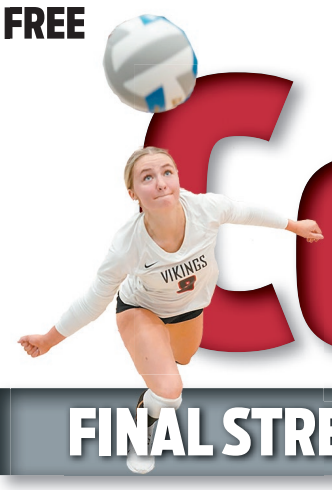
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ISANTI-CHISAGO
COUNTY STAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026
VOL. 120 NO. 41 COUNTYSTAR.COM

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
Rob Sanvik Agency
651-237-0977
(North Branch / Chisago)
Jeff Pynes Agency
763-689-2028
(Cambridge)

FINAL STRETCH: Regular seasons coming to a conclusion in next few weeks for C-I, NB. **PAGE 7**

Finance department changes finalized for Cambridge

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Dec. 3. The day the entire Cambridge City Council and staff are hoping will never come, but is coming up fast. This is the day Caroline Moe retires after 24 years as the city's finance director and, more recently, deputy city administrator.

In preparation of this inevitable day, over a year ago the council approved establishing a new assistant finance director position with the idea of that person working under the tutelage of Moe for as long as possible. Just over a year ago, the city did just that, hiring Amanda Bruzer.

And at the Oct. 5 city council meeting, the council followed through on its plan and approved promoting Bruzer to succeed Moe as the city's deputy city administrator and finance director.

"The person we hired (Bruzer) is ready to do just that," City Administrator Evan Vogel said. "Amanda has become the city's leading expert on certain HR things such as earned sick and safe time, paid family medical leave that have been a direct benefit to our employees. She's learned about the budget process, the audit process, how to conduct budget revisions... and more. She's worked hard to integrate herself into the organization. She's established herself as a leader, somebody who is approachable, somebody who is knowledgeable, and somebody who helps solve individuals' problems."

The council approved Bruzer's promotion by a 4-1 vote, with Council member Molly Christian casting the lone no vote.

"It seems like a very steep upward climb very quickly," Christian said regarding the subsequent pay raise for Bruzer. "I am concerned about jumping that significantly in just a year-and-a-half."

Vogel explained to the council that the salary increase is tied to the appropriate pay for the position of deputy city administrator and finance director and reflects the increase in duties of that position.

"(That position) is one of the most critical roles within the city," Vogel said. "The person we hired (for assistant finance director) was hired intentionally to grow in that time, and nothing that has happened in the last year-and-a-half has done anything to change the grade of the assistant finance director or deputy administrator position."

"I love it when a plan like this comes together," Mayor Jim Godfrey said. "I think we have gotten our best foot forward with Amanda coming on board. We have had the ability to stick to this plan and have an employee learn from the inside from the professional who has been doing it for over 20 years."

NEW ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR

Immediately after approving Bruzer's promotion, the council approved offering the assistant finance director position to Angela Holm. This time, the vote was unanimous.

"Sometimes it is as good to be lucky as it is to be good," Vogel said. "We got a talented, albeit small, pool of candidates and one of the candidates really, really stood out."

Vogel explained Holm has a Masters degree in Accountancy and for the last four years — ending last January — was the director of finance for the city of Brooklyn Center. She also spent 15 years as budget

SEE **FINANCE,** PAGE **11**



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

A real thrill ride

These two are excited to get going on a hayride during the annual Hayride for Food held on Sunday, Oct. 4. While not having official totals yet, organizers said the event had a record number of attendees.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge Firefighter Dave Matchinsky was recognized for receiving Firefighter of the Year during the Oct. 5 city council meeting.

Firefighter of the Year award goes to Cambridge captain

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Dave Matchinsky, a captain with the Cambridge Fire Department, was selected as the Minnesota State Fire Department Association Firefighter of the Year for 2026.

"This year's recipient has dedicated much of his life to serving others — through his military service, a career in law enforcement, and his many years in the fire service," read the award presentation.

"A combat veteran, retired Sheriff's Deputy, and longtime Minnesota firefighter, Matchinsky has built a reputation among his fellow firefighters as someone who leads by example, supports those around him, and has a genuine passion

SEE **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR,** PAGE **11**

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North Ridge Winery carries a family legacy of welcome

BY STACY VERDICK CASE
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

With the strong Swedish heritage in North Branch and the surrounding area, it's easy to forget other cultures are represented here. Ole Hendricks made sure that never happened in the dancehall he operated in Elbow Lake in the 1880s. Hendricks would play his fiddle, and while the majority of his music was geared toward the Norwegians in the audience, he had a tune book with sheets of music on which he had written notes like, "to be played if you see a German walk in."

That small note in a tune book revealed a larger belief: no one who walked through the door should feel like an outsider.

More than a century later, his great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Estepp, carries that same principle into North Ridge Winery in North Branch. Through a business built around events, local makers, and places for people to linger, Estepp is continuing Hendricks' legacy of hospitality.

OLE'S LEGACY

In the late 1800s, Ole Hendricks became famous in his hometown and the surrounding areas for his fiddle playing. Known as "our fiddle player" by the local paper, Hendricks bought a dancehall with his friend Swen Olson.

Estepp acknowledges the humor in the duo's names, "We think they may have been the original Swen and Ole."

The two musicians were determined to be as welcoming as possible, "No one's going to get the cold shoulder," Estepp said. "They were going to play what they know they like or what would be welcoming to them."

They carried on that tradition even through prohibition making sure that the farmers and their families in Elbow Lake had a place where they could enjoy music and relax. Eventually Hendricks brought this music with him to North Branch.

During the Great Depression, Hendricks and Olson owned a farm implement store. "He wasn't regarded as a good businessman," Estepp said. "During the Depression, Ole did not make all the farmers return their equipment (when they couldn't make payments). He went under instead."

Hendricks was thinking like a friend and not a businessman. "That's exactly the point," Estepp says. "Maybe he was a poor manager, but better one goes down than the whole community."

Even after his business was shut down, Hendricks continued to play music for the community. "The music was the gathering together, the celebrating together," she said. "That was the point of what he wanted to see happening."

A LEGACY CONTINUED

More than a century later, that legacy of community is one that Estepp strives to share with her own business, North Ridge Winery.

The family did not set out to buy a winery. In 2020, they were looking for a house that could accommodate a multi-generational family's needs. "It just happened to have a winery attached," Estepp said.

At first, Estepp expected to use the buildings for an upholstery business. "I had an upholstery shop when we first bought this place. I thought we were going to turn it into an upholstery shop for antique cars — Model A's and Model T's. I thought we were going to use all these buildings and really build up my upholstery business."

Her son Silas, who had been working in environmental testing before epilepsy forced him to leave that job, saw a different future. "He was like, Mom, this all makes sense to me," Estepp said. "Let's just keep running the winery."

So with help from the previous owner, the Estepp family learned all they could about growing vines and fermenting wine.

Today, North Ridge Winery sits on 32 acres and grows 19 grape varieties, along with apples, plums, elderberries, and maple trees. The winery grows at least some of every grape used in its red and white wines and supplements its harvest with fruit from nearby vineyards.

"We have a variety; we're not catering to just the dry wine people or just the fruit wine drinker. You could do six samples in any category you wanted without having to cross into a palate that is not agreeable with yours. We're trying to make use of all of the fruit trees and things that grow on the property."

The family has also made changes to how it cares for the vineyard. After a rainfall that diluted the sugars in the grapes, Estepp realized that grapes soak up everything. "The roots that are right under the surface of the ground are the roots that feed the grape."

That was when Estepp decided they wouldn't use chemical pesticides to control weeds. "I just said, 'No more. We are not putting one more chemical on the vineyard. We got sheep instead,'" Estepp said.

Twelve sheep now manage the weeds between the vines. Estepp said she would not call the vineyard fully organic because it still uses limited early-season treatment for mold and mildew, but said nothing is applied after the grape buds open.

The winery, which can hold about 75 people, has hosted different events over the years like paint nights, puzzle contests and resin-pouring classes, while its boutique features work from about 12 to 15 local vendors.

"We love to collaborate with other businesses," Estepp said. "We like kind of being a connecting point."

For some events, an artist or business can use the winery space without a rental charge if at least 12 people purchase tastings.

"It gives them a place to have their event without having to have a building," Estepp said.

They even once played host to a surprise wedding — a surprise to even them. "People just rented our side room and all of a sudden, they were having a wedding unbeknownst to us that it was going to be an actual wedding. They just had a small gathering of people, and all of a sudden a clergyman was showing up saying, uh, where's the bride and the groom, and I'm like, oh, I guess they're in that side room over there."

There's also a yurt which has hosted bridal showers and family reunions and a small teepee set up for guests to enjoy. All of it is set up with heirlooms and other pieces to make the spaces feel cozy and welcoming. Something that her great grandfather Ole would have approved of, which is why Estepp annually hosts an event at the winery dedicated to his memory – Ole Days.

Unfortunately, this year Ole Days has been canceled for family health reasons. She acknowledges the disappointment she feels from not hosting the event this year by saying, "I'm just, I'm still just sort of allowing myself to accept that."

OLE'S STORY LIVES ON

Hendricks' story didn't end with him losing his business. He farmed land in North Branch until bone cancer became unbearable. He told his wife that he was going fishing to try to catch dinner one afternoon. The family says Lake Fannie was his preferred fishing hole, and usually when he said he was going fishing, he would take his fiddle and spend most of his time playing music on the shore.

On this day, his last day, Hendricks took his fiddle and a pistol. He ended his life on the banks of the lake. His body fell on the gun, damaging the fiddle in the process. "For whatever reason, our family never even spoke about the fact that he ended his life that way or that he even had cancer," Estepp said.

The fiddle stayed with Hendricks' wife until the 1940s when she passed away. At that point, the family sold the fiddle to one of Hendricks friends, who had the fiddle repaired so it could be played again.

"The friend just held it (the fiddle) for a long time, and then when his family was cleaning out his stuff, they felt since it had the tune book and all the handwritten music, they contacted a college that archives original pieces and stuff. That's where Amy Shaw worked."

Amy M Shaw is the head of Archives and Special Collections at St. Catherine University in St. Paul. She found Hendricks' tune book with all his handwritten notes. It was compelling enough to inspire her to research the story of who the musician was, which inspired her to write the book, "Ole Hendricks and His Tune Book." It was published by the University of Wisconsin Press. The text tells Ole's story and shares images of the tunes he lovingly curated to bring his community together.



Stacy Verdick Case | COUNTY STAR

Elizabeth Estepp check on her vines at North Ridge Winery



FROM OLE HENDRICKS & HIS TUNE BOOK PUBLISHED BY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS

An undated photo of Ole Hendricks (right) with Andrew Svien.



FROM OLE HENDRICKS & HIS TUNE BOOK PUBLISHED BY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS

Ole's fiddle with the patch on the back.

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-register 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 Lutheran 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 minnesotanorth-al-anon.org

Book Club

Third Monday 11 a.m. to noon at Isanti SAC, 140 Buchanan St., N. #164 Cambridge. 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 information, 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 GracePointe Crossing Heritage Center, 322 River Hills Place North, Cambridge. Contact Julie at 763-306-5066 for info.

Grief Share

Faith Lutheran Church, 109 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 Cambridge(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.

PrimeTime Singers

The PrimeTime Singers meet Tuesday's at 1:30 p.m. in the Choir Room at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old N. Main St., Cambridge. Community choir for singers 60 and older. No membership fee or audition. Coffee and fellowship follow. Call 763-689-1023.

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 living with mental illness. Info: 651-213-5600 or Adultmentalhealth.org.

THURSDAYS

East Central Baby Cafe

Free drop-in breastfeeding support from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Adult Enrichment 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 minnesotanorth-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 minnesota-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 ecrlib.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 Lutheran's ball field in Cambridge. Contact Mary Schuett, 561-222-3347, for more information.

OCT. 6-DEC. 15

Square dance lessons

Learn square dancing Tuesdays from 7–9 p.m. at the Isanti Intermediate School cafeteria. Potluck snacks.



North Branch Friends of the Library sale is Oct. 10 at the North Branch Area Library.

OCT. 10

Bingo

7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Harris American Legion Post Home. Family-friendly event. Prizes include cash, turkeys and meat packs. All welcome.

Friend of the Library Sale

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the North Branch Library, 6355 379th St., North Branch, MN Free will donation for books, dvd's, puzzles and more.

Sock puppet creation and puppet show

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Cambridge Public Library. Participants will create a sock puppet and bring it to life through voice, movement, personality and storytelling. Registration required.

Sock puppet play and expression

11 a.m. to noon at Cambridge Public Library. Young participants will create a sock puppet and explore emotions, movement and sounds. Registration required.

OCT. 11

Nordic Newcomers

The Nordic Newcomers perform Swedish folk music and share local history at 2 p.m. at Historic Grass Lake Church, 2650 133rd Ave., Braham.

OCT. 12

Tiny Art Show

All day at Cambridge Public Library. Register to receive a tiny art kit with a 5-by-7-inch canvas, paint and a paintbrush to create a masterpiece. Registration required.

Day of the Dead printmaking

4 to 5:30 p.m. at North Branch Area Library. Families will explore Día de Muertos and learn a basic printmaking process. Registration required.

OCT. 13

One-on-one basic tech help

1 to 2 p.m. at Cambridge Public Library. Get help with basic technology, including email and accessing eBooks and eAudiobooks. Registration required.

North Branch Knitting Night

6:30 to 7:45 p.m. at North Branch Area Library. Bring a current project and stitch with others. All forms of needlework are welcome.

OCT. 14

North Branch Storytime

10:30 to 11 a.m. at North Branch Area Library. A 30-minute program featuring stories, songs and learning activities.

Cambridge Storytime

10:45 to 11:15 a.m. in the Great Northern Meeting Room at Cambridge Public Library. Storytime with Miss Margaret featuring books, songs and learning activities.

OCT. 15

Scandinavian music

We R Able hosts a meal at 5 p.m., followed by Scandinavian music by folk musicians Ross Sutter and Art Bjorngjeld. Chisago County Senior Center, 38790 6th Ave., North Branch. Suggested meal donation is $5-$10. Call 320-358-3616.

Chisago County Board on Aging Annual Meeting

Election of offices. If you are at least 50 years of age and live or work in Chisago County, you are encouraged to attend the meeting and vote on members and other issues. Chisago County Senior/Community Center, 38790 6th Ave., North Branch

Spouse/partner loss grief support

Registration deadline for a five-week grief support group beginning Oct. 22. Group will meet Thursdays 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Medical Center Education Building. Open to bereaved spouses/partners; registration required and space is limited. Contact Judy Johnson at 763-390-2219 or Judith.johnson@allina.com.

Operation Community Connect

10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at North Branch Area High School, 38175 Grand Ave. The event connects Chisago County residents with local organizations and resources and includes free lunch.

OCT. 16

Fare for All food sale

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rush City High School, Door 5. Hot Buys, $25 Mega Meat Packs and $10 Produce Packs will be available. Open to all; no eligibility requirements or preregistration. Cash, credit, debit and EBT accepted. Checks are not accepted.

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.

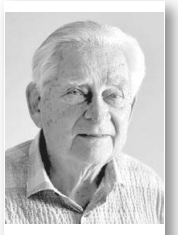
Thursdays

Bingo - starting at 10 a.m.
Hand and Foot - starting at 12:30 p.m.

Fridays

Cribbage - starting at 12:45 p.m.

Inflation impacts everyone



About the Town
Gene Johnson

Governments are struggling with the increase of inflation for all cost of goods, services, labor, and especially fuel. All of that comes back to us in the form of higher taxes on real estate, and goods and services. This has resulted in labor negotiations and small businesses struggling to maintain labor increases to match inflation percentages.

Government is trying to keep inflation under 4% with limited success. Many cities and states are running double-digits in real estate tax increases.

It's interesting to note while Minnesota struggles with increases in real estate taxes, Wisconsin has only grown by 5.8%, outpacing inflation. This is the largest increase for Wisconsin in nearly two decades.

Minnesota has a way to go to get control of government spending, and many cities and school boards need to recognize this as well.

DATA CENTERS

If we are going to continue with the new technology of artificial intelligence (AI), it's going to take data centers to handle all the information that will be accumulated. People in various communities seem to be against it. Part of the reason is the amount of water it takes for cooling and the amount of electricity for operating. Some people feel that the data centers should generate their own electricity.

Power companies are not prepared at this point to provide the amount of energy needed. Many power lines are not adequate and various other systems to gain power are either overworked or not totally available throughout the year.

Technology will continue and we have to find ways to accommodate it. We also need to recognize the pressure it could put on local systems and costs involved may come down to each one of us. Again, we need knowledgeable leaders in local government.

So much of government action is driven politically and not always in the interest of the American people. It's very hard to get that point across when political people are seeking power. Income should not be the motive.

PRESERVING HISTORY

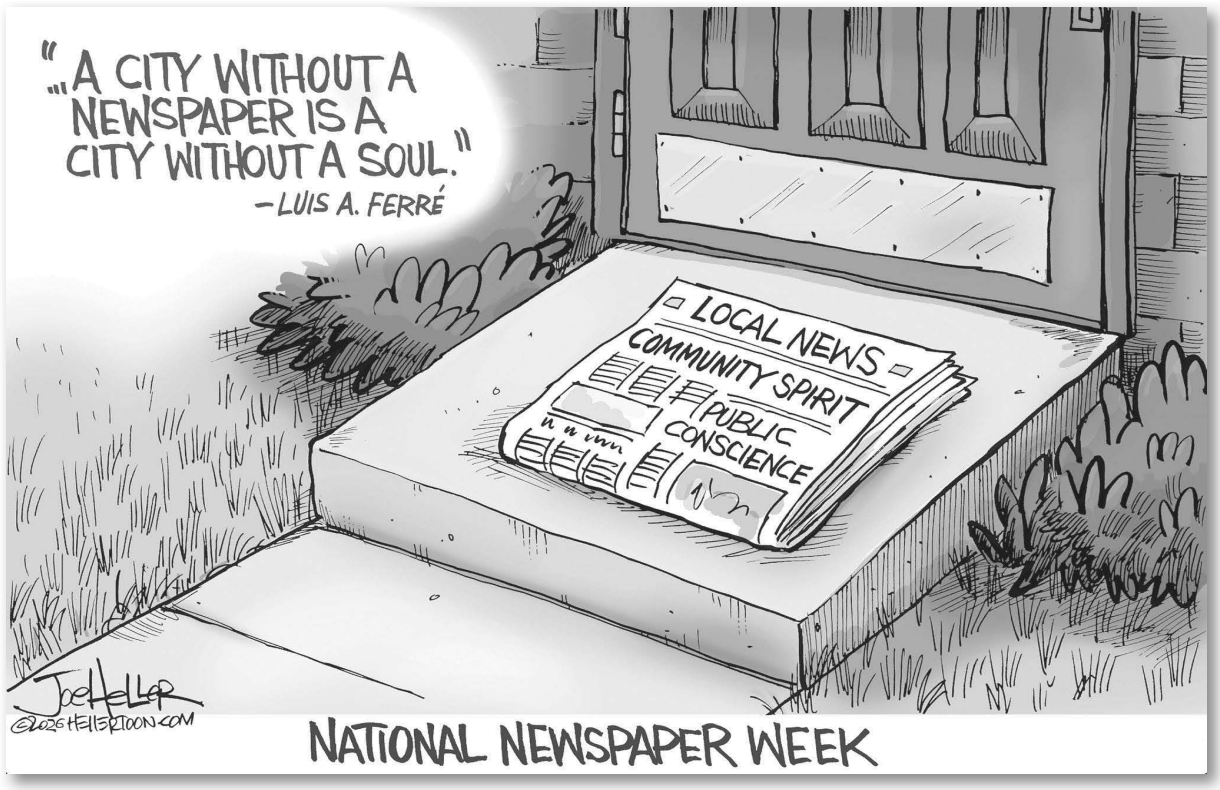
Community newspapers do a big part of preserving the history of the community in which they participate in. Unfortunately, as small towns decline in population, and the business community struggles, there isn't the revenue to maintain newspapers.

Subscribers are important and we thank all of you who are subscribing to a community newspaper. You make a difference.

Many counties today support one newspaper when in past years they would have one per community. Again, it's a sign of change. People are going online for news and information and much of what you read through social media and AI cannot be trusted. Time will take its toll unless what goes around comes around again.

October is the time we celebrate National Newspaper Week so, again, thank you for being loyal readers, advertisers, and keeping people informed about what government is doing and the public notice pages with important information.

GENE JOHNSON is Publisher Emeritus of Press Publications, owner of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be reached at ppinfo@presspubs.com.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Commissioners made right decision

To the editor,

I'm so proud of the Chisago County Board of Commissioners decision to deny the Sno Barons Snowmobile Clubs request to change their conditional use permit to 15 events a year. They will continue to have the one they have now for Hay Days.

Under Chairman Rick Greene's leadership, and a motion for denial from Commissioner Dan Dahlberg, each Commissioner gave thoughtful reasons for their unanimous denial vote. I'm thankful for leaders who put our community first!

Rick Olseen
Sunrise

Editor's note: The October 22, 2026 edition of the Isanti-Chisago County Star will be the last edition in which we will publish paid letters to the editor ahead of the Nov. 3 general election. The October 29 edition will be reserved for any needed corrections or clarifications to information previously published in a letter to the editor, and will be published solely at the Star's editorial team's discretion.

Campaign ads may still be placed in the Oct. 29 edition. To place an ad, contact Gary at 763-689-1181 or marketing@countystar.com.

LETTER GUIDELINES

The *Isanti-Chisago County Star* encourages readers to share their viewpoints of community issues by writing Letters to the Editor. Publishing decisions are made on questions of free speech, good taste, public interest and public sensitivity.

The *Star* reserves the right to edit for accuracy, clarity, libel and civility and reserves the right not to publish a letter or to hold a letter to a later edition. Personal complaints or attacks, plagiarized material, religious treatises or submissions from organized letter-writing campaigns will not be published.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

- Letters must be submitted by noon Tuesdays to editor@countystar.com or via mail to 930 S. Cleveland St., Cambridge MN 55008. The Star reserves the right to extend its deadline in the interest of timeliness of letters and/or space availability.
- Letters to the editor must be 400 words or less.
- Each letter writer may have one letter published every 30 days, or four print cycles.
- Anonymous letters will not be published. Letter signatures must include the writer's first and last name, community of residence and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published.
- Only letters originating from writers who live, work or have some other relevance to the *Star* circulation area will be published.
- An identification line may be added to the writer's letter identifying his or her occupation or title as it applies to the topic of the letter.
- Special rules apply during election season.

PAID ENDORSEMENT POLICY

The *County Star* accepts election letters endorsing or advocating for or against a ballot measure, party or candidate as paid advertising announcements. The fee is $25 for the first 250 words, plus 10 cents per additional word; no word limit. This policy is only in effect during election season (from the candidate filing date through election day.)

Like other letters to the editor, the writer's name, address and phone number are required. Phone numbers are not published. The *Star* has the right to reject letters which don't meet publishing standards and will determine if the letter qualifies as a paid endorsement.

Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

For questions about the *Star's* policies on letters contact the editor at 763-689-1181 ext. 107 or editor@countystar.com.

Your Best Source for Community Information

Isanti-Chisago County Star is published every Thursday by Northstar Media, Inc., 930 Cleveland St. S., Cambridge, MN 55008. Periodicals postage paid at Cambridge, MN 55008. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Isanti-Chisago County Star, 930 Cleveland St. S., Cambridge, MN 55008

Publisher ..... Jeff Andres
jeff@northstarmedia.net
Editor ..... Bill Stickels III
editor@countystar.com
Editor Assistant ..... Stacy Verdick Case
news@countystar.com
Advertising/Classifieds ..... Gary Glick
marketing@countystar.com
Graphic Designer ..... Kassie Lex
starcomp@countystar.com
Classifieds ..... Kris Ann Williams
starclass@countystar.com
Circulation ..... Scott Kittelson
circulation@countystar.com

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR
Published by
Northstar Media, Inc.
PRINTERS · PUBLISHERS
930 South Cleveland, Cambridge, MN 55008

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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Homecoming highlights Bluejacket pride



C-I School News
Dr. Nate Rudolph

There are moments certain times during the school year when you can really feel what it means to be a Bluejacket. Homecoming is certainly one of them.

Homecoming brings tremendous energy to our schools, but what I appreciate most are the traditions that connect our students, schools, and communities.

Each Homecoming Friday, our Homecoming Court starts their day bright and early, traveling throughout the district for the annual Royal Tour. They visit every school, joining pep rallies alongside the high school pep band and our Junior Royalty—second-grade students representing Cambridge and Isanti Primary Schools. There is something special about watching our youngest Bluejackets cheer for high school students who once sat in those same classrooms.

In the middle of a long day, the group stops at the Education Services Center for a picnic lunch and a little downtime before continuing the tour and eventually being introduced under the Friday night lights.

Meanwhile, another longstanding tradition is happening on the road. Members of our cross-country team literally run the game ball from the opposing community back to Cambridge-Isanti for the Homecoming football game. This year, that meant approximately 39 miles from Elk River!

The celebration extended well beyond our schools. Local businesses throughout our communities participated in the Homecoming window decorating contest, filling storefronts with blue and red and adding to the week's excitement. We appreciate everyone who joined the fun and demonstrated their support for our students. Photos of the decorated windows can be found on the Cambridge-Isanti Schools Facebook page.

The celebration continued Saturday evening as the Bluejacket Education Foundation hosted its annual Future Fest fundraiser. This year's event was all about school spirit, tradition, and community pride. Guests enjoyed games, hors d'oeuvres, food trucks, silent and live auctions, and even sportscasting announcers to help keep track of a lively evening.

One of the most meaningful moments of Future Fest is the presentation of the Distinguished Bluejacket Award. This year's recipients were Scott and Karen Nelson. After experiencing the unimaginable loss of two of their children, Scott and Karen turned their heartbreak into a commitment to help others through the Maddy Nelson Foundation and the Walk by Faith Gala. Their compassion and generosity have touched many lives, and their recognition was a powerful example of what it means to make a difference in the lives of others.

Future Fest is also a reminder of the work happening behind the scenes throughout the year. The Bluejacket Education Foundation is led by a volunteer Board whose members dedicate countless hours to creating opportunities and providing additional support for our students, staff, and classrooms. We are grateful for their partnership.

That idea of service brings me to another group deserving of our appreciation. September was School Board Appreciation Month, providing an opportunity to recognize the seven community members who serve on the Cambridge-Isanti School Board.

School Board service requires a tremendous commitment. Members study complex issues, establish policy, oversee district finances, listen to community perspectives, and help set the long-term direction of our schools. Much of that work happens outside public meetings, with hours spent reviewing information, serving on committees and attending school events, asking questions, and learning about the many different parts of our district.

They are regularly asked to weigh different perspectives, balance today's needs with tomorrow's responsibilities, and make difficult decisions that impact thousands of people. We are fortunate to have community members willing to give their time and talents to this important work.

Perhaps that is what has stood out most to me over these past several weeks. Bluejacket pride isn't simply about wearing blue and red or cheering on Friday night. It is found in people choosing to participate, contribute, serve, and support one another.

Whether it is a second grader joining the Royalty Tour, a business decorating its windows, runners carrying a football 39 miles, volunteers raising money for classrooms, or community members serving on our School Board, our schools are stronger because people care enough to be involved.

That is something worth celebrating—and something we should never take for granted.

DR. NATE RUDOLPH is superintendent of Cambridge-Isanti Schools. He can be reached at 763-689-6202 or nrudolph@c-ischools.org.

What we do with what we learn



NB School News
Sara Paul

Sometimes the clearest picture of what we hope for our students comes in a moment no one planned.

Recently, a young woman was sitting in a local restaurant when some photo memories popped up on her phone. One was a picture of her with her grandma, who has since passed away, taken outside one of their favorite restaurants. It captured a wonderful memory of a spontaneous lunch together, one of those ordinary moments that, with time, became anything but ordinary. Looking at the picture brought back the joy of that day and reminded her how much she treasures both the memory and the photo that captured it.

Then she looked out the restaurant window. Outside, she noticed a young boy trying to take a selfie with his grandparents. She knew that moment. So she got up, hurried outside and, with a big smile, offered to take their picture.

It was a small act. It took only a minute. But for her, it meant much more. She knew firsthand that someday, that photograph might become something that young boy holds dear. Helping another family capture a memory like one she treasured brought her tremendous joy.

I love this story because there is so much learning reflected in that simple act. She drew from her own experiences. She noticed what was happening around her. She understood another person's perspective. And rather than simply recognizing an opportunity to help, she acted.

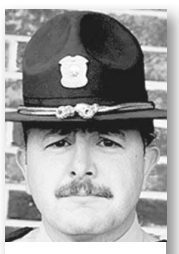
These are qualities we want to nurture as young people move through our schools. We want them to discover and grow their talents, learn from their experiences, build meaningful relationships and recognize the ways they can contribute to the people and community around them.

That kind of growth happens everywhere: in classrooms, activities, athletics, workplaces, families and throughout our community. Each experience adds something to who a young person is becoming and what they carry forward.

A young woman looked through a restaurant window and saw more than a boy trying to take a selfie. Her own memories helped her recognize the significance of the moment, and she chose to act. And because she did, another family has a memory in the making.

SARA PAUL is superintendent of North Branch Area Public Schools. She can be reached at 651-674-1000 or spaul@isd138.org.

ATV headlight safety



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Question: My question is when driving a side-by-side ATV during a bright, sunny day on a county road. Do I need to have my headlights on?

Answer: Yes, any ATV, when operating has to have the headlights on at all times if it is equipped with them.

For more information regarding ATVs and OHVs visit: https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/ohv/ohv_regs.pdf

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).

The general election for the city of Cambridge is upon us



Cambridge City Views
Monica Seiberlich

The 2026 General Election is an important election for the City of Cambridge. In the local election, residents are voting for the mayor seat and two council member seats for the upcoming 2027 to 2031 term. There are many ways to vote in Isanti County, making it easy for everyone to participate.

Absentee voting started on September 18, and will continue through Monday, November 2. To vote absentee, request a ballot by mail or in person from the Isanti County Government Center located at 555 18th Avenue SW in Cambridge. Applications to request a ballot by mail can be found on the Secretary of State's website at MNVotes.gov. Absentee ballots can be returned by mail, dropped off in person, or dropped off by an agent of the voter.

Early in-person voting, where voters are able to deposit their ballot directly into a tabulator, begins on October 16th and continues until 5:00 pm on Monday, November 2nd at the Isanti County Government Center, located at 555 18th Avenue SW.

Election day is on Tuesday, November 3, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. There are two precincts in Cambridge, both located at Cambridge City Hall, 300 3rd Ave NE. Precinct 1, located in the Cambridge Fire Department, covers all properties that are north of Highway 95 and all properties west of the railroad tracks. Precinct 2, located in the City Hall Council Chambers, covers all properties that are both east of the railroad tracks and south of Highway 95.

If you are new to the area, have moved, or had a name change, you need to register to vote. You can register online on the Secretary of State's website at MNVotes.org on or before October 13. If you miss the cutoff to register online, you can register at the Isanti County Government Center if voting early, or you can register on election day at your precinct. To register to vote, you will need a photo ID with current name and address, or a photo ID and a document with current name and address. Alternatively, a registered voter in your precinct may vouch for your residency by signing an oath confirming your address.

Want more information, to see what is on your ballot, or find your precinct? Visit the Secretary of State's website at MNVotes.org.

Monica Seiberlich is the City Clerk and Assistant to the City Administrator for the City of Cambridge. If you have any questions related to this column, please feel free to reach out by email at mseiberlich@ci.cambridge.mn.us or by phone at 763-689-3211.



OBITUARIES

Lois Ann (Davis) Peterson

Lois Ann (Davis) Peterson passed away peacefully on October 4, 2026, at the age of 93 in North Branch, Minnesota.

She was born on July 8, 1933, in Alexandria, Minnesota, to H. Max and Anna M. Davis. She began her life on a family farm near Osakis, Minnesota, with her parents and sister, Gayle. When Lois was two years old, the family moved to a farm near Braham, Minnesota.



Lois attended country school through fifth grade before continuing her education in Braham. She graduated from Braham High School in 1951. Following graduation, she moved to Minneapolis, where she worked as a receptionist at H.J. Minar Ford and later as a typist at Dun & Bradstreet.

On September 8, 1956, Lois married Paul G. Peterson of Isanti, Minnesota, at Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church. The couple initially built a new home near Isanti. Eight months later, they exchanged homes with Paul's parents and moved to the Peterson family farm, where they raised their three children. Following her marriage, Lois became a member of North Isanti Baptist Church, where her faith was an important part of her life. She faithfully served by teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, helping with the Wednesday evening girls' program, and working as the church's financial secretary for more than 20 years.

Lois was known for her sweet giggle and the smile that so often graced her face. She was a wonderful cook who spent a lot of time in the kitchen preparing meals for her family and anyone who happened to be around at mealtime. Her home was a welcoming place, and sharing food and fellowship with others was important to her.

She also enjoyed crocheting afghans and baby blankets, which she lovingly made as gifts for family and friends. Her cross-stitched pictures became treasured keepsakes, each one reflecting the time and care she put into creating something special for someone she loved. Lois also enjoyed reading and shopping.

For two months each year, Lois and Paul escaped the Minnesota winters to enjoy the warm Florida sunshine. These trips provided many cherished memories with Paul's brothers and sisters, their spouses, and dear friends.

Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Peterson; her parents, H. Max and Anna M. Davis; her sister, Gayle Milz; and several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Lois's legacy of love continues through her three children—Wayne (Colleen) Peterson, Richard (Renee) Peterson, and Kathy (Lance) Olson, ten grandchildren—Chris, Landon, Calista, Megan, Chelsea, Candace, Kyle, Jessica, Logan, and Alex—16 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, many beloved nieces and nephews, and one brother-in-law.

She will be remembered for her faith, her generous heart, her love of family, her gifts made by hand, her welcoming kitchen, and the sweet smile and giggle that made her so special to those who knew and loved her.

We want to say a special thank you to Ecumen Assisted Living, Ecumen Transition Care and Ecumen Hospice for their wonderful care of Lois.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations preferred to North Isanti Baptist Church or Children's Shelter of Cebu.

Memorial Service 11 a.m., Saturday, October 17, 2026 at North Isanti Baptist Church. Visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment in the church cemetery. Reception to follow at Isanti Community Center. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge. carlsonlillemoen.com

Sharon Ann Sudeith

Sharon Ann Sudeith, age 83, of Isanti, Minnesota, passed away on October 1, 2026.

Sharon was born on February 21, 1943, in Fort Snelling, Minnesota, to Harold and Margit (Hanson) Smith. As the daughter of an Army serviceman, she spent her childhood moving throughout the country and overseas until her father retired. After graduating from Bloomington High School in 1960, she worked as a secretary for car dealerships for several years.



Sharon married William "Bill" Sudeith, on December 8, 1985 at Long Lake Lutheran Church, and together they built a life filled with family, love, and travel. She worked with children at Bar None Treatment Center and later served as a health paraprofessional for the St. Francis School District. Through PATH (Professional Association of Treatment Home), she and Bill opened their home to approximately 25 to 30 foster children. Sharon had a special gift for helping children facing difficult circumstances and was beloved by those she cared for.

Sharon loved traveling with Bill. Their adventures included three trips to Europe, twelve trips to Mexico, nine cruises, and many journeys by car, cycles and tour bus. She was happiest riding motorcycles with Bill. She enjoyed short trips and had a special love for all motorcycles. Sharon was happiest riding motorcycles with Bill. She had a special love for motorcycles and especially enjoyed taking short trips together, appreciating the open road, the scenery, and the time they shared. Those rides became some of her most treasured memories.

A devoted wife and mother, Sharon was a kind, loving, and caring person. She was an active member of Long Lake Lutheran Church and volunteered with hospice care. Her compassion touched many lives, and she will be lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Margit Smith; stepson, Bill Sudeith; brothers, Mark Smith, Paul Smith; sister and brother-in-law, Barb and Dick Bourque.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Bill; son, Donn (Sandee) Blodgett; daughters, Alicia Ritter and Autumn Knight; stepsons, Michael Sudeith (Patti), Joseph Sudeith, and Andrew Sudeith (Casey); sisters, Brenda (Mike) Corrigan and Carol Swenson; foster son, Nate Hankner; sister-in-law Linda Smith; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

May the Lord keep her until we meet and come together again.

Funeral Service 11 a.m. Thursday October 8, 2026 at Long Lake Lutheran Church, Isanti, MN. Visitation 1 hour prior to service at the church. Interment Long Lake Community Cemetery.

www.carlsonlillemoen.com

Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home 763-689-2244

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CONTRIBUTED

Made to grow

Blake Penzimas (right) of BP Metals in Isanti gives a tour of their manufacturing facility in Isanti. Participants in the East Central Development Partnership's Manufacturing Summit toured BP Metals in Isanti on Sept. 25 as part of the event's focus on the opportunities and innovation happening within the region's manufacturing industry. The summit, held in recognition of October as Manufacturing Month in Minnesota, brought together regional business and community leaders to learn about scaling manufacturing operations, succession planning and the success stories of local manufacturers. The summit featured BP Metals as a local spotlight, along with Isanti-based Metal Coatings. Learn more about the East Central Development Partnership and its regional economic development efforts at ecdp.us.



CONTRIBUTED

Left to right: Eric Houdek, Gabriella Houdek, Tyler Ratka, Jacob Harbaugh, Rachel Visser, Evan Hathaway, Isaac Haagen, Les Hansen

UofM wins National Dairy Cattle Judging Contest

The University of Minnesota's dairy cattle judging team once again placed 1st overall in the National Intercollegiate Contest held September 26 at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. The margin of victory was a substantial 41 points.

Last year's win by the University of Minnesota was the first time in history that a university placed 1st in the national contest three years in a row. This fourth consecutive win sets a new milestone. The Minnesota team was also 1st in oral reasons (15-point margin), 1st in placings, and 1st in three breeds — Brown Swiss, Jersey, and Holstein. Sixty-four four-year college students from 18 universities competed in the contest.

Team members were Jacob Harbaugh, Marion, Wisc.; Rachel Visser, Hutchinson, Minn.; Evan Hathaway, Barneveld, Wisc.; and Tyler Ratka, Cold Spring, Minn. Individually, Harbaugh was 1st overall and 1st in oral reasons. Visser was 4th overall and 2nd in oral reasons, and Hathaway was 9th overall and 11th in oral reasons.

Coaches for the University of Minnesota's dairy cattle judging program are Dr. Les Hansen, Dr. Isaac Haagen, and alumni Eric and Gabriella Houdek.

Team rank: 1. Minnesota, 2. Iowa State, 3. Ohio State, 4. Penn State, 5. UW-River Falls, 6. Purdue, 7. UW-Madison, 8. Cornell, 9. Florida, 10. Virginia Tech, 11. Kansas State, 12. South Dakota State, 13. UW-Platteville, 14. Michigan State, 15. Aeres University, The Netherlands, 16. Delaware Valley, 17. Illinois, 18. Oklahoma State.

~ College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge-Isanti's Peyton Coplan tries to fend off a diving Elk River tackler during the Bluejackets' Homecoming game against the Elks.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Bluejacket libero Kendrah Chouinard receives a serve during Cambridge-Isanti's game against North Branch. This was C-I's first home game of the season due to the replacing of the bleachers and refurbishing of the floors taking longer than expected.



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

North Branch's William Determan leaves a Duluth East tackler grasping at nothing but air during the Vikings' Homecoming game against the Greyhounds.

C-I, NB HOME & SECTION SCHEDULES

To see both schools' full schedules, go to www.gobound.com. Schedules are subject to change with minimal advanced notice based on weather, availability of officials, or other reasons.

Thursday, Oct. 8
•C-I girls soccer vs. Hibbing (6 p.m.)
•C-I volleyball vs. Monticello (7 p.m.)
•C-I girls tennis vs. Duluth East (Section 7AAA team semifinals) (4 p.m.)
•NB boys soccer vs. Mesabi East (7 p.m.)
•NB girls tennis vs. Grand Rapids (Section 7AA team semifinals) (3 p.m.)

Saturday, Oct. 10
•C-I girls tennis vs. TBD @ Rogers (Section 7AAA team championship - if they won semifinal match) (3 p.m.)

Monday, Oct. 12
•C-I volleyball vs. Big Lake (7 p.m.)

Tuesday, Oct. 13
•C-I girls swim & dive vs. Princeton (5:30 p.m.)
•C-I girls tennis @ Andover (Section 7AAA individual tournament)
•NB volleyball vs. Big Lake (7 p.m.)
•NB girls tennis vs. TBD @ Virginia (Section 7AA team championship - if they won semifinal match) (Time TBD)

Wednesday, Oct. 14
•C-I football vs. Sauk Rapids-Rice (7 p.m.)
•NB football vs. Duluth Denfeld (7 p.m.)

C-I, NB OCTOBER 1 - 6 SCOREBOARD

October 1
C-I girls soccer 4, Princeton 0
*Finley Nelson & Kyla Terhell - 2 goals
C-I boys soccer 0, Princeton 1
C-I girls tennis 7, Big Lake 0
*Anya Lowman completes third-straight season of undefeated conference matches
C-I volleyball 0, North Branch 3 (15-25, 22-25, 17-25)
C-I girls swim & dive x, Becker x
NB girls tennis 2, Monticello 5
NB boys soccer 1, Chisago Lakes 1
NB girls soccer 1, Chisago Lakes 7

October 2
C-I football 13, Elk River 43
NB football 36, Duluth East 13

October 3
C-I girls swim & dive @ Greyhound Invite - 7th/9 teams
*Top finisher: Anika Michaelis - 1st place (diving)
NB girls soccer 0, Duluth Denfeld 9

October 5
C-I volleyball 0, Centennial 3 (22-25, 14-25, 20-25)
C-I girls soccer 0, Duluth East 8
NB girls tennis 7, Zimmerman 0
NB boys soccer 2, Princeton 2
NB girls soccer 0, Princeton 3

October 6
C-I girls cross country @ Hinkley-Finlayson Invite - 1st/9 teams
*Top finishers: Lucia Larson - 2nd place (21:11.8), Sydney Venhuizen - 4th place (21:23.2)
C-I boys cross country @ Hinkley-Finlayson Invite - 1st/10 teams
*Top finisher: Jeremiah Guldseth - 3rd place (17:52.2)
C-I volleyball 3, St. Francis 0 (25-18, 25-8), 25-17)
C-I girls tennis 6, Anoka 1 (Section 7AAA team quarterfinals)
NB girls tennis 6, Duluth Denfeld 1 (Section 7AA team quarterfinals)
NB girls cross country @ Hinkley-Finlayson Invite - 4th/9 teams
*Top finisher: Lyla Stiner - 6th place (21:39.0)
NB boys cross country @ Hinkley-Finlayson Invite - 2nd/10 teams
*Top finisher: Caleb Rueter - 1st place (16:53.9)
NB volleyball 3, Chisago Lakes 1 (25-14, 25-10, 22-25, 25-17)
NB boys soccer 0, Cloquet 2
NB girls soccer 0, Monticello 9

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Future Fest raises money for C-I schools, awards Distinguished Bluejacket



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Chloe Nelson accepts the Distinguished Bluejacket award on behalf of her parents Scott and Karen from Shannon Kirkeide during the annual Bluejacket Education Foundation's "Future Fest fundraiser held at Braham Event Center on Saturday, Oct. 3. The Nelson family has raised over a half-million dollars for local and regional non-profits through their Maddy Nelson Memorial Foundation, which was formed in honor of Chloe's sister, who died from a rare form of childhood cancer. A large portion of the money raised by the foundation has been from the "Walk by Faith Gala," which was started in honor of Chloe's twin sister, who died in a snowmobile crash.
Future Fest is the Bluejacket Education Foundation's primary fundraiser, with money raised going towards grants to Cambridge-Isanti School District teachers to be used for special classroom projects the district cannot afford to fund through its budget. This year's event raised over $30,000. Since 2022, the foundation has distributed 49 grants, totaling over $75,000.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The East Central Grad Band added to the atmosphere of Future Fest's "Pep Rally" theme, including playing the school song.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

(Far left) Bluejacket head boys coach had the pressure of making a putt in order for the foundation to receive extra donations from attendees. Even though he missed the putt - actually he missed three putts - the donations were still made.
(Near left) Larry Ostrom tries the football toss game. Besides games, this year's event featured a silent and live auction, plus dinner and desert from food trucks.

Parkinson's
SUPPORT GROUP

OCTOBER 15

Thursday, October 15
3:00-4:00 PM
Welia Health–Mora | Conference Rooms
301 Highway 65 South | Mora, MN 55051

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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** to explore all Welia Health Support Groups.

welia HEALTH



Central MN Council on Aging Advisory Committee Opening

Central Minnesota Council on Aging is currently accepting applications to fill the **Isanti County** representative seat on our advisory committee, effective January 2027. Are you an engaged aging service provider, older adult, family caregiver, or community member looking for an opportunity to make a positive difference? If you either work or live in Isanti County you could be a candidate for this committee.

As a member of the Advisory Committee you will play a vital role in:

- Advising the board of directors in the development of our area plan.
- Identifying the needs of older adults and caregivers in the region.
- Reviewing grant proposals and making funding recommendations to the board of directors.

Central MN Council on Aging
cmcoa
Supporting our aging community

For application or more information go to: www.cmcoa.org

Application deadline: October 27, 2026



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Now that's something to smile about

Anoka-Ramsey Community College celebrated the initial accreditation of its new dental assisting program at the Cambridge campus with a "floss cutting ceremony." Representatives of ARCC were joined by representatives of the city of Cambridge and North 65 Chamber of Commerce in the ceremony.

ARCC converted over 4,000 square feet of space into dental educational space, which includes state-of-the-art classroom equipment for hands-on lab learning for students. The program also partners with local dental offices for additional experiences for students.

The first class of the program will begin in January. Once they complete the program, ARCC can apply for full accreditation.

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Cambridge-Isanti, North Branch celebrate Homecoming week



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Anya Lowman and Razz Estrem were named Cambridge-Isanti Homecoming Queen and King.



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

Reese Moryn and Isaiah Yang were named North Branch Homecoming Queen and King.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The Cambridge-Isanti senior girls defeated the juniors 14-0 in their annual Powder Puff game.



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

The North Branch senior girls defeated the juniors 20-8 in their annual Powder Puff game.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

What tailgating party is complete without a game of cornhole?



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge Police therapy dog Jack greets people at the tailgating party.



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

The North Branch senior and junior boys compete in a volleyball game on the football field.



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

North Branch's festivities again included a pickleball tournament.

Think Pink

Join these local businesses in supporting breast cancer awareness this October!

If you experience any of the warning signs described below, see a health care provider.

Warning Signs

1. Lump, hard knot or thickening inside the breast or underarm area.
2. Swelling, warmth, redness or darkening of the breast.
3. Change in the size or shape of the breast.
4. Dimpling or puckering of the skin.
5. Itchy, scaly sore rash on the nipple.
6. Pulling in of the nipple or other parts of the breast.
7. Nipple discharge that starts suddenly.
8. New pain in one spot that does not go away.

–Information by Susan G. Komen Foundation

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Winners chosen for pheasant and turkey stamp contests

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has chosen winners for the Minnesota pheasant and turkey stamp contests. Winners were selected for both contests on Oct. 1.

Farmington artist Heidi Haugen won the pheasant stamp contest with an acrylic painting of a pheasant. The contest had 11 eligible submissions. Second place was John Barnard of Virginia, and third place was Jake Levisen of Austin. The winning artwork will be featured on the 2027 pheasant stamp.

Lakeville artist Stephen Hamrick won the turkey stamp contest with an acrylic painting of a turkey. The contest had five eligible submissions. Second place was Ronald Engebretson of Owatonna, and third place was Thomas Lofquist of Lester Prairie. The winning artwork will be featured on the 2028 turkey stamp.

The DNR thanks all artists for their submissions in this year's contest. The contest not only celebrates the tradition of hunting, but also the talent and creativity of Minnesota artists.

The pheasant stamp and turkey stamp can be purchased in combination with hunting licenses or as collectables. Visit the Minnesota DNR stamp webpage (mndnr.gov/stamps) for more information about habitat stamps and contest guidelines. ~MN DNR

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: Recepient demonstrates a passion for service

FROM PAGE I

for the fire service," the presentation said.

Captain Matchinsky has been with the Cambridge Fire Department since January 2010. During that time, he has served as both a firefighter and fire captain for the department. Additionally, he is a drone pilot and a certified fire and explosion investigator.

He frequently has one of the highest response rates to calls in the middle of the night or early hours of the morning and spends a significant amount of this time training and supporting newer firefighters.

Matchinsky's passion for the fire service extends beyond the Cambridge Fire Department. He has served on the Minnesota Fire Certification Board, Minnesota Fallen Firefighters Memorial Association Honor Guard, the Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, and currently serves as the Vice President of MSFDA.

His award recognition went on to say, "His journey hasn't always been easy. When faced with personal challenges, he showed tremendous courage and determination. He faced those challenges head-on, did the work necessary to move forward, and returned with an even greater passion and commitment to the fire service."

Perhaps one of the greatest compliments came from the firefighter who nominated him, who said he is someone he personally looks up to and an example of the kind of firefighter and leader he hopes to become as he grows in the fire service. He has given countless volunteer hours to help strengthen the fire service, support fellow firefighters, and make a difference well beyond his own community.

"This award is not based on one fire, one rescue, or one act of heroism," Deputy Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Ross Benzen said. "It recognizes a firefighter's overall service involvement and contribution to the fire service."

SURPRISE AWARD

Matchinsky received the award at the MSFDA Fall Conference in Breezy Point on Sept. 19. Despite being vice president of MSFDA, he was completely caught off guard as being the recipient of the award, according to Cambridge Fire Chief Todd Tomczik.

"We had the pleasure of trying to keep this under wraps from Dave at the conference," Tomczik said. "Dave is on the board, and when DeeDee Jankovich, the executive director, emailed me and said Dave had won, I was like, 'How are we going to keep this quiet?' Well, we pulled it off up until about the last minute. With the help of Jill, Dave's better half, we were able to surprise Dave. We had about a third of our firefighters up there that night, but we were able to keep it under wraps. So it was a fun evening."

"I would just like to thank all my partners in the fire department, all the leaders I have had in the past, the support of the various councils over the years, and the general public," Matchinsky said. "It's a great place to serve."

FINANCE: New staff brings savings

FROM PAGE I

director for the St. Paul Public Housing Agency.

"She commented in her process and her research about being enthusiastic to join an organization that has been as forward-looking and conscientious with its financial practices and recognitions as this one and is excited to join the team," Vogel said.

Vogel also added the promotion of Bruzer and the hiring of Holm would ultimately save the city approximately $70,000 per year considering Bruzer's salary will be less than Moe's and Holm's salary will be less than what Bruzer's was as assistant finance director.

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Chisago Age Well Expo set for Oct. 16

The Chisago Age Well Expo returns Friday, Oct. 16, with information, health screenings, mini-courses and entertainment for older adults, caregivers and others interested in aging well.

The free event, hosted by the Chisago Age Well Coalition and Chisago Lakes Community Education, will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Chisago Lakes High School in Lindstrom.

The high school Performing Arts Center will feature about 60 informational tables covering topics including senior services, health, housing, social activities, entertainment and volunteer opportunities.

The Expo is open to everyone, with a particular focus on people who are retired, preparing for retirement or caring for an older loved one.

The event will include health screenings, hearing tests, vaccinations, musical entertainment and four 15-minute mini-courses. The mini-courses are designed to provide participants with an opportunity to learn something new in a short format.

The schedule includes:

• 9:45 a.m. — Exercise with Diane, featuring sitting and standing exercises designed to improve strength and flexibility.

• 10:15 a.m. — Painting with Pam, where participants can learn about alcohol ink painting and create a project to take home.

• 11:45 a.m. — Line Dancing with Sheryl, featuring a simple line dance.

• 12:15 p.m. — Ukulele Strumming with Kris & Barb. Participants can learn basic chords and songs, with ukuleles provided. No prior experience is necessary.

Participants can sign up for the mini-courses when they arrive at the Expo.

Jenni Thyng will be the keynote speaker at 10:30 a.m., presenting "Joy in Every Season."

Laura Sakry of Minnesota Aging Pathways, formerly Senior Linkage Line, will close the event at 1 p.m. with "What's New in Medicare in 2027?" The presentation will cover upcoming changes to Medicare.

Health services will be available throughout the event. Fairview Health Services will offer cognitive, blood pressure and diabetes screenings. Other screenings will include balance, memory, mental health and hearing.

The Chisago Lakes Lions Club will provide free hearing screenings, with the North Branch Lions providing an additional audiometer to help accommodate more participants.

Thrifty White Pharmacy of Lindstrom will offer influenza vaccines, including high-dose and regular versions, the latest COVID-19 vaccine, RSV vaccine and Prevnar20 pneumonia vaccine. Participants are asked to wear short sleeves and bring their insurance card.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Good Company community chorus, with Unexpected Company scheduled to perform at 12:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be available at the concession stand, along with a $5 lunch served by Dinner Rebellion. Vendor giveaways and door prizes will also be offered.

The Chisago Age Well Coalition is a nonprofit organization that provides older adults and caregivers with information and resources intended to help them live and age well in their homes and communities.

For more information, visit chisagoagewell.org.

~ The Chisago Age Well Coalition



CONTRIBUTED

Denise Olson Named Robinson/ Anderson Volunteer of the Year

Denise Olson, investment property manager at Frandsen Financial Corporation, was named the 2026 Robinson/ Anderson Volunteer of the Year by Lakes and Pines Community Action Council, Inc. (Lakes and Pines).

The Robinson/Anderson Volunteer of the Year award is presented annually to individuals or groups whose volunteerism with Lakes and Pines makes a significant, long-lasting impact in their community.

Lakes and Pines serves individuals and families across seven counties in East Central Minnesota: Aitkin, Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine counties. Through a wide range of programs and services, Lakes and Pines helps meet critical community needs, including housing stability, energy assistance, early childhood education, employment and financial support, and family development.

For more than 14 years, Denise has volunteered with Lakes and Pines' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, helping individuals and families access free, high-quality tax-preparation services.

Denise's extensive knowledge and supportive approach make her a valuable resource to Lakes and Pines volunteers and taxpayers. Over the past five years, Denise has volunteered an average of 70 hours per year with VITA. She also oversees the Lakes and Pines North Branch tax preparation site, ensuring it operates efficiently during tax season, and serves on the Lakes and Pines Board of Directors and several board committees.

"Denise's generosity, integrity, and commitment to serving her community make her an extraordinary volunteer and an outstanding candidate for the Volunteer of the Year Award," said Denise Stewart, executive director of Lakes and Pines. "We are honored to recognize her many years of dedicated service and cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition." ~ Lakes and Pines

Are Minnesota elections secure?

30,000 election judges have been trained to work across our 87 counties

Minnesota towns and counties have hired and certified more than 30,000 trained election workers to administer our elections this fall. Local citizens across our 87 counties – our neighbors, family, and friends representing Republicans, Democrats, and other political parties – already have begun these temporary jobs.

Before election day on November 3, local election workers have been testing voting equipment, assigning judges to precincts, processing voter registration applications, and serving as general managers of their local elections.

"In Minnesota, community members run the elections, and they are the people who ensure our elections are secure by working before, during, and after election day," said Mary Hartnett, Executive Director of the non-partisan, non-profit Clean Elections Minnesota organization. "On Election Day, they set up polling places, check in and register voters, distribute ballots, secure the ballots and machines after the polls close, and verify that the number of ballots matches the number of voters. After Election Day, bipartisan teams verify vote counts through independent post-election audits."

Minnesota usually has the highest voter turnout in the nation, and Hartnett attributes this in part to our local approach. "With people from our own communities managing the election process, we have a sense of accountability and local pride. It makes us want to show up and participate."

Election researchers, along with leaders from both major political parties, agree that Minnesota has the safest and securest system in the country, and that Minnesotans can be confident of our election outcomes.(1) The nonpartisan MIT Elections Performance Index found that in 2024 (the most recent national election), Minnesota had the highest percentage of eligible voters actually voting, at 76%, and the highest scores nationwide in election administration policy and performance.(2)

'With people from our own communities managing the election process, we have a sense of accountability and local pride. It makes us want to show up and participate.'

Mary Hartnett
Executive Director of Clean Elections Minnesota

"We encourage Minnesotans to continue our community-led traditions by making a plan to vote this year. Eligible voters can vote early in person, vote with an absentee ballot by mail or in person, or vote at your polling place on November 3."

1 Politics Friday interview, Sept. 18, 2026

2 MIT Election Data and Science Lab, elections.mit.edu

Clean Elections Minnesota (www.cleanelectionsmn.org) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that seeks an inclusive and healthy democracy for our state and encourages every eligible voter to vote.

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ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Town Hall re-opening celebrated by Oxford Township

Oxford Township marked a milestone on Oct. 1 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand re-opening of its town hall. The event was held during the final Makers Market of the season. Town Board Chair Ryan Hondlik cut the ribbon.

Hondlik thanked residents for supporting the decision to renovate the existing building rather than construct a new one. To date, the renovation has cost under $40,000, compared with an estimated $250,000 or more for a new build.

"Our town hall belongs to the people of Oxford Township, and they trusted us to be good stewards of it," said Hondlik. "Instead of spending a quarter of a million dollars on something new, we invested wisely in what we already had. Seeing neighbors gather here again is the best return we could ask for."

At the May 2025 Town Board meeting, Hondlik recommended that the board move forward with efforts to bring the town hall back into use, beginning with a roof replacement. Years of minimal maintenance had led to water damage and humidity problems. The board enlisted ProCare Services, Inc., a firm operating since 1983 that specializes in moisture intrusion and mold investigations. Its report concluded that the "sky is NOT falling," but found moisture damage and mold contamination that should be remediated.

In May 2026, the board approved contracting with ServPro to remediate affected sheetrock and insulation with new materials.

Additional improvements included:

- Installing a moisture barrier in the ceiling
- Opening the hallway wall to create an open-concept kitchen space
- Renovating the bathrooms, including one that is ADA compliant
- Updating the HVAC system to suit the new floor plan
- Fresh coat of paint and trim

All work was completed by licensed and insured contractors. The project was paid for entirely with existing levy dollars and spread over a year and a half, so no additional tax dollars were required. Hondlik oversaw the project, which was managed through detailed budgeting and oversight.



CONTRIBUTED

Oxford Township Town Board Chair Ryan Hondlik cuts the ribbon Oct. 1 during a ceremony celebrating the grand reopening of the Oxford Township Town Hall.

The Township extends its sincere thanks to the Isanti Fire District for its support during the renovations. The district welcomed the Town Board and residents at Fire Hall No. 3 for monthly meetings and hosted township elections while the town hall was under construction.

The board has discussed future updates, including floor finishing and exterior siding. The Township also plans to adopt a yearly maintenance plan to protect the building as an important community asset. ~ Oxford Township

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)

Catholic

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

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN.
763-444-4035
Email: brigitte@isantiacc.org
Mass: Wed. 8:30am.
Sun. 8:30am.
isantiaac.org

Evangelical Covenant

Karmel Covenant Church
5799 County Road 6, Princeton MN
763-389-3169
Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis
Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson
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
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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
9:00 - 9:45 Sunday School
Children may join worship service or be picked up by an adult
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 | 8:30 am
Contemporary | 9:15 & 10:30
KidZone 9:15 and 10:30
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
New Location
763-689-4355
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 8am
Sunday Adult Bible Study 9:15am
Sunday School 9:15am
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 9am
Sunday School 9:30am 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.sllchurch.org
Email: sll.church@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
8 & 10 a.m. Worship
9 a.m. Coffee Hour/Fellowship
9 a.m. Sunday School
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.
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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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FORECLOSURES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 4, 2020 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $170,848.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Amy Helget and Hans Solberg, both single MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Bay Equity LLC, its successors and assigns TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#:1006166-0004098637-5 SERVICER: Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services LENDER: Bay Equity LLC. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Isanti County Minnesota, Recorder, on May 11, 2020, as Document No. A492285. ASSIGNED TO: Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services by an Assignment of Mortgage dated 06/06/2023 and recorded on 06/09/2023 as Document No. A523820 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 10, Block 9, Woodcrest Park, Isanti County, Minnesota PROPERTY ADDRESS: 33560 Rochester St NE, Cambridge, MN 55008 PROPERTY I.D: 03.058.0330 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Isanti THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Four and 34/100 ($155,724.34) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 10:00 AM on November 10, 2026 PLACE OF SALE: Isanti County Sheriff`s Office, 2440 Main Street South, Cambridge MN 55008 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale.If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on May 10, 2027, or the next business day if May 10, 2027 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED." MORTGAGORS RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None Dated: September 24, 2026 SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES Randall S. Miller and Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee Edinburgh Executive Office Center, 8525 Edinbrook Crossing North Suite #210 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 Phone: (248) 335-9200 Our File No. 25MN00142-2 A-4887747 09/24/2026, 10/01/2026, 10/08/2026, 10/15/2026, 10/22/2026, 10/29/2026

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 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: Clear Step Math

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 203 22nd Ln SW, CAMBRIDGE MN 55008

APPLICANT(S):

Name: Ashley Williams

Address: 203 22nd Ln SW, CAMBRIDGE MN 55008

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: Ashley Williams

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: apwilliams0724@gmail.com

Work Item 1667148100028

Original File Number 1667148100028

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED 9/12/2025 11:59 PM

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 1, 8, 2026

NOTICES

SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

The complete minutes are available for public inspection at the office of the City Administrator, 300 3rd Ave. NE, Cambridge, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor James Godfrey; Council Members Aaron Berg, Bob Shogren, Molly Christian, and Mark Ziebarth.

• Called meeting to order at 6:00 pm

• Approved Consent Agenda Items A through I

• Discussed Electronic Bikes and Scooters

• Approved Cambridge Police Department AXON Proposal

• Approved Application for Downtown Grant for City Center Market

• Approved Downtown Water Stubbing Program

• Approved Additional Sandquist Park Parking Lot

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 8, 2026

CITY OF EAST BETHEL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION ORDINANCE NO. 2026-04

On September 28th, 2026, the City Council for the City of East Bethel determined that summary outlined herein clearly informs the public of the intent and effect of Ordinance No. 2026-04 as adopted by the City Council relating to the regulation and ordinances associated with the governance of Short-Term Rentals within the City. The City Council has authorized publication of this summary in lieu of publication of the complete ordinance pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 412.191, Subdivision 4.

Summary as Follows:

On September 28th, 2026, the City Council of the City of East Bethel adopted Ordinance No. 2026-04 establishing a new Chapter 51 of the City Code regulating short-term rentals.

The ordinance defines a short-term rental as the rental or offering of a dwelling, in whole or in part, for periods of less than thirty (30) consecutive days and establishes a licensing and permitting system for such uses.

The ordinance establishes two approval processes. Certain lower-intensity short-term rentals may qualify for an Administrative License. An Interim Use Permit is required for properties that do not meet the administrative-license standards, including properties with more than three bedrooms, non-homestead properties, properties offered for rental more than 120 days per year, properties proposing use of an accessory structure, properties within 250 feet of another approved short-term rental, and properties located wholly or partially within the Shoreland Overlay District.

Short-term rentals are limited to properties within the Coon Lake, Rural Residential, and R-1 zoning districts. The ordinance establishes requirements addressing occupancy, rental duration, parking, septic-system capacity, swimming pools, responsible-party availability, annual licensing, inspections, recordkeeping, and posting of required information.

The ordinance prohibits use of short-term rental properties for parties, weddings, receptions, commercial gatherings, clubs, networking events, and other organized social or commercial activities and establishes limitations on nonregistered guests, signage, portable toilets, tents, and similar event-related activities.

The ordinance also establishes nuisance, and enforcement provisions and authorizes suspension or revocation of a Short-Term Rental License or Interim Use Permit for violations, nuisance conditions, repeated complaints, or failure to comply with applicable City Code requirements.

This publication is a summary of Ordinance No. 2026-04. The full text of Ordinance No. 2026-04 is available for inspection at East Bethel City Hall during regular business hours, located at 2241 221St Ave. NE, East Bethel, MN 55001 and may also be obtained by contacting the City Office at 763-367-7844. This Notice shall be published in the City's official newspaper on October 8th, 2026 or immediately thereafter.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 8, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF ISANTI PLANNING COMMISSION

Public Hearing on October 20th, 2026

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00pm at the Isanti City Hall located at 110 First Avenue NW;** the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the following item(s):

1) Request by the Delightful Acres Weddings and Events for a Conditional Use Permit for 27600 Polk St NE to operate a restaurant under City Ordinance Chapter 350 Article 7.

2) Request by Capstone Homes for Annexation by Property Owner Petition and Zoning Map Amendment for the parcel located at PID 05.021.0102.

3) Request by Northern Crown, LLC for a Zoning Text Amendment to allow Minnesota Cannabis Flower Packaging Endorsement as a permitted accessory use to Cannabis Retail in B-1, B-2, B-3, BIT, and I-1 districts city-wide under City Ordinance 445 Section 21.

4) Request by City staff to revoke a cottage food Home Occupation permit for 406 11 Ave NW under City Ordinance 350 Section 13.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY OF ISANTI, MINNESOTA.

Jared Haas

Associate Planner

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 8, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

102 Services

Alterations and clothing repairs, 25 years experience. 320-396-4152 Contact Rosemary. Braham

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112 Tree Service

Tree Fellers – Tree removal, trimming, stump grinding (even if we don't cut your trees!), hazard limbs, yard friendly equipment. 30+ years experience. Insured. Call for free estimate 763-443-2631

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150 Help Wanted

BASS LAKE LUMBER - Grantsburg, WI is hiring an Inside Sales & Hardware Associate. Strong computer/organizational skills, building materials experience a plus. Apply in person or call 715-488-2471. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

BASS LAKE LUMBER - Grantsburg, WI is hiring a Forklift Operator/Backup Dispatcher for their lumber yard. Computer skills required, hands-on work, customer service focus. Apply in person or call 715-488-2471. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

Need a Legal Published? Call 763.689.1181

150 Help Wanted

CITY OF AMERY seeks part-time Administrative Assistant, 24 hrs/week, Mon-Thurs. Website, financials, elections, cash handling, scheduling. Computer experience required. Send cover letter & resume by Oct. 16 to deb.trandum@amerywi.gov or 104 W. Maple St., Amery. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

GRANTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT has an immediate opening for Student Information Support (Scheduling) at iForward online charter school. Full-time, 12-month, on-site. Strong organizational skills needed. Details and apply at www.gk12.net. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

Rudy's Redeye Grill is HIRING a broiler cook for nights & weekends. Must have one yr exp. Cll Jacqlyn @ 651*/272*3783 or send resume to Jschoen@whitebearcountryinn.com

150 Help Wanted

KORTH TRANSFER hiring full-time dairy hauling drivers. Class A CDL with tanker required. $0.58/mile, set days off, 16 paid holidays, up to 5 weeks vacation, retirement plan. Apply: www.korthtransfer.com or 1300 Fuhrman Dr., Reedsburg. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

MCNALLY INDUSTRIES seeks Manufacturing Engineer in Grantsburg, WI. 5-7+ yrs exp, BS in Mfg Engineering or related required. DOD/aerospace machining knowledge preferred. Competitive pay, full benefits, 401K match. Email hr@mcnallyindustries.com.Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

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MCNALLY INDUSTRIES, Grantsburg, seeks Manufacturing Programming Engineer II. Develop CNC programs for precision parts. BS degree and 5-7+ years experience required. Full benefits, 401K match, 9/80 schedule. Resume: hr@mcnallyindustries.com. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CLEAR LAKE seeks Assistant HS Track Coach and two MS Girls Basketball Coaches for 2026-27. Send letter of interest to Dale Rosen, drosen@clwarriors.org, 715-263-2117. Deadline October 8 or until filled. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEBSTER seeks School Bus Drivers. $26.09/hour plus $1,500 sign-on bonus. Must have or be willing to obtain CDL with S and P endorsements. Apply at District Office or www.webster.k12.wi.us. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

300 For Sale

For Sale: Bicycles-

Trek 7300 hybrid, 57 cm frame, well maintained $190; Trek 7300 hybrid, 48 cm frame with extra soft seat, well maintained $190 – buy both and get 2 helmets and a mobile wooden rack for hanging them on; a pair of Thule roof mount bike racks, never used- bought new for $500, selling for $140. Cash only. 763-350-3540.

EMAIL CLASSIFIEDS TO sales@countystar.com

305 Pets/Services

Two spayed kittens for sale $60 each. Not barn cats. Barbi 320-436-5817

351 Antiques

Antiques Wanted. Postcards, WW2, items, duck, fish decoys, Halloween, hunting knives, fountain pens, guns, smoking pipes, fishing lures, Native American Items. Gary 651-238-0909.

358 Firewood

2 cord loads of 16" mixed hardwood, oak, or birch $475. 2 cord loads of 20" oak $450. Delivery charge over 25 miles. 320-679-1815.

362 Miscellaneous

Buying sports card collections call Tom 612-701-7396

362 Miscellaneous

Looking for 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!

452 Rentals/ Residential

Apartments for rent near Mora, two bedroom senior apartment. Utilities included. No smoking or pets. $1,100/month. efficiency apartment no washer or dryer no smoking or pets $850/month call/text 320-250-5199 320-360-5568

Mora Apartments 2 bed, 1 bath, $995/month. 1 bed, 1 bath, $875/month. Studio $740/month. Washer/Dryer on-site. No pets, no smoking/vaping/e-cigs. 612-470-3319, moratrovemanagement@gmail.com

501 Real Estate Wanted

Recently married 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



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EMPLOYMENT

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Assists with front desk operations for the Environmental Services Department, greets customers and receives and responds to inquiries, assists with online and in-person permit application processes, collects and processes payments, completes and maintains records and record requests. $27.64 to $36.40 DOQ.

Apply online at www.chisagocountymn.gov by October 18, 2026.

SENIOR CYBER SECURITY ANALYST

Chisago County USA

Protect systems and data from intentional or inadvertent access or destruction. Interfaces with user community to understand their security needs, prepares and recommends draft procedures to accommodate them. Ensures that user community understands and adheres to necessary procedures to maintain security. Conducts accurate evaluation of the level of security required. $39.21 to $51.63 DOQ.

Apply online at www.chisagocountymn.gov. Open until filled.

Annual Fall Harvest Festival
Friday, October 9
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CITY OF GLENWOOD PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

GLENWOOD

The City of Glenwood, MN Public Works Department is seeking a full-time Public Works Director. A complete job description and benefits package is available upon request.

Minimum requirements: Possess or ability to obtain a MN Class D Water Operator's and Class D Sewer Operator's License, and a Class B Driver's License within one year of employment. Have a valid MN Driver's License and a satisfactory driving record. All applicants will be required to have a physical and are subject to drug and alcohol testing. **Starting wages $32.87 - 45.05 per hour/DOQ**, plus excellent benefits. This is a non-union position.

TO APPLY: All applicants must complete and submit an employment application. Application forms can be obtained at Glenwood City Hall Monday-Friday from 8am - 4pm or by calling 320-634-5433 or by email cog@ci.glenwood.mn.us.

Submit completed applications to Glenwood City Hall or by mail to: City of Glenwood, PO Box 254, Glenwood, MN 56334 or email to cog@ci.glenwood.mn.us.

The City of Glenwood is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CITY OF GLENWOOD
100 17th Ave NW, PO Box 254, Glenwood, MN 56334

NEW LOCATION

The *Isanti-Chisago County Star* can now be picked up at Hermann Insurance, 310 W 4th St in Rush City.

Look for the red Star box in front of the building.

Papers are delivered Thursday afternoon.

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

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Chamber Board of Directors
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2026 FALL HOME Improvement Guide

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SIMPLE WAYS TO CURB HEATING COSTS

As fall gives way to winter, air conditioners typically get turned off and heaters get turned on. Home heating costs can quickly add up for homeowners. According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, heating a space is the single largest energy expense for American households, accounting for roughly 42 percent of total residential energy consumption. However, individuals can implement certain strategies to cut down on heating costs and optimize energy efficiency.

Manage the thermostat: Managing a home thermostat is a cost-effective and simple adjustment. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, turning a thermostat back by 7° to 10° F from its normal setting for eight hours a day can save up to 10 percent a year on heating bills. Utilizing the automated scheduling capabilities on programmable or smart thermostats enables people to program a lower baseline temperature when out at work or school and while sleeping.

Seal up the home: Warm air from indoors can easily escape through unsealed gaps in a home. Similarly, cold air from outdoors can infiltrate through the same spots. This causes heating units to work overtime. Studies from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy indicate combining window upgrades with high-efficiency heating systems can cut heating demands considerably. Also, applying weatherstripping and caulking can prevent drafts, while ensuring adequate attic insulation will create a tight thermal barrier.

Change the heat delivery: Upgrading a heating system to a more efficient one can save homeowners money. According to research by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, replacing traditional fossil-fuel furnaces with electric heat pumps can drastically reduce energy expenditures. Modern heat pumps deliver more thermal energy than the electrical energy they consume.

Homeowners have different options that may help them reduce their heating and energy bills.



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