



# News & Notes



## SERVING THE COMMUNITY BOUNTIFUL BASKET FOOD SHELF OPENS; DONATIONS NEEDED

Bountiful Basket has partnered with the Cologne community to address food insecurity and alleviate hunger. The new Cologne Food Shelf opened in July, and is located at St. Bernard’s Catholic School (300 E. Church St.). The Cologne Lions “Fill the Shelves” Pancake Breakfast in July was a significant success. Thank you to everyone who attended and for donating \$2,218 and 600 pounds. The Cologne Food Shelf is open Thursdays from 3:30-6 p.m., and Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit [www.bountifulbasketfoodshelf.org/cologne](http://www.bountifulbasketfoodshelf.org/cologne) for details.

### BENTON LAKE WATERSHED CONSERVANCY (BLWC)

#### EDUCATING AND INSPIRING

To encourage Cologne’s youngest residents to fish the lake, the Benton Lake Watershed Conservancy (BLWC) gifted fishing poles to local children from Kurious Kids Preschool earlier this year.



The volunteer BLWC group continues its work to clean and restore the lake,

*BLWC continued on page 2*

### CITY OF COLOGNE

#### REMINDERS & UPDATES

Watch for notices about Fall fire hydrant flushing which may impact your water pressure.

Fall is street sweeping time before the snow falls; watch for and yield to the street sweeper.

Summer sewer averaging on Cologne water utility bills ends in October.

Vehicles traveling on Village Parkway – **SLOW DOWN**. School is open and increased traffic from the Hwy. 212 construction detour is making for a busy road. Please drive safely and be attentive.

### COMMUNITIES OF BELONGING

#### FRONT PORCH

#### CONVERSATION ON NOV. 1

The Cologne Communities of Belonging team continues to enhance connection and communication throughout the greater community. This was identified as a “need” by Cologne residents via a 2021 survey.

This work includes the new Front Porch project, beginning with a “Living Room Conversation” on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m., at the Cologne Community Center. The topic is Anxiety & Elections.



*Front Porch continued on page 4*

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### COLOGNE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT & FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION; CELEBRATING 135 YEARS IN 2025 AND 'GIVING BACK'

Founded on Dec. 13, 1890, the Cologne Fire and Rescue Department is one of the oldest fire departments in Minnesota. Its members have served the greater community for 133 years – saving lives and property, providing emergency medical services, protecting the environment during emergencies, providing mutual aid to neighboring Fire Departments, offering fire prevention education, participating in community outreach and more. The 51-square mile Cologne Fire District includes the City of Cologne, and portions of Benton, Dahlgren and Hancock Townships.

Today, the City of Cologne has a paid-on-call (volunteer) Fire Department of 30 firefighters who live or work in the City of Cologne. All members are Firefighter I and Firefighter II certified, as well as First Responder certified. Many are also EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) certified. According to Chief Chad Vos, all new members complete a two-year training of approximately 200 hours learning “how to be a firefighter during year one, and how to be a firefighter in Cologne and be part of our department ‘family’ in year two. There is a job for everyone at every incident.” Every member also completes around 50 hours of continuing education annually through regular trainings.

The Fire Department responds to 911 calls for fire, medical, accidents, storms, rescue and technical services. As Cologne and Carver County have grown, so has the number of calls for Fire Department response. In 2022, there were 141 calls for service; currently, the department is on pace to have nearly 200 calls by year end. According to Chief Vos, more mutual aid calls and



general growth in Cologne and neighboring communities contribute to the increase in calls. “We’re fortunate to have great resources and great personnel in our community for response. Outside of call response, we stay busy with fire prevention and community outreach. In October, we visit area schools as well as host a Trick-or-Treat event at our station. Our Relief Association keeps us involved in the community by running charitable gambling and holding yearly fundraisers like our Annual Steak Fry in April and calendars that are distributed in September. Funds raised go back into our protection area for scholarships, events and good causes throughout the greater community,” Vos said.

“We are your neighbors, friends and families, and we are all proud to serve and give back. We are a service organization as much as an emergency service organization,” Vos added. “We’ve been very fortunate to have our previous department leadership through the decades, making our department what it is today.”

Mick Swanson is Cologne’s most tenured member, who joined the department nearly 43 years ago when his father and friends were serving. “Many more friends joined me through the years, and we’ve had many grandfathers, fathers, sons and daughters in our ‘fire family.’ We are a close-knit group who do the work for the community we love.”

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#### **BLWC** continued from page 1

enhance the recreational opportunities available on the lake year-round, and to educate residents of all ages about the many species of fish, wildlife and vegetation in or around Benton Lake.

**TAKE AN AUDIO TOUR OF BENTON LAKE**  
You can experience the beauty of the lake



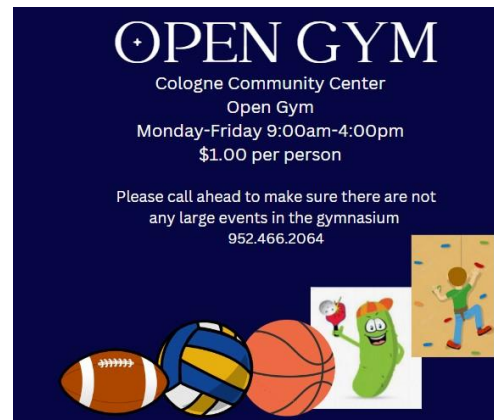
and learn about restoration activities through a new audio tour from the comfort of home. This summer, Carter Busch – an intern with Carver County-U of M Extension – worked with the BLWC to create the 30-minute audio tour. The tour begins at the boat launch, with eight “stops” on the lake described via the tour. To access the audio, use the QR code at left or visit <https://bentonlake.transistor.fm/>

**PUBLIC MEETING PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 212 PROJECT-BENTON TOWNSHIP**

County Public Works is hosting a final project public meeting on **Tuesday, Nov. 14 from 5-6:30 p.m.** at the Cologne Community Center. This meeting will cover construction staging, project schedule and land acquisition process. Construction is anticipated for July 2024 through late summer 2026. Invitations will be mailed in late October. Please visit the [project web page](#) for more information.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

- Sept. 29, 2023** **Fall Bingo, 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.)** sponsored by the Cologne Lions, Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Parkway. Food, purse raffle, meat raffle, cash bar.
- Oct. 14, 2023** **Fall Farmers Market, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.**, Logan Pass Coffeehouse, 202 Paul Ave. N.,
- Oct. 29, 2023** **Tricks & Treats, 1:30 p.m.**, sponsored by the Cologne Lions, Lions Park
- Oct. 31, 2023** **Trick-or-Treat at the Cologne Fire Station, 4-8 p.m.**, 110 Louis St.
- Nov. 1, 2023** **Front Porch Living Room Conversation-Anxiety & Elections, 6:30 p.m.**, Cologne Community Center.
- Central Public Schools Events:** Visit [isd108.ce.eleyo.com](http://isd108.ce.eleyo.com) to register and for additional events.
- Oct. 2** **Central Early Learning/Elementary Open House, 5-7 p.m.** – Central Elementary School; all ages welcome.
- Oct. 12** **Driver Safety Program, 5-9 p.m.** – for ages 55+; 4-hour refresher at Central Elementary School, \$24.
- Oct. 16, 17; Nov. 20** **Early Childhood Screening** – for children ages 3-5 (before Kindergarten).
- Nov. 6** **Babysitter Training, Noon-3 p.m.** – for ages 11+. American Health & Safety Institute accredited program.
- Nov. 30** **Kids' Night Out, 5-8:30 p.m.** – for children ages 3-12. All activities will be supervised by ECFE staff.
- Cologne Academy Events:**
- Sept. 26** **Parent Involvement Night, 6:30 p.m.**  
Guest speaker Derek Francis - *How to Talk to Children about Race and Diversity* - Community members welcome to attend.
- Oct. 13 & 14** **Fall Play, "Who Poisoned His Meatball?" 7 p.m.** Tickets will be for sale online or at the door.
- Oct. 27** **Trunk or Treat, 6-7:30 p.m.** Contact [communications@cologneacademy.org](mailto:communications@cologneacademy.org) for more information.
- Nov. 10** **Veterans' Day Ceremony, 2:15 p.m.**
- Nov. 13** **Prospective Parent Information Night and Open House, 6:30 p.m.**



**OPEN GYM**  
Cologne Community Center  
Open Gym  
Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm  
\$1.00 per person

Please call ahead to make sure there are not any large events in the gymnasium  
952.466.2064

**Cologne Community Center**

**MONDAY'S 9:00-NOON**  
**STARTING MONDAY OCT 2ND-APRIL 1ST**

CALL CITY OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT  
952.466.2064  
\$1 PER PERSON



**Cards for Seniors**

Join us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month  
1:00-4:00pm  
in the Cologne Community Room  
for cards for seniors  
Come alone and meet new friends or bring a group of card loving friends

**We want to hear from you!**

Have an event to list in an upcoming *News & Notes* issue or content suggestions? Send an email to [info@colognemn.com](mailto:info@colognemn.com) Thank you!

1211 Village Parkway  
PO Box 120, Cologne, MN 55322



### Leadership Team

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### City of Cologne

1211 Village Parkway  
PO Box 120, Cologne, MN 55322

**Phone:** 952-466-2064

Emergency/after-hours public works: 952-466-2064 and leave a voice mail message.

**Email:** [info@colognemn.com](mailto:info@colognemn.com)

**Website:** [www.colognemn.com](http://www.colognemn.com)

City Office is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday

City Administrator: Jesse Dickson

City Clerk: Michelle Morrison

Utility Billing Clerk: Lori Kasel

Cologne City Council: Mayor Matt Lein, Sarah Bruss, Rachel Lenzen, Carol Szaroletta, Nathan Kells

The City Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7 p.m.

*Citizens are welcome to attend meetings and learn about City Council work.*

Planning Commission meets on the 1st Monday, 6 p.m.

**City Hall holiday closures** – Friday, Nov. 10 (Veteran’s Day);

Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving holiday);

Monday, Dec. 25 (Christmas holiday); Monday, Jan. 1 (New Year’s Day).

*Front Porch continued from page 1*

The Front Porch provides a space for everyone who wants to better understand where other people are coming from, as well as to have others better understand why you hold your beliefs. All community members are invited – no matter what political views you hold. The conversation facilitator will be Pat Stieg, Public Health Specialist, Carver County Health & Human Services. Please RSVP to Stieg at [pstieg@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:pstieg@co.carver.mn.us).

## WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES GROWING LOCAL SERVICES, RETAIL

The greater community of Cologne continues to welcome new residents and businesses, including the following “new additions” that opened to customers in the past two years (or will open soon). Please welcome and consider visiting these businesses soon.

**212 Tavern** – 114 Paul Ave. S.,  
[www.212tavern.com](http://www.212tavern.com)

**Autoshine Detailing** – 106 Louis St.,  
612-702-6381

**Logan Pass Coffeehouse** –  
202 Paul Ave. N.,  
[www.loganpasscoffeehouse.com](http://www.loganpasscoffeehouse.com)

**Nutrition Fix Energy & Shake Bar** –  
107 Paul Ave. S., 612-360-5501

**Sheps Creamery** – 202 Paul Ave. N., seasonal

**STARS Early Learning Academy** – 1111 Village Parkway,  
[www.starsela.org](http://www.starsela.org)

**Launch Coffee Shop** - next to STARS,  
opening soon

