



# ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

**NOW OPEN:** Voting round for Best of contest has begun at [www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com/bestof](http://www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com/bestof)



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

## Happy Birthday, Dalai Lama

A young girl performs with a traditional Tibetan drum during the Trungkar - a celebration of Dalai Lama's 91st birthday held at the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota in Isanti.



JEFF ANDRES | COUNTY STAR

The city of Cambridge will gradually replace porta-potties in city parks unless more vandalism such as this in Brown Park occurs. If it does, the porta-potties will again be removed.

## Porta-potties will be gradually replaced

BY BILL STICKELS III  
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Partially to gauge if the vandalism will continue, but mostly out of necessity, porta-potties will gradually be replaced in Cambridge city parks — beginning with the locations that feature the highest traffic and a couple that are easiest to observe by a patrol car passing by.

Foremost on the list is Sandquist Park, which is hosting over 40 Little League baseball teams in a major tournament on Friday and Saturday, July 10 and 11.

“We cannot have 44 ball teams at Sandquist Park and not have some sort of portable toilets for them,” City Administrator Evan Vogel said.

After a couple of weeks, if

there is no additional damage to those porta-potties, the city will replace them in a few more parks, and so on. However, if at any time the vandalism returns, city staff has been given the authority to immediately remove them again without having to get council approval.

In terms of costs, Vogel said each of the porta-potties that were burned up costs the city between \$3,000 and \$3,500 from the city's insurance fund. He added while removing them doesn't cost the city additional money, each time they are put back in, it will cost \$60 per unit for the regular sized ones and \$95 per unit for the handicapped accessible ones.

“If it's \$95 (each time) to replace it and remove it and

replace it again and remove it again, it's going to be a long time to reach the cost of a melted unit,” Council member Aaron Berg said. “That math works for me. Granted, if we continue to have a rash of vandalism, we just pull them and be done with them.”

“I just want the toilets back,” Council member Bob Shogren said.

### NO CAMERAS, PLEASE

Should the vandalism continue, the Cambridge Council was pretty adamant they did not want some form of video surveillance being used to try and catch the perpetrators.

“Surveillance is only as good as you can tell what you see,” Council member Molly

SEE VANDALISM, PAGE 10

# Isanti County approves wheelage tax increase

BY BILL STICKELS III  
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Beginning January 1, 2027, Isanti County vehicle owners will be paying out an additional \$10 when they renew each of their license plate tabs.

On a 3-2 vote, with Commissioners Todd Christensen and Kristi LaRowe voting nay, the commissioners approved raising the wheelage tax from \$10 to \$20. The extra money, which is estimated to be around \$440,000 per year, will indirectly cover roughly one-third of the total cost of the construction of

the new highway department facility. Another roughly \$300,000 per year will come from expiring debt, meaning the county would continue to collect that \$300,000 rather than having its levy decrease by that amount.

The commissioners approved the increase despite both commenters during the public hearing objecting to it as being unfairly applied to owners of multiple vehicles. That sentiment was shared via social media posts.

“If I choose to have four vehicles, then I choose to pay the wheelage tax on four vehicles,” Commissioner Bill Berg said.

“It is also the people using the roads (who pay the wheelage tax),” Commissioner Steve Westerberg added. “So it is a usage fee in a way. I'm open to suggestions. If someone can come up with a better way of how we can fund this, that is the difficult part.”

“The first question I have in my mind is ‘who should pay this?’” Chair Alan Duff said. “My opinion is people who are on the roads in vehicles should come first before property taxes.”

Christensen asked when the county could make another attempt at getting legislative approval for a local sales

tax referendum, the funding option he preferred since more than just Isanti County residents would end up contributing to the funding costs. County Administrator Amanda Usher said it wouldn't be until the next legislative session in 2027. However, if they did get legislative approval, it wouldn't be on the ballot until the 2028 election. She added the county is not able to start the project now and then retroactively pay for it with a future local sales tax — assuming they got both legislative and voter approval.

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# Music, dance, tradition highlight Dalai Lama birthday celebration

In an amazing mixture of tradition and modern that included ceremonies, multiple dance performances, speeches, food, plus the singing of both the Tibetan and US National Anthems and even "Happy Birthday," the former Spectacular Events in Isanti — which was purchased by the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota in 2020 — played host to a day-long celebration of the Dalai Lama's 91st birthday called a Trungkar. For more photos from the event, go to [www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com](http://www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com).



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## MON & THUR

### Alcoholics Anonymous

7p.m. Main Street Church  
6500 Main Street, North  
Branch, MN. Enter West door.  
Informational Hotline is 763-  
312-1088

## MON - FRI

### Senior Dining

North Branch, Chisago  
County Senior Center 11:45  
a.m. Diners need to pre-regis-  
ter at least one day in advance  
call 651-674-1956 between 10  
a.m. and 1 p.m. An annual  
registration form is required  
before dining.

## MONDAYS

### Women's only Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families

7 p.m. at Cambridge Luther-  
an Church, 621 Old Main St N,  
Cambridge Mn 55008 For more  
information contact Rebecca  
at 612-702-2844 or CoraJayne  
612-210-1605

### Fresh Beginnings Alanon

Family Groups meets  
Monday's 7 - 8 p.m. at Access  
Church, 4359 - 392nd St.,  
North Branch. Visit minneso-  
tanorth-al-anon.org

### Book Club

Third Monday 11 a.m.  
to noon at Isanti SAC, 140  
Buchanan St., N. #164 Cam-  
bridge. Isanti County Library  
lends the books and there is  
no cost to participate. For  
info: sacs@midconetwork.  
com

## TUES & THURS

### Exercise for Those w/Parkinson's

Tuesdays and Thursdays at  
10:15 a.m., 3:45 p.m. and 5 p.m.  
at 115 Adams Street South,  
Cambridge. For more infor-  
mation, call 763-221-6883.

## TUESDAYS

### Braham Parkinson's Support

3 p.m. third Tuesday of the  
month. Braham Evangelical  
Lutheran Church, 905 Central  
Drive W., Braham. For info.  
call Lonnie Anderson at 612-  
423-1863.

### Alzheimer's Support

Third Tuesday of each month  
from 10-11 a.m. at GracePointe  
Heritage Center, 322 River  
Hills Place North, Cambridge.  
For info call McKenna Dold  
763-691-6172.

### Memory Cafe

First Tuesday of every  
month, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Gra-  
cePointe Crossing Heritage  
Center, 322 River Hills Place  
North, Cambridge. Contact  
Julie at 763-306-5066 for info.

### Grief Share

Faith Lutheran Church, 109



JONAHANDTHEWHALES.COM

Johnah & the Wales performs at Discover Downtown's Third Thursday event on July 16.

2nd Ave. NW, Isanti. Meets  
2nd and 4th Tuesday of each  
month at 2 p.m. 763-444-9201.

### Celebrate Recovery

At First Baptist in Cam-  
bridge(304 Main St S.) every  
Tuesday. There is a light meal  
at 5:45 p.m., large group at 6:30  
p.m., and small groups at 7:30  
p.m. Visit Celebraterecovery.  
com for more info.

### Knitting Night

hosted by the North Branch  
Library. 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. All  
forms of needlework welcome.  
Recommended for adults. No  
registration required.

## WEDNESDAYS

### Alanon

7 p.m. at the Isanti Alano  
Club, 790 Heritage Blvd. Isanti.  
763-444-4605

### Chisago County Drop-In Center

Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main  
Street Church, 6500 Main  
Street, North Branch. For  
individuals 18 yrs or older liv-  
ing with mental illness. Info:  
651-213-5600 or Adultmental-  
health.org.

## THURSDAYS

### East Central Baby Cafe

Free drop-in breastfeeding  
support from 11 a.m. to 12:30  
p.m. at the Adult Enrich-  
ment Center, 540 5th Ave NW,  
Cambridge, MN. For info. call

763-689-1711.

### Cambridge-Edgewood AFG

Cambridge-Edgewood Al-  
Anon Family Group meets  
from 7-8 p.m. at Cambridge  
Lutheran Church, 621 Old  
Main Street N. Visit minneso-  
tanorth-al-anon.org for info.

### Parkinson's Support Group

Third Thursday of the  
month - 1-2:30 p.m. The  
Levande, 2011 6th Lane SE,  
Cambridge, MN for info call  
763-325-0100

### ACA Adult Children of Alcoholics/

### Dysfunctional Families Meeting

7 p.m. at Access Church,  
4359 392nd St, North Branch.  
For info. call 612-251-6556  
or email acanorthbranch@  
gmail.com

### Fresh Beginnings Alanon Family Group

From 7-8 p.m. at Access  
Church, 4359 392nd Street,  
North Branch. Visit minneso-  
ta-al-anon.org for info.

### Medicare and Medicaid 101 Open House

Third Thursday of the  
month from 1-3 p.m. Get your  
questions answered by trained  
agents. (763) 689-7390 or eclib.  
org for info.

### Baby Storytime

co-hosted by Cambridge  
Library and ECFE. Begins

at 9:30 a.m. at Cambridge  
Library through May 21.  
Recommended for ages birth  
to 23 months. No registration  
necessary.

### Spring bowling with We R Able

We R Able offers drop-in  
bowling every other Thursday  
evening from 4 to 6 p.m. at  
JJ's Bowl and Lounge, 6427  
Ash St., North Branch. The  
spring season dates are: May  
14, 28, June 11, and 25. Balls  
and shoes are included in the  
fee. For more information call  
320-358-3616.

## SATURDAY

### Joyful Walking Club

The 1st Saturday of each  
month, from 9-10 a.m., around  
the perimeter of Joy Luther-  
an's ball field in Cambridge.  
Contact Mary Schuett, 561-222-  
3347, for more information.

## JULY 9

### Pie & Ice Cream Social

Faith Lutheran Church  
Isanti, on 2nd & Main, from,  
4-10 p.m. Serving a variety of  
pie slices, ice cream and root  
beer floats.

## JULY 20-AUG. 10

### Beginning Swedish classes

Learn conversational Swed-  
ish from 4-5:15 p.m. Mondays  
at the Braham Event Center,  
655 8th St. SW. Adults and  
high school students welcome.

Info: 320-396-3177.

## JULY 11

### Pie & Ice Cream Social

Faith Lutheran Church  
Isanti, on 2nd & Main, from, 11  
am - 3 pm. Serving a variety of  
pie slices, ice cream and root  
beer floats.

## JULY 14

### North Branch Summer Concert Series

The Whitesidewalls perform  
rock 'n' roll at 7 p.m. in Central  
Park. Food trucks at 6 p.m. and  
story time at 6:45 p.m.

## JULY 16

### Third Thursday

Jonah & The Whales per-  
forms 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. as part  
of Discover Downtown, at the  
intersection of 2nd Ave S and  
Main St S in; the bad-weather  
backup location is the Cam-  
bridge City Center Mall at 140  
Buchanan St N.

### Romantasy Book Club

at 5:30 p.m. at Dana's Book-  
store in Isanti to discuss Until  
the World Falls Down by Jord-  
an Lynde. Join us at Dana's  
Bookstore, 120 Heritage Blvd  
NE #3, Isanti.

## SENIOR CENTER WEEKLY EVENTS

### CAMBRIDGE

140 Buchanan Street

#### Mondays

Bridge - 1 to 3 p.m.

Mahjong - noon to 3 p.m.

#### Tuesdays

Dominoes - 10 a.m. to noon

Coloring - 9 a.m.

Hand and Foot - 12:30 to 3  
p.m.

#### Wednesdays

Cribbage - 9 to 11 a.m.

Wizard 11 a.m. to noon

Pinochle 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Mahjong noon to 3 p.m.

#### Thursdays

500 - 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Bunco - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30  
a.m. (Third Thursday of  
month)

### CHISAGO COUNTY

38790 6th Avenue, North  
Branch

#### Mon, Wed, Fri.

Exercise with Connie - 10:30  
to 11:30 a.m.

#### Monday & Wednesday

500 - starting at 12:45 p.m.

#### Tuesdays

Music - provided before the  
meal - 11:15 a.m.

Dominoes - starting at 10  
a.m.

#### Thursdays

Bingo - starting at 10 a.m.

Hand and Foot - starting at  
12:30 p.m.

#### Fridays

Cribbage - starting at 12:45  
p.m.



Pickup your local Star for  
current news in your  
community and  
more!

ISANTI-CHISAGO  
**COUNTY STAR**

## 'Best of' keeps getting better every year

In the midst of all the serious election talk out there, it is nice to have some sort of fun diversion, even if technically that diversion is also related to voting. Wednesday, July 8 marked the beginning of the Isanti-Chisago County Star's Best of Readers' Choice voting round, which runs all the way through 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2.

The process for the voting round is the same as it always has been. After going to [www.isanti-chisago-countystar.com/bestof](http://www.isanti-chisago-countystar.com/bestof) and using your email address as a login, you can vote once per day in as many of the roughly 170 categories as you want. Most of the categories have five finalists to choose from, although some have four or three if we didn't receive five different nominees back in May. But, before anyone asks, no, we cannot add someone to those categories. That is what the nomination period is for.

Besides, late additions would be at a disadvantage since they wouldn't be on the ballot at the start of the voting period.

Looking through all the finalists (which for the first time anyone could do ahead of the official voting period), it amazes me how far we have come with this contest. Going into the first contest, which was held in 2020, we weren't totally sure what the level of participation would be. And while we were very satisfied with the response, I will admit participation from our staff, friends, and family of staff seemed to artificially inflate those numbers. Even though we still had to follow the same rules of only one vote per day, many of the finalists I consistently voted for and/or I knew someone else was voting for wound up being the winner.

Especially last year, that has completely changed. Many of my choices not only don't wind up winning, but they don't even finish in the top three. This means I am just as surprised as everyone else once the winners are revealed. And before anyone asks, no, I don't get to see running vote totals during the period. I only find out how many votes have been cast. However, I do see who the winners are well ahead of the publication date. After all, who do you think lays out all those pages of the special section?

As our publisher mentioned about a month ago, last year we had a total of 66,955 votes cast. This year, we are setting our goal at 75,000. And I think we can do that. The participation among our readers and the finalists themselves has been phenomenal. It's fun to scroll through social media or even see in person the creative ways finalists are campaigning for votes.

Ultimately, that's what makes this contest well worth the extra time and energy from the staff putting it together. Hardly anybody looks at this vote as being life-or-death (unlike the actual elections lately). They see it for what it is: a fun way to give local businesses and individuals a pat on the back for a job well done.

**BILL STICKELS III** is editor of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be directly reached at 651-407-1245, through our main office number at 763-689-1181, ext. 156 or [editor@countystar.com](mailto:editor@countystar.com).



**Worth a Thousand Words**

Bill

Stickels III



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Enjoyed organization's free fishing trip

To the editor,

We went a couple weeks ago on a nice boat ride on Rush Lake through the organization Let's Go Fishing. It is designed for veterans and seniors to enjoy. The crew were very helpful in helping to get off and on the pontoon, which is by the way very nice.

This is run by volunteers who give much of their time for others to enjoy. They are to be commended for their work and dedication to Let's Go Fishing.

Even though there's no guarantee you will catch fish, the trip is very enjoyable. There is always some wildlife, beautiful blue sky and a very pleasant pontoon ride with comfortable seating to enjoy.

We are fortunate to have a great organization with dedicated volunteers. Further information can be found by calling 651-402-5960 and leaving a message.

**Evie & Niel Danielson**  
Cambridge

#### Our glorious country - challenges ahead

To the editor,

We have had a glorious 250th Fourth of July celebration; so many celebrations around this

nation. Washington DC, with each state represented, fly overs by military jets, Blue Angels, music, and the spectacular fireworks and much more. Many states had their own celebrations, and great fireworks.

So much to celebrate about our nation, that has overcome so many obstacles and persevered. We have battled Independence, a Civil War, World War I and II, Vietnam, and others. Many have lost their lives in all these battles; but many came together to pray and fight. Remember the women who filled the factories after Pearl Harbor; our country was united against the enemy. We in this country have gotten apathetic, since we are not fighting a big war. But we have an enemy within trying to destroy our purposes and beliefs, and undermining our principals and values.

Our nation has enjoyed tremendous prosperity and success; we have been blessed by Almighty God, because we have trusted and believed in Him and His purposes.

As of late we have been lax in protecting our values -- now the enemy has convinced some to open our borders and let anyone in, now illegals have special rights, and they seem to prefer them before legal citizens. Also a

movement to denigrate police and law enforcement, and not enforce crime on our streets.

We have enemies (ungodly ideologies) John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (Jesus speaking)

Communism only destroys, takes away rights and steals property, and everyone becomes poor and only the top leaders have anything like Venezuela and Cuba, and free speech is taken away.

Our country was established on freedom of speech and rights — rights came from God not government; we are to have a limited government. Life more abundantly. We have a country of freedom and all want this freedom.

You see what this fraud in government has done to us; many stealing tax money for there own purposes—that's socialism. They see prosperity and rob and steal, hoping no one sees. They are only jealous of the successful and do not admire or a desire to emulate —only greed.

Yes the enemy is a thief, against God and all He stands for.

**Judy Hansen**  
Cambridge

## Your Best Source for Community Information

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AN EDITION OF ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

**NEWS DEADLINE:**  
Noon Tuesday

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE:**  
4 p.m. Tuesday

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE:**  
4 p.m. Tuesday

**LEGALS DEADLINE:**  
Noon Monday



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# Showing up for one another

Every once in a while, something comes into your life at just the right time.

Early in my career, I read a superintendent's newspaper column that made such an impression on me that I clipped it from the newspaper and pinned it to my office wall. More than 20 years later, it's still there.



**C-I School News**  
**Dr. Nate Rudolph**

What's interesting is that while the words on that page have never changed, what they mean to me certainly have.

As a young educator, I appreciated the reminder to slow down and enjoy life's important moments. Today, after years of serving in public education, raising a family, coaching youth sports, attending countless school events, and watching my own children grow, I understand those words much differently.

The older I get, the more I realize the message wasn't simply about parenting. It was about presence. People don't always remember what we said or how busy we were. They remember whether we listened, whether they felt seen and valued, and whether we showed up when it

mattered most.

Summer offers a different rhythm. While our classrooms are quieter, the work of Cambridge-Isanti Schools continues. Staff are preparing for another school year, welcoming new team members, maintaining our schools, supporting summer learning opportunities, and planning for the opportunities ahead. Just as importantly, we're staying connected with the community we serve.

This column is being published during Isanti Rodeo & Jubilee Days, one of our community's most cherished traditions. Our district is proud to once again participate in the Rodeo & Jubilee Days Parade, along with many other community events throughout the summer. Whether we're celebrating alongside families, volunteering, cheering on students, or simply visiting with neighbors, these opportunities remind us that public education extends well beyond the walls of our schools.

One thought from that newspaper column has stayed with me all these years: children don't always need us to solve every problem or have every answer. Often, what they need most is for us to simply listen.

I believe the same is true of communities. Listening helps us understand different perspectives, celebrate successes, recognize challenges, and build the trust that strong schools and strong commu-

nities depend upon.

As we prepare for another school year, I hope we all take time to appreciate what often goes unnoticed—a conversation before a parade begins, the encouragement of a teacher, the smile from a bus driver, a visit with a neighbor, or a family meal around the table. These everyday moments rarely make headlines, but they often leave the greatest impact.

I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the summer. If you see members of our Bluejacket team, please stop and say hello. Those simple conversations strengthen the relationships that make Cambridge-Isanti such a special place to live, learn, and grow.

The first day of school will be here before we know it. When it arrives, I hope we all carry this simple reminder with us: be present, listen well, and show up for one another.

Because in the end, the strength of a school district isn't measured only by the programs we offer or the buildings we maintain. It's measured by the relationships we build, the trust we earn, and the way we care for one another.

Those are the moments that last.  
**DR. NATE RUDOLPH** is superintendent of Cambridge-Isanti Schools. He can be reached at 763-689-6202 or nrudolph@c-ischools.org.

## School patrol 101

**Q**uestion: I know school is out but I had a grandchild that served on their school patrol. Can you talk about this so people are aware and can keep all our children safe?

**A**nswer: When you see a student safety patrol helping schoolmates cross a street or highway, you must come to a complete stop. You must also stop for adult crossing guards displaying a stop sign or flag. It is illegal to drive through a line of children crossing the road, even if a school safety patrol is not present. Violating this law is a misdemeanor. A second violation within a year is a gross misdemeanor.



**Ask A Trooper**  
**Jesse Grabow**

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow - Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on "X" @MSPPIO\_NW or reach him at jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

## Braham Event Center hosts summer Swedish classes

Beginning Swedish to build social conversation will be the theme for Swedish classes at the Braham Event Center (BEC) on Mondays, July 20 to August 10, at 4-5:15 p.m. The address is 655 8th St. SW, Braham.

Adding to the evening is the option to purchase the \$5 Kathy's Kitchen BEC meal, served at 5:15 p.m. Dinner participants will sit at "Det Svenska Bordet" (The Swedish Table) and continue conversations. Pre-registration for the meal is not required, and this is also open to other Swedish speakers in the region, who may wish to brush up on their social vocabulary.

For more information call 320-396-3177. Adults and high school students are welcome to register online at:

<https://forms.gle/9f8sJBx1U6nTqEvpv9>.

The instructor is Valorie Arrowsmith, who teaches Swedish through the Concordia Language Villages and is one of two people in Minnesota who holds a K-12 Swedish teaching license. - Braham Event Center



## Minnesota Starwatch for July 2026

**BY DEANE MORRISON**  
MORRIO29@UMN.EDU

This month we bid farewell to Jupiter as it dives into the sun's afterglow. But Venus is still blazing away in the west after sunset.

On the 16th, look below Venus for a scrawny young crescent moon that's about to set. As it waxes, the moon visits Spica, in Virgo, the maiden, on the 20th, and Antares, the heart of Scorpius, on the 24th. July's full moon arrives on the morning of the 29th and will be best seen in the west just before daybreak, or when it rises in the southeast that evening.

Above Spica in the southwest, brilliant Arcturus shines from its kite-shaped constellation, Bootes, the herdsman. And in the east to southeast, the big Summer Triangle is now easily visible. Its brightest star — Vega, in Lyra, the lyre — rivals Arcturus in radiance. The second brightest is Altair, in Aquila, the eagle. Deneb, the third Triangle

star, is both the tail of the constellation Cygnus, the swan, and the head of the Northern Cross.

In the morning sky, Mars is climbing as Earth gains on it in the orbital race. On the 11th, Mars lines up between a thin old moon and Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus, the bull. Above the lineup twinkles the Pleiades star cluster. Earth's orbital motion promptly sweeps those stars westward. They leave behind Mars, whose orbital motion makes it resist being pushed westward.

July 20 marks the 50th anniversary of the touchdown of the first of two Viking landers on Mars. The first spacecraft to successfully land on the red planet, Viking I and Viking II contained instruments designed by University of Minnesota physicist Al Nier to characterize the gases in the thin Martian atmosphere. Those discoveries revealed much about the history of the martian atmosphere and provided compelling evidence that a small number of meteorites collected on Earth came from Mars.



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## OBITUARIES

### Leon Frederick Carson

Leon Frederick Carson was born on December 1, 1938, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and passed away in his sleep on June 23, 2026, in Cambridge, Minnesota.

Leon lived a life marked by warmth, generosity, and an appreciation for the people and places that surrounded him. He was a man who approached life with an adventurous spirit and offered wisdom in a steady and thoughtful way. Those who knew him will remember his quick wit and optimistic nature.

He was raised in Minnesota and carried a lifelong connection to the state he called home. Education was important to Leon, and he attended the University of Minnesota. Leon believed in living with purpose, and that belief showed in the way he approached both his work and his relationships.

Leon's professional life began while still in college, working nights in the mail room at Minneapolis AAA. His travel career evolved, and he became Director of Group Travel, a role that suited his outgoing nature and love of discovery. He enjoyed helping others experience new places and create lasting memories, and he had a natural ability to make each journey engaging and memorable. His sense of humor and his gift for conversation made him especially well-suited to a career that brought him into contact with so many people. He appreciated the details of each trip and the joy that came from shared adventure.

Faith was an important part of Leon's life, and he was a Christian. He was an active member of Cambridge Lutheran Church, and he volunteered on numerous committees.

Leon had many interests that brought him joy, including fishing and boating on Spectacle Lake. He enjoyed time on the water and the peace that came with being outdoors. These activities gave him opportunities to relax, reflect, and enjoy the beauty of creation. Whether he was casting a line or spending time in the pontoon, he found contentment in the moments that allowed him to slow down and appreciate life. His adventurous nature was evident in the way he embraced these pastimes, and the stories that no doubt came from them.

Family was central to Leon's life, and he is survived by his wife, Marilyn; daughter, Amy Carson of Wahpeton, North Dakota; son, Craig Carson and his wife Tiffany of Burnsville; three granddaughters, Emily, Isabella, and Adalynn; sister, Nancy Hamilton and her husband Greg of Burnsville; nephews Gregory and Shad; brother-in-law Tom Potts, wife Becky, nephews Brian and Jason; cousins Colleen and Cassie. He cherished his loved ones and took great pride in the family he helped build.

Though Leon has departed this life, the example he set and the love he shared will remain with his family and friends for years to come.

Memorial Service 11 a.m., Friday, July 24, 2026 at Cambridge Lutheran Church. Visitation one hour prior to the service. Condolences [carlsonlillemoen.com](http://carlsonlillemoen.com) Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

### Norma Erna Verdon

Norma Erna Verdon, born August 27, 1926, to Jack and Elizabeth Haffely.



Norma was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald Verdon; three daughters and two sons; her sister and brother; two great grandchildren; and six grandchildren.

She leaves behind two daughters, 16 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren, along with many nieces and nephews.

Norma passed away peacefully in her sleep, surrounded by family on

June 30, 2026.

She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Chisago County Community Center, 38790 6th Ave, North Branch on Sunday, July 26 from noon to 5 p.m.

### Harold Gustav Steffen

Harold Gustav Steffen age 96 of Cambridge, MN, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at Prairie Sr. Cottages in Isanti, MN on June 30, 2026.

He was born on November 5, 1929 to parents Fred and Frieda (Krenz) in Anamoose, North Dakota.

Harold was baptized and confirmed at Drake Lutheran Church. He attended Roosevelt #1 rural school through the eighth grade in Anamoose, ND. He went on to attend Balfour High School, graduating in 1947.

Harold went to Minot State Teachers College (Minot State University) in the summers' of 1947 and 48. After completing his studies, he taught in a rural school, grades first through eighth for two years from 1947 to 1949 at Sioux Trail School in Zahl, ND.

The big city beamed Harold, and he moved to South St. Paul to work as a messenger at Stockyards National Bank which later became Wells Fargo. A year later, Harold was drafted into the US Army from October 1951 until his honorable discharge in 1953. While on a short leave, Harold went home to marry Florence June Aisenbrey on January 1, 1952.

After his discharge from the Army, Harold returned to Stockyards National Bank, South St. Paul, working there until his retirement on November 30, 1987. While he worked at the bank, he attended the University of Minnesota through extension courses to obtain his Associates degree, which enabled him to progress in the banking business.

Harold and Florence had four children: Gerald, Diane (John) Priyatel, David (Rosanne) Steffen and Lori (Richard) Malchow. He is the proud grandfather of Jamie Steffen, Jesse Steffen, Kevin Priyatel and Michael (Teagan) Priyatel and Great-Grandfather of Jayden Steffen, Miah Priyatel and Jameson Priyatel.

Harold was the middle brother of six boys; Arthur, Ralph, Lawrence, Raymond and Fred, with Fred (Joanne) being the only surviving brother.

On April 12, 1996, Harold's wife Florence passed away. After a lonely year, Harold was introduced to Rose Marie Rundhaug by his son-in-law John Priyatel with the blessings of his daughter Diane. Diane felt that Dad needed someone in his life. So, after a short courtship, Harold married Rose on May 3, 1997. Rose was also the middle child of six siblings, and she had four children too; Mary Jo (Jim) Wyatt, Michael (LeAnne) Rundhaug, Ronald (Pam) Rundhaug, and Thomas (Becky) Rundhaug; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

During his spare time, Harold loved to play golf with friends, go fishing with family and friends and play a good game of cribbage. He was a long-time member of the South St. Paul Lions Club and was very actively involved in his church in Cambridge. Harold and Rose wintered in Mission, TX and Apache Junction, AZ for many years, making lots of friends along the way. They also travelled extensively throughout the US and Alaska.

Harold was preceded in death by his first wife Florence, son Gerald, grandson Jesse Steffen and brothers Arthur, Ralph, Lawrence, and Raymond.

He is survived by his wife of 29 years Rose Marie, children Diane (John) Priyatel, David (Rosanne) Steffen, Lori (Richard) Malchow; grandchildren Jamie Steffen, Kevin Priyatel and Michael (Teagan) Priyatel and three great-grandchildren Jayden Steffen, Miah Priyatel and Jameson Priyatel.

Also survived by his brother Fred (Joanne) Steffen and Rose's children Mary Jo (Jim) Wyatt, Michael (LeAnne) Rundhaug, Ronald (Pam) Rundhaug and Thomas (Becky) Rundhaug; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-children.

Funeral service 11 a.m. Saturday July 11, 2026 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church 32962 Vickers St NE, Cambridge, MN

Visitation one hour prior to service at the church Interment Monday, July 13, 2026 at General Lutheran Cemetery, 107 14th Ave n. S. St. Paul at 10 a.m.

Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home, Cambridge, MN 763-689-2244

Online condolences can be shared at [www.carlsonlillemoen.com](http://www.carlsonlillemoen.com)



### Gary and Elaine Anderson

Gary Allen Anderson, age 87, passed away June 26, 2026. Elaine Margaret Anderson (nee Dow), age 88, passed away December 11, 2025.

Gary was born September 21, 1938 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Herbert and Katherine (Holmes) Anderson.

He graduated from Vocational High School with a degree in cabinet making. Gary served his country in the US Army in 1957 - 1959. Elaine was born May 1, 1937 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Gerald and Florence (Holmberg) Dow. She graduated from Roosevelt High School. On April 2, 1960 Gary and Elaine were married at Bethany Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. They made their home and raised their

family in Ham Lake and moved to the 1897 family farm in Cambridge upon retirement.

Gary worked his entire career in the elevator trade starting in 1960. After twenty years of field work, he entered management at Lagerquist and Schindler Elevators as the Repair Superintendent. He was happy to see his son, Steve, and his grandson, Jake, follow his career footsteps. Gary enjoyed wood working and crafted pieces of home furniture. He liked to improve the function of items around the home and to have everything in its place - he liked everything "his way." Gary looked forward to hosting the annual deer hunting camp, a long-standing farm tradition. The established weekend schedule and time with family were more treasured than the hunting. Gary enjoyed pull tabs up until his last days and commonly could be heard enthusiastically saying "shoot the moon," a favorite pull tab variety.

Elaine devoted her full attention to raising her two boys, in whom she took great pride. She talked about her boys her entire life. Once the family was raised, she worked as a pharmacy tech at Thrifty White Drug. She was overjoyed to become a grandmother and loved her time with the grandkids. Elaine loved to sew, making quilts, clothes, Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls and shared them with those she cared about. Birds and flowers were her other passions, especially cardinals and red geraniums. Watching soap operas was a favorite pastime. Elaine was of quick wit and was always smiling. She always saw the positive side of any situation - she was the sunshine of the family.

Together Gary and Elaine enjoyed family road trips, fishing, casino outings and time with their grandchildren. They enjoyed hosting family picnics (they made a delicious potato salad) and holiday dinners.

They are survived by sons, Steve (Debbie) and Jim (Jana Almendinger); five grandchildren, Jake (Danielle), Katie (Mike Lofgren), Lauren (Daniel Surinach), Tyler and Nathan; four great-grandchildren, Lennox, Cameron, Colton and Caden; Elaine's 5 siblings, Darlene Dierke, John (Carol) Dow, Donald (Nancy) Dow, Nancy (Kevin) MacDonald and Jerry (Cozy) Dow; sister-in-law, Beverly Dow and other relatives and friends. Besides their parents they were preceded in death by Gary's brother, Douglas Anderson; Elaine's siblings, Ron Dow, Beverly (Dow) Trowbridge and Larry Dow; and brother-in-law, Richard Dierke.

Memorial service 11 a.m. Friday, July 24 at Strike Life Tributes in Cambridge, with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial will be in Cambridge Lutheran Cemetery. Online condolences can be placed at [StrikeLifeTributes.com](http://StrikeLifeTributes.com).

## STUDENT NAMES IN THE NEWS

### Student Achievement Lists

**Arin Zimpel** of Braham, and **Jaemon Schultz** of Cambridge (President's) from Minnesota State Community and Technical College

**Autumn Olson** of Braham, and **Tucker Van De Walker** of Isanti (Dean's) from Minnesota State Community and Technical College

**Dianah Nakyambadde** of North Branch (Dean's) from Normandale Community College

### Degrees

**Jared Kendrick** (Arts and Sciences, BS, Neuroscience) or Isanti; **Olivia Anderson** (Arts and Sciences, BS, Neuroscience), **Alyssa Dean** (Health and Human Sciences, BSW, Social Work), and **Emma Scott** (Arts and Sciences, BA, Integrated Strategic Communication) of North Branch; **Kirsten Ziesmer** (Arts and Sciences, BA, Political Science) of Rush City, from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Send your business news, accomplishments and awards to [editor@countystar.com](mailto:editor@countystar.com).

**OBITUARIES CONTINUED**

**Susan R. Dunleavy**

Susan R. Dunleavy, age 72, of Cambridge passed away June 30, 2026 at home.

Susan Ruth Dunleavy was born April 18, 1954 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Russell and Margaret (Freeze) Olson. She graduated from Virqura High School and then from Augsburg, graduating Summa Cum Laude in Accounting. On June 11, 1977 she married Kevin Dunleavy in Richfield. They made their home and raised their two daughters in Cambridge. Susan loved gardening, reading, fishing and especially time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her loving husband, Kevin; daughters, Meghan (Michael) Ceynowa and

Adelene Dunleavy (Andrew Edgeston); grandchildren, Liam, Kevin, Kelly, Lauren, David and Sarah; sisters, Kristi Johnson (Michael Smith) and Kelley (Al) Alvarez. Sue was a mother figure to many relatives, friends and their children. She was preceded in death by parents, Russell and Margaret (Freeze) Olson, and a brother, Scott Olson.

Memorial service 11 a.m. Saturday, July 25 at Strike Life Tributes in Cambridge with a visitation one hour prior. Online condolences can be placed at StrikeLifeTributes.com.

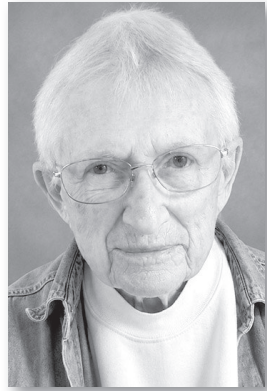


**Bernadine Marie Powell**

Bernadine Marie Powell, 91 of St. Francis, MN passed away on Thursday, July 2, 2026 at Grace-Pointe Crossing.

She was born August 4, 1934 in Logan, Iowa to Bernard and Elsie (Godden) Wilson.

On November 9, 1953 she was united in marriage to Merle Powell. Together they raised three children. Merle and Bernadine owned and operated Regional TV in Cambridge for several years.



Bernadine is survived by her husband Merle, children Merle Lynn (William) Sneathy of Scottsdale, AZ, Brian (Darla) Powell of Two Rivers, WI, Kim Powell of St. Francis, two grandchildren David (Erin) Powell of Two Rivers, WI, Jeni Klein of Whitelaw, WI, four great grandchildren Cameron and Alyse Powell, Autumn and Will Steltenpohl, other relatives and friends.

No services will be held.

**Beyond the Yellow Ribbon receives CenterPoint grant**

Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is among 18 Minnesota nonprofit organizations awarded grants through the CenterPoint Energy Foundation to support programs serving veterans and military families.

The foundation announced June 25 that it awarded a total of \$250,000 in grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 in recognition of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States. The funding will help organizations connect veterans with mental health services, housing assistance and other everyday needs.

“As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary, this grant opportunity reflects our deep respect for the men and women who serve and have served, and our privilege to support them with mental health services, housing stability and

everyday needs to help them thrive,” said Jason Ryan, CenterPoint Energy executive vice president of Regulatory Services and Government Affairs and a U.S. Navy veteran.

The CenterPoint Energy Foundation said the grants are intended to strengthen programs that support veterans, service members and their families throughout Minnesota communities served by the company.

The foundation, which is funded separately from the utility, focuses its charitable giving on community vitality and education while supporting initiatives that address critical challenges facing veterans and their families. CenterPoint Energy employs more than 700 veterans across its four-state service area. -CenterPoint Energy

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## Sparks fly for America's 250th

Fireworks burst over the Isanti County Fairgrounds on July 4 during the community's annual Independence Day display. The event drew residents and visitors to celebrate the Fourth of July and commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary.

# Apply for special youth deer hunts through Aug. 14

Once again, young people will be able to hunt deer with an adult in a number of state parks during several application-only special youth deer hunts. These hunts offer more individualized experiences in unique places, and often on different dates than the statewide youth deer season.

Hunters need to know this year that lead-free ammunition will be required, without exception, in all special youth hunts in Minnesota state parks and Scientific and Natural Areas.

Last year, in most instances, hunters were required to possess and use only lead-free ammunition when participating in a special firearms hunt in a Minnesota state park. However, there was an exception for youth hunters in special state park hunts that took place within the shotgun-zone. That exception is now removed, which means lead-free ammunition must be used in all cases.

"We've made exceptions in the past because smaller gauge, lead-free shotgun ammunition was difficult to find," said Paul Burr, big game program coordinator. "Now that the shotgun zone is eliminated, and lead-free ammunition has become more available, hunters have more options."

Lead-free ammunition may be more difficult to find locally, so hunters are encouraged to plan ahead before their hunts. Online resources such as AmmoSeek (ammoseek.com) can help hunters locate all types of ammunition, which can then be ordered and delivered directly to their homes.



The special youth deer hunts offer positive experiences and help state parks manage their deer population. These firearms hunts are for youth who are age 12-15 at the time of the hunt and are accompanied by an adult. Hunters can apply for a limited number of permits from Monday, July 20, through Friday, Aug. 14.

Special youth deer hunts are different from the statewide youth deer season, which takes place Oct. 15-18 and does not require an application. More information on special hunts is available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/hunting/deer/special-deer-hunts.html).

To comply with lead-free requirements, all bullets, slugs, muzzleloader ammunition and other single projectiles must be made entirely of lead-free material approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For deer hunting, this typically means copper ammunition. More details about lead-free ammunition can be found on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/hunting/deer/special-deer-hunts.html). -MN DNR

# 2026 CHISAGO County Fair

## JULY 9-12

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FRIDAY 1 – 5 p.m.  
SUNDAY 1 – 5 p.m. (Reduced price with food shelf donation)

### MOTOCROSS

Thursday starts at 7 p.m.

### DEMO DERBY

Friday & Saturday starts at 7p.m.

### DEMO PIT GATE

No one under 16 allowed

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Gate Admission.....	FREE
Ride Pass.....	\$30
Motocross.....	\$10.....Under 3 FREE

Demo Derby.....	Adult \$15.....Ages 5-11 \$7.....Under 5 FREE
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# 10-year fish monitoring report rates the health of Minnesota's lakes

Every lake tells a story through its fish. The mix of species and their abundance can reveal the health of a lake and how the lake changes over time.

A new report from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, documents that healthier lakes tend to have lower phosphorus from runoff or drainage, less disturbance of land in the watershed, and better shoreline habitat. The report compiles results from 1,444 fish-based index of biological integrity (IBI) surveys conducted between 2006 and 2025 for 908 lakes across 47 Minnesota watersheds.

"This report conveys the massive undertaking of more than a decade of studying fish populations specifically to assess the baseline health of lakes across the state," said Derek Bahr, DNR fisheries research scientist. "Ultimately we can use these results to enable state and local partners to better protect, or if necessary, restore Minnesota's aquatic habitats."

Across these IBI surveys, the DNR sampled more than 3.7 million individual fish encompassing 89 different species, including 25 species that are considered intolerant to stressors and five that are considered species in greatest conservation need. Of the 808 lakes with sufficient data for assessment, DNR and MPCA staff found that 77% fully support aquatic life for fish biodiversity, and classified 23% as not supporting aquatic life for fish biodiversity, also called impaired.

Impaired lakes generally exhibited higher phosphorus concentrations, greater proportion of watershed disturbance, and lower shoreline habitat quality compared to lakes that fully support aquatic life. The MPCA uses IBI assessment data and recommendations from the DNR to formally decide whether to include lakes on a list of the state's impaired waters. The latest report from the DNR conveys trends, whereas the MPCA issues separate reports on the impaired waters lists.

Lakes with exceptional fish communities had the highest shoreline habitat quality, and the lowest phosphorus and disturbance. Minnesota's exceptional lakes also support more diverse, balanced food webs, and are significantly more likely to sustain naturally reproducing populations of cold-water species, species



in greatest conservation need, and fish that anglers tend to seek out like muskellunge, northern pike, and walleye.

"This is great news to share on fish biodiversity in Minnesota," said Leya Charles, impaired waters list coordinator for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. "Trend reports like this one show how many waterbodies are being protected, and that 77% of our state's lakes assessed for fish biodiversity are meeting standards."

The public and the agencies that serve them can use the results of the report in conjunction with related watershed-specific reports to inform efforts to protect all lakes, including the highest quality lakes, and to intervene with shoreline habitat or watershed

management improvements for lakes that are on the verge of becoming impaired. They can also use these reports to help address stressors like shoreline development and nutrient runoff, with support from local partnerships. These partners often find cost-effective early interventions that preserve biological diversity and enhance recreational opportunities.

The report is available on the DNR's lake biological monitoring and assessment webpage ([mndnr.gov/waters/surfacewater\\_section/lake\\_ibi/index.html](http://mndnr.gov/waters/surfacewater_section/lake_ibi/index.html)). The research and report were funded by the Legacy amendment's Clean Water Fund ([legacy.mn.gov/clean-water-fund](http://legacy.mn.gov/clean-water-fund)). - MNDNR

# 2026 ISANTI County Fair

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# VANDALISM: Cambridge Council opts against purchasing surveillance cameras

FROM PAGE 1

Christian said. "So if I know there is surveillance in the park, which is public knowledge, I'm going to cover up. And then it is invading the privacy of others, and it still hasn't accomplished any-

thing." Cambridge Police Chief Shawn Machin confirmed Christian's assumption the placing of cameras would need to be of public knowledge, noting signs saying as such would have to be placed in those parks. Additionally, the

videos would need to be stored and would be considered public data anyone could request access to. This would potentially lead to considerable extra staff time being spent. Additionally, Machin said the purchase of the cameras from companies such as Flock,

Axon, and Motorola would probably cost as much as replacing a damaged porta-potty. He said officers have been instructed to increase their patrolling of certain parks and will continue to do so; however, "with the detour, we are also trying to do traffic control

there, so we are already spread out." Finally, the council agreed that the general public could be the best form of deterrent, whether that is through an organized Neighborhood Watch program or a simple "see something, say something."

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June 18	Bad Jack	Classic, southern and party rock		
July 16	Jonah & The Whales	70's, 80's, 90's, 00's and more		
Aug 20	Ragtown	Country to classic rock		
<b>CONCERTS IN THE PARK</b> 5pm-7pm Cambridge City Park		<b>KIDS' EVENTS</b> 10am-2pm Cambridge City Park		
June 26	Big Shots	Tribute to Billy Joel	June 25	Bounce Houses in the Park
July 31	American Heartland	Tribute to CCR, Bob Seger, Tom Petty, John Mellencamp, Bruce Springsteen	July 23	Art in the Park
Aug 28	The Culture Collective	Tribute to Prince	Aug 27	Little Blue's Traveling Zoo & Snake Discovery

**Parkinson's**  
SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, July 16  
3:00-4:00 PM

Welia Health—Mora | Conference Rooms  
301 Highway 65 South | Mora, MN 55051

**Find support, strength and community.**

Led by certified specialists, the Parkinson's Support Group offers education, shared experiences, and practical tools for individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their loved ones. Learn more about treatment options, helpful exercise techniques, and communication strategies — while connecting with others who truly understand.

**Have questions or want to learn more?**  
Please call Welia Health Rehabilitation Services at 320.225.3356.

Scan the QR code for more upcoming dates or visit [WeliaHealth.org/SupportGroups](http://WeliaHealth.org/SupportGroups) to explore all Welia Health Support Groups.



All events have a backup location for bad weather. More info available on the city website.



A Minnesota Newspaper Association AWARD-WINNING publication.



2026 ELECTION CANDIDATE FILING NOTICES

# Pedersen running to continue on Isanti council

CONTRIBUTED  
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Since January 2025, I've had the privilege of serving our community on the Isanti City Council. Today, I am announcing my candidacy for another term.

A little about me. I live here with my wife of 13 years and five young children, and work in town in manufacturing. I serve at my church, enjoy disc golf and shooting sports, and we are avid local park users. I want our community to remain safe, affordable, and where families, businesses, and neighbors can thrive.

I have over 10 years in the Minnesota National Guard as Military Police. During that time, I completed a deployment to Iraq, served in Funeral Honors, and managed their multi-million-dollar budget. Those experiences taught me the

importance of integrity, self-control, fiscal responsibility, and servant leadership. They also strengthened my negotiation, conflict management, and critical thinking skills — qualities I use on City Council.

I believe in smaller government, leaving you alone rather than over-regulating your life, and you keeping more of your hard-earned money. There are always going to be needs and wants, but the financial constraints local families face are real and it's imperative we keep them in mind. I also believe in maintaining our small town values and lifestyle, investing wisely in infrastructure, and reducing red tape for local businesses.

I don't claim to have all the answers, but I work collaboratively, listen to different perspectives, and make decisions based on facts. I strive to communicate with integrity, respect, and accountability. I'm always open to hearing your ideas and concerns, as we build a community we're proud to call home.

I respectfully ask for your support and your vote. A vote for me means protecting your tax dollars and preserving our small-town values.

Nick can be reached at 763.250.1387



Nick Pedersen

# Zdon running to continue on Isanti council

CONTRIBUTED  
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

My name is Erika Zdon. For the past 25 years, I have proudly called Isanti home. It is where my husband and I have raised our children, built lasting relationships, and invested our time in serving others. Throughout those years, I have been committed to making a positive difference wherever I could.

As a teacher at Isanti Primary School, I have dedicated my career to helping children learn, grow, and succeed. Beyond the classroom, I have volunteered in many roles that have strengthened my connection to our community, including serving as PTO President, creating and leading after-school educational opportunities at Isanti Intermediate School, volunteering with New Hope Community Church, serving on the Park and Recreation Board, directing the non profit Heavenly Sunshine Preschool, helping with Ruby Pantry food distribution, and opening my home as a foster parent.

These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the people who make our community such a wonderful place to live. They have also taught me the importance of listening, collaborating, and finding practical solutions that benefit everyone.

Having already had the privilege of serving on the City Council the last six months, I would like to continue to grow in this role. I believe strong communities are built by people who are willing to serve with integrity, respect, and a genuine desire to make a difference. I want to continue giving back to the community that has given so much to my family by helping make thoughtful decisions that support families, businesses, and future generations.

I would be honored to continue to serve our community as your council member.



Erika Zdon

# Knudson running for Isanti City Council

CONTRIBUTED  
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

I have lived in Isanti for five years now and when I describe the city to friends and family I say it is like living in "Mayberry" we have the beautiful church bells and Aunt

Bea across the street that brings us baked goods.

I grew up in a small town with a graduating class of around 82 where everyone knew each other. I moved to Isanti to get back to small town living. I am a father of four children ages ranging from 20 years old to almost 1 year. I am a supporter of our Constitution, rule of law, and Christian family values.

I chose to run for Isanti city council as I felt a calling to serve our community and do what I can to keep that small town feel while ensuring our citizens have what they need to live happy productive lives. I support limited government involvement and responsible spending of our hard-earned tax dollars.

I am also a supporter of small businesses. I currently serve on the City Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Board. I am not the type to shy away from controversial discussions as I feel that they are necessary in order to have transparency in government and a properly functioning city. I look forward to continuing to serve our community in my current roles and with your support as your new City Council Member.

Please feel free to reach out by email if you have any questions at Theodore.Knudson@outlook.com.



Theodore Knudson

# Sedler running for Cambridge Mayor

CONTRIBUTED  
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Cambridge is more than just a place on a map to my family. It's where I grew up, and where my wife and I have chosen to raise our five children. Some of my earliest memories are here. Admiring People's Cafe pies, Sunday afternoons at Q Mandarin, or getting rolls from Herman's Bakery that never quite made it home.

Some of those places are still here. Many aren't. New shops, new restaurants, and new neighbors have taken their place. It's the story of every living community.

Cambridge has grown from 5,000 to just over 11,000 in my lifetime. That growth brings opportunity, but it has also opened a gap between the people and the leaders who serve them. A growing number of residents, new and longtime, feel unheard.

I'm running for Mayor to close that gap.

As a Financial Advisor, a local business owner, and a member of the Isanti County Planning Commission, I've spent years listening,

leading, and serving this community. I know how to balance budgets, plan for the future, and find common ground in the midst of varying perspectives.

My commitment to Cambridge:

**LISTEN.** Close the gap between residents and City Hall with real transparency and real conversations.

**PROTECT.** Safer neighborhoods, responsible growth, and a Cambridge that works for every generation.

**LEAD.** Wise planning and fiscal discipline to create a future our kids will come home to.

I'll be out at events, on porches, and in coffee shops, listening more than talking. If you see me, stop me.

Tell me what you love about Cambridge. Tell me what's broken. Tell me what you want this town to be.

A Safer, Stronger Cambridge for Every Generation.

Learn more at SedlerForMayor.com or reach out anytime at jeremiah@sedlerformayor.com



Jeremiah Sedler

# Dummer running for MN House District 28A

CONTRIBUTED  
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Hi, I'm Tim Dummer, and I would be honored to serve you as our District 28A Representative. My wife and I have lived in this District for more than 20 years; we raised our two boys here, and now we help care for and entertain our two young grandkids here.

I love our peaceful, rural community, and I'm running to serve as your District Rep because it's time to put people over politics. I want to be part of building a brighter future not only for my own grandkids but ALL of us here.

Three things I'm focused on for our community are:

**Stability.** Costs are rising, and I understand people are struggling. Our neighbors shouldn't have to choose between groceries, housing, healthcare or filling their gas tank. I'll work to make sure the full value of our state tax dollars are brought back here to invest locally in things our community needs – such as accessible healthcare.

**Opportunity.** The idea of the American dream is slipping away for many, such as owning a home, growing your family. We can build opportunities right here, like good paying jobs and strong schools. I'll work to keep the American dream alive for all of us.

**Solutions.** It's time to focus on common values and get things done for the common good. People tell me I have the gift of being a connector, and that's the skill I'll use to work across party lines and across the state to drive constructive solutions, not throw money or mandates at problems.

As a former middle school teacher, I enjoyed connecting with all my students and their families, and now, I want to connect with you. Join me in putting people over politics, and please reach out any time: TimDummerforMN.com and TimDummerforMN@gmail.com



Tim Dummer

# Cambridge forum aims to engage young voters

STAFF REPORT  
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The League of Women Voters of Isanti County Area is hosting a public forum aimed at boosting youth civic engagement later this month.

The event, scheduled for Saturday, July 25, from 10 a.m. to noon at the East Central Regional Library in Cambridge, will feature Michael Wall, a youth voter outreach specialist with the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office.

Organizers said the forum will focus on "practical ways to engage, inform, and inspire young voters in our communities."

The League of Women Voters emphasized the importance of the initiative, noting that supporting young people in becoming informed voters is "one of the best investments we can make in our democracy."

"When young adults learn how elections work and why their voices matter, they are more likely to become lifelong participants in community and civic involvement," the organization stated.

The event is open to the public, including youth, parents, educators, coaches, and grandparents. Organizers said the forum seeks to uphold Minnesota's long-standing status as a national leader in voter participation.

# Community comes together to strengthen child care in Isanti County

On June 23, community members, business leaders, educators, and local organizations gathered for the Isanti County Child Care Community Outreach Breakfast to discuss a pressing workforce and family issue—access to quality child care.

Hosted by the Isanti County Child Care Coordinating Council, the event drew participation from across the community and demonstrated a shared commitment to finding collaborative solutions to child care challenges affecting families and employers.

The outreach breakfast was planned through a partnership between Isanti County Health and Human Services and Child Care Licensing, the East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC), Child Care/Parent Aware, and the City of Isanti.

Attendees learned about the current state of child care in Isanti County, including provider shortages, workforce recruitment

and retention challenges, and the impact limited child care access has on employers and economic growth. Participants also shared ideas and experiences, helping identify opportunities to work together to strengthen the local child care system.

“The level of participation and engagement demonstrated that our community recognizes child care as a shared responsibility,” said Michelle Thomas, Senior Economic and Community Development Planner with the East Central Regional Development Commission. “When businesses, schools, local governments, service organizations, and child care providers come together, we can work toward addressing the challenges facing working families, strengthening the child care system, and building a more resilient regional economy.”

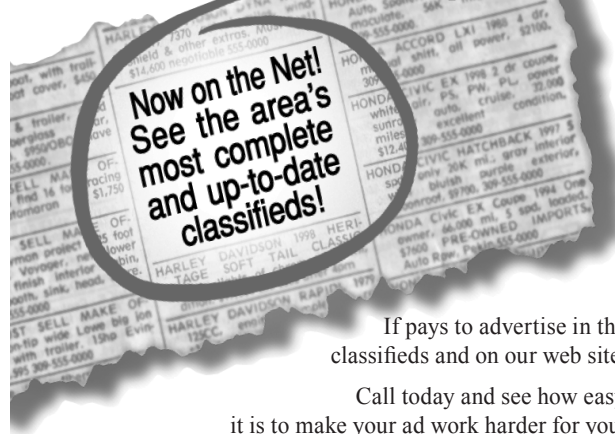
A key goal was to engage new voices in the conversation. Community members who had not pre-

viously participated in coalition efforts provided valuable feedback and were encouraged to help advance local child care initiatives.

By bringing together diverse community partners, the event helped build new relationships, increase awareness, and create momentum for continued efforts to recruit and retain child care providers, support existing programs, and expand access.

Community members and organizations interested in joining the Isanti County Child Care Coordinating Council are encouraged to attend the coalition’s next meeting at Isanti County Health and Human Services Building, Conference Room A on July 28 at 8:30am. Join us to become part of the ongoing effort to strengthen child care opportunities for families and employers throughout the county. - East Central Regional Development Council

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# WORSHIP *guide*

### Baptist

**First Baptist Church**  
304 S. Main St., Cambridge,  
763-689-1173. Call the church office or visit our website for current service times and programs.  
firstbaptistcambridge.org

### North Isanti Baptist Church

Lead Pastor: Travis Blake  
2248 313th Ave. NE, Cambridge, MN 55008. www.nibchurch.com  
Email: nibchurch@msn.com  
763-689-3576.  
8:30am Worship Service (traditional style)  
10:45am Worship Service (contemporary style)

### Sunrise Bible Church

41300 Second St., North Branch, Pastor David Stertz. Sunday school for all ages  
9:30am, Sunday morning Worship  
10:30am, Sunday evening 6pm, Wed. Kids 4 Truth & Bible studies for all ages 6:30pm. More info at sunrise bible church.org or 651-674-4107.

### Catholic

**Christ the King**  
305 Fern Street N  
Cambridge, MN 55008  
763-689-1221  
Tuesday 6 pm Mass  
Friday 8:30am  
Saturday 4pm  
email brigitt@isantiacc.org  
Website: isantiacc.org

### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN.  
763-444-4035  
Email: brigitt@isantiacc.org  
Mass: Wed. 8:30am.  
Sun. 8:30am.  
isantiacc.org

### Evangelical Covenant

**Karmel Covenant Church**  
5799 County Road 6, Princeton MN  
763-389-3169  
Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis  
Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson

*This directory is paid for and made possible by the participating churches listed. Proud to sponsor and salute our local churches*

Sunday School for All Ages (school year only): 9-10 a.m.

Sunday Worship (in person & online): 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday Programming (school year only):  
Family meal at 5:30 p.m. with AWANA and Youth Group from 6:30-8 p.m.

### Evangelical Free

#### Dale Evangelical Free Church

45268 Brunswick Rd,  
Harris, MN 763-689-5817  
Pastor/Teacher Dr. Harvey Martin.  
Sunday School – all ages 9am.  
Sunday Service 10:25am.  
www.daleefc.com

#### Kost Evangelical Free Church

37405 Kost Trail, North Branch, MN – Jct. of CR 11 & CR 72  
651-583-3281 • Kostchurch.org  
Pastor Josh Jensen  
Sunday worship service 9:30 am followed by fellowship & Sunday School  
Youth group Wednesdays 7 pm  
Respawn Gaming Ministry for teen boys – 2 Fridays per month.

#### Oxlip Evangelical Free Church

29237 Roanoke St NW, Isanti (1 mile West of Cty 5 and Hwy 47)  
763-444-5134 oxlip.org  
9am Worship Service  
10:45am Christian Education  
Awana children’s ministry Wednesdays 6 to 7:30pm

#### Wyanett Evangelical Free Church

12 Miles West of Cambridge on Hwy 95  
www.wyanettevangelicalfree.org  
Pastor Bruce Talso 763-221-4469  
Sunday School 9:30 am  
Morning Worship 10:30 am  
Mondays - Women’s Evening Bible Study 6:00 pm  
Tuesdays - Men’s Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Wednesdays - Midweek Bible Study/Prayer 2:00 pm  
Thursdays - Women’s Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m. at Heart Matters Ministry, 403 1st St. Princeton  
A LOVING CHURCH PROCLAIMING A LIVING MESSAGE!

### Lutheran

#### Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Dr. Suzanne Begin, Minister  
905 Central Drive West  
320-396-2755  
www.brahamlutheran.org  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
In-person & Live on Facebook  
Community Campfire Gathering June 3, July 1, Aug 5; 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Bring lawn chair and singing voice  
All Are Welcome!

#### Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church Of Rush Point (ELCA)

Pastor Vicki Vandervegt.  
320-358-4829, 600 Rush Point Dr.  
10:30am Worship with Fellowship following  
my.calvaryofrushpoint.org.  
Office: calvaryrushpoint@gmail.com

#### Cambridge Lutheran Church (ELCA)

621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge  
763-689-1211  
Traditional/Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m.  
Contemporary/Commons: 9:30 a.m.  
KidZone 9:30 a.m.  
www.cambridgelutheran.org  
Facebook: fb.com/Cambridgelutheran  
YouTube: tinyurl.com/Cambridgelutheran

#### Christ Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)

32962 Vickers St. NE, Cambridge, 763-689-5333  
Pastor Samuel L. Biebert.  
Sunday Worship 9am, Sunday School/  
Bible Class 10:30am  
www.christcambridge.com

#### First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

43779 Gates Ave., Harris.  
651-674-4498. Handicapped accessible.  
Pastor Vicki VanderVegt  
Sunday Worship 9:20am  
Coffee & fellowship following service  
Email: firstlutheran@q.com  
www.firstlutheranharris.org

#### Joy Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

33525 Jefferson Street NE, Cambridge  
763-689-4355  
www.joylutheran.net  
Pastor James Ritter  
8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

#### Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS)

6486 Elm St (PO Box 335),  
North Branch  
651-674-5576  
Pastor Glen Kleppe  
Sunday Worship 10am  
www.livingbranch.org  
email: office@livingbranch.org

#### Long Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

3921 277th Ave NW Isanti, MN 55040  
763-444-5315  
Pastor Sue Olson &  
Pastor Rebecca Holland  
All Are Welcome!  
Sundays  
9 am Worship & 10 am Sunday School  
Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays  
Wednesdays 6 pm Confirmation

#### Salem Lutheran Church

4638 381st Ave. NW, Dalbo, MN 55017.  
763-689-1687  
Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30  
Sunday School 11:00 resuming in the Fall  
Coffee fellowship after worship  
www.salemlutherandalbo.com

#### Spring Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

8440 Erickson Road, PO Box 958,  
North Branch, MN 55056 (9 mi. E. of Cambridge on Hwy. 95, North one block on Erickson Road).  
651-674-4606.  
Pastor Vicki VanderVegt.slchurch.org  
Email: slchurch@gmail.com  
8:15am Worship with fellowship following

#### St. John Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

28168 Jodrell St. NE, North Branch  
Located 6 mi. E. of Isanti on Co. Rd. 5; (or 7 mi. W. of North Branch on Co. Rd. 5); then 1-1/2 mi. S. on Co. Rd. 12. 763-444-5988, Paul Anderson, Pastor;  
Sunday 9am Worship;  
10:20am Adult Bible Study;  
Thursday 6:30pm Bible study.  
Email: stjohnlutheran@att.net

#### St. John’s Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

980 West 4th Street, Rush City  
320-358-3623  
Sunday 8:45am Worship  
Monday 10am Longer Look Bible Study  
stjohnsrushcity.org

#### St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

400 SE 8th St., (Isanti #4 E.), Braham  
320-396-3103  
9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study.  
8am Worship.  
ststephensbraham.org

#### Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch  
651-674-7047 Pastor Paul Cannon  
In person and online worship  
9 a.m. Worship  
10 a.m. Coffee Hour/Fellowship  
www.trinitynorthbranch.org  
office@trinitynorthbranch.org

### Methodist

#### Common Ground - A United Methodist Community

404 Cypress St. North, Cambridge.  
763-689-2071.  
Pastors Amelia & Andrew Buschena.  
Sunday 9:30am Worship.  
Livestream of services and more info at commongroundumc.org.  
Everyone Counts!

### Non-Denominational

#### Grace Gospel Church

37126 MN-65, Stanchfield, MN 55080  
Coffee fellowship: 9:45am  
Service: 10:00am  
Pastor: Tim Miller  
www.gracegospelmn.org  
info@gracegospelchurchmn.com  
Located just north of Grandy on 65, across from East Central Diesel, with three large crosses near the road.  
We look forward to having you!

#### Journey of Faith

Bible based worship.  
651-600-9878.  
faiththroughaction777@gmail.com  
Sunday fellowship 9am  
Worship & Youth Ministry 10am  
Come as you are. All welcome.  
Junction Bowl. 123 Cajima Street, NE, Isanti. Refreshments served.

#### JustPassinThru IHS Ministries

Becoming Agape – Allowing the Holy Spirit to transform lives  
763-228-0883  
Meeting at Crossroads Commons  
1001 1st Ave. E., Suite 100, Cambridge MN  
justpassinihs@gmail.com  
JustpassinThru.net  
Pastor Tom Bakke  
Sunday mornings at 10 am  
Sunday nights and Wednesdays

### Pentecostal

#### The Journey New Life Church

601 Heritage Blvd NE, Isanti  
Pastor David L. Willis.  
Sunday 10am Worship & the Word & Kids’ Church.  
Sunday 6pm Family Worship.  
Wednesday 7pm Family Breakout Classes.  
763-689-4471  
Thejourneynl.org

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## NOTICES

### CITY OF EAST BETHEL NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST PRIMARY ELECTION

The City of East Bethel will test electronic voting machines to be used for the vote tabulation in the Minnesota State Primary Election to be held Tuesday, August 11, 2026. The test will be held on:

Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

The test will be conducted at:

East Bethel City Hall  
Council Chambers  
2241 221st Ave. NE  
East Bethel, MN 55011

The public is invited to attend.

Carrie Frost

Elections Coordinator

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 9, 2026

### SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE

#### LAKE FRANCIS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The Lake Francis Improvement District will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, July 11, 2026 at 10:00 AM at the Bradford Town Hall, 4175 305th Lane NW, Cambridge, MN.

The Agenda will include:

• A reading of the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting.

• A Report on the Activities of the Board in the past year

• Discussion of plans to treat selected areas of the lake for Aquatic Invasive Species in 2026.

• A vote to approve projects with costs expected to exceed \$5,000

• A vote to approve a budget for the fiscal year 2026

• A vote to approve property assessments to satisfy budget requirements.

• An Election for one executive board member

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on June 25; July 2, 9, 2026

### CITY OF EAST BETHEL NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILINGS FOR OFFICE

The candidate filing period will be open between Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and Tuesday, July 28, 2026, during office hours. All candidate filings must be received by Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Candidate filings for the following offices are to be filed with Administration at East Bethel City Hall, 2241 221st Avenue NE, East Bethel, MN, 55011-9790:

• Mayor

• City Council Member at Large, 2 seats

The Election for these City Offices will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 in the City of East Bethel, County of Anoka, State of Minnesota between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Carrie Frost

Elections Coordinator

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 2, 9, 2026

### STATE OF MINNESOTA ISANTI COUNTY

District Court 10th Judicial District Court File Number: 30-PR-26-42

Case Type: Informal Probate

Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors

In Re The Estate Of Virginia E. Williams, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's Last Will, dated: May 19, 2021, has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

Name: Richard A. Williams

Address: 2365 Cleveland Lane S Cambridge MN 55008

as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative, or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Jamie Dewane

Probate Registrar

Date: July 2, 2026

Debra Lepper

Court Administrator

Date: July 2, 2026

Attorney for Personal Representative

CLARK A JOSLIN

Attorney License No.: 52802

221 NW 2nd Avenue

Cambridge MN 55008

Telephone: 763-689-4101

Facsimile: 763-689-9794

E-Mail: cjoslin@joslinmoore.com

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 9, 16 2026

### ASSUMED NAME

#### OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **K Mell-Bowers Consulting**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **2157 CLEVELAND WAY S CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA**

APPLICANT(S):

Name: **Freedom Ridge Enterprises, Inc.**

Address: **2157 CLEVELAND WAY S CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA**

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature

is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: **Katherine Mell-Bowers**

MAILING ADDRESS: **2157 CLEVELAND WAY S CAMBRIDGE MN 55008**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **k.m.mell@hotmail.com**

Work Item **1651808400027**  
Original File Number **1651808400027**

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED

06/08/2026 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 2, 9, 2026

### PUBLIC HEARING

#### CITY OF EAST BETHEL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You are hereby notified that the City of East Bethel Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to review the following:

The City has received an application from Final Approach Development to consider an amendment to the Zoning Code - Appendix A, Section 47 (B-3 Highway Commercial District) of the East Bethel City Code; The proposed amendment would establish "Business Flex Buildings" as a Conditional Use within the B-3 Highway Commercial District. The amendment would allow multi-tenant commercial-industrial buildings containing office, showroom, contractor, research, service, warehouse, industrial condominium, assembly, and similar employment-oriented uses, subject to Conditional Use Permit approval and operational standards. The amendment would also adjust height limitations and establish limitations on permitted tenant uses and prohibit certain truck-intensive, heavy industrial, and incompatible uses.

The hearing will be held in the East Bethel City Hall located at 2241 221st Ave NE on: Tuesday July 28th, 2026, at or about 7:00 pm

A complete copy of the proposed ordinance can be found on the City's website:

<https://www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us/> not less than ten (10) days prior to the Public Hearing.

Or, may be secured in hard copy from the City's Community Development office during regular business hours. Or, please email Senior Planner Eric Johnson at [eric.johnson@ci-east.bethel.mn.us](mailto:eric.johnson@ci-east.bethel.mn.us) for an email copy of the proposed ordinance.

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Eric Johnson - [Eric.Johnson@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:Eric.Johnson@ci.east-bethel.mn.us) or via US MAIL to City Hall at 2241 221st Ave NE. City of East Bethel, MN 55011

Date: 7/6/26

Eric Johnson

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 9, 2026

### CITY OF EAST BETHEL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You are hereby notified that the City of East Bethel Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to review the following:

The East Bethel Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider an application submitted by Final Approach Development for a Conditional Use Permit & Site Plan Review to allow a Business Flex Building to be located in the B-3 Highway Commercial District lying south of 185th Ave NE, east of Ulysses St NE and west of STH 65 and upon the eastern terminus of the property with a PID# 323323310008. All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and provide testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Permit and Plan Review.

The hearing will be held in the East Bethel City Hall located at 2241 221st Ave NE on: Tuesday July 28th, 2026, at or about 7:00 pm

Or, may be secured in hard copy from the City's Community Development office during regular business hours. Or, please email Senior Planner Eric Johnson at [eric.johnson@ci-east.bethel.mn.us](mailto:eric.johnson@ci-east.bethel.mn.us) for an email copy of the proposed ordinance.

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Eric Johnson - [Eric.Johnson@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:Eric.Johnson@ci.east-bethel.mn.us) or via US MAIL to City Hall at 2241 221st Ave NE. City of East Bethel, MN 55011

Date: 7/6/26

Eric Johnson

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 9, 2026

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTH BRANCH CHISAGO COUNTY STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of North Branch (the "City"), Chisago County, State of Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on July 22, 2026 beginning at approximately 6:00 PM, at the City Council Chambers located at 6408 Elm St, North Branch, Minnesota, relating to the City's proposed adoption of a Modification to the Development

County STAR on July 9, 2026

### CITY OF EAST BETHEL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You are hereby notified that the City of East Bethel Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to review the following:

Applications submitted by Final Approach Development, LLC for Preliminary and Final Plat entitled Final Approach East Bethel Addition, and is located west of Highway 65 and south of 185th Avenue NE with PID 323323310008 & 323323310007. The proposed plat would subdivide approximately 26.57+ acres into three commercial lots together with public easements and associated right-of-way necessary to facilitate future commercial development. The property is guided Mixed Use under the Comprehensive Plan and is zoned B-3 Highway Commercial.

The hearing will be held in the East Bethel City Hall located at 2241 221st Ave NE on: Tuesday July 28th, 2026, at or about 7:00 pm

Or, may be secured in hard copy from the City's Community Development office during regular business hours. Or, please email Senior Planner Eric Johnson at [eric.johnson@ci-east.bethel.mn.us](mailto:eric.johnson@ci-east.bethel.mn.us) for an email copy of the proposed ordinance.

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Eric Johnson - [Eric.Johnson@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:Eric.Johnson@ci.east-bethel.mn.us) or via US MAIL to City Hall at 2241 221st Ave NE. City of East Bethel, MN 55011

Date: 7/6/26

Eric Johnson

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 9, 2026

Program for Development District No. 1 (the "Development District"), the proposed establishment of Tax Increment Financing District 2026-2: Senior Housing (a housing tax increment financing district) (the "TIF District") within the Development District, and the proposed adoption of a Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "TIF Plan") therefor (collectively, the "Modification and Plan"), pursuant to Minnesota Statutes (M.S.), 469.124 to 469.133 and M.S. Sections 469.174 to 469.1794, all inclusive, as amended. Copies of

### CITY OF EAST BETHEL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You are hereby notified that the City of East Bethel Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to review the following:

The East Bethel Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider an application submitted by Final Approach Development for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a Place of Worship within a proposed Business Flex Building to located in the B-3 Highway Commercial District lying south of 185th Ave NE, east of Ulysses St NE and west of STH 65 and upon the eastern terminus of the property with a PID# 323323310008. The proposed Place of Worship would occupy a tenant space within a proposed building. All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and provide testimony regarding the proposed Conditional Use Permit.

The hearing will be held in the East Bethel City Hall located at 2241 221st Ave NE on: Tuesday July 28th, 2026, at or about 7:00 pm

Or, may be secured in hard copy from the City's Community Development office during regular business hours. Or, please email Senior Planner Eric Johnson at [eric.johnson@ci-east.bethel.mn.us](mailto:eric.johnson@ci-east.bethel.mn.us) for an email copy of the proposed ordinance.

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Eric Johnson - [Eric.Johnson@ci.east-bethel.mn.us](mailto:Eric.Johnson@ci.east-bethel.mn.us) or via US MAIL to City Hall at 2241 221st Ave NE. City of East Bethel, MN 55011

Date: 7/6/26

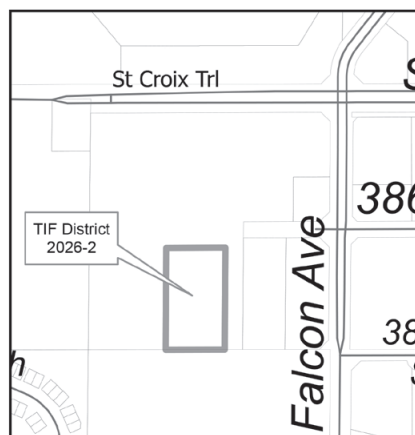
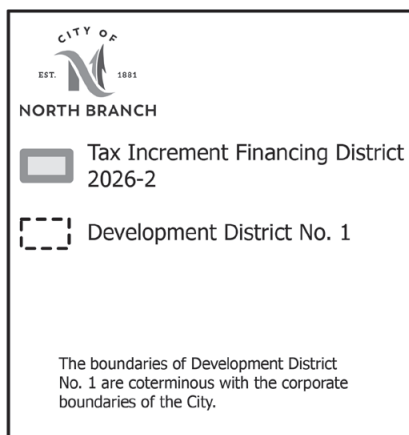
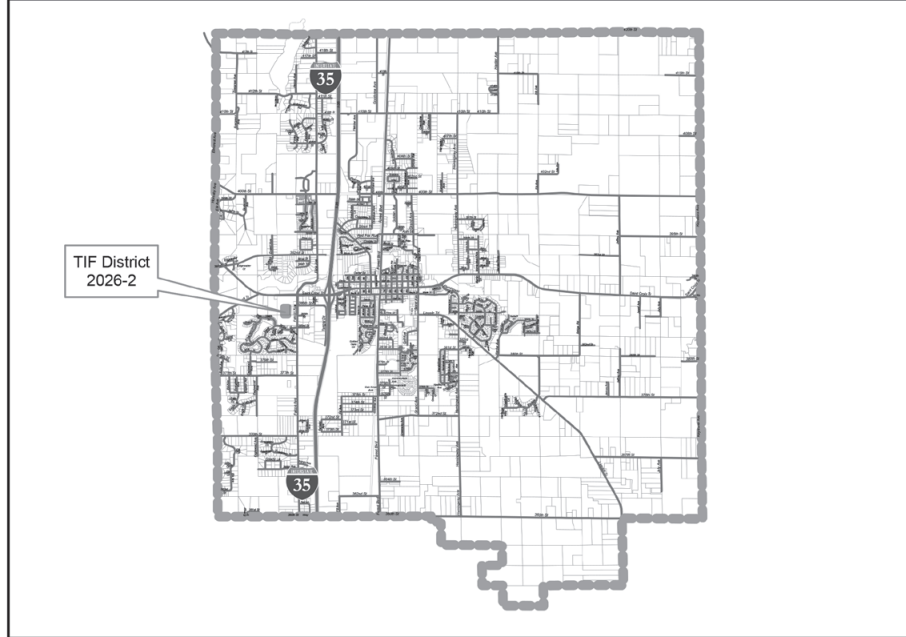
Eric Johnson

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the Modification and Plan are on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Community Development Director at City Hall.

The property to be included in the TIF District is located within the Development District and the City. A map of the Development District and the TIF District therein is set forth below. Subject to certain limitations, tax increment from the TIF District may be spent on eligible uses within the boundaries of the Development District.

### City of North Branch Chisago County Development District No. 1 Tax Increment Financing District 2026-2



All interested persons may appear at the hearing and present their views orally or prior to the meeting in writing.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH, MINNESOTA

/s/ City Clerk  
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 9, 2026

A Minnesota **COUNTY STAR** Newspaper Association AWARD-WINNING publication.

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

# Green Thumb

Lawn & Garden Guide

## YARD AND GARDEN PROBLEMS

Identify the weed, insect, disease or nonliving factors that are causing problems in your garden by submitting a question to Ask a Master Gardener.

For general advice on preventing diseases, infestations, and non-organic issues in your lawn or garden, see (extension.umn.edu):

- Clean and disinfect gardening tools and containers
- How excessive heat affects the vegetable garden
- Managing plant diseases in the home garden
- Non-pest issues in cool-season vegetables
- Preventing plant diseases in the garden

Preventing pests in your yard and garden has advice for maintaining healthy landscapes without pesticides.

The University of Minnesota Plant Disease Clinic is a diagnostic laboratory that provides testing for fungal, bacterial, viral, and other plant health conditions for commercial growers and the general public on a fee-for-service basis.

### Weeds in lawns and gardens

"A weed is a plant out of place." By this definition, any plant could be considered a weed if it is growing where it is not wanted, such as plantain in your lawn.

But weeds are more than just a visual intruder.

Weeds can be detrimental to the health of your lawn or garden and should be managed regularly using best cultural practices such as hand removal and mulching. If an infestation occurs, you may resort to using herbicides.

- Weeds compete with desirable plants for space, light, moisture, and nutrients.
- They can be hosts to diseases like aster yellows.
- Weeds can host insects that can carry disease from plant to plant or infect plants by feeding on them.
- They spread vigorously by seed, plant parts, rhizomes or stolons.
- Weeds tolerate a wide range of environmental growing conditions and establish easily in lawns and gardens.
- Some weeds are sometimes a source of allergens.



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## ISANTI COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on June 14 - July 4. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

**Brandon Jamal Carter** (DOB 10/31/1992) of Minneapolis, was charged June 17 with Drugs - 1st Degree - Possess 50 grams or more - cocaine or methamphetamine.

**Raine Lakota Adams** (DOB 07/21/2006) of Cambridge, was charged June 22 with Assault-3rd Degree-Substantial Bodily Harm.

**Travon Lavale Nixon** (DOB 10/09/1987) of Cambridge, was charged June 22 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

**Colby James Michael Lindberg** (DOB 06/03/2002) of Cambridge, was charged June 25 with Threats of Violence -Reckless Disregard Risk.

**Lucas Gregory Magadanz** (DOB 04/16/1992) of Lindstrom, was charged June 25 with Stalking - Pattern of Stalking Conduct.

**John Allan Swanson** (DOB 01/19/1952) of Stanchfield, was charged July 1 with Burglary - 3rd Degree - Enters w/out consent with intent to Steal/Commit Felony or Gross Misdemeanor.

**Jamie Lynn Schinagel** (DOB 06/24/1997) of Isanti, was charged July 2 with Assault - 4th Degree - Peace Officer - Throws/transfers bodily fluids or feces at or onto officer.

## CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on June 14 - July 4. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

**Logan Jens Cray** (DOB 09/22/1997) of Buffalo, was charged June 22 with Criminal Sexual Conduct - 3rd Degree - Penetration; Victim 14 - 15 Actor greater than 24m older.

**Nicole Mary Vincent** (DOB 11/26/1996) of North Branch, was charged June 26 with two counts of Assault - 4th Deg - Physician, nurse or other emergency room personnel.

**Travis Scott Wagoner** (DOB 12/16/1992) of Luck, WI, was charged June 29 with Assault-3rd Degree-Substantial Bodily Harm.

**David Roe Walker** (DOB 10/05/1973) of Duluth, was charged June 29 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

**Chase William Peterson** (DOB 02/28/1996) of Vadnais Heights, was charged June 29 with Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

**Daniel Joseph Kessel** (DOB 12/20/1992) of Shafer, was charged July 1 with Predatory Offender - Knowingly commits act or fails to fulfill registration requirement.

**Brent Lee VanDanacker** (DOB 08/25/1976) of Wyoming, was charged July 2 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

**Michael Anthony Pobuda** (DOB 01/27/1999) of Saint Cloud, was charged July 2 with Threats of Violence - Reckless Disregard Risk.

**Morgan Kathryn Johnson** (DOB 09/17/1999) of Lindstrom, was charged July 2 with Murder - 3rd Degree - Sell/Give/Distribute Controlled Substance - Schedules 1 and 2.

**Michael Laurence Bunde** (DOB 12/10/1960) of Chisago City, was charged July 2 with Murder - 3rd Degree - Sell/Give/Distribute Controlled Substance - Schedules 1 and 2.

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ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

# CLASSIFIEDS

<b>60</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>452</b>
<b>Boats &amp; Accessories</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Help Wanted</b>	<b>Help Wanted</b>	<b>Firewood</b>	<b>Auctions</b>	<b>Auctions</b>	<b>Auctions</b>	<b>Rentals/ Residential</b>
2007 Glastron GX 185 BR \$13,900 Used - Like New Red & White Sporty bow rider. Volvo Penta 3.0. Only 154 hours! Engine is gone over every yr. Just changed oil. Aft sun pad, floor storage locker, glove compartment, storage under seats, and engine compartment for lots of storage. Cockpit cover. Bow cover. Bimini top. AM/FM CD stereo. Depth sounder Quick release bumpers. Snap in/out cockpit carpet Extended swim platform with fold down ladder. Comes w/ trailer and extra tire . Trailer has breakaway tongue. Seating in perfect condition w/ no rips, tears, or sun damage. Always stored indoors, summer and winter. Cash only 651/*328*7288	<b>Alterations and clothing repairs, 25 years experience.</b> 320-396-4152 Contact Rosemary. Braham <b>Designs by Jeff:</b> Custom airbrushing, vehicle wraps, fleet graphics, signs, logo designs. Over 35 years of experience. DesignsByJeff.com 763-443-3135 <b>Get up to 50 channels free.</b> No monthly charge. Dave's TV and Antenna. Call 320-515-0270.	BALDWIN-WOODVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT ? Now hiring: Special Ed & General Ed Paraprofessionals, Food Service Worker, Assistant Cook, multiple coaches (football, basketball, volleyball), and bus/van drivers. Apply via WECAN or District Office, 550 Hwy 12, Baldwin. Contact Michelle Sell, 715-684-3411 ext. 1103. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs	SALON 4862 Now leasing 3 chairs in well established professional salon This opportunity is for stylists who already have a clientele and are ready to work in a consistent, elevated, drama-free environment Please, contact Sara for more information 651*/755*3058	<b>FIREWOOD</b> 16" oak or mixed. Delivery. Custom processing. Tree/yard debris clean up. Ed Johnson 763-220-9308	<b>Saturday, July 18, 10:00 a.m.</b> 3 Party Estate & Personal Property Auction. 1894 Bachelor Rd., Mora, MN. Outdoor/Hunting, Kubota L3301 w/Bucket, Briggs & Stratton P3000 RV Generator, Big Game Deer Stands w/Ladders, Power Block Weights, too much to list. Guns/Ammo/Mounts, Garage/Shop, Household. Col. Byron Robyn, Lic. 33-21, 320-291-9566, robyn2229@gmail.com, midwestauctions.com/robyn, auctionsbyrobyn.com	<b>Saturday, July 18, 9:00 a.m.</b> Janzen Auction Building, 942 2nd St. N.W. Aitkin, MN, 919 8th St., Cloquet, MN (watch for signs). Many items available for online bidding at janzenauctions.Hibid.com. Tractors & Equipment, Vehicles, Collector Cars, Motorcycle, ATV's, Travel Trailer, Industrial Trailers, Boating Packages, ShopTools & Related, Firearms, Lawn & Garden, Items of Interest, Household & Home Furnishings. Janzen Auctioneers, Lic. 01-10, 218-927-4488, jerjanzen77@gmail.com, www.midwestauctions.com/janzen, www.janzenauctions.com.	<b>Sunday, July 12, 11:02 a.m.</b> Ken & Kathy Lilienthal Personal Property Auction. Kanabec County Fairgrounds. Long Rifles, Hand Guns, Ammo. 2019 Arctic Cat 'Prowler Pro XT' w/ Dump. 2020 6.5'x12' RLBL Alum Utility Trailer 'Parker Little Pup' w/Drop Down Ramp. 6' Push Blade for Arctic Cat 'Prowler Pro XT', Sentinel Gun Safe, Diggitt 20'x30' Metal Garage Carport Shed. Eskimo Portable Fish House. Birch Fire Wood. Coin Collection. Electric Power Lift Recliner Chairs. Way too many items to list. Auctions by Norby, midwest-auctions.com/norby, auctionsbynorby.com, 320-279-0712. Col. Kevin C. Norby, Auctioneer, Lic. #33-03.	<b>FOR RENT IN PINE CITY:</b> one bedroom apartment- 1st level, \$800 deposit, \$800 per month no pets, no smoking, call Sandy 763-464-4129 <b>Mora Apartments</b> 1 bed, 1 bath, \$940/month. Studio \$740/month. Washer/Dryer on-site. No pets, no smoking/vaping/e-cigs. 612-470-3319, moratroveproperty@gmail.com
	<b>150 Help Wanted</b> CARY'S COMMUNICATIONS - Radio Shack in Pine City, MN is now hiring a full-time and part-time Sales Associate. Please call or text ... 715-222-1923 Centennial School District NOW HIRING: Kid's Club Staff, Custodians, Nurses, Food Service Staff, Paraprofessionals To apply visit: isd12.org/join-our-team	<b>POWDER COAT APPLICATOR, Hanger/Packer - Rocket Powder Coating, Centuria. Weekday &amp; weekend shifts. No experience needed, will train. \$17-24/hour, retirement match, paid holidays. Email jeremy@rocketpowdercoat.com. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs</b>	<b>SEMI-TRUCK DRIVERS ?</b> Quality Grain Services. Hopper bottom trailers, 150-mile radius WI/MN. Full/part-time/fill-in. Home nightly, no weekends. \$22-24/hr, 401k. Call (715) 495-1233 or (715) 643-2307. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs	<b>362 Miscellaneous</b> <b>Buying sports card collections</b> call Tom 612-701-7396 <b>Looking for</b> that perfect gift for an anniversary or birthday? Think about giving a subscription to the Kanabec County Times. Call our office today (320)679-2661 to start delivery - we accept Visa or Mastercard!	<b>GET NOTICED.</b> Reach potential customers easily with a display ad. <b>TO PLACE AN AD CALL OR STOP IN!</b> Isanti-Chisago County Star 651-407-1237 <b>OR EMAIL</b> sales@countystar.com	<b>You've Got It! Somebody Wants It!</b> <b>Sell it in the classifieds -</b> 651-407-1237 or email sales@countystar.com	<b>The Classifieds</b> <b>The Classifieds</b> <b>The Classifieds</b> Call 651-278-5882 or email sales@countystar.com to place your ad.	<b>501 Real Estate Wanted</b> <b>Recently married</b> Army Veteran looking to buy 10+ acres to build a home or purchase an existing home to raise a family. Preferred location Isanti or Chisago County. Call or text 651-278-5882 <b>PLACE A CLASSIFIED TODAY</b> <b>763.689.1181</b>



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**EVENTS  
CALENDAR**



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Lon Lane, *LJ Level Construction* - Vice Chair  
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# Voting is Open!

## Vote July 8 - August 2

### VOTING ROUND:

Wednesday, July 8 at 9 a.m. –  
Sunday, August 2 at 5 p.m.

### WINNERS ANNOUNCED:

September 30



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