

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, June 11, 2021
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Est. 1995

Town Crier

Art projects with kids at the Lemonade Concert

The 48th annual Lemonade Concert and Art Fair is sponsored by St. Cloud State University. The event includes music groups, roving performers, a wide variety of foods and a children’s art and entertainment area. The Paramount Arts Studio teams up with AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP to provide activities for the Children’s Art area. The event is scheduled for June 24 at SCSU. They’re seeking volunteers to assist children with art activities from 10:30 a.m. through 6 p.m. with several shifts to choose from. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Up to 15 volunteers are needed per shift. Responsibilities include assisting children with simple art-related projects, such as: clay sculpting, construction-paper flower project, watercolor painting or button-making. Contact Tauna, AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP, at 320-650-3195 or tauna.quimby@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

July 4th fireworks call for volunteers

Volunteers needed to help make St. Cloud July 4th happen! Volunteers needed for various activities and dates – primarily July 2, 3 and 4. Volunteer opportunities for two- and four-hour shifts. Contact Michelle Hommerding at finewhateveritsallgood@gmail.com or 320-980-4816. Visit stcloudfireworks.org for more information.

Do you need information about giving blood?

Blood that is donated through the American Red Cross helps patients of all ages including cancer and sickle cell patients, trauma and burn patients, and patients with chronic diseases. Minimum requirements for whole-blood donation include donation frequency of every 56 days, must be in good health and feeling well, at least age 16 and weigh at least 110 lbs. Visit redcross.org for more information. A one-time blood donation can save up to three lives! Schedule an appointment to give blood today! Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>.

Watering ban in effect

by Carolyn Bertsch
news@thenewsleaders.com

The City of Sartell issued a watering ban June 9 due to extremely low water levels. No irrigation is allowed on public or private properties, and the Watab Park Splash Pad has been closed. Anyone found watering up until the ban is lifted may

receive a citation – \$100 for the first citation and each consecutive violation increases by \$100 increments.

Celebration Pool will remain open and is unaffected by the watering ban at this time.

Public works utility crews will be monitoring water levels and will communicate updates with residents and businesses.

Sartell seeks input for city ‘branding’

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell is overdue for new “branding,” according to city officials. They want residents’ and businesses’ input to help achieve that goal.

A survey is available

for residents to take. Go to www.sartellmn.com and then view the blog post under “Recent News.” The survey is also available by hitting the “like” button on the Sartell Facebook page.

Residents and business owners and staff can take

Branding • page 9



photos by Carolyn Bertsch

Park upgrades a big hit
Marin Darling (left) and Harlow Hines, both 7 and of Sartell, beat the heat June 3 at the Watab Park splash pad.



(Above) Benjamin Mumme, 11 mos, of Sartell, smiles and laughs as his mother, Andrea, pushes him in a swing June 3 at the Watab Park playground. (At right) Eli Brands, 9, of St. Cloud, fills a water gun June 3 at the Watab Park splash pad in Sartell as Julia Nohner, 3, of Sauk Rapids, watches carefully.



Mobile-home park residents picket their grievances

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

One afternoon last summer, John Wood of Sartell was driving back to his mobile home when he noticed the sky was quickly turning dark. This was followed by high winds, rain and the sound of pelting hail stones.

Back home, he looked up and saw a funnel cloud forming in the distance. He rushed over to the park’s

maintenance shop, where its basement was then serving as a storm shelter. The building was locked.

Looking skyward again, Wood was relieved when he saw the funnel cloud dissipate. That storm scare stuck with Wood and made him more determined than ever to put pressure on the powers-that-be to fix park problems. He began to write a series of letters to senators and legislators, the Minne-

sota Attorney General and others – urging all of them to help park residents.

The name of that park, located at 106 Second St. S., is “Sartell MHP” – the MHP standing for “Manufactured-Home Park.” For many years, starting in 1978, it was known as Hi-Vue Park. Its name was changed several years ago when a Colorado-based company, Impact Communities, purchased it.

Last summer – and long

before last summer – residents of that park have been clamoring for the park’s owners to provide a strong, adequate, up-to-date storm shelter, and other long-deferred improvements and infrastructure issues, chief among them the park’s aging and damaged water lines.

There are 163 home lots in the park and close to 400 residents. The park was originally designed for only

Grievances • page 8

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Sartell Muskies shine in tournament win



contributed photo

The three Sartell Muskies pitchers who helped make the team's win last weekend such an unqualified triumph are (left to right) Dave Kroger, Jr.; David Deminsky; and Adam Wenker.

 by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell Muskies baseball team scored a resounding championship in the annual Omann Invitational Tournament held last weekend in Sartell.

In the tournament's three games, the Muskies gave up only one run. So far this season, the Muskies have had no

errors in their last six games and only two errors out of 12 games.

The co-hosts of the tournament, now in its 12th year, were the Muskies and the St. Stephen Steves.

The Omann Invitational Tournament took place at St. Cloud Orthopedic Sports Field (formerly Champion Park in Sartell). On Friday, the Muskies defeated the St.

Stephen Steves 7-0; on Saturday, they won over the Brainerd Bees also 7-0; and they clinched the championship Sunday with a 2-1 victory over the Nisswa Lightning.

All three games were seven innings each, a requirement for the Omann Invitational.

The Muskies' long-time manager Randy Beckstrom attributed the championship to expert pitching by three pitchers - David Deminski; Dave Kroger, Jr.; and Adam Wenker. All three were named "Most Valuable Players" after the tournament win.

"That tournament just blew us away," Beckstrom said. "The pitching definitely dominated."

During the third and final game, an agony of suspense hung in the hot, humid air. The Nisswa Lightning led by 1 point, with the Muskies not having scored at all. Then, at the bottom of the sixth inning, it was a bolt from the blue when Muskies player Jace Otto had a two-out double for the winning run. A commotion of wild cheers and yells erupted from the spectators.

During the hot weekend, with temperatures into the 90s, other baseball games were played by other teams in both Sartell and St. Stephen.

The Muskies, now with 27 players, was formed in 1979. Beckstrom joined them in 1989 but stopped playing 14 years ago and became the team's manager in 2006.

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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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PEOPLE

BLOTTER

Jim Barker, a Sartell resident and employee of DeZURIK, was recently elected as president of Manufacturers Standardization Society of the Valves and Fittings Industry for a three-year term. Barker has been active and worked hard on MSS standards and MSS officer structure for many years. He has chaired many of the standards committees; many industry standards show his leadership and company affiliation in the introductions. Barker has 48 years experience in engineering and management in the valve industry including vice president of product engineering at DeZURIK Inc.



Margaret Kulus of Sartell has been named to the spring dean's list for a GPA of 3.5 or higher at Montana State University, Bozeman.

Cali Fritz of Sartell has earned an associate's degree in dental hygiene from Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Fergus Falls.

Kami Counter of Sartell has been named to the spring dean's list for a GPA of 3.5 or higher at University of Wisconsin Stout.

Hunter Boelz of Sartell earned spring president's academic honors for a GPA of 3.5 or higher at Dakota State University in Madison, S.D.

Eight Sartell students were recently named to the spring dean's list at the University of Wisconsin Madison. They are the following: **Claire Boschee, Brandon Carlson, Holly Greer, Morgan Gugger, Yash Hindka, Olivia Plamann, Alayna Runge** and **Carter Schumacher**.

GeAnna Moody of Sartell was initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Moody was initiated at St. Catherine University, St. Paul.

Rachel Schatz of Sartell has been named to the spring dean's list for a GPA of 3.5 or higher at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

Nicholas Juntunen of Sartell has been awarded the Hilldale

Undergraduate/Faculty Research Fellowship at University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Hilldale Foundation and the Wisconsin State Legislature provide for awards of \$3,000 each to undergraduate students and \$1,000 to their faculty/staff advisors to work in collaboration on research projects.

Four Sartell students were named to the spring dean's list for a GPA of 3.5 or higher at Iowa State University, Ames. They are the following: **Isabella Carpenter, Anna Ellis, Phillip Misterman** and **Austin Pietrowski**.

Denny Bartlow of Sartell earned a bachelor's degree in information technology management from the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Abigail Hesse of Sartell has been named to the spring dean's list for a GPA of 3.5 or higher at Hamline University, St. Paul.

Brady Gaebel and **Caleb Otteson**, both of Sartell, have been named to the spring president's list for a GPA of 4.0 at Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

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

May 25
4:55 a.m. Assist agency. River Oaks Lane. Dispatch requested Sartell officers to assist with a medical call. When officers arrived, it was determined to be a gunshot wound. The victim was transported to the St. Cloud Hospital with a Sartell officer. Sartell officers assisted in helping clear the house, property and holding perimeter while the initial investigation occurred.

May 26
9:07 p.m. Stolen-vehicle recovery. CR 120. While a Sartell officer was on their way to work a special detail, they noticed a vehicle that was making numerous driving violations. After a quick check of the license plate the officer learned the vehicle was stolen out of St. Cloud. The officer followed the vehicle at a distance until more units arrived in the area. The vehicle was stopped and had three occupants in the vehicle. One male was detained and taken to the Stearns County Jail.

May 27
9:28 a.m. No pay. Pinecone Road S. Coborn's advised a Sartell police officer they had a gas drive-off earlier in the morning. The officer gathered the plate information and made contact with the owner of the vehicle. The owner thought he had paid but stated he would go right back to take care of it.

May 28
10:54 a.m. Welfare. Highway 15. Dispatch requested officers to check the area for a male who was sitting along the roadway. The complainant thought the male may be experiencing some mental health issues. Officers checked the area and were unable to locate the male. An

hour later another similar call came out to officers about the same male. Again checking the area numerous times, they were unable to locate the male.

May 29
11:06 p.m. Assist person. Pinecone Road S. An officer was dispatched to the area for two employees asking to be escorted to their vehicle. The caller stated there were four males standing near their vehicle, and they felt uncomfortable leaving. The officer spoke to the employees, and they stated odd things had been happening like people trying to get into the back door, and they were feeling uncomfortable. The officer checked the back and the tall grass area with a heat sensitive camera and found no one in the area. The officer stood by until the employees were in their vehicles.

May 30
9:49 a.m. Car fire. Third Street S. An officer was dispatched to a car fire at an apartment complex. The vehicle was close to other vehicles. The officer learned the complainant started the vehicle and heard a loud bang. Then smoke started coming from the hood, and the engine looked like it was on fire. An off-duty firefighter grabbed an extinguisher from the building and put the fire out. The officer called a tow for the vehicle, and the fire department checked the vehicle before it was towed.

May 31
3:15 p.m. Neighbor dispute. Brookwood Lane. An officer was dispatched to a neighbor dispute about parking violations. The complainant stated there was a commercial vehicle parked on the roadway for four days, and it had not moved. The officer was unable to make contact with the owner of the vehicle but noticed another officer had responded earlier in the day for the same complaint. A verbal warning was given at that time, and the officers will be doing follow-up to see if the vehicle is moved.

School COVID-19 policies set for summer programs, activities

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

COVID safety plans are in place for summer school and activities in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district.

For children age 11 and younger, masks are required indoors for all students and unvaccinated staff. Masks are not required outdoors.

For children age 12 and older, masks are encouraged but not required for all unvaccinated staff and students. Masks are not required outdoors.

Masks are required for all students on school transportation vehicles.

All people entering district facilities this summer are expected to perform a self-health screening prior to entering a building. Screening for elemen-

tary children must be completed by an adult.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, they must quarantine for 10 days. Families are required to report a positive case of COVID-19 to the program director/principal. Families of the classroom/program (summer school, extended school year, athletics, and more) will be notified of a positive COVID-19 case.

Daily attendance will be documented for each class/activity and seating charts will be maintained in all classrooms. Families will be notified if their child has been in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case.

Any person who lives in the same household as the person that tested positive is required to quarantine for 14 days. In the event of an exposure outside the home, the school district encour-

ages families to quarantine. The CDC currently recommends a 14-day quarantine period, with two other options: seven-day quarantine period (test on day five or after) or a 10-day quarantine period without a test.

The school district will implement social distancing to the extent possible, hand hygiene practices, cleaning and disinfecting protocols and enhanced indoor air ventilation to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The most recent information on the district's COVID-19 plans and policies are online at www.sartell.k12.mn.us/COVID19_coronavirus.

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Open enrollment, athletic lights, seating on school board agenda

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

A clarified open enrollment policy, lights and seating for high school athletic fields and the long-awaited equity audit report will be on the agenda when the Sartell-St. Stephen school board meets June 21.

Board members discussed the open enrollment policy and improving the high school athletic fields at the June 2 board work session. Monthly work sessions give board members a chance to learn about issues and discuss plans but no votes are taken.

The open enrollment discussion centers around how to define a sibling. Under the current policy, students who have been enrolled in the district for a year can continue in Sartell-St. Stephen schools if the family moves out of the district. When younger siblings reach school age, they can also attend district schools. But what's a sibling? A blended family or parents living together with no children in common creates a more complicated decision if they move out of the district. One option would be to rule out siblings who haven't attended district schools.

Before the board meets again, the board's policy committee will research options as well as the law regarding open enrollment.

The board is considering spending up to \$1 million to add lights and seating to two athletic fields at the high school. The money comes from unspent funds in the building bond account that has been saved on lower-than-anticipated expenses and boosted by higher-than-expected interest income on the bond money. If the board approves the expense, the project would be opened for bids. At least the lights could be in place

for this fall's soccer season.

While the current stadium adjacent to Riverview Intermediate School has a newer track, it doesn't accommodate a full-size soccer field and it's running out of space for football seating. When the track was improved, the visitor bleachers on the east side of the field were removed.

Equity Alliance MN is expected to present the equity audit and recommendations to the board.

The audit report is arriving about two months later than expected because COVID-related school closings and compiling the vast amount of survey data slowed Equity Alliance's work.

After the board members review the report, they are expected to form an action plan to address identified issues. The equity effort also includes a district committee to guide and advise the board. A plan for that committee's role, membership

and scope was presented to the board on May 5.

Guiding the equity effort will be one of the first tasks for the district's new superintendent, Jeff Ridlehoover, who will start July 1.

Although education equity issues that center around race, religion, family economics and gender have been discussed for years, the topic gained momentum after the killing of George Floyd and subsequent debates about systemic racism. After a listening session in June 2020 where students and others shared stories about unfair comments and actions in schools, the school board discussed how to move forward and decided to conduct the audit and hired Equity Alliance. The audit included focus groups, interviews, surveys, classroom visits and data analysis.

The board will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, June 21, in the high school Performing Arts Center.

Suspect arrested for River Oaks Lane shooting

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A St. Cloud man was arrested June 3 in Morrison County in connection with the shooting and wounding of a man May 25 just outside of a residence in LeSauk Township right next to south Sartell.

The shooting victim was Alex Mallet, 57. He underwent surgery at the St. Cloud Hospital, and his condition was listed as stable two days later.

According to a report from the Stearns County Sheriff's Department, Trenell Earl Rogers, 34, was arrested at about 11 a.m. June 3 during the execution of a search

warrant in rural Morrison County. Rogers is expected to be formally charged with three felony counts: first-degree assault, second-degree assault and unlawful possession of a firearm. Rogers remains in the Stearns County Jail.

The shooting happened at 4:51 a.m. at a residence in the 3200 block of the River Oaks Lane neighborhood just southeast of the intersection of Hwy. 15 and CR 1 (Riverside Avenue S.) Authorities were notified of the shooting by an emergency medical call from the residence. People who were at the scene said the shooting was the result of a verbal

altercation.

During the search warrant that led to Rogers' arrest, law-enforcement personnel also arrested a New London man at the same rural residence. Chad David Wenz, 38, was taken into custody on a charge of a fifth-degree controlled-substance crime. He was found to have a suspected narcotic in his possession.

The Sartell Police Department and many other law-enforcement agencies participated together in the execution of the search warrant after they learned that the man wanted for the shooting was at the Morrison County residence.

Schwiebert thanks school board, staff

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

At the end of the June 2 Sartell-St. Stephen school board work session, retiring Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert shared his thoughts.

"It's been a very enjoyable seven years," Schwiebert said. "This is a great community."

Schwiebert, who served seven years as superintendent, said "I've really struggled the last month. You forget how quickly you become disconnected.

"In this district, we worry that each kid has a chance to be successful," Schwiebert said. "We push to make sure our kids get what they need."

Speaking to the district's administrative team, he said "in 20 years as a school superintendent, this is the





Schwiebert

best administrative staff that I've ever had. I couldn't have been more blessed to be in this district and have them working with me."

The board selected Jeff Ridlehoover, who is currently the assistant superintendent for Mounds View schools, to replace Schwiebert.

Board chair Jeremy Snoberger said, "It's been a pleasure to serve with you and along side of you. Your expertise and work on the building project has been huge."

A community open house for Schwiebert will be held from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, June 16 at Blackberry Ridge Golf Club, 3125 Clubhouse Road.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ST. STEPHEN CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the St. Stephen City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter, at St. Stephen City Hall, 2 6th Ave. SE, to consider the following:

A request by Rodenwald Properties, LLC, to rezone the parcels of property identified below (currently Parcel ID number 90.55843.0013) from a single Farm Residential parcel into to eleven (11) Rural Single Family Residence (RR-1) Lots and two (2) Single Family Residence Lots (R-1) as part of a minor subdivision. Specifically, Block 4, Lot 1 and Block 1, Lot 1 will be rezoned R-1; the other remaining lots will be rezoned RR-1. The lots identified as "Outlot A and Outlot B" on the Preliminary Plat will also be rezoned from Farm Residential to

Single Family Residential (R-1).

The property consists of approximately 40 deeded acres located northwest of the intersection of 6th Ave. NE and Main Street E. The Preliminary Plat is available for viewing at City Hall by request.

Anyone wishing to comment will be heard at the public hearing and written comments may be forwarded to the office of the City Clerk before the time of the public hearing.

Please send to:

City of St. Stephen
Attn: Julie Jacobs
2 6th Ave. SE
St. Stephen, MN 56375

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photos by Carolyn Bertsch

Sartell Senior Parade
(Above) Children shoot water guns at high school seniors along the parade route June 4 on a 90-degree day. (At right) Sartell High School Seniors share some laughs before the parade. They are (left to right) Zach Martins; Brian Avery; Ean Buzzard and Ally Walz, all of Sartell. (Far right) A decked-out pickup truck filled with cheering people rolls down Pinecone Road during the Sartell Senior Parade.



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Brain Health

Your brain can also become weak as you age if you do not maintain its health.



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Although there is not physical way to work out your brain, there are some mental workouts you can perform to keep your brain strong and healthy.

MENTAL HEALTH IS IMPORTANT

Although you may have good mental health, you can never be too careful as you continue to age. Mental health disorders such as dementia and depression can develop in anyone if you do not take care of your brain.

Luckily there are some preventative measures you can take to

ensure that your brain stays healthy as you age.

The best way to work out your brain is to keep your mind active. Challenging yourself with learning a new skill or taking in music, theater or another creative activity will get your mind moving and working.

UNHEALTHY HABITS

Your brain is effected by everything you do. So keep that in mind if you are a smoker, if you do not get much sleep at night or if you don't eat the right things.

A healthy brain requires a

healthy life away from harmful substances such as cigarettes, alcohol and junk food.

Being active is a great way to keep your mind and body healthy whether it's walking through your local park, taking a tai chi or yoga class or even just stretching every day for 10 minutes. Get your body moving and kick away those unhealthy habits and you'll lead a long, bright healthy life.

Leading a healthy life is the best way to protect your body against aging and disease. Creating a healthy life style will lead to more benefits in your life

and well being.

ACTIVITIES

Some other activities you can do to keep your brain active are puzzles, brain games on your phone or using your memory. Drawing a map of your town from memory is a good challenge for your brain. Include major streets, landmarks and major sights in town.

Draw your daily routine in town during the day. These and other activities will help your brain fight against diseases such as Alzheimers.

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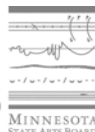
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Moving out of your home may not be your only choice.

Before you move into an assisted living setting, learn more about your options. Can the services you need be brought into your home instead? Could you hang onto your resources longer if you stay in your own home?

Call Senior LinkAge Line
for more information

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STEADI: Fall Prevention Basics

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says falls are common and costly, especially among Americans age 65 and older.

The CDC's STEADI initiative or Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths and Injuries initiative shares for things you or a loved one can do to prevent falls.

TALK OPENLY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Falling in your home isn't something you should keep to yourself. There is nothing you should be embarrassed about if an accident happens. The CDC's STEADI initiative says to tell a provider right away if you fall, worry about falling or feel unsteady.

Your doctor may review all the medicines you take as over-time some medicines can change and create different effects in your body.

EXERCISE DAILY

Exercising is a great way to help prevent yourself from falling over time. Keeping your body healthy and moving decreases the chances of falling as you continue to get older. Look into exercises that will improve your balance and make your legs stronger. Stretching daily is another way to do minimal exercise that will benefit you in the long run.

Check Eyes and Feet



© ADOBE STOCK

Getting your eyes checked at least one year is important to prevent damage or catch damage such as cataracts or glaucoma in its early stages. The CDC's STEADI initiative says along with getting your eyes fixed, you should also have

your feet checked once a year, discuss proper footwear and ask whether seeing a foot specialist is advised.

MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER

Making your home safer for yourself is probably the most

important way you can prevent falls. Remove items that may trip you over such as shoes, clothes, cords or any other items that may lie on the floor.

Use double-sided tape to stick small rugs and carpets to

the ground.

Lastly, adding handrails on all staircases and in your restroom next in your shower and next to the toilet are good prevention methods that may save your body and life in the future.



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COUNTRY MANOR

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The City of St. Stephen

WE ARE LOOKING FOR...

Office Assistant to the City Clerk

This position is 10 hours per month, and one evening per week. Some responsibilities include, but are not limited to, maintaining and organizing records of all council proceedings (including preparation of meeting minutes), performing clerical duties such as mailings and filings, and documenting of questions and complaints from public. An ideal candidate is detail-oriented, has excellent typing and phone skills, and the ability to work well under limited supervision.

To apply either mail Julie Jacobs, City Clerk, at ststephendclerk.midconet.com, or mail inquiry to Julie Jacobs, City Clerk, 2 Sixth Avenue SE, St. Stephen MN 56375.

Closing date for all inquiries is Tuesday, June 22. EEO



contributed photo

Some residents of Sartell Manufactured-Home Park gathered outside city hall May 24 to picket and to raise awareness about the problems and concerns they are experiencing in the mobile-home park. Sixth from left in the photo is John Wood, president of the Sartell MHP Association.

Grievances

from front page

110 lots, said Wood, who has lived in the park since 2017 and who is president of the Sartell MHP Residents’ Association.

Wood and other members of the association picketed in front of Sartell City Hall May 24 to bring attention to the problems at the park and the frustrations that go with them. Five hours after picketing, Wood addressed the city council during its open forum, telling about the problems and wanting the city to be aware of them and perhaps help do something about them.

On the morning of May 29, Wood and other association members gathered at the entrance to the park and pounded into the ground about a dozen large placards, but by 10:30 a.m. the police ordered them removed on the basis they were visible distractions on a busy roadway, Wood said.

Each placard contained written complaints about the park. The complaints include another rent increase starting Aug. 1 that will make monthly lot rents more than \$500, along with extra costs for water, water-meter monthly rental, sewer, garbage disposal; storm-sewer failures; water-pressure failures; sewage-line failures; damage to landscaping by maintenance operations and snow-removal methods; 14 park managers hired and quitting or being let go since 2017; periodic flooding; and incidents of raw-sewage backups into some residents’ homes.

Members of the association said it has been a constant battle to get problems fixed.

In a legal document signed

recently, it was agreed the two buildings serving as storm shelters in the park must be improved to meet standards. One is under the maintenance building, which requires installation of an access for disabled residents. That access must be completed by Aug. 31. The other shelter is in a reinforced long-abandoned car wash in the park. The storm-shelter work, which had often been delayed despite deadlines in the past, was ordered in the legal agreement to be done by June 1. Another legally mandated agreement is to fix a broken water line and to make sure water pressure is adequate, also by June 1. Among the signatories on the document are a district manager for IMPACT Communities, which owns the park; Chelle Benson of Stearns County Environmental Services; a Stearns County attorney; and Sartell City Administrator Anna Gruber.

Gruber, in a note to the Sartell Newsleader, stated the park is licensed by Stearns County, not the city. Thus, the City of Sartell has no jurisdiction over its operation or management. The city does inspect the park for compliance with fire code and rental code, Gruber noted. The city, she said, also has one water meter in the park and bills the park for water usage, and the park then bills residents for water, based on meter readings at each lot.

Connie Dixon, who lives in Sartell MHP, has been its manager for almost a year.

She said the required improvements of the shelters have been completed, except for a reinforced door to be installed and for the disabled access, which she said will be done by the deadline, Aug. 31.

“There’s new stuff hap-

pening and a lot of work going on (in the park) right now,” Dixon said. “We also passed the water-pressure test just yesterday. A couple of residents don’t have full water pressure to their homes, but those are places with old pipes that need to be blown out.”

Some residents, Dixon said, are unaware of maintenance measures they themselves can do to prevent problems.

“The key,” she said, “really is better communication.”

The park association members said the ever-escalating monthly rent amounts is one of their major concerns, especially on top of the other charges they must pay for water/sewer and garbage disposal. Right now, lot rent is \$465. That will increase to \$500 in August. All told, many residents will be paying \$550 and even more monthly. It is a deep concern, Wood said, to the many elderly people on fixed incomes who live there.

There are 594 mobile-home parks in Minnesota, and about 180,000 residents. The lot rent increase to \$500 in August will be one of the highest lot-rent amounts among those parks, Wood said.

Joe Perske, a Sartell resident who is a Stearns County Commissioner, said he has long been aware of problems at mobile-home parks, including at Sartell MHP. Perske said counties, cities and the state legislature must work together to put a stop to abuses.

“There’s too much passing of the buck, and it’s time for it to stop,” Perske said. “It should be a matter of enforcement, but there are always objections and legal maneuvers and then it all gets lost.”

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CALENDAR

Friday, June 11
Homegrown 5K, 2 Mile, & “Little Sprouts” 1K, 5 p.m., \$5.00 registration cost. Wilson Park, 625 Riverside Drive NE, St. Cloud.

Saturday, June 12
Are you a compulsive eater? **Overeaters Anonymous** can help. Meetings held on Tuesday, 6 PM at Alano Club in Cold Spring or Saturday, 9 AM at Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud (use East entrance). For more information call Joyce @ 320-761-2275 or Donna @ 320-291-7251 or visit oa.org.

Sunday, June 13
Sartell Youth Hockey 2021 Scheels Gift Card & Gun Raffle, 6 p.m. drawing. Approximately \$40,000 in prizes. Visit sartellhockeyraffle.com for ticket and event information.

Monday, June 14
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

Tuesday, June 15
Are you a compulsive eater? **Overeaters Anonymous** can help. Meetings held on Tuesday, 6 PM at Alano Club in Cold Spring or Saturday, 9 AM at Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud (use East entrance). For more information call Joyce @ 320-761-2275 or Donna @ 320-291-7251 or visit oa.org.

Wednesday, June 16
Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles meeting virtually, contact Michelle at 320-529-9000 for registration details.

Thursday, June 17
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Pre-register to attend in-person, call Anna

at 320-258-7324.
American Legion-Sartell, 6 p.m., 850 19th St. S., Sartell Community Center.

Friday, June 18
Avon Spunktacular Days, Medallion hunt, car show, food court & beer gardens, kids activities and more! Wobegon Park, Avon. Visit www.visitstcloud.com/event for more info.

Saturday, June 19
Avon Spunktacular Days, Medallion hunt, car show, food court & beer gardens, kids activities and more! Wobegon Park, Avon. Visit www.visitstcloud.com/event for more info.

Are you a compulsive eater? **Overeaters Anonymous** can help. Meetings held on Tuesday, 6 PM at Alano Club in Cold Spring or Saturday, 9 AM at Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud (use East entrance). For more information call Joyce @ 320-761-2275 or Donna @ 320-291-7251 or visit oa.org.

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

Monday, June 21
Millstream Night Market, 5-9 p.m. Monday evenings June 21-Aug. 30. Good food, great music, fine art and hands-on arts activities! Downtown St. Joseph.

Sartell-St. Stephen school board, 5 p.m., District Service Center, 212 3rd Ave N. Sartell.

Tuesday, June 22
Are you a compulsive eater? **Overeaters Anonymous** can help. Meetings held on Tuesday, 6 PM at Alano Club in Cold Spring or Saturday, 9 AM at Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud (use East entrance). For more information call Joyce @ 320-761-2275 or

Donna @ 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 for registration details. This group is for family and friends of a person dealing with a mental illness, any diagnosis, any age. Learn coping and problem solving skills. Questions, call 320-654-1259, or email fsnamistcloud@gmail.com.

Wednesday, June 23
FREE Online Alzheimer’s Education Classes, 12-1 p.m. New content every other Wednesday, May 12-July 21. Registration is available online at: https://mailchi.mp/edgewoodhealthcare/alzheimerseventseries or by phone at 701-330-2626.

Thursday, June 24
Stearns County Board Development, Policy and Governance Committee, 8 a.m., 1201 S. 2nd St., Waite Park.

Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Pre-register to attend in-person, call Anna at 320-258-7324.



Branding

from front page

the survey until Wednesday, June 16.

A city’s “brand” or “branding” is a way to identify and to market that city’s strengths – its community identity, who comprises the city, what qualities it stands for and how to proceed into the future with those qualities strengthened and extended.

In short, a “brand” focuses a city’s identity and points the way to a vision and mission for that city.

It was about 20 years ago that Sartell developed its current brand, which included the widely seen city logo featuring a stylized design of

a blue meandering river and a bright yellow sun with the word “Sartell” on it.

The new branding process will likely create a new city logo as well.

The branding search and process will involve help from Switchboard, a local marketing agency owned by a Sartell resident.

The survey takes about three minutes to complete. Among its questions are these: What are the five traits that best describe Sartell with a list of 21 choices ranging from flattering to unflattering; rating aspects of the city on a scale from 0 to 10 (education, parks and recreation, dining, entertainment/nightlife, community events, housing, taxes, safety, inclusivity); and “What would you change about Sartell?”



ADOPT A PET



Leiba (left) and Budah are besties, so we would love for them to go home together! If they do, they would qualify for our #BOGOforbesties promotion (two for the price of one). Both these cats also would have their adoption fees waived for a veteran and/or senior citizen. Leiba is 6 years old and spayed, and Budah is 5 years old and spayed. Both would prefer a home without small children or dogs. Budah is the social butterfly; Leiba is more reserved. Both require prescription diets to keep their urinary health in order. Talk to TCHS about this paw-some two-some today!

“Helping one animal won’t change the world ... but it will change the world for that one animal!”

Dogs - 15; Cats - 47; Kittens - 20; Snake - 1; Guinea Pig - 1; Turtle - 1; Hamsters - 2

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www.tricountyhumane.org

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<p>AUTOMOBILES DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-752-6680 (MCN)</p>	<p>DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 7/21/21. 1-844-316-8876. (MCN)</p>	<p>MISCELLANEOUS BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 855-836-2250. (MCN)</p>	<p>The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-877-381-3059. (MCN)</p>
<p>DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-855-977-7030 (MCN)</p>	<p>Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$49.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-855-679-7096. (MCN)</p>	<p>Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-577-1268. Promo Code 285. (MCN)</p>	<p>Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 1-844-596-1237. Hours Mon-Thu, Sun : 9:30 am to 8:00 pm Fri : 9:30 am to 2:00 pm (all times Eastern). (MCN)</p>
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<p>High-Speed Internet. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at\$39.99/month!</p>	<p>Life Alert. One press of a button sends help FAST, 24/7! At home and on the go. Mobile Pendant with GPS. FREE First Aid Kit (with subscription.) CALL 844-646-2333 FREE Brochure. (MCN)</p>	<p>Put on your TV Ears and hear TV with unmatched clarity. TV Ears Original were originally \$129.95 – NOW WITH THIS SPECIAL</p>	<p>WOMEN’S/MEN’S DISCOUNT SHOPPING CLUB: Sunglasses, Bags, Clothes, Shoes, Watches, Jewelry. Join Now! www.christinepettway.com; 1-800-685-2550; members@christinepettway.com (MCN)</p>

Opinion

Our view

Keep reading, keep responding

Many people would likely bristle at the thought of opening emails or answering the phone daily to hear from readers who passionately invoke name-calling or call into question a person’s integrity and skill set. That’s just part of the job in news media, if we are doing our job correctly.

Our May 28 editions for St. Joseph and Sartell-St. Stephen struck nerves across the ideology spectrum. Dennis Dalman’s opinion column, “Thank you, Liz Cheney, for the troubling truth,” as well as our editorial, SCOTUS on trial next term, juxtaposed with a letter to the editor encouraging readers to wear orange to honor victims of gun violence fired up the “right.” While our story about a St. Joseph family who attended the Jan. 6 insurrection in Washington D.C. fired up the “left.”

At the Newsleaders, our intent is not to appeal to any particular side but to report what’s happening in the communities we serve and to present a variety of voices from our neighbors.

Here is just a sampling of feedback we received from the last issues. (Please note, these readers will remain anonymous because their submissions were not intended as open letters to the editor to be published on these pages.)

“I am writing to express my disappointment and disgust that your paper would give an entire page to someone who flies a F-K Biden flag, especially 6 months after the election. Is this the view that your paper supports? Are you that short of material that we need to give space to a self professed radical? If so, perhaps you could quit delivering it to my mailbox. Newsleader? or Propaganda Pages?”

That same day, we received this:

“Hi, it would be greatly appreciated if you would quit dropping off your garbage liberal paper to my address. Your lead editor is biased, high on something, and out of touch with the people he tries to reach. Most of us support law enforcement, support the military, support honest and fair elections, work for a living, want a crime free and safe community, on and on.....the direct opposite of what the lead editor and the democratic party stands for....thanks.”

Emails and phone calls like this allow us to have meaningful, follow-up conversations with our readers ... and, at the very least, to clarify our editor is indeed a woman. These follow-ups also have garnered letters to the editor and guest columns that share the voices of our communities.

While the semantical packaging of reader mail and phone calls is sometimes rough, the end result is the same. We elicited a response. We’ll keep doing our job.

And please, dear readers. Keep reading.

Letters policy

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or mailed to 1622 11th Ave. S.E., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space or to not publish.

Vaccines vital to fully defeat COVID pandemic

With the increasing number of Americans vaccinated and the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions around the country, we are getting back to the old “normal.” It is almost a surreal experience to walk into a store or attend a public event and see no masks in sight. Although it feels good to be getting our old lives back, the tragic experience of lockdowns, deaths and societal impact from COVID-19 is something we should never forget. And we’re not out of the woods yet.

Everything that has been achieved in the past few months could be at risk if people do not get vaccinated. Though incentives for vaccinations can be a motivator, we shouldn’t need monetary incentive to protect ourselves, our families and our neighbors.

According to Mayo Clinic, 54.7 percent of Minnesotans have received at least one vaccine dose, and 46.6 percent are fully vaccinated. To fully stomp out the disease those numbers need to be 70 to 90 percent. Though COVID-19 numbers are the lowest we have seen since the beginning of the pandemic, we still had more than a thousand new cases, and 40 deaths, in Minnesota during the past week according to the Star Tribune.

COVID-19 isn’t static, as we have seen with the number of variants that have developed, and if a COVID variant emerges that is not covered by the vaccines, then we are back to square one of having little effective measures

Connor Kockler

Guest Writer



to prevent its spread besides masks and social distancing. That is why it is imperative everyone who can be vaccinated gets their doses. The sooner we reach higher levels of vaccination, the more likely it is we can put COVID-19 behind us for good.

However, there is some hesitancy with COVID-19 vaccines in the general public. From the New York Times, in Minnesota there is about 10 to 20 percent of the population that didn’t say they would “definitely” or “probably” get vaccinated or that they were already vaccinated. This represents a roadblock to achieving that 70-90 percent number we will need to eradicate COVID-19.

The state government is doing something about this, with Gov. Walz announcing the Summer Vaccine Awards program to give the first 100,000 Minnesotans who get vaccinated between now and June 30 free items, such as fishing licenses, State Park passes and Visa gift cards. Private employers are also offering incentives to employees to go in and get their shots. To me though, these programs imply we need to pay people in order to take a common-sense step for public health. And

what about the hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans who already were vaccinated before the rewards system was set up? It doesn’t make sense they should get nothing while people who held out are rewarded for waiting.

Vaccinations are something we shouldn’t need to be bribed for; they’re a simple step to take that protects ourselves and everyone around us from the deadly effects of COVID-19. And large-scale vaccination isn’t new. We have largely eliminated diseases like polio, smallpox, and measles that were once scourges across the United States because most of the U.S. population has been vaccinated against them from an early age. Why should COVID-19 be any different?

To stop any additional spread and prevent a potential resurgence of COVID-19, everyone who can be vaccinated for COVID-19 should get their doses as soon as possible. If we want to preserve the gains we have made against this disease and keep from having to institute large-scale health measures again, having a higher percentage of Minnesotans vaccinated will help us keep those masks from needing to be used.

It’s just common sense, let’s get vaccinated Minnesota.

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

‘Language of Liberty’ rings many familiar bells

Many Americans, including me, yawned or snoozed our way through high-school civics classes.

In ninth grade, we had to memorize all nine Supreme Court justices. I was glad when Mr. House said they were appointed for life because I’d never have to memorize them again. That was then, this is now; the ones I memorized are all long gone.

Through the years, I’ve had to relearn what I should have learned (and remembered) in class. Some months ago, a book came my way called “The Language of Liberty: A Citizen’s Vocabulary” by Edwin C. Hagenstein. I’ve found it to be a valuable reference work.

“Language” is a primer on the American government – how and why it was formed, how it works (or sometimes doesn’t), how it has changed and how difficult it is to get anything done. The book reawakens what we half-learned years ago; there is also new and interesting information to learn.

The book contains 101 topic names clang out like gongs with contemporary relevance: Civil Rights, Demagogue, Democracy, Electoral College, Filibuster, Gerrymander, Identity Politics, Populism, Speaker of the House, Subpoena, Supreme Court and Veto. Each gets from two to four pages of text.

What I learned – relearned – from “The Language of Liberty” is just how complicated and messy is the machin-

Dennis Dalman

Reporter



ery of government. It is often downright baffling, at times nearly incomprehensible, a confusing battle, a nasty tug of war.

What’s most surprising is it’s more or less the way the Founding Fathers designed it when they drafted the U.S. Constitution. They went out of their way to develop a system so one political faction could not force through self-serving legislation or push power to the point of tyranny. Those wise Founding Fathers like Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and the rest, had learned their lessons well. They were painfully aware of how, in the “Old World” of Europe, kings and tyrants pushed their weight around, tyrannizing the masses of “common people” and causing so many inequities, so much misery, so much death.

That is why the Founding Fathers devised a system of checks and balances among the three major parts of government, the Executive (presidency), Legislative (congress) and Judicial (court system). Not a day goes by but what we don’t hear in the news of the fights, the give-and-take struggles, the tug of war between those branches of government. At times, governance re-

sembles a crazy massive game of chess in which the rules are made up by warring factions as the never-ending game is played, with no final “checkmate.”

Despite the maddening complications, this government has had great successes, strides for human liberty, throughout the past 250 years – despite the horrors of a Civil War, the unspeakable cruelties of slavery, ongoing inequalities, sexism and voting-suppression efforts.

Hagenstein is an excellent writer and scrupulously non-partisan in his approach. He reminds us that democracy depends upon two essential beliefs: that We the People are sovereign (not some royal king) and that the people “will have the necessary capacities – intelligence, judgment, courage, steadfastness – to govern.”

Reading “Language” is exhilarating and makes one proud to be a part of democracy, this great ongoing American experiment. But the book also contains some cautionary paragraphs that ring all too true these days, like the following one under the topic of Democracy:

“One certainty, given our bitterly divided politics, is that after every major election, tens of millions of democracy-loving Americans will wake up aghast at the results and wondering how they came to share their country with so many lunatics.”

“The Language of Liberty” can be purchased via amazon.com.

Have an opinion? Share it: news@thenewsleaders.com



photos by Mike Knaak

Sartell commencement
(Above) The Senior Ensemble sings “The Star Spangled Banner.” (At left) Hannah Hackenmueller was one of the Sartell High School senior speakers at the June 5 graduation ceremony. (At right) For those people who couldn’t attend the event, Sartell High School’s graduation ceremony was livestreamed.



(Above) Friends and family were ready with cameras as the graduates marched in. (Below) More than 300 Sartell High School seniors marched into the high school gymnasium for the June 5 graduation ceremony. Because of COVID-19, last year’s event was in the school parking lot so this was the first graduation ceremony in the new high school.



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PERSONAL FINANCE | STARTING OUT

Effective Credit-Building Tips

The question of your credit profile will come up in numerous scenarios throughout your lifetime.

When you show a lender that you are responsible for repaying financial commitments, your chances for loan approval and competitive interest rates increase. In some industries, an employer may also look into your credit history to discover your qualifications about managing finances and assets.

If you're unsure of where you stand, ask for a free copy of your credit report. The Federal Trade Commission enacts the Fair Credit Reporting Act to ensure that nationwide credit reporting companies must provide Americans with a copy once per 12 months. Reach out to outlets like Equifax, Experian and TransUnion for yours.

After analyzing your report, it's vital to address the discrepancies that you discover. Negative marks, even erroneous ones, can remain on your profile for multiple years, severely inhibiting your score and financial reputation. Once you cleaned up mistakes that accrued along the way, here are some tips to boost your score.

PAY BILLS ON TIME

Making payments on time, every time is crucial to impacting your credit score positively.



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You should make a budget based on your pay periods and have a plan in place on how to spend the money. Rather than waiting for the due date, try to transfer what you owe a few days before the due date or as soon as you receive your paycheck. Of course, this can be risky as you never know when a financial emergency will

occur, so be diligent in building a fund that's intended to cover unexpected expenses.

MAKE MORE FREQUENT PAYMENTS

In addition to paying on time, consider making more frequent payments to pay down debts faster. While hitting the minimum require-

ments will prevent negative marks on your credit, you can expedite the payoff process by actively cutting down the total owed.

KEEP CREDIT CARDS OPEN

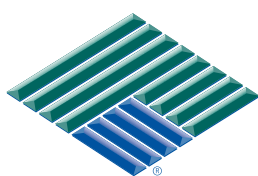
Even when you make timely payments on credit cards, having high outstanding balances

can lead lenders to disqualify a loan. Once you pay the card off, keep the account active and use it for small items that you can quickly pay off on the due date. Things like filling up your gas tank or buying a few groceries each month will show healthy credit activity and show that you're responsible for your finances.

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