons, and the reminder to appreciate the little things in life.

The time when slowing down doesn't mean just sitting back and relaxing but recognizing the equipment on the roads. To take your time when you get "stuck" behind them and can't hurry around. Remember that is someone's loved one driving that machinery.

There is something special about being in a combine when it works its way through a field at sunset. The corn stands tall before it, and behind it lies a clean path of harvested rows. Dust hangs in the air, catching the last golden rays of sunlight. The tractor pulling the grain cart follows close behind, ready to catch every bushel before the combine tank fills. It is like a coordinated dance with perfect timing, trust, and with every person knowing their part.

Harvest does not always follow a convenient schedule. Sometimes supper is brought to the field, sometimes sleep gets pushed back, and sometimes the only time to rest is when the machinery needs fixing or Mother Nature starts the sprinkler system.

I find myself looking toward the fields. The bright lights of tractors and combines shine across the dark countryside like a football stadium in the middle of nowhere.

Maybe this is what thankfulness looks like in the farming world. It is not always sitting quietly with a list of things to be grateful for. It is standing along a gravel road, watching the lights move through a field long after dark. It is bringing a meal or a nice cold beverage to someone who has been working since sunrise. It is appreciating a good crop, a dependable machine, a helping hand, or another beautiful sunset at the end of a long day.

It is simply remembering the people behind it all.

Thank you, farmers!



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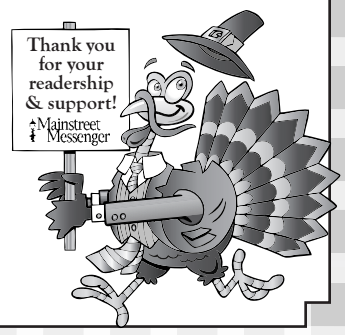
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By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

As we move into the winter months here in Minnesota, we prepare for colder days and winter storms by stocking our shelves and cupboards. But food costs are rising and budgets are getting tighter, so we need to give priority to the foods that are essential for sustaining health. Higher gasoline prices also affect the budget and may mean fewer trips to the grocery store. Many rural food pantries across southern Minnesota have reduced access or closed entirely as their resources have been restricted.

Beginning in November, colds and flu increase steadily across the country. This yearly cycle has become so routine that many people expect to get sick and treat it as unavoidable. But each of us also has a remarkable immune system, the built-in defense process that keeps us alive by constantly guarding against germs and invaders. We should understand how it works and how to support it.

White blood cells are the "troops" on the front line of your immune system. Just as the military has different branches, there are many types of white blood cells, and each has a specific job. And like our service members, these cells need food to keep doing their jobs well. When key nutrients run short, the cells can't perform at their best. To keep your front line"troops" in top condition this winter, make sure they are getting what they need.

Three nutrients to prioritize

Vitamin C helps white blood cells eliminate bacteria and germs, and it is one of the least expensive vitamins on the market. Good food sources include bell peppers, broccoli, kiwi, whole oranges, and strawberries. I recommend whole oranges over orange juice because of the juice's high sugar content.

Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin essential for balanced cell activity. It can enter the nucleus of a cell and help turn important processes on and off. Food sources include cod liver oil, goose liver, salmon, sardines, and whole eggs. I prefer these whole foods to fortified products. Vitamin D is especially important for Minnesotans during the winter months with limited sunshine. You can find more resources at www.grassrootshealth.net.

Zinc is an essential mineral for a strong immune system, and it is also needed to build the proteins that fight bacteria. The best food sources are beef, lamb, lentils, pepitas (pumpkin seeds), and cashews. If you don't eat these foods regularly, a 15 mg zinc tablet per day is another option.

Go easy on the sweets

Sugar is known as an energy source, but it doesn't help immune cells get more work done. A 1973 study observed that white blood cells exposed to glucose slowed down and stayed sluggish for up to five hours. As you move into the holiday season, pay attention to how often you are having treats and how your body responds. A glass of water will do more for your immune system than another candy.

You only get one body in this lifetime. Make sure you take good care of it and do not wear it out sooner than necessary.

As a nutrition specialist, I can help you learn how to strengthen your immune system using the whole foods and vitamins your body needs. Finding the resources for true health can be located right in your local grocery store.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. A free Strategy Call is available for you to ask your questions and begin to get some answers. Nutrition is designed for healing. Contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

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

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Why Our Forefathers Were Much Healthier



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

For most of human history, people didn't have to think much about staying healthy. Good health was simply a byproduct of how they lived. Our ancestors ate nutrient-dense whole foods, moved their bodies all day long, and lived in step with the natural world around them. There were no calorie counters, step trackers, or shelves of supplements, because their surroundings gave their bodies what they needed. Today, many of us struggle with low energy, sluggish metabolism, and chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, even with more health information at our fingertips than ever before. Looking back at how past generations lived can give us a practical roadmap for feeling better now.

Traditional diets looked very different from what fills most grocery carts today. Families valued the whole animal, not just lean cuts like chicken breasts or tenderloins. Organ meats were common in cookbooks from the 1700s through the early 1900s, and bones were simmered into broths rich in collagen and amino acids that support the gut, joints, and skin. Saturated fats from butter and animal sources were welcomed rather than feared, and some researchers now question the mid-century push to replace them with seed oils. Carbohydrates were part of the picture too, but they came from root vegetables, seasonal fruits, and whole grains that were soaked or fermented for easier digestion. Vegetables were usually roasted, steamed, or stewed, and meals followed a simple rhythm of three nourishing plates a day, all made from scratch. Industrialization changed that, bringing refined sugars, seed oils, and packaged convenience foods that are high in calories but low in real nutrition.

Movement was also built into everyday life. Farming, construction, and manufacturing demanded hours of physical effort, and that steady activity helped keep metabolism humming. Research shows that Americans' resting metabolic rate has dropped about 6% since 1820, and the energy demands of the average job have fallen by roughly 25% since 1870. Desk jobs and labor-saving devices have shifted us toward long hours of sitting, which takes a toll on metabolic health, posture, and mobility. We've also lost much of our time outdoors, which once helped people make plenty of vitamin D and gave the immune system a boost. Studies link time in green spaces to lower inflammation and stronger immune activity.

Our ancestors also lived without the steady stream of synthetic chemicals we face today. Their food wasn't sprayed with modern pesticides, their water didn't carry microplastics or pharmaceutical residues, and their homes weren't filled with plastics and chemical-laden products. Today, compounds like BPA, phthalates, and PFAS are nearly impossible to avoid, and they have been linked to metabolic, reproductive, and developmental concerns. Some researchers also raise questions about certain food additives, noting that excess iron from fortified processed foods may contribute to iron overload and that high fluoride exposure has been studied for possible effects on the thyroid and nervous system. Cutting back on unnecessary toxins where you can is a simple, meaningful step toward lightening your body's load.

Finally, sleep once followed the sun. Morning daylight helped people wake up naturally, and as evening fell, warm firelight and candlelight let melatonin rise so the body could rest and repair. Full-spectrum sunlight, including near-infrared light, also supported healthy mitochondria, the tiny energy producers inside your cells. Now, blue light from screens and bright indoor lighting keeps us wired late into the night, throwing off our internal clocks and hormone balance. Some research suggests that constant exposure to electromagnetic fields from phones and Wi-Fi may also interfere with deep sleep. The goal isn't to live in the past. It's to borrow these time-tested habits, like getting morning sunlight, eating real food, moving more, and winding down when it gets dark, so you and your family can rebuild the energy and resilience that used to be normal.

Microplastics showing up in birds lungs! Microplastics are tiny bits of plastic smaller than 5 millimeters, and they really are everywhere. They're in the water we drink, the food we eat and the air we breathe. Because they're so small, they can slip past the body's natural defenses and settle into our tissues, including our lungs. A 2025 study made this crystal clear. Researchers examined the lungs of 56 birds from 51 different species and found plastic particles in every single sample, averaging about 221 particles per species. Birds are often an early warning sign for problems in our environment, so these findings strongly suggest that we're breathing in the same contamination. In fact, earlier research has already found microplastics in human lung tissue, including particles from common plastics like polypropylene and PET, the material used in many drink bottles.

What concerns me most is what happens once these particles get inside us. Microplastics and the chemicals they carry have been linked to hormone disruption, which can affect metabolism, fertility, mood and thyroid function. Your immune system also treats these particles as invaders, which can lead to chronic inflammation. They've been tied to oxidative stress, which damages cells and drains energy, and to gut damage that weakens digestion and immune balance. Even more troubling, the smallest particles, called nanoplastics, have been shown to cross the placenta and the blood-brain barrier. That means they can reach a developing baby and the brain itself. If you're pregnant, trying to conceive or raising little ones, this is worth paying close attention to. The good news is that a few simple changes at home can make a real difference over time. Start by switching to reusable cloth or canvas bags instead of plastic ones. Store your food in glass or stainless steel containers, especially anything you plan to heat. Cut back on single-use plastics like straws, plastic cutlery and disposable water bottles. When it's time to replace things around the house, choose natural materials like wood, bamboo, cotton, wool or ceramic. Finally, improve your indoor air by opening windows, dusting and vacuuming often, and running an air purifier with a HEPA filter. You don't have to do it all at once. Every small step helps lower your plastic load and supports a healthier body for you and your family.

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



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CVEC Announces Winter Term Courses for Lifelong Learners Aged 50+

Registration starts November 23 for Cannon Valley Elder Collegium's Winter Term 2027.

Sixteen CVEC courses for learners aged 50+ begin the week of January 4, thirteen in-person and three online via Zoom. Registration began November 23. Course topics include current events, literature, history, religion, music, film, dance, philosophy, and more. Courses can fill quickly; information and online course registration are available at cvec.org. Registration for open seats continues through the second week of classes.

Winter Term course sampler:

A History of English in Eight Easy Classes • Movies About the Movies
Eight Jazz Giants • Book Banning Today
The 1970s, The Pivotal Decade - Its Music, Politics, and Culture
What's So Bad About Vice? Ancient and Contemporary Ideas

CVEC's philosophy is that retirement is no time abandon intellectual curiosity. For nearly 30 years, the organization has offered thought-provoking courses for learners aged 50+, attracting seniors from throughout the Cannon River valley and beyond. Instructors are community experts, along with retired professors and teachers. Most courses run eight weeks, some are shorter. CVEC offers in-person courses in Northfield MN locations, as well as online.

Tuition fees are affordable, scholarships are available, new students are welcome. Many CVEC students and instructors return term after term, year after year. CVEC board member Charlie Black contacts new CVEC students to welcome them. He asks about their impressions of CVEC. Black's takeaway: «Hearing our new students rave about their first experience with us reinforces my own enthusiasm for CVEC and my conviction that we are enriching our community. **cvec.org**

Drinking Water – Opportunities for Well Water Testing

By Rice County

Safe drinking water is important for everyone. Since 1995, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has reported annually to Minnesota residents and the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the status of the state's public drinking water systems. According to the 2025 Minnesota Drinking Water Annual report, more than 99% of Minnesota's 6,582 public water systems met all federal health-based drinking water standards.

Where violations occurred, consumers were notified, and corrective actions were taken. Replacing lead service lines, the pipes that connect water mains to household plumbing, is a state priority and many municipalities are working to replace lead service lines serving privately owned homes.

Protecting drinking water is a shared responsibility between the state, municipalities and private well owners.

Municipalities regularly test city water and report findings in an annual water quality report, published on their city website. It is important to review that information if you live in a municipality, since there may be specific measures that are recommended, due to elevated levels of substances such as manganese or lead.

What if I have a private well?

For those who live in rural areas with private wells, regular well water testing is recommended. Every well should be tested once a year, and before the water is consumed by a woman who is or may become pregnant or if an infant under the age of 1 is in the household.

Rice County Public Health currently has free well water testing kits available for the following groups:

· Rice County residents who drink water from a private well if pregnant or infant less than one year old in household, regardless of financial need.

· Rice County residents with a private well WITH financial need.

For those who qualify for the free well water testing, kits can be picked up at Rice County Public Health, 320 Third St. NW, Faribault.

For those who don't qualify for a free well water testing kit and would like to get their water tested, more information about online ordering and fees can be found at ricecountymn.gov/550/Water-testing.

Rice Soil & Water, and the county's Environmental Services and Public Health departments are collaborating on private well water testing efforts, with plans to expand opportunities for free well water testing in the future. Private well owners may also be eligible for funding assistance to fix contamination issues through the TAP-IN Safe Drinking Water Program.

Annual Report at www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/report2025.pdf

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CITY OF NERSTRAND, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCT 6TH, 2026
7:00p.m.
221 Main Street, Nerstrand

1. Call to Order/Pledge Allegiance

2. Roll Call: Pam Caron, Betty Voge, Gretchen Gilmore, Todd Evavold and Karla Ingersoll

3. Public Hearing: N/A

4. Public Forum:

5. Consent Agenda

(All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and have been made available to the City Council in advance of the meeting. The items will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from this agenda and considered in normal sequence.)

• Regular Meeting Minutes of September 15th

• Budget Meeting Minutes from September 14th

• Special Meeting Minutes from September 22nd

• Payment of Claims

A motion was made by Karla all were approved but there was an ask to hold the black topping payment until questions/concerns about a portion of the project could be answered and all voted to approve.

6. Monitor Revenue and Expenses

7. Staff Reports

Clerk- Newsletter. We received a rebate from LMC for insurance and it was $1959. We have a write-in Laura Clouse. Our Audit is finally complete and submitted to the state. We had to sent 6 late notices and one paid. We will need to send our plan to access this month. With our November meeting being early we will need to have the resolution for next meeting and it is going to be 3 to 4 individuals who we will be accessing. Dettling Lease, will they renew? Park rentals are complete for the year. Park can be winterized whenever.

PW- The City Hall roof has been repaired. The metal ball on the roof had a leak around the flashing. Oct 16th hydrant flushing is scheduled for that evening. Steve and Todd met with Congressman Finstad and discussed Nerstrand's on going water and sewer infrastructure projects. Bollig was also able to attend and present Nerstand's upcoming projects. Steve presented two sewer cleaning quotes and asked the council who they would prefer to accept. A motion was made by Todd to accept Superior Sewer Services MN Hydro Vac for the 2026 Sewer Cleaning project and all voted to approve. Jacob and Steve also had success completing a rebuild and reinstall of one of the pumps.

Zoning- Lu presented a building permit for an addition to the council from Parkside Gas and Grocery with the expansion of the current store to the left. Setbacks were a questions but this was able to be resolved. Zoning signed off and the permit was sent on to Goodhue County for their review.

8. Ordinances

9. Resolutions

A. Res-2026 Internal Control Policy

A motion was made by Gretchen and all voted to approve.

10. New Business

A. Tobacco License-Parkside Grocery

A motion was made by Gretchen and all voted to approve.

B. New Council Member Training/Orientation

Council decided it best to create a new Council member training packet.

C. Flom Disposal Contract Renewal

A motion was made by Gretchen and all voted to approve.

11. Unfinished Business

A. City Hall 2nd Floor -Update from Todd that in December the flooring will be installed upstairs. Todd and a friend will do the install. Also, Todd wishes to meet with council and discuss conversations he has had with the Historical Society in regard to the upstairs.

B. Internal Control Policy- Finalized this policy with a few administrative changes.

C. Bollig-No change

D. City Clerk Position- Reviewed the information collected by Karla Ingersoll. Reviewed Nerstrand's old City Clerk Job description and made changes to desired and required requirements for the position. Agreed the position needs further discussion and requested to add it to the Public Hearing Night.

12. Work Session Topics- No work session. A Special Meeting\Public Hearing will be held in its place.

13. Adjourn

A motion was made by Karla and all voted to approve.

Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for 4 Nov 2026, at Nerstrand City Hall.

_____
Todd Evavold, Mayor

_____
LeAnna Anderson-Speiker, City Clerk

***

CITY OF NERSTRAND, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
OCT 27th 2026
7:00p.m.
221 Main Street, Nerstrand

1. Call to Order/Pledge Allegiance

2. Roll Call: Todd Evavold, Pam Caron, Gretchen Gilmore, Karla Ingersoll, Betty Voge

3. Public Hearing: Water and Sewer Infrastructure Project

A motion was made to begin the hearing by Karla and all voted to approve. During the hearing there was great community involvement and questions asked and answered. A copy of the presented materials can be found online on the City's Webpage. The residents that were able to attend shared their voices and their opinions on the upcoming project and helped the council feel more confident in the upcoming choices they are going to be making. A motion to close was made by Gretchen and all voted to approve.

4. Public Forum: N/A

5. Consent Agenda

(All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and have been made available to the City Council in advance of the meeting. The items will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from this agenda and considered in normal sequence.)

• Claims List

Moved to November meeting

6. Monitor Revenue and Expenses N/A

7. Staff Reports N/A

8. Ordinances N/A

9. Resolutions N/A

10. New Business

A. Water Meter Reader Resignation/Position

Acknowledge the resignation and there is uncertainty with what to do with the position. Tabled for the time being.

• Fire Department Hiring

The Fire Dept may see a reduction in staffing by at least two personnel in the new future. Knowing that it takes time and effort to train new hires, the FD was trying to be proactive. He does have one individual listed as interested.

• Steve McDowell

Steve shared some of his thoughts and opinions on the clerk's position.

11. Unfinished Business

A. City Clerk Position

The council worked together to present a job offer to the current clerk. It was submitted to her. She is to let council know on November 4th whether she accepts or rejects the council's offer.

B. Budget

No Changes

• Levy

No Changes

• Bollig

No Changes

12. Work Session Topics- N/A

13. Adjourn

A motion was made by Betty and all voted to approve.

Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for 4 NOV 2026, at Nerstrand City Hall.

_____
Todd Evavold, Mayor

_____e
Anna Anderson-Speiker, City Clerk

***

City of Dennison
Meeting Minutes
October 1st, 2026

The October Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, October 1st, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Caleb Voight, Heidi Cooke, Nichole Schloesser and Diane Ruddle, and clerk Jessica Page.

Councilor Schloesser moved to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing for Ordinance 90. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0. Councilor Schloesser moved to approve the meeting minutes from the September meeting. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

Councilor Cooke moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0.

Sheriff: Deputy Matt There were 9 call from the City of Dennison in the last month. Council members noted that the speed sign that the Department had put on Co. Rd. 9 was appreciated and there was positive feedback from residents.

(continued on page 22)

A Friendly Winter Reminder!



As we head into the snowy season, the City of Nerstrand kindly asks residents to avoid parking vehicles along city streets and alleys whenever snow is falling or snow removal is underway.

Keeping streets and alleys clear of parked vehicles makes it much easier for our snow removal team to get through safely and efficiently, allowing crews to do their best to clear snow and keep our roadways accessible for everyone.

We appreciate your cooperation, consideration, and help in keeping Nerstrand safe and ready for winter weather!

Thank you for being great neighbors!

City of Nerstrand

DENNISON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

(continued from page 21)

Todd Greseth: Good to see the funding for the infrastructure projects happening. With the impending work on the sewer lines that go underneath the County roads, the City needs to get going with the county to coordinate. There shouls be some internal meeting between Bollig and Goodhue coming up soon. November 25th is deadline for grant they are looking at for road costs that aren't covered in the RD funding. Looking at asking up to $600,000 plus. Has Rice County been contacted also?

Todd reported they ended up with a 6.6 levy preliminary for the County. Goodhue County is in a good position with only a 2% debt ratio. That debt will be paid off in 2028.

Old Business/Committee Reports/Building Permits: None.

Administrative Issues:

1. Shannon Sweeney from David Drown Associates will be in attendance to discuss/answer questions about the analysis of the impacts of the project funding proposed in the USDA-RD Letter of Conditions dated August 18, 2026. He also will discuss their recommendations regarding the sale of bonds to temporarily finance engineering/design costs for the utility portion of the proposed infrastructure improvements that will be ultimately be funded by USDA-RD WEP Program and the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority's loan and grant programs. We will be temporarily borrowing an amount of $1,629,000.00. Can do CD's with the funds for the interest payments.

Recommend CF application get filled out. Councilor Schloesser move to accept Resolution 10-2026-01 …. Councilor Cooke seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

2. Dredging the outfall ditch. The project scope would consist of dredging about 600 feet, primarily in the middle section of the ditch. Over the years, soil erosion and sediments accumulating has led to water stagnating. The mayor received a quote from Otte Excavating Inc. for the sum total of $10,630.00. Deutsch Excavating submitted a proposal for the sum total of $6,403.00. A permit from the DNR is not needed. Work would likely begin late October/early November.

Will it affect the construction that happens out at the ponds? Currently there is no plan to change the forcemain. Ask Bollig if any of the work will affect the outfall ditch. Jeff states that there wouldn't be any work on the outfall ditch.

Outfall maintenance. Bushes in there, trees in a few years. It can back up and cover up the discharge pipe from the ponds. There is a dam created by the silt, about halfway through the outfall ditch. Could at least get rid of the area that is dammed up. Councilor Schloesser move to hire Bill Deutschfor not more than $1200 to get the filled in area out. Motion seconded by Councilor Cooke. Motion passed 5:0.

3. Continued discussion regarding Ordinance 90, an ordinance regarding Firearms in the City Limits. Last month, there was a public hearing to allow for input/concerns about the new ordinance. During the regular meeting, corrections/additions were considered, but nothing was formally approved. More time needed to consider changes. Discussion regarding pests/vermin and how to deal with those situations. Mayor suggests adding a new exception to the new ordinance, allowing for removal of pests/vermin that pose a risk to property or humans. Notify the mayor or city clerk and get approval to deal with the risk. Either allow the property owner, a Goodhue County Sheriff Deputy or a pest control company to help assist in the matter.

4. Silversmith and continuing the subscription. The mayor and Nate recommend keeping this website/information available for another year, considering our city streets might be ripped up next summer, and also knowing the location of curb stops and water valves might be necessary. Cost to pay the subscription is $571.00. Councilor Schloesser move to renew the contract with Silversmith for another year. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 5:0.

5. There are a couple of properties without functioning outside water meter pads. The mayor is asking Nate to get those fixed/replaced before October 10th, otherwise Paul's Plumbing can do the work for the City. Make a motion to hire Paul's Plumbing if this task isn't completed by Nate on or before October 10th. The house at 37651 3rd Avenue had a huge increase in their water usage last quarter. The mayor is asking Nate to replace the water meter and outside reader by October 14th. It's the last old water meter from the early 80s in town.

Phlaum pad was ripped off during some home improvements. The Mcfarlane house isn't supported. Nate would prefer to have Paul's Plumbing take care of those. Councilor Schloesser move to hire Pauls' Plumbing do the two homes listed above. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 5:0.

Beam's: Mayor Flaten will call and tell them he's coming to take the read of the meter reader.

6. City Shop/Fire Station. The mayor is requesting the fire rescue vehicle be allowed to park inside the station. Nate had requested that a certain portion on the north side of the building be kept/designated by the City. The mayor suggested 12 feet from the North wall as the dividing point. The floor was marked by a blue painter's tape to indicate the location. The lock box for keys was installed by Dan Storlie on August 26th.

Trial period. Call them to work with the Fire Chief to see what works space wise. Can put painters tape down to designate the area. Set up the boundaries and see how that works.

7. The mayor submitted the application for the 2026 Protect Community Forests for Community Resiliency grant (DNR) on September 14th. The mayor is requesting $17,010.00 to take down 9 trees and replace with 9 B& B trees.

8. Proclamation in Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness month. Mayor is asking for approval. Can put up in the Post Office, and website. Councilor Schloesser move to accept the proclamation. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed .5:0. (Check spelling 1st four are spelled wrong, (whereas)

(continued on page 23)

Help Wanted

Position: City Clerk Treasurer — City of Nerstrand, MN

Full-time I On-site at City Hall, 221 Main Street

The City of Nerstrand seeks a City Clerk Treasurer to manage day-to-day city administration and financial operations under the direction of the City Council.

Salary: $23.00 -$28.00 per hour, depending on experience.

Additional Benefits: Health benefits through QSEHRA, retirement benefits through MN PERA, and paid time off

Key responsibilities

- Prepare Council agendas and minutes; maintain city records, ordinances, and resolutions.
- Manage budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, utility billing, receipts, and disbursements.
- Administer elections, licenses, permits, and planning-related applications.
- Coordinate city staff and administer employee benefits and leave programs.
- Support public communications and maintain the city's website and social media.

Minimum qualifications

- High school diploma or GED.
- Knowledge of accounting, office procedures, filing systems, and recordkeeping.
- Minnesota driver's license or ability to obtain one within a reasonable time.
- Ability to complete LMC Clerk's Foundation Training within one month and obtain required municipal election certification within the prescribed timeframe.
- Ability to pass a background check after selection for an interview or a conditional offer.
- Strong communication, organization, computer, problem-solving, and confidentiality skills are essential.

Additional preference will be given to candidates with these qualifications:

- Governmental accounting and administration experience, related postsecondary training
- LMC Clerk Certification.

Schedule: 40 hours per week, generally Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., with evening Council, budget, and special meetings, as needed. Flexing hours for evening meetings is required.

Apply: Applications accepted through 11/24/26
at Nerstrand City Hall, 221 Main Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053
or email cityclerknerstrand@gmail.com for an application packet.

The City of Nerstrand is an equal opportunity employer.

Some personnel data for applicants who get interviewed is presumptively public under Minn. Stat. § 13.43. Except for applicants described in under subdivision 5, the following personnel data on current and former applicants for employment by a government entity is public: veteran status; relevant test scores; rank on eligible list; job history; education and training; and work availability. Names of applicants shall be private data except when certified as eligible for appointment to a vacancy or when applicants are considered by the appointing authority to be finalists for a position in public employment. For purposes of this subdivision, "finalist" means an individual who is selected to be interviewed by the appointing authority prior to selection.

DENNISON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
(continued from page 22)

9. On September 30th, Congressman Finstad visited Dennison to discuss our infrastructure plans and funding situation. City officials from Nerstrand also joined for his visit. The City Council appreciates the Congressman helping to secure the $1,000,000 dollar federal appropriation for our water system.

10. Dennison Lions would like to use City Hall for the Halloween Party on October 31st. Councilor Schloesser move to approve the Lions using City Hall for the Halloween Party on the 31st. Councilor Voight second. Motion passed 4:0.

Counciler Cooke moved to approve a resolution approving LG230 Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling for the Dennison Lions Club to use the Dennison City Hall located at 37622 Goodhue Ave. in Dennison, MN, for their Turkey Bingo on November 21, 2026. Mayor Flaten seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0, with Councilor Ruddle obstaining.

11. Liability Coverage Waiver Form for LMCIT: Councilor Ruddle move that "The City of Dennison does not want to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn Stat. 466.04." Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 5:0.

Citizens Issues:

Mayors Issues:

Utilities: Update from Nate:

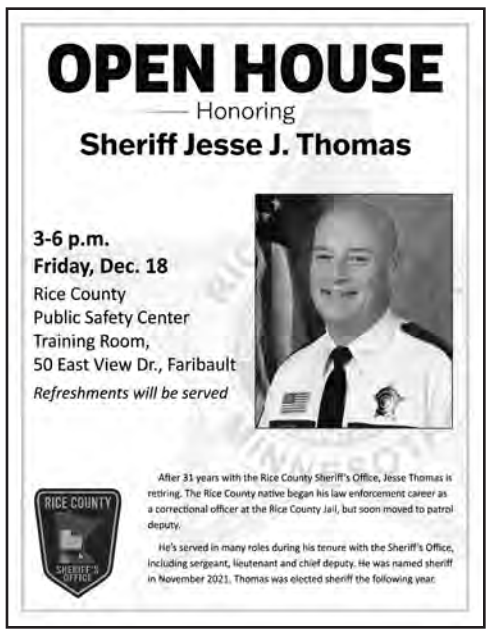
Nate did influent samples. Copper/lead samples re-done. The 1st round of samples disappeared. Fed X delivered, person signed for, but lab said they didn't have any one by that name on the signature page.

Still need Cedar Lake to look at vfd.

Councilor Ruddle move to pay the bills. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 5:0.

Motion made by Mayor Flaten to adjourn. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passes.

Next meeting would usually be on November 5th, but it was agreed to move the November meeting back to the 12th to allow the Board of Canvas to meet to certify the election results.



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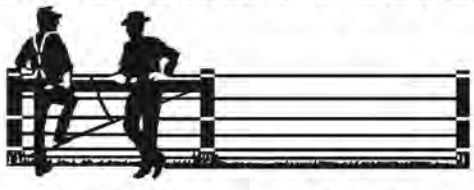
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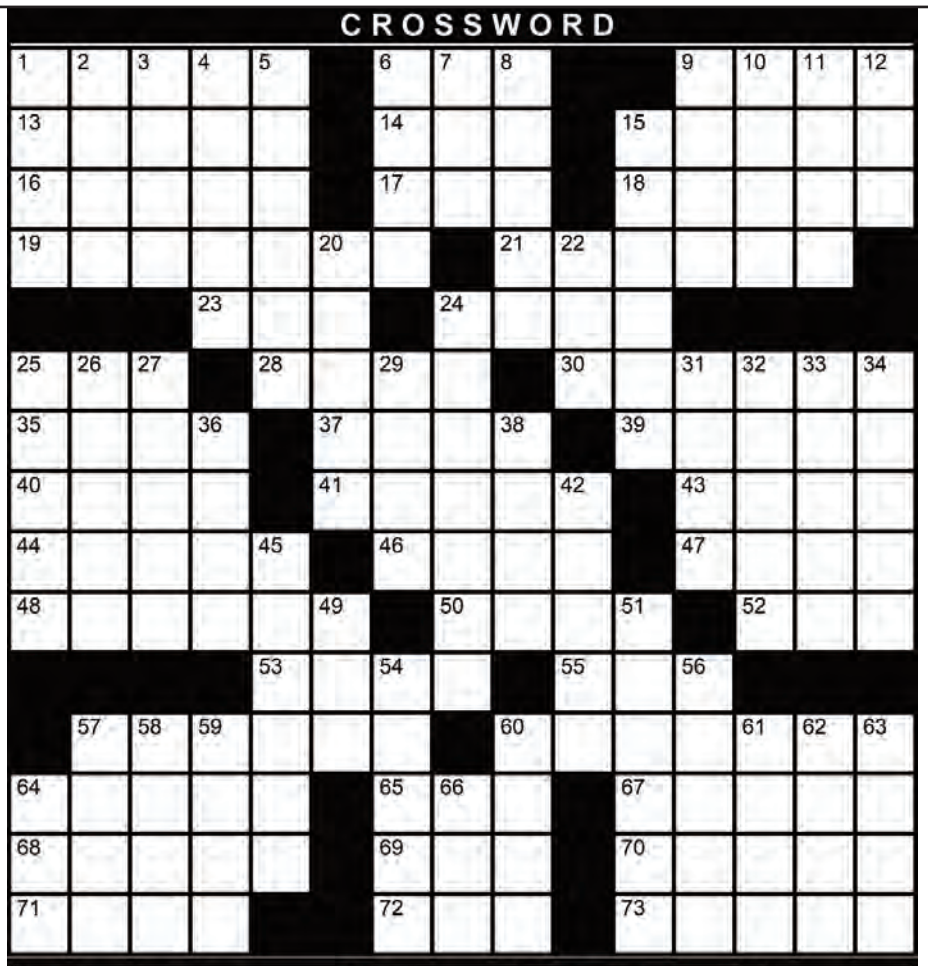
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ACROSS
1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. *"Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN
1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

SUDOKU ANSWERS

4	3	8	6	7	2	1	5	9
5	7	6	4	8	2	1	9	3
2	6	7	9	1	5	3	8	4
8	5	4	3	7	6	9	1	2
6	8	5	3	9	4	2	7	1
1	2	3	4	6	8	5	9	7
7	4	9	5	2	1	8	6	3
9	1	2	8	5	3	7	4	6
5	7	6	1	4	9	2	3	8



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4			6					9
			1	4		2		
	1	2		5				
					1		6	3
	2		4		8		9	
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