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JANUARY, 2023

Volume 21 • Issue 2 • \$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 threeiverscap.org for more information.

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

Hair Care event at All the Buzz

By Cheri Roshon

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 18th! From Noon-3 pm, Jamie Sommer is Hosting a Customer/Client appreciation event at All the Buzz in Wanamingo. Taylor Schultz, R+Co Brand Manager will be on hand to teach you about what to do about that "winter frizz" that seems to creep up on us this dry time of year. Find out how to care for your hair with tips and tricks to make your friends and family take notice!

Also on hand that day will be Dana Barr, Jane Iredale, Skin Care Makeup Line-Brand Manager! The Jane Iredale Line has gone

through a Brand re-design and it is BEAUTIFUL! If you are not familiar with either of these Product lines I encourage you to try to stop by! There are sure to be Specials!!!

Jamie has been doing hair, waxing, facials and more for 22 years, and loves to show her clients products she has hand picked for their particular situation. Whether it's from the weather, over use of chemicals, or if you just need to trim the unruly hair and shape it into a new style, Jamie has a product for you. She makes it fun to experiment with new styles, colors and products at any age.

(continued on page 8)



Jamie Sommer, owner of All the Buzz



Ryan and Nicolle Holmes
of Area 57 Coffee Café

Twenty Years of Coffee and So Much More

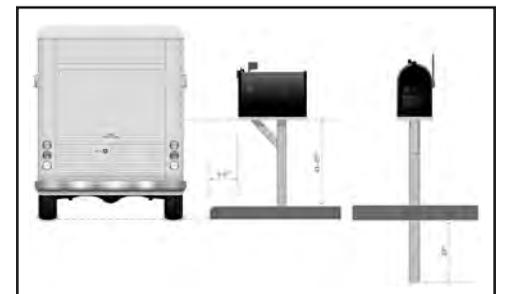
By Cheri Roshon

Driving through Wanamingo, you have to really pay attention to the buildings on Main Street, or you may miss something. Some businesses have been there for awhile, and some are newer, but they're all quite unique. One of my favorites is celebrating 20 years of serving the folks in our community this month.

Area 57 is a soup and sandwich style small cafe with desserts that keep you coming back for more! Area 57 is a name with a play on words. Just like Area 51 in Nevada is in a location that you may not see as you drive by, finding a "Minnesota Best" cafe in a town with only 1100 people is rare.

(continued on page 8)

City Maintenance Staff Survey Positions of Mailboxes



The City of Wanamingo maintenance staff have surveyed positions of mailboxes throughout town. Some mailboxes are either too low to the ground or too close to the curbs.

(continued on page 7)

Check out our variety of sandwiches!

We have Randy's, Deli Express, Lunch Box, Day 'N Night Bites and more!

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Esther: "God's Faithfulness For Our Good and His Glory"



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

Esther: [/eh-str/] noun --- A Persian name meaning "the star." Her Hebrew name is Hadassah which means "myrtle," like an evergreen; myrtle symbolizes peace, joy, generosity, and justice.

The Book of Esther does not specifically name its author. The most popular traditions are Ezra or Nehemiah (who would have been familiar with Persian customs). The Book of Esther was likely written between 460 and 400 B.C., during the reign of Xerxes' son Artaxerxes.

OVERVIEW:

The book of Esther was written to display the providence of God, especially regarding His chosen people, Israel. The Book of Esther records the institution of the Feast of Purim and the obligation of its perpetual observation. The Book of Esther was read at the Feast of Purim to commemorate the great deliverance of the Jewish nation brought about by God through Esther.

The Book of Esther can be divided into three main sections. Chapters 1:1-2:18 – Esther replaces Vashti; 2:19-7:10 – Mordecai overcomes Haman; 8:1-10:3 – Israel survives Haman's attempt to destroy them. The noble Esther risked her own death as she realized what was at stake. She willingly did what could have been a deadly maneuver and took on the second-in-command of her husband's kingdom, Haman. She proved a wise and most worthy opponent, all the while remaining humble and respectful of the position of her husband-king. The hand of God is evident,

in that what appears to be a bad situation is indeed very much under the control of the Almighty God, who ultimately has the good of the people at heart. At the center of this story is the ongoing division between the Jews and the Amalekites, which was recorded to have begun in the Book of Exodus. Haman's goal is the final effort recorded in the Old Testament period of the complete eradication of the Jews. His plans eventually end up with his own demise, and the elevation of his enemy Mordecai to his own position, as well as the salvation of the Jews.

Feasting is a major theme of this book: there are seven recorded banquets (Esther 1:3; 2:18; 5:4-5; 7:1-2; 8:17; and 9:17-22), and many of the events were planned, plotted, or exposed at these banquets. Although the name of God is never mentioned in this book, it is apparent that the Jews of Susa sought His intervention when they fasted for three days (Esther 4:16). Although the law allowing their destruction was written according to the laws of the Medes and Persians, rendering it unchangeable, the way was cleared for their prayers to be answered. Esther risked her life by going not once uninvited before the king but twice, (Esther 5:1-2; 8:3). She was not content with the destruction of Haman; she was intent on saving her people. The institution of the Feast of Purim is written and preserved for all to see and is still observed today. God's chosen people, without any direct mention of His name, were granted a stay of execution through the wisdom and humility of Esther.

SO WHAT?

Life can be hard. Difficult times happen, and pain cannot be avoided. When life does not make sense, do you turn to God or away

from Him? Let the book of Esther encourage you that God is always present. The Book of Esther shows the choice we make between seeing the hand of God in our circumstances in life and seeing things as merely coincidence. God is the sovereign Ruler of the universe and we can be assured that His plans will not be moved by the actions of mere evil men. Although His name is not mentioned in the book, His providential care for His people, both individuals and the nation, is evident throughout. Through the example of Mordecai and Esther, the silent love language our Father often uses to communicate directly to our spirits is shown in this book. Jesus called us "friends" (John 15:15), and the Spirit is our "Helper" (John 14:26). Trust and obey, as Esther did. And watch God silently weave all events for His glory and for our good as His people.

Next month, we will look at the book of Job. This text displays and helps us to understand the following: Satan cannot bring financial and physical destruction upon us unless it is by God's permission. God has power over what Satan can and cannot do. It is beyond our human ability to understand the "why's" behind all the suffering in the world. The wicked will receive their just dues. Suffering may sometimes be allowed in our lives to purify, test, teach, or strengthen the soul. God remains enough, and He deserves and requests our love and praise in all circumstances of life.

I would love to hear from you, pray for you, and encourage you. Reach out to me via email: Colin@nlcwanamingo.org or by phone: 507-824-3019.

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Email your church announcements, schedule, etc.
to the Wanamingo Messenger at:
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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Chosen

He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. — Ephesians 1:5

My daughter and son-in-law are in the process of choosing a therapy dog for one of our grandsons. They have been discussing and studying about which breed is best and which size is right. During this time, their other son has been helping to walk the neighbor's dog to get a sense of how this addition to the family will work. The family is invested together to make a good choice.

Even more important is understanding that God has decided that he wants us to join his family. Does it inspire you that God has been pleased to create us for fellowship with him? God knew that through the sacrifice of Jesus we would become sons and daughters of God. His plan for our lives is to include us in his story. It wasn't enough that God created us and made us his imagebearers; he also loves us and wants to live in relationship with us.

When our lives reflect the realization of all this, we display God's glory and his love, and something changes in us. We carry ourselves with the knowledge that we belong and are part of God's family.

What does it mean to be part of this family? It means we are responsible for one another. Because of the love God has given us, we have the ability to live in unity together, sharing in the story that God has indeed chosen us.

Thank you, Father, that you have created us and have chosen us. Help us to see what it means to be in your family and to treat others with the same love you have shown us. Amen.

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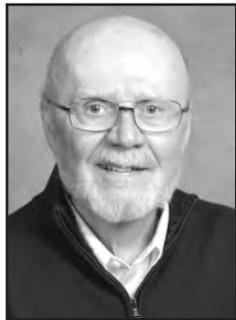
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Published monthly by Mainstreet Publishing Minnesota, Inc.
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Jeroy Charles "Chuck" Fredrickson

Jeroy Charles "Chuck" Fredrickson, 81, of Wanamingo, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, October 30, 2022, at the Mayo Clinic Hospital, St. Marys Campus. He was born on August 7, 1941, to Joel and



Ruth (Olson) Fredrickson on the family farm two miles northeast of Wanamingo. Chuck was baptized and confirmed at Minneola Lutheran Church, where he was a lifelong member. He grew up helping out on the family farm and graduated from Wanamingo High School in the class of 1959. In June of 1959, Chuck enlisted in the United States' Navy. In the Navy, he attended boot camp at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, trained in California on the Morse code, went to teletype school in Texas, and then received a duty assignment in Bremerhaven, Germany. In August of 1962, Chuck was honorably discharged from the Navy and brought a 1959 VW Beetle home with him. Once he returned home, he enrolled in AC/DC electronics school at the Northwestern Electronics Institute in Minneapolis and graduated in 1965. On July 11, 1964, Chuck was united in marriage to Shirley Ehlers at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Red Wing. They moved to Wanamingo in 1965 and began their family there with the birth of their daughter, Melissa, and son, Matthew. Chuck began his thirty-year career at IBM in product testing and hardware in 1965 and retired in 1995. After retirement, he drove semi-truck part time and was a supplemental employee for IBM. He was a member of the Wanamingo VFW Post #186, the Wanamingo VFW Veterans Honor Guard, and the U.S. Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association. Chuck enjoyed hunting and fishing, reading, watching birds, taking photos, playing guitar, watching the Minnesota sports teams, but most of all spending time with his family. With his faith being very important to him, Chuck was active in the Minneola Lutheran Church and he and Shirley sang in the church choir for many

years.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Shirley Fredrickson of Wanamingo; two children, Melissa (Mark) Erickson of Zumbrota and Matthew (Lisa) Fredrickson of White Bear Lake; four grandchildren, Kaleigh (Brian) Agrimson of Mazeppa, Emilee Fredrickson of Lakeville, Noah (Hannah) Erickson of Zumbro Falls, and Jared Fredrickson of Rochester; and three great-grandchildren, Marlee and Johnny Agrimson and Eden Erickson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joel and Ruth Fredrickson; step-mother, Audrey Fredrickson; and siblings, Sandra Wallaker-Vold, Susan Martinson, Sharon Deraas, and Bill Fredrickson.

Memorial service was at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at Minneola Lutheran Church. Reverend Hannah Bergstrom de Leon officiated. Visitation was from 4:30 until 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 4, 2022, at the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel in Zumbrota and one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial was in the Minneola Lutheran Church Cemetery with full military honors provided. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Minneola Lutheran Church.

Duane Lester Berg, "Dewey"

Duane Lester Berg, "Dewey", 88, of Wanamingo, passed on December 13, 2022, at Traditions II of Owatonna.



Dewey was born January 6, 1934, in Pine Island Township to Melvin and Luella (Hjortaa) Berg. After Dewey graduated from high school, he met and was

united in marriage to the love of his life, Alice Kispert on October 15, 1955, and raised four children in Wanamingo, MN.

Dewey was very involved in his community, whether it was serving with the Wanamingo Fire Department, the Lions Club or teaching firearm safety at the Wanamingo Sportsman's Club. He also organized the annual Fourth of July parade for over 30 years. Dewey was an avid golfer and had a love for

all Norwegian food. He spent his career in the lumber and home construction business, first as the manager at the Wanamingo Lumber yard and then with UBC for 23 years before he retired in 2006. He had a passion for woodworking, making squirrel feeders, wishing wells and plaques with Jesus on them. Dewey not only worked on small projects but also could be found helping family and others with their construction or remodeling. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wanamingo and was a faithful servant of Christ. Dewey enjoyed watching all the Minnesota professional teams, but nothing could hold a candle to the pride he felt when he watched all the activities of his grandchildren. Family was the most important thing in Dewey's life and his wife, Alice was his companion for life. Dewey and Alice were known at the local Dairy Queen as "2 spoons", as they would always share their favorite treat. Dewey was known for his patience, his hugs and his big smile. He will be missed.

Dewey is survived by his children, Beverly (Steve) Wolf, Jill (Reed) Kvittem, James (Debra) Berg; grandchildren, Nicole Donlon, Michelle Winter, Tara Hogy, Taylor Kvittem, Brett Kvittem, AmandaJo Edell, Tia Minter, Ashley Urevig, Bailey Berg, Alivia Berg; 13 great-grandchildren; brother, Larry (Sue) Berg; sisters, Eileen Anderson, Lila (Wally) Johnson, Donna (Ron) Amundson and Judy (Craig) Gruden and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice; son, Bruce; son-in-law, Tom Johnson; brothers, Marlin, Vernon and Rueben and by his sister, Yvonne.

A memorial service was held 11:00 AM Wednesday, December 28, 2022, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 2nd Ave. Wanamingo, MN 55983. Visitation was held 4:00-7:00 PM Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at Mahn Family Funeral Home Larson Chapel 1475 Jefferson Dr., Zumbrota and one hour prior

to the service at the church. The Rev. Kris Ferkin will be officiated with burial at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Alzheimer's Association, 3224 6th Ave NE A, Rochester, MN 55906. To share a special memory or condolence, please visit www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com

Kenneth A. Trosin

Kenneth A. Trosin, age 70, of Kenyon, MN passed away unexpectedly on Friday, December 9, 2022 at his home.



Kenneth Allen, the son of Martin and Vivian (Brown) Trosin, was born on July 7, 1952 in Lakefield, MN. Kenneth attended Sherburn High School and

graduated with the Class of 1971. He worked as a care giver for various group homes. While he wasn't working, Ken enjoyed painting, listening to music, going for golf cart rides, spending time with his dog, Joy, and spending time with his family, especially his grandson.

Ken is survived by his children, Tiffany Trosin and Tyler Trosin; grandson, Roman Johnson; siblings, Gary (Diane) Trosin, Larry (Pam) Trosin, Janet (Dick) Erdmann, Linda (Gene) Takkunen, Butch (Ruth) Trosin, and Carol Bretzman; nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Travis Trosin; and dog, OG.

Burial took place at Kenyon Cemetery on Friday, December 16, 2022 at 11:00 A.M.

Funeral arrangements are being completed by the Parker Kohl Funeral Home & Crematory of Faribault.

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Mary Haugen

The Memorial Service for Mary Haugen, was at Noon, Saturday, January 7th, 2023, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wanamingo. Inurnment was in the church cemetery. She passed away on December 15th at the age of 95 years and 10 months. Visitation was at the church one hour before the Memorial Service.

Mary Ann Doerr Haugen was born January 23, 1927, to Otto and Anna (Proehl) Doerr at Stewart, Minnesota. She grew up on the family farm and attended grade school and high school at Stewart, Minnesota and then attended St. Olaf College, graduating in 1948. On June 26, 1948, she was married to Vernon Haugen. After their marriage they lived in Minneapolis and she was a teacher at the Minnesota School of Business. In 1950, they moved to Wanamingo when Vern joined his brothers Milton and Anthony in the Hatchery and Feed Business.

Mary was employed as church secretary at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wanamingo from 1955-1959. Martin B. Thompson was the Pastor. Then she was a full-time homemaker for nine years returning to the position of church secretary in 1968. Pastors at Trinity during that time were Jerry Stroud, Sherman Coltvet, Nancy Monke, Gary Lundberg, Paul Reppe, and Byron Meline. She retired in 1998.

She enjoyed gardening, working in the yard and tending flowers in the summer. She took an active part in her church, teaching Sunday School and Bible School, being involved in Circle, WELCA and the quilting group and serving on the Altar Guild. After being in the Bethel Bible training class for two years (Pastor Jerry Stroud as teacher) she was a teacher of one of the classes at Trinity Church. She also enjoyed reading, playing duplicate bridge with Vern as her partner, being with her family and friends and hosting family dinners for birthdays and holidays. For a number of years she and Vern delivered Meals on Wheels and they cherished the new friendships that were made. Mary and Vern enjoyed traveling together— in the U. S. and abroad. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend to many.

She was preceded in death by an infant son, her loving husband of 62 years, Vern Haugen and brother Nestor Doerr. She is survived by son, Tom and wife Sue, Zumbrota; son, John, Minneapolis; daughter, Anne Gerl, Madison, WI.; seven grandchildren, Aaron Haugen (Kristi), Emily Haugen, Samuel Haugen (Brittany), Hailey Doyle (Ryan) Jordan Gerl, (Tsim Vang), Kelsey Gerl, Max Gerl; eight great-grandchildren, Elizabetha Haugen, Evianna Haugen, Luke Haugen, Jack Beougher, Lane Haugen, Rhen Haugen, Liam Gerl, Hunter Doyle; sister, Jane Friedrichs (Jim); and many very special nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers memorials preferred. Memorials will be directed by the family unless otherwise designated. Suggested memorials: Trinity Lutheran Church; Zumbrota Area Emergency Food Shelf, Salvation Army,

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or donor's choice.

Arrangements made by Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel.

Duane Richard Hanson

Duane Richard Hanson, age 86, of Zumbrota, died at Mayo Clinic Hospital, Methodist Campus in Rochester on January 3, 2023. He was born September 26, 1936, in Milton Township in Dodge County to Melvin &



Ora (nee Romo) Hanson.

Duane graduated from Pine Island High School in 1954. After that he attended and graduated from the University of Minnesota Ag School. Duane also served in the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1961. On April 28, 1962, he married Charlene Schiesser at Zwingli Church of Christ in Berne.

He started farming in 1962 and in 1968 he & Charlene purchased a farm between Zumbrota and Wanamingo. They operated a successful dairy farm there for over 30 years. The couple continued to raise cattle and farm the land until 2013. Duane was a great steward of the land, having been a past recipient of the Goodhue County Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award and was involved in numerous farm organizations and agricultural cooperatives.

Duane was an active member of Stordahl Lutheran Church where he served in various capacities. He was a member of the Wanamingo Lions Club for many years serving in many roles. For the southeastern Minnesota Lions District, he was a past recipient of the Lions 5M Hearing Research Fellowship Award and of the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellow Award for dedicated humanitarian services. Duane was an active member of the Wanamingo Veterans Honor Guard and could be found in numerous local parades or honoring veterans at grave side services. Duane also served as a transportation volunteer for HART until 2020.

He enjoyed spending time with friends over coffee and played in the neighborhood card club for over 40 years. Duane loved attending his grandchildren's many activities. From concerts to sporting events, he was a devoted grandpa.

He is survived by sons Eric (Maria) Hanson of New Hope, MN, Judd (Amy) Hanson of La Crosse, WI and grandchildren Kaylee and Alyssa Hanson, Josie & Ben Hanson.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents, wife Charlene, and brother James.

The memorial service was at 11:00 a.m. Monday, January 9, 2023 at Stordahl Lutheran Church. Pastor Kathleen Lowery officiated. Visitation was from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, January 8 at Mahn Family Funeral Home-Larson Chapel in Zumbrota, and one hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Stordahl Lutheran Church Cemetery Association or the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center. Online condolences are welcome and may be shared at mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Irene Katherine Swenson

Irene Katherine Swenson, 86, of Zumbrota, passed away on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at Cannon Rivers Senior Living in Cannon Falls. She was born in Red Wing on October 16, 1936, to Henry and Lydia (Hinsch) Borgschatz. She attended school in



Wanamingo. Upon graduation, she attended the University of Minnesota, Mankato and received a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She taught for many years in various places, including Cottage Grove, OR, Madelia, MN, Owatonna, Pine Island, Wanamingo, and Zumbrota. Following retirement, she worked at Herberger's in Rochester. On August 12, 1961, Irene was united in marriage to Dennis Swenson at Christ Lutheran Church in Zumbrota. They were blessed with four children, Terry, Scott, Patty, and Tammy. Dennis died on August 15, 2017. Irene was a member of United Redeemer Lutheran Church. She was a very loving, caring, and nurturing person, and volunteered for many different organizations over the years. She was an avid bridge player, enjoyed hardanger embroidery, reading books, completing puzzle books, and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her four children, Terry (Janelle) Swenson, Scott (Cynthia) Swenson, Patty (Mike) Adams, and Tammy (Troy) Opsahl; ten grandchildren, Kristin (Brian) Nelson, Nick Swenson, Steffon (Jack) Trimble, Megan Swenson, Cameron Swenson, Hannah Adams, Hope Adams, Rachel (David) Danhauer, Sam Opsahl, and Abby Opsahl; four great-grandchildren, Ethan and Violet Nelson and Logan and Henry Trimble; brother, Lyle (Jean) Borgschatz; sisters-in-law, Judy and Marcy Borgschatz; and brother-in-law, John Augustine.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dennis; and siblings, Ardelle, David, Kathy, and Ralph.

Memorial service was at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 30, 2022 at United Redeemer Lutheran Church. Reverend Dr. Marggi Pleiss-Sippola officiated. Visitation was one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at the Zumbrota Cemetery at a later date. Memorials

are preferred to the Zumbrota Library. Arrangements made by the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel.

Carl O Finesgaard

Carl O Finesgaard age 87 of Kenyon passed away at home on January 3, 2023.

Carl was born on October 28, 1935 at St. Lucas Hospital Faribault, MN. He attended 8 years of country school before graduating from Kenyon High School. During this time he caught baseball for the high school team and also the Kenyon town team and Faribault legion team. Carl attended Augsburg College in Minneapolis for 2 years and was a catcher for their baseball team. During this time he also worked nights at the 7-Up Bottling Company. He was a catcher for the Benson baseball team the summer between his college years.

In November of 1955 Carl volunteered his number for the draft. He served 21 months, 19 of which were in the 2nd infantry division line company in Alaska. Upon release from active duty he served in the army reserves until his honorable discharge on October 31, 1961 having achieved the rank of Sargent infantry.

Carl started farming in 1957 and married Doreen Bless on June 28, 1959. In November of 1960 they moved to the farm where they would live together for the next 63 years. Doreen taught school and Carl farmed. He was a Holden Highlights 4-H club softball coach for 9 years coaching his own children.

In his retirement years he enjoyed his family and grandchildren, traveling, reunions of all kinds, especially with his army buddies, and golfing.

Carl is survived by his wife Doreen Finesgaard; daughter Caryn and Mark Erickson; daughter-in-law Carol Finesgaard; grandchildren Pearl Ouvreson and Peder Erickson; many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents Wilhelm (Bill) and Grace (Ronningen) Finesgaard and his son Dale Finesgaard.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.



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Margaret Ann (Ahrens) Ellingson

Margaret Ann (Ahrens) Ellingson died December 30th, 2022 at Benedictine Living Community in Northfield, Minnesota, surrounded by family, following a courageous battle with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. She was 84.



Margaret was born on March 19th, 1938, to Harold and Ruth (Tellin) Ahrens in Washington, Iowa, in the family home on West Madison Street. The Ahrens family soon moved to a farm just north of town where her parents raised three children and built a life together. She attended country school through second grade before going to school in town. Margaret looked up to her sister, Reta, who even as a senior made a point of including her freshman sister, and she cared for and cherished her little brother, Phil.

Washington High School's Homecoming Queen moved to Cedar Falls in the fall of 1956 and earned her two-year teaching degree at Iowa State Teachers College. She began a life-long career as a teacher at Milford Township School with a combined kindergarten-first grade classroom. She was married in 1958 to Roger Kleese, and became mother to Greg and Doug in Ames, Iowa, before moving to the suburbs of St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1962. She quickly became an active member of Presbyterian Church of the Way, teaching Sunday school and leading youth groups on

canoe trips in the Boundary Waters. Unsuspecting teens quickly learned she could out-paddle and out-portage the best of them with a smile on her face.

When Tom began first grade, Margaret went back to school to earn her bachelor's degree and eventually re-enter the classroom. She holds the distinction as Macalester College's first returning adult student. For the next fifteen years she taught in Minnesota and Iowa, from kindergarten to upper elementary, shifting to meet her family's needs. With each new assignment she brought an energy and commitment to instill the joy of learning in her students' lives. She is fondly remembered by many former students as a favorite, who encouraged but didn't coddle. When a disappointed kindergartener tugged on her blouse to tell her, "I don't like what we're having for a snack," she responded in a loving but firm manner, "Maybe you'll like what we're having tomorrow." Margaret's passion for education made her an obvious choice for the Kenyon School Board in 1982, where she led the charge for a merger with Wanamingo that respected both communities.

Looking for a new challenge after teaching, Margaret embarked on a career as an administrative aide at St. Olaf College for ten years until her retirement. The fact that a Norwegian liberal arts college on a hill was now her home made perfect sense to a German-Czech farm girl from the rich soil of Washington County. The St. Olaf Christmas Festival was an annual highlight and point of pride for Margaret, and she meticulously kept notes in her calendar to ensure she had tickets as soon

as they went on sale.

Margaret married Bernhard "Pete" Ellingson on January 10th, 1997, and the happy couple enjoyed the good life together in Northfield, Denison and Red Wing before moving into their new apartment at Benedictine in August 2021. Margaret and Pete set out on many journeys, following her meticulous route plans on their way to some warmer climate, then choosing to meander on the way home without any agenda. Summers were spent at Pete's cabin in Ontario and vacations to Alaska and Norway added to their adventures.

Margaret's amazing organizational skills served her well not only in her professional life, but in researching and assembling family history albums and in creating a numbered, color-coded spreadsheet presented to her sons containing all her possessions with notes of attribution -twenty years before her death.

When Harold told Ruth, "Mother, it's time to move to town before one of us has to," Margaret made frequent trips to Washington, supporting and loving her parents through the changes in their lives. She inherited her love of nature from her mother, spending glorious days out in the garden and watching for familiar and unfamiliar types of birds. She preferred planting and nurturing wildflowers which enhanced the beauty of the landscape.

Music was an essential part of her life, and Margaret played the piano daily until her condition would not allow. She brought her love of music into the classroom, teaching private piano lessons, playing for United Methodist in Nerstrand and directing the Christmas pageant at First Lutheran in Kenyon.

Margaret's faith gave her strength, and it was an honest and personal faith to which she turned in both times of abundance and of struggle. Starting in 2007, she collected favorite passages of Scripture, notes from friends, and words to live by in her "Grow Old Gratefully" journal which she turned to everyday. Margaret chose a life of gratitude that was obvious to family, friends and those who cared for her as her health deteriorated. She faced her diagnosis clear-eyed and with dignity, and her mind remained sharp.

Margaret often shared that being a good mother and grandmother were her proudest accomplishments.

Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, sister Reta and brother-in-law Earnie Beemblossom. She is survived by husband Bernhard (Pete), brother Phillip (JoAnne) Ahrens of Grand Haven, Michigan, her three sons Greg (Anngie) Kleese of Northfield, Doug (Mary) Kleese of Kenyon, and Tom (Hilary) Kleese of Verona, Wisconsin, nine grandchildren (Isaac, Katie, Hannah, Roger, Emma, Samantha, Benjamin, Jackson and Joseph) and six great-grandchildren.

Margaret is now surely seated with a very upright posture, joyfully playing the piano and expecting others to soon join her in song - because that's what you do when Margaret plays. The most-cherished words of praise she would ever hear as a child from her Daddy can now be said about her life: "You done good."

A thank you goes out to the caregivers at Benedictine Living In Northfield and the Alina Hospice team. You truly made a differ-

ence for Margaret and her family over her final months.

A visitation at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon will be held on Friday, January 20th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. A memorial service at First Evangelical Lutheran in Kenyon will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 21st, with visitation at the church starting at 10:00 a.m. There will be a private family graveside ceremony immediately after the service, with lunch and fellowship at the church to follow.

Memorials may be directed to Kenyon/Wanamingo school district general fund and to Cure PSP www.psp.org

William L. Foss, Sr

William L. Foss, Sr age 73 of Kenyon, died on Tuesday, December 21, 2022, at his home.

William LeRoy Foss Sr., the son of LeRoy and Shirley (Holmes) Foss was born on June 28, 1949, in Faribault.



He grew up in Kenyon, graduating from Kenyon High School in 1967. He enlisted in the US Navy and served for a short time before returning to Kenyon. He then attended vocational school. William married Candace Verthein and had two children. They moved from Kenyon in the early 70's to Cannon Falls, where he managed the Curt's Cannon Ball truck stop. He later married Sharon Martenson and had two more children. William then went to work for Metropolitan Airports Commission in maintenance. In the late 1980's he moved back to Kenyon where he lived until he retired. He then moved to Fifty Lakes, Minnesota. He lived there for about 6 years before returning to Kenyon in the spring of 2020. Bill served on the Kenyon Color Guard. In his younger years he was an avid water skier and enjoyed boating. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting and collecting antiques and Red Wing Pottery. He was a meticulous gardener and liked to take care of his flowers and yard.

He is survived by his children Kjersti (and Mark) Anderson of Lewiston, Kollin Foss of Winona, William Foss, Jr. of Cannon Falls, Cody (and Annette) Foss of Burnsville; grandchildren Brady (and Laura) Rinn-Foss, Jacob Anderson, Zach Anderson, Lauren Foss, Bella Foss, Hailey Foss; siblings Christine Foss of Red Wing, Mariana (and Mike) McDonald of Kenyon, Julie (and Bob) Miller of Bloomington, Theron Homeier-Foss of Kenyon, and Ramona (and Ken) Djernes of Clearbrook. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, aunts and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers Eric, Paul and Ted. Memorials to the donor's choice are preferred.

Family and friends gathered for a visitation on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, from 4:00 PM until 6:30 PM, with a prayer service at 6:30 PM at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon. Interment was in the Kenyon Cemetery on Wednesday, December 28th at 10:00 AM.

(obituaries continued on page 6)

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KW Noble Knights of the Week



KW Noble Knights of the Week for December 9, 2022

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KW Noble Knights of the Week for December 21, 2022

Front Row: Haddie Schwering, KG, Ms. Madison Andrist; Reese Allen, KG, Mrs. Katie Valek; Julian Ramirez, Gr. 1, Mrs. Katie Benbrooks; Aftyn Meyers, Gr. 1, Mr. Tony Donkers; Oakley Benbrooks, Gr. 2, Mrs. Deb Hinrichs. Back Row: Brinley Murdick, Gr. 2, Ms. Megan Sabrowsky; Hudson Schwering, Gr. 3, Ms. Val Ashland; Jackson Adams, Gr. 3, Ms. Sandy Sahl; Scarlett Eggert, Gr. 4, Mrs. Chloe Gohman; Adlee Lunde, Gr. 4, Ms. Rhonda Thesing

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City Maintenance Staff Survey Positions of Mailboxes

(continued from page 1)

The Citywide mailbox position survey came up due to multiple mailboxes being damaged each year during snow removal. Nearly all the damaged mailboxes do not meet United States Postal Service (USPS) position location standards. These standards are in place for specific reasons, including clearance for snow removal. The City snow plow wings do not have the required clearance at some mailbox in order to push the snow off the road and into the boulevard. City staff have to navigate around some of these mailboxes in order to avoid hitting them with the snow plow wing due to the low clearance height off the ground or the close proximity to the street.

The City of Wanamingo's snow removal policy mailbox section states that the City may only be responsible for damages when the plow, and not weight of snow, hits the mailbox. Mailboxes are required to be installed and maintained according to the

USPS mailbox regulations. The City is also not responsible if the mailbox in question did not meet the USPS mailbox regulations. Regulations include the bottom of the mailbox being 41" - 45" from ground level, the front of the box being 6" - 8" from the front curb, and the post should be level (not leaning).

The City sent letters to a number of residents in order to be proactive in addressing any place deficiencies before next winter. The street and the boulevards are legally considered City right-of-way. The City has authority to direct how improvements, such as mail boxes, are made within the right-of-way. Snow removal is a normal maintenance task in which snow is pushed and deposited into the boulevard. Residents should consider reviewing their mailbox positions. If the positions do not meet USPS standards resident should consider reinstalling their mailbox next spring/summer according the attached USPS mailbox regulations. Thank you for your considerations.



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Twenty Years of Coffee and So Much More

(continued from page 1)

Owned and operated by Karen Masters and the Holmes family, it's a place that makes you feel like you are also a part of the family!

Seating about 50 patrons, most meal times will find you hoping for an open table. The first time I went in for a bite to eat, it was so full that I started up a conversation with 3 local women. I asked, "Must be pretty good food here?". They chuckled and one replied "Always eat where the locals eat". Hmmm, Could that be the slogan for this charming cafe?

Well, the ladies were correct. The food was excellent! And then I tried a dessert...Oh MY! I can see putting on twenty pounds with the dessert alone!

Twenty years ago, Ryan Holmes was doing a job for his employer, Nelson Electronics, when he fell off a roof and broke both legs. He spent 6 months sitting at his desk, looking across the street at the old Wanamingo Cafe. It had been closed for about 18 months, and aside from Ringo's Bar, it was the only place to eat in town. So Ryan had the idea to purchase the building and open a restaurant. He talked to his wife Nicole, and they decided to

look into it. Nicole's mom, Karen Masters just happened to be a realtor at the time, and she negotiated a contract. The rest, as they say, is history!

Area 57 employs 25 locals, from high school students to Grandma Cora, who is 88 years young. This fact makes it one of the larger employers in town. They have been awarded the Minnesota Best award for the second year in a row. This contest is sponsored by the Star and Tribune in Minneapolis. A restaurant will be nominated, and must place in certain categories to be voted on by it's customers. Area 57 placed in 9 categories this year!

You can tell you are in a special place when you walk in the door. Nicole decorates the whole cafe for each season, and her goal is to make it feel like home. A Norwegian word to describe her style is Hygge cozy, comfortable and warming to the soul, and believe me, you will feel it!

They also cater outside events and after hours parties at the cafe. One special event coming up is Valentine's Day. There will be a special menu and you can dress up fancy if you like, but more so, be comfortable. There will be two separate seatings, one at 5 pm and one at 6:30 pm. Please call ahead for your reservations.

Ryan and Nicole love this community and want to thank their customers and friends for their continued support. Congratulations, Area 57 for 20 wonderful years of serving your community!!!

Hair Care event at All the Buzz

(continued from page 1)

Her wealth of knowledge comes from years of trying new ideas, and sifting through products, trying them first, and deciding which products fit with what she offers.

Jamie began her career when Harriet Peterson owned the salon. Over the years as they worked together, Harriet decided to step down a bit and work less hours, but remain a big part of the salon. Jamie decided to purchase the business. When the old mortuary building became available, Jamie and Nate bought it, tore it down and built a unique hair salon that includes waxing, Esthetician work, massage and Lot of products to keep you looking your best.

Her goal has been that if you go somewhere to get something done, she wants to be able to offer it right here at All the Buzz! Believe me, they are staying busy in the small town Wanamingo! Hours are from 10:00-3:00, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9:00-7:00 Wednesday, and 9:00-Noon Saturday. Just call (507) 824-2381 for an appointment today, and don't forget to stop in for her Customer Appreciation Event Jan. 18th Noon-3:00 pm



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February 5, 2023
Bidding Begins: ... Jan. 28, 2023
Starts Closing..... Feb. 5, 2023
Kenyon, MN
ONLINE ONLY LARGE TRIPLE ESTATE AUCTION
Antiques, Collectibles, Silver Coins, Red Wing Stoneware, Modern & Antique Furniture, Firearms, Ammo, Power & Hand Tools, Display Cases, Coca-Cola Collectibles; Much More.

February 12, 2023
Bidding Begins: ... Feb. 4, 2023
Starts Closing..... Feb. 12, 2023
Kenyon, MN
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Less Wrinkles and Healthy Skin



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Are you worried about getting wrinkles or sagging skin? Are your joints achy and sore? If so, it's time to look into collagen. Collagen is the body's most abundant protein. Its job is to hold together tissues in the body and allow them to stretch and spring back and forth. Collagen is found in the connective tissues of the body such as muscles, bones and tendons. Collagen is also in our blood vessels and digestive systems. Collagen contains an ingredient that plays a role in skin health and repair. Collagen has been shown

to increase skin suppleness and prevent wrinkles. A systematic review of 11 peer-reviewed collagen studies found that oral collagen supplements were beneficial for the skin and wound healing. Other benefits of collagen were reducing joint pain and stiffness, improving blood pressure and cardiovascular damage, strengthening bones and improving osteoporosis and lastly, helping with glucose (sugar) tolerance which is a benefit to type II diabetics.

Collagen is a compound of essential amino acids and cannot be produced by the body. The only way to get collagen in the body is through diet. In the old days, traditional diets of chicken and beef bone broth provided collagen to our daily diet. Making your own bone broth from the bones of organic grass fed or pastured animals is one of the best and inexpensive ways to get healthy collagen into your diet. If you've ever made homemade bone broth, you'll find it forms a layer of gelatin at the top when it cools. That's the collagen from the bones and cartilage that has turned into gelatin, a formidable superfood. The other way to get collagen in your daily diet is through organic collagen supplements. "Tests of collagen supplements that were non-organic revealed the presence of contaminants that included: antibiotics, drugs and endocrine disruptors that will affect hormone function and increase your cancer risk." So, to avoid contaminants, you'd be wise to

read labels thoroughly to make sure that what you choose is 100% organic.

Hyaluronic acid, an important compound for collagen in the skin and can be found in bone broth, organ meats and root vegetables, or taken as a supplement. Hyaluronic acid has been shown to improve skin moisture and suppleness and reduce wrinkles when added to the diet. In addition to alleviating joint discomfort, hyaluronic acid supplement is essential for maintaining moisture which benefits the skin, eyes, and mucosal tissue. Provide support for joint lubrication and bone strength for optimal comfort.

Chiropractic Thought for the Month: Pain

relief? Yes. More mobility? Yes. Enhanced performance? Yes. Improved health? Yes. Increased quality of life? Yes. This is what chiropractic care can do for you. Not sure about the how or the why? Here it is. Spinal adjustments realign your spinal joints, balancing your neck and back musculature. This increases mobility and relieves aches and discomforts. Most importantly, spinal adjustments improve nerve flow to all of your body's internal systems and organs. Doing this improves the function of your body's insides, thus enhancing health. The outcome of less pain, more mobility and improved health leads to a greater quality of life for you!

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Duties include covering feature and human interest stories and upcoming events in the Messenger coverage area.

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Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade

Dennison, MN

Saturday, February 4, 2023

SAVE THE DATE! WATCH FOR SCHEDULE UPDATES!

9:00 AM Euchre at Fireside on the Patio, 100% Payout
Bring partner if possible, not required. \$20 team entry.
Questions contact Jen at 507-649-0602

FIRST ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF CONTEST

\$5.00/entry. Tasters will pay \$5.00 to taste all entries/vote.

11:00 AM Bring entry to City Hall (Chili)
11:30 AM-12:30 PM Tasting/Voting
1:00 PM Cookoff Winner Announced (1st & 2nd Place Payout)

1:30 PM Keg Toss on the Grassy Knoll - \$2 per throw or 3 throws for \$5
Cash prizes for farthest throws

3:00 PM Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall
\$30/packet, 10 games, designer purses and \$150 gift cards

6:30 PM 9th Annual Denni Dazzle Parade
\$150.00 Prize for Best Float!
Hosted by the Dennison Lions. Call or text Diane at 612-532-0268

8:00 PM LIVE MUSIC AT THE FIRESIDE

9:00 PM Raffle Winners Announced at Fireside

Flake Out Festival Raffle Saturday, February 4

Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member, Fireside Lounge, Dennison Depot Gas Station or Heritage Bank in Dennison for \$5.00 for your chance to win!

Grand Prize - \$500.00 Cash

2nd Prize - \$250 Cash 3rd Prize - \$100 Cash

Plus Many Additional Prizes from Local Area Businesses

Raffle Drawing held at 9p.m. at the Fireside Lounge. Need not be present to win.
Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees. Complete list of additional prizes available upon request.
SPONSORED BY DENNISON LIONS CLUB CHARITABLE GAMBLING PERMIT #2762. MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.



1st Prize \$500!



Proceeds Benefit Local Lions Club Activities!

Dennison Lions Flake Out Festival Raffle Saturday, February 4

Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member, Fireside Lounge, Dennison Depot Gas Station or Heritage Bank in Dennison for \$5.00 for your chance to win!

Grand Prize \$500.00 Cash!

2nd Prize - \$250 Cash

3rd Prize - \$100 Cash

Plus Many Additional Prizes from Local Area Businesses

Raffle Drawing held at 9p.m. at the Fireside Lounge. Need not be present to win.
Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees. Complete list of additional prizes available upon request.

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**City of Wanamingo
Regular EDA Meeting
Monday December 12, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

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

PRESENT: Stuart Ohr, Ryan Holmes, Rebecca Haugen, & Brian Gudknecht

ABSENT: Jim Kittelson, Laurie Musselman, & Josh Schaefer

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Boulton, Karen Masters, Cheri Roshon, and Tony Holthe.

Brian Gudknecht called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance followed.

ADOPT AGENDA: Ohr motioned, seconded by Haugen to adopt. Approved 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Holmes motioned, seconded by Ohr to approve. Approved 4-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 22-08 – Approving a Proposed Billing Change to the City/EDA Civil Attorney Services From Jacobsen Law Firm, P.A.: Holmes moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Passed 4-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Administrator Boulton provided a 2022 Wanamingo Economic Development Update. 2022 continued to have supply chain delays, shortage of labor, and high inflation. Inflation, coupled with increase in the Fed's rates have seen a slowing of the residential housing market. 2022 did see continued improvement throughout Wanamingo. The City has seen commercial building additions, a number of new homes, and infrastructure improvements. These additions and valuation increases have increased the City of Wanamingo tax base.

One commercial building had an expansion; Revland Alignment building expansion for another large bay and storage area. Revland Alignment's building addition has a permit value of \$162,000. In the residential side we have seen seven (7) new home building permits issued in 2022. The seven homes have a collective building permit valuation of \$1,409,000. The seven (7) units is considered a very good year of residential growth in Wanamingo. There have also been a number of new decks, mechanical work, new windows/doors, re-roofing's, and other home improvement building permits in 2022.

The City constructed a new 250,000-gallon water tower and additional watermain loops in 2022. The project, including the new well house, will be completed in 2023. The water tower will replace the 50,000-gallon downtown water tower (built in 1926) and the 137,000-gallon Mingo View fiberglass tank (built in 1993). This new tower will increase the water pressure 10-15 PSI throughout Wanamingo. The watermain loops will assist with redundancy of water lines, get rid of dead ends, and help turn over water within the system. When completed the new well house will add redundancy in having two full well houses with chemical feeds. The new well house will be equipped with an onsite backup generator so that when power goes out the well will be able to pump water and chemicals into the system when needed. The total project cost is roughly \$2.8 million.

2023 has some planned private and public work on the horizon. The City staff are working on a commercial project with Jason Grant Trucking for a cold storage warehouse. City staff have been working with Reckitt/Mead Johnson on making changes to the Wanamingo Medical Center building for offices and training area in two of the four suites. Reckitt/Mead Johnson plans to lease the space for a minimum of 3-5 years. There has been loose discussion on Reckitt/Mead Johnson purchasing the building. Reckitt/Mead Johnson has plans for building expansion along with traffic, parking lot, drainage, and other outside esthetic improvements. Dollar General is purchasing the prior 60 Stop lot with anticipation of constructing a Dollar General store in 2023. Casey's is purchasing Ag Partner's Cenex C-Store location. Casey's is anticipating making improvements to the location. There continues to be some interest in residential single-family dwellings. City Staff anticipates slowdown of construction in 2023 leading to fewer new homes. The City has been working with Zumbrota, Pine Island, Goodhue regarding a regional wastewater treatment facility. The current wastewater treatment facility is at the end of its life and will need to be replaced within the decade. The Cities have hired Winthrop & Weinstine lobbyist firm to help obtain State dollars for the design work and land acquisition costs. The City could choose to be part of a regional facility or construct their own facility, depending on funding. Having capacity and reliability in the water and wastewater treatment are keys to allowing for future growth and current sustainability of the community. The North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District hinges on State funding through the bonding bill and Point Source Implementation grant in order to be financially feasible.

Administrator Boulton gave a 2023 budget update pertaining to the Wanamingo EDA Funds 251, 306, 331, and 604. EDA Fund 251 levy is set to increase from \$38,000 in 2022 to \$41,000 in 2023. This will help offset small additional costs to keep the fund in a positive balance. Debt service 306 levy is set to stay the same from 2022 to 2023 at \$45,000. Debt service fund 306 has a \$113,163 balance at the end of 2021. The bond payments are \$62,000/year (\$59,255 in 2023) through 2025. The levy should stay around \$45,000 to assist with covering bond costs through 2025. Debt service 331 levy is set to remain at \$10,000 for 2023. The proceeds from the sale of property in 2018 to Comcast will support the bond payments for the near future (7.5 years of the 13 remaining yearly payments). The yearly bond payments will be roughly \$45,000 (\$42,375 in 2023) running through 2031. The fund had a \$341,414 balance at the end of 2021. The fund has a \$341,414 fund balance at the end of 2021. This will make for roughly \$41,000/year moving forward after that until the bond is retired in 2031. In 2023 the City will levy \$10,000 with yearly levies reducing to \$0 in 2025. In Medical Center Account 604 there are concerns with fund falling behind due to a vacant suite and utility reimbursement only on another suite. The Medical Center Fund owes the General Fund

\$21,692 at the end of 2021. There was \$9,500 less in rent from 2020 compared to 2021. Having Reckitt/Mead Johnson lease two of the suites at the facility for at least the next 3-5 years will help. All the suites in the facility should be full in 2023 leading the financials to be in the black. The Council should consider a future levy of \$10,000/year for 2-3 years or a transfer of \$25,000 from other fund(s) of \$25,000 to make the fund solvent.

Administrator Boulton provided an update memo regarding Reckitt/Mead Johnson's Medical Center building permit work and lease update. Reckitt/Mead Johnson leased two suites in the Wanamingo Medical Center facility, starting October 1st. The lease was signed for three years with a two-year option. Reckitt/Mead Johnson has proposed plans to change the back suite entrance/hallway in conjunction with the suite leased by Heidi Smith. The official building permit and plans were submitted on December 7th. A meeting with Heidi Smith will be set up for review and construction logistics. Construction is estimated to start in late December and be completed by February.

Reckitt/Mead Johnson's plans for the entrance/hallway and the two suites, excluding furnishing, are estimated to cost \$235,000. This is a significant investment in the facility. Reckitt/Mead Johnson have openly discussed with staff a desire for a longer lease or the

possibility of purchasing the facility. Boulton does not see any issues with extending the lease as an option. Boulton does see potential issues with selling the facility. The main reason for constructing the facility was to house a clinic. Boulton still sees housing a clinic as a need for the community at this facility. There could be provisions in a sale that would require honoring the lease with OMC. However, the lease is not indefinite and could eventually end and be without a clinic. There is also a concern with honoring the current lease with Heidi Smith. The facility is still in a TIF district. The district would need to be de-certified seven years (2029) before TIF is fully repaid. The EDA/City could be losing out on nearly \$40,000 that would pay toward the facility bond payments

The EDA owes roughly \$350,000 (principal only) on the facility to the USDA. In addition, the Medical Center Fund owes the general fund roughly \$25,000. The facility could not be sold less than the County Estimated value without reasons for a write down cost. Boulton does not believe that there is a valid reason for a write down cost. The facility is valued at \$619,100 by the Goodhue County Assessor. If the EDA sold the facility for valuation price, the EDA would have roughly \$204,000 left after paying off the bond, paying back the general fund, and de-certifying the TIF District seven years early.

(continued on page 15)

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City of Wanamingo Regular EDA Meeting *(continued from page 14)*

The EDA Board should be made aware of the significant investment that Reckitt/Mead Johnson will making in the facility. The EDA Board should be made aware that Reckitt/Mead Johnson may officially approach the Wanamingo EDA Board for either a lease extension or a request to purchase the facility in the near future. The EDA Board agreed that there is a desire to have a clinic in Wanamingo. Holmes stated the Reckitt/Mead Johnson would like to have a clinic operating in Wanamingo for employees. Reckitt/Mead Johnson approached OMC asking if sending employees to clinic for physicals and DOT health checkups would open the clinic earlier. Haugen asked when OMC plans to open back up the clinic. Boulton had heard that OMC had conducted interviews for staffing the Wanamingo clinic. Ohr asked if Reckitt/Mead Johnson staff were working on the Wanamingo Medical Center. Boulton said there won't be Reckitt/Mead Johnson staff working out of the Wanamingo Medical Center until the construction work is completed. Ohr stated that he heard trailers would be used at the Reckitt/Mead Johnson plant. Boulton stated that Reckitt/Mead Johnson hired a temp agency to bring in sixty (60) workers at the plant. They need the trailers for locker room space. The temporary workers are being housed and bused up from Rochester.

Cheri Roshon and Tony Holthe approached the Wanamingo EDA with an access concern

at 101 West Avenue. Roshon is a niece to Bobby Carlson and purchased the home last winter. Roshon has no access to park off the street or get to detached garage. She has two vehicles that are parked on the street that create a problem during snow removal. She has hired Zumbro Valley Landscaping to assist her with cleaning out the spot where she parks her vehicles in order to keep from icy/snow damming on the street. The garage street access was removed when the City acquired fifteen (15) feet of the land from the lot to construct Mill Street and connect to West Avenue. Roshon is currently accessing garage through the West side of Holthe's garage. Roshon asked the EDA how she should access her garage. Roshon stated that there may have been an agreement with the City to provide access. Boulton and Holmes said that they could find no records of any such agreement and that any oral agreements are null and void. Gudknecht stated that the alley off 2nd Street W on the East side of Holthe's garage would make the most sense. Gudknecht stated that the EDA gave fifteen (15) feet to of land to Carlson because the garage was built over the property line to clear up title issues. Boulton reminded Roshon that he previously advised her two ways to remedy her concern. Boulton stated that Roshon could take the alley of 2nd Street W on the East side of Tony Holthe's driveway and drive on the grass to garage. The other option would be for Roshon to replace the curb on West Ave and create a driveway on the South side of her home that would

lead up to the garage. Holthe questioned whether the old railroad easement could be sold or vacated. Boulton stated that this area is a utility easement. Boulton stated that the easement could not easily be vacated as there are utilities located within the easement. Boulton stated that the EDA/City could pursue having the utilities relocated, but that it would be at the EDA/City's expense. Boulton stated that there is both underground natural gas and overhead electric in the easement. Boulton stated that a driveway could be installed on the easement, but may get disturbed if utilities need to be accessed or installed within the easement. Roshon asked if the EDA would be willing to sell all or part of the parcel to the East of her garage. Boulton stated that Barney Nesseth had a first right of refusal to purchase the parcel. Nesseth put together a plan for four to five (4-5) small homes of 700-850 square feet. The EDA/City looked at accommodating this type of development by either providing variances or creating another zoning district. Holmes stated that this project came about because Goodhue County has been focusing on seeing additional affordable housing units constructed in the County. Boulton stated that the EDA has a priority of increasing the tax base when this property is sold. Holmes stated that the EDA is running out of property to develop and will need to make an impact on the tax base with development of this property. Holthe stated the Roshon could

purchase the property and construct a garage that would add to the tax base. Gudknecht agreed that constructing a larger garage by purchasing a portion of the parcel would add to the tax base. Gudknecht asked if Roshon had spoken with Wayne Sorenson about parking on his property in the winter. Roshon stated that Holthe is allowing her to go through his driveway on the West side of her garage for the winter. Ohr stated that Roshon could park her vehicles on the flat portion of the EDA lot in the winter on Mill Street. Holmes asked what Roshon's thoughts were for the property if the EDA were to sell it to her. Roshon stated that she liked the concept of small/tiny houses and may wish to pursue this. Roshon stated that tiny houses are affordable housing. Gudknecht asked if tiny homes are temporary or permanent. Roshon stated that tiny homes are considered permanent. Roshon is the local chapter leader of American Tiny Home Association. Holmes stated that this parcel might be best suited for tiny homes as the length is long but the depth is short on the parcel. The City does not have many parcels where tiny homes work. Gudknecht stated that they could sell these lots in the future of Nesseth does not wish to pursue his project.

There being no further business Ohr made a motion seconded by Haugen to adjourn the EDA meeting at 6:58 p.m. Approved 4-0-0. SIGNED: Brian Gudknecht, President
ATTEST: Michael Boulton, Director

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**CITY OF WANAMINGO
City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, December 12, 2022 7:00 P.M.
Wanamingo City Council Chambers –
401 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Holmes.
PRESENT: Council: Ryan Holmes, Stuart Ohr, Eric Dierks, and Jeremiah Flotterud
City Administrator: Michael Boulton & Deputy Clerk: Karen Masters

ABSENT: Larry VanDeWalker
ALSO PRESENT: Brad Kennedy, Todd Greseth, Rebecca Haugen, Dan Fritz, Annette Fritz, Goodhue County Deputy Ringelmann, and David Friese – News Record.

ADOPT AGENDA: Ohr motioned to adopt the amended agenda, seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Dierks motioned, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

PRESENTERS:

- A) Brad Kennedy reported on:
- 1) Plowed snow and sanded the streets twice
 - 2) Finished getting snow equipment ready for season
 - 3) Cleaned up debris, including wood pile, on Comcast site where watermain was recently installed
 - 4) Started cutting and removing trees growing over into the South side of 440th Street
 - 5) Filled and disinfected the new water tower twice
 - 6) Nelson Drive storm retention pond – Schumacher will clean out the pond later this winter for \$10-\$15 per cubic yard. Each truck will remove 13 yards at a time. There is expected to be between 150-200 yards of material that needs to be removed from the storm pond. Jason's Sewer Sucking & Excavation declined the job due to the scope of the work.
 - 7) Put up Christmas/Holiday lights and banners on Main Street
 - 8) Replaced 3 new water meters around town. Hoping to replace 25 per month to complete the entire town in two years. Roughly 150 meters and endpoints have been delivered from Metering Technologies and Solutions. Meters and endpoints have been on backorder for several months.
 - 9) Put away the park benches and garbage containers located on the Main Street sidewalks for snow season

Flotterud asked about the Wanamingo Locker enforcement. Kennedy stated that he and Councilmember VanDeWalker have been attempting to schedule a site visit with Lindsey Fulton. The site visit was potentially schedule for December 4th and could take place December 12th. Kennedy stated that there have not been large amounts of blood or animal biproducts present in the waste water influent at the plant since the June 2022 Wanamingo City Council meeting. City staff are monitoring the influent at the WWTP 24 hours a day.

B) Todd Greseth, Goodhue County Commissioner reported on:

- 1) County set final property tax levy at 4.69% after preliminary levy was set at 7.27% and later worked down to 6.8%. The final plan included taking funds out of reserve.
- 2) Goodhue County has six (6) months' worth of reserve. Auditors recommend five (5) months of reserve.
- 3) County is currently down twenty (20)

staff. In the past the County has normally been down 8-10 employees. All Minnesota Counties are short on staffing. The three common areas of County employee shortages include jails, assessor's office, and public works

Kennedy asked that Greseth speak with County staff regarding the timing of work on Goodhue CSAH 63 (loop around KW School on 3rd Street E, 3rd Avenue, and 2nd Street E). The City is concerned with the timing of any work on the road, curb/gutter, or sidewalks. Kennedy stated that the work was originally slated to be completed on the back-end of the 10-year road work plan schedule. Kennedy had spoken with County survey staff that stated work may be completed sooner. Kennedy stated that the City needed 2-3 years advanced notice to prepare and complete underground water and sanitary sewer line replacements. Greseth stated that he would relay the City's concerns to Jess Greenwood. Greenwood will take over as County Engineer starting in May 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION:

Public Hearing - Mayor Holmes opened the 2023 Budget & Levy Public Hearing at 7:08PM. Administrator Boulton provided a written memo of the Preliminary/Proposed 2022 Budget, budgeting and levy process. The overall levy is proposed to increase 10.00% from \$900,000 to \$990,000. The DET Properties (Marcstone) expansion increased its taxable value by an estimated \$500,000 with 2021 expansion. This would bring in roughly \$20,500 (slightly less than half City portion) in property taxes (0.041). New construction within the community over the last year (12 new taxable homes in 2021) should aid with the increase to the taxable market value increase. The new construction should off-set roughly 1/2 of the proposed levy increase (3.5% of the proposed 10.00% increase). In 2024, Revland Alignment expansion and additional residential growth (7 new homes) will continue to expand the tax base. Goodhue County calculated the 2023 tax capacity numbers based on the proposed levy and new valuation figured into tax capacity and taxable market values. Wanamingo tax capacity will go from \$1,141,146 (includes TIF) to \$1,389,590 (Includes TIF) or an 21.77% increase. Wanamingo Market Value will go from \$105,840,400 to \$125,912,600 or an 18.96% increase. The tax pool (what the levy gets divided out by) will go from \$1,075,840 to \$1,303,406 or an 21.05% increase. The tax rate is proposed to go from 84.109 to 75.954 or a decrease of 8.155%. The Wanamingo City Council proposed levy increase to \$990,000 will have a net increase on tax rates. Administrator Boulton received additional data to show potential changes to homeowners' property taxes with the proposed levy (roughly a decrease of \$58.52 for \$100,000 value, a decrease of \$102.97 for \$150,000 value, a decrease of \$147.41 for \$200,000 value, and a decrease of \$191.84 for \$250,000 value City portion of a property tax increase per year). This is depending on home valuation changes from the past year. Most homes saw a 10%-20% increase in valuations from 2021 to 2022. This would show changes on the low end of value increases to

roughly \$29 for \$100,000 home, \$51 for a \$150,000 value home, \$74 for a \$200,000 value home, and \$96 increase for \$250,000 value home. It would show increases of \$110 for \$150,000 value, an increase of \$150 for \$200,000 value, and an increase of \$200 for \$250,000 value City portion of a property tax increase per year) on the high end. The new commercial and residential growth in 2021 helps offset the levy increase from going onto existing property owners. Boulton stated that there was no small cities street aid (around \$20,000) in 2022 and will be not small cities street aid in 2023. This makes the 2022 and 2023 budgeting harder for the general fund. Boulton stated that increases to utilities, salaries, ambulance levy, fire, police, health insurance, and property insurance are putting pressure on the general fund. Annette Fritz stated that she appreciated all the work that the Wanamingo City Council and staff had done in preparation of the 2023 budget. Fritz stated that she was concerned with the property taxes and utilities continuing to increase. Fritz asked when or how would citizens expect property taxes and/utility rates to decrease. Holmes stated that the City Council had intended to ease the size of levy increases that the Council has put in place the past five years but that inflation threw the plan out the window. Boulton stated that City operation costs continue to rise. Boulton stated that in addition infrastructure and equipment needs over the next few years put the City in a tough position in attempting to keep levies flat. Boulton suggested that the two-ton truck/plow be ordered in 2023 to replace the unsafe 1984 dump truck that is barely limping along. Boulton stated that it is estimated to take two years for delivery. Boulton estimates the two-ton truck and plow will cost \$125,000. Ohr stated that the two-ton truck and plow will cost more than \$125,000 due to inflation. Holmes stated that he is still concerned with inflation pushing the costs higher than expected. Boulton stated that the City needs additional commercial growth to help offset these costs so that residential burden does not get out of control. Annette Fritz stated that the City has seen a lot of growth the past few years and has increased the levy as well. Flotterud stated that the City has been working on improving its financial position for over a decade. The City has reached and exceed its intended \$500,000 reserve balance in the general fund by over \$50,000. Flotterud stated that he did not wish to see the City increase the general fund further. Is the City looking at trying to make cuts to the budget to hold steady or decrease the levy. Flotterud stated that the budget process begins in July and the levy is set in August. Flotterud stated that he voted for a 10% preliminary levy increase with the intention of decreasing the final levy increase in December. Boulton stated that well over half of the levy is to pay debt service on past projects. Boulton also stated that staff looks at every way of saving money for the City, which will cost the City in the future due to lack of maintenance. Annette Fritz asked if there was a plan to keep up on asphalt trails around Prairie Ridge. Holmes stated that this work was not in the budget and was not on the 10-year capital schedule. Holmes

stated that the City is trying to prioritize maintenance but there are a lot of potential expenses and not enough funds to address all of them. Holmes stated the balancing higher tax levy increases to cover expenses and keeping the tax burden down is difficult. Holmes stated that he has concerns with too high of property tax levies because some residents may not be able to afford to stay in their homes with their overall property tax bills. Mayor Holmes closed the public hearing at 7:31PM.

RESOLUTION:

22-074 = Adopting Final 2023 Budget: Flotterud moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Flotterud asked about inflation and utilities in the general fund. Boulton stated that he had on average budgeted a 21% increase to natural gas, electric, and fuel from the 2022 budget to the 2023 budget. Boulton stated that the City was significantly over budget in these areas in 2022 and thought that the proposed increases may not be high enough. Flotterud asked what street maintenance work was scheduled in 2023. Boulton stated that there was \$100,000 budgeted with \$50,000 from 2023 levy and \$50,000 from general fund reserves. Flotterud asked what sort of balance is expected with the 2022 general fund. Boulton stated that the Prairie Ridge Estate Park shelter construction delay will also add a little over \$30,000 to the project 2022 general fund surplus. Boulton stated that if you take off the roughly \$80,000 between the 2023 street maintenance work and park shelter the general fund may show roughly \$30,000 in 2022 operating surplus. Flotterud stated that he wished to see deficit spending to bring down the reserve. Boulton stated that the City needs to set funds aside for future street maintenance and equipment replacement. Boulton stated that the City should not be touching the \$500,000 reserve as it is difficult to build back up once spent and that it helps to maintain bond rating. Flotterud stated that he was not concerned with bond rating as it has not helped the City save money on borrowing in the past. Flotterud stated that street maintenance and equipment replacement should be budgeted the year the funds are spent. Ohr stated that the one item of street maintenance or equipment replacement was too expensive to budget in one year and that many of the items would take a couple of years to save for in order to be completed. Flotterud stated that the City could spend reserves from other fund balance. Ohr stated that spending other fund balances would be robbing Peter to pay Paul and that he was opposed. Ohr stated that this philosophy is how the City got into trouble prior to Administrator Boulton being hired. Ohr stated that the City should be paying cash for small street maintenance and equipment purchases and not take out bonds or transfer from other funds. Passed 4-0-0.

22-075 = Certifying Final Tax Levy for 2023: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Ohr. The 2023 levy would go from \$900,000 to \$990,000 (\$90,000 increase or 10.0%). Flotterud stated that he wished to see closer to an 8.5% or \$975,00 increase in the levy due to concerns with property taxes from his neighbors.

(continued on page 17)

**CITY OF WANAMINGO
City Council Regular Meeting**
(continued from page 16)

Holmes stated that he was concerned with inflation but that he thought a potential lowering of the final levy to \$980,000 and seeing where we are at is his preferred route. Ohr stated that a 10% increase to the levy does not cover the increased inflationary/operational costs let alone puts funds away for future street maintenance, equipment replacement, or future park improvements. Ohr stated that the levy should stay the same at \$990,000. Dierks stated that he was fine with a 10% levy increase (\$990,000) as long as the funds are spent in the 2023 budget and that there is no surplus. Kennedy stated that he was both concerned with increases in property taxes and the list of City needs in from street maintenance, equipment replacement, building repairs, and other requested improvements. Kennedy stated that the City needs to get a plan together to start addressing a few of these needs before all the needs are in front of us at one time. Flotterud moved to amend the levy increase to \$980,000 (increase of \$80,000 or 8.89%, removing \$10,000 from general fund levy), seconded by Holmes. Amendment Passed 3-1-0 (Ohr). Amended Resolution Passed 3-1-0 (Ohr).

22-076 = Approving Fire Department Budget & Township Budget Contract Allocation Formula for 2023: Dierks moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

22-077 = Approving Licenses (Cigarette & Liquor) for 2023: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

22-078 = Adopting 2023 1st Quarter Maintenance Work Plan: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

22-079 = Approving Smith Schafer Engagement Letter for 2022 Audit: Ohr moved to approve, Seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

22-080 = To Not Waive the Monetary Limits on Tort Liability Established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

22-081 = Approving a Land Lease Agreement with Kenyon-Wanamingo School Dis-

trict, No. 2172, for the Operation of an Ice Rink and Warming House: Ohr moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

22-082 = Approving A Proposed Billing Change to the City/EDA Civil Attorney Services From Jacobsen Law Firm, P.A.: Flotterud moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Passed 4-0-0.

22-083 = Approving the Sale of Land and Development Agreement with Goodhue County Habitat For Humanity: Flotterud moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Passed 4-0-0.

22-084 = Authorizing a Temporary Gambling Permit for the Cannon Falls Youth Sporting Club, Inc.: Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

22-085 = Approving Lot Split for Goodhue County Parcel 70.145.0010 (700 3rd Avenue): Dierks moved to approve, seconded by Flotterud. Passed 4-0-0.

22-086 = Accepting a Wanamingo Fire Relief Association Charitable Gambling Donation and Designating the Funds to both the 333 Equipment Fund and Fire Relief Association Retirement Fund: Flotterud moved to approve, seconded by Ohr. Boulton stated that \$22,500 would go toward the 333 Fund to the bond payment while \$14,500 would go toward the general fund for the Prairie Ridge Estate Park Shelter project. Passed 4-0-0.

Ordinance #201 - 2023 Fee Schedule – 1st Reading – Mayor Holmes went over the recommended changes from 2022 Fee Schedule for the proposed 2023 fee schedule including increasing the labor rate for each the Deputy Clerk, Public Works, and City Administrator by \$5/hours, the skid loader from \$65/hour to \$75/hour, the water meter cost from \$315 to \$340, adding a daily (\$25) and yearly (\$100) mobile food cart & mobile food trailer fees, increasing the water debt service/ base fee from \$24/month to \$25/month, increasing the sewer debt service/base fee from \$20.00/month to \$22.00/month, increasing the monthly garbage fee from \$15.21/month to \$16.25/month, and increasing the monthly recycling fee from \$6.45/month to \$6.65/month. The increase to the water

meter fee helps to cover increases to the actual costs of the water meters and readers. Boulton stated that the proposed monthly water base rate/debt service fee increase of \$1.00/month to each hook-up would bring in roughly \$7,000 in new revenue in 2023. Boulton stated that the proposed monthly sewer base rate/debt service fee increase of \$2.00/month to each hook-up would bring in roughly \$12,000 in new revenue in 2023. The garbage and recycling monthly increase reflect the yearly contract increases with Waste Management. Throughout the year, including the budgeting process the Council has discussed and has recommended the above changes. The City Auditors recommend that the Council review sewer/water rates and make small adjustments regularly to capture revenue as opposed to large jumps.

The wastewater treatment plant will need upgrades in the near future which could cost millions of dollars. Mayor Holmes asked if the Council wished to see changes made to the proposed fee schedule before the January City Council. No changes were requested.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Holmes went over Administrator Boulton's 2022 Wanamingo Economic Development Update Memo. 2022 continued to have supply chain delays, shortage of labor, and high inflation. Inflation, coupled with increase in the Fed's rates have seen a slowing of the residential housing market. 2022 did see continued improvement throughout Wanamingo. The City has seen commercial building additions, a number of new homes, and infrastructure improvements. These additions and valuation increases have increased the City of Wanamingo tax base.

One commercial building had an expansion; Revland Alignment building expansion for another large bay and storage area. Revland Alignment's building addition has a permit value of \$162,000. In the residential side we have seen seven (7) new home building permits issued in 2022. The seven homes have a collective building permit valuation of \$1,409,000. The seven (7) units is considered a very good year of residential growth in Wanamingo. There have also been a number of new decks, mechanical work, new windows/doors, re-roofing's, and other home improvement building permits in 2022.

The City constructed a new 250,000-gallon water tower and additional watermain loops in 2022. The project, including the new well house, will be completed in 2023. The water tower will replace the 50,000-gallon downtown water tower (built in 1926) and the 137,000-gallon Mingo View fiberglass tank (built in 1993). This new tower will increase the water pressure 10-15 PSI throughout Wanamingo. The watermain loops will assist with redundancy of water lines, get rid of dead ends, and help turn over water within the system. When completed the new well house will add redundancy in having two full well houses with chemical feeds. The new well house will be equipped with an onsite backup generator so that when

power goes out the well will be able to pump water and chemicals into the system when needed. The total project cost is roughly \$2.8 million.

2023 has some planned private and public work on the horizon. The City staff are working on a commercial project with Jason Grant Trucking for a cold storage warehouse. City staff have been working with Reckitt/Mead Johnson on making changes to the Wanamingo Medical Center building for offices and training area in two of the four suites. Reckitt/Mead Johnson plans to lease the space for a minimum of 3-5 years. There has been loose discussion on Reckitt/Mead Johnson purchasing the building. Reckitt/Mead Johnson has plans for building expansion along with traffic, parking lot, drainage, and other outside esthetic improvements. Dollar General is purchasing the prior 60 Stop lot with anticipation of constructing a Dollar General store in 2023. Casey's is purchasing Ag Partner's Cenex C-Store location. Casey's is anticipating making improvements to the location. There continues to be some interest in residential single-family dwellings. City Staff anticipates slowdown of construction in 2023 leading to fewer new homes. The City has been working with Zumbrota, Pine Island, Goodhue regarding a regional wastewater treatment facility. The current wastewater treatment facility is at the end of its life and will need to be replaced within the decade. The Cities have hired Winthrop & Weinstine lobbyist firm to help obtain State dollars for at least the design work and land acquisition costs. The City could choose to be part of a regional facility or construct their own facility, depending on funding. Having capacity and reliability in the water and wastewater treatment are keys to allowing for future growth and current sustainability of the community. The North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District hinges on State funding through the bonding bill and Point Source Implementation grant in order to be financially feasible.

Holmes thanked Council member Larry VanDeWalker for his 16 years of service on the Council. Holmes said that VanDeWalker's knowledge, skills, and demeanor would be missed on the Council. Holmes welcomed Rebecca Haugen, who will take office in January 2023. Holmes stated that he looked forward to working with Haugen on the City Council.

*Next City Council meeting is on 1/9/2023 at 7:00pm.

*City Council discussed employee recognition event, usually held in January. Mayor Holmes and City Administrator are working on dates in mid-January to be hosted at Area 57 café. Administrator Boulton will send out invites to the Council and staff once the date and time have been finalized.

*Fire Department/Township/City Annual Meeting is on 2/6/2023 at 6:30pm

Adjourn: At 8:43PM a motion to adjourn was made by Ohr and seconded by Dierks. Passed 4-0-0.

Signed: Ryan Holmes, Mayor
Attest: Michael Boulton, City Administrator



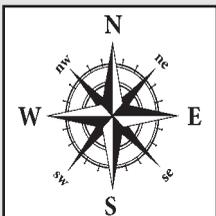
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes 2022 Was the Year for New Appliances



By Terry Campbell

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

It started out with the big stainless steel refrigerator in the farm house in Minnesota this summer. It was huge and over ten years old. I remember I had to remove the doors to get it in the house. Not just the handles, but both doors. The front door of the house came off the hinges and the refrigerator and freezer doors came off to make it in the house. The refrigerator had started making a clicking sound. More like a whap. Every ten seconds. "Whap". I knew what it was. There is a gear that opens the little door which brings cold air from the freezer to the refrigerator. It would open the door and then it would snap back shut. I explained it to my wife in technical terms. That didn't help. I related what a massive job it had been to get it in the house. It would be the same amount of work to take it out. That didn't help either. So, we compromised and I agreed on a smaller unit. I promised we would get a new one soon.

Then one morning the washer didn't spin the water out of the clothes on the last cycle. It had been acting up as well. My wife would say there was a helicopter going over the house quite low. I again had the technical answer ready. "No dear, it is the washer in the basement doing the spin cycle dance." So, a trip to the appliance store one Sunday afternoon took a \$2,500 hole out of the checkbook and we had a new fridge and washer. But I forgot one thing. Washers and dryers mate for life. One week later the dryer quite

drying. So, a matching Amana dryer came back home from the appliance store as well.

In late September I headed back down to Tennessee. I had to finish the lake house by fall so we could move in when we returned for the winter. I was prepared. We made a trip to Lowes in Owatonna and I had my wife pick out the kitchen appliances. Brand, size style, color, every option was decided on. I had the model number for each written down and I would go to the local Lowes in Tennessee and order the whole kitchen in one visit. No confusion or decision on my part. The matching fridge, range, dishwasher and rangehood microwave would be ordered and delivered right to our kitchen when ready.

The people who bought our old house in Tennessee didn't want our washer and dryer set. The appliances were only a few years old, and I would rather not move them. We had already moved four bedrooms of furniture into a storage unit since the new house was not finished. I was done with moving furniture. I had a house to finish. But since the plumbing and the ceramic tile floor in the new laundry room was already finished, I loaded them up and hauled them too. Well at least I wouldn't have to buy a washer and dryer, I told myself.

So, a week before I had the kitchen complete, I went to Lowes and presented the list to the young man there. Four appliances in one sale. No shopping, no discussion, just write it up, take my money and deliver them on time. The big Lowes truck would bring them to the front door and the strong young men would carry them into the house and life was good.

I had been working on the new house for a couple weeks and had laundry to do. So, I fired up the washer and threw in my work clothes. When I returned to put them in the dryer I discovered a load of wet, soggy heavy laundry. I ran them through again only to get the same result. The final spin cycle was not working. Irritated I chucked them in the dryer. When I opened the dryer to check on them, the machine kept on running. The switch on the door was broke. I was mad. Why did I move a washer/dryer set only to have both malfunction. I did the only logical thing left. I took the hand cart, wheeled the offending pair out the door and onto the trailer for their last trip to the scrap yard. Then I went back to Lowes and ordered a new Amana washer and dryer set. It arrived with the rest of the kitchen appliances.

A Minnesotan: New Years



By RosaLin Alcoser

When my sister and I were young children our parents use to do that thing parents do where they tell the kids it's New Years and put you to bed before midnight, but it's really just New Year's in New York not where you are.

We would stay up late and watch the ball drop at midnight in Times Square on the TV. Yell 'YAY! It's New Year's!' then promptly be taken off to bed; which we were already ready for.

In reality we only stayed up till about 11 PM. Don't get me wrong, 11 PM is still

pretty late when you're a little kid or if you're like me and choose to get up at 5 AM on a daily basis.

This worked for them until my sister was 9 years old and I was 4 years old.

The reason it worked for my parents that long is because my sister never bothered to look at the clock in the house to see that it was not midnight where we were. She was too caught up in the excitement of what was happening on the TV.

However, that year I had learned about how time works and went to check the clock; using the analog clock because it was 2001. I then proceeded to ruin everything for our parents by pointing out that it was not midnight where we were and that we were being tricked into thinking it was the next year when it wasn't. It was the next year somewhere else.

After that we got to stay up till midnight CST instead of being tricked into going to bed an hour before the new year.

Now that I'm an adult I understand why my parents did this. After all 2022 I stayed up till midnight then immediately went to bed at 12:01 AM. While I am writing this at the end of 2022 I feel this is also how I will see 2023 as well.



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- ACROSS**
1. Piece of data
 6. Baryshnikov's step
 9. Back wound
 13. Soft palate hanger
 14. *Any high mountain
 15. Tsar's edict
 16. Means
 17. Bishop of Rome's jurisdiction
 18. Female water-elf
 19. *Highest mountain
 21. *Sea that is also the largest lake
 23. A in MoMA
 24. *Small island
 25. Ignited
 28. Lamborghini model
 30. Extravagant
 35. 15th of March, May, July or October
 37. ___-a-Sketch
 39. Technology expert
 40. Novice
 41. Damage one's reputation
 43. Lil' Bow Wow's first name
 44. Bette Midler's movie "___ Pocus"
 46. "I'm ___ you!"
 47. Unit of pressure
 48. Denver breakfast choice
 50. Big rig
 52. ___ de Janeiro
 53. Excessively abundant
 55. Ensign, for short
 57. *Great ___ Reef
 61. *National Geographic ___
 65. Gibson garnish
 66. Arabic garment
 68. D-Day beach
 69. *Longest continental mountain range
 70. Nada
 71. Energy to motion converter
 72. Golf pegs
 73. Red Cross bed
 74. Follow as a consequence

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1. Surfer's "man"
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 3. Ditty
 4. Extremist
 5. Masters without t
 6. Ghost of Christmas ___
 7. Miller High Life, e.g.
 8. Four-eyes' gear
 9. Bypass
 10. Uber alternative
 11. *The largest continent
 12. Past participle of "be"
 15. Remove from political office
 20. Eyelid infections
 22. Opposite of nothing
 24. Burning aroma producer
 25. *___sphere, the solid earth
 26. "She is pulling my leg," e.g.
 27. 9 a.m. prayer
 29. *___sphere, air surrounding earth
 31. Sleeveless garment
 32. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology
 33. Harry Belafonte's daughter
 34. *___sphere, all water on earth
 36. Aretha Franklin's genre
 38. Type of crime
 42. Young Montague
 45. Brown and yellow finches
 49. Cravat or bola
 51. Financial gain
 54. 100 centimes
 56. "Barefoot in the Park" playwright
 57. Summer ride
 58. "Green Gables" protagonist
 59. Amusement park attraction
 60. Sturgeon ___ and salmon ___
 61. Table mineral
 62. Chow or grub
 63. Biblical pronoun
 64. Ready and eager
 67. ___sphere, all life on earth

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A New Year Brings Change



By Harvey Mackay

A new year often brings new beginnings. I was intrigued to discover how one company used a novel way to motivate employees to think about new ways of doing things.

Here is the approach practiced by Chiyoji Misawa, who founded the largest home builder in Japan, Misawa Homes, more than 50 years ago. He “died” at least once every decade to arrest the momentum of out-of-date assumptions and policies. He sent a memo to his company that formally announced “the death of your president.”

According to Robert H. Waterman, Jr. in his book, “The Renewal Factor,” this was Misawa’s way of forcing the whole company to rethink everything. When employees resist change because they are used to the old way of doing things, Misawa declared: “That was

the way things were done under Mr. Misawa. He is now dead. Now, how shall we proceed?”

I was particularly interested in this novel idea because so often the resistance to major changes starts at the top. As the saying goes, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

But that thinking doesn’t apply to improvements. Simply because things are sailing along, assuming that the winds won’t change is dangerous business. When I went into the envelope manufacturing business decades ago, the notion of email and the internet were science fiction. Yet it became one of the biggest challenges that an envelope manufacturer could face.

Being a great leader is not always about becoming an expert at everything – it’s really about knowing where to find knowledge and expertise when you need it. That’s where Misawa’s genius was most evident: knowing how to solicit input and gain perspective from his own connections.

In turn, he encouraged his work force to learn how others approach new markets, re-vamp processes and resolve problems. Giving his employees the opportunity to offer their suggestions served several purposes: acknowledging their value to the company, encouraging them to think ahead, and teaching them not to be afraid of change.

Change is inevitable, and those who embrace it are more likely to have staying power as each new year rings in.

New Year’s resolutions tend to focus on areas that we know need a change. Make those resolutions too general or too sweep-

ing, and chances are they will be your resolutions year after year. Alan C. Freitas, president of Priority Management, recommends that you write resolutions/goals that are SMART:

Specific – Precisely what you want to achieve, and by when.

Measurable – What a successful outcome looks like.

Attainable – Challenging, but achievable.

Relevant – Address areas of your work and life that are really important to you.

Trackable – How you’re going to gauge your progress.

Getting into the right mindset to make changes, large or small, takes some motivation.

Figure out why you want to achieve the goal. Make a list of all the ways you will benefit from achieving it. Whether it’s a personal goal, like finishing a degree, or a professional change, such as breaking into a new market, you need to understand why it will be worth it to make a change.

Then analyze exactly where you are now in reaching that goal: the strengths that will help you, the weaknesses that could hurt you, and the opportunities you can use to attain what you want.

Next, you must determine what you’ll need to invest to achieve your goal. Whether it’s time, money, or something else, know what reaching this goal could “cost” you. Is it worth it? If it’s important enough to you, sacrifices will pay off in the end. Just make sure that you have an end in sight!



Do your research. You may need to master new abilities to fulfill your resolution. Will you need to take classes to learn a new skill? What kind of information do you need access to? Are you willing to carve out the time it will require? You don’t want to start something that you are not committed to finishing.

Look for support from family, friends, co-workers, managers or organizations that can help you. The more people who you share your resolutions or goals with, the more likely you will be to follow through.

You will have more success if you set deadlines for achieving your goals and resolutions. List specific dates on which you want to complete the various steps of the plan.

Finally, resolve to make it a happy new year!

Mackay’s Moral: You don’t have to “die” like Misawa to bring your dreams to life.

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