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MARCH, 2023

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Announcements

• **Memorial Park Pavilion is now open for reservations by calling City Hall at 507-645-2852.**

New rates from May 1 to September 30, 2023 are:

Monday thru Friday:

Half Days: \$80.00 7am-2pm & 3-10pm

Full Days: \$135.00 7am-10pm

Saturday/Sunday:

Full Days only: \$135.00 7am-10pm

Plus a deposit for all reservations: \$150.00

Reservations forms are available online at www.cityofdundas.org

• **SNOW REMOVAL:** Reminder to have cars off the streets during times of snow to help assist the Public Works Department in removing snow and mindful no parking in street per City Code 71.06(B)(2) between 2 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. The police department will issue ticket to the owners of the vehicles in the street. Remove garbage cans on snowy days as soon as picked up to avoid damage by snow plows. Do not leave out over night!

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

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

3rd Annual Baby Supply Drive

Back in 2020 during COVID-19 the Big Giants 4-Hers were looking for a way to help out the Northfield Community so they reached out to the Northfield Community Action Center to see what they could do.

The CAC said that Baby Supplies are in high demand and they have limited supplies, so the 4-Hers organized a Baby Supply Drive called "Big Giants 4-H Rattles Up Baby Supplies" in Northfield/Dundas to help young families in the community. The Baby Supply Drive was so successful that they wanted to do it again! This will now be the 3rd Baby Supply Drive they have held! There are 8 drop boxes set up around the community to collect donations through April 15, 2023. Donation boxes are located in Northfield at Cub



Foods, Family Fare, Northfield Montessori, Church of St. Dominic, St. John's Lutheran Church, Little Village Early Learning Center in Dundas as well as in Dennison at the Dennison & Vang Lutheran Churches.

(continued on page 5)



Dundas Clean-Up Day
Saturday, May 13th

***No Cash* Check or credit card only**

7 am – 11 am

MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF RESIDENCE



Location: Mill Towns Trailhead - 215 Railway Street Parking lot area

Acceptable Items (Free): Household garbage, bulk items and construction waste including; windows, doors, lumber, shingles, sheetrock and scrap metal.

Accepted Items (Fee): Mattress or Box spring (\$35.00 each) Appliances, Electronics, Computers, Monitors (\$25/item) and Tires (\$5/tire)–Tire with rim (\$10.00)–Tractor Tires (\$40/tire).

Unacceptable Items: Paints, sludge, tar, liquids, thinners, fertilizer, pesticides, batteries, yard waste and brush.

Questions? Please call Dick's Sanitation at 952-469-2239.

13th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Dundas Parks and Recreation Board invites you to the 13th Annual Easter Egg Hunt 2023, April 8th at 10:00a.m. at Memorial Park (214 1st St. S). Over 4,000 eggs! Bring your own basket. No RSVP needed.



Help 'go green' by turning in the plastic eggs following the hunt. Donation request: \$1.00 per child.

SALE!

BAKING SPECIAL

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\$7.99 lb.

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ATM AVAILABLE
230 Main St., Nerstrand
507-332-8626
Monday-Friday 6:00am-8:00pm
Saturday-Sunday 7:00am-7:00pm
parksidenerstrand@gmail.com

Easter Brunch Menu

Sunday, April 9th • Serving 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Reservations Required

Call 507-645-9992 or Email: firesideloungedennison@gmail.com
to Make Your Reservation (Put "Reservation Request" in the subject line)

- REGULAR MENU NOT AVAILABLE EASTER SUNDAY -



37540 Goodhue Ave., Dennison, MN
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM-8:30 PM
Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM-9:30 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM-2:30 PM
Bar Open Later

507-645-9992 • www.firesidelounge.net



Happy Easter
From
All of Us at
The Fireside!

Love Your Enemies

I don't know about you but that seems impossible. How in the world can you love someone who doesn't love you? How in the world can you love someone who wants to do you harm and tear you down? It's much easier for me to love people who already love me; like my husband, my children and my friends.

We have had times, and still do that we get on each other's nerves. There are times when we have disagreements and differing points of view. But at the end of the day we still love each other. But in today's passage, Jesus comes along and tosses in this monkey wrench of saying that not only are we to love those who love us but we're even to love those who don't love us! Many of us read that and think, "Are you kidding me?" Our more natural reaction is like a certain truck driver:

Late one summer evening in Broken Bow, Nebraska, a weary truck driver pulled his rig into an all-night truck stop. The waitress had just served him when three tough looking, leather jacketed motorcyclists - of the Hell's Angels type - decided to give him a hard time. Not only did they verbally abuse him, one grabbed the hamburger off his plate, another took a handful of his French fries, and the third picked up his coffee and began to drink it.

How would you respond? Well, this trucker did not respond as one might expect. Instead, he calmly rose, picked up his check, walked to the front of the room, put the check and his money on the cash register, and went out the door. The waitress followed him to put the money in the till and stood watching out the door as the big truck drove away into the night.

When she returned, one of the bikers said to her, "Well, he's not much of a man, is he?" She replied, "I don't know about that, but he sure ain't much of a truck driver. He just ran over three motorcycles on his way out of the parking lot."

That seems fair right? That would be justice. We totally get that. When someone wrongs us our first instinct is to get them back! Our first instinct is to make them hurt as much as they hurt us. That is the world's answer to being wronged. But Jesus gives His

followers a different response they're to have. He tells us we're to love our enemies. Luke 6:27-31.

"27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

First, He tells us that you're to do good to those who hate you. It isn't enough to just say it- we've got to live it out! That may mean shoveling the walk of a cantankerous neighbor. It may mean volunteering to help a co-worker that you don't get a long with or speaking graciously to an ex-spouse on the phone.

The 2nd response you're to have toward your enemies is to bless those who curse you. It certainly goes against our initial response to someone that curses us. Words and actions bring us a lot of pain- so turning around and blessing them instead of cursing them back is very difficult.

When we have held onto the hurt and pain for a long time- it's difficult to let go. Jesus is our example- He didn't dish it out when he was cursed or ridiculed- he walked away. He will give us the strength to do the same. When we have Jesus' love and forgiveness in our life and the freedom, He has given us- even when those feelings of pain and bitterness rise up within us- we can claim Jesus and His power to break the power of sin and darkness in our lives. Over and over again He will remind you and me; "greater is He that is in me and he that is in this world!" Our example, and our strength come only from Jesus.

Third, we must pray for those that mistreat us. That doesn't mean a prayer to get even, or a prayer for vengeance- it's a sincere prayer for that person to find healing, to know Jesus, to experience God's healing for whatever may be going on in their life. Praying for our enemy is not easy. But when we pray for our enemies it can actually serve as a tool to keep us from being destroyed by bitterness and anger.

St. Patrick- the patron Saint of Ireland lived out this principle in his life. Patrick was kidnapped when he was 16 and taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who

were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. During this time, he worked as a shepherd. Lonely and afraid, he turned to God for solace, becoming a devout Christian. He also had a vision of converting the Irish people to a faith in Jesus Christ.

After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than 15 years. After his ordination as a priest, he returned to Ireland with a dual mission: to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish.

Patrick understood Jesus' message of loving his enemies. He was willing to return to

those that had held him captive and share the message of the gospel with them. Patrick practiced his faith by not just putting up with his enemies- but by loving them enough to share the truth of Jesus and the hope of eternity with them.

If you have someone that you are struggling to love, struggling to forgive- I want to encourage you to bring that hurt, that pain to Jesus and begin today to love them as Jesus loves you. We are called to live above 'pay back and hatred' and take the higher road in loving our enemy. Let Jesus give you His strength to love your enemy. "When He tells us to love our enemies He gives, along with the command, the love itself." Corrie Ten Boom

Area Church Directory

The Peace of God

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

— Matthew 5:9

In A.D. 989 the once powerful Carolingian Empire lay in ruins. The collapse of central authority had led to increased violence. Bloody feuds and local wars broke out in much of the area where France is today. That's when local church ministers proclaimed "Pax Dei" ("The Peace of God"), granting shelter from violence for people who could not defend themselves—peasants, clergy, and many women and children. Pax Dei prohibited nobles and their guards from invading churches, burning houses, beating people, and so on. If anyone broke those rules, they could be excommunicated from the church.

From a humble beginning, this church-led movement spread through Western Europe, surviving in some form for about 200 years. Today it is considered one of the first mass peace movements.

Nearly a thousand years before Pax Dei, Jesus preached "Blessed are the peacemakers" to the shock and disbelief of his listeners. In those days many of his fellow Jews dreamed of rebelling against the ruthless occupation of the Roman Empire.

The call to make peace was difficult in Jesus' day and in the Middle Ages, and it is still difficult today. Yet Jesus inspires his faithful followers to seek peace, for that is God's way of restoring us to himself and making us his children.

Heavenly Father, thank you for making us your sons and daughters. Inspire us to become your peacemakers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

LITTLE PRAIRIE UNITED METHODIST 2980 130th St. E.
Pastor Penny Bonsell • pastor@littleprairieumc.org
507-663-6150 church phone • 651-503-4279 Cell

9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship; Sunday School & Nursery; Adult Group 8a.m.

CITY LIGHT CHURCH 2140 Hwy. 3 South, Northfield, MN
Pastor Pete Haase • 507-645-8829 Call for service times

LIFE21 CHURCH 2100 Jefferson Road (just north of Target)
Pastor Brent Bielenberg • 645-7730 life21church.com
 10:00a.m. Worship Experience

NORTHFIELD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 5600 East 110th Street
Pastor Dan Runke • 663-0133 • northfieldefc.org
 9:30 a.m. Worship; 11:00 a.m. Christian Life Classes

HOSANNA CHURCH - NORTHFIELD 205 2nd St. S., Dundas
Pastor Dean Swenson • 507-664-9007 • www.hosannalc.org
 Sunday: 9am & 10:45am Worship with Hosanna Kids Church ages 3-5th grade and Child Care for ages 6wks-3years at both services
 Fellowship time with refreshments between services.
 Wednesday: Middle School Ministry - doors open at 5:30; programming 6-7:15;
 High School Ministry - doors open at 7pm; programming 7:30-9pm

MAIN STREET MORAVIAN CHURCH 713 Division St., Northfield
 Tel: 507-645-7566 • Worship Services at 10:30a.m.

GOSPEL OF LIFE FAMILY CHURCH
"PREACHING JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED"
 2010 Jefferson Road, Suite A, Heritage Square on Hwy. 3, Northfield
 admin@gospeloflifechurch.org
 www.gospeloflifechurch.org
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Celebrating Women Who Make Southern Minnesota Thrive



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

March is Women's History Month, which is both a time to look back at the incredible accomplishments of women in the history of our country, but also a time to celebrate women who are doing amazing things today. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we know that there are countless women who make our region thrive. I'd like to take a moment to highlight several of these women today.

At SMIF, we work with female entrepreneurs every day through our training programs and business financing options. One of our more recent loan clients is CannonBelles Cheese based in Cannon Falls. In 2012 Deann

Lufkin and her friend Jackie Ohmann started experimenting with making cheese which eventually gained enough momentum to turn into a business once their friend Kathy Hupf, a dairy expert, became involved. Their cheese has won awards and they even opened up a coffee and ice cream shop several years ago in downtown Cannon Falls. SMIF provided a Small Enterprise Loan to help pay for marketing for the cheese company which they were able to use to expand their markets.

Through SMIF's Early Childhood work we have partnered with many women leaders in the field, many of whom are either educators or child care providers. Stacy Boysen, a child care provider from Pine Island, has worked with SMIF many times to provide trainings to other providers in our region. It is clear from these trainings that Stacy is both a positive role model and a mentor to many others in the profession. She has a wealth of information to share, which ranges from standard health and safety education, to more nuanced information about the importance of self care, and ways to incorporate healthy snacks into a child care business.

SMIF also works with many women who are leaders in their communities, especially through our 31 Community Foundations. Liz Krocak, and her daughter Maggie Grimm, are two women who come to mind who have been very active in Montgomery through their Community Foundation. Liz was instrumental in making the Community Foundation a vehicle to help people when the pandemic began. She applied for the matching grants that SMIF offered during that time to support local businesses and the local food

shelf. The Montgomery Community Foundation also received a Small Town Grant to support the local farmers' market which Maggie and Liz are both very involved in.

This small list of women leaders in our region just barely grazes the surface of the vast number of women we know who are making a difference in the lives of southern Min-

nesotans. Their innovation, their knowledge and their leadership are truly incredible. We are proud to know, and partner with, the many women who make this region thrive.

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

Roger William Tralle

Roger William Tralle, age 76, of Dundas, passed away at his home on Monday, March 20, 2023.



Roger was born to Roland and Catherine (Dettling) Tralle on November 1, 1946, in Northfield. He grew up on the family farm in Dundas. His parents tragically died in an automobile accident when Roger was ten. His older sister, Dorothy Pavék, raised her siblings and he attended Northfield High School. Over the years, Roger worked various jobs including as a mechanic, detailer, and worked at Faribault State School and Hospital, K-Mart, Sheldahl, Three Links Care Center, Dokmo Automotive, and Fossum Family Farm. He was united in marriage to Beverly Anderson in March of 1967.

Roger enjoyed fishing, camping, watching professional wrestling, and was a member of the Northfield Eagles Club and Eagles Clown Club where he participated in area parades and Special Olympics.

He is survived by his wife Beverly of Dundas; daughters Dolores (James) Larsen of Dundas, Katie (Jerry) Kirgis of Northfield, Tina Simon of Lonsdale, Bobbie Jo Johnson of Plymouth, WI, Betty (Thomas) Schultz of Northfield, Cari (Bill) McGeough of Northfield, and Susan (Adam) Aldrich of Northfield. He is also survived by 18 grandchildren; and 9 great grandchildren. Roger was preceded in death by his parents; sisters Dolores Tralle (1956), Dorothy Pavék (2020), brothers Frank (2000), Duane (2008), grandson Alex Larsen (2015), granddaughter Tessa Schultz (2018); and great granddaughter Sophie Washa (2022.)

Visitation was at Bierman Funeral Home on Sunday, March 26, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Arrangements by Bierman Funeral Home and Crematory. biermanfuneralhome.com.

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Application Now Open for New MDA Continuous Living Cover Grant

Online applications due by April 13, 2023

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for a new grant to develop enterprises, supply chains, and markets for continuous living cover crops and cropping systems in the early stage of commercial development.

Continuous living cover (CLC) refers to agricultural systems in which there are living plants and roots in the ground throughout the entire year. This can take many forms, from

winter cover crops sown between summer annuals to agroforestry practices, perennial forage crops, perennial biomass crops, and perennial grain production. This includes but is not limited to regenerative poultry silvopasture systems, Kernza® perennial grain, winter camelina, and elderberry.

This one-time funding is provided to the MDA by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

CLC crops have been shown to enhance water and soil quality, sequester carbon, build soil health, and provide greater biodiversity and pollinator habitat. Significant environmental benefits of these crops will result from widespread production, which requires robust value chains and markets.

The goal is to provide grants to CLC crops and cropping systems value chain enterprises for equipment infrastructure and business and market development. For example, this could include customized equipment to harvest the

crop, clean and store seeds, and process crops for food products. The intended outcome is supply chain and market development that can increase CLC crops and cropping systems on agricultural lands in Minnesota.

Applicants must:
Be an organization in Minnesota, including a company, government, tribe, urban American Indian Community, partnership, and any type of civil or political association of people.

Focus on continuous living cover.

The MDA anticipates awarding approximately \$420,000 using a competitive review process. The maximum award is \$50,000, and the minimum award is \$10,000.

The Developing Markets for CLC Crops Grant application must be received by 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2023, through the MDA's online application system. Decisions are expected in early May.

For more information and to see the complete request for proposal (RFP), visit the Developing Markets for CLC Crops webpage.

Public Input Desired for Conservation Program Planning

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be hosting a Local Work Group (LWG) Meeting in the conference room at the USDA Service Center located at 1810 30th St. NW, Faribault, on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 9:00 AM.

This meeting is open to the public and is a great opportunity for farmers and landowners to voice their opinions of local natural resource priorities and criteria for USDA conservation activities and programs. NRCS & SWCD uses LWG input and recommendations to identify conservation planning needs, prioritize resource concerns for the state's programs, and develop ranking questions and procedures.

NRCS strives to ensure our products and services are accessible to all; therefore, if you need special accommodation (i.e. language interpreter, alternative format literature such as braille or large print, etc.) please contact Chris Schmidt at 507-412-7186 or chris.schmidt@usda.gov at least two weeks prior to the Rice County local workgroup meeting.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Women's Ag Leadership Conference to Enhance Life On and Off the Farm through Sterling Opportunities

Network with ag leaders at the 25th annual Women's Agricultural Leadership Conference (WALC) on April 12 at The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. This year's WALC theme "Sterling History" plays into the 25th anniversary tradition of silver – and it also serves as a metaphor for the long-term value the conference provides.

"Back in 1998 when Robin Kinney (co-founder) and I discussed ways to better empower women in agriculture, we could only dream of what WALC would become," said Doris Mold, event co-founder. "Each year, we've provided an expanding list of attendees with a balance of personal and professional development programming covering timely, relevant topics. So far, we've been able to reach more than 3,700 women with these valuable sessions, and we look forward to adding to that list this year."

Mold said the planning committee set out to make 2023 a year to remember for new and repeat participants alike.

"We are bringing together some amazing speakers to really drive home the fact that a sterling future can only be achieved if we continue to build leaders in agriculture that have the skills, talents and resilience to carry them forward in our ever changing world." Mold said. "From ways to prevent burnout to expanding your reach through podcasts, to building networks, we're helping attendees set themselves up for long-term success."

Attendees will begin the conference with a welcome session from Natalie Beckendorf, Minnesota State FFA Vice President, followed by roundtable discussions on how to lay the foundation for a sterling future and ways to mentor future generations. The day will also include mini-sessions focused on current topics, two breakout sessions and an optional historic Red Barn self-guided tour to continue networking after the closing ceremony.

Participants can choose from 10 different breakout topics, including:
View on the 2023 Farm Bill presented by Amber Glaeser, Director of State Government & Industry Affairs, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Staci Martin, Director of Government Relations, AgriBank, and Lauren Servick, Director of Marketing and Public Policy Engagement, Minnesota Pork

FarmHer Nutrition: Fueling Ourselves to Be Better presented by Kennedy Youngren, MS RDN LD, Registered Dietitian, The Legendairy Dietitian

Ag and Fertilizer Market Update presented by Crystal Carpenter, Market Analysis Manger, The Mosaic Company

The conference is open to individuals with an interest in women's agricultural leadership regardless of gender, age or affiliation. Register before March 31 for a discounted rate. Prices begin at \$30 for students and \$50 for first-time attendees or farmers.

In conference follow-up surveys, previous attendees have stated what makes WALC unique is how it brings together women or men from all areas of agriculture: production, industry, education, etc. to help each participant grow as a leader. It's an opportunity to "build your network and gain valuable insights for the future."

The Women's Agricultural Leadership Conference is made possible by Innovator Sponsorship Partner - Ag Country Farm Credit Services along with Major Sponsorship Partners: Compeer Financial, CoBank, Farm Credit Leasing; Key Sponsorship Partners: Minnesota State Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence, Minnesota Farmers Union; Sponsorship Partners Minnesota Farm Bureau, Minnesota Soybean Research Promotion Council, and many other conference partners and volunteers.

For the full conference brochure and more information, visit: womensagleadership.org. Please reach out to Doris Mold with any questions you may have. She can be contacted at 612-414-7574 or doris@sunriseag.net.

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3rd Annual Baby Supply Drive

(continued from page 1)

The supplies that are needed the most include: baby food, formula (all types), diapers (size 6/7 or pull-ups), wipes, household cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, and feminine hygiene products. Please help out this great cause if you are able. Thank You for your support!

The Big Giants 4-H Club is a 4-H club in Rice County located in Northfield. 4-H is a youth organization for youth ages kindergarten through one year past high school. It is run by the youth members and promotes leadership and community service. For more information please contact the Rice County Extension Office at 507-332-6109 or you may contact Big Giants directly at biggiants1902@gmail.com.

Peat-Free Options



Teri Knight



A couple of weeks ago I talked about the depletion of peat bogs and a growing movement to stop using so much of a resource that is not instantly renewable.

Today is about peat replacement options. Coconut coir aka coconut fiber is at the top of the list.

It is the fiber between the husk and outer shell of a coconut and a waste product of the coconut industry.

Coco coir can hold up to 10 times it's weight in water. You buy it in various forms including bricks, blocks or chips. It's also used very often as a liner for hanging baskets.

In addition to it's ability to hold water and assist in aeration, coco coir is reusable and has a neutral pH. The minuses include added salt. If the processor of the coir is using salt water to rinse the product it can cause problems including plants NOT being able to take up water. Check the price, if

it's too good to be true then it was likely rinsed with salt water. Here's more in-depth information from Trees.com on the different types and uses as well as how to store coconut coir.

Another option is perlite. It looks like styrofoam and can float around so moisten it so you don't inhale it.

Perlite is made from expanded volcanic glass and is used to aerate soil which improves drainage. Mix it in with a 1 to 1 ratio. Here's more in-depth information on perlite from Trees.com. Perlite adds "space" to your soil allowing more room for oxygen which helps to keep soil from compacting and allows for better drainage.

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



Perlite



Peat moss harvested but not processed



Ask Our Legislators to Support SWCD State Aid



By Steve Pahs,
Rice SWCD District Manager

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District provides conservation information, support, and program management for landowners and other local units of government. We are the technical experts and "boots on the ground" who understand our community's needs and help landowners navigate conservation programs from start to finish.

SWCDs are funded primarily through a combination of county funding and state funding through the Board of Water and Soil Resources. If Minnesota wants to continue to help landowners interested in voluntary conservation projects, it needs to find an adequate and permanent capacity funding solution for SWCDs. Our state legislators will consider a proposed solution – SWCD State Aid (HF 735 and SF526) – which would be a standing, statutory appropriation to SWCDs from the Department of Revenue.

Past capacity funding through the Clean Water Fund has allowed our district to accomplish many things. We created the Rice SWCD Cover Crop Cost Share Program to provide an incentive for farmers to learn and implement cover crops. This practice helps reduce soil erosion, sediment delivery to streams and lakes, and has shown significant reductions in nitrates leaving the fields. Over the past three years, we've worked with twenty-nine farmers to plant over 1,300 acres of cover crops. Capacity funds have also helped implement four grassed waterways and seven water and sediment control basins on eleven farms in the last three years.

The Rice SWCD Tree and Native Plant Sale Programs have reached new heights in recent years. In the last year alone, the District attracted almost 200 new landowners to

the program, resulting in the planting of thousands of trees, wildflowers, and grasses for wildlife and pollinator habitat. Funded by capacity funding, our education and outreach program campaigns through the district's website, e-newsletter, and social media allowed the District to reach urban and rural landowners who historically have not worked with our office.

With SWCD State Aid we could achieve even more. Requests for conservation projects continue to outpace the resources we have to complete them, leaving many plans on hold for years. While Clean Water Funds have been a huge success, they are not meant to be used to support the daily operations of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Conservation work provides benefits not only to residents of Rice County but statewide and beyond, which is why funding needs to come not only from county sources but also from the State of Minnesota. Additional funding would strengthen our district, allowing us to provide greater technical assistance, retain quality staff, and put more conservation on the ground. As a truly grassroots, locally-led government entity, SWCDs are the only governmental entity in the state that lacks the ability to generate revenue through local taxes, and presently has no permanent mechanism for state funding support.

If you'd like to get involved to make sure that Rice SWCD and SWCDs across the state have adequate and permanent funding, you can contact our local elected officials through the addresses below. Ask them to support SWCD State Aid (HF 735 and SF526) so that we can continue to work together to protect and enhance our state's natural resources.

State Senator Rich Draheim (District 22), sen.rich.draheim@senate.mn

State Senator John Jasinski (District 19), sen.john.jasinski@senate.mn

State Senator Bill Lieske (District 58), sen.bill.lieske@senate.mn

State Representative Kristi Pursell (District 58A), rep.kristi.pursell@house.mn.gov

State Representative Brian Daniels (District 19A), rep.brian.daniels@house.mn

Steve Pahs is the District Manager with the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District. Contact Steve with your questions about conservation practices and programs at 507-332-5408.

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District is a subdivision of state government. It is overseen by a five member board of supervisors elected countywide to represent the soil and water conservation needs of the county. The board of supervisors make policy decisions, approve cost-share contracts, and promote soil and water conservation. The mission of the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District is: "To assist land users in the management and conservation of our soil and water resources by means of educational, financial, and technical assistance." Learn more about the District at our website: www.riceswcd.org.

Do You Have a Story Idea?

Email: homeownmessenger@gmail.com

Dundas Messenger

Vol. 1 New

Rice County Taxes Helping with Road Construction, May Not Be Enough

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

With road construction costs rising sharply over the last 24 months, the Rice County Board of Commissioners has reiterated its support for a tax that has helped ensure a smoother ride for motorists in Rice County for nearly a decade.

According to a statement issued by Rice County, the proceeds from the one-half-cent sales tax that was first approved in 2014 help pay for needed county transportation projects.

In all, the tax has brought in more than \$32.5 million, according to county figures. In 2022 alone, the county collected \$4.9 million.

A wheelage tax, which was approved in June 2013, has also helped the county maintain its transportation system. The \$20 annual fee for each vehicle registered in the county has raised nearly \$8.1 million since it was approved.

The tax will remain in place for the foreseeable future, if for no other reason than the rising costs that continue to hamper efforts to make headway on county transportation projects.

County engineer Dennis Luebbe said in the

statement that the cost of reconstructing one mile of rural road, without utilities or streetlights, is just over \$2 million.

In 2021, Minnesota counties saw transportation project costs increase by 25% over the prior year. Luebbe expects he will again see prices significantly higher when bids are opened in the weeks to come. Counties that have already opened bids on this year's proj-

ects are finding costs are 15% over projections.

Luebbe said the cost increases are hindering management of the county's 10-year plan for road construction. While the sales tax has been a great benefit to supplement county resources, he said the development of a plan that fully meets the county's needs is becoming increasingly difficult.

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Rice County had a Quiet Winter

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

Rice County has seen a remarkably quiet winter season. Sheriff Jesse Thomas said, in fact, that in the months of December, January and February, there were no fatal crashes anywhere in the county. That number is both good news, and unexpected, as driving infractions have been sharply on the rise over the last few years.

According to the sheriff there were 800 more traffic stops in Rice County in 2022 than there were in 2021, and the 2021 number was much higher than in 2020. Thomas said despite the decision of many to stay home more during the pandemic, the higher numbers are most likely tied to Covid-19.

"You would think with people staying home and not coming to work, there'd be less traffic. Some people have said that there was less congestion, so you saw higher speed. And then, when people crashed, the injuries were more serious. I couldn't tell you exactly why it happened, but yeah, we had some higher numbers there."

He said the goal of his department and the state of Minnesota is to have zero fatalities on the road over the course of the year. While he believes it is a good goal to have, and is hopeful that it is attainable, a lot of work must be done to get there. Thomas said he preaches proactive enforcement to his patrol deputies, not because he wants more citations issued, but because of public safety.



Jesse Thomas
Rice County Sheriff

Thomas Says Gun Permit Requests are Down

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

Rice County Sheriff Jesse Thomas and Chief Deputy Joe Yetzer said the requests for permits to carry a firearm were down in 2022 from 2021.

Thomas said there were 802 requests for carry permits last year. That is a 50% drop from 2021 when, he said, the county received 1200 such requests.

Chief Deputy Yetzer described the permitting process as fairly straightforward. Those wishing to purchase a firearm must first apply for a permit to purchase from the municipality in which they live, or if they do not live in a municipality, they can apply with the Sheriff's Department. Yetzer said the county will then run a background check to ensure there are no disqualifying actions in their past that would preclude the purchase of a gun.

Every year, he said there are a few people who do not qualify to buy a gun. In those cases, Sheriff Thomas will send them a letter explaining the reason why. After that they have a twenty-day appeal period in which they can address the reason.

Thomas said the appeal process has worked in favor of the applicant in the past.

"Because some people may have had something from 25 years ago that's currently a disqualifier and they've lived a great life since then. They haven't been a drain on society and haven't been doing anything - any criminal activity. They can petition a judge who will review their record and say, 'Yeah, I think at this point in your life, that'd be fine.'"

Once they are cleared to purchase a firearm, they can then apply for a carry permit. Surprisingly, contrary to popular belief, there is no stipulation in Minnesota law that a carried gun must be concealed.

The individual must apply with the local Sheriff's Department, who will then have thirty days to process the request. Applicants must be 21 years old, be a resident of the county in which they are applying and show that they have completed a firearm safety course. Once a permit is issued, the license must be renewed every five years.

Thomas estimated there are currently 5-6,000 licenses to carry in Rice County.

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County Sets Property Tax Appeals Meetings

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

Rice County property owners recently received a Notice of Valuation and Classification for Taxes Payable for 2024. This form provides notification of the market value and classification of a property for assessment for 2023. The property taxes paid in 2024 will be based on that classification.

Listed on the notice are the dates and times of the local Board of Appeal and Equalization, and alternative meetings for 2023. If you believe that your valuation and classification are correct, it is not necessary to contact your assessor and/or attend any of the listed meet-

ings.

If the property information is incorrect, if there is disagreement with the value/classification or if there are questions about the notice, contact the Assessor's Office first at 507-332-6102 to discuss any questions or concerns.

All property owners are invited to attend the Open Book meeting in Faribault to have a one-on-one discussion with the assessor. Often issues can be resolved at this level. The assessor will advise of further appeal rights, if needed.

The County asks that everyone please read the notice carefully for all appeal options. Those who live in a jurisdiction with a Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting (Forest and Wells townships), must start with that Local board before advancing to the

County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

For more information on county meetings, visit the Rice County website.

The schedule for the meetings is as follows:
Open Book Meeting • 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, April 12 at the Rice County Government Services Building, 302 Third St. NW, Faribault

Local Boards of Appeal and Equalization
9 a.m. Thursday, April 13 in the Forest Township Hall, April 13 at Forest Township Hall, 3625 Millersburg Boulevard, Faribault.

9 a.m. Friday, April 14 in the Wells Township Hall, 18400 Roberds Lake Boulevard, Faribault Rice County Board of Appeal and Equalization

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 14 at the Rice County Government Services Building, 302 Third St. NW, Faribault

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DUNDAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Monday, March 13, 2023 7:00 p.m. City Hall

Present: Councilors Ashley Gallagher, Luke LaCroix, Grant Modory, Luke Swartwood
Absent: Mayor Glenn Switzer

Staff: City Engineer Dustin Tipp, City Administrator/Clerk Jenelle Teppen

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Modory called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC FORUM – No public presentation to the Council

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Swartwood, second by LaCroix, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Regular Minutes of February 27, 2023;

Resolution 2023-08 A Resolution Authorizing Signatory Power and Authority to Open Accounts;

Disbursements - \$206,212.04. MCU

OLD BUSINESS – No old business brought before Council.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS – No ordinances or resolutions brought before Council

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Receiving Quote and Awarding a Contract for Street Sweeping for 2023 and 2024

Administrator Teppen reported on advertisement for quotes and indicated that Sanford Services, LLC was the only quote received. Sanford has held the contract for street sweeping for at least four consecutive years.

Motion by Gallagher, second by Swartwood to award a contract to Sanford Services, LL for Street Sweeping for 2023 and 2024. MCU

Consider Appointing Abigail Guthrie to part-time Administrative Assistant Position.

Teppen reported on the process to recruit and interview for this position.

Motion by Swartwood, second by LaCroix to appoint Abigail Guthrie to the position of part-time Administrative Assistant. MCU

Consider Approving ECRT Parking Lot and Dog Park Relocation Concept Plan

City Engineer Tipp reported that the City Council reviewed the concept plan at their Work Session on February 27, 2023. Tipp has indicated on the plan an additional gate on the north side, and where a water source and porta-potty locations would be.

Motion by LaCroix, second by Gallagher to approve the ECRT Parking Lot and Dog Park Concept Plan. MCU.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

City Engineer – Dustin Tipp

Tipp reminded the City Council that the Pavement Management Plan – Funding Options discussion will take place in a Work Session on March 27, 2023.

City Administrator/Clerk - Jenelle Teppen

Nothing to report

Mayor, Councilors and Committees

Nothing to report

ADJOURN

Motion by LaCroix, second by Swartwood, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jenelle Teppen, City Administrator/City Clerk

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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Dyers Creek



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.

Dyers Creek. I drive past it quite often near our place in Tennessee. We have went kayaking up and down it numerous times. It is very quiet in the evenings and we enjoy the cranes that hunt for fish at the water's edge and the deer that come to the bank to get a drink as we slip silently by. Fish break the surface of the water around the kayak. I always thought it would be interesting to have one hop in the kayak. Much more manageable than a water snake.

We use the boat launch there to put the boat into the Cumberland River. The river is shallow and narrow and one must be careful not to run the prop into the mud right where it meets the mighty Cumberland. Like every place in Tennessee it has over two centuries of history to tell if you look and listen.

Stewart County was first settled by pioneers from North Carolina, who arrived around 1795. The military granted up to 1,500 acres to survivors if the Continental War from 1795 to 1805 and many took advantage of the offer. A party of surveyors arrived first to run the lines of land tracts. One night while the eight men were camped along what is now Dyers Creek, they were attacked by Indians and four of the group were killed. One of the surveyors, Thomas French, escaped the ambush but did return later to claim property. The settlers built two story log house-forts to help protect from the Indian attacks since most of the indigenous people there were very hostile. Up until 1812 the militia made patrols up and down the Tennessee River to protect the settlers from Indian raids.

Some of the locals relate that the name was

a result of the surveyors being left to die after the Indian attack. I soon learned that spelling and pronunciation is not a strong point with long-time Tennessee residents. Dyers Creek was named after Robert Henry Dyer who was a cavalry colonel in the War of 1812 and the 1818 Seminole War. He settled in the area and later became a Tennessee state senator.

Wildlife was available to feed the early settlers in the Tennessee woodlands and game of every description could be found in abundance. Judge James Scarborough lived along Dyers Creek and related a story that happened about 1807. The Judge and his sons left the farm to attend court while his wife, Mary remained at home to tend the livestock. The county seat was some distance and it was necessary to remain overnight. During the evening a large black bear was detected prowling around the place and got in amongst the pigs. The dogs were set on it and the bear climbed a tree by the house. By this time it was dark and Mrs. Scarborough could not distinguish the form of the bruin in the tree so she built a large fire under the tree and waited through the night in vigil. When the morning came, she took her husband's rifle and killed the bear and proceeded to skin it.

In the early days of the settlements there were very few stores in the area. Many supplies came from New Orleans and were brought up the river in Keel Boats powered by hand. They would bring dry goods up the rivers and exchange for furs, skins and other produce. It took a full six months to make a round trip.

In 1804 Mason Bennett opened a general merchandise store at his house and also sold whisky. Most of the early 1800 accounts of merchants were of men who opened a tavern at their house. Due to the extremely hilly terrain and plentiful rivers in Tennessee, most travel was by water and most settlements were along the river. As more settlers arrived and started businesses, many small towns sprang up throughout the state. The Dover Hotel was built on the banks of the Cumberland River in the mid 1850's and is still standing, thanks mostly because it was the location of the signing of the surrender between the Union General Grant and Confederate General Buckner after the Battle of Fort Donelson. It served as the General's headquarters and a hospital during the battle. After the war it continued as a hotel until the 1930's.



A Minnesotan: Second Winter



By RosaLin Alcoser

Seasons in Minnesota, and the rest of the Midwest, and wild. You've got Per-Witner, Winter, False Spring, Second Winter, maybe Spring, construction season- also known as Summer, and Fall.

False Spring came early to Minnesota this year, I think. If memory serves me correctly it normally does not get into the mid

40s during February. I feel like that is an early March thing most years.

Honestly having that nice of weather in February was excellent. We did not need our coats and could go outside and enjoy being there without freezing.

I fully realize that there are plenty of Minnesotans that enjoy going outside in the winter when it's cold to do things like ski, snow shoe, and snowmobile. I however am not one of those people. Between late November and early April I take to being an indoor person.

With the exception of false Spring. Then I am outside along with all of the rest of the Minnesotans to enjoy the short window of nice weather while we have it.

But alas like all false Springs it came and went in a matter of a week or two. Now we embark into the second Winter.

After all, we already had our first Winter. It's high time that we had a second Winter before we either get adult Spring or skip over the season completely and go straight to Summer.

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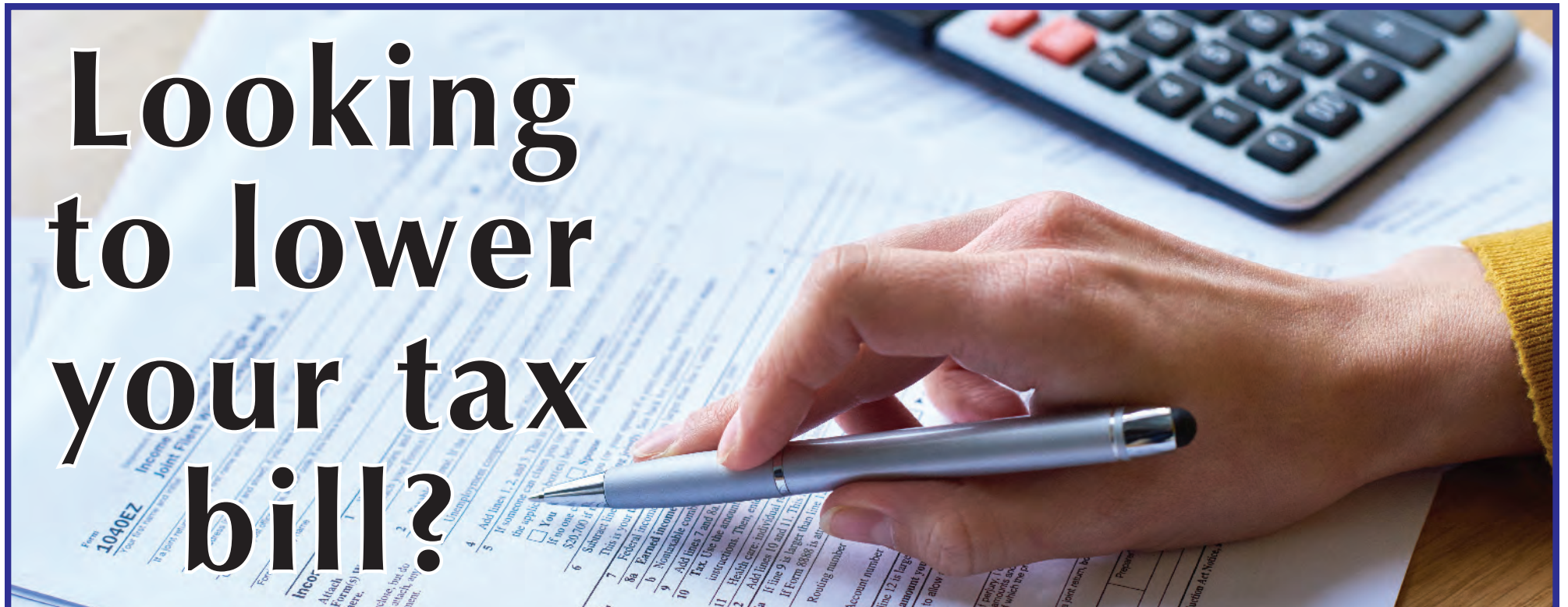
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