



Wanamingo Messenger™

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JANUARY, 2021

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Announcements

• **Wanamingo Senior Citizens meet the first Friday of each month at 11:30 AM at the Wanamingo Community Center.** There is always a speaker or some type of entertainment. All Seniors are welcome and encouraged to come. If you need to sign up or cancel, please call Virginia Sabin at 824-2603.

• **Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard invite you to become a member.** Join us and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Paul Rugg 507-824-3306, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.

• **2020 Goodhue County Health & Human Services Immunization Schedule,** located at 426 West Avenue, Red Wing, MN. January through July 1st, Tuesday 1-4pm; August through December, every Tuesday 2-4pm. Clinics are walk-in. No appointment needed. For other times, call for an appointment 651-385-3200 or 1-800-950-2142.

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

Concast Expansion in Wanamingo

Concast is in the middle of expanding their existing building. The addition is 300' x 64' for (19,200 square feet) production area. The building permit application listed the costs of construction at \$1,233,418. The County values the building permit at \$960,000 (market valuation). The addition will add more than \$30,000 in new property taxes per year to the County/City/School District tax base.

The expansion discussion began a year and a half ago with significant behind the scenes work this past summer and fall. Concast purchased adjacent land (Prairie Ridge Estates Outlots A & B – unplatted from Prairie Land Development LLC – Jessup DeCook) that was zoned residential



in the Prairie Ridge Estates. A request was made to rezone the property. The City held a public hearing on rezoning in June. The Council approved the rezoning with a number a conditions as part of the development agreement. The building permit application

followed and was approved. The City and Concast are working on fulfilling the conditions including installation of berm along Prairie Ridge Lane, planting of trees on berm, installation of walking path, removal of stubbed utilities into the outlots, removal of stubbed streets and replacement of curb, paving of employee parking area, installation of driveway aprons, following stormwater permit guidelines, and stock-piled dirt restrictions.

(continued on page 6)

Wanamingo Mutual Welcomes New Manager

Beth Smith is the new Insurance manager at Wanamingo Mutual Insurance Company in Wanamingo. She is a Faribault native with one brother and two sisters, and she attended school at Bethlehem Academy. She married Ben in 1998 and moved to North Carolina in 2003 where she managed a home health care facility and got her Real estate license.



Beth Smith

(continued on page 4)

Dining In Returns to Wanamingo this week

Bars, restaurants and other venues are allowed to reopen this week amid continued declines in COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations in Minnesota. Many establishments that opened earlier this week saw brisk business as guests welcome the opportunity to dine out again, after nearly 2 months of closed indoor dining again.



J.B.'s Tavern will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11am to 7pm for dine in and the bar will be open until 10pm. Area 57 will be open for dine in from 7:30am to 7:30pm Monday through Friday and 7am to 2pm on Saturday.

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K-W Elementary Students are Back in School Fulltime

K-W elementary school (K-4) started FULL in person learning on Monday, January 11th. Wednesdays will be an early out day at 1 pm to allow teacher prep time as mandated by the Governor's executive order. Flex learning will continue to be offered to families.

Grades K-4: will be in person learning Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday regular schedule.

(continued on page 6)

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Hope for 2021

By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

From the pages of the Chicago Sun Times, "An Easter like no other. A summer like no other. A World Series like no other. A year like no other." The phrase was worn out over the past nine months by journalists and news media alike. It became a branded logo to rubber-stamp this slow-motion train wreck: COVID-19 pandemic meets civic unrest meets economic disruption." In reality "EVERY year is a year like no other!" Years are unique, like snowflakes. And besides, 2020 is like other years. It's like 1968, 1945, 1918 ... all the way back to 1066, landmark years where you won't have to purse your lips and ponder, trying to dredge up a single event. We all know what happened in 2001. Nobody is going to snap their fingers and try to recall what year COVID struck: 2020, a year to remember, whether you like it or not."

There were plenty of challenges this past year: quarantines that contributed to work slow downs and unemployment. There was racial unrest after George Floyd's death in Minneapolis. Almost every home was affected by the Covid 19 virus- and there are people that won't be around in 2021, because of the virus or some other reason. We can focus on the high unemployment, or restaurants and schools being shut down. 2020 also boast of record storms that hit our nation: a derecho in Iowa, and hurricanes in Louisiana, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. There are many ways that this year will be remembered- and many of them will not be happy memories. But along with the bad- there were a number of good things too. There were other Good things that happened in 2020 Nationally: Scientists responded with unprecedented speed and common purpose to find a vaccine and thousands of people volunteered to take the experimental vaccines. We saw the selfless dedication of nurses, orderlies, doctors and other health workers, and the selfless dedication of truck drivers, grocery stockers, farmworkers and so many more who risked their lives to keep the economy from collapsing. We learned to connect

long and short distances with zoom and the telephone. Drive-ins theaters made a comeback, a record number of Americans turned out to vote in the national election, the United States launched astronauts to the International Space Station on a U.S.-made rocket and a panda was born at the National Zoo!

At South Troy we saw some good things happen this year too: God supplied our needs during 3 months of no in-person worship, and He continues to supply our needs! We were able to go online with our worship services. God supplied the needs of the Food shelf and the PEM Backpack program: both volunteers and finances. We've connected with more people than ever before; online and in-person. Our first caroling event was a hit! True there were challenges; we saw more families than ever make use of the food shelf and we know there are many out of work and our local businesses are suffering. Yet, we continue to believe that God is good and He will continue to provide for our community.

Matthew wrote about Jesus being our Hope, "Look at my Servant. See my Chosen One. He is my Beloved, in whom my soul delights. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will judge the nations. 19 He does not fight nor shout; He does not raise his voice! 20 He does not crush the weak or quench the smallest hope; He will end all conflict with his final victory, 21 And his name shall be the hope of all the world." Matthew 12:18-21

First it says, look at my servant- my chosen one. This is talking about Jesus- God's Son. Jesus came not as a superhero he came as a servant. Mark 10:45, Jesus says, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus was chosen, He was God's one and only Son. God loved Him and was willing to send him to be our redemption. Jesus came not to fight, but to bring hope for the world. Jesus wasn't out to prove a point, or to stir up conflict. He always remained in control of himself. We never see Jesus forcing an issue- He gave all people the right to choose whom they would follow. Jesus won't crush the weak or quench the smallest hope; instead, he gives hope to those that are weak and tired. Like the widow from Nain, her son was in the casket on the way to the final burial- and Jesus saw the pain and sorrow and healed the boy right there! Jesus was filled with compassion for the people- his heart went out to them. Yet, he didn't barge in where he wasn't wanted. He always gave each person an out- to choose to believe, to follow, or to not believe or follow. His life was one of giving hope to those that were left in the

margins of society. He reached out to widows, children, the weak and infirmed. He went out of his way to touch lepers and blind men. We can have faith and hope because our faith isn't in something dead and buried, but in the living Christ. God raised Christ from the dead and because of this we can have hope for every day. Without Jesus there would be no lasting hope. No Hope for tomorrow, and no hope for eternity.

My prayer and hope are that we will focus our attention on Jesus Christ in the year 2021. I pray God will fill your spirit to overflowing, and that deep down in your soul you will discover the great strengths of joy, love, boldness, and endurance, and will go forward and live for the glory of God each and every day. We have a living hope- Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ is our hope- our rock, our help in the difficult times. He is the HOPE OF THE WORLD!!!

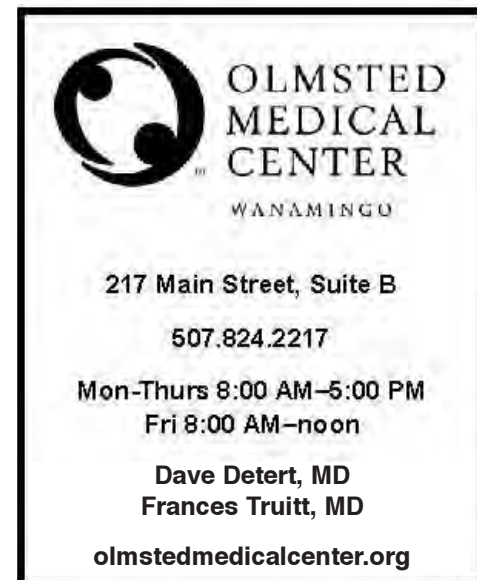


**Finishing work continues...
We look forward to welcoming you back!**

Watch our Facebook page and website for reopening updates.

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NEW LIFE CHURCH
Pat McBride, Pastor
525 Beverly St., Wanamingo • 507-824-3019
10 a.m. Worship Service.
Free nursery for infants through age 3.
Sunday School for all ages 9 a.m.
Small group Bible Studies Sunday at 7 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Pastor Christopher Culuris
Trinity Lutheran 301 2nd Avenue, Wanamingo
824-2155
January 17: 9:00a.m. Sunday School;
9:00a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
January 20: 4:30p.m. Confirmation Class via Zoom
January 24: 9:00a.m. Sunday School;
9:00a.m. Worship Service
January 27: 4:30p.m. Confirmation Class via Zoom
January 31: 9:00a.m. Worship Service;
9:00a.m. Sunday School

WANAMINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
Wanamingo Lutheran 130 West 3rd St., Wanamingo
824-2457
www.TrinityWanamingo.org
January 17: 9:45a.m. Sunday School;
10:30a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
Annual meeting following worship
January 20: 4:30p.m. Confirmation Class via Zoom
January 24: 10:30a.m. Worship
January 27: 4:30p.m. Confirmation Class via Zoom
January 31: 10:30a.m. Worship



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

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.

LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
David Krinke, Pastor
16640 Hwy. 60 Blvd. • www.landslutheran.com
Wednesday 6:15 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. at Everson Park

MINNEOLA LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
Pastor Hannah Bergstrom de Leon
13628 Co. 50 Blvd., Goodhue • 824-2685
Summer Worship 9:30a.m.

ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Pastor Martin Horn
507-824-2307 Church 507-789-5851 Parsonage
Jointly served with Hauge Lutheran, Kenyon

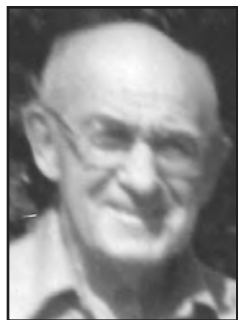
STORDAHL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
Pastor Kathleen Lowery
15049 Cty. 12 Blvd., Zumbrota • 732-5711
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Worship

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Sunday 10:30a.m.; Wednesday 6:00p.m.
www.gospeloflifechurch.org

NOTICE: Due to COVID-19 check your church website or Facebook page for updates.

Richard George Tri

A graveside memorial service in celebration of the lives of Richard and Geraldine Tri was held Monday, December 7th at 11:00 AM at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Mazeppa. The Reverend S h a w n



Haremza presided. Richard Tri, 92, of Pine Island, died Saturday November 28, 2020 at Mayo Clinic Hospital – St. Mary's campus in Rochester. Mrs. Tri died at the age of 88 in 2014.

Richard George Tri was born March 31, 1928 in Bellechester, Minnesota, the son of Alexander and Dorothea Tri. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1947 to 1948. He and his wife, Geraldine (Schiesser) Tri were married on August 27, 1949. Richard farmed near Pine Island and had a milk route in the 1950s and 1960s. Following retirement, they lived in Mazeppa, Zumbrota, and Pine Island. Richard has resided at Pine Haven Care Center for the past five years. Mr. and Mrs. Tri were members at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Mazeppa.

Richard and Geraldine are survived by two sons, Larry Tri of Pine Island, and Dennis Tri of Wanamingo. Richard is survived by a sister, Marce Erickson of Pine Island, a brother-in-law Jan Schiesser of New York City, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Geraldine, brothers Wilfred, Oswald, and Robert; sisters-in-law Lorraine Tri, Irene Tri, and LaVerna Tri; brothers-in-law, Adrian Erickson, Rob Schiesser, and Allen Schiesser.

Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel, in Zumbrota is in charge of arrangements.

Ardelle (Davidson) Revland

Ardelle (Davidson) Revland, daughter of late Lynn and Hilma Davidson was born in March of 1928. She passed away as a result of COVID-19 complications on December 16, 2020 at the Zumbrota Care Ceneter.



God blessed Ardelle with a long and full life. She was married to her high school sweetheart Les and they called Wanamingo, Minnesota home for almost 60 years. She was blessed with four children, 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Les and one great-grandchild, Karter Revland.

She was baptized and an active member of Stordahl Lutheran Church for her entire life. She shared her faith with all who knew her, teaching Sunday school, Bible school and praising God by singing in the choir.

She was a strong woman, not afraid to pursue a career as a professional dietician in an age when most women did not work

outside of the home.

She touched many lives and will be remembered for her love and commitment to her church and family. She taught us to always honor our Lord in all we do. We are thankful for all she did for us during her life.

Ardelle's life will be cherished forever in the hearts of her children: Renita (Dan) Schmidt of Iowa City, IA, Arlys (Richard) Clinton of Fair Oaks, CA, Lori (Steve) Foss of Kenyon, MN, Mark (Ruth) Revland of Wanamingo, MN; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sisters, LaDonna Schrumm of Portland, OR, Gwen Stanich of Minneapolis, MN and brother, Carrol "Bud" (Linda) Davidson of Wanamingo, MN; and many nieces and nephews.

The family is not planning any services at this time due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19. We will celebrate her life with family and friends in summer 2021.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Ardelle Eleanor (Davidson) Revland, please visit our floral store.

Margaret "Therese" Huneke (Manahan)

Margaret "Therese" Huneke (Manahan), age 91, passed away at the Zumbrota Care Center on Monday, December 21, 2020. She was born on November 22, 1929, to Donald and Veronica (Cronin) Manahan of Chatfield, Minnesota, where she grew up. She attended 8 years of school at the 8 Corners Country School and 4 years at Chatfield High School graduating in 1947.



After graduation, she worked at Mayo Clinic before marrying Norbert Huneke at Saint Marys Catholic Church in Chatfield, Minnesota on June 7, 1952. They made their home in Bellechester, Minnesota, raising one son and five daughters. She returned to work at Mayo Clinic following the death of her husband, Norbert, in 1974. After her retirement from Mayo Clinic, she worked at Midwest Imports in Cannon Falls. Always staying busy, she then volunteered at the Food Shelf in Zumbrota, MN. She loved to garden and grow flowers. She had a natural green thumb. Her biggest joy was seeing her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by one son, Bill (Eileen) Huneke of Phoenix, AZ; five daughters, Pat (Jim) McNamara of Bellechester, MN, Jean (Jerry) Walters of Elgin, MN, Maureen (Wes) Scheffler of Wanamingo, MN, Karen (Terry) Bruns of Phoenix, AZ, and Jennifer (Dennis) Laumeyer of Benson, MN; two sisters, Rita Huneke of Zumbrota, MN and Kate Jones of Rochester, MN; 15 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Norbert; parents, Donald and Veronica Manahan; brother, Robert; brother and sister-in-law, Chris and Mary Manahan; brother-in-law, Cyril Huneke; brother-in-law, David Jones; brother-in-law

and sister-in-law, Fred and Kate Huneke; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, James and Tillie Huneke; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Lawrence and Louie Huneke; and one grandson, Brent Huneke.

The family would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to the outstanding staff at the Zumbrota Care Center for their kind and excellent care. You were a blessing to our family.

A private family service was held on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Bellechester. Father Randal Kasel presided. Burial was at the church cemetery. The funeral service was streamed live via Facebook Live on the Mahn Family Funeral Home's Facebook page at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2020. Arrangements made by Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Margaret Therese (Manahan) Huneke, please visit our floral store.

Lois Ardelle Kline

Lois Ardelle Kline passed away peacefully at Woodbury Senior Living on January 1st, 2021 at the age of 95. Lois Ardelle (Jenson) Kline was born September 27, 1925 in Kenyon, MN to Olaus and Inger (Anfinson) Jenson. She married Kenneth E. Kline on June 15, 1944. They made their home in Zumbrota, MN where she worked as a mother and waitress until 1956. Around that time, Lois acquired a job as a phone operator for the local phone company until 1976, and later with US West Qwest in Rochester and St. Paul, until her retirement in 1990.



She is survived by two sons, Kenneth David (Delores) Kline of St. Paul, MN and Richard Alan Kline of Goodhue, MN; five grandchildren, Kimberly (Kline) Ashton, Christopher (Lisa) Kline, Suzette (Mike) Hopkins, Anthony and Nathan Kline; ten great-grandchildren, Christopher, Richard and Cassandra Ashton, Sarah Kline, Jordan, Kirsten, Alyssa and Farin Jr. Kujala, Shelby and Justin Kline; several great-great-grand-

children, great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews; two sisters, Ellen (Tom) Kelsey and Mary Ann (Kenneth) Trosseth.

Lois is preceded in death by her husband Kenneth, her parents, three sisters, two brothers and one great grandson.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a service will be held at a later date. Online condolences are welcome and may be shared at mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Benjamin Lee Johnson

Benjamin Lee Johnson, age 33, of Wanamingo, passed away Thursday, January 7, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. He was born March 18, 1987 to Kimberly Riegelman and Bradley Johnson. He graduated from Red Wing High School in 2006. He



worked several years at ProAct. Ben was a very passionate Vikings fan. He also enjoyed the Twins, watching cartoons, riding his bike, going on family vacations, and putting puzzles together. Ben loved spending time with his dogs, Pokey, Tuffy, Tessa, and Champ; and his group homes cat, Kitty.

He is survived by his parents Kim and Darrell Mattson of Red Wing; siblings, Heather (Bengi) Orth of Medford, WI, Mellissa (Charles) Jennings of Goodhue, Shannon (Josh) Wilder of Topeka KS, and Zachary (Tricia) Johnson of Maple Grove; numerous nieces and nephews; aunts; uncles; and cousins. He is preceded in death by his father, Bradley Johnson; paternal grandparents, Stan and Corrine Johnson; maternal grandparents, Gordy and Pat Riegelman; step grandparents, Roland and Gail Mattson.

Due to Covid-19 a Celebration of Life will be held later in the spring/summer. Memorials are preferred to the American Cancer Association. Online memorials can be left for the family at www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Benjamin L. Johnson, please visit our floral store.

(obituaries continued on page 4)

Traxler Law PLLC

traxlerlaw.com

Ann Traxler Attorney

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Kenneth Erwin Strusz

Ken "Papa" Strusz died Saturday June 2, 2021, surrounded by his family, at his home in Faribault, following complications of COVID-19. He was 80 years of age.

Kenneth Erwin Strusz was born June 18, 1940 in Red Wing, the son of Maynard and Elsie Strusz. Raised in Zumbrota, he was a graduate of Zumbrota High School. Ken served his country in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1964 and was stationed in Germany and stateside in California. He attended welding school in the Twin Cities, and then returned to the Zumbrota area, living in Zumbrota and Bellechester. For more than 40 years he worked at Meyer Utility Structures in Hager City, Wisconsin, and he retired in 2004. He married Cheri Lynn Rueb on May 25, 1985 at Christ Lutheran Church in Zumbrota. Following retirement, Ken worked part-time at Ag Partners in Goodhue. He and his wife eventually moved to Faribault, where they were residing at the time of Ken's passing.

Ken loved horses, his cowboy hats and boots, and he had a never ending passion for restoring cars he acquired. Most of all, he loved spending time with his wife, kids, and grandkids.

He is survived by his wife, Cheri Strusz of Faribault; a son, David (Emily) Strusz of Kenyon; a daughter, Heidi Strusz-Bien of Owatonna; and five grandchildren, Riley

Timm, Israel Hiller, Austyn Sankey, Devin Bien, and Zachariah Strusz. Also surviving are his brothers, Vernon (Carol) Strusz, Leroy (Betty) Strusz, and Donald Strusz.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a nephew Seth Strusz.

Funeral services were held Friday, January 8th at 1:00 PM at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, rural Goodhue. The Reverend Todd Engel officiated. The visitation was Thursday, January 7th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, and that was also be at the church. The visitation continued one hour prior to the service on Friday. Cowboys hats are encouraged.

If so desired, memorials may be directed to the American Lung Association.

Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel, in Zumbrota is handling arrangements.

Gene Frederick Stensland

Gene Frederick Stensland, age 68, of Buffalo passed away Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at Abbott Northwestern Hospital after a 22 day stay due to Covid.

Gene was born November 14, 1952 in Rochester, MN, the son of Fred & Edna (Erath) Stensland. He attended high school in Kenyon and went on to graduate from UM Waseca School of Agriculture in 1973. Gene then moved to Watertown and started his life long career of selling farm implement parts. Farm numbers were

important to Gene; who else would use a Case IH piece of equipment as their phone password? To farmers, his friends and customers he was the ultimate farm parts guy. He enjoyed several years of tractor pulling, with one of the tractors being Art Fortwengler's 560 Int'l. In later years he enjoyed watching the tractor pulls with family or friends.

On April 29, 1978 Gene was united in marriage to Diane Salonek at Immaculate Conception Church in Watertown, MN. Without fail on the 29th of each month thereafter, he'd roll over in bed and say "Happy Anniversary." Diane truly felt blessed. He was one in a million.

Gene and Diane were blessed with and proud of their three children: Brian, Jason, and Lisa. Many have commented on the wonderful traits of the kids; they had a good teacher. He also adored their grandchildren: Maria, Connor, Chloe, and Breanna. He enjoyed hanging out with the grandkids, watching the older grandchildren's sporting events and having google duos with the youngest granddaughter. He loved to tell jokes to the grandkids and enjoyed hearing their jokes too. Family was very important to him and he treasured the time spent with them; playing 500 or Euchre was one of his favorite pastimes. Gene had a big heart and he loved helping others. He found joy in working alongside his brothers-in-law in the field, running to get parts for farmers, researching info on farm equipment or Cub Cadet lawn mowers for people, and fixing what he could for others. He will be missed by family and many friends as he had many gifts and tal-

ents he shared. Gene was active in the St. Francis of Xavier Catholic Church participating in men's group and Knights of Columbus. Gene was so looking forward to the 2nd annual Knights of Columbus toy farm show he was helping organize.

Gene is survived by wife, Diane; children, Brian (Tammy) Stensland, Jason Stensland, and Lisa (Travis) Senear; sister, Kay Stensland; grandchildren, Maria Stensland, Chloe Stensland, Connor Stensland, and Breanna Senear; father-in-law, Alfred Salonek; mother-in-law, Elizabeth (Lachermeier) Salonek; brothers-in-law, John (Lori) Salonek, Dan (Sharon) Salonek; sister-in-law, Bonnie Salonek; cousins, nieces, nephews, and numerous friends. Gene was preceded in death by his parents, Fred & Edna (Erath) Stensland; brothers-in-law, Bob Salonek and Jerry Salonek.

Private visitation took place. Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 11:00 AM at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Buffalo. Interment St. Francis Cemetery, Buffalo MN.

We are planning a Celebration of Life which will take place during the spring of 2021.

While flowers are welcome, contributions may instead be sent to the Gene Stensland Memorial Fund at the MidCountry Bank in Buffalo, MN.

The Peterson Chapel, Buffalo MN served the family. On-line condolences can be made to www.thepetersonchapel.com

Wanamingo Mutual Welcomes New Manager

(continued from page 1)

They had two children, Kristi and Kali, before Ben passed away in 2008. Beth moved back to Minnesota with her daughters in 2009 to be closer to her family. Her parents Milo and Margaret Larson own the Faribault Print Shop.

Beth worked at the Faribault Print Shop, Faribault Daily News, Allina Health and Northfield Hospital before coming to Wanamingo Mutual Insurance Company. She has experience in the medical insurance field and will be getting her insurance agent license now that her training is complete. Wanamingo Mutual opened in 1876. Bonnie Herman has been the manager here for almost 20 years. They have agents who offer their coverage at GMI Insurance, Faribo Insurance, Bonnie Hermann Agency, and Darrell Klevan Agency. Beth would like to see the agency expand their

home owner's policies and add more agents in the surrounding areas in the years to come. Beth has learned on the job over the last year and states that Bonnie has been an incredible teacher and mentor.

In 2017 Beth met Nick Steberg and moved to Wanamingo. Here she enjoys camping, fishing and local and outdoor activities. She now has 4 grand-children and spends as much time with them as she can. Beth loves the friendly people in the community and the small town life in Wanamingo. She has joined the commercial club and looks forward to being active in fun activities around town.

Thank You

I want to express my thanks for the calls, prayers, cards, visits, expressions of sympathy and comforting thoughts after the unexpected death of my brother, Gene, to COVID.

A special thank you goes to Sue Janicke, the network of cousins and my friends for their support.

With the creation of Caring Bridge the last week of his life, we were all with him through his transition even though he may have been alone.

Gene had no underlying conditions, so please be safe.

Kay Stensland

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COVID-19 Vaccinations being administered throughout Goodhue County

Goodhue County, Minnesota — COVID-19 vaccines are being administered throughout Goodhue County! This is a moment for celebration and gratitude. This moment of hope also brings many questions about the COVID-19 vaccines.

One of the important questions about the vaccines is, “Are they safe?” Having a safe and effective vaccine is the top priority.

The requirements for COVID-19 vaccine are the same as all other vaccines. With any vaccine, studies must confirm that the vaccine is safe and effective before it is approved for public use. This data is closely reviewed by several scientific groups at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and other groups look at available information about a vaccine and make informed decisions about the risks and benefits of using it.

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Timeline and Priority Groups

COVID-19 vaccines are being rolled out in phases. Hundreds of millions of people in the United States alone need to be vaccinated, so it will be a long process to make, distribute, and give that many doses of vaccine out. Minnesota Department of Health’s (MDH) and Goodhue County Health and Human Services (GCHHS) urges the public to have patience and continue to be mindful of the practices we can do to slow the spread of COVID-19, practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands and stay home if you are sick.

Goodhue County Health and Human Services (GCHHS) is following the Minnesota Department of Health’s (MDH) priority groups. This week GCHHS started to vaccinate our Phase 1A 1st priority group; Emergency Medical Services (EMS). We held vaccination clinics for our

EMS throughout the county in Red Wing, Zumbrota, Kenyon and Cannon Falls. Other Phase 1a First Priority groups are being vaccinated by the hospital/clinic they work for; Long Term Care facilities by an appointed Pharmacy from the Federal Pharmacy Provider Program. As of January 7, 2021, 769 residents of Goodhue County have received 1 or more doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The goal for the first, limited doses of COVID-19 vaccine is to protect those who are exposed to COVID-19 every day because of what they do, who they care for, or where they live. In addition, high rates of severe disease in nursing home residents and other congregate settings where older adults live are being seen. With this in mind, the first doses of COVID-19 vaccine are being given to people working in health care settings and people who live and work in long-term care facilities. They do not have the option of remaining home and separating themselves from others. Other groups that will get the vaccine earlier than the general public include frontline essential workers, adults 65 years and older, people with high-risk medical conditions, and other essential workers.

COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

The GCHHS COVID-19 Hotline has received calls asking if community members can sign up for their vaccine or be put on a waiting list. It is important to note that, there is NOT a list Minnesotans need to get on to receive COVID-19 vaccine. Early on, people who are able to get vaccine first will be contacted by their employers or the long-term care facility where they live.

We have also heard of scams across the state where people are being called and told to provide credit card information to be put on this list. MDH and health care providers will not contact you and ask for personal information or credit card information in order to get the COVID-19 vaccine. This is a scam, do not provide personal information to these callers. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and GCHHS will provide updates when vaccine is available to more people and how they can get it.

FAQ about COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccine Rollout

Each day, more and more information on the COVID-19 vaccines is being released. We all have many questions and some of those questions may not have answers currently. Here are some helpful resources to help answer questions you may have.



Todd Greseth



Andy Speitz



Ryan Holm



Trent Wentlandt

For information on the COVID -19 vaccines go to: cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html

For more information and FAQ on the Minnesota Statewide vaccine rollout go to: health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine.html

To stay informed of local Goodhue County Vaccine information go to: co.goodhue.mn.us/COVID-19

Goodhue County Health & Human Services COVID-19 Hotline: (651) 385-2000.

Hotline is available Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Immunity

Two doses are needed for the two COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna. It is very important that someone gets both vaccine doses, the same product for each dose, and that the doses are given at the correct time apart.

After the second dose, it takes about two weeks for your body to build up immunity, so it’s about 6 weeks total from the first vaccine dose to when you should be fully

protected. It is important to continue to wear a mask, stay 6 feet from others, wash your hands, and follow other public health recommendations. Even after those 6 weeks, it is known that these vaccines are good at preventing people from getting sick, but there is not enough data yet to say whether someone who was vaccinated may still spread the disease to others if they get infected with COVID-19. At this time, it is also not known if this will be a vaccine that people need to get again, similar to getting a flu shot every year or needing a tetanus shot every 10 years.

About Goodhue County Health and Human Services:

The mission of Goodhue County Health and Human Services is to “Promote, Protect and Strengthen the Health of Individuals, Families, and Communities.” The department has four service divisions: Economic Assistance, Public Health, Social Services, and HHS Finance/IT. For more information on Goodhue County Health & Human Services, please visit www.co.goodhue.mn.us.

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K-W Elementary Students are Back in School Fulltime

(continued from page 1)

Wednesday's will be in person learning with an early release at 1p.m.

Grades 5-12: will be in a hybrid model the same as before distance learning. "A" group in person Monday and Tuesday, "B" group in person Thursday and Friday. Wednesday distance learning for all.

Meals will continue to be free and available for pickup each day your student is not in school from 11:30a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Visit the website to register. Meals will no longer be available for pickup in the evenings.

January 18th is a non-school day which will shift the hybrid schedule for that week. Please see schedule below for changes.

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals may be eligible for Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) to purchase food for days they are not in the school building. To be considered, households must submit an application for free or reduced-price meals for the 2020-21 school year or be approved for Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Families who



received P-EBT benefits last summer are not automatically eligible; eligibility is based on the current school year. Benefits may be retroactive to September 2020, depending on when eligibility for free or reduced-price meals is determined. To ensure you qualify for the most benefits, please submit your application as soon as possible. To complete an application visit kw.k12.mn.us.us or call 507-789-7001.

Does your organization have an announcement you would like to make?

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Concast Expansion in Wanamingo



(continued from page 1)

Many of these conditions help ensure that Concast continues to be a good neighbor to Prairie Ridge Estates residential development and to fellow industrial park occupants.

Concast has made significant improvements to the site, including dirt work, drainage, and tile before the building expansion could occur. There will be many items to complete this winter and next summer as part of the September 1, 2021 deadline for conditions of the development agreement.

The City is excited that Concast continues to expand and invest in their Wanamingo Facility. The local jobs and significant tax base are a major part of the community today and into the future. With the Prairie Ridge Estates Outlots land purchase Concast owns and operates its facility on over 30 acres within Wanamingo.

Concast will be able to expand production at the facility. Concast plans to bring on 5-10 new employees as part of the expansion. This was a good fit due to expanding the current overhead crane system in the current building into the addition.

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Dining In Returns to Wanamingo this week

(continued from page 1)

Gov. Tim Walz announced the dial-back in the state's pandemic response on Wednesday, noting that Minnesota's COVID-19 case rate has fallen below "pre-surge levels" and that bars and restaurants can operate at minimal risk if customers comply with rules that prevent viral trans-

mission.

"The way we help them out is, let's not let the virus surge again. . . By wearing a mask and social distancing, that keeps your local bar and restaurant open. It keeps your school open. It keeps your hospital capacity under" critical levels, the governor said.

Bars and restaurants can resume indoor service at 50% capacity but with 10 p.m. curfews and caps of six-person tables and two-person bar groups spread 6 feet apart.

Movie theaters, bowling alleys and museums can reopen at 25% capacity. Most venues must limit the number of people inside to no more than 150, including fitness clubs, which can offer classes of up to 25 people and operate at 25% capacity as long



J.B.'s Tavern



New Year's Eve Fire in Goodhue County

Human remains were discovered in a fire near Kenyon on December 31. The call came in at 6:14 p.m. on December 31, 2020 and was initially phoned in as a fire at the Kenyon Country Club. It turned out to be a structure fire at the Jerry and Barb Peterson property at the 45000 block of Highway 56 Boulevard in Holden Township. The Kenyon Fire Department responded to the scene, and the Wanamingo Fire Department was called to provide water and additional firefighters. Fire crews remained on scene until nearly midnight. Law enforcement and fire crews were able to verify that the homeowners and residents were accounted for and that no one was inside the home; however, there were human remains in a burnt vehicle parked outside the home. According to law enforcement reports the vehicle did not belong to homeowner. The Kenyon Fire Department requested that the Minnesota Fire Marshal's Office respond to investigate the fire, and the Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office took possession of the human remains to complete an autopsy and to positively identify the deceased. According to the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office, the cause of the fire has not been determined and the case is under investigation. The identity of the deceased has not yet been released.

as workout machines are kept 9 feet apart.

Amateur sports games can resume Jan. 14 with spectators, subject to indoor and outdoor capacity limits. Places of worship still must operate at 50% capacity but no longer have to observe numerical caps.

Walz ordered the closure of indoor service at bars and restaurants, and other restric-

tions, amid a fall surge of COVID-19 that has since declined in the Upper Midwest even as it radiated to the rest of the country. Minnesota hospitals neared breaking points around Dec. 1, when 399 people with COVID-19 filled intensive care beds in the state, but that number has dropped to 140.

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**CITY OF WANAMINGO
City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, December 14, 2020 7:00 P.M.
Wanamingo City Council Chambers –
401 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.

PRESENT: Council: Ryan Holmes, Larry VanDeWalker, Stuart Ohr, Eric Dierks, and Jeremiah Flotterud

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

ABSENT: Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

ALSO PRESENT: Monty Schaefer, Keith Holt, Barney Nesseth, and Michele Vlasak - Kenyon Leader.

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Dierks motioned, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

A) Monty Schaefer reported on:

1) Hauled out and land applied 2/3 of the compost pile. What remained of the pile are leaves from this fall that have not decomposed.

2) Started to trim trees on Mingo View Drive. The trimming should help make snow removal and street sweeping easier.

3) Purchase new eight-foot skid loader bucket from Olson Attachments Inc for \$1,550.00.

4) Drained and cleaned out Mingo View water tower.

5) Jetted all sanitary sewer clay lines with root cutting head.

6) Ziegler came and recalibrated the foot peddles on the new pay loader. The pay loader could not move out of first gear when driving forward. The technician used a laptop to recalibrate the computer system.

7) Put up Christmas/Holiday lights and banners on Main Street.

8) The other set of dual rear rims were installed on dump truck. The first set was installed last year when the dual rims rusted out.

Flotterud asked if any rubber chunks were on the bottom of the Mingo View Tower. Schaefer stated that there were no rubber chunks remaining. The rubber sealant was installed a few years ago to help prolong the life of the tank. Each year after the rubber was pushed off as the tower had ice build up that moves up and down each winter.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

Public Hearing - Mayor Holmes opened the 2021 Budget & Levy Public Hearing at 7:03PM. Administrator Boulton gave a run through of the Preliminary/Proposed 2021 Budget, budgeting and levy process, along with providing a written Memo. Keith Holt spoke regarding what he considered high property taxes on his five parcels on Mingo View Drive. He asked if combining the parcels or explaining that one or more of the parcels are not buildable would lower his taxes. Flotterud stated that the County Assessor's valuations are much higher than home appraisals in Wanamingo. Flotterud stated that his personal appraisal was much lower than the county valuation. Flotterud fought with County to lower valuations and did not succeed. Boulton stated that he would assist Holt in obtaining contact information for the Goodhue County Assessor's office. Boulton stated that Holt could request the assessor to visit his property to

view the parcels to verify their current information on file to see if it was accurate. Boulton also stated that Holt could then request that assessor's staff could review the lots and tell them his concerns. Holt asked if the City had plans to install sanitary sewer mains on Mingo View Drive. Holmes and Boulton stated that sanitary sewer pressurized lines and individual grinder pumps were considered in 2016 when Mingo View Drive was paved. The cost for installing sewer was the same as correcting the base and paving the road. The pressurized sanitary sewer lines and grinder pumps could be installed utilizing directional drilling. Boulton stated that there would never be an ideal time to install the system. Holmes stated that a sanitary sewer system could be considered if there was a petition from Mingo View Drive residents requesting to be assessed for the potential project improvements. Flotterud stated that at the end of 2019 the general fund was \$24,120 short of the \$500,000 mark that the City should have to secure a better bond rating. Boulton stated that the City Fund Balance Policy is a 35% to 65% reserve balance or \$500,000, whichever is greater of the budgeted operating expenditures. At the end of 2019 the City had 61% reserve balance, or roughly \$475,880. In 2020 the City should increase the general balance to get up to \$500,000, but not much higher. Flotterud thought that the reserve balance at the end of 2020 should be much higher due to COVID cares payroll and the lack of spending on crack filling and Riverside Park log cabin improvements. Boulton stated that this was the first full year of having a third full-time public works staff adding to general fund expenses. The City purchased a \$35,000 new truck and rebuilt the community center block wall for \$11,560. These expenses contribute to why the general fund reserve balance will not significantly increase at the end of 2020. Flotterud stated that it was hard for him to vote to increase property taxes in the middle of COVID-19 pandemic. VanDeWalker stated that possible LGA cuts are on everyone's mind with a projected State government deficit. VanDeWalker stated that he and Mayor Holmes were on the City Council in years where LGA was reduced and does not want the City finances to falter because it can take a decade to straighten them out. Flotterud agreed that it is difficult to build back reserves once they are spent. He had Administrator Boulton provide the last decades final general fund balance numbers from past audits. Flotterud also stated that his neighbors advocate that their property taxes are high for the values of their properties. Ohr stated that the proposed increase was necessary in order to not fall behind. Ohr reminded the Council of the many needs coming up in the near future; skid loader replacement, dump truck replacement, water tower and wellhouse replacements, and needs with roadway improvements. The City needs to keep a high bond rating in order to get lower interest rates. Higher interest rates can cost the city real money over the life of bonds. Flotterud was concerned that with \$100,00 in new property tax levy and LGA money per year the last three years have not been enough. Ohr was concerned with potential LGA cuts and unforeseen expenses could

cut into the general fund reserve. Flotterud stated that \$35,000 increase to the levy was the highest he would vote for (proposed \$65,000). Flotterud reasoned that the new growth from 2019 would bring in \$25,000 plus another roughly \$10,000 in wage increases, health insurance premium increases, and worker's compensation premium increases. Flotterud stated that some parcels could see a property tax decrease with growth of \$35,000 in the levy. Holmes agreed that the property tax levy increases need to be scaled back in future years, but had concerns with lowering the 2021 final compared to proposed levy. Schaefer reminded the Council the crack filling and seal coating of roads are a high priority, including Mingo View Drive and Emerald Valley Addition roads. This work extends the life of roads to save money. Flotterud stated that in three years two bonds are retired opening up \$130,000/year. But the funds will probably be needed to finance the next street project.

VanDeWalker stated that he was so happy to turn the corner the last few years in the City finances and local economy. VanDeWalker did not wish to fall behind. Flotterud agreed that great things are happening in Wanamingo. Flotterud stated that the community needs additional growth to continue. Dierks stated that he was comfortable with making the proposed \$65,000 (8.33%) increase to the levy. Ohr stated that he would vote against any decrease to the proposed levy in the final levy. VanDeWalker appreciated the research that Flotterud put into his thoughts on the levy that lead to a great discussion. VanDeWalker stated that he was comfortable with the proposed levy. Holmes stated that he would support the proposed levy as the final levy. Holmes stated that he would be working to limit the yearly levy increases in future years. Boulton stated that the 2020 Roadway Improvements Project accounted for 6.25% of the 8.33% proposed levy increase. Boulton reminded the Council that bond payments would come due (\$9,000 interest only in 2021 and \$66,000 principal/interest in 2022) and that the fund should be able to meet the February/August payments with the prior year's taxes. No other public comments were offered. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:19PM.

RESOLUTION:

20-089 = Adopting Final 2021 Budget: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by VanDeWalker. Passed 4-1-0.

20-090 = Certifying Final Tax Levy for 2021: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by VanDeWalker. The 2021 levy would go from \$780,000 to \$845,000 (\$65,000 increase or 8.33%). Passed 4-1-0.

20-091 = Approving Fire Department Budget & Township Budget Contract Allocation Formula for 2021: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by VanDeWalker. Passed 5-0-0.

20-092 = Approving Licenses (Cigarette & Liquor) for 2021: VanDeWalker moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Barney Nesseth requested that the City consider reducing the liquor license fee for 2021. The City of Cannon Falls (50% reduction) and other are Municipalities are or have reduced liquor license fees in 2020 and/or 2021. Nesseth stated that if a reduction was not possible could a delay of payment be

made. Nesseth stated that cash flow is difficult around the 1st of the year because insurance and other once-a-year payments are due. With little or no income in November and December this makes cash-flow difficult. Nesseth suggested postponing that fees until after the Governor allows bars/restaurants to reopen. Nesseth thanked that Council for consideration during trying times. Holmes stated that he was willing to delay payment of the fees. Flotterud stated that the fees could be reexamined once bars/restaurants are allowed to be open. Boulton recommended to have at least \$1 paid toward the license with the Council setting the remaining fee after bars/restaurants are able to reopen. Flotterud moved that the liquor licenses for JB's Tavern, On-Sale Liquor (\$2,100) and Sunday Liquor License (\$300), be approved with a license fee of \$1 be paid before January 1, 2021 with the remaining balance to be set by the City Council and paid after JB's Tavern is allowed to be reopened by Governor Walz, Seconded by VanDeWalker. Passed 5-0-0. No other input was offered on the resolution. Passed 5-0-0.

20-093 = Adopting 2021 1st Quarter Maintenance Work Plan: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

20-094 = Approving Smith Schaefer Engagement Letter for 2020 Audit: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Passed 5-0-0.

20-095 = To Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Tort Liability Established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04: VanDeWalker moved to approve, seconded by Dierks. Passed 5-0-0.

20-096 = Extending and Emergency – COVID-19: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

20-097 = Approving Various Expenses Including Cleaning Supplies, Chemicals, Safety Equipment, Safety Training, and Other Expenses Offset by Coronavirus Federal Relief Funds: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by VanDeWalker. Passed 5-0-0.

Ordinance #195 - 2021 Fee Schedule – 1st Reading – Administrator Boulton went over the recommended changes from 2020 Fee Schedule for the proposed 2021 fee schedule including increasing the water hook-up fee from \$500 to \$550, increasing the sewer hook-up fee from \$650 to \$700, increasing the water meter cost from \$260 to \$290, increasing the water usage rate from \$5.75/1000 gallons to \$6.00/1000 gallons, increasing the sewer usage rate from \$6.75/1000 gallons to \$7.00/1000 gallons, increasing the monthly garbage fee from \$14.00/month to \$14.25/month, and increasing the monthly recycling fee from \$6.18/month to \$6.30/month. The increases to the water and sewer hook-ups will be utilized in facility upgrades in the near future. The increase to the water meter fee helps to cover increases to the actual costs of the water meters and readers. Boulton stated that the proposed increases (4.34% to user rates) to the water would bring in \$5,900 in new revenue while the increases (3.70% to user rates) in sewer would bring in \$6,200 in new revenue. The garbage and recycling monthly increase reflect the yearly contract increases with Waste Management. Throughout the year, includ-

(continued on page 9)

ing the budgeting process the Council has discussed and has recommended the above changes. The City Auditors recommend that the Council review sewer/water rates and make small adjustments regularly to capture revenue as opposed to large jumps. The waste water treatment plant will need upgrades in the near future which could cost millions of dollars. The plan is to replace the Mingo View water tower while adding a second chemical building in 2022 which will cost over \$1 million. Administrator Boulton asked if the Council wished to see changes made to the proposed fee schedule before the January City Council. No changes were requested. Ohr asked about agreement with Jason Rath for sludge dumping at sewer plant. Ohr asked if the City was losing out on revenue. Boulton explained that the City had a prior agreement with Jason Rath to allow for dumping in exchange offsetting other work such as water/sewer line repairs, sucking out the Riverside Park septic tank, sucking out water shut-off valves and sanitary/storm manholes. Schaefer stated that Rath had been dumping additional sludge the last few years after land application no longer was feasible. Boulton stated that the City does track the number of gallons dumped. Boulton stated that there was no quantifiable way of knowing if the previous agreement was mutually beneficial. Flotterud stated that he wished to see tracked benefits to the City and the dumping totals. Flotterud stated that these should be reviewed. If there is not a mutually beneficial agreement the City should discuss options with Jason Rath. Flotterud suggested changes to the snow removal agreement. Boulton stated that he would work with Jason Rath would start tracking benefits to the City starting in 2021.

**OLD BUSINESS:
PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCES
#194 – Regulating the Sale of Tobacco
and Related Devices and Products within**

the City of Wanamingo – Mayor Holmes opened the public hearing at 8:17PM. Administrator Boulton provided the background for the updates to the tobacco ordinance that follows the Federal Government's increase on minimum age of purchase from 18 to 21. Mayor Holmes, City Attorney David Jacobsen, and Administrator Boulton drafted, reviewed, and recommend approval of the proposed ordinance. Administrator Boulton stated that the committee wanted changes to better enforce standard rules, but did not want to make enforcement complicated. No public input was offered. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 8:22PM.

ORDINANCE #194 – Regulating the Sale of Tobacco and Related Devices and Products within the City of Wanamingo. Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by VanDeWalker. Passed 5-0-0

Administrator Boulton provided a memo regarding the Community Center patio wall replacement. The current Wanamingo Community Center patio was constructed in 2007 by Zumbro Valley Landscaping. The material for the country manor block wall was \$2,437.50. The labor for wall was donated by Zumbro Valley Landscaping.

The Main Street area has a high-water table and lacks storm sewer for proper drainage. This high-level moisture along with frost makes the landscaping and concrete shift. In 2017 the block wall started to sag and bow out due to pressure from underground moisture. Administrator Boulton and Jesse Steberg of Zumbro Valley Landscaping discussed options for repair or replacement of the wall. It was decided that the wall could not be repaired and would need to be replaced.

The City received preliminary estimates from Zumbro Valley Landscaping to replace the wall in 2017. A committee consisting of Administrator Boulton, Jesse Steberg, Stuart Ohr, and Larry VanDeWalker decided that replacement of

the wall would need to involve material that could be reset in the future with ground shifting. Larger limestone cubes or field rock were discussed. Limestone cubes were the agreed upon material, even though the estimate was slightly higher than field rock or blocks (\$1,500-\$3,000). The City and Zumbro Valley Landscaping tried to schedule to the wall replacement project at the end of the season in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Due to City budgets, decisions of materials, weather, and Zumbro Valley Landscaping schedule this was not able to occur.

In fall 2020 the wall had shifted to the point where the City was concerned about public safety. Council members VanDeWalker and Ohr advocated replacement of the wall in 2020. The estimate to replace the wall was updated reflecting the new price of limestone cubes and other materials. The total estimate was for \$11,980. Zumbro Valley Landscaping agreed that the project could be fit into the early November 2020 schedule. Administrator Boulton consulted the Council before giving the go ahead to complete the project that has been years in the making. The final invoice was for \$11,560 to be paid out of the general fund.

Administrator Boulton provided a 2020 Wanamingo Economic Development Update. 2020 has been a tough year dealing with COVID-19 and the restrictions of businesses. However, 2020 has also been a year of growth and improvements throughout the community. The City has seen new commercial buildings, a number of new homes, and a number of infrastructure improvements.

Three new commercial buildings were or are being built; Jeff's Welding warehouse, Jason Grant's trucking shop, and Concast's building expansion. Jeff's Welding building has a permit value of \$190,000. Jason Grant's trucking has a permit value of \$200,000, and Concast's building addition has a permit value of \$960,000.

In the residential side we have seen fifteen (15) new home building permits issued in 2020. The fifteen homes have a collective building permit valuation of \$2,621,000. There have been three (3) new downtown apartment and one (1) new mobile home building permits issued in 2020. The nineteen (19) units are the most ever built in one year in Wanamingo. There have also been a number of new garages and major home improvement building permit in 2020.

In addition to commercial and residential growth there were a number of infrastructure improvements throughout Wanamingo. MNDOT installed a roundabout at the MN TH 57/MN TH 60 intersection. The roundabout total project costs were over \$2 million. The City of Wanamingo completed the 2020 Roadway Improvements project which included work on 4th Street, 3rd Street, the alley between Railroad Street and 2nd Avenue, and various smaller street patches and repairs around town. The total project costs were \$581,000. The 2nd Phase of the Veterans Memorial was complete. Over \$44,000 was privately raised and spent on the memorial improvements. The City worked with Zumbro Valley Landscaping to rebuilding the block wall on the South Community Center Patio. The City replaced the brick wall with limestone cubes. The project costs were roughly

\$11,500. Xcel Energy is in the middle of replacing fifty-five (55) electric poles around the community. A number of older poles were in rough shape and could have suffered damage with severe storms. The City has also been working on new branding and logo applications for improved, positive, exposure. The logo has been or will be utilized on the City website updates, social media (Facebook), promotional stickers, stationary (business cards, letterhead paper, envelopes), staff apparel, vehicle decal graphics, City Hall signage, new light pole banners, MN TH 57/MN TH 60 Roundabout Signage, and other various uses.

2021 does not appear to be slowing down. The City staff are working on a commercial project with Jason Grant Trucking for a warehouse and office. Jason Grant is working on architectural drawings. He has purchase two vacant lots from Brian Groth in the industrial park. Mr. Grant has a request to purchase the remaining EDA owned lot in the industrial park. City Staff are also working on a small home project with Barney Nesseth. Barney Nesseth is working on final architectural drawings for the development. After completed the City Council and Mr. Nesseth will be working on a development agreement and possible zoning variances on the odd shaped lot. City staff have been working with other business owners on commercial expansions that may occur in 2021. There continues to be interest in residential single-family dwellings. Bigelow Homes has stated that they have plans with purchase agreements for two more homes in which future building permits will be coming in the next month. City Staff anticipates no immediate slowdown of construction in 2021 leading to additional homes. The City is working toward a new water tower, well houses, and additional water lines loops. This project could start at the end of 2021 or 2022. The City is in discussions with Zumbrota, Pine Island, Goodhue, and Mazeppa regarding a regional wastewater treatment facility. The current wastewater treatment facility is at the end of its life and will need to be replaced within the decade. The City could choose to be part of a regional facility or construct their own facility. Having capacity and reliability in the water and wastewater treatment are keys to allowing for future growth and current sustainability of the community.

Administrator Boulton provided a logo and branding application update. City staff worked with William Weigel to order maintenance staff business cards. William Weigel, Mayor Holmes, and City Administrator Boulton finalized plans and ordered City promotional stickers and Main Street Banners. William Weigel continues to work with Revize LLC on the new website.

*Next City Council meetings are on 1/11/2021 at 7:00pm.

*City Council Special Meeting – 2/3/2021 at 6:00PM – Regional Sewage Treatment Facility Meeting with Cities of Zumbrota, Pine Island, Goodhue, and Mazeppa.

*City Council discussed employee recognition event, usually held in January. With COVID-19 the event may not be able to take place.

(continued on page 10)

Commissioner Corner

First of all I want to thank everyone for their support these last 4 years. It was an honor to serve you and I hope I met your expectations. I enjoyed my time serving. It was always a challenge fighting the Red wing interests. My biggest successes was getting a lot of roads redone in the district, CTY1, CTY14, CTY 12 out of Kenyon, and CTY 23 cement stabilization. I think I helped keep the tax increases low.

My biggest failure was the implementation of the county wide trash ordinance. I tried every way to sunset to try and stop it. In the end Red Wing interests trumped those of the residents of our area and it passed with a 3 to 2 vote. You are now seeing the effects, many of you received notices about increasing rates. There is a lawsuit filed by the trash haulers of our area. So it is not a done deal yet. One other thing I learned is you can think of government as a giant rolling ball. It is very hard to reduce the size and cost of government. Government employees have unions and a lot of the cost increases are baked into the union contracts. Also if you add new positions, that employee will cost you forever. I tried to combine 2 positions into 1 this past year, effectively reducing one position. You would think the earth was crashing down when I suggested it. So in summary it is very hard to reduce government spending unless you have the board votes to do so. So unless you help elect people who want less government spending you will never reduce the cost of government. This holds true all the way up to the federal level. Thank you again for having trust in me to serve you, it was definitely an honor and privilege to serve you!!



Barney Nesseth
Goodhue County
Commissioner
District 3

Regards
Barney Nesseth
Normal Citizen, as normal as I can be anyway!!

(continued from page 9)

Staff suggested a smaller gathering at the City Shop or Community Center. It was suggested the City could pay for supplies and the attendants could put together a meal. Council members liked the idea and would look into deals for discussion at the January City Council meeting.

Adjourn: At 8:32 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Flotterud and seconded by Dierks. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator

**City of Wanamingo
Regular EDA Meeting
Monday December 14, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

**Wanamingo City Council Chambers
401 Main Street
Wanamingo MN**

PRESENT: Stuart Ohr, Ryan Holmes, Brian Johnson, Brian Gudknecht, Jim Kittelson, Laurie Musselman, & Josh Schaefer

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Boulton.

Brian Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance followed.

ADOPT AGENDA: Ohr motioned, seconded by Kittelson to adopt. Approved 7-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Gudknecht motioned, seconded by Schaefer to approve. Approved 7-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Administrator Boulton provided a 2020 Wanamingo Economic Development Update. 2020 has been a tough year dealing with COVID-19 and the restrictions of businesses. However, 2020 has also been a year of growth and improvements throughout the community. The City has seen new commercial buildings, a number of new homes, and a number of infrastructure improvements.

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the 2020 Roadway Improvements project which included work on 4th Street, 3rd Street, the alley between Railroad Street and 2nd Avenue, and various smaller street patches and repairs around town. The total project costs were \$581,000. The 2nd Phase of the Veterans Memorial was complete. Over \$44,000 was privately raised and spent on the memorial improvements. The City worked with Zumbro Valley Landscaping to rebuilding the block wall on the South Community Center Patio. The City replaced the brick wall with limestone cubes. The project costs were roughly \$11,500. Xcel Energy is in the middle of replacing fifty-five (55) electric poles around the community. A number of older poles were in rough shape and could have suffered damage with severe storms. The City has also been working on new branding and logo applications for improved, positive, exposure. The logo has been or will be utilized on the City website updates, social media (Facebook), promotional stickers, stationary (business cards, letterhead paper, envelopes), staff apparel, vehicle decal graphics, City Hall signage, new light pole banners, MN TH 57/MN TH 60 Roundabout Signage, and other various uses.

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Holmes stated that Boulton had done a lot of behind the scenes work on the Comcast project and thanked him for getting the project over the hump. Johnson stated that the Comcast building looks huge on the site. Johnson stated his excitement for the addi-

tion and what it means to Wanamingo.

Boulton gave a brief update to the EDA Board on Barney Nesseth's small homes project. Boulton has continued to request the final plans in order to start work on any potential variance requests to the Wanamingo City Council. Nesseth informed Boulton that his architect is still working on the final plans and that he would like to build starting in the spring. Johnson stated that the COVID slowdown may have pushed off project. Schaefer stated that lumber costs may have slowed the project since it was razor thin on profit margin before increase. Boulton stated that Nesseth was finishing his term on the Goodhue County Commissioner Board and had started a new job in the fall leading to delays. Boulton stated that local realtors have contacted him about demand for the units once they are finished. Boulton stated that realtors thought that if started, there would be multiple purchase agreements in place before they are constructed.

Boulton provided an update to the EDA Board on Jason Grant's proposed warehouse and office project. Jason Grant is finishing paying off Brian Groth for the purchase of the two industrial park vacant lots. The lots are adjacent to the EDA owned lot. Jason Grant is still interested in purchasing the EDA owned lot for market value. Jason Grant would like to combine all three lots. Jason Grant is working on architectural plans to bring to the EDA and City Council in late winter/early spring. The plans would

include constructing warehouses and office space on the lots. Jason Grant would like to construct two sections of the proposed warehouse. The first phase section would be a mono-sloped 120' x 60' on the north-west side of the north 2.47-acre lot. The second phase section would be an additional 120' x 60' addition on the east side of the first phase. The roof would be connected making a traditional roofline shedding water both directions. Phase one would be a dry warehouse while phase two would be cold storage. Boulton stated the Mr. Grant has proposed an office building on the current EDA owned lot with open lot and truck storage on the remainder of the lot. If the EDA & City Council wishes to proceed, a purchase and development agreement will need to be put together on the lot and building concept plans.

Administrator Boulton brought up the Wanamingo Medical Center vacant suite. Boulton stated that there has been no interest in the suite since summer. Boulton stated that there are now three vacant office suites on Main Street. Johnson stated that it was a difficult time to find tenants with COVID. The EDA Board agreed not to take additional steps to find a tenant while COVID restrictions were still in place.

There being no further business Schaefer made a motion seconded by Musselman to adjourn the EDA meeting at 6:16 p.m. Approved 7-0-0.

SIGNED: Brian Johnson, President

ATTEST: Michael Boulton, Director

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CROSSWORD

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

- THEME: FAMOUS DUOS
- ACROSS
1. *Timothy Q. Mouse's friend, in Disney classic
 6. River in Germany
 9. Bridle parts
 13. Whatsoever
 14. Like tuna tartare
 15. Forearm bones
 16. Plural of #3 Down
 17. Hardware store
 18. "Gladiator" setting
 19. *Ferb Fletcher's stepbrother
 21. *Mr. White's unfortunate student
 23. Welcome spot for weary traveler
 24. It shall, for short
 25. Cul de ____
 28. Young herring
 30. Dieter's cuisine, for short
 35. Gator's cousin
 37. French "place"
 39. Chunk of iceberg
 40. St. Louis monument
 41. Like new TV set
 43. Front of ship
 44. Singular of loci
 46. Additional
 47. Reality TV's Spelling
 48. *Assistant to regional manager Michael Scott
 50. Missing a limb
 52. More, in Madrid
 53. Like acne-prone skin
 55. Pimple fluid
 57. *Shirley's roommate and fellow bottle-capper
 61. *Rory Gilmore's mom
 65. Make an effort
 66. Legal org.
 68. Long stories
 69. Scottish valleys
 70. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
 71. *One of The Carpenters duo
 72. Bone-dry
 73. Opposite of WSW
 74. Red or orange announcement

- DOWN
1. Slightly wet
 2. *Malone and Stockton of the ____ Jazz
 3. Skirt length
 4. Shrovetide dish
 5. *Mary-Kate and Ashley
 6. Geologists' studies
 7. *____ and cheese
 8. Moved under the rug
 9. "All ____, no bite"
 10. Footnote word
 11. *Amy Poehler's comedic partner
 12. Welsh alternative to Siobh-n
 15. Was almost out of gas, e.g.
 20. Source of indigo dye, pl.
 22. "____ Be Home For Christmas"
 24. In the best possible way
 25. Coffee burn, e.g.
 26. *Bow and ____
 27. Spherical bacteria
 29. *Corona's main squeeze?
 31. What willow did
 32. Read-only chip
 33. Greek bazaar
 34. *Clark's fellow traveler
 36. College party chant
 38. Celestial bear
 42. Dancer's beat
 45. Daisy dukes, e.g.
 49. "Wizard of Oz" man
 51. Archimedes' exclamation
 54. Furlough
 56. Flower part
 57. Frog delicacy
 58. Wheel shaft
 59. Swerve
 60. European sea eagle
 61. *David and Paul on the "____ Show"
 62. Italian currency, pl.
 63. Maple genus
 64. Negative contraction
 67. *Jerry's fellow treat-maker

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- Twelve (12) debit card transactions posted and settled
- Enrollment in and agreement to receive E-Statements are qualifications of this account.

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