



# Kenyon Messenger™

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JANUARY, 2021

Volume 14 • Issue 9

## Dining In Returns to Kenyon 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.



*(continued on page 7)*

## 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. 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.

*(continued on page 5)*



## Announcements

• **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 [threeriverscap.org](http://threeriverscap.org) for more information.

• **Home Delivered Meals Available** Sunday-Friday, for more info call Dee Callstrom 789-4663.

• **Kenyon SEMCAC dinners** are served Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at Gunderson Gardens at 11:15a.m. to anyone 60 or older. A suggested donation is posted. Reservations are required by signing up the day before or calling Helen Aase at 789-5315.

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

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

## 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.

## 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.

*(continued on page 5)*



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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. od 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!!!

## Traxler Law PLLC

traxlerlaw.com

Ann Traxler  
Attorney

### PRACTICE AREAS

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4359 Cty. 11 Blvd.  
Kenyon, MN 55945  
507-405-0420  
ann@traxlerlaw.com

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### DENNISON/VANG LUTHERAN PARISH

Pastor Paul A. Graham  
(C) 507-269-5997 • Office: 507-645-6042  
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN 55018  
Website: www.dennisonvang.org  
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Worship Updates - In-person Worship Services Canceled.

Due to the rapidly accelerating rates of COVID-19 cases in our local communities and across the state, the Dennison and Vang church councils have decided to suspend in person worship services.  
Worship services will continue on-line.

### ASPELUND EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Gideon Johnson, Pastor  
Church 507-824-2307 • Parsonage 507-789-5851  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.  
Jointly served with Hauge Lutheran, Kenyon

### FIRST EV. LUTHERAN

Julie Rogness, Pastor  
309 Forest Street, Kenyon • 507-789-5261  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

### GOL LUTHERAN

Marv Kormann, Pastor • 507-789-6311  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NERSTRAND

Don Kloster, Pastor • 507-334-2822  
305 South 1st Street, Nerstrand  
Worship 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

### HAUGE LUTHERAN

Gideon Johnson, Pastor • 507-789-6343  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

### WANAMINGO LUTHERAN

Christopher Culuris, Pastor • 507-824-2457  
130 West 3rd Street, Wanamingo

### 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.*

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Heather Culuris, Pastor • 507-824-2410  
Worship times alternate, please call to confirm

### MOLAND CHURCH

Nancy Edwardson, Pastor • 507-789-6661  
Sunday School 9 a.m.

### NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Lora Sturm, Pastor  
12 Maple Street • 507-330-0025  
Worship 9:00 a.m.

### NEW LIFE CHURCH

525 Beverly Street • 507-824-3019  
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

### ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lora Sturm, Pastor • 507-330-0025  
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info  
19086 Jacob Avenue, Faribault  
Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christopher Culuris, Pastor  
507-824-2155

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dana Houck, Pastor  
429 4th Street, Kenyon  
507-789-6531  
Worship 9 a.m.; Bible Study Tuesdays at 7 a.m.  
at Gunderson Gardens

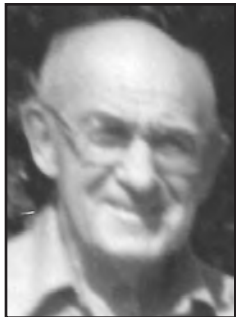
### ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Cory Rohlfing  
Deacon Newell McGee  
108 Bullis St., Kenyon  
Sunday Mass 8:00a.m.  
Wednesday Mass 5:00p.m.

**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](http://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](http://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, Tussy, 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](http://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)*

## HAIRCUTS

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# Obituaries

## 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 talents 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](http://www.thepetersonchapel.com)

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

Watch our Facebook page and website for reopening updates.

**The Fireside**  
LOUNGE & SUPPER CLUB

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## COVID-19 Vaccinations being administered throughout Goodhue County

(continued from page 1)

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 dis-

tancing, 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



Todd Greseth



Andy Speitz



Ryan Holm



Trent Wentlandt

## K-W Elementary Students are Back in School Fulltime

(continued from page 1)

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](http://kw.k12.mn.us) or call 507-789-7001.

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.

**For information on the COVID-19 vaccines go to: [cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html](https://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](https://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](https://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.

For more information on Goodhue County Health & Human Services, please visit [www.co.goodhue.mn.us](https://www.co.goodhue.mn.us).

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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## Gratitude



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

With the new year here I have been taking some time to reflect on this past year. While 2020 has been incredibly challenging, I have found myself focusing on the bright spots. It was a year filled with incredible stories of people doing amazing things to help those hit hardest by the pandemic. I am thankful that at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we were able to play a role, alongside many partners and collaborators, in moving this part of the state toward a more resilient future.

It is impossible to encapsulate everything that I was grateful for in 2020, but this top ten list is a start (in no particular order):

**Early Childhood professionals.** They have continued to support the young children of our region under extremely difficult conditions. We were able to provide early

childhood trainings and technical assistance, in addition to emergency grants, to support these professionals throughout the year.

**Entrepreneurs.** So many businesses have been hit hard this year. I have been energized by the innovative spirit of entrepreneurs in the region who have adapted their business models during a period of rapid changes. We partnered with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to disperse more than \$10 million in Small Business Relief Grants directly to businesses in our region. We were also able to provide trainings and technical assistance to businesses.

**Our 30 Community Foundations.** SMIF offered a matching grant to the community foundations under our umbrella so they could provide relief funding directly to their communities. They were able to help their local food shelves purchase more food, keep essential community organizations afloat, provide critical tools for equitable distance learning and much more.

**Local food producers.** This year holiday shoppers had the opportunity to shop online for foodie gifts that were produced by 40 vendors from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. More than 400 unique items were available through the FEAST! Online Marketplace with products ranging from hazelnut oil and smoked salmon patties to maple syrup and jam.

**The addition of a new Prosperity Initiative cohort.** This program offers

business training and mentoring to new immigrant and minority entrepreneurs in our region. We were excited to welcome a new cohort of 13 clients this year and support the growth of their businesses during this difficult year.

**Our AmeriCorps members.** AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative members serve in preschool classrooms and nonprofits focused on the social and emotional development of young children. VISTA members serve at nonprofits or local government agencies to help increase economic prosperity of diverse groups in our region. We also welcomed a VISTA member at SMIF who is focused on local foods initiatives, and a Lead for Minnesota Fellow who is focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

**Our grant recipients.** In addition to the DEED Grants and Emergency Child Care Grants that we have dispersed, we also supported small towns with their COVID response efforts, provided free paint for community projects and launched both the Inclusive and Equitable Communities Grant program and the Early Care and Education Wrap Around Grant program. We also awarded a record 27,828 children's books to 66 organizations through our Early Literacy Grant program (and many more books through other programs). It is amazing to see how passionate our grant recipients are about serving their communities.

**Our incredible donors and partners.** None of the work mentioned above would be possible without them. Thanks to our



309 donors – individuals, families, cities, counties, businesses and organizations – we have raised \$1.3 million to date in 2020. I am humbled by their generosity and their belief in the work we do, especially during this critical time.

**The staff at SMIF.** They were able to quickly mobilize and shift operations to process and distribute hundreds of emergency grants and loans, while providing technical assistance and training to early childhood professionals and entrepreneurs in the region.

**Last, but definitely not least, southern Minnesotans.** You have proven to be resilient in the face of immense challenges. As I have said previously, we are stronger together, and we will get through this together.

Here's to a new year and a brighter future for southern Minnesota.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at [timp@smifoundation.org](mailto:timp@smifoundation.org) or 507-455-3215.

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## Dining In Returns to Kenyon this week

(continued from page 1)

The Kenyon VFW will have dine in on Tuesdays with their Burger Night from

5:30 to 7:30pm, Wednesday Wing Night from 6 to 8pm and Thursday night Full Mixer from 6 to 8pm. The bar will be open from 4 to 10pm. The Kenyon Bar and Grill reopens Wednesday through Sundays from noon to 10pm.

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 transmission.

"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 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 restrictions, 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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Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council Meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 7:10 p.m. on the 10th day of November 2020. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Henke.

The following members were present: Mayor Doug Henke, Council Members Dan Rehtzigel, John Mortensen, and Tom Gard.

Also, present: Administrator Mark Vahlsing, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Police Chief Lee Sjolander, Engineer Derek Olinger, Attorney Scott Riggs

Via Teleconference: Council Member Richard Nielsen

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## CITIZEN COMMENT

None

## ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Gard second by Nielsen to approve the agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Rehtzigel second by Gard to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes payment of check numbers, 71603 through 71675; 3602E through 3618E; and additional checks 71676 through 71692.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

## PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLIC HEARINGS/ RECOGNITIONS/PROLAMATIONS

None

## ENGINEERING

### Red Wing Avenue Project Update

Engineer Olinger stated that construction on Red Wing Avenue is nearly complete. The paving started last Friday and was completed on Saturday. The final lift of pavement will be installed in 2021 to allow for any corrections to be made from frost movement or settlement over the winter. There are still 16-17 driveways/sidewalks that are not done. The contractor said they would be back by the end of this week to finish.

### Pay Request #6 – Wencil Construction

Administrator Vahlsing stated that Wencil construction has not been cashing their payment checks. This has caused some accounting issues for the City. The Council agreed that this is a rare issue with contractors.

Motion by Mortensen second by Rehtzigel to table pay request No. 6 to Wencil Construction in the amount of \$467,757.11 until the November 17th meeting to see if pay request No. 5 gets cashed.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Change Order #3

Engineer Olinger reported that the Contractor is requesting approval of a change that would extend the date of substantial completion to November 14, 2020 due to poor weather conditions in October. It would also amend the definition of turf

stabilization on the south ½ of the project area. The seeding will be delayed until next spring. These areas will just be mulched for now. The proposed change order would not increase the project cost.

Motion by Henke second by Mortensen to approve Change Order #3 for the Wencil Construction.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Kenyon Business Park/Utility Extension Project Status Update

Engineer Olinger reported that A-1 Excavating has completed almost all underground utility installation on the north side of the business park property, except for a short segment by the Goodhue County shop. The utility installation within the development is nearing completion. Storm sewer will be installed next. The grading crew began work last week. They are required to excavate the stormwater pond and place a majority of the fill in structural areas yet this year. This will allow these areas to settle before the roadways are constructed next year.

### Pay Request #1 – A-1 Excavating

Motion by Rehtzigel second by Mortensen to approve pay request No. 1 to A-1 Excavating in the amount of \$331,558.66 for work completed through October 23rd.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Change Order #2

Engineer Olinger stated that A-1 Excavating requested approval of a change that would extend the date of substantial completion to November 14, 2020 due to poor weather conditions in October. The proposed change order would not increase the project cost.

Motion by Gard second by Nielsen to approve Change Order #2 for the A-1 Excavating.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Riverside Park Flood Repairs - FEMA Grant

Authorize Bolton & Menk to Proceed with Survey/Engineering Services for Project

Engineer Olinger stated that the City had applied for FEMA Funding for improvements to the Riverside Park area. The grant application was approved for \$89,922.50 which is 79% of the total cost of \$114,522.50. The maximum City share of the project cost would be \$24,600. The grant money will be distributed directly to the City within 60 days. The City portion could come from capital funds in the street and park budget. A portion could also come from the storm water enterprise fund. If the City would like to proceed with this project, Bolton & Menk would need to be authorized to proceed with the engineering and survey work at an estimated fee of approximately \$29,500. If authorized, the design would be completed over the winter with

construction in the spring or early summer of 2021.

Motion by Mortensen second by Gard to authorize Bolton & Menk to proceed with survey and engineering services for Riverside Park Flood Repair Project.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

## LEGAL

### Lot Combination: Bigelow Homes Vacation of Utility and Drainage Easement

Attorney Riggs stated that the easements that run down the middle of the newly combined lots at 217 Whitetail Lane need to be vacated. This is a follow up to the lot combination that was approved in October. It is a simple process that involves publishing a notice and scheduling a public hearing. The consensus of the Council was to proceed with this process.

Review Winter Parking Regulations Kenyon City Code Sections 1305.19 and 1305.33

Mayor Henke stated that he had received concerns from the public and the public works department about winter parking regulations and enforcement of fines. In past years, there have been numerous violators and it is usually the same violators. Police Chief Sjolander stated his goal would be to have voluntary compliance, but he agreed it is usually the same violators. Sjolander had talked with Wayne Ehrich and they would

like to see citations written for the first violation with increased fines and have the vehicles towed for the second and following violations. Attorney Riggs stated that he could bring back an amended ordinance to the December meeting.

Motion by Rehtzigel second by Mortensen to authorize the City Attorney to revise Chapter 1305 of City Code concerning winter parking regulation.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rehtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Update on Former Ambulance Garage Renovations

Police Chief Sjolander updated staff on the police department renovations. The antennas are in place. The sign is done. The internet should be installed soon.

### COVID Cares Federal Funding

Administrator Vahlsing stated that the City Received \$134,000 in funding through the Federal CARES act for COVID 19. To date the City has expended \$42,086.29 on items including supplies, furnishings, and related items for COVID 19. There is \$91,913.71 in remaining COVID Cares funding available. The deadline to expend the COVID Care funds is November 15, 2020. Staff identified and recommended several items that would be eligible for reimbursement related to COVID Cares program funding.

(continued on page 9)



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(continued from page 8)

### First Responder/Fire Truck Chassis - Rosenbauer America Inc. \$41,397

Vahlsing stated that a quote of \$41,397 had been received for a chassis part of a First Responder vehicle for the Fire Department. The estimated total cost of this unit would be approximately \$210-\$225,000 under State Contract pricing. Due to current manufacturing delivery schedules, the remainder of the unit would not be delivered until later in 2021 or 2022. The remainder of the purchase price would be paid prior to delivery of the unit.

Motion by Rechtzigel second by Mortensen to approve using \$41,397 of COVID Care Federal funding to apply toward the first responder/fire truck chassis.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rechtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Portable Handheld Radios for Fire and Police Departments - Motorola: \$48,828.50

Vahlsing stated that he received a quote of \$48,828.50 from Motorola for the purchase of 10 handheld 800 MHz emergency radios, chargers, mics, and related equipment. The purchase would come under State Contract pricing. These radios would replace some older equipment currently utilized by the FD and PD.

Motion by Henke second by Nielsen to approve using \$48,828.50 of COVID Care Federal funding to purchase the Motorola

handheld radios.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rechtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Vahlsing indicated that the total of these two items would use \$90225.50 of the remaining COVID Care funding leaving \$1688.21 available. Below are two other items that could be considered to purchase with the remaining money.

### Cold Air Plasma Generator Air Filtration System - Reliable heating and Cooling

Vahlsing stated that two quotes had been received for an air filtration system for City Hall building and the Muni. The lowest quote was received by Reliable Heating and Cooling of Zumbrota. The total cost for both buildings would be \$5400. After utilizing the remaining COVID Care funds of \$1688.21, the cost would be \$3711.00 to the City. The Council decided to put this on hold for now, since they were not sure of the air filtration system's effectiveness in the office for COVID.

### Touchless Bathroom Fixtures – Faribo Plumbing and Heating.

Vahlsing stated that the total cost for touchless fixtures including faucets, urinal, and toilet retro fit units would be \$2348. After utilizing the remaining COVID Care funds of \$1688.21 the cost to the City would \$659.00.

Motion by Nielsen second by Rechtzigel to approve using \$1688.21 of COVID Care

Federal funding to purchase the touchless bathroom fixtures.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rechtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Resolution 2020-29: Adopting Assessment for Delinquent Utility Bills**  
Vahlsing stated that this resolution would authorize delinquent utility bill amounts and other fees to be certified on property taxes.

Motion by Henke second by Mortensen to adopt Resolution 2020-29 adopting assessment for delinquent utility bills.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rechtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### 2021 Proposed Agreement for Continuation of our City-County Joint-Powers "Agreement for State Building Code Administration"

Administrator Vahlsing stated that Goodhue County requires the City of Kenyon to approve a yearly agreement to conduct residential and commercial building inspections. The County has done an excellent job conducting inspections for the City. The term of the contract would be for one year starting January 1, 2021.

Motion by Henke seconded by Mortensen to approve the 2021 agreement with Goodhue County for State Building Code Administration.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rechtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

City Council-Canvass 2020 Election Results: Thursday, Nov. 12th @ 4:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting: Monday, November 16th @ 6:00 p.m.

Red Wing Ave. Assessment Hearing: Tuesday, November 17th @ 6:00 p.m.

KMU Meeting: Wednesday, November 23rd @ 2:00 p.m.

Township Fire Contract Meeting: Tuesday, December 1st @ 6 p.m.

2021 Budget & Levy Public Meeting: Tuesday, December 1st @ 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 8th @ 7 p.m.

### COUNCIL AND STAFF GENERAL COMMENTS

Administrator Vahlsing gave his condolences to Sue Dodds in the passing of her dad. He thanked the election workers and Holli for their work with the overwhelming turnout of absentee voters and for the high voter turnout on election day.

Councilman Rechtzigel thanked the City for allowing the unique parking on 6th Street for the football games. He recognized tomorrow as Veterans' Day and thanked the vets for their service even though the program at the school had to be cancelled. He thanked the City crew for repairing a damaged mailbox.

Councilman Mortensen congratulated everyone on the election results.

Chief Sjolander thanked all who ran for election and were elected. He also thanked Linda Bean for all her lead election work.

Mayor Henke reminded everyone to remember Veterans' Day. He stated that Steve Drazkowski would like to come to the December meeting and give an update on State money to cities for next year.

Motion by Mortensen second by Nielsen to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Henke- Aye, Rechtzigel – Aye, Mortensen – Aye, Gard – Aye, Nielsen - Aye

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Holli Gudknecht, Administrative Assistant  
Douglas Henke, Mayor



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**FACT:** The Post Office is established in the U.S. Constitution. The public Postal Service is part of the fundamental infrastructure of this nation – binding it together.

**FACT:** The USPS delivers to every address in the country – 159 million addresses and 470 million pieces of mail each day – no matter who we are or where we live. In contrast, private delivery companies go where they can make a profit.

**FACT:** Multiple polls consistently rate the Postal Service as the most trusted U.S. agency. It rates highest among young adults.

**FACT:** Package volume is increasing. In these days of rising on-line shopping, the public Postal Service is as needed as ever.

**FACT:** Financial hardships for the USPS were manufactured by the 2006 "Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act." This Congressional action forced the Postal Service to "pre-fund" future retiree health care costs 75 years into the future. The unfair burden is directly responsible for the reduction in the hours of operation, staffing, mail speed, and the quality of postal services.

**FACT:** The U.S. Mail is the most secure and private form of communication.

**FACT:** If the White House Office of Management and Budget's proposal to sell the USPS to corporations for private profit goes through, it will result in higher costs, reduced mail days, and the end of delivery to every address.

Go to [usmailnotforsale.org](http://usmailnotforsale.org) or call 202-224-3121 to contact your members of Congress. Tell them you support your public Postal Service!

**The Public Postal Service – Keep It. It's Yours!**



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## Commissioner Corner



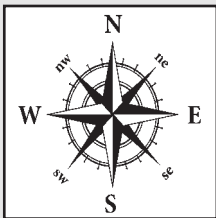
**Barney Nesseth**  
Goodhue County  
Commissioner  
District 3

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!!

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

## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes World Traveler



By Terry Campbell

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## A Minnesotan in the North: Hoar Frost



By RosaLin Alcoser

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

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

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

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

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

## 2021 Perennial of the Year



Teri Knight

*Gardenbite*

The Perennial Plant of the year for 2021 has been announced. One of the highlights of the plant has to do with pollinators. As we understand more on more the value of our pollinators, this seems appropriate.

The perennial plant program started in 1990. Perennials are chosen due to their ability to adapt to a wide range of growing climates, low maintenance, have multiple-season interest and are relatively pest/disease-free.

This year they've chosen *Calamintha nepeta* subsp *nepeta*. The tiny white flowers, some tinged blue, look like a cloud of confetti blooming from early summer to fall on this plant.

Undemanding and dependable, it provides the perfect foil for other summer bloomers and foliage. This full-sun perennial has a low mounding/ bushy habit, ideal for the front of the border, rock gardens and more.

While durable and pest-free, *Calamintha nepeta*, as mentioned, also checks two important boxes for gardeners: bees and other pollinators work the flowers throughout the summer and the aromatic foliage is deer-resistant. Bonus!

*Calamintha nepeta* is a perennial herb of the mint family native to Europe and the Mediterranean region. It typically forms a dense, indefinitely spreading, foliage mat (due to rhizomes) with upright leafy flowering stems rising to 12-18" tall. The ovate, gray-green leaves (to 3/4" long) are very fragrant when crushed.

Here's the caveat, it's a zone 5 plant, but with warmer temperatures, it's worth a shot in zone 4. Subsp. *nepeta* is a more vigorous performer with slightly larger flowers and larger leaves (to 1.25" long) which may be dried for potpourris or sachets.



*Calamintha Nepeta*

*Teri Knight became a Master Gardener with Dakota County, Minnesota in 2003. She currently produces her website, [www.gardenbite.com](http://www.gardenbite.com), that supplements her daily radio program which has aired Monday thru Friday on radio stations throughout Minnesota since 2007. In 2017, several stations in Wisconsin began airing her show. Teri's been involved in community projects which include a Junior Master Gardener program for 8 to 12 year olds, designing and planting a garden for a women's center and various other organizations! Besides all that, Teri is News Director at KYMN Radio and can be heard weekdays on AM 1080 and 95.1 FM The One, From Northfield, MN.*

↑  
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### CROSSWORD

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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- 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

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.



**Happy New Year to all of our friends and customers near and far!**

*We hope 2021 brings nothing but the best to you and yours.*



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