



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)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**  
TO ENSURE YOUR AD GETS IN THE PAPER PLEASE SEND TO THE ABOVE EMAIL BY THE FRIDAY BEFORE NEWSLETTER WEEK.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

# Russell Newsletter

November 2025



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



## NOVEMBER 21ST

Russell Community Center  
Bingo Begins at 6:30pm

### Turkey PRIZES

### \$500 JACKPOT

### 54#'s or less

# Annual Turkey Shoot

Sponsored By **Arco Sportsmen's Club**  
**Saturday, December 6th, 2025**  
**5:00-10:00pm**  
**Ivanhoe VFW in Ivanhoe, MN**

## Bingo and other table games



### Raffle Drawing at 9pm\* for:

- Stevens 334 Camo 243 caliber
  - In memory of Dan Kerkaert
- Heritage Rough
  - Donated by Xcaliber Gunsmithing, Cottonwood
- Hog Raffle (4x) ½ hogs

\*Need not be present to win.

**Must be 18 years, or older, in order to participate.**

Meal served by *Arco Fire Department*

Proceeds go towards the maintenance of Anderson Park

License #X-93689

**Russell Bar & Grill**  
**Open Monday thru Saturday**  
**at 11:00 a.m.**  
**If you would like to order**  
**take out,**  
**call 507-823-9766**



**Kitchen Help Wanted!**  
**Looking for cooks that are**  
**willing to work days, nights**  
**and weekends. Stop in to**  
**the RBG and pick up an**  
**application if interested!**

## Holiday Lights Contest!

Russell Bandwagon Days is sponsoring a Holiday Lights Contest in Russell!

Light up your home & businesses and enter to win some great prizes!

Homes and businesses must be located in the City of Russell.

Judging will be based on overall design and appeal no matter the amount of lights. There is no charge to enter.



**Watch for details in January**  
**about our new downtown**  
**Christmas lights. We are still ac-**  
**cepting donations but are wait-**  
**ing to purchase them until Janu-**  
**ary so that we are able to get**  
**them at a phenomenal discount!**  
**Thank you to all that have do-**  
**nated so far! Tough Enough to**  
**Play greatly appreciates this! We**  
**are still accepting donations as**  
**these lights are not cheap. So if**  
**you are still interested in donat-**  
**ing, please make your check pay-**  
**able to Tough Enough to Play.**  
**Thank you!**

**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.



**A letter from Senator Gary Dahms:**

Congratulations on receiving \$600,000 Minnesota Small Cities Development Program grant from Minnesota Department of Housing and Urban Development! This award is well deserved. If I can ever be of service, please feel free to contact me. Again, congratulations!

Sincerely,  
Gary Dahms  
State Senator, District 16

**The City of Russell is offering  
for sale 3 buildable lots in Bull-  
dog Addition. Please contact  
the City office at 507-823-4366  
for more information.**

**Minnesota Memories November 2025...The Cities & first memories**

Growing up we heard often about "The Cities". It was frequently said that he, she or they went to or are in the cities. As a youngster the cities seemed to be a place where people disappeared, never (or at least seldom) to be seen again. Adults would ask about someone and would be told "Oh, he, she or they went to or are up in the cities". That generally ended discussion of the he, she or they in question. That the person(s) was/were in the cities seemed to be all that needed to be known...where they lived, or what they did in the cities, was of little import. That they were in the cities explained the 'all' of their destiny. Incidentally, out east here in Pennsylvania, one has to be sure to say the "Twin Cities, Minneapolis and Saint Paul" otherwise only the stray Minnesotan will know what you are talking about. Changing subjects a bit, what is the very first memory you can recall? I made mention last month of auditing a college course concerning memory. This caused me to attempt to remember my very first memories. That memory is of being on a train with my mother. She had packed a lunch and I vaguely remember sandwiches. Based on that vague memory I have reconstructed, based upon family history (oral and scrapbook supported) why I have that memory. My mother and I were on our way to join my father in Gary, Indiana, where he had found work in a steel mill. I do not know when the trip was made, but I suspect sometime in 1942 or 1943. Born in March 1941, I was obviously a toddler at the time. Four additional vague memories from that time include: being served Jell-O while sitting in a high chair and being somewhat frightened by the consistency of the jello (it flopped and quivered); my parents having a "loud" argument; being given two rabbits; and my father taking me to be photographed. Years later, in conversation with my father I verified the rabbit and photography memories; indeed, I still have some of the photographs. Of historical note, on 16 November 1945, sailor Edward D. Burckhardt was aboard the USS Coontz which was under-way from Yokohama, Japan to Seattle. Do be careful in the snow out there. © Marland J. Burckhardt

Russell City Council meeting

October 14, 2025

The Russell City Council held their regular meeting on Tuesday October 14, 2025, in the City Hall Meeting room at 5:30 pm. Present at the meeting were Mayor Hilary Buchert, Council members Matt Kerkaert, Glen Grant, Joel VanDamme, and Dawn Garbe. Also present were Laurie Millner, City clerk, Shelly Sanow, RBG, Matt Gross, City Attorney, Paul Jurek, Bollig Engineering, Lyon County Sheriff Eric Wallen, and members of the community.

Mayor Hilary Buchert called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Joel VanDamme to open the public hearing regarding the vacation of a portion of Miller Ave.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Matt Kerkaert to close the public hearing regarding the vacation of a portion of Miller Ave.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert/ Dawn Garbe to approve the agenda with the addition Cindy Hook's special use permit application to # 15 permits and to set a date for the liquor store public hearing to #11.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert, Joel VanDamme to approve the agenda with the additions.

M/S/C Joel Van Damme / Glen Grant to approve the minutes of the September 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

M/S/C Joel VanDamme / Dawn Garbe to approve the minutes from the September 17<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Joel VanDamme to approve to approve pay application 12 in the amount of \$568,320.56 and change order number 4 in the amount of \$136,646.25 contingent on RD approval.

M/S/C Dawn Garbe/ Joel VanDamme to deny the vacation of a portion of Miller Ave.

M/S/C Dawn Garbe / Hilary Buchert to change Shelly Sanow's title to manager of RBG.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Matt Kerkaert to hold a public hearing on December 9<sup>th</sup> regarding the loss at RBG as required by MN Statue 340A.602.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Glen Grant to pay Jessica Carlson \$15.00 per hour for cleaning the attic at the community center.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Matt Kerkaert to designate Laurie Millner, Clerk, as the paid leave administrator for MN Paid leave.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Glen Grant to set a public hearing for November 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 regarding the special use permit for Cindy Hook to keep horses.

M/S/C Hilary Buchert / Joel VanDamme to send a letter to water account # 924 to pay the outstanding water bill in full by November 4, 2025, or it will be assessed to their property taxes.

M/S/ C Matt Kerkaert / Dawn Garbe to approve the bills as presented.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Joel VanDamme to change the November regular meeting to November 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the City Hall meeting room due to Veterans Day.

M/S/C Dawn Garbe / Joel VanDamme to adjourn the meeting.

Laurie Millner

City Clerk

## **NEW ONLINE BILL PAY!**

Our citizens will soon have a NEW payments portal that provides an easy, flexible, and secure user experience for all online utility payments.

Stay Tuned...





## Russell Housing Completes Much-Needed Remodel

If you haven't noticed already, Russell Housing has undergone a much-needed remodel! We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to apply for a **Small Cities Grant**, which helped fund this project. A lot of planning went into these improvements, and residents can now enjoy new windows, doors, siding, and a roof on their building.

Russell Housing is a **non-profit corporation** with a mission to provide affordable housing in Russell. Rising costs for taxes, insurance, and water/sewer services make this mission more challenging, but we remain committed to keeping housing affordable for our community.

In addition to the exterior updates, we've also replaced the sidewalk out front, installed handrails, and upgraded kitchen cabinets in a few units. We hope to continue making improvements as funds allow.

## A Special Thank You

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to those who went above and beyond to make this remodel possible:

- **Nathan Blegan** – for his time and effort ensuring the project ran smoothly.
- **Nick Spoelstra and his crew** – for adjusting their schedule and going the extra mile to get things done right.
- **Our residents** – for their patience and cooperation during construction.
- **DSI** – for walking us through the grant process and answering our questions.
- **First Independent Bank** – for their generous donation of \$2,500 to help fund updates.
- **Russell Housing members** – for their dedication and commitment to bringing this project together.

## Get Involved

If you are interested in being part of our team and helping us continue this important work, please contact **Audie Sanderson, Lee Bush, or Kris Hurst**.



Russell Bandwagon Days had a great turnout for their Kids Halloween Party! There were at least 60 kids that came and enjoyed the fun games and food!

Thank you to everyone who donated towards this event especially the Russell Fire Department for bringing a fire truck and handing out candy to the kids! It was a great community event that we will plan to do again next year!





**Blood Drive at the  
Russell Community Center  
Monday, November 24th from 1:00—6:30**

**\*\*There will be Root Beer Floats and  
Homemade goodies being served!\*\***



# HOPE 4-H FOOD DRIVE



Taking donations through Friday,  
December 5th  
All donations will benefit the  
Tyler Area Food Shelf  
**Thank you for your support!!**

Donations can be dropped off at  
First Independent Bank in  
Russell, Tyler and Ruthton

*Santa is here!*  
*ho ho ho*



**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER  
7TH**

## Meet & Greet

**COOKIES, REFRESHMENTS & GAMES!**

**1:30-3:00 PM**  
**THE TOWN HALL IN RUSSELL**

PRESENTED BY: COON CREEK CHEERFUL WORKERS 4-H CLUB  
Fair projects will be on display!



## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

We will be hosting our annual Holiday Open House at all our locations on Friday, December 12, 2025. We will be spreading cheer and tasty treats during our regular lobby hours. Please join us. Thank you for being our loyal customers!

 **FIRST  
INDEPENDENT  
BANK** Est. 1907

**Member**  **FDIC** EQUAL HOUSING  
LENDER



**March 1, 1930 — November 9, 2025**

Marshall, MN

Mass of Christian Burial for Margaret St. Aubin, 95, of Russell, will be at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 14, 2025, at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Marshall. Visitation will be Thursday from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at the Horvath Remembrance Center, with a rosary at 4:30 p.m. and a parish prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will continue Friday morning from 9:00 until 10:00 a.m. at the remembrance center. Interment will follow the service at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Marshall.

Margaret Camilla (Lamote) St. Aubin was born on March 1, 1930, at home in Island Lake Township, MN, to August and Elizabeth (Kerkaert) Lamote. Margaret grew up on the farm by Minneota for a few years before the family moved to a farm near Balaton. She attended country school through eighth grade. On September 15, 1955, Margaret was united in marriage to Richard St. Aubin at St. Eloi Catholic Church in Ghent. The couple lived in rural Marshall, Green Valley, and Ghent before settling on a farm South of Marshall. Margaret stayed busy taking care of the house and their five children. She enjoyed gardening and taking care of her flower beds, as well as baking, cooking, and canning. The couple moved to Russell in 1992. Margaret's faith was very important to her, and she loved time spent with family.

Margaret died on Sunday, November 9, 2025, at the Avera Morningside Heights Care Center in Marshall. She is survived by son Greg (Julie) St. Aubin of Marshall, children Cari St. Aubin (Mike Lawrence), Amanda St. Aubin, Molli St. Aubin (Ryan McCormick), Merry St. Aubin (Travis Sumerfelt); daughter Sharon (Rodney) Buffington of Holland, children Ashley (Kasey) Klosterman and Eric (Kayla) Buffington; son Roger (Lori) St. Aubin of Butte, MT, children Garrett (Kendyll) St. Aubin and Maddy (Bryan) Arnold; son Brad (Donna) St. Aubin of Cottonwood, children Brady St. Aubin (Jean Knutson), Cody (Whitney) St. Aubin; daughter-in-law Jan St. Aubin of Russell, children Nicki (Josh) DeVos and Jackie (Glenn) Holewa; 19 great-grandchildren (and one on the way); siblings Marie Vercruysse, Dina Gruhot, Sonny Lamote, Lillianna St. Aubin, Agnes DeJaeghere, and Fran (Shelly) Lamote; and in-laws, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Richard, son Gordie, siblings Alice St. Aubin, Joseph Lamote, Bob Lamote, and infant brother Leo Lamote.



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PO Box 360  
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