

Discover **Becker**

February, 2022



INDOOR GOLF NOW AVAILABLE AT PEBBLE CREEK!

MIKE DOERING (L) AND JOSH KUHA WERE INSTRUMENTAL (ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS) IN BRINGING THE GOLF SIMULATORS TO REALIZATION AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF PLANNING AND BUDGETING. SEE THE STORY ON PAGE 12.

ALSO INSIDE...

- **BECKER'S PERSON ON THE YEAR - PG. 32**
- **BASC - PG. 40**
- **PARKS & REC - PG. 16**
- **...AND MORE!**

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Table of Contents

Features/Listings:

Becker Welcome.....	4
Becker, Hale & Hearty.....	6
Becker City.....	7-15
Becker Parks.....	16-20
Becker Schools.....	21-27
Church Directory.....	59
Becker Chamber.....	37

Becker Freedom Days.....	41
Becker Public Library.....	38
Senior Living.....	40 & 42
Local Organizations.....	43
Golf.....	45
Becker Township	46
Clear Lake City.....	47
Clear Lake Twp.....	48

Haven Twp.....	49
Palmer/Santiago Townships.....	50
Special Annual Events.....	51-53
History Center.....	57
Concert at the Creek.....	44
Industrial Park.....	55
Patriot Person of the Year.....	32
Night to Unite.....	35

Advertising Directory

APARTMENT	
Riverside Apartments	41
AUTOMOTIVE	
Mathison Motors	43
Bob's Towing	29
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
Becker Chamber of Commerce	37
CHURCHES	
South Santiago Church	59
Snake River Church	59
Faith Lutheran Church	23
CITY/GOVERNMENT	
City of Becker	30
Bolton & Menk	43
COMPUTER SERVICES	
Data Success	29
Now It Connects	39
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS	
CMAB	53
CREAMERY	
Oak Park Creamery	15
DANCE	
Starz Dance Studio	10
DENTAL	
Dr. Stephanie Gruenes Family Dentistry	60
Northway Dental	50
Park Dental	21
EDUCATION	
Becker Community Education	24
EMPLOYMENT	
MPI	34
Divine House	42
JB Group	5
ENERGY ASSISTANCE	
Tri-Cap	48
ENTERTAINMENT	
Wild Marsh Sporting Clays	28
Farm Friends Barn	5
FARM MARKET	
Norm's Farm Market	11
FINANCE/BANKING/LAW	
Sherburne State Bank	3
Edwards Jones- Suchy	13
Anderson Tax Service	39
Clearwater Tax	53
Drewski Law Office	57

FLORAL	
Live, Laugh, Bloom Floral	20
FURNACE	
Class Act Outdoor Furnace	46
Dahlen	24
Ace Heating	22
FUNERAL HOMES	
Williams Dingmann Funeral Home	26
GOLF	
Pebble Creek Golf Course	31
Stones Throw Golf Course	48
GROCERY	
Coborn's	12
Brigg's Lake General Store	19
HAIR SALON	
Fantastic Sams	20
HARDWARE STORES	
Becker True Value Hardware	4
HEALTH CARE	
CentraCare Health	56
Stellis Health	41
St. Cloud Orthopedic	44
Eye Associates	58
Scheideman Chiropractic	9
HISTORY CENTER	
Sherburne History Center	39
HOMES/BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION	
Angell's Construction Services	6
Chuba	23
Hirshfield's	36
Milaca Bldg. Center	33
Haus Construction	55
Custom Door Sales	27
Hanson Paving	28
Country Lumber	29
Mechanical Energy	5
American Doorworks	35
Royal Renovations	39
ML Schendziezios	39
Knife River	45
G&M Outdoors	16
Busse's Septic	54
East Side Glass	56
Hassan Sand & Gravel	55
INDUSTRIES	
Northern Metal	28
S&T Machining	14
Wruck	14
Midco	28
MPI	34

INSURANCE	
American Family Insurance -	9
Amy Chmielewski Agency	22
Steil Insurance	29
JEWELERS	
Loch Jewelry	52
MEDICAL SUPPLIES	
Care Medical Supply, Inc.	40
PRINTING SERVICES	
Monticello Printing	24
Majestic Creations	38
REAL ESTATE/DEVELOPERS	
Bureau Homes-RES Realty	10
KG Realty	53
Keller Williams - Felton	17
Edina Realty - Splinter Team	25
Luke Team Real Estate	8
National Realty Guild	9
Edina Realty - Ryan Benjamin	29
RECREATION	
Becker Community Center	31
Clearwaters Outfitting	17
Becker Library	19
Boys of Becker	29
Clearwater RV Park	5
RENTALS	
All Purpose Rentals	13
RESTAURANTS/DINING	
Charlie's Sports Bar & Grill	18
Rebecca's Cafe	19
McDonald's Meats	58
SCHOOLS	
Heritage Montessori	39
SENIOR SERVICES	
BASC	8
Catholic Charities	26
SEWING	
St. Cloud Sewing	40
Just Sew Studio	49
VET CLINICS	
Becker Vet Clinic	15
All Pets	50
WOMEN'S RESOURCES	
Elevier	32

DISCOVER BECKER COMMUNITY GUIDE 2022

Patriot

14054 Bank Street
Becker, Minnesota 55308
Phone 763.275.0275

Email: production@patriotnewsmn.com

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Thank You to all who contributed to the success of publishing *The Patriot 2022 Discover Becker Community Guide*. A special thanks to those who helped in updating and submitting new information to keep our guide up to date. We hope this will be a valuable resource guide for the Becker area.
Sincerely,
The Patriot Staff
(Front cover photo by Editor Bill Morgan)



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WELCOME TO THE CITY OF BECKER

There has been a lot of change in the city with our business park expanding to suit more and more businesses. In 2020 the City was awarded \$20.5 Million from the Minnesota Legislature to invest in the city's infrastructure to further our business expansion and attraction efforts. You will continue to see construction through 2023. Much of this construction will be the placement of infrastructure in the ground and while it's not ideal, I appreciate your patience if your main driving route is disrupted.

The City of Becker has been building up its recreational offerings throughout last summer and we continue to invest in our community offerings. A quick drive by the Becker Community Center and you will see some of our new offerings. During the summer months, you can see families enjoying the new splash pad water experience together. The basketball and pickleball courts are a great outdoor option and are located on the same outdoor space at the Community Center. If you have never checked out pickleball, I suggest you give it a try. It is extremely accessible and fun for all ages. Don't forget that the Becker Community Center isn't just for residents and can be enjoyed by anyone in the area!

Pebble Creek, Becker's city-owned golf course, is a top-quality golf course with 27 holes. Grab a meal or meet up with friends at Pebble Creek Restaurant. The patio has been expanded and hosts music during the summer. During the winter, golf isn't something that is on your mind, but the recently added golf simulators will help keep your game on par. The simulators also offer games and entertainment for the whole family, such as soccer, bowling or angry bird golf.

If you enjoy the outdoors, I invite you to one of my favorite

spots; Snuffy's landing is the perfect location to take in views of the Mississippi River. The City partnered with the Becker Lions to add many new features to the park, including a pavilion that will be added this summer. Bring your fishing rod or dangle your feet off the dock as you take in the summer sun. Many of our parks within the City will be undergoing upgrades. Get out and experience the new offerings for yourself.

I am extremely proud of the direction that the City of Becker is going. The council and I are always working to make Becker a great place to live. The City Council and I are hard at work making it truly better in Becker!

Welcome to Becker!



Tracy Bertram, Mayor of Becker

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Becker: Hale and Hearty

We proudly bring to you the 2022 *Discover Becker Community Guide*.

Becker is home to many great amenities and has so much to offer for families in community activities, recreation, industry, schools, sports and small business.

Becker is located in Minnesota Senate District 15, represented by Andrew Mathews and in Minnesota House of Representatives District 15B, represented by Shane Mekeland. Both are members of the Republican Party of Minnesota. On a federal level, Becker is located in Minnesota's 6th congressional district, represented by Tom Emmer.

Becker presides over nine city parks, including the Becker City Park which sits on over 100 acres. In 2020 a dog park was added onto the City Park.

The other city parks include the Becker Athletic Complex (BAC), the Becker Community Center, Carl E. Johnson Park, Kolbinger Park, Pleasant Valley Park,

River's Edge Park, Snuffy's Landing, and the Tot Lot.

Becker is home to Pebble Creek Golf Course, a 27-hole city-owned course which is open to the public. Cross country ski trails are also cut along the golf course for off-season use and recently the city installed golf simulators for golfers to enjoy the sport in the confines of indoor heat.

Becker is served by the Independent School District 726 encompassing four schools — Primary, Intermediate, Middle and High Schools. Their sports teams have thrived over the years bringing multiple state championships to the school in football, basketball, softball, gymnastics, robotics and others.

Each week, we at the *Patriot* devote long hours and fervent energy in bringing local news to our readers. We appreciate everyone's loyalty and sponsorship of us. Especially our advertisers who — without

them — there would be no weekly small-town newspaper.

Please remember to shop local and support your cities and townships. Give area merchants an opportunity to serve you. Enjoy this gem of a town called Becker. It's certainly worth discovering!

Regards,

William B. Morgan

William B. Morgan
Publisher

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City of Becker

City Hall: 12060 Sherburne Ave, Becker, MN 55308

Becker City Hall hosts professional staff dealing with general administration, community development, building inspection, finance and public services. Staff is committed to providing a cost effective and efficient service level with a high degree of customer service.

Administration: Licensing, Notary, General Administration, Building Permits, Utility Payments.

Mainline – 763-200-4239 or 763-261-4302

City Clerk – 763-200-4247

Deputy Clerk – 763-200-4248

City Administrator – 763-200-4244



Finance: Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Utility Accounts/Payments.

Finance Director – 763-200-4250

Accountant – 763-200-4253

Accounting Clerk – 763-200-4251

Community Development: Business Expansion, Planning and Zoning, Building Permits and Land Development.

Community Development Director – 763-200-4246

City Planner – 763-200-4245 and 763-200-4242

Inspector – Metro West Building Inspections – (p) 763-479-1720

Public Services: Water / Wastewater, Streets and Park, Becker Community Center and Pebble Creek Golf Club.

Public Services Director – 763-200-4245

Police: 12060 Sherburne Ave, Becker, MN 55308

The mission of the Becker Police Department, in partnership with the Becker community, is to protect and preserve life, protect property, to understand and serve the needs of citizens, and to improve the quality of life in a manner consistent with the law and reflective of shared community values.

Chief of Police – 763-200-4240

Investigator – 763-200-4260

Administrative Support Specialist – 763-200-4267

Water/Wastewater: 14398 Central Ave SE, Becker, MN 55308

The mission of the Water/Wastewater Division is to provide the Citizens of Becker with clean, safe drinking water while effectively treating the domestic and industrial wastewater generated each day. Utilizing safe and cost-effective treatment methods, the Water/Wastewater staff protect the Public Health and precious water resources.



The City of Becker Public Works Department is excited to offer a new communication tool for city residents. Residents can now receive email notifications from the Public Works Department regarding topics like snow plowing, sidewalk snow removal, weed control, tree trimming, water or wastewater information and other seasonal topics. If interested in signing up for Public Works email notifications, go to the following link and sign up under the “Notify Me” portion of the city website <http://www.ci.becker.mn.us/list.aspx>

Water / Wastewater Emergencies (after hours) – 320-250-4526

Public Works and Parks Assistant Director – 763-200-4259

Water Supply Operator – 763-200-4258

Streets and Parks: 11956 Gardner St SE, Becker, MN 55308

The mission of the Streets Department is to safely, efficiently and cost effectively maintain the streets, parks, and trails within the City of Becker. In addition, the Streets Division assists other departments in the City with building and property maintenance as needed.

Public Works and Parks Assistant Director – 763-200-4259

Streets and Parks Operations Lead – 763-200-4275

Administrative Support Specialist – 763-200-4275

Comm. Center: 11500 Sherburne Ave, Becker, MN 55308

The Becker Community Center offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities for the whole family! Including Fitness Room, Fitness Classes, Gymnasium, Pool, Youth Programs, School Aged Child Care, Meeting Rooms, Birthday Parties, Special Events and so much more! The Becker Community Center is also home to the Great River Regional Library and the Becker Area Senior Center.

Recreation Services Manager – 763-220-3437

Recreation & Leisure Services Assistant Director – 763-200-4261

Administrative Support Specialist – 763-200-4273

Maintenance Specialist – 763-200-4153

Adventure Zone Coordinator – 763-200-4271

Fitness/Program & Events Coordinator – 763-200-4271

Aquatics Coordinator – 763-200-4274

Pebble Creek GC: 14000 Clubhouse Ln., Becker, MN 55308

Pebble Creek Golf Club features 18 holes of Championship Golf as well as a family-friendly Local 9. Enjoy dining, live entertainment and events at Pebble Creek Grill all year long. Pebble Creek has far more than just great golf!

Recreation & Leisure Services Assistant Director – 763-200-4261

Golf Services Manager – 763-200-4262

Golf Course Superintendent – 763-200-4264

Food & Beverage Manager – 763-200-4268



Becker City Council



Tracy Bertram
Mayor
tbertram@ci.becker.mn.us
612-219-3407



Rick Hendrickson
Council Member
rhendrickson@ci.becker.mn.us
763-482-1819



Becky Olmscheid
Council Member
bolmscheid@ci.becker.mn.us
320-761-5622



Robin Dingmann
Council Member
rdingmann@ci.becker.mn.us
320-333-2949



Mike Doering
Council Member
mdoering@ci.becker.mn.us
763-262-4790

The Becker City Council generally meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Becker City Hall Council Chambers at 12060 Sherburne Avenue SE. Any changes to this regular schedule will be posted at City Hall, the Post Office and Sherburne State Bank.

City Council consists of Mayor Tracy Bertram (term ends 2024), Council Member Rick Hendrickson (term ends 2022), Council Member Robin Dingmann (term ends 2022), Council Member Mike Doering (term ends 2024) and Council Member Becky Olmscheid (term ends 2024).

Council Members are elected to a four-year term. Mayoral elections are held every four years, while Council Members have a

staggered four-year term with two seats up for election every two years.

City Council meetings may be viewed live on the City's website or on the City's Facebook page on the night of the meeting. Additionally, they are broadcast live on the Cable Channel 10. Recordings of the meeting are available on the City's website following the meeting at <http://www.ci.becker.mn.us/277/City-Council-Meeting-Videos>



Becker Area Senior Center (BASC)

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STEIL INSURANCE held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at their office that coincided with a Christmas celebration with neighbors at the Patriot Newspaper office. Above, members of the Becker Chamber as well as Steil Insurance employees posed for a photo. (Submitted Photo).



Becker Police Department



CHIEF OF POLICE
 Brent Baloun (pictured)
 Direct: 763-200-4267
 (non-emergency)
 chief@ci.becker.mn.us
 Kristen Heins
 Admin. Support Specialist
 Direct: 763-200-4267
 kheins@ci.becker.mn.us

Welcome to the City of Becker. Our City is a small vibrant community committed to family values and a safe environment for those who live and visit here.

Our Police Department is a 24-hour staffed department consisting of seven full-time officers, three part-time officers and one Administrative Specialist. Our officers are very visible within our community and answer nearly 6,000 calls for service each year. The officers are always willing to help. Whether it is a call for assistance, locking keys in a car, or obtaining directions, please call as we are always willing to help.

For additional information on the Becker Police Department, I would encourage you to check out our City website at www.ci.becker.mn.us. The Police Department page has a tab which lists our Annual Reports from years past which details calls for service, budget, etc. all of which I feel you will find useful.

As your police department, we are here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to call us should have a need. Best wishes,

Chief Brent Baloun

Brent Baloun

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Becker Fire Department

The Becker Fire Department consists of a part-time chief and 35 paid-on-call firefighters. They operate out of two fire stations, Station 1 located in the City of Becker and Station 2 located in Santiago.

The goal of the Fire Department is to protect the citizens and their property to the best of their abilities.

They respond to both fire and medical emergencies with a call volume of approximately 525+ responses annually.

The Fire Department serves the City of Becker, Becker Township and has a Fire Service Contract with Santiago Town Board to serve Santiago Township.

Station 1 has the capabilities to provide training to their own department but also to firefighters in surrounding communities.

The Becker Fire Dept. is located at 14240 Bank St, Becker, MN 55308.



BECKER FIRE CHIEF
Doug Kolbinger
Direct: 763-261-4133



NORTHERN METALS COO SCOTT HELBERG (R) presented a \$30,000 check to Becker Fire Chief **Doug Kolbinger (M)** and Asst. Chief **Jeff Edling (L)** last April for the purchase of new battery powered extrication tools (jaws of life). (Submitted Photo)

THE BECKER FIRE DEPT. (L to R): Curt Hennen, Jena Cox Backes, Russell Cox, Chad Peterson (Retired), Zach Gardner, Conrad Gardner, Ron Kortz (Retired), Charles DeGrio (Retired), Matt Weber, Captain Dan Faul, Captain Randy Bader (Retired), Assistant Chief Tom Wark, Chief Doug Kolbinger, Assistant Chief Jeff Edling, Gary Evens, Captain Chris Keeler, Shimon Cohen (Retired), Corey Winkelman, Bob Lane (Retired), Lieutenant Scott Ringwelski, Kevin Drehmel, Lieutenant Tom Hanzlik, Brandon Johnson, Steve Reid, Dave Dahlheimer, Tim Green, Bret Lommel (not pictured: Lieutenant Trent Fischer, Lieutenant Terry Foradory, Toni Knutson, Kent Graning, Wade Johnson, Kevin Rieland, Brandon Schmitz, Danny Kampa, Austin Knutson, David Bull, Bryan Lamp, Mike Holtslander, Nicole Curtis, Adam Krone (Submitted Photo)

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City of Becker frequently asked questions

Business Hours:

City Hall: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Streets Division: Monday – Friday, 6:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Water / Wastewater: Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Community Center: Varies, visit www.beckercommunitycenter.com
Pebble Creek Golf Club: Varies, visit www.pebblecreekgolf.com

Building Permits:

The City of Becker processes building permits for both the City of Becker and Becker Township residents. Please visit the city's website for more information on the permitting process and for permit applications. <http://www.ci.becker.mn.us/168/Building-Permits-Inspections>

Compost Site:

The City of Becker has a compost site located at 12456 153rd Avenue. Leaves, grass clippings, yard debris, and branches (no tree stumps) can be brought to the site. Anyone wishing to access the compost site will need an electronic key card. Key-cards are available at City Hall during regular business hours. Residents of the City of Becker and Sherburne County are eligible to receive one free electronic key-card per household, replacement cards are \$5.00 each. Commercial users may no longer use the site due to rising costs.

Curfew:

Curfew in the City of Becker is as follows; 15 and under - 10:00pm each night, 16 & 17 - Midnight each night. Exceptions include and must be proven: school functions, church, employment, etc.

Dog Park / Dog Licenses:

In order to use the new dog park your dog must be licensed. Licenses may be obtained from Becker City Hall. Single Family Homes within city limits are allowed to have up to three dogs in their households. All dogs must be licensed when they reach six months of age and are eligible for rabies shots. License fees are \$10 per dog and are good for their lifetime; however, rabies certificates must be submitted when shots are updated. Please note, you will need to submit paperwork from your veterinarian showing the rabies expiration date when applying for the license.

Food Shelf Donations:

Staff at Becker City Hall can accept nonperishable items on behalf of the food shelf in limited amounts. Larger donations or perishable donations must be coordinated with the Food Shelf Director. For ways to donate monetarily please visit the city's website: <http://www.ci.becker.mn.us/205/Food-Shelf>. See the Area Clubs and Organization section for additional information on the Food Shelf.

New Residents:

Wondering who your utility providers are? The City has a great resource on their website for your use. Navigate to www.ci.becker.mn.us and click on the FAQs quick link on the left side of the webpage. Scroll to Utilities and Services for the important phone numbers you will need to set up services.

Notary Service:

Notary services are available at Becker City Hall free of charge during normal business hours. A current picture ID must be presented when seeking notary services. Please note, you must wait until you are in front of the notary before signing any documents. The decision to notarize a document is at the discretion of the notary—the notary may not be able to notarize your document(s) for various reasons.

Voting:

If you live in the City of Becker you vote at City Hall. For more information call 763-261-4302. Voter registration cards are available at the front desk at city hall or at the Sherburne County Gov't Center in Elk River.

Park Building Rentals:

Shelters are available for rent at City Park and Kolbinger Park. You can obtain information about the facilities and make reservations by contacting the Becker Community Center at 763-200-4271.

Utility Billing:

Water/Sewer bills are mailed out around the 5th of the month and are due on the 25th of each month. Payments may be mailed to City of Becker, PO Box 250, Becker, MN 55308, dropped off in one of the two boxes located at City Hall, processed automatically through our online payment system (PSN) or by submitting a direct payment form. Prior to moving in or out, contact City Hall at 763-200-4239 to make your new service or end of service request. Requests may also be emailed. See our website for more details: <http://www.ci.becker.mn.us/181/Utilities>.

Vehicle Unlocking:

If you have locked your keys in your vehicle, the Becker Police Dept. will attempt to unlock the vehicle provided that adequate proof has been shown regarding ownership of the vehicle and an indemnification of liability form has been completed. In the case the Dept. is unable to open the vehicle, you will be instructed to contact a locksmith or a tow company.

Watering Regulations:

In efforts to conserve water supplies, the City of Becker enforces odd/even watering restrictions annually from Memorial Day through Labor Day. If your address ends in an even number, you are allowed to water on the even days of the month and if your address ends in an odd number, you are allowed to water on the odd days of the month. In addition, watering is only allowed before 10 AM and after 6 PM. For exceptions to this rule see the City's website: <http://www.ci.becker.mn.us/307/Lawn-Watering-Regulations>.

Winter Parking Restrictions:

No vehicle shall park on any street or roadway between the hours of 12:01 am and 8:00 am from November 1st through April 15th, except for emergency vehicles.

Snow Removal Policy:

Every owner or occupant of each residence within the City of Becker is held accountable for clearing the full width of the sidewalk of snow and ice within 48 hours following the termination of any snow event or the formation of ice from any cause. If a new snow or ice event occurs, before the 48 hour window from the last event has expired, a new 48 hour timeframe starts. If the owner or occupant does not clear the sidewalk within 48 hours of a snow event, City staff will complete the work and the property owner will be charged a \$150 fee.

FAQ CONTINUES to page 14



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Golf Simulators Have Arrived!

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer
reporter.bill@patriotnewsnmn.com

Looking for some fun during the doldrum winter months?

Pebble Creek Golf Course has installed two golf simulators in an annexed room that not only feature golf courses — but also features football simulations, soccer simulations and even zombie attack simulations!

HD Golf, a company based out of Ontario, Canada produces what many in the business call the “best-in-class” golf simulators.

“While there are a number of good simulator companies, we chose HD Golf because of the realism in the golf experience,” said Josh Kuha, general manager of the city’s community center, golf course and parks.

“When you play on our simulators, you are looking at actual imagery that was taken at the course as opposed to computer generated graphics,” Kuha continued. “HD Golf only adds a few golf courses each year because they actually go on the property

SIMULATORS to page 13



THE TWO NEW GOLF SIMULATORS at Pebble Creek sit side-by-side in a new room constructed near the bar/restaurant. One of the simulators (on the right) will be used exclusively for golf games while the other simulator (to the left) features golf, soccer, football and many other games including zombie attack. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).



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SIMULATORS from page 12

and 3D map the golf course to ensure that it plays identical to the real thing. This is a process that other simulator companies just don't do."

Pebble Creek's golf simulators give the players the chance to choose up to 37 golf courses from all around the world. On one simulator, guests can also choose to play football, soccer and bowling as well as mini-golf, TargetPro and angry golf.

"The replica firearms can be used to hunt various game or even test your 'double tap' skills against a pack of hungry zombies," said Kuha. "These simulators provide a lot of wonderful entertainment outside of just golf."

Kuha says either simulator can be equipped with a platform called LaserShot, which is the industry leader in Military and Police training.

"They use replica guns that have the exact weight, action and recoil of real firearms and can provide tactical and judgmental training that is difficult to mimic in a real life environment," he said. "This is something we will look into in the coming year as a collaboration with the Becker Police Dept."

Project 1 Construction out of Kimball was awarded the bid for the clubhouse expansion through a sealed-bid process. Kuha said that while Project 1 was the lowest bid, they also had a great reputation for quality and delivering on time.

"They did an amazing job on this project, especially considering that construction began at the end of the summer," said Kuha. "Once the structure was complete, the representative from HD Golf (Arden Sales Group) completed the installation of the simulators, flooring and technology."

The room was built out from the newly expanded bar/restaurant area and can be viewed by patrons of Pebble Creek, or the doors and roll-down windows can be closed to separate the two areas.

The city held a ribbon-cutting ceremony January 13 where Kuha held demonstrations of the simulators to all who attended. The following day, the simulators were opened to the public and the project was hailed a huge triumph.

"Opening weekend was a big success for the simulators at Pebble Creek," said Kuha. "Friday thru Sunday, 61 out of an available 78 hours of simulator time was booked. There was a ton of excitement at the clubhouse with most dining guests now sitting on the new side of the bar."

The dream of bringing a simulator to Pebble Creek was birthed many years ago but it didn't become a realizable objective until 2020 when the city encountered a unique opportunity to purchase two gently-used simulators from a fitness center at a substantial discount.

"What would have cost \$107,000 brand new, we were able to purchase for \$57,000," said Kuha. "Looking to capitalize on this cost saving opportunity; the first thing we looked at was if we could

SIMULATORS to page 15

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FAQ CONTINUED from page 11

Recreational Vehicle Operations on Roadways:

All-Terrain Vehicles: Class 1 ATV (4-Wheeler) -
Class 2 ATV (Side-by-Side) - Utility Task Vehicle

May be operated:

• On City Streets with a valid City of Becker registration; Registration form is located on City of Becker Police Website: www.ci.becker.mn.us or at the Becker Police Department Office; There is a \$25 fee for registration; Must visibly display the registration sticker to the rear of the vehicle, **cannot** be obstructed; On private property for the purpose of plowing, maintenance or other service work with permission; Class 2 ATV may be operated on the shoulder of a County Roadway (Sherburne County Code); Class 1 & 2 ATV may be operated on the shoulder of a Township Roadway; May be operated only between sunrise & sunset. Please consult the Becker City Code (www.ci.becker.mn.us) & MN DNR Regulations for further restrictions.

May not be operated:

• On Highway 10 within the City of Becker; No "joyriding", may only be operated in travel to a residence, business, or designated trail (MN Statute); On a sidewalk, bike trail, walking trail, park lands, private property without permission or on any school property.

MN Statutes for Operation:

• Must meet MN Statute with regards to lighting, licensure, passengers, seatbelt use, & helmet use.

Snowmobiles:

• May use the most direct route to a designated trail, or authorized area of operation on a City street.

Golf Carts:

• May be operated on City streets as close to the right as possible.

SEE CITY ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL RULES & INFORMATION



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SIMULATORS from page 13

accommodate simulators in our existing clubhouse. Unfortunately, due to the size and height requirements, we were unable to find a way to install them in any current space.”

Because of this, Kuha and his team began working with architect Graeme Mahler (Mahler & Associates) on a design to expand the clubhouse.

“As with construction projects on older buildings, many times you run into opportunities to update the facility to better accommodate guests,” Kuha said. “This was true with this project. Part of the cost of construction was to get our facility up to current standards in regards to ADA access.”

With that, the south entrance and roadway was reclaimed and reconstructed to allow for better access for those with disabilities. Kuha says the final grade on these improvements will be completed in spring of 2022.

“Including the ADA components and some unforeseen construction expenses, the project will cost just under \$300,000,” Kuha said. “It is being paid for by a combination of funding sources. The 2021 Capital Improvement Plan allocated \$95,000 toward the project and an additional \$21,000 was dedicated from proceeds from an Exclusive Beverage Contract with Viking Coca-Cola.”

The remaining balance — surprisingly — is being paid for from the successful operation of Pebble Creek Golf Club.

“Pebble Creek turned a substantial profit in 2021 and this was a great opportunity to reinvest in something that will create additional revenue for many years to come,” said Kuha.

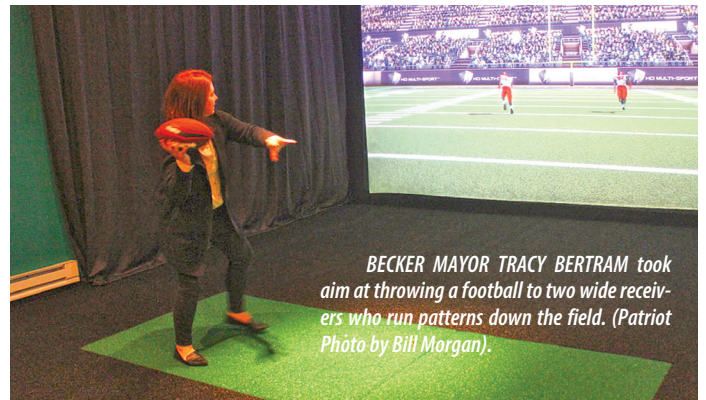
For those interested in using the simulators for golf, football, soccer or any of the other offerings, the current booking period is 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day. Reservations can be made by visiting pebblecreekgolf.com.

Kuha says the golf simulators will also provide staff with the ability to conduct club-fitting and lessons using state-of-the-art technology.

“There are no better systems to measure the dynamics of the swing than a well-equipped simulator,” he said. “Whether fixing a slice or comparing clubs for a purchase, the Sims at Pebble Creek has you covered.”



GENERAL MANAGER JOSH KUHA demonstrated the shooting part of the one simulator where one can defend themselves against attacking zombies or aliens or perch in the cat tails and try to take down some flying ducks over a lake. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).



BECKER MAYOR TRACY BERTRAM took aim at throwing a football to two wide receivers who run patterns down the field. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).



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New Outdoor Activities Open at BCC

Submitted Article

The Becker Community Center campus got some exciting new outdoor activities last fall, free for community use.

The new splash pad is a treat for young families looking for a fun way to spend the day. The pad will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the summer. If the water is not running, patrons simply need to push the activator button on the red pedestal to start the fun!

A new basketball court was also installed, thanks to the support of the Becker Youth Basketball Assoc., the Becker Lions Club, Knife River, and Cornerstone Concrete.

Finally, two new pickleball courts were also opened. Pickleball kits are available to borrow from the Becker Library, and includes paddles, balls, and game instructions.

These new attractions were brought to the community center by the City of Becker and the Parks and Rec. Dept.

Other Parks

The parks listed below also provide wholesome places to play, learn and enhance mental and physical health, while providing opportunities for positive social interaction and connections.

3rd Street Tot Lot, 11450 3rd St.

The Tot Lot is a ½ acre park specifically designed for toddlers with age appropriate equipment.

Becker Athletic Complex (BAC), 14295 Morning Dove Dr.

The BAC is a top-notch 30-acre athletic complex that is home to Becker youth sports, including: football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, softball and other recreational activities. A 10 acre addition was added



PICKLEBALL is the nation's fastest growing sport, and the Becker City Council was excited to cut the ribbon and open two new courts for this exciting pastime. Pictured from left to right is Recreation & Leisure Assistant Director Josh Kuha, City Council Member Robin Dingmann, Recreation Manager Bartt Gevens, Mayor Tracy Bertram, Public Works & Parks Assistant Director Chris Lisson, and City Council Member Mike Doering. (Submitted photo.)

in 2009 to accommodate the growing demand for youth sports in Becker. The BAC is also the home of adult baseball teams: the Becker Bandits and Becker Buzzards.

Autumn Ridge Park 13047 Autumn Ridge

Autumn Ridge is the newest neighborhood park. It was completed and installed with the help of more than 50 residents.

Carl E. Johnson Park 12360 Riley Ave. *PARKS & REC to page 17*



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BECKER COMMUNITY CENTER

PARKS & REC from page 16

Carl E. Johnson Park features the most recently updated play equipment within Becker's Park System. This important park serves a large residential area within the city and connects most closely with the developments on the other side of the Elk River. The new equipment provides a "unique" play experience with a zip-line, cyclone rope spinner and 18-foot-tall rope climbing structure. This park also includes full-court basketball and plenty of green space.

Becker City Park 10362 Co. Rd. 23

City Park is a community park and is the jewel of the Becker parks system. This 100-acre park has something for everyone. A brand new playground was added in 2010. Other amenities include a park building that is utilized year-round, a native planting area, several landscape gardens and natural pond areas, miles of hiking and horse trails, an 18-hole disc golf course, sledding hill and more.

A dog park was added in the lot next to the city park for furry friends. There are areas for large and small dogs to run off-leash and a designated parking area just north of the city park.

Kolbinger Park

13498 3rd St.

Kolbinger Park is another neighborhood park that recently underwent some very nice improvements. In early 2019, the building was updated with new paint, flooring and ceilings. This park features a full-size hockey rink and pleasure skating area. Ice skate rentals are available at the warming house for people looking try out this fun winter activity. They can be rented during staffed warming house hours posted on the Becker Community Center website. In the summer, Kolbinger Park is where residents will find a playground and the city's only skate park.

Pleasant Valley Park 12980 Carole Dr.

This is another neighborhood park. Pleasant Valley has a newer playground installed and will see updates to turf establishment and playground access trails in the coming years. This park also boasts a nice open green space area that is optimal for informal recreational activities and more.

Rivers Edge Park 14818 River St.

River's Edge Park is a neighborhood park that is nestled in a cozy corner of Becker. The pristine park underwent a turf establishment update in 2009 and remains a quaint and quiet retreat for residents.

Lion's Park at Snuffy's Landing 12812 115th Ave. SE.

Snuffy's Landing is a special use park on land leased from X-cel. This park boasts one of the most beautiful vistas of the Mississippi River in the region, as well as DNR boat landing, and several acres of natural surroundings.

Recently, the Becker Lions Club has been donating money to improve the park by adding a pavillion, a dock donated by the

PARKS & REC to page 18



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PARKS & REC from page 17

DNR, a playground, and other amenities. In honor of the club and all the good they do in the community, the park was renamed, "Lion's Park at Snuffy's Landing," keeping the historical name residents will recognize.

The Mississippi River is designated as a state water trail, and Snuffy's landing serves as an excellent access point to the river. Clear Waters Outfitting (Clearwater, MN) offers services to get residents on that trail and take out at Snuffy's Landing. (See ad for contact information.)

Trails

The City of Becker has more than thirty miles of trails and sidewalks throughout the city. The city continues to look for ways to improve trail connection throughout the entire city. In the past ten years the city has utilized statewide health improvement grant dollars to create an updated Trail and Sidewalk Plan, earned Safe Routes to School Dollars to create an updated

Safe Routes to School Plan, and in 2017, thanks in part to another successful grant award, installed a trail on Central Avenue from Rolling Ridge to 117th Avenue that will literally bridge East & West across the Elk River.

Open Space

There are several open space areas in the north part of the city. City Park offers open space and a wide range of passive recreation opportunities such as picnicking, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc. The Sherburne County Oak Savanna and Pebble Creek Golf Course are public open space areas. The city also owns 80 acres of land north of the city and east of Co. Rd. 67.

Xcel Energy owns a large amount of open space land along the Mississippi River. Much of this land serves as buffer space and protection zones for their electrical generating plants. They allow some recreation use of their property by permit (such as bow hunting and hiking) in

designated areas.

Park Planning

Beginning in 2018 was a comprehensive Park Systems Plan to determine the needs of the growing community as well as evaluate current offerings. This community-based project is facilitated by industry experts and will determine the strategic direction of our Parks & Recreation department based on the feedback from the community and other stakeholders. This is an exciting opportunity to learn what residents are looking for to improve quality of life.

The City of Becker is well served, not only by the aforementioned parks system, but also by way of a wide range of recreation facilities such as the Becker Community Center, Kolbinger Park Building, City Park Building and 18-hole Disc Golf Course and the 30 acre Becker Athletic Complex. With the parks and facilities as a base, Becker has an excellent range of recreation offerings.

The Becker

Community Center: Making Lives Better

The Becker Community Center is much more than a building; it is community-focused and serves the changing needs of the citizens. The 44,000 square foot facility serves users from all age demographics through the various programs, services, events, and amenities offered by and within the center. The BCC is home to over 2,400 members and countless community organizations. Featured amenities include an indoor swimming pool with waterslide, fitness room with updated cardio and weight equipment, gymnasium, meeting rooms, and library. The staff of BCC collectively serve as an effective organization that is balanced, adaptable, responsive, creative, cutting edge, and well trained to offer a verity of programs and events.

The primary goal of the

PARKS & REC to page 20



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PARKS & REC from page 18

BCC is to provide the community with quality-oriented leisure time opportunities in a safe environment. These activities may take many forms, such as informal recreation, aquatics, group fitness, and special events. Additionally, it is hoped that those individuals utilizing the BCC and its programs will gain a full appreciation of both the physical and social value of active recreation and participation.

Freedom Days And Community Events

The City of Becker has a long history of holding formal community-wide gatherings, including the Memorial Day Auto Economy Run in May of 1953, Strawberry Festival from 1966-1971, Becker Bicentennial Celebration in 1976, Becker Pioneer Days in 1979 & 1980, Octoberfest in 1987 and 1988, and Becker Freedom Days from 1988 to the present. The city has also added the October Harvest Fest as an annual event. These events provide a unique opportunity to bring residents together for fun and celebration, to build community and to preserve city and national heritage.

Summary

The role of Becker Parks and Becker Community Center is to provide programs, facilities and opportunities to enhance the quality of life within the City of Becker. The city embraces this mission because there are a myriad of different benefits that can be accrued from participation in recreation activities or visits to parks and open space.

It can be a walk in the woods of City Park for a world-weary adult. It can be the sense of exhilaration for the six year old that connects bat-to-ball for the very first time in a BCC Instructional Sports Class. I can be a leisurely paddle on the Mississippi. It can be the positive feeling of energy that fitness participants feel after a workout. Or it might be that intangible sense of connection people feel when gathered with others enjoying special events.

Relax and enjoy the beauty of the parks and trails. Spend time with family or friends. Experience new activities and opportunities. There are an almost limitless number of ways that parks and recreation can make our lives and our community better now and in the future. This is a neighborhood park that also doubles as another nice location for informal t-ball, soccer and football practices. Park equipment was recently updated in 2020.



KIDS CHARGED into the new Splash Pad at the Becker Community Center. (Submitted photo.)



A NEW BASKETBALL COURT (left) was opened at the BCC this past year, thanks to help from several community organizations and businesses. Pictured from left to right is VP of Becker Youth Basketball Association, Chris Harmoning (cutting); City Council Member Robin Dingmann; BYBA Board Member Ryan Seavert; Mayor Tracy Bertram; City Council Member Mike Doering; BYBA Board Member Margaret Smude; Recreation Manager (City of Becker) Bartt Gevens; Recreation & Leisure Assistant Director (City of Becker) Josh Kuha; and Public Works & Parks Assistant Director (City of Becker) Chris Lissou. (Submitted photo.)

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Becker Public Schools are proud of our tradition of excellence. The school district has worked hard to meet the needs of our children and community for over 100 years. This would not be possible without the continued support of our school district community as we work to build upon our partnerships. Becker Public Schools provides a highly engaged staff dedicated to student learning.

With the recent passage of a community approved referendum, we will continue to provide increased opportunities for our students, families, staff, and community. The referendum includes upgrades and improvements that will affect every student within our buildings. We are renovating and improving our highly acclaimed Early Childhood and Camp Opportunity facilities. District residents approved increased safety and security for each school entrance. In addition, our community will continue to be proud of our offerings within our High School Tech-Ed Department which includes engineering and construction, Family Consumer Science (FCS), Robotics, and more. The movement of our transportation facility will provide increased safety and more learning space on our single campus, while allowing us to take advantage of District owned land nearby.

The community is well represented by a school board that continues to emphasize student

achievement and academic rigor as they look to provide opportunities to, “Prepare our students to thrive in a changing global community.” This mission is what continues to drive our improvement and provides the desire to maintain our place among the best schools and communities in the state.

Our students are fortunate to have many opportunities from birth to adulthood. Within our walls, students have also capitalized on the opportunities provided to them. We have shown success on a local, regional, state and national level in a variety of academic and extra-curricular experiences.

Becker Public Schools is positioned to continue to meet student, staff, and district resident needs now and well into the future. For more information or to enroll, please see our website at www.Becker.k12.mn.us and click “Enrollment” under the “Home” tab.

Jeremy Schmidt

Becker School Board



Aaron Jurek



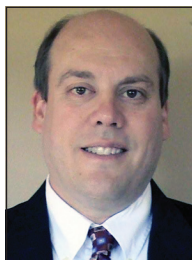
Sarah Schafer



Ryan Obermoller



Cindy Graham



Mark Swanson



Connie Robinson

THE BECKER SCHOOL BOARD meets at 6:30 pm on a monthly and as-needed basis in the Teaching & Learning Center at the Becker High School (Door 1 or Door 11) The public is welcome to attend these meetings. Information regarding upcoming meetings can be found on the school's website www.becker.k12.us.



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Principal David Kreft • Assistant Principal Brian Baloun

Becker High School proudly fosters our District's mission statement of "Preparing self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community!"

A building of about 900 students, our very educated veteran staff takes pride in getting to know each student. By getting to know each student, we can support academic, emotional, and physical development. We are confident that a Becker High School graduate is prepared for their next step in their journey.

Becker High School provides College in the Schools (CIS) and AP courses to help students advance their academic rigor and earn college credit. Becker High School provides Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses that prepare students for hands-on experiences. Our CTE spaces will be updated as part of the recently approved referendum and the updates will only improve the experiences students have in our courses. Becker High School supports all learners and offers credit recovery opportunities through our Becker Alternative Learning Program (ALP). All students have a place at Becker High School!

With our amazing facilities, Becker High School is able to offer outstanding co-curricular activities! Students are able to engage in 30 different Minnesota State High School League opportunities and several other clubs. When participating in Becker activities, students get to participate in our spacious Fieldhouse, our top level swimming pool, our tradition-laden gym, and our well maintained outdoor facilities. Our fine arts programs continually produce excellent shows showcased in our beautiful Performing Arts Center. We strive for our students to be involved!

Whether new to Becker, considering Becker, or you've been here for a while, Becker High School welcomes you and looks forward to partnering in your child's success!

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Becker Middle School (6-8)

Becker Middle School
(763) 261-6333
Principal Chantel Boyer
Assistant Principal
Ted Aleckson

Becker Middle School's motto, "3 R's: Respect, Responsibility, Relationships" is the foundation of our program, which is designed specifically for the needs of early adolescents. During middle school, students progress through many physical, intellectual, social, and emotional changes. Some students start this process earlier while others begin the process during the later parts of adolescence. Middle schools are a unique place, different from elementary schools and high schools.

Our focus at Becker Middle School is to provide a safe learning environment to help students develop a sense of belonging. Each of our staff members are committed to the academic achievement, personal development, and safety of our students. This year our staff incorporated the mantra of Make Kindness Normal. We have provided a variety of activities for students to be involved in



BECKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
Principal Chantel Boyer.
(Submitted Photo).



BECKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
Asst. Principal Ted Aleckson.
(Submitted Photo).



during advisory time, as well as other times during the day, using the Social Emotional Learning Curriculum, Character Strong.

Our school is committed to ensuring

each and every student matters. Every year, administration meets with the student body and staff to review behavior expectations. During this time, we not only discuss the 3 R's, but also focus on the understanding that everyone has a right to feel safe at school. Becker Middle School uses the schoolwide approach, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), focusing on student behavior.

Staff collaboration is key to student success. Teacher teams meet together regularly to discuss student performance and analyze data in order to make informed decisions on how to best meet the needs of our students that focus on the whole child. Each week, staff meet with their Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to collaborate together to support each other in helping students meet their goals.

Over the past few years our staff and school has been adapting to our ever changing learning environment. Becker School District is fortunate to have a 1:1 iPad program that enhances student learning, leverages technology to allow for individualizing instruction, promotes collaboration and increases student engagement. All middle school teachers embrace a common learning management system,

BMS to page 24

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BMS from page 23

Google Classroom, to maximize the opportunities for ongoing communication with students and families. We have learned a lot over the past few years which has increased our technology skills and provides different ways to look at instruction.

Becker Middle School is excited about the passing of the referendum and what that means for our school. The building plans will include a more secure entrance, along with adding additional

classrooms to meet our growing needs.

Additionally, we have the opportunity to make much needed changes throughout the building. Our staff is proud to serve the community and look forward to welcoming a new set of students to our building each year. We are fortunate to have a supportive community that values the importance of education!

BECKER DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS®

Becker Dollars for Scholars® is a non-profit foundation that raises scholarship funds through an annual phone-a-thon and donations from local businesses and civic organizations. Scholarships are distributed to Becker High School graduates and previous graduates each year based on the amount of funds raised. Anyone interested in learning more or getting involved can contact Dale Seavert at (763) 261-5482 or djseavert@gmail.com or by visiting www.beckerdollarsforscholars.org.

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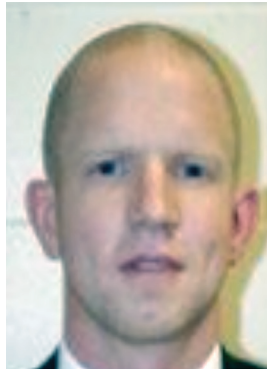
Becker Intermediate School (3-5)

STUDENTS LEARNING BY HAVING FUN AT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Becker Intermediate School
(763) 261-4504

Principal Nathaniel Boyer
Assistant Principal
Hannah Pagel

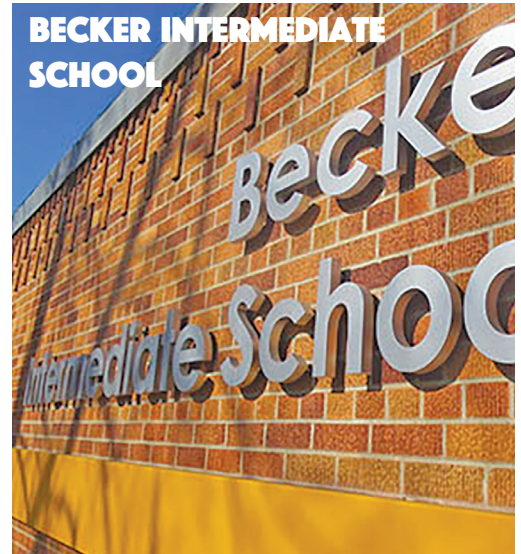
Becker Intermediate School is home to students in grades 3-5. Staff is dedicated to making sure students learn by having fun. Students attend several field trips every year, as well as Friday Fun Nights, where they can play with their friends and teachers as a way to raise money for the school. The school also strives to be a bully-free zone, and to make sure all students have a 97% or high attendance rate. Two Assessment Days are held in the fall of each year to ensure there is clear communication between parents and teachers.



BECKER INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL Principal Nate Boyer.
(Archive Photos)



BECKER INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL Asst. Principal Hannah
Pagel.



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Becker Primary School (K-2)

WANTING TO BE BULLDOG BEST



PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL Dale Christensen.
(Archive Photo).

Becker Primary School (763) 261-6330 Principal Dale Christensen

Our motto at Becker Primary is to be your "Bulldog Best". We expect students to show us their best: Behavior - respect to everyone, Attitude - keep a positive attitude to try your best in every situation, Responsibility - take responsibility to be ready to learn, Kindness - Treat others with kindness.

The Primary School has an amazing staff who are very compassionate and concentrate on making connections with each child. They truly care about the whole child. They recognize the need to make connections with each child to help the child to reach their full potential. The genuine passion the staff has to help every child is evident in this building.

Our staff works well together to find ways to provide the appropriate support for all students. The staff works together in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to collaborate together to support each other in helping all students reach their goals. One focus of our district in the past few years is our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). The focus of MTSS is to improve learning for all students. The Primary School MTSS building leadership team focuses on the needs of the students in our school. We assess all students three times each year to ensure they are making adequate growth. Those students who need additional support are provided supplemental instruction with a research based intervention for academic or social and emotional needs. We are also fortunate to have our Early Childhood program be a part of our school. This makes the transition for students and families to start Kindergarten seamless.

The Becker School district is also fortunate to have a 1:1 iPad program. Students use the iPads throughout the day to enhance learning through more access to reading material at their level, math programs to reinforce skills as well as

See Saw to share their learning with their parents. We have a team called Digital Learning Mentors (DLM's) that help to steer our building to imbed technology into the classroom and how to use it to enhance student learning. The technology world is constantly changing. We are trying to prioritize which areas are most important to implement in our school to enhance student learning. Students are taught Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship to help them understand the importance of using technology appropriately.

Becker Primary School is excited about the passing of the referendum and what that means for our school. We will have a more secure entrance. We will also be able to create a new Early Education Center that will be connected to our building to provide additional space for programs in Early Childhood, Camp Opportunity and a needed multi purpose area to continue to provide a quality physical education program for our students as we continue to increase our student enrollment. This will allow us to maintain our Primary School programming for the next several years.



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Becker Primary School (K-2)

WHAT IS BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD?



SUE HILTNER ECCE Director.
(Archive Photo)

Becker Early Childhood • (763) 261-4050 • Director Sue Hiltner

Families First. The mission of the Becker Early Childhood program is to strengthen families through the education and support of all parents and guardians. Parents are the child's first and most important teachers, and we consider it a privilege to partner with families to provide the best possible environment for the healthy growth and development of the children.

ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) classes are designed for families with children birth – age four. Parents and children attend ECFE classes together and enjoy parent-child playtime, learning experiences, songs and stories, and a parent discussion time. Classes meet mornings, late afternoons, and early evenings throughout the schoolyear.

Small Wonders is preschool for three year olds that provides children the opportunity to develop independence and cooperation skills with peers, while improving large and small muscle coordination, enjoy music and art, and explore literacy, math, and science activities together.

School Readiness is preschool for four and five year olds that meets half day mornings or afternoons two, three, or five days per week. Our focus is on social-emotional development, building literacy and cognitive skills, and effective communication. School Readiness serves and educates over 85% of each incoming kindergarten class in Becker. Tuition is based on a sliding fee scale.

Special Events such as Measure and Build It, Holiday Art and Activities, STEM Night, and Gym Nights occur throughout the year. ALL Becker families with young children are eligible to participate!

~ No one is turned away due to inability to pay. ~

For more information about upcoming classes or to get on our mailing list: call 763-261-4050 or email: ecfe@isd726.org.

New Early Education Center

Becker Early Childhood is pleased to announce that plans are being drawn for a new Early Education Center thanks to the passing of our recent school referendum. The new Early Education Center will be attached to the Primary School by a link and be built in the site of the Transportation Dept. The new facility will house our current program and also Camp Opportunity.

For updates, follow us on Facebook: *Becker Early Childhood*.

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PATRIOT 2022 BECKER AREA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: DR. BECKY MUELLER

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

She grew up in a small Minnesota town with her parents and two older brothers, graduating in 1993 as the class Valedictorian. She moved to Becker in 2005 and began working at CentraCare, providing care for patients of all ages as a board certified family medicine and sports medicine physician.

For the past 13 years, she has also held the role of physician leader for five of CentraCare's family medicine clinic sites. She is also a devoted mother and wife, as well as a prolific community volunteer. For the past two years she has worked on the front lines of the COVID pandemic, providing the community with compassionate care and a local, trusted voice. For these reasons and more, we are proud to announce Dr. Becky Mueller, D.O., as the *Patriot's* 2022 Becker Area Citizen of the Year.

"It was a shock to be notified of the honor and I feel undeserving as I look around our community at the other amazing people who live here and make Becker a great place to live and work," Dr. Mueller says. "I am truly honored to be recognized as an individual, but I wish to also extend this honor to all healthcare and other frontline workers for their perseverance during these unprecedented times."

Early Life

Life in a small town is familiar to Dr. Mueller, as she lived with her family in Buffalo Lake, where volleyball and basketball were her sports of choice. However, her interests went beyond athletics, as she was also active in band and choir, as well as 4-H, her church's youth group and many other volunteer activities.

"I grew up thinking I was going to be a teacher like my mom, but I also really enjoyed science in high school and my thoughts turned initially to pursuing a career in physical

MUELLER to page 33



DR. BECKY MUELLER has been named the *Patriot News* Becker Citizen of the Year for 2022. (Submitted Photo).




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MUELLER from page 32

therapy,” she says.

After high school, she enrolled at Hamline University and pursued a double major in Biology and Exercise/Sport Science before her education pathway turned to pre-med. After working with all of the Piper athletic teams over her four years, her travels brought her to Des Moines University, where she took the national certifying exam to be a certified athletic trainer during her first year of medical school. She stayed in Iowa at Trinity Medical Center in Davenport for her family medicine residency before moving to Michigan State for her sport medicine fellowship. From there, she moved back to Minnesota and several months later was hired to be a physician at CentraCare Clinic in Becker.

First Impressions

“I knew from the day that I came to Becker to interview for my job that this was the right place for me,” Dr. Mueller says. “I just felt at home.”

It didn’t take her long to get involved in the community, as she immediately starting volunteering as the team doctor for the Becker Bulldog football program, which won a state title in her first year with the team. She continues to work with the team to this day, as well as teams at SCSU.

“Practicing family medicine in Becker

is awesome . . . and to care for patients across the ages from newborns to their grandparents and even great grandparents is awesome, too,” Dr. Mueller says. “It still amazes me after 15 years here when I just figure out ‘new’ family connections that I wasn’t aware of . . . or just hadn’t been smart enough to put together yet!”

An affable person, Dr. Mueller has become part of the fabric that makes small town living appealing to so many people. To her patients, she’s often times known as “Dr. Becky” and she goes to great lengths to get to know the story behind the people she treats.

“The care in this community goes both ways . . . a lot of my long-time patients take great interest in starting or concluding their visits by asking about my children or other personal points of connection we may have,” Dr. Mueller says.

Family Matters

While she is extremely busy at work and with her many other commitments, nothing is more important to her than her family.

Married to husband Dave since 2013, she is committed to being a great mom to 21 year old step-daughter Sam, a nursing major at NDSU, as well as six year old Ben, five year old twins Ty and Jack and two year old Emma.

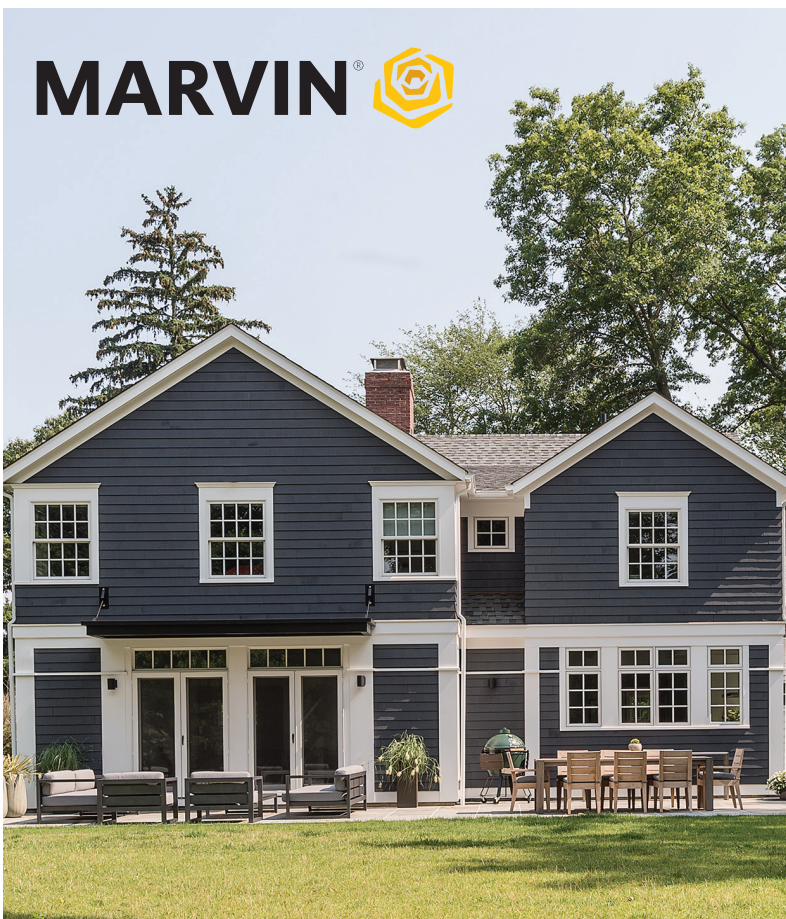
“I now also have first hand experience of the quality of the school system by having my oldest son in school, which is something I heard about prior to moving here,” she says. “I can’t extend enough gratitude for the daycare providers and teachers and staff at the school who have also been on the front line caring for my kids while both Dave and I have worked long hours each day through this pandemic, both as front line workers.”

Leadership

Her volunteerism extends into the schools, where she has been a member of the HS Site-based team since 2011, while also serving on curriculum committees in the past. She’s also been a Safety Camp lecturer, concussion educator and has worked on many other health initiatives - from Project BrainSafe to several medical work groups - that are focused on helping people live better lives.

“I try to meet people where they are at . . . I want to be there to support them through the years and help to guide them and their health,” Dr. Mueller says. “I can be a patient’s biggest cheerleader if they are needing that extra motivation to accomplish their health care goals, but for those who aren’t yet in the right mindset to make changes, I make sure they know that

MUELLER to page 36



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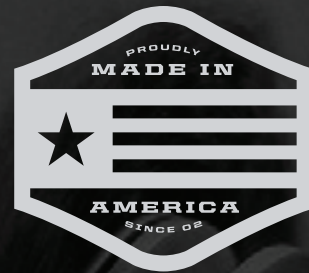


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NIGHT TO UNITE IS GREAT FOR BRIDGING RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer
reporter.bill@patriotnewsnmn.com

Local law enforcement and firefighters every year in August spend an afternoon visiting with many neighborhoods in Becker, Clear Lake, Clearwater, Big Lake and all townships holding Night to Unite (NTU) events.

NTU is a statewide celebration that takes place on the first Tuesday of August every year. The goal of the event is to celebrate and strengthen neighborhoods and community partnerships, particularly between residents and their local law enforcement.

The event encourages residents to get out into their community, hold block parties and get to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention.

Becker citizens typically

organize a number of Night to Unite parties, including events the Becker Police visit at Woodbriar Apts., Garden Drive, 17th Circle (Autumn Ridge), Monroe Drive, Julia Lane and Charles Lane (Natures Edge).

Along with Becker Police Chief Brent Baloun and other police officers, Becker Fire Chief Doug Kolbinger and members of the fire department also visited the neighborhoods in their big red rigs and ladder trucks. Becker Mayor Tracy Bertram, and many council members and staff also attend along

with State Senator Andrew Mathews and State Rep. Shane Mekeland.

Typically, Clear Lake has some neighborhoods participate including one at the Hunter Lake Bluffs development. Along with Mayor Tim Goenner, representatives from

the Clear Lake Fire Dept. usually attend and they bring along a fire truck and fire

and rescue vehicle for kids to check out.

Sherburne Co. Sheriff Joel Brott also makes many stops to introduce himself. He ordinarily provides attendees informational handouts and speaks

about calls for service in the previous year and the new laws that have gone into effect.

Brott also encourages everyone to call about any suspicious activity they notice, and to use 911 if they don't know the sheriff department's phone number.

Santiago Twp. also regularly hosts a Night to Unite event with pulled pork sandwiches and door prizes for attendees, both supplied by the Santiago Lions.

"As you know, the Night to Unite event is held for the purpose of getting neighbors to get to know each other," said Chief Baloun in an earlier interview. "Knowing each other benefits the safety of the neighborhood and ultimately our community with people being more involved. When we know our neighbors, we can

N2U to page 36





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N2U from page 35

better recognize and watch for things in our neighborhoods that stand out, are out of place, or don't belong. When this happens or is recognized people address the issues, which could be calling 911 and involving law enforcement."

Baloun says his police department really enjoys the event as a way to further connect with the community.

"When people get to know their police department, people develop more trust and less apprehensiveness about contacting law enforcement," he said. "We appreciate the opportunity to speak with folks in a non-intrusive and less formal atmosphere."

He added that going into neighborhoods gives the police department an opportunity to speak with people they may not otherwise have an opportunity to speak to, which benefits everyone.

"It's all about strengthening the safety of our community and events such as Night to Unite help us work toward that," said Baloun. "We especially appreciate the support demonstrated toward law enforcement and public safety. I couldn't be more pleased with the response we received at each party; it was great!"

Night to Unite is sponsored by the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association, AAA of Minnesota/Iowa and local law enforcement communities. For more information visit mncpa.net.

MUELLER from page 31

I am ready to help when they are ready."

Those same beliefs have served her well in her leadership roles at CentraCare, even in the early days of the pandemic.

Dr. Becky says that she knew the people in the community would need a local place they could visit to seek care when they were ill.

"I helped to lead the quick change of CentraCare Becker to an acute respiratory clinic to mimic the model being rolled out in St. Cloud and across the country," she says. "For the first three months of the pandemic, I along with two other providers cared for only ill, COVID positive or COVID suspect patients, who were well enough to still be managed on an outpatient basis. This was early in the pandemic when so much about this virus was still unknown, and I had staff and providers who were leery about what working in this setting would mean for their own health and that of their families."

Through her leadership and the dedication of the staff, the call to serve was answered and they were able to do so in a safe manner.

"It was time to lead by doing and I was right there with them the whole time . . . I am so proud of the team that pulled together to ensure sick patients in this area could keep their care local," she says. "I am so proud that the clinic staff did not have anyone develop COVID-19 from a work exposure."

Connections

Another success has been the patient-doctor relationships that have allowed for conversations as to what to believe in a world where there is so much disinformation.

"I thank the patients who have come to me during the pandemic to ask questions about the COVID-19 disease or immunization,

MUELLER to page 39



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Chamber of Commerce

The Becker Area Chamber of Commerce includes a variety of businesses in the area; from restaurants to brick & mortar stores, industrial park businesses to self-employed individuals.

The focus of the Becker Area Chamber is to build strong business relationships through networking, chamber activities and community events. Becker Chamber offers its members a chance to grow and build their client base through making connections & supporting each other.

Even during the challenging times, the Becker Chamber has continued to grow in membership over the past two years. Businesses in Becker have seen a lot of change in recent years. They have learned first hand how to adapt to the ever changing world. But through all the changes and challenges that have come their way, one thing that stands out: The Becker Community is strong and the businesses are resilient. The community has shown so



AMITY FELTON
Director of Operations

much support to businesses during challenging times, which has brought a deeper understanding to what businesses face on a daily basis.

This affirms what the Becker Chamber strongly believes, **TOGETHER, we achieve MORE!**

The Chamber in turn also supports our local community.

They hold an annual Coat Drive and Coffee Giveaway, which accumulates over 100 donated coats each year! These coats are given to people in need right here in the Becker area. The Becker Chamber also held an Easter Egg Hunt in 2021, which was a HUGE success and much needed fun was had by children and families.

The Becker Chamber also supports the local schools and non-profit organizations to better improve our community.

Becker is a wonderful community to live and work. When our local businesses do well, the whole community benefits. We want to say thank you to the Becker community for supporting local businesses and remembering to shop small!

Whether you are a business owner, self-employed, or an employee of a local business, we invite you to join us! We host a variety of fun events throughout the year, hold ribbon cuttings, and have monthly member meetings.

Our meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month. We welcome new members all year long.

Please contact the Becker Chamber for more information: chamber@beckerchamber.org.

OVERVIEW:

- New members welcome all year!
- Monthly luncheon meetings
- Social events
- Business after hours
- Golf tournament
- Community events
- Business Expo & more!

OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to promote a positive business environment, offering participation, encouragement and support to the Becker area businesses.

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Becker Chamber



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Becker Public Library



EXPLORE, LEARN AND CONNECT AT GRRL

Submitted Article

The Becker Public Library, one of the 32 branches of the Great River Regional Library (GRRL) system, is located in the Becker Community Center.

With a mission to explore, learn, and connect, the Becker Public Library offers many opportunities for Becker residents. Library cardholders have access to nearly one million books, CDs, DVDs, kits, and more. People living in Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd and Wright counties are eligible for a free GRRL library card. Apply for your free library card at the Becker Public Library or online at griver.org.

Along with books, the library also offers our digital libraries of ebooks and audiobooks, the new streaming service Hoopla, and kits, such as Try-It-Yourself Kits and Brain Fitness Kits. There is so much to check out!

When you visit the library, ask about our many other services: Ask a Librarian information assistance, public Internet computers, business services, online databases, wireless Internet service, wireless printing (Print2Go), book selection advice, the educator request form, tours, language learning software, genealogy resources, and library events.

Programs are hosted each



BECKER/BIG LAKE LIBRARIAN JEANNETTE BURKHART encourages everyone to take part in this and last year's winter reading program. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)



year, including the summer reading program focused on children's literacy to avoid the "summer slide," and the winter reading program focused on teens and adults building the habit of reading.

The Minnesota Arts and

Cultural Heritage/Legacy Amendment and the Friends of the Becker Library fund many programs that are offered by the library. The Friends of the Becker Library is a volunteer group that meets to discuss fundraisers at the library throughout the year.

The group holds book sales, which benefit the Becker Public Library.

The Becker Public Library is located inside the Community Center at 11500 Sherburne Ave. It is open to the public Mondays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information visit griver.org or call the Becker Public Library at 763-261-4454.

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MUELLER from page 36

because they have chosen me as a trusted medical resource rather than turning to the media and social media for ‘answers’,” Dr. Mueller says. “It is incredibly frustrating to still hear people who think COVID-19 is a hoax, the misinformation that is out there about the disease and the vaccine, and how political this pandemic has been.”

Despite the challenges, she has kept a positive attitude and is now able to reflect a bit on the successes of the past two years, even with the threat of burnout faced by many health care staff.

“We push through because of our commitment to our patients and the love of the job that we all chose for our own individual reasons, but burnout is real for all layers of the care team nowadays more than ever,” Dr. Mueller says. “The fear for the continued good health of our own families, who we come home to after caring for sick people day in and day out, is real.”

However, Dr. Mueller finds strength in her family, as well as the many co-workers who have bonded together to provide compassion and care to the entire community.

“The staff that I work with is amazing and the team has pulled together to continue providing top notch patient care,” Dr. Mueller says. “I grew up in a small town and value the upbringing that I had as a result; I knew that was the environment I hoped to raise my own family in one day.”

It’s that dedication to her patients, family and community that makes Dr. Mueller our 2022 Becker Area Citizen of the Year.



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Becker Area Senior Center

BASC OFFERS FUN, ENERGY & OPPORTUNITY FOR AREA SENIORS

Submitted article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Becker Area Senior Center.)

The Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) is open to all residents age 55 and older living in our area communities. The Becker Area Senior Center is a fun, energetic, socially active place to meet neighbors. BASC opened in August 2013 through the efforts of many dedicated individuals and agencies. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization directed by a Board of Directors consisting of area community members and funded by BASC fundraisers and private and corporate donations.

BASC located within the Becker Community Center in a dedicated room. A wide variety of scheduled activities have been offered within the communities for over eight years.

BASC is a volunteer organization providing citizens a place to socialize, exercise and share their interests. Many educational events, musicians, movies, and other activities of interest are offered on a regular basis for all to enjoy.

BASC hosts a delicious luncheon and great music on the third Tuesday of every month.

On the second Wednesday, Bingo is played. This is conducted by Liberty Paper; they provide the caller and all the great prizes. (Liberty Paper has been a great supporter of the Senior Center from day one.)

Join others at the "Table of Knowledge" and share a few laughs or a little history while getting to know neighbors.

BASC would love to give you a tour and have you share your interests and ideas.

The Senior Center is open 5:00am – 5:00pm Monday – Friday, or other hours by request.

BASC collaborates with Becker Community Education in arranging trips and tours for the group. Research has shown that social activity, exercise, and educational programs makes a big difference in everyone's health. Through activities BASC aims to be a partner in the fight against dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Keeping the senior population healthy is BASC's primary goal.

Members can receive a monthly calendar by email, through the BASC tab on the Becker Community Center website, or by picking up a copy at BASC. Find all of our daily activities listed on this calendar. The weekly schedule is also printed in the *Patriot Newspaper* each

week.

For more information about BASC, email questions to BASC.Becker@gmail.com or call the Becker Community Center at 763-200-4271. More information is available at www.BeckerCommunityCenter.com.



THE BECKER AREA SENIOR CENTER is now located at the Becker Community Center. (Submitted photo.)

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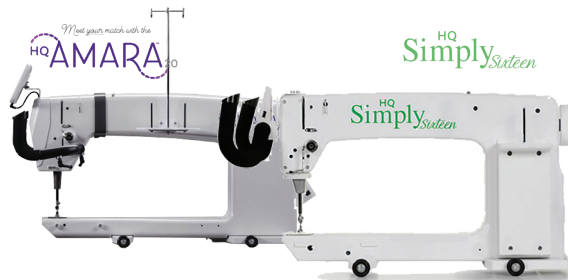
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FREEDOM DAYS IS A WEEK LONG OF FUN!

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer
reporter.bill@patriotnewsnmn.com

Freedom Days in Becker is more than just a few, entertaining days over the weekend — it's a full week of fun, frivolity and excitement!

This year's Freedom Days runs June 13-18 and culminates with the jam-packed Saturday festivities of a parade, music, food, drink and fireworks!

Typically, starting the Monday of Freedom Days week, local businesses will have BBQs, ice cream socials and food trucks and tents to feed the masses. Last year, St. Cloud Financial Credit Union served ice cream floats while Steil Insurance featured walking tacos early in the week. Sherburne State Bank always has a big line for their food

items as they hold an ice cream social as well as a customer appreciation lunch on the lawn of their bank in Becker.

The Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) annually hosts a BBQ chicken lunch at City Park with music and other activities. Amy Chmielewski



of American Family Insurance has held a free windshield chip repair day for people whose vehicle has sustained glass damage. Becker Professional Building annually holds a drive-thru lunch event with proceeds going to a different local non-profit organization

each year.

With the weekend arriving, the Becker Farmer's Market sets up for business in the Becker Furniture World parking lot with lots of goodies and treats for local families. Last year the city held a Freedom Days 5k Run/Walk at Pebble Creek Golf Course and the Lions and Legion teamed up for live music and yummy food which included hamburgers, brats and beverages on Friday evening.

Again, Saturday is the grand daddy day of Freedom Days week and it kicks off with the morning parade of hundreds of floats, winding their way through town and dispersing candy and treats for all the kiddos from the community. The Becker Dancers typically perform sometime after the parade in the old T-Town area of Becker and musicians, clowns and entertainers set up on the main stage to keep the party hopping!

Tons of food vendors in

tents and trucks set up along Hancock St. to sell food and beverages of all kinds while the kids enjoy the petting zoo, arcade games and pony rides.

Of course, all weekend, the Becker Blast softball team hosts a spectacular tournament at the softball fields, Friday, Saturday and Sunday!

The Block party at T-Town is where the main action and fun completes the weekend as local music bands ascend the stage and stir up dance music for people of all ages. The entire week's celebration then culminates with one of the best fireworks shows ever seen in the local area.

If you are new to the area or even if you are a long-serving Becker citizen, we encourage all to come out and participate in a great small-town community get-together!

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Senior Community

Submitted Article
(from website as of 2/4/22)

We are so grateful for your prayers, support, and encouragement during this challenging time. Thank you for entrusting your loved one's care to us. We take that privilege very seriously.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) have released guidance allowing visitation in the nursing home and assisted living settings without an appointment regardless of a facility's COVID status.

This means indoor, outdoor, and off-site visitation is now available without an appointment. Visitor screening, masking (using a well-fitting, facility-provided medical grade mask), and all other infection control practices remain the same. Visitation is allowed in resident rooms and apartments but may not occur in common areas of the buildings.

Vaccinated residents/clients with vaccinated visitors may visit without masks and without social distancing during the visit inside the apartment or suite. However, due to the high transmission rate in our county and the virility of the new variants, we strongly encourage wearing masks.

Vaccinated resident/clients with unvaccinated visitors will still need to mask and socially distance during the visit.

Unvaccinated residents/clients with all visitors will still need to mask and socially distance during the visit.

We continue to encourage all visitors to get vaccinated and to practice safety measures while out in the community. The CDC has released some suggestions on how to be safer in the community. Some of those include wearing a well-fitting mask in indoor public settings, avoiding crowded and poorly ventilated areas, and staying home and getting tested if you feel sick or have any COVID symptoms.

We continue to test staff and residents/clients according to current guidance.



Our current case counts as of 2-4-22 are:

Nursing Home – 54 residents, 203 staff, and 15 resident deaths; **Good Shepherd Cottages** – 14 clients, 20 staff, and 6 deaths; **Good Shepherd Homes, Inc. (GSA)** – 3 tenants, 2 clients, 17 staff, and 0 deaths; **Good Shepherd Assisted Living (Shepherd Court)** – 7 tenants, 2 clients, 16 staff, and 3 deaths offsite; **Shepherd Oak Apartments** – 3 tenants, 1 client, 18 staff, and 0 deaths; **Shepherd Oak West Apartments** – 3 tenant, 2 client, 13 staff, and 1 death; **Home Health Care** – 0 clients, 4 staff, and 0 deaths; **Shepherd of Grace** – 3 tenants, 4 clients, 20 staff, and 1 client death.

Thank you for your continued support through positive thoughts, prayers, and donations. We are extremely grateful for all.

If you have questions or need assistance, please call:

Nursing Home – call your RN Case Manager or Social Worker.

Outreach settings:

Apartment Tenants – call Robin at 320-259-3494;

Assisted Living – call Jessica at 320-259-3465;

Memory Cottages – call Niki at 320-258-8665;

Shepherd of Grace/Becker Campus – call Chelsea at 763-450-6675.



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COMMUNITY RICH WITH ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO HELPING OTHERS

By Penny Leuthard,
Contributing Writer

Volunteerism is at the heart of any community, and the Becker area is no different. A number of organizations exist locally whose mission is to help others in need.

Great River Faith in Action (GRFIA) is a nonprofit organization that works to coordinate volunteer services, support family caregivers, bridge generations and assist families in crisis either free of charge or at low cost.

GRFIA offers a number of services, including transportation, companionship, yard work and maintenance. One of GRFIA's ongoing goals is to increase their volunteer base, so that they would be able to serve all of their clients needs. Though they had not been able to fill every need, they did see a significant drop in unmet needs over the last few years.

GRFIA's two major fundraising events took a hit this year due to the COVID-19

pandemic. Their annual gala was cancelled but their golf tournament in August was held under restrictions from the state.

For more information on GRFIA and its services, call 763-263-4277, or visit www.grfia.org.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is an organization that connects military families with community support, training, services and resources.

Their motto is "Supporting Veterans, service members and military families at the community level."

The organization also sends care packages to deployed servicemen and women, and hosts events such as their "Welcome Home for Vietnam Veterans" event.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is supported by many local businesses, and they also hold fundraisers at events like Freedom Days. For more information on Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, call Kent Graning at 320-980-2752 or visit www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org.

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org.

The Becker Food Shelf is located in City Hall at 12060 Sherburne Ave, and is run by a handful of volunteers. It's open Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The organization receives food from donations and Second Harvest Heartland. They provide special food baskets to needy residents at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

For more information, call 763-261-4612.

The Becker Lions Club is comprised of men and women who strive to make a positive impact in the Becker community and in the lives of Becker area residents.

Many of the projects the Lions sponsor are annual events, like their Lange Home Holiday Event, in which they take the residents of the Lange Home out to eat and Santa makes an appearance to hand out gifts.

The Lions work with the Becker Boy Scouts to clean up

the highway between Becker and Clear Lake, help the city with Harvestfest, and prepare breakfasts for the city's Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Breakfast with Santa.

The Lions also help on an as-needed basis, including donating to numerous organizations, benefits and youth activities, and helping needy individuals with things such as eye glasses. They provide funds for school supplies for students in need and help with academic scholarships.

They support public safety initiatives and sponsor at Freedom Days, Oak Savannah Learning Center and with Rivers of Hope.

All their funds come from events like their beer sales at various functions and their fish fry, which began this year as a replacement for their pancake breakfast. For more information on the Becker Lions, call Secretary Dale Seavert at 763-261-5483.

CONCERT AT THE CREEK ROCKS EACH YEAR!

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer
reporter.bill@patriotnewsnmn.com

Last summer, Pebble Creek Golf Course hosted their fifth annual Concert at the Creek event at the golf course to hundreds of faithful patrons.

In year's past, the Concert at the Creek has featured bands such as the Chris Hawkey Band, the White Keys, Tim Mahoney, Outside Recess, Viva Knievel and local favorite, Joe Perry.

Perry, highly-regarded for his strong vocals and exceptional guitar skills, is a familiar face in these areas as he entertains audiences at local bars like Lupulin Brewing Company in Big Lake, Bauernhof Klause Tap Haus in St. Michael and, of course, Pebble Creek in Becker.

Outside Recess (unfortunately, rumor has it they are no longer together) is a rock 'n roll cover band from central Minnesota that plays a wide variety of high energy rock 'n roll from the 70's, 80's, 90's and today. The band is comprised of four teachers and a principal including Tom Uecker (vocals), Angie Beutz (keys/vocals), Chad Hammerschmidt (lead guitar), Pat Kealy (lead guitar), Billy Fish (bass guitar) and Marty Kiebel (drums).

Most guests to the concerts bring their own chairs while many prefer to just stand during the seven-hour event or dance to the music in front of the stage.

Burgers, brats, dogs, pork chop on a stick, pulled pork/chicken and walking tacos are some of the food items available for purchase during the event. Of course, guests to sip on sodas, water, seltzers and beers from the numerous beverage booths and trucks.

Concert at the Creek is a 21 years and older event. And tickets are only \$15 in advance and are usually available for purchase at the Becker Community Center, Becker City Hall, Pebble Creek Pro



CHRIS HAWKEY has been a popular favorite at the annual Concert at the Creek at Pebble Creek Golf Course in Becker as he puts forth a powerful show for the hundreds of concert-goers. (Patriot Archive photo by Bill Morgan).

Shop and online.

Many area businesses sign up to support the concert event by being sponsors or task friends and employees to volunteer. Gates open at 6 p.m.

and the music starts blasting around 7 p.m.

The event is held rain or shine.



JOE PERRY is always a big hit when he plays around town. (Patriot Archive photo by Bill Morgan).

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Pebble Creek Golf Club

Forget what you think you know about Pebble Creek Golf Club. Unless you know it's a fantastic golf course, because that is certainly true. Our facility is a community hub for the people of Becker and a major source of fundraising for the local community. In a year not restricted by a pandemic, our facility will host events that raise over \$300,000 for the greater Becker area. Allow us to take you through some of what makes us awesome.

Pebble Creek is a wonderfully maintained golf facility that offers two different experiences for our patrons. The Championship Course and the Local 9, while both beautiful, cater to different groups of players. The Local 9 is the perfect spot for beginners, families and value seekers while the Championship Course is one of the highest rated golf experiences in Minnesota. Oh, but we are far more than just great golf. We will get into the specifics later but let's start with our courses.

The Local 9 is the best golf value you will find in greater Minnesota. This beautiful property is well maintained and challenging, but also laid back and welcoming to all players. In our mission to grow the game, we keep the fees very low. An adult can play for \$12 and kids are only \$5. You would be hard pressed to find a family-friendly entertainment option at that price. Don't mistake the Local 9 for an "Executive" or "Par 3" course. It is full length and demanding from the back tees.

The Championship Course is the original design completed by Don Herfort. It's a player-friendly layout with large greens, wide fairways and 4 sets of tees so that you can choose the right distance from which to play the course. One of the biggest selling points is our pace of play. The average round of golf is played in under 4 hours. Golfers make the trek from the all-around to play the "2019 Club of the Year" as awarded by the Minnesota Golf Association.

We at Pebble Creek are constantly looking at ways of improving the experience and the past two years have been no exception. Some of the recent upgrades include: all new course signage, new golf carts with GPS, restoring our many on-course water features and expanding the bar & grill area. 2021 will see the opening of our newly expanded deck complete with sail shades. All summer long this area will be the go-to location for live music and sharing laughs with friends and family.

Pebble Creek specializes in hosting events of all kinds. We are proud to host the Minnesota State High School League Class A Golf Championship each year in addition to many corporate and club events. Our professional



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golf staff takes great pride in delivering exceptional customer service and dedicated planning to make your event memorable. We would welcome an opportunity to help plan your next event.

The Pebble Creek Grill is open year-round and features an exciting menu filled with

both American favorites and creative house specialties. Fun is always on the menu when you come to Pebble Creek. We feature 10 big screen TV's, 14 different beers on tap and a fully stocked bar. Some have said that we are not a golf course that has a restaurant, but a restaurant that has a golf course.

Planning for your Big Day? The Event Center at Pebble Creek is the perfect location for Wedding Ceremonies and Receptions. From start to finish, our professional event team is

ready to assist you in making your event one to remember. The Event Center can accommodate up to 250 people for receptions and the outdoor ceremony space is simply breathtaking. Our culinary team will work with your tastes and budget to make sure that you have the meal everyone will be talking about for years to come. Thinking about an event... think Pebble Creek Golf Club.

Live entertainment and specialty events are a huge part of what we do. Saturday night summer concert series will be featured on our newly expanded sunshade covered deck. Post pandemic, we plan on adding Mother's Day and Easter Brunches. Murder Mystery Dinners and Dueling Pianos will also make their return as those opportunities come available.

For one Saturday each summer (except 2020, because... well you know), our driving range converts into a rock venue. The "Concert at the Creek" is quickly growing into one of the premier summer events in central Minnesota. Past performers have included Tim Mahoney, GB Leighton, Outside Recess and multiple performances from Chris Hawkey.

The year 2020 has highlighted the importance of outdoor activities and the role they play in keeping people healthy (and sane). The City of Becker has many great parks throughout the community and Pebble Creek is certainly an integral part of that system. From fundraising, making memories with friends or cross-country skiing our trails in the winter; Pebble Creek will be here to welcome you all year long.

Pebble Creek is located at 14000 Club House Lane, Becker, MN 55308. You can reach us at (763) 200-4268 or by emailing pebblecreekinfo@ci.becker.mn.us.

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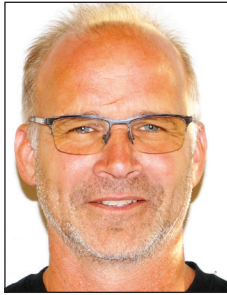
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Becker Township



BRIAN KOLBINGER
Chair



JOE DANIELSON
Supervisor



LUKE BABLER
Supervisor



ROBIN BOROS
Supervisor



BRAD WILKENING
Vice Chair

The Becker Township Board meets every third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at township hall located at 12165 Hancock Street. If there is a Federal Holiday the board will meet the following Monday night at 7 p.m.. You can contact the Township office at 763-261-5301. Regular office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays 8 a.m to 5 p.m. or 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.. The township office is closed on Thursdays and all Federal Holidays, including the day after Thanksgiving and the week between Christmas and New Years, and due to inclement weather. It is recommended you call the office to verify it is open. Appointments can be made for other times by phone or by emailing clerk@beckertownship.org.

Township members include Chairman Brian Kolbinger and Supervisors Robin Boros, Joe Danielson, Luke Babler and Brad Wilkening. Clerk is Lucinda Messman, Deputy Clerk is Fran Seeley, Treasurer is Tanya Danielson and Deputy Treasurer is Nancy Friesan.

The township's annual meeting convenes at 8:01 p.m. on the second Tuesday of March, immediately following the closing of polls for the township elections.

Visit the township's website at beckertownship.org for more detailed information.

Becker Twp - Planning Commission

Meets the second Monday of each month, 7 p.m., at Township Hall. Members are Brad Wilkening (Chair), Frank Kasowski, Jr., Brian Kolbinger, Cole Petroski and Ryan Peckskamp.

Town of Becker - Joint Planning Board

Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., at Township Hall. Members are Brad Wilkening (Chair), Mark Rask, Tracy Bertram, Brian Kolbinger and Rick Hendrickson.



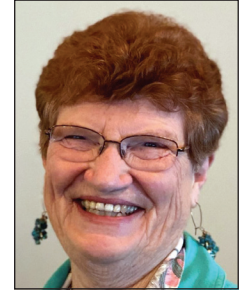
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The City Council meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend. Meeting location in 7684 1st Ave West. Information on the city can be found on their website at www.clearlake.mn.govoffice2.com.

City council members include Mayor Tim Goenner, Stefany Janish, Chad Nelson, Kristen Brandt and Karen White. Kari Koren is city clerk and Dustin Luhning is public works supervisor.

The Clear Lake Fire Dept.'s chief is Ron Koren.

The cities of Clear Lake and Clearwater own, operate and maintain a wastewater treatment facility and are known as the sewer authority. The committee meets on a quarterly basis and consists of the mayors of both cities, a council member from each city, and a fifth member called "member at large."



TIM GOENNER
Mayor



STEFANY JANISH
Council Member



CHAD NELSON
Council Member



KRISTEN BRANDT
Council Member



KAREN WHITE
Council Member



KARI KOREN
City Clerk



DUSTIN LUHNING
Public Works Supervisor



MATT LANDWEHR
Public Works Employee



RON KOREN
Fire Chief



City Hall hours are: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mailing address:

PO Box 298, Clear Lake, MN 55319

Phone: (320) 743-3111

Fax: (320) 743-4307

Email: cityofclearlake@frontier

Website: www.clearlake.mn.govoffice2.com



CLEAR LAKE FIREFIGHTERS: (Back row, left to right) – FF Nathan Legatt, FF Branden Weis, FF Kevin Lietha, FF Ben Goenner, FF Ryan Peterson, FF Matt Lunser, FF Ryan Leaders, FF Chad Nelson, FF Chad Koren, FF Ross Imholtem, FF Barry Schuldt, FC Ron Koren, FF Matt Davis. (Middle row) – FF Barb Rucks and FF Colleen Knafla. (Front row) – FF Harvey Doble, FF Weston Ludwig, FF Kari Koren, FF Jill Lietha, FF Craig Miller and FF Anthony Baret. (Not pictured) – FF Logan Draack, FF Kiel Golly, FF Regan Johnson, FF Jason Foradory and FF Travis Malikowski. (Submitted Photo).





Clear Lake Township

The Clear Lake Township Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at 7938 116th Street SE, Clear Lake, MN.

The office hours at the Townhall are every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12-noon. Phone messages and emails are checked and responded to Monday through Friday. Additional information about the Clear Lake Township can be found at the website: www.clearlaketownship.org

Clear Lake Township has a beautiful park with well-maintained walking paths and a fenced-in dog park. The Town Park is located on 80th Ave-nue SE, south of County Road 8 (River Road).

The Township election is held annually at the Township Hall on the second Tuesday in March and is followed by the annual meeting at 8:05 PM. Clean-Up Day is held annually on the first Saturday in May, located in the parking lot of the Town Hall.

Board Members

Chairman: Gary Gray
Vice-Chairman: Bud Stimmler
Supervisor: Ross Ihmholte
Road Engineer: T. Vander Eyk
Treasurer: Paul L. Goenner
Clerk: Nancy Betzler
Deputy Clerk: Gary D. Anderson

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CLEAR LAKE LEGION & AUXILIARY AND SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION meet the second Tuesday of the month at Clear Lake Township Hall. The Legion and Auxiliary will meet at 7 p.m. and the Sons of American Legion meet at 6:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. Any questions contact Bud Stimmler at 320-761-5793. For the most up to date meeting information refer to the Community Announcement section in the Patriot.

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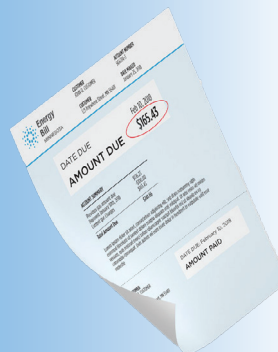


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Haven Township

The Haven Township Board of Supervisors meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the Haven Township Hall, located at 4230 45th Ave. SE (PO Box 339), St. Cloud, MN 56302-0339. Township hall can be reached at 320-248-5866, or via email at Haven Township's website at www.haventwp.org.

The Haven Township Board consists of five elected supervisors, Chairman Jeff Schlingmann, Vice-Chairman Mark Knowles, and Supervisors Randy Linn, Michael Pesch and Kathleen Sims-Kosloski. Mike Zniwski is the township clerk/treasurer, and Tammy Schefers is deputy clerk.

Haven Township's annual meeting is held at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday in March at the township hall. Elections are held in November, on the same date as state and national elections in each cycle.



HAVEN BOARD. Front: Jeff Schlingmann, Chairman Mark Knowles, Supervisor Kathi Sims-Kosloski. Back: Clerk/Treasurer Mike Zniwski, Deputy Clerk Tammy Schefers, Supervisor Randy Linn, Supervisor Mike Pesch. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)



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Palmer Township

The Palmer Township Board of Supervisors meets on the second Monday of each month at the Palmer Township Hall, 4180 105th Ave., in Clear Lake, MN 55319. The hall can be reached at (320) 743-2100, and Clerk Amy Bragelman has office hours every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. The township web site is: www.palmer-townshipmn.org. E-mail is: palmertwp@gmail.com.

Palmer Township board members include Chairman Mike Ganz, Supervisor Steve Demeules and Supervisor Richard Larson. Township administrators are Treasurer Roger Johnson and Clerk Amy Bragelman.

The annual meeting convenes at 8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of March, immediately after the polls close for the township elections.



PALMER TOWN BOARD. Members of the Palmer Township Board, from left, are: Clerk Amy Bragelman (inset), Supervisor Steve Demeules, Chairman Mike Ganz, Supervisor Richard Larson and Treasurer Roger Johnson. (Patriot Archive Photo)

Briggs Lake Chain Association has been an active part of the Palmer community for over 50 years. It aims for the improvement and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain of lakes: Briggs Lake, Elk Lake, Lake Julia, Rush Lake and surrounding areas. In addition to numerous social events during the year, the association is active in fundraising and water quality improvement projects. For additional information visit their website at www.briggslakechainassociation.com



Santiago Township

The Santiago Township Board of Supervisors meets on the second Wednesday each month at the township hall located at 16656 20th St. SE, Santiago, MN 55337. The hall phone number is (763) 662-2262, and the mailing address is 17363 17th St., Princeton, MN 55371.

Current township board members include Chairman Stuart Nelson, Supervisor Dave Jehoich and Supervisor Jeff Pappenfus. Township administrators are Clerk Kathy Woolard and Treasurer Patty Simonsmeier.

The annual meeting is held at the township hall on the second Tuesday in March, immediately after the polls close for the township election.



SANTIAGO TOWN BOARD. Members of the Santiago Township Board include, from left, Dave Jehoich, Jeff Pappenfus, Stuart Nelson, Kathy Woolard and Patty Simonsmeier. (Archive Photo by Bill Morgan)

Santiago Lions Members men and women are wanted for Lion members. Meetings are held @ 7 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday at Bailey Rays, Santiago. Call Donna Pozorski for details 763-856-8474. For the most up to date meeting information refer to the Community Announcement section in the Patriot.

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Special Events

FREEDOM DAYS



Becker Freedom Days is held in the month of June. The celebration is kicked off with a parade and followed by many activities and food booths which take place on Hancock Street. Activities in the past have included craft booths, family bingo, petting zoo, power tool drag races, music and games of all kinds.

Following the daylong activities is a street dance, and the evening is wrapped up with fireworks.

BECKER RELAY FOR LIFE®

The Becker Relay for Life® fundraiser for cancer research gets underway in July.

Teams from businesses and groups of family and friends come together each year for an all-night marathon to raise funds for the American Cancer Society while celebrating and remembering loved ones who've battled the disease.

In addition to the ceremony and the marathon walks, the event includes a number of food vendors, a silent auction, a ceremony of remembrance and the lighting of the "luminaria" at dusk. Each white paper wrap contains a candle, and the name of a friend or family member who has faced cancer in their life. When lit, the luminaria create a circle of light around the inside and outside of the track.

For more information visit RelayForLife.org.



BECKER FARMERS MARKET



The Becker Farmers' Market is open annually beginning the 3rd Friday in May through the 2nd Friday in October from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Becker Furniture World parking lot. Experience fresh flavors, homemade goods, enjoy community interaction and support your local vendors at the market! For more information or to register as a vendor stop by Becker City Hall - 12060 Sherburne

Avenue, call 763-200-4239 or visit <http://www.ci.becker.mn.us/250/Becker-Farmers-Market>.

PALMER DAY

Palmer Day is a small town celebration that takes place the Saturday after Labor Day every year. All proceeds from Palmer Day are donated to local, non-profit organizations. Enjoy food, beer garden, live music, car show, raffles, 5k run, kids games and a parade!

For more info search for @PalmerMNDay on Facebook!



CITY OF BECKER/ BECKERTOWNSHIP CLEAN UP DAY

The all-city/township clean up is held each year the third Saturday in May. This is a program to help dispose of unwanted items such as appliances, tires, electronics, mattresses, etc. at a minimal cost.

ALL CITY GARAGE SALE

Residents have a great opportunity to either get rid of their treasures they no longer use or get some good deals on things they could use. The event is held in June each year. Announcement for the sale will be published in the *Patriot* newspaper.

SHERBURNE COUNTY FAIR

The Sherburne County Fair is held the 3rd weekend in July. Visitors from all over come to enjoy the 4 days full of food, carnival games vendors, grandstand shows and entertainment. The fair is located at 13372 Business Center Drive in Elk River, MN.



NATIONAL NIGHT TO UNITE

The first Tuesday of August is the national event of Night to Unite in Becker.



This evening is often held with many block parties throughout the City. The main focus is developing relationships with neighbors to ensure safe neighborhoods. When we know our neighbors and neighborhoods better, crime goes down and our communities are safer! The Becker Police

Department members and local public officials often make visits to these block parties to discuss City activities or issues and to meet our neighbors.

BECKER SAFETY CAMP

Becker Safety Camp is a program this is offered annually to kids who have completed 3rd, 4th or 5th grade and is limited to the first 100 participants. This program is a combined effort of the Becker Business Community, Faith Communities, Becker Community Education and the City of Becker. Participants meet with representatives to help develop a better sense of safety and security. In the past some of the topics of the camp have included: water safety, fire safety, electrical safety, and bicycle safety, etc. Safety Camp is usually held in April or May of each year.



SHERBURNE HISTORY CENTER

The Sherburne History Center is open Tuesdays - Fridays: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 10775 27th Ave, Becker. The Sherburne History Center provides a variety of programs and events for all ages, from monthly book club and history classes to annual fundraisers and social events. With nearly 100 programs per year, there's always something going on at SHC!

The Sherburne History Center encourages groups of all ages to visit our museum! They offer guided group tours as well as field trips. During your visit you will get a guided tour of the exhibit gallery, enjoy hands on activities and games, and discover the history of this place they call home. Mike Brubaker (763) 262-4433. Further information at: www.sherburnehistorycenter.org





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Clubs & Organizations

BECKER AMERICAN LEGION POST 193

John Riebel (763) 261-4464

Meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Becker Legion (old fire hall) at 7 p.m.

BECKER AMERICAN LEGION LADIES AUXILIARY

Paula Hinds (763) 262-6679

Meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Becker Legion (old fire hall) at 7 p.m. March - September. Meetings are suspended October-February. Any questions or concerns call Paula or see John Riebel or Nellie Simpson at Becker True Value.

SQUADRON 193 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

John Fischbach (320) 249-0579

Meets the third Tuesday of each month in the Becker Legion (old fire hall) at 7 p.m. Looking for new members.

BECKER LIONS

Becker Lion President: Tammy Weber: liontammy@hotmail.com

Becker Lion Secretary: Dale Seavert, Home: 763-261-5483,
Mobile: 320-290-5342.

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Shelter @ Becker City Park.

BECKER LIONS COLLECTING ITEMS TO RECYCLE

The Becker Lions are collecting used eyeglasses (no cases please) & hearing aids. Collection buckets are located at the Becker Community Center, Insight Eye Care & Becker Food Pride. We are no longer collecting used cell phones or printer cartridges. If you have any questions please call/text Lion Dale Seavert (320) 290-5342 or email djseavert@gmail.com.

BECKER AA MEETING

Becker Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Thursday at 8 p.m. at Mary of the Visitation, 12100 Sherburne Ave, Becker. For information, call/text (320) 247-4732 or email beckeraagroupmn@gmail.com.

BECKER BOY SCOUT PACK 92 CARDBOARD, PAPER & ALUMINUM

Bring your aluminum cans to the trailer located near Becker True Value. Paper & cardboard recycling location is at the Becker Community Center, please remember to flatten the cardboard & absolutely no garbage on the first Saturday of every month. There will be a Scout there to help unload between 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Thanks for your support!

BECKER EVANGELICAL MINISTRIES

Every Wednesday 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Becker Middle School. GYM 45 - growing young men. HIS KIDZ - K-3rd grade. G.I.R.L.S. GROUP - 4th & 5th grade girls. Becker Free Church (763) 261-4125 or register online at www.beckerfreechurch.org (under Youth Connection click "Event Registration").

BECKER FOOD SHELF

Located at the City Hall 12060 Sherburne Ave, Becker. Pick up is Tues. 9-11 a.m. and Thurs. 4-6 p.m.. The Becker Food Shelf provides free food for individuals or families in need. Residency requirements do apply and the number of items a person can pick up may be limited. Donations accepted. Call 763-261-4612 for more info.

BECKER HEARTS & HAND QUILT GUILD

Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Becker Baptist Church. Contact Elizabeth Steckelberg (320) 259-9542.



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Clubs & Organizations, Continued...

BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON

The City of Becker was proclaimed a Yellow Ribbon City in Nov. 2014. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a program that supports activities, builds awareness and takes action to recognize and support service members, veterans and military families. Monthly meetings are held at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Becker City Hall. For questions or more information contact Kent Graning at 320-980-2752. www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

The fourth Wednesday of each month at 10 - 11 a.m., Room 19 at Becker Community Center, 11500 Sherburne Ave. No cost to join. Tami Kolbinger at (612) 590-2449 or email tjkolbinger@gmail.com.

GREAT RIVER FAITH IN ACTION

If you are a senior, age 60 and above, family caregiver or an individual in need of services, Great River Faith in Action can provide volunteer transportation, chore services and grocery shopping assistance, as well as caregiver groups. The office is located at 1307 Edgewood Street SE in Becker. We serve most of Sherburne County and part of Wright County. Phone numbers are: 763-263-0274 direct number or (after hours) 763-263-4277 voice mail only.

SHERBURNE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The refuge is celebrated both for its wildlife and the extraordinary opportunities provided to visitors. The upland habitats are dynamic, ranging from grasslands to oak savanna to forest. These are interspersed with a variety of wetland and river habitats ranging from sedge meadow to deep water marsh. The refuge is designated as a state Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Today, visitors may still discover the excitement that might have been felt over 100 years ago, as early pioneers stepped out of the "Big Woods" and onto the edge of Minnesota's magnificent tallgrass prairie. The Refuge is open to visitors year-round during the daylight hours. The Refuge is located at 17076 293rd Ave., Zimmerman, MN 55398 and can be reached at (763) 389-3323 or email sherburne@fws.gov.

SNAKE RIVER FREE MISSION CHURCH

Hymn sings are held every other month on the second Sunday at 4:30 p.m. Check Snake River Church FaceBook page for updates. 5 miles north of Highway 10 on County Road 11, 1.5 miles east on County Road 4 & then north on 180th Ave.) 8940 180th Ave, Becker. Mary (612) 219-8648.



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INDUSTRIAL PARK STAYS COMPETITIVE WITH PLANNED SHERCO DECOMMISSIONING

Submitted article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Becker City.)

The City of Becker is seeing continued increased interest within the Becker Business Park. TJ Potter Trucking is currently underway with a 90,000 sq ft expansion on their new warehouse. Hubbard Electric recently completed their new facility, along with Thousand Hills' building expansion. The remaining available properties within the Business Park are competitive, as the city attempts to attract new businesses, due to the infrastructure in the area, high quality of life, and the area workforce. The properties have ample power due to the vast Xcel Energy infrastructure, main-line rail access with BNSF, recreational and industrial opportunities with the Mississippi River, and great access to the St. Cloud and St. Paul/Minneapolis metropolitan areas.

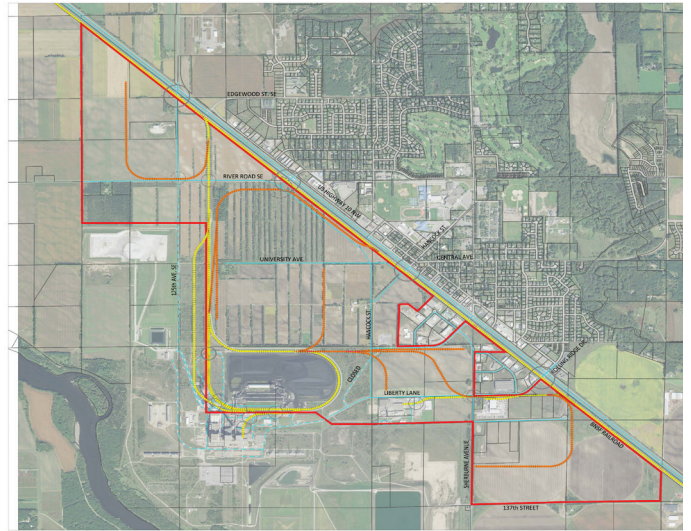
Xcel Energy's Sherco coal-fired plant is scheduled to decommission Unit 2 in 2023 and Unit 1 in 2026. As of January 2022, The Minnesota Public Utility Commission (PUC) is underway with reviewing the company's resource planning document. This document identifies how the company plans to generate the needed electricity to sell to its customers. The company's current proposal includes decommissioning of the last coal-fired unit at Sherco and construction of additional solar and other renewable ener-

gy sources. There is a request from Xcel Energy to the PUC to build approximately 3,480 acres of solar adjacent to the Sherco plant. Final decisions on the resource planning and solar development are expected mid-2022.

With the changes in the utility industry and impacts at the Sherco plant, Xcel Energy and the City are coordinating and partnering on economic development efforts to attract new businesses and assist in the expansion of existing businesses within the Becker Business Park. These efforts have been successful in recent years with the construction of Northern Metal Recycling and the expansion of Stolt Trucking.

The City is underway with a large water and sewer utility project that opens up additional property to be "shovel ready" for industrial development.

The City is continuing its reinvestment efforts within the commercial and residential areas of the community. Multiple street projects are planned for 2022 and the coming years. The City is also working on creating marketable commercial lots in the "T-Town" district for additional business growth opportunities.



A MAP OF THE BECKER INDUSTRIAL PARK shows a lot of potential for new businesses. (Submitted photo.)







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Sherburne History Center

Submitted By Mike Brubaker

Sherburne History Center is the home of award winning exhibits and a research library all documenting the history of the Sherburne County community.

At the museum and acres of woods and native prairie, you can discover details about the ox-cart trail that traveled through Sherburne County. Or explore the Herbert M. Fox house an 1870s farm house originally built in Santiago Township in Sherburne County. An exhibit, honored for excellence by the American Association of State and Local History, tells the story of Sherburne County.

Programs for children and adults are also common under the roof of SHC. The book club meets the first Thursday of each month to explore Minnesota authors and Minnesota books. Many of the books are available in the Sand Burr museum shop in the museum.

The Family History Group meets on the fourth Saturday of the month to discuss tools and methods for uncovering your family genealogy.

Annual events at the Sherburne History Center include Rhythm and Brews fundraiser in the spring, the Ice Cream Social and Vintage Baseball games in the summer, the Autumn Lights fundraiser in the fall, and the Christmas Festival in December.

With programs, exhibits, and a research library, there is a little bit of everything for everyone at the Sherburne History Center.

The Sherburne History Center is located at 10775 27th Avenue, SE, Becker. Admission is free and open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm and Saturdays 9 am to 4 pm. For more information visit our website, at www.sherburnehistorycenter.org or call us at: 763-262-4433.



SHERBURNE HISTORY CENTER'S exhibits tell great stories! Whether inside in their galleries, outside on their trails, or virtually seeing exhibits in .pdfs, you'll learn interesting facts about the Sherburne County area and people who settled it. (Photo from website).



IN THE DAYS BEFORE ELECTRICITY, people relied on winter-harvested ice to keep perishable foods chilled. Harvesting ice provided a profitable off-season job for farmers as the Big Lake ice harvest employed about 150 men each season. (Photos from Sherburne County History Center website).



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Church Directory

• BECKER

Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Pastor: David M. Johnson, 763-262-7782, 11185 27th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun. School 10:30am, Wed. J.U.M.P. 6pm.

Becker Baptist Church

Pastors: Nathan Bucher (Acting), Kevin Drehmel (Youth) & Amy Drehmel (Dir. Of Ministry), 763-261-4202, 11951 Hancock St. Services: Sun. Worship/Children 10:30am, Wed. Youth Group 6:30pm.

www.beckerbaptist.org.

Becker Evangelical Free Church

Pastors: Patrick Drury (Senior), Chris Salvendy (Youth), 763-261-4125, Becker High School, Office: 11373 150th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Teaching/Fellowship 10am.

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church

Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month. (Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays in Big Lake).

Faith (Becker) Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Pastor: Yolanda Denson-Byers & Vicar Molly Wills, 763-261-5751, 11755 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30 am, Sun. School 8:30am, Wed. Confirmation 5:30pm, Senior High Youth Group 1st & 3rd Wed. 6pm www.faithlutheran-becker.org.

Oakwood Community Church Assemblies of God

Pastors: Gerry Bass & Sarah, 763-220-6004, 13140 1st St (SW Corner of Becker Furniture World). Services: Sun. Bible Study/Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.

Snake River Free Church

Pastor: Steve Johnston, 612-219-8648, 180th St SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Sun. School 10:30am., Hymn Sing is second Sun. of every month.

Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church

Pastor: Ken Hanson, 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE. Services: Sun. Praise & Worship 9:30am, Wed. Family Fellowship 7pm.

Beacon House of Prayer

Pastors: Brian & Linda Holmes, 763-263-3771, 12264 Pleasant Ave. Services: Thurs. Worship 6:30pm.

Free Grace United

Pastor: Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001, Becker High School, 12000 Hancock St, Enter door 11. Services: Wed. Worship 6:30pm.

• BIG LAKE

Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church

Pastor: Bill Nixon, 763-263-2287, 20455 187th Ave NW. Services: Sat. Worship 9am, Sat. Sabbath School 10:15am.

Bethany Bible Church

763-263-2167, 511 Eagle Lake Road. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.

Bridgeview Assembly of God

Pastor: Steve Royalty, 763-263-6274, 20500 County Road 11. Services: Sun. Worship 10am, Wed. Service 6:30pm.

SVEA Hill Covenant Church

Pastor: Don Bellach, 763-263-6322, 16392 235th Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.

Cornerstone Baptist Church

Pastor: Gordon Langdon, 763-263-7878, 15300 County Road 35.

Hope Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Orrock

763-263-7990. www.hopeintherefuge.weebly.com.

IFLESIA AMOR VIVIENTE Living Love Church

Pastores: Juan & Patricia Aguayo, 763-607-5403, 21 Lake St N. Services: Sat. 6pm.

Lord of Glory Lutheran Church

Pastor: Marty Mabry, 763-263-3090, 15550 190th Ave NW. Services: Sun. 8am & 10am.

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church

Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 440 Lake St N. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm; Sun. 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month (Masses held on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays in Becker).

Riverside Church

Online: www.myrcc.church, 763-263-2410, 20314 County Road 14. Services: Sun 8:45am, 10:30am & 12:05pm.

Saron Lutheran Church

Pastor: Kyle Sidlo, 763-263-2209, 311 Lake St. S. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am, indoors or livestream.

• SANTIAGO

South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA

Pastor: Daryl Thul, 763-662-2048, 14675 37th St. Services: Sun. 8am in Sanctuary Worship, 10am in Sanctuary. Audio broadcast in parking lot for both services.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical School

Pastor: Timothy Zenda, 763-662-2570, 18977 17th St. Services: Sun. School/Bible Class 10:30am, Divine Worship 9am.

Glendorado Lutheran (ELCA)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Pastor: Shari Routh, 920-573-0193, 1100 186th Ave NE. Services: Sun Good Shepherd 9am, Sun. Glendorado 10:30am.

Gethsemane Church (ELCA) – Ronneby

Pastor: Barbara Peterson, 320-983-5002, 14478 78th St. NE. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.

Glendorado Evangelical Country Church

Pastor: Sam Alfano, 763-662-2244, 16999 Glendorado Road NE. Services: Sun. School 9:30am, Sun. Worship 10:30am.

• CLEAR LAKE

Living Waters Church

Pastor: Mark Stahl, 320-292-0250, 7830 Church St. Services: Sun. Worship 10am, Wed. Bible Study 6:30pm.

Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Pastor: Josh Reber, 320-743-2919, 8641 Main Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 8:45am, Sun. School 9:45am.

SHED Church - Non-Denomination in Palmer

Pastor: TBD, 320-241-0123, Palmer Town Hall, 4180 105th Ave. Services: Sun. 5pm.

St. Marcus Catholic Church

Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-743-2481, 8701 Main Ave. Services: Sat. Confessions 4:15pm, Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. 8am.

• DUELM

St. Lawrence Church

Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-968-7502, 10915 Duell Road NE. Services: Sun. Mass 10am, Tues. Mass 8am.

• CLEARWATER

Clearwater United Methodist Church

Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581, 405 Main St. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am.

Freedom Bible Church

605 Lime St. (Old Clearwater Post Office). Services: Sun. Bible Study 9:30am & 6pm, Sun. Worship 10:45am, Wed. Bible Study 7pm.

Rejoice Lutheran Church – ELCA

Pastor: Jim Bump, 320-558-6851, 1155 County Road 75. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am.

Church of St. Luke

Father: Dennis Backer, 320-558-2124, 17545 Huber Ave NW. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8am & 10am, Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8am/Sat. 9am.

Tri-County Alliance Church

Pastor: David Fogal, 320-558-2750, 8464 160th St NW. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10:30am.

• SILVER CREEK

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor: Ken Tatkenhorst, 763-878-2820, 11390 Elliot Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am

Silver Creek Community Church

Pastor: Zach Pryor, 320-963-3957, 4282 114th St NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun. Fellowship 10am, Sun. School 10:30am.

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