

# Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018  
Volume 23, Issue 26  
Est. 1995

## Town Crier

For daily updates and continuous news coverage, visit [thenewsleaders.com](http://thenewsleaders.com).

### St. Stephen to host HHW event Aug. 25

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will be held from 8- 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 25. Stearns County will provide local pick up at the St. Stephen City Hall/Fire Department at 2 Sixth Ave SE. Visit the city's website for a list of accepted items ([www.cityofststephen.com](http://www.cityofststephen.com)). Note: The next collection will be in 2020 due to the increased use of the HHW Facility.

### Help celebrate Wruck's retirement

Members of the community are invited to celebrate and honor the achievements and leadership of Steve Wruck at a retirement open house on Wednesday, Aug. 15. The open house will be from 4-6:30 p.m. at Great River Bowl/Partner's Pub.

Wruck served as the Director of Business Services for the Sartell-St. Stephen school district since February 2000 and has a combined 35 years of service in school finance.

### Travel basketball opens registration

Registration for the 2018-19 Sartell Area Youth Basketball Association Travel Basketball grades 3-8 is now open. Register online at [saybabball.org](http://saybabball.org). Register prior to Saturday, Aug. 11, to receive early bird discount. Please see the website for more information on the SAYBA program.

**INSERTS:**  
Culligan  
Good To Go

Stories only on  
[thenewsleaders.com](http://thenewsleaders.com)

- Filing for offices without primaries opens July 31
- Sartell bridge will be closed Thursday, Friday
- More hours added for absentee voting
- Trobec appointed to St. Stephen City Council

## St. Stephen National Night Out goes wild



photo by Carolyn Bertsch  
Jacqueline Poepping of Hemker Zoo (right) opens a tub of cockroaches for a group of girls to see Aug 7 at the St. Stephen City Hall National Night Out event. They are (left to right) Maggie Shae, 7; Bryn Patrick, 5; and Rya Rudolph, 4, all of St. Stephen.

## Primary ballot features races for sheriff, school board, state offices

by Mike Knaak  
[editor@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:editor@thenewsleaders.com)

Local races on the ballot for the Tuesday, Aug. 14, primary election include choosing a new Stearns County sheriff and electing St. Cloud school district board members.

For the first time in 16 years, there's no incumbent sheriff on the ballot. Four men have filed for the office and the primary will narrow the field to two candidates.

The candidates are Dave Bentrud, Bob Dickhaus, Dwight Pfannenstein and Steve Soyka.

Pfannenstein withdrew from

active campaigning after he was appointed St. Joseph police chief in June but his name remains on the ballot.

Bentrud has been Waite Park police chief for 10 years and before that served in the St. Cloud police department.

Dickhaus is a lieutenant in the Stearns County sheriff's office. His law enforcement career began in 1990 as a Richmond police officer, before mov-



Bentrud



Dickhaus

ing to Cold Spring and then Stearns County.

Soyka's law enforcement career spans 27 years. He's a former commander of the Violent Offenders Task Force and currently a Stearns County sergeant.

Nine people have filed for three seats on the St. Cloud school board. The primary will narrow the field to six candidates.

The candidates are Scott

Andreasen, Zachory Dorholt, Les Green, Peter Hamerlinck, Larry Hosch, Thomas Kufalk, Natalie Ringsmith, Beth Schlangen and Kathleen Steiner.

Voters will find several state and federal offices on the partisan section of the ballot. In the primary, voters are limited to picking candidates in one party and cannot cross over from race to race.

Primary • page 4



photo by Mike Knaak  
Larry Traut stands by the remains of a bridge destroyed in a suspicious fire.

## Suspicious fire destroys family landmark

by Mike Knaak  
[editor@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:editor@thenewsleaders.com)

The little metal bridge over Watab Creek stood tall for 100 years.

It survived farm work and fun with four generations of Trauts but it didn't survive a suspicious fire that burned the beams and boards.

Early on the morning of July 24, Larry Traut was startled when a Sartell police officer

drove into his yard west of Sartell.

The officer had spotted smoke and wondered what Larry was burning.

He stepped outside with the officer who saw flames rising from the one-lane bridge north of the house.

"What the hell, my bridge is on fire," Larry said.

Sartell firefighters struggled to extinguish the flames.

Fire • page 2



## People

Two Sartell students recently graduated from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. The students and their majors are **Brooke Radi**, public relations, and **Olivia Wassen**, English and radio and television producing.

**Molly Fossen**, a 2018 Sartell High School graduate, was the 2017-2018 Minnesota Positive High School Athlete winner for girl's golf. She was honored at the Twins game on June 20. She will attend the University of South Dakota in Vermillion in the fall to play on the women's golf team and major in nursing.

**Matthew Michaud** of Sartell was recently named to the spring dean's list at St. John's University. He is the son of Shelly Smith and John Michaud. To be included in the dean's list, students must earn a minimum 3.8 grade-point average.

**Austin Swingle** of Sartell was named to the spring dean's list at Stevenson University, Owings Mills, Maryland. Stu-

dents must earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point average to qualify for this honor.

**Jared Maxa** of Sartell recently graduated with a doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Sartell resident **Carrie Karki**, longtime marketing professional in the Central Minnesota and Twin Cities marketing industry, has launched WhiteBox Marketing. WhiteBox Marketing opened on July 2 and leases office space at St. Cloud's Cooper Collective, a co-working space on Cooper Avenue. Karki's team consists of professionals in graphic design, copywriting, marketing strategy, photography and website development.

**Zach Zitुर**, a 2012 Sartell High School graduate and 2016 graduate of Concordia College, was named the head coach of men's and women's tennis at Concordia in Moorhead. Zitुर was captain of Sartell's team his senior year and played tennis at Concordia.

## Fire

### from front page

Years before, metal sheets were installed to cover the planks when the bridge was on a snowmobile trail that ran from St. Joseph to St. Stephen.

Firefighters peeled back the metal sheets and put out the fire. Now, the charred beams and road boards tumble toward the water below.

A week after the fire, Larry, 81, gathered with his oldest brother Bill, 93, and their nephew, Ralph, to share memories of the family landmark.

The bridge found its second life on the property in the 1920s. It originally spanned Watab Creek on Riverside Avenue. When a new bridge replaced it, Larry and Bill's father salvaged it and moved it to their property.

The newly relocated bridge connected two sections of the Traut farm – the 40 acres south of the river and 60 acres north of it.

When the Trauts weren't crossing it to tend their corn and alfalfa fields, younger family members used the bridge for swimming and fishing.

"I can remember that bridge down there was a swimming hole for everybody in the area," Larry said. "At night, cars would come in and drive down there and go swimming every night in the summer time."

Bill's memories go back to the late 1920s. One of his earliest memories is of his dad watching him use a team of horses to grade the bridge approach.

"As soon as we were able to walk, our toes were pointed toward the river," Bill said. "The sand was so nice and cool on my bare feet."

Ralph's family lived two miles down the river.

"Every day in the summer we'd get on our bicycles and ride over here to go swimming and jump off the bridge," he said.

Larry learned to swim under the bridge.

"My swimming lessons last-

ed 30 seconds to a minute," Larry said. "I have twin brothers a couple of years older than me – Marvin and Melvin – and one day, one grabbed me by the legs and one grabbed me by the shoulders and threw me in. It's 8 to 10 feet deep. I don't know if they would have jumped in to save me. All of a sudden I started swimming.

"Nowadays people would not let kids our age run down there," Larry said. "Four or 5 years old and we'd be standing on the bridge fishing."

Larry, who worked for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service until he retired in 1999, doesn't know what will happen to the damaged bridge. He's waiting to hear from his insurance company.

Larry rents out his corn fields. New homes, now part of the city of Sartell, occupy the land north of the river.

"The bridge has no use for farming anymore but it certainly didn't deserve the demise it went through," Bill said.

## Obituary

### Nancy E. Boethin, 79

Sartell  
May 29, 1939 – July 24, 2018

Nancy E. Boethin, 79, of Sartell died July 24 at Quiet Oaks Hospice House in St. Augusta. Her funeral was held Aug. 2 at the Williams Dingmann Funeral Home in St. Cloud.



### —PUBLIC NOTICE—

**CITY OF ST. STEPHEN  
BUDGET PLANNING MEETING**  
The City of St. Stephen City Council will hold its 2019 Budget Planning Meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

/s/ Cris M Draiss

City of St. Stephen City Clerk

Dated: June 12, 2018

Publish: Aug. 10, 2018

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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](http://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.*

### July 25

8:17 a.m. Domestic. First Avenue NE. Officers were dispatched for a report of a black sport utility vehicle parked on the side of Benton Drive. A passerby reported the two occupants were fighting outside the vehicle. Officers met with man and woman. Officers separated the parties and interviewed them. The man was arrested and could be charged with domestic assault and interfering with a 911 call.

### July 26

1:52 a.m. Fire alarm. Pheasant Crest Loop. An officer and Sartell Fire were dispatched for a report of a residential fire alarm that was going off. While enroute, the officer was advised the carbon monoxide detector in the home was also going off. The officer determined one of the carbon monoxide detectors had a low battery possibly causing the alarm. Sartell fire checked the residence for any gas leaks. None were located.

### July 27

10:12 p.m. Gunshots. Oak Pond Drive. Officers were dispatched for a report of several gunshots. Officers checked the area using a thermal-imaging camera but observed nothing. Officers then met with three people who were at separate locations and were outside. All

parties stated they had observed fireworks in the air north of CR 29 but were unsure of the exact location. Officers patrolled the area and were unable to locate anyone setting off fireworks.

### July 28

11:51 a.m. Truck/bicycle collision. CR 1 and Hwy. 15. Officers were dispatched for a report of a pickup versus bicycle accident. One officer met with the cyclist while a second met with the driver of the pickup. The cyclist stated she was traveling south in the northbound shoulder of CR 1. She stated she ran into the truck because it crossed her path. She had minor damage to her leg. The driver of the truck stated he was yielding to motor vehicle traffic and had crept up farther into the intersection when the cyclist struck him. He stated he was traveling under 5 mph. The bicyclist was transported to the hospital by a private party to have her leg injury checked.

### July 29

11:21 p.m. Traffic stop. Bridge of Hope. An officer was traveling south on CR 1. While approaching the intersection of CR 1 and Hwy 15 the officer observed the signal light turn from yellow to red. The officer came to a stop at the intersection and then observed a vehicle pass through the intersection with no attempt to stop for the red light. The officer initiated his emergency lights and then pursued the vehicle. The vehicle came to a stop on the Bridge of Hope. The driver admitted to knowing the light had turned red. The officer released the driver after issuing him a citation for violating a traffic signal.

### July 30

11:39 a.m. Medical. An

officer was dispatched for a woman having chest pain. The officer arrived on scene and located the patient sitting upright in a chair in her living room. She stated she was experiencing pain in her upper chest, which ran down her left armpit. Gold Cross arrived, took over care and transported her to St. Cloud Hospital.

### July 31

8:17 p.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue S. Officers were dispatched for a report of a northbound vehicle on CR 1 that was speeding and recklessly passing vehicles. An officer located the vehicle as it was traveling 64 mph in a posted 30-mph zone on Riverside Avenue. The driver provided her license and proof of insurance and stated she had no good reason for her driving conduct. The officer issued her a citation for speed and reckless driving.

### Aug. 1

8:17 p.m. Domestic in progress. Celebration Circle. Officers were dispatched for a report of a physical altercation between a husband and wife. One officer met with the woman and the children outside while a second officer went inside the residence and met with the man. The woman stated the argument got heated but never became physical. The man stated the argument stemmed from the woman texting a family member. He stated the injuries to his hands occurred when he punched picture frames. The man denied medical attention for his injuries. Both parties agreed to keep their distance for the evening.

### Aug. 2

10:43 a.m. Medical alarm. 22nd Street S. Officers were dispatched to a local apart-

ment complex for a report of an elderly woman who had fallen and was unable to get up. Officers found the woman on the kitchen floor. She stated she had fallen three days ago and was unable to get help. A neighbor came to check on her and pulled the medical alarm because he was unable to help her up. Officers observed that the woman was intoxicated but stable. Gold Cross transported the woman to the hospital.

### Aug. 3

8:17 a.m. Property damage. 209 Riverside Ave. An officer was dispatched to Sok's Car Wash for a report of windows that had been broken sometime during the night. The officer observed that both windows on the north side of the building were broken. She located a large rock and a piece of concrete that had been thrown through the windows. Photographs of the damage was taken and extra patrols will be conducted in the area.

### Aug. 4

5:40 p.m. Vehicle crash. Oak Pond Drive. An officer was dispatched for a report of a vehicle that had left the road and struck a mailbox. The officer met with the driver of the vehicle and the property owner. The driver stated he was traveling on Oak Pond Drive when he observed an oncoming vehicle. The driver stated he attempted to move over for the vehicle and while doing so struck a mailbox knocking it down. The officer observed no signs of impairment so he completed an accident exchange form and issued it to both the driver and property owner.

### Aug. 5

9:30 a.m. Traffic stop. 600 Block Riverside Avenue. While

northbound on Riverside Avenue S. an officer saw a vehicle approaching southbound at a high rate of speed. The officer measured the driver's speed at 52 mph in a 30-mph zone. The officer stopped the vehicle and before approaching ran a license plate check. The officer learned that the female registered owner had a suspended driver's license. She approached the vehicle and met with the driver. The driver stated she was unsure of her speed and identified herself as the registered owner. The officer informed the driver of her current driving status and she stated she didn't know she was suspended. The officer completed a citation for speed and driving after suspension. A valid driver arrived on scene and took possession of the vehicle.

### Aug. 6

5:56 a.m. Assist agency. Le Sauk Township. Officers were dispatched to assist Stearns County with a burglary. Someone had entered the building causing a lot of damage, including torching a safe. Officers met with the complainant and assisted in clearing the building. Officers also assisted in evidence collection. The incident is under investigation.

### Aug. 7

11:46 p.m. Medical. City of Sartell. Officers were dispatched for a report of an elderly man who had fallen out of bed and was hyperventilating. Offices found the man unresponsive and not breathing. Officers moved the man to his back and observed no chest rise and no pulse. Officers initiated CPR. Gold Cross arrived and officers assisted paramedics.

# NEWS TIPS?

## Call the Newsleader at 363-7741

## SAYBA Travel Basketball Registration for the 2018-19 season is now open!!

Register online at: [www.saybabball.org](http://www.saybabball.org)

### Registration Fees:

3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade = \$160	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade = \$235
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade = \$210	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade = \$235
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade = \$220	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade = \$260
Family Maximum = \$400	



### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ✓ August 11<sup>th</sup> - Last day to register to receive the Early Bird Discount
- ✓ September 1<sup>st</sup> - Last day to register without paying a \$25 Late Fee
- ☒ September 15<sup>th</sup> - **Last day to register** (no late registrations accepted)



- Try-out dates will be set at a later date. Please check the website and email for further information
- If your child does not make a team, the full registration will be returned.
- Registration fees will not be refunded after try-out dates
- Any refund requests are subject to a \$25 processing fee

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*For more information and to apply online  
visit <http://employment.csbsju.edu>.*

AA/EOE



# Do you love kids? The foster grandparents program wants you

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

When Sartell students return to class in a few weeks, they'll find foster grandparents welcoming them back along with their classroom teachers.

Foster grandparents assist teachers and help with instruction but most importantly they form relationships with students.

Foster grandparent Penny Lundblad joined students at Oak Ridge Elementary School last January.

"I love the kids," Lundblad said. "They really fulfill a day for me. I'm a widow and I was running out of things to do. They run up to me in the hall and give me a big hug. It brightens my day and I know

I am helping the kids with math and reading."

Four people are in the foster grandparents program at Sartell schools. Organizers would like to see more join the program.

The foster grandparents program started in 1965 to get seniors into schools to mentor students. Applicants must be at least 55 years old and they need to commit to at least 15 hours per week.

Sara Heurung supervises the program in Sartell for Catholic Charities. In the 16 counties served by Catholic Charities, there are 180 foster grandparents and she'd like to see more people join.

"I would recommend the program to anybody," Lundblad said.

This will be Judy Groth's

fifth year at Pine Meadow Elementary School where she works with kindergartners.

"Every year I enjoy it a little bit better," Groth said. "It filled the gap in my life after my husband died. I thoroughly enjoy it."

Teacher Cris Drais described the variety of Groth's contributions to the classroom.

"During math she can take two or three students and do an activity page if we're doing something with partners," Drais said. "Kids will bring books to her to read. We had a group that really liked to color during choice time. She got some coloring books with the really detailed images. They would chat away with her while they colored. They know she

really cares about them."

Foster grandparent Judi Heinen works with kindergartners at Pine Meadow.

"I've always been interested in reading," Heinen said. "It's such a thrill to see where they start and where they are at the end of the year. Seeing how they thrive and grow throughout the year is unbelievable."

People interested in applying for the program can contact Heurung at 320-229-4589.

Heurung meets with applicants to discuss their strengths, what they want to do to help and where they want to work. Following a background check, new foster grandparents are assigned a school and a teacher. Orientation includes meeting oth-

ers in the program, touring the school and shadowing another foster grandparent.

"The only skill you need is to be able to listen and have an open mind," Heurung said.

Lundblad found "the teachers, paras and other people – everybody made me feel like one of them and made me feel very welcome."

Oak Ridge's social worker, Connie Conner, wishes she could have a foster grandparent in every kindergarten classroom.

"I love to see what's happening with the kids, the teachers and foster grandparents," Conner said. "You don't need to know how to teach. You just have to love kids."

## Primary

from front page

Minnesotans will elect a new governor this year with Gov. Mark Dayton ending two terms.

On the Republican side of the ballot, endorsed candidate Jeff Johnson, who lost to Dayton in 2014, is being challenged by former two-term governor Tim Pawlenty. Mathew Kruse is also on the Republican ballot. Pawlenty has chosen former state Sen. Michelle Fischbach as his lieutenant governor. Fischbach represented the Sartell, St. Joseph, Cold Spring and Paynesville areas in District 13 before resigning. Her replacement will be chosen in a special election on Nov. 6. District 13 Senate candidates are Democrat Joe Perske and Republican Jeff Howe.

On the Democratic Party side of the ballot, endorsed candidate Erin Murphy faces challenges from Tim Walz, who represents Minnesota's First Congressional District, and Lori Swanson, current state attorney general. The DFL bal-

lot also lists Tim Holden and Ole Savior.

Three people are running for attorney general on the Republican side of the ballot. They are Sharon Anderson, Robert Lessard and Doug Wardlow, who is the party-endorsed candidate.

Five Democrats are running for attorney general. They are Keith Ellison, Tom Foley, Debra Hilstrom, Matt Pelikan and Mike Rothman. The DFL endorsed Pelikan. Ellison currently represents Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District.

Minnesota's two Democratic U.S. Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, are up for election in 2018. Dayton appointed Smith, who was lieutenant governor, after Al Franken resigned his senate seat, triggering an election this fall for the last two years of Franken's term.

Klobuchar faces four challengers: Steve Carlson, Stephen Emery, David Groves and Leonard Richards.

Smith faces five challengers: Ali Chehem Ali, Gregg Iverson, Nick Leonard, Richard Painter and Christopher Seymore Sr. Painter, a former Republican,

served as President George W. Bush's ethics lawyer and is currently a law professor at the University of Minnesota.

Klobuchar and Smith are the party-endorsed candidates.

On the Republican side, four people are running to face Klobuchar. They are: Merrill Anderson, Rae Hart Anderson, Roque De La Fuente and Jim Newberger.

Three people are running for the two-year seat: Bob Anderson, Nikolay Nikolayevich Bey and Karin Housley.

Republicans endorsed Newberger and Housley.

In Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District, Republicans will choose from incumbent Tom Emmer, Patrick Munro and A.J. Kern for who will face Democrat Ian Todd in November.

If you can't make it to the polls on Aug. 14, Stearns County has added hours for casting absentee ballots at two locations.

The Stearns County Auditor's Office and Stearns County Service Center will be open on Saturday, Aug. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and until 5 p.m. on

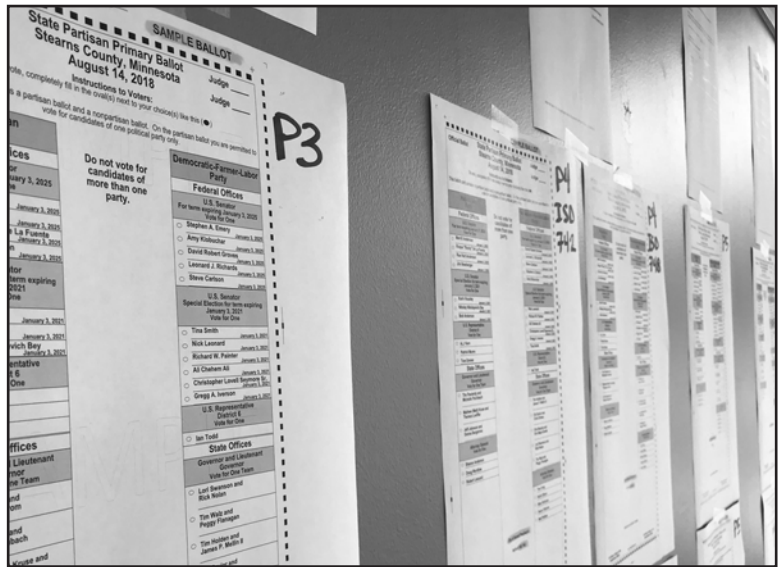


photo by Mike Knaak  
**Sample ballots are on display at the Sartell City Hall.**

Monday, Aug. 13.

The auditor's office is in the Stearns County Administration Center, Room 148, 705 Courthouse Square, St. Cloud.

The service center is at 3301 CR 138, Waite Park.

Candidates for offices that do not conduct primaries won't be on the Aug. 14 ballot. The filing period for those offices runs until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14.

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district will elect three

board members to serve four-year terms.

In St. Joseph, voters will elect a mayor and two city council members.

The city of St. Stephen will elect two council members to serve four-year terms, one council member to serve a two-year term and a mayor to serve a two-year term.

For profiles on each of the sheriff candidates and more election news, head to [www.thenewsleaders.com/election-2018](http://www.thenewsleaders.com/election-2018)



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# Council rejects bike-rack proposal

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

A request for an ordinance requiring bicycle racks under certain conditions was rejected by the Sartell City Council during a public hearing at its last meeting on a 4-0 vote.

Council member David Peterson was not present at that meeting. No member of the public voiced opinions during the hearing.

The concept was presented to the council by Sartell Planner/Developer Anita Archambeau, who noted that bicycle usage has increased in the city.

Encouraging and/or requiring bicycle racks is one of the criteria to be named officially a “Bicycle-Friendly City” by the League of American Bicyclists.

The ordinance would have required a bicycle rack that could hold from two to four bikes for business buildings of 5,000 square feet, and a rack that could accommodate seven spaces for business buildings of 10,000 square feet or more. Large apartment complexes would also need to have a rack for up to seven bicycles. No racks would be required next to buildings of smaller than 5,000

square feet. The Sartell Planning Commission had previously reviewed and recommended the proposed ordinance.

The four members of the council came to a consensus that such an ordinance is simply not needed. Member Pat Lynch said such a measure would be a needless mandate.

“It’s just not a problem in Sartell,” he said.

Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll agreed.

“It’s trying to solve something that’s not yet a problem,” she said, adding that initiating a bike rack ordinance just to get some points for a Bike-Friendly City designation is not a good idea.

Members Mike Chisum and Ryan Fitzthum also agreed and said most employers would naturally want to accommodate, with bicycle racks, employees who commute to work, as well as customers who bicycle.

## Background

Cities can be designated as “Bicycle-Friendly” if they have in place assets that accommodate safe bicycling, such as bike and pedestrian trails, safe bicycling lanes in roadways, bicycle

parking racks and so forth.

Minneapolis is regarded as the top Bicycle-Friendly city in the nation. Another city known for bicycle friendliness is Amsterdam in the Netherlands where just about everybody commutes to work and enjoys bicycling as recreation. That city is a series of canals and narrow streets, making bicycling a virtual necessity.

Sartell is already a bicycle-friendly city in many ways because of its miles of biking-hiking trails, its parks and its bicycle lanes on some roadways. The city council throughout the years has always strongly encouraged and supported bike-hike trails in public areas and in residential/commercial developments.



contributed graphic  
This is one of many signs along roadways throughout the nation that proclaims a “Bicycle-Friendly” city.

### Join the Walk to Defeat ALS : 2 mile walk

Saturday, September 8th, 2018 @ Lake George Park in St Cloud, MN  
8:30am check in / 10am walk start  
Platinum sponsor: C.H. Robinson and Batting for Brent  
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photos by Dennis Dalman

Four volunteers enjoy a laugh blast as they welcome visitors to the Aug. 4 BankVista Rock 'n' Block party in Sartell. Left to right are Sonia Nordmann of Sartell, Carolyn Urbanski of Waite Park, and Kirsten Freeman and Ashley Nieland, both of Sartell.

# BankVista Rock 'n' Block concert attracts 1,500

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

For the second consecutive time, the BankVista Rock 'n' Block concert was a big suc-

cess in the huge parking lot to the south of Bernick's Ice Arena.

An estimated 1,500 people attended the concert Aug. 4. It was the 12th annual Rock

'n' Block, which began originally on a lot near Pine Cone Market Place in south Sartell. The Sartell Area Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the event year after year with help

from other sponsors, such as the biggest sponsor, BankVista.

This time, the event was a fundraiser for the nonprofit Sartell Fire Department Relief Association.

Concert-goers began to gather as early as 5 p.m. to see and hear two bands – the Fabulous Armadillos, a rock band; and Boogie Wonderland, a 1970s-style costume band.

The Armadillos kicked off the evening with hard-driving rock 'n' roll at 7 p.m. just as the sun began to shine on what had been an overcast day.

This year, there was a VIP section as well as a large area where people plunked down their lawn chairs and grooved to the music, many of them jumping up to dance. The concert ended shortly before midnight.

"I thought it was a blast," said Dr. Carolyn Urbanski. "I was glad to be part of the planning committee. Rock 'n' Block was such a good way to get to meet and know people from a wide area. I'm also really

glad we partnered with the fire department. They always need the help."

Urbanski, who works at Imagine Chiropractic, is a board member of the Sartell Area Chamber of Commerce. She, along with many other Chamber members, volunteered at the event.

Chamber member Tim Elness, who is a member of the Sartell Fire Department, is the one who spearheaded the idea of raising money for the fire department's relief association. The association mainly helps put money into the firefighters' pension fund.

Near the other parking lot at the arena, the Rock On Trucks company displayed a huge semi-truck with a firefighters' theme to honor fallen firefighters and to raise awareness for the vital – and often dangerous – jobs firefighters do.

"It was so good to show the firefighters how much people appreciate and support them," said Nikki Sweeter, executive director of the Sartell Area



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The Fabulous Armadillos entertain at the Sartell Chamber of Commerce’s 12th annual BankVista Rock ‘n’ Block party in the parking lot of the Bernick’s Ice Arena. The concert was a fundraiser for the Sartell Firefighters Relief Association.



“Fire Captain” Ben Hengel and his cousins Natalie and Maggie Hengel (right) had a good time at the BankVista Rock ‘n’ Block party Aug. 4 in Sartell. Ben is the son of Jen and David Hengel. David is a Sartell firefighter. The girls are the daughters of Jessica and Steve Hengel, also of Sartell. The concert was a benefit for the Sartell Firefighters’ Relief Association.

Chamber of Commerce, the main organizer of this year’s Rock ‘n’ Block. On the evening of the event, Sweeter was one of the many volunteers who made the concert possible. She had also lined up the bands and secured sponsorships.

She noted the fire department has an annual fundraiser, but this year, thanks to Elness’s suggestion, the Chamber and fire department decided to do a joint fundraiser.

“We thought it (the event)

was wonderful,” Sweeter said. “There was so much energy there. People kept coming through the gate all evening. During the day, we were really nervous about the weather, but then right as the concert started it turned nice and sunny. That alone seemed to put smiles on so many faces.”

As of press deadline, there was not yet a final tally on the amount of money raised for the relief association.

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# It's a field day at the fair



Twins Sienna and Levi Nordmark, age 5-1/2, of Sartell, pet a tortoise Aug. 1 at the Benton County Fair.



photos by Carolyn Bertsch  
Enjoying the first of many rides Aug. 1 at the Benton County Fair are brothers Payton Weimer, 8, (left) and Jace Weimer, 6, both of Sartell.

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# Council endorses ‘Complete Streets’ policy

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

A Complete Streets policy was endorsed unanimously by the Sartell City Council at its last meeting.

The vote was 4-0. Council member David Peterson was not at the meeting.

The Sartell Planning Commission and the Sartell Economic Development Commission had earlier agreed to recommend the policy be adopted by the council.

The Complete Streets policy is a checklist of things that make cities safe, convenient and comfortable for travel by people of all ages and abilities.

It is a joint policy adhered to by Stearns County, Benton County, the Minnesota

Department of Transportation and the Area Planning Organization. Sartell city staff reviewed the policy with developers, builders and the Central Minnesota Builders’ Association.

Signing onto the policy does not require any kind of mandates. It is, in essence, a policy that helps cities develop a uniform approach to transportation with keen regard for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as motorists.

The policy lists such things as road-lane widths, landscaping on boulevards, access to transit stops, bike parking, bike lanes, crosswalk enhancements and street/sidewalk lighting. Several Sartell City Council members noted the city already excels in those factors.

Sartell Administrator Mary Degiovanni emphasized the joint policy is a policy only, not a law. She and Sartell Planner/Developer Anita Archambeau said the city’s endorsement of the policy would help the city get grants for transportation safety projects. The grant process, they said, has become very competitive in recent years. Being part of the Complete Streets policy would be a boost for the city in the grant-application process.

The council agreed. Member Mike Chisum said he and the council should rely on the “people in the trenches,” meaning city staff and leaders like Archambeau.

“I trust her experience, training and knowledge,” he said. “I’ll vote for it.”

## RSVP for Aug. 23 ‘Cookout with Cops’

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The perennially popular “Cookout with Cops” will take place from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, in Sartell at the St. Francis Church Gathering Place.

The free event welcomes all seniors who are 55 or older to enjoy a cookout that includes hot dogs, hamburgers, all the fixings, refreshments and other treats.

As every year, there will also be informative presentations by guest speakers about issues relating to senior citizens.

The event is sponsored by the Sartell Police Department in conjunction with S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Working Together). It is also made possible by donations from local businesses and individuals.

Those who plan to attend should RSVP by calling 258-7365. A head count is needed so organizers can know how much food must be purchased.

Cooking With Cops began nearly 15 years ago, and each year the attendance has increased hugely.

## 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, Aug. 10**  
**Benton County Museum**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

**St. Joseph Farmers’ Market**, 3-6:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, C.R. 2.

**Saturday, Aug. 11**  
**Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota**, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

**Monday, Aug. 13**  
**Hiring an Immigrant Workforce**, 2-4:40 p.m., Recource Training and Solutions, 137 23rd St. S., Sartell. Hosted by Immigrant Employee Connection Group, 320-308-5749.

**Market Monday**, 3-6: p.m., parking lot of Coborn’s Market Place, 1725 Pinecone Road S., Sartell, marketmonday.org.

**Sartell City Council**, 6 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N. 320-253-2171.

**Tuesday, Aug. 14**  
**Central Minnesota Market**, 3-5:30 p.m., VA Hospital, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.

**National Alliance on Mental Health**, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

**Wednesday, Aug. 15**  
**Free immigration services**, 9 a.m.-noon, Discovery Community School, 700 Seventh St. S., Waite Park.

**SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together)**, 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.

**Coborn’s Block Party**, celebrating 40 years in Sartell, 701 First Ave. N., 5-7 p.m.

**Thursday, Aug. 16**  
**Sauk Rapids Farmers’ Market**, 3-6 p.m., Coborn’s parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.

**Coffee and Conversation**, a senior discussion group, 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.dennery@charter.net.

**Nordic walking**, 9:30 a.m., meet at the granite fountain at Lake George in St. Cloud. Call Linda at 952-475-0891.

**Friday, Aug. 17**  
**Benton County Museum**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

**St. Joseph Farmers’ Market**, 3-6:30

p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, C.R. 2.

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

**Saturday, Aug. 18**  
**Community Meal**, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell.

**Monday, Aug. 20**  
**Market Monday**, 3-6 p.m., parking lot of Coborn’s Market Place, 1725 Pinecone Road S., Sartell, marketmonday.org.

**Tinville Lions Club**, 7 p.m., Rollie’s Rednecks and Longnecks Bar, 940 35th Ave. NE, Sauk Rapids.

**Parkinson’s disease** treatment options speaker, 1-2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.

**Tuesday, Aug. 21**  
**Central Minnesota Market**, 3-5:30 p.m., VA Hospital, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.

**Memory Writers** group develops topics and turns in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

**National Alliance on Mental Health**, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

**Wednesday, Aug. 22**  
**Free immigration services**, 9 a.m.-

noon, Community Outpost, 600 13th St. S., St. Cloud.

**Thursday, Aug. 23**  
**Sauk Rapids Farmers’ Market**, 3-6 p.m., Coborn’s parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.

**Coffee and Conversation**, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

**Cookout with Cops**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Francis Church Gathering Place. RSVP 258-7365.

**Nordic walking**, 9:30 a.m., meet at the granite fountain at Lake George in St. Cloud. Call Linda at 952-475-0891.

**Friday, Aug. 24**  
**Benton County Museum**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

**St. Joseph Farmers’ Market**, 3-6:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, C.R. 2.



# Back to School

## Checklist

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And lodging and breakfast and some time at the Mall of America  
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CHANHASSEN DINNER THEATER "HOLIDAY INN" w/lunch Wed., Dec 5.....\$99 pp

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& Creation Museum 8 days.....Oct 12 – 19 FULL!  
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Fri., Aug 24 Adult\$40 pick-up St Joe Park & Ride 10:00am Return 9:30pm  
Mon., Aug 27 and Thurs., Aug 30 Senior Day at the Fair Adult - \$40 Senior- 65+ -\$38 pick-up Whitney 7:30am Return 7:00pm  
Tues., Aug 28 Military Day Adult \$40 Military & spouse \$27 and pay adm at gate Child 12 and under each day is \$32 pp  
pick-up St Joe Park & Ride 7:30 return 7:30pm



# Opinion

## Our View ‘Nobody’ wins when you don’t vote

Do you want to overthrow the government? Or maybe you think things are going just fine.

Either way, Tuesday’s primary election is the time to take a stand.

Midterm elections generally attract a low voter turnout. Primary election turnout is historically even lower.

Voting is always the most important action of civic engagement, but because of a unique set of circumstances this year, voters must participate, starting with the primary.

Statewide, voters will elect a new governor. Mark Dayton is ending two terms so Minnesotans will have a new administration regardless of which party wins.

Party endorsements don’t mean much this year.

On the Republican side, endorsed candidate Jeff Johnson, who lost to Dayton in 2014, is being challenged by former two-term governor Tim Pawlenty. Pawlenty’s opponents are already running ads against Pawlenty, assuming he will beat Hennepin County commissioner Johnson. The ads remind voters of Pawlenty’s cuts to education and health funding while he stresses job creation.

Democrats endorsed Erin Murphy. She’s a former state House majority leader and represents the Summit Hill neighborhood of St. Paul. She faces challenges from Tim Walz, who represents Minnesota’s First Congressional District, and Lori Swanson, current state attorney general.

Walz is to the right of Murphy and his ads stress his background as a teacher and his rural roots. The TV ads don’t mention he’s served in Congress since the 2007 election. Swanson joined the governor’s race late after she failed to get the DFL endorsement for attorney general because DFLers didn’t like her A+ rating from the National Rifle Association.

The Democrats also have a hot race for attorney general. The five candidates are Keith Ellison, Tom Foley, Debra Hilstrom, Matt Pelikan and Mike Rothman. The DFL endorsed Pelikan. Ellison currently represents Minnesota’s Fifth Congressional District and is giving up his increasingly larger role in Congress to run for state office. Analysts think Ellison is trying to build his resume for bigger things such as U.S. Senator or governor.

Both U.S. Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, are running for re-election. Klobuchar should have no trouble with her four challengers, but Smith has an interesting contest. You’ve probably seen Richard Painter on cable TV pushing for Trump’s impeachment and calling him a crook. Painter was ethics lawyer during George W. Bush’s administration but he’s running as a Democrat. He’s taken some positions to the left of Smith, including opening up mining in northeastern Minnesota.

Locally, Stearns County will have a new sheriff. The candidates are Dave Benrud, Bob Dickhaus, Dwight Pfannenstien and Steve Soyka. Pfannenstien withdrew from active campaigning after he was appointed St. Joseph police chief in June but his name remains on the ballot. All the candidates have extensive law-enforcement experience backed up by strong academic preparation.

Showing up on Tuesday is important. We keep hearing Donald Trump won the electoral vote while Hilary Clinton won the popular vote in 2016. But the real winner was nobody. Trump’s 63 million votes and Clinton’s 66 million came in behind the 111 million people who did not vote. Nationwide, 55.5 percent of eligible voters showed up. Minnesota again led the nation with 74.16 percent turnout.

Let’s do better.

If you want to overthrow the government, the time is now.

## Trump brings back memories of Piggly Wiggly

Mike  
Knaak  
*Editor*



Donald Trump’s recent speech in Tampa got me thinking about Piggly Wiggly.

Trump again argued for requiring voters to show a photo ID to guard against voter fraud – one of the many myths Trump likes to rant about.

Photo IDs are required for many transactions, even buying groceries, Trump trumpeted.

“You know, if you go out and you want to buy groceries, you need a picture on a card, you need ID. You go out and you want to buy anything, you need ID and you need your picture,” he said.

Critics mocked him for being out of touch and obviously not being a regular grocery buyer.

Critics compared his groceries-with-a-photo ID comment to George H.W. Bush’s visit to a supermarket where he marveled over the not-exactly-cutting-edge technology of a price scanner. Bush’s awkward moment didn’t help his campaign when “It’s the economy, stupid” ruled the 1992 presidential race.

Trump’s grocery comment reminded me of my days at Piggly Wiggly, a grocery chain with stores across Minnesota in the 1950s, ‘60s and ‘70s. There were two Piggly Wigglys in St. Cloud and while in high school, I worked at the Sixth Avenue store, now a

Perkins restaurant.

Sadly, there are no more Piggly Wigglys in Minnesota, but you’ll find a few stores in Wisconsin and there are more than 600 Piggly Wiggly stores in 17 states, primarily in the Midwest and Southeast.

Commonly in the late 1960s, people paid for groceries with paper checks. Not only did they write checks for the amount of purchase, but they used the Piggly Wiggly as their bank. For example, a shopper would buy \$20 worth of groceries and write us a check for \$50, collecting the difference in cash.

We’d also frequently get payroll and other two-party checks. On payday, a shopper would present us with a \$250 or \$300 payroll check to cover \$50 worth of groceries and we’d give them cash back. (Keep in mind an average worker’s yearly pay in 1969 was less than \$6,000 and \$50 would buy a heaping cart of groceries. An annual average salary is 10 times as much today.)

On paydays at big employers, such as the railroad car shops in

## Trump’s groceries gaffe makes point

Connor  
Kockler  
*Guest Writer*



At a campaign rally in Florida, President Trump made a claim that you need an ID to buy groceries, but not to vote. While you do not need an ID to buy groceries in most cases, in our country you are not required to have an ID to vote in almost any cases. With the widespread distrust in our voting system in the wake of allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and complaints about the Electoral College system, it should be imperative we take all steps we can to ensure the integrity of our electoral process. These steps should include implementing common sense Voter ID laws.

After working as a student election judge in my hometown of Sauk Rapids in the 2016 election and researching other nations around the world, I’ve found the United States severely lags behind many other countries. Norway and Israel are among a large number of nations that explicitly require a form of photo ID to be presented at the polls. Others, like our northern neighbors Canada, will also take documents like utility bills that can prove your residency or citizenship status.

By contrast, here in the United States, voters must merely state their name to an election judge, who then will find the name in the voting register and have the voter affirm they are indeed the person they claim to be. Voter ID is not required, and people who mistakenly pull out their driver’s license or other identification to show it to us are told it’s not needed. This system is based massively on trust, as

without party challengers or a person who recognizes someone claiming a name that is not theirs, there is no way to verify whether each person who votes is telling the truth.

Various opinion polls put support for Voter ID laws among Americans at around 60 to 80 percent, with majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independents in favor. So what is the holdup? Voter ID opponents argue these laws present a barrier to voting for poorer people and minorities, whom they say cannot access IDs as easily as other groups. They also claim voter fraud is not a large problem, with a few dozen or hundred cases reported each election cycle around the country.

On the issue of barrier to access, a photo ID is required for many tasks in everyday life. Though you do not need one to buy groceries, you do need a photo ID to complete many of these tasks:

- Buying alcohol and cigarettes
- Opening a bank account
- Applying for a job or government benefits
- Renting/buying a house or car
- Plane travel
- Purchasing a firearm

For those who do not have a type of photo ID, it’s fairly straightforward

Waite Park, we’d load up on extra \$20 and \$50 bills.

Before the ubiquitous ATM, the Pig was the cash machine.

Our Sixth Avenue location near the St. Cloud State campus attracted loads of student shoppers, especially on Monday night. Students would return from the weekend at home with a \$10 two-party check from mom or dad and stock up on a few bucks worth of macaroni and cheese and take the change in cash.

Maybe the last time Trump bought groceries was during his college days. Because when people paid with a check, we’d often require a photo ID such as a driver’s license.

I knew the regular customers who paid by check and I didn’t ask for ID. But for people I didn’t know, who presented two-party checks or a check with a low sequence number, the customer did need a photo ID for the transaction.

Perhaps Trump is among the 4 percent of shoppers who still buy groceries with a check.

If Donald Trump walked into my Piggly Wiggly with a check from Deutsche Bank and signed by Viktor Vekselberg, I’d definitely make him show an ID to buy his macaroni and cheese.

to acquire one from your state. Minnesota for instance, offers State IDs to those who do not have driver’s licenses for a maximum of \$17.25, with options to apply online, by mail or in person.

With regards to voter fraud not being a major problem, I would pose this question. Is any amount of crime acceptable? Much like with other crimes, it would be impossible to completely eliminate all cases of voter fraud, but when the choices of the electorate can hinge on a few votes, do we want to take the risk some of them could be fraudulent? It would be hopeful at best and negligent at worst to not take voter fraud as the hazard it is.

We need not look too far from home to see the potential dangers. After the 2008 election for Senate in Minnesota where Al Franken beat Norm Coleman by 312 votes, Ramsey and Hennepin counties brought voter fraud charges against more than six dozen people.

I would encourage our local, state and federal lawmakers to take a look at common-sense, effective Voter ID laws that provide opportunities to all citizens to easily access a Photo ID and verify voters at the polls in order to insure the accuracy and integrity of our electoral process. In a partisan age, that’s something we should all be able to get behind.

*Connor Kockler is a student at St. John’s University. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.*



Opinion

And all I got was this lousy T-shirt

Summer is beginning its wind-down, and I scream at the fading light. I love summer so much so that perhaps I am in love with summer, but that’s a different column. Instead, I wish to ruminate some fine local summer vacation activities my family and I have enjoyed this year.

My family and I haven’t taken a proper vacation in four years for a variety of reasons. Instead, we try to just have fun around here, or at least within an easy(ish) two-hour drive. Central Minnesota actually has quite a bit to offer a family with kids ranging from 2 to 13.

Our first stop this year was Como Zoo. For those of you who haven’t been there lately (or ever!), Como Zoo is a must-see for every Minnesotan. There is no strict fee to enter the zoo,

rather a suggested donation, which is nice for families with every budget. In years we do better, we try to give more when we visit, and in years where we can’t give as much, we try not to feel too bad about it.

There is a wide variety of animals at Como Zoo, from apes and monkeys, to big cats, giraffes, wolves and even my family’s favorite, the polar bear. This year, Como Zoo is also under massive construction to redesign its seal habitat, so there is definitely a reason for us to go back in 2019.

Outside of the animals at Como Zoo, there is also a section with ticketed theme-park rides. This is a bit spendy, but I am a sucker for the Tilt-a-Whirl, as are my 4- and 6-year olds. My 2-year-old enjoys the train, and my 13-year-old doesn’t care for

Patric Lewandowski

Guest Writer



rides at all.

Of course, we must exit through the gift shop, which has amazingly low-priced stuffed animals. It’s very easy to get nice souvenirs for all the kids for under \$50.

One last must-see at Como is the historic Cafesjian’s Carousel, which was built in 1914, and still functions for kids to ride today. It makes for a nice family tradition I was able to go on as a child and share with my kids.

The other daycation spot we love to visit every year is just to the north in Brainerd. I can only be referring to the beloved Paul Bunyan Land of course. There is

nothing more Minnesotan than a theme park for the giant lumberjack responsible for so much of Minnesota’s topography (according to legend). Sure, there’s the typical rides (more Tilt-a-Whirl), but the main attraction is Paul himself! Yes, Paul is now retired from his lumberjack days and the giant sits just inside his theme park, towering over all. But, Paul is friendly, saying hello to all and welcoming each child by name as they enter. My own children have met Paul’s welcome with both terror at the giant talking to them (he is 26 feet tall), and amazement. It’s, again, a proud tradition to share with my children the fear I felt at their ages.

Of course, PBL (as we cool kids call it) has more to offer than animatronics and rides. There is the Ghost Mine, the

Magnetic Mine Shaft and the historical Pioneer Village to see. The petting zoo is fun as well, but my favorite thing will always be the bumper cars. Now that my boy is 13, he’s really ready to help me Malachi Crunch (for you Happy Days super fans) any and all foolish to ride against us. Paul Bunyan Land is fun because you pay once and ride all you want, plus there’s enough other things to see before you (once again) exit through the gift shop.

There’s still a few weeks left to see these uniquely Minnesotan attractions before summer’s last gasp and kids head back to school. As for my family, we’ll be heading next for the last of three summer daycations to one of the best Renaissance festivals in the nation, which just happens to be here in Minnesota.

Letter to the editor

Reader encourages to vote Bentrud for sheriff

Lowell Nielsen, St. Cloud

We are having a primary election on Aug. 14 for Stearns County sheriff. We really need to have citizens get out to vote because like all mid-term election years, people have a tendency to believe these times are less important. However, in the primary election on Aug. 14, we have Dave Bentrud as our Stearns County sheriff candidate who wants your vote in order to move on to the general election on Nov. 6.

didate – is presently Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud, who wants to be your next Stearns County sheriff. We need a sheriff in Stearns County for the whole county not one that shows up throughout the county only at election time or remains primarily near the county seat. Counties like Stearns, which have the seat of the county in the corners and edges of the county, require a sheriff who is cognizant of this dilemma and reacts accordingly by reaching out to the out-county citizens – continually, throughout the

year. Remember this, if you are not satisfied with a status quo sheriff’s department, you must vote for change with Bentrud. This change also comes with his designs to collaborate with other county and state agencies making sure all avenues are covered in the course of providing for the safety needs and protection of all our county’s citizens, young and old.

I have known Bentrud for more than four years, ever since joining the church where he serves as chairman of the Elder board. As the chair, Ben-

trud is a discerning, stable listener and thinker who does not react with a knee-jerk attitude. He is a God-fearing husband and father who is genuine and forth-coming whenever one speaks with him. He is a great teacher with a plethora of knowledge to add to the office of Stearns County sheriff, as a teacher in church classes and someone who has a lengthy tenure at St. Cloud State University as an adjunct instructor in Criminal Justice. As a former county probation supervisor in the 1990s, when Bentrud was a St. Cloud po-

lice officer, it became quickly evident to me of how important and necessary sound leadership in management was required at a police chief or sheriff’s position. Bentrud’s the man for the job.

Please vote and tell all your friends to simply vote for (one) person who really can make a difference in the way the Stearns County Sheriff’s Department is managed; vote “BENTRUD” on Aug. 14 because we believe he and his record rise far above his opponents in this election.

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# City anticipates major water-supply charges

by **Dennis Dalman**  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The water-treatment plant on the east side of Sartell may be doomed to demolition, which is a likely outcome as part of the city's proposed short- and long-term Comprehensive Water Plan.

Constructed in 1992, the plant is the oldest of Sartell's three treatment plants. It would cost up to \$2 million or perhaps more to make necessary updates and renovations, the council learned. Besides, the city's other two water-treatment plants (one in the northwest, the newest one in the southwest) will be able to handle water demands for residents and businesses on both sides of the river, at least for the short term.

The water plan was out-

lined for the city council at its last meeting by Mark Wallis, an engineer with the city's contracted engineering firm of Short, Elliott, Hendrickson Inc.

The three water-treatment plants each draw water from three wells – nine wells altogether. The treatment plants, through a chemical process, remove minerals from the water – mainly iron and manganese. The treated water is then distributed via pipes to the city's water delivery network. In addition, there are currently three water towers in the city.

Wallis said the Comprehensive Water Plan study considered two factors: a primary growth area and a secondary growth area. The first is the central area of Sartell that is now highly developed; the second is the area around the city in

which development – residential, business, industrial – has been happening and is expected to accelerate as the population of Sartell (now 20,800) continues to grow. Wallis said the city must anticipate that growth and start making changes to the water system in preparation for water needs brought about by growth.

Among the changes likely to be required are the drilling of three new wells; a hydrogeologic study before wells are drilled; the possible decommission of the east treatment plant; additional piping to deliver more water from the west side to the east side, and improvements to the northwest treatment plant. The latter is the most expensive one to operate because the water it pumps from wells there is high in manganese.

Wallis noted drilling of wells in the Sartell area has always been something of a challenge, and that is why hydrogeologic studies are essential – to pre-determine the best places to drill for water, for the three new planned wells.

So far, water pressure throughout the city is adequate, Wallis noted, except for a north area at Blackberry Ridge where the pressure is less than ideal. Wallis also noted if the east plant is shut down, there would be adequate water for firefighting anywhere in the city, west or east of the river.

Currently, a typical water-usage day in Sartell consumes 2.4-million gallons of water, Wallis noted. An extreme peak day, such as a very hot period, can use as much as 5.8-million gallons, he added.

If the east plant is shut down, the functions at the northwest and southwest plants would be expanded, Wallis told the council. There would also be expanded water storage on the east side.

Changes in the water system will cost \$58 million or more during the next 15 or so years, Wallis noted. It could be paid for largely through water-access charges, development-project charges, water-trunkline fees and water-usage billings.

After hearing Wallis's presentation, the council voted 4-0 (council member David Peterson was absent) to approve a feasibility study for water-storage plans and to begin hydrogeologic studies for future wells. Those are the vital first steps that must precede other anticipated changes.

## Tennis? Pickleball? Basketball? All three?

by **Dennis Dalman**  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Noting the increasing popularity of pickleball, Sartell City Council members are in favor of adding pickleball to the improvements plan for Watab Park.

At its last meeting, the council was asked to give direction to city staff for recreational options at the park – options that are part of a larger improvement plan at Watab, including a new shelter/picnic building.

Currently, there are two tennis courts at Watab Park. The options under consideration are to replace the tennis courts with pickleball courts and a basketball hoop on one end of a pickleball court; keep one tennis court, make one pickleball

court and one basketball hoop; or keep both tennis courts and add a basketball hoop on one end of one of the courts.

City Administrator Mary Degiovanni told the council no matter which option it decides, the cost would be about the same.

There are currently six pickleball courts in Val Smith Park, as well as pickleball courts, volleyball and basketball in the Sartell Community Center's two gymnasiums. The tennis courts in the city were created and maintained by the school district, it was noted.

The council did not vote on a particular option. Degiovanni said designs of the court options will be presented soon at a meeting, at which time the council can make a final decision.

## Trobec appointed to St. Stephen City Council

The St. Stephen City Council on Aug. 1 appointed Steve Trobec to the council's open seat. He will serve until Dec. 31.

The council opening was created when Jeff Blenkush was appointed to be the city's mayor after Cindy VanderWeyst resigned on July 11.

The two appointments changed

the lineup for this fall's general election.

There will be two council members elected for four-year terms, one council member elected for a two-year term and a mayor elected for a two-year term.

Filing for those offices ends at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 14.



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