



# Russell Newsletter

May 2025



Memorial Day Roll Call and Placing of flags on crosses of our Veterans will be held at the Russell Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. on Memorial Day, May 26th.

Would you like us to email you your newsletter?  
As long as you're not a Russell Boxholder we can email you the Russell Newsletter.

Email your request to:  
[russellnews@fibmn.com](mailto:russellnews@fibmn.com)  
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**NOTICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**  
TO ENSURE YOUR AD GETS IN THE PAPER PLEASE SEND TO THE ABOVE EMAIL BY THE FRIDAY BEFORE NEWSLETTER WEEK.

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**A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HAS DONATED MONEY TO THE RUSSELL NEWSLETTER LATELY! YOUR DONATIONS KEEP THIS NEWSLETTER GOING!**

Russell Newsletter,  
PO Box 360,  
Russell, MN 56169.

## **The City of Russell has a new website!!**

Make sure to check out all it has to offer including signing up for our **new alert system** via text or email. **You must sign up for these alerts even if you had them in the past as this is a new system.** With the infrastructure project still going on there will be important alerts going out.

Go to the City of Russell website @ <https://russell.municipalimpact.com>

## **We want YOU to vote!**

### **Who do you think deserves to be Russell's Grand Marshall for the Russell Bandwagon Days Parade?**

Please tell us who you think should be the Grand Marshall!  
It can be anyone you know in Russell that you feel has made a positive impact to our town.

Please submit your vote by dropping off the below at the Russell Post Office "In Town" drop box or First Independent Bank Night Drop.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON DESERVES TO BE GRAND MARSHALL?

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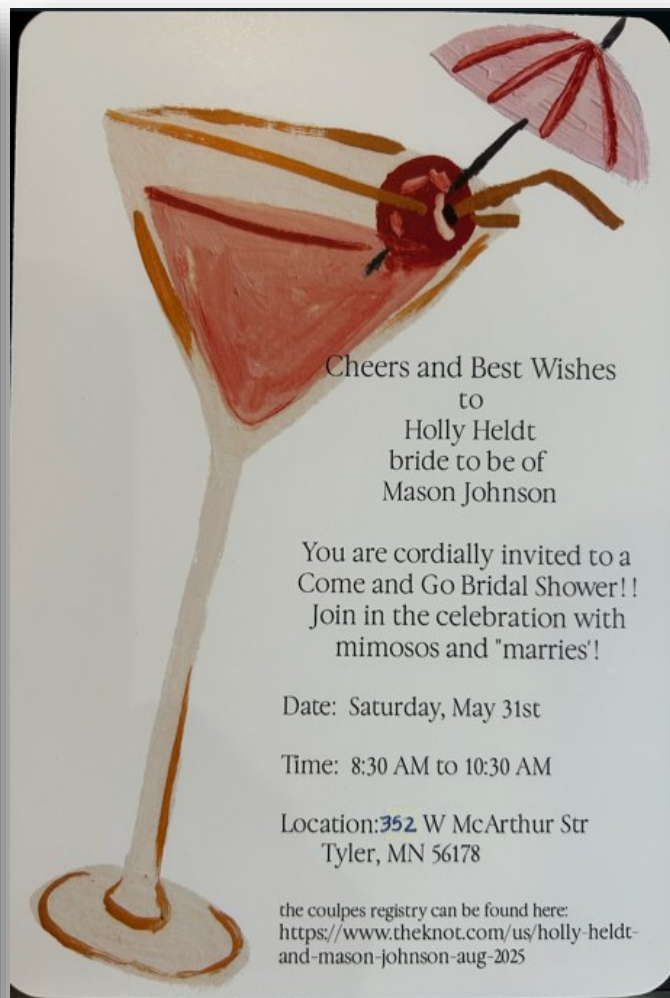
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**Kason Dybdahl**





# RUSSELL BANDWAGON Days

ENTERTAINMENT  
FOR THE WHOLE  
FAMILY!

## JUNE 6, 7, & 8, 2025

### FRIDAY • JUNE 6

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm ... Kids Inflatables at the school park  
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm ... Birch Coulee Ranch Rodeo Sign Up  
6:30 pm ... Ranch Rodeo - FREE ADMISSION!  
Food & Beverages available!

DO BUS AVAILABLE  
15 Mile Radius from Russell  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY EYEWINGS  
507-829-1691 & 507-829-1783

### SATURDAY • JUNE 7

9:00 am ... Kickball Tournament at the City Ball Field - sign up @ 507-530-0115  
9:00 am - Noon ... Coffee & Rolls served by Ladies of Grace First Parish at the Community Center  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm ... Vendor Event at the Community Center and the School Park  
9:30 am ... Kid's Tractor Pull 9:30 sign up, 10:00 start time (on South 2nd Street by the school park)  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm ... Inflatable Fun for the kids at the school park  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm ... Bloody Mary Bar at the Russell Bar & Grill  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm ... Face Painting at the school park  
Noon until gone ... Hog Roast sponsored by the Russell Fire Department under the Tent  
Noon ... Cow Bingo!  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm ... Bingo under the Tent  
2:00 pm ... Bandwagon Days & Russell Fire Dept. Raffle Drawing under the Tent  
5:00 pm ... Bierema Rodeo Bull Riding & Mini Bull Riding  
Admission: \$20 Adults; \$10 Youth ages 7-17; Kids 6 & under Free  
Food & Beverages  
8:00 pm - Midnight ... IV Play - Under the Tent - \$10 Admission

### SUNDAY • JUNE 8

8:00 am - 11:00 am ... Breakfast under the Tent - Free Will Donation  
9:00 am ... Community Church Service at Grace First Parish  
10:00 am - Noon ... Kids Fishing Tournament at the Russell Lake  
Parking Lot  
10:30 am - Noon ... Car Show on South 3rd Street  
1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners at the car show!  
1st 10 to register receive a free gift!  
1:00 pm ... Russell Bandwagon Days Parade  
After the parade ... Russell Bar & Grill opens

THE RUSSELL BAR & GRILL  
ALONG WITH MULTIPLE FOOD TRUCKS  
AND OTHER FOOD OPTIONS  
WILL BE AVAILABLE ALL WEEKEND LONG!

**2nd Annual** RUSSELL BANDWAGON DAYS

# KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

**2024 CHAMPS  
FLAMIN CRACKERS**



Players must be over the age of 10  
Teams can be a mix of ages 10 to 100  
\$30 REGISTRATION FEE PER TEAM  
Tournament to start Sat. June 7th 9am  
Cash Prizes awarded to 1st & 2nd Place

GET YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS & SIGN UP TODAY!

To register your team please contact:  
Jessica Carlson at 507-530-0115  
by May 25th 2025

MUSIC  
FOOD  
LAUGHS  
FUN!

Like us on  facebook

# RUSSELL BANDWAGON DAYS CAR SHOW!

EXPERIENCE THE ROAR OF ENGINES AND THE BRILLIANCE OF AUTOMOTIVE DESIGN AT THE MOST ANTICIPATED CAR SHOW OF THE YEAR!



**SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH**  
**10:30 TO NOON**


SOUTH 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET  
PRIZES FOR 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE

The Russell Fire Truck and Ambulance as well as a Lyon County police car will be on display for the kids to check out on Saturday, June 7th from 3-4 at the school park! Bring your kids down to come and check it out!

# LET'S GO FISHING

RUSSELL BANDWAGON DAYS  
KIDS FISHING TOURNAMENT  
SUNDAY JUNE 8TH AT 10:30AM  
SIGN UP AT THE RUSSELL LAKE PARKING LOT  
BAIT PROVIDED

THE KIDS LOVE THIS EVENT!  
BRING THEM TO JOIN THE FUN BEFORE THE PARADE



**IV PLAY**




**IV Play is coming  
to  
Russell  
Bandwagon  
Days!  
Saturday June  
7th from 8:00 to  
Midnight!  
\$10 cover charge**

Don't miss out on the excitement of the **Birch Coulee Ranch Rodeo** on Friday, June 6th starting at 6:30. **FREE ADMISSION** with food and beverages available for sale!

You also won't want to miss **Bierema Rodeo Bull Riding** Saturday, June 7th starting at 5:00. \$20 admission for adults, \$10 admission for ages 17-7, kids 6 and under are free!

**Entrance and parking off of Highway 23 only**



**NOTICE: The City of Russell Council Meetings are set for the second Tuesday of every month. If there is something you would like them to address, please contact the city office at least a few days before the meeting. June's meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10th at 5:30 in the city meeting room.**



Check out the Russell Bar & Grill Facebook page for daily specials! We would love to see you!

### **Help wanted**

for cooks. Must be 18 years of age and willing to work days, nights and weekend shifts. Stop into the Russell Bar & Grill to pick up an application.

### **City of Russell Clerk Office Hours:**

Monday 6:30 am-2:00 pm  
Tuesday: 11:00 am-5:30 pm  
Wednesday: 6:30 am-2:00

pm

Thursday: 6:30 am-2:00 pm  
Friday: 6:30 am-2:00 pm

Hours are subject to change due to appointments. If you have any questions, please leave a message at 823-4366 for Laurie.



### **Shelly's Birthday Bash!!**

**Friday June 6th**  
**9pm-1am.**

**She will be**  
**ROCKIN the RBG**  
**with...**

**DJ Ameson Mobile**  
**Entertainment**

**Come help her celebrate!!**

Join Grace First Parish for church every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Communion is the first Sunday of each month.



The City of Russell is in need of new **Christmas decorations** for the light poles on main street. If you are interested in helping contributions can be made to the group or left with Laurie at the City office or Hilary at the bank. Checks can be written to Tough Enough to Play.

**Thank you to the ones that have already donated!**

**NOTICE TO OUR RESIDENTS: Effective July 1st for June usage water and sewer rates will be increasing to the following rates:**

**Residential Water base will be \$40 per connection.**

**Additional water will be \$9.00 per thousand gallons.**

**Commercial Water base will be \$40 per connection.**

**Additional water will be \$9.00 per thousand gallons.**

**Sewer base will be \$41 per connection. Additional usage will be \$5.00 per thousand gallons of water usage.**

- The City of Russell is offering for sale three buildable lots in Bulldog addition (the old school land). Please contact the clerk for more information.

### **City of Russell**

**Campsite fees: \$20/Night with electric**

**\$15/night for Non-Electric**

Fees may be deposited in the white box at the park entrance or taken to the city office and left in the night drop box. Please include the number of nights you stayed and your camper license number.

**Thank you!**

## Russell City Council meeting

April 8, 2025

The Russell City Council held their regular meeting on Tuesday April 8th in the City Hall meeting room at 5:30 pm. Present at the meeting were council members Hilary Buchert, Glen Grant, Matt Kerkaert, Joel VanDamme and Dawn Garbe. Also present were Laurie Millner, City clerk, Jason Alberts, Public works director, Shelly Sanow, RBG lead bartender, Lyon County Sheriff Eric Wallen, Matt Gross, City attorney, Paul Jurek, Bollig Engineering, Jeff VanBuren via teams, Mary Beth Oberloh via teams and members of the community.

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance by Mayor Buchert.

M/S/C Glen / Hilary to open the public hearing regarding Small Cities Development Grant Infrastructure Improvements project.

Paul Jurek made a presentation about the grant, what is remaining in the project, and what the grant would be used for if the City were to receive it.

M/S/C Glen/Joel to close the public hearing.

M/S/C Glen / Hilary to strike item 13 Shady Oaks request for Russell to sponsor trails

M/S/C Dawn/ Joel to approve the agenda.

M/S/C Glen/ Hilary to approve the minutes from the March 11th regular meeting.

M/S/C Joel /Dawn to pay half the cost of the tent rented by the Bandwagon Committee for Bandwagon days.

M/S/C Glen Joel to cap comp time hours for all full-time employees at 40 hours to be used by December 31 of the year earned.

M/S/C Glen/ Joel for the bar to be open on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> after the Bandwagon Days parade management to determine the hours.

M/S/C Hilary / Matt to approve resolution 2025-6 to declare the old POS excess equipment.

Jeff VanBuren spoke with the council regarding the temporary construction loan for phase I. All funds are now disbursed, he recommends we close on the permanent loan at this time.

M/S/C Joel/Matt to close on the permanent loan at this time.

The council instructed Laurie to contact MN Rural water regarding them helping the City do a rate study.

M/S/C Matt/Joel to sign the lease agreement for the skid loader for next year.

M/S/C Matt/Joel to purchase MRX920 reader for \$11,500 using the credit of \$13,440 from the return of the tower reader, using the balance of the credit to purchase new meters.

M/S/C Matt/Joel to approve Resolution 2025-4 to declare the one-way plow excess equipment.

M/S/C Joel / Matt to approve Resolution 2025-5 to declare the Wagner paint sprayer excess equipment.

M/S/C Matt/Joel to work with Municipal impact to set up a website that will include a public notification system.

M/S/C Joel/Matt to approve Rob Buehlers request for long term medical leave of absence.

M/S/C Matt/Joel to renew CD 3896 – Ambulance \$4,623.30 for 7 months.

M/S/C Matt/Joel to liquidate CD 4328 - \$46,909.64 to pay for 2025 insurance, early if needed to avoid penalties for late insurance. Hilary abstained.

M/S/C Matt/Joel to liquidate CD 4332 - \$5248.51 proceeds to go to checking. Hilary abstained.

M/S/C Matt/Joel for Laurie to withdraw from 4M as needed to make monthly expenses leaving a minimum to keep the account open.

M/S/C Matt/Joel for Laurie to attend Year 3 of the MN Clerks institute May 5 – 9 in Brooklyn Center.

M/S/C Hilary / Matt to approve March expenses as presented.

Next meeting is May 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the City Hall meeting room.

M/S/C Matt/Joel to adjourn the meeting.

Laurie Millner  
City Clerk

## City of Russell

April 22nd, 2025, Council Meeting

The Russell City Council held a special meeting on April 22nd at the Community Center. Present were Mayor Hilary Buchert, Council members Dawn Garbe, Matt Kerkaert, Laurie Millner, Clerk, Mark Buysse and Brayden Wyffels from the Assessors office, & Marie Grant .

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by Mayor Buchert.

Hilary turned the meeting over to Mark Buysse for the Board of Appeals. Mark explained the process to the council. There were no members of the community present to appeal their values.

M/S/C Matt / Dawn to adjourn.

Laurie Millner

City Clerk

## Minnesota Memories May 2025...baskets, mothers & memorials

May Baskets, Mother's Day and Memorial Day memories come to mind in May. As I recall on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, May Baskets (small baskets with candy) were left on the doors of family and friends (sometimes with romantic intent). For Mother's Day gifts we made little hand prints in plaster or silhouettes of our face in profile. Memorial Day found us marching behind the Legion firing Squad and School Band to the Cemetery to honor Russell's fallen veterans...I recall we little folks would receive a dime after the ceremony from the Legion which we immediately invested in a bottle of our favorite "pop". Over the years I suspect that all of the foregoing has appeared in previous newsletters... but they are good memories and on occasion bear repeating. The 8<sup>th</sup> of May this year marked the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Allies 1945 WWII Victory in Europe (VE Day)...when Nazi Germany surrendered. I was a bit over 4 years old on that date but do remember it. I was playing in the farm yard when the news came and I asked if that meant my father was coming home. I was told, no because there was still ongoing war. VJ Day (Victory over Japan) would not come until August 1945. In May of 1945 Sergeant Alvin Burckhardt was in the vicinity of Heilbronn, in southwest Germany (German wine country – I would wager he sampled some) guarding German Prisoners of War and building Prisoner of War camps. Uncles Walter (Army Air Corps) and Keith Wixon (Marine Corps) were in the Pacific Theater of War as was my father (United States Navy). They would have been wondering what their fates might be in the continuing effort to defeat Japan. The atomic bombs mitigated their concern. All of these men were children of the Great Depression and had then found themselves thrown into the WWII cauldron. The lesson we can take from them is that the United States and its citizens have successfully navigated past economic and cultural chaos and uncertainty. I am confident we will manage the same during our current national and international challenges. On a lighter note, I hope you have all planted at least one tree this spring, and as June comes upon us do be looking for that first firefly/lightening bug of the season. © Marland J. Burckhardt



Robert Gerald Mickelson "Bob" age 94, son of Herbert and Emma Mickelson, born on May 8, 1931 in Wheeler, Wisconsin. Bob was the youngest of three sons. He attended high school in Grand Rapids, Minnesota where he received a degree in agriculture. In 1951, he served in the United States Army for two years. He traveled to Brooks, Minnesota where he met his wife, Renee. They married in Terrbonne, Minnesota in 1955 and moved to Minneapolis where Bob began his career as a grain inspector for the Department of Agriculture. They then moved to Mounds View where they raised their 5 children. Bob was preceded in death by his brothers, Harold and Lloyd; and son-in-law, David Karbo. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 69 years, Renee; children, Ricky (Julie), Ronda Karbo, Rita Pica, Ryan (Judy), and Mark; 7 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends. No flowers please.

Looking for a nice, comfortable place to host an event? Check out the Russell Community Center!  
If you would like to reserve a date, please contact Laurie at the City Office at 507-823-4366.  
See current charges for rent below.

## **RUSSELL COMMUNITY CENTER**

### **RENT EFFECTIVE DATE 1/14/2025**

#### **NO RENT FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES**

Legion and Auxiliary Meetings

4-H

Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts

All Church Activities

Community Club Events

Bloodmobile

Russell Housing Board

Russell Development Authority

Benefits (if approved by council)

**\$200.00 deposit required 1 month in advance for the following events.**

**\$200.00 will be returned if the Community Center is left as it was found.**

**(Garbage picked up, nothing broken, or missing)**

Showers	\$ 75.00
Dances	\$ 250.00
Wedding Reception and Dance	\$ 500.00
Sales and Auctions	\$ 250.00
All Other EVENTS with out the bar	\$ 100.00
All the events with the bar	\$ 250.00

Community Center Bar closes at Midnight.

**Events serving alcohol must provide a certificate of insurance.**





Stanley Alfred Stelter, age 70, of Lynd, Minnesota, passed away unexpectedly at home on April 23, 2025. While his departure came far too soon for those who loved him, his life was full of joy, generosity, and laughter — just as he would have wanted it.

A celebration of Stanley's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 28, 2025, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Marshall, Minnesota. After a warm reception at the church, he will be laid to rest at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery in Island Lake Township. Visitation will be Sunday, April 27, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Hamilton Funeral Home in Marshall, with a prayer service at 7:30 p.m. followed by a time to share memories. Visitation will continue one hour prior to the service on Monday, at the church.

Stanley was born July 20, 1954, in Marshall, and grew up on the family farm in Island Lake Township. He was baptized and confirmed at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and graduated from Lynd High School in 1972. After earning a degree in computer science and electronics from Willmar Vocational College, Stanley served proudly in the United States Air Force.

On August 2, 1975, Stanley married the love of his life, Robin Groff, and they embarked on an adventurous start to their marriage, living in Idaho during his military service. When the call came to return home and care for the family farm, Stanley didn't hesitate. He farmed with pride for many years, cared for cattle with quiet dedication, and was still doing both until the day he died. Stanley also worked for ADM in Marshall and retired in 2021.

Stanley was a dedicated community member — active in his church, serving on the council and cemetery board, a proud member of the Russell American Legion, and a frequent blood donor with the Red Cross. But if you knew Stanley, you knew it was his heart that truly stood out.

He loved chatting with anyone and everyone. His motto was "A stranger is just a friend I haven't met yet." Whether at a grandkid's ballgame, a local auction, or just out and about, Stanley's kindness and humor lit up the room. He had a passion for collecting clocks, pinball machines, Jägermeister memorabilia, and of course, anything featuring Joe Cool.

More than anything, Stanley loved his family. He and Robin shared nearly 50 years of marriage and raised four wonderful children. His grandkids were the light of his life, and cheering them on from the sidelines was one of his greatest joys. Stanley also had a soft spot for his four-legged sidekick, Max, who was always by his side or posted up as the unofficial farm supervisor.

Stanley's absence leaves a big hole in many hearts, but the love, laughter, and lessons he shared will carry on for generations.

He is survived by his loving wife, Robin; 4 children and 12 grandchildren: Richard (Lisa) Stelter of Hartford, SD, with Mausten and Elle; Geoffrey (Tricia) Stelter of Marshall, with Lukas, Andrew, and Leah; Kristi (Jared) Steen of Orion, IL, with Wyatt, Bryce, Britton, and Jette; and Colin (Holly) Stelter of Lynd, with Brynn, Adilynn, and Maisie; his sister Sylvia (Julian "JD") Drelich of Norwich, NY; as well as nieces, nephews, and countless friends.

Stanley was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred and Ettie Stelter.

Stanley's life was one well lived and well loved. May his memory be as bright and welcoming as the man himself. Blessed be his memory.

Russell Community Newsletter  
PO Box 360  
Russell, Minnesota 56169

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