

# Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Feb. 5, 2021  
Volume 26, Issue 3  
Est. 1995

## Town Crier

### Farmers' Market open this Saturday

The Sartell Farmers' Market is back from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6 in the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Come support your local vendors. You will find eggs, meat, canned goods, salsa, barbecue sauce, caramel corn, baked goods and handmade jewelry.

### Sartell Summer Baseball registration now open

The 2021 Summer Sartell Baseball Registration is open. Please go to [SartellBaseball.com](http://SartellBaseball.com) to register. Find more information by following us on Facebook.

### Pathways 4 Youth needs help

Pathways for Youth continues to provide in-person services even during the COVID crisis. They need volunteers who are eager and willing to help youth at their facility to navigate and access services including laundry, computer access, shower, food & hygiene pantry, clothing closet, storage lockers and onsite case management. You'll be part of a compassionate and caring team that brings hope and support to youth that helps them gain the tools and self-confidence needed to start and progress along a "pathway" to independence. Visit [www.pathways4youthmn.org](http://www.pathways4youthmn.org) and click on Volunteer to submit an inquiry for further details.

### American Red Cross seeks healthy blood donors

The American Red Cross needs eligible and healthy blood donors. Patients are counting on lifesaving blood through this coronavirus pandemic. If you're healthy and well, please schedule an appointment to give in the days ahead. You are strongly urged to make an appointment to provide lifesaving blood products to patients. Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to make your appointment today. Please don't feel discouraged if there isn't an immediate appointment available, patients still need you!

### 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.

## Get your Girl Scout cookies through GrubHub

by Heidi L. Everett  
[editor@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:editor@thenewsleaders.com)

It's that time of year again. For melt-in-your-mouth Thin Mints. That chewy-goodness of Caramel Delights. And lemon.

Izzy Neisen of St. Joseph loves this time of year. Why?

"Making people happy that they get cookies," she said.

Now in fourth grade, this 10 year old has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten. She's a member of Troop 98, with girls from Sartell, St. Joseph, and St. Cloud.

While Caramel Delights have been her favorite, this year there's a new cookie coming to town.

"It's called Toast-Yay," she explains. "It's a French-toast inspired cookie."

And if you haven't yet placed your pre-order for cookies, which started Feb. 1, have

no fear. You have time – and options – for getting ahold of that cookie goodness.

This year, Girl Scouts will be adding GrubHub to the distribution mix.

"It's a thing that delivers," Izzy explained.

Girl Scouts is committed to unleashing the G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ in every girl, preparing her for a lifetime of leadership. Over this past year, the organization is really making good on that commitment as young entrepreneurs are finding innovative ways of selling cookies in the COVID-19 era.

Beginning Feb. 16, people can order Girl Scout Cookies for pickup or delivery on Grubhub.com or through the Grubhub app, said Nancy McMullen, director of marketing, communications and customer care for Girl Scouts Lakes & Pines.



contributed photo

**Girl Scouts Breanna Schuft (left) and Izzy Neisen, both 9, sell cookies in February 2020 before the COVID-19 shutdown. This year, cookies can be ordered and delivered through GrubHub.**

"Local Girl Scouts will track and fulfill orders, manage inventory and more, all using Grubhub's back-end technology," she said. "This innovative method keeps girls at the center of every sale while providing

another way to safely run the cookie program virtually. As always, each and every purchase still benefits girls in our local area."

Jessica Messerich, cookie

**Cookies • page 4**

## State funding, enrollment cloud budget planning

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

State funds, the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and unusually uncertain enrollment projections complicate planning for next year's Sartell-St. Stephen school district budget.

Director of Business Services Joe Prom and Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert outlined the possible issues at a Feb. 3 school board work session.

This is a funding year for the Legislature and for the past several sessions, the state funding formula has increased about 2 percent per year. The governor and Legislature have just started negotiating a budget, but Prom

told members to expect less than a 2 percent funding increase.

"Don't expect new funding from the state," Prom said.

But, Prom said, the district expects to receive additional COVID-19 federal money that would be like adding 1 percent to the funding formula.

Prom and Schwiebert said there are no plans to either add or reduce teaching positions next year.

State funding and expenses are directly tied to enrollment. Schwiebert said predicting kindergarten and first-grade enrollments will be the biggest struggle.

Right now, Schwiebert said the kindergarten enrollment could be in the 260- to 280-student range.

Kindergarten enrollment dropped from 311 students at the end of last year to 252 students as of January. Some parents may have held students back because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The district predicts class sizes in the 22-23 range from kindergarten through second grade with kindergarten classes closer to 21 students.

Prom said administrators hope to lock in the number of teacher positions for each building by the end of February and be done with the budget by May.

Prom also updated the board on COVID-19 funding and expenses. The district received a total of \$1.6 million from federal, state and county grants. The larg-

est grant, \$977,046, came from the state of Minnesota.

The district spent the money to safely conduct class during the pandemic. The money supported buying personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. Technology expenses for computers and mobile hot spots helped teachers and students carry out distance learning. Funds paid for additional staff time and professional development to prepare for different learning models. The district added bus routes to ensure proper social distancing and to drop off meals during distance learning.

The next board meeting is 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at the high school.

## Middle, high school students return to classrooms Feb. 8

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

Sartell middle and high school students will return to in-person learning on Monday, Feb. 8, the district announced Thursday, Jan. 28.

To prepare for the switch from the hybrid learning model, there will be no school for students in grades six through 12 on Friday, Feb. 5.

The district's younger students returned to in-person learning Jan. 11, and this will continue.

In an announcement to par-

ents, the district said "the decision to bring our six-12 students back to in-person learning follows CDC guidelines and was made in consultation with local medical providers, Stearns County Public Health and the Minnesota Department of Health. Evolving research and data reveals transmission in school is rare. In Sartell-St. Stephen we have experienced a low to nonexistent transmission rate in our classrooms. Research also shows mitigation strategies are directly tied to these results (face masks,

social distancing to the extent possible, maintaining pods for students to the extent possible and sanitization)."

District administrators also reported nearly all staff who wanted the COVID-19 vaccine received their first dose last week from CentraCare. Second doses will be given the week of Feb. 15.

For parents who want to request a change in the learning model for sixth- through 12th-graders, the next opportunity will be the beginning of fourth quarter on April 6.

Fourth quarter requests for a shift must be submitted in writing to the building principal by March 12.

Starting Monday, Feb. 8, food service will no longer be offering daily meal pick up at Sartell High School and Sartell Middle School. Free breakfast and lunch meals will be available to students daily on-site at each school building.

For additional information, visit the district's COVID-19 webpage at [www.sartell.k12.mn.us/COVID19\\_coronavirus](http://www.sartell.k12.mn.us/COVID19_coronavirus).



# Sartell council approves \$6.6-million roads project

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

Thanks to \$5.5 million from the state bonding bill and about \$900,000 from Sartell, construction will begin late this fall on road improvements near the health-care campus in Sartell.

The city’s portion of the funding was approved as part of the consent agenda at the Jan. 15 Sartell City Council meeting.

The project has been dubbed “Healthcare Hub Local Funding Project.” It will involve connecting Scout Drive to Dehler Avenue and connecting 19th Street S. to Scout Drive. About half of the city’s share of the costs will come from the street fund, the rest in about equal amounts from the water fund, sewer fund and stormwater fund.

At the Jan. 15 city-council meeting, Mayor Ryan Fitz-

thum and two council members praised lobbying efforts for the \$5.5 million toward the project being included in the last state bonding bill. At that same meeting, Marty Seifert, a lobbyist, updated the council about efforts on behalf of Sartell made at the state legislature by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. Seifert is employed by the law firm of Flaherty and Hood.

The Coalition of Greater

Minnesota Cities represents 100 cities in outstate Minnesota, all of them outside of the seven-county Twin Cities metro area.

Seifert noted Sartell received some of the highest amount of local government state aid last year of all Minnesota cities – a total of \$393,000 compared to \$324,000 the previous year.

Seifert said the legislative successes for Sartell were made possible largely through coop-

eration and constant input from the city’s mayor, council members and city staff. During the legislature’s special sessions, Seifert had long phone conversations, even on weekends and late at night, with Sartell’s mayor and other city officials and staff.

The council thanked Seifert for the hard work he did on behalf of Sartell.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CITY OF ST STEPHEN

#### ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13 OF ORDINANCE No. 96 REGARDING ANIMAL WASTE

The City of St. Stephen has approved the amendment of the Animal Ordinance.

Section 13 of Ordinance No. 96 shall be amended to read:

96.13: PET WASTE. Any person being the owner of or having charge of any animal not confined to that person’s property shall immediately remove any feces deposited on public or private property. Any such person shall have in their possession a means to collect and dispose of all fecal matter in a waste receptacle.

AND PENALTIES” shall be re-numbered accordingly as Section 96.14. The full text of Ordinance No. 96, including this amendment, is available for inspection by any person during regular office hours at St. Stephen City Hall or online.

This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of St. Stephen on Jan. 6, 2021 and shall be effective upon publication.

/s/ Lisa Marvin, Mayor

/s/ Julie Jacobs, City Clerk

( S E A L )

Published: Feb. 5, 2021

The entire Section of Ordinance No. 96 titled “VIOLATIONS

### VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS WITH LSS COMPANION SERVICES

#### Trusted Support

- *Ongoing, friendly phone or video visits with a trained companion can help in this time of social distancing*

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Contact Janel Heinen at 320.241.5173 or email Janel.Heinen@lssmn.org

[www.lssmn.org](http://www.lssmn.org)



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**Call the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleaders at 320-363-7741 if you would like to be in the business directory.**

## Council’s resolution helps small businesses stay afloat

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

The Sartell City Council, at its Jan. 25 meeting, agreed unanimously to refund a total of \$35,200 in on-sale liquor-license fees to 11 local bars/restaurants.

It was part of a resolution passed by the council in ongoing efforts to help smaller

businesses stay afloat during the interconnected difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, small businesses in Sartell received just under \$1 million last year in CARES Act funding approved by the U.S. Congress last March. CARES Act stands for Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. A portion of that \$2.2-tril-

lion stimulus bill was intended to help businesses weather the virus crisis.

“It’s an awesome approach,” said Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum, referring to CARES funds and the city’s refunding of liquor-license fees. “They (the 11 bars/restaurants) all remain in business.”

## Community Calendar

*Is your event listed?* Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., 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.

Contact each organization directly to learn of any COVID-related adjustments.

**Saturday, Feb. 6**  
**Sartell Winter Farmers’ Market**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

Are you a compulsive eater? **Overeaters Anonymous** can help. 9 a.m., call Joyce at 320-761-2275 or Donna at 320-291-7251 or visit oa.org.

**Monday, Feb. 8**  
**Sartell City Council**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

**Dementia Friends** information session, 2 and 7 p.m., Meeting virtually, visit [www.actonalz.org](http://www.actonalz.org) for more information. Learn what dementia is, what it’s like to live with the disease and communicate with people who have dementia.

**Tuesday, Feb. 9**  
**Sartell Chamber of Commerce**, 11:30 a.m., Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. Email [info@sartell-chamber.com](mailto:info@sartell-chamber.com) for virtual Zoom invitation.

Are you a compulsive eater? **Overeaters Anonymous** can help. 6 p.m., call Joyce at 320-761-2275 or Donna at 320-291-7251 or visit oa.org.

**National Alliance on Mental Illness**, 7-8:30 p.m., currently meeting via Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Please go to the NAMI St. Cloud website: [www.namistcloud.com](http://www.namistcloud.com) for registration details. This group is for family and friends of a person dealing with a men-

tal illness, any diagnosis, any age. Learn coping and problem solving skills. Questions, call 320-654-1259, or email [fsnamistcloud@gmail.com](mailto:fsnamistcloud@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, Feb. 10**  
**Valentine Decoupage Treat Plate**, 2 p.m., \$5 cost, call Ann of Sartell Senior Connection at 320-258-7324 to register.

**Sunday, Feb. 14**  
Are you a compulsive eater? **Overeaters Anonymous** can help. 9 a.m., call Joyce at 320-761-2275 or Donna at 320-291-7251 or visit oa.org.

**Wednesday, Feb. 17**  
**Advocates for Independence**, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles meeting virtually, contact Michelle at 320-529-9000 for registration details.

**Thursday, Feb 18**  
**American Legion-Sartell**, open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Sartell Community Center., 850 19th St. S.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

# Newsleaders

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Sartell City Hall  
Sartell Community Center  
School District Offices  
Speedway  
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[www.thenewsleaders.com](http://www.thenewsleaders.com)

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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.



# City of Sartell seeks to sell excess properties

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

Sartell is attempting to sell six of its excess properties and so far is having limited success. At the Jan. 25 city council meeting, Sartell Administrator Anna Gruber said the city received sale proposals on two of the properties up for sale – the “old” police station at Fourth

Avenue S. and a warehouse near the police station. Sartell’s recently opened Public Safety Facilities center on Pinecone Road, which now houses the police and fire departments, rendered the previous structures unnecessary. The city council authorized Gruber to begin negotiations on the two properties with those who submitted the proposals

by the deadline. All six of the properties were subject to the Jan. 14 deadline for submitting proposals. The council also approved listing two of the properties with real estate agents. These properties are the former fire station/government center building, also on Fourth Avenue S., and several acres of developable property at West

Meadows Estates Plat 3, which was deeded to the city in 1999 by the Coborn Land Co. That area is 8.5 acres of vacant residential property, including wetlands. The remaining two properties will be available indefinitely if interested parties want to submit purchase proposals for them. These include a vacant commercial lot of about 1.5

acres on Pinecone Road N. just north of Nemeth Orthodontics, and a 5,250 square-foot warehouse near the former police station. Built in 1976, the warehouse sits on a 26,000 square-foot lot along Fourth Avenue S. To learn more details about the properties and how to submit proposals, call Gruber at Sartell City Hall, 320-253-2171.

# Superintendent search finds agreement on school strengths, challenges

by **Mike Knaak**  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The team leading the search for a new Sartell-St. Stephen school superintendent found focus groups and online survey responses agreed on the district’s goals, strengths, challenges and a profile for the next district leader.

During six focus groups Jan. 14-15, Bob Ostlund and Ken Dragseth from School Exec Connect interviewed about 80 people. The focus groups included parents, community members, staff, teachers and school board members.

“To a very high degree, the input correlated between the groups,” Ostlund said. “That’s reflective of a healthy situation.”

The focus group responses closely matched responses from the 372 people who answered an online survey. Ostlund said 73 percent of the responses were from parents of current students or whose children were students in the last five years.

“I’ve never seen parent participation that high,” Ostlund said.

By early March, the school board aims to hire a superintendent to replace Jeff Schwiebert who is retiring on June 30 after seven years leading the district.

The team’s research revealed the new superintendent’s goals should be to improve and enhance academic achievement, implement the equity audit now underway and address student mental health needs.

The survey summary showed district strengths include a high regard for staff and the high expectations they set. Responses

also cited new facilities, strong academics, the amount of parent and community support and the many academic and activity options for students.

Addressing equity issues and embracing diversity was by far the top challenge, Ostlund said. “The district’s lack of diversity makes it harder to prepare students for life outside the district,” he said.

The online survey reinforced those opinions with an emphasis on maintaining programs for all types of students’ needs, addressing emotional and mental health and maintaining the district’s strong fiscal health.

In searching for a new superintendent, the next leader should be a team builder, be visible and approachable, address equity issues and build a positive working relationship with the board. The profile also includes leadership issues such as hiring and motivating a talented staff and setting high expectations.

In the final report, board member Matt Moehrle asked that addressing mental health services as students return to school following COVID-19 restrictions be a high priority. He also sees dedication to equity and diversity issues as a priority.

“Equity needs to be a goal,” Moehrle said. He’s looking for a superintendent with experience with equity issues and experience implementing ways to learn.

School Connect Exec’s final report will be used when the focus groups interview candidates to see how candidates match that profile.

Superintendent recruitment will take place through Feb. 24.

On March 1, the consultants will present five or six candidates to the board. The board will pick two or three finalists for in-depth interviews and then make an offer to the top candidate.

**2021-22 school calendar approved**  
The school board approved at its Jan. 25 meeting the 2021-22 school calendar. Classes will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 7. Friday, June 3, 2022, will be the

last day of school with high school graduation on Saturday, June 4, 2022. Spring break will be the week of March 28-April 1, 2022.

## Tired of low water pressure?

If your water pressure seems low when you take a shower or becomes worse when water is running elsewhere, it may indicate that your pump requires service or possibly replacement.

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## Director of Family Resources Department

We're seeking a leader to be responsible for day-to-day management of our agency's family resources department, administering the asset development, workforce development & housing stability programs. This position leads a department with 12+ staff and budgets totaling over \$1 million annually. This person has integrity, creativity, passion, resourcefulness & a commitment to serve others. Must be highly motivated self-starter who is organized, able to prioritize tasks & is highly skilled at bringing out the best in a team. \$61,000+ annually plus excellent benefits

### Primary Responsibilities

- Develop & monitor department, program & fund budgets for efficient utilization of funds & assets & ensure accurate data collection & reporting.
- Sustain & diversify department & agency programs through marketing & outreach efforts, grant writing & other funding opportunities.
- Embrace, advocate & carry out the agency mission and vision; serve as an active community leader.
- Develop, implement & oversee workforce development, housing stability & asset development programs.

### Qualities & Qualifications

- A combination of a four-year degree in administration, social work or human services/non-profit field, & six (6) years' experience including family development programming, administration, budgets, supervision, planning or a combination of 10 years' experience and education.
- Strong leadership & managerial skills to motivate lead & develop a team.
- Excellent organizational, process, analytical & problem-solving skills.

- Oversee client information systems within the department to track client outcomes & to meet all reporting requirements.
- Develop program planning, departmental systems, staffing structures, program compliance, financial sustainability for the department, etc.
- Creates & communicates standards & expectations for direct reports & provides timely, accurate feedback. Engage in team building and staff development strategies to empower staff to be successful.

### Additional Qualifications

- Strong reasoning skills, ability to understand regulations, funder mandates to present proposals.
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# How to Find a Pet Groomer

Long-haired breeds of cats and dogs may need special attention from a pet groomer.

Groomers bathe, clip hair and trim the nails of your cats and dogs. They can also brush the teeth or offer other services to keep your pet in the best health. If you think you might want to begin taking your pet to a groomer, here's the way to find the best one in your area.

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

Ask friends and family for their recommendations and do online research, but you can also use an online service such as the AKC GroomerFinder or any other online grooming registry. After you've narrowed your options down, have an in-person conversation with your potential groomer. Their answers and the way you discuss her concerns can tell you a lot about the person and the facility.

### ASK QUESTIONS

If you don't have the right questions to ask, try some of these.

1. May I see your facility? Look for a clean salon with no bad odors.
2. Ask about what services they provide.
3. Ask if you can stay and watch while they groom your dog or cat.
4. Do you have any experi-

- ence with my dog's or cat's breed?
5. What kind of training do you have? Does the facility require continuing education for its staff? Do the groomers have any kind of certifications?
6. What kind of products do

- you use?
7. How will my dog or cat be housed?
8. Does the staff have any medical and first-aid experience? Do you require any proof of vaccination before service? How do you handle

- pets with external parasites?
9. Do you carry liability insurance?
10. What do you do in case of an emergency?
11. How much will my dog's or cat's grooming cost? Remember no question is

trivial and, if you don't like their answers at any time, go with your gut feeling. You can also find services like mobile grooming, which will come to your home, and smaller salons which offer a more private service if you have a reactive dog.



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## Pine Cone Pet Hospital

Drop-off appointments, extended evening & emergency appointments are available





# Answered prayers: Anna triumphs

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Doug and Janet Hince of Sar-

tell received the best holiday present they could have dreamed of when their daughter, Anna, graduated from college Dec. 18 and

then landed a teaching job just a few days later.

Anna Hince, 22, is now, happily, a special-education teacher at Avon Elementary School, working with 10 children in first through fifth grades.

After a lifetime of struggle, Anna had succeeded – big-time. Twenty-two years ago she was born deaf, or so her parents came to believe.

“She wouldn’t respond to sounds,” recalled her mother. “We consulted with a doctor, but we learned he had misdiagnosed the problem.”

Meantime, the Hinces prayed and eventually learned from another diagnosis, when Anna was 18 months old, that when she was a baby an ear infection had almost literally “plastered” shut her inner ears, making hearing virtually impossible. At about 2 years old, Anna received ear tubes that gradually remedied her hearing loss.

Even though Anna’s hearing improved, she was behind in development and diagnosed with autism. When they learned of their daughter’s diagnosis, they were told Anna would likely never be able to live outside of a group home.

“We both said ‘No way. No way! We are not accepting that!’,” Janet recalled.

And the Hinces began to pray even harder.

They weren’t kidding; they didn’t accept it. Quite the contrary. Thanks to teachers and to their faith, they forged ahead with brimming confidence.

Because of her inter-related disabilities, Anna had to begin pre-school at Royalton when she was 2-1/2 years old.

At Royalton Elementary School, Anna endured a difficult time learning how to talk, but she excelled at the task, thanks to Nancy Ketter, a dedicated speech teacher.

“Nancy was an amazing woman who started Anna’s success,” Janet said. “Another amazing woman was her pre-school teacher, Kay Holms.”

The Hinces moved from Royalton to Sartell when Anna began kindergarten. At Sartell’s Pine Meadow Elementary School, they began a series of constant communications with Anna’s special-education teacher, Midge Nyblom.

“Midge was a huge help in our daughter’s growth,” Janet recalled. “She worked with Anna and all of her teachers. She set up a network among the teachers and us, the parents, and not once did Midge or those teachers discourage Anna in any way. Thanks to all of them, we established a great support system.”

At that time, Janet had been a family advocate for the Head Start program, which was another huge help, as she knew which

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## Affordable Senior Housing

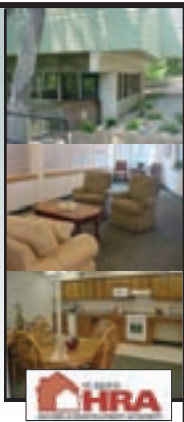
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# A Guide to Buying Chocolates

Sweets for your sweet is a great Valentine’s treat. Make sure that you’re buying the very best for your love with these tips for getting the best chocolate that you can. Real Simple magazine lays out these tips for checking the quality of your chocolate.

- Cocoa should be the first ingredient. If cocoa or cocoa butter isn’t first on the list, the chocolate is likely high in sugar and lower in quality.
- More than 60% cocoa. The higher the percentage of cocoa, the darker and less sweet the chocolate would be. Snacking chocolates should be around 60 percent. Higher cocoa percentages, such as 80% cocoa chocolate, are better for baking and cooking.
- Look for a dark, well-sealed wrapper. Chocolate should be protected from light and moisture. Store your chocolates in their original wrapper for as long as possible.
- The chocolate should be matte with a slight shine and a uniform color and sheen. Any splotchiness, discoloration or grittiness could be a sign of spoilage. Also give it a



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- sniff; a sour smell could indicate bad chocolate.
- Good dark chocolate should make a snapping sound when broken and not crumble. Milk chocolate and white chocolate have a higher milk and sugar content, so they bend rather than snap.
  - Check the best by date.

Don’t put much store in the origin of your chocolate, unless you have a sentimental reason to be attached to that locale. Maybe it’s where you honeymooned or a brand that’s made in the city where you went on your first date. Otherwise, where a chocolate is grown doesn’t affect the

taste very much to the average customer. Also don’t think that more expensive chocolate is better chocolate. Look for a price point around \$6-\$7 per pound, though some chocolates can be upward of \$15-\$18. High-quality chocolates can be found at local super-

markets, but for a special treat, look for a local candy maker or chocolatier to make custom treats for your sweet. They can make custom treats that will delight both the eyes and the tastebuds. But order early; these shops are often swamped on holidays like Valentine’s Day.



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# Hinces

from page 6

resources were available.

“Anna was still way behind, but she kept improving every year,” Janet said.

Eventually, Anna entered high school, and teacher Megan Klose became vital. She encouraged Anna with constant nudges of “Yes, you can do it. You can do it, yes you can.”

During her interview, Janet kept emphasizing how she has been amazed by school district employees.

“What they did so well is to teach Anna – to teach every student – to be their own advo-



contributed photo

**After gradating from college Dec. 18, Anna Hince paused outside her home for a photo with parents, Doug and Janet Hince.**

cates,” Janet said. “If Anna had a concern or problem, they let her know she could go to any teacher and never be afraid to ask a question.”

That sense of empowerment

followed Anna right into her years at St. Cloud State University where she majored in special-ed-ucation teaching and worked her way through college as a restaurant server in St. Cloud.

Her hard-won confidence, intelligence and discipline earned her a 3.8 grade-point average and debt-free graduation. It also helped land a job as a special-ed-ucation teacher.

“We are so proud of her,” Janet said. “All of her years, Anna had to work so hard on everything. She is proof any child can become who they want to become. She was severely behind, but she caught up.”

Anna lives with her parents for the time being.

“I love teaching, and I like to hang with family,” she told the Newsleaders. She said she enjoys traveling and scrapbooking with her mom too.

Anna plans to get her master’s degree eventually.

Janet constantly emphasizes her message to other parents:

“Never ever give up on a child!” she said. “Our prayers were answered.”



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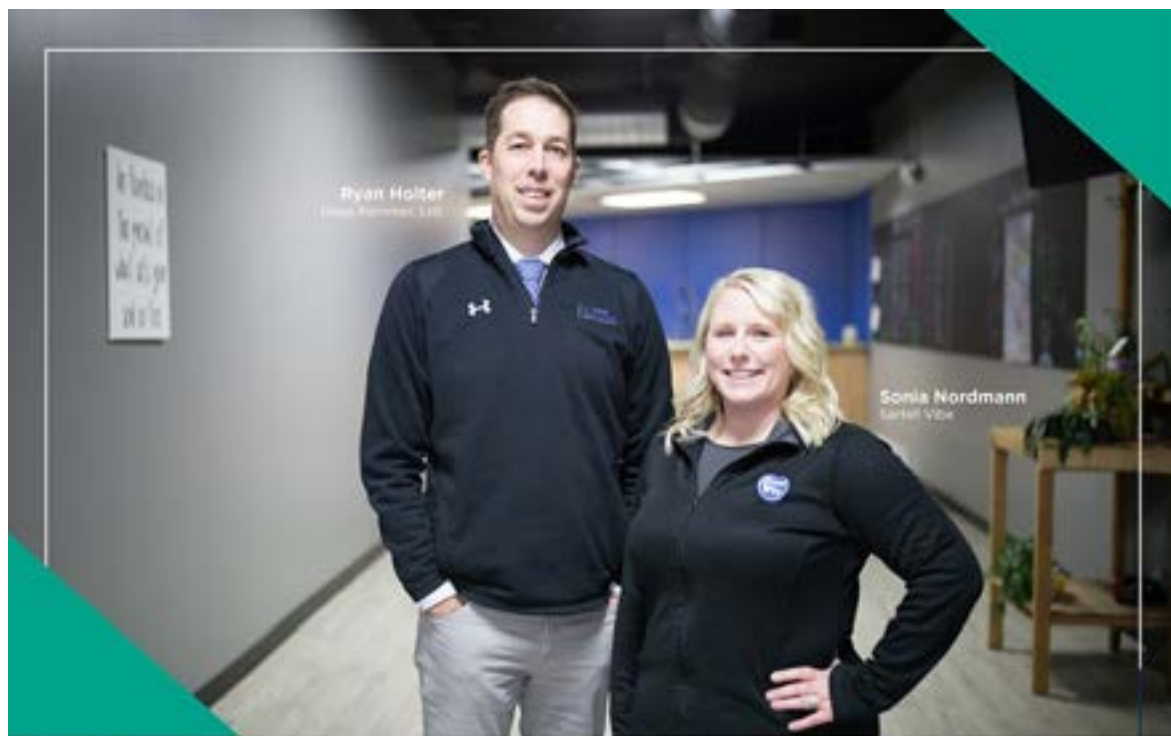
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Sonia Nordmann  
 Sartell Vibe

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– Sonia Nordmann, Sartell Vibe

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Letters to the editor

All mockery, no substance

Kyle Triggs  
Sartell

Dennis Dalman’s Jan. 22 column – professionally titled, “We are supposed to empathize with lunatics?!” – reminds us that writing in a state of anger is often unwise, especially for a columnist.

His central point is that “unity” is no reason to reconcile with anyone who questions mask mandates, disputes election results or believes conspiracy-theory claims about vaccine microchips and the Satanic Deep State . . . all of whom Dalman lumps into the same category.

As it happens, Dalman’s writing style makes him look as unstable as his targeted villains.

He begins by squeezing seven derogatory labels into his first three paragraphs: disinformation peddlers, conspiracy crackpots, anti-maskers, election-fraud howlers, anti-vaxxers, loud liars and dangerous fools.

The remainder of Dalman’s essay is all mockery and no substance. He calls Sidney Powell the latest example of

“outlandish stupidity,” and compulsively uses distracting adjectives like “paranoid fancies,” “nightmare notions” and “lunatic theories.”

This renders his article useless because he’s speaking to an audience that (a) already rejects these conspiracy theories and learned nothing new; (b) subscribes to these theories with greater resolve after having read his piece; or (c) finds themselves somewhere in the middle with varying degrees of skepticism towards both conspiracy theorists and the mainstream media.

Dalman may have won over a few group C members had his central thesis not been drowned in a sea of modifiers and exclamation points.

I would respectfully invite Mr. Dalman to be more respectful. No one can express their views persuasively by dousing them with condescension.

National restoration has begun

Leona Wieland  
Sartell

Hip, hip, hurray! I counted 17 ways to “restore” our nation in Dennis Dalman’s Dec.

11 Newsleaders’ column titled, “Let’s begin the national restoration.” And it seems in his first week in office, President Biden has achieved or has made eight of these happen. It’s a beginning, and if there’s more to achieve with every goal, we know the process will be discussion and debate for the sake of improving all lives.

In regard to restoring voting rights, illegal voter suppression and 50 years of civil rights laws – throughout 400 years of slavery – let’s support President Biden in righting these immoral wrongs. As reported by the Brennan Center for Justice, “Between 2014 and 2016, states deleted almost 16 million people from voter registration lists...enacted new voter ID laws even as they created more barriers to obtaining this newly required ID...the cumulative effect of reducing voter participation of marginalized people and immigrants, both of whom were seen as more likely to vote Democrat.” (Caste, Isabel Wilkerson, p. 318)

We should never forget that we’re a nation of immigrants. And just because some came before others, a generous God rewards kindness and justice accordingly.

Obituary

Ronald Clair Berg, 77  
Sartell  
Sept. 20, 1943-Jan. 22, 2021

Ronald Clair Berg, 77, of Sartell died Jan. 22 after a post-surgery infection at the St. Cloud Hospital. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Williams Dingmann Funeral Home, St. Cloud.

Berg was born on Sept. 20, 1943, to the late Donald and Kathryn (Ries) Berg in Storm Lake, Iowa. He graduated from Storm Lake High School and went to business school in Omaha, Nebraska and Sioux City, Iowa. There he met and wed Grayce Van Gorp on May 3, 1963. To this union came two children: Kimberly Ann and David Mark.

Berg’s career was twofold. The first 22 years was spent with the JCPenney Co. There he had 10 store assignments and seven transfers in 22 years. He held many positions coming up in the ranks including operations manager. Not wanting to continue moving, he decided to leave JCPenney and purchase Walking Billboards Inc., which he operated for 20 years.

After selling Walking Billboards, Berg did business developments and partnerships. He also supported Grayce in her business throughout the years at GB & Co. He loved people and talked to everyone. Berg always made a point of saying he could count on his two hands the number of bad days he had at work. He had a passion for his work and was always up to the challenge.

Berg was a man of many interests, not wanting to get bored doing just nothing. He enjoyed traveling by Corvette with his



Berg

wife to most of the states. Berg also loved his cabin up north and home in Rio Verde, Arizona where he and his wife entertained family and friends. He enjoyed playing golf, tennis and cribbage, especially if there was a wager involved. Berg also collected Corvettes and was very knowledgeable on the earlier years. He was a long time member of the National Corvette Restoration Society. Berg also loved 50s music and knew most of the songs and artists of that era. He loved making CDs and giving them to family, friends and classmates.

Berg believed in giving back to the community and was involved in several communities with the Chamber of Commerce, The United Way and heading up fundraising efforts in several JCPenney stores as well as serving on the United Way Board and chairing the personnel committee and family services committee. He also served as an officer in several Corvette clubs, was a long time Boy Scout fundraiser and Boys & Girls Club Boards of Trustee member.

Berg also felt SO blessed to have been born in the United States of America in this particular time frame. He never took anything for granted, especially our freedoms and he always felt people should never forget their humble beginnings and never rise to think they were ever better than anyone else. These were his maxims he tried to live up to each day, along with playing fair, always playing to win and never giving up. He always hoped he could make a small difference in his time on earth. He believed in P.M.A., positive mental attitude.

He is preceded in death by his son, David Mark; and parents, Donald and Kathryn Berg.

Survivors include the following: his wife; daughter, Kimberly (Frank Mazzacano); and granddaughter, Paige Clair Hoghaug, all of Sartell; and sister, Merridee Matson.

Blotter

Jan. 20

3:35 a.m. Suspicious activity. Second Street S. An officer on patrol observed a parked vehicle affiliated with a local business that was unoccupied with its dome light on. The officer found the vehicle was unlocked. The officer shut the lights off, locked the vehicle and checked the area. No other abnormalities were found. No further action was needed.

Jan. 22

9:20 p.m. DWI. 10th Avenue N. An officer on patrol pulled a vehicle over for speed, however, upon making contact with the driver, it was evident they

were impaired. The driver refused field sobriety tests as well as a preliminary breath test. The individual was arrested and blew a .16. In order to legally operate a motorized vehicle, you must be below a .08. The driver was held at Stearns County Jail for second degree DWI. The vehicle was forfeited.

Jan. 23

11 p.m. Domestic. Officers were dispatched to a residential building after a complainant called to report lots of screaming coming from a surrounding unit. Upon arrival, officers entered the unit to verify the safety of those in-

side. Upon entering, two individuals were found to be very hostile. Officers spoke with them, but nothing criminal was found. No charges were made.

Jan. 24

7 p.m. Intoxicated person. First Avenue N. A complainant called regarding a family member who was severely intoxicated, conscious but not able to move. Officers and Mayo medics arrived and assessed the individual. The individual eventually sobered up and showed they could care for themselves. No further action was needed.

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# Opinion

## Goodbye January, and good riddance

In his landmark 1922 poem “The Waste Land,” T.S. Eliot disparaged April. That poem begins with this line: “April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land.”

Eliot was wrong. April is not the cruellest month; here in Minnesota, January is. I’d start my poem like this: “January is the cruellest month, bringing sub-zero blasts out of the polar land.”

In his Jan. 29 newsletter, Fargo Forum News Editor Matthew Von Pinnon listed his take on all 12 months of the year, from his least favorite (January) to favorite (May).

He wrote: “I know I should never wish time away, but I always struggle in January, and I usually can’t wait for this long, dark, cold month to pass . . . Though my two girls were born this month, their births were the only bright spots.”

Of May, he wrote this: “The flowers and trees are blooming, temps are mild and summer is in front of us.”

Then, Von Pinnon challenged his readers to make ratings lists of their own. Here’s mine:

12. January. My birth month, January is one long cold weary slog when it gets dark too early, and it makes me feel all too often like a prisoner serving solitary confinement while waiting for a pardon from the governor.

11. February. Almost as bad as January, with still more snow, more cold, blizzards, icy-slippery streets

**Dennis Dalman**  
*Reporter*



and more and more shoveling. But, at least, hope for spring begins to flicker like a pale flame.

10. August. Usually, this month is day after sweaty day of unbearable, ungodly, humid, wilting, hellish heat, made even worse by hordes of pests like mosquitoes, flies, gnats. Dog days. Miserable.

9. March. Though it’s a month of fickle weather, with slashing cold rain and blustering winds, it can bless us with surprising gifts of pleasant days. That flickering flame of hope for spring grows brighter.

8. November: It’s the frigid beckoning of Old Man Winter, but it’s tolerable, sort of, even helpful in a way, because neglected indoor chores, projects and hobbies can finally get done.

7. July. This month can be filled with wonderful sunshine-warm days and bright summer green as emeralds, but too often, at least in recent years, it’s as bad or even worse than hellish-hot August.

6. The first falling snows of December can be beautiful, especially if viewed from a large window in a warm room, and the Christmas sea-

son is always bright, fun and festive, but the threat of January soon bangs and barges in.

5. April. In the decades of yore, I always loved and welcomed this month, but in recent years it is too much like the butt-end of winter, too often cold, wet, windy. Still, April does have its charms, now and then.

4. May. At long last, lots of sunshine. The outdoor world starts to turn pale yellow-green. There is the smell of the good ancient earth warming up for the planting vegetables, flowers, herbs.

3. June. Summer in its glory when it’s not too hot. The perfect month to enjoy the great outdoors after a weary, dreary winter – bird song, barbecues, walks in parks, boating, lawn parties, camp fires, relaxing on the deck. June is a beauty!

2 and 1 (a tie for September and October). Fall is by far my favorite season, with its nostalgic ambience. It’s sweatshirt weather, with that exhilarating chill in the air, softened by the sun’s weakening warmth. Tree tops blaze with colors against cobalt skies. Leaves that smell like pencil shavings fall and skitter across the lawn, the sidewalks, the streets. Indian summer. Halloween. Ghouls and goblins and glowing pumpkins. Ah yes, perfection.

It would be fun to hear from readers: What are your favorite and least favorite months? And why.

## What’s in Minnesota trenches? A move to stop Line 3

The Line 3 pipeline expansion project controlled by Enbridge has been the talk of the town in northern Minnesota. With the recent approval to push the expansion forward, protesters have begun sitting in trenches to halt construction, and with good reason. Now, some of you may be recalling, who is Enbridge, what the heck is Line 3 and why should I care? I would like to shed some light on these questions, and simultaneously start or (restart) the conversation in central Minnesota on the negative economic, environmental and personal impact Line 3 will have.

Enbridge is a Canadian energy infrastructure company that is responsible for six very old pipelines in northern Minnesota. These lines stretch from Alberta, Canada to Superior Wisconsin, and one of the lines is called Line 3. This particular pipeline was built in the 1960’s and has a reputation. In 1991 it ruptured, spilling 1.7-million gallons of oil just outside Grand Rapids. This was the largest inland oil spill in U.S. history, and by pure luck, the oil did not leak into the Mississippi River.

Due to the 900 structural anomalies in the “old” Line 3, Enbridge is moving forward with their “replacement project” of Line 3. Though, it is not a replacement at all. Enbridge is simply abandoning the old line, building a brand-new pipeline, in a brand-new corridor, doubling the capacity of the line,

**Abigail Thomas**  
*Guest Writer*



and switching to tar sands.

Now comes the part about why I care and why you should care. First, we must have a realistic lens about climate change and the economic need of tar sands. Tar sands is the dirtiest fuel source in the world and is an industry that is dying quickly. It is more expensive to extract, compared to conventional oil, and according to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, it is simply not needed in Minnesota refineries. Climate change is a huge factor to consider when fighting against Line 3. I have noticed in Minnesota alone, this year’s winter has been the warmest I can remember. I ask myself where the many days of negative numbers are that we usually get around these months? In a time of climate crisis, I urge you to reconsider a new fossil fuel infrastructure, especially when the new Line 3 will emit the same amount of carbon as 50 coal-fired power plants. Not only is this pipeline simply not needed, but it also creates fewer jobs than if we were to put our resources toward renewable energy.

Secondly, Minnesota is known for its beautiful bodies of water. I

am a frequent hiker and visitor to many of them. This pipeline will damage that remarkable beauty. Laura Bishop from the Environmental Justice Advisory Group seconds the Line 3 pipeline will inevitably poison wetlands, wild rice beds and rivers due to unavoidable corrosion and cracking.

We need immediate pushback and loud protests against Line 3 to protect Minnesota waters and the people who value them, especially the Anishinaabe people. They are threatened by the new route and what it has in store for our environment, nothing good I may add. Along with the issues listed above, the Line 3 route also violates treaty rights; Native people are being silenced throughout this process. The results of this silence are women, children and families sitting in the trenches fighting for Minnesota land. They are not resisting, but simply making a statement that there is something to fight for.

Our Legislature and Congress are in session. Let’s make our voices heard. I urge you to search the website below and sign the petition to stop the Line 3 pipeline expansion and save Minnesota waters. <https://www.stopline3.org/news/bi3den-stopline>.

*Abbie Thomas is from St. Joseph. She is a student at University of Minnesota Duluth who will be graduating spring 2021 with a degree in social work.*

Our view

## Dear Mr. Dalman. We’re sorry.

At the Newsleaders, we take pride in our commitment to accurate, unbiased reporting. And although our columnists and letter writers may lean more to one side or the other, historically on the whole we’ve managed to balance sides and ensure opinions shared are grounded in facts.

That’s why we were mortified to discover an egregious error of fact in the column by Dennis Dalman titled, “We’re supposed to empathize with lunatics?!” published Jan. 24.

Before we dive into what happened, first let’s be clear. The error was not an intentional misrepresentation of fact by the columnist.

Dalman has been a reporter and weekly columnist for almost 40 years, with 16 years at the Alexandria Echo Press and 22 years at the Newsleaders. His commitment to accuracy is top-notch, and his record is impeccable.

For these reasons, and many others, it’s beyond unfortunate that in an article about “toxic disinformation,” our editing team performed an epic disservice to him.

Dalman correctly stated in his column that, at the time of writing, 350,000 Americans had died from COVID-19. On first review, this fact was verified; however, the number actually included a typo: the addition of a zero. The first reviewer missed it and mentally saw the number as 350,000 rather than 3500,000. The final reviewer noticed the extra zero and thought an additional comma was needed, changing the number from 3500,000 to 3,500,000 rather than performing another fact check.

And, that’s what went to press.

The silver lining behind this embarrassing breakdown in our process is the onslaught of emails that followed were fast and furious. Some simply pointed out the error with links to official statistics. Some pointed out the hypocrisy of criticizing toxic disinformation at the same time we are distributing toxic information. Some even pointed out this was “typical fake news.”

The error was quickly updated on our website and social media platforms with an editor’s note about the error in the print versions of our papers, which had already been mailed.

While it was painful to admit our failure in process when responding to everyone who wrote in, it was also gratifying to be reminded our readership appreciates and demands accurate information in our news, features and columns.

As for Dalman, he was gracious when informed of the error forever tied to his name in the print version.

Mr. Dalman, again, we are sorry.



Public Notice

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748  
DEC. 21, 2020  
SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL VIA TELECONFERENCE

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chair Jeremy Snoberger. Members present: Snoberger; Jason Nies, vice chair; Amanda Byrd, clerk; Patrick Marushin, treasurer; Lesa Kramer, director; Pamela Raden, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: none.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Byrd to APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Nies, Kramer, Byrd, Raden, Marushin and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

The public hearing for the proposed 2020 payable 2021 levy started at 6:01 p.m. called by Chair Snoberger.

Business Manager Joseph Prom reviewed the 2020 payable 2021 levy materials including the 2020-2021 budget, types of levies and property-tax calculations.

During the public comment opportunity, Brad Scherer, 1801 Seventh Ave. N., spoke regarding his concerns on the free reign on technology students have as we transition into distance learning.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS A.5.a – A.5.e AS PRESENTED BELOW. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Nies, Kramer, Byrd, Raden, Marushin and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A.5.a. Minutes of the election canvass meeting held on Nov. 13, 2020

Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Nov. 16, 2020

Minutes of the closed work session held on Dec. 2, 2020

A.5.b. Checks in the amount of \$2,089,182.61 as presented:	
General Fund	1,738,529.85
Food Service Fund	80,669.35
Transportation Fund	178,510.44
Community Service Fund	37,074.36
Capital Expenditure Fund	47,800.64
Activity Accounts	5,590.29
Internal Service Fund	1,007.68
Check numbers 179978 – 180225	

ACHs in the amount of \$4,113.29 as presented:	
General Fund	1,855.53
Food Service Fund	112.59
Community Service Fund	486.42
Activity Accounts	1,658.69
ACH numbers 202000053-202000068	

Receipts in the amount of \$5,347,702.71 as presented:	
General Fund	3,222,633.65
Food Service Fund	223,253.44
Community Service Fund	108,154.69
Capital Expenditure Fund	204,676.78
Building Fund	182.35
Debt Service Fund	1,572,481.99
Activity Accounts	2,835.00
Internal Service Fund	13,484.81
Receipts 48191 - 48280	

Wire transfers in the amount of \$821,449.44 as presented:	
General Fund	24,012.54
Food Service Fund	7,292.98
Community Service Fund	522.55
Capital Expenditure Fund	2,135.80
Building Fund	6,753.00
Activity Accounts	5,552.60
Internal Service Fund	775,179.97
Wire transfers 202000245-202000308	
Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$142,941.25 as presented:	
Building Fund	142,941.25
Check numbers 601187 to 601200	

A.5.c. Accept the following donations:  
Hoarce Mann, Sartell High School, large kid bike, general donation; Judith M. Loudon, Sartell Middle School, \$300, Knowledge Bowl/Academic Triathlon (In memory of John Augustin); SSEF, Riverview Intermediate, \$950, PLTW; SSEF, Sartell Middle School, \$2,500, The Hub; SSEF, ISD #748, \$8,460, fall grants (first round).

A.5.d. Accept the resignation of Charles Kuklok, RIS, custodian, 12/11/20. Accept the retirements of Judith Beck, SMS, para, 11/30/20; Jeff Schwiebert, District, superintendent, 6/30/21.

A.5.e. Approve Combined Polling Places Resolution

Student Representative Report: Sophia Speckhard, student representative

Speckhard reported on happenings around the district. Oak Ridge and Pine Meadow students are utilizing the new program SeeSaw. Both buildings are promoting Sabre Strong and routine through distance learning. Riverview students are continuing to adapt to the new normal of distance learning, but very excited to hear students would be returning after experiencing all three learning models. They have also been promoting Sabre Strong language during distance learning. The Middle School held all its band, choir and orchestra performances at home for family members. Students continue to navigate distance learning and are excited to return. The High School had individual student accomplishments in the area of academic, athletic, art and community involvement. Conferences were held on Dec. 10 and were all held successfully virtually. Student Council and NHS held their annual Thanksgiving-In-A-Bag food drive virtually this year and raised more than \$4,000 for food vouchers for families in need. The SAFE (Student Advocates For Equity) has been meeting once a week and has been having good meetings with teachers and community members.

Superintendent Report: Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent

Schwiebert started by announcing his retirement and thanked the School Board, community, staff and administrators who have been here with him. After 19 years of being a superintendent, the last seven in Sartell, he truly thinks of the Sartell-St. Stephen District as home. The District received great news for the upcoming learning model changes in January, which will be communicated to families.

District Finance Report: Director of Business Services Joe Prom provided an update on district finances.

COVID-19 Report: Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert and Director of Human Resources Krista Durrwachter provided an update on how the district is moving forward with COVID-19.

Enrollment Report: Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert reported on the current enrollment numbers for each school.

School Board Committee Report:

Director Raden reported on the recent Technology and Communication Committee meeting.

Treasurer Marushin reported on the recent Policy Committee meeting.

Clerk Byrd reported on the recent CIA Policy Committee meeting.

Chair Snoberger reported on the December Benton-Stearns Education board meeting.

Director Kramer reported on the December Substance-Free Coalition meeting.

School Exec Connect Presentation:

Bob Oslund and Ken Dragseth from School Exec Connect provided a presentation on an overview of their services.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Byrd to APPROVE SCHOOL EXEC CONNECT SERVICES AGREEMENT. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Nies, Kramer, Byrd, Raden, Marushin and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Raden to APPROVE #1-12:

New Employees/Changes:  
Molly Butkowski, RIS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, new position, 9/8/2020; Bethany Calhoun, SHS, PT cleaner, \$16.89/hour, RI, S2, 4 hours/day, requested by employee – within 90-day probationary period, 12/17/2020; Mark Henrich, SHS, ninth-grade girls basketball, \$5,267 (10.5 percent), BA, Step I (\$50,164), replacing Shannon Determan, 12/21/2020; Sarah Hensel, SHS, Math League advisor, \$945 (2.25 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Kerry Trnka, 11/16/2020; Greg Jamison, SHS, assistant nordic track, \$2,044 (9.5 percent), BA, Step B (\$43,024), 50-percent contract, replacing Heather Yelle, 12/7/2020; Alexia Magedanz, SHS, assistant dance, \$2,205 (10.5 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), 50-percent contract, replacing Kelsey Stoebe, 11/16/2020;

Burton Ramsey, RIS, custodian, \$19.95/hour, RIII, S3, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, replacing Charles Kuklok, 12/14/2020; Jared Saue, SHS, ninth-grade boys basketball, \$4,410 (10.5 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Christian Pekarek, 11/23/2020; Brock Swanson, SHS, head girls golf, \$4,863 (9.5 percent), BA, Step J (\$51,185), replacing Paul Determan, 3/15/2021; Brenda Wenning, DSC, human resources assistant, \$27.46/hour to \$28.70/hour, pay increase for 20-21 and 21-22 years, 1/1/21 / 7/1/21.

Leaves of Absence: Elizabeth Inveiss, SMS, para,

LOA, 11/23/20-12/29/20; Sarah Hornseth, SMS, teacher, LOA, 3/12/21-5/28/21.

On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor Nies, Kramer, Byrd, Raden, Marushin and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Nies TO APPROVE ISD 748 2020-2021 WORLD’S BEST WORKFORCE STRATEGIC PLAN. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Nies, Kramer, Byrd, Raden, Marushin and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Raden TO APPROVE CLERICAL, PARAPROFESSIONAL, 284 MULTI-UNIT, CERTIFIED STAFF & ECFE SENIORITY LISTS. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Nies, Kramer, Byrd, Raden, Marushin and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Nies TO APPROVE THE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2020 PAYABLE 2021 PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,701,873.28. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Nies, Kramer, Byrd, Raden, Marushin and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Future Board Organizational Meeting – Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at District Service Center - 6:30 p.m.

Future Board Meeting via Teleconference – TBD

Official Review of Policies: The Board had the official review of policy: 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 301, 302, 410, 414, 506, 522 and 524.

The Board had the first reading of revisions of policies: 206, 415, 616 and 806.

Recognition was given to retiring School Board Members Lesa Kramer and Pamela Raden.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:43 p.m. was made by Raden and seconded by Kramer. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Nies, Kramer, Byrd, Raden, Marushin and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

/s/ Amanda Byrd, clerk

Publish: Feb. 5, 2021



## FINANCE GUIDE | MAKE A PLAN

# Set Monthly Goals: Part Two

As you prepare to close out the last half of the year, focus your money-saving strategies on finding lower utility prices and preparing your family for emergencies.

The Smart About Money Campaign, created by the National Endowment for Financial Education, offers unique tips to pad your wallet for the holidays and successfully close out your fiscal year.

## JULY

Make a list of your expenditures regarding utilities and entertainment costs. Look for ways to cut costs on your cable or internet bill by cutting cords and relying on streaming services rather than traditional television plans. Be careful to limit the number of subscriptions you accrue as numerous payments may add up unexpectedly. You should also analyze your electricity bills and decide if newer energy-efficient appliances would help cut the costs. Check with your natural gas or electric company for special offers for upgrades or refunds on equipment.

## AUGUST

Plan for disaster by building a family emergency kit.



© ADOBE STOCK

Store plenty of water and non-perishable foods in your basement or storm cellar. It's essential to keep enough supplies to last for three days if you can remain at home and three weeks if you must stay away for an extended period.

## SEPTEMBER

As the holidays approach, get a head start on planning your budget. Besides buying gifts, you should prepare for costs on things like parties,

traveling and gift-wrapping expenses. Try to create a strategy where you don't rely on credit cards to avoid paying for the holidays over the next year.

## OCTOBER

Attend a debt-management workshop to learn from experts how you can boost your savings account while paying down money owed. Check your local areas for events or visit an online class-

room to learn from your home.

## NOVEMBER

As the year ends, most employers encourage their workers to review their health-care plan and make necessary changes. During this period, look around for more affordable care or lower deductibles. You should also research your company's plans for the upcoming year to determine

changes to the coverage.

## DECEMBER

Review the year of your financial management and find ways to improve come January. December is also the time to set goals toward your most significant dreams. For instance, will next year be your time to pursue higher education and buy a new home or car? With proper planning and minor steps to your next big dream, you can find fiscal success.

Together we are...  
**Optimistic.**

From the seed of challenge  
grows opportunity.

Let's get together.  
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