



News & Notes

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

MEET THE HENDRICKS FAMILY



“Create the community that you want to live in by getting involved,” says Lona Hendricks, who has lived in Cologne for six years in the Village neighborhood and is leading several Cologne Communities of Belonging initiatives. According to Lona, the Hendricks family chose Cologne because it had features that reminded them of their hometowns (farmland, non-franchised businesses, etc.) but also showed signs of growth and life (new school, community center, splash pad, etc.).

She and her husband have a son and a daughter, and a dog named Truffles. “We enjoy having the best of both worlds: farmland on one side of our house and a suburban neighborhood on the other.”

Hendricks family continued on page 2

CITY OF COLOGNE

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Development: The Preliminary Plat for the Village of Cologne 18th addition was approved by the Planning Commission and City Council in August. The property owner will be developing a cul-de-sac just north of the intersection of Cobblestone and Silver Leaf Trail that is platted for 15 single-family residential homes.

Business expansion: Also approved at the Council’s Aug. 18 meeting was a site plan for Locked Loon Storage (formerly Freedom Storage) which includes some expansion for the business located at 180 Adams Ave. S.

Budget: The City of Cologne budget work is under way. The Council will adopt a preliminary 2026 levy at its Sept. 15 meeting which establishes the maximum levy. The full budget will be developed and reviewed with Council in November with the final levy and budget approved in December.

Information: Residents are encouraged to attend City Council and Planning Commission meetings and stay informed. The Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7 p.m., Planning Commission meets on the 1st Wednesday, 6 p.m.

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Communities
of Belonging
COLOGNE

COLOGNE COMMUNITIES OF BELONGING

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS; FOLLOW AND CONNECT VIA NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

Are you interested in joining or learning more about the Cologne Communities of Belonging and the initiatives under way to continuing enhancing our community?

There are several ways to become involved, including attending workgroup meetings (held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., Cologne Community Center) by joining one of the Communities of Belonging workstream teams, or help form the new Cologne Historical Society – just in time to help plan how Cologne will celebrate its 150th anniversary in a few short years (2031).

See page 4 for contact information and Facebook QR code

BENTON LAKE: RESTORING OUR COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Since 2007, local residents, volunteers and landowners have teamed up through the Benton Lake Watershed Conservancy (BLWC) to protect and revitalize one of the Carver County's most scenic natural areas. What started as a conservation effort has grown into a community movement to care for a lake that means so much to Cologne.

With support from environmental partners and neighbors, the community has made great strides in restoring the Benton Lake Watershed. Regular water sampling helps track nutrients and runoff, guiding smarter decisions to protect the lake.

Nearby property owners have been key players by planting native grasses, maintaining buffer strips and managing manure. These actions are already leading to cleaner water and healthier wildlife habitats. If you've noticed clearer waters or more birds near the lake, you're seeing the impact of those efforts. The BLWC is also keeping the community informed by partnering with the University of Minnesota Extension summer interns to develop interpretive signs, audio tours, bluebird houses and to post Facebook updates for local youth and families.



Looking ahead, the Conservancy plans to continue habitat restoration, invasive species management and hosting events – such as the annual Benton Lake Bash on Feb. 7, 2026. Thank you to all who have helped with these efforts or have enjoyed learning about Benton Lake.

Follow the Benton Lake Watershed Conservancy and University of MN Extension-Carver & Scott on Facebook to stay updated.

Written by Isabela Karels, UMN Extension intern

NEW BUSINESS OPENING

Väter Photo: Cologne resident and internationally exhibited photographer Joshua Kerwood recently opened Väter Photo at 111 Paul Ave. N., Suite 2, in Cologne. For more information, visit www.VaterPhoto.com or contact via email at vaterphoto@gmail.com

Hendricks family continued from page 1

Lona cites two specific actions that solidified Cologne where they wanted to invest time and energy into building and maintaining. "The day we moved in, the neighbor kids brought our kids door-to-door to introduce them to each of the neighbor kids on our street. The neighbors hosted a bonfire that night so we could meet everyone. Shortly after, a Welcome Neighbor rep brought us a folder of Cologne area resources," she says.

Lona joined Cologne Communities of Belonging to get involved to create a home for her kids and not just a place where they sleep. She found mentors who showed her what a welcoming community looks like and is pursuing her passions while serving Cologne. She joined the "Creative Expressions" workstream, helped start the community garden and is now on the leadership team.

Lona suggests, "If you're seeking connection and purpose, align your passion and serve your community. Care about the environment? Join the Benton Lake Watershed Conservancy, volunteer at one of the gardens, or join the "Green Spaces" workstream to help advocate and design a park and trail system for Cologne. Care about food security? Volunteer at Bountiful Basket, or grow and donate produce from a community garden plot. Want to preserve history? Join our new historical group, advocate for or invest in the restoration of downtown buildings, or join our "Creative Expression" workstream as we merge art and history together."

To get involved, contact Lona at 952-567-4561 or email colognecommunitiesofbelonging@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Carver County Parks

Visit bit.ly/CCPprograms and bit.ly/CCPevents or scan the QR codes for fall program details and events, including Trick or Treat Geocaching, Fall Colors Kayak and more.



Cologne Leos

Oct. 26 Tricks and Treats on the Trails, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Cologne Community Center

Cologne Lions

Oct. 11 Gun Bingo and Raffle, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Cologne Community Center

Second Tuesday of each Month Lions General Meetings,
6-8 p.m., Cologne Community Center

Central Public Schools

For all Central Schools summer programs, event details and registration, visit isd108.eleyo.com

Sept. 25 Home Alone Safety, 3:15-5 p.m., ages 8-11

Nov. 20-22 SHREK, the Musical, 7 p.m. (Nov. 20-21), 2 p.m. (Nov. 22), Central High School

Nov. 22 42nd Annual Community Education Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 531 Morse St., NYA

Nov. 25 Early Childhood Screening

Cologne Academy, 1221 S. Village Pkwy.,

www.cologneacademy.org

Oct. 10-11 Fall play performances, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24 Trunk or Treat, 6-7:30 p.m.

Nov. 17 Prospective Parent Information Night, 6:30 p.m.

St. Bernard Catholic Church, 210 E. Church St.

Oct. 4 Soup Social, 3-8 p.m.; Farmer's market, silent auction, bake sale, raffles

West Union Lutheran Church, 15820 Market Ave.

Oct. 4 Country Market Fest, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; vendors food, kid zone, music and more

Nov. 15 Sip, Savor, Support, 4-7 p.m.; mocktails, charcuterie, silent auction, ATV raffle

Zion Lutheran Church and School, 14735 County Rd. 153,

www.zion-cologne.org

Oct. 24 Trunk or Treat, 6:30-7:30 p.m., concessions served from 6-8 p.m.

Nov. 3 Annual Soup and Pie Supper plus craft and bake sale, 3:30-7:30 p.m., takeout available. Adults: \$13; ages 5-12: \$6; 5/under: free

Slow Flow Yoga with Abby

at **Cologne Community Center**

Starting Sunday, September 7th at 7 p.m.



First class only \$ 10

5 class packages available for \$ 60

A flow yoga class that allows your breath to deepen your practice. A focus on balance, full body strength, and mind restoration.

All classes are 60 minutes in length. Please arrive 15 minutes before first class to sign waiver.

No pre-registration required, lots of space! Please bring yoga mat, block, blanket, and water.

Nov. 12 55+ Driver Discount Program, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Peace Village, 308 N. Faxon Rd., NYA. Register at www.DriverDiscountProgram.com or call 320-308-1400.

Dec. 6 Christmas in Cologne, events throughout town throughout the day

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Bountiful Basket 102 Lake St. W. Tues. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.; Thursday, 3:30-6:30 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Community Library

Bring a Book/Take a Book; Cologne Community Center back door (near fitness center); Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

For the most current schedule and activities at the Cologne Community Center, visit www.cologne.mn.com and click on the Digital Bulletin Board.

1211 Village Parkway
PO Box 120, Cologne, MN 55322



Communities
of Belonging
COLOGNE



Leadership Team

Diane Davis, ddavis@carvercountymn.gov
Lona Hendricks, lona.j.hendricks@gmail.com
Jayson Read, read.jayson@gmail.com

Scan the QR code at left to follow the new
Communities of Belonging Facebook page.



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: Tuesday, Nov. 11 (Veterans Day);

Thurs., Nov. 27-Fri., Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving); Thurs., Dec. 25 (Christmas)

City Administrator: Michelle Morrison

Utility Billing Clerk: Jenna McInnis

Cologne City Council: Mayor Matt Lein, Sarah Bruss,
Carol Szaroletta, Jeri Bowers, Selmer Olson

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

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

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

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Sign up for the Carver County Citizen Alert System at:

www.carvercountymn.gov/government/public-safety/carver-county-citizen-alert-system

Carver County uses a mass notification system designed to quickly alert citizens of incidents that may affect their health or welfare. The Citizen Alert System is capable of making thousands of phone calls per hour. Residents and businesses are encouraged to create a Citizen Alert Account and receive these emergency alerts on their cell phones and other contact methods in the event of an emergency in the area of their residence or business.

Citizens may also opt in for a number of optional alerts including weather, road closures, sewer and water alerts and more.

ALSO: Sign up to receive City of Cologne email alerts and information

Receive timely announcements from the City of Cologne, including meeting notices, office closures, event information and more by signing up for email alerts here:

www.colognemn.com/residents/email-alerts/

Please visit www.colognemn.com for meeting agendas and minutes.