



# Claremont Messenger™

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #2  
Dennison, MN 55018

Postal Customer  
ECRWSS

JANUARY, 2021

Volume 2 • Issue 4

## Claremont Business is Part of National Expansion

All American National opened up their fleet service business in Claremont in June of 2019. All American National started as a family-owned business in Los Angeles in 1984. They paint and repair various types of equipment including tractors, trailers, earth moving equipment, cranes, refuse trucks, cement mixers, water trucks, concrete pumping units, backhoes, skid loaders and farm equipment. They also do fiberglass repair, fleet painting, minor fabrication and rebuilding hoods and truck bodies.

In the mid 1990's the company relocated to Fontana, California and in 2012 expanded to Dallas/Fort Worth area and in 2015 expanded to Phoenix, Arizona where their current headquarters are. They have plans to open an Atlanta, Georgia location next.

Since the beginning they have had a close working relationship with McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing and three of their locations are near McNeilus facilities.

At the Claremont location there are eight



employees and they paint and refurbish equipment. The turnaround for a refuse truck is about seven days for sand blasting,

priming and painting. They have multiple spray booths to get equipment back out the door in a short time and pride themselves on

quality workmanship of the units they produce.

## Claremont City Council

**CITY OF CLAREMONT  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020  
7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Council members present via Zoom: Mayor Rick Butler, Tasha Dahl, Nancy Schwanke, and Vickie Madsen (due to technical issues Madsen was muted). Council Members absent: Lisa Martinez.

City staff and others present via Zoom: City Administrator Connor LaPointe, City Clerk/Treasurer Liz Sorg, City Maintenance Worker Glen Hvitved, City Attorney Mark Rahrick, Deb Ellis, and Sandra Thielen.

There were no changes to the agenda.

### PUBLIC INPUT

None

### PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Dahl to open public input on the 2021 Budget and Levy, second by Schwanke. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen.

Motion carried. Sandra Heise left a message on the answering machine at City Hall asking why taxes are being raised so much again this year and could the City address it in the newsletter. No other comments were received. Motion by Dahl to close public input, second by Schwanke. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried. Council stated the City levy is only going up 3% but the County and School levies increased. Also, the Proposed Tax Statements are higher than the actual taxes will be. The City's

proposed levy was set at 5%, but now it will be lowered to 3%.

Motion by Dahl to open the Public Hearing on Special Assessments, second by Schwanke. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried. Sandra Thielen questioned why she has an administrative fine of \$150. When she moved to town, she thought she could have a tarped structure.

*(continued on page 9)*

# McMartin Electric Inc.

## 507-528-2578

64005 130th Ave.  
Claremont, MN  
55924

**Industrial Trenching  
Residential Commercial  
Agricultural  
Wiring or Rewiring  
Bucket Truck Service  
Repairs or Troubleshooting  
Electrical Design and Design Builds**

Triton FFA

# STEAK FEED

Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>  
4:00-8:00 PM

Faith Community Church, West Concord

This will be a drive through meal service only. No dining inside.

Snow Date March 6th

# \$10<sup>00</sup>

Sirloin Steak Dinner

Kids Hot Dog Meal \$5.00

## Pastors Corner

By Kira Anderson

This week our country will welcome the 46th President of the United States of America into leadership. During the past year our country has witnessed unrest that puts knots in my stomach. We are 10 months into a pandemic, we are politically divided, and there are rising racial tensions in all corners of the US. The lens in which we live our lives has been altered like no other year and our country seems to be more divided than ever. Every one has their own opinion as to how we should move forward. So today I offer you this word to live by, it's called "grace".

My faith as a Lutheran has taught me that we could all use a little grace in our lives. But what is grace? Grace is a gift that I don't necessarily deserve. Christ paid the ultimate price for my sins and the gift of grace is the forgiveness of those sins. Grace is forgiving someone else, when maybe they haven't asked for forgiveness. Grace is a way heal.

The rhetoric on social media and on television sets fuels fire for people to take sides. Something as simple as choosing to or not to wear a mask provokes judgement between people. It pains me to hear people judge their "friend" as decisions are made for how one will cope with social isolation.

Maybe we could all stand to have a little more grace for the "other" in this world.

Each person brings to the table their family history which shapes how they see the world. Each person has their own life experiences that inform the decisions that they make. There are life circumstances that effect our response to what is happening around us. That is what makes us all who we are. I believe that God created us ALL as

equals to serve our world for the time and place we are in.

As we move into a new year of 2021, have a little grace for your neighbor. Never assume the worst in what they have to offer. Listen and sit with someone who thinks different that you do and use it as an opportunity to learn and grow. Maybe when a little

grace is offered at a table of tension and disagreement two sides can be united for the good of all people.

Grace and peace to you dear friends as we move into what the newness of 2021 will bring.

## FAITH IN ACTION - DODGE COUNTY

### WE PROVIDE HELP FOR SENIORS

TRANSPORTATION, ERRANDS, LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING, YARD WORK,  
MINOR HOME REPAIRS, FRIENDLY VISITS, RESPITE, REFERRAL TO RESOURCES

### TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE OR TO VOLUNTEER

CONTACT: 507-634-3654 or

[fiadodgecounty.org](http://fiadodgecounty.org)



Friends helping friends

FAITH  
IN ACTION

## Claremont Messenger

### MAIL

Box 1  
West Concord, MN 55985

### E-MAIL

[hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

PHONE 507-951-7417

FAX 507-645-9878

Published monthly by Mainstreet Publishing LLC.  
©2021 Claremont Messenger.  
All rights reserved.

**SUPPORT OUR LOCAL Shops & Restaurants**

## Area Church Directory

Be Clean

**A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." — Mark 1:40**

In Jesus' day most people believed that disease and sin were connected. Leprosy, a horrible disease that was often contagious and caused deformity, was thought to be evidence of some horrible sin. There was no cure, and lepers were declared "unclean" unless somehow they recovered and could be called "clean" again (see Leviticus 13:1-8, 45-46). They were generally banished from the community because of concerns about spreading spiritual impurity and death.

When the man with leprosy in this story came to Jesus asking to be made clean, it wasn't just a request to be cured. The man wanted his life back. Lepers were thought of as the walking dead, and he was asking, in effect, to be raised from death!

Jesus, seeming to risk being defiled, does the unthinkable in reaching out his hand and touching the man. And then the unthinkable happens. The contagion of sin and death does not spread to Jesus; instead, the cleansing of heaven spreads to the man! This "dead man walking" is brought back to life by the touch and word of Jesus. We expect the corrosive effect of sin and disease to spread, but the healing power of Jesus prevails against it.

Jesus came in power to take away what is killing us and what we are helpless to get rid of. What is it in your life that you are unable to cleanse yourself of? Jesus can make you clean!

**Prayer: Gracious God, cleanse me of my sin and make me whole again. Restore to me the joy of salvation! Thank you for touching me with your healing power. Amen.**

### NOTICE

**Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, check your church website or Facebook page for updates.**

### 1st Presbyterian Church

200 East Street, Claremont  
528-2320  
Pastor Doug Walters  
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.

### St. John Lutheran Church

4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont  
528-2404  
Pastor Alan Broadwell  
Sunday Service at 10:30a.m.

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc.  
to: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

### The Church Directory is Sponsored by:

Our Family Connecting  
With Yours

**CZAPLEWSKI**  
Family Funeral Homes & Crematory

[www.czaplewskifh1frontiernet.net](http://www.czaplewskifh1frontiernet.net)

<b>HAYFIELD</b> 501 2nd St NW 507-477-2259	<b>DODGE CENTER</b> 25 South St. SW 507-374-2155	<b>KASSON</b> 801 7th St. SE 507-634-6510
--	--	---





## Talking Critically-Needed Blood Donations with the U of M

The American Red Cross estimates that someone needs a blood transfusion approximately every two seconds. National Blood Donor Month brings awareness to this need

during the month of January when the blood supply tends to be at its lowest. Though, in the midst of the pandemic, that low, January trend has been felt by hospitals and clinics — and their patients — for months.

Claudia Cohn, MD, PhD, a pathologist with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview and the chief medical officer for the American Association of Blood Banks, explains why donating blood today is needed now more than ever and how choosing to give could equip those donors with new information

about their exposure to COVID-19.

*Q: What are some of the causes of low blood donation levels right now, and how does that affect someone's health?*

Dr. Cohn: The blood supply is typically lower during the winter months, since blood donations often decrease because of the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. That is severely compounded this year with the raging COVID-19 pandemic, which has overwhelmed hospitals and did cancel numerous blood drives earlier in the year. But, the need for blood still exists, despite the virus — victims of car accidents still arrive in emergency departments, cancer patients still require chemotherapy, all of which use life-saving blood transfusions.

*Q: What are some of the new benefits related to COVID-19 when giving blood?*

Dr. Cohn: If you've ever been curious about whether or not you recently had the novel coronavirus, many blood centers will now test for COVID-19 antibody levels when you donate blood. In fact, if your levels are high, they will send you a letter requesting an appointment for you to donate convalescent plasma, which received FDA emergency use authorization for use in treating hospitalized patients with COVID-19. There is starting to be a nationwide shortage of convalescent plasma, so if you know you have had COVID-19, please contact your local blood center to learn how to donate convalescent plasma.

*Q: How could getting the COVID-19 vaccine impact someone's ability to donate blood or convalescent plasma?*

Dr. Cohn: The FDA does not require a deferral on blood donations after a COVID-19 vaccine, however, some blood centers might implement a short-term (less than two-week) deferral after someone has been vaccinated, as some people feel mildly ill after their shot. The FDA does, however, defer COVID-19 convalescent plasma donations if you never had COVID-19 and received one of the COVID-19 vaccines.

*Q: Are blood donations centers safe right now?*

Dr. Cohn: Blood donation sites are taking measures to ensure donor safety. They have staggered donation appointments to avoid groups of people standing in line, and they have made sure all donation stations maintain social distancing. All surfaces are wiped down and all personnel are masked. It is probably safer to donate blood than it is



to go to a crowded supermarket. If you are interested in donating, find and contact your local blood center.

*Q: What are you doing in this area to advance public knowledge about the need for blood donations?*

Dr. Cohn: The American Association of Blood Banks works with blood centers, hospitals and the wider community to advance public knowledge about the need for blood donations. This work ranges from educational webinars to public service announcements when the blood supply is low. In my role at the AABB as chief medical officer, I have interacted with multiple media outlets to get the word out about the need for more blood.

*Dr. Claudia Cohn is an associate professor of laboratory medicine and pathology in the University of Minnesota Medical School. She is medical director of the M Health Fairview Blood Bank and leads the American Association of Blood Banks as chief medical officer. She conducts research in the field of transfusion medicine and focuses her efforts in two areas: patient blood management and platelet storage and utilization.*

### Upcoming Blood Donation Opportunities Owatonna

1/21/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Bethel Church, 1611 Hemlock Ave.

1/29/2021: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2500 7th Ave. NE

### Mary Berg

Mary Berg, age 89, of Claremont, passed away January 3, 2021.



Friends greeted the family 4-7 PM Friday January 8, 2021 at the Brick Meger Funeral Home and one hour prior to the funeral at church.

Mass of Christian burial was at 11:00 AM Saturday January 9, at St. Joseph Catholic Church with interment to follow at St. Francis De Sales Catholic Cemetery, Claremont.

There was a rosary recited by the Catholic Daughters of America at 10:15 AM at church prior to the funeral.

A live stream of the funeral could be viewed on the St. Joseph Catholic Church Facebook page.

People were asked to follow all Minnesota Health Department Covid-19 guidelines.

Mary was born to parents Rudolph and Mary (Ripka) Kubat in Owatonna.

She graduated valedictorian from Claremont High School in 1948. She attended St. Teresa's College in Winona then transferred to Mankato Teachers College graduating with a teaching certificate. In 1950 she married Walter Berg in Claremont.

Mary enjoyed a long career in education starting at various Steele County Country Schools and finishing up the last 30 years in Dodge Center retiring in 1990. In retirement she dedicated her life to her children and grandchildren.

Her memberships included past president of American Legion Auxiliary in Claremont, volunteering for many church activities, especially the Fall Bazar at the country store, and serving for various civic interests.

Her hobbies included, bird watching, fishing with her husband and family, board games, crosswords, and cribbage. She loved music and theater and was often spotted at many Little Theater plays or area concerts. Mary was known for her cooking and baking and her family will miss her chocolate chip cookies.

Mary is survived by her children, Michael (Melanie), Claremont, Patrick (Robin), Owatonna, Patricia (Robert) Gordon, Dalhart, TX, Susan (Carlton) Wittmer, Hartley, TX, Carol Hodapp, Owatonna, Marcia (Fredy) Ortegon, Denton, TX, Judith (Derrick) DeWalt, Charlotte, NC, John (Darla), Claremont, Thomas, Claremont, Jennifer Berg, Amarillo, TX, Mary Wermager, Shoreview, MN, Barry (Melissa), Dell Rapids, SD; 28 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and numerus step-grandchildren and one more great grandchild on the way, siblings Shirley Buecksler, Rose Donna Kelly, Bernice Spindler, Donald Kubat, Raymond Kubat, Rita Selthun.

She was preceded in death by, husband Walter, parents, one grandson, Axel, siblings, Rudy Kubat and Robert Kubat; son-in-law, Jeff Hodapp.

In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred to St. Frances de Sales Cemetery in Claremont.

For more information or to leave a condolence message go to [www.megercares.com](http://www.megercares.com)



**Steel, Farm Machinery, Car Bodies, Aluminum,  
Copper, Batteries, Appliances, E-Scrap**

55976 State Hwy. 56, West Concord

Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm • June-October Open Saturdays 9:00 to 11:30am

507-527-2408 | [www.ldrecycling.com](http://www.ldrecycling.com)

**Good Beer.  
Good Drinks.  
Good Times.**

Pool, Darts, Pull Tabs, E-Tabs,  
On & Off Sale

**Harold's  
CLUB**

33 E. Main Street  
Dodge Center  
507-374-9425





# Museum Musings

## Dashing Through the Snow in 1917

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

As I sit down to write this article, I can happily acknowledge we've had a mild winter so far, but winter 1917 was one for the record books. The average daily temp for the Rochester area in the winter of 1917 was 8.8 degrees—brrrrrrrr.

The January 18th West Concord Enterprise spoke of a week of severe cold—people were waking up to minus 20 degree temps. A week later the newspaper reported of a “fierce blizzard”, the likes of which had not been seen for 10-15 years. 17 inches of snow fell and according to the paper, “the wind blew a perfect hurricane for 24 hours, making it almost impossible for one to venture out. In some places snow drifts were twenty feet high, and all traffic ceased . . . not a wheel moved on the railroad until late Monday night, except the snow plow.” The oldest inhabitant in town (unnamed) pronounced the storm some of the worst winter days ever.

Since the railroad tracks were blocked from Saturday night until Monday night, a trainload of cattle was stalled south of town and a considerable amount of time passed before the cars could be backed up to the stockyards, and the cattle unloaded, fed, and watered.

The snowstorm caused other problems, too. The teachers in the Berne area couldn't get to their country schools on Monday morning. Mr. Cain, the teacher in District 3, couldn't get to his school until Wednesday morning! We can be sure the students weren't complaining.

Even the Enterprise suffered from the bad weather. Somehow the paper on which the week's news was usually printed, was lost by the railroad, and the February 1st Enterprise had to be published on paper that was not at all customary. Also some of the usual news was missing. Because of blocked roads, the usual news gathering was hard to accomplish.

The February 8th Enterprise reported that the village marshal needed to hire men and horse teams to haul away the snow piled up in front of city businesses on Main Street. Can't you just see it with none of the snow plowing/blowing technology to which we've become so accustomed?

Sleighs, the most common mode of winter transportation in 1917, could be hazardous, too. When Rob Bringgold was visiting Henry Mensing, Rob's sleigh caught on a rack sitting in the yard. Rob was thrown from the sleigh and injured, and the team of horses ran away. Luckily the horses were caught at the Peter van der Nyde residence and were not hurt at all.

Community resident, Ed Clark, met with a stroke of frigid bad luck when he was getting ice from the river. He was standing on a block of ice and someone else jumped on the same block, pushing the block into the water and covering Ed's shoes with icy water. When he got home his shoes were frozen to his feet. The shoes had to be cut away from Ed's frozen feet and he lived with painful feet for some time.

The editors of the Enterprise asked if the local fire department should be checking fire hydrants around town to make sure none were frozen.

Reports of frozen hydrants around the state had led to disaster in circumstances of fires and the editors admonished the town to “avoid catastrophe here”.

What was happening that was fun that harsh winter? For one thing, J.C. Conlin packed his sleigh with 30 women in it, and drove to Haugsrud Bros. store, winning a \$5.00 prize for bringing the most people in one sleigh at one time to the store. Sleighs full of people were visiting others in the neighborhood, gathering for dances, and celebrating life. A.A. Bryant of The Pioneer Harness Shop, was selling all kinds of lap robes and wool blankets priced from \$1.65 to \$8.25 to keep people warm and cozy in sleighs and cutters.

There was a Masquerade Ball at the Opera House, complete with prizes for the best costumes. Costumes could be found at the Tailor Shop and masks at the Drug Store. Comedian, Clarence Burgderfer, performed at the Opera House and according to the Enterprise, should have “driven the blues out of West Concord.” The Embroidery Club was meeting and the Bijou and Rex Theaters were showing movies on reels.

The Hotel Concord suggested folks treat themselves to Sunday dinner out. They were offering this dinner for 50 cents: Soup, salted wafers, olives, roast young lamb with dressing, roast prime rib of beef au jus, mashed potatoes, peas, rice pudding, apple and pumpkin pies, cream cheese, dill pickles, and vanilla ice cream with wafers. That was quite a meal!

The February 15, 1917 Enterprise admonished, “Goodbye to February—you have treated us very coldly during your stay here.” But the paper also tried to cheer their readers,

“Yes, it's a tough winter, but spring is just ahead.”

I hope your winter is just the way you like it. Please stay safe and well!




### Job Printing

ALL CLASSES OF PAPER STOCK, used for Letter Heads, Bill Heads, Statements Envelopes, Business Cards, Posters, Bills, &c., has increased in Price from 100 to 400 Per Cent in Price, and the Printer is compelled to slightly advance the price on all work of this kind, but the ENTERPRISE will figure on all Printing at the Lowest Possible Legitimate Price.—bearing part of the extra cost with its Customers.

Be Loyal to Your Home Newspaper. It Works Faithfully for this Community.

*Pennell & Smith.*



### HOGS WERE MONEY IN 1916

And it looks as tho they would do as well or better so far as price is concerned this year.

BUT—it takes only a few dead pigs to eat an awful hole in profits. And it takes only a little over exposure or lack of care to start disease in your herds.

A modern hog house—weather proof, sunny and sanitary—with a clean feeding yard or floor, is just as necessary as a good breed of hogs, to make the most money.

OUR SPECIAL PLAN SERVICE includes the latest and best in hog equipment. This service is yours for the asking. Come and ask.

**“THE LUMBER STORE”**  
C. W. ADAMS LUMBER CO.  
WEST CONCORD, - MINNESOTA

WHEN YOU THINK OF

## FURNITURE!

THINK OF

## Swenson!

We can show you Bargains in

### FURNITURE AND PIANOS.

**P. T. Swenson**

## BERNSTEIN, The TAILOR

Next Door to Sheils Bros. Store.

*Dry Cleaning, Pressing, Repairing.*

Bring Your Old Suit and I will Make it Look like New for a Very Reasonable Price.

Have Your Unfitted Suit Made to Fit. A Special Discount on Your Individual Order. Don't Forget to Have Your Suit Pressed before the Next Dance. Both Phones.

**M. M. BERNSTEIN**



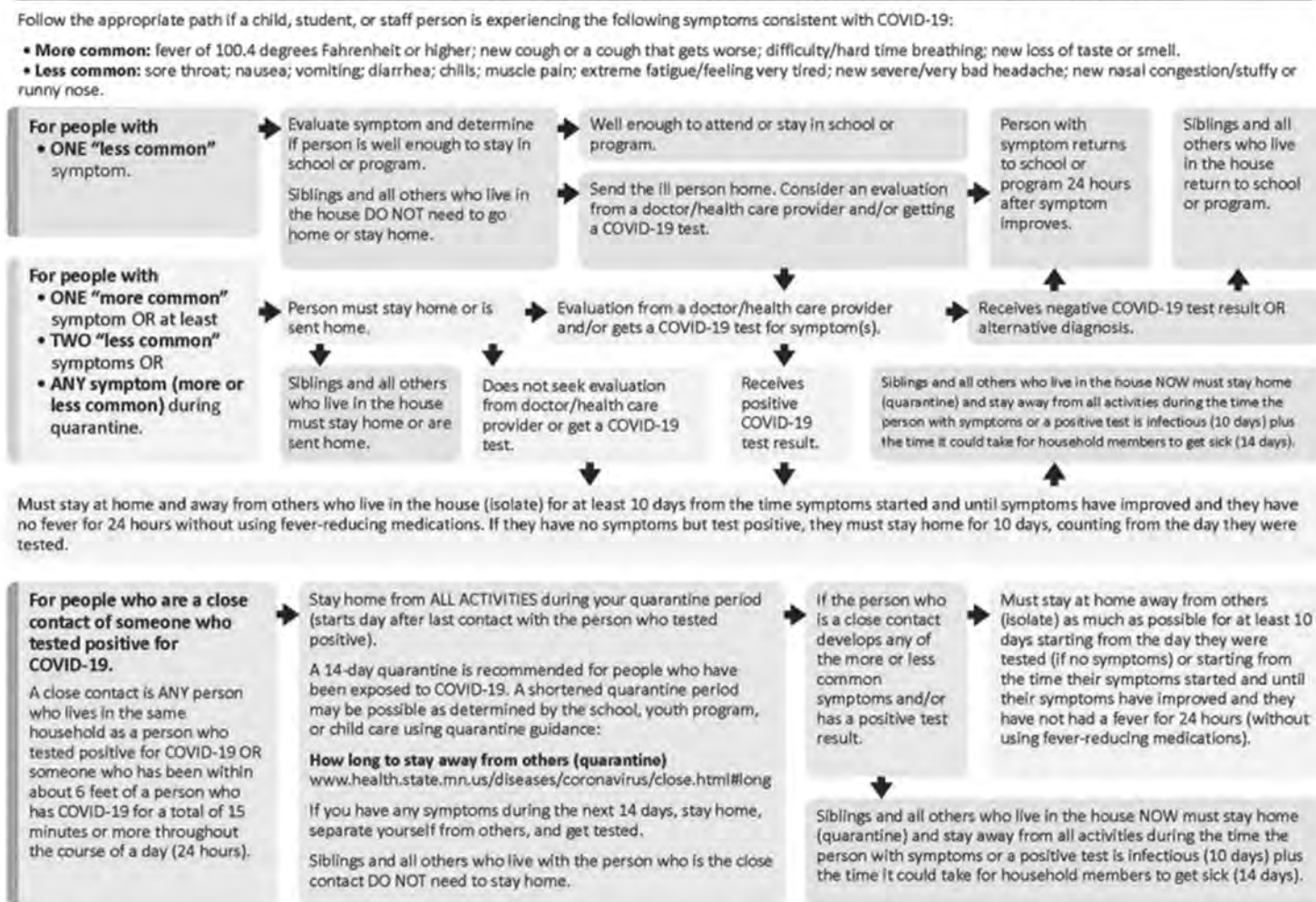
## Cobra Communications



Craig Schlichting  
Superintendent

It has been great to have the students back into our Hybrid Learning Model. We have also been given guidance from MDE to implement additional precautionary guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Along with this new guidance, we have been instructed to implement a rolling start to in-person learning for our PK-5 students. This will begin on February 1st. The first two weeks we will be starting in-person learning for all PK-2 students. This will be followed with in-person learning for 3-5 students on February 15th. At this time, the guidance has only identified this for our elementary students. We are still monitoring the case numbers in the school to make sure we are in the appropriate learning model. If the numbers were to escalate we would need to re-evaluate the learning model. I think this is a good start to getting our students back to school in person and keeping them safe.

### COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs



Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000 | 625 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format. | Updated 12/21/2020

The guidance has also changed for the quarantine times and protocol that we have been directed to follow. The graphic above

was provided by MDE. Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at schlich@triton.k12.mn.us or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a

time to meet with you or your organization. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

#WeAreTriton

## TRITON CLASS OF 2021

### 2021 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Abraham Myer is a senior at Triton High School. His parents are Rod and Wendy Myer and he has two siblings, Elle and Luke. He is active in basketball and golf and outside of school enjoys fishing and spending time with family and friends. He likes the movie "21" and the music of Lil Uzi Vert. After graduation he plans to attend college and study finance and business.

**ABRAHAM MYER**

SPONSORED BY



### Triton Student Council to Host Food Drive

The Triton Student Council is hosting a food drive this month to support local families in need. Community members are invited to participate by bringing in items to the school. We will have a drive-through drop-off on Saturday, January 23 from 10am-12pm. This will take place at Triton High School, as well as Casey's in West Concord and the Claremont Service Center in Claremont!

### Haircuts for the Whole Family

We make looking great easy with fast and affordable one-stop hair care for men, women and kids.

Appointments & Walk-Ins Welcome

*Shear Styling*

28 N. Main Street, Dodge Center  
507-374-9979



## “What?! Girls Can’t Play Football!”

By Bill Bealles

Oh, really? Tell that to 2012 Randolph HS grad, Megan Myers, a new member of the Minnesota Vixen, a women’s professional football team based in Minneapolis. Megan, 27, a licensed Elementary Ed teacher, has been a lifelong football fan from a football family. “As long as I can remember, football has been a huge part of my life.” The weekend routine in her home was, “Randolph Rockets games on Friday nights; chores, then the Gophers on Saturday and, of course, the Vikings on Sunday!” Halftime was a time to finish chores.

On those fall evenings in Randolph, Megan, a confessed ultra-competitor, could be found mixing it up with the boys in pickup games on the perimeter of the field. “Mostly, you just killed whomever had the ball,” she says.

Megan filled her years with participation in many different sports, including softball, volleyball, Alpine skiing, and her favorite of all, crossfit training. In high school, she wore the Randolph Rockets orange-and-blue on the volleyball court and did four years of intramurals, including flag foot-

ball. Later, she greatly enjoyed returning to Randolph to watch her brother, Mark, play during his admirable football career. At North Central, Megan played softball.

It’s in her genes as her parents, Dave and Mary Jo, have been athletes and competitors their entire lives. Mom was a scholarship volleyball player at Winona State and Dad is a water skiing champion. Both are residents of Randolph.

Megan ran across the Minnesota Vixen when she received a link from a friend about the team conducting tryouts, in preparation for the 2021 season. Her friend told her she “could see her doing something like this”. She showed up and impressed the team with her fitness and her football skills. As such, she was invited to join and is now a proud “rookie” linebacker. Asked how she felt about occupying the most important and rugged defensive position in which she’d have to smash it up with veteran offensive guards and tackles, she says, “Oh I can’t wait! I can’t wait to tackle someone, too!”

Practices were supposed to begin in January, but are on hold due to COVID-19. The 2020 season was lost to the pandemic. An ordinary season, Megan says, would begin with practice from January to March and games from April through June.

Established in 1999 and according to their website (mnvixen.com), the Vixen are the longest continuously operating women’s American football team in the nation and are in the Western division of the Women’s Football Alliance (WFA). The team plays full contact, tackle football following

NCAA rules. They play their home games in Edina and take on teams from throughout the nation.

The women playing professional football are not in line for Dalvin Cook or Adam Thielen money, either. In fact, most women pay thousands of dollars to play. There’s a fee paid to the team (\$900), then, the purchase of equipment. Helmets can cost \$200 and more. As well, players spend their own cash to travel to away games. Expenses can be offset by sponsorships from individuals, businesses or organizations.

But, they’re not in it for the money, Myers says. They play for the love of the game and their teammates. “I like the bonds and relationships you build with your teammates. I like being around other competitors and athletes. Those things are most important to me.”

Megan says she’s enjoying her 20’s and loves her life right now. She is already an intrepid world traveler, having taken volunteer positions in Belize, the Dominican Republic, and Malaysia. Her most enjoyable adventure was a recent two-and-half year teaching assignment in China. “I’ve been to many places, but I want to go to more!” Now is the time to do it.

Asked what she would tell a young girl who approached her after a Vixen game and wanted to know what she had to do to play football, Megan says, “You just have to do it. The only person who can stop you is yourself.” Yes, girls CAN play football!



Megan Myers



# Milo Peterson Ford Co.

## START THE NEW YEAR OUT WITH A NEW CAR FROM PETERSON FORD!

**2017 FORD EDGE SE**



#20282U

2L eco boost, i4 GTDI DOHC turbocharged VCT, 6 speed automatic, 34,168 miles

**Now \$17,999**

**2017 FORD F-150 XL PICKUP**



#20296U

5L V-8, 6 speed automatic, electronic, crew cab, ingot silver, trailer tow pkg, 24,503 miles

**Now \$32,999**

**2018 FORD ESCAPE SE**



#20199U

1.5L 4 cylinder DGI, turbo charged DOHC, 6 spd auto, 28,247 miles, lightning blue metallic

**Now \$18,578**

**2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT**



#20201U

3.5L 6 cylinder SMPI DOHC, 6 spd auto w/select-shift, 44,159 miles, blue jean metallic

**Now \$27,777**

**2014 FORD MUSTANG PREMIUM COUPE**



#20057D

3.7L V-6, 24V, 6 speed automatic, race red, 52,858 miles

**Now \$15,555**

**2017 FORD FUSION**



#20037U

2.5L iVCT, 6 speed automatic, 13,089 miles, magnetic

**Now \$14,889**

**Cold Weather Car Care**

At Milo Peterson Ford Co., our highly qualified technicians are here to provide exceptional service in a timely manner.

From oil changes to transmission replacements, we are dedicated to maintaining top tier customer service, for both new and pre-owned car buyers! Allow our staff to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.

Call our service department to schedule your maintenance needs. Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5pm.



**COME SEE OUR COMPLETE INVENTORY AT WWW.MILOPETERSONFORD.COM**

3020 457th Street Way, Kenyon • 507-789-6113 • SALES HOURS: M-T-Th 7:30a.m.-8p.m.; W-F 7:30a.m.-6p.m.; Sat. 8a.m.-4p.m.



## That's the Latest



By Emery Kleven

*Emery is now a retired farm broadcaster after starting at KDHL in Faribault in 1987. He's a 1971 graduate of West Concord High School. You can view past columns at his website RoadFarming.com. You can email him at emery@roadfarming.com.*

I have had for many years a print of a painting done by an Iowa artist named Charles Freitag. I can relate to Freitag's paintings as he was born and raised on a small farm in Iowa. Inspired by Norman Rockwell, Freitag said that growing up on a small farm in the heartland of rural America gave him a deep appreciation of the rural life. His fond childhood memories of life on the family farm are conveyed in his paintings. You see in the picture on this page a glimpse of what the print I have looks like. Freitag named it Oliver Twist. The 660 Oliver tractor narrow front is what I grew up with and it's depicted in this painting.

It's one of the two up by the barn. We did not have an Oliver 77 although we had a wide front Super 88. The use of bale forks to get the hay and straw into the barn through the large barn door is one of my early recollections of baling hay. Our barn on the Kleven farm would hold, when the bales were neatly stacked and filled to the rafters and cupolas, about 3800 bales.

I got my first experience with baling hay in the haymow when I had just graduated 2nd grade. The year was 1961. The use of bale forks, like what is depicted in the Freitag painting, was actually quite scientific, what with all the ropes and pulleys and angles. If you grew up and saw or used this kind of system, you know what I'm talking about. First the wagon load of hay had to be stacked just right. For us I believe it was two rows 8 bales long and four bales high for a total of 64 bales per wagon load. The forks would be put in each corner of four bales. The forks would reach to the second row of bales underneath so 8 bales at a time would go up to the big barn door. To get the hay on the forks to go up, we put a pulley on the front of the old 56 Ford truck and then would pull on the rope with the International Super M tractor.

Once there, the system would glide down the rail that stretched from one end of the barn to the other. I don't know how many feet of rope were used in this system but it was a lot. When the forkful of hay got over the portion of the haymow where we wanted to drop them, I was supposed to yell down to pull. My brother Harvey, who was



**A print of a Charles Freitag painting called 'Oliver Twist' with 3 Oliver tractors depicted brings back plenty of memories of baling hay to Emery Kleven.**

on the wagon down below would then pull the rope and release the bales. They would tumble down. Now normally we would have older boys helping us stack these in the barn but I guess everyone was gone this particular day. Now being a 2nd grader at the time, most of these bales outweighed me so I would try to move them but I'd only get two or three bales moved and here came 8 more bales. I would quick get out of the way and yell for Harv to drop them. Pretty soon I was like 50 bales behind in stacking. Needless to say, I never did catch up. I think Harv and my dad would come up at some point later and try to sort through the mess the best they could.

I don't remember what year we ended the use of these forks and instead used an elevator. But at first this was not real bale elevator. We went from the bale forks to using the old Kelly-Ryan grain elevator. This was a heavy steel elevator used for moving grain. You'll see them occasionally now sitting under trees in a grove on a farm. When used for hay, the bales had to be put in just right at an angle or they would simply fall out. It was not a good system. Finally we got a real bale elevator. It was red in color. It could have been a Cashman's but I'm not sure what the brand was. It worked great. The bales would hardly ever fall out once you got them in there.

We then added a 24 foot extension that hung from the old rail used by the bale fork system. This would allow us to get the bales to the middle of the barn. I thought this was the greatest invention for handling hay. But then along came the round baler. Delmer

Paulson was one of the first in the area to get a Vermeer round baler. Delmer did some round baling for us and then we finally got one of the big yellow balers ourselves. They made vast improvements on them over the years. That's where I ended my hay baling career but they kept improving systems and along came the big square balers. I'm trying to imagine lifting one of those big square bales with bale forks. It probably could be done but when you drop one of them 30 feet to the haymow floor, it would go right through the floor.

When I left the farm to be a farm broadcaster, people from time to time would ask me what I missed most about the farm. Baling hay is always one of my responses. Yes it was a hot dirty job at times. That chaff would stick to the sweat along with getting in the eyes, especially when throwing a bale 5 high against the wind. Colleen Sathrum Hayne told me that baling hay with her dad Howard is one of the dearest memories of her life. She would be the tractor driver while Howard would be loading the wagon. Having those lunches in the field under the hay rack to get out of the sun made for special memories. I remember my mom would come out to the field with sandwiches and cookies and some cold water or lemonade. They are special memories that I wouldn't trade for anything.

I still have those bale forks. They moved with me from the farm to Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, back to Nebraska and now in Minnesota again. They're heavy and awkward to handle but it's a reminder of a past that I miss quite often.



**Finishing work continues...**

**We look forward to welcoming you back!**



Watch our Facebook page and website for reopening updates.



[www.firesidelounge.net](http://www.firesidelounge.net)

37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN

507-645-9992

**Place Your Ad in the February Issue of the Messenger**

Contact Terry at 507-951-7417

or

email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

**THANKS FOR SHOPPING YOUR HOMETOWN!**





## Legislative Update



By Rep. Steve Drazkowski  
District 21-B

### The Rules of the Minnesota House

This past week has been busy at the Minnesota House of Representatives. The first committee meetings have begun, and many bills have been introduced. However, before we can vote on actual bills and legislation, we must first vote on the rules which govern the Minnesota House. These rules determine how the House functions and operates. On Thursday, we voted to approve the proposed permanent rules by a margin of 104-27.

I was one of the representatives who voted against adopting the proposed permanent rules. In the end, the rules did not include several important measures that I believe are necessary for effective lawmaking by the Minnesota House of Representatives. Let me discuss two examples.

First, I authored an amendment to the rules which would waive what is known as the "24-hour rule." This rule states that any amendments to any legislation must be filed

and publicly posted 24 hours before the House meets to discuss the legislation. I wanted to eliminate this rule because it destroys spontaneity in the Minnesota House and gives lobbyists more influence. Representatives should be allowed to amend legislation on the floor. When amendments are required to be publicly posted 24 hours prior to session, lobbyists always go through these amendments and attempt to crush those they dislike. We are not here to serve lobbyists; we are here to serve you. Additionally, allowing representatives to author amendments on the floor would raise the level of debate in the House. Unfortunately, my amendment to eliminate the 24-hour rule was not adopted. The second rule which should have been included in the permanent rules was a provision to prevent the construction of massive omnibus bills. Minnesota's Constitution requires that all legislation relate to only one subject. This is known as

the "single subject rule." However, state legislators and justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court have found ways to avoid real enforcement of the single subject rule. As a result, legislators construct omnibus bills that contain hundreds of proposals. How is a legislator supposed to vote on an omnibus bill if it contains 100 proposals the legislator likes and another 100 proposals that they do not like?

As such, I supported an amendment to the permanent rules which would prevent committees in the Minnesota House from combining bills into huge omnibus bills. Unfortunately, this amendment was not adopted.

The Minnesota Legislature needs to develop a better legislative process. The rules as they were proposed did not create a better process. Therefore, I voted against the proposed permanent rules.

Greetings, everyone. I wanted you to know about some of the news here in St. Paul.

## Vet Techs Help Animals and People



Veterinary technicians make up a crucial part of the veterinary care team. Not only do they assist veterinarians in hands-on care of animal patients, but many also provide client education, serve various administrative roles, and even specialize in a specific service area.

While veterinary technicians often obtain and hone skills on the job, those working at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana have completed either a two-year or a four-year accredited program in veterinary technology. They have also passed the Veterinary Technician National Exam and must maintain their certification or licensure by regularly meeting continuing education requirements.

Veterinary technicians are the backbone of our busy referral hospital, keeping about 20 distinct specialty services running smoothly. The hospital is staffed by about 80 veterinarians and nearly 90 certified veterinary technicians. Together they care for all animal species as well as prepare veterinary students to enter practice.

To showcase this varied yet demanding career, we spoke with two veterinary technicians who have each worked at the College of Veterinary Medicine for more than 20 years, Heather Soder and Alyssa Duncan.

Heather Soder, a certified veterinary technician since 1996, has worked in general practice as well as at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. At the university, she has been part of several service units, including imaging/nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, and small animal surgery. She currently splits her time between shelter medicine and "junior surgery."

"I help coordinate the junior surgery course," Soder says, referring to the class where third-year veterinary students learn to perform spay and neuter surgeries.

"I work with area animal shelters to obtain patients and help students with everything from performing physicals exams, bloodwork, and patient prep to gloving, gowning, and draping into surgery.

"When the surgery lab is not being taught, I travel to area shelters with our shelter medicine service, which performs spays and neuters in our mobile surgical unit. I help students sedate, intubate, and anesthetize their patient, prep themselves for surgery, and recover their patients."

Soder says she has always loved working with animals.

"There are so many things that make being a veterinary technician awesome," she says. "Working with veterinary students is probably my favorite part. I enjoy sharing what I know, and it's rewarding to help students grow and become independent.

"Working with shelter animals is another great aspect of the job. It is really wonderful to help animals get healthy and find forever homes."

Alyssa Duncan has been working as a technician at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital since 1992. "Since I can remember, when I was a kid, I have always wanted to do something with animals," she says.

However, after graduating from the Parkland College veterinary technician program, she was very unsure how she wanted to proceed within the field. Then the head of Parkland's vet tech program called her about an opening at the University of Illinois.

"I interviewed, got the job, and now they're stuck with me," she jokes.

Duncan worked in the emergency room and intensive care unit for more than 20 years before transitioning to her current position, patient services coordinator. In this role, she facilitates relationships between technicians, veterinarians, and other staff throughout the hospital.

"I fill the gaps in services where I'm needed, so you just never know where I'm going to be," she says. "I spend a lot of my time in meetings and serve on several hospital committees."

Being in an administrative role means Duncan does not work hands-on with animals as often as she once did, but her interests have shifted.

"I worked in the emergency and critical care service all those years. I always thought what I wanted to do was continue to help care for animals and alleviate their suffering," she says. "Today this [patient services coordinator] is the role I like best. I get to help the people who are caring for the animals instead."

Duncan advises anyone thinking about becoming a veterinary technician to get experience in a clinic first.

"This field is very stressful. People's and animals' personalities play on emotions on different levels," she says. "You must know yourself and know your breaking points, so you know when to get help.

"We all go into this job to help animals. And what we sometimes don't realize is that we're also helping people, and that is a very important part of veterinary medicine."

To find out more about a career as a veterinary technician, visit the website of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America: [navta.net](http://navta.net).

### Brought to You By:



915 N. Mantorville Ave., Kasson  
634-6781

M-W-F 8am-5pm; Tues-Thurs 8am-7pm;  
Sat. 8am-Noon



### Dodge Vet Clinic

17 Airport Road N.  
Dodge Center, MN

**374-2125**

M-F 8am to 5pm; Sat. 8am to Noon



(continued from page 1)

When she was notified it wasn't allowed, she put up an accessory building but is still getting a fine. No other comments were received. Motion by Schwanke to close the Public Hearing, second by Dahl. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried. Council will discuss this under New Business.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of: Minutes of the November 10, 2020 City Council Meeting and Minutes of the November 12, 2020 Special City Council Meeting. Motion by Dahl to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Schwanke. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Derek Olinger prepared specifications for the water tower recoating project. The specs are now completed to a level that is adequate for review by the Minnesota Department of Health. The project includes the removal of existing coatings and replacement with new paint. There are also several minor repair and maintenance items included with the project. One item to take into consideration is paint color and the logo on the tower. The existing tower is colored white with a "CLAREMONT" logo in black lettering. If the City would like to change the color(s) or logo in the specs the decision-making process can take time. The next step would be submission of the specs to MDH for approval. Once

approved, the City will have a "shovel-ready" project that is available for future funding opportunities.

The state has released its formal solicitation for the Local Road Improvement Program. The maximum grant amount available per project has increased to \$1.25 million. Applications are due by March 1st and awards are expected to be announced in May. In the next few months, the City Council will need a few letters of support and resolutions with the new application.

#### PARKS COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

#### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Maintenance Worker Glen Hvitved is building a bunker by the city shop to store salt and sand. The salt and sand will be emptied out of the snowplow when not being used to save damage to the snowplow from the salt.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Claremont and Ripley Township donated their unused COVID funds to the Fire Department to use for pagers and radios, which have been purchased.

Administrator LaPointe is purchasing a tablet to use for Target Solutions which logs maintenance. The tablet will also be used when a call comes in, so they will see a map of where the call is coming from, if needed. The monthly fee will be \$9 for the tablet.

The Fire Department Bylaws state that there is a 90-day probationary period for all applicants before the new person attends school or city-paid training. After the pro-

bationary period, they will review how it is going. The Fire Department will be enforcing this Bylaw.

Shawn Payne applied to be on the Fire Department. Motion by Dahl to approve Mr. Payne to the Fire Department, second by Schwanke. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried.

#### PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

#### EDA

Nothing at this time.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Motion by Dahl to approve the financial reports, second by Schwanke. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried.

Motion by Schwanke to pay the bills, second by Dahl. Ayes: Schwanke, Dahl, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried.

#### CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Rahrlick spoke with the Recorder's Office regarding South Main Street, whether it is a street or alley. They are currently researching this and will get back to Rahrlick in a couple weeks.

#### PEOPLESERVICE

Their reports were included in the packet.

#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator LaPointe went over his monthly report (which is attached).

SEMMCHRA survey responses were high and many responded they would like to use the grant funding. They are applying for \$550,000 which will be split between Claremont and West Concord, which will help approximately 11 properties in Claremont.

The EDA is also working on a business façade improvement program which will make aesthetic improvements to the outside of businesses. They hope to start this program in the spring.

City Hall was approached by someone questioning whether the City would be interested in selling the land south of the alley behind the Fire Hall and north of the railroad tracks. That alley appears to be platted as Main Street. The Council felt the land would be better suited for the Fire Department as they are running out of room and need additional storage.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Dahl to approve the 2021 Budget, second by Schwanke. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried.

The 2021 levy is set at \$472,877, which is a 3% increase from last year. Motion by Dahl to approve Resolution No. 20-24: Resolution Adopting 2021 Tax Levy and Budget, second by Schwanke. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the Administrative Fine for Sandra Thielen at 535 3rd Street. Dahl mentioned the fine should be reviewed as Ms. Thielen didn't know that she couldn't put up the tarped structure and that she needed a variance for the shed. Administrator LaPointe stated he gave some leniency regarding the fines because if he enforced the ordinance to the fullest it would have been fines of \$400. Motion by

Butler to approve Resolution No. 20-25: Resolution Certifying Unpaid Charges. Motion died for lack of a second. Motion by Dahl to approve an amended Resolution No. 20-25: Resolution Certifying Unpaid Charges (Administrative Fines) removing 535 3rd Street from the Resolution, second by Schwanke. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried.

Motion by Dahl to approve Resolution No. 20-26: Resolution Certifying Unpaid Charges (mowing and water/sewer), second by Madsen. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried.

Motion by Dahl to approve Resolution No. 20-27: Resolution Allocating CARES Act Funds, second by Schwanke. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried.

ArchKey Technologies submitted a bid for a Council Chamber Audio Visual Fit-Up which would set up the Council Chambers to be able to use microphones, speakers, cameras, videoconference, etc. The base bid was \$16,777. The Council said that was too much and will seek other options.

The Council will hold City Administrator LaPointe's annual review Tuesday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Dahl to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m., second by Butler. Ayes: Dahl, Schwanke, and Butler. Nay: None. Abstain: Madsen. Motion carried.

#### ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Rick Butler, Mayor

#### CITY OF CLAREMONT SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 6:00 P.M.

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Council members present: Mayor Rick Butler, Tasha Dahl, Nancy Schwanke, Lisa Martinez, and Vickie Madsen. Council Members absent: None.

City staff and others present via Zoom: City Administrator Connor LaPointe.

The purpose of the special meeting was to conduct City Administrator Connor LaPointe's annual performance review. Per MN Statute, employees can choose an open or closed meeting. Connor chose an open meeting. LaPointe has worked for the City for 1 year. The Council gave LaPointe a grade of 3 out of 4 possible points. The Council suggested he continually work to make sure residents are adhering to City Code, continue his participation with the Southeast Minnesota League of Municipalities, and continue to work on communication with staff, Council, and residents. The Council thanked LaPointe for his work so far.

Motion by Dahl to give LaPointe a 2% pay increase, setting his new salary at \$53,613, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dahl to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m., second by Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

#### ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Rick Butler, Mayor

## Part Time WRITER WANTED

Duties include covering feature and human interest stories and upcoming events in the Messenger coverage area.

Will also work with content production for future on-line distribution.

Pay negotiable and based on experience.

*Qualified applicants will possess:*

- Ability to work with deadlines
- Great people skills
- Knowledge of/access to a computer
- Enjoy small town atmosphere
- The ability to work some night hours as needed for editorial

Email resume and sample of work to: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

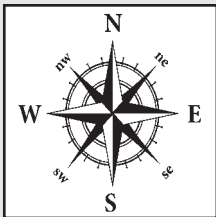
or call Terry at 507-951-7417



Claremont  
Messenger



## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes World Traveler



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell.

Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

Little did I think that when I moved to the middle of the south that I would become a world traveler. I didn't even like to go out of the country and was not in possession of a passport. In fact, the only time I left the good old USA was to go skiing in Canada when I was much younger and had better knees.

But here I am and have found that we take frequent trips to Paris, sometimes a couple times each week, often just to eat a great lunch. And most times we pass right by the Eiffel Tower. And I still admire it as we go

by. What a beautiful structure rising above the trees on the north side of town.

Our all-time favorite restaurant is the Paris Southside Restaurant. Great food, incredible prices, friendly waitresses and out of this world desserts. It is always packed and if you come at lunch time you will stand and wait until a table opens up. The last time we were there we saw a table for five next to us with a couple dining there alone. When a party of three walked in the waitress asked if they would mind sharing a table. In a few moments they were seated and shortly all five were visiting like old friends. Everyone is friendly in the City of Love.

I suppose I might have led you to believe we were talking about the Paris in France, but Paris, Tennessee is less than a half hour down the highway from our home. The rest is true however, and there is an exact replica of the Eiffel Tower in Tennessee. Actually, there are nine cities in the United States using the name Paris, but the one in Tennessee has the second tallest Eiffel Tower in the world. It does have a fence around it because college students found it irresistible to climb to the top.

So it is probably a whole lot less romantic now that you know the real story, but my wife and I love going to Paris, Tennessee to shop at Tractor Supply Company and Lowes.



## A Minnesotan in the North: Hoar Frost



By RosaLin Alcoser

One of the most beautiful things about living in Northern Minnesota in the win-

ter is the all hoar frost. It sparkles and glistens in the sun light and basically hangs around all.

It also makes up for the fact that it's both freezing cold and the ice fog... and this close to North Dakota there seems to be a lot more ice fog than I remember from growing up in Southeast Minnesota.

I have found two really good things about 2020 as I look back on the year. First is that like many I now work from home most of the time I don't have to drive through the ice fog every morning. Instead I get to enjoy looking at the hoar frost from my window.

Secondly face masks. I have found these to be great in the winter because it keeps my face warm while I'm outside. Honestly, I might keep wearing them outside in the winter after this is all over just to keep my face warm.



By Jim Miller

Brought to You By

Circle Drive Manor Assisted Living, LLC

"Quiet Country Living Close to Home"

www.cdmassistedliving.com

56733 State Hwy. 56, West Concord, MN 55985

Contact Bryan or  
Melissa  
Christianson at  
507-527-2424



Dear Savvy Senior,

**What are some financial factors to consider when retiring abroad? My husband and I will be retiring in a few years and are interested in living in a foreign country that's cheaper than the U.S.**  
—Frugal Couple

Dear Frugal,

Retiring abroad has become a growing trend for millions of U.S. retirees who are looking to stretch their retirement savings. Here are some tips and resources to consider that can help you prepare.

**Researching Tools**

For starters, you can find lots of information and articles on the countries and cities you're interested in retiring to at websites like InternationalLiving.com and EscapeArtist.com.

Another good tip is to talk or network with some expatriates who have already made the move you're thinking about making. They can give you tips and suggestions on many issues, as well as the advantages and disadvantages and day-to-day reality of living in a particular country. Some popular sites for finding expat resources are ExpatExchange.com and ExpatForum.com.

But before committing to location, most experts recommend that you visit multiple times during different seasons to see whether you can envision yourself living there and not just exploring the place as a tourist. Also, consider these financial factors:

**Cost of living:** Retiring abroad used to be seen as a surefire way to live beyond your means, and for some countries it still is. But the U.S. dollar isn't what it used to be, so your money may not stretch as far as you think. See Numbeo.com for a country-by-country cost of living comparison.

**Taxes:** No matter what foreign country you decide to retire in, as long as you're a U.S. citizen you must file an annual tax return reporting all income above certain minimums, not matter where it's earned. For details see the IRS publication 54, "Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad."

**Health care:** Most U.S. health insurance companies do not provide coverage outside the U.S., nor does Medicare. Check with the embassy of your destination country to see how you can be covered as a foreign resident. Many countries provide government-sponsored health care that's inexpensive, accessible and just as good as what you get in the states, or you may want to buy a policy through Medibroker or Bupa Global.

Also know that most people who retire abroad eventually return to the U.S., so you should consider paying your Medicare Part B premiums. If you drop and resume Part B, or delay initial enrollment, you'll pay a 10 percent premium penalty for every 12-month period in which you could have been enrolled.

**Banking:** Opening or maintaining a bank account abroad has become more difficult because of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, a U.S. law designed to prevent Americans from hiding assets abroad. So, you may have to establish a savings and checking account with an institution that has international reach like Citibank. And/or consider maintaining your U.S. bank account that you can access online, and get U.S. credit and debit cards that don't charge foreign transaction fees.

**Rent versus buy:** Buying a home in a foreign country can be complicated, so it's usually cheaper and simpler to rent, unless you know you're going to live there for a long time.

**Social Security:** You can receive your monthly Social Security benefits almost anywhere you live around the world (see SSA.gov/international/payments.html). Your benefits can be deposited into your bank account either in the U.S. or in your new home country, but there are some exceptions.

The U.S. State Department offers a handy checklist that can help you think through all the issues on retiring abroad.







HAPPY  
**New Year**  
2021

We'd like to share our thanks  
and best wishes with everyone  
who has been a part of our year.



**HERITAGE**  
— B A N K —

[www.heritagebankmn.com](http://www.heritagebankmn.com)

181 Main Street, West Concord • (507) 527-2236

