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Covering The Greater Lake Minnetonka Area

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PHOTO BY CHUCK RUPNOW
Charlie Szlachtowski, in his mom's arms, got to meet "Sparky" when the birthday patrol stopped by his house on Monday, April 20, to celebrate his second birthday.



PHOTO BY MELISSA TURPINEN

Executive Director Greg Hilding unloads a cart of canned vegetables at Interfaith Outreach and Community Partner's food shelf on April 16, his fourth day with the nonprofit.

A new chapter

Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners has new executive director

BY MELISSA TURPINEN
mturpinen@swpub.com

PLYMOUTH — For the first time in its 40-year history, Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners has a new executive director.

Greg Hilding joined the Plymouth-based human services nonprofit as the new executive director on April 13, taking over for LaDonna Hoy, the executive director emerita, who will serve as an adviser to

Interfaith to 13 ➤

Sirens and smiles

Birthday patrol helps kids, seniors celebrate during stay-at-home order

BY CHUCK RUPNOW

EXCELSIOR — Edy Peterson stood on her fourth-floor balcony, smiling and vigorously waving.

Two-year-old Charlie Szlachtowski, secure in his mother's arms, hesitantly waved at the costumed "Sparky" inside an Excelsior Fire District ladder truck.

Peterson, 85, and Charlie were both celebrating birthdays; Peterson at The Waters of Excelsior senior living complex, and Charlie at home with family.

A fire truck, police units and other emergency vehicles participated Monday, April 20, in birthday celebrations, something that has become more common during the COVID-19 seclusion effort.

Charlie, whose birthday was Mon-

day, appeared a bit apprehensive at first when his mother, Megan Szlachtowski, carried him over to the fire truck as other emergency vehicles with flashing lights and a few sirens lined up on Maple Street.

But several close-up waves from fire department mascot "Sparky" and Charlie donned a few smiles.

Birthday to 10 ➤

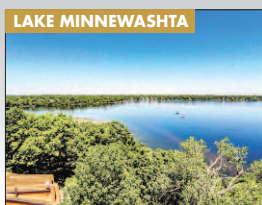


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