

Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

Friday, April 13, 2018
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Town Crier
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Community Showcase to be held Saturday

The St. Joseph Community Showcase, sponsored by the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 14 at Kennedy Community School, 1300 Jade Road, St. Joseph. Local retail, commercial, educational and service organizations will have booths to visit. Food, entertainment, including a drone presentation and Freedom Flight, along with children's games and crafts will also be featured.

Empty Bowls set April 14 at new St. Cloud location

Empty Bowls, sponsored by Place of Hope, will be held from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, April 14 at its new location at City Hope Church, 413 Franklin Ave. NE, St. Cloud. This soup feed and silent auction benefits Place of Hope Ministries and Anne's Meal Fund which provides more than 7,200 meals a month to those in need. The event includes music, craft vendors and soup, bread and desserts from area restaurants as well as a homemade bowl to take home thanks to Art as You Like It and Central Minnesota Woodcrafters. For more information, visit placeofhopeministries.org.

Newsleader names bunny winners

Bunny winners in the Newsleader Easter bunny giveaway include the following: Local Blend: Adam Hoffmann; Once Upon A Child: Terri Woods, St. Cloud; PineCone Vision Center: Lisa Spoden, Sartell; and St. Joseph Meat Market: Owen Widneier, St. Joseph.

Make a difference in the world

Help girls understand what it means to be a leader who makes a difference in the world. Guide girls through Girl Scouts in ACTION Investigation Awaits! after-school program. This seven-week series offers volunteers the chance to help girls explore the world around them through hands-on, interactive activities. The spring series begins the week of March 19 and takes place at multiple school and nonprofit partner sites throughout central Minnesota. Contact Becky Reynolds, Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines, at 320-247-4561.

Peterson announces bid for mayor

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Long-time Sartell City Council member David Peterson announced Tuesday he intends to file for mayor in the Nov. 6 general election.



Peterson

Sarah Jane Nicoll is the current Sartell mayor.

On that day, voters will decide three positions on the council: mayor, Peterson's seat and Pat Lynch's seat. The other council members are Mike Chisum and Ryan Fitzthum, both elected in the last election.

All open positions are for four-year terms. If there are more than two candidates for a

position, a primary election in August will narrow the slate to two candidates.

Peterson said he had been thinking off and on about the possibility of vying for the mayor position. Since his council seat will be over this year, he decided why not try for the mayor's position?

A 12-year council member, Peterson was first elected to his first of three terms in 2006. He is employed at the St. Cloud VA Health Care System in its human resources office and is also an attorney and a member of the Minnesota National Guard. He served two tours of duty overseas, one in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan. In the latter country, he used his legal skills to teach the rule of law to judges, prosecutors and police

Mayor • page 5

Sartell man grows 'turkey tree'



contributed photo

Todd Fritz of Sartell recently noticed something different growing from his tree this year compared to other seasons. He states, "Even though I don't think we will ever get apples this year, our turkey tree seems to be doing well. Some of the ripe ones have already fallen from the tree."

2017 audit: Sartell in 'excellent' fiscal shape

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The city of Sartell is in excellent fiscal shape, according to an audit summary delivered to the city council at its April 9 meeting.

Steve Wischmann, a certified public accountant for the firm of BerganKDV, used the word "excellent" repeatedly in outlining the results of the audit for fiscal year 2017.

As in previous years, Sartell received the highest level possible, described as a "clean audit."

Among the salient points of the audit:

- There was a healthy result in tax capacity (5 percent increase) and in the tax levy (up 5.5 percent from the year before.)
- The general revenue fund increased by \$244,000 from 2016 to 2017, for a total of \$6,633,000, with a \$270,000 increase in property-tax revenue.
- Spending increased by \$272,000 from the previous year, up about 5.2 percent. Total expenditures were \$5,516,000.
- Sartell received a small amount in local government aid in 2017, only \$147,000.
- The city's fund balance

grew by \$340,000.

Sartell, once again, was the lowest city for property taxes among the five cities in the greater St. Cloud area.

"Those are very good numbers," said Wischmann, referring to his report's highlights.

He praised the city staff for good communication in working through the auditing process, with special praise for Sartell City Administrator Mary Degiovanni and for Heidi Ostlie, the city's new financial director.

Ostlie, Wischmann said, has relieved Degiovanni of much of the financial work she had done in previous years

when she was doubling up as administrator and financial director. In previous audits, it was noted Sartell should do more to segregate accounting duties by having more than one person do them. With the hiring of Ostlie, great progress has been made toward that goal, Wischmann noted.

"It's good you have Heidi on board to help out," he said. "She did a very, very good job and hit the ground running."

Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll thanked Wischmann for his presentation.

"And kudos to staff," she said.

Sartell man recalls Dr. King's funeral



photo by Dennis Dalman

The Rev. Dr. Jack Eichhorst and wife Judy have enjoyed an extremely active life together working on behalf of the Word of God and the gospel messages of love and kindness. Now retired, they live in the Waterford Apartments in Sartell.

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Rev. Dr. Jack Eichhorst of Sartell met the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. long before that towering civil-rights leader became famous, and he was in Atlanta when the murdered King was put to rest 50 years ago.

On Jan. 1, 1960, Eichhorst, along with other students, met and talked with King when he visited an International Missions meeting at the University of Ohio. At the time, Eichhorst was a student at Luther Semi-

nary in St. Paul. He and other students drove to the Ohio conference where King was a guest speaker.

"After his talk, about 12 to 15 of us went forward to talk with him," Eichhorst recalled. "At that time, he was not known nationally. We stood there amazed because King told us how he had forgiven a woman who tried to kill him. It happened some months before before his talk in Ohio. The woman approached him and then stabbed him in the chest with a knife. He later learned

King • page 8

In business

People

Coborn's Inc. has hired its fourth supermarket registered dietitian to support the nutrition needs of its guests and employees.



Brannan

Becca Brannan joined the Coborn's team April 2. She comes to the company from CentraCare Heart and Vascular Center at St. Cloud Hospital where she was a registered dietitian.

Prior to her role at CentraCare, Brannan completed 1,200 hours of supervised practice experience at several organizations across southwest Wisconsin. She provided medical nutrition therapy to patients at Winona (Minn.) Health, as well as Hillview Health Care Center and Gunderson Health System in La Crosse, Wis. Through her supervised practice experience,

Brannan was also involved with community health outreach at about a dozen organizations, including Festival Foods in Onalaska, Wis., where she gave grocery store tours and highlighted better-for-you options to customers. She comes to Coborn's with experience providing nutrition information to diverse audiences, designing and evaluating nutritional-education programs, facilitating presentations and cooking demonstrations for people with certain health conditions and composing information for social-media sites.

Brannan graduated from Viterbo University in La Crosse. Brannan is currently enrolled at North Dakota State University where she is expecting to earn her master's degree in nutrition in December.



contributed photo

Owner Allan Karki and agent Michele Castellano at Alloy Insurance.

ProGrowth now Alloy Insurance; change of name not ownership

ProGrowth Insurance Agency changed its name to Alloy Insurance on April 1. **Allan Karki**, owner of the independent insurance agency, changed the name but not his ownership, staff or offerings.

"For many years, I've wanted a company name that reflects the strength and advantage of our local insurance agency," Karki said. "I finally found the right fit with Alloy, which illustrates how we person-

alize coverage from multiple sources to find both cost savings and quality protection for our customers."

After the name change, customers won't experience any change beyond contact information, including a new website at AlloyInsured.com and new emails associated with the new domain. Ownership, staff members, phone numbers and service offerings will remain the same.

Samuel Jarnot, an Oak Ridge Elementary School teacher, was named the winner of Barnes & Noble's My Favorite Teacher contest. He was nominated by Caden Larson and he will be honored at the St. Cloud store. Students nominated their favorite teacher by writing essays, poems or thank-you letters that shared how their teacher had influenced their life and why they appreciated and admired their teacher.

Seven Sartell students were chosen as winners of the local Minnesota Music Teachers Association Piano Contest, which was held Jan 20 at St. Benedict College. Select students were invited to compete again on March 10 and 11 at the University of Minnesota and will perform in the Honors Concert on June 10 at the Minneapolis Convention Center Auditorium.

The winners include: **Levi Gould**, Junior A; **Caeley Anderson**, Junior B; **Grace Dauer**, Junior B; **Allie Engel**, Intermediate A; **Amber Pietrowski**, Intermediate B; **Salma Maray**, Intermediate B; **Elaine Lo**, Senior Young Artist.

Five Sartell students were chosen as alternates and some of them will participate in the Honors Concert. Alternates include: **Lia Siemens**, Junior A; **Rebecca Loberg**, Intermediate B; **Kelli Loscheider**, Intermediate B; **Anthony Berndt**, Junior Young Artist; **Ethan Berndt**, Senior Young Artist.

Lindsey Hoeschen of Sartell has been named to the dean's list for fall semester at the College of St. Benedict. Hoeschen is a freshman.

To be included on the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of at least 3.8 and have completed 12 credits.

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Blotter

If you have a tip concerning a crime, call the Sartell Police Department at 320-251-8186 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301, or access its tip site at tricountycrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime. This information is submitted by the Sartell Police Department.

March 28

10:17 a.m. Domestic in progress. 14th Avenue E. Officers were dispatched to a local business for a report of a female client who was irate and yelling at her significant other. While enroute, officers were notified the woman slapped the man she was yelling at and then left in a white sport utility vehicle. Officers found the SUV on CR 29 and stopped it. The woman was semi-cooperative with officers and was taken into custody. The woman could be charged with domestic assault.

March 29

2:18 a.m. Fire. Wyoming Court. Officers were dispatched to a report of an electrical smell. Officers arrived and smelled smoke in the residence. Officers observed a fire had started in the hot-water heater. Officers disconnected power to the heater and ran cold water through the tank. The top panel of the tank was removed and no sign of damage was observed. Officers cleared the call after the house

was ventilated.

March 30

9:22 p.m. DWI. 1575 Amber Ave. S. Officers were dispatched to an apartment complex for a report of a person in the front seat of a running vehicle slumped over. An officer found a running vehicle parked in a parking stall. As the officer approached the driver's side of the vehicle, the officer observed a woman slumped across the center console of the vehicle. The officer woke the woman and immediately observed signs of heavy intoxication. The woman failed a field sobriety test and was arrested. The woman could be charged with second-degree DWI after completing a breath test at the police station. She was taken to Stearns County Jail.

March 31

9:25 a.m. Alarm. 19th Avenue N. Officers were dispatched to a residence for a report of an audible burglary alarm. Officers checked the perimeter of the residence and observed no footprints in the snow. All exterior doors were secure. Officers contacted a neighbor who advised no one was observed entering or leaving the home overnight and the homeowners were away on vacation. Officers made contact with the homeowners by phone and advised them of the alarm.

April 1

7:16 p.m. Drug parapherna-

lia. Amber Avenue S. Officers were dispatched for a report of a marijuana smell coming from an apartment. Officers attempted a knock at the door and observed drug paraphernalia through a window. After no one came to the door, officers received and executed a search warrant. Inside the apartment, officers found drug paraphernalia and stolen property. The stolen property was seized and returned to its rightful owner. A man was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and receiving stolen property. He was taken to Stearns County Jail.

April 2

3:42 p.m. Medical. Sartell. An officer was dispatched to a report of a 71-year-old man experiencing chest pain and difficulty breathing. The officer arrived, provided oxygen and monitored the man's condition until Gold Cross Ambulance arrived on scene. The man was transported to St. Cloud Hospital.

April 3

8:05 a.m. Medical. 1105 Central Park Boulevard. Officers were dispatched to a medical near Pinecone Central Park for a juvenile with extreme abdominal pain. An officer arrived and found the child on a school bus in the parking lot of the park. The child's guardian arrived and the officer received medical history. After an assessment was completed, the child was taken to the doctor by the guardian.

Sartell school district posts annual survey

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district will conduct its annual survey to help define and measure excellence in programs and services from Wednesday, April 18, through Wednesday, April 25.

"The information gathered from the survey guides the district in continuous improvement efforts," said Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent.

The survey is designed for both families and community members and will be available online between Wednesday, April 18, and Wednesday, April 25, via a link on the district website, www.sartell.k12.mn.us.

Paper copies are also available by mail or in person. Contact the District Service Center at 320-656-3701 for more information. Survey results will be available via the school district website.

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Sartell opts solar for some electricity

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The city of Sartell will save an estimated \$651,000 on its electric bill over a 25-year period because of a solar-energy subscription agreement the city council approved unanimously at its last meeting.

During that 25-year period, the city will pay an accumulated total of \$2.137 million for the subscription. That amount, minus the estimated \$2.788 million in energy costs equals the savings to the city.

The subscription agreement with New Energy Equity is for the purchase of 700,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, about 40 percent of that the city currently uses, about 180,000 kilowatt hours per year. Sartell had the option of subscribing to anywhere from 100,000 to the full 180,000 kilowatt hours, but the council decided to go with 40 percent of the total just to be on the safe side since it's a new venture.

A kilowatt hour is a measure of electrical energy equivalent to a continuous power consumption of 1,000 watts for one hour.

The solar energy for the Sartell subscription will be generated by a "solar garden" in the Melrose area. For about two years, the Sartell City Council had planned on solar generation from a solar farm to be installed near Heritage Drive, an agreement made with a firm called SolarStone. That arrangement, however, fell through because of a complicated maze of difficulties involving permit processes and such. Thus, the council had to go back to the drawing board with other options.

Many other cities have opted for solar-energy subscriptions, not only to save on electricity costs but to help protect the environment from emissions of carbon-based fuels, such as coal-fired electric plants.

What's a solar garden?

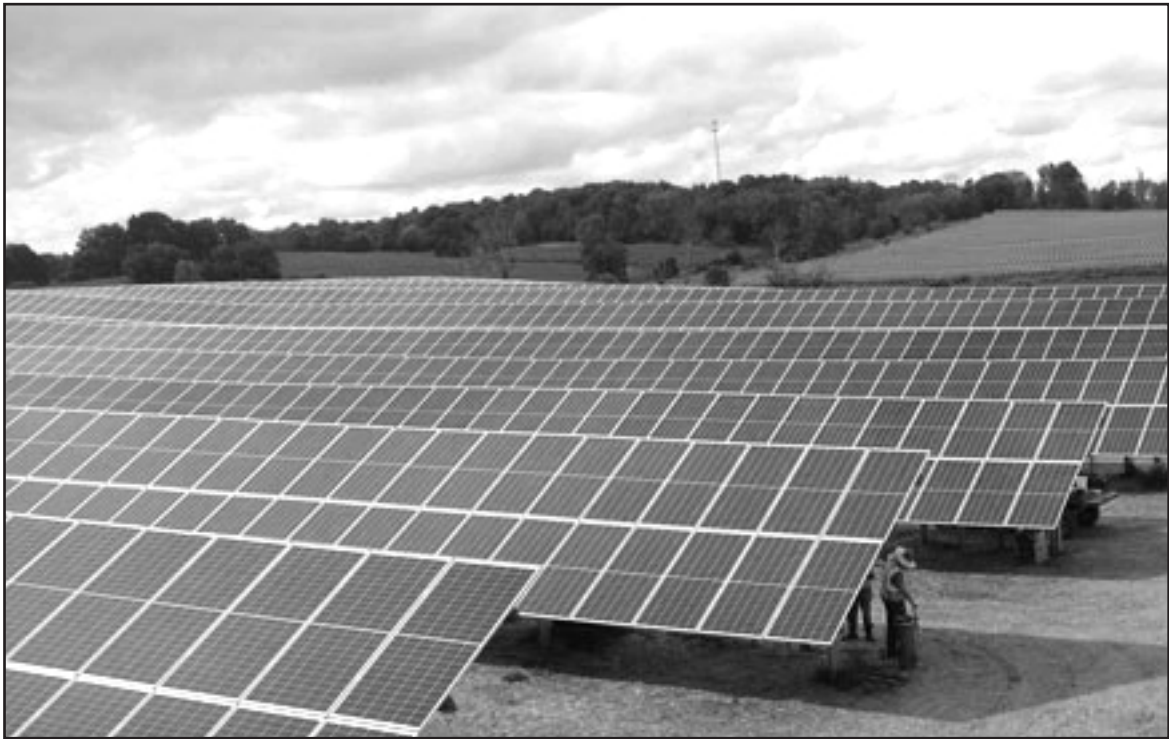
Solar gardens are solar photovoltaic systems that produce electricity for participating subscribers, a way for Minnesotans to benefit from solar power without having to install their own stand-alone project.

Many, including cities, can subscribe to solar projects owned by their utility providers. Customers served by Xcel Energy, such as the City of Sartell, can subscribe to privately owned solar-generated projects, such as the one in the Melrose area in the Sartell agreement.

Residents in central Minnesota have become increasingly aware of "solar gardens" (or "solar farms") on the landscape. Large areas of solar panels installed in long rows to soak up the sun's energy and convert it through photovoltaic cells into electricity. Just east of the Evergreen Village mobile-home park in east Sartell is a recently installed solar garden that provides a certain amount of electricity to LeSauk Township and to Sauk Rapids.

Other energy options

At its last meeting, besides approving a solar subscription, the council members also made a few decisions about other energy-saving options for the city that had been under consideration during the past year.



contributed photo

This is a typical solar garden, one of many being assembled throughout Minnesota. This particular one is near St. Joseph.

At the last council meeting, two officials from Apex Clean Energy (headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia) were present to answer any questions.

The council did agree unanimously to retrofit all the city-owned street lights with LED bulbs. There are close to 500 light poles in the city, including at city hall and at the Bernick's Arena area, that will be retrofitted. The energy savings for doing so would be about \$14,000 annually, guaranteed. LED street-lamp bulbs have a life expectancy of from 10 to 15 years and possibly up to even 20 years, an Apex official noted.

About half of the city light poles will be replaced as they are in rather shabby condition.

The council decided to skip any solar-garden projects for the city for the time being, even though they are open to them in the future as technology becomes even better. A solar garden on the roof of the new high school has been considered, the council learned, but it is not yet a definite "go." Structural analysis of the school must be completed first, said an Apex official.

Other energy-saving projects that have been discussed at previous council meetings will remain

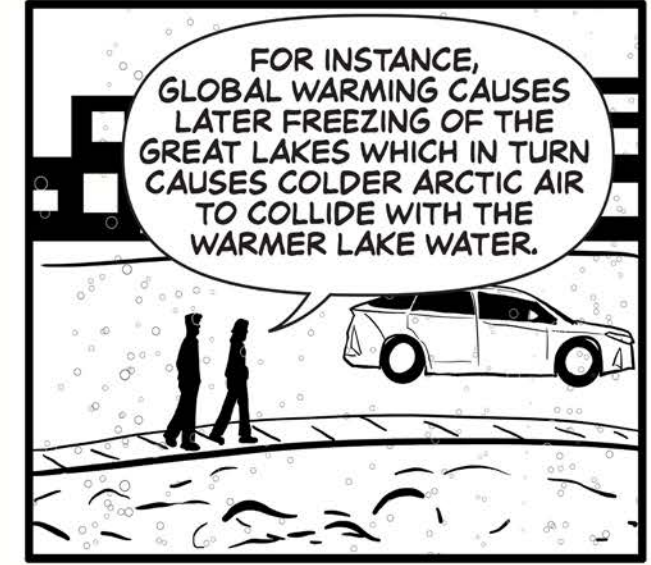
options for the council, but they will be considered in upcoming meetings one by one.

Such projects include water-saving options such as putting energy "envelopes" around public buildings (ways to seal cracks against heat loss); and replacement of all old-fashioned water meters in the city with ones that are so high-tech they emit radio waves that provide an astounding amount of data about water usage at each meter place. Those and other energy- and water-saving options will be discussed at council meetings during the rest of this year and beyond.

Bennie & Johnny



by the Marvelous Patric



Water-pipe repairs planned for Celebration

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A study will be done regarding city plans to do repairs in parts of the Celebration neighborhood in Sartell where water problems in a few parts of the neighborhood are severe, causing erosion and slippery-surface issues.

The “fix” will require drainage and alley-surface overlays, as well as some turf restoration. Curb-and-gutter will have to be replaced in some areas.

Jon Halter, Sartell city engineer, said the water problem is caused by cracked pipes, and in a few areas water is running across the ground constantly. About 200 feet of pipe, all told, is causing the water problem in a three to four block area.

The Sartell City Council

approved the study at a recent meeting. The vote was unanimous, although council member David Peterson raised concerns about the repairs perhaps setting a precedent.

Will the city, he asked, assess all of the costs to the affected property owners, or just part of the cost? The water issues, he said, appear to have been caused by the fault of that neighborhood’s builder, not road problems, so why should the city be responsible for repairs?, Peterson said. And what about east Sartell?, he added, noting some of its crumbling roads have long needed repairs.

City Administrator Mary Degiovanni said each neighborhood’s streets or other problems are repaired on a schedule and that assessments are based on studies, includ-

ing the ones needed for the Celebration neighborhood. Because of the constant water problem, an urgent situation exists. Some neighbors have been running sump pumps nearly non-stop.

City staff hosted a meeting Jan. 18 for Celebration residents and about 25 attended, most of them favoring a city fix for the problem, Degiovanni noted.

Repairs would be paid for by the city’s sewer fund, she added.

A cost assessment will be prepared, assessments will be determined, and the council will make the final decision as to whether to have the city fix the problem.

The study will be done by Short Elliot Hendrickson, the city’s contracted engineering firm.

Mayor

from front page

officers.

Peterson said he is deeply concerned about economic stability in Sartell. Two crises, he said, were reminders to the city of how precarious economic stability can be – the explosion and shutting down of the city’s paper mill, which was an economic bedrock; and the nationwide recession that began in 2008. Both, he said, were ongoing concerns.

He added that fortunately teamwork saved the day – teamwork by the council, the city departments, the city employees, the city administrator/financial director and others. Working together, they tightened the budget, kept things in check, and their teamwork, Peterson added, was rewarded with a series of glowing reports annually from an independent financial auditor. If elected mayor, Peterson said he wants to help maintain those strengths.

He is also a strong believer in partnerships with other entities, such as the school system, other cities and service organizations.

“The goal,” he said, “is the best bang for the dollar for the residents. As a team, we have to work together with foresight as to how to move forward. One person can’t do that alone. It must be a team. Teamwork.”

Infrastructure needs are an ongoing challenge, Peterson said, adding it’s sometimes very difficult to choose one road over another for construc-

tion and/or repair. And once a road is built or improved, there is always the cost, which tends to be expensive, of maintaining those roads, not to mention the water and sewer systems.

Born in Brainerd, Peterson grew up in Fargo, N.D. He moved to the St. Cloud area 14 years ago to work in the Stearns County Attorney’s Office. For years, he and his family lived on the east side of Sartell but moved about a year ago to the west side, near the site of the new high school. His son, Devon, 17, will be among the last class to graduate from the “old” high school; his daughter, Lauren, 16, will be in the first class to graduate from the new high school.

Kristina, Peterson’s wife, works as a paraprofessional in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district.

What Peterson likes best about Sartell is its “sense of community.

“It’s all the people who make up the city,” he said. “That sense of community shines through. It’s an intrinsic value that can be seen by people who visit Sartell. It can be seen even in all the people enjoying the city’s trails.”

Peterson does not plan a big campaign kickoff. He said he does plan, however, to meet as many city residents as possible and to find out what’s on their minds.

Peterson said he enjoys doing hobbies with his family – fishing, boating, “a bit of golf.”

His children are very active in sports – Devon in hockey and tennis, Lauren in year-round figure-skating.

Council approves new cell-phone tower

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Another telecommunications tower for cell-phone use will be raised in Sartell, as approved by the Sartell City Council at its March 26 meeting.

After a public hearing, the council voted to grant a conditional-use permit for the tower on a 4-0 vote. Sartell Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll was not at the meeting.

The 150-foot-tall tower, a

project of Verizon Wireless, will be constructed on agricultural property near CR 4, a property owned by Sartell resident Glen Lauer.

The tower will be built with room for two other telecommunications options for other companies should those needs arise.

The reason for the tower, according to a representative from Verizon, is a coverage gap in the western part of Sartell.

Council member Mike Chi-

sum said he would like to ask the company a courtesy, that a light be installed on the bottom of the tower for safety reasons, to warn snowmobilers and such at night.

The other council members disagreed, they said the resolution should be passed as is with no requests added. Member Ryan Fitzthum said there would be no need for such a light, especially when so many Sartell residents have expressed strong opposition to “light pollution.”

Fitzthum wants school safety committee

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell City Council member Ryan Fitzthum wants to start a committee that can explore proactive ways to promote school safety and to prevent school violence.

Fitzthum raised that issue at the March 12 City Council meeting.

Citing the recent tragedies of school shootings, Fitzthum said that Sartell schools and

the police department have done a “phenomenal” job in securing school safety. However, Fitzthum said he believes the community discussion should continue with lots of input from the schools, the police department and Sartell residents.

“We want to be sure we are all backing that (school safety) so that it’s not just a school issue but a community issue,” Fitzthum told the council.

Fitzthum said he has raised

the issue with the school superintendent, the chair of the school board and city staff.

“We’re looking for the best way to move the conversation forward,” he said.

The school and city, Fitzthum suggested, should start thinking about forming a joint committee in which all good ideas and suggestions (a “public conversation”) could be shared and implemented to reinforce safety in the schools.

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St. Joseph, MN • May 19th, 2018

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SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018

ST. JOSEPH, MN

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9:30 a.m.- 5k Run/Walk/Wheel

10:30 a.m.- Kids 1k Fun Run

11 a.m.- Awards Ceremony

*Food and beverage vendors on site.

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Register before April 27, 2018 to be guaranteed a shirt.

Anjum returns from GeoBee state competition



contributed photo
Yazaan Anjum (middle) receives his awards after winning the GeoBee contest at Oak Ridge Elementary School. At right is his academic extensions adviser, Lori Dornburg. At left is Gopi Ramanathan of Sartell, who won the state GeoBee contest twice and who competed in the national competition twice. Ramana-
than is now a student at Cornell University.

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Yazaan Anjum’s disappointment quickly turns into hope when he remembers he has three more years, three more tries at the Geography Bee.

Anjum, a Sartell fifth-grader, is one of 100 Minnesota students who competed in the State National Geographic Bee April 6 at Mankato State University. Yazaan is the son of Shakeel and Zurya Anjum.

In a preliminary round, he correctly answered seven questions but missed the eighth, which could have propelled him into the final round.

The question he missed was, “What is the national bird of Panama?” Correct answer: harpy eagle.

“I kind of got a little disappointed,” Anjum said. “But there will be three more GeoBees when I’m in grades six, seven and eight, so I’ll have three more chances.”

Last year, Anjum was the GeoBee champ at Oak Ridge El-

ementary School. This year, he attends Sartell Middle School, and his GeoBee advisor is Lori Dornburg, the school’s academic extensions coordinator. She and Yazaan’s mother accompanied him to the competition in Mankato.

Most of the GeoBee state competitors were seventh- and eighth-graders. There were only five fifth-graders competing among the grade levels, which was a bit intimidating for Anjum and the other younger students.

“Big kids were sitting next to me,” he said. “When questions were asked, I’d stand up and give the answers into a microphone.”

Yazaan was disappointed his father couldn’t come to the GeoBee. A physician for Centra-Care, he had to work that day.

“If I’m in it again next year, then my father will be able to come, too,” he said.

The GeoBee covers a vast spectrum of knowledge of the world, including connections between history, culture, polit-

ical realities and world-place locations.

Anjum gave some examples: In Tehran, women were arrested for wearing casual, Western style clothing. In what country is Tehran? Answer: Iran.

Because of political instability, Venezuela had to close the airport in its capital city. What city is its capital? Answer: Caracas.

Anjum knew the answers to those questions. Not surprisingly, his favorite school subjects are history and social studies.

There is another “winner” in the Anjum family, Yazaan’s sister, Sumbla, of who he is very proud. Sumbla, an eighth-grader, will compete in the state Academic Triathlon competition in Woodbury in a couple of weeks.

The GeoBee

Now in its 30th year, the National Geographic Geography Bee program takes place at the local and state levels, with the culminating National Bee held in Washington, D.C.

In previous years, a Sartell student, Gopi Ramanathan was twice a Minnesota champion and twice a competitor in the national competition. Anjum has had several conversations about the GeoBee with Ramana-
than, who is now a student at Cornell University.

The Bee is open for students in grades four through eight. About 500 Minnesota schools are registered to participate each year in the GeoBee.

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photo by Mike Knaak
Ted and Trish Blonigen share their Sartell home with two greyhounds, Lucy (left) and Lily.

These retired, four-legged athletes need a home

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Trish and Ted Blonigen would like to introduce you to some retired athletes – four-legged athletes that is.

The Sartell couple shares their home with two greyhounds that were once racers but now, like most retirees, just want some love and a soft place to lie down.

Trish shares her love of the breed by doing meet-and-greet sessions at PetSmart and other locations to help introduce prospective pet owners to the gentle, affectionate dogs.

In addition to two greyhounds, Lily and Lucy, the Blonigenes’ household includes sons Tanner, 16, and Cole, 15, and two cats.

When greyhounds’ racing days are over, they are usually 2 to 5 years old. But they still have many years ahead with the dogs living to age 12 to 15.

“They have a lot of life in them, but if they slow down a fraction of a second they are retired for being too slow,” Trish said.

Trish’s meet-and-greet sessions focus on teaching about the breed and dispelling misconceptions.

“People don’t think about adopting greyhounds because they don’t know about them,” she said. “They don’t see them at the humane society or pet

shop.”

People think greyhounds take a lot of time, need exercising and they are a huge undertaking, Trish said. But actually, greyhounds are docile, calm indoor dogs. Trish described her dogs like “big cats.” They are calm and don’t bark, she said.

Greyhounds are short-haired dogs with a low percentage of body fat; they do require a coat and boots for extended time outdoors in the winter.

Although greyhounds accelerate quickly to speeds as fast as 45 mph, they are sprinters, not distance runners. And that sprinter instinct can get them into trouble.

If left outside off a leash, a greyhound will take off. Because it’s used to running on the track, it will just keep running and end up far from home.

Greyhounds don’t make good watchdogs. They will bark at strangers but that’s because they are excited, not threatened.

The family learned about greyhounds when they visited a booth featuring the breed at the Renaissance Festival 12 years ago. They had a Dalmatian, but that dog turned out to be a bad fit for the family. When their sons were old enough, the family adopted its first greyhounds.

To insure a smooth adoption, Trish recommends working with a group such as Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption in

Coon Rapids. Northern Lights currently charges \$375 for an adoption, according to its website.

The adoption process takes about six weeks and the greyhound meets the entire family, including other family pets. The greyhound is “cat tested” to make sure it will get along with the family cat(s). The family’s children must be at least 5 years old so they are safe around the rather large dogs, which stand more than 2 feet tall and so the children know how to treat an animal.

Greyhounds spend their racing lives in the company of other dogs and they are sociable by nature.

Before the animal is placed, the ex-racers are neutered or spayed, have their shots updated, get a computer chip and a veterinarian checkup.

At the track, trainers let greyhounds go outside their kennels to relieve themselves. So they have been trained to go outside and keep their kennels clean. At their new home, the dog learns the house is its kennel and outside it goes to relieve itself.

There are sometimes unexpected transition issues though. They don’t know how to climb stairs and they aren’t familiar with glass doors such as patio doors.

“You have to put stickers on the doors,” Ted said.

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King

from front page

the tip of the knife was right against his heart’s aorta. He told us, ‘If I had coughed, I would not be here.’”

Eichhorst asked King if he would be willing to come to Luther Seminary to give a talk. King referred Eichhorst to his assignments assistant, but King later became so busy with his civil-rights work he was unable to make the trip to St. Paul.

“I had always been interested in civil rights,” said Eichhorst, now 83, who grew up on a farm near Washburn, N.D.

“There was not even one black person where I was growing up,” he said. “I never saw a black person until later.”

Eichhorst had a long and distinguished career as a teacher and pastor, including a doctorate degree from Yale University, study in Germany and a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship. He was also a teacher in research development at St. John’s University. While there he was instrumental, along with a priest, in opening up a longtime dialogue between Catholics and Protestants, something that had long been frowned upon because of entrenched theolog-

ical rigidities. Eichhorst said he is very proud of having helped start that ecumenical dialogue.

Early on, fresh out of high school, it was while studying at the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis that Eichhorst decided “to find the will of God for my life.”

While teaching in Albert Lea, Eichhorst became the advisor for the Afro-American Student League and began to gather a myriad of insights into the black experience in the United States, including the cruelties and crimes, including lynchings, in the American South and elsewhere.

While at Yale University, he knew many of the young-student Freedom Riders – mostly white students who would travel to the South and help with black-voter registration and social-help programs for impoverished black people. Three of those Freedom Riders – two white men and a black man – were abducted and shot to death by white thugs in Mississippi, a crime that caused worldwide shock waves and helped bring attention to the prejudice, hatred and violence that were seething as blacks demonstrated for their rights and then began to act upon those rights by voting.

It was while Eichhorst was

teaching at the college in Albert Lea when he got a phone call from his wife, Judy, to tell him the horrifying news: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.

Eichhorst immediately met with black students, and they made plans for a big memorial service in Austin. Then he and others, mostly blacks, decided to fly from Minneapolis to Atlanta for King’s funeral. When they arrived, Eichhorst slept on a church pew. Next day, he stood in a very long line with others to view King’s body in its open casket.

Next there was a church service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, King’s home church. The funeral was not open to everyone, but Eichhorst stood on a hill and watched all of the famous people who gathered for the ceremony. He remembers seeing Robert Kennedy arriving, who would himself be killed by an assassin a few months later.

After the church service, the coffin was put onto a rural Southern farm wagon pulled by mules. Thousands of people followed the casket to the burial site. Eichhorst remembers following, arm-and-arm with Minneapolis Mayor Arthur Naftalin and a Minnesota political

leader whose name he can’t remember.

“It was an enormous group of people,” Eichhorst said. “And everyone was so kind and peaceful. It was really quite amazing. His death was shocking, of course, but also edifying.”

Edifying, Eichhorst explained, because of the millions of people King had touched with his gospel messages and his civil-rights activism.

Five years after the funeral, Eichhorst heard King’s father speak at a convention in Detroit not long after another horrific tragedy – the assassination of King Sr.’s wife, Alberta, during a service in Ebenezer Baptist Church where King Sr. himself was pastor for many years.

“King helped me understand the nature and depth of the hatred that was going on at that time,” Eichhorst said. “The plight of black people – it was terribly important to understand that.”

Meeting King, attending his funeral, were not the only brushes with history experienced by Eichhorst. On Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in a motorcade. His wife, Jackie, sitting by his side, erupted in panic after the shots rang out and crawled on hands

and knees from the open limo onto the back of it. The Secret Service agent who pushed her back into the limo was Clint Hill, who has served under five presidents. He happened to be a high-school friend of Eichhorst so many years previously, back home in North Dakota.

In 1964, Jack and Judy Eichhorst took a trip to Washington, D.C., and were able to visit for a time in the White House with Clint Hill.

Eichhorst said he often feels King’s spirit is being lost. While studying in Eastern Europe, in cities like Budapest, Eichhorst became acutely aware of the tyranny of communism and how so many naïve people in the West were taken in by such ideologies. Eichhorst does hold out for hope, however. He said is a strong believer in the power of God as transformative experience and notes Christianity has been increasing hugely in so many countries in Africa, Asia and South and Central America.

Eichhorst’s wife, Judy, has also been tirelessly active in church activities throughout the decades. The couple has four children: Daniel, who teaches in Japan; Martha, who lives and works in Bolivia; Nathan of Boise, Idaho; and Stephen of Corpus Christi.

Watab Park shelter bid approved

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Watab Park in Sartell should have a brand-new shelter as soon as late summer.

At its March 26 meeting, the Sartell City Council approved a low bid of \$328,762 to do the long-awaited project.

The older shelter in the park will be demolished.

Funding for the project

will come from the city’s park-district fund (about \$120,000) and the rest (about \$180,000) will come from a sales-tax-funded project-bonding fund. There is \$1,084,000 remaining in that fund, said Sartell City Administrator/Financial Director Mary Degiovanni.

An official from Winkelman Construction told the council the company will do everything possible,

with safety considerations, to keep Watab Park open to the public during construction of the new shelter. The park and the wading pool, he said, should be open all summer as the construction area will be secured and off limits to the public.

The council voted unanimously, 4-0, to approve the bid. Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll was not present at the meeting.

St. Joseph to host Old Glory Run

This year’s Old Glory run will take place on Saturday, May 19, in St. Joseph.

The event consists of a 5K run/walk/wheel and 1K fun-run for children.

Funds from last year’s run were used to buy a vehicle to transport veterans

to the St. Cloud VA Health Care System.

Event planners are seeking donations and sponsorships from local businesses. To donate contact jill@theoldgloryrun.com or kristi@theoldgloryrun.com.

Opinion

Don’t place all eggs in one basket holds true for finances, advertising

By day, I’m a mild-mannered newspaper guy. But by night... I’m a dad. But by later that same night, I have a secret identity; I am a cartoonist. (St. Joseph readers have seen my latest strip created exclusively for this paper.) One of the important facets of making my content in the future (read “future” in a dramatic voice) is making sure my content reaches a large number of people in a variety of ways.

In 2018, there is no one place to post your content. People often think in terms of “should I be on Facebook or Twitter?” The answer is you need to be on both. And it’s not just content that needs to be multi-platform, it’s also our advertising.

We’ve all heard the phrase about putting all your eggs in one basket, and oftentimes we think of it just in financial terms. But, in the Information Age, as content producers (or advertisers) we often ignore this advice for our own messages and content. We think in terms of “digital versus print” or “radio versus billboard” or even “television versus blogs” which are all false dichotomies. It’s not a zero-sum game where, in a Highlander-like fashion, there can only be one. Content likes to be in as many places as it can.

On the flip-side, as content consumers we can’t afford to get all our eggs from one basket. Only being on Facebook, for example, means you’re at

Patric
Lewandowski

Guest Writer



the whim of Facebook’s mighty content algorithm, which decides what you see and when you see it. If I’m only on Twitter, I will often get to see news and celebrity gossip, but I’ll miss out on family photos. If I only get my news from my site of choice (BBC, CNN for me), then I’m going to miss out on other points of view and local content.

I confess, I’m as guilty as anyone on either side of the political spectrum of often enjoying the comfort of only hearing opinions I would agree with,

which is why it’s so important I force myself to read and watch other points of view. I need more baskets to get eggs from.

On the advertising side, if you are only advertising on the radio, billboards or even print, that means you are only making contact one way. Advertising should be a mixture of media so you get the people who are only on Facebook as well as the people who are only reading print. Not only that, but you would also be able to reinforce your connection to people who are diversifying their media consumption habits. Your customers are not only on one platform and neither should your ads be.

As for my secret identity of The Marvelous Patric, that

guy started with posting his comics on his website, then print books, then Facebook and Twitter. Last year, he added Instagram. At no point have any forms been discontinued, just added to. At each point, it should be noted that rarely did a member of one audience group belong to a different audience group. Eggs were going into different baskets and rarely were those baskets... well, the metaphor kind of falls apart here, but the idea is those different baskets reach different people.

Businesses and consumers, I urge you to think about your baskets and maybe add a basket or two in 2018. Your eggs will be better off for it.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SARTELL
Invitation for Bids
2018 Pinecone Road North Improvements

The City of Sartell will solicit bids for street reconstruction, reclaim and overlay, trail construction, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, water main, street lighting and turf restoration improvements for the 2018 Pinecone Road North Improvements at the office of the City Administrator, City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N., Sartell, Minnesota, until 10 a.m. Friday, May 4,

2018, at which time all bids will be publicly opened in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, and all bids read aloud.

Please see the City of Sartell website at www.sartellmn.com for bid information.

Publish: April 13, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SARTELL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON VACATION OF INTERNAL DRAINAGE
& UTILITY EASEMENTS
Lot 2 and 3, Block 1, Sandstone Village Two

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN upon motion of the city council of Sartell, Minnesota, a public hearing will be held before the City Council of Sartell, Minnesota, in the council chambers at the Sartell City Hall, on the 23rd day of April, at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to hear all persons present upon the pro-

posed vacation of certain internal drainage and utility easements located between two lots. The purpose of the vacation is to readjust the two lot lines.

Mary Degiovanni
City Administrator

Publish: April 13, 2018



CITY OF SARTELL Summary Financial Report			
The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning the City of Sartell to interested citizens. The complete financial statements may be examined at City Hall, 125 Pine Cone Road North. Questions about this report should be directed to Heidi Ostlie, Finance Director at (320) 258-7318.			
REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS (GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS)			
	Total 2017	Total 2016	Percent Increase (Decrease)
REVENUES:			
Taxes:			
Property	\$ 5,802,977	\$ 5,532,456	4.89%
Sales	1,241,230	1,222,404	1.54%
Tax Increment	157,234	153,929	2.15%
Special Assessments	216,985	725,521	-70.09%
Licenses and Permits	1,534,466	1,092,384	40.47%
Intergovernmental	3,135,887	1,494,575	109.82%
Charges for Services	7,528,820	2,572,300	192.69%
Fines and Forfeitures	56,326	68,625	-17.92%
Miscellaneous	505,710	663,385	-23.77%
Total Revenues	20,179,635	13,525,579	49.20%
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
General Government	610,796	582,529	4.85%
Public Safety	3,107,547	2,891,635	7.47%
Public Works	1,134,735	3,517,426	-67.74%
Community and Economic Development	414,711	712,529	-41.80%
Culture and Recreation	654,637	463,472	41.25%
Debt Service:			
Principal	4,350,000	3,585,000	21.34%
Interest and Fiscal Charges	956,498	775,689	23.31%
Capital Outlay:	14,416,712	5,883,075	145.05%
Total Expenditures	25,645,636	18,411,355	39.29%
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(5,466,001)	(4,885,776)	-11.88%
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):			
Issuance of Debt	8,520,000	11,950,000	-28.70%
Premium on Issuance of Debt	437,547	373,527	17.14%
Sale of Property	37,822	76,245	-50.39%
Transfers In	5,986,809	3,187,699	87.81%
Transfers Out	(6,983,598)	(4,139,956)	68.69%
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	7,998,580	11,447,515	-30.13%
Net Change in Fund Balances	2,532,579	6,561,739	61.40%
Special Item	(242,237)	-	
FUND BALANCES:			
Beginning of Year	19,012,892	12,451,153	52.70%
End of Year	\$ 21,303,234	\$ 19,012,892	12.05%

CITY OF SARTELL STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - PROPRIETARY FUNDS December 31, 2017				
	Water	Sewer	Stormwater	Totals
ASSETS:				
Cash and Investments	\$ 978,446	\$ -	\$ 129,282	\$ 1,107,728
Interest Receivable	1,355	(47)	200	1,508
Accounts Receivable	425,854	552,099	114,413	1,092,366
Due from other funds	72,087	-	-	72,087
Prepaid Items	12,347	11,876	-	24,223
Capital Assets not Depreciated:				
Land and Land Improvements	1,148,901	91,486	15,000	1,255,387
Construction in Progress	390,692	133,878	440,332	964,902
Capital Assets Net of Accumulated Depreciation:				
Sewer Rights	-	14,023,057	-	14,023,057
Buildings and Improvements	11,433,165	-	-	11,433,165
Sewer and Water Systems	15,307,370	18,558,084	15,169,963	49,035,417
Machinery and Equipment	64,667	354,496	-	419,163
Total Assets	\$ 29,834,884	\$ 33,724,929	\$ 15,869,190	\$ 79,429,003
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES:				
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	\$ 103,066	\$ 20,564	\$ -	\$ 123,630
LIABILITIES:				
Accounts Payable	\$ 59,320	\$ 28,057	\$ 7,860	95,237
Salaries and Benefits Payable	1,554	536	-	2,090
Interest Payable	150,980	31,362	-	182,342
Due to Other Funds	-	72,087	-	72,087
Due to Other Governments	1,760	138,449	-	140,209
Unearned Revenue	1,375	-	-	1,375
Noncurrent Liabilities:				
Due Within One Year	952,073	1,122,354	-	2,074,427
Due Within More than One Year	8,974,217	12,740,532	-	21,714,749
Total Liabilities	\$ 10,141,279	\$ 14,133,377	\$ 7,860	\$ 24,282,516
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:				
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	\$ 63,429	\$ 12,655	\$ -	\$ 76,084
NET POSITION:				
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	\$ 18,819,795	\$ 19,378,368	\$ 15,625,295	\$ 53,823,458
Unrestricted	913,447	221,093	236,035	1,370,575

CITY OF SARTELL STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION - PROPRIETARY FUNDS For the Year Ended December 31, 2017				
	Water	Sewer	Stormwater	Totals
OPERATING REVENUES:				
Charges for services	\$ 1,855,932	\$ 2,087,136	\$ 419,666	\$ 4,362,734
Permits, hookup fees, and penalties	-	100	-	100
Total operating revenues	1,855,932	2,087,236	419,666	4,362,834
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Salaries and Benefits	486,319	138,851	-	625,170
Supplies and Maintenance	296,804	311,491	36,619	644,914
Utilities and Telephone	196,609	51,776	-	248,385
Professional Services	120,528	54,694	38,888	214,110
Sewer Treatment	-	702,335	-	702,335
Depreciation	930,256	999,059	440,170	2,369,485
Other Services and Charges	104,500	54,063	3,554	162,117
Total Operating Expenses	2,135,016	2,312,269	519,231	4,966,516
Operating Income (Loss)	(279,084)	(225,033)	(99,565)	(603,682)
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES):				
Investment income	3,016	(2,220)	799	1,595
Intergovernmental	130	26	-	156
Refunds and reimbursements	42,426	-	-	42,426
Interest expense	(375,692)	(287,117)	-	(662,809)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	(330,120)	(289,311)	799	(618,632)
Loss before Contributions and Transfers	(609,204)	(514,344)	(98,766)	(1,222,314)
Capital Contributions	485,168	288,459	588,457	1,362,084
Transfers In	934,578	745,000	-	1,679,578
Transfers Out	(300,737)	(183,737)	(198,315)	(682,789)
Change in Net Position	509,805	335,378	291,376	1,136,559
NET POSITION:				
Beginning of Year	19,223,437	19,264,083	15,569,954	54,057,474
End of Year	\$19,733,242	\$19,599,461	\$15,861,330	\$55,194,033

CITY OF SARTELL STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - PROPRIETARY FUNDS For the Year Ended December 31, 2017				
	Water	Sewer	Stormwater	Totals
CASH FLOWS - OPERATING ACTIVITIES:				
Receipts from Customers and Users	\$ 1,765,997	\$ 2,014,893	\$ 406,184	\$ 4,187,074
Payments to Suppliers	(702,597)	(1,199,881)	(73,476)	(1,975,954)
Payments to Employees	(453,463)	(159,108)	-	(612,571)
Other Receipts	42,556	26	-	42,582
Net Cash Flows - Operating Expenses	652,493	655,930	332,708	1,641,131
CASH FLOWS - NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES:				
Advances to/from Other Funds	(66,382)	72,087	(5,705)	-
Transfer from Other Funds	934,578	745,000	-	1,679,578
Transfer to Other Funds	(300,737)	(183,737)	(198,315)	(682,789)
Net Cash Flows - Noncapital Financing Activities	567,459	633,350	(204,020)	996,789
CASH FLOWS - CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:				
Purchase of Capital Assets	-	(27,706)	-	(27,706)
Principal Paid on Debt	(925,000)	(1,064,810)	-	(1,989,810)
Interest Paid on Debt	(387,551)	(290,461)	(5)	(678,017)
Net Cash Flows - Capital and Related Financing Activities	(1,312,551)	(1,382,977)	(5)	(2,695,533)
CASH FLOWS - INVESTING ACTIVITIES:				
Interest and Dividends Received	2,674	(2,074)	599	1,199
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(89,925)	(95,771)	129,282	(56,414)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, January 1	1,068,371	95,771	-	1,164,142
Cash and Cash Equivalents, December 31	\$ 978,446	\$ -	\$ 129,282	\$ 1,107,728

Opinion

Our View Rep. Emmer, we'd like to see you

Has anyone seen Rep. Tom Emmer? Our Sixth District representative is running for re-election and like all members of Congress, he just completed a two-week break over Easter.

March for Our Lives organizers urged members of Congress to conduct town halls during their recess to discuss gun-safety legislation.

Emmer didn't take up the challenge, but his Democratic opponent, Ian Todd did. He scheduled five town halls across the district last week.

Emmer's last town hall in the area was in January 2017. The Sartell event was notable because about five times as many people marched outside than the crowd admitted to the limited space in City Hall.

During the Easter recess, Emmer, along with Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, appeared in St. Cloud to present an award to Jason Falconer, the off-duty Avon police officer who fatally shot the Crossroads Center knife attacker in September 2016. Emmer also spoke at two conferences last week – both of them outside the district.

Nationwide, Democrats want to regain control of the House of Representatives. To do that, they'll need to flip at least 24 seats now controlled by Republicans. The Democrats are targeting 25 Republicans running in districts that Hillary Clinton won in 2016.

Minnesota's Sixth District is not one of those targeted districts. The Sixth tilts red. Emmer won re-election with 66 percent of the vote in 2016. Emmer out-performed Trump, who beat Clinton with 58 percent of the vote.

Democrat Todd is a political newcomer and in the Sixth he's sailing into a headwind. But he's been running a strong grassroots and social-media campaign.

Emmer may think he can run out the clock by keeping a low profile and counting on the R behind his name to help him cruise to re-election.

He was a strong and early Trump supporter and Emmer needs to answer some questions starting with holding Trump accountable.

For example, does the firing of James Comey and the attempt to fire Robert Mueller amount to obstruction of justice? If President Clinton's lie under oath about his affair with Monica Lewinsky was grounds for impeachment, would a Trump lie under oath regarding any aspect of the Russia investigation, including potential acts of obstruction of justice, also be grounds?

Emmer hasn't always stood with Trump. He voted against the omnibus budget bill because it didn't pay for spending increases. He's been in favor of continued economic ties with Cuba because it's good for Minnesota's farmers and businesses. And he voted against reauthorization of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act because he said he disagrees that Americans' Constitutional rights have to be violated to protect national security.

When and if Emmer makes an appearance, we also need to know his opinion on Trump's tariffs and China's reaction that includes tariffs on soybean exports. Minnesota is the nation's third-highest soybean producing state, behind Illinois and Iowa.

Rep. Emmer, it's been awhile. We'd like to see you.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph
Newsleaders
Reaching EVERYbody!

The ideas expressed in the letters to the editor and of the guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Newsleaders*.

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

City questions could use more answers

Mike
Knaak
Editor



"You can observe a lot by watching," so said legendary Yankees Hall of Fame catcher and philosopher Yogi Berra.

I'd like to amend that famous quote a bit. "You can learn a lot by asking."

That was the idea in 2010 when the Legislature created the Council on Local Results and Innovation. The council compiled 10 performance benchmarks for cities and counties.

Local governments could voluntarily survey their residents and rate local services. Presumably the results would guide elected officials on where to make improvements.

As an incentive, the state gives the governments 14 cents per resident, up to a maximum of \$25,000. In 2017, 32 cities and 24 counties participated in the program. There's a main question about overall satisfaction with city services and then specific questions about public safety, streets, snow-plowing, recreation, and water and sewer services.

Last week St. Joseph certified its 2018 results and sadly, only 10 people responded out of the more than 6,700 residents. The city will collect about \$950.

The survey was conducted during February at the League of Minnesota Cities website.

Two conclusions can be drawn from the very low response rate. Ei-

ther most people are happy and don't feel the need to offer input. Or the majority of residents didn't know about the survey.

On the main question – How would you rate the overall quality of services provided by the city? – St. Joseph's residents appeared satisfied. Four people (40 percent – the math is easy here) rated the services as Good, five rated them Fair and only one response offered a Poor rating.

Public safety – fire and police services – also received high marks.

St. Joseph's neighboring cities collected a higher rate of responses, but those numbers are far from overwhelming.

Some 23 of Waite Park's 7,500 residents responded to that city's 2017 survey. On the main question – overall quality of services – 36.36 percent responded Excellent, with another 36.36 percent responding Good, and 27.27 percent responding Poor.

In Sartell's 2017 survey, only 137 of the city's nearly 18,000 residents responded. Like the other area cities, the results tilted positive on the main

Gun-safety students deserve praise, not slander

Dennis
Dalman
Reporter



You just know right-wing conspiracy theorists, including Fox (Fake) News barkers, are in a defensive squirm when they feel compelled to attack young students demonstrating for gun-safety laws.

One of those student leaders – the admirable David Hogg – has become a lightning rod for the bad-mouthing of the Ultra-Right-Wing folks. Have they no shame? Instead of championing those idealistic students, so worthy of praise, right-wing grinchers are slandering them, accusing them of being everything from puppets of George Soros lefties to "crisis actors," from budding communists to spoiled know-nothing brats throwing public tantrums.

And speaking of brats and tantrums, that pretty much sums up these pouting, plotting right-wingers, who are so fired up by their fevered imaginations, throwing verbal snit-fits because young people dared to exercise an American right – to gather, to demonstrate.

Hogg's family has received death threats. Social media postings from conspiracy crackpots claim the Parkland, Fla., school shooting didn't happen. The cruel fools claimed the same thing about the massacre of children at Sandy Hook Elementary. Those "fake" killings were just leftist charades using "crisis actors." These are the same kind of imaginative folks who, ensconced in their alternative reality, claim the Holocaust didn't happen and that President George W. Bush planned the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

One of the first to slam Hogg was Laura Ingraham, longtime radio and TV right-wing shill. She said four California universities rejected Hogg (thus implying he is stupid). Ingraham managed to

combine college-status snobbery with her stupid insult.

Foot-in-mouth, Ingraham announced she was going to take a vacation. She did offer an apology after big-name sponsors pulled their support from her show.

Hogg fired back: "I will accept your apology only if you denounce the way your network (Fox News) has treated my friends and I in this fight. It's time to love thy neighbor, not mudsling at children."

Gun-hugger/old rocker Ted Nugent also took pot shots at the young demonstrators, calling them "mushy-brained children." And look who's talkin'. Nugent, a board member of the National Rifle Association, has been dispensing "mushy-brained" pronouncements about guns, among other topics, for a long time.

Then there's former senator Rick Santorum. He gave the lamebrain advice that those students would do better to learn CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) rather than waste time demonstrating for gun laws. Oops. He must have meant learning TAT (tourniquet-application techniques) because people ripped apart by assault-weapon slugs often bleed to death rapidly if they don't die instantly. Santorum did "walk back" his comment later.

A good number of Republicans did

question with 24 percent responding Excellent, 63 percent replying Good, 10 percent rating Fair and only 3 percent offering a Poor rating.

At the end of each survey, citizens can offer comments. Most of the St. Joseph comments are pretty predictable such as support for the recreation center and opposition to the St. Joseph Township annexation process.

One comment did stand out though. It read, in part "I also get quite sick of the hyper liberal newspaper columns in the editor(al) section. Can we make them even a little more moderate perhaps?"

Setting aside the obvious – that the newspaper is not a part of city government – I would not call our editorial stands "hyper" liberal. But opinions are in the eye of the beholder.

If area cities continue with the survey, officials need to do more to increase participation. These sample sizes in no way adequately represent the general population. I'll put in a plug for the home team. The local newspaper with the "hyper local" editorial page can help. We reach every household each week. Local leaders, let me know when your survey is ready and I'll do my best to help pass the word.

You can indeed learn a lot by asking...and the results are even more useful with more answers.

have the decency to denounce Hogg's attackers. Among them, Sen. Marco Rubio, who said, "Claiming some of the students on TV after Parkland were actors is the work of a disgusting group of idiots with no sense of decency."

As young people challenge sclerotic adherence to gun-rights absolutism, gun-huggers and many right-wing reactionaries have begun to act like panicking dinosaurs, glancing warily up at the sky, sensing imminent extinction. Maybe they are not on the right side of history, after all. Maybe voters will boot out legislators who constantly, fiercely resist any gun-safety laws, thereby refusing to represent the will of a vast majority of Americans.

Closer to home, there is state Rep. Mary Franson (R-Alexandria), whose Facebook posts compared the student demonstrators to "Hitler Youth." She apologized. That's the Franson modus operandi. She posts vile comments, apologizes, then posts more of them after the smoke clears.

Let's welcome the fresh breezes and renewed vision brought by these wonderful young people. They are, after all, the future. Their nasty detractors, hopefully, will soon be the past.

Hogg said it well at the national rally: "They (gun lobbyists and their legislators) will try to separate us in demographics," he told the demonstrators. "They will try to separate us by religion, race, congressional district and class. They will fail. We will come together. We will get rid of these public servants that only serve the gun lobby, and we will save lives."

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN
ORDINANCE 61
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 61.10 AND 61.11 OF ORDINANCE 61 ADOPTED ON 5 APRIL 2017 AND TITLED “CHAPTER 6: LIQUOR, BEER AND WINE.”

The City Council of St. Stephen, Minnesota ordains:

Section 61.10 of Ordinance 61 adopted on 5 April 2017 and titled “Chapter 6: Liquor, Beer and Wine” is amended to read:

Section 61.10: SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION. The Council may suspend for not to exceed 60 days or revoke any liquor license upon a finding that the licensee has failed to comply with the applicable statute, regulation or ordinance relating to intoxicating liquor. No suspension or revocation takes effect until the licensee has been given an opportunity for a hearing under sections 14.57 to 14.69 of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Section 61.11 of Ordinance 61 adopted on 5 April 2017 and titled “Chapter 6: Liquor, Beer and Wine” is amended to read:

Section 61.11: PENALTIES.

Subd. 1: Civil Penalties. Any licensee who has failed to comply with the applicable statute, regulation or ordinance relating to intoxicating liquor is subject to a civil penalty. A first violation shall result in the imposition of a \$250 fine. A second violation shall result in the imposition of a \$500 fine. A third violation shall result in the imposition of a \$1,000 fine and in a three-day suspension of the licensee’s liquor license. For the purposes of determining whether a violation is a licensee’s first, second or third violation, the City will look back two years from the date of the violation under consideration. No suspension or revocation takes effect until the licensee has been given an opportunity for a hearing under sections 14.57 to 14.69 of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Subd. 2. Criminal Penalties. Any person violating any pro-

vision of this ordinance, with the exception of section 61.12, is guilty of a misdemeanor, plus the cost of prosecution in any case. An act of an employee or a license holder shall be considered an act of the license holder if performed in furtherance of the license holder’s business.

This ordinance becomes effective from and after its passage and publication.

Passed by the City Council of St. Stephen, Minnesota this 4th day of April, 2018.

Attested:

/s/ Jeff Blenkush
Acting Mayor

/s/ Cris M. Drais
City Clerk

Publish: April 13, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SARTELL
PUBLIC HEARING ON CITY CODES REGARDING
PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS RELATING TO:
GENERAL CODE REGULATIONS (ZONING) +
PLANNED LANDSCAPE ORDINANCES

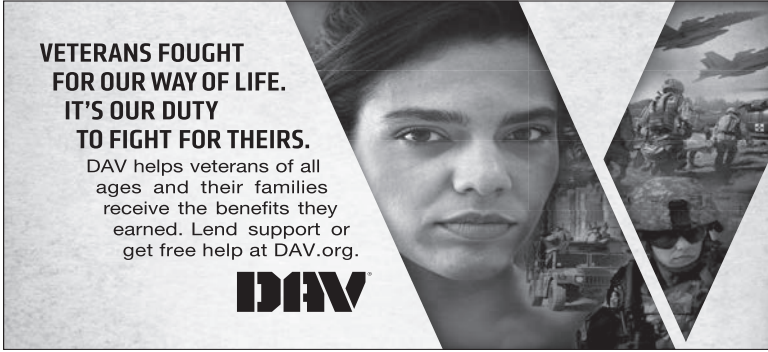
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN upon motion of the city council of Sartell, Minnesota a public hearing will be held before the City Council of Sartell, Minnesota, in the Council chambers at the Sartell City Hall, on the 23rd day of April, at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to hear all persons present upon the proposed ordinance amendment. General Code amendments include updating the following: dwelling unit restrictions, fence requirements, accessory structure requirements, home-occupation requirements, solar/wind/geothermal energy

requirements, and updating the Planned Landscape code relating to native plants. Copies of the proposed ordinances area available for review at the City Clerk’s office or on the City webstie at: www.sartellmn.com.

All interested persons are invited to attend to voice their opinion. Written comments will be accepted until the date of the hearing.

Mary Degiovanni
City Administrator

Publish: April 13, 2018



Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374; fax it to 320-363-4195; or, e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

Friday, April 13
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

Saturday, April 14
Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

Sunday, April 15
“Screen Agers: Growing up in the Digital Age,” 4 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road. S., Sartell. Tickets available at fumescr.org.

Monday, April 16
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

Tuesday, April 17
Community Lunch and Entertainment, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-2 p.m., St. Stephen Parish Hall, 103 CR 2 S. 320-746-9960.

St. Cloud Area Genealogists, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235-33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.

Wednesday, April 18
S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.

Thursday, April 19
Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group featuring Mike Spainer, Sartell resident and NFL referee, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.
American Legion-Sartell, open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Liquid Assets, 1091 Second St. S. #600, Sartell. john.denney@charter.net.

Friday, April 20
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk

Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

Saturday, April 21
Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell.

Sunday, April 22
Waffle breakfast, sponsored by the Sartell Fire Department Relief Association, 8 a.m.-noon. St. Francis Xavier Church, 219 Second St. N., Sartell.

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news@thenewsleaders.com

“We have a regular population, our kids that are all in the

In talking with teams of teachers, Schwiebert said he was told again and again of staff frustration in dealing with “certain types of students.” Schwiebert said the frustration was actually a good thing because it signaled a desire on the part of teachers to improve the way in which they teach. That is why the district is

"This will be a challenge," Schwiebert said.



The board was updated on the building project. The warm weather has alleviated any seasonal slowdowns. Things are moving ahead on schedule. In terms of finance, the project is staying within budget. Presently there are 75 workers on site. Con-

The board approved the Sartell High School Student Council and Sartell National Honor Society request to have the district host the 2020 State Convention for Minnesota Association of Student Councils and Minnesota Association of Honor Societies.

Earn **more** liquor rewards

on these items
with your
more rewards
account

16⁹⁸
Coors Light & Miller Lite
24 Pack 12 Oz. Cans Or Bottles

17⁹⁸
Michelob Ultra & Bud Light Lime
24 Pack 12 Oz. Cans

13⁹⁸
Busch Light
24 Pack 12 Oz. Cans Regular Or Light

11⁹⁸
Leinenkugel's Craft Beer
12 Pack 12 Oz. Bottles Or Cans All Available Types

12⁹⁸
White Claw, Truly Or Spiked Seltzer Variety Pack
12 Pack Cans

11⁹⁸
Kona
12 Pack Bottles All Available Types

beer of the month

19⁹⁸
Cooper's Mark Bourbon
750ml

15⁹⁸
Sobieski Or Smirnoff Vodka
1.75 Liter

\$5.98 After Rebate
10⁹⁸
Admiral Nelson's Spiced Rum
1.75 Liter
Save Even More With \$5 Mail-In-Rebate On 1 Bottle Purchase

18⁹⁸
Tito's Vodka
1 Liter
\$4.98 1 Liter Rusty Anchor Bloody Mary Mix

12⁹⁸
JJ Renfield 8 Yr. Canadian Whisky
750ml

23⁹⁸
Jim Beam
1.75 Liter White Label Or Jim Beam Black

\$13.48 After Rebate
15⁹⁸
Christian Brothers VSOP
1.75 Liter
Save Even More With \$5 Mail-In-Rebate On 2 Bottle Purchase

18⁹⁸
Jack Daniel's
750ml

wine of the month

13⁹⁸
Herald
750ml Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
\$11.98 Russian River Chardonnay & Alexander Valley Zinfandel

11⁹⁸
Risata
750ml All Available Types
Save Even More With \$18 Mail-In-Rebate On 6 Bottle Purchase

11⁹⁸
The Naked Grape
3 Liter All Available Types

Rose Season Is Here - Stock Up Now!

6⁹⁸
La Vieille Ferme Rose
750ml

9⁹⁸
Josh Rose
750ml

11⁹⁸
Rustenberg Petit Verdot Rose
750ml

12⁹⁸
Kendall Jackson Vintners Reserve Rose
750ml

8⁹⁸
Cupcake Sparkling Rose
750ml

10⁹⁸
Primarius Rose
750ml

12⁹⁸
Champs de Provence Rose
750ml

14⁹⁸
Gerard Bertrand Cote des Roses
750ml

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