

GARDENING

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people out cleaning their yards, raking and preparing for planting, she said. “I can’t say they’re irritable, more that they just wake up and say, ‘really, it’s like this again?’” Sjoblom said. “They’re anxious to get going outside and get stuff planted in their gardens.” Gardeners who just can’t wait to get started can get basic work like cleaning up and raking done, Sjoblom said. How much gardeners can do depends on how wet it is, and how deep the frost in the ground is, she said. “If it’s too wet, there really isn’t a whole lot to do,” Sjoblom said. “With the frost, I’m not sure how deep it is, but they can’t do a whole lot with that either.” Dedicated green thumbs

can start growing plants inside in pots with starter potting mix, though they shouldn’t start too early, Sjoblom said. If a plant grows too much in the starter pot, the roots can get too long and leggy, she said, making it harder to transfer it to soil outside when it warms up. “Once they’re ready, you have to bring them out gradually and let them acclimate to the outdoors,” Sjoblom said. “If you don’t, you can kill them, and it’s a shame to see people go through all that work and have their plants die.” Typically, the rule of thumb for the start of planting has been Memorial Day weekend, Sjoblom said. With long, tough winters, she said, people want spring in the middle of April, which isn’t usually the case. Having a streak of mild springs also leads people to want an earlier

start to gardening season. “If this was the middle of June, people would give up and not plant, but it’s still early,” Sjoblom said. “If it turns around, there’s plenty of time to get gardens in.” The cold spring has been a challenge, Nicholson said, in that it’s cost a little more to keep the greenhouses warm. They’ve also had to hold the plants back, so they don’t get overgrown before people can come buy them. One way to speed up the warming up process for the soil is to turn it over before you plant, Nicholson said. Working the soil up and turning it over once in the spring helps it warm up faster, he said. As far as when it’s time to start planting your garden, Nicholson said his rule of thumb is after Memorial Day weekend. In general, though, he said soil temper-

ature is the thing gardeners need to watch. “The soil temperature should be over 50 degrees,” Nicholson said. “If it’s not over 50 degrees, then your seeds will rot.” Gardeners who want to get their plants started early can move them between the outdoors and inside, Nicholson said. However, they should be outside more than inside, he said, as it’s better for them to be outside when it’s cool than to be moved inside and outside more frequently. “It’s a bad culture shock to bring them in and out all the time,” Nicholson said. “It’s such a different environment.” With Memorial Day weekend a week away, gardening fans can start finalizing their plans and layouts for their gardens, in the hopes that Memorial Day brings sunshine and warm soil.

HONOR

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Faith’s four-decade career more than fits the award’s criteria. Faith has spent his career teaching music, band, orchestra and giving music lessons to both students and adults in the community. In 1970, he accepted a position as a K-12 band and orchestra instructor for Independent School District No. 361 and has been here ever since. “I love watching little minds learn,” he said of teaching children. And his efforts have impacted others. According to Ward Merrill, executive director of Backus Community Center, a decision to nominate Faith for the Maddie Simons award was unanimous by the organization’s board of directors. “I have known John since I first became involved with the community center in 2005,” Merrill wrote in his nomination letter. “His passion for music and the arts and dedication to saving and preserving the Backus Building as a center for the arts was apparent from our first encounter.” Merrill noted Faith has never sought or coveted any recognition of his passion for teaching music. In fact, Merrill writes Faith previously declined a nomination for the Chamber of Commerce’s Citizen of the Year award. Others share Merrill’s



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

John Faith directs a group of St. Thomas students Monday at St. Thomas School. Faith will be presented with the Maddie Simons Advocate Award during a ceremony from 6-8 p.m. May 30 at Backus Community Center.

opinion of Mr. Music, including Jim Lucachick, one of Faith’s former students. “John always encouraged us, stating that all music was good, inviting us to play alongside him,” Lucachick wrote. “He was right; that was some of the hardest and most rewarding music I have played in my life...John Faith has done so much for music, for kids and for the whole community.” Throughout his career, Faith predicts he has taught

thousands of students – most of whom he remembers. “One of the best I heard was last Friday night after our usual Friday night teen dance,” Faith said of the weekly dances he facilitates at The Dungeon. “Myself and two of my helpers stopped at the Border Bar and it was quite full of guys and gals. I laughed as I greeted some of them and one of the guys said, ‘Mr. Faith, how many of these people here tonight were taught the recorder by you?’

“I really don’t need any thanks for doing what I’ve loved doing most of my adult life and that is being a missionary for the arts.”

John Faith

Well, I said, ‘All of them,’ and I think I was right.” In addition to his commitment to his students, Faith has also shown his dedication to the arts through his advocacy of saving the Alexander Baker School and the E.W. Backus Jr. High School. Despite some strong opposition from those who favored demolishing the buildings more than a decade ago, the efforts of Faith and others succeeded in saving the structures and forming a non-profit organization that purchased the buildings in 2002, said a news release. The Maddie Simons award will be presented to Faith during a ceremony from 6-8 p.m. May 30 at Backus Community Center. The public is invited to attend. “I really don’t need any thanks for doing what I’ve loved doing most of my adult life and that is being a missionary for the arts,” Faith said. “It has been nice listening to many former students comments though the years... It’s been a lot of fun.”

ELECTION

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In addition, he said he’s preparing election judge guides readied for the election judge training in July. And in the midst of it all, Peterson and his staff have been handling a busy tax time, too. First half of property taxes were due Thursday. Peterson said voters will experience few new rules this year. The Legislature approved what’s called a “no excuse absentee” ballot for people voting prior to the elections. “You don’t need to tell why you’re voting absentee,” he said. “You don’t have to check the box on the application because it won’t be there anymore.” Absentee ballots are available starting Sept. 19. Also, he said, state representative candidates and judges may now file for office in the county they reside. And Peterson said the timing of the general election is cause for celebration in his office, and perhaps around Borderland. “We’re happy the election is not during deer season,” he said. “It’s tough to be open the Saturday before the primary and the general election on the opening day

of deer season.” Peterson advised voters to check the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.state.mn.us for more information on the elections. “It’s a fabulous website,” he said. “From the election official’s standpoint, the Secretary of State is doing a good job. There has been some controversy, but he’s always working to have an open and fair election.” The filing period opens Tuesday for the following positions: **Federal** ■ U.S. senator, now held by Al Franken ■ U.S. representative, now held by Rick Nolan **State** ■ State representative, now held by David Dill. ■ Governor and lieutenant governor, now held by Mark Dayton and Yvonne Prettner Solon ■ Secretary of state, now held by Mark Ritchie ■ State auditor, now held by Rebecca Otto ■ Attorney general, now held by Lori Swanson **Koochiching County** ■ District 1 commissioner, now held by Wade Pavleck, on board since 1993 ■ District 2 commissioner, now held by Kevin Adee, on board since 2003 ■ District 4 commissioner, now held by Rob Ecklund,

on board since 2011 ■ County auditor/treasurer, now held by Bob Peterson ■ County recorder, now held by Pam Rooney ■ County sheriff, now held by Brian Jespersen ■ County attorney, now held by Jeff Naglosky ■ Soil and Water Conservation District 1 supervisor, now held by Ralph Lewis ■ Soil and Water Conservation District 4 supervisor, now held by Chris Pfeifer ■ Soil and Water Conservation District 5 supervisor, now held by Al Linder Pam Tomevi, SWCD district administrator, told The Journal supervisors serve four year terms and meet monthly to discuss the business of the SWCD, including state grant allocations to landowners, district conservation priorities, coordination with other local units of government and state agencies, and legislative priorities. Supervisors do not receive a salary, although they do receive compensation for attending meetings and are reimbursed for expenses. More information about the SWCD can be found here on our website or by calling the office 283-1174. More information and district boundaries can be found at <http://www.koochichingswcd.org/> Peterson said cities and

schools districts don’t have primaries and so filings for those offices open July 29 and close Aug. 12: **Ranier City Council Four-year terms** ■ Council member, now held by Brenda Bauer ■ Council member, now held by Ron Wilcox, who is finishing the term vacated by Fred Woods. **International Falls City Council** Four-year terms ■ East Ward councilor, now held by Paul Eklund ■ Center Ward councilor, now held by Gail Rognerud ■ West Ward councilor, now held by Cynthia Jaksa **Littlefork City Council Council positions are four-year terms; mayor is two-year term** ■ Councilor, now held by Brian Lindvall ■ Councilor, now held by Kevin Sather ■ Mayor, now held by Mike Fort **Big Falls City Council** ■ Information unavailable at press time **Falls School Board** Four-year terms Board members, now held by Dena Wenberg, Willi Kostiuik, Darrell “Boxer” Wagner **Littlefork School Board** Four-year terms Board members, now held by Keith Knaeble, Mike Imhof, Anita Gray

free of ice. Namakan Lake, reported Mazur, is open, but ice sheets were found on the southeast shore, but open through Namakan Narrows.

floating around, and there’s always the danger of the wind blowing and the ice shift and people getting caught somewhere,” he said. “I wouldn’t recommend boat-

ing on Rainy yet.” Ice out occurred on Kabetogama Lake Tuesday, said Remus. In addition, Mazur’s flight showed Crane Lake and Sand Point Lake to be

In Loving Memory Of Mom
Mrs. Paul (Inez) Khistadius
Jan. 2, 1927 – May 16, 2009
Mom I thought of you today,
but that is nothing new.
I thought of you yesterday
and will tomorrow, too.
I think of you in silence
and make no outward show.
For what it meant to lose you
only those who love you know.
Remembering you is easy,
I do it everyday.
It's the heartache of losing you
that will never go away.

With Love From,
Iona Ewald
Rena Bauer

Friends and Family

Join us for a

Graduation Party

In honor of

Sophia Olesen

Saturday, May 24th

from 2-6 pm

At the

Birchdale Community Bldg.

AGENDA

City of International Falls – City Council Regular Meeting
4:30 P.M., Monday, May 19, 2014
Council Chamber, 600 Fourth Street

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Monday, May 5, 2014 regular City Council meeting (Council action – motion)

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

1. **CLAIMS**
a. Transfer Claims
to: City of Intl Falls Fund #101 from: City of Intl Falls Fund #601 \$16,492.00
Genera Water/Sewer (Council action – motion)
to: City of Intl Falls Fund #403 from: City of Intl Falls Fund #601 \$15,958.50
Reserve for Capital Outlay Water/Sewer (Council action – motion)
b. Regular Claims (Council action – motion)

AUDIENCE – OPEN FORUM (The Open Forum is an opportunity for the audience to address the City Council on any matter not listed on the agenda. Please limit your comments to five minutes.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OPENING BIDS (AND/OR QUOTES)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Second Reading of Ordinance #957, An Ordinance of the City of International Falls, Minnesota Granting a Franchise to Midcontinent Communications for the Operation of a Cable System (Council action – motion)

CONSENT AGENDA The Consent Agenda allows the City Council to take action on routine matters by one motion that shall not be debated and shall be adopted by unanimous vote of those present. Any individual council member may remove an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion on the regular agenda. (Council action – motion)

1. Resolution approving Budget and Finance Committee recommendation to approve budget and funding of Medical NAFTA, Peace Pull, and Dragon Boat Race (Council action – motion)

2. Resolution approving Budget and Finance Committee recommendation to approve setting a water reconnect fee of \$25.00 (Council action – motion)

3. Resolution approving Budget and Finance Committee recommendation to approve a contribution up to \$52,218 to the Recreation Department for purchase of an electric Zamboni (Council action – motion)

4. Authorize posting to fill vacancy of Heavy Equipment Operator due to pending retirement of Jerry Adee (Council action – motion)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Heart of the Continent GeoTourism update – Eric Johnson (Council information)

2. Resolution approving construction plans County State Aid Highway 107 from TH 71 to CSAH 2, State Project No. 036 707 001 (Council action – motion)

3. Resolution approving application for temporary 1 to 4 day license for the Rotary Club (Council action – motion)

4. Resolution approving application for exempt permit for International Falls Elks 1599 (Council action – motion)

5. Resolution approving Public Employees Retirement Association Police Officer Declaration – Chad R. Mastin (Council action – motion)

6. Resolution approving Public Employees Retirement Association Police Officer Declaration – Paul A. Kennedy (Council action – motion)

7. Resolution approving Budget and Finance Committee recommendation to approve policy for initial swimming pool fill credit of sanitary sewer fees (Council action – motion)

8. Recommendation to approve pay and appointment of Electrician to fill vacancy due to pending retirement of Mike Holden (Council action – motion)

9. Human Resources Committee Recommendation to approve compensation of new Fire Chief Adam Mannausau, effective May 27, 2014 (Council action – motion)

10. Approve posting Administration Support Specialist position vacancy subject to Local No. 49ers approval of memorandum of understanding (Council action – motion)

11. Any other business

REPORTS OF ALL BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. **Reports of the Administrator, Attorney, and Department Heads**
a. Update Multi-Modal Distribution Center Site Improvements (City Administration)

2. **Reports of the Mayor, Council Committees, Boards and Commissions**

REPORTS OF MAYOR, COUNCIL COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

AUDIENCE – OPEN FORUM

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Convention and Visitors’ Bureau – TravelerFun Lead Campaign Results (Council information)

REMINDERS

1. Next regular City Council meeting is Monday, June 2, 2014 at 4:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Note: Matters inappropriate for consideration at the meeting or not in the order specified shall not be considered except 1) with the unanimous consent of the members of the City Council, or 2) scheduled public hearings or bid lettings, but not before the time stated in the notice.

The City of International Falls complies with the Americans with Disability Act. Individuals with disabilities requiring special aids should contact the City Administrator, 600 Fourth Street, International Falls, MN, 56649, 218-283-9484, at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.