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Thank You

We want to Thank You for your continued support of the Dundas Messenger again this past year!

Your monthly newspaper, continues with an unwavering goal to bring hometown news to you.

In addition, in an effort to deliver the news and information more timely between print issues, earlier this year we launched our on-line edition of the Messenger. Check it out if you havent already,

(continued on page 3)

Announcements

DUNDAS MEMORIAL PARK PAVILIONL Accepting reservations call 507-645-2852

• WINTER PARKING RULES: Per City Ordinance 71.06 (2) It shall be unlawful to park motor vehicles, equipment, or structures on a street or alley in the City limits between the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. from October 31 to April 15 of the following year, those dateinclusive. Daily permits for unusual circumstances may be granted as determined by the City's Police Department. (Call 507-645-5252 Chief Todd Hanson)

Check City's website for more information www.cityofdundas.org

Do you have an announcement? Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Christmas in the Village Returns to Dakota City

FARMINGTON, MN: Dakota City Heritage Village at the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington is preparing to return to an in person, spirited and welcoming holiday event on Saturday and Sunday, December 3, 4, 10, and 11 from 3-8 pm. The past 2 years were drive-through holiday displays due to the pandemic.

Village Volunteers are busy decorating the buildings inside and outside with holiday lights and decorations. Visitors will experience the sights, scents, and sounds of the season through the village's dazzling lights, Christmas music in the church, the smell of wood burning stoves and the sound of horses and their jingle bells as they pull trolleys through the village. Old fashioned chores



will be demonstrated in the Millinerv Shop and the Harris House. There will also be oldfashioned candy and goods for sale at the Gift Shop and General Store. Refreshments like hot chocolate, cider and warm soups will be available in the Drug Store.

Children are invited to bring a letter to Santa and leave it at the Dakota City Post office, in a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Envelopes should not be sealed as Santa's helpers will read the letters and share them with Santa. Children will receive a letter back from the North Pole and Santa in December. Santa will be also visiting with children in the Depot. New this year is a model railroad display with holiday themed trains running around a festive winter scene in the village library, courtesy of the Minnesota Garden Railway Society.

Admission is \$5 with children under 5 FREE.

(continued on page 3)

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Concerns About Landfill Lifespan Has County Searching for Food Waste Solutions

Courtesy of KYMN Radio



Rice County has announced an initiative designed to reduce the amount of food waste produced by county residents.

According to U.S. Food and Drug Administration estimates, between 30% and 40% of the country's food supply is wasted. At approximately 131 billion pounds annually, it is the largest category of material in municipal landfills. In 2010, that equaled \$161 billion worth of food.

Through the Minesota Pollution Control Administration, the county has brought Emily Dresbach in to help find solutions to the issue. Dresbach, who graduated from St. Olaf College last May with a degree in biology and environmental studies, has been with the county on a temporary basis since September, helping Rice County reduce the amount of food waste that's going to the landfill. (continued on page 3)

HOPE CREAMERY BUTTER AVAILABLE AT PARKSIDE! Local has become an important part of consumer's food choices. People like to know where their food is coming from and how is it produced. The Hope Creamery Hope Creamery fits that profile very well. makes butter the old Our butter is made using an age old process. fashioned way and you Vat pasteurization, and small batch quantities are churned fresh every week. can tell the difference. Parkside General Store





www.firesidelounge.ne

Religion

- DUNDAS MESSENGER -

Page 2

Free or Slave?

Free or slave? When the Jewish believers heard these words, they shouted out- we have never been a slave to anyone- we are free. You and I here in the United States believe in Freedom- that all men are created equal and are free to live in this country in the pursuit of happiness. We believe the there is a cost for our freedom. There are responsibilities that come with freedom- in a country, in our lives, and in our faith. Jesus said, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." But there was an if statement before the free statement. "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." Are you truly free

We are free citizens of the United States, we aren't slaves to someone else. Are you sure? Are you sure you aren't a slave to someone or something else? Are you controlled or dominated by anything in your life? Do you have habits, or addictions that enslave you? In the Gospel of John there is passage that makes an explicit reference to freedom, but this passage is of special significance, because it contrasts the external concept of freedom. We are free citizens of the United States; externally. Internally it is through a person's faith- the work of Jesus in our salvation that will make us free. According to John 8:31-36 what true freedom is.

Earlier as Jesus was speaking the Pharisees had challenged Him. They wanted to know by what authority He could speak as He did. He told them that He was from God and that He was His own witness to the truth. Verse 30 says, "30 Even as he spoke, many believed in Him." As Jesus spoke, many of the Jewish people believed in Him. They heard Him talk about being the light of the world, and that they really didn't know Him or His Father. Then in verse 31 Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." If they believe Him and followed His teaching, they would be His disciples.

For those that will take that step of becoming Jesus' disciple He said in verse 32, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." When we worship Him exclusively, serve others like He did and point people to Him- we will know the truth- and that truth will set us free. Not the kind of freedom the world is talking about, but true freedom from the inside out. Freedom we

Anyone who chooses to be Jesus' disciple will know the truth. Truth isn't relative to the situation; the truth of God is absolute. It is a truth that never changes. The world around us changes, people change, seasons change- but the truth of God NEVER changes. The writer of Hebrews said, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8. And Jesus said in Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

We can believe and count on Jesus- He never changes, and He is the truth, so the Truth never changes either.

In verse 33 Jesus statement about freedom really bothered the Jews that were listening. "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" They didn't like to be referred to as slaves; they didn't see the truth that Jesus was sharing with them. They believed that their genetics and genealogies in being related to Abraham was what was going to get them into heaven. When I read this passage I always think of the Reverend Billy Graham sharing that just because we go to church, just because our parents are believers, just because we live in MN or in the country or in the Bible Belt, doesn't make us a follower of Jesus Christ, any more than being in the garage makes you a car. Jesus desires that they turn to God with their hearts- that they truly know and believe in Him. When we commit to follow and obey Him, then we are His disciples.

Jesus goes on to say, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

A slave to sin indicates a person is obligated to follow the will of sin; a person has no power to leave the "master" of sin on his or her own. We are born with a sinful naturewe can't do anything about that on our own. No number of good deeds, family pedigree, church going will change the sin nature we are born with. Only Jesus death and resur-



rection changed that part of humankind. We are not only a slave by Adam's sin, but we are slaves to sin by choosing to sin. People are slaves to sin both through their fallen human nature and through their actions.

To experience true freedom, we must recognize that we are sinners in need of His saving grace. Our hearts and the way we look at the world changes in major way when we become Jesus follower. Following Jesus- really following Jesus will change your life. It's not a decision for the faint of heart- it is a commitment to put Jesus first place in your hearts, your mind, your strength and your soul.

God is faithful! God is our Father- He will fight for us. He said we can come boldly to the throne of grace and seek Him. When we obey and follow Him- we are free- truly Free!

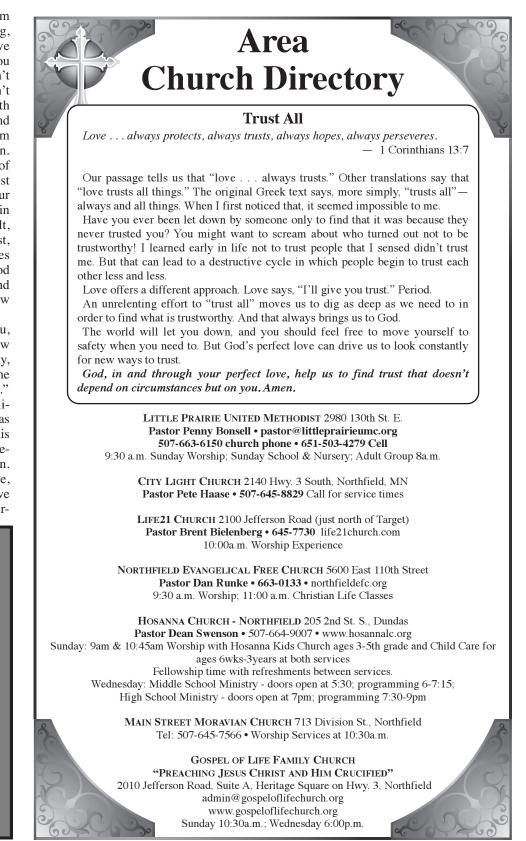
Do you want to be truly FREE?

• If you haven't joined the family- that's the first step. You need to believe and receive Jesus as your Savior- It will change your life.

• You must choose to remain faithful to Jesus teachings; which means to obey and to follow- James said we can't only read God's word- but we have to do it!

• Live and Act like you are a son or daughter of God- reflect the character of Jesus.

Jesus didn't make this difficult. This isn't rocket science- pure and simple really- Jesus family is inclusive- everyone is invited- the choice is yours. Do you want to be free or do you want to live the life of a slave? It's your choice. Make it count! (it will change your life!)



Community

- DUNDAS MESSENGER -

November, 2022

Christmas in the Village Returns to Dakota City

(continued from page 1)

Tickets are available at the gate, online at www.dakotacity.org or by calling (651) 460-8050 x 1.

Dakota City was established at The Dakota County Fairgrounds in 1978, and is a 1900's era agricultural village and museum. 22 buildings, including an operational blacksmith shop, newspaper office, train depot, barber shop, family home and more represent the business and rural social life of a rural early 1900's community. Dakota City is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that strives to preserve rural heritage and connects, through education and interpretation, current generations to life and agricultural heritage of the early twentieth century. Updated schedules and information are available at www.dakotacity.org, and on their Facebook page.

WE'RE ONLINE! Keep Up With Your Hometown News at

www.dundasmn.com

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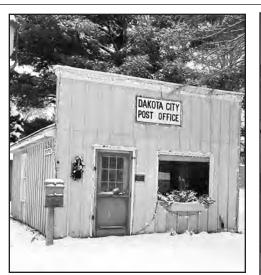
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Concerns About Landfill Lifespan Has County Searching for Food Waste Solutions

(continued from page 1)

Dresbach said when people think about food, they should approach it with thoughts of reducing, reusing and recycling.

She has already put together a brochure and post cards to help educate area residents and businesses, and has connected with local businesses, food shelves, and Carleton College's Food Recovery Network to see what systems can further reduce waste and get food that's still edible into the hands of those in need.

She is excited about the opportunity to work in Rice County, she said, and to help move a food waste reduction program forward.

According to a statement released by the county, the landfill has approximately 22 years of operating life left.

Thank You

(continued from page 1)

There is additional bonus content on the site as well that is not in the print edition. Thanks to local advertisers and your voluntary subscriptions, we are in your mailbox

each month. Enclosed in this month's issue is a subscription envelope. We hope you will consider renewing your voluntary subscription. It insures the paper will continue here in your hometown.

Without this support, we would not be here. We hope you continue to see value in the Messenger. While there are pleanty of social media sources and on line sites out there, most don't deliver the hometown news and message like we try to do here.

Every year, many newspapers have consolidated or gone out of business.

We have watched this happen many times in recent years in small rural communities, and especially this past several years during the covid situation.

With our small staff of 2.5, we understand this challenge first hand here at the Messenger, which is why we publish the Messenger in its monthly format.

Our goal with the Messenger is to help insure our home towns, still have a community voice of its own, direct mailing to all residents in the zip code. This format allows your hometown to maintain a local monthly paper, and better connect local residents, businesses and the community. We also understand the need for more timely information within the month, so check out the web site for important news that happens between print issues. We continue to expand our digital and online offerings while still maintaining our dedication to our hometowns!

We remain a small family owned business with a goal of supporting our rural communities and businesses. As always, if you have news, information or story ideas, please reach out to us.

SWCD

Water Testing Wraps up for the Cannon River Watershed



By Kourtney Hammerschmidt

It is finally time to hang up the waders for the year. From May to September, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in the Cannon River watershed have been collecting water samples from various lakes and streams in the watershed.

The sampling project is part of a larger effort for the Cannon River Watershed, as county and SWCD officials are now beginning implementation of the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CRCWMP) which was developed to improve the quality of water in the Cannon River and its streams and lakes.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources officially approved the CRCWMP in June 2020. The plan was developed by the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (CRWJPO).

The data that is collected from area lakes and streams will be used by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the CRWJPO to manage the cleanup of our public waters. "The primary objective of this program is to determine the health of lakes and streams in Minnesota. Through funded projects, local partners collect data on surface water quality to identify lakes and streams that are in need of restoration or protection strategies" (MPCA 2022).

The water samples that are collected get tested for Total Phosphorous (TP), Chlorophyll-a (Chl-a), Chloride, Sulfate, Hardness as Calcium Carbonate (CaCO3), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and E. Coli at the lab. Temperature, pH, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Specific Conductance, and Secchi tube/disk readings are collected by SWCD staff. Let's take a closer look at some of these tests and why they are important.

Total phosphorous (TP) measures the amount of phosphorous in the water. This includes the dissolved and particulate forms of phosphorus. If there is a high level of total phosphorous found in a water body, it means that there is a lot of food for algae. This would then cause a high concentration of algae, which can lead to algae blooms; that yucky, green, soupy water that takes over our



A sample site on the Cannon River in Faribault by the water treatment plant.

area lakes during the summer months. Phosphorus washed downstream to the Mississippi River also contributes to the hypoxic dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

Chloride contamination is a growing problem for both freshwater and groundwater resources in Minnesota. Chloride is a salt and can enter the watershed from being spread as a deicer in the winter or from the discharge of household salt water softeners. Water samples are tested for the amount of chloride in the water. High amounts of chloride can be toxic to aquatic fish and vegetation.

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Gardenbite & SWCD

- DUNDAS MESSENGER -

Spruce Tips/Tops 2022



I know, it's Thanksgiving but already all the spruce top pots and decorations are being sold. Perhaps because it suddenly got REAL cold

Now, about those spruce tops. There have been a lot of complaints about them this year, 2022. I know, they don't look great. The weather this year created some tough issues for evergreens. First a drought, then temperatures that were too warm, 79 degrees in early November is ridiculous and those spruce tips had been cut to get to nurseries to sell. Sitting in warm weather is NOT conducive to keeping spruce tips pretty. NOW, they'll be looking better as the temperatures in my area dropped considerably...

Teri Knight

Spruce tops are cut from White and Black Spruce in northern **Gordenbile** Minnesota and Canada. The cutting of spruce tops is licensed by the state and provinces. Here is what they actually are: First, it does not involve the harvesting of actual tree tops. Spruce tops,

which grow up from the root system of a mature spruce tree, are a regenerative crop that can be harvested again and again!

Grown in this manner, the tree tops will have the form and foliage of more mature trees. They were cut that way starting back in the early 1950's according to some sites, to be sold as tabletop decoration. Yes, it's renewable but not instant, it can take 5 to 10 years to harvest again!

Spruce tops are a good cash crop for public lands where most spruce tops come from. Check out this great information from the Gaylord Garden Club out of Gaylord, Minnesota!

Oh and there are spruce top thieves too. In fact, I was told that some thieves have even ventured into homeowners landscapes and lopped off the tops. Really??? What a lousy thing to do!

Teri Knight became a Master Gardener with Dakota County, Minnesota in 2003. She currently produces her website. www.gardenbite.com. Teri's been involved in community projects which include a Junior



The beginnings of a container from 2017

Master Gardener program for 8 to 12 year olds, designing and planting a garden for a women's center and various other organizations!



This was one of mine from 2021

Water Testing Wraps up for the Cannon **River** Watershed

(continued from page 4)

Testing for e. coli can let us know if there is a presence of fecal waste in the water. Fecal waste can enter surface water through feedlot runoff, failing septic system discharge, or pet waste that gets washed away. It can also enter water bodies naturally from wildlife. Ingesting e-coli can cause diarrhea, vomiting, cramps, nausea, headaches, fever, fatigue, and even death in some cases. It can also lead to the closing down of area beaches, impacting swimming and other recreation on area lakes.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) is measured because a certain amount of oxygen is required in water for aquatic life to survive. If the DO is low, it could cause stress to most aquatic organisms. Low oxygen levels occur when algae dies and decomposes in an aquatic system. This happens because oxygen is used in the chemical process.

When these tests are collected, interpreted,

and reviewed, they can be used to help determine the health of a lake or stream. If a water body is determined to be impaired, then action can be taken to find the source of the impairment and corrective management strategies can be implemented.

Improving water quality can be achieved by controlling soil erosion with cover crops, grassed waterways, and sediment basins, as well as erosion control measures around construction sites. Preventing e-coli contamination can be accomplished with ag waste storage systems, manure management, updating septic systems, and picking up pet waste from our backyards. Chloride contamination can be prevented by using best management practices when applying salt. With how important our water resources are in Minnesota, it is imperative that we do what we can to help keep our waters clean and healthy.

If you would like to learn more about the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan visit https://www.riceswcd.org/crwjpo for

more information. Feel free to contact the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District with any questions at 507-332-5408.

Kourtney Hammerschmidt is a District Technician with the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District. She assists landowners with buffer implementation and the district's cover crop/custom interseeding program. She also helps to coordinate water testing in the Cannon River Watershed. Contact Kourtney with your questions at 507-332-5408.



A sample site in Goodhue County, Vasa Township, near the Welch Village Ski Area.



Rice SWCD

- DUNDAS MESSENGER -

November, 2022

Well Water Testing Kits Available for Landowners in the Zumbro River Watershed

Private landowners living in the Zumbro River Watershed in southeastern Rice County are eligible to receive free well water testing kits from the Tap-In Safe Drinking Water for SE MN program and the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District.

The "Tap In" initiative was started by SWCDs and counties in southeastern Minnesota and is funded by the Minnesota Department of Health's Accelerated Implementation Grant Program. Well-testing is also a priority in the Greater Zumbro River Water Management Plan developed by the Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro River.

Land located in the Zumbro River Watershed (portions of Walcott, Richland, and Wheeling Townships in Rice County) are vulnerable to groundwater contamination because the area sits on karst topography. Karst also covers parts of Bridgewater, Northfield, Cannon City, Wells, Warsaw, and Morristown townships.

The "Karst" landscape of southeastern Minnesota is characterized by shallow layers of soil/sediment over bedrock. Sinkholes, springs, caves, disappearing streams, rolling hills, and large bluffs and valleys can be present. Because the soil depth is shallow and unstable in some locations, contaminants can easily find their way into groundwater.

Due to these conditions, private landowners throughout the region may be concerned about the potential contamination of well water. Regular testing and following the federal safe drinking water standards set by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) is recommended for private well systems.

The free kits test well water for nitrogen, arsenic, and manganese; three common contaminants often found in contaminated wells. Nitrogen contamination, which comes from fertilizer used in agriculture, can affect how blood carries oxygen and can cause a serious illness called methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome). The Minnesota Department of Health recommends that wells be tested every other year for nitrogen contamination.

Arsenic is found naturally in soil and rocks but dissolves into water. Arsenic contamination into drinking water can cause reduced intelligence in children and increased risks of cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and skin problems. Wells should be tested at least once for arsenic contamination.

Manganese is also found naturally in soil and rocks. Manganese is a nutrient needed by the human body, but too much of it can cause problems. Manganese contamination can cause problems with memory, attention, and motor skills. It can also cause learning and behavior problems in infants and children.

TAP IN TO YOUR WELL-BEING! It's up to you to check the safety of your drinking water



Contact your local county office for a test kit!

Wells should be tested at least once for manganese contamination, especially if children live in the household.

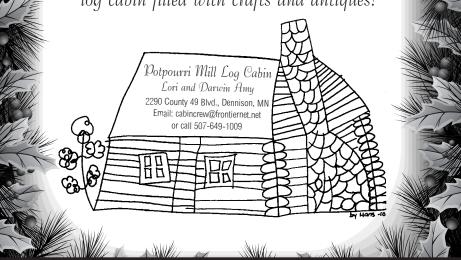
If high levels of any of these contaminants are found, financial assistance may be available to private well owners to fix the contamination problem. Funding can be used for well repair, well reconstruction, or the installation of well water treatment equipment. If you live in the Zumbro River Watershed and would like to receive a free well testing kit, contact Steve Pahs with the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District at 507-332-5408. To learn more about the program, visit the district's website at http://www.riceswcd.org/programs/welland-groundwater-protection/.



www.kymnradio.net

Saturdays: November 26, December 3, 10
Sundays: November 27, December 4, 11
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.
Take a drive in the country and shop in our log cabin filled with crafts and antiques!

Holly Thyme Craft Show



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Community

Page 7

- DUNDAS MESSENGER -



Midwestern State Agriculture Leaders Give Thanks for The People Who Help Make Thanksgiving Meals Possible Every Year

As consumers peruse store shelves, they are in search of ingredients for their traditional Thanksgiving meals. Maybe it's a classic stuffing recipe or the special cranberry sauce that's the hallmark of your family meal. Or the perfect pumpkin pie. Those tasty dishes are the product of hard work by the nation's farmers and producers, truckers, processors, grocery stores, and veterinarians. Jerry Costello II, Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) Bruce Kettler, Director, Indiana State De-

partment of Agriculture (ISDA) Thom Petersen, Commissioner, Minnesota

Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Gary McDowell, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD)

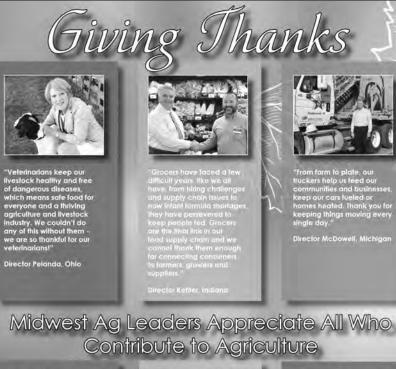
Dorothy Pelanda, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

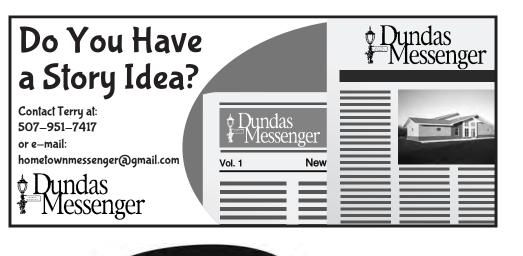
Randy Romanski, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

The group of leaders joined together to share their appreciation for essential agricultural and food workers, who continued to work throughout the pandemic and are a key piece to the fabric of our neighborhoods and communities.

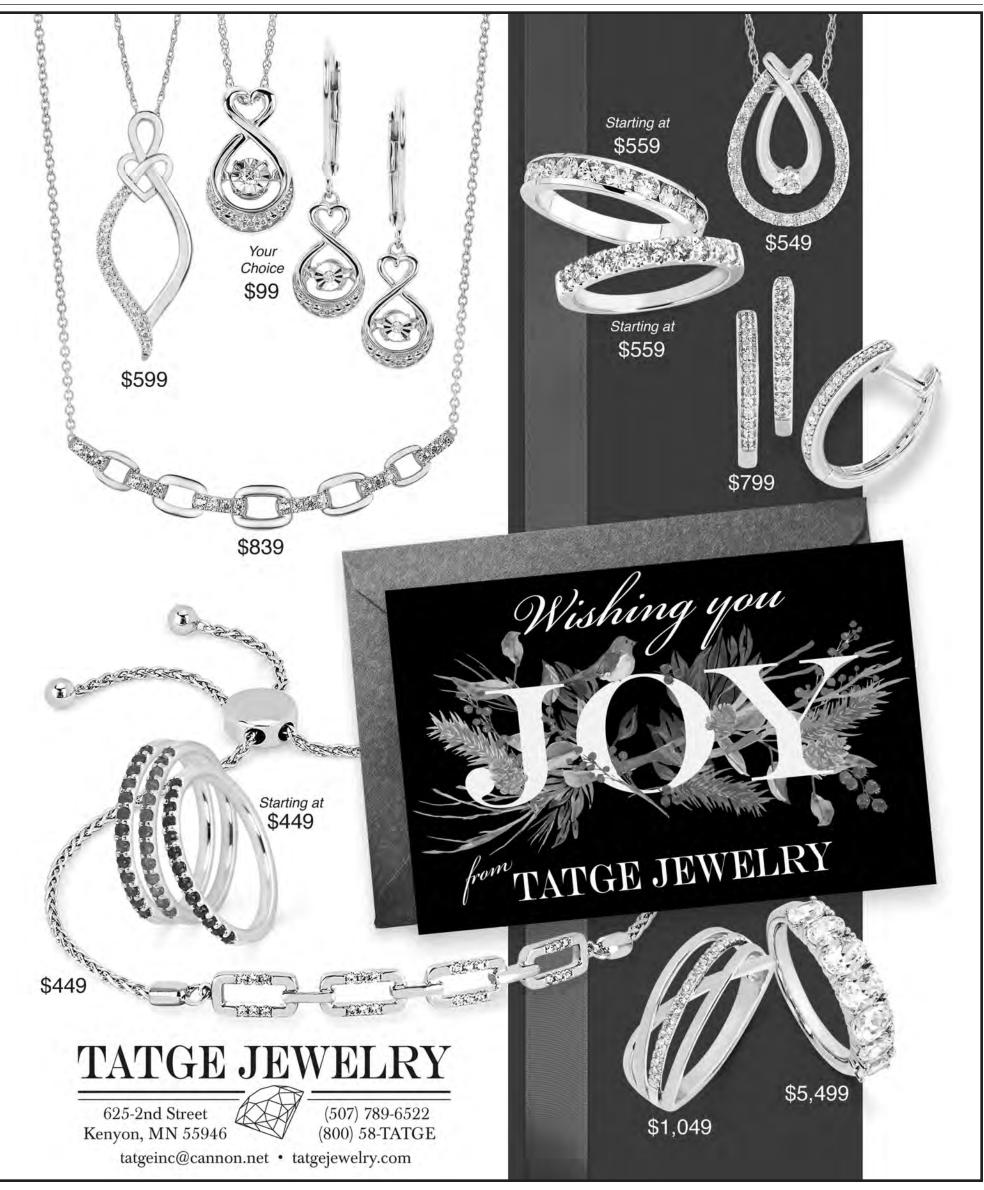
For more information on each state's agricultural department, visit their websites:

Minnesota Department of Agriculture: https://www.mda.state.mn.us/









Community

- DUNDAS MESSENGER -

November, 2022





Your One-Stop, Locally-Owned LIQUOR STORE

We have all of your favorite brands and selections in stock at great prices! Cold Beer • Craft Brews • Wine • Spirits • Champagne Hard-to-Find Labels • Gift Sets • Ice



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November, 2022

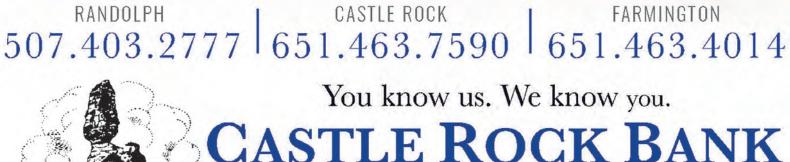
Community

- DUNDAS MESSENGER -



FROM 3-8 PM at Dakota City Heritage Village on the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington

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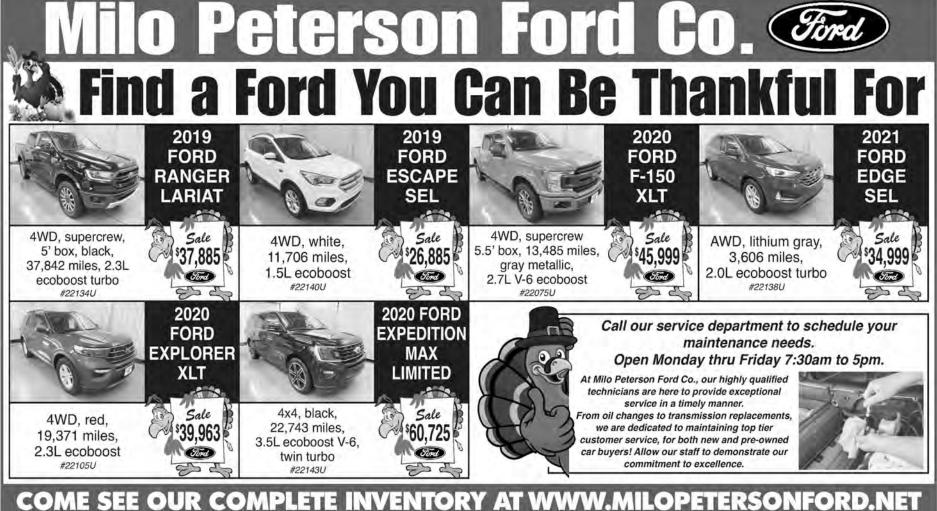






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November 2022



Community

November, 2022

DUNDAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Monday, October 10, 2022 7:00 p.m. Dundas City Hall

Present: Mayor Glenn Switzer; Councilors Larry Fowler, Luke LaCroix, Grant Modory, Luke Swartwood

Staff: City Engineer Dustin Tipp; Administrator/Clerk Jenelle Teppen. Deputy Clerk Linda Ripka

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Switzer called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present **PUBIC FORUM** - No one spoke.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Modory, second by LaCroix, to approve the agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously (MCU)

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Swartwood, second by LaCroix, to approve consent agenda.

Regular Minutes of September 26, 2022; Disbursement Report - \$142,393.51. MCU **OLD BUSINESS** - No old business brought

before Council.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS – No ordinances or resolutions brought before

Council. NEW BUSINESS Consider Health/Dental/Vision Insurance

Rates and City Contributions for 2023 Administrator Teppen presented the new rates and plans for 2023 Health/Dental/Vision. She indicated she had sought other plans but none came in at a lower cost. She reviewed what the City typically has covered with recommendations to increase: (1) City's contribution to \$813.08 to cover the HSA single premium plan; (2) increase the annual contribution to the individual HSA to \$1600; (3) cover 100% premium for single preventative dental plan; (4) and offer PEIP Vision Plan at the employee's expense. She indicated the overall cost of the recommended contribution by the City is \$4,300 which is spread across both the general and enterprise funds noting adequate flexibility in the funds for these additional costs.

FREELANCE WRITERS WANTED

Duties include covering feature and human interest stories and upcoming events in the Messenger coverage area. Will also work with content productio for on-line distribution. Pay negotiable and based on experience.

Qualified applicants will possess:

- Ability to work with deadlines
- Great people skills
- Knowledge of/access to a computer
- Enjoy small town atmosphere
- The ability to work some night hours as needed for editorial

Email resume and sample of work to: hometownmessenger@gmail.com or call Terry at 507-951-7417



Astreet essenger Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock

Motion by Modory, second by Swartwood, to approve City's contribution to qualified employees:

(1) 2023 PEIP Health Insurance to \$813.08/month including those who opt out; (2) increase \$200 toward annual contribution into employee HSA account on January 1, 2023; (3) single coverage Delta Dental Prevention Plan; (4) \$10,000 life insurance/AD&D; (5) and add PEIP Vision Plan at employee's expense. MCU

Consider 2022 Compensation Adjustment for City Administrator

Administrator Teppen stated the Council conducted her annual performance review on September 26 with

all expectations met and asked for discussion on compensation adjustment for 2022. She noted for the City Council where they had placed her at the time of the last review at Grade 13 Step 10. After reviewing the 2022 Adjusted Compensation Plan the Council discussed moving her to Grade 13 Step 9 of the Adjusted 2022 plan effective October 1, 2022.

Motion by Modory, second by Swartwood, to approve the City Administrator Jenelle Teppen to be at Level 13, Step 9 at \$51.03/hour, effective October 1, 2022. MCU

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES City Engineer – Dustin Tipp

Tipp reviewed summarized his report: (1) staff has submitted the letter of intent to apply for the Active Transportation (AT) grant funding thru MnDOT to help fund the CSAH 1/TH3 Pedestrian Crossing; (2) parking lot at ECRT concept plan was reviewed by Park Board and to be presented later to Council: (3) Trailhead improvement project has begun; (4) additional striping throughout the City will begin; and (5) parking lot work for Dundas Dome started October 5.

City Administrator – Jenelle Teppen

Teppen announced that she received an email from the City's Building Official, Benny Svien, stating he will be resigning effective, November 8, 2022. She indicated he could provide names for a replacement.

Teppen reported receiving a letter from Tim Giles stating the Stoneridge Hills Phase 2 project is on hold until next spring 2023 due to cost of materials and available supplies. She indicated the City did not receive a final plat and nothing has been filed with Rice County Recorder's office. Teppen indicated the City Planner will develop a letter stating where the project is in relationship to the City's development requirements and time line.

WORK SESSION

Review and Discuss Snow Plow Usage

Engineer Tipp reviewed recent discussion with Public Works Committee of selling the old 2004 snow plow truck or utilizing it for snow removal duties along with the recently purchased new snow plow truck. He stated by selling the old plow truck, which was purchased in 2013, it would allow staff to perform other snow removal duties and avoid future maintenance costs due to the age and condition of the 2004 truck. He also presented additional reasons on the recommendation from the City staff and Public Works Committee to sell the old plow truck:

• For a 4-inch snow fall, a typical 10-hour shift for one plow truck can clean and clear snow on all City streets

• The new plow truck is more efficient and provides a higher quality of snow removal.

• Given the age and condition of the old plow truck, future maintenance and repair costs could be significant. (ex. corrosion and rust on body and frame; truck needs new air brakes, tires, plow and plow blades)

• Staff time to operate the 2nd plow truck can be used for other snow removal duties such as sidewalks, well house, parking lots, etc.

• Prices for used vehicles and equipment remains high due to supply shortages

• Money from the sale of the old plow truck can be used to buy or lease other equipment such as a payloader

Tipp indicated staff will evaluate the efficiency of the new plow truck this winter to determine if additional snow removal equipment would improve the process and explore costs and uses of other equipment.

Discussion followed with Councilor Swartwood not in favor of selling the 2004 snow plow but look into repair costs, Councilor Modory requested Public Works Director be at next meeting, and Teppen reviewed staff operations and equipment used during snow removal.

ADJOURN

Motion by Modory, second by Swartwood, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. MCU Submitted by: Jenelle Teppen, Administrator/Clerk Attest: Glenn Switzer, Mayor

County Certifies Election

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

The Rice County Canvassing Board has verified the results of the November 8th election as reported by county elections staff.

At nearly 73%, the percentage of Rice County voters casting a ballot in last week's election exceeded turnout for the 2018 midterms by .36 points. The turnout is well above the state's total, which Secretary of State Steve Simon estimated to be nearly 61%.

In all, 28,557 votes were cast in Rice County, Property Tax and Elections Director Denise Anderson told the county board during the required certification of votes. Of those, 81% voted at the polls, and 19% submitted absentee ballots.

Only one race in the county – Rice County attorney – was close enough to warrant a recount. The losing candidate, incumbent John Fossum, Fossum accepted the results. Candidates in city and school board races could also request a recount, which county staff would complete.

All records except for the abstracts, which is the term used for the vote summary, are kept for 22 months. Abstracts must be retained permanently.

Local Government

- DUNDAS MESSENGER

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Campaign Tennessee Style



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

I first saw James Hart standing on the street corner across from the courthouse in Dover, when I stopped at the hardware store one day. He was holding up a sign that said, "Bury the Counter Culture, Not Our Children." I was intrigued and went to talk to him. He had a couple different signs he was waving. People drove by and honked and he would give them a thumbs up.

James Hart first ran for Tennessee state representative in 2004. He got 83% of the votes as an Independent. His decision to run was determined after his son became a drug addict and died. James ran on a platform to vote against any legalization of drugs. He blamed the counter culture for creating an environment that proliferates drug use in the youth. In his words the counter culture has taught kids that two plus two equals five and with no absolutes they are a generation of children with no clue as to right or wrong.

James Hart wanted to make a difference and stop more parents from burying their children from drug abuse deaths. After his initial run for the Tennessee house as an Independent in 2004, James was not successful as the party affiliates would not support him as a candidate. But that didn't stop him from campaigning. He is again on the ballot for District 76 in the 2022 general election. Over the years James Hart has taken some opposition for his stands. On February 20th of 2017 a white kid from Memphis attacked James while he was standing on the street corner in Paris, Tennessee. He was punched repeatedly and knocked down and was saved by pedestrians and motorists who stopped and pulled his assailant off of him. It seems the Caucasian male took offense to his sign "Equal Rights for Whites". This didn't deter the seventy-eight year old James, who now stands on the street corner with a bullet proof vest and a handgun under his coat.

While a few people fumed over his sign about "Equal Rights for Whites" one of the local predominately black Baptist churches in Paris had a solution. They had some signs made up and presented them to James with their best wishes. The signs said "God Bless America" and "Pray for America". And that is how the good people of Tennessee handle differences with each other.



A Minnesotan: Thanksgiving



By RosaLin Alcoser

The year was 2016. The place was Springfield, MO.

This was the only time in my college years that my older sister drove over from St. Louis to visit me for Thanksgiving instead of me going to her.

The year before that I went to her and the next two years after that I also went to her. But this one year she came to me because I had to work the Black Friday sale the next day at the mall kiosk I worked at that year... which is a story for another time.

My sister drove over the morning of Thanksgiving and I cooked that morning. This was also the only year that anyone has ever trusted me to do this 100% by myself.

It was a fairly traditional Thanksgiving

meal for two. I am about 90% sure that I made turkey breast, roasted vegetables, and pumpkin spice cake.

For the record the food turned out pretty well and was not where chaos ensued; that came after dinner.

Now my family has had many odd chaotic things happen on holidays. From the wrong breaker in the fuse box getting thrown and the oven with the Christmas ham getting turned off to the sandwich incident of 2003.

But this one even bluffed us.

After dinner we did the washing up, put all of the dishes into the dishwasher- with the intention to run it later- then got ready to go for a walk in the park.

Right as we were about to walk out of my apartment my sister pointed out that there's smoke coming from my dishwasher that is not turned. So she opened the dishwasher and the coil element at the bottom of it was on fire.

So we threw baking soda on the start of the dishwasher fire and turned off the breaker that went to the dishwasher before we went to the park.

Needless to say, later we had to wash all the dishes by hand and I had to report the whole thing to my university who owned the apartment.

To this day we have no clue how the dishwasher that was not even turned on caught fire but it did. However, to this day it is the one holiday mishap that I will never truly be able to fully explain how it happened.

DON'T LET HEARING PROBLEMS SLOW YOU DOWN!





Jayne Bongers Owner/MN Certified

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