



Russell Newsletter

October 2026

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

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

The Russell Newsletter goes out the **third Wednesday** of the month.

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

RUSSELL BANDWAGON DAYS KIDS HALLOWEEN PARTY!

RUSSELL
BANDWAGON DAYS WILL BE HOSTING A
HALLOWEEN PARTY FOR KIDS ON OCTOBER
31ST AT THE
RUSSELL COMMUNITY CENTER!

COME AND ENJOY HOTDOGS, CHIPS, JUICE,
CANDY & GAMES FROM 4:00-6:00!

**EVERYONE
WELCOME!**



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



Don't forget to get out and vote for your local leaders on Tuesday, November 3rd!

Mayor Hilary Buchert and council members Glen Grant and Matt Kerkaert's terms are up for election. Matt has decided not run for another term. He will be truly missed as he brought so much knowledge and wisdom to our council and the city. Thank you Matt for all you have done in the past years, we truly appreciate it.

Glen Grant has decided to run for re-election as well as Steven Shouviller. We also have Robbyn Kerkaert who is running for council as a write-in vote. Hilary Buchert is also running for another term as mayor.

**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.

Hello Russell Residents!

Where has the time gone?! I will be running for my third term as Mayor of Russell! To say there haven't been challenges in the past years being Mayor would be an understatement. Being Mayor comes with tough decisions and difficult moments, but the accomplishments, progress and pride I have for our community will always outweigh the challenges. Even after serving two terms, I am still learning and growing in this role. With very experience and every challenge, I feel I have become a stronger and more confident Mayor than ever before. I will continue to work hard for all of you, make decisions with the best interests of our community in mind and do my part to keep moving Russell forward. .

Please vote on Tuesday, November 3rd. Thank you!

***Your Mayor,
Hilary Buchert***

Hello Russell Community!

My name is Robbyn Kerkaert and I am running as a write in for a seat on the Russell City Council.

My husband Matt and I were both born, raised, graduated from RTR, and are raising our three boys in this community. Our oldest Jackson is a freshman at SDSU Brookings, Justin is a sophomore and Jett is an eighth grader both at RTR. I work in Tyler, but I'm very involved in our community as the Director of our community Ambulance service, and am a blood drive coordinator for American RedCross blood drive here in town. I have decided to run for a write in Council seat because this community and community members mean a lot to me. Russell is more than a place to live; it's a community made up of families, hard-working people, local businesses, and neighbors who want to see our town continue to grow and thrive. Holding a seat on the council won't be taken lightly; it means being willing to listen, work well with others and make thoughtful decisions even when those decisions are difficult. I feel I can bring an open mind, a willingness to learn, and a genuine commitment to doing what is best for our community.

My reason for considering this opportunity is simple: I want to see Russell continue to be a town we can all be proud of. I believe that positive change starts with people who are willing to get involved, speak up, listen to others, and work well together.

Please get out and vote on November 3 and please consider writing in:

ROBBYN KERKAERT



Join Grace First Parish for church every Sunday
8:30 fellowship
Church service at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School to follow



Save the date for the Russell Fire Department &
First Responder annual Pancake Feed!
Sunday, December 14th from 8 a.m. to Noon at the
Russell Community Center.



For more years than any of us in Russell have even been on this earth, a magnificent cottonwood tree has stood proudly in our community. Like all living things, its time eventually came to an end. The tree had begun losing very large branches creating serious safety concern for our community. This tree was located next to Old Highway 23 in the City lot. The difficult decision was made to have the tree safely removed by Tree Top Climbing LLC with Preston and Jaedon Carlson at the helm of the project who took on the tremendous task of bringing it down safely. It required a great deal of hard work and skill. While we are sad to see such a beautiful and historic part of Russell's landscape gone, we are grateful for the many years it stood tall over our community.



Storage Shed Space for Rent:
Storage space available 3 miles west of Russell, MN. Ideal for a travel trailer or smaller items. Call Neil for more information at 507-531-0425.

You won't want to miss out on Russell Bandwagon Days



You have a chance to win a turkey along with CASH at Russell Bandwagon Days' next Bingo event on Friday, November 20th starting at 6:30 at the Russell Community Center! There is also a Jackpot prize of \$500 in 44 numbers! Hope to see you all there for a fun filled night!



Minnesota Memories/Musings October 2026...morning people and more...

Ah, autumn is creeping down from the north with chilly mornings and evenings and trees are surrendering their many colored leaves to our fields and lawns...maybe this is my favorite season. But as regards mornings, chilly or otherwise, am I some sort of anomaly? Even after growing up on the farm and spending over 33 years in the Army, I never became a morning person. A morning person is defined as someone who regularly rises in the earliest of hours...between 0400 or 0600. This early rising appears to be natural to them. Not so for me, I am more prone to read late into the night and loath leaving my warm bed (or as old soldiers are wont to say "my warm fart-sack") in the early morn. That said, I still force my old retired self up early three times a week, Tuesday morning Rotary Club breakfast, Friday morning old friends' breakfast and Saturday morning for the Farm Report TV program, however, some of that lost sack time is clawed back with a nap on those early rising days. Admittedly, once risen I do enjoy early morning hours...but not enough to make early rising an everyday occurrence...enough of that. Moving on, neither the argued advantages nor disadvantages of Daylight Savings Time have ever convinced me that the concept is good or bad. My sensing is that for most of us the weather is a far more important aspect of our days than an hour difference in time. This makes the ongoing spat concerning Daylight Savings time a case of pole-vaulting over mouse manure (currently a bill doing something to or about Daylight Savings languishes in the U.S. Senate)...have not our legislators more important issues to address? For example, how about some laws that limit the time and amount of the political electioneering which we endure before our elections? My TV and mailbox are both daily overflowing with the statements of politicians telling me how terrible their opponent. Please, cease and desist. Please Mr/Ms politician, just tell me where you stand on policies/issues and how you will try to move the common good forward. Enough of demonizing your opponent! New subject, recently, I have become acquainted with a book entitled "Ordinary Courage: The Revolutionary War Adventures of Joseph Plumb Martin." It is a memoir by a private soldier who survived seven years of our Revolutionary War. It is a fine read for our 250th year and describes in detail what life was like for the lowest ranking revolutionary soldiers. That's all folks, be sure to vote and be careful out there. (c) Marland J. Burckhardt

The Russell High School Class of 1966 held their 60th class reunion at the Russell Bar and Grill on Wednesday, Sept. 16th.

Ladies pictured (left to right): Norma (Neyens) Wuttke, Elizabeth (Laleman) Lanoue, La Vonne (Lang) Peck, Jennifer (Ulvilden) Gregg, Carolyn (Cadwell) Jonason, Joyce (Labat) Persoon, Karen (Peterson) Eilers and Sharyl (Reese) Larson. Men (left to right): Roger Isenberg, Jim Rokeh, Mick Williams, Matt Stanton, Carroll Stanton, Ken Driscoll, David Taylor, Bruce Burchardt and Jim Swanson.

Those not attending: Linda (Madsen) Almhjeld, Sheila (Johnson) Brogger, Barb (Wilmes) Driscoll, Bradley Galbraith, Henry Kamies, La Nora (Johnson) Mudder, Anita (Lehnhoff) Rothgarber and Rick Zvorak.

Deceased classmates: Janet Sand, Ellyn (Fuhrmann) Quiring, David Van Nevel, Gordy Johnson, Melanie (Stenerson) Williams, Charlene (Hansen) Sand, Emmie (Binnebose) Burton and Ida Mae (Williams) Kesteloot.





The Russell Fire Department did
our city proud in honoring our
Country for the
25th anniversary of 9-11

130TH ANNUAL

ELECTION DAY DINNER

GRACE FIRST PARISH
RUSSELL, MN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
SERVING: 4:30 – 7:00

ADULTS – \$15.00
YOUTH 5 – 12 – \$10.00
AGES 4 AND YOUNGER – FREE

MENU

TURKEY WITH DRESSING
POTATOES / GRAVY
CORN, COLESLAW, CRANBERRY RELISH
HOMEMADE ROLLS, DESSERT
BEVERAGE

HANDICAPPED SEATING
CARRYOUT AVAILABLE

VISIT OUR
COUNTRY STORE!





September was MN Banker's Community Impact Month where local banks volunteer a good deed to their local community. Russell First Independent Bank chose to clean up trash along Old Highway 23 and paint the posts at the Russell Lake Park.



Russell Historical Society
September 17, 2026

The Russell Historical Society met at the Russell Community Center on Thursday, September 17, 2026. Those in attendance were Brad Johnson, Gary Erdmann, Larry Moat, Galen & Marie Grant, Lee & Pam Bush, Greg & Lori Grant, Mark Heinis, Darla Wilmes, and Dan Johnson. Brad Johnson began by reading the history and the minutes of the February 28, 2023 meeting written by Gary Erdmann. At that time, the group decided to form under the name of Russell Historical Society. Officers were elected for the following terms:

Chairperson – Lori Taveirne (1-year term)

Vice-Chair – Brad Johnson (2-year term)

Secretary-Treasurer – Gary Erdmann (3-year term)

At that time, funds available and donations received were reviewed. It was decided to apply for a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status with the help of Petersen Law Office, Attorney Glen Peterson from Tyler, MN.

B. Johnson reported that the 501(c)(3) paperwork was retrieved from the attorney's office in August, 2026 due to the tax-exempt application not being completed.

L. Grant volunteered to start the 501(c)(3) application for the group. She also recommended a name change to the Russell Area Historical Society.

Since the February, 2023 officer terms have expired, an election was held to re-establish officers.

M/S/C by P. Bush/M. Grant to nominate Lori Grant as Secretary/Treasurer and to adopt the name change as Russell Area Historical Society (RAHS).

M/S/C by P. Bush/G. Grant to nominate Brad Johnson as Chairperson and Lori Taveirne as Vice-Chair.

B. Johnson stated that Woodstock Telephone Co. no longer uses their brick building on main street. After meeting with them and attending some recent Russell City Council meetings, it has been determined that Woodstock Telephone Co. will donate the building to the City of Russell. The City of Russell will lease a portion of the space to RAHS after consulting with their attorney. The need for electricity to the building was also discussed with the City of Russell. There will be some maintenance that will need to be done like washing and painting of walls, replacing the entrance door, lowering the ceiling, lights and installation of fans. The size of the building was discussed whether it would be large enough to hold all the items that have been acquired. If needed, some items can remain in the current location of the former Russell jail building.

B. Johnson and G. Erdmann talked about the items that were secured prior to the RTR Middle School being demolished in 2022. Things like LED lights, class photo's, book shelves, trophies, trophy cases, class annuals etc. G. Erdmann also has a list of items that was taken from the school and a list of folks that have expressed a desire to donate to the RAHS.

The group will meet again once we have the 501(c)(3) application submitted for approval to discuss our goals going forward and gathering a list of volunteers that would be willing to donate some time to make the Russell Area Historical Society a reality.

M/S/C by L. Grant/M. Grant to adjourn.

Lori Grant
Secretary/Treasurer
September, 2026

The Russell City council held their regular meeting on Tuesday September 8th, at 5:30 pm in the City Hall meeting room. Present were Mayor Hilary Buchert, Council members Matt Kerkaert, Dawn Garbe, Glen Grant and Joel VanDamme. Also, present were Jason Alberts, Public Works, Laurie Millner, Clerk, Matt Gross, City Attorney, Lyon Co Sheriff Eric Wallen, Kristie Johnson, DSI, Carter Buchert, Scott Williams, and Barb Powell along with many members of the community.

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

M/S/C Glen Grant / Matt Kerkaert to open the Small Cities public hearing.

M/S/C Joel VanDamme / Dawn Garbe to close the Small Cities public hearing.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Joel VanDamme to open the public hearing to amend Chapter 14 of Russell City Code.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Joel VanDamme to close the public hearing to amend Chapter 14 of Russell City Code.

M/S/C Dawn Garbe / Joel VanDamme to open the public hearing regarding the special use permit from Carter Buchert to grind concrete.

M/S/C Dawn Garbe / Glen Grant to close the public hearing regarding the special use permit from Carter Buchert to grind concrete.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Dawn Garbe to open the public hearing regarding the special use permit from Scott Williams to mine gravel from his pit.

M/S/C Joel VanDamme / Dawn Garbe to close the public hearing regarding the special use permit from Scott Williams to mine gravel from his pit.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Glen Grant to open the public hearing regarding the special use permit from Joel VanDamme to keep 2 horses and chickens on his property.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Matt Kerkaert to close the public hearing regarding the special use permit from Joel VanDamme to keep 2 horses and chickens on his property.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Joel VanDamme to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S/C Dawn Garbe / Joel VanDamme to approve the minutes from the August 13th regular meeting.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Hilary Buchert to approve pay application 6 in the amount of \$55,026.98 to Prahm construction for the bridge.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Matt Kerkaert to approve resolution 2026-15 accepting the donation to the City of Russell of the old Woodstock telephone building.

M/S/C Joel VanDamme / Matt Kerkaert authorizing Chuck Vlamincx Repair to make repairs as quoted in the estimate of \$5,450 to the plow truck.

M/S/C Joel VanDamme / Hilary Buchert to get a sign made as presented for the tree dump site.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Matt Kerkaert to approve Ordinance number 2026-3 amending chapter 14 of Russell City Code.

M/S/C Joel VanDamme / Dawn Garbe to approve the special use permit for Scott Williams to mine gravel from his pit with no commercial sale allowed.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Dawn Garbe to approve the special use permit for Joel VanDamme to keep 2 horses and chickens. Joel VanDamme abstained.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Hilary Buchert to deny the special use permit for Carter Buchert to grind concrete.

M/S/C to Glen Grant / Joel VanDamme to schedule a public hearing for October 14th at 5:30 regarding the special use permit from BP Enterprises to put apartments in the old bar building.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert / Glen Grant to set the preliminary levy at 16% (\$341,278.60).

M/S/C Glen Grant / Joel VanDamme to declare the True Refrigerator at the Community Center as excess property and to accept sealed bids at the October 14th regular meeting.

M/S/C Hilary Buchert / Dawn Garbe to purchase 7 Lifetime 6-foot classic folding picnic tables from Amazon with the proceeds of the Apex Energy \$2,000 grant.

M/S/C Glen Grant / Hilary Buchert to instruct the Clerk to send a letter to utility account # 744 that the outstanding utility bill of \$834.16 will be assessed to property taxes.

M/S/C Joel VanDamme / Dawn Garbe to instruct the Clerk to send a letter to utility account # 244 that the outstanding utility bill of \$321.78 will be assessed to property taxes.

M/S/C Matt Kerkaert/ Hilary Buchert to approve the bills as presented.

M/S/C Dawn Garbe / Matt Kerkaert to change the regular meeting date to the second Wednesday of the month for October to April. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday October 14th at 5:30 in the City Hall meeting room.

M/S/C Joel VanDamme / Glen Grant to adjourn the meeting.

Laurie Millner

City Clerk

What is RAVE?

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office has partnered with **RAVE** to provide our citizens with Emergency Alerts and Notifications.

Sign up to receive alerts



Emergency alerts and notifications via

Phone call, text message, email and social media



Sign Up Now

POWERED BY:
Smart911

Or Visit:

<https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=lyonmnus>

To register via text message, text
LYON to 226787

Message and data rates may apply. Text messages may not be sent in some areas. Go to smart911.com for details and terms. Opt out STOP or UNSUB to receive no more alerts. Text STOP to 226787 to receive no more alerts.

Why It Matters:

- Seconds matter during emergencies.
- Reliable alerts help you respond faster.
- Official notifications reduce uncertainty.

Speed & Awareness:

Emergency alerts are delivered within seconds during critical incidents.

- Get real-time updates for:
 - Severe weather

- Public safety incidents
- And many other Emergency Situations
- SMS alerts are often seen faster than email or social media posts.

Reach & Accessibility:

- Alerts can be sent via:
 - Text message
 - Email
 - Voice call
 - Mobile app notifications
- Users choose how they want to receive alerts.
- Available 24/7 from anywhere with mobile service or internet access.

Safety Impact:

- Early warnings help people:
 - Seek shelter sooner
 - Avoid hazardous areas
 - Make faster decisions during emergencies
- Timely alerts reduce confusion during fast-moving events.
- Critical notifications can improve response time during emergencies.

Trusted Communications:

- Rave is used by public safety agencies, schools, healthcare systems, and municipalities nationwide.
- Official alerts come directly from authorized emergency managers.
- Helps reduce misinformation during emergencies.

Opt-In Convenience:

- Free to sign up.
- Easy to unsubscribe or update preferences anytime.
- Personal information is protected and only used for emergency communications.

Family & Personal Safety:

- Protect your family with real-time emergency information.
- Know what's happening before it impacts your area.
- Stay informed even when you're away from home.

Community Awareness:

- Stay connected during:
 - Storms
 - Public safety incidents
 - Community emergencies
- Receive local information that matters to your neighborhood.

What You'll Receive:

- Weather warnings

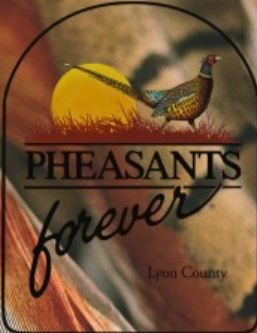
- Emergency notifications
- Community safety information

When emergencies happen, timely information matters. Sign up for emergency alerts to receive official notifications about severe weather, safety threats, and other urgent situations directly to your phone or email.

[RAVE Emergency Alert Flyer \(.pdf\)](#)

**October 10th-
November 10th**

**Russell Bar & Grill will be
donating a \$1 to
Pheasants Forever for
EVERY flatbread sold!**



Russell
BAR & GRILL

Russell
BAR & GRILL

MEAT RAFFLE & KARAOKE

Friday December 11th

★ Meat raffle at **6pm** ★
Karaoke at **9pm** ★



LIVIN
Rich
Entertainment

Russell Bar & Grill

Russell Community Newsletter
PO Box 360
Russell, Minnesota 56169

Return Service Requested

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