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NOVEMBER 26, 2026 **Volume 11 • Issue 45**

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.



(continued on page 5)

Announcements

• **Coffee and Treats Thursdays** are at the West Concord Historical Society building and will continue throughout the winter months. Each day will begin at 9 a.m. The Flame Room setting provides an opportunity for people who may become isolated in the winter to visit with other community members. Participants often come with small family heirlooms and antiques to share with visitors along with "remember when" stories involving West Concord.

• **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.**

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

Dodge County Salvation Army relocates to New Location

The old Mantorville Senior Citizen Center at 601 Clay Street in Mantorville became the new home for the Dodge County Salvation Army and Ready, Set, Learn in September. It made sense to locate these two organizations together since their programs compliment each other in many ways. The Mantorville Senior Citizen Center occupied the old church building since 1983 and with declining membership has transferred use of the building to the two entities this fall.

Ready, Set, Learn distributes 450 to 500 backpacks filled with school supplies to Pre-K through 12 grade kids the second week of August. They also provide school supplies during the school year when needed.

(continued on page 4)



Ribbon cutting ceremony last week at the new Salvation Army location in Mantorville

Pete's Repeat, You Will be Back



Pete's Bar & Grill is a great place to check out located on Main Street in Kasson. Pete's is nestled between the laundromat and Haku Asian at 27 West Main. The food is great and is available for dine in or carry out. They have a full menu of appetizers, soups & salads, wraps, sandwiches, burgers and entrees. A fish fry is held on Friday and Saturday evenings and there is also a daily special. Happy Hour is from 4 to 7pm.

The layout of the restaurant is very spacious and comfortable. The dining area is raised from the pool table and dart game area, so it provides for a pleasant conversation experience. That also allows for comfortable chair seating on one side of the bar. They have booths, tables, high tops and bar seating for every diner's preference.

A look online at reviews finds that the meals have a very high rating of satisfaction.

(continued on page 7)

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Thank You Notes



By Peter Moen
Concord Church of Christ

Growing up my mother encouraged me to write thank you notes to people who had given me gifts. And by "encouraged" I mean she basically told me to do it. Early on I would argue if people gave me something out of their own free will why should they expect something in return!? My argument fell on deaf ears and I wrote the notes.

But something special happened in writing those notes. At first the notes seemed a perfunctory response that held little meaning to me, but over time I realized I was not merely reciting a "thank you." I was remembering the gift. And I was remembering who gave me the gift. And I was acknowledging the effort and sacrifice and love of the gift giver. It was a subtle yet monumental shift in my mindset. It was no longer just about a gift I received but about the shared experience between me and the gift giver. The gift served as a reinforcement of that relationship.

During this time of year countries around the world are "writing" thank you notes for the gifts they have received. In their own languages with their own traditions they have celebrations of Thanksgiving. They slow down their lives to gather together for feasts of thanksgiving with family and friends. They give thanks for the harvest from the fields. They give thanks for the animals and fowl that have been taken from the fields and bodies of water. They give thanks for their homes, their communities, their relationships.

Yet somehow just being grateful for all we have seems to fall short. Do we merely say we are thankful without it being connected to something greater? To what do we attribute our thanksgiving? Even if our state-endorsed holiday of Thanksgiving points us to show gratitude for the country we live in, do we give thanks to the United States of America itself for all we have?

I do not believe so. When we celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving, we are celebrating gifts we have received from something greater. We are celebrating the gifts God has given us. Our thank you notes recognize a God who loves us and cares for us. These notes remember the gift, they remember the gift giver, and they acknowledge the effort and sacrifice and love of the gift giver.

In fact, if we were to boil down all our thank you notes and all our prayers into one message to God, it would be one big THANK YOU for Jesus. Without God's love fulfilled in Jesus none of these other gifts we receive would make much sense. We would not have any hope which means we would not have any meaning in this life or the next. Through the feasts and rituals and traditions we have the opportunity to acknowledge our gratefulness for all we have which ultimately comes from God, but there is always a danger. There is a danger of not being grateful for all we have been given. There is a danger of gathering together for a feast but not acknowledging WHY we come together. There is a danger of going through the motions.

Let us instead gather together with purpose and intention. Let us acknowledge all we have to be grateful for. Let us remember all gifts come from God. Let us remember the greatest gift of all.

As Psalm 67 says:

May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you!
The earth has yielded its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
May God bless us still;
that the ends of the earth may revere him.

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SHOP LOCAL

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.

Kasson

First Congregational Church
515 Walnut Street, Mantorville • 507-635-3011

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

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
Sunday Worship 9:00a.m.; Sunday School 10:00a.m.

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

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Obituaries

Michelle Lynn (Staub) Loreth

Michelle Lynn (Staub) Loreth, 58, of Hernando, Florida, passed away on Friday, November 13, 2026, after a long battle with breast cancer.



Michelle was born on April 9, 1968, in Owatonna, Minnesota, to Charles and Joanne (Busby) Staub.

She graduated from West Concord High School and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in education from Concordia College. She later earned her master's degree in education from Grand Canyon University.

Michelle was blessed with two sons, Caden and Tristan Loreth, who were the pride and joy of her life. She also leaves behind her granddaughter, Presley Loreth, who brought her great happiness.

Outside of school, Michelle loved spending time with her children and their friends. She was more than just a mother to Caden and Tristan; She became a second mother to many of their friends, always making them feel welcome and cared for. Michelle was the kind of person who put others before herself. She had a great sense of humor and knew how to make those around her laugh.

Michelle dedicated her entire career to education, spending 35 years at Lecanto Primary School. During that time, she served as both an elementary school teacher and an instructional coach. Throughout her career, Michelle impacted countless students, families, and faculty. Her dedication to education and the people around her made a lasting difference in her community.

Her love and legacy will live on through her children, grandchildren, family, friends and the countless lives she touched throughout the years as a mother, teacher, and friend.

Michelle is survived by her mother, Joanne Staub; her sons, Caden Loreth and Tristan Loreth; her granddaughter, Presley Loreth; her brother, Chris Staub, and sister-in-law, Julie Staub; her nieces, Gabriela Staub and Chloe Staub; and her nephew, Brady Staub. Michelle was preceded in death by her father, Charles Staub, who passed away on October 27, 2026.

Visitation was held on Saturday, November 21, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Gulf to Lake Church in Crystal River, Florida, followed by a service at 2:00 p.m.

Family and friends were welcome to come together to celebrate Michelle's life and remember the impact she made on so many people.

A burial service took place on Saturday, November 28, 2026, at Concord Cemetery in Minnesota, where Michelle was laid to rest alongside her father following his service.

Do You Have An Announcement?
Email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Merrideth "Skeeter" Miner

Merrideth "Skeeter" Miner, age 87, hit the Jackpot and collected his full winnings, upon entering Heaven on Monday, November 16, 2026. He passed away peacefully at his Villa apartment in Hayfield, surrounded by his loving family.



Skeeter was born in the living room of the family farm near Sargeant, on June 5, 1939, to Ray and Mary (Stites) Miner; the ninth of their ten children.

On August 30, 1963, Skeeter married Shirley Roddewig after meeting her on a blind date while he was stationed in the Army at Fort Louis, WA. They moved back to Minnesota and raised their family on the Miner Family Farm until moving to Hayfield in 1986.

Skeeter enjoyed Classic Country Music, playing cribbage, morning devotions, watching the activity at his bird feeders, trips to the Casino and DQ ice cream. A good cup of coffee, gardening, just going for a drive, Powerball, the buffet at Pizza Ranch, and spending time on Face Book were some of his other favorites. His greatest passion was people; fond of friendships that spanned over 60 years, as well as those made during his time working at Winona River and Rail and driving bus for Rochester City Lines.

During their 61 years of marriage, Skeeter and Shirley spent a lot of time traveling to various states, as well as regularly attending sporting events that their grandchildren participated in, along with cattle and goat showings at the county and State fairs. Being in the company of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren was Skeeter's most favorite place.

He was preceded in death by wife Shirley, December 2024; his parents, Ray and Mary Miner; four brothers and four sisters; infant son, Thomas Wayne; son-in-law, Paul Hansen, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

Skeeter is survived by children, Brenda Hansen, Janet (Bill) Brown, Curt (Kim), and Warren (Kari); seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren; sister and brother-in-law, Milda Lou and Dave Weness; sister-in-law, Sharon Ryan; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, November 30, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 104 1st St SE in Hayfield, MN with Reverend Kristen Anderson officiating. Visitation will be held from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday, November 29, 2026, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 501 2nd Street NW in Hayfield, MN and one hour prior to his service at the church. Interment will be in Waltham Cemetery in Waltham, MN with military honors provided by the Hayfield American Legion Post 330.

Memorials in Skeeter's name are preferred to Trinity Lutheran Church or a charity of your choice.

To share a special memory or condolence please, visit www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 501 2nd Street NW, Hayfield, Minnesota, 507-477-2259. Blessed be his memory.

Sandra Lee

Sandra Lee, 81, of Dodge Center, passed away peacefully on November 21, 2026.



Sandra was raised on the family farm of Raymond and Helen Olson, in Spring Valley, MN.

She graduated from Spring Valley High School, married Larry Blood, had 4 children and later divorced. Married to Stephan Lee for 48 years.

Devoted mother, wife, grandmother and enjoyed 40 years of weekends at Roberds lake.

Sandy had a very active social life staying connected with life-long friends. One of her many adventurous trips was with her friend Carol; they drove from Florida through New Orleans back to Minnesota. Stopping at Emeril Lagasse's restaurant for a memorial meal.

Sandra was survived by her husband Stephan, her sons Dan (Nancy), Jeff (Kathy), Craig (Tonya) daughter Sue; grandchildren Melinda, Travis, Stephanie, Toni, Samantha, Brianna, Karissa; 11 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild; siblings, Tom (Marilyn), Curt (Barb), Pam (Mike).

Preceded in death by her parents and 2 grandchildren Mitchell and Matthew.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00AM on Saturday, November 28th, 2026 at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes in Kasson, MN (801 7th St SE, Kasson, MN) with visitation one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will take place at Our Savior's Lutheran Cemetery in Spring Valley, MN.

Arrangements by Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes in Kasson.

Russell Lee Boullion

Russell Lee Boullion, age 84, of Hayfield, Minnesota, passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, November 20, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones.



Russell was born on September 9, 1942, in Sargeant, Minnesota, to Lee and Clemence Boullion. He grew up in the Blooming Prairie area and graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1960.

On May 30, 1964, Russell married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, LaVonne Bakkedahl. Together, they shared 62 wonderful years of marriage, building a life filled with love, laughter, family, and countless cherished memories. They were blessed with four children and a growing family that became Russell's greatest pride and joy.

Russell spent many years farming and working various other jobs before beginning his career at International Food Processing (IFP) in Hayfield, Minnesota, where he worked for 35 years before retiring in 2007. He was a hardworking man who took pride in providing for his family and always enjoyed keeping himself busy.

Russell had many hobbies and interests throughout his life. He enjoyed fishing, camping, hunting, bowling, gardening, collecting old model cars, feeding the birds, and spending time tinkering in his garage. Whether he was working on a project, tending to his garden, or simply enjoying the outdoors, Russell always found something to keep his hands busy. As well as spending time with his cat Allie.

Above all else, Russell loved his family. Nothing brought him greater happiness than spending time with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchild. He especially had a soft spot for the little ones and loved having babies around.

No matter how big the family grew, Russell always had room in his heart for one more little one. There was nothing he loved more than having a baby to hold and his family gathered around him.

As his family grew through the generations, so did the love and pride he had for each and every one of them. The time spent together, family gatherings, and everyday moments were what meant the most to him.

Russell is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, LaVonne Boullion; his four children, Kathy Sweet of Rochester, Minnesota, Wayne (Melissa) Boullion of Kingman, Arizona, Holly (Jeff) Foster of Brownsdale, Minnesota, and Lee (Becky) Boullion of Woodbury Minnesota; and his sister, Anita Davis of Rochester, Minnesota.

He is also survived by his 11 grandchildren: Brandon, Kelsey, Megan, McKinzey, Katie, Chris, Jessica, Jessup, Kobe, Paige, and Ashlyn; 19 great-grandchildren: Peyton, Maverick, Lane, Kennedy, Noelle, Alexis, Reese, Lane, Chase, Avery, Blakelyn, Hudson, Liam, Adelynn, Olivia, Bentley, Lincoln, Callum, and Cooper; and one great-great-grandchild, Laelyn. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other loved ones.

Russell was preceded in death by his parents, Lee and Clemence Boullion; his in-laws, Ervin and Edrie Bakkedahl; his brother, Clement Boullion; his son-in-law, Rick Sweet; and other loved ones who passed before him.

Russell will be remembered for his hard-working nature, his many interests, and most of all, the love he had for his family. His legacy lives on through the generations of family he loved so dearly and the countless memories they will carry in their hearts.

He will be deeply missed, forever loved, and always remembered.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 28th, 2026 from at Trinity Lutheran Church, 104 1st St SE in Hayfield, MN. A memorial service will be at 1:00 p.m. at the church following the visitation. Burial will take place at Fairview Cemetery in Hayfield.

To share a special memory or condolence please, visit www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 501 2nd Street NW, Hayfield, Minnesota, 507-477-2259. Blessed be his memory.

Dodge County Salvation Army relocates to New Location

(continued from page 1)

This service is available to all three school in Dodge County. Shoes are another item they arrange for school age kids and distribute about $5,000 in footwear each year.

The Salvation Army location is open for two hours on Thursday for donation drop offs. They plan to announce regular hours in early December. They ask that clothing donations are washed and cleaned, free from rips and tears, with working zippers, etc. before they are dropped off. They also accept personal hygiene items and products. They fill small transition packs to be distributed to those in need such as the displaced and homeless. There are plans to establish Hygiene closets throughout the county for easy access to those on need.

The Salvation Army has its roots in London in 1865. A Methodist minister, William Booth, and his wife Catherine founded it as the East London Christian Mission. It was formed not only to feed the hungry and clothe those in need, but also to put into action spiritual faith where there was emptiness. William preached on the streets in the poverty-stricken areas of London's "East End" where people were unlikely because of their poverty to attend traditional church services. He raised a tent in the Quaker cemetery so the homeless, the poor, and practicing alcoholics could just show up and hear his message of salvation for all.

In 1878, it was renamed the Salvation Army, drawing inspiration from a military structure to fight poverty and spiritual indifference. Because of the military's ideals, William Booth was called the General, and the members were "officers" and "recruits". The organization became known for its holistic approach to feeding the needs of the whole person.... food and toiletries, and religious ministry, hence Salvation.

In 1880, the movement came to the United States, and in 1882, migrated to Canada. It is now recognized all over the world as an organization to raise money, food, and to provide shelter to those in need.

Catherine Booth was called the "Army Mother" and was instrumental in establishing the theology, including the promotion of women in the ministry. The organization is well known for its lack of judging people and non-discrimination in all areas of service of and to all.

The Dodge County Salvation Army was started in 2019. Their big fundraiser is the Bell Ringing in November through December. This year there are kettles at twenty-five locations in the county and bell ringers at Kasson Hardware Hank, Sunshine Foods and HyVee. This collection is what funds the whole year, so if you see them out ringing the bell, please give what you can to help your neighbors in need. Anyone can volunteer to be a bell ringer and they encourage community groups to apply. Log onto to salvationarmyusa.org/volunteer and find your local community to apply.



Bell ringers and llamas at Kasson Hardware Hank on Saturday

The Salvation Army Advisory board consists of 12 to 15 Dodge County residents, and they are the ones who decide what kind of programs to offer. There are 10 Emergency Certified Disaster volunteers and 3 general volunteers to go to work in a disaster and to help with events that let people know they are available to help in emergencies. They show up at emergencies such as fires even if to just provide food and water for the firefighters.

Dodge County Salvation Army has assistance programs and emergency preparedness programs for those in our area who are in need of clothing, food and shelter due to situational circumstances. Long term and short-term needs are met for those who are displaced due to circumstances beyond their control. To find out more about these programs, contact Tanya Young at tyoung8550@yahoo.com, or give her a call at (316) 390-5368. She will help you to get in touch with someone who can help you or someone you know get help in a crisis.

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Dodge County Salvation Army relocates to New Location

(continued from page 4)

These programs are the main ways the Dodge County Salvation Army helps the community:

The Hygiene and Clothing Project

Winter gear donations in October that are available year round

Easter/Christmas meals for 100 families

Rent and Utility Assistance

Mattress Program for families displaced by Disaster

Northwoods Summer Camp for Kids in Finlayson, Mn

Back to School Shoes

Back to School Haircuts



Clothing inventory



Supplies of hygiene products

Christmas Events are just Around the Corner

(continued from page 1)

Saturday, December 5 from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. downtown Kasson turns into a winter wonderland for the day! 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 hand-crafted gift for everyone on your list.

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Pete's Repeat, You Will be Back

(continued from page 1)

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(continued on page 8)



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(continued from page 7)

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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®

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g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	10	10
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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner	Date
E-Signature Terry Campbell	11/25/2026

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ELECTRONIC PROPOSALS will be received through QuestCDN vBid (On-Line Bidding ONLY) by the City Council of the City of Dodge Center until **2:00 PM on the 10th day of December, 2026**, at which time the proposals will be reviewed for the following public improvements;

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS
WIDSETH PROJECT NO. 2024-11871

The City is bidding the project using the Best Value procurement method defined in Minn. Stat. § 16C.02, subd. 4(a). A panel of committee members will rank each bidder in four (4) separate categories. There will be a maximum total of 100 points possible for each bidder and the relative weight of the selection criteria are as follows: 1) Price submitted by contractor in the proposal – max. 60 points 2) Contractor's performance on previous three similar projects – max. 15 points 3) Risk assessment and plans of mitigation – max. 15 points 4) Interview – max. 10 points (interviews will be scheduled with each bidder submitting a complete proposal and will be held the week December 14-18, 2026). The bidder with the highest average combined score following the evaluation process will be considered by the City Council of the City of Dodge Center after 6:00 PM on the 28th day of December, 2026 for possible contract award.

The work generally includes the following: **Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements, consisting of preliminary treatment expansion, oxidation ditch improvements, new bioreactor, final clarifier improvements, UV disinfection, sludge storage tank expansion and improvements, administration building improvements and site improvements.**

No proposal will be considered unless it is electronically submitted through QuestCDN vBid prior to **2:00 PM on the 10th day of December, 2026**. No paper bids will be accepted. A Cash Deposit, Certified Check, or Bidder's Bond, payable to the City of Dodge Center, in the amount of not less than 5% of the amount of the bid must accompany each proposal as a guarantee that the bidder, upon award of the Contract will enter into a Contract with the City of Dodge Center and furnish a Performance and Payment Bond along with a Certificate of Insurance if awarded the contract. Both the Performance and Payment Bonds must be written for the full amount of the Contract and will be required with the Contract. The deposit will be subject to forfeiture as provided by law. The deposits from each bidder will be retained by the City of Dodge Center until the evaluation process is completed and it has arranged financing for the project, but no longer than sixty (60) days.

The City of Dodge Center reserves the right to waive any informalities, to reject any or all proposals and to award the Contract to the contractor offering the best value applying the weighted selection criteria previously listed in the advertisement.

A mandatory prebid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on the 18th day of November, 2026 at the Wastewater Treatment Facility: 62888 190th Avenue, Dodge Center, MN 55927

Complete digital project bidding documents will be available on November 11, 2026 at www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for **$55.00** by inputting Quest project #10437063 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading and working with this digital project information.

The City of Dodge Center will be using MN Public Facilities Authority funds for this project. Bidders are encouraged to utilize Disadvantaged Business Enterprises for this project. The project will also have American Iron and Steel requirements.
Bids shall be electronically submitted using QuestCDN vBid (On-Line Bidding ONLY).

Dated this 11th day of November, 2026.

Lee Mattson
City Administrator, City of Dodge Center

DODGE CENTER COUNCIL MINUTES
October 26th, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, October 26th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers and Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Cathy Skogen, Gary Trelstad, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal

Council members absent: Mayor Bill Ketchum

City staff and others present: Marianne Sobek, Treasurer; Lee Mattson, City Administrator; Stephanie Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant; John Fox, Ambulance Director; Gerald Runnells, Fire Chief; Deputy Gronseth

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Gary Trelstad at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gary Trelstad.

Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Adopt Consent Agenda

Motion made by Dostal, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve and accept the Consent Agenda as submitted to include: Minutes of the October 12, 2026 City Council Meeting, HRA Meeting September 2026, Park Board Minutes September 2026, and Payment of bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Ambulance

Ambulance Director Fox updated the Council that the Ambulance has its quarterly budget meeting they are preparing for and everything is going well.

Administrator's Report

Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Integrator

Mattson reported that the City has just opened a Request for Proposals for an Integrator for the WWTP Project. This company will generally provide the hardware and the software needed for the SCADA system. This communications system will continue in use by the City and will also be incorporated into Water Utility. At the completion of the project, the Integrator will continue to provide services to the City as the software and hardware installed as part of the construction will be used. As such, the integrator is providing a Professional Service and is handled differently than the General Contractor that is building/rehabbing the facility. Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Dostal to approve the procurement process for the WWTP Integrator. Motion carried unanimously.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Schedule

Mattson requested council review the schedule for the Integrator role as well as the bidding process for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Airport Lighting Grant Resolution

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has asked that the City approve Resolution 2026-019 as part of the grant award process for the Airport Lighting Replacement Project. This project is scheduled to replace many of the runway's lights as well as the Airport Beacon. Total project costs are estimated at $815,880.90 with a Federal Share of $775,086, a state share of $20,397, and a local share of $20,398. Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Skogen to approve Resolution 2026-019: A Resolution Approving State Airport Fund Grant Agreement With The Minnesota Department of Transportation. Motion carried unanimously.

Cobra Country Committees

Mattson reported that the Park Board, advised by Leathers and Associates, will need to start creating the committee structure that will support the local volunteer build process. Multiple committees will be created to facilitate the build process. Council agreed to confirm the committee members recruited and appointed by the Park Board when presented with the appointments.

Adjournment - Motion made by Dostal, seconded by Skogen, to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.
Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant

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