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FEBRUARY, 2021

Volume 18 • Issue 6

Announcements

• Nerstrand Elementary School is conducting enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year and has openings in all grade levels. Parents can check out information on our school by looking at our website www.nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us and apply online if they are interested.

• Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand UMC hours are Wednesdays 1 - 6 and Saturdays 9 - 12. Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

• Dennison Lions Club meets monthly. During COVID-19, meeting times may vary.

• Dennison City Council meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

• The Nerstrand City Council meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Nerstrand City Hall. Office hours are: Monday 8:30-11:00; Tuesday by appointment; Wednesday 8:30-11:00; Thursday 5:00-7:00; Friday by appointment. 507-332-8000.

• Warsaw Township Meeting is held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Warsaw Township Hall. Meeting time is 6:00p.m.

• The Wheeling Township meeting will be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00p.m. at the Wheeling Township Hall. Contact Rebecca Vergin, Township Clerk.

Celebrating the Future Farmers of America

National FFA Week February 20-27



Starting in 1948, the National FFA Board of Directors designated a week-long tradition to recognize George Washington's example and legacy as a leader and farmer. For the past 73 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

"National FFA Week is a significant event that really showcases the heart of our organization," says Christine White, chief program officer for the National FFA Organization. "Local chapters use this as an opportunity to highlight program success, recognize community supporters and amplify the mission of the organization."

This year, more than 700,000 FFA mem-

bers will spend the week of Feb. 20-27 through agricultural education. developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success

(continued on page 5)

MN FFA Foundation Continues Tracy's Legacy with Annual Scholarships



Jim Tracy

Many of you reading this knew Jim Tracy. A lifelong rural Dennison resident. Jim grew up on the family farm north of Dennison. During his childhood, Jim was active in FFA and 4-H. After graduating from high school, Jim

served two years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He then returned home to work on the family farm. The family had dairy cows and crop land. After selling the cows, Jim continued to farm his land until his passing in 2014.

(continued on page 5)

Volunteer COVID-19 Vaccinators Needed

Goodhue County, Minnesota — Many agencies are working around the clock to get as many people vaccinated as possible. Holding a vaccine clinic is no small task! It requires a significant amount of people-power to make them happen. As vaccine supply increases there is a real need for volunteers to help us vaccinate and protect our community from COVID-19.

Here at Goodhue County Health and Human Services (GCHHS) we are looking for volunteers who are licensed to administer vaccines to help us with our vaccination efforts. If you are licensed to give vaccinations in the State of Minnesota, we need your help! Please register at HYPERLINK "<http://www.mnresponds.org>" www.mnresponds.org. Minnesota Responds is a vetted volunteer service that helps our community respond to emergencies and disasters. Our local Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) units help communities meet unexpected medical and public health needs, using qualified local volunteers.

Hear from a Local Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corp Volunteer

We conducted a brief question and answer with Mary Heckman, local MRC Volunteer, to hear more about her choice to volunteer.

(continued on page 7)

Adriana Bermudez: Why I love Northfield and AmeriCorps

By Southern MN Initiative Foundation

When Adriana Bermudez was attending Northfield High School and thinking about her future plans, she thought she might want to pursue a career in early childhood education because of her love for children.

However, since her experience in this field was limited, she was unsure if this was the right career path for her.



Adriana Bermudez serving in a Northfield classroom as a Social Emotional Skill Builder.

(continued on page 11)

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Erin Elizabeth Anthony Almendinger

Erin Elizabeth Anthony Almendinger loving mother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend lost her courageous 3 year battle with cancer at her home in Dundas, MN at the age of 40. She was born Oct. 27, 1980 in Peoria, Illinois to Larry & Marilyn (Maus) Anthony and went to her heavenly home on Feb. 16, 2021.

She attended St. Dominic School, Northfield, Consolidated Catholic School and Bethlehem Academy in Faribault and Graduated from Northfield Highschool, class of 1999. She enjoyed playing volleyball during her school years and continued playing as an adult in women's leagues. She also enjoyed participating in hockey and ski club. Her free time was spent enjoying friends and family in many varied activities.



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SHOP LOCAL

Her most cherished work was as a mother and friend. She also worked at the L&M bar, a place that held many memories as her grandparents and later parents were owners. It was here that we celebrated family and friends with reunions, birthdays, weddings, showers and now Erin's celebration of life. Her last few years were spent working at Aldi's in Faribault.

Erin will be remembered for her humble, kind, graceful, determined, fun and peaceful approach to life. Erin was faithful to everyday life. She embraced life's quiet gifts. She taught us to live simply and made us realize the simple things are actually the BIG things in life. She sported a Claddagh tattoo and wore a traditional Irish Claddagh ring. This ring represents love, loyalty, and

friendship. Hands = Friendship. Heart = Love and Crown = Loyalty.

She had a great appreciation for nature and all it had to offer. She had a wry sense of humor and continued to share it with us even in her final days - what a blessing to us ! Erin was music to our souls. We will hold the sound of her laughter and sight of her beautiful smile with us forever. All who knew her feel blessed. Thank you, Erin, ~ All our Love

Erin is survived by her parents, Larry & Marilyn (Maus) Anthony; daughters, Morgan and Calli Almendinger and their father Tim Almendinger, all of Dundas; siblings, Paul Anthony of Dundas, Anne (Steve) Potter of Faribault, Todd (Jamie) Anthony of Minneapolis, and Ryan (Molly)

Anthony of Richfield, MN; best friend and caring companion, Tom Seesz of Dundas; nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and many friends.

Visitation was held at Bierman Funeral Home, 1316 Division St. S., Northfield, MN from 1- 3 PM followed by a Celebration of Life at the L&M Bar in Dundas, MN on from 3:30 - 5:30 PM Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021. A private funeral was held for Erin on Sunday before the visitation. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery, Northfield in the spring.

Memorials will be used to support Calli and Morgan's Education. They can be sent to Bierman Funeral Home, C/O Almendinger Family, 1316 Division Street South, Northfield, MN 55057.

Traxler Law PLLC
traxlerlaw.com
Ann Traxler
Attorney

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Website: www.dennisonvang.org
Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
Pastor Paul A. Graham

Midweek Lent services are at Vang at 7:00 PM
Wednesdays during Lent. All are welcome.

Sunday worship times are:
March 7 - Vang, 9:00 AM; Dennison, 11:00 AM
March 14 - Vang, 9:00 AM
March 21 - Vang, 9:00 AM; Dennison, 11:00 AM
March 28 (Palm Sunday) Vang - 9:00 AM

Gol Lutheran Marv Komann, Pastor
8:45a.m. Sunday School;
9:15a.m. Social & Coffee Time; 10a.m. Worship
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
and all major church year festivals

Grace Lutheran, Nerstrand
Don Kloster, Pastor
Service 9 a.m.; Coffee Hour 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran
Martin Hom, Pastor
10:45 a.m. worship; 6:45 p.m.; New Life Radio - KDHL

Hegre Lutheran
Pastor Chris Brekke
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

Moland Lutheran
Nancy Edvardson, Pastor • 10:30 a.m. worship

First Ev. Lutheran
Luther Mathsen, Pastor
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC
Curtis Fox, Pastor
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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY
Who Then Can Be Saved?
Scripture Reading — Mark 10:17-31
The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" — Mark 10:26

In reading stories about people like the man in this episode, people who don't really understand Jesus, I'm tempted to look down on them. The man appears to have been wealthy, and he had a high opinion of how well he kept the law. But he seems to have had no idea that Jesus was simply calling him to give his whole life to God—or maybe he just didn't want to do that. I think to myself, "I guess he just doesn't get what it means to follow Jesus."

And yet I often respond to Jesus in the same way that man did. Often I don't catch what Jesus is about, or understand what he has just said, or realize what he expects of me.

But in this story, Jesus doesn't look down on the man. Jesus looks at him and loves him, the Bible says.

I am so thankful that—even though the man had it all wrong—Jesus didn't just dismiss him or condemn him. Instead, Jesus loved him and invited the man to follow him.

Right there is something wonderful I can learn from Jesus. When I don't understand his teachings, or when I misunderstand the truth about Jesus and his kingdom, there is still a loving invitation from Jesus to follow him and keep learning.

Whatever else Jesus says to the man in the story, it's in the context of Jesus' love for a person who doesn't fully get it. That is reassuring to me!

Thank you, Jesus, for looking at me with love even when I have it all wrong. Instead of seeing what I have done, show me what you have done for me. Amen.

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Stanton United Methodist
Rev. Gary Liker
Worship 10:15a.m.
Church Phone 507-263-4063

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10:00a.m. Worship Service
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

HOLDEN-DALE PARISH
Heather Culuris, Pastor
Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship at Holden;
11:00 a.m. worship at Dale

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

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



A. Donald Broin

A. Donald Broin, 90, of Kenyon, died Friday, February 19, 2021, at Three Links Care Center in Northfield.

Arthur Donald Broin was born December 12, 1930, on a farm near Bombay, MN. He

was the oldest of 4 children born to Arthur and Edna (Flaten) Broin. He was baptized and confirmed at Holden Lutheran Church. He attended a rural school through 8th grade, and graduated from Kenyon High School with the great class of 1949.

Don married Sarah Dyr Dahl in 1951, and together they had three children, Susan, Debra, and David. Soon after their wedding, Don was drafted because of the Korean War, but after basic training he was sent to France to be part of the reconstruction in Europe.

When Don came back to the US after his service, he joined Clifford Voxland's construction business and eventually Don owned the business by himself, calling it Don Broin Contractor and Builder. He was very proud of all the projects and homes he built in the Kenyon area, and of all the customers who became good friends. Don continued to do minor jobs well into retirement.

Don was always willing to serve his community. He was an active member of the Kenyon Fire Department for around 30 years, and also served as the chief at one time. He was also an active member of the Lions Club, and served on the church council at Hauge Lutheran Church. He invested a lot of time in the restoration and maintenance of the Hauge Old Stone Church. In 2020, he was asked to be the Grand Marshal of the Memorial Day parade, which was later cancelled due to Covid.

Over the years Don enjoyed snowmobiling with friends, playing golf, and driving

his speedboat for anyone who wanted to waterski. Once everyone else took turns, he also loved to waterski himself.

In 1977, Don and Sarah bought a cabin on the Gull Lake Chain (Lake Margaret) near Nisswa, MN. They owned their cabin for over 35 years, and their children and six grandchildren have wonderful memories of this place.

Don preferred to travel by car, however, after retirement he and Sarah also took great trips to Norway with their three children to visit family farms, and to Washington, DC. They also spent several winters in

Corpus Christi, TX and Fort Walton Beach, FL, as well as occasional trips to AZ, FL and CA.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Sarah M. Broin; children, Susan (Mark) Pedersen, Plymouth, Debra (Donald) Peterson, Nokomis, FL and David (Pamela) Broin, Owatonna; grandchildren, Jeffrey (Megan) Pedersen, Rachel Pedersen, Ryan (Amy) Schwake, Kristi Schwake (Nick Colbert), Peter Broin, Kelli Broin, Theresa Peterson and Kathleen Peterson; great-grandchildren, Mila, Graham, and Jack Schwake and Luke Pedersen; brother, Lowell (Nancy) Broin, Wanamingo; sister, Beverly Felten, Chino Hills, CA; and sister-in-law, Barbara Broin, Rochester.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Edna Broin; brother, Harland Broin; sister-in-law, Judith Broin; and brother-in-law, George Felten.

Visitation will be at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon on Monday, March 1, 2021, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Memorial services will be held Monday, March 1, 2021 at 2:00 PM at Hauge Lutheran Church in Kenyon with The Reverend Gideon Johnson officiating. Interment will be in the Kenyon Cemetery with military honors provided by the Kenyon Color Guard. The service will be available online at: www.wearelivetoday.com/a-donald-broin

Memorials are preferred to Hauge Old Stone Church, Hauge Lutheran Church, and Holden Park.

Granville Strand Grant Jr.

Granville Strand Grant Jr. (Snook) aged 74, passed away February 9th, 2021 in Sarasota, Florida after a brief illness.

He was born February 15th, 1946 in Northfield, Minnesota to Granville R. Grant and Doris E. Grant (Strand). He started school in Dennison, MN and graduated from Northfield High School. From there he went on to graduate from the Dunwoody College of Technology with a degree in Auto Mechanics.

In 1966 he married his high school sweetheart Shirley Bresnahan. They had 2 children.

He spent his childhood in Dennison, Minnesota and started working at the family owned dealership at an early age. After completing his education and working with his father for a number of years he eventually took over ownership at the dealership until retiring in 2003.

Much of his free time was spent at the family cabins in Northern Minnesota on Crane Lake and Lake Bertha. In his later years he and Shirley spent time between their homes in Northfield and Englewood, Florida. There he enjoyed fishing, boating and feeding the local bird population. As an avid fisherman he loved spending his days out on the water with family and friends.

Granville had a need for speed. Cars,

boats, or snowmobiles. Anything and everything that would go fast. He was a fan of car racing and modified his own cars to participate in drag racing events.

His other loves included classic cars, cooking and music. His favorites included The Beach Boys, Elvis and The Eagles. He was respected for his crowd pleasing homemade spicy spaghetti sauce.

He loved to save big money at Menards and could be found on most days wearing a red t-shirts with the store logo.

He had a soft spot for animals and had many faithful canine companions along his journey.

Granville will be remembered by family and friends for his playful sense of humor.

Surviving are his wife of 55 years Shirley, a son, Darin Grant and grandson Logan of Nerstrand, MN, a daughter, Tonya and husband Dr. Will Petty and grandsons Holden and Mason of Hilton Head Island, SC. He has one brother Steven Grant of Dundas, Minnesota.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a visitation service was held by immediate family members on February 15, 2021 (his 75th birthday) at Lemon Bay Funeral Home in Englewood, Florida. A memorial service and burial will be held at a later date to be determined in Minnesota though.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to the Dennison-Vang Lutheran Church in Dennison, Minnesota. Arrangements by Bierman Funeral Home and Crematory. biermanfuneralhome.com.





Dennison-Vang Lutheran Parish seeks to be a loving presence in the community in Christ's name. We are a community of faith that makes a difference through worship and serving outside our walls.

If you are looking for something more in your life, come check us out!

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Midweek Lent services are at Vang at 7:00 PM Wednesdays during Lent. All are welcome.

Sunday worship times are:
 March 7 – Vang, 9:00 AM; Dennison, 11:00 AM
 March 14 – Vang, 9:00 AM
 March 21 – Vang, 9:00 AM; Dennison, 11:00
 March 28 (Palm Sunday) Vang – 9:00 AM

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Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Begins Implementation



By Emmie Peters

Over the past few years, local representatives from county governments, cities, soil and water conservation districts, organizations, and concerned citizens have met to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Cannon River. Stakeholders used the process of One Watershed, One Plan developed by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to develop the plan.

BWSR officially approved the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CRCWMP) on June 24th, 2020. In addition to the plan, the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board was also created to serve the goal of implementing the CRCWMP.

The CRWMP identifies high priority areas based on watershed concerns of the Cannon River and provides conservation practices to implement with the goal of improving water quality. However, the implementation of conservation practices is not limited to only these areas. Conservation across the watershed is important to the health of the Cannon River Watershed.

Rice County holds 27.8 percent of the watershed area of the Cannon River, the most of any county located in the water-

shed. The CRCWMP prioritizes treatment in the watersheds of lakes and streams. Rice County is home to five of the seven identified high priority lakes (Kelly, Dudley, Cedar, Hunt, and Fox) and three of the seven high priority streams (Prairie Creek, Rush Creek, and Little Cannon) prioritized in the plan.

By implementing conservation practices in the priority areas and across the watershed, Rice County can improve the water quality of the Cannon River Watershed by reducing sedimentation and nutrient loading of our local lakes and streams.

Staff from the Rice SWCD will work with landowners and farmers to implement conservation practices. Four different categories will be focused on during the implementation phase of the plan.

The first category is cost-share projects including structural and nonstructural projects. Structural practices will be constructed in the high priority stream watersheds and include projects like waterways and sediment basins. Non-structural practices, including reduced tillage and cover crops, will be implemented in both high priority lake and stream watersheds.

The second category focuses on developing resource concern inventories across the watershed. In Rice County, natural shoreline inventories will be developed on Lower Sakatah and Sprague lakes and will focus on ways to preserve the shorelines. Septic inventories will be conducted in other counties.

The third category will focus on plan development and tracking progress. Activities in this category will include surveying cover crops and completing terrain analysis for the entire watershed to track progress of the completed projects. Every other year there will be a field day to show locally elected officials and other stakeholders the progress of the plan.

The final category will concentrate on conservation education across the watershed. This will include soil health events, individual letters to landowners on the health of their land, and the development of a plan to further help educate the public on the state of the Cannon River Watershed.

Overall, there is a lot that can be done in Rice County to help the health of the



Citizens and stakeholders gather at South Central College in Faribault to learn about the Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan process and share comments and concerns. (May 2017)

Cannon River Watershed. This will be a slow process, but over time the implementation of conservation practices will make large, noticeable changes.

To learn more about the plan, please contact the Rice SWCD or visit our website at www.riceswcd.org/cannon-river-joint-powers-board. If your land falls within a high priority area, you may be eligible for special cost-share funding to implement conservation on your property. To find out

if you are eligible, call the Rice SWCD at 507-332-5408.

Emmie Peters is a District Technician and Plan Administrator for the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. She also assists landowners and operators with the implementation of soil erosion control practices through the State Cost Share Program. Contact Emmie at 507-332-5408.

Rice SWCD Welcomes Kathy Zeman to the Board of Supervisors

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is pleased to announce its appointment of Kathy Zeman to the District's Board of Supervisors for District 3 (townships of Cannon City, Wheeling, Walcott, and Richland). The appointed position will last until the end of 2022. Zeman was sworn in at the February 10th meeting of the Rice SWCD Board of Supervisors and is the first woman in the history of the district to serve as a district supervisor.

The Rice SWCD Board of Supervisors seat for District 3 became vacated when Jim Purfeerst stepped down after winning the Rice County Commissioner seat for District 1 after this past November election.

SWCDs are special-purpose units of government that manage and direct natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work in both urban and rural settings to carry out a program for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources. SWCD Supervisors serve four-year terms

and meet monthly, discussing the business of the SWCD, distributing state grant allocations to landowners, setting conservation priorities, and coordinating conservation efforts with other local units of government and state agencies.

After growing up in rural Steele County, Zeman bought a farm in the Prairie Creek Watershed in northeastern Rice County in 2006. She implemented conservation practices on her property including seeding perennial vegetation and is in the process of becoming a certified organic farm. In 2020, she became certified by the Minnesota's Ag Water Quality Certification Program.

Zeman volunteers with the Cannon River Sustainable Farming Association Chapter, serving as the food access coordinator for the Cannon Valley Farmers' Market. She also serves on the University of MN's Institute for Sustainable Ag (MISA) Board, the North Central SARE (Sustainable Ag Research & Education) grant team, the MDA's Cottage Foods Law steering committee, and the MN's Local Food Resiliency Team.



Kathy Zeman will serve on the Rice SWCD Board of Supervisors representing District 3 through 2022.



A system of sediment basins help to control gully erosion near Nerstrand in eastern Rice County, Minnesota.

Celebrating the Future Farmers of America

(continued from page 1)

They will do so in creative and innovative ways. Whether volunteering to clean up the local fairgrounds or throwing a citywide party to celebrate the 1732 birth of our first president, there is no limit to how this week can be recognized.

"It could be hosting a breakfast for teachers, an open house for FFA supporters or bestowing chapter-level degrees. It truly is an opportunity to celebrate all things FFA.

As a former member and agricultural educator, FFA Week is something I always looked forward to since it was a way to share my passion for the organization," White says. "FFA members should embrace the planning, execution and celebration that occurs with developing activities and events for FFA Week. The skills of teamwork, communication and advocating are ones you will carry with you beyond your FFA experience."

Keep track of all that is happening by following #FFAWeek on your social channels. Find more about all the resources available at FFA.org/National-FFA-Week.

Thank you, Alumni and Supporters!

Whether they wore the blue jacket or support an organization they were never a member of, these individuals are celebrated on National FFA Alumni and Supporters

MN FFA Foundation Continues Tracy's Legacy with Annual Scholarships

(continued from page 1)

Jim was a quiet generous man who made many contributions over the years to his hometown, including his church, Children's Hospitals, The Wounded Warriors Project, the Marine Scholarship Fund, and area FFA Chapters. He especially supported the Randolph Area FFA. Many of these donations over the years were anonymous. Jim never needed the spotlight. He was also a founding member of the Dennison Lions Club. Jim had a life-

long passion to help and support the youth and Future Farmers in Minnesota. Part of Jim's estate was given to the Minnesota FFA Foundation. With the generosity of this gift, Jim's dream of providing scholarships to youth involved in agriculture continues. Applications are accepted annually from November thru January. This year's scholarships will be announced in Mid-May. More information about the Minnesota FFA Foundation can be found at mnffaoundation.org

Give FFA Day: By The Numbers

Every gift to FFA matters. Consider the impact made during the 2019 Give FFA Day. All in a day's work.

471 donors contributed more than **\$234,000** in one 24-hour period to support more than **760,000 FFA** members in over **8,700** chapters across the country.

Day. Since 1971, alumni and supporters have found ways to significantly contribute to their local chapters. Jeremy Krerowicz, the past president of the Denmark FFA Alumni in Wisconsin, fondly remembers his time as a member, and he uses those experiences as motivation to lead the 2020 Outstanding FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter.

"Our members love to see the students grow," Krerowicz says. "We love seeing them being recognized at state and national conventions, during their chapter banquet and throughout the community. It shows that we are doing our part. We help them

with the resources they need to get that far."

In every state in the nation, alumni and supporters chapters work to create environments where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. They are raising funds to send members to the Washington Leadership Conference, hosting students with supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), helping to advocate for their local chapters and more. And 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the National FFA Alumni Association. Thank you, alumni and supporters!

Try Our Delicious March Drink Specials!

Pot O'Gold Latte (Pistachio and Vanilla)

Buttery Irish Latte (Butterscotch and Irish Cream)

Shamrock Mocha (White Chocolate, Pistachio, Cinnamon)

Leprechaun Mocha (White Chocolate, Irish Cream)

Peppermint Patty Mocha (Dark Chocolate, Green Mint)



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Thurs.	Build Your Herd - Double Stamp Day	Thursday Chili or Potato Ham
Fri.	Buy One Item, Get \$1 Off Next Item	Friday Tomato Basil or Broccoli Cheese
Sat.	Buy a Breakfast Sandwich, Get \$1 Off a Coffee	Sat. & Sun. Cooks Choice

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Red Cross Calls for Healthy Blood Donors Following Severe Weather

American Red Cross



Record-breaking cold and winter storms across much of the U.S. has forced the cancellation of hundreds of American Red Cross blood drives in 30 states and caused more than 21,000 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected. The Red Cross is urging healthy individuals, especially those with type O blood, to give now to ensure blood products are available for patient emergencies when help can't wait.

Every day thousands of patients rely on lifesaving blood donations. The need for blood is constant, even during snowstorms and the COVID-19 pandemic. To help ensure lifesaving patient care isn't impacted, individuals in areas unaffected by severe weather are urged to make appointments to donate by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the

Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Tina Rocco knows firsthand how important it is to have blood on hospital shelves. After welcoming baby Gemma by cesarean section, she began hemorrhaging badly and was rushed back into the operating room. "I was later told it was several pints of blood and an amazing doctor that saved my life," Rocco said. "That allowed me to hold my first daughter and go home all together as a family of three."

Before that day, Rocco hadn't known anyone who needed blood transfusions. Now, this grateful mother says, "You truly never know when you, or someone you love, might need it."

Important COVID-19 information for donors

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Convalescent plasma is a type of blood donation collected from COVID-19 survivors that have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus. Plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for high levels of COVID-19 antibodies may be used to help COVID-19

patients.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within one to two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities: Faribault

- 3/2/2021: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., South Central College - Sponsored by the Faribault Booster Club, 1225 3rd St. SW
- 3/4/2021: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Fit for Life, 1400 Cannon Circle
- 3/5/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., First English Lutheran Church, 204 2nd St. NW
- 3/8/2021: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Fourth Avenue United Methodist, 219 4th Ave. NW



3/12/2021: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 530 4th St. NW

Northfield

- 3/1/2021: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Culver's, 960 Highway 3 S.
- 3/5/2021: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 418 Sumner St. E.
- 3/8/2021: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 500 3rd St. W.
- 3/15/2021: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Northfield Police Department, 1615 Riverview Drive

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Volunteer COVID-19 Vaccinators Needed

(continued from page 1)

Interviewer: Why did you choose to sign up to be a MRC volunteer?

Mary Heckman: I recently signed up to be

a MRC volunteer after retiring this winter. I had always planned to sign up to be a MRC volunteer after I retired, but with the COVID pandemic I knew it was especially important now. The pandemic has taught me that we need everyone to fight this monster (COVID). I also know that there are not enough nurses to administer vaccinations, so it was natural for me to volunteer for something I have been doing most of my professional career. I also know how over extended all of the Public Health staff is, so if I can relieve just a small amount of time for staff, it will help.

Interviewer: What are some reasons you would tell community members to sign up to

be a MRC volunteer?

Mary Heckman: We need everyone's help to fight Covid-19. There has been a lot of frustration and criticism of the slow rollout of vaccines. I have always believed to take action or stop talking. If you can help solve a problem, help. By helping with the clinics you would be doing a great service to our society by helping get the vaccines out and ending the pandemic sooner. It is so needed and worthwhile. I'm so incredibly proud of our health care providers, Public Health and essential workers in this country and I want to do my part to help, that's why I became a nurse.

To reiterate, I encourage community members to sign up to be a MRC volunteer to:

Help get the vaccine out faster and to more people.

Help current staff that are overwhelmed and over extended who have been fighting COVID-19 for over a year.

Be a part of the solution to this over-



whelming situation we are in. We all need to do our part.

If you are licensed to administer vaccines and would like to help with our vaccination efforts, please register at www.mn-responds.org. We appreciate everything that our communities are doing to slow the spread of COVID! For detailed instructions on how to register, go to www.co.goodhue.mn.us/COVID-19.

About Goodhue County Health and Human Services:

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



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Collaboration is Our Way Forward



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

When I served in Congress, I was dedicated to representing my southern Minnesota district. I was not there to simply vote the party line; I did my best to take into consideration the differing political ideologies that existed at the time among my constituents. As a legislator, I made it a priority to develop partnerships with other legislators – in both parties – to find common ground and to influence legislation to the benefit of the communities I served.

As divisions in our country and state have become amplified in recent years, I believe it is important to emphasize that collaboration is central to how we will be able to

move forward. Here at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), collaboration is a key value and a guiding force in how we do our work.

SMIF's vision is that southern Minnesota will be a prosperous and growing region with vibrant communities, innovative and successful economies and engaged and valued citizens. As we celebrate SMIF's 35th anniversary this year, and more than \$121 million invested in our 20-county region during that time, we know that we would not have been able to make progress on this vision without the many partners that have supported our efforts over the past three and a half decades.

Partnerships have made it possible for SMIF to award 4,300 grants since our inception. For example, we work with Ace Hardware and Arrow Hardware & Paint, to distribute paint to communities for projects like murals through our Paint the Town Grants. We partner with publishers ABDO and Capstone to distribute thousands of books to children birth through age five through our Early Literacy Grants (and many more thousands of books get distributed through our Early Childhood programming). We recently partnered with Region Nine Development Commission and SE MN Together to launch a special Inclusive and Equitable Communities Grant program, awarding \$160,000 to organizations that are increasing equity and inclusion within communities and supporting entrepreneurs of diverse backgrounds.

Since 1986 we have been able to support



more than 700 businesses through our lending program because of our partnerships with financial institutions and economic development agencies. We have also partnered with our 30 Community Foundations by providing \$823,000 in matching grants over the years, offering direct support to their communities.

Our commitment to collaboration made it possible for us to distribute \$12.1 million in COVID-19 response dollars. SMIF partnered with the State of Minnesota throughout 2020 to distribute grants and loans to support children, childcare providers, entrepreneurs and communities in our region during this crisis. Most recently we partnered with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to distribute \$10.2 million in Small Business Relief Grants, helping keep more

than 1,000 southern Minnesota businesses afloat. We also worked with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to award \$180,000 in Early Care and Wrap Around Grants to fund early care and education wrap around services for children birth to age eight from underserved populations impacted by the pandemic.

It is impossible to name every partner that has made a difference in SMIF's work, but we are appreciative of each and every one of them. Without this culture of collaboration, we would have a vision for our region's prosperity without the means to execute that vision. Likewise, Minnesota – and our country – will make progress when we all work together.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smif-foundation.org or 507-455-3215.

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Adriana Bermudez: Why I love Northfield and AmeriCorps

(continued from page 1)

Then she learned about a program called AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative which would give her hands-on experience in a classroom setting. She jumped at the chance to join this program to explore whether or not working with young children was truly something she wanted to do professionally.

The AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative program is managed by Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) which recruits and connects members to positions in pre-school classrooms and nonprofit organizations throughout its 20-county region. Members work one-on-one with children to focus on the emotional development of young children who are at risk of falling behind. The LEAP program is one of many AmeriCorps programs nation-wide. AmeriCorps members commit their time to addressing critical community needs like increasing academic achievement, mentoring youth, fighting poverty, sustaining national parks and preparing for disasters. More than one million members have served through AmeriCorps since its incep-

tion in 1994. SMIF has sponsored more than 600 members who have served our region since 1995.

When Bermudez started her LEAP service year term in 2019, she was excited to be placed at the Northfield Head Start Center. Not only is Northfield her hometown where she was born and raised, but she was serving at the very same school that she attended when she was a young child. As a Social Emotional Skill Builder in the classroom, the title given to AmeriCorps LEAP members, she was able to get to know the children on a more intimate level and learn more about their social and emotional needs. "We are helping them on a daily basis learn more about themselves and how to express their needs and wants in a positive and effective way," she explained.

One of the memories that has stuck with Bermudez was of a little girl who would cry all day because she had never attended school before and she only spoke Spanish. "She felt very lonely and scared not being able to understand the teachers and her classmates," said Bermudez. "Our 'calm down corner' worked so well to help her and being fluent in Spanish and English helped me communicate with her and calm her down." Slowly but surely the crying stopped and the little girl eventually became excited about being at school.

Experiences like this are what inspired Bermudez to serve a second term through the AmeriCorps LEAP program. Her cur-

rent host site is the Northfield Community Education Center. "I've really felt like I've been able to make a difference, especially for those kiddos who have moved from different parts of the world and who are trying to find their way with the language and academics," said Bermudez. "I think that it truly helps when you can be that adult which a child can lean on and confide in to use as a trusted base from which to explore their surroundings."

As she continues to learn from her AmeriCorps experience, Bermudez is simultaneously working on her associate's degree through Riverland Community College. Her goal is to eventually get her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a master's degree in the same subject but with a focus on special education. She credits her experience in the AmeriCorps LEAP program with influencing her chosen career path. "I am very thankful to have been granted this opportunity because I have grown and learned so much through this program and I do think that it guided me in the right direction and convinced me to pursue this major," she said. She will also be able to take advantage of one of the many benefits of serving through AmeriCorps – members receive an education award after they complete their service, which can help pay for student loans and college tuition.

While AmeriCorps has helped set



Adriana Bermudez with the rest of her 2019 -2020 AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative cohort and SMIF President and CEO, Tim Penny. (Photo was taken pre-COVID).

Bermudez on a course for becoming an early childhood professional, she knows that her experience living in Northfield, a community of a little over 20,000 people, has also shaped her life in important ways. "There are so many great opportunities and lots of help for students and families," she said. "I feel very thankful to have grown up where I am. I wouldn't be where I am right now if I weren't living in Northfield. And thanks to the LEAP program, being able to give back to my Northfield community convinced me that my heart is with the kiddos and I couldn't picture myself doing anything else."



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Nerstrand City Council Meeting Minutes January 12, 2021

Nerstrand City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00p.m. Those in attendance via Zoom were Mayor Niki Portillo, Council Members Monica Gernandt, Tom Voge, Jennifer Valek and Jennifer Schwab. Other people in attendance were Public Works Director Steve McDowell, City Clerk Dana Jans, and 12 Nerstrand residents.

Roll Call

Entire Council is in attendance, Valek, Voge, Schwab, Gernandt, and Mayor Portillo.

Amendments to agenda

-Add discussion on how to hold the meeting in February. Motion by Councilperson Schwab to approve the January 12, 2021 agenda, seconded by Councilperson Voge, motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's and Treasurers Report

-Motion to accept the Treasurers and secretaries report by Councilperson Gernandt, seconded by Councilperson Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

-Mayor Portillo has set the public comment section to be 15 minutes in total. That will give residents 3 minutes each to speak. Once the time is over public comment will be closed. Resident raised a few issues, first being that there seems to be a new hook up to Medallion Case, resident does not remember seeing a permit for it. Second, make sure that clerk is recording hours. Third, raise concern in regards to the bid for a roof repair. Wanted verification if the company who has put a bid in is related to Councilperson Voge. City has already spent \$14,000 on repairs by Kleese. Lastly, more discussion needs to take place regarding the land lease agreement with public comment. Mayor Portillo thanked resident for her time. Public comment is closed by Mayor Portillo

Fire Department

-Newly elected Fire Chief Joe Johnson. As chief he would like to improve communication. He has met with the other boards and councils, leaving just Holden left. Calls have increased over the past year possibly because of COVID, but no real definite answer. Twenty one total member on the Nerstrand Volunteer Fire Department. Chief

Johnson went over vehicles and age, and other basic standards for all equipment. He applied for a grant for an Extractor and Dryer grant which Nerstrand did receive. He plans on applying for another grant which would help pay for a new fire truck. Johnson would like to be a part of HGAC which is a cooperative that handles the competitive bidding. It is free to join. Before we join we will wait to see if Nerstrand does receive the grant for the fire truck.

Report from Maintenance

-Discussion on hours worked by maintenance. Clerk averaged the last 5 years of hours worked per month. Motion by Councilperson Schwab to set max hours to 35, seconded by Councilperson Voge.

Report from Public Works

-Everything is running good. The grant for the generator passed. McDowell will have to get 2 bids because it is over \$10,000, which shouldn't be a problem. McDowell wants it known that he needs to be in the loop in regards to the sale of the building and the property. He would have to find alternative storage for his supplies. Other things to keep in mind are the emergency siren and the propane tank.

Report from Clerk

-Audit was completed on the 11th and 12th of January. Tyler See from Abdo, Eick, and Meyers will meet via ZOOM at the February meeting. Clerk plans to have office hours soon. The USDA requires the City to have a separate reserve bank account with enough money in it for one loan payment. Motion by Councilperson Gernandt for Jans to open a checking account and to transfer \$14,412 to the account, seconded by Councilperson Voge, motion passed unanimously. City Council would like to remove Jarod Alvarez from all accounts at Heritage bank and at Lake Country Community Bank. City Council would like to leave Clerk, Dana Jans, Councilwoman Monica Gernandt and add Mayor Niki Portillo to all of the accounts as signers. Motion to do this by Councilperson Gernandt, and seconded by Councilperson Voge, motion passed unanimously. Clerk was asked to make job description, however there is already one adopted in the ordinances. Secret Santa donation from a resident that paid 3 passed due utility bills in full, in the amount of \$2,300.

New Business

-Resolution 2021-01, Designation of the City Bank and City Newspaper motion by Councilperson Gernandt to designate Lake Country Community Bank as the official bank and Faribault Daily Newspaper as the official paper, seconded by Councilperson Schwab, motion passed unanimously. Rates increase on water and sewer for the next billing period which was approved by council at the budget meetings.

Old Business

-Discussion on how to proceed in regards to selling the back stone building and property to Mary Heggedahl. Two maps were given to council one with the line straight back, and the other wrapping around the building. Councilperson Gernandt would like to see the line go straight back from the edge of City Hall and split the cost of removing the stone building. Discussion on the value of the property and how much to charge Heggedahl. Dave Chant clarified that the blue line is what Heggedahl would like to purchase. Gernandt questioned why the purchase of the property wasn't suggested before. Chant and Heggedahl didn't realize it was an option. Public Works Director Steve McDowell, raised concerned about lots lines and potentially losing space for the propane tank. Clerk will reach out to the attorney and get questions answered for us to proceed hopefully at the next meeting. Voge asked the impact of the council waiting another month and Chant believes it would be fine to wait one month but any-

thing further would raise problems. Mayor Portillo would like Clerk to reach out to the City Attorney and find out what needs to get done and in what order. Something in writing to make the process transparent. She will also reach out to the surveyor to find out the best way to proceed. Bid for a roof repair from Barga Incorporated that was received 3 months ago. Concern over whether it would be a conflict of interest with a Councilperson's son working for the company. This will get discussed further at the March meeting. Nothing can get done until spring.

-Councilperson Schwab thinks opening City Hall and ZOOM again for the next meeting. Council agrees on the hybrid scenario meeting for February. Echo is very bad in City Hall, residents are encouraged to attend via ZOOM.

Complaints and Concerns

Complaint that a resident on 2nd Street South has chickens without a permit. Clerk reached out to resident and has since received the completed permit and the \$10.00 fee. Council agrees that the resident is now compliant and no further fines are needed.

Approval of Bills

-Motion to approve bills by Councilperson Gernandt, seconded by Councilwomen Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by;
Dana Jans

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City of Dennison Regular Council Meeting January 7th, 2021

The January Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, January 7th, 2021 at 7:00 pm via zoom. Present were Mayor Flaten, Councilors Ann Anders, Nichole Schiell, Heidi Cooke and Diane Ruddle, and Clerk Jessica Page. Newly elected council members Nichole Schiell and Heidi Cooke had taken their Oath of Office earlier in the day with the clerk.

Approval of Minutes: Councilor Anders noted some corrections to the December meeting minutes. Councilor Ruddle move to accept the minutes as amended. Councilor Anders second. Motion passed 5:0. Councilor Anders moved to approve the treasurer's report, Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0. Note, this and all following votes were taken by roll call.

Building Permits: None

Administrative Issues:

1. Re-org portion of the meeting: (Motion to accept all designations, and approve the resolution for the financial institution, at the end)

Designate a newspaper of general circulation as the official newspaper of the city. Cannon Falls Beacon.

Posting locations for announcements. Dennison Depot, the public bulletin board, Select an official depository, by resolution, for city funds. Heritage Bank

Elect an acting mayor from the councilmembers to perform the mayor's duties if the mayor unable to fulfill his duties. Ann Anders was nominated, with no other nominations.

City Attorney: James Burkhardt
City Clerk/Treasurer: Jessica Page
Hall Custodian: Charles Helcl
Sewer/Water Operator: Nate Sparrow
Additional City Employees for water/sewer/general: Dan Storlie
City Engineer: ISG
Fire Department: Nerstrand

Meeting date/time: First Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Councilor Ruddle move to approve all of the above. Councilor Anders second. Motion passed 5:0.

2. Force Main: Review the pay app submitted by JJD Companies. They are at a standstill for now as the pond will freeze if they are emptied now, and they did not know there was a liner for the pond, so that portion will have to be figured out. It is also out of discharge season so the City can't empty the ponds any further. Everything has been completed up to the ponds. They need to get more information on the liner so they know what they will need to use to replace where they install the new components. There will be an increase in the cost of the project as this will be a significant change to deal with the liner. Carley had been in communication with Anthony regarding the work he has seen onsite, and they have said that the work that has been done so far has been satisfactory. Councilor Ruddle move to approve the pay app \$121,972.88. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

3. Phosphorus project: Meeting with Diane, Dan, and Jeff held 1-6-2021. The plans should be pretty well completed. Dan followed up in HVAC questions and Pumper is putting together another quote as well as separating the current quote out. Lenny recommended the 5 inches of concrete vs the 4, and gave Dan the specs on the concrete and rebar that he would recommend. Recommended a tile line be run on the outside of the footings (16x16 instead of 12x12), with foam and vapor barrier underneath the slab. Bulk delivery on chemicals is cheapest way to go. No extra cost for delivery on the stated days as they are moving through the area anyway. ISG was figuring ferric chloride, so wondering why the change to alum. Carley let the Council know that they had designed it with the ferric chloride as it is slightly more efficient and would reduce the amount of chemical

needed to get the same results. The group also recommended that an overhead door be removed and a swing entry door used instead. Plans have been sent to Interstate Building to be drawn up.

4. PCA meeting regarding phosphorus project and I and I issues. Set for Friday the 15th at 2pm. Council members to get the meeting information, as well as Carley.

5. Fee Schedule: Sewer charges incorporated, will start this month. Possible parking ticket charge to deter the cars left on the road during the snowfalls? Or use county fees? Goodhue County issues tickets for the City. Wording would have to be reviewed in the ordinance and talk to Sheriff's office to see what it would take to have them ticket vehicles parked on the street during a snowfall. There were some clarifications that needed to be made on the fee schedule regarding the utility debt wording. Councilor Anders move to approve the fee schedule with the changes in the wording. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

6. Stub street: There had been some questions as to whether the stub street was to be plowed by the City. When Nels Estrem had presented the information on the stub street intending it to be donated to the City years ago, it was agreed upon that the City would continue to plow that area until this topic had been explored further. Nothing has been looked in to since that meeting. Additionally, the stub street was included in the map of areas to be plowed for the City when the request for bids went out. To clear up any future confusion, Councilor Ruddle move to continue plowing the stub street. Councilor Schiell second. Motion passed 5:0.

7. Snowplowing: Jeff and Nichole met with Dennis on Tuesday. They had recommended that the individual start earlier in the day with plowing, make sure there is a backup plan and all equipment is working. There was also a discussion on where to put the snow by Toby's since there is such a build up on his lot on the corner.

Councilor Anders noted that she had spent a lot of time on Christmas Eve dealing with snow issues. She noted that folks had tried to get a hold of Mayor Flaten, but he wasn't answering his phone. She noted that in cases such as this, if someone is going to be

a contact person for plowing, they need to answer their phones after a snowfall. Council asked that the City version of the snowplowing contract be signed.

8. Tobacco Ordinance comments: Ran out of time so will review at next month's meeting.

9. Do we want to upgrade Zoom meetings so that we aren't interrupted after 40 minutes? Cost is \$14.99 a month or \$150 a year. Councilor Anders move to purchase the one year subscription to the extended zoom meetings for \$150 for the year. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

10.60 month CD has matured. Have until Jan. 10th to take out without penalty. Interest rate for renewal is .75%. Penalty for early withdrawal is 12 months worth of interest, with a minimum of \$25. Mayor Flaten move to cash out the CD. Councilor Anders second. Motion passed 5:0.

Citizens Issues:

Toby Kayser presented to council the idea of setting up an ice rink in the City Park. Some volunteers, including Nate, the City water operator, would be willing to volunteer to make a skating rink in the park. There were some questions regarding liability, clerk will email LMCIT to ask. Councilor Anders move that after an insurance review, that it be approved for the volunteers to put in an ice rink in the City Park. Councilor Schiell second. Motion passed 5:0.

Mayors Issues:

Utilities:

1. Update from Nate: Two discharges and two transfers were completed in December to finish up the discharge season and get it ready for the force main work. Influent samples done. Bar screen being cleaned twice as much due to all the towels coming through. Quarterly drinking water samples to be done in Jan.

Mayor Flaten move to pay the bills. Councilor Ruddle second. Motion passed 5:0.

Councilor Schiell move to adjourn. Councilor Cooke second.

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday February 4, 2021 at 7:00.

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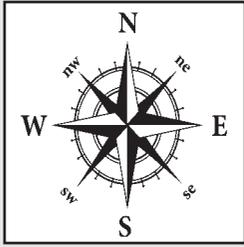
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By Terry Campbell

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.

There is a language all of its own in the south, and a curious delivery by the natives who have coined the expressions. Sometimes you get the idea and other times you haven't a clue.

My first exposure was the kindly looking lady working at the local landfill. You were to pull onto the scale to declare what you were hauling but you didn't have to weigh leaving after unloading. So, I pull up with

my truck and trailer and got too far on the scale. After asking what I was delivering, she smiled and sweetly said, "Honey, you pulled up too far on the scale. If you do it next time I am going to have to come out there and kill you."

You get used to terms of endearment. The ladies are effusive in buttery words. It is "how you doin' love, what can I get you darlin', what'll you have dear, how are you honey." Don't think that you are special because they say it to everyone. You will sit down at the booth in the diner with your wife and the young waitress steps up to take your order, looks you right in the eye and calls you sweetie. Whoa girl, we kind of reserve those words for the special lady we are with where I came from. One day while paying for my lunch at the local café, one of the elderly matrons walked through the door, looked straight at the cashier and said "how are you beautiful?"

Well, you get used to it. And you actually start to really enjoy it. A kind word and a pleasant demeanor brightens up the day. But don't start thinking that those southern belles are pushovers. I still remember the first summer we were in Tennessee, and a little old lady was describing encountering a copperhead in her yard. She said, "I emptied my .380 on him and then came back out with the 12 gauge and blew his head off.

Houseplants 101



Teri Knight



BRRRR... baby it's cold outside! We're hunkering down indoors with our houseplants and noticing some things.

Like dull color, browning tips, yellowing or leaf drop. What could be going on? A few things. Our homes aren't getting as much light and humidity at this time of year and that has an affect.

My Norfolk Pine is not pleased... and frankly, I'm embarrassed. BUT, my home is very dry and I didn't check the moisture as well as I should have.

But my Mother-in-law tongue is a happy camper.

Two plants, different needs. Something very helpful I've learned is, when you first purchase your houseplant, keep it in the pot it's been growing in. These are designed to drain.

Place the new plant in your decorative pot, if there's no drainage to that one, then either make a hole in the decorative container or use a plastic saucer underneath so your plant doesn't sit in water. That's the quickest way to kill them.

Another thing, invest a few bucks in a moisture meter. I had no idea how helpful that it was going to be! Mine also measures pH but you can buy ones that measure soil temperature too!

For plants that require humidity, pebble trays of water and/or misting are two of the best things you can do for them.

Be sure to know which plants need it. For instance, my norfolk pine enjoys a mist, but the sansevieria does not! Unless I'm wiping down his leaves and drying them off!

Remember that our houseplants are mostly dormant right now, they're taking some down time. In other words, don't fertilize them right now.

Too much stimulation when they would really rather relax! Sort of like having a dark roast coffee right before bed time!

Teri Knight became a Master Gardener with Dakota County, Minnesota in 2003. She currently produces her website, 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.



**Mother-in-law tongue
2020 aka Sansevieria**



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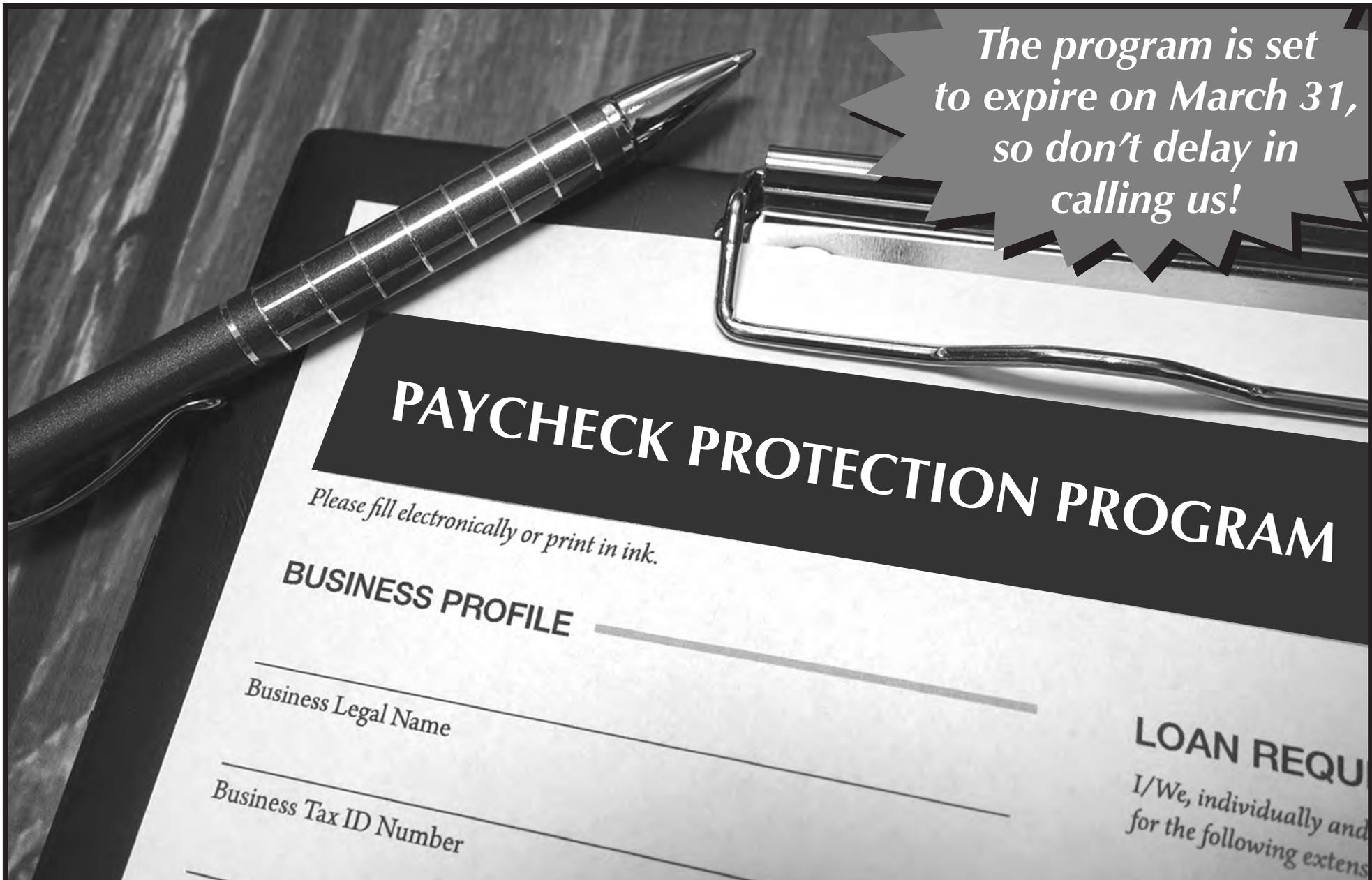
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