



DENNISON and  
NERSTRAND

# Mainstreet Messenger™

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JANUARY, 2022

Volume 19 • Issue 4

## Announcements

The City of Nerstrand is currently accepting bids for lawn mowing and lawn sweeping. To view the map of properties please visit the Nerstrand website at [Nerstrandmn.org](http://Nerstrandmn.org). Please submit bids to [cityclerknerstrand@gmail.com](mailto:cityclerknerstrand@gmail.com) no later than March 1, 2022.

• **Nerstrand School Open House** for student enrollment on Saturday, February 5th, 2022 from 10am-12pm.

• **Wednesday Wear, Nerstrand United Methodist Church** hours are Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12. Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys and books. All things are free with donations accepted. Come and see what we have!

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

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

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

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

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

## Dennison Lions Flake Out Festival Planned for Feb. 19

The Dennison Lions Club is planning the 2022 Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade for Saturday, February 19th.

The club is holding a raffle in conjunction with the days events to raise funds to support Lions Clubs activities and help support other

area non-profit entities and those in need that the club donates to and supports throughout the year. A \$500 1st Prize, plus other cash prizes will be given away.

The Annual Lighted Parade will take place at 6:30 PM, and anyone can participate. A \$300 Cash Prize will be given to the best float.

Other returning favorites include Euchre at Fireside, beginning at 10AM with 100% Prize Payout.

The BBQ Cook Off begins at 7 AM with judging taking place beginning at 2 pm, and has a \$500 Grand Prize. If you are interested in participating, text Steve at 612-968-9547 or email: [kingpin1876@gmail.com](mailto:kingpin1876@gmail.com)

A new poker run will take place and end at Fireside between 2 -3 PM. See the rules in the Flake Out ad in the messenger. The Evening will wrap up with music at Fireside and the Raffle drawing at 9 PM.

## Nerstrand Elementary Accepting Applications



The staff at Nerstrand Elementary would like to sincerely thank you for your continued support of our school. We have a wonderful community here at Nerstrand because

of your contribution, support and of course your children! We are looking forward to our upcoming open house for student enrollment on Saturday, February 5th, 2022 from 10am-12pm. We would greatly appreciate your help in spreading the word throughout the Faribault, Nerstrand and Northfield communities. Thank you!

We are currently accepting applications for enrollment for this fall for Grades Kindergarten through Five. You can apply online through our website [www.nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us](http://www.nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us) (continued on page 4)



Old School

photos courtesy of Jim Pelkey

## New life for Old Schoolhouse?

The original one room school house that served this town of Stanton, and was built in approximately 1890 needs its next home and next chapter in life. Because this was moved from its original location, it is not eligible for listing on the national register of historic places. But, don't let this dissuade you from noticing the exceptional beauty and uniqueness of this building. We have spent over 20 years thinking about what to do with this beautiful building. It needs someone to appreciate its architecture and give it a modern renovation. The bones are good. (continued on page 4)

## Special Valentine's Dinner February 14<sup>th</sup> at Fireside



Reservations Strongly Suggested

**Valentine Dinner Features Include:**

**Pasta, Walleye, Ribs, Salmon, Steak and Lobster, Scallops, and More!**

Kitchen 4:00-8:00pm (Bar open 3:30-9:00pm)



37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN  
Kitchen: Wednesday & Thursday 4:00-8:30 PM (Bar Open Later)  
Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM (Bar Open Later)  
Sunday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM  
507-645-9992 • [www.firesidelounge.net](http://www.firesidelounge.net)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

When making your resolutions, why not schedule an appointment to review your insurance coverages? It's easy, and could save you money. Call us today for an appointment.



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## KELLER INSURANCE AGENCY

Your FarMutual Agent

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## The Faithfulness of God

“Back in the eighteenth century, a young boy was born into a Christian home. For the first six years of his life, he heard the truths of the gospel, and he was loved. Sadly, though, his parents died. The orphaned boy went to live with his relatives. There he was mistreated and abused and ridiculed for his faith in Christ.

The boy couldn't tolerate that situation, and he fled and joined the Royal Navy. In the navy, the boy's life went downhill. He became known as a brawler, was whipped many times, and participated in some of his comrades' being keel-hauled. Finally, while he was still young, he deserted the Royal Navy and fled to Africa, where he attached himself to a Portuguese slave trader. The young man's pattern of life had become so depraved, he couldn't stay out of trouble. As the story goes, he stole the ship's whiskey and got so drunk that he fell overboard. He was close to drowning when one of his shipmates harpooned him and brought him back on board. As a result, the young man had a huge scar in his side for the rest of his life. After that escapade, he couldn't get much lower. Eventually the young man began to reflect on the Scripture verses he had heard as a child and he was marvelously converted. The new life he found is reflected in his own heartfelt

words, familiar to millions now: “Amazing grace! How sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.” John Newton's experience put into words: the ultimate point of Romans 3, “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

The law cannot save us, but God revealed a righteousness that will save us, apart from the law. This is the heart of God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. We now have a salvation that is offered apart from the law. We can't earn it and we don't deserve it. It is totally separate from our own doing. Now- instead of a lamb, we bring only ourselves and we will receive forgiveness of our sins. The price of the sacrificial lamb has been paid- once and for all!

Christ died to set us free from the penalty of sins under the first covenant (the law) and to make a way for us to be made right with God. When we have faith in Jesus, we are made right with God. And it's not just true for the people of Israel- the Jewish people but for EVERYONE who believes. Everyone- there is no favoritism. Paul continually reminds the Jewish believers that salvation is not only for them, because Jesus came for all humankind! Every person past, present and future can be made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

As believers, when God looks at us, we are now holy- we are now filled with Christ and free of our sin! God declares that we are righteous. It is all about God's grace- undeserved kindness from a holy, just and loving God.

God is holy and pure. This is the starting point for understanding God and his relationship with people and the world. If we don't feel a sense of awe and fear and admiration for the infinite holiness of God which hates evil and all that it does; we will lose sight of who God is and what He has done for us. Paul says our acquittal isn't based on following the law- if it were we would be condemned. Our acquittal is based on our faith. We are made right with God through faith! Ephesians 2:8 puts it this way, “God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.”

We are saved through faith. This is the truth that rocked Martin Luther's life. Martin Luther came to believe that the Bible is the central source of religious authority, and that salvation is reached through faith and not deeds; which shaped the core of Protestantism. John Newton came to a belief in Jesus Christ through faith- he knew he would never be accepted through his life- he was a notorious slave trader- had lived a terrible life- and yet, he experienced the amazing grace that he received through faith. That he could be forgiven, and he could be righteous in the eyes of God through the

blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus paid it all.

So one might think that since Jesus paid it all- we can live anyway we want and it doesn't matter- Paul answers that with a resounding; NO! “Of course not! It is only by faith that we can truly obey the law.” Romans 3:30. Seems to be a contradiction- but it isn't.

When we have faith in Jesus Christ- our heart is right with Him- the Holy Spirit comes to live within us and to give us His power to live a holy life. God calls us to live like Jesus- who never sinned. On this side of heaven, we won't do it perfectly- but we can live by faith- out of our love for God and our love for people and our obedience to the law will be satisfied. When Jesus was asked about the most important commandments he responded, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40

It is by faith we are saved! It is by faith in Jesus Christ that we are made righteous. When we are filled with Jesus- His blood purifies our lives and we are made right with God.

Begin 2022 right by getting right with God today. Believe on the name of Jesus Christ and You will be saved. Be filled with Jesus. Happy New Year!



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### LUTHERAN

Dennison/Vang Lutheran Parish  
P.O. Box 117, Dennison, MN • 507-645-6042

Website: www.dennisonvang.org

Email: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Paul A. Graham

Worship Times - February

Sunday, February 6 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
Dennison - 9:00 AM; Vang - 11:00 AM

Sunday, February 13 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
Vang - 11:00 AM

Wednesday, February 16  
Dennison - 7:00 PM - Taize Evening Prayer

Sunday, February 20 - Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
Dennison - 9:00 AM (Songs of My Life); Vang - 11:00 AM

Sunday, February 27 - Last Sunday after Epiphany  
Vang - 11:00 AM

Gov Lutheran Marv Kormann, Pastor  
Marv Kormann, Pastor • 507-789-6311  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

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

Emmanuel Lutheran  
9:00a.m. Sunday School  
10:00a.m. Coffee Time 10:30a.m. Worship Service

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

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

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

Wangen Prairie Lutheran Church LCMC  
Curtis Fox, Pastor  
24289 Cty. 24 Blvd., Cannon Falls  
Sunday mornings: 9a.m. Worship; 10a.m. Fellowship  
Thursdays 9:30a.m. Bible Study;  
7:00p.m. Bluegrass Jam (open to public)  
Bring your instruments, play, sing or just enjoy.

### AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

“Hours and Days and Years and Ages”

Scripture Reading — Psalm 103:13-18  
From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him. . . .  
— Psalm 103:17

As we enter the new year, we often reflect on the past year. One thing I experience with the passing of each year is that I often look back and wonder, “Where did the time go?”

As we reflect on the past year and the fleeting passage of time, we are reminded that no matter how fast time seems to go by, God is still faithful. As Psalm 103 says, “From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him.” As quickly as the time comes and goes, there is one thing that never changes: the Lord's great love for us.

In the hymn “Hours and Days and Years and Ages” we sing about time passing away swiftly. Yet God is still our God, and he is ever faithful. No matter what we have faced in the past year—and no matter what we will face in the year ahead—God remains and will be our faithful, loving God.

What a comforting thought: God's love remains with us from “everlasting to everlasting.” That is a really long time, for eternity!

God's love for us in Jesus Christ never changes. As stanza 3 of the hymn says, “When life's dangers overwhelm us, you will ever be our stay; through your Son you are our Father, always changeless, come what may.”

Thank you, Lord!

Prayer: Dear God, as we come to the end of another year, we thank you for showing us your love “from everlasting to everlasting.” Amen.

### METHODIST

Nerstrand United Methodist

Lona Sturm, Pastor  
507-330-0025  
Worship 9:00a.m.

Stanton United Methodist

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

### ST. JOHNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Wheeling Township) 19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault

Lona Sturm, Pastor • 507-330-0025

www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info

Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.

### NEW LIFE CHURCH

Patrick McBride, Pastor  
525 Beverly St., Wanamingo  
9:00a.m. Sunday School for all ages;  
10:00a.m. Worship Service  
7:00p.m. Small Group Bible Studies - Sun.

### HOLDEN-DALE PARISH

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

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



## Helen J. Keller

Helen J. Keller, age 85, of Nerstrand, died Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at the Northfield Hospital.



Helen J., the daughter of Elmer and Eva (Forsyth) Hill, was born on April 1, 1936, in LaCrosse, WI. She was the oldest of 6 children. Her family farmed near Rushford, MN and she graduated from Rushford High School in 1954. Following her graduation, she attended Luther College in Decorah, IA for one year and then Winona State for one year. After that, she headed to Minneapolis where she resided at the Girl's Club. Several uncles and aunts had encouraged her to come to the "city" and while there she worked at Daytons. She met her husband-to-be through a blind date and the rest is history.

She married Wilmer "Pete" Keller on September 10, 1960 at Highland Prairie Church in Peterson, MN and then moved back to the country to farm and live the remainder of her life in rural Nerstrand. They had twins, John

and Catherine. They were active members of First English Lutheran Church where Helen served as a Sunday School teacher, Church Council member, participant in the Women's Circle Group and WELCA Treasurer.

For 34 years she worked at the Faribault Area Training and Education as a teacher's assistant mainstreaming special needs students into the high school and also into the workforce after graduation. On the farm, she also spent many hours in the field plowing and cultivating. She had been known to help move a few cows and hogs if an extra body was needed. Her favorite part of living on a farm was the abundant land to grow vegetable and flower gardens. During the summer months there were always clothes hanging to dry on the clothes lines and you could hear Christian music playing through the open windows.

During retirement, Helen and Pete could be found at Wimpy's in Faribault having lunch, and in the evenings at their grandkids school activities and sporting events.

When she was just 4 years old, she survived a devastating house fire that killed her two younger sisters. She also had scoliosis of the spine which later in life was physically draining at times. But she never dwelled on these

things. She felt much compassion for the disabled and less fortunate. She taught her family to always be grateful for what God had given them. Going to church became more difficult as she got older, but she always had KDHL on Sunday mornings to hear the worship services.

"Well done, good and faithful servant"

Survivors include her two children, John (and Cheryl) Keller of Faribault and Cathy (and Tom) Malecha of Mahtomedi; three grandchildren, Blake and Lindsey Malecha and Holden Keller; two siblings, Carroll (and Corrine) Hill and Carrie (Richard) VanCitters; one sister-in-law, Arlene Bultman; other relatives; and friends.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Wilmer; two sisters in infancy, LaVonne & Evelyn; and one brother, Raymond Hill.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 12 noon at First English Lutheran Church, Faribault. Reverend Mark Johnson, officiated. Interment was at Valley Grove Cemetery, Nerstrand. Visitation was held at the church for one hour prior to the service on Saturday.

## Thomas K. "Tom" Furlong

Thomas K. "Tom" Furlong, age 69 of Faribault, MN passed away on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at the Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna, MN following an extended illness.



Thomas Kevin, the son of Donald and Anne (Barteki) Furlong was born on

July 25, 1952 in Minneapolis, MN. He attended Faribault High School and graduated with the class of 1970. After high school he attended Bemidji State University and played football for two years. He then transferred to the University of North Dakota and graduated with his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business. While living in Grand Forks he purchased the Red Pepper Restaurant and it became a popular gathering spot for students at UND. On May 29, 1976 he was united in marriage to his high school sweetheart, Dee dee Duncan in Faribault. Tom then began his career in the insurance business with World Service Life Insurance Company. Over the years he was one of the top salesman and earned many awards and trips that took them to different destinations. In 1991 Tom purchased the Chevrolet dealership in Northfield, MN and turned that into a GM Superstore over the next 20 years.

Tom loved excursions into the Northwoods to their family cabin at Fowl Lake. He enjoyed fishing and hunting with his two children and his friends. His passion for hunting lead him from Canada's Niska Lodge to the Florida Bayou.

Never able to fully retire, Tom started Furlong Motors Direct in Faribault and is carried on by his family to this day.

Tom took nothing in life for granted and lived life to its fullest. His spirit and generosity made an impact on everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Furlong

of Faribault; by his children, Lauren (Brad) Keil of Faribault and their daughters, Norah and Frankie and Dan (Andi) Furlong of Faribault and their daughter, Josie; by his siblings, Barb (Mike) Baldwin of Prior Lake, MN and Jim (Colleen) Furlong of Faribault and by nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Anne Furlong.

A Celebration of Life was held on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Parker Kohl Funeral Home & Crematory of Faribault. Pastor Jeff Sandgren officiated. Interment will be held at a later date at Meadow Ridge Memorial Park, Faribault. A reception followed the service at the Faribault Golf Club.

Visitation was held at the Parker Kohl Funeral Home on Sunday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

## Nicholas M. Stein

Nicholas M. Stein, age 64, of Randolph, died on Tuesday evening, January 11, 2022, at the Mayo Clinic Health System, Cannon Falls.

Nicholas Mathias Stein was born on October 6, 1957, in Red Wing, the son of Nicholas and Annette (Langenfeld) Stein. He grew up on the

family farm in Randolph and graduated from Randolph High School in 1976. On Nov. 8, 1991, Nick was united in marriage to Lori Keller at St. Mathias Catholic Church in Hampton.

Nick was a truck driver for Polka Dot Dairy for several years, eventually driving on his own, hauling livestock and grain. He worked the family farm with his dad. Eventually, he and Lori purchased the farm, They, as a family, also purchased and rented additional property to expand their operation, due to their love of farming.

Nick enjoyed working on the farm, ice fishing, and collected Case IH tractors and memorabilia. He especially loved getting together with family and friends for meals and visiting.

Survivors include his wife Lori, children Jessi (Dan) Swentik, Nicholas Stein, Katie (Jordan) Schuerman, and Melissa Stein; grandchildren Tucker, Chase, Hudson, Charlee, and Mikki; his parents Nicholas and Annette Stein, siblings Linda (Dave) Weinhandl, Dale (Arlene) Stein, and Sharon (Leroy) Bauer; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorials are preferred to the Hillcrest Cemetery or the Randolph FFA.

Visitation was on Sunday, Jan 16, from 3 - 6:00 pm at Lundberg Funeral Home, 5839 Highway 19 Blvd, Cannon Falls, MN 55009. Funeral Mass was at 11:00 am Monday, January 17 at the Church of St. Mathias, 23315 Northfield Blvd, Hampton, MN 55031. There was a visitation one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday. Interment was in the Hillcrest Cemetery in Hampton Township.



Pastor Paul A. Graham

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

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

37514 3rd Avenue, Dennison, MN 55018

Website: [www.dennisonvang.org](http://www.dennisonvang.org)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: [dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com](mailto:dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com)

### Worship Times – February

Sunday, February 6 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
Dennison – 9:00 AM; Vang – 11:00 AM

Sunday, February 13 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
Vang – 11:00 AM

Wednesday, February 16  
Dennison – 7:00 PM – Taize Evening Prayer

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Dennison – 9:00 AM (Songs of My Life); Vang – 11:00 AM

Sunday, February 27 – Last Sunday after Epiphany  
Vang – 11:00 AM

### Jesus Unforsaken: The Cross and the Unrelenting Love of God

Why did Jesus die on a cross? What truths does the cross reveal about God, the world, and ourselves? What does the cross mean, and what does it mean for daily life and decisions?

Questions like these are vital to our walk with Jesus. You are invited to come explore these questions as we seek together a Christ-centered vision of the cross that sets us free, heals us, and unveils God's unrelenting love.

All are welcome. "Jesus Unforsaken" concludes on February 13.

### Songs of My Life and Taize Evening Prayer

If you haven't been to these worship and community opportunities at Dennison Lutheran Community Church, come check them out this month! If you have already been, come again and bring a friend. All are welcome!

**Songs of My Life – Sunday, February 20 at Dennison, 9:00 AM**

**Taize Evening Prayer – Wednesday, February 16 at Dennison, 7:00 PM**

## End of a four-year road to transition farmland now in sight for Singing Hills Dairy

*Courtesy of AgWeek*

NERSTRAND, Minn. — There are only two goats left at Singing Hills Dairy, and they are nervous.

The two goats once were part of a herd consisting of 26 milking Saanen and Nubian, and they are the only animals left of Lynne Reeck's operation.

Singing Hills Dairy is a small goat cheese dairy farm owned and operated by Reeck, who produced fresh chevre, feta, curds and yogurt in the certified cheese plant on the farm. The farm also raised whey-fed pork in season.

That's all in past tense because after nearly 25 years, Reeck is ready to move on from the farm and business, which is too much for her to handle on her own. She sold the rest of the goat herd for meat in the process of packing up her operation to prepare for a transition in the near future, if all goes as planned.

"They're not sure what to do with themselves," said Reeck on a frigid Jan. 7, as the two goats scampered to the corner when they saw a person other than Reeck enter the barn. "They're nervous, but they're warm in here."

As a wave of farmers like Reeck look to retire and transition their land, Minnesota's statewide programs such as Farm Link fall short in getting transitions done in a timely

manner. Filling in the gaps in Reeck's case is a partnership between Minnesota-based Renewing the Countryside and the national organization American Farmland Trust, built to help lower the price of the farm for the incoming farmer.

Reeck's cheesemaking skills were honed in the building a few steps away from the barn she visited the goats on Jan. 7. In the small cheese plant she used milk from her goats to make chèvres and fetas — once in high demand for aficionados near the Twin Cities, along with traditional cheese and yogurt.

All the necessary instruments were still inside Reeck's small cheesemaking plant on Jan. 7. Empty coolers and buckets lined the lower shelves, a scale and open recipe book was on the tabletop, and a digital chart recorder hung plugged-in on the wall. Reeck worked six days a week in the space to produce around 150 pounds of cheese and yogurt a week, which she'd sell pretty much all of that same week.

She prepared extra cheese for the Dec. 18 Mill City Farmers Market in Minneapolis, because it was her final sale. She sold out of everything within an hour.

In a separate room of the cheesemaking plant, there is a milking parlor which Reeck milked goats in twice daily, as they fed on organic grain. The stand is surrounded by remnants of encouragement even though the parlor won't be used again by her. A boombox with a box of CD albums next to it was still playing, and a KEEP CALM AND LOVE CHEESE sign hung on the wall.

### Land ideal for farming

Reeck purchased the 25-acre plot that borders the Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park in 1996, from a family who she said were the biggest landowners in Rice County at the time. The land was rented for decades before

she bought it, and Reeck said several updates were needed to make it suitable for a successful operation.

In 2009, Reeck transitioned from growing vegetables on the land to raising goats for a micro-dairy. The shaded pasture turned out to be the perfect setting to raise a goat herd, which grazed on the farm's grasses and foliage from the many trees. In the winter, the goats fed on alfalfa hay.

In the first few years after switching from vegetables, Reeck also raised pigs and around 20 goats for meat, which she'd sell to restaurants in the Twin Cities. To meet demand and maintain supply in recent years, Reeck bought milk from her neighbors, Morgan and Keith Allen of Hay Creek Farm, who milk 30 goats.

### A workload too heavy

Although the farm was considered a micro-dairy, the daily workload required to maintain Singing Hills Dairy was big. For several years, Reeck handled all of the farm work on her own. The help she got from family was with packaging and selling.

It was 2018 when Reeck said she decided the work that went into the operation was too much for her to sustain.

"The process of transferring the farm has been for me, a many, many years-long process," said Reeck. "There's been various steps along the way that I've taken to try to make it possible for me to do the work of transferring, since I'm here alone."

Realizing the work required more than one person, Reeck took steps such as cutting the herd down and getting help from her neighbors, but the daily milking and weekly

cheesemaking was still too much.

"The business itself was too much work, and then taking care of the farm properly, and keeping things up, really, is probably a three person job," she said. "And I thought the farm was going to sell in 2019, but it didn't, and here we still are."

### Renewing the Countryside

Since 2018, Reeck has been working with Renewing the Countryside to find a way to successfully transition the land to new farmers.

"As with many farmers, (Reeck) farms by herself, and there comes a time when you realize that you just can't do it all," said Jan Joannides, executive director and co-founder of Renewing the Countryside. "But she really wanted the farm to be transitioned to a new farm family, and a farm family that would have the same conservation values that she did to protect the land, and that's how we got started working with Lynne."

(continued on page 5)

## Nerstrand Elementary Accepting Applications

(continued from page 1)

It's on the home page if you scroll down just a little bit and click on the Apply Now button under Enrollment Opportunities. There will be a form for you to fill out and then hit the submit button. You should receive an email letting you know that your application was received within a few days of applying. Thank you and spread the word!

## New life for Old Schoolhouse?

(continued from page 1)

This is old world lumber that forms the structure.

We have kept a roof on it, in fact we had the roof replaced after a hail storm just last summer. The stamped tinning that lines the walls and ceilings is interesting and beautiful. You would need to move this building to your lot. Serious inquiries only. This would be a cash only sale. \$10,000 as is.



School now



**DENNISON MEAT LOCKER**  
*Owned and Operated by Dori Gregory Since 2001*

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www.mbgprop.com






### MBG Property Management

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## End of a four-year road to transition farmland now in sight for Singing Hills Dairy

(continued from page 3)

At first, Renewing the Countryside helped to get the word out that the land was for sale. The efforts attracted offers, but Reeck said they were far less than she needed to feel financially stable transitioning off the land. She said after several offers to purchase the land fell through, it was clear that another approach was required.

"I was getting fairly desperate in terms of finding a solution because of just the precarious position I was in financially," said Reeck. "And (Renewing the Countryside) really stepped in and used the resources they had to help make contacts and connections."

The biggest connection made was with American Farmland Trust. AFT is a national agricultural organization that works with on-the-ground projects like Renewing the Countryside's with Reeck's farm. According to its website, AFT has prevented millions of acres of farmland from being converted into residential or commercial land.

### The model

To make the land which Singing Hills Dairy

exists on today more affordable to emerging farmers, and to protect it from development, Renewing the Countryside and AFT have partnered to raise the funds needed to place an agricultural conservation easement on the land. Placing an agricultural conservation easement on the land will cover the difference between the farm's current purchase price and the price of the farm after it's protected by the easement, therefore allowing the farm to be sold at a reduced price to an incoming farmer.

The transition model (nicknamed Buy, Protect, Sell) may be new for Minnesota, but it's been used "quite a bit" on the East Coast, said Joannides. She said in other areas of the country, there are state funds that can be used to cover an agricultural conservation easement, which can then be matched by federal funds.

"In the case that we're working on here in Minnesota, Renewing the Countryside and American Farmland Trust are working together to raise those funds to be able to cover the cost of that easement," said Joannides.

The cost of the easement is \$150,000. As of Jan. 7, Joannides said that around \$110,000 had been raised through the partnership between Renewing the Countryside and AFT. She said the hope is to have the funds raised and the farm closed on by American Farmland Trust by the end of February.

### Land of their own

From there, the goal of Renewing the Countryside is to facilitate the transition of Singing Hills Farm to another farm. The new operation to take over the land will be the Lor family, who Joannides said have been farming for



Lynne Reeck, owner and operator of Singing Hills Dairy, points to the pasture which she raised a small goat herd on since 2009. photo courtesy of AgWeek

over 20 years on rented land.

"The Lor family is a multi-generational family of farmers, started by the parents who now have children who are young adults, who've farmed with them," she said.

The Lor family has succeeded at growing and selling their produce in the Twin Cities area, but the uncertain future that comes with farming on rented land has held them back. The problem when leasing land, said Joannides, is that farmers never truly know how long a lease will last.

"(The Lor family) has been in a couple situations where the landowner decided to sell the land, and so they no longer had access to

it, and had to move their operation somewhere else," she said. "It's just a challenge to figure out how to do everything again, in a new space."

Reeck hoped originally that the entire business of Singing Hills Dairy could be sold, because she said the cheese business is a "niche that nobody else is filling" in the area. But once she met the Lor family, she knew they were the right ones to take over the land.

"They're great people, and I think they're very excited to be here," said Reeck of the Lor family. "And I think that for them, this place is going to be a blessing."

2022

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## Bird Love in Winter



Teri Knight

*Gardenbite*

Wow, I hope you are surviving our roller coaster of cold arctic air! As I write this, the temperature is 6 below zero but tomorrow is supposed to be 30 above. And then the deep freeze comes again.

How on Earth do our wild birds stay warm? Ruffling their feathers is number one. Most of our birds look twice as chubby in winter as in summer due to fluffing their feathers to provide insulation.

Night time for birds is tougher yet. That's why providing nesting boxes and/or other shelter (like that spent Christmas tree) is such a good idea. The birds will cuddle up for warmth.

Birds will crouch down and fluff their feathers around their feet, or they'll pull one foot toward their body at a time.

You'll also find birds sunning themselves! They're not looking to tan on a Mexican beach but warm up those little bodies! Birds will turn their back (the largest part of their body) to the sun to absorb the sun's warmth on their skin.

One of the most important things for us to do is provide them with food to fuel their bodies which creates warmth. It's a good reminder as the temperatures are so drastic WE don't always want to go out there to check the feeders. Fill those feeders with quality feed. Spike's & Houles have locally milled feed for birds.

Teri Knight became a Master Gardener with Dakota County, Minnesota in 2003. She currently produces her website, [www.gardenbite.com](http://www.gardenbite.com). Teri's been involved in community projects which include a Junior Master Gardener program for 8 to 12 year olds, designing and planting a garden for a women's center and various other organizations!



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# Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade

**Saturday, February 19, 2022**

**7:00 AM** **BBQ Cook Off begins, on Main Street in front of MarLea's**  
**\$500.00 Grand Prize! \$100 First Prize! \$50.00 Second and Third Prizes!**  
 For More Information or to Pre-Register: Text Steve at 612-968-9547 or Email: [kingpin1876@gmail.com](mailto:kingpin1876@gmail.com)

**10:00 AM** **Euchre at Fireside on the Patio, 100% Payout**  
 Hosted by The Dennison Lions. Questions contact Jen at 507-649-0602

**2:00 PM** **Cook Off Judging Begins at MarLea's**

**2:00-3:00 PM** **Poker Run - Ends at Fireside** Contact Jen Eggum at 507-649-0602 or Bryan Eggum at 507-649-1040  
 Rules for Poker Run: Go to any bar in surrounding towns and take a selfie of you or your group in front of the bar and save it to prove you were there. Return to the Fireside in Dennison between 2-3 PM sharp! No late entries will be accepted. You will pay your entrance fee of \$10 per person and you will be dealt a card for each picture you have proving which bars you went to. (maximum of 5 bars) You will then have the opportunity to use your skill to get your last card by tossing a ping pong ball into a pyramid of 52 cups with a card attached to each one. You will then be able to make your best 5 card Poker hand.

**6:30 PM** **8th Annual Denni Dazzle Parade: \$300.00 Prize for Best Float!**  
 Hosted by the Dennison Lions. Call or text Diane at 612-532-0268

**7:00-11:00 PM** **LIVE MUSIC AT THE FIRESIDE - Save the date!**

**9:00 PM** **Raffle Winners Announced at Fireside**

**Flake Out Festival Raffle Saturday, February 19**  
 Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member for Just \$5.00 Each for Your Chance to Win!

**Grand Prize - \$500.00 Cash**  
 2nd Prize - \$300 Cash      3rd Prize - \$150 Cash  
 4th Prize - (6) \$50 Cash      5th Prize - (6) \$25 Cash

Raffle Drawing held at 9 p.m. at the Fireside Lounge. Need not be present to win. Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees. Complete list of additional prizes available upon request.  
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February 19<sup>th</sup>, Main Street in front of MarLea's

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7:00 AM  
 on Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Space is limited to the first 18 teams.  
 Meat will not be provided. Electricity/Water NOT provided.

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**Reserve Champion \$300.00**

1st - \$175 • 2nd - \$150 • 3rd - \$125 • 4th - \$100 • 5th - \$75 • 6th-10th - \$50  
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- Tract 3 - 120 Acres (107 Tillable) | CPI 94.9
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See Website for Terms - AUCTION #2211  
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Ellendale, MN

Sat., April 30, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.

10+ Collector Tractors - Wood Threshing - Farm + Horse Equipment - Trailers - Outdoor Items

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Sat., June 18, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.

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## AUCTION CALENDAR

**February 6, 2022**  
Bidding Begins: ...Jan. 28, 2022  
Starts Closing:.....Feb. 6, 2022  
Kenyon, MN  
ONLINE ONLY 600+ LOTS  
COLLECTOR TOY & MEMORABILIA AUCTION  
600+ Lots of Collector Farm Toys, Ertl, Spec Cast, Precision, Collector Edition, All Brands, Semi's, International, Farmall & CH Memorabilia

**February 20, 2022**  
Bidding Begins: ...Feb. 12, 2022  
Starts Closing:.....Feb. 20, 2022  
Kenyon, MN  
ONLINE ONLY LIFETIME VINTAGE TOY COLLECTION AUCTION  
600+ Lots of 1920's - 1960's Buddy L, Steel Craft, Wyandotte, Marx, Structo, Tonka, Smith Miller, Model, Heiliner Press Steel Toys, Tin Windups, Tru-Scale, Lumar, Advertising Semi's, Salt Glazed Crocks, Cylinder Phonographs, Lionel Trains

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Kenyon, MN  
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Kenyon, MN  
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Live and Online Area Farmers Consignment Auction, Tractors, Combines, Semi's, Trailers, Construction Equipment, Planters & Tillage Equipment, Livestock Equipment, Pickups, Cars, ATVs and Farm Support Items

**March 17, 2022**  
Bidding Begins: ... Mar. 7, 2022  
Starts Closing:.....Mar. 17, 2022  
Afton, MN  
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See Website for Terms - AUCTION #2216  
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# Hubbell House to Re-open with New Owners

After 75 years of ownership by the Pappas family, the Hubbell House in Mantorville has been sold to Powers Ventures of Rochester. They are a family owned restaurant and catering business with over 159 employees. They started the Canadian Honker in 1984, The Rochester International Event Center in 2006

and Pinnacle Catering in 2013. Thee Hubbell House will be closed until April for an extensive kitchen remodel project.

The Hubbell House was built by John Hubbell in 1854, first as a 16' x 24' log cabin and then in 1856 the current three story structure, one the first of its kind in Minnesota, was built out of Limestone block out of the local quarry. The building was to become a famous stagecoach stop, saloon and café in the mid-19th century history of Dodge County. The Hubbell House had fallen onto hard times by 1930 and Walt Stussy purchased the building for housing quarry workers during the Great Depression. Paul Pappas married Walt Stussy's daughter, Irene in 1942 and they opened the Hubbell House as a restaurant on June 29, 1946. On the first day

of business they served twenty-four customers with only three employees.

By 1959 on Mother's Day they served 1,500 customers with fifty employees. Don Pappas took over the reins of the Hubbell House from his father Paul, and Don's daughter Alaina became general manager in 2015.



The Hubbell House has been a favorite with many residents of Dodge County over the last seventy-five years as well as many state and national figures, including United States presidents, athletes and actors. Most of us who have dined there have read the names of past and present famous people on the placemat while waiting for our meal. Another interesting artifact at the Hubbell is the large painting on the wall just in front of the Senator Ramsey Room. It was painted by Albert Lea artist Sue Geiken and it features 99 famous Minnesotans from the mid 1800's to the late 1970's. Many times I have tested my high school history knowledge to identify those faces.

The new owners have expressed commitment to continuing the high level of quality that the Hubbell House has been known for. Keep an eye out for the grand re-opening of the Hubbell House this spring.

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## Rice County Sheriff Jesse Thomas is Reminding All Who Enjoy Ice Fishing to be Safe When Heading Out Onto the Ice

Courtesy of KYMN



Rice County Sheriff  
Jesse Thomas

Thomas said the strange weather conditions this year, an early blizzard followed by warmer weather, might have been good for lake ice, but he said, ice is never 100% safe.

The strength of the ice on a lake cannot be judged by its appearance, age, thickness, the outside

temperature, or whether the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all of those factors, plus the depth of the water under the ice, the size of the body of water, the water chemistry and the currents in the lake, the dis-

tribution of the load on the ice, and, of course, weather conditions.

Thomas said he himself has not yet tested the strength of the ice on any area lake. However, he said, everyone should keep in mind that the ice might be thick and strong on one lake, and very unsafe on another.

According to the Minnesota DNR website, in fact, ice rarely freezes uniformly. It could be quite thick in one area and just a few inches away, it might be very thin. Therefore, the DNR advises checking the ice every 150 feet or so. Other things to keep in mind, according to the DNR, new ice is generally stronger than older ice, schools of fish or flocks of birds can adversely affect ice conditions, and snow cover can slow down the freezing process on a lake.

Sheriff Thomas said there are simple precautions everyone should take.

“Let people know where you’re going, take precautions, take your ice picks if you’re going to venture out into an unknown area. And if you’re staying overnight in an ice shelter, or a fish house, make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector, because we’ve lost people to that in the past.

Vehicles can go through the ice at any time. The DNR advises that people look for 5”-7” of ice before taking a snowmobile onto a lake, 8”-12” for a car or a small pickup, and 12”-15” for a medium sized truck.

Thomas said it is important to remember that ice is not consistent, and safety must always be the first priority.

## County Board Combines, Expands Social Work and Corrections Departments

The Rice County Board of Commissioners approved the merger of the County Social Services Department with the County Corrections Department, creating a new County Department of Community Services. While the move to streamline services in an effort to provide more holistic care to the citizens of Rice County was not a surprise, the manner in which the Commissioners chose to go about the merger was a mild one.

Earlier this month, County Administrator Sara Folstad, Director of Social Services Mark Shaw, and Director of County Corrections Rick Gieseke proposed the merger offering three different options with varying costs. The Board selected the option that offered the most sweeping changes, and the highest price tag.

The new structure replaces the two department head positions with a single Deputy Administrator of Community Services who will report to the county administrator. It also splits the social services manager role into two, one Adult Services Manager and one Child and Family Services Manager. The new department also includes an Operations/Family Support Manager and a Community Corrections Manager.

Rice County Administrator Sara Folstad estimated it will cost the county up to an additional \$260,200 annually – before reimbursements – to implement the new structure.

According to the statement issued by the county announcing the merger, Rice County ranks near the bottom in overall expenditures per capita, despite being the 14th largest county in the state. Overall, it said that Rice County ranks 75th out of 87 Minnesota counties when it comes to spending,

“Having the lowest ranking per capita isn’t the best thing,” said Commissioner Galen Malecha noting the need for more county mental health services.

“Sometimes you’ve got to spend money to correct issues that have been happening.”

Administrator Folstad will provide updates on the departments’ merger throughout the process.

## Rice SWCD Seeks Public Input Regarding Election Options for District Supervisors

The Rice SWCD Board of supervisors invites local constituents and partners to provide feedback about the current election framework that elects district supervisors. At their February board meeting, the board will discuss election options and will adopt a motion or a resolution to either maintain the current election framework or to put in place a schedule to adopt the authorized option.

Briefly, the options are as follows:

Option 1 (Supervisors elected at large – Minnesota Statute 103C.311 subd. 1) provides for the establishment of nominating districts that determine who will be on the general election ballot for vote by the general electorate of the county. These nominating districts have historically reflected the natural resource diversity of the county. They have not been focused on the distribution of population, but on distribution of supervisors geographically across the county so board members have a better chance at being physically closer to and personally aware of the natural resource issues across the county. Under this option, all eligible voters within the county may vote for all SWCD supervisors.

Option 2 (Supervisors elected by districts – Minnesota Statute 103C.311 subd. 2) provides discretionary authority for SWCDs (mandatory for SWCDs in the 7-county metro area), with the approval of the Board of Water and Soil Resources, to change from the cur-

rent countywide election of supervisors to election by a nominating district. If an SWCD chooses to move to election by a district, the district boundaries must be drawn by the county board, in consultation with the SWCD board and then with approval by BWSR. The boundaries need to be compact, include only contiguous territory, and be substantially equal in population, and therefore reviewed after each decennial federal census. This option allows the number of supervisors to be greater than five in counties with more than five county commissioner districts, such as Dakota, Ramsey, Hennepin, and St. Louis. This option tends to reflect the distribution of the population.

Currently, Rice SWCD supervisors are elected through option one.

Local constituents and partners may provide feedback in several ways. Written comments can be sent to the Rice SWCD, 1810 30th Street NW, Faribault, MN 55021. They may also be sent via email to ricecountyswcd@gmail.com. Written comments must be received by Friday, February 4, 2022.

Constituents may also voice their feedback at the next Board of Supervisors meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at the Straight River Room, Rice County Fairgrounds. Please contact Steve Pahs, District Manager, at 507-332-5408 if you have any questions regarding this issue.



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## City of Dennison Regular Council Meeting December 2nd, 2021

The December Dennison City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Flaten on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilors Heidi Cooke, Ann Anders, and Nichole Schloesser, and Clerk Jessica Page. Councilor Diane Ruddle was unable to attend.

Councilor Anders moved to accept the minutes for the November regular and special meetings. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0. Councilor Schloesser moved to approve the treasurer's report, Councilor Anders second. Motion passed 4:0.

**Building Permits:** None

**Administrative Issues:**

Truth in Taxation discussion. Rick Koehler was present to discuss the levy and its impact on his taxes. Wanted to know how he benefits from the very high tax rates. If he was across the street, he would pay \$1300-1500 less. There was some discussion on how the

costs for the city are spread across every resident, as well as acknowledgement that there are differences in the city and township tax portions. There were no other persons present for this issue.

Pass the resolution 12-2021-01 for the final levy. Preliminary levy was \$112,700 general, 42,213 bond, for a total of \$154,913. Can go lower, but not higher. Councilor Anders move to pass Resolution 12-2021-01 for the final levy amount in the same amounts as the preliminary levy. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

Paul Nygaard land split. He would like to split up one of his parcels with a small strip to eventually be sold to Dan Storlie, and a parcel to his daughter so she can build a house. It was brought up by an audience member and a council member that there is a lot of "junk" present on Paul's property. A council member does not approve of the split due to the junk. It has been a continuous issue over the several years. Paul stated that he has

been working on getting his place cleaned up over the last few months. He has removed cars, tires, etc. Paul noted he is willing to clean out his parking lot, and keep it cleaned out, with an occasional car parked there. Jeff move to approve the split. Nichole second. Aye Jeff and Nichole. Nay Ann and Heidi. 2:2 Motion failed, The proposed split can be brought forward to the Council again next month.

Haugen Annexation Public Hearing was held earlier today. Approve the annexation Ordinance #86 and subsequent parcel splits. Councilor Anders move to approve Ordinance #86 to annex in the proposed parcel owned by Terry Haugen. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0

Land split Councilor Cooke move to approve the splits proposed by Terry Haugen. Mayor Flaten second. Motion passed 4:0.

**Police Contract approval:** Patrol Major Mike Johnson and Marty Kelly, Sheriff, were present to answer any questions that the Council might have. Councilor Anders move to approve the police contract from Jan 1 2022 to Dec 31, 2024. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

Christy Whipple introduced the idea of possibly having a food pantry available in the City of Dennison for folks to use. She explained that Food Pantry cabinets are larger than little libraries, but have been filled with food for folks to take or donate as needed. She noted that the Church hasn't been able to do a food shelf in the City. She noted that there is a large need to assistance folks in the local community. Cost is about \$500 to build a small shelter. Possibly have built as an eagle scout project, or through the high school. "Take what you need, leave what you can." She was wanting to know if this is this wanted in the City? Is there a place to put it? She will look into getting one built and the City will be able to find a spot for it. The most likely place would be on main street between City Hall and the well house.

Update on bonds/Funding for the sewer projects. The City should be receiving the funds on the 9th of December. Looking for approval to pay up to date, once the funds are received from the Bond sale, the outstanding balances for both the Force Main (\$6698.76 as of 10-31-2021) and the Phosphorus System (\$28,462.49 as of 10-31-2021). Go with balance as of 11-30-2021? Additionally, can it be approved to pay off the line of credit as soon as bond proceeds are received? Councilor Anders move to pay outstanding balances for ISG when the funds are received. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0

Councilor Anders move to pay off the line of credit. Councilor Schloesser second the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

Pay app #2 from Pioneer Power \$14,394.91 for electrical work Councilor Anders move to pay. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0

Updates from ISG on Force Main, Phosphorus System. Hvac heating work maybe in Feb. Anderson blew in insulation in the attic of the shed. Don't have the materials for the liner fix yet from JJD. Jeff asked them to fix the gate and fence, and replace the light pole as well as fix the fence by the lift station too. They are going to do so.

Grant money: the PFA is finalizing the budget for the projects. As long as it is budgeted, we can draw from those amounts through next year. Anita projected through

May 2022. What happens if it's not completed by May? Can it be extended? Mayor Flaten will ask for clarification on that.

10. Approve Liquor License applications for Marlea's and Fireside. Councilor Anders move to approve, Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

11. Approve Cigarette Licenses for Fireside, Marlea's and Dennison Depot. Councilor Schloesser move to approve. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0.

12. Letter from owner of Marlea's requesting funds from ARPA. (City did receive an additional \$370.78 on November 23rd from entities that did not apply for the ARPA funds.) Discussion was had and there are no changes in the application of the ARPA funds.

13. Proposal for sewer rates. Not ready as we need to clarify Industrial User Agreement before they can give the City a proposal. Maybe have Diane help with it? Start new agreement. Will try to get examples to work from.

14. MRWA Paul Hoeschen to analyze electrical usage. Free service. Focus on well house right now. Will need to provide some data for him.

Resolution 12-2021-02 to designate the polling place for areas in the City of Dennison that are located in Rice County as being by mail ballots only. Clerk was contacted by Rice County requesting a new or additional resolution. "The Dennison City Council hereby establishes the polling place for the portions of the City of Dennison located within Goodhue County, will be located at the Dennison City Hall.

The Dennison City Council additionally hereby establishes that the portions of the City of Dennison located within Rice County, will be served by mail ballots only. "

Councilor Anders move to pass. Councilor Schloesser second. Motion passed 4:0.

16. Signatures needed for the bank due to a name update.

**Citizens Issues:** None

**Mayors Issues:** None

**Utilities:**

Update from Nate: Dept of Health samples completed. Prepping ponds for last discharge.

Councilor Schloesser move to pay the bills. Councilor Cooke second. Motion passed 4:0 Councilor Cooke moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Flaten second. Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Next meeting: Regular meeting is Thursday January 6th, 2022 at 7:00.

## Public Hearing at 6:45 regarding the Levin Annexation

Public Hearing notes from Haugen Annexation held at 6:45 on Dec 2, 2021.

Jeff called the public hearing to order at 6:45.

Heidi, Nichole, Ann, Jeff were present from the City Council.

Terry and Margaret Haugen present. Terry explained how the parcel will be annexed in, then split to even off Roger Kelm's parcel, along with a small 40 foot portion of Terry's former access route. Jim Burkhardt has made sure that all liens, etc, have been satisfied as to the ownership of the property. No one else was present to comment on the proposed annexation.

Mayor Flaten move to close the public hearing. Councilor Cooke second.

Public hearing was closed at 7pm.

## Nerstrand City Council Meeting Minutes December 14, 2021

Nerstrand City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7:00p.m. Those in attendance in person were Council Members Monica Gernandt, Jennifer Schwab, Dan Pflieger, Mayor Todd Evavold. Other people in attendance were Public Works Director Steve McDowell, City Clerk Dana Jans, 3 residents in person and 0 via ZOOM.

### Roll Call

Councilpersons, Gernandt, Schwab, Pflieger and Mayor Evavold present.

### Approval of Agenda

-Motion to accept the agenda by Councilperson Gernandt with the addition of "d" Discussion of trees in city park, and "e" Resolution 2021-15 National Opioid Settlements, second by Councilperson Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

### Consent Agenda

-Motion to accept all consent items by Councilperson Gernandt, second by Councilperson Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

### New Business

-Appointment of John Harris as councilperson. Motion by Councilperson Gernandt to appoint John Harris to council, second by Councilperson Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

-Motion by Councilperson Gernandt to adopt Resolution 2021-14 the final tax levy, second by Councilperson Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

-Discussion on overage on legal fees will be tables until the January council meeting.

-Complaints from residents on the honeylocust trees at City Park. Two bids were received to drop the trees. Motion by Councilperson Gernandt to take down the 3 trees as long as cost stays under \$800.00, second by Councilperson Pflieger.

-Motion by Councilperson Gernandt to adopt Resolution 2021-15, approving the memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the state of MN and local governments and authorizing participation in national opioid settlements, second by Councilperson Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

### Old Business

-Discussion on non-compliance of resident who's chicken permit was revoked in November. Motion by Councilperson Schwab to impose a fine of \$100.00 immediately and increase fine by \$50.00 every 2 weeks until resident is within compliance, second by Councilperson Gernandt, motion passed unanimously.

-Contract with Widseth has been received. Motion by Councilperson Gernandt to sign the contract, second by Councilperson Schwab, motion passed unanimously.

-Discussion on the sale of 318 1st Street South. Councilperson Gernandt would like to see the City gain ownership of Farm Street. Motion by Councilperson Gernandt to move Farm Street East and split the parcel with John and Ashley Meyers in trade for 318 1st Street South. All costs incurred by the lot split and trade to be split 50/50 between the City of Nerstrand and Meyers. Seconded by Councilperson Schwab, motioned passed unanimously.

### Reports from Officers

-Public Works Director McDowell reported that that things are running well. Contacted Community Coop to trade out the cities 500 gallon tanks to 250 gallon tanks. Tower level has been dropped. Snow fence by the school was put up. Keep ears open for interested parties in snow plowing next winter. Generator has been installed and the grant is complete. Money will be sent.

### Adjourn

Motion by Councilperson Gernandt seconded by Councilperson Pflieger to adjourn the meeting, motion passed unanimously.

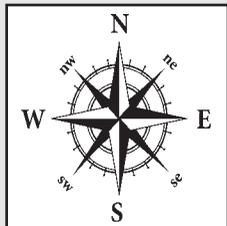
Respectfully submitted by;

Dana Jans

Nerstrand City Clerk

## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

# Farmer Seed Corn Dealers



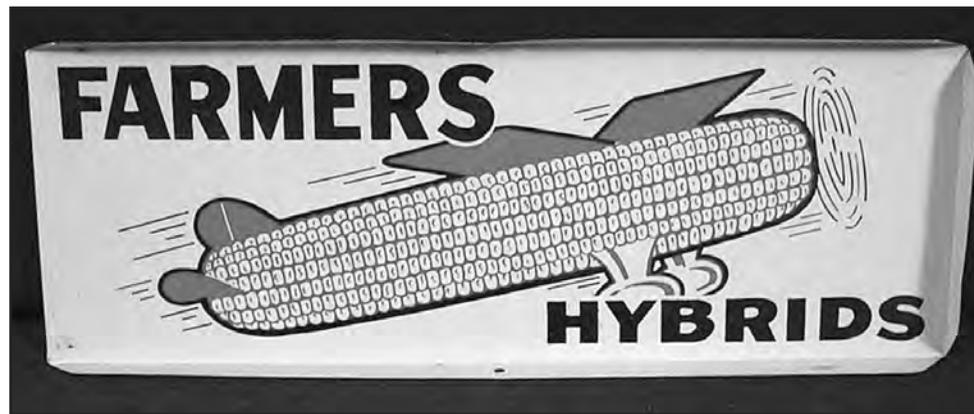
By Terry Campbell

*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.*

Cleaning out some buildings on the farm this fall I came across some metal seed corn company signs. Does anyone else remember when many farmers were also seed corn dealers? It was a common thing in the 1960's. All throughout the country along side the mail box was a tin sign with the seed corn company and often the farmers name below. Dekalb, Pioneer, Blaney, Funks, Mallard, Lowe, Trojan, Crows, Renk, Supercrost, Northrup King and Farmers Hybrid are a few that come to my mind. I can still remember the farmer's names as well who sold each brand.

Each farmer would grow his crops and try to sell his neighbor on the variety that produced the highest corn yield on his farm. Small pocket notebooks were handed out with a few pages of advertising of the companies seed varieties and plenty of ruled pages for record keeping of planting dates, fertilizer rates and anything pertinent that occurred during the summer.

My dad planted a seed plot every year. In the spring, Wally Thompson, the field rep for



Farmers Hybrid would come out and they would measure, mark, plant and record dozens of varieties of seed corn. Four rows of each. Plant to the end of the field and then dump the seed back in the bag and put a different variety in the seed hopper and head back across the field. Neighbor farmers would drop off a partial bag of seed of their brand to be planted as well.

The fun part was in the fall. When harvesting time came and the field day arrived. Wally would show back up with the weigh wagon and the combining commenced. Farmers showed up to watch the results and the yields tallied on a big tagboard chart. Everyone was excited to see how the corn yields were competing. And there was pop, coffee and doughnuts for all as the results unfolded. The farmer seed corn dealer whose variety did the best would be getting orders for that seed variety for the coming year from all his neighbors. Everyone hedged their bets by ordering a few bags each of the top five or more performers. I was a little kid but this seemed as fun as a

day at the fair to me. A couple hours in the middle of a cornfield listening to my neighbor farmers talk farming beats almost anything else hands down. It was a noble profession and I was in the presence of the experts as they passed around their wisdom.

After the harvest was over and the field work done, I could look forward to the seed company meetings in the winter. My dad took me with him and I reveled in the event. It was usually held at a fancy restaurant in the evening and started out with a great meal. Not like the local café or my mom's supper. This was a steak and baked potato, and a couple things I didn't recognize but always delicious. Then came the sales pitch for next year's new varieties and expectations and awards for farmer dealers who sold the most bags of seed corn that year. They passed out pencils, pens, notebooks, stickers and those tin signs that we put out by the mailbox to tell all our neighbors what company my father represented. It made me feel pretty important as a young kid to know my dad was a farmer dealer.

## A Minnesotan: Snow Fall



By RosaLin Alcoser

Being high up though makes the snow fall better in a different way from the ground; don't get me wrong I love to watch the snow fall from home on the ground level. But when you're high up, you don't have any chance of having to go out in the snow for the rest of the day, and looking out over the snowfall the world looks like a snow globe.

During that first really big snow of the season when I looked out my window it reminded me of looking into my mother's snow globe that she would put out at Christmas.

That first snow also reminded me that when you watch a snow plow from high up that all the plows- big and small- look a lot like the robots from Wall-E. Which is tons of fun to watch because not only can you watch the plows go while pretending that they're little animated worker robots, but you can also give them names. I for one like to call the one that does the loop for my building 3X7-J; because why not.

At the end of any day when we don't have to go away, watching the snowfall can be pretty and sometimes fun. It can be even more fun when you get to watch it from a different perspective... and when you're not the one who has to move it after.

It is already a known fact to me that watching it rain from the 11th floor of a high rise apartment can be anti-climatic. However, what I have learned in the last few weeks is that watching it snow from the same height can be extremely pretty.

A couple of weeks ago we got the first really big snow of the year here in the Twin Cities on a Friday afternoon, prompting me to work from home for most of the day. Because just because I can drive through snow and my Subaru can make it through loose sand doesn't mean that I want to do that.

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### CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12				13	14		
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7	1	5	2	8	9	3	4	6
4	3	8	7	5	6	2	1	9
9	8	7	1	3	5	4	6	2
5	2	1	9	6	4	8	3	7
3	4	6	8	7	2	9	5	1
2	6	3	5	9	1	7	8	4
8	5	4	6	2	7	1	9	3
1	7	9	3	4	8	6	2	5

SUDOKU ANSWERS

AVL	IL	FL	AD	FD	AD	FL	IL	AVL
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POT	TO	IR	AN	HE	AD	HE	AD	POT
FIN	NO	MO	LA	SS	ES	SS	ES	FIN
AW	EW	NE	HR	UR	ES	UR	ES	AW
MA	DI	SO	NS	ON	NA	ON	NA	MA
AM	HA	TA	TO	OO	HM	HM	OO	AM
DA	NG	EA	T	RA	TE	TE	RA	DA
AG	O	TA	BO	UR	AV	AV	UR	AG
MA	MA	L	PA	RO	LE	LE	RO	MA
AR	IA	AS	BE	LS	ER	ER	LS	AR
AB	SI	NT	HE	LE	VE	VE	HE	AB
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OL	LA	MA	YO	SP	OR	OR	YO	OL
BI	BB	PA	PP	AS	BE	BE	AS	BI

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

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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- THEME: FOOD & DRINK
- ACROSS**
1. \*Lettuce variety
  5. Drivel
  8. \*CafÉ alternative
  11. \*Cantina cooker
  12. \*Waldorf salad ingredient
  13. Animal trail
  15. Radio knob
  16. Hurry up, acr.
  17. One who accepts the offer
  18. \*Anise-flavored spirit
  20. "Happily \_\_\_\_ after"
  21. Operatic solos
  22. \_\_\_\_ Air in L.A.
  23. Hairy vertebrate
  26. Freed
  30. In the past
  31. Small type of drum
  34. \*Wine in Italy
  35. Charleston, e.g.
  37. Chow down
  38. a.k.a. honey badger
  39. Wet nurse
  40. HervÉ Villechaize on "Fantasy Island"
  42. Expression of doubt
  43. Founding Father
  45. City in Japan
  47. Shock and \_\_\_\_
  48. Jawaharlal's last name
  50. \*Driest type of sherry
  52. \*a.k.a. black treacle
  55. Softly-softly, loris' cousin
  56. A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit (2 words)
  57. \*Cabbage amount
  59. Alexandre Dumas' "The Black \_\_\_\_"
  60. What seekers do
  61. Consequently
  62. Everything
  63. Temporary craze
  64. Swedish shag rugs
- DOWN**
1. Physique, informally
  2. Pelvic bones
  3. Spill the beans
  4. Certain fir
  5. \*Fusilli or ziti
  6. Same as #39 Across, pl.
  7. Supreme pontiff
  8. Puff
  9. Field worker
  10. Be off base
  12. Capital of Philippines
  13. Be at the helm
  14. \*Ballerina-inspired dessert
  19. All worked up
  22. \*Granola serving
  23. TĒa Leoni's " \_\_\_\_ Secretary"
  24. Old World lizard
  25. Unicellular organism
  26. Stroke on a green
  27. Lithograph, for short
  28. Japan to U.S. in WWII
  29. \*Stuffed grapevine leaf
  32. \*Flageolet or azuki
  33. \*Popular breakfast cereal
  36. \*Type of #34 Across
  38. Lion sounds
  40. One little piggy?
  41. Easily available (2 words)
  44. One clean one?
  46. \*Betty Crocker fruit snack
  48. Waterwheel
  49. Serengeti grazer
  50. Unplayable baseball
  51. It will, contraction
  52. Irk
  53. Like a ghost
  54. Long novel
  55. School support org.
  58. Opposite of don'ts

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

*We'd like to share our thanks and best wishes with everyone who has been a part of our year.*



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