



News & Notes



Cologne residents Jayson and Katie Read and their daughters enjoy traveling to watch major league baseball games.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

MEET THE READ FAMILY

"Find shared passions and diverse views to strengthen community belonging."

Growing up in Granite Falls – a small town west of Cologne – Jayson Read and his family have lived in the same house in the Meadow Street neighborhood since moving here in 2007. "At the time, we were living in an apartment in Shakopee and I was working in Eden Prairie. With the promise of Highway 212 expanding and the appeal of a small town, we chose to move to Cologne. A smaller town feels just right," Jayson says.

Jayson and his wife, Katie, have four daughters. Their oldest is age 20, the second is 17 and attends Central Schools, and their 9-year-old twin daughters also attend Central.

Read family continued on page 4

CITY OF COLOGNE

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

City leadership positions available in 2026:

2026 is an election year, and that includes three positions on the Cologne City Council that will be open for candidates: Mayor – two-year term (currently held by Matt Lein); Council – two seats with four-year terms each (currently held by Carol Szaroletta and Selmer Olson).

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, and the Primary Election date is Aug. 11, 2026. Watch the City of Cologne's website at www.colognemn.com for details about the candidate filing process and dates, as well as the State of Minnesota website for additional information at Minnesota Secretary Of State - Election Administration & Campaigns.

Seasonal/snowfall reminders:

There is no parking on City of Cologne streets or in alleys after two 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.

**Interested in serving Cologne?
Consider filing as a candidate for
Mayor or City Council for the 2026
General Election!**

Where can you find City of Cologne updates, events and other community 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. Visit the City of Cologne website for the most current community information – including the City's digital billboard – at www.colognemn.com and to sign up to receive email alerts directly to your inbox.

COMMUNITIES OF BELONGING

SPRING AND SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES; VOLUNTEER FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

It may be winter, but the spring planting and summer growing seasons will be here soon. The Cologne Communities of Belonging teams are busy planning for the upcoming year ahead and invite community members to participate in or volunteer to support them to help enhance Cologne.



Communities
of Belonging
Cologne

Garden plot rental will again be available at the Louis Street gardens. The cost is \$10 for a raised garden or \$25 for an in-ground plot. For those planning to rent at the community garden in 2026, there is a new greenhouse space available onsite in which to start seeds early this spring. Contact Lona Hendricks at 952-567-4561 or lona.j.hendricks@gmail.com

The **Green Spaces team** is looking for interested individuals to work collaboratively on the parks, trails, garden and lake areas of Cologne. The History group is seeking volunteers to help retype the History of Cologne book since there is no digital copy of that publication. The team also plans to add stories and photos from the last 50 years and print a new book to be ready for Cologne's 150th anniversary in 2031. Please contact Lona at 952-567-4561 or email colognecommunitysofbelonging@gmail.com

Watch for details about **a new leadership training** to help participants learn about city government, community services and develop skills you can bring to work or to community roles.

Stay connected and informed: Scan the QR code below to follow the Communities of Belonging Facebook page.



BENTON LAKE BASH

FEB. 7; ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

ICE CRIBBAGE, FOOD, FAMILY FUN & MORE ON BENTON LAKE 11 a.m.

Looking for a great way to celebrate Cologne and enjoy winter fun? Bring your family, neighbors and friends to the annual Benton Lake Bash on Feb. 7, 2026 – featuring a



cribbage tournament, silent auction, raffle, food, beverages in a 40x80-foot heated tent and several free on-the-ice activities for people of all ages. New this year are more large heaters for warmth, new games and winter activities.

All proceeds from the Benton Lake Bash support initiatives to improve the quality of Benton Lake so that all may enjoy this natural resource in Cologne. This event and lake restoration activities are hosted by the volunteer-led Benton Lake Watershed Conservancy (BLWC). *Follow @ICECRIBBAGE on Facebook and watch for any event/location changes due to weather.*

JOIN US: CONNECT WITH FRIENDS

Cologne Community Connection

ALL ARE WELCOME

Join us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month
12:30- 3:30pm

in the Cologne Community Room
1211 Village Parkway

Our community room space will be available for anyone who would like to use it on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month for FREE.

We want to encourage people to get out of their homes and connect with others.

Think book club, knitting friends, cards, games, or just have a space to meet up and chat. Tables & chairs provided along with coffee & water. Feel free to bring in treats to share.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Carver County Parks

Visit bit.ly/CCPprograms and bit.ly/CCPevents or scan the QR codes for winter program details and events, including Candlelit Nights at nearby Baylor Regional Park, Maple Syrup Festival and more.



Cologne Lions

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

Central Public Schools

655 SW 7th St, Norwood Young America
Feb. 5 Kindergarten Registration Night, 6-7 p.m.
March 2, April 7,
May 11 Early Childhood Screening, ages 3-5; free
Feb. 5- May 21 Preschool Preview, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; must be age 3 by Sept. 1, 2026 to attend.; Central Elementary ECFE classroom

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

Cologne Academy, 1221 S. Village Pkwy.,

www.cologneacademy.org

March 13-15 Spring Musical, "Seussical, Jr.;"
March 13-14, 7 p.m.; March 15, 2 p.m.
March 15 Kindergarten Round-Up, 12:30 p.m., Open House for enrolled 2026-27 kindergarten scholars

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

www.zion-cologne.org

Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday service, 3:30 p.m., Lenten supper 4:30 p.m.; Lenten suppers every Wednesday until March 25
Feb. 20 Fish Fry, 3:30-7:30 p.m.

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.



WINTER WALKERS

Cologne Community Center

1211 Village Parkway

Weekdays Monday-Friday

8:00-9:00am FREE

(after 9:00am walking is subject to rentals and \$2 open gym fee)

Escape the elements and come walk laps in the gym. Come alone or with a group of friends.



Please bring a clean/dry pair of shoes to change into so we can keep our gym floors clean, safe and dry.



Cologne Fitness Center



24/7 Fitness Center

Cologne offers a simple 24/7 fitness center for residents to stay healthy.

First member = \$20 per month

Second member = \$9 per month

Each additional member (at least 16 years of age) = \$5 per month.



WEEKEND: WINTER \$2 OPEN GYM

Schedule (SUNDAYS) 3:00-7:00pm

January 11th



January 18th



January 25th



February 1st



February 8th



February 15th



February 22nd ***TIME CHANGE 4:00-8:00pm***



March 1st



March 8th



March 15th



This includes all ages & adults.

\$2 PER PERSON.

Small bills appreciated, change may not be able to be made.

Electronic Payment Unavailable



**Use of courts may be changed/determined by open gym supervisor depending on interest of attendees.

OPEN GYM RULES

- All individuals under the age of 12 must have direct supervision from a responsible adult
- The gym & bathrooms are professionally cleaned once a week. When done please clean up after yourselves leaving the facility in the condition you found it or cleaner. (take diapers out with you)
- If you need supplies please ask the front desk
- The City shall enforce a zero-tolerance policy with regards to negative participant conduct while on site.
- The City provides limited recreational equipment. This should be used **CORRECTLY, RESPONSIBLY and RETURNED in an ORDERLY FASHION**. Please teach your children how to use equipment properly.
- All participants must wear CLEAN shoes and appropriate attire

1211 Village Parkway
PO Box 120, Cologne, MN 55322



Leadership Team

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

Read family continued from page 1

The Read family enjoys taking family road trips every summer to watch a baseball game or take in other activities on the way. To date, the Reads have been to 15 different major league baseball stadiums.

“I love the fact that Cologne is small and safe enough that if I leave my garage door open overnight, I’m confident everything will still be there when I wake up. But I’m also only 45 minutes from downtown Minneapolis,” he said. “Even though Cologne a small community, there are a lot of different opportunities to become involved at whatever level and at whatever topic or passion suits you.”

Jayson currently serves as a member of the Cologne Planning Commission and on the Communities of Belonging leadership team. He encourages other residents to ‘find shared passions and diverse views to strengthen community belonging,’ stating there are “opportunities abound in Cologne and countless ways someone can get and stay involved in the community. Jayson says these can range from getting involved in City government to helping tend a plot in the Community Garden, volunteering at Bountiful Baskets to playing in a bean-bag league, from helping the behind-the-scenes heroes make Glad Days an annual success to helping the Lions serve pancake breakfast for Christmas in Cologne.

“There’s no end to the chances to find the thing that brings you passion and inserting yourself into any welcoming group whether you’ve been here 30 years, 10 years, two months or are just shopping for a house,” he says.



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@cognemn.com

Website: www.cognemn.com

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

Closed: Monday, Feb. 16, President's Day; Monday, May 25, Memorial Day; Friday, June 19, Juneteenth; Friday, July 3, Independence Day, (Observed)

City Administrator: Michelle Morrison

Utility Billing Clerk: Jenna McInnis

Cologne City Council: Mayor Matt Lein, Sarah Bruss, Carol Szaroleta, 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.