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APRIL, 2022

Volume 20 • Issue 5 • \$1.00

## Announcements

• **Meals on Wheels** is available to anyone age 60 and over who are wanting a prepared hot, nutritious meal on a regular basis. Meals are available Sunday through Friday, including holidays. The meals are prepared at Kenyon Senior Living and volunteers deliver them right to your home. Delivery is available to anyone living in Kenyon city limits. The cost per meal is \$7.25. Volunteers provide you with a meal card to use as payment for your meals. Each meal card contains 12 meals, totaling a cost of \$87.00. You pick which days you would like to receive meals and can change it at any time. Meals are typically delivered between 11:15 and 12:15.

For more information about the program contact Barb St. John at 507-789-5553.

• **Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard invite you to become a member.** Join us and help us make the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard an even bigger success. WVHG meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Wanamingo Community Center. The VFW will meet from 7-7:30p.m. The Honor Guard will meet from 7:30-8:30p.m. For more information contact Eric Dierks 507-321-1967, Gary Floan at 507-732-7740, or Larry Van De Walker at 507-421-4674.

• **Hiawathaland Transit:** Service hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call dispatch at 866-623-7505 Monday through Friday 6am-9pm and Saturday 7:00am-5:00pm. Visit [three-riverscap.org](http://three-riverscap.org) for more information.

Do you have an announcement?  
Email:  
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## Benefit to Be Held for Local Resident

Jennifer Lerfald is a graduate of Kenyon-Wanamingo High School and has been a lifetime resident of the area. She and her boyfriend Nick have two children who are in middle school. Nick works for Banks Outdoors in Cannon Falls and Jennifer worked at David's Bridal in Rochester.

On Monday evening December 23rd Jennifer suffered a stroke and was taken to St.

Mary's hospital in Rochester. It was discovered that she had a blood clot near her temple and surgery was performed to remove part of the clot. A second surgery was necessary to remove part of her skull because of the swelling. Later in January a clot was discovered in her leg as well. In mid-February she moved to a rehab facility in Golden Valley and is anticipating returning to home by mid-



April.

A benefit fundraiser is being planned on May 7th in Wanamingo at the Community Center with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Wanamingo Lion's Club from 7 to 11am. There will be a bake sale and a silent auction held at the same time. Donations are being accepted and you may contact Ashley at 507-210-7396 or Kasey at 507-272-8928 to submit items for the silent auction. There is also a go-fund-me site at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jennifer-lerfalds-benefit-fund>. An account has been set up at the Security State Bank of Kenyon as well if you wish to donate funds there.

## Purple Ribbon Fund Has Its Roots In The 4-H Auction



Noah Schaefer received a generous premium for his hog at the 2021 Minnesota State Fair thanks to 26 contributors to the Goodhue County Purple Ribbon Fund.

Back Row: Derrick Dicke, Kevin Altendorff, Shannon and Matt Schaefer. Front row: Noah, Elih, and Macy Schaefer, and Chase Dohrn feeding the hog.

By Beth Brekke

The Goodhue County Purple Ribbon Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization that was formed using the mission statement "to better the Goodhue County youth". The fund offers monetary awards to graduating seniors that have been in 4-H for at least six years with a goal of expanding the awards to other youth organizations in the future. Although a more inclusive effort was already underway, the recently formed non-profit grew from a long-running effort to help kids with the cost of raising 4-H market animals.

(continued on page 4)



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## Deuteronomy: 'Census in the Wilderness'



By Pastor Colin Rueter,  
New Life Church  
(colin@nlcwanamingo.org)

I was reminded that as I write these articles, overviews really, that we can come to God's word simply to know things. I don't want to lose my aim in walking through these texts with you each month. My aim being that as we engage reading the Bible, we would encounter God Himself. The Bible doesn't contain God's word, it IS God's word. He has revealed it to us graciously so that we would know Him personally. May you be able to say, "I have come to know God more." As we continue, we enter Deuteronomy. Moses wants to remind and encourage God's people as these are his parting words before his death.

Deuteronomy: [ doo-tuh-ron-uh-mee ] noun --- means "second law"; the fifth book of the Pentateuch, containing a second statement of the Mosaic law.

The author of this book is Moses, including the collection of his sermons to Israel just before they crossed the Jordan around the year

1406. "These are the words that Moses spoke..." (1:1). Someone else (Joshua, perhaps) may have written the last chapter.

**OVERVIEW:** While the meaning of Deuteronomy means second law and gives that information in the text, this book is much more. The book offers a restatement of the Law for a new generation, yet Moses has more to say than simply to give a copy of the law. Years have passed ensuring that the majority of the previous generation, which grumbled and complained, rebelled against God when the Law was given, had passed away. This multitude to which Moses is speaking had not experienced the miracle at the Red Sea or heard the law given at Sinai. They were about to enter a new land with many dangers and temptations. The book of Deuteronomy was given to remind them of God's law and God's power.

The Israelites are commanded to remember four things: God's faithfulness, God's holiness, God's blessings, and God's warnings. The first three chapters recap the trip from Egypt to their current location, Moab. Chapter 4 is a call to obedience, to be faithful to the God who was faithful to them.

Chapters 5 through 26 are a repetition of the Law. The Ten Commandments, the laws concerning sacrifices and special days, and the rest of the laws are given to the new generation. Blessings and curses are given based on action. The theme of blessing and cursing is continued in chapters 27-30. This portion of the book ends with God's desire for His people found in what He recommends: "choose life" (30:19). In the final chapters, Moses encourages the people; commissions his replacement, Joshua; records a song; and gives a final blessing to each of the tribes of Israel.

Chapter 34 relates the circumstances of Moses' death as he climbed Mt. Pisgah, where the Lord showed him the Promised Land. At 120 years old, but still with good eyesight and the strength of youth, Moses died in the presence of the Lord. The book of Deuteronomy ends with a short obituary on Moses, the great leader and prophet of Israel.

**SO WHAT?** This text is a reminder that the God of Israel was unique. While polytheism abounded during this time, Israel worshipped one God, Yahweh. Their God was totally unique; there was none other like Him among all the "gods" of the nations surrounding them. Deuteronomy 6:4 summarizes this belief in the Shema, the basic confession of faith in Judaism even today. "Hear, O Israel! The LORD [Yahweh] is our God, the LORD [Yahweh] is one!"

Unlike the unconditional covenant God made with Abraham, the covenant between Yahweh and Israel was bilateral—a two-way street. God would keep His promise to bless the nation if the people remained faithful. The adult Israelites were too young to have participated in the first covenant ceremony at Mount Sinai. Therefore, Moses reviewed the Law at the doorstep to the Promised Land, urging this new generation to re-covenant with Yahweh, to recommit themselves to His ways. The necessity of keeping perfectly the Mosaic Law and the impossibility of doing so was a foreshadow to the need for inward transformation which would be done by God and for God. The endless sacrifices necessary to atone for the sins of the people—who continually broke the Law—would find their fulfillment in the final "once for all" sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:10). Because of His atoning work on the cross, we would

need no further sacrifices for sin, but to trust in the Lamb who was slain for our salvation. In addition, God's choosing of the Israelites as His special people foreshadows His choosing of those who would believe in Christ (1 Peter 2:9). In this text, we must think on the implication of living out our faith. Although we are no longer under the Old Testament law, we are still responsible to submit to the will of God in our lives. Simple obedience brings blessing, and sin has its own consequences.

Next month, we will look at the Book of Joshua – who records the culmination of Israel's journey to the Promised Land. Joshua portrays the Lord as their general, the One who would lead His people in victorious battle if they would trust and obey.



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Happy  
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*Scripture Reading — Isaiah 32:1-8*  
*Each one will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert. — Isaiah 32:2*

How amazing parents are! They sacrifice so much for their children and are eager to provide opportunities for them. A key preoccupation of seafarers during their visits to ports around the world is to buy books, toys, and clothes to bring back for their children. Parents show love and protection in so many ways for their children, and God does the same for us.

In Isaiah 32, God shares a wonderful announcement. This comes in the midst of warnings to God's people, who have turned away from him to rely on the power of other nations (see Isaiah 28-31). But even though the people have been unfaithful, Isaiah reminds them that God has promised a kingdom of righteousness.

Today we know that the King who "will reign in righteousness" is Jesus, and leaders who follow his ways will rule with justice. This means that everyone—young and old, men and women, parents and children—all will be able to flourish and learn and grow in peace. God's kingdom is a refuge from the storms and troubles of life. The Savior, Jesus, has given us new life and promises it "to the full" (John 10:10). We need not fear or dread the future. Families and communities can thrive. And our King invites us to welcome others in from the storm.

**Prayer**  
*Lord, King, and Savior, you are our refuge and strength. You care for us with love and compassion. Help us to care for and love others as you have done for us. Amen.*

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## Dorothy Jeanne Pince

Dorothy Jeanne Pince passed away at her home surrounded by family on March 29, 2022, following a short battle with pancreatic cancer.



Dorothy was born September 30, 1941, in Albert Lea, MN. She attended country school and later went to beautician school, working for several years as a beautician. She married Dennis Clayton Pince on February 20, 1960, in Wells, MN. He was the love of her life. They welcomed their first child, Amber in June 1961. Wynn, Aledia, Ravenna, and Wade followed.

Dorothy and Dennis lived in West St. Paul until 1970. At that time, they moved to Sogn Valley. Dorothy moved into Cannon Falls after Dennis died in June, 2011.

She was a member of Vang Lutheran Church. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, and spending time with family. She adored her 15 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lewis Perkins; husband, Dennis on June 13, 2011; and son, Wade on January 25, 2013.

She is survived by her children, Amber West, Wynn (Roy) Street, Aledia (Mark) Karow, and Ravenna (Troy) Gentry; grandchildren, Derek West, Ryan (Bridget) West,

Adam West (fiancée, Natalie Tatge), Richard McConnell (fiancée, Heather Erickson), Nicholas McConnell, Joshua (Stephanie) Karow, Jacob (Heather) Karow, Jenna Karow (Nick Winter), Tyler Gentry, Cody (Paige) Gentry, Courtney (Nick) Henry, Brittany Gentry, Justin Pince, Jill Pince, and Jonah Pince; great grandchildren, Hannah Benson, Carson McConnell, John and Emma Karow, Bennett and Lydia Henry, and Kylee Pince; and siblings, Ruth (Lyle) Boelter of Albert Lea, Lewis (Thea) Perkins of Iowa and William Perkins of Illinois.

A private family service was held. Her grandsons were active pallbearers, and her granddaughters and great grandchildren were honorary pallbearers.

## Roy John Janousek

Roy John Janousek, age 94, passed away on Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.



Roy was born on February 14, 1928, to John and Laura Janousek in Iona, South Dakota. When he was in second grade, his family moved to Dodge

Center, Minnesota, and three years later, moved to Kenyon. He graduated in 1941

from District 140, and then attended high school for one year and three days before leaving school to help his parents farm.

On September 21, 1952, Roy married Yvonne Anderson, and they raised four daughters. He continued to farm until his retirement in December, 1969. For the next 12 years, Roy worked in the Parts Department at Hermann Implement in Wanamingo. During this time, Roy and Yvonne established Our Basement Crafts and Sunrise Gardens, which they continued until Yvonne's passing in February, 2001 Roy continued to do wood-working and selling his products until May, 2014. In February 2002, Roy married Audrey Wille of Kenyon. She preceded him in death in December, 2010.

Roy was a long time member of the United Methodist Church of Kenyon. He had an op-

timistic attitude and was always willing to help others. He loved to make puzzles and play cards and bingo, but most of all, he loved to grow produce and share it with others. Even in his last years in assisted living, he grew onions, tomatoes and watermelon to share with the other residents.

In addition to his parents and wives, Roy was preceded in death by his brothers, Richard and William; granddaughter, Pamela; and great-granddaughter, Charlee.

He is survived by his daughters, Linda (Jeff) Jansen of Reeds Spring, MO; Peggy (David) Pfister of Northfield, MN; Nancy (Earl) Emerick of Rochester, MN; Darcy (Thaddeus) Monroe of Northfield, MN; nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

A private service will be held.

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## Purple Ribbon Fund Has Its Roots In The 4-H Auction

(continued from page 1)

The Goodhue Co. 4-H Livestock Auction was started in 1968 when Jim Bryan, Jim Foss, Don Webster, Gerald Meyer, Morris Nysteun, LaMar Juliar, and Dick Houghton formed the Goodhue County Livestock Auction Committee.

Carl Bang, who later became a long-time fairboard member, was the first person to go through the auction with his champion market lamb. It was held outside in front of the sheep barn using wooden fence panels and wooden bleachers.

Auctioneer Don Webster conducted the sale. His sons would take over and continued working the sale until just a few years ago when the Houghton family of auctioneers took over. All auction expenses are donated by the auctioneers or the livestock committee.

There were about 50 animals bought by local supporters and businesses at that first sale. It has evolved into a much larger sale, sometimes exceeding 225 animals. In the early days some animals were available for actual purchase and butchering if they were not going to the state fair. Now it is a premium only auction and the 4-Her retains ownership of the animal. Any member who receives a blue or red ribbon on their market animal is eligible to be in the county auction.

The auction day begins with a buyers' breakfast which is cooked, served, and donated by 4-H. Usually there is some fun that goes on during the 3-hour-long auction in the show arena. Marty Kehren from the Goodhue Lions Club tries to buy the Chicken entries for their Chicken Barbeque the next day and the Pork Producers make him pay dearly.

If any organization, business, or individual would like to participate in the local auction, any amount of money works. Auction committee members canvas local towns and businesses for donations. Mark and Noah Erickson take care of the Zumbrota area,

Brandon Schafer does Goodhue/Bellechester, Mark Flom covers Kenyon and Cannon Falls, Kevin Altendorf and Bob Eppen do Red Wing and the surrounding area. Call any one of these people to support the auction and get your name on the big billboard in the show arena for the year.

All money bid goes to Goodhue County 4-H kids. The auction proceeds are split, with the exhibitor keeping 80% and the other 20% going into the 4-H General Fund to defray the cost of State Fair trips for non-livestock exhibitors. The Purple Ribbon Fund originated from a desire to increase this funding and the premiums received by the Goodhue County 4-Hers lucky enough to participate in the State Fair livestock auction. Animals need to earn a purple ribbon at the State Fair and then, only the top few of each species are selected, so it is a very elite group which usually includes 3 or 4 local youth.

To raise this additional funding, organizers started auctioning off gift baskets following the regular county livestock auction. The baskets are donated by the previous year's entrants in the Minnesota State Fair Livestock Auction. Additional donations and funding ideas are being sought by board members and volunteers Derrick Dicke, Betty Dicke, Brandon Schafer, Noah Erickson, Andy Mann and Bob Eppen. Donations may be sent to: Goodhue Co. Purple Ribbon Fund, 34890 165th Ave. Way, Goodhue, MN 55027. For more information or to pledge a donation, call Bob Eppen at (651) 380-0494.



Lucas Erickson's market lamb was chosen for the 2021 Minnesota State Fair livestock auction and received a premium raised in part by the Goodhue County Purple Ribbon Fund. Pictured with Lucas are Kevin Altendorf, Derrick Dicke, Morgan Berg, and Beth and Will Erickson.

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# K-W Noble Knights



**K-W Noble Knights of the Week for March 18, 2022**

**Front Row:** Riley Falenschek, KG, Mrs. Short; Braydon Rappe, 1ST, Mrs. Benbrooks; Tatum Brandon, 1st, Mr. Donkers; Aria Amiot, 2ND, Mrs. Hinrichs. **Back Row:** Ivan Estrada, 2ND, Ms. Sabrowsky; Travis Geisinger, 3RD, Ms. Sahl; Stellan Kylo, 3RD, Ms. Ashland; Cora Foss, 4th, Ms. Subra; Eagan Grant, 4TH, Ms. Thesing



**K-W Noble Knights of the Week for March 25, 2022**

**Front Row:** Tucker Westlund, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Maverick Moechnig, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Emmett Peterson, Gr. 2, Ms. Deb Hinrichs; Ben Keller, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky. **Back Row:** Frederick Johnson, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Jacob Johnson, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Bradley Arnold, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen SubraThesing



**K-W Noble Knights of the Week for April 1, 2022**

**Front Row:** Luka Noney, KG, Mrs. Tanya Short; Charlie Baker, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Harper Kerr, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky. **Back Row:** Kora Theobald, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Sadie Engen, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Chayton Berge, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; Parker Amundson, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing



**K-W Noble Knights of the Week for April 8, 2022**

**Front Row:** Ezra Noerenberg, Gr. 1, Ms. Katie Benbrooks; Henry Skillestad, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Sawyer Hanson, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs; Nori Fleming, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky. **Back Row:** Page Buchal, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Adlee Lunde, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Mason Fink, Gr. 4, Ms. Jen Subra; Lillian Flom, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

## The Rich Family in Our Church

By Eddie Ogan

I'll never forget Easter 1946. I was 14, my little sister Ocy 12, and my older sister Darlene 16. We lived at home with our mother, and the four of us knew what it was like to do without many things. My dad had died five years before, leaving Mom with seven school kids to raise and no money. By 1946, my older sisters were married, and my brothers had left home.

A month before Easter, the pastor of our church announced that a special Easter offering would be taken to help a poor family. He asked everyone to save and give sacrificially. When we got home, we talked about what we could do. We decided to buy 50 pounds of potatoes and live on them for a month. This would allow us to save \$20 of our grocery money for the offering. Then we thought that if we kept our electric lights turned out as much as possible and didn't listen to the radio, we'd save money on that month's electric bill. Darlene got as many house and yard cleaning jobs as possible, and both of us baby sat for everyone we could. For 15 cents, we could buy enough cotton loops to make three potholders to sell for \$1. We made \$20 on potholders.

That month was one of the best of our lives. Every day we counted the money to see how much we had saved. At night we'd sit in the dark and talk about how the poor family was going to enjoy having the money the church would give them. We had about 80 people in our church, so we figured that whatever amount of money we had to give, the offering would surely be 20 times that much. After all, every Sunday the Pastor had reminded everyone to save for the sacrificial offering.

The day before Easter, Ocy and I walked to the grocery store and got the manager to give us three crisp \$20 bills and one \$10 bill for all our change. We ran all the way home to show Mom and Darlene. We had never had so much money before. That night we were so excited we could hardly sleep. We didn't care that we wouldn't have new clothes for Easter; we had \$70 for the sacrificial offering. We could hardly wait to get to church! On Sunday morning, rain was pouring. We didn't own an umbrella, and the church was over a mile from our home, but it didn't seem to matter how wet we got. Darlene had cardboard in her shoes to fill the holes. The cardboard came apart, and her feet got wet, but we sat in church proudly, despite how we looked. I heard some teenagers talking about the Smith girls having on their old dresses. I looked at them in their new clothes, and I felt so rich.

When the sacrificial offering was taken, we were sitting on the second row from the front.

Mom put in the \$10 bill, and each of us girls put in a \$20. As we walked home after church, we sang all the way. At lunch, Mom had a surprise for us. She had bought a dozen eggs, and we had boiled Easter eggs with our fried potatoes!

Late that afternoon the minister drove up in his car. Mom went to the door, talked with him for a moment, and then came back with an envelope in her hand. We asked what it was, but she didn't say a word. She opened the envelope and out fell a bunch of money. There were three crisp \$20 bills, one \$10 bill, and seventeen \$1 bills. Mom put the money back in the envelope. We didn't talk, but instead, just sat and stared at the floor. We had gone from feeling like millionaires to feeling like poor white trash.

We kids had had such a happy life that we felt sorry for anyone who didn't have our mom and dad for parents and a house full of brothers and sisters and other kids visiting constantly. We thought it was fun to share silverware and see whether we got the fork or the spoon that night. We had two knives which we passed around to whoever needed them. I knew we didn't have a lot of things that other people had, but I'd never thought we were poor. That Easter Day I found out we were poor. The minister had brought us the money for the poor family, so we must be poor.

I didn't like being poor. I looked at my dress and worn-out shoes and felt so ashamed that I didn't want to go back to church. Everyone there probably already knew we were poor! I thought about school. I was in the ninth grade and at the top of my class of over 100 stu-



dents. I wondered if the kids at school knew we were poor. I decided I could quit school since I had finished the eighth grade. That was all the law required at that time.

We sat in silence for a long time. Then it got dark, and we went to bed. All that week, we girls went to school and came home, and no one talked much. Finally on Saturday, Mom asked us what we wanted to do with the money. What did poor people do with money? We didn't know. We'd never known we were poor.

(continued on page 7)

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## The Rich Family in Our Church

*(continued from page 6)*

We didn't want to go to church on Sunday, but Mom said we had to. Although it was a sunny day, we didn't talk on the way. Mom started to sing, but no one joined in and she only sang one verse. At church we had a missionary speaker. He talked about how churches in Africa made buildings out of sun-dried bricks, but they need money to buy roofs. He said \$100 would put a roof on a church. The minister said, "Can't we all sacrifice to help these poor people?"

We looked at each other and smiled for the

first time in a week. Mom reached into her purse and pulled out the envelope. She passed it to Darlene. Darlene gave it to me, and I handed it to Ocy. Ocy put it in the offering plate. When the offering was counted, the minister announced that it was a little over \$100. The missionary was excited. He hadn't expected such a large offering from our small church. He said, "You must have some rich people in this church."

Suddenly it struck us! We had given \$87 of that "little over \$100." We were the rich family in the church! Hadn't the missionary just said so?

From that day on I've never been poor again. I've always remembered how rich I am because I have Jesus!

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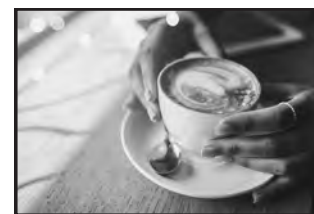
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## Apple Cider Vinegar is Good for You!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

I have always been a big proponent of apple cider vinegar and have written many times on its health benefits. According to my research on vinegar, it is said to have been discovered around 5000 BC, when unattended grape juice turned into wine and then vinegar. Originally used as a food preservative, vinegar's medicinal uses soon came to light. Hippocrates used vinegar to manage wounds, while medical practitioners in the 1700s used it to treat everything from poison ivy and croup to stomach aches. Vinegar was even used to treat diabetes. Vinegar, which means "sour wine" in French, can be made from virtually any carbohydrate that can be fermented, including grapes, dates, coconut, potatoes, beets and of course, apples. Additionally, vinegar is made through a long, slow fermentation process, leaving it rich in bioactive components like acetic acid, gallic acid, catechin, epicatechin,

caffeic acid, and more, giving it potent antioxidant, antimicrobial, and many other beneficial properties. "Mother" of vinegar, a cobweb-like amino acid-based substance found in unprocessed, unfiltered vinegar, indicates your vinegar is of the best quality. Most manufacturers pasteurize and filter their vinegar to prevent the mother from forming, but the "murky" kind is best, especially if you're planning to consume it. Vinegar is not only useful for cooking, it's useful for health purposes, cleaning, garden care, hygiene, and much more. In fact, a jug of vinegar is easily one of the most economical and versatile remedies around." Here are some of the health conditions that AC vinegar can benefit the most: Diabetes, heart health, weight loss, sinus congestion, sore throat (as a gargle), acid reflux, skin irritations, warts and energy boosting. I recommend taking organic apple cider vinegar with the "mother" daily as a health tonic. 2 tablespoons of vinegar to 6-8 oz of water. Always buy organic AC vinegar with the "Mother" intact.

**Chiropractic Thought for the Week:** An egg is cracked, a spine is adjusted. When the chiropractor adjusts your spine it is not a hap hazard random manipulation. Anybody can give a person a squeeze and get the bones to move with audible noises or "cracks." Chiropractors use a specific analysis to find fixed, misaligned vertebra call subluxations. The analysis not only finds the joints that are problematic, it also lets the chiropractor know the direction of the alignment and therefore the specific adjustment needed to correct the body's structural issues that are causing symptoms. Chiropractors use spinal reflexes, muscle testing and motion palpation to figure out the best care for each patient.



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## Recipe Contest

Show your friends and neighbors as well as all the readers your culinary expertise!

Just send us your recipe with the ingredient list and preparation instructions and we will draw 4 recipes each month to run in the Messenger with your name as the submitter.

### E-mail your recipe to [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

If we use your recipe and print it, you will receive a free certificate. Be sure to include your name and address so we can mail you a gift card if your entry is the winner.

### April Winners

#### Lemon Jello Cake (easy, great Spring Easter dessert!) Submitted by Tami Peterson

- 1 box of lemon cake mix
- 1 3 oz pkg of lemon jello
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup boiling water
- 3/4 cup corn oil

Dissolve lemon jello in boiling water. Set aside to cool. Place cake mix in a bowl. Add oil and mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add jello and mix well for 2 minutes. Bake in a greased angel food pan. Bake at 350 for 35-40 minutes.

#### Broccoli Casserole Submitted by Cyndie Nosek

- 2 medium onions, chopped
  - 2 stalks celery, chopped
- Saute in 1/4 cup butter, then combine with:

- 1 10.5 ounce can mushroom soup
- 1 4 ounce can mushrooms, undrained
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon parsley flakes
- 10 ounce bag frozen broccoli, thawed

Pour into a buttered 2 quart casserole. Top with crumbs:

- 10 Ritz crackers, crushed
- 1/4 cup melted butter

Mix well and sprinkle on top of casserole. Bake at 325 degrees for 30-35 minutes until lightly browned.

#### Chicken and Bacon Dip Submitted by Connie Turner

- 1 3oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 t. chicken bouillon granules
- 2 T. parmesan cheese
- 4 strips of bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 3/4 cup cooked chicken
- 1 tomato chopped
- Swiss cheese

Mix in a bowl cream cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise and bouillon. Refrigerate overnight. Spread on plate, sprinkle with parmesan cheese, bacon, chicken and tomato. Top with Swiss cheese. Serve with tortilla chips. This is everybody's favorite dip.

#### Soft and Chewy Gingersnaps Submitted by Shelly Donkers

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup soft butter
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger

Cream sugar and butter. Beat in egg & molasses. Stir in remaining ingredients. Chill dough.

Shape into 1 in. balls. Roll balls in sugar. Place balls 2 in. apart on greased baking sheet. Bake 9-12 min. until edges are set. Allow to cool on baking sheet for a couple of minutes before removing to cooling rack.



# Southern Minnesota Golden Link

A weekly advertising supplement to these Southern Minnesota publications:

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**Mankato, MN**  
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**April 30, 2022..... 8:00 AM CST**  
**Dundas, MN**  
 ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION FOR THE PAUL GULLORD ESTATE  
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**May 21, 2022 ..... 9:30 AM CST**  
**Northfield, MN**  
 LIVE ONSITE & ONLINE FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR GARY FALKENBERG  
 John Deere 4955 MFWD, John Deere 730 Diesel, JD 630, IHC 560, John Deere 7000 Planter, JD 8200 Drill, Case IH 200 Field Cultivator, DMI 527 Ripper, (2) IHC Tandem Grain Trucks, Wagons, Farm Support Items

**June 16, 2022 ..... 9:00 AM CST**  
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## Win More Friends With Your Ears Than Your Mouth



By Harvey Mackay

Listening is in danger of becoming a lost art. This dated anonymous anecdote just about sums it up.

When I ask you to listen to me and you start giving advice, you have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me and you begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel that way, you are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me and you feel you have to do something to solve my problems, you have failed me, strange as that may seem.

All I ask is that you listen. Not talk or do, just hear me. Advice is cheap: 50 cents will get you both Dear Abby and Dr. Spock in the

same newspaper. And I can do for myself, I'm not helpless. Maybe discourage and faltering, but not helpless.

When you do something for me that I can and need to do for myself, you contribute to my fear and weakness. But when you accept as a simple fact that I do feel what I feel, no matter how irrational, then I quit trying to convince you and can get about the business of understanding what's behind this irrational feeling.

And when that's clear, the answers are obvious, and I don't need advice. So, please listen and just hear me, and if you want to talk, wait a minute for your turn, and I will listen to you.

Listening is just as important to business. When Charles Wang's family arrived in America, they had only two suitcases. Wang, now a multi-billionaire, said his company grew because they listened to their clients. While most computer companies sell people what they need, Wang decided to ask customers what they wanted.

Sam Walton, founder of Walmart, said: "The key to success is to get out into the store and listen to what the associates have to say. It's terribly important for everyone to get involved. Our best ideas come from clerks and stockboys."

Walton once took his corporate plane to Mt. Pleasant, TX, and told the pilot to pick him up 100 miles or so down the road. He jumped in a Walmart truck and rode the rest of the way to "chat with the driver." I suspect he let the driver do most of the talking.

Norman Brinker, the former chairman of the restaurant chain Chili's, said responsive

communication is the key to good relations with both employees and shareholders. It pays huge dividends. Almost 80 percent of Chili's menu came from suggestions made by unit managers.

Too many salespeople talk when they should listen. Ben Feldman was the first salesperson to crack the \$25 million mark in a calendar year. And then doubled that figure. He was New York Life's leading sales rep for more than two decades, and he did this in the small town of East Liverpool, Ohio. When asked his secret, he said:

Work hard.

Think big.

Listen very well.

The Healthline website shares these tips for learning active listening:

Give people your full attention. Concentrate on their words to the exclusion of everything else. Don't plan your response while they're still speaking, and don't use a pause to steer the conversation around to another topic.

Use positive body language. Your body communicates just as much as your words do, if not more. Make sure you're fully facing the other person. Relax your body but lean in slightly to show interest in what they're saying. Make eye contact. Nod to show you're listening and you understand.

Don't interrupt. You may be tempted to jump in with an idea or solution. Restrain the impulse. Instead, wait to start talking before asking questions or offering your point of view.



The story is told of Franklin Roosevelt, who often endured long receiving lines at the White House. He complained that no one really paid any attention to what was said. One day, during a reception, he decided to try an experiment. To each person who passed down the line and shook his hand, he murmured, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." The guests responded with phrases like, "Marvelous! Keep up the good work. We are proud of you. God bless you, sir." It was not until the end of the line, while greeting the ambassador from Bolivia, that his words were actually heard. Nonplussed, the ambassador leaned over and whispered, "I'm sure she had it coming."

Mackay's Moral: If you want people to listen to you, you must listen to them.

*Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."*

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## Housing Issues Affect Community Health

By Maddy Schwartz  
Goodhue County Health and Human Services

Six months ago, a Housing Resource Specialist joined the staff at Goodhue County Health and Human Services. While the county department has long helped provide social services and economic assistance, this position is different. Maddy Schwartz, MPH, is tasked with addressing housing as a public health issue. The evidence shows that housing affects health outcomes.

The new position is fully funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services called the Community Living Infrastructure Grant. A Housing Resource Specialist is someone who provides technical assistance and consultation on housing and related resources for government staff, community providers, and advocates.

The goals of this Housing Resource Specialist position are aimed at working collaboratively with housing agencies and stakeholders to increase and improve opportunities for those with disabling conditions and housing instability to live successfully in the community. Schwartz will support some of the great community work already being done in the area of housing in Goodhue County.

When the agency applied for the grant funding for a Housing Resource Specialist, the new position was located in the Public Health Division because housing is important to the health of our communities. The places people live, work, and play that affect health outcomes are called social determinants of health. Where everyone has access to high quality housing, housing they can afford, and access to basic necessities in their neighborhood, it increases both community health and economic stability.

First, an individual's health is directly impacted by their living space. Maintaining high

quality living spaces can prevent against exposures to toxins and allergens. Building structural, electrical, mechanical, and other safety concerns can result in injuries. Substandard housing can contribute to the spread of infectious diseases through crowding, infestations, a lack of safe drinking water, and ineffective waste disposal.

Second, lacking housing stability affects an individual's physical and mental health. Even those who face short-term housing instability due to moving frequently, couch surfing, and the effects of falling behind on rent are more likely to face poor health outcomes and stress. Populations facing chronic homelessness have higher rates of physical and mental diseases than the general public and are more likely to die at a younger age than the general population.

Finally, neighborhoods impact health. Healthy People 2030 is a plan of action developed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to guide efforts to improve health and quality of life. Healthy People 2030 says neighborhoods with access to nutritious foods, spaces that promote active living (like sidewalks, bike trails, and parks), safe water, clean air, and a high-quality education impacts health.

Economic stability is another Social Determinant of Health. High costs of housing can reduce economic stability for residents. The Department of Housing and Urban Development considers housing to be affordable when a family or person spends 30% or less of their annual income on housing. Anyone spending over 30% of their income on housing is considered cost-burdened. Cost-burdened individuals can have difficulties paying for other necessities. The 2020 Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis for Goodhue County determined an estimated 20% of all owner households and 41% of renter households are considered cost burdened in Goodhue County. For lower-income residents, high housing costs make it difficult to spend money on things that promote health.

Some people in our communities are more likely to face housing instability and barriers to home ownership. This includes people of color and people with disabilities. US Census American Community Survey data and the Wilder Research Minnesota Homeless Study both show people of color are disproportionately affected by homelessness in

Southeast Minnesota. While approximately 40% of homeless individuals in southeast Minnesota were people of color in 2018, this population only made up approximately 10% of the total population. Additionally, the American Community Survey estimates (2013-2017) show that approximately 76% of white households in Goodhue County own, but the ownership rate drops to 41% for all other races.

The 2018 River Valley Continuum of Care Regional Homelessness Needs Assessment lists mental health problems as the most common type of disability reported for all households experiencing homelessness in the region. The Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis estimates that 45% of renter households in Goodhue County are occupied by a person with a disability. Disabilities represented in this analysis included vision impairments, ambulatory limitations, cognitive disabilities, and independent living limitations. This is compared to 30% of owner households occupied by someone with a disability. As household income increases, the percentage of households with a resident with a disability decreases.

Addressing housing inequities in our communities means that we recognize the benefits of all residents having improved outcomes related to health, education, and employment. When families and individuals have a stable home, our residents can focus

on building our vibrant communities, seek employment and educational advancements, and make healthy decisions. Because housing is a health issue, we hope to expand the ways in which Goodhue County HHS can support community efforts to address housing needs in our county.

Goodhue County Housing Resource Specialist, Maddy Schwartz, can be reached at [maddy.schwartz@co.goodhue.mn.us](mailto:maddy.schwartz@co.goodhue.mn.us).

To learn more, visit Healthy People 2030 at <https://health.gov/healthypeople> and browse objectives by topic (look for Housing and Homes, and Neighborhood and Built Environment) or view the Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis for Goodhue County, Minnesota at <https://co.goodhue.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/20298/Goodhue-County-Housing-Study-2020>.

About Goodhue County Health and Human Services:

The mission of Goodhue County Health and Human Services is to "Promote, Protect and Strengthen the Health of Individuals, Families, and Communities." The department has three service divisions: Economic Assistance, Public Health, and Social Services and is accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). For more information on Goodhue County Health & Human Services, please visit [www.co.goodhue.mn.us/HHS](http://www.co.goodhue.mn.us/HHS) and [www.facebook.com/gchhs](https://www.facebook.com/gchhs).

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## KW Public Schools And A Strategic Plan Gone Amok

It would happen like this. Someone...someone with the statutory authority to represent a school district would decide that it was not their job to get involved. And, as is almost always the case, it would be the children and grandchildren who would suffer the consequences. Welcome to my old alma mater.

Let me begin my concerns about a recent article in the Kenyon Leader by making reference to a series of quotations that should catch the eye of anyone who has committed themselves to the design and implementation of a school district's strategic plan. Beginning with an opening note of "frustration" by Mrs. Debb Paquin and ending with Mr. Kevin Anderson's suggestion to "Step back and let the administration team run with it," the article leads one to believe that the Kenyon-Wanamingo School Board would like to wash their hands of the entire process. And to make matters even worse, it was reported that board members felt good about the progress they had made in their hour-and-a-half brainstorming session.

In the school board's proposal to focus on the principles of culture and curriculum, Mrs. Paquin expressed "Frustration with the board being tasked with creating the goals that go into the plan." Moreover, she said, "I don't believe this is our work to be doing. Our administration should be bringing this to us for us to brainstorm. They need to prioritize what's important. This is for the administration and superintendent to figure out what's more important."

While the literature is clear when it comes to the impact a quality culture and a robust curriculum will have on the success of a school district, the idea that a school board and selected representatives of the community are left out of the loop is not only contrary to good policy, but when one looks at the forces that have found their way into public education, it becomes dangerous. I can think of no other time in my 49 years in education when the necessity to keep the school district's planning process out of the hands of politically motivated administrators and teachers is more important than it is today. If you do not believe me, just take a close look at where their respective "parent" organizations are trying to take our children and grandchildren. No...honesty and integrity must be part of the "stop gap" if the process is going to work. This will not happen if it is left in the hands of people who have long-since sold their loyalty to their unions.

As I continued reading the article, I found school board member, Mr. AJ Lindell, saying, "If we don't do this, its not going to get done. Is this our work to do? Probably not. But if we aren't taking the initiative, we will be left behind the eight-ball and our kids won't have the direction they need." Unfortunately, and with the exception of his comment on "probably not," he is correct in his assessment. Now, and due to the fact that current and previous school boards have placed their trust in the wrong people, they find themselves in a place that they have never been before; a place that they do not want to be...and it shows every time you open the Kenyon

Leader and read the school board members' comments.

A number of years ago Mrs. Paquin asked me about the kind of duties she could expect as a school board member if she decided to run for it. When I told her that it would entail some of the same challenges that she and her colleagues are now trying to avoid, she seemed undeterred. While I will admit that no one could have foreseen what we are now facing in public education, it does not change the fact that when she and her colleagues took the pledge to represent the community, they were telling us that they were willing to take on both the good and the bad; they were telling us that they were in it for the long haul...and it was our sense that they were sincere about it. Maybe that is why the article made reference to her comment about the 'repercussions you would face at your job if you did not perform the duties directed to you.' Perhaps she was telling us that the time has finally come to apply the same kind of standards when it pertains to leadership at the school district level. I sure hope this is the message she is trying to send to the community.

As the school board begins the process of changing the culture and the purpose behind having a quality curriculum in the school district, they need to keep two things in mind. First, the most difficult part of their assignment will be the culture. According to Parkway, Haas and Ancia (2010, p. 59), "It is the way of life common to a group of people; it represents their way of looking at the world. It also consists of the values, attitudes, and beliefs that influence their behavior." Due to the fact that Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools has a history of cultivating a "good old boy culture" within the respective buildings, it is paramount that they find a way to change the old way of doing business. Sadly, it has been my experience that these kinds of cultures will do everything in their power to sabotage the process. How do they get by with it? They get by with it because the ultimate power in a school district: its school board (See Minnesota Statutes), sits back and allows it to happen. It is time that they find a way to take back the power.

And second, and here is where it gets serious, the school district's curriculum leaders must start raising questions like: Why is our student achievement consistently behind other SE Minnesota schools as reported in the Rochester Post Bulletin? What is our purpose as we move forward? Where are we at and where do we want to go? How do we achieve it—and who is going to lead us? If the school district does not have the right person/people at the helm, they need to find him/her/them before it is too late. There is just too much at stake for the future of our children and grandchildren.

And finally, the school board needs to be vigilant when it comes to the curriculum development piece of the school district's plan for school improvement. If they aren't; if they leave it to the wrong people with the wrong motives for our children and grandchildren, the community is going to wake up some morning and find out that Critical Race Theory, Black Lives Matter, White Fragility, the 1619 Project, and Marxism has not only been embedded into the curriculum, but it is now driving the bus. Oh by the way, the school

board needs to be careful when they start waving the equity banner. If not, they will soon find out that the same people who are promoting CRT, BLM, White Fragility and other racist ideologies (the political Left) have an entirely different definition for what it should actually mean. Remember, these people have already proven that they are not the friends of public education. And if you do not believe me, just take a close look at what has taken place over the last two years.

In conclusion, and in reference to taking back the power, I would like to remind the community that there will be a school board election before the end of the year. With term limits expiring for Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Paquin,

Mr. Anderson, and Mrs. Syverson on the first Monday in January of 2023, it will give perspective candidates a chance to review student achievement and other notable issues that have led to where the school district finds itself today. As someone who has spent his professional career working with K-12 through higher education doctoral students, I would be happy to share my thoughts with anyone who might be interested in helping to create a new beginning at Kenyon-Wanamingo Public Schools. It is getting late....

Dr. James Russell Lehman, '63  
Kenyon, MN 55946  
507-273-7635 or 507-789-5248

### CITY OF WANAMINGO City Council Regular Meeting Monday, March 14, 2022 7:00 P.M. Wanamingo City Council Chambers – 401 Main Street Wanamingo, MN

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Holmes.

**PRESENT:** Council: Ryan Holmes, Larry VanDeWalker, Stuart Ohr, Jeremiah Floterud, and Eric Dierks

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Brad Kennedy, David Friese – News Record, Todd Greseth – Goodhue County Commissioner, George Eilertson – Northland Securities, and Brandon Theobald – WHKS.

**ADOPT AGENDA:** Ohr motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Dierks. Passed 5-0-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Dierks motioned, seconded by VanDeWalker. Passed 5-0-0.

**PRESENTERS:**

A) Brad Kennedy reported on:

- 1) Changed out twenty-six water meters this past month.
- 2) Ordered tri-pod and winch set for potential confined space entry
- 3) 3rd Street E leaking water service line repaired by Schumacher Excavating, Inc. The well is pumping roughly 20,000 gallons less of water per day after the leak was repaired. The street and curb/gutter where water was disappearing will be observed this spring and determined what repairs will need to be completed later this year.
- 4) Two pumps were repaired by Olson Motors at the WWTP
- 5) Trimmed trees hanging out over the streets along West Avenue and High Avenue
- 6) Starting to paint walls for Heidi Smith, new tenant, at the Wanamingo Medical Center

7) Plowed snow, scraped ice, and sanded streets on a number of occasions.

8) Route 60 Plumbing & Heating repaired two of the four radiant heaters at the street shop building. The City received and approved a \$3,100 quote from Route 60 Plumbing and Heating to replace one of the radiant Heaters that is beyond repair.

B) Brandon Theobald, City Consulting Engineer of WHKS, reported on:

- 1) Presented the bids from the Wellhouse and Water Main Looping portions of the 2022 Utility Improvements Project
- 2) The Well House apparent low bid was from The Joseph Company, Inc. for \$756,900. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$580,000 (difference of \$176,900 more in costs).

3) The higher bid compared to engineer's estimate was due to higher than foreseen costs with the pumps and control system costs.

4) The Water Main apparent low bid was from R.A.W. Construction for \$425,501.25. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$500,000 (difference of \$74,498.75 less in costs).

5) The total 2022 Utility Improvements project costs are up roughly 12% (\$2,729,531 from \$2,434,000) from the original engineer's estimate that WHKS had produced for the City in early 2020.

6) Each of the well house bidders were concerned with the completion date and asked if it could be pushed back to 2/1/2023 in order to obtain and install the controls and pumps (due to supply chain issues). Theobald instructed the contractor that if the project pushed into winter that there will need to be temporary controls to operate the well pumps with the new water tower.

VanDeWalker asked if WHKS has worked with R.A.W. Construction in the past. Theobald stated that R.A.W. Construction had struggled with a City of Zumbrota project a couple of years ago. The Zumbrota project was in the core of town. This Wanamingo project is all out in the open without challenges of road repairs, curb/gutter, sidewalks, and boulevards that comes with reconstructing urban areas. Holmes asked what issues WHKS had run into with R.A.W. Construction.

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Theobald stated that there was detail work and communications on the Zumbrota project with R.A.W. Construction. Most of the restoration work with the project is straight forward. Theobald recommends entering into contract with lowest responsible bidders for each of the projects. Holmes asked what drove up the well house bids. Theobald stated that changes on well house number three were not included in original estimate, that the plans for the controls were more complex than originally thought, and that there were only two contractors interested in bidding. Theobald stated that WHKS has a good working relationship with The Joseph Company. Flotterud asked if the Mingo View tower would be operational until the new tower is operational. Theobald stated that the contracts state that there needs to be continuity within the water system and that both current towers will be in operation until the new tower is in full operation. Dierks asked if WHKS had any additional concerns with the project. Theobald stated that he has concerns water line breaks with the estimated additional 15 PSI within the water system. The City will need to monitor and potentially address these leaks if they occur. VanDeWalker thanked Theobald for his help on questions related to service with the private utilities (WiFi services) on the current water tower. Theobald stated that all private utilities responded to the private utility meeting. The WiFi providers are planning in advance for the move to the new tower once they are given the green light. WHKS staff and the tower contractor will be assisting the private utilities on the transfer. Holmes asked if there is conduit within the new tower for these services. Theobald stated that there is conduit within the new tower for cables/lines which run adjacent to the ladder system leading up to and through the tank. Flotterud asked if it was even possible for the City to not pick the lowest bidder if there were concerns with a given contractor. Theobald stated that the City would need to have had prior issues with a contractor in order to declare the contractor to not be responsible. Even so, the City would open themselves up to litigation defending the reasoning to declare a contractor not responsible.

C) George Eilertson – Northland Securities, reported on:

- 1) Lead 2022A Series Bond discussion
- 2) The bond amount is \$2,729,531-\$115,938 (ARPA Funds) = \$2,693,593 needed.
- 3) The Council would like to have roughly a \$150,000-\$155,000/year bond payment. This would allow the City to have either a 23-year or 24-year payment schedule with the current market.
- 4) Interest rate have continued to tick up since December
- 5) Standard & Poor reaffirmed the City's 'A' stable bond rating which will be enhanced to a 'AAA' bond rating from the State of Minnesota
- 6) The City Council approved a resolution with the State of Minnesota enhanced bond rating program in which the City stated that it would not exceed \$2,600,000 in bond issuance in February.
- 7) The final bids placed the total financing needs at \$2,814,531(\$2,729,531+\$85,000 is-

suance cost)-\$115,938(ARPA Funds) = \$2,698,593. This leaves the City with \$98,593 not financed through bond and ARPA fund.

8) The City has options: A) To go back to the State of Minnesota with a new resolution to increase the bond issuance total. B) Pay for the difference all or partially out of the 601 Water Fund. C) Place a re-offering premium on the bond to cover a portion of the funds not covered.

9) Re-Offering Premiums bring the City additional cash up front and offer a higher interest rate to the investor.

10) Issuing \$2,600,000 bond right now with a 24-year payment schedule the market would provide a 2.9% average interest rate and roughly \$152,000/year payments

12) There is time for the Council to decide how to pay for the remaining \$98,593 balance with regards to the options before the 3/21/2022 Wanamingo Special City Council meeting.

13) The 3/21/2022 Wanamingo Special City Council meeting will have the bond issuance resolution for the City Council to consider.

The Council did not wish to go back to the State of Minnesota with a new resolution to increase the bond issuance total. Boulton stated that the water fund is projected to end 2021 with roughly \$100,000 in cash after the fund fronted over \$40,000 in 2021 project engineering design expenses for the 2022 Utility Improvements Project. Boulton stated that the water fund could absorb up to the \$98,593 project costs not financed through the issuance of the bond or the ARPA funds, depending on the Council direction. The water fund paid off bonds in 2020 (\$31,000/year), 2021 (\$101,000/year), and 2022 (\$23,000/year) that will pay toward the Series 2022A Bond. In 2020 and 2021 the fund is both building up a balance and paying for the replacement of all water meters (roughly \$150,000) in Wanamingo.

#### **NEW BUSINESS: RESOLUTION:**

22-018 = Approving 2022 2nd Quarter Work Plan: VanDeWalker moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

22-019 = Certifying Delinquent Utility Bills and Other Services to Goodhue County Auditor for Collection with 2023 Real Estate Taxes: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Boulton stated that the original certification list included five parcels. This twice a year process pushes those behind to get paid up. The list narrowed to one for certification. Mayor Holmes asked if anyone wished to contest the certifications. No input was given. Passed 5-0-0.

22-020 = Approving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) City of Wanamingo Funds to be Allocated to the 601 Water Fund to Offset the 2022 Utility Improvements Project: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by VanDeWalker. Passed 5-0-0.

22-021 = Receiving Bids and Awarding Bid for the 2022 Utility Improvements Project Well House Portion: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

22-022 = Receiving Bids and Awarding Bid for the 2022 Utility Improvements Project Watermain Portion: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

22-023 = Approving City of Wanamingo

Redefined Boundaries and Re-Establishing the Polling Place Location as Part of the Minnesota Redistricting Plan: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by VanDeWalker. Holmes stated that the City of Wanamingo will no longer be represented by Mike Goggin as the State Senator or Steve Drazkowski in the State House of Representatives. Holmes stated that the City of Wanamingo would be represented by John Jasinski in the State Senate and Brian Daniels in the State House of Representative, if re-elected in November. Administrator Boulton has reached out to Senator Jasinski and Representative Daniels to build relationships. Passed 5-0-0.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Public Hearing - Mayor Holmes opened Ordinance #198 – Water and Sewer Regulation Hearing at 7:40PM. Boulton stated that WHKS had provided suggested changes to the proposed Ordinance since the February City Council meeting. The changes have circulated between the City Attorney David Jacobsen, the City Licensed Sanitary Sewer District Operator Richard Turri, City Staff, and back to Brandon Theobald. The suggestions have been agreed upon but have not been included in a final draft. Boulton stated that changes would be made and that the final draft will come in front of the City Council at the April 11th City Council meeting. Theobald stated that the agreed upon changes include fats and greases section (Fog), requiring interceptors, and prohibiting flushable wipes. Boulton stated that the reason for rewriting the Water and Sewer Regulation section of the Code of Ordinance is part of a comprehensive plan to address the MPCA Compliance Evaluation Inspection Report with Letter of Warning. Part of the response included that the City would review and make necessary ordinance changes to address the monitoring and enforcement of limits on CBOD, TSS, and Phosphorus levels on large industrial users. The proposed ordinance sets those standards and puts in place a fine schedule if exceeded. No additional public comments offered. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:46PM.

ORDINANCE #198 – Water and Sewer Regulation – 2nd Reading. Mayor Holmes noted that the proposed ordinance would be tabled for a third reading at the April 11th City Council Meeting.

The Wanamingo Fire Relief Association Vintage Snowmobile Ride, Chili Cook-Off, and Bean Bag Tournament went very well. Attendance was slightly down from previous years due to the warm weather and lack of snow. Michael Boulton and Cobus Peens made the competition chili on behalf of the Wanamingo City Council. The City Council chili did not place in the cook-off event but was well received.

\* Special City Council meeting on 3/21/2022 at 7:00PM - Resolution 22-024 - Awarding the Sale of State Enhanced Water Revenue General Obligation Improvement Bond, Series 2022A, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$2,600,000; Fixing its Form and Specifications; Directing Its Execution and Delivery; and Providing for its Payment

\*Next City Council meeting on 4/11/2022 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 7:48PM a motion to adjourn was made by Dierks and seconded by Flot-

terud. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator

#### **CITY OF WANAMINGO City Council Regular Meeting**

**Monday, March 21, 2022 7:00 P.M.**

**Wanamingo City Council Chambers –  
401 Main Street**

**Wanamingo, MN**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Holmes.

**PRESENT:** Council: Ryan Holmes, Larry VanDeWalker, Stuart Ohr, Jeremiah Flotterud, and Eric Dierks

City Administrator: Michael Boulton

**ABSENT:** Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

**ALSO PRESENT:** George Eilertson – Northland Securities

**ADOPT AGENDA:** VanDeWalker motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Ohr. Passed 5-0-0.

#### **PRESENTERS:**

C) George Eilertson – Northland Securities, reported on:

- 1) 2022A Series Bond discussion
  - 2) Went through Standard & Poors Bond Rating – A/Stable for the City of Wanamingo. The City will utilize the State of Minnesota enhanced AAA/Stable Rating for Utility Improvements.
  - 3) Standard & Poors underlying rating reflects their view of the City's:
    - Growing residential and commercial economy within commuting distance of Rochester
    - Positive operating performance, offset by a nominally low available fund balance with potential growth in interfund receivables
    - Very weak debt position with additional debt plans in the next few years
    - Good financials policies and practices under their Financial Management Assessment (FMA) methodology; and a strong institutional framework
  - 4) The bond is scheduled for a 24-year payback (2046) with a 2/1/2030 early call date for repayment or refinancing. The yearly payback principal and interest will average roughly \$152,500/year.
  - 5) The bond will have a true interest rate (TIC) of 3.08% and an all-inclusive cost (AIC) of 3.16%
  - 6) Total project cost of \$2,800,639.55. The ARPA funds will cover \$115,938 of the project. The bond is covering \$2,600,000 with a reoffering premium of \$28,701.55. The water fund will cover the remaining \$56,000.
  - 7) The Series 2022A Bond closing date will be on April 20, 2022.
- Flotterud asked if the City could have had lower interest rates on this bond in the past two years. Eilertson said that the City could have seen a little less than 1% better interest rates in January 2021. The City could have issued the bond based off the engineer's estimate of the project last year to lock in those rates. However, the City would have been short on financing the 2022 Utility Improvements Project as the bids/project cost are \$300,000 higher. VanDeWalker asked how the City could increase its bond rating from an A to an A+ in the future. Eilertson stated that the City needed to maintain \$500,000 general fund reserve balance for two years which includes taking into account general

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fund being borrowed against by other funds. VanDeWalker asked what the City needed to do to get an AA- bond rating. Eilertson stated that the City would need to build and maintain a \$600,000-\$700,000 general fund reserve balance and eliminate other funds borrowing from the general fund. Flotterud asked what the difference was in interest between an A and A+ bond rating. Eilertson stated that the difference was between 1/10 to 5/10 percent better rates. Eilertson stated that Standard & Poors would periodically review the City finances (roughly every three years) to re-examine the bond rating. The City would more than likely improve to an A+ rating by maintaining and improving the general fund balance. Holmes asked if Cities ever see their bond rating fall backwards with the periodic reviews. Eilertson stated that he had seen Cities drop their bond rating due to turmoil with staffing and/or Council in the past.

**NEW BUSINESS:  
RESOLUTION:**

22-024 = Awarding the Sale of General Obligation Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2022A, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$2,600,000; Fixing Their Form and Specifications; Directing Their Execution and Delivery; and Providing for Their Payment: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Administrator Boulton explained about two smaller capital purchase needs in a skid loader sweeper attachment and a hot water pressure washer. The City Council approved the sale of the 1995 John Deere 6675 skid loader in summer 2021. The City leased a John Deere 325 Compact Track Skid Loader from SEMA Equipment (Midwest Machinery). There was no need to utilize the current sweeper attachment on the new skid loader due to the extremely dry year. The staff was preparing to sweep the streets this spring and noticed that the attachment mount plate from the sweeper attachment did not match or fit to the leased skid loader.

The sweeper attachment mount plate would require significant scrap steel and staff time (at least a day) in welding/fabricating to fit the leased skid loader. The City staff received a quote of roughly \$350 for a new replacement attachment mount plate. The current skid steer sweeper attachment is only six feet wide while the John Deere 325 compact skid loader

is 6.2 feet wide. The 1995 John Deere 6675 skid loader was 5.58 feet wide. The old skid loader and sweeper attachment setup barely worked for detailing sweeping that the sweeper cannot get. This includes sweeping out the curbs/gutters and getting around the radius of the streets and pedestrian ramps. It is important to clear the debris from the street for pedestrian, wheel chair, bicycle, and motorcycle safety. It is also important to keep the material out of the storm sewers and rivers for reducing sewer line plus and environmental reasons. Strep sweeping is also important for aesthetics of the community so that the streets are free of debris.

The skid loader sweeper attachment is an unknown brand and is more than 20 years old. It was purchased used at the same time the City purchased other attachments for the 1995 John Deere skid loader in 2003. The maintenance staff rebuilt the internal mechanisms in 2015 and had a hard time find replacement parts. The current broom has roughly half life. Replacement brooms are over \$600. The sweeper attachment has some value since it is operational, but it is hard to determine with the current market. The current market does not have many older sweeper attachments for sale. Newer, used sweeper attachments are listed for \$2,000-\$3,000. The sweeper attachment's age and condition make the value significantly less than those listed in the \$2,000-\$3,000 range. The City staff believes that the sweeper attachment is worth between \$500-\$800 if the Council finds a replacement and desires to sell it.

The maintenance staff reached out to Midwest Machinery, Ziegler Equipment, Olson Attachments Inc, and Sunbelts Rentals for purchase or rental. Midwest Machinery and Ziegler Equipment have no skid loader sweeper attachments for sale or rent due to supply chain issues. Ziegler Equipment has a lease price of \$210/day, \$530/week, or \$1,320/month when they have a sweeper attachment available. Sunbelt Rentals has a lease price of \$150/day, \$310/week, or \$750/month for a sweeper attachment and they are available. Olson Attachments Inc. has a Jenkins eight-foot sweeper attachment on order that is scheduled to arrive any day. They are asking \$5,300 with \$500 down to secure the order since it has not been purchased yet.

VanDeWalker stated that he wished to see a

sweeper attachment purchased now. There are safety concerns at pedestrian ramps with built up debris. VanDeWalker stated that he had a family member tip a wheelchair on debris on a pedestrian walking ramp. Flotterud stated that he was in favor of purchasing the sweeper attachment but wanted the current sweeper attachment sold. The City Council reviewed the options to make repairs, purchase a new attachment, or lease an attachment moving forward. The Council agreed to the purchase of the Jenkins eight-foot sweeper attachment for \$5,300 from Olson Attachments Inc. The Council requested that staff sell the current sweeper attachment at the same time. Boulton suggested listing the current sweeper attachment for \$500-\$800. The Council agreed to the sale price and declaring the property surplus. Boulton stated that the City would list the sweeper attachment at Facebook market place.

Administrator Boulton explained the hot pressure washer concerns from staff. The City maintenance staff have been requesting a hot water pressure washer for the past three years. The City owns a 2001 Alkota 3-gallon 3,000 PSI mobile pressure washer. The City has also borrowed other local business's pressure washers in the past to complete larger projects such as the swimming pool. The City staff have been able to order parts to repair and maintain the Alkota pressure washer (Express Pressure Washer – Blooming Prairie). Over the winter the maintenance staff have identified a number of tasks that would be better suited for a hot water mobile pressure washer. Some of these projects would be completed sooner with a second pressure washer. The list includes preparation work for painting at the swimming pool, pressure washing the mildew off the stucco Medical Center Building, cleaning the mildew off the Riverside Park playground equipment, and pressure washing the grease/grime/dirt off the street department equipment (specifically the pay loaders).

The pressure washer that the City owns does not have hot water with soaping capability. Projects trying to remove mildew, grease, grime, and caked on dirt require hot water and soap to remove from surfaces. The pressure washer is powered a gas engine. If the City were to purchase a 4-gallon 3,000+ PSI hot water pressure washer it would require 220 40-amp plug-ins. The City shop has the necessary 220-Volt 40-amp plug ins. The Swimming Pool Medical Center Building, and Riverside Park Shelter have 220-Volt into the buildings but would need some electrical box upgrades and new 40-amp plug-ins installed. City staff spoke with Shane Electric which estimated \$500/building (\$1,500-\$2,000) to make the necessary upgrades and plug-in installations.

The pressure washer is an Alkota brand and is 21 years old. City staff have determined

that they need two pressure washers moving forward. The limitations of the current pressure washer have led to a request to purchase a new pressure washer with hot water capabilities and other add-ons. Other add-ons would include auto start/stop, hose reel platform, 100-foot hose reel, 100-foot pressure hose, 5-foot jump hose from pressure washer to hose reel, and live pressure swivel. These add-ons are roughly \$800-\$900 more to the list prices of new pressure washers.

The maintenance staff reached out to American Pressure Inc. (Robbinsdale) and Express Pressure Washers, Inc (Blooming Prairie) for new and used 4-gallon 3,000+ PSI hot water pressure washer purchases. American Pressure Inc. and Express Pressure Washers, Inc. have new 4-gallon 3,000+ PSI hot water pressure washers. American Pressure Inc. has the State bid contract at \$6,945 for a Landa 4-gallon 3,000 PSI hot water pressure washer. Express Pressure Washers Inc. is at \$7,565 for an Alkota 4-gallon 3,000 PSI hot water pressure washer. Express Pressure Washers, Inc. has a used Predator 4-gallon 3,000 PSI hot water pressure washer for \$3,995 or a used Aaladin 4-gallon 3,000 PSI hot pressure washer for \$3,795. The used pressure washers work, but are sold as is. The potential for high-cost repairs with a used pressure washers are a real possibility.

City staff recommend the purchase of the State bid Landa 4-gallon 3,000 PSI hot water pressure washer from American Pressure Inc. City staff further recommends purchasing the add-ons and making the necessary electrical upgrades to the Medical Center Building, Swimming Pool Bath House, and Riverside Park Shelter. The total cost for a new pressure wash (\$6,945), add-ons (\$890), and rough estimate for electrical upgrades (\$1,500-\$2,000) is \$9,335-\$9,835.

The City Council reviewed the options. The Council agreed with the idea of purchasing a hot water pressure washer in the near future. Boulton suggested waiting to see what the final numbers of the 2021 general fund reserve balance was from the 2021 audit. Boulton stated that the initial general fund reserve balance appears to have grown, but will shrink with changes in the fund and transfers. If the fund grew enough to sustain a \$550,000 reserve balance (including factoring in what is owed to the general fund from other funds) with the unbudgeted purchase of the skid loader sweeper attachment, he would recommend to purchase a 4-gallon 3,000 PSI hot water pressure washer.

\*Next City Council meeting on 4/11/2022 at 7:00pm.

Adjourn: At 7:46PM a motion to adjourn was made by VanDeWalker and seconded by Flotterud. Passed 5-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor

Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator

## Commissioner Corner

Greetings, last month was the annual meetings for our townships and I just want to send out a big Thank you to all our supervisors, clerks, treasurers and staff that work for our townships. Being a local representative can be very challenging and rewarding. I also want to thank all who attended their township meetings, this is one of your opportunities to see what is happening in your township and also meet some of your neighbors. We are still working with our ARPA dollars that have been given to the county, spending this money efficiently is very important to me. During the re-districting process we did vote to change 1 township to balance out the voting numbers in our county, there were other options sent to us but after weighing out our options we agreed to just move the one. We still are looking to hire detention deputies, so if you know of a qualified person who would be willing to apply please send them to the county. I am available to listen to any concerns that arise in our county, give me a call or send me a note.  
Todd



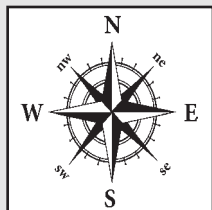
**Todd Greseth**  
Goodhue County  
Commissioner  
District 3

DO YOU HAVE A  
STORY IDEA?

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

## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

# We Sell Farmland



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.*

I saw an ad in the local paper saying “we sell Farmland”. It struck me as such an over simplification. It should have read, “We sell the lifetime hopes and dreams of a farmer.” March is the month most farmland is sold. Land transactions are completed before the crop season starts. This last year has seen a 26% increase in the price of farmland over the previous year. Not sure the price of crops and cost of inputs makes that logical.

It may seem like a simple sale, just a business deal for the ever expanding and enlarging farms. But for a farmer, land is their lifeblood. They are intimately attached to it. They raise their crops, livestock, families and

dreams in the land. They care for it and it rewards them with its bounty. It is planted in hope, cultivated in hard work and harvested in thankfulness. Some years the return is meager, some years plentiful.

When I grew up there were small farms everywhere across the county. Little family run businesses that provided a good living and a great lifestyle. No better place to raise a family. The kids went to the local school, the parents patronized the small-town businesses, dads and moms were active in the community in a myriad of ways.

I was blessed to grow up on a small farm and I was fortunate to raise my children on a small farm. My daughters played with barn cats, raised calves, operated machinery and even learned that the little pig they fed daily and named “Porker” went to the butcher shop in the livestock trailer and came back in freezer wrap.

My great grand-father broke this land with a horse and plow. I often thought about him listening to the birds sing as the horses pulled the steel wheeled implements across the field. I covered the same ground in a John Deere diesel powered tractor, while listening to the radio. I had it easier than he ever dreamed.

In the end, one gets old and decides to hang up his farm hat. You smell the dirt being worked in the spring and feel the draw of the land. You smell the fresh scent of corn at harvest and remember the pride of a good harvest. Each year farmland will be sold and change hands. The land is timeless. It will produce another crop. Someone else will farm the land. You doubt that they will take care of it like you did though.

## A Minnesotan: Seven Dozen Easter Eggs



By RosaLin Alcoser

Easter 2004 was my all time favorite Easter of my childhood. I was seven years old that year and it was the Easter of seven dozen Easter eggs.

That year we spent Easter Sunday at my adopted grandparents house. Which is where we had one of the most memorable Easter Egg Hunts of my childhood. It is the most memorable for two reasons. First off it was the most eggs we ever had outside of a church egg hunt and secondly not all the eggs were found on Easter Sunday.

Why seven dozen Easter eggs you might ask? That's simple, my older sister and I dyed three dozen eggs at home, a dozen each and a spare incase some of them broke during the dyeing process. Then two dozen were dyed at my adoptive grand-

parents house then their friend dyed another two dozen and left them at the house for us on Easter Sunday. Which is why there were seven dozen eggs that year.

The best part was not dying the Easter Eggs but Easter Sunday itself. After church we went over to my adopted grandparents house and everyone was there; my mom, sister, grandparents, a set of their parents, and their son.

That year their son was about 25 years-old and he hid the seven dozen eggs while we were at church. This was the only year that I can remember that the eggs were not found and hidden multiple times throughout the afternoon to keep us amused. Because he hid all seven dozen eggs way too hard for children.

They were hidden in places we would never think to look; inside and outside of the house. Up high out of our line of sight and if memory serves me correctly in a couple of places that we were not allowed to be in because we were children.

The eggs were so well hidden that my older sister believes that after spending all day looking we found a good 75-80% of those eggs on Easter Sunday. Then Grandpa was finding the rest well into July of that year, because his son forgot where he hid the ones that we could not find.

I have done dozens of egg hunts in my childhood and helped with many more as a teen and young adult. But the Easter of 2004 where seven dozen Easter Eggs were hidden and not all found will always be my favorite egg hunt of my childhood.

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## Make a Difference in Southern Minnesota



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

One of my proudest moments as a congressman was voting to support the creation of the national AmeriCorps program 27 years ago. Little did I know at the time how central this program would become to our culture of volunteerism and giving back to our communities. Even more surprising, and delightful, to me is the fact that I am now president of an organization that has stewarded AmeriCorps programs for the full 27 years. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we place people in service roles across our 20-county region through two AmeriCorps programs.

AmeriCorps, a federal agency, brings peo-

ple together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. These programs help make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture and engages more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in community. SMIF has placed more than 600 AmeriCorps members throughout southern Minnesota over the past 27 years.

SMIF is the host organization for a program that focuses on early childhood development called AmeriCorps LEAP (Learning Early Achieves Potential) Initiative. We place up to 20 members in early childhood settings across our region. Members work one-on-one and in small groups with young children, ages three to five, building social and emotional proficiencies to prepare for kindergarten success. We are currently accepting full- and half-time applications for the 2022 - 2023 school year for this program.

SMIF is also the host for the AmeriCorps VISTA program which helps build capacity for organizations dedicated to providing economic opportunities to citizens in low-income or poverty circumstances. We are proud to work in partnership with Minnesota Farmers Market Association, Renewing the Countryside and Sustainable Farming Association by hosting two VISTAs who are working on a Local Foods Sustainability Project. Maeve Mallozzi-Kelly is in her second year of service, and we recently welcomed Kathleen Rykhus as the second VISTA working on this project. Together they are creating a much stronger trajectory

for building farmers' markets and food producers' capacity across SMIF's region. We are also currently hiring three VISTA members to help spur entrepreneurial activity and create more welcoming communities in the region. These positions are in Red Wing, Blue Earth and here at SMIF.

One of the things that I love about AmeriCorps is that it embraces members from all stages of life. One of our current LEAP members, Katelyn Kruger, is serving in St. Peter at an after-school program called Hikmah and is simultaneously earning her master's degree in nutrition and dietetics. Her experience in the program has influenced her to work more directly with underserved populations in the future. One of our members from last year, Maurya Torgerson, used to own a cosmetology business before she became a parent. Her time in AmeriCorps has been a meaningful stepping-stone as she considers re-entering the workforce and earning a degree in social work.

Many AmeriCorps members are retired professionals looking to give back to their communities. Bruce Boyce served as an AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative member from 2010-2012 after he retired from a 32-year career as the Waseca County Administrator. His experience in LEAP influenced him to begin a second career as a paraprofessional for eight years. He recently shared, "I really believe that all citizens should engage in some



form of service to their country and community. In that sense AmeriCorps continued my lifelong pattern of civic engagement."

These positions are paid, and members receive many benefits including an education award which can be used for paying off student loans or furthering their education. Those members who are 55 or older can gift their award to a child or grandchild.

It has been incredible to see the impact that AmeriCorps has had in our country over the past 27 years. Even more so, it has been wonderful to see the direct result that this program has had on the children, nonprofits and communities in our own backyard.

For questions or to apply for LEAP or for VISTA, contact Barbara Gunderson, AmeriCorps Director, at 507-456-0353 or [barbarag@smifoundation.org](mailto:barbarag@smifoundation.org). Learn more about AmeriCorps at [AmeriCorps.gov](http://AmeriCorps.gov).

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

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