



News & Notes

COLOGNE LIONS CLUB CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE; LEOS CLUB INVITES YOUTH AGES 12-18 TO JOIN



Happy anniversary to the Cologne Lions Club! Chartered on Feb. 14, 1974, by and under the jurisdiction of the International Association of Lions Clubs, the Cologne Lions' motto is "We Serve." Serving the greater Cologne community is exactly what this club and its members has done for 50 years – hosting and sponsoring community events, raising and donating funds, coordinating service projects, awarding scholarships to local high school

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BOUNTIFUL BASKET FOOD SHELF EXPANDS; NOW OPEN 3 DAYS A WEEK

Use of the Bountiful Basket Food Shelf in Cologne continues to grow, and starting in January is also now open on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as well as on Thursdays from 3:30-6:30 p.m., and Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There are also opportunities for additional volunteers. Contact Cindy Dubois, manager, at 952-988-2808 or visit www.bountifulbasketfoodshelf.org/cologne for details.

CITY OF COLOGNE REMINDERS & UPDATES

Snowfall reminders: There is no parking on City of Cologne streets or in alleys after 2 inches of snowfall; violators ticketed and towed. Place garbage cans behind the curb if there is snow – not on the street – to allow for plowing. Also, please shovel around fire hydrants in neighborhoods.

Fitness memberships at the Cologne Community Center: Start 2024 with a fitness membership. Fees are \$20 per month for City residents, \$24 per month if you live outside city limits or \$3 per day (drop-in) anytime Monday-Friday between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. New monthly membership for college students or for visiting family: \$15 pass for 30 days use, Monday-Friday between 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

COMMUNITIES OF BELONGING WELCOMING NEW RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES



In partnership with Welcome Neighbor, the Cologne Communities of Belonging team has expanded its Welcome Kits to now include a bag – printed with the Communities of Belonging logo – of information about the greater Cologne community.

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT = BELONGING = IMPROVED COMMUNITY HEALTH



Having residents engaged in their community helps them to create connections, strengthen neighborhoods, and build community resilience. Civic engagement has been shown to improve the health and well-being of individuals, as well as the entire

community. Conversely, those who value community health are more likely to be civically engaged. This engagement could occur through actions such as involvement in civic organizations or voting in elections.

In Cologne there are many organizations that residents can join, all of which contribute toward a vibrant, thriving community for everyone. Minnesota has one of the highest rates of voter participation, and Carver County has one the highest voting rates in the state. However, in a survey of Cologne residents two years ago, the number one reason stated for why some

people feel like they do not belong here is because of their political views.

The Communities of Belonging initiative wants everyone to feel like Cologne is a place where they feel like they belong, regardless of our differences, including our political differences. In 2024, we will have an opportunity to participate in primary and general elections for candidates running for office at a local, state, and national level. The hope is that all eligible Cologne area voters will participate, and that they will feel respected for engaging in our democracy, even by those who hold different political views.

Watch for additional “Community Conversations” events in Cologne in 2024, including a Braver Angels book discussion group – hosted by Communities of Belonging – to better understand others’ beliefs.

By Patrick Stieg, MA CHES, Public Health Specialist, Public Health Department, Carver County Health and Human Services; Cologne Communities of Belonging Leadership Team

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jan. 19, 2024 **Winter Bingo**, food service begins at 5 p.m. and Bingo at 6:30 p.m., sponsored by the Cologne Lions, Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Parkway

March 30, 2024 **Cologne Leo's Bunny Trail Event**, 12-1:30 p.m., Cologne Community Center

Winter **Carver County Winter Programs** – cross country ski lessons, snowshoe nature hikes and more; register via the link or QR code <https://bit.ly/CCPprograms>



Jan. 27, Feb. 17, 2024 **Candlelit Nights at Baylor Regional Park**; register at <https://bit.ly/carvercountyevents>

May 18, 2024 **Carver County Special Waste Collection Event in Cologne**, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m.

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

Central Public Schools Events:

Feb. 8, 2024 **Kindergarten Registration**

Feb. 12, 2024 **Central Preschool Open House Fun Night**, 5:30-7 p.m., Central Elementary School, Norwood Young America

March 25-26, 2024 **Early Childhood Screening**
Visit isd108.ce.eleyo.com for listings and registration.

Cologne Academy Events:

March 1-2, 2024 **Beauty and the Beast, Jr. Spring Musical**, 7 p.m.

March 3, 2024 **Beauty and the Beast, Jr. Spring Musical**, 2 p.m.

March 15, 2024 **PAVE Family Fun Night**, 5:30-7 p.m., \$10 p/family

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seniors, helping those in need, managing and providing a place to play and gather at Lions Park (County Rd. 36 and Henry Ave.), sharing time, talent and treasure with community members, inviting others to join in their commitment to improving our community and world through service and more.



Lions International is the world's largest service organization with more than 1.4 million members in approximately 46,000 clubs in more than 200 countries throughout the world. There are currently 38 Cologne Lions Club members, with Jeff Thompson serving as President. The local club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Cologne Community Center.

Lions Charter member Roger Storms said "One of the best decisions I made was to accept the invitation of Willard Sauter, then manager of H. E. Westerman Lumber Company, in 1974 to be part of forming the Cologne Lions Club. What sold me on the idea was an opportunity to serve and get to know the greater Cologne community." Through the years, Storms said the Cologne Lions Club has provided "a great opportunity to collaborate with my neighbors to make Cologne a better place to live, work and play. A subtle part of membership in the Cologne Lions Club International is to work with and learn from members throughout the world, or neighboring communities in Carver County and Minnesota."

Thank you to all past, present and future Cologne Lions Club members for your contributions to our community! To learn more, visit www.colognelions.com or send an email to info.colognelions@gmail.com

Cologne Leo Club

A branch of the Lions for youth ages 12-18, the Cologne Leo Club was chartered on May 10, 2012, and is very active in service to Cologne and the surrounding communities. According to Cologne Lion and Leo advisor Anna Wickenhauser, "The Leo Club a wonderful way to help young people gain leadership and problem-solving skills, as well to help the world around them."

The Cologne Leos plan, host and participate in many projects and events in Cologne, including the "Tricks and Treats" Halloween event and "Bunny Hop on the Trail" for Easter. The Leos also support families in need during the holidays and throughout the year, bring sunshine and smiles to seniors, provide fleece blankets to patients receiving chemotherapy and more. They fundraise for their projects by selling baked goods and popcorn, and by managing a parking lot during the Carver County Fair. The Cologne Leo Club welcomes and invites new members to join them; contact Wickenhauser at lionannaw@gmail.com or at 952-913-1467.



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The bags are delivered to new residents and businesses, including to the Navarro family. Sarah and Leon Navarro and their two young children recently moved to Cologne from Minneapolis. Sarah grew up in a small town and they wanted to raise their family in a small town, too. She shares that they are very excited about living here, and that their family enjoyed attending the recent Christmas in Cologne activities. Welcome to the community to all who have recently moved to Cologne and/or those new to working here.

For more information or to volunteer to help with follow-up welcome visits in Cologne, contact Donna Hughes, donna@welcomeneighbormn.com or Jo Eiden, jo@moderndesigncabinetry.com.

1211 Village Parkway
PO Box 120, Cologne, MN 55322



Leadership Team

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BWLC HOSTING ANNUAL ICE CRIBBAGE & BENTON LAKE BASH FEB. 10; ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

The Benton Lake Watershed Conservancy (BLWC) invites area residents of all ages to the annual Ice Cribbage Tournament & Benton Lake Bash on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024. The event begins at 11 a.m. with registration to play cribbage and tournament play follows at Noon. The family-friendly and day-long Benton Lake Bash event offers a large, heated tent with a plywood floor over the ice, food and beverage sales, firepits and outdoor activities on the lake, cash raffle, door prizes and more. There is a \$20 fee to play cribbage, but all outdoor activities are free. The BLWC uses the funds raised from this event to improve the quality of Benton Lake as a recreational resource for the community. For more information and event location updates, visit this Facebook page: [Ice Cribbage Tournament @icecribbage](#).



City of Cologne

1211 Village Parkway, PO Box 120, Cologne, MN 55322

Phone: 952-466-2064

Emergency/after-hours public works: 952-466-5601 and leave a voice mail message.

Email: info@colognemn.com

Website: www.colognemn.com

City Office is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday
*City Hall holiday closures – Monday, Feb. 19 (President's Day);
Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day)*

City Administrator/Clerk: Michelle Morrison

Utility Billing Clerk: Jenna McInnis

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 Wednesday, 6 p.m.