

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, June 12, 2020
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Town Crier

School meals for pick-up continue

Free packaged breakfast and lunch meals for students in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district will be available for pick-up through June 30. The meals can be picked up from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the front of Sartell Middle School, newly renamed River-view Intermediate School. The meals are not available Saturdays or Sundays – only on weekdays. If parents would like to see the menu for each day's lunches, they can check them out at sartell.k12.mn.us/foodservicenews.

Walk to End Alzheimer's volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help the Alzheimer's Association plan the next Walk to End Alzheimer's. Volunteers will coordinate logistics, recruit new participants and sponsors, market the event, seek refreshments and prizes, plan entertainment and help ensure the event reaches fundraising goals. The committee meets monthly. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12, at Lake George in St. Cloud. Contact Jenny, Alzheimer's Association at 320-257-0696 or jatheis@alz.org.

Mask drop-off sites

The need for masks continues. Make and donate cloth masks for at-risk community members. This link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html> from the CDC-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates how masks are used and also shows patterns for making masks. Completed masks can be dropped off at Coborn's, 900 Cooper Ave. S., St. Cloud, behind the service counter during store hours and at Whitney Senior Center West Door, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud, in the covered bin marked MASKS. The bin is available Monday-Friday 8-4:30 p.m. Click here for the pattern. Contact Mary Krippner, United Way Volunteer Engagement manager at 320-223-7991.

Food prep helped needed

The Yes Network is looking for help with food preparation in their St. Cloud State University and Apollo High School kitchens. Help is needed 8-11 a.m., two or three days a week, four to five people a day. Contact Jerry, Yes Network at jerrysparby@gmail.com.

Spring brings cautious business openings

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Spring has sprung, summer is just around the bend, and many people who are finally able to go to local businesses are mighty happy about de-isolating in the nice weather.

Those are the many people tired of being cooped-up or otherwise isolated due to the ongoing virus pandemic, which started a deadly infection swath across the United States, starting last March.

At long last, the Teders family in Sartell enjoyed lunch in public for the first time after many weeks of stay-at-home dining because of the virus pandemic. On Sunday, June 7, the Teders had lunch right outside of Anejos Fine Mexican Cuisine restaurant in Sartell.

"It's fabulous to be here," said Meghann Teders. "It's

much needed after being home so much."

Her husband, Trent, and their sons Keelan and Kyler smiled and nodded their agreement.

Like many other restaurants/bars in Sartell, Anejos was allowed to open for outdoor dining June 1 according to the terms of a Phase II directive from Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. And then, on June 10, Anejos and other establishments were allowed to open for indoor dining, with some limitations and safety restrictions.

"We've been busy," said Jackie Navarro, an employee whose family owns Anejos. "And the customers seem to like it a lot."

Not too far from Anejos, also in Pinecone Marketplace, is House of Pizza, which also opened for outdoor service June 1.



photo by Dennis Dalman

The Teders family of Sartell dined outside at Anejos restaurant. Trent and Meghann Teders and their sons Keelan (left) and Kyler enjoyed a long, leisurely lunch.

"Customers are so happy," said waiter Diri Lozano. "I'm so excited. We were super-busy this weekend. Customers have been wanting to do this for so

long. They're happy to be able to sit down at an outside table and enjoy a pizza."

River Boat Depot at River-
Spring • page 2

People kneel for 8 minutes, 46 seconds



photo by Mike Knaak

More than three dozen people knelt along Pinecone Road for 8 minutes and 46 seconds on June 4 to honor George Floyd, the Minneapolis man who was killed in police custody. The event started on Facebook and organizers decided that instead of kneeling in their yards, they would move the demonstration to a more public place. "It's very important we all understand what's going on and that we can get together and support the life of George Floyd," said Midge Nyblom, one of the organizers of the event.

Uncertainty clouds plans for new school year

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell-St. Stephen school board members discussed at a June 3 work session how to plan for what school will look like in fall with so many unknowns about the coronavirus and how public health concerns will change in the next three months.

The school year ended with distance learning for all students but how students return to classes will depend on Min-

nesota Department of Education guidance, which is not expected until the end of July.

"Nobody has a crystal ball," Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert said.

With so much uncertainty, board members debated whether detailed planning should take place now only to have it overturned by state guidelines later in the summer.

"We want our kids back in school, but we don't know what that is going to look like. There may be some modifi-

cations," board member Pam Raden said.

Much like the "dial" concept Gov. Tim Walz has used to describe the easing of restrictions, schools have to plan for a range of possibilities from continued distance learning to a return to buildings with some degree of social distancing.

"We need to have a dial, not a switch," board member Patrick Marushin said. "We need to look at ways to totally distance, totally the way it was a year ago and then have some

steps in between. We need to have more than one setting on the dial for social distancing. Spring was either on or off."

After some discussion, the board decided to give teachers, staff and students a time to recover from the school year just ended and then gather groups to look at high-level issues during July. Details would be worked out after the expected state guidance in late July or early August. The board discussed the possibility of con-

Schools • back page

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF ST. STEPHEN
STEARNS COUNTY, MN

Rezoning Select Properties from R-1 to FR-1 and RR-1

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of St. Stephen will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2020, in the Council chambers of the St. Stephen City Hall, located at 2 Sixth Avenue SE, St. Stephen, MN 56375, to consider the petition of property owner Greg A. Supan to rezone two portions of the parcel located at 530 Sixth Ave. SE, St. Stephen, MN 56375 (PIN 90.55808.0010) following the approval of a land split on June 3, 2020. The parcel is currently zoned as R-1 (Single-Family Residence). Following the land split, the larger parcel is now 56.11+/- acres and is petitioned to be rezoned as FR-1 (Farm Residence); the smaller par-

cel is now 3.26+/- acres and is petitioned to be rezoned RR-1 (Rural Single-Family Residence).

Anyone wishing to comment on the above-referenced proposed rezoning will be heard at the public hearing. Written comments may be forwarded to the office of the City Clerk before the time of the public hearing.

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN

/s/ Julie Jacobs, City Clerk

Dated: June 9, 2020

Publish: June 12, 2020

Spring

from front page

side Drive in Sartell built a patio a couple of years ago overlooking the river. That amenity came in nice and handy when the business was allowed to open for outdoor service.

"We opened June 2," said waiter Lois Cronenberg. "I've been an employee here for 17 years, and I'm very happy we are open again. We've been having steady but not overwhelming business. The customers are so happy to sit outside together at their tables."

G-Allen's Restaurant & Sports Bar on Evergreen Drive is also open, and a waiter there said people are "pretty happy just to be outdoors for a change."

The Sartell City Council, like other area city councils, recently approved an interim ordinance allowing outdoor tables to be placed on fenced-in areas of sidewalks and onto parking lots. The businesses obtained permits from the cities after submitting their safety plans for re-opening.

Like other establishments

under the state-mandated safety guidelines, G-Allen's abides by the rules that went into effect June 1: tables must be 6 feet apart, no more than four people per table unless they are all family members, staff are required to wear face masks, reservations must be made and no more than 50 people can be seated at one time.

Phase III

As of June 10, businesses continued to re-open with the mandated safety measures as spelled out in the governor's Phase III re-opening plans.

Those businesses include – again – bars and restaurants that may now offer indoor dining but only at 50 percent capacity of their maximum allowable seating as allowed under a particular establishment's fire-safety capacity. Outdoor seating can also be extended to a maximum of 250 people.

Other businesses that received a green light on June 10 are churches, hair salons, nail salons, barber shops, swimming pools, some sporting, movie theaters, bowling alleys, gymnasiums, outdoor

gatherings and some indoor gatherings.

Safety restrictions apply to all of them. Churches, for example, can accommodate up to 50 percent of the former number of worshippers.

Outdoor gatherings allow for up to 25 people at once, and indoor gatherings (such as parties) are advised to host only 10 people or fewer at a time.

Salons (hair, nails and more) can increase their customer numbers from 25 percent to 50 percent as of June 10.

Sports that don't involve body contact, such as tennis or shuffleboard, are now allowed, but the body-contact sports are still not allowed to host games.

Gym areas are allowed a 25-percent customer capacity.

Bowling alleys and movie theaters can also have up to a 25-percent customer capacity.

Outdoor concerts can be held for up to 250 people with social distancing of six feet.

In all of those activities and gatherings, social distancing must be adhered to, and the wearing of masks is strongly recommended by the governor's re-opening safety plan.

Candidates file for offices with primaries

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

State.

U.S. Senate

DFL incumbent Tina Smith will be challenged by Steve Carlson, Ahmad R. Hassan, Paula Overby and Christopher Lovell Seymore Sr.

Republicans will have a

choice between the party endorsed candidate, Jason Lewis, and John L. Berman, Bob Carney Jr., Cynthia Gail and James Reibestein.

Two minor party candidates filed for U.S. Senate. They are

Candidates • back page

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Newsleader staff members have the responsibility to report news fairly and accurately and are accountable to the public. Readers who feel we've fallen short of these standards are urged to call the Newsleader office at 320-363-7741. If matters cannot be resolved locally, readers are encouraged to take complaints to the Minnesota News Council, an independent agency designed to improve relationships between the public and the media and resolve conflicts. The council office may be reached at 612-341-9357.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ST. JOSEPH NEWSLEADER, 1622 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304.

Blotter

May 26

2 p.m. Trash bin fire. First Avenue E. Officers noticed a thin line of smoke that quickly engulfed a roll-off trash bin. The fire department was called and extinguished the fire, possibly caused by sparks from a passing train.

May 27

1:30 p.m. Fraud. A fraud was reported by someone who received unexpected checks in the mail. The person was told to deposit the checks in their personal bank account and return the money using gift cards. The loss was approximately \$2,000.

May 28

12:45 a.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue S. near Heritage Drive. An officer stopped a driver for no headlights. Driver thought the dim left headlight was working well enough to still drive. Officer informed the driver it was not. A citation was issued for driving after revocation, no proof of insurance and head lamps required.

May 29

1:20 p.m. Traffic stop. 800 block of Riverside Avenue N. A driver heading south was cited for driving 45 mph in a 30 mph zone.

May 30

7 p.m. Traffic stop. Roberts Road. An officer stopped a vehicle showing revoked status of the registered owner. The driver admitted to knowing he was revoked. A citation issued and the owner made calls for a valid driver.

May 31

Midnight. Fire. Celebration Circle. Fireworks started a small grass fire. Unknown suspects lit fireworks and took off. The fire department put out the fire.

June 1

4:45 p.m. Counterfeit. 200 block of Riverside Avenue S. A business reported a man purchased items using legitimate \$20s and two counterfeit \$50 bills. The fake bills were handed over to officers as evidence. The man left in a tan 1997 Lexus ES300.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN
STEARNS COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 06032020

Resolution to Amend City Ordinance Section 41.16, Subd. 1(c)—Accessory Buildings in Residential Districts

WHEREAS, the City Council met on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 to amend Ordinance Section 41.16, Subd. 1(c) to read as follows:

Section 41.16: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

Subd. 1: Accessory Buildings in Residential Districts.

...

c) Lot Size with Maximum Accessory Building Size. One half acre & less: 660 square feet at foundation level (maximum size of accessory building) with total of attached garage, detached garage & accessory building(s) not to exceed 1,548 square feet.

One half acre+ to One acre: 960 square feet at foundation level (maximum size of accessory building) with total of attached garage, detached garage & accessory building(s) not to exceed 1,848 square feet

1+ acre to 2.5 acres: 1,600 square feet at foundation level (maximum size of accessory building) with total of attached garage, detached garage & accessory building(s) not to exceed 2,500 square feet

2.5+ acres to 5 acres: 1,900 square feet at foundation level (maximum size of accessory building) with total attached garage, detached garage & accessory building(s) not to exceed 2,800 square feet

5+ acres to 10 acres: 2,200 square feet at foundation level (maximum size of accessory building) with total attached garage, detached garage & accessory building(s) no to exceed 3,100 square feet

10+ acres and more: 3,200 square feet at foundation level (maximum size of accessory building) with total attached garage, detached garage and accessory building(s) not to exceed 4,000 square feet.

Lot area cover requirements do apply based on zoning.

This ordinance shall take effect upon publication.

Passed by the City Council of the City of St. Stephen on this 3rd day of June 2020.

/s/ Jeff Blenkush, Mayor

/s/ Julie Jacobs, City Clerk

Publish: June 12, 2020



Eyecon Graphics in St. Cloud, Minnesota, seeks a Full-time Level I Web Designer

Duties: Support multiple interactive websites running on the Word-Press platform. The position combines front-end web development (HTML5, CSS, JavaScript) with back-end programming skills (PHP and mySQL) and day-to-day management of several WordPress CMS installations. Time will be split between contributing to the development of new sites (using a responsive, mobile-first methodology) and supporting existing client websites.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in computer science, mass communications, graphic design or related field. Two years' experience as a graphic designer, marketing specialist, social media director, or related, developing and managing websites on the WordPress platform; 2 years building websites with HTML, CSS, JavaScript/JQuery, PHP, and mySQL; 2 years' experience in e-commerce platforms (Magento, Woo-Commerce, Shopify, etc); working with designers to create responsive, mobile-first, standards-compliant frontend web templates; browser/cross-platform testing. 2 years' experience with security compliance, common web server exploits and their solutions; development and implementation of content management systems, collaborative websites, and social networking tools.

To apply: Send letter of application and resume to:
Rachael Sogge, Eyecon Graphics, 921 First St. N., Suite 101, St. Cloud, MN 56303. Eyecon Graphics is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF ST. STEPHEN
STEARNS COUNTY, MN

Rezoning Select Property from RR1 to R-1

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of St. Stephen will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2020 in the Council Chambers of the St. Stephen City Hall, located at 2 Sixth Avenue SE, St. Stephen, MN 56375, to consider the petition of property owner Steve Soyka to rezone the northwest portion of the parcel legally described as Section 36, Township 126, Range 029 (PIN 90.55921.0000) following the approval of a land split on June 3, 2020. The northwest portion of this parcel, following the land split, is approximately 1.13 acres and is currently zoned as RR-1 (Rural Single-Family Residence)

and, due to its size, is petitioned to be rezoned as R-1 (Single-Family Residence).

Anyone wishing to comment on the above-referenced proposed rezoning will be heard at the public hearing. Written comments may be forwarded to the office of the City Clerk before the time of the public hearing.

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN

/s/ Julie Jacobs, City Clerk

Dated: June 6, 2020

Publish: June 12, 2020

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A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



School year ends with drive-thru event

Sartell High School seniors graduated with a unique drive-in-movie style ceremony in the high school parking lot on May 30.

Social distancing guidelines ruled out the traditional indoor event. Families lined up their cars to watch the program on three giant screens and stayed with their vehicles during the event, which featured student speakers, a roll call of graduates and recognition of academic achievements.

Horn honking replaced applause to recognize accomplishments.

A fireworks display ended the evening.



photos by Mike Knaak

To maintain social distancing, seniors stay in or on their vehicles during the ceremony.

For a graduation photo gallery go to thenewsleaders.com/photo-gallery-sartell-high-school-graduation/



Fireworks end the graduation ceremony.



(Above) Seniors participate in the National Anthem. (Right) Seniors and their families staying inside or on their vehicles.



Teachers wave as cars leave the parking lot after the ceremony.

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City to give money for new arena

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell City Council voted 4-1 at its June 8 meeting to give the Sartell Youth Recreation Center the equivalent of nearly \$1.5 million to build another arena outside of its current facility, the Bernick's arena.

Council member Mike Chisum voted against the proposal. He emphasized he is a strong supporter of hockey, the arena efforts and a city partnership with the hockey association. However, he would like the city to wait until the results of a bank loan agreement with the association so the city could determine exactly how much extra money would be needed for the arena.

The city and the SYRC plan to partner to obtain what is called a conduit bond. That would allow the SYRC to obtain a bank loan with a fixed interest rate possibly as low as 3 percent, saving as much as \$50,000 per year on repayment costs.

The SYRC and the Sartell Youth Hockey Association have raised more than \$3 million so far toward the estimated \$5.2-million cost of the arena project. The new arena, to be built just south of the current one, would be an enclosed structure with fabric roof that could be used all year, including an artificial turf in summer for any number of sports, as well as for community events such as concerts.

The June 8 council decision is as follows: Up-front money to

help build the arena is \$450,000 from the city's portion of half-cent regional sales tax revenue, which is all the sales-tax funds the city now has left in the fund. Ongoing city contributions will come from money the city receives annually from a lease agreement with the private company that leases city-owned land for a golf course. That amount, over a 20-year period, would total an estimated \$482,000, which would be given to the SYRC. Currently, about \$60,000 annually from the golf-lease money goes to support baseball in the city, it was noted.

In addition, the city would waive fees and other charges per the following: \$62,000 in building fees; \$205,000 in water- and sewer-access charges; \$72,000 in demolition work for the outdoor rink and shelter; \$72,000 for ground work and utility work; and \$11,000 annually for utilities.

At a council meeting in May, Chad Ritter, president of the SYRC, asked the city to chip in \$130,000 per year for a 20-year period, plus other costs, for the new arena. All told, that amount would total nearly \$2 million. Fundraising has been adversely affected by the economic jitters caused by the virus pandemic.

Ritter also spoke at the June 8 meeting, stating there is currently a projected shortfall in funding of about \$90,000 per year for the arena plans.

Chisum asked why the school district hasn't been asked to bear more of the financial cost since it

and its students will benefit most from the arena by using it for sports activities. Ritter noted the district will rent space at the arena, and full usage would amount to about \$150,000 annually over a 20-year period.

Chisum said he is strongly concerned the city is spending money it doesn't yet have and will deplete the sales-tax revenue as financial uncertainties loom in the future. What if there is a major recession sometime during the next 20 years?, he asked.

Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum said the city is still strong and growing, that the local economy appears to be improving and that the arena is an economic growth plus for Sartell, as the current Bernick's Arena has been.

Chisum agreed the arena is a worthy project, but he noted the city's current debt load is about \$77 million, and the city must pay \$5 million toward debt service annually from Sartell's income of about \$18 million. Sartell, Chisum repeated, would be best to wait until after the conduit bond is negotiated and then determine how much to contribute to the arena project. Chisum also said the city has been very generous to the current arena, having spent \$700,000 to construct a parking lot there two years ago.

After more lengthy discussion, Fitzthum made a motion to approve the funding. It was seconded by council member Brady Andel, and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL PLANNING | DEBT

Decline in Credit Cards

Paper or plastic? More people are choosing the former when it comes to their finances.

Americans are paying off their credit card debt at unprecedented rates, according to the Federal Reserve System.

As consumers pay off their cards, many people are choosing to completely ditch them or keep the balances low with basic purchases that allow for quick payoffs. This strategy helps accelerate credit rating improvement and allows for growth in savings.

THE DECLINE

Consumer debt related to credit cards has been steadily falling by billions of dollars over the past few years.

Debit cards have a lot to do with the decline. Experts say that the dollar amount of purchases placed on debit cards will exceed that put on credit cards by next year.

Debit cards offer the convenience of making quick transactions without the seemingly endless rise in interest rates and late-payment charges associated with credit cards.

MORE RESPONSIBLE CONSUMERS

The uncertain economy may be the driving force behind more people paying off their debt and avoiding credit card misuse.

Consumer delinquencies fell to an 18-year low in January, according to the American Bankers Association.

With people paying more attention to their finances and building effective budgeting strategies, the ABA attributes the sharp decline in delinquencies to a more responsible, diligent consumer base.

BY THE NUMBERS

Although on the decline, credit card usage is still a major contributor to household debt, the third largest, in fact, behind mortgage and student loan debt.

The Federal Reserve released these statistics for August 2013 regarding credit cards:

- \$7,120: The average credit card debt per American family
- \$853.6 billion: Americans' total credit card debt
- 46.7%: Percentage of households with a credit card balance



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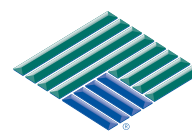


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Opinion

Our View What to do about Two Minnesotas?

The video of a white Minneapolis police officer kneeling on the neck of a black man while he slowly died shocked people around the world. The incident outraged millions, who took to the streets in protest. But by looking deeper than that chilling incident, we find an even larger blight on Minnesota's reputation.

The Twin Cities' shiny image as a progressive city, home to Fortune 500 companies, innovators in technology and medicine, and world-class health care, arts and education is an illusion for the state's people of color. With a closer look at the facts, that shiny illusion fades.

The legacy of rogue and racist Minneapolis cops is not news to anyone who pays attention. Minnesota's race issues go far beyond fixing the Minneapolis Police Department.

By many measurements, we see we are not One Minnesota, but Two Minnesotas. Stark racial differences in quality of life have long existed and the protests peeled back that reality for many in the state who were unaware, Gov. Tim Walz said.

Let's start with the police department. About 20 percent of Minneapolis's population of 430,000 is black. But when the police get physical nearly 60 percent of the time the person subject to that force is black, according to the department's records.

Since 2015, the Minneapolis police have documented using force about 11,500 times. For at least 6,650 acts of force, the subject of that force was black. By comparison, the police have used force about 2,750 times against white people, who make up about 60 percent of the population. Those numbers mean Minneapolis cops use force against black people at a rate at least seven times that of white people during the past five years.

Now let's look at income and home ownership.

The typical black family in Minneapolis earns less than half as much as the typical white family and homeownership among black people is one-third the rate of white families.

As a result, many black families have been effectively locked out of the prosperity the city's overwhelmingly white population enjoys.

The median black family income in Minneapolis was \$36,000 in 2018, according to Census Bureau data. Though that figure compares favorably with black families in many other U.S. metro areas, it is far from the nearly \$83,000 a typical white family in the city would earn. The \$47,000 difference is one of the largest such gaps in the nation.

In percentage terms, the typical black household earns only 44 percent as much as the typical white one. Of the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas, only Milwaukee has a larger gap between black and white earnings.

Roughly one-quarter of black families in Minneapolis own their home, which is one of the lowest black homeownership rates in the United States. The city's white families, by contrast, have one of the nation's highest rates at 76 percent. The resultant gap works out to more than 50 percentage points. Only Madison, Wisconsin, and Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, have larger gaps.

The housing disparity dates back 75 years or more. In the first half of the 20th century estate transactions in many Minneapolis neighborhoods were bound by provisions that limited ownership to white families. As racially-restrictive deeds spread, African Americans were pushed into a few small areas of the city. And even as the number of black residents continued to climb, ever-larger swaths of the city became entirely white. Though no longer enforceable, those covenants continue to shape settlement patterns in the Twin Cities.

Minnesotans have a lot of work to do. Nationally, Minnesota ranks fifth in a list of states that have the longest way to go to reach racial equality. Three of our neighboring states (Wisconsin, Iowa and South Dakota), along with Connecticut are ahead of us as states with the biggest disparity. States were ranked by income gap, education gap, home ownership and incarceration rate.

Reacting to the demonstrations, we should, in the words of Colin Powell "rather than curse them we should embrace them." Minnesotans need to take a realistic look at the facts and then take action so we indeed have One Minnesota.

As Walz said last week, "I don't think we get another chance to fix this in our country."

Exploits in space, strife on Earth

**Mike
Knaak**
Editor



Here we are again. Restarting the space race. NASA launched its first manned rocket from U.S. soil in nine years on May 30. As I watched the high-definition video of the astronauts inside the SpaceX craft, I couldn't help but think about my memories when the first American rocketed into space.

I was a first grader at Waseca's Hartley Elementary School when on a May morning in 1961 Alan Shepard's 15-minute sub-orbital flight launched the United States on the first step to the moon, a mission accomplished in 1969.

I sat in the classroom listening to the scratchy radio broadcast piped over the school's loudspeaker system. In 1961 classrooms weren't equipped with TVs. So the only image I experienced was in my imagination. Years later, on a visit to the Air and Space Museum, I stood next to a tiny Mercury capsule that looked nothing like what the 7-year-old me imagined.

Many of my strongest memories of my youth are tied to space. John Glenn's flight, Apollo 8 circling the moon on Christmas Eve 1968, Apollo 11 landing on the moon on a hot July night in 1969 and Jim Lovell's call from Apollo 13: "Houston, we've had a problem." (Years later I photographed Lovell when he visited St. Cloud.)

Back on planet Earth, other events were not so uplifting. While astronauts soared high above, civil rights demonstrators clashed with police and grow-

ing opposition to the Vietnam War pitted Americans against each other. The nation seemed ready to explode in 1968 with the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy.

Here we are again. Last week's protests following the murder of George Floyd reminded me of the riots after King's death. More than just images of burning buildings and looting came to mind. The rhetoric of the 1960s returned too with talk of "when the looting starts, the shooting starts" and the prospect of turning "vicious dogs" on demonstrators - words that described what actually happened in the 1960s. "LAW AND ORDER" means the same thing when Donald Trump says it as it did for Richard Nixon. (Don't worry white people, I'll protect you from the scary black people.)

As I watched the overwhelmingly peaceful demonstrators in Washington, D.C., my mind flashed to the August 1963 March on Washington and King's speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial, again through the eyes of my little-kid memory.

As an adult, on visits to Washington for work or pleasure, I've visited the Lincoln Memorial many times and

I always stand on the steps, imagining the day King stood in that very spot.

Whenever I'm in Washington, I always make a point of walking on the mall, from Lincoln to the Capitol. I prefer going at dusk, after the tourists have gone home, and when the monuments are lit. From Lincoln, it's just a short trip to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with its black granite walls rising in the darkness.

Farther to the east, the White House appears. Before the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, you could actually drive past. Then the Secret Service closed the street to all but pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Sadly, security keeps pushing people back from the People's House.

Now the old 6-foot-6-inch tall fence is being replaced by a fence twice as high. During the recent protests, (hopefully) temporary fencing around Lafayette Square to the north and the Ellipse to the south pushed people farther away. And for at least one night, the White House's exterior lights were off. Over at the Lincoln Memorial, soldiers stood in King's spot, "guarding" Lincoln.

Reacting to George Floyd's death, The Rev. Al Sharpton is organizing a March on Washington for late August to mark the 57th anniversary of the historic 1963 demonstration. Sharpton said the event will be led by the families of black people who have died at the hands of police officers.

Here we are again.

Now is not the time for silence

**Connor
Kockler**
Guest Writer



our own founding documents, from hundreds of years ago, profess.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," the Declaration of Independence, published in 1776, reads. After 244 years, we still haven't lived up to those words. Using their First Amendment rights to speak and organize, millions of Americans across the country have spoken up over the last few weeks to demand their voices be heard and support family, friends and colleagues who are directly affected by injustices every day.

That is the American spirit at work, and I hope we will listen to the many Americans who have emerged as leaders through these traumatic times and support them in their campaigns to bring about a more fair and just America.

The first step in facing a problem though is admitting it exists. It is high past time we recognize the issues that are faced by millions of Americans everyday because of their race and background. This is especially important for us living in areas where people of color are vastly outnumbered by and often unheard by white majorities. We need to take a step back and let our fellow Americans outline what they

are facing and what needs to be done to combat discrimination and oppression against them. This is not a time for political leaders to propose quick, easy "solutions" and then move on to other issues. They should not take anyone's support or votes for granted. The hardships and disadvantages many Americans live with have been built up and sustained throughout centuries. Even attempting to rectify them will require a long, arduous and committed process.

I hope by using my voice and platform here I can show my support toward those who have been denied a voice and a platform for so long. I know I can't begin to even come close to understanding what so many have experienced unheard and unrecognized.

The worst thing that can be done now though is to stay silent. We cannot afford to let these calls for true change and reform be pushed aside in favor of the next news cycle and once again ignored. That has happened already for far too long, and we owe it to our fellow Americans to take steps now to never let ignorance of their struggles be the norm ever again. We owe it to them to hear their voices and work toward the changes needed to create an America where everyone is safe, valued, respected and heard.

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

Letters to the editor

Open letter to Sartell officials
Gopi Ramanathan, Sartell
Currently studying government and mechanical engineering at Cornell

Dear Mayor Fitzhum and Chief Hughes,

On May 25, George Floyd died while being detained by the Minneapolis Police Department for suspected forgery. In the days since Mr. Floyd’s death, we have seen scenes of grieving, anger, protest and riot across the country as our national discussion about racial biases in law enforcement continues, among other issues. Such problems have not affected Sartell in the same way as other cities, largely as a result of proactive efforts by the Sartell Police Department and the City of Sartell. However, this should not be reason for us to ignore these issues.

The fact is our city is growing and changing in many ways. In 2018, 8.7 percent of Sartell residents were non-white, which – although small – is a substantial increase from 2010, when 3.6 percent of Sartell residents were non-white. Although there are many groups that make up Sartell’s ever-more-diverse community, it must be noted that the black community in particular has repeatedly been targeted by acts of

excessive force around the country, with little action by departments to prevent them from happening.

Sartell is stronger and more vibrant as a result of our growth and diversification, and Sartell police have served and will continue to serve a central role to ensure a safe, strong and prosperous city for all its residents. As we move forward, it is certain the police department and the city will face challenges, for change is never easy. However, preparing for change ensures the pains of Mr. Floyd’s murder do not have to be faced by our community or police, and that our community continues to flourish.

Such preparation involves a discussion much larger than one email, but I request public statements from the police department and city government on the following matters in the hope of sparking larger discussion and concrete steps to ensure the heinous acts leading to Mr. Floyd’s death never occur in Sartell:

- What is Sartell Police Department and the city government’s position on the actions of Minneapolis police that led to the death of Mr. Floyd, and the actions taken by state and federal prosecutors in response?
- What happens if a Sartell officer stands accused of use of excessive force?

- What happens if a Sartell officer stands accused of racial discrimination?
- What steps have been and will be taken by police and city government to regulate the use of force and deter excessive force?
- What steps have been and will be taken by police and city government to ensure officers are conscious of racial disparities in law enforcement?

I am requesting a public statement since I stand in a unique position. I am a brown individual who grew up in Sartell – a community which raised me, gave me my values and enabled me to get to where I am today. My first job was with the Sartell Police Department to help run the Police Activities League – an active step taken by police to build trust between officers and the community, and has allowed me to build close relationships within the department. However, after seeing too many George Floyds, too many Michael Browns, too many Trayvon Martins, and too many others, I believe it would be irresponsible of me to not use my position to highlight the issues the nation has been forced to confront. I hope the police department and the city will join me to address them, so we never add another name to that list.

Sartell police chief's statement
Jim Hughes
Chief of Police

The last 10 days have been very emotional and difficult with the same range of emotions that many of you have been experiencing. The shock, anger, grief and reflection on the events that took a life at the hands of law enforcement officers have not just affected myself and the members of the Sartell Police Department, but our community as well. To be asked what we are doing to ensure the safety of all of our community members, especially persons of color, is heartbreaking to me. We have strived for decades to build a positive and trusting relationship with all who live, work, recreate and visit our community on a daily basis.

The Sartell Police Department makes every attempt to be neutral and unbiased in its delivery of services to our community members, as well as the thousands of visitors coming into our community. We ensure we have the best officers serving our community and that they place a focus on community policing every single day.

In 2016, I directed staff to review our goals and work on updating our mission statement to better reflect the attributes of our department. Many of these attributes evolved from community engagement (throughout) the years. Our mission statement, ultimately brought forward to our city council for approval, encompasses not only enforcement, but reducing fear, being progressive and promoting professionalism. At the core of our mission is a community-oriented policing philosophy that the department has instilled for decades:

“Our mission is to provide our community with a professional, progressive, community-oriented police department and to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear and provide for a safe environment within our community.”

We have done more than adopt a new mission statement. Along with the many outreach programs we have within the department to keep our community engaged, we continue to attend trainings through the ranks, from myself to patrol officers, for crisis intervention, mental-health crisis, conflict management, mediation, and valuing community diversity and cultural differences. This includes extensive training on implicit bias.

As conflicts throughout our country continue because of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and income we need to have a better understanding of the communities we serve to provide service to them unbiased and fairly. This will allow us to help resolve conflicts that may arise. We are tasked today with more from our communities than ever before and we feel we have an obligation to assist them when possible.

Time to open our eyes
Katie Kulus, Sartell

Before I write anything, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge my white privilege. I will never understand the experiences of a black person, but I will continue to educate myself and use my privileged voice for good.

I spent the first 17 of my 21 years in a community surrounded by people that looked exactly like I did and had the same privileges. I believe this is not normal or healthy. According to the United States Census Bureau, Sartell is 91.3 percent white and 2.3 percent black or African American. While Sartell is expanding and diversifying there is no doubt we have a racist structure to our community. Our statistics are just the tip of the iceberg. In light of recent events surrounding the

deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many others in the black community, I call my fellow community members to act. I urge white members of this community to understand the foundations of our society are built on racism. Whether that manifests itself as ignorance, hate or privilege it is everywhere. In the words of Scott Woods, “It’s like being born into air: you take it in as soon as you breathe.”

Take time when you run on Pinecone to acknowledge the privilege you have knowing you will not be gunned down as a white person like Ahmaud. Take time to call the Sartell Police Department and demand change 320-251-8186. Email our city council and begin to question why the people who represent this great city are all white men. If you have the means, think about donating to organizations such

as the George Floyd Memorial Fund, Reclaim the Block, Black Lives Matter and many more. It isn’t hard to start educating yourself and doing something about your own racist tendencies, myself included.

The point I want to make is that I want to come home for Christmas in Sartell someday and not see almost all the students in the schools be white. I

Eyes • back page

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN, MINNESOTA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE REQUEST OF LYLE PALMERSHEIM
FOR VARIANCE

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of St. Stephen, Minnesota, will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2020, at the St. Stephen City Hall Council Chamber, 2 Sixth Ave. SE, in St. Stephen, Minnesota, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the request by Lyle Palmersheim for a variance in order to continue building a gazebo on his property. The building was started without a site permit. Palmersheim has indicated a shed in the back of the property will be removed prior

to making any additional progress on the gazebo.

All persons may appear at the July 1, 2020, public hearing and present their views to the Council orally or in writing.

/s/ Julie Jacobs
Julie Jacobs, City Clerk

Dated: June 4, 2020

Publish: June 12, 2020

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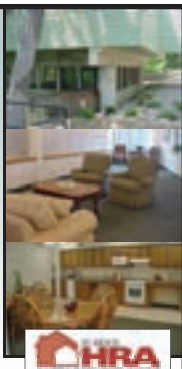
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Schools

from front page

ducting listening sessions with parents and other interested groups, much like the sessions before last year's levy vote.

The board settled on four focus areas for future discussion: instruction, operations, communication, resources.

Instructional brainstorming includes how to organize classrooms for different levels of social distancing, class size and providing classroom materials. Operational discussions cover a range of issues from busing to food service and technology. Communication includes involving teachers, staff and parents in the plan and then clearly explaining it. Resources would focus on budget issues and state funding. The state has gone from a \$1.5-billion surplus to at least a \$2.5-billion deficit because of unexpected coronavirus expenses, a \$4 billion turnaround in 10 weeks.

Board members generally agreed that creating detailed plans and options before hearing state guidance would result in disappointment and anxiety if some of that planning had to be abandoned, as happened with graduation. Senior High School leaders and students planned alternative graduation and other year-end events, only to have those ideas blocked when the Department of Education issued rules for those events in mid May.

In addition to waiting for state rules, what school might look like could be affected by other circumstances such as a second wave, or resurgence of infections during the fall, and by how willing teachers and staff would be to return to buildings. With continued health concerns, some parents might want to keep their students at home.

The board's next regular meeting is 5 p.m. Monday, June 15 at the District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N.

Candidates

from page 2

Kevin O'Connor, Legal Marijuana Now, and Oliver Steinberg, Grassroots - Legalize Cannabis.

Sixth District

Both parties will conduct primaries in the Sixth District. On the

Republican side, incumbent Tom Emmer is challenged by Patrick Munro. Democrats will choose between endorsed candidate Tawnja Zahradka and Aaron Aanerud.

Legislature

There will be no primary contests for District 13 Senate and House.

In Senate District 13, Republi-

Eyes

from page 7

want to see thriving businesses owned by black people. I want to see our small town open our arms to immigrants. After all, many of our ancestors were immigrants as well. I want to know I come from a town where we recognize and respect the culture, history and experiences of Black people and create safe spaces for them. It is not the responsibility of black people to change a system white people created. So, I ask you once more to question and change this small Minnesotan town that we call home.

Newsleaders seeks
GoFundMe donations

During these turbulent times, advertising support has dwindled. The Newsleaders wants to continue providing up-to-the-minute local coverage both on our website and in print. Please help support the Newsleaders by viewing/contributing to our GoFundMe page on Facebook. Thank you to our recent contributors! Any amount is greatly appreciated.

can incumbent Jeff Howe will face DFL challenger Michael Willemssen. Republican incumbent Tim O'Driscoll will compete with Democrat Benjamin Carollo in District 13B.

District 13B includes Sartell, St. Stephen and northeast Stearns County.

Sartell City Council

Four people are running for two seats on the City Council. The candidates are incumbent Mike Chisum, Aaron Johnson, Alex Lewandowski and Jill Smith. Brady Andel did not file for re-election. Because four candidates filed for the two seats, no primary is needed.

Commissioner District 2

Incumbent Joe Perske is the only candidate who filed to represent Stearns County Commissioner District 2. There will be no primary for that seat and he will run unopposed on the Nov. 3 ballot.

The filing period for offices that do not conduct primaries runs from July 28 until Aug. 11. Those races include the Sartell-St. Stephen school board.

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