

## Claremont <u>essenger</u>™ CLAREMONT MINNESOTA OCTOBER, 2021

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Volume 3 • Issue I

# Announcements

### Claremont

**First Presbyterian Church** 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.



## From Patch to Pile, Pumpkins Provided Lots of Smiles

### By Megan Ziegler, Staff Writer for the **Hometown Messenger**

The pumpkins in question began their journey growing near Riceville, IA in what was surely a delightful pumpkin patch. When the time was ripe for picking, they headed to the auction block. Two local First Presbyterian Church ladies and event organizers, Kay Fate and Penny McMartin-O'Brien, drove south to the Riceville auction and were on the hunt for "the best pumpkins for the best deal," stated Penny. Kay joked that they were known to other auction goers as, "the church ladies who want the pumpkins!" carefully scoping out two boxes of 55 pumpkins each on which to bid. After an exciting auction, 110 pumpkins found themselves heading north to be given away to the Claremont Community.

(continued on page 11)



Penny McMartin O'Brien and Kay Fate proudly present their pile of pumpkins

## **Triton Welcomes New Teachers**

### **Stacy Ullom**

Triton is thrilled to welcome Stacy Ullom to the team!

Mrs. Ullom is a UWRF graduate and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the art department.

Her husband is a former Cobra Alumni and wanted to move back to Dodge Center and encouraged her to apply for the position. He knew that she would be happy working for a great institution. *(continued on page 5)* 



**Erica Meyers** 

### **SAILing Into Wellness**

### By Megan Ziegler, Staff Writer for the **Hometown Messenger**

We've all heard it time and again. Exercise offers multiple physical, social and emotional benefits. But it's not always easy to find the time, motivation, or proper space to exercise. In an effort to help solve these dilemmas by expanding and providing quality exercise options in our own small-town community, Marlene Levine, Active Aging Program Administrator from Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota, has spearheaded efforts to offer a free SAIL class in Claremont.

(continued on page 6)



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## Religion

- CLAREMONT MESSENGER

### **Insight for Living -Now and Later**



By Roger Langworthy Praise Fellowship Church

First Timothy 4:8 says, "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." The Bible speaks very plainly about life here and now, our physical life on earth. But it also speaks to a life after our physical death. In fact, Jesus made is so very clear about living after death that he said it this way in John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."

Notice that this life after death is not just because you have life here and now. It is promised to those who believe in Jesus. It is to those who believe Jesus is the Son of God and that he died a sacrificial death to pay the price for our sin. It is to those who receive his salvation and make Jesus to be the Lord of their life here and now. Second Corinthians 5:19 says, "For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation."

So, how does one train for godliness (God-

Claremont

MAIL

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likeness) for the benefit of now and later? Psalm 19:7-8 says, "The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living."

Various descriptions are used to identify the Scriptures: instructions, decrees, commandments, and commands of the Lord. We will receive these various benefits by knowing and applying these to our beliefs and our practices: Reviving the soul, Wisdom for the simple, Joy to the heart, and Insight for living. Psalm 119:73 says, "You made me; you created me. Now give me the sense to follow your commands."

God is the creator and giver of life. He knows the best way for us to live our life. For us to have all the benefits of life now and later it is needful that we be trained in godliness. This training comes from the instructions of the Lord and will give us insight for living.

God is always about giving us a choice. But with every choice there is the outcome. Some would say that God's instructions are too restrictive, and they choose their own way instead. But God's instructions are always motivated by his love for us and to protect us. There is a narrow path that leads to life, and a wide path that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13,14). I appeal to you today to choose the path that leads to life and let God's instructions give you insight for living, for both now and later.

For video messages of this topic visit the sermons page of our website at pfc-ofdc.org.

### **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.

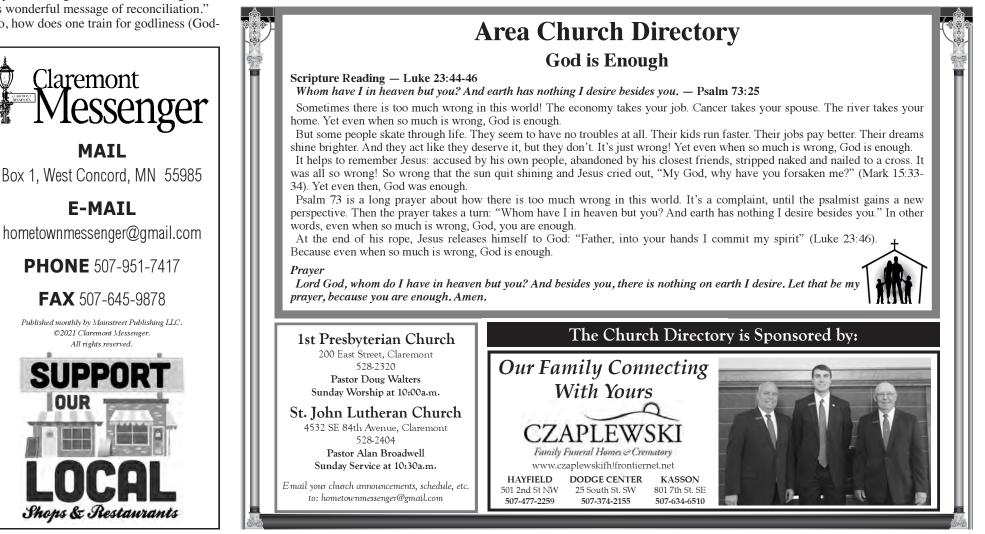
Being a volunteer for Faith in Action is a very flexible position. When clients call for transportation, our coordinator contacts volunteers with the dates and times needed. At that point, it is the volunteer's decision whether they can take the transport or not. If not, the coordinator will contact 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.



From the simplest residential closing, to the more complex commercial or farm real estate transaction, Dodge County Land Title Company is committed to providing real estate transactional expertise and personal customer service.



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## Obituary

- CLAREMONT MESSENGER -

October, 2021

### **Pastor John Hagen**

Pastor John Hagen, 88, of Faribault MN,



died peacefully at Pleasant Manor on September 25, 2021. John Holte Hagen was born in 1933 in Crookston Minnesota to George and Evelyn Hagen. He grew up as the oldest of five children on a farm with an old ca-

boose as his playhouse. His family moved to Tokyo after WWII where he graduated from the American High School in Japan. John returned to the US and graduated from St Olaf College in 1956. Later he graduated from George Washington University with a law degree, then worked for the federal government in that capacity.

In 1959 he met Diane Reinertson at a Luther Place event in Washington D.C. When she returned to college in Ohio, he wooed her by writing humorous letters. They married in December 1961 and would have celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. As Diane completed her degree at Capital University, John moved to Ohio to attend Trinity Lutheran seminary. After the births of son Mark and daughter Kristin, John and his family moved to Edinburgh, Scotland where he did postgraduate studies and was interim pastor at a Scottish Presbyterian church.

The family moved back to the USA and to Minnesota in 1973 where for 19 years John served as pastor at Gol Lutheran Church in Kenyon, and Grace Lutheran Church in Nerstrand. While living in Kenyon, John was active in community theater, the Lions Club and hosted AFS foreign exchange students. John and Diane moved to Faribault MN in 1992 where John worked as an interim pastor at numerous congregations around Southern Minnesota for over 15 years. John and Diane became active members at First English Lutheran Church, continued participating in local theater, and became enthusiastic members of the community.

Known for his hearty and infectious laugh and gentle kindness, John had a true generosity of spirit. Not only was he openminded and accepting of all people no matter their differences but devoted much of his time in service to others. His volunteer projects included working with refugees from many countries, including Vietnam and Sudan and having fun with participants in Diane's social group for residents of group homes.

Asked to play Santa Claus so many times due to his strong resemblance and rapport with jolly old Saint Nick, John purchased his own costume to make appearances for friends and neighbors, performing at community events, and for children of inmates at the Shakopee women's prison. It was the perfect role for John because he loved interacting with children and spreading goodwill.

No one more loved reading and collecting books more than John, and he was rarely seen without a book in hand. He had an interest in genres ranging from theology and history to science fiction and romance. His collection filled several rooms of the parsonage. John volunteered at the Talking Book Library, reading books and periodicals to create recordings for the blind.

Due to his wide range of interests and decades of reading and watching news and sports, John knew facts of all types and was unbeatable at trivia. John loved to debate. He had strong opinions and many ideas but was just as happy to learn about other people's opinions and ideas. He was fascinated by gadgets of all kinds and intrigued by technology. He especially loved animals and had dogs and cats as pets.

A lover of travel throughout his life, John, Diane and their kids crisscrossed the country on long road trips to visit friends and family—though John was somewhat notorious for not always paying close attention to the gas gauge. John and Diane also enjoyed international travel to Norway and other parts of Europe, the Holy Land, Egypt, China, Japan, and visited their son and family in Tbilisi Georgia (the other Georgia).

In more recent years as his mobility and

eyesight decreased, John continued to find pleasure in life, and enjoyed a good conversation with friends and family.

John is survived by his wife Diane Hagen, his son Mark Rein-Hagen and wife Tamar (Piso), his daughter Kristin and husband Paul Newsome, and his grandchildren Marjorie and Peter Newsome, Giselle, Alexandre (Sandro), and Vivian Rein-Hagen; brother Gordon Hagen and wife Roberta; Sisters-in-law Sandra Hagen, Barbara Reinertson and husband Spencer Chen, and Diane Reinertson; Nieces Kendra Hagen and Anna Reinertson and Nephews Kai Hagen and wife Kirsten Waller and Kelwin Hagen and wife Kelli; and almost-grandchildren Danika, Kailey, Taryn, Tessa, and Tanner Longshore and their parents Julie and Joe Longshore.

John is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Bruce and Alan Hagen and sisters Gail and Kay Hagen, brother-in-law Craig Reinertson, and niece Shaula Hagen.

Visitation was held at Boldt Funeral Home in Faribault on Friday, October 15th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. A celebration of John's life was held on October 16th at First English Lutheran Church in Faribault at 11:00 a.m. A luncheon followed. Due to John's love of bright colors, guests were encouraged to wear colors in their clothing and/or their masks.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lutheran World Relief, First English Lutheran Church, or the Paradise Center for the Arts in Faribault MN.



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## **Triton News**

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Craig Schlichting Superintendent

The Triton Public Schools 2021 Homecoming was absolutely fantastic. I wanted to reflect on that in the Messenger article this month. I think one of the things that made it so fantastic was having it back after having to miss it last year due to COVID. In my first year as the superintendent the administrative team really wanted to make the week of homecoming a celebration of the positive things happening at Triton. The administrators worked hard with staff and community members to bring back the parade and some of the other activities that had been a part of the tradition during homecoming week in 2019. It was a great success and we felt that we had some wonderful momentum going and then lost many of our homecoming activities due to COVID in 2020. I am so impressed with how well everything went this year and it was a great homecoming!

One of the most important elements of a successful homecoming is the planning that happens prior to week of homecoming. It takes a group of dedicated staff working together for all the events of the week to come together. Our new activities director Corey Black was able to work with our returning administrative all-stars Mr. Lutterman and Mr. Van Beek to pick up where we left off in 2019. We also have great leadership in our student council with Ms. Swanson that helps coordinate all of the school activityies with the planning of the community. One of the additions to the festivities this year was the tailgaiting fair. Many of our student groups and the elementary TEAM group put together activities and had food trucks on site. It was held on our new parking area to the West of the bus garages. It was a great time

for all that attended. The TEAM group had bounce houses and the student groups had games that you could play for prizes. The parade this year was as big as ever, and I hope we can continue to get the community involved and participating. A huge thank you to all of the community members that were able to be a part of the parade, and a highlight for sure was the return of our school marching band! They sounded amazing and really brought a great deal of spirit to the pep-fests, playing at the game, and being in our parade.

Our new app was even ready in time for homecoming. This is a great way to get live feeds from the school district or you can pick each school individually to get live feed updates from. I am looking forward to using the features of the new software to communicate weather conditions and things that are happening in the district. It allows us the ability to make voice calls as we have in the past, but it also allows us to send text messages. If you would like to be on our list to receive these please contact the district office and ask to be on the community message list.

The following week two community members treated the staff to a pizza lunch to thank them for all of the extra effort it takes to make homecoming a success. I can't say how thankful I am for our staff to be recognized for the extra effort it takes to work with students on such an event filled and exciting week of activities. I am also thankful to have so many amazing staff and students that were able to show the pride they have in our school district and celebrate the week.

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

### Triton FFA Officer Team Attends Fall Leadership Day in Cannon Falls



Pictured left to right: Morgan Styndl, Stella Streich, Jenna Kenworthy, Elyssa Robinson, Kiya Avery and John Moenning. Missing from the picture is Cadence Spearman

Our 2021 officer team had a blast at Fall leadership Day in Cannon Falls! President: Kiya Avery, Secretary: Elyssa Robinson, Treasurer: Jenna Kentworthy, Reporter: Stella Streich, Jr. Advisor: Morgan Styndl , and Sentinel: John Moenning attended the event. We left at 7:50am in our official dress and headed to Cannon Falls high school. We had amazing workshops where we learned more about FFA opportunities and how to grow as a leadership team! We were also gifted with the amazing opportunity to go on one of 5 agricultural business tours. On the tours we learned a lot about how the ag business is doing and that we should do everything we can to get our dream job! I was given the opportunity to go on a Meat Market tour. It was fascinating learning the process of knocking and processing beef. The speaker we had was very excited about her job and clearly explained the meat making process. It was absolutely amazing to hear all the job opportunities in agriculture! Overall the day was a success, many new skills were learned and we left with lots of new ideas for our chapter and for our life!



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Football and Basketball and after school enjoys playing video games. His favorite actress is

After graduation he plans to enroll in an Electrician program.

**BENETT MONOSMITH** 



October, 2021

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## **Triton News**

- CLAREMONT MESSENGER

## Triton Welcomes New Teachers

### (continued from page 1)

Stacy is excited to be part of the Triton family and Dodge Center community. She's not only a teacher but a neighbor to some of her students. Stacy and her husband recently bought a new home and realized that some of her students were living in the same neighborhood.

Prior to coming to Triton, she taught Elementary Art for 7 years at St. Clair Public Schools. The art position at Triton is a change of pace that she enjoys. She now teaches Middle and High School Art. She excitedly stated, "It's so different to see the middle and high school students with art projects because they can express their creativity and talent in a way that the elementary level students are still developing."

Stacy understands that returning back to school with in-class sessions and routines from the pandemic would prove to have a few challenges. For example, masking is not required, but if students feel more comfortable wearing a mask; it's encouraged to do so. This issue has created a great deal of anxiety and pressure for everyone. "It's taking more time to get back into the school routine since Covid." Stacy explained, "We are taking more precautions with cleaning the art supplies. And we clean and disinfect tables more often." She explained further, "If a student has to miss class for an extended period of time, I can excuse missed projects and be flexible with how assignments are to be made up. It's better than coming up with a different assignment that they may not have the required art supplies to complete." School staff must now balance the educational, social and emotional needs of their students along with the health and safety of students and staff in the midst of the evolving pandemic.

Stacy is committed to teaching art and wants to build lasting relationships within her role. She prepared her teaching space and her curriculum in anticipation of a successful year. Stacy Ullom brings a high level of organization and work ethic that will continue to enhance Triton's art department.

Erica Meyers

Erica Meyers is excited to be part of the Triton Family! She studied at North Dakota State and earned a Bachelor Degree in Biological Sciences. Then she attended St.Cloud University and earned her Masters Degree in Life Science Education. She had successful student teaching and practical experiences at Kimball High School, St. Cloud Schools, and Ricori High School.

For education majors, student teaching is the capstone, the time when they step into the classroom and immerse themselves in their subjects and their students. Covid affected her student teaching experience, as with many other recent education majors. Traditionally student teachers are trained on implementing classroom procedures, how to create and enforce rules, how to manage students who are off task, disinterested, or misbehaving, and how to keep students actively engaged in their learning. Now student teachers must learn how to effectively manage a class virtually.

Guidelines have been set by the Minnesota Department of Health, and if a significant outbreak occurs in the district; they would require the school to shut down the building. Triton School District will be closely monitoring the data for new Covid-19 cases in Dodge County. Erica is confident that her student teaching experience prepared her to be successful in teaching during such times of uncertainty. "If the pandemic changes the school's learning format, I should be successful in the transition." She has taught online, hybrid, and in-person. Erica was forced to find creative ways to still hold lessons and get students involved without the traditional learning strategies they learned in school.

After graduating, Erica desired to live closer to her family and find a great school to start her career. "I've been told that Triton is known to be a great school and the Triton School District really cares about their students, and the families, and the community." So she applied to Triton and was pleased to accept the offer.

Inspiration can be found in the countless numbers of student teachers such as Erica Meyers, that rose to meet the occasion of educating our youth; despite the unknown challenges that lie ahead. Erica stated,

"I'm here at Triton to give the students experiences that they will remember and be able to use in their life. I want my students to be excited to learn about science by active learning with experiments, projects, and anything that will make science fun to learn." This should be a reminder that teachers are a vital lifeline for their students, now and during whatever is next.

## **Triton Students Tour Al-Corn Clean Fuel**



Claremont, Oct 14 - Seventeen students from Dodge Center's Triton High School toured Al-Corn Clean Fuel yesterday to learn about ethanol production. During the tour, the students, from grades 11 and 12, learned about several components of the ethanol production process including incoming grain grading, grain handling, fermentation, grain storage, dried distiller grain production and storage, ethanol storage and shipment.

"The ethanol industry plays a vital role in boosting the economy here in Claremont and its surrounding towns. By getting a first-hand look at operations at Al-Corn, students have an opportunity to learn about the technologies and processes involved in converting a homegrown ingredient into renewable, clean energy which, in turn, adds value back into our local and state economies," said Randall Doyal, CEO of Al-Corn.

The tour was organized by the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association (MN Bio-Fuels) and sponsored by Novozymes, a global microbe and enzyme provider, and supporter of Minnesota's ethanol industry. Both Al-Corn Clean Fuel and Novozymes are members of MN Bio-Fuels.

"Earlier in the year, we hosted two virtual plant visits at Al-Corn Clean Fuel for students at Triton High School, so it was a welcome change yesterday to be able to bring students into the actual plant," said Tim Rudnicki, executive director of MN Bio-Fuels.

Robert Ickler, Agriculture Economy instructor at Triton High school, accompanied his students during the tour.

"In this class, students have learned about commodity markets and the role that ethanol plants play in them, as an end user of corn. By seeing an ethanol plant, students are better able to visualize commodity markets," he said.

## **Triton News & Community**

- CLAREMONT MESSENGER -

## **Foolish Production Coming to the THS Stage**



Triton High School will be the presenting fable, comic Fools, on November 4, 5, and 6 at7:00 p.m. For our senior citizen crowd, we'll once again be offering a free matinee at 1:00 on Wednes-

day, November 3rd. Tickets for the general admission performances, which are \$4 for students and \$6 for adults, may be purchased in advance or at the door.

This production is under the direction of Anne Schreiber, and joining her as the tech director is John Schreiber, clearly no stranger to the THS stage. As Anne explains, "it's been great having my dad's expertise once

again. We work together well, for obvious reasons, but it's also just so nice to have his added vision for the production."

Fools has rich history since it was written by Neil Simon, the successful playwright who is responsible for such hits as The Odd Couple and Barefoot in the Park. The plot centers around a young teacher named Leon, who has arrived in the village of Kulyenchikov to tutor the young Sophia, daughter of the local doctor. Upon his arrival, however, Leon realizes very quickly that all is not right in Kulyenchikov. He meets a shepherd named "Something Something Snetsky" (if only she could remember her first name!), a villager who milks her cow upside down, and a mail carrier who never arrives at the correct house. The situation, Leon realizes, is a curse (or a "nurse" or "purse," as the villagers call it) orchestrated by the ancestors of the evil Count Yousekivitch, and it has placed the villagers in a constant state of stupidity. Hilarity ensues as Leon struggles to break this curse, and ultimately show the villages that the power to breaking the curse lies within them.

The cast and crew are busy putting the final touches to the production, and look forward to showcasing their hard work. The cast includes Weston Haugen, Talia Kelley, Kai Zill, Jenna Kenworthy, Andrew Edge, Mariana



Castaneda, Ashtyne Avery, Liam Dostal, mine Marquardt, Raymond Anderson, A.J. Hanna Strom, August Johnson, Litany Peterson, Jasmine Bolster, Lena Moe, Ashley Dominguez, Kianna Peters, Lily Dearborn, and Alyssa Mulden. The crew includes the talents of Kaitlyn Krupa, Sydney Pluto, Das-

Kozisek, Miley Dostal, Anna Anderson, Anyely Dominguez Marquez, Angeleigh Chinn, Poe Broskoff, Emma Esplan, Anthony Crofton, and Connor Koball.

## **SAILing Into** Wellness

(continued from page 1)

SAIL, an evidence-based program geared towards older adults, stands for Stay Active and Independent for Life. The classes are one hour long and consist of strength, balance, flexibility and aerobic, known as "movement," exercises, all important aspects of fall prevention measures.

Near the end of 2020, Marlene noticed a geographical gap in where SAIL classes were offered. Out of the 6-county area she represents, Dodge County was one area where there was room for programming growth. She made a presentation about SAIL to the United Way of Dodge County in an effort to find local partners who were interested in helping to provide the class. Through networking, she met with First Presbyterian Church member Allison Ross who agreed to train as a SAIL leader. A presentation was also made to the First Presbyterian Church pastor and council to secure the location of the SAIL class, now held at the church. Marlene stated, "We are so grateful to communities like the First Presbyterian Church community for providing the space to offer this program!"

SAIL classes have a weekly schedule and a basic class routine, open to modifications for participants' fitness levels. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 5-6pm. Marlene explains that, "All classes are low-impact and all exercises can be performed seated or standing." Leaders spend about 5 minutes doing a warm-up, then 15 minutes of movement, followed by 10 minutes of balance exercises. Next is the strength training portion for both upper and

lower body. Class wraps up with stretching for a cool down, and an education component. Marlene clarified that, "The leader offers challenges and progressive movements for those who want to exercise at a faster pace, and also talks about modifications if needed to slow down." Allison reiterated that same sentiment commenting that "everything is at your own pace and ability." There is no running or jumping. Chairs and weights are provided. Attendees can use no weights or heavier weights, with three pounds being fairly typical for both arms and legs. And of course, the leaders can use music, Allison's favorites being county and rock and roll genres. Allison said, "Music keeps class upbeat and fun!" The educational component topics at the end of class vary. Some examples would be a conversation about the importance of sunscreen, or sharing a favorite healthy recipe.

As with all things these days, Covid considerations are made. SAIL class attendees are asked to follow state and local mandates, CDC guidelines, and any host site guidelines that apply. If you are not fully vaccinated, you are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

If you're around age 55 plus and looking for a great local opportunity to exercise indoors, please stop by the SAIL class at First Presbyterian Church in Claremont and check it out. The schedule is anticipated to stay the same throughout the winter months. If you like it after trying a class, you can register with the class leader by provided basic demographic information and signing a release form. Walk-in registrations are welcome. As a reminder, SAIL classes are free to the public. Let's take this local opportunity for a great exercise program and follow Marlene's advice to, "Come with a friend! Start at your own pace - it's your exercise! Do something for YOU today!'



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October 20, 2021



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## Community

- CLAREMONT MESSENGER -

## From Patch to Pile, Pumpkins Provided Lots of Smiles

(continued from page 1)

The pile of orange arrived on the McMartin Electric truck and made for quite the impressive site. Flyers were sent out in the mail to announce the pumpkin give away. Community members drove to the First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 9th from 10-11am, to pick up pumpkins, campfire packs and goodie bags. Penny stated, "The goal is to give back to the community. People seem to really appreciate it." The seasonal gifts were handed out free of charge, courtesy of the church, and sponsored in part by the Claremont Chamber.

The First Presbyterian Church Pumpkin Give Away is in its fourth consecutive year. Penny stated, "We've had such a great response," and they wanted to keep the tradition going. The past two years have been a drivethrough style event due to Covid-19. Community members drive up, are asked how many pumpkins they need, and are given not



only the pumpkins, but also the campfire pack and goodie bags for the children. The campfire packs were handed out one per family and consisted of buns, hotdogs, and items used to makes smores. The goodie bags for the children consisted of crafts and treats, such as an activity page, a pencil, a Halloween duck, candy, Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, miniature Halloween tattoos, a glow stick, and pumpkin-shaped sugar cookies generously made by Joyce McMartin.

A special thanks to the Claremont's First

Presbyterian Church members, the Claremont Chamber, and McMartin Electric for their parts in providing Fall seasonal cheer! The pumpkins have found their new homes in a great community.



3020 457th Street Way, Kenyon • 507-789-6113 • SALES HOURS: M-T-Th 7:30a.m.-8p.m.; W-F 7:30a.m.-6p.m.; Sat. 8a.m.-4p.m.

October, 2021

## Savvy Senior

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- CLAREMONT MESSENGER -

October, 2021





### How to Write an Online Will

Dear Savvy Senior

Writing a will has never been a high priority to me but this lingering coronavirus crisis has changed my thinking. Can you recommend some good do-it-yourself resources to help me write a simple will? --Getting Older

Dear Getting:

The coronavirus crisis has changed the way a lot of people look at things, including wills. Currently, fewer than half of American adults have prepared a will. But having a last will and testament is important because it ensures that your money and property will be distributed to the people you want to receive it after your death. If you die without a will, your estate will be settled in accordance with state law. Details vary by state, but assets typically are distributed using a hierarchy of survivors. Assets go to first to a spouse, then to children, then your siblings, and so on.

You also need to be aware that certain accounts take precedence over a will. If you jointly own a home or a bank account, for example, the house, and the funds in the account, will go to the joint holder, even if your will directs otherwise.

Similarly, retirement accounts and life insurance policies are distributed to the beneficiaries you designate, so it is important to keep them up to date too. **Online Will Makers** 

If you have a simple, straightforward estate and an uncomplicated family situation, writing your own will – with the help of a good online will making program – is a viable alternative to hiring an attorney and much cheaper. Like tax software, these online tools will guide you through a series of questions and will insert your answers into a will for you, and it usually takes less that 20 minutes from start to finish. Three top-rated do-it-yourself options include the Quicken WillMaker & Trust 2021 downloadable software (available at nolo.com) that costs \$100 and works with Windows and Macs and is valid in every state except Louisiana; LegalZoom (legalzoom.com), which offers basic wills for \$89 or \$99 if you'd like assistance from an independent attorney; and Trust & Will (trustandwill.com) which charges \$89 for a basic will. If that's more than you're willing to pay, consider FreeWill (freewill.com), which is a completely free will making resource made possible with the support of nonprofit organizations.

### When to Hire a Lawyer

If you have considerable financial assets or a complex family situation, like a blended family or child with special needs, it would be smart for you to seek professional advice. An experienced lawyer can make sure you cover all your bases, which can help avoid family confusion and squabbles after you're gone. The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org) and the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (naepc.org) websites are good resources that have directories to help you find someone in your area. Costs will vary depending on your location and the complexity of your situation, but you can expect to pay somewhere between \$200 and \$1,000 to get your will made. To help you save, shop around and get price quotes from several different firms. And before you meet with an attorney, make a detailed list of your assets and accounts to help make your visit more efficient. **Make it Valid** 

Be aware that to make your will valid, you must sign and date it and have it witnessed according to the laws of your state. Most states require two witnesses who are not listed as beneficiaries in your will to watch you sign it. Some states also require that a notary witness the signing as well. Nationalnotary.org can tell you if a notary is needed to legalize a will in your state, if remote notary services are available, and how to access such online services to execute your will if you are sheltering at home during the pandemic. October, 2021

#### CITY OF CLAREMONT PLANNING AND ZONING **COMMISSION MEETING** TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021 6:30 P.M.

A meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: Chair Mike Stupka, Don Gray, Ed Krenke, Vickie Madsen, and Deb Ellis. Absent: None.

City staff and others present: City Administrator Connor LaPointe.

The Commission approved the agenda.

Motion by Krenke to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 meeting, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Don Gray reapplied for another term as his term expired at the end of 2020. Motion by Madsen to approve Don Gray to the Commission for another term, second by Krenke. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Gray to nominate Mike Stupka for Chair, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellis to nominate Ed Krenke for Vice-Chair, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Dawn Nuss, 100 2nd Street, applied for a variance to build a garage the same distance from the sidewalk as her house, which is 21' from the sidewalk on East Street. She would like to put the garage there so that it does not take away the aesthetics of the house as it would line up with the house. Setbacks per City Ordinances are 25'. Motion by Gray to recommend the Council

approve the variance for the 26 x 32 garage, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously. The Commission will discuss the Land Use

Plan at the next meeting.

Motion by Ellis to adjourn at 7:02 p.m., second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously. ATTEST:

City Clerk/Treasurer EDA

#### CITY OF CLAREMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **AUTHORITY MEETING** MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021 6:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Monday, August 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

Members present: President Kiel Schleusner, Members Ginny Busch, and Deb Ellis. Absent:

Tasha Dahl and Hunter McGovern. City staff and others present: City Administrator Connor LaPointe.

Motion by Busch to approve the agenda, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellis to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021, meeting, second by Schleusner.

Motion carried unanimously.

The EDA savings account/revolving loan fund balance is \$64,446.33. The EDA cash balance is \$1,501.07. Motion by Busch to approve the financial report, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

The commission reviewed the 2022 proposed EDA budget of \$8,928. Motion by Busch to

recommend approval of the 2022 proposed EDA budget, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Two businesses applied for the façade improvement program. Schuette Enterprise applied for \$2,500 for resurfacing the parking lot at 524 West Front Street. The total estimated cost for the project is \$5,000. Gatorbak applied for \$2,500 for finishing their asphalt parking lot that due to tax forfeiture were automatically reand driveway at 105 South Main Street. The total estimated cost for the project is \$10,000. Motion by Ellis to approve the façade improvement program for Schuette Enterprise, second by Busch.

Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Ellis to approve the façade improvement program for Gatorbak, second by Busch. Motion carried unanimously.

CEDA Specialist Matt Durand has put together an overview of a Land Use Plan Committee, agenda for the committee, and the community survey. The members thought the survey was a little too long and would like it shortened. The members discussed having a community picnic and asking residents to participate in the survey at the picnic. Durand will talk to the Chamber about sponsoring the picnic as they have done in the past.

Busch mentioned having a walking path around the storm sewer pond south of the railroad tracks near Hayes Street. There is a strip of land the city owns for access to the pond from County Road 3 to the pond. The other members thought this was a great idea.

Russell Mosley owns some property in town and has mentioned he is interested in some

development such as apartments or businesses. Durand will continue to work with him. Motion by Busch to adjourn at 6:34 p.m., sec-

ond by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously. ATTEST:

City Clerk/Treasurer EDA

#### CITY OF CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021** 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Claremont, Minnesota was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Claremont City Hall.

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 Rahrick, Sandra Thielen, Zach Thielen, Jack Boyd, and Deputy Breuer.

The agenda was amended by adding the E.O. Johnson copier agreement and scheduling a special meeting under New Business. Under the Consent Agenda, Item B states the Minutes of the May 24

Regular City Council Meeting, that should say Minutes of the May 24 EDA Meeting. The last change was moving Item E under New Business prior to the Committee Reports. **PUBLIC INPUT** 

### CONSENT AGENDA

None

Motion by Ellis to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes of the August 10, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting and the Minutes of the May 24, 2021, EDA Meeting, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS, ITEM E., **RESOLUTION NO. 21-15:** 

### **RESOLUTION ASSESSING UNPAID** WATER/SEWER BILLS

Jack Boyd addressed the Council. He is a real estate agent for Zach Thielen who recently purchased a house in Claremont. The property was a tax forfeited property that was sold by Dodge County to another party who then sold the property to Mr. Thielen. There were assessments added to the property from 2015 to 2018 moved by the County when it first sold. The City prepared a resolution to reassess the water and sewer charges of \$2721.37 onto the property. It was not disclosed to Mr. Thielen of these assessments until closing on the property. Since he didn't incur the bill and he is not benefitting from the assessments the Council didn't feel the assessments would be fair. Motion by Grey to approve an amended.

**Resolution No. 21-15: Resolution Assessing Unpaid Water/Sewer** 

### Bills with the removal of the 309

E Front Street property from the assessment roll, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS CITY ENGINEER**

The sidewalk study and utility mapping should be prepared by the next Council meet-

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Employment Policy was updated to increase the PTO accrual rate as the previous rate was not keeping pace with other cities, changing full time status from 35 to 32 hours, adding Juneteenth as a Holiday, and removing the mayoral position from employee management roles and decisions.

Motion by Madsen to approve the updated Employment Policy, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator LaPointe submitted an Employment Agreement to the City Council. The agreement stipulates that LaPointe will be an exempt employee expected to work 40 hours per week, and will no longer receive compensatory time off for hours worked over 171/month. The agreement provides a 3-month salary benefit in the case of termination due to non-malfeasance related reasons. All other employment terms will remain the same as before the agreement. The personnel committee has reviewed the revised Agreement and recommended approval. Motion by Klejeski to approve the revised Employment Agreement, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

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

#### PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mayor Dahl, Administrator LaPointe, and Sheriff Rose met and discussed the 2022 Law

Enforcement Contract, parking issues, having more communication between the City and Sheriff's Office and other topics of concern. The contract was tabled.

Three people applied to be on the Fire Department: Kyle Jorissen, Jacob Rislov, and Ethan Otterbein. The Fire Department recommends approval of the 3 members with the same probationary period as the previous members. Motion by Ellis to approve all 3 applicants pending a background check, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

The Fire Department submitted a recommendation to remove one of its members. City Attorney Rahrick outlined the process of removing a member from the Fire Department. Consideration of removing the member from the Fire Department will be tabled until the next Council Meeting.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

They will be having a meeting October 5.

#### EDA

They will be having a meeting September 27. Two façade grant applications were approved at their last meeting.

### PARKS COMMITTEE Nothing at this time.

### **CITY ATTORNEY**

The closing documents for one of the RK&T lots will be signed by the Mayor and Clerk tonight.

#### PEOPLESERVICE

Charlie Dappen, the City's contact, has accepted a new job. They are in the process of hiring a new person to take over his position. ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator LaPointe went through his monthly report (attached).

**OLD BUSINESS** 

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

Last month, the Council directed staff to adjust three City fees: the water/sewer administrative fee, the water/sewer disconnection, and the water/sewer reconnection. Motion by Ellis to approve.

Resolution No. 21-13: A Resolution of 2021 Fees, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council set the proposed 2022 tax levy at \$487,068 which is a 3% increase. Motion by Ellis to approve Resolution No. 21-14: Resolution Adopting the Proposed 2022 Tax Levy, second by Grey.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:18 p.m. Council Member Grey left the meeting.

Motion by Klejeski to have public input on the 2022 budget and levy on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator LaPointe and City Clerk Sorg met with Bryon Wolf with the Claremont Agency to go over the City insurance policy renewal. Motion by Klejeski to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability, second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

A water fund CD matures October 6. LaPointe recommended adding \$5000 from the water fund to the CD and renewing it for 6 months. Motion by Ellis to renew the CD for 6 months with the addition of \$5000, second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator LaPointe recommended taking \$25,000 from sewer fund and open a 6-month CD.

Motion by Klejeski to put \$25,000 into a 6month CD, second by Mayor Dahl. Motion carried unanimously.

A special meeting will be scheduled to discuss a MN Rural Water Loan for the wastewater treatment project. Motion by Madsen to hold a special meeting on October 4 at 7:00 p.m., second by Klejeski. Motion carried unanimously.

The current copier contract with E.O. Johnson expires at the end of the year. Administrator LaPointe has met with other copy companies but recommends approval of a new E.O. Johnson contract at a better rate than the current contract. Motion by Ellis to approve the new copier agreement with E.O. Johnson, second by Madsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Klejeski to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m., second by Ellis. Motion carried unanimously. ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sorg, City Clerk/Treasurer Tasha Dahl. Mayor

## Local Government

- CLAREMONT MESSENGER -

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### Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes End of an Era



By Terry Campbell This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when its warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

Twenty-one years ago, I began my life in the newspaper business. It was actually quite by accident. I wasn't intending to help out for more than a few months but ended up buying the paper and the rest is history.

One of the first acquaintances I made were the folks who printed the newspaper each week. In those days we would layout the pages by pasting printed copies on a large sheet and then deliver them to the printer. After printing, the bundled papers would be hauled back to the post office and distributed to retail locations.

Leonard, Margaret and Jeff Bauman owned the press, a business called Country Impressions near Waseca, where we printed each week. I would drop the pages off at 8am and return in the afternoon to pick up the newspapers. The smell of printer's ink and the hum of the big machinery rolling newspapers fresh off the press was exciting. Johannes Gutenberg would have been so proud. At one time they printed nearly every small-town newspaper in this area, about twenty-eight by our recollection.

Early on we had a mishap. One week somehow a page was omitted and the press spit out all copies of our West Concord Enterprise with one blank page in the middle. I didn't notice it until I was back at the office with all copies printed and distributed. The next week I pulled out a copy at the printer and paged through it to see if any were missing. I looked up and there was Leonard, Margaret and Jeff looking at me, rather concerned from around the office door. I never found out whose fault the missing page was.

Being an ambitious young man back then I would spend hours doing sales calls in Owatonna. It was a lucrative market back then and I made lots of ad sales. Actually, too many sales for one certain person. Elsie Slinger was the owner of the Blooming Prairie Times and she took offense at the number of Owatonna businesses I was selling ads to. She called me up and informed me I was to lay off Owatonna sales calls and I should sit in my office like a good sales person and wait for the businesses to call me. I guess that way she could get those sales. Naturally being a farm boy who always took the bull by the horns and made my own way in life, I couldn't believe someone would have the gall to feed me this line of bull. Needless to say, the phone conversation degenerated rapidly and I informed her that we lived in a free country and I could sell to anyone I pleased.

Maybe that would have been the end of the issue, except that when I dropped off the paste up sheets that next Tuesday morning, who should I see but Elsie Slinger, there picking up her Blooming Prairie Times. She was still steaming from our phone call earlier and launched into a tirade at me. This was better, now we had an audience for the fight. It is amazing at how calm and articulate one can be when they are right and the other person is crazy. When Elsie stormed out, I looked up and saw Leonard, Margaret and Jeff looking cautiously at me from around the office door. I am fairly certain they were expecting some kind of bloodshed from this confrontation. From then on Elsie picked up her papers later, I sold ads to every business in Owatonna as well as some in Blooming Prairie and I never crossed paths with her again.

Over the years I became great friends with the Bauman's and enjoyed visiting with them every week. The number of newspapers they were printing dwindled down to ours and a couple others and they ceased printing newspapers and retired at the end of September. I am going to miss those guys. As for Elsie, she wrote a murder mystery book.



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## A Minnesotan: Bundled Up



**By RosaLin Alcoser** 

October 31st, 1999 was my very first Halloween in Minnesota. I was three years old at the time, and I went trick-ortreating in my snow boots. It was a light dusting of snow. But as a newcomer to Minnesota, who had minimal experience with snow, I remember it as more than a light dusting.

Halloween of 2002 was my first Halloween in Mazeppa. I remember that my sister and I went trick or treating as a pair of Dalmatian puppies. It was a warm Halloween or at least warm for a Minnesotan Halloween. At least I think that I remember it being warm. Honestly, I have no idea I was six, and the Dalmatian costume was mostly made up of sweats.

There have been relatively warm Halloweens in my childhood as well as years when it snowed. There was one year when it snowed, and I refused to wear my coat up to the houses while out trick or treating. Because if I wore my coat, then my costume couldn't be seen. And really if you can't see the costume then what's the point? The true mark of a good Halloween costume is that it can be worn over a snowsuit if need be.

Which brings me back around to last Halloween; which was really my first truly grown up Halloween meaning that I was the one handing out the candy and not the trick-or-treater or at the high school or college Halloween event meant to keep us contained for the evening.

Last year was 2020 so the trick-ortreaters were really just the kids on our street due to COVID and it was also a cold year. So when the neighbor's child was outside our house for trick-or-treat they were bundled up... and as far as I know to this day that was the costume. The kid was just bundled up; reminding us all that the mark of a truly good Halloween costume in Minnesota is the ones that can go over your snowsuit.

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### **Timeless Anodyne at The Annadine** By Megan Ziegler, Staff Writer

for the Hometown Messenger

You've been in one of those places yourself at some point in your life. An ethereal place that stays grounded while time and history spin around it. Whether it was your grandparent's original red barn, seeping with memories of hard work and the smell of freshly cut hay, or your quaint hometown parish with the creaky floor you found wholly comforting, you left that place feeling a connection to humanity, to ages past, and to dreams woven for the future. One such significant place melding the origins of the building to the aspirations of today is known as The Annadine in Dodge Center. I had the privilege of diving into its rich history and bright future with owner Nadine Langworthy.

It all started in 1880 when Dodge Center needed a drug store on Main Street. Back in the day, the drug store had three sections consisting of a beauty shop, a doctor's office, and a dentist office upstairs. There was also a bakery in the adjoining building. One of the drugs sold at the drug store was anodyne.

The definition in the Merriam Webster dictionary reads, "a drug that allays pain" or "something that soothes, calms or comforts." Keep that in mind, gentle reader.

Time marches on to the 1960s, the property remains, and not too far away a girl named Nadine enjoys growing up with music. Nadine recalls, "My mother was the church organist and was constantly singing throughout the day at home." That love of music was passed from mother to daughter, encouraging Nadine to learn the organ, alto saxophone, violin and ukulele.

A few decades later while teaching piano full-time, Nadine resumes her dream of having a Music Teachers National Association Certificate. She finishes at age 53 in 2008, courtesy of St. Thomas University, recalling, "My love for music and for children makes teaching piano the perfect profession for me, and as more and more discoveries are made on how beneficial learning a musical instrument is not only to a child's brain, but their mental health, I am more passionate about it." Averaging 40 to 45 students a week, she knew a larger studio space would be ideal for her students.

In September of 2011, the original drug store, dentist, beauty shop and bakery property were now 131 years old and in desperate need of some TLC. Dilapidated, but far from done, the building had potential. Nadine and her husband Randy took the leap of faith to pursue a life-long dream of creating a special multi-purpose musical space. With help from a private loan and an Economic Development Loan from the city of Dodge Center, they bought the building as one property and began on work defining the spaces to their needs.

First, they renovated the bakery into a piano studio with a waiting area, a bathroom, and two classrooms. The studio hosted its first students by November of 2011.

Next, the former upstairs dentist area of



Nadine and Randy Langworthy

today's Annadine building was transitioned into a loft apartment staring in January of 2012. By that summer, the first renters had moved in.

They saved the best for last. Finally, after a few years of working on their loans, they dove into the wine bar and music venue area. It was a labor of love and Nadine recalls, "We lovingly removed the peeling white paint from the 13-foot-high pressed tin ceiling and repainted it with a gold metallic paint." They had the help of one of Nadine's piano student's named Anna who, through her Senior Project, helped design the space. Combining the names of Anna and Nadine, they decided to name the new space The Annadine. Only then did Nadine stumble across the meaning of anodyne when googling "Annadine" out of curiosity. Google asked, "Did you mean anodyne?" Nadine stated, "Some definitions are, a painkilling drug or medicine, something that relieves or takes away stress, something that is relaxing. A source of soothing comfort. Not only was that exactly what my vision was for the place, but it was originally a space that provided anodyne." Clearly it was meant to be.

In the Fall of 2016, five years ago, the longawaited opening night arrived. Nadine reminisced, "We had our first live music on Friday night, October 28, 2016, featuring Nathan Davidson and the CBB Jazzers."

Nadine describes the space as, "Comfortable, eclectic, a dash of quirkiness, and boho. It's got a good vibe." For example, one of the booths is crafted out of two old pipe organs. And of course, the owners pay homage to the history of the building by showcasing old photos.

The Annadine offers a variety of refreshment. Nadine explains, "We serve a limited menu of three white wines, three red and a variety of domestic and craft beers. We also have a selection of pop, hot tea, coffee and hot chocolate. We are now serving pizza, as well as nuts and snack mix, which we always have had."

As for music options, The Annadine showcases live music and open mic night. The next three players in the live music category are The Dreamers featuring Wayne Owen on Friday, October 22. Nadine describes them as playing, "all the great pop from the 60s and 70s. They were there!" Next is Jaggedease on Saturday, November 6th, featuring a "more jiving, mellow, lush, all in one" sound, according to Nadine. Then on Saturday, November 20th, 2Birdz members Carl and Roberta Stephenson play, showcasing pop and classic rock songs.

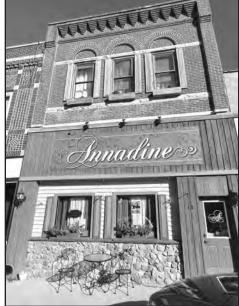
Open mic, held the first and third Thursday of each month with doors opening at 6pm, is



a great option for people age 16 and over to showcase their talent. There's a white board for sign up and you're allowed three songs each round, working through the list from 7-10pm. Nadine says, "We enjoy much local talent, both professional and amateurs, young and old. We've had from classic rock to opera, country to Christian, originals and old favorites."

There is no cover charge for open mic or live music." To clarify, The Annadine is only open when these specific music events are held.

The Annadine is celebrating 5 years this month. Nadine stresses the importance of the



go local movement reiterating, "We want everyone to know there is a place to get away very close by that has everything you need: good friends, good beverages, and good atmosphere." Check out their Facebook page for the latest information.

In the past 131 years, the vibe of the building and its spaces has changed a bit, but the purpose? Not so much. Relaxing spaces created for soothing the soul and honoring our humanity are a must have. Go and discover for yourself what the Annadine is like. Revel in the history. Revel in the present. Be part of the future of the Annadine.



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