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SEPTEMBER, 2021

Volume 2 • Issue 12

Announcements

Claremont First Presbyterian Church

Annual Pumpkin Giveaway: Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 to 11 a.m., outside the church. We'll also have campfire bags for families, with hot dogs, buns, chips, and the makings for s'mores. The kids will receive a goodie bag, with crafts and snacks.

Annual Chicken and Biscuit Dinner: Sunday, Oct. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be take-out only, and orders MUST be placed by Wednesday, Oct. 21. Call the church at 528-2320 and tell us how many meals you'd like. Menu includes homemade biscuits, chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, glazed carrots, cranberry salad, and apple cake with caramel sauce. Cost for adults is \$12 per meal; children's meals are \$5. Be sure to leave a name and phone number with your message!

First-ever Craft Show: Saturday, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the church. Booth space is \$20 per vendor; keep all of your profit! Lunch will be available for a free will donation. We have room for about 15 vendors, so call the church now to reserve your spot! This will be well-advertised.

CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, August 10, 2021 • 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

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Triton Welcomes New Teacher

By Kenya Narveson

The Triton School District has welcomed new teachers to their team for the school year. Teachers must have the ability to engage all of the students' various reading levels and understanding to pass the grade-level assessments. As a teacher you have to find ways to engage all students and find opportunities for them to learn and grow in your classroom.

Jennifer Wytenbach had been a teacher and instructional coach for over a decade at Kasson-Mantorville schools. She felt led to join Triton School District after hearing wonderful accolades about the staff. "I felt

called to this district.

Everybody loves working here. Teachers, custodial staff, kitchen staff had nothing but great things to say about working here. The supportive culture is important to me and led me here."

She currently teaches 7th & 8th Grade English. And she also assists with 6th graders transitioning into middle school. There is so much more to teaching English in middle school than introducing great books to students. As an English teacher your focus is to prepare the students to read and understand an array of different texts from: novels, short stories, to poetry.

"I have a definite passion for education. And I believe before you can educate the kids with the academics you have to build those relationships. I'm really excited to foster the love for learning and help them to believe they can do anything. It's new for me to get to know three different communities and learn what it means to be a Cobra. I'm hoping to inspire them."

English Teachers must teach reading and writing skills. It is important for English teachers to be reflective and to think about their effectiveness on a day-to-day basis. Each student will differ greatly in their reading and writing skills. This means that teachers must be problem-solvers and find ways to meet the needs of all their students. Jennifer further goes on to explain, "I do teach English, however I feel passionate about developing good humans to be productive and successful citizens."

Each new school year brings about a positive change for students. And Jennifer Wytenbach is dedicated to excellence in education and looks forward to helping Triton students reach their full potential. Mrs. Wytenbach earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a Language Arts endorsement from Winona State and her Masters Degree in Education is also from Winona State. She was awarded the Kasson- Mantorville School District Distinguished Service Award in 2020.



Jennifer Wytenbach
English Teacher

A Blast in the Past at the Schoolhouse Fall Festival



Teams picture at the end of game

By Megan Ziegler, Staff Writer for the Hometown Messenger

The new Schoolhouse Fall Festival, organized by the West Concord Historical Society, debuted on Saturday, September 18th with an old-fashioned base ball game, base ball being two words back in the day. The Locals took on the Rochester Roosters at noon, honoring the vintage way the game used to be played during the 1860s, complete with period-correct uniforms and gear.

(continued on page 4)

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A Lesson Learned from Crabapple Picking

By Mike Zaske, Interim Pastor
Faith Lutheran Church, Dodge Center

In February of this year, my 2021 took an unexpected and unwelcome turn.

While out for my daily walk, I slipped on some ice and somehow managed to break my right ankle. If you've ever had a similar accident, you know how quickly it can happen—and how dramatically it impacts you for many months to come.

Thankfully, I was able to have surgery within a week to repair the fractures, and soon began the long road to recovery. My healing moved along at a slow, but steady, pace. By July, I was able to resume most activities. Thus, in early August, I (foolishly) decided I was ready to tackle a task that presents itself annually at that time of year: picking the fruit off of our crabapple tree. Recovering from a major surgery...climbing up a ladder...reaching out on my tiptoes...what could possibly go wrong???

Within a mere ten minutes, I found myself lying on the ground, writhing in pain. I remember a strong gust of wind...stretching to grasp a branch with what appeared to be a million crabapples on it...the ladder starting to sway...and then suddenly having to jump for my life! Though the fall only took maybe a tenth of a second, it seemed to last an hour. I landed hard on my heels, and immediately crumpled to the earth in a heap.

Thankfully, I did not re-break the ankle. As I laid there rolling left and right in distress, I found that I desperately wanted to

blame someone or something for what had just happened—the wind for being too gusty...the branch for being just out of my reach...the friend who lent me the ladder...my wife for not stopping me from attempting to pick crabapples in the first place... Basically, I wanted to shift accountability for my fall to anyone except the one responsible for what had occurred, namely ME!

This inability to own our failings has plagued human beings literally since the beginning. People have almost an innate propensity to shift blame away from themselves when things go awry. For example, when asked by God if he had eaten from the forbidden tree, Adam could have been a stand-up guy and accepted responsibility for what he had done. He didn't—he blamed Eve. And so this has gone on for millennia.

When we blame others, 99.9% of the time we are just adding another sin to our pile—the sin of what we did, and the sin of trying to pin it on someone innocent. It's a terrible "look", not to mention a lousy thing to do.

Finally, trying to blame others is a denial of God's grace and forgiveness. When we've messed up, God stands ready to forgive. But when we try to push our failing onto someone else, our pride denies God a chance to change our heart and make us a better person. We pass up a golden opportunity to grow closer to the Lord. It's a huge missed moment to grow in faith.

So, in order not to make that mistake, let me say it loud and clear: The fall I took that day five weeks ago while picking crabapples was MY fault! I repent of my immediate reaction to blame anyone or anything other than me. May God have mercy on me—which I am confident, for Jesus' sake, will be so!

FAITH IN ACTION NEEDS YOU!

Covid 19 has been hard on most individuals. It has closed down many of the things that we all hold dear – seeing family, worshiping together in church, going out to a favorite restaurant, browsing in shops, and on and on. Faith in Action has felt the impact of the pandemic also. Many of our limited volunteer drivers chose to put volunteering on hold early on in the pandemic. At first, it didn't effect our services because most medical appointments were canceled or postponed so there was no need for transportation services. As things began opening up, appointments became available again but some drivers still weren't comfortable transporting someone in the confines of their cars. The vaccine is helping to get us back on track but there is still an urgent need for volunteers to drive seniors to appointments.

Being a volunteer for Faith in Action is a very flexible position. When clients call for transportation, our coordinator contacts volunteers with the dates and times needed. At that point, it is the volunteer's decision whether they can take the transport or not. If not, the coordinator will contact other volunteers to fill the need. In a given month, a volunteer might choose to provide transportation for seniors perhaps 1 to 4 times. Please consider putting your "faith in action" by becoming a Faith in Action volunteer driver. On our website, fiadodgecounty.org (under forms on the menu) you will find a volunteer application to print, complete and return. If you do not have internet access, please call 507-634-3654 for an application.



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Area Church Directory

Fear for Nothing?

"Does Job fear God for nothing?" – Job 1:9

I can remember a time in college when everything was going really well. I had lots of friends, I was getting good grades, I was having fun, I was involved in a great church, my relationship with God was thriving, and I even enjoyed my part-time job. Everything was going great, and I was extremely happy.

When everything is going well, it is relatively easy to honor and praise God and follow him wholeheartedly—to fear God in the biblical sense of being devoted to him.

In Job 1, Satan claimed it was easy for Job to fear God because his life was going so well. Job had 10 children, thousands of animals, and many servants. Job was a great man whose kids threw great parties. He would even offer sacrifices just in case someone in his household sinned against God. So of course Job feared God, Satan said. His life was great!

As the story of Job continued, however, all those blessings were taken from him. His family, his possessions, and even his health were taken away. Yet Job still feared God. Our devotion to God shouldn't be dependent on how well life is going for us. If we fear God only because life is good, then we really don't fear God at all.

As you think about your devotion to God, make sure you fear God because of who he is and not because he can give you great blessings.

Prayer

Awesome God, help us to adore and worship you because of who you are—God above all things. Amen.



1st Presbyterian Church

200 East Street, Claremont
528-2320

Pastor Doug Walters
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church

4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont
528-2404

Pastor Alan Broadwell
Sunday Service at 10:30a.m.

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc.
to: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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OBITUARY

Dallas Joseph Laqua

Dallas Joseph Laqua, age 27, of Dodge Center, MN, died on Friday, August 14, 2021.



Dallas was born on May 9, 1994 to Tamera Joy (Schletty) Laqua and Thomas Michael Laqua. Dallas graduated from Triton High School in 2012. Prior to attending Triton, Dallas was a student at Lake City High School. A highlight of Dallas' high school years was playing football. He played a variety of positions and was honored to be a part of the Triton Cobra state competition his junior year.

As a youngster, Dallas enjoyed the outdoors, especially climbing trees and zip lining. His joy of climbing trees led him to begin a career, alongside his father, as an Arbor Man.

Together they ran their own small business for a few years. Dallas then began roofing, working 6 years for Above All Roofing. Most importantly, Dallas' greatest passion in life was his daughter, Eden, and spending time with her. She brought joy to his life and he to hers.

Dallas is survived by his daughters, Eden and newborn, Karma; mother, Tammy, Dodge Center; father, Tom (Sue) Laqua, Millville. Siblings: Travis Schletty, Harmony; Nichole (Tony) Engesser, Mankato; Trevor (Netta) Laqua, Oak Center; and Trenton (Kimberly) Laqua, Austin. Stepbrothers: Scott (Tanya) Kornexl, Austin; Josh (Carrie) Kornexl, Chandler, AZ. Grandmothers: Pat Laqua, Mazeppa and Adeline Schletty, West Concord. Nieces & nephews: Niko, Owen and Aria Engesser; Brandi and Riley Schletty; Zakai, Talia and Tynan Laqua, along with step nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Dallas was preceded in death by his infant sister, Trisha Joy Laqua; grandfathers: Richard (Dick) Laqua and Rolland (Rollie) Schletty, an aunt and two cousins.

Dallas will be forever remembered for his blue eyes, sly smile, charming and caring disposition, relentless desire to help others, sacrifices for friends and family, and unconditional and unending love for his daughter.

A Public Visitation was held on Friday, August 27, 2021 from 3:00-4:00 PM at the Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord, MN. A private funeral service will be held later.

Memorials can be sent to the family or to a suicide foundation of the donor's choice.

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West Concord Fire Department

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Sunday, October 10
 7:00a.m.-1:00p.m.
 at
West Concord Fire Department

Vang Lutheran Church
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Wednesday, October 13th
 Tickets are \$20.00

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We are not able to gather at our church, instead we will have our traditional meal packaged and ready to enjoy at work or home.
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Harvest Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 Sundays: October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
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From Kenyon
 Take Hwy 56 N. 7 miles. Go west on Cty 49 Blvd. 1/2 mile, north to Vang Lutheran Church.

From Herfield
 Take Hwy. 246 east to Dennison, continue east 3 miles, take Hwy. 56 S. for 2 miles, go west on Cty 49 Blvd. North to Vang Lutheran Church.

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Schoolhouse Fall Festival

A Blast in the Past at the Schoolhouse Fall Festival

(continued from page 1)

Prior to the game, the Roosters provided a brief history lesson by teaching The Locals the 1860 rules of the game. The event ran from 11am until 4pm, with approximately 200 people in attendance.

Colleen Hayne, one of the event organizers, stated that the West Concord Historical Society board was initially approached by the Rochester Roosters when one of their representatives attended a regular monthly WCHS board meeting last spring. The board decided hosting the Roosters would be a great way to celebrate the WCHS building being added to the National Register of Historic Places in January of 2021. Board members picked a date and decided to expand the event to include food, museum tours, vendors and wagon rides as well.

Board members of the West Concord Historical Society recruited community members to play for The Locals by reaching out to family and friends. They also posted a message on the WCHS Facebook page until they had nine volunteers. Although the 1860s didn't have women base ball players, the local team had both guys and gals out there having fun during the festival. The feedback given to Colleen from the players who participated was that everyone "had a fabulous time playing. It exceeded their expectations for the fun that it was!"

One of the nine players for The Locals was Sam Wilmes. I asked him about the difference between baseball today and base ball during the 1860s. He stated, "The basics were pretty similar. The biggest difference was the softer ball and that there was no glove to protect your hand." The final score was 18-11 with the Roosters winning. Despite coming up short of the win, team members from West Concord focused on the positive experience and the historical perspective they gained. Sam continued, "It was fun to be out there on a beautiful day to support the community and hometown."

I spoke with several members of the West Concord Historical Society. Glen Hanson, who serves on the WCHS board, said the event helped to "get our name out a little more so people see who we are and come and visit us." Glen helped provided tours of the WCHS museum from 2-4pm once the game had ended.

Another board member present and working hard to support the historical society was Michael Wilmes. He also assisted with WCHS tours from 2-4pm, highlighting the museum's themed rooms, impressively set up with care and attention to detail. Michael stressed that one of the goals of the new Schoolhouse Fall Festival was to "increase awareness of the museum amongst city dwellers and to have momentum going forward to improve the muse-

um." Mr. Wilmes mentioned that WCHS was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society. The grant money will be used to consult experts about the condition of the WCHS museum. As with any historical building almost 120 years old, constant improvements are needed. Feedback will be provided by the experts on topics such as structural, electrical and HVAC concerns. The WCHS board will analyze the results to better understand the overall needs of the building moving forward, allowing for a more comprehensive plan for the future.

Besides museum tours, event goers also had the option of taking a wagon ride after the game. Bill Giesler brought his Percheron horses and wagon to give rides during the last two hours of the festival. Bill's two horses were the mother-daughter combo named Reba and Beauty. Mr. Giesler's deep appreciation and love of horses stemmed from his father who used to farm with horses.

A variety of food options were available throughout the day. Taco Express, Don's Crumble Beef Sandwich Shoppe, and Mrs. Patty's Sweet Treat Truck provided event goers with delicious food to enjoy in a hospitality area, or to take home.

Approximately 25 vendors had their booths set up to the north of the ballfield. There was an incredible array of items for sale. Some of the items being sold were honey from the Rice Lake Honey Company, seasonal décor items, Scentsy products, signs, towels, wreaths, Pampered Chef items, Homemade Bread by Suzy, beads, diamond painted key chains, rugs, Smooth and Soothe Bath and Body Products, Color Street nail polish, table runners, United Methodist Church donuts, books from former teacher and local author John Schreiber, and wine from the River View Winery that is based in La Crescent, WI. River View takes the honor of being the only booth I know of that sold out of product.

Also in the vendor area were three tables hosted by the West Concord Historical Society. One table had information about the museum, and two more tables sold sundry items with proceeds supporting the West Concord Historical Society.

As with all things these days, Covid considerations were made. The event was held out of doors, and hand sanitizer was available throughout the vendor area.

Local law enforcement officers from the West Concord Police Department and the Dodge County Sheriffs Office were present at the event to ensure everyone had a safe time. A special thanks to West Concord's Chief of Police Shannon Boerner, not only for his service during the event, but also for being a new board member for the West Concord Historical Society.

I wrapped up my visit to the Schoolhouse Fall Festival chatting more with Colleen Hayne and Kathy Wilmes, both energetic ladies passionate about history and supporting this event. Kathy appreciated the "community spirit that showed up." Colleen loved the fact that a "beautiful fall day can bring the community together with interesting things to do."

Multiple entities worked together on the logistics of the festival. Colleen noted the important cooperation between the city of West Concord, in particular the City



Bill Giesler giving wagon rides

Maintenance Engineer, the West Concord Historical Society, and the Venom Softball team who manage the field area.

The community is proud of the prestige of the former West Concord High School building being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The West Concord Historical Society looks forward to future opportunities where residents can embrace local history and culture. Events such as this allow residents, businesses,

community members and organizations to strengthen the vested interest in their hometowns.

Thank you to all who organized and participated in the Schoolhouse Fall Festival. We hope you had a blast celebrating the past! If you haven't already, please take an opportunity to visit the WCHS museum, open weekdays from 9am-1pm. More information can be found on their website at <https://westconcordhistoricalsociety.org>.



Shaking hands at the end of game

West Concord American Red Cross Blood Drive

American Red Cross



A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

It will take place at Faith Community Church, 305 State St N (Hwy 56) in West Concord.

To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: West Concord.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Thanks for donating blood to help save lives.

Fall Fun Event at Harvest Acres

On October 2nd and 3rd sheep will be grazing on their pastures, llamas will be walking on paths, fiber enthusiasts will be drooling, squeezing and touching all sorts of fiber and fiber arts from 15 vendors from the midwest.

There also will be food trucks (Steve B Barbeque and Don's Crumble Beef) for the people to graze, games and crafts for the children to do and learn about fiber and life on the farm. And you dont want to miss any of it!!!

All this fun will be happening at the Harvest Fiber Festival at the Harvest Hill Acres farm on the outskirts of Dennison. It is a free, fibery (yes that is a word and has nothing to do with your diet) family, fun event. Dean and Diana Treangen are the owners of this farm and have been in the area for the last four years. There are other events that happen at their farm, but this is a new event that they are hoping for a large fun turnout.

Dean and Diana both lost their management jobs at a large local zoo. Dean had been there for 20 years, Diana 13 years but she not only lost her job, but her zoo career. She has been in the zoo and wildlife field for 40 years. The farm in Dennison was a

dream, to have "some sheep in the pasture and yarn in the studio attached to the barn". Loosing her job, the farm animal support took a hit. Her paycheck took care of the animals. So in 2020 as many lives changed, so did theirs. Dean was able to retire. Diana was just out of a job, and to get another zoo job would require them to move and sell the farm. Diana decided to put alot of energy into the farm, the onsite yarn store (no longer a craft room) and let the animals "earn their food". 80 CVM Romeldale sheep, 2 llama, some chickens, cats and dogs and one angora rabbit eat alot !!! The fiber from the sheep, llama and even the rabbit are used in the products produced for the farm. The Harvest Fiber Festival is a product of the efforts. The farm is in the Sogn Valley area, with many trees on the property. Fall colors are the first order of the event, their will be farms and fiber artists from Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota (many from this area) at the fair. There will be kids crafts and games for the children. The sheep and their llamas (that guard them from predators) will be in 4 different pastures. Diana was hoping the fiber products would be the star of the show, but she thinks otherwise. For the interested there will be 4 very tame llamas available for walks with guides around the farm, \$5.00 will get you a ticket for that fun.

This free event will happen rain or shine Saturday Oct 2 9-5:00 and Sun Oct 3 9-3:00! Bring your masks for inside buildings, your family for fun and food, and maybe bring your mama to meet those



Llamas!!!

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4184 (cell) and check the Harvest Hill Acres Facebook page for daily updates!

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Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

Triton Public Schools, like most schools has a Strategic Plan. It begins with our school district vision statement – “Developing Lifelong Learners” and then our mission statement, “Inspiring and preparing learners for life by providing educational opportunities in a safe, caring and respectful environment.” These are guiding statements for me as a leader of our school district. My job is to ensure that we are doing everything we can to fulfill those statements and make sure that they are more than just words on a piece of paper. The next piece of our plan describes our core values. This is a short paragraph that states:

“Building relationships where everyone is welcomed, has a sense of belonging, and is valued. Committed to student achievement by honoring interests, individuality, and high-quality education. Encourage and celebrate innovation and creativity. Committed to high standards, expectations

and accountability.”

An effective strategic plan guides the work we do as a school district. It is a document that the district uses as a roadmap for success. This document also has our aims and goals for our district. It has also been recently updated with the “Profile of a Graduate.” This was developed by our school community to be like a reflection of the things we need to emphasize, and ultimately the qualities our graduates will have from Triton Public Schools. This graphic (posted on the right) emphasizes the qualities that a group of stakeholders identified as a priority for our students.

When I began as a superintendent in 2019, I felt that many positive things were happening in our district, but we were not doing a very good job of promoting those things to our community. When I was able to get out and about in the community to talk about our operational levy, I realized many people were unaware of some of the positive things that were happening in our district. In order to build the pride in our district, I needed to do a better job of communicating the positive things that are happening. I feel that we got a little sidetracked doing that with the onset of COVID that took place half-way into my first year as a

superintendent. As I begin my third year, I hope to reestablish the goal of promoting the good things that are happening in our district. I am very excited to announce that Triton Public Schools has an app that you can download to keep up with what is happening in our district. I hope you find it easy to use, and informative. One could say that I picked the worst time to become the next superintendent, but I am often reminded that times of adversity really provide the best time to have an impact as a leader. I hope that my leadership can really help to emphasize the great things our staff and stu-

dents are doing here at Triton Public Schools!

Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at schlich@triton.k12.mn.us or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a time to meet with you or your organization. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

#WeAreTriton

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TRITON CLASS OF 2022



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Scott Nolan is a senior at Triton High School. His parents are Naci & Alex. His siblings are Farran Berg and Cody Christian. In school he is active in Student Council. He is involved in Football, Basketball, Baseball, Trap Shooting and Soccer. His hobbies and pastimes include video games, reading books and spending time outdoors. His favorite actor is Ryan Reynolds. After graduation he plans to go to college.



SCOTT NOLAN

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Triton FFA State Fair Awards



Carissa Kleinwort

Summary of accomplishments in goat show:
 Champion Doe, Champion pair of Doelings, Champion pair of markets
 And reserve champion showmanship breeding doe.



Reserve Champion junior dairy cattle showmanship - Cadence Spearman!



Dasmine Marquardt. Reserve champion carcass meat goat



Elyssa Robinson - red and white Holstein Junior Champion



Cadence Spearman had the sr. Purebred champion Holstein. Same cow won grand champion

Triton FFA Members Attend Workshop



By Robert Ickler

On August 25, Chris and Julie Staub of Staub Farms hosted a crops workshop for Triton FFA members to learn about soil moisture monitoring probes developed by Earthscout. Students learned the probes can keep data on soil temperature, humidity in the growing zone of the plants, soil moisture percent and cation exchange capacity of minerals in the soil profile. Pictured left to right are Jacob Kasper, Brady Staub, Henry McMartin and Morgan Styndl.

American Rescue Plan Act Funds- Claremont, like most localities in the US, received an allocation from the ARPA passed by Congress in March. The allocation we received totaled \$56,823.74. The eligible uses of these funds include- responding to the public health emergency, responding to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, premium pay for essential workers, revenue replacement for reductions in revenue due to COVID-19, and investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

In our August meeting, the City Council voted to use these funds to implement AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) into our water and sewer systems. This is essentially a tool that will collect hourly data from the water meters in town and send it directly to City Hall- allowing us to detect leaks and breaks in residents' personal plumbing within hours of it happening, save on staff time by not having to collect meter reads manually, and be able to provide more detailed information to residents about their water usage.

The work involves installing an antennae to the top of the water tower and setting up software that will interface with the data. The Council chose Core and Main to do this project at the price of \$68,120. The other bid we received was from Sensus in the amount of \$139,137.05. Core and Main is our current water meter servicer and they have done a good job for us in the past.

Private plumbing and service lines are ageing in Claremont, and we are seeing more and more breaks every year. The Council made the decision to spend the American Rescue Plan Act funding in this way because we believe it is reflective of a need in the community- that is, to provide residents with increased oversight into their own water usage.

Small Cities Development Program Application Approved- In October of 2020, residents received a survey asking if they were interested in funding for rehabilitation of their properties through low interest forgivable loans . The response from Claremont residents was very strong, and it was used in a Joint Application with the City of West Concord to the Small Cities Development Program run by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). On August 24th, the City received notice that the grant application was approved for funding in the amount of \$594,550. This amount will be split between 11 properties in Claremont and 11 properties in West Concord. Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing Authority (SEMMCHRA) will be administering the program once it becomes available. They will also be notifying the community and providing more information moving forward to residents who are interested in applying.

The City has been happy to partner with our neighbors in West Concord and SEMMCHRA on this grant application. We believe it is an excellent opportunity to, not only help out 11 households, but improve the overall look, feel, and quality of life in Claremont.

Claremont City Council

(continued from page 1)

Members present: Mayor Tasha Dahl, City Council Members Deb Ellis, Heather Grey, Jacob Klejeski, and Vickie Madsen. Members absent: None.

City staff and others present: City Administrator Connor LaPointe, City Clerk/Treasurer Liz Sorg, City Attorney Mark Rahrlick, Fire Department Member Casey Dahl, and Dan Moore and Rob Radloff both with Core and Main.

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ellis to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes of the July 13, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

(continued on page 9)

In U.S., More Cats Than Dogs Test Positive for Rabies

September 28 is World Rabies Day, a day to raise awareness about rabies virus and promote prevention and control efforts worldwide. But how much do you really know about the disease?

In TV shows and movies, rabies is typically depicted as a frothing-mouth wild animal disease. However, rabies can present itself in many ways and can affect any domestic warm-blooded animal. Dr. Gary Brummet, a small animal primary care veterinarian at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, says that the best way to prevent rabies is to vaccinate pets regularly.

Rabies is a disease that is caused by a virus found throughout the world. It is fatal to mammals, including dogs, cats, and humans.

"Rabies is transmitted through a bite or direct contact with the virus," Dr. Brummet explains. Any other means of transmission is rare. The rabies virus itself is found in the saliva of an infected animal. The virus travels from the location of the bite to the brain via the nerves. After it reaches the brain, the virus will travel to the salivary glands, where it can then be transmitted to others.

"The speed at which an animal becomes infected with rabies after a bite can vary greatly," Dr. Brummet says. "The closer the bite is to the head, the faster the illness will show clinically." This process can take anywhere from two weeks to six months.

In North America, the skunk, fox, raccoon, coyote, and bat are important sources of infection. However, rabies is not only in wildlife, but also in domestic species, including cats and dogs. In 2017, 62 dogs and 276 cats tested positive for rabies in the United States, according to data published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

"In Illinois and the United States, bats are the number one species that transmit rabies," Dr. Brummet explains. Bat bites are incredibly small and hard to see. If any contact is made with a bat, it is important to safely contain that bat and visit a veterinarian and human physician as soon as possible. The bat will need to be sent in for rabies testing.

"There are two forms of symptoms that rabies can exhibit. The first is known as the dumb form, and the second is the furious form," Dr. Brummet explains. The dumb form, which is more common in dogs, involves progressive paralysis of the limbs and face and causes difficulty swallowing. The furious form is the typical and more well-known form of rabies. Animals will become aggressive and excitable, making it more likely that they bite another and spread the virus.

"The most common symptom of rabies is abnormal behavior," Dr. Brummet says. An example is a skunk wandering in the daytime, because skunks are normally not out in the daylight at all.

A classic sign of rabies is the appearance of foam or froth in the mouth; the virus causes excessive salivation, which allows it to be transmitted more easily.

Rabies is untreatable and fatal in animals. Therefore, it is necessary to prevent infection in people who have been bitten by means of a series of rabies vaccine and human rabies immune globulin injections: four injections over 14 days.

Whenever there is an animal bite and rabies is suspected, the animal will be kept in isolation and observed.

"State law says that if any veterinary official learns that an animal bit a human being, the bite must be reported. The animal must then be quarantined for 10 days," Dr. Brummet says. During this time, a veterinarian will safely examine the animal for signs of rabies. If, after 10 days, there are no signs of rabies, the animal will be allowed to return to normal life with its family.

"If an animal is bitten by another animal that is suspected to have rabies, there are two paths the protocol can follow, depending on the vaccination status of the animal," Dr. Brummet explains. If the animal has ever been vaccinated, then it is a 45-day quarantine and isolation that can be done at home. If the animal has never been vaccinated, then it is a 6-month quarantine. Animal control will make the decision regarding the best location for the animal to be during the quarantine.

"With the outcome of rabies infection being death, the best way to keep pets healthy is to routinely vaccinate them for rabies," Dr. Brummet says. Vaccines have done a great job to reduce the number of rabies cases in the United States. Human rabies, also fatal, used to be very common before the vaccine was available. Now, there are only 1 to 3 rabies deaths among people in the U.S. each year.

Rabies vaccination has saved both animal and human lives.

"Animals should be kept on leash or in a fenced-in area when outside to avoid an unfortunate encounter with wildlife," Dr. Brummet advises. He also notes that if you spot a wild animal acting abnormally, you should contact animal control right away.

If you have any questions about the rabies virus, contact your local veterinarian.

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Claremont City Council

(continued from page 8)

COMMITTEE REPORTS CITY ENGINEER

As of August 5th, 29 sump pump inspections were completed out of 37 in the study area. Six of them were non-compliant. Letters will be sent to those with non-compliant sump pump connections giving them 2 months to fix it and get it reinspected. Those properties that don't get an inspection or fix the illegal connections will be fined \$100/month. The City Engineer recommended implementing an on-going inspection program.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Grey to approve the financial reports, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Madsen to approve payment of the bills, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

The City recently received a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds which are to be used for public health emergencies, premium pay for essential workers, replacement of revenue due to the pandemic, and investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The current water meter reading system is becoming out of date and has glitches that create extra time reading

meters. To operate more efficiently and update the old system, City staff has looked into automatic metering infrastructure (AMI). Dan Moore and Rob Radloff with Core and Main explained AMI and how they work. A fixed antennae would be installed on the top of the water tower that would communicate with software to provide current data of every meter in town. This would make reading the meters quicker and have much more data. The AMI system offers many benefits such as alarms to check if a customer's meter is leaking and the time it is or has been leaking. The meters the City currently have are migratable from drive-by reading to AMI. The cost for AMI is \$24,360 (software, antennae, billing file, training, etc.). They already went up the water tower and looked over the tower for an installation quote. They recommended repairing some existing damage to the tower by adding welded penetration sleeves with a weather-proof boot that will accommodate the AMI cable, existing radiolink cables and room for future needs. They would also weld some patches on existing holes. The quote for the installation on the water tower with welding and repairs is \$43,820. Without the repairs and just installation, the quote is \$18,635. Sensus Metering Systems submitted a quote for a similar AMI reading system which came in at \$139,137. Motion by Ellis to approve the Core and Main proposal of the AMI system and the installation with the welding repairs on the water tower, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Richard Klindworth applied to be a First Responder. Motion by Klejeski to approve Richard Klindworth to the First Responders, second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Dahl and Administrator LaPointe will meet with the Sheriff to discuss the 2022 Law Enforcement Contract and current concerns.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

EDA

Nothing at this time.

PARKS COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

CITY ATTORNEY

Nothing other than what is on the agenda later.

ADMINISTRATOR

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

LaPointe went over the 2022 budget process that the finance committee previously approved. The finance committee will meet and go over the budget line by line and determine a target amount for the preliminary levy as well as the final levy. Council will then have a work session to discuss the budget and preliminary levy which will be approved at the September council meeting.

There were 3 fees from the Fee Schedule that Administrator LaPointe recommended adjustments to: the water/sewer disconnection fee of \$50, a water/sewer reconnection fee of \$50, and the water/sewer application administrative fee of \$50. The disconnection fee and reconnection fee apply to disconnections due to delinquent amounts and also when residents request water shut off for repairs to private systems. The water/sewer application administrative fee of \$50 is charged when someone moves in and puts the water account in their name. The council agreed to have the plumbers shut off the water for the residents when they are making repairs. For delinquent account disconnection the fee will change to \$25 and a reconnection fee of \$25. There will be no administrative fee for water/sewer applications.

Administrator LaPointe proposed changes to the Purchasing Policy. The policy is 12 years old and costs of materials and equipment are increasing more and purchases required for normal operations are surpassing the current spending limits. Epi-pens are a prime example of a recurring expense that because of their cost are no longer

within the First Responder Director's authority to purchase. Currently the policy states the City Administrator has the authority to authorize and approve purchases up to \$10,000 based on the City budget and department supervisors have the authority to approve purchases up to \$500 subject to approval of the Administrator. The recommendation is to change \$10,000 to \$15,000 and \$500 to \$1000. Motion by Klejeski to approve the changes to the Purchasing Policy, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator LaPointe and Maintenance Supervisor Hvitved have been looking at snowplows. Currently, there is \$90,000 in investments for a newer snowplow. Motion by Grey to allow Administrator LaPointe to spend up to \$90,000 on a snowplow truck without prior approval, anything over and above \$90,000 would need to go to Council for approval, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Jones, Haugh, & Smith completed the survey of the Harmer property for the proposed ballfield area. LaPointe will now get an appraisal done. The line on the east side runs diagonal as Harmer wanted it square on the north side.

NEW BUSINESS

Karen Federly on behalf of Rene Erickson donated \$5000 to the Fire Department for defibrillators and updating radios and \$1500 for the new ballfield. Motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 21-11: Resolution Expressing Acceptance of and Appreciation of a Donation (for the Fire Department), second by Grey. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Grey to approve Resolution No. 21-12: Resolution Expressing Acceptance of and Appreciation of a Donation (for the ballfield), second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark and Wanda Becker applied and paid the \$1000 administrative fee for a free lot at 231 Julia Street (Lot 6, Block 2). They stopped back in and asked to change to 217 4th Place (Lot 3, Block 1). Motion by Ellis to approve the form and content of the Purchase Agreement subject to the buyer being able to substitute in a different lot description, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Madsen to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:
Elizabeth Sorg, City Clerk/Treasurer
Tasha Dahl, Mayor

Small Cities Development Program

Housing Rehab

Eligible Properties

- Suitable for rehabilitation (*total rehab cost cannot exceed 75% of the market value*)
- Current on property taxes
- Permanent structure

Household Income

- Gross household income must be at or below 80% of the county median income
- All income verified through 3rd parties (*aids in determining eligibility for deferred loan*)

Financial Assistance

- Deferred loan amount will vary on a case-by-case basis
- Deferred loans are secured with a Repayment Agreement. If the property is sold, title is transferred or is no longer the primary residence of the participant:
 - ~ within the first 6 yrs., the full amount must be repaid to the HRA
 - ~ the amount of repayment is reduced 20% for each year until the end of the 10th year.
 - ~ at the end of the 10th year, the loan is forgiven (becomes a grant)

Eligible Activities

- Deferred loans may be used to:
 - ~ remove health, safety or other deficiencies & to bring the structure into compliance with the rehabilitation standards (*roofing, siding, plumbing, water supply, septic systems, or wiring*)
 - ~ improve the property by increasing the structure's energy efficiency (*insulation or installing storm windows*)
 - ~ modify or rehabilitate the unit to make it accessible for a handicap or disabled member of the household (*structural, exterior, bathroom, kitchen*)

Income Guidelines (2021)			
Family Size	30% AMI	50% AMI	80% AMI
1	\$20,950	\$34,900	\$55,850
2	\$23,950	\$39,900	\$63,800
3	\$26,950	\$44,900	\$71,800
4	\$29,900	\$49,850	\$79,750
5	\$32,300	\$53,850	\$86,150
6	\$35,580	\$57,850	\$92,550
7	\$40,120	\$61,850	\$98,900
8	\$44,660	\$65,850	\$105,300

Financial Assistance			
Income based on AMI	% Property Owner Match	% Deferred Loan	Max. Deferred Loan Amount
0-30% AMI	0%	100%	\$25,000
31-50% AMI	4%	96%	\$24,000
51-80% AMI	10%	90%	\$22,500



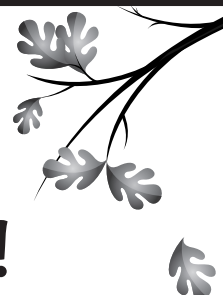
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Small Cities Development Program

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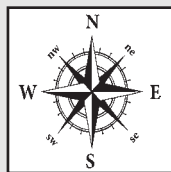
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Rain in Tennessee



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.

It likes to rain in Tennessee. It is not unusual to get two or three inches overnight. It can be sunny all morning and then a cloud can show up and pour rain and then be back to sunny an hour later. Makes the grass grow real, fast and keeps the lakes full of water.

But last week one community got too much rain. Seventeen inches in half a day. A foot and a half of rain in twelve hours. Waverly Tennessee is about thirty minutes south of us. A real good friend bought a house outside of Waverly shortly after we moved down. He posted pictures of water rushing through his backyard about mid-morning.

Seventeen inches of rain is a lot all by itself, but the town of Waverly is in a valley beside the Trace River. Highway 70 and the

railroad track are between the town and the river. The railroad track is on top of a man-made levee, keeping the river away from the highway and the town.

The emergency crews were preparing for the heavy rainstorm Saturday morning, which had already flooded some homes and businesses in the lowest part of town. But they were not expecting the levee to break. About midmorning the pressure of the raging Trace River blew out the levee in two places and within minutes the problem changed from ankle deep water seeping through doorways to a five-foot tidal wave crashing down the streets, pushing houses off their foundations, collapsing walls of houses and flushing their contents out the other side, rolling vehicles ahead of it and burying houses and commercial buildings in a muddy tsunami.

Unfortunately, people were unable to get to safety in time and more than twenty lost their lives including children swept out of their parent's arms as they fled the deluge. Hours later the waters subsided and the town was littered with houses, mobile homes, vehicles, tractors, boats and personal possessions jumbled in heaps by the floodwaters.



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A Minnesotan: Predictability in Driving

By RosaLin Alcoser

for leaving home in the morning around when the milk truck would be coming down the road.

The milk truck had a schedule making it predictable. So while it was a nuisance in my youth it's a predictability that I miss now. The reason that I miss the predictability of the milk truck is because of Highway 62 East.

62 East is the most direct route from my office to my apartment; it is also the most direct route to just about anywhere that I might want to go into Minneapolis. However, 62 East, and only 62 East not 62 West, has no predictability whatsoever. It does not seem to matter the day or the time of day that I try to take it, 88% of the time it is backed up. The other 12% of that time is in the middle of the night, at dawn, and when the heavens open up to take pity on us mere mortals..

My conclusion about 62 East is that it was just poorly designed as far as the entrances and exits go. Because when I tried to take it, before I decided to just avoid getting on it all together, opting to take a longer route home, all the backups appeared to be caused by people trying to get onto the highway.

When I was a teen driving to and from Rochester to the community college the only thing I really had to worry about on the road as a constant hazard was the milk truck in the morning.

The reason I had to worry about the milk truck is because the drive would always take one turn into the middle of the road regardless of where other vehicles might be. This causes me to create my schedule

CROSSWORD

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 11. Chip in Vegas
 12. Cordelia's father in Shakespeare play
 13. One in squirrel's stash
 15. Dissenting clique
 16. Tangerine/grapefruit hybrid
 17. Type of lemur
 18. *Popular messenger
 20. Mosque prayer leader
 21. Down Under marsupial
 22. Thanksgiving serving
 23. *100 days of snapping, e.g.
 26. Military's inactive force
 30. Repeated Cuban dance step
 31. The Kinks' lead singer, a.k.a. godfather of Britpop
 34. Late December season
 35. Rough, as in voice
 37. Chop off
 38. Stephen King's "The ____"
 39. "Do ____ others..."
 40. Strep throat organ
 42. File a suit
 43. Sewing pearls on a wedding gown, e.g.
 45. One with authority
 47. Army bed
 48. Space path
 50. Law school test acronym
 52. *Unique social media identifier
 55. Latin dance
 56. "Place" in French
 57. Sacred Hindu writings
 59. Post-mortem bios
 60. Actress Campbell
 61. African chieftain
 62. Recipe amt.
 63. Nirvana's "Come as You ____"
 64. Badger's den

- DOWN
1. Current tense of "had"
 2. All over again
 3. Eczema symptom
 4. Second shot
 5. Corporate department
 6. Salpae, sing.
 7. Type of coffee maker
 8. Elizabeth McGovern's "Downton Abbey" role
 9. Inspiring horror
 10. As opposed to outs
 12. Capital of Zambia
 13. Bruce Wayne's ____ was Batman
 14. *Message under a post
 19. Bootlicker
 22. Da, to a Russian
 23. *Done to social media past before applying for job?
 24. Feudal lord
 25. Haile Selassie's disciple
 26. Gym exercises
 27. Comedy Central's "critique"
 28. Dolby Theatre to Oscars
 29. Often considered wise
 32. *Video blog
 33. Charge carrier
 36. *Audio series
 38. Killed, like dragon
 40. Big bang maker
 41. Permeate
 44. I to Greeks, pl.
 46. Sheet music line, pl.
 48. Basketry stick
 49. Clark Kent actor Christopher
 50. Black, yellow and chocolate dogs
 51. Parking spot for a boat
 52. Bone in human forearm
 53. *Bernie wearing mittens, e.g.
 54. *Do this before posting?
 55. Chronic drinker
 58. It's open to interpretation

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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