

Not only is it National Apple Month,  
it's National Caramel Month.  
**COINCIDENCE?**



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Rick Miller, director of operations for Allina Health's South Market, Amy Selly, oncology-certified nurse practitioner and Todd Markman, a Faribault business leader, are working with other area residents to raise \$750,000 to remodel District One Hospital's cancer center. (Suzanne Rook/southernminn.com)

## Fundraiser concert to benefit, show community's support for city's police

By MICHELLE VLASAK  
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Last October, Scott Amundson looked to plan a fundraising opportunity as a way to support the Faribault Police Department in light of the nationwide discussions about defunding police.

"With everything going on, I choose to publicly state that I support and love our police," said Amundson. "I want to keep our police happy and healthy, and get the community behind it and get them to support it."

Having to reschedule the event due to the pandemic, the C&S Vending Co. president found this month was the perfect opportunity to put his plans in motion. Amundson has been planning a fundraiser concert with the help of two of his staff members: Darla Kosanda and Jean Herda.

See CONCERT on 3A

# CARE CLOSE TO HOME

Fundraising for regional cancer center continues, remodel set to begin in 2022

By JANE TURPIN MOORE  
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There's no place like home — especially when you're not feeling well.

In part, that's why the Cancer Care Close to Home campaign for the comprehensive remodel of the Virginia Piper Cancer Institute at District One Hospital in Faribault is on pace for a successful finish.

"We all know someone who has been touched by cancer, and despite medical advances in the field, it's not going away," said Rick Miller, director of operations for Allina Health's Faribault and Owatonna hospitals.

"We have better screening programs and a prevention focus but when someone gets a cancer diagnosis, the ability to have the right hands holding theirs from the start of the journey is vital."

Over the past year, the District One board of directors, along with hospital staff like Miller and oncology-certified nurse practitioner Amy Selly, have partnered with motivated community members



The remodeled Virginia Piper Cancer Center in Faribault — as depicted above — will feel much more open and welcoming for patients and caregivers. The project is expected to begin in January. (Image courtesy of Allina Health)

to meet a \$750,000 fundraising goal that will improve local delivery of cancer care services.

"The community has rallied around investing in great cancer care close to home," said Miller, mentioning that an abundance of \$25 and \$50 gifts have been received,

as well as about a dozen donations in the larger gift categories.

"This is a close-knit health care community, and we're extremely appreciative of every gift," he added.

Said Selly, "We've been amazed at the support and generosity of this community,

### GET INVOLVED

To contribute to the "Cancer Care Close to Home" campaign for the remodel of the Virginia Piper Cancer Institute area at Allina Health's District One hospital in Faribault, visit [donate.allina.com/District\\_One](http://donate.allina.com/District_One).

Gifts can be made in honor/tribute of individuals.

which will enable us to continue providing care in a functional environment and offering patients our very best professional support."

Miller confirms the major remodeling effort may commence in January 2022. Although the bulk of the needed funds have been pledged or received, more donations are required to ensure the project can be completed as envisioned.

See REMODEL on 3A

### SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

The 2021 Faribault Police Department fundraiser takes place from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday at Paradise Center for the Arts, 321 Central Ave. N, Faribault.

7 p.m. presentation by Police Chief Andy Bohlen

8 p.m. concert by Street Talk

Tickets: \$20 available at [paradisecenterforthearts.org](http://paradisecenterforthearts.org), by calling 507-332-7372

or by stopping in during PCA open hours noon to 5 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday or 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

All funds raised to benefit Faribault Police Department special programs, focusing primarily on mental health.

Mail form and donations to P.O. Box 876, Faribault, MN 55021.

Checks payable to Faribault Police Department Fundraiser.

For credit card, call 507-334-8414 ext. 201 and search Faribault Police Department Fundraiser to pay via Venmo.

## Board OKs comp plan, seeks environmental review of planned commercial zone

By SUZANNE ROOK  
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After more than eight years of discussion, planning and public input, Rice County has a new comprehensive plan.

The plan, which outlines a vision for growth and land use in the county over the next decade or so, was approved unanimously Tuesday. But as with much of the plan's meandering path, it very nearly took an unexpected detour.

Commissioner Galen Malecha, who represents much of Northfield, kicked off discussion by saying that he was voting no to the plan because it was lacking in areas important to his constituency.

"I would have liked to have seen more teeth in its sustainability chapter ... and a more aggressive housing portion," he said.

Commissioner Steve Underdahl, who along with Malecha, sits on the county's Sustainability Committee, agreed that the comprehensive plan needs beefing up when it comes to sustainability. He also expressed concerns about a planned commercial and industrial zone along Interstate 35 in the northern portion of the county, but instead of further delaying, Underdahl suggested authorizing an Alternative Urban Areawide Review that would act as almost an addendum to the comp plan.

For a moment it appeared as if the board would approve the

comp plan contingent on the development of a review, but after Environmental Services Director Julie Runkel recommended commissioners take time to craft a thorough request for proposals seeking companies interested in conducting the review, the board voted to approve the plan.

Malecha said he was satisfied with the verbal agreement to develop a request for proposals.

According to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, the AUAR process a type of environmental review "to understand how different development scenarios will affect the environment of their community before the development occurs."

See REVIEW on 3A



Bagley Avenue resident Elizabeth Heigl, standing, implored commissioners to consider area residents before rezoning land along I-35 for commercial/industrial development. The board seemed to listen, agreeing Tuesday to have an environmental review of the area done. (Suzanne Rook/southernminn.com)

