



# Dodge Center Messenger™

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## Memories of Christmas Past

Here are some stories told by residents of the nursing homes in our community about their childhood memories of Christmas.

**Margaret** grew up on a farm close to Nerstrand. Her parents milked cows and it was one of Margaret's jobs to wash the milking machine parts every day. There was lots of work on the farm and she had a younger sister but Margaret did more of the work outside. She had to walk to school in town every morning and would cross the railroad tracks on the edge of town. She would hear the locomotive chugging up the long grade from Dennison as it made its way toward Kenyon, a big city in her young mind. Their neighbor would haul milk to the creamery and drop off their daughter at school on the way each morning, but Margaret made her way on foot through the cold and quiet December mornings dressed in warm clothes and carrying the lunch that her grandma had made.

rying the lunch that her grandma had made.

As a young girl Margaret believed their family had everything they could want. Nerstrand had a clothing store, a grocery store, a hardware store, the meat market and two cafes. The farm family even had a telephone, a party line. The phone at each house had a special ring that let you know the call was for you, and you always knew when the neighbors got a phone call as well. And if you were real careful you could pick up the receiver and listen in. But that was not nice. They had a piano at their house and she took lessons from a neighbor lady and cultivated a love of music that lasted a lifetime.

Christmas was a special time in her childhood. Church was important to them and there was always a church service Christmas eve, where the children would put on a program. After returning home the



### Blue Jackets Awarded to Local FFA Members



The Minnesota FFA Foundation is pleased to announce the presentation of the official FFA jacket to members of the Triton FFA Chapter. Kiya Avery, Emma Klejeski, Elyssa Robinson, Cadence Spearman, Arianna Thompson, Jasmin Willette, Grant Brown and Breanna Klejeski have been selected to receive their own jacket. 420 students are earning a jacket and 8 are from Triton. That is a record amount for us. The previous high was 6.

As Minnesota FFA welcomes thousands of young people into membership, the Minnesota FFA Foundation has announced the recipients of the Blue Jacket Bright Futures program. The program provides sponsored FFA jackets to Minnesota youth who are starting their FFA career. This is the eighth year the Minnesota FFA Foundation has offered the program. *(continued on page 5)*

kids were allowed to open their presents. Most were ordinary items like hand made clothes sewn by her mom and grandma. When she was nine years old Margaret recalls receiving a large doll as a Christmas present along with handmade doll clothes. The girls would play and sing Christmas carols for the family. Her favorite was "O' Little Town of Bethlehem".

Christmas Day was a typical Scandinavian feast with lutefisk and lefse and many homemade cookies and treats. Her two uncles helped with the farm work and

would join the family for the big meal. Her grandma was the official lefse maker, and Margaret couldn't wait to eat lefse fresh of the griddle with butter and brown sugar. And of course there was the famous Nerstrand bologna.

**Audrey** grew up near Berne where she lived with her brother on her grandparents farm. Christmas Eve they always had oyster stew. Grandpa would always go out to the barn during supper to "help a cow have a calf" and that was when Santa showed up. *(continued on page 3)*

*Wishing You a Beautiful Season*

With thanks for your understanding and support this year, we wish you a holiday that glitters with every happiness!

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

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**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

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## Give Thanks in 2020?



**By Pastor Roger Langworthy**  
Pastor; Praise Fellowship Church  
[www.pfc-of-dc.org](http://www.pfc-of-dc.org)

One of my favorite Christmas songs is “O Holy Night”. As I was listening to it the other evening, I was struck by the phrase in the song “fall on your knees...” and began to reflect on the significance of kneeling to bow. Why do men kneel to propose? Why do people kneel before the king? Why does the Bible say that every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord? (Philippians 2:10-11)

It is a sign of allegiance, of respect, obedience and loyalty. It is also a sign of submission and honor. The word used in worship is to genuflect, a gesture of deep respect for a superior. Jesus, even as a baby in the manger was far superior to us as he was (and is) God in the flesh, or what we call the incarnation. Even as the wise-men came in search of Jesus they asked in Matthew 2:2 saying, "Where is He who has

been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Jesus was born a king, although he would later declare that his kingdom was not of this world.

He was (and is) worthy of kneeling to bow in honor and respect of who he is. Think of how the action of kneeling has turned into act of protest rather than honor. Do you remember when the NFL player Tim Tebow would kneel in respect and thankfulness to God when celebrating a victory? Remember the controversy it created about the place of religion in sports? It was largely thought that he ought not do it. Opponents mocked him in his celebration pose which became an Internet meme known as “Tebowing” (read “bow” in it). Now every NFL player that does not kneel in protest of the National Anthem is thought to be, at the least, politically incorrect.

Kneeling to honor or kneeling to protest. How can the same action have such contrasting meanings? I didn’t intend to turn this article into a politically charged thesis, but I’m just befuddled over how the meaning of things change. Like soon a handshake will be (or is) a sign of disrespect for another person’s health rather than a friendly gesture of greeting. (Sorry, there I go again).

However, I do not believe that those that came to see King Jesus kneeled in protest of Emmanuel, God with us. So, this Christmas when you sing “fall on your knees...” let it be an expression of great respect, honor, loyalty, obedience, and submission to Jesus, God come to earth.



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## NOTICE

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

## Area Church Directory

### The King’s Grace

*Scripture Reading — Revelation 22:12-21*

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen. — Revelation 22:21*

It has been said that the last pages of our Bible bend around to touch the first pages. They bring full circle the one big story of God’s love and salvation of the world. In the beginning, God the King creates the world and proclaims it good, good, very good. “Good” is the most important word describing God and God’s world in the beginning.

But much that unfolds later in this story—and in our world—is not good. There is sinful rebellion, guilt, shame, corruption, violence, injustice, and disintegration. The world is broken, and we feel it in the depths of our souls. The world’s history books and the daily news proclaim it unceasingly. But unceasing too in the Bible’s big story is something that transforms and redeems all this brokenness: grace.

The King’s grace is a phrase often used to refer to a king’s favor or presence or to simply a king himself. In the Bible, it is finally the King’s grace that gets the last word. Grace comes in the person and work of King Jesus. He is the one who is King of kings and Lord of lords. The first chapter of the Bible proclaims, “Good.” The last chapter proclaims what is greater still: “Grace.” God’s big story moves from good to grace.

Whatever we face in terms of struggle, guilt, or sorrow, the King’s grace gets the last word. The King’s grace is the world’s—and our—great hope!

#### Prayer

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with all God’s people. Amen.**

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## Memories of Christmas Past

(continued from page 1)

Santa had a bag with unwrapped presents like cracker jacks and boxes of Lifesavers hard candy.

They would go to Christmas Eve church service at Berne and she remembers how beautiful it looked with candles lighting the windows. There was a Christmas tree at the church with presents underneath from Sunday School teachers and friends. The adults would take communion and then the

families would head back home where there were more gifts waiting to be opened. They would go to Rochester shopping for the holidays at stores like Woolworths, Kreskes and Donaldsons at the Miracle Mile for gifts for her brother and grandparents.

Most years there were games, clothes or a toy like a pair of ice skates, but one year she knew she had a special gift and it was the best ever. It was easy to tell what it was because however you wrap a baton, it still looks like a baton. That gift got twirled a lot long before Christmas Eve arrived.

On Christmas Day it was off to dinner at the other grandparents. The weather was always cold with lots of snow but the house

was full with uncles, aunts and family. The meal was full of Swiss goodies like "Big Nothings, Rosettes, pear bread and lots of sweets.

**Dale** grew up on a farm near Dodge Center where his parents raised crops. There were three boys and one girl in his family and he remembers it as a quiet time. His dad would cut a tree on the farm to decorate in the house.

They family went to church on Christmas Eve and he remembers the service with people standing up to talk and share things that were important to them during that season.

The family celebrated on Christmas Day and the children opened small gifts that were usually something they needed. Some were purchased and the rest were hand made.

**Wanda** was an only child and grew up in Texas on a big ranch with her parents and grandmother. She recalls that the farm house was big with lots of stairs and her dad would chop down a tree and bring it in but they didn't have many decorations on it. The elementary school she attended would have a Christmas tree as well. A lot of people worked on the ranch and would come over to the house for the holidays and her mother did lots of cooking.

The one present that stands out in her mind was the year she received a doll. The family would go to church on Christmas Day and the young ones would put on a program which was enjoyed by all the people attending the service.

**Barb** grew up with a twin sister in the countryside near Danby, New York. As a child the big event was getting the

Christmas tree and the two young girls would help put the tree up in the house. Gifts often included dolls but one year her father gave the twins a bicycle. The twins would help their mom make special treats such as cookies and fudge before Christmas.

She remembers how pretty the church was for the Christmas service when she was a child. Many of the gifts they wrapped were handmade which they had knitted and sewn for each other. Activities were playing with the neighbor kids sledding and building snowmen.

**George** grew up with two brothers and two sisters in the family home and recalls that they lived in a number of houses around Dodge Center, Claremont and West Concord. His father was a carpenter and his mother worked for Bird's Eye Canning Company in Waseca so she wasn't home very much. As one of the youngest in the family he remembers walking to country school when he was a lad. The country school had a Christmas program they participated in and he recalls singing songs but not sure if there were gifts from the teachers. The one thing he remembers about a Christmas when he was a child was the year his dad bought an \$8.00 bicycle for all of his brothers and sisters to share.

Now at Fairview Care Center where he resides the residents get to pick out decorations for their rooms. There are Christmas stockings with their names on them and small snow sleds above the door to their rooms. They put window clings in their windows of trees, bells, Santa Claus and Merry Christmas greetings.



## Glory to the Newborn King!

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."* Luke 2:11



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*The Magic of Christmas*

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## Keep Pets Safe From Holiday Hazards - Most Problems Can Be Prevented



No one knows better than a veterinarian who staffs the emergency room that the holidays can be fraught with hazards for pets. Luckily, most of the dangers can easily be prevented with some foresight and good advice.

Dr. Yanshan Er, a veterinarian at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital who is pursuing specialization in emergency and critical care, shares her top tips for keeping your pets safe during the holidays.

While you are enjoying your Thanksgiving feast, you may be tempted to slip your pet some table scraps. It is important to remember many of the things we enjoy are not appropriate for our furry friends.

**Chocolate** – Chocolate, especially the dark and baking varieties, contains toxins called methylxanthines, which may cause tremors, seizures, and fatal arrhythmias at high doses. Lower doses may cause vomiting and diarrhea. Solution: Keep chocolate away from your pets!

**Bones** – Leftover bones from that turkey or ham may seem like a treat for your pet, but Dr. Er says that's not true. "Bones pose several dangers: cracked teeth, a blockage in the esophagus, constipation, severe gastrointestinal inflammation or even perforation of the gastrointestinal organs," she says. "There are so many great ways to offer a treat, bones are definitely not worth the risk."

**Alcohol and bread dough** – Make sure to keep your alcoholic drinks and baking supplies out of reach of your pets. If a pet eats raw yeast-containing dough, the dough will ferment in the stomach, producing ethanol, a form of alcohol. The expansion of dough in the stomach can cause a mechanical obstruction. The ethanol gets absorbed systemically and causes blood acidity and low blood sugar. "These complications can ultimately result in a coma and even death," warns Dr. Er.

**Grapes, raisins, and currants** – The exact causative toxin is currently unknown, but the fact that consuming grapes, raisins, and currants may result in acute kidney injury in dogs is well documented. Toxicity from these fruits may also lead to vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy. Dr. Er advises pet owners to tell guests these items, especially baked goods like Christmas cake with raisins, are no-nos for pets.

**Christmas tree safety** – "Make sure to secure your tree so that it can take bumps or tolerate your pet's zoomies," says Dr. Er. Trees with shiny ornaments are a magnet for curious cats. If the tree is not securely anchored, it may fall over easily when kitty starts to climb. Inquisitive pets are also drawn to strings of lights and other electrical wires. Chewing on these wires may result in electrocution, painful burns in the mouth, and fluid in the lungs.

**Tinsel and candles** – Shiny, reflective tinsel also attracts cats. If swallowed, tinsel, yarn or other stringy objects wreak havoc on a cat's digestive tract. This problem, called a "linear foreign body," must be treated with emergency surgery. Candles also fall into the "shiny danger" category. Pets aren't aware of the danger fire poses, so never allow pets to remain unsupervised in a room with lit candles.

**Poinsettias, mistletoe, and lilies** – If you own a pet that eats anything and everything, it is important to know that poinsettias and mistletoe can result in an upset stomach for your pet. In very rare cases, mistletoe can also affect the heart. While not typically a winter holiday decoration, lilies are very toxic to cats, and result in acute kidney injury. "All parts of the lily plant are toxic, so remember to keep them out of reach of your kitties," says Dr. Er.

While they're probably not dreading crowded shopping malls or discussing politics with that one uncle, many pets do find the holidays stressful. Strange people, smells and loud sounds may be overwhelming for your pet. Make sure it has a safe, quiet, and escape-proof room to provide a safe retreat when needed.

Don't forget that Christmas poppers and fireworks can be terrifying for pets with noise aversion. Dr. Er suggests talking to your veterinarian about anxiety medication and sedatives if your pet might benefit from those during high-anxiety situations.

In closing, we know 2020 has already been an extremely challenging year, and we wish you and your pets a safe holiday season. Take precautions to avoid the common veterinary emergencies described above. If a problem arises, call your local emergency veterinarian.

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## Cobra Communications



**Craig Schlichting**  
Superintendent

I appreciate the people that have reached out to me for an explanation on “why” we are in a distance learning model. I have also been asked why we chose to continue that model until after the holiday break. I wish there was a simple answer to explain this difficult decision. I am going to explain our decision in this article. **Our first choice would always be to have the students in the building.** I do appreciate knowing how much our families value the in-person learning experience. A large part of what we do in a school setting comes from the individual interactions we have with students each day. As educators, we know the importance of having students in the building. We know that it is difficult for families and students when we have to adjust to a distance learning model. When we have to make the decision to go to a distance learning model, we take that decision very seriously.

We have a number of graphs and charts that help provide information on the trends of the virus in our county. Even though they provide valuable information, nothing was more important than what was happening in our district. At different times during the year we have had staff and students that were considered a close contact. In those situations we are mandated to have those individuals quarantine. Before the decision was made to go to distance learning we had several staff members in quarantine due to the virus or from being deemed a close contact. It was becoming increasingly difficult to cover classes for the students that were in attendance. The difficult thing with a quarantine is the fact that you will have staff out for an extended period of time before they can return. We felt that if we could have a two week window after Thanksgiving to reduce our quarantines we would be in good shape to return to the hybrid model on December 14th. We also felt that we could see a reduction in the number of active cases in the district. At that time, we have had a total of 18 positive cases for the district. When we went to distance learning we were at an all time high of 8 current active cases according to our dashboard data.

Once the decision was made to begin distance learning. Our plan was to monitor the cases numbers to make sure we made the best decision to return to our hybrid model on December 14th. Our Incident Command Team meets each week to evaluate the case numbers in our district and the trends that we are seeing in Dodge County and our district. We were told that the projection

was to see a spike during Thanksgiving, and then we would see a decline that would make it safe to return to our hybrid learning model on December 14th. The projection on the spike was accurate. What we did not see was a decline in the numbers that indicated we could make a decision to safely return on December 14th. Each time our team met, we continued to see the high numbers and did not see a decline as we hoped to see. With that information, we needed to make a decision on whether or not to return to the hybrid model on the 14th or to continue with the distance learning model.

The total case numbers for Dodge County in September were 122. In October we saw an increase to 172. The numbers for November ended up at 460. This was a very large increase and we saw the impact of that on our school community as well. This is not a concern if it doesn't impact your school district. In our situation it was. We had to consider the high number of cases that were being reported each day in Dodge County, as well as the fact that Dodge County Public Health was being overwhelmed and reported that they were having a difficult time with contact tracing and keeping up with the positive cases that were being reported. We didn't really know how high or accurate the case numbers were because of this large increase. Knowing that the data was not completely accurate, it made it difficult to make a decision on returning to a hybrid model from the distance learning situation we began after the Thanksgiving Break.

Our decision to remain in distance learning until December 23rd was extremely dif-

ficult. We wanted to make a decision that would lead to having our students back in the building for hybrid instruction for longest and most consistent period of time possible. We were concerned that if we brought the students back to the hybrid model, we may have to switch right back to a distance learning model. We looked at the fact that if we did bring the students back to the hybrid model, the secondary students would only have three to four days of in person instruction and the elementary would have six and a half days. To make any change in our instructional model in that timeframe would have been disruptive to student learning. We wanted to make our decision soon enough to give families time to prepare, but still wanted to use data to make the decision that it was safe to return. The numbers have continued to remain high, and we are currently at a total of 33 positive cases for the district. Our quarantine numbers have dropped significantly due to the fact that we have been in distance learning. The decision was made to set January 4th as our goal to return to hybrid learning.

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](mailto: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



### SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Carter Hellevik is a senior at Triton High School. His parents are Jeff and Lisa Hellevik and he has one brother, Tanner.

Carter is active in football and after school works at Kwik Trip.

In his spare time he likes gaming and spending time with family and friends.

Christmas is his favorite time of year and he loves Christmas music.

After graduation he plans to seek an apprenticeship program to be an electrician.



**CARTER HELLEVIK**

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## Blue Jackets Awarded to Local FFA Members

(continued from page 1)

“The Blue Jackets Bright Future program is a valuable program providing students with an FFA jacket to support their FFA involvement. A personalized FFA jacket provides recipients with a sense of pride while giving them ownership of their FFA experiences, said Lavyne Rada, Minnesota FFA Association Leadership Development Coordinator. “FFA plays an important role in developing agricultural and leadership skills in students while preparing them for their future careers.”

“The jacket is a symbol of tradition and pride for those who have worn the official FFA jacket. Many past members have sponsored jackets, but it's not uncommon for individuals and companies to sponsor jackets because they appreciate what the organization does to develop young leaders,” says Val Aarsvold, Minnesota FFA Foundation Executive Director.

The Minnesota FFA Foundation wishes to thank the sponsors of the Blue Jackets Bright Futures program this year. The sponsors of this program are what make it possible for our FFA students to have a successful experience with FFA! Thank you for making a difference in the lives of a student.

For more information about the Minnesota FFA Foundation's Blue Jacket Bright Futures program, contact Program Coordinator, Amanda Sommers, at 507-461-2214 or visit our website at [www.mnffaoundation.org](http://www.mnffaoundation.org).

The Minnesota FFA Foundation partners with individuals and businesses to provide resources that promote and enhance premier leadership, personal growth and career success for Minnesota youth in Agricultural Education.

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## Triton High School AAA Award Winners

On behalf of the Triton AAA Selection Committee, we are proud to recognize Alex Kruckeberg and Brenna Essig as the 2020-2021 AAA Award Winners. The purpose of the AAA Award Program is to recognize and honor high school seniors who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field, and in the fine arts. To qualify for the AAA Award, high school seniors must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, participate in league sponsored athletic and fine arts activities and comply with the MSHSL's Student Code of Conduct.

Brenna Essig is the daughter of James and Laurie Essig. Brenna holds a 3.90 GPA. Brenna is very active in school activities participating in volleyball, track and field, student council, Minnesota Honor Society, SADD, concert band, jazz band, and pep

band. Throughout these activities Brenna has earned all-conference honors in volleyball twice, holds school records in the 4X800 and 1600 meter medley relays, was named captain of the volleyball team, and earned academic all-state for track and field multiple times. Brenna has also earned multiple superior and excellent ratings within band showcases. She has been an exemplary example of a positive leader and has embodied what being a Cobra is all about.

Alex Kruckeberg is the son of Randy and Shannon Kruckeberg. Alex carries an impressive 3.75 GPA and participates in varsity football and varsity basketball. In addition, Alex has participated in the concert band earlier in his high school career. Alex was voted most improved for the boys basketball team last year and is a multiple year starter for football. While participating in multiple activities, Alex will graduate with forty-one college credits with his work at RCTC through PSEO. Alex has been a great leader within our school throughout the past four years.



Alex Kruckeberg



Brenna Essig

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## COUNCIL MINUTES

### October 26, 2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center Room of City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Acting Mayor Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Matt Maas

Council members absent: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Paul Blaisdell

City staff and others present: Joshua Tetzlaff, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk; Bryce Lange, Community Development Specialist; Carol Johnson

#### Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Acting Mayor Gary Trelstad at 6:00 p.m.

#### Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Public Participation

None.

#### Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve minutes of the April 15, 2020 and June 3, 2020 Airport

Advisory Board, the October 12, 2020 City Council Meeting, the September 8, 2020 HRA meeting, and the September 15, 2020 Park Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Maas, seconded by Skogen, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Staff Reports

##### Community Development Specialist

Bryce Lange, Community Development Specialist, presented a recommendation from the Park Board for a 12'x24' prebuild shelter to be placed at the park. The shelter is currently in Austin, MN, and on sale for \$6673.50, which the company is willing to hold that price until the middle of November. The company has also stated that they will no longer be making shelters like this with the rising cost of lumber. If approved the shelter would be delivered this fall and would sit on blocks until a concrete slab can be put down in the spring of 2021. The Park Board would recommend that the shelter be placed on the east side of the playground (option A), but if Council does not agree they would suggest placement on the SW side of the playground (option B).

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve purchase of park shelter for \$6673.50 and place it at option A. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Administrator's Report

##### A. Early Bird Season Passes

There have been some request to purchase Aquatic Center passes in the fall for holiday gifts. With that

Council would need to set the fee schedule for the 2021 season. To offset increasing costs to the Aquatic

Center City Administrator Tetzlaff recommended the following fee changes:

\$6 Daily Pass (\$1 increase)

Page 2 of 3

\$75 Single Season Pass (no increase)

\$140 Family Season Pass, up to 4 immediate family members (\$10 increase)

\$35 per additional family members (\$5 increase)

\$50 Punch Cards, 10 punches (\$5 increase)

The early purchase discounts would be \$10 off a single season pass and \$20 off a family pass if purchased before Christmas, and \$5 off a single season pass and \$10 off a family pass if purchased between Christmas and March 1, 2021.

Motion made by Maas, seconded by Skogen, to changes to the Aquatic Center pass fees and allow for discounted early sales. Motion carried unanimously.

##### B. 2017 Improvement Project

The contractor for the 2017 Improvement Project, BCM, changed sod companies, due to issues with Central Landscaping, and therefore never provided payment to Center Landscaping. The City is still holding \$148,875.17 in retainage from the 2017 Improvement Project because we are unable to close out the project until we receive an IC-134 from the contractor and all sub-contractors. The City has received this form from everyone except Central Landscaping. BCM has attempted to reach out to them, but Central Landscaping has not responded. The City Attorney and engineers would not recommend fully closing out the project without the form, but are comfortable reducing the retainage to \$20,000 until we are able to clear up the IC-137 issue.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve decreasing the 2017 Improvement Project retainage from \$148,875.17 to \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously.

##### C. 2020 Improvement Project

At a previous meeting City Council set a public hearing for the 2020 Improvement Project for November 9, 2020. Resolution 2020-044 and 2020-043 were presented for Council's consideration. Resolution 2020-044 formally sets the public hearing so the City has record for the State. Resolution 2020-043 does not lock anything in, but is to declare what the costs and interest rate of the assessment to let residents know what the City Council is considering.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve Resolution 2020-044, Hearing on a Proposed Assessment, and Resolution 2020-043, Declaring Cost & Preparation of Proposed Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

##### D. CARES Funds

Currently the City has an estimated \$40,000 in CARES Act Funding that has not been allocated, and must be spent by November 15, 2020. The library staff has requested some more permanent plexiglass, funds to offset their take-home kits they have been putting together since in person programming isn't available, and to purchase additional e-books. Additionally, it has been suggested that a second UV light be purchased to use in other City owned buildings.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas to approve City Administrator Tetzlaff to determine the best way to utilize the remaining CARES Act Funding. Motion carried unanimously.

##### E. Water Tower Maintenance Contract

KLM Engineering has worked with the City for many years for work on the water towers. KLM has offered the City a service agreement that would have them routinely maintain the water towers, including clean-

ing and inspection/documentation of wear. The work would

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve use of the Community Center by the Dodge Center Lions Club for 12/12/20 & 12/19/20, with all fees and deposits waived, and to store items until distribution. Motion carried unanimously.

##### F. Airport Capital Improvement Program

The Airport Capital Improvement Program lays out the projects for the Airport for the next 5 years, 10 years, and 20 years. Built into that is Phase I of the taxilane, which is already approved and planned for spring 2021. Phase II is the portion that we were not able to pay for because we didn't have enough federal funding. The City has a couple of options, they could decide to carry that cost and wait for federal funding to become available, or TKDA has spoken with the FAA and there were quite a few airports around Minnesota that due to COVID-19 are not going to have the funding to move forward with their projects, so they will likely not be using their entitlements next year, making those entitlements available to be borrowed by us. Other surrounding airports have done this in the past and it has worked out well.

Basically, the airport would borrow from another airport's entitlement and then pay it back with future funding that they receive. It would be worked into the agreement that the entitlements would only be paid back with federal funding whenever that becomes available.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas to approve Resolution 2020-045, Adopting the Airport Capital Improvement Project, conditional on federal funding being available and not using City funds. Motion carried unanimously.

##### G. Triton Post Prom

The City received a request from the Triton Post Prom Committee asking if we'd be interested in donating to post from for 2021. In the past the City has donated a couple of single passes to the Aquatic Center.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas to donate 2 single passes to the Aquatic Center for the 2021 season. Motion carried unanimously.

##### H. Minnesota Rural Water Association

Minnesota Rural Water Association has reserved the Community Center for training in late August 2021. They are requesting to have fees waived since they are providing training for City maintenance staff as well as staff for surrounding cities.

Motion made by Maas, seconded by Skogen to waive community center fees for the Minnesota Rural Water Association in August 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

##### I. Garbage Hauler License

GFL (Green for Life) is the new owner for the merged Waste Management and Advanced Disposal.

They are requesting a garbage hauler license in Dodge Center. No action was taken at this time, City Administrator Tetzlaff will be getting more information to make sure they will not be adding an additional carrier to the City.

##### J. Resident Request

There was a request from a resident that had their furnace go out, and due to someone in the household being COVID-19 pos-

itive was unable to have anyone come into the house to repair or replace it, and with the cold temperatures they had called to inquire about having fees waived for they were to leave their water running at a trickle in order to prevent their pipes from freezing. Since then, they are not in need of the request anymore, but still wanted it mentioned so Council could think of a policy for anyone this may happen to in the future. It was discussed that they would be willing to look at it on a case by case basis if residents continue to come forward.

#### Miscellaneous

None.

#### Adjournment

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk

## COUNCIL MINUTES

### November 9, 2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center Room of City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas

Council members absent:

City staff and others present: Joshua Tetzlaff, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk; Bryce Lange, Community Development Specialist; Craig Britton; Daren Meier; Deputy Brion; Darrell Darr, Marty Franko, Lynn Franko, Colleen Wilson, Dustin Travaglio, Ron Carlsen, Robert Crandall, Adam & Anjanette Bills, others

#### Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

#### Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Public Hearing –

##### Currency Exchange License

Mayor Ketchum opened the hearing at 6:04 pm. Harold's Club is requesting a renewal of their currency exchange license and state requirement is to have a public hearing. Being there were no comments Mayor Ketchum closed the hearing at 6:05 pm.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve renewal of Harold's Club Currency Exchange License. Motion carried unanimously.

##### Public Hearing – 2020 Improvement

##### Project Assessments

Mayor Ketchum opened the hearing at 6:05:24 pm.

Craig Britton, City Engineer, presented a summary of how the assessments were calculated and the payback terms of the assessments.

The hearing was then turned over for questions or comments. The following people had questions or comments regarding the assessments. Marty Franko, Ron Carlsen, Dustin Travaglio, Robert Crandall, Darrell Darr, Colleen Wilson, Andrea Tapp, Nicole Hayak, Barb Jensen, Joe Knott, and Paul Sween.

(continued on page 9)



City Administrator Tetzlaff, Britton, and Council responded to various questions about how the assessments were calculated.

Mayor Ketchum closed the hearing at 7:16:20 pm.

Resolution 2020-046 was presented for Council's consideration.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve Resolution 2020-046, Resolution Adopting Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

### Public Participation

None.

### Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas, to approve minutes of the October 26, 2020 City Council

Meeting, and the September 1, 2020 EDA Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Trelstad, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### Staff Reports

None.

### Administrator's Report

#### A. Set Budget Meeting

In the packet Tetzlaff suggested setting the meeting for 11/16-11/25, but after hearing from Dodge County, they will not have the preliminary tax statements sent out until the week of 11/23/2020. Tetzlaff is recommending to hold the meeting between 11/30/2020-12/4/2020. Council agreed on Monday, November 30, 2020 1:00 pm-2:30 pm.

#### B. Set Municipal Election Canvas Board Meeting

Normally this has to be done within 10 days of the election. This year we are not going to be receiving our results from the County until 7 days after the election, which leaves us with either 11/12 or 11/13.

Council agreed on Friday, November 13, 2020 7:30 am

#### C. Flag Spending

In the past the City has paid for various flags around town, especially in City areas. Mayor Ketchum would like to make sure that this is still something Council would like to do since it has not been discussed for a few years. No action was taken.

#### D. Bid for Audit Services

Three companies responded to the bid. After looking at cost and services offered staff is recommending to continue with Smith Schafer & Associates.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen to accept the bid from Smith Schafer & Associates, conditional on fixing performance issues that happened over the last year. Motion carried unanimously.

#### E. Community Center Request

The Dodge Center Lions Club is requesting use of the Community Center for the mornings of 12/12/2020 & 12/19/2020 to wrap and distribute gifts for their Santa Anonymous program and to have fees and deposits waived for those dates. They are also requesting to be able to hold over the gifts they have wrapped until the distribution takes place 12/19/2020.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Maas, to approve use of the Community Center by the Dodge Center Lions Club for 12/12/20 & 12/19/20, with all fees and deposits waived, and to store items until distribution. Motion carried unanimously.

#### F. Ambulance New Hire Requests

The Ambulance Department has requested to hire 2 paid on call EMTs pending background checks.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas to approve hiring of 2 additional paid on call EMTs for the Ambulance Department, pending background checks. Motion carried unanimously.

#### G. Ambulance Request

Due to increasing numbers of COVID-19, the ambulance staff has been struggling to fill openings in the schedule. Ambulance Director Jarrett suggested possibly using other first responders from around the county as drivers and under Governor Walz's Executive Order that wouldn't be a problem, but the question would be how they would get paid because they would be here for such a short amount of time.

Tetzlaff asked Council if they would grant him the authority to temporarily hire first responders from around the county as drivers for the ambulance.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen to approve City Administrator Tetzlaff to hire temporary drivers for the Ambulance Department as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Miscellaneous

Councilwoman Skogen asked if it was known when the mailboxes would be put back for the homes on the street project. Daren Meier will contact the contractor and find out. Skogen requested that that information be included in the next newsletter to residents know what to expect.

Councilman Trelstad asked if it would be possible to add something to the monthly newsletter about people making sure that their sidewalks are clear and not blocked.

Mayor Ketchum thanked Daren Meier and Jim Barton for all their patience during the improvement project.

Mayor Ketchum also formally thanked all

the election judges that worked the recent election and especially thanked Administrative Clerk Tina Kozisek for an outstanding job organizing everything.

#### Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tina Kozisek, Administrative Clerk

### COUNCIL MINUTES

#### November 13, 2020

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Friday, November 13, 2020, at 7:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Cathy Skogen, Gary Trelstad, Matt Maas

Council members absent: Paul Blaisdell

City staff and others present: Joshua Tetzlaff, City Administrator

#### Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 7:35 a.m.

Mayor Ketchum declared this to be the meeting of the Canvassing Board for the election results. Council was able to review the results in the packet ahead of time, so there was minimal discussion.

Tetzlaff requested a motion to approve Resolution 2020-047 to declare the results of the November 3rd General Election. Also attached for signatures and approval was the Abstract of Votes from the election.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve Resolution 2020-047 and the Abstract of Votes from the November 3rd, 2020, General Election. Motion carried unanimously.

Newly elected members will be sworn in at the first Council meeting in January 2021.

#### Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas, to adjourn at 7:38 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joshua Tetzlaff, City Administrator

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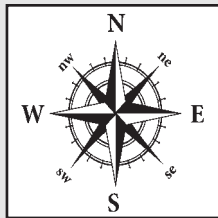
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Fiber Optic in the Backwoods



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.*

I lived in the country in Minnesota all my life. It would take both hands to count the number of Internet providers I have had in Minnesota over the years. Some started out good and then fizzled as more customers ate up the bandwidth. Some under-performed as soon as they were installed. One would think that 17 miles from Rochester would deliver better Internet. My last experience in Dodge County was with Minnesota WiFi and I have to say that they were consistent and delivered what they promised. The \$130 per month for 30mbps down and 10 mbps up seems a little steep though.

So, after moving to Tennessee I needed to

have a reliable Internet provider since I work online for a living. In 1933 the Tennessee Valley Authority was commissioned to provide electrical power to the rural areas in the state as a way to increase the standard of living. Fast forward to the 21st century and the Cumberland Cooperative produces hydro-electric power as well as coal fired electrical power to all citizens. There is a power line to every rural address in the state and they decided to string the Internet to every home as well. And not just Internet, but high-speed fiber optic Internet.

So I live five miles out of town and High Speed Fiber Optic Internet is at our door. \$50 per month and no connection fees or modem and router deposits for 250mbps up and 250mbps down. Internet so fast it will make your head spin and priced lower than any slow provider back in the snow state. I am often asked how I manage to put ten newspapers together each month while living 800 miles from Minnesota. High quality Internet is the answer.

So in Minnesota you have cold weather, 10X higher property taxes, a state income tax, poor Internet service, and a city which wants to defund the police while rioters burn it down in the summer. And in Tennessee you have great Internet at a low cost, no county planning and zoning departments, low real estate taxes and no state income tax and the people love their law enforcement departments. You might have figured out why I moved here.

# S THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,

**What exercises are best suited for seniors with arthritis? I have osteoarthritis in my neck, back, hip and knee and have read that exercises can help ease the pain and stiffness, but I don't know where to start, and I certainly don't want to aggravate it.**

—Stiff and Achy

Dear Stiff,

Many people who have arthritis believe that exercise will worsen their condition, but that's not true. Exercise is actually one of the best treatments for osteoarthritis.

Proper and careful exercises can help reduce joint pain and stiffness, strengthen muscles around the joints and increase flexibility. It also helps manage other chronic conditions that are common among seniors with arthritis, such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity. Here are some tips to help you get started.

### Recommended Exercises

Determining exactly which types of exercises that are best for you depends on the form and severity of your arthritis, and which joints are involved. It's best to work with your doctor or a physical therapist to help you develop a personalized exercise program. The different types of exercises that are most often recommended to seniors with arthritis include:

- Range-of-motion exercises: These are gentle stretching exercises that can relieve stiffness as well as improve your ability to move your joints through their normal range of motion. These exercises should be done daily.
- Strengthening exercise: Calisthenics, weight training and working with resistance bands are recommended (two or more days a week) to maintain and improve your muscle strength, which helps support and protect your joints.
- Aerobic exercises: Low-impact activities like walking, cycling, swimming or water aerobics are all recommended three to five times per week to help improve cardiovascular health, control weight, and improve your overall function.

It's also important to keep in mind that when you first start exercising, you need to go slow to give your body time to adjust. If you push yourself too hard you can aggravate your joint pain. However, some muscle soreness or joint achiness in the beginning is normal.

To help you manage your pain start by warming up with some simple stretches or range of motion exercises for five to 10 minutes before you move on to strengthening or aerobic exercises. Another tip is to apply heat to the joints you'll be working before you exercise, and use cold packs after exercising to reduce inflammation.

If you're experiencing a lot of pain while you exercise, you may need to modify the frequency, duration, or intensity of your exercises until the pain improves. Or you may need to try a different activity, for example, switching from walking to water aerobics. But if you're having severe, sharp or constant pain, or large increases in swelling or your joints feel hot or red, you need to stop and see your doctor.

### Exercising Aids

To help you exercise at home, the Arthritis Foundation offers a variety of free online videos to guide you through a variety of exercises. Or there are arthritis exercise DVDs you can purchase for a few dollars through Collage Video or the Arthritis Foundation Store.

Also see [Go4life.nia.nih.gov](http://Go4life.nia.nih.gov), a National Institute on Aging resource that offers a free exercise guide that provides illustrated examples of different exercises.

If you need some motivation or don't like exercising alone, ask your doctor about exercise programs in your area for people with arthritis. Hospitals and clinics sometimes offer special programs, as do local health clubs and senior centers.

The Arthritis Foundation also conducts exercise and aquatic programs for people with arthritis in many communities throughout the U.S. Contact your local branch to find out what may be available near you.

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Thanks for dropping in on us this year.  
We wish you a Merry Christmas, and we look forward to serving you again in 2021!

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

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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 LANDMARKS
- ACROSS
1. Octagonal sign
  5. "Don't have a \_\_\_\_!"
  8. Can of worms
  12. Pathetic
  13. Spanish sparkling wine
  14. Pico de gallo
  15. WWII side
  16. Like word of mouth
  17. Church song
  18. \*Victoria in Zimbabwe or Horseshoe in Canada
  20. \*Home to Rock of Cashel and Blarney Castle
  21. Massachusetts university
  22. " \_\_\_\_ Be Home For Christmas"
  23. Olympic torch, e.g.
  25. On the move
  28. Menu words
  29. \*Golden Gate or Mackinac
  32. Goodbye, to bambino
  34. Ruling in Islamic law
  36. Variable, abbr.
  37. Can, with thou
  38. South American monkey
  39. \*Versailles or Buckingham
  41. Thus far
  42. Yoko's John
  44. Collectively
  46. Party bowlful
  47. Memory failure
  49. Goals
  51. \*St. Basil's or Canterbury
  55. Independent, slang
  56. Initial stake
  57. Field of Dreams state
  58. More than one stylus
  59. Barnes and Noble or Barnum and Bailey
  60. Jaunty rhythm in music
  61. Don Quixote's enemy
  62. Urge Spot to attack
  63. Besides
- DOWN
1. BBQ side
  2. Taxon, pl.
  3. Fail to mention
  4. Bygone Spanish money
  5. Jeweler's unit
  6. Egg-like curves
  7. \*The Western one in Israel or the Great one in China
  8. \*La Sagrada Familia or St. Peter's
  9. Having wings
  10. \_\_\_\_ of Man
  11. Scottish cap
  13. Ceiling panel in the Pantheon
  14. Type of wheat
  19. Cuban dance
  22. Glacier matter
  23. Medieval knight's spiky weapon
  24. Coffee shop order
  25. \*Home to Taj Mahal
  26. Phonograph record
  27. Artist's support
  28. Back, at sea
  30. Director Reitman
  31. Indian restaurant staple
  33. Giant Hall-of-Famer
  35. \*Moulin Rouge or Netherland's landmark
  37. Incense without prefix
  39. Weasel-related onomatopoeia
  40. Enigma machine's output
  43. One born to Japanese immigrants
  45. Roman magistrate
  47. Hawaiian veranda
  48. V.C. Andrews' "Flowers in the \_\_\_\_"
  49. Naysayer's favorite prefix
  50. Bucolic poem
  51. Type in all \_\_\_\_
  52. Agitate
  53. Hole punchers
  54. Like the White Rabbit
  55. Any doctrine



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