

The Cologne Observer.

VOLUME 1

COLOGNE, MINN. OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2014

NO. 4

COLOGNE BUSINESSES — OLD AND NEW

Klein Bank

The Cologne branch of KleinBank has a long history in town. In 1903, a few citizens of Cologne formed State Bank of Cologne and built the first bank building. The bank building, located at 114 Paul Ave. N. (Hair's 2 U), still stands today and is owned by Daniel Worm. In 1926, C.H. Klein acquired controlling shares of the bank. In 1965 the bank moved to the current location. In 1987, KleinBank and First National Bank of Waconia merged, then in 2005 all of the offices changed their names to KleinBank.

Today, with assets totaling over \$1.6 billion and a financial team of 400 dedicated employees, KleinBank is one of Minnesota's largest family-owned state banks. KleinBank is also a 2011 recipient of the Minnesota Business Ethics Award, a 2012 recipient of the Minnesota Family Business Award, and a 2014 Star Tribune Top Workplace. KleinBank offers a broad array of financial services to individuals, families and businesses, including Online Banking at Kleinbank.



com. Currently KleinBank serves their customers from their nineteen branch locations and plans are underway to open two new locations in Prior Lake at the end of October.

The office in Cologne has five employees with over 90 years of service with KleinBank. For your banking needs, contact KleinBank at 952-466-2265 or stop by at 210 Paul Avenue North.

M & M Home Contractors, Inc.

M & M Home Contractors pride themselves on the quality and creativity they provide to their customers. From the initial conception to the finished product, M & M's entire team is dedicated to working with their customers through the entire process of their project, from start to finish.

M & M Home Contractors have been in the construction business for over 15 years. In the spring of 2012, M & M purchased and renovated the meat market located next to the Holiday Station in Cologne. This project was completed in September 2012 and is now the central location for M & M's business.

Their new office space includes a spacious reception area, two areas with conference tables and ample meeting space, and several employee offices. All areas in their new building are set up as individual showrooms, allowing visitors to get a first-hand look at a multitude of different building products and styles. This allows their customers to see and compare the latest trends in flooring, trim, doors,



ceiling textures, color scheme, counter top surfaces and much more.

Mike Fritz, owner and president of M & M, was raised in Cologne and is pleased to serve customers within his home community and surrounding areas. M & M employs more than 20 people, all of whom live within Cologne and nearby communities.

In addition to new home construction, M & M also specializes in basement finishes and remodels. You will find them in the Edina area at the Parade of Homes Remodeler's Showcase in the spring of 2015. They encourage you to stop in and visit them at this

M&M to 4 ▶

SHAMBOUR SR. HONORED BY CITY

Bernie Shambour Sr. takes great pride in the City of Cologne. In 1969, Bernie moved into Cologne with his wife Irene. He purchased a home on Playhouse Street and still calls this house "home." In 1976, Bernie was hired as the city's sole full-time public works employee and is still assisting the city where needed. Many long-time residents

have fond memories of Bernie driving through town in his orange 1972 Chevrolet half-ton truck with his border collie "Puppy" sitting beside him in the passenger's seat.

In 2006, the City restored the 1889 road grader for the City's 125th celebration. This was the first road grader

Shambour to 4 ▶

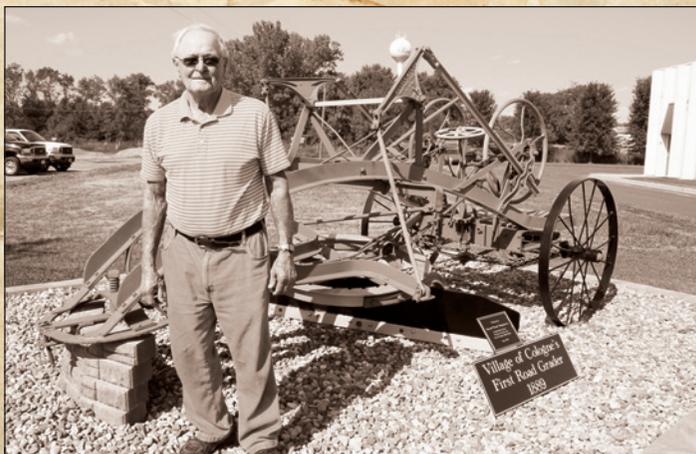


Photo courtesy of Belle Plaine Herald

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRST STD
EFCWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 120
COLOGNE, MN

Benton Lake Fish Barrier

This past winter a fish barrier was installed at the north end of Benton Lake. The purpose of the project is to stop rough fish like carp from entering Benton Lake. This is one of the first steps that are being taken by Carver County, Benton Lake Watershed Conservancy and the City of Cologne to improve the water clarity and usability of our lake.



Public Works Utility truck

Truck 5 has been part of the City of Cologne for 6 months; it replaced a 1989 pickup that was purchased used by the city. The new truck was ordered as a utility vehicle which allows Public Works to have the tools and equipment with them for the jobs that they are called to do each day.



Park Signs



This past winter the Parks Department met to talk about recreational projects for the community. One item of big interest was to put up signs directing people to the many parks our community has. The brown signs with white letters around town let you know how to get to the parks and also what amenities are available at each location.

Submersible Pumps

The water and wastewater department purchased two new submersible pumps this past summer as a frontline defense for future heavy rains.



City Street Mill and Overlay

In the summer of 2013, the City Council made a decision to invest in fixing streets in our community. Two sections of road were selected for the first year: Playhouse St W and Church St. This past spring, the City Council also approved mill and overlay work on John Ave, Market St and Jacob Ave. In this process, the old asphalt is removed and a new road is put down. The City Council plans to evaluate the condition of the roads in town and to improve more streets in 2015.



Fritz Field Lights



After many years of playing baseball in Cologne, this year marked the beginning of night games for our community. This is a cooperative project between the Cologne Hollanders and the City of Cologne. Funding for the project is being split evenly between the Hollanders and the City of Cologne. The lights, which were installed this past winter, lit up the field for the first time this May.

Utility Drop Box

The City of Cologne has installed a Utility Drop Box at City Hall, 1211 Village Parkway, for residents to safely deposit payments for utilities, rental keys, building permits or other small items they need to get to the city during non-office hours. The drop box at Louis Hall / Fire Station is also available for payment drop off.



Traffic Signs

We all see them every day but may not pay a lot of attention to how they look. As signs age their reflectivity changes, which makes it harder to see them at night. The saying goes: old signs don't die, they just fade away. As a safety measure, the City of Cologne was required to create a sign replacement policy for our road signs in town. The Council passed a policy to replace all road signs in town this year, in total there were 150+ replaced. This policy also established an expected life of each sign of 10 years. Each sign has a date on the back to let us know when that sign was installed. As the city grows and adds signs, we will be dating them as well so we know when ten years is up and replacement needs to happen.



Fitness Equipment



New aerobics equipment was added to the fitness room inventory this summer. Available for use are resistance bands, two BOSU balls and 3#, 5# and 8# weights. This equipment is available for use by the fitness members and for the various exercise classes held at the community center.

VFW Park

This past winter the City of Cologne received a donation from the Cologne VFW Post #6589 to help fix up VFW Park. The Park Board discussed the donation in a meeting and made a decision to recommend the replacement of the backstop and installing a fence along Adams Ave. In addition, the park received new bases, ag lime in the infield, a doggy pot bag station, concrete replacement at the picnic shelter and a new charcoal grill. The finishing touch was installing a new VFW PARK sign, flagpole and moving the memorial from Louis Hall. This project would not have been possible without the help from the VFW, Cologne Fire Relief Association and Steve Ames Construction.



Cologne, MN - The

The City Council, along with administrative and public members on many different projects to repair, improve and add to our community. We are financially responsible with your tax dollars as we continue to do this for those who have called Cologne home for decades, passing through or may one day live here.

As you learn a little about the projects that took place, please contact our members or city staff your ideas for making Cologne a great place to live.

Old Grader Monument

The City of Cologne Public Works staff built a monument to display the old road grader that has been part of the city from the late 1890s. The equipment was used up until the 1990s. The display has been dedicated to Bernie Shambour Sr. who worked in the Public Works department for over 38 years.



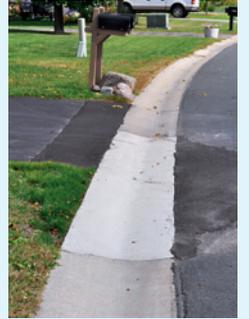
Public Works Communication



The Public Works department was able to purchase 6 hand held radios for staff to use during working hours. The 800 MHz radios will allow staff to communicate quickly and more efficiently. The radios were purchased at a reduced price.

Curb Repair

The City Council approved the replacement of several sections of curb on Meadow Street. The purpose of the replacement was to allow water to flow properly to the storm drains. Keeping water moving and off the streets after a rain helps maintain the road and keeps frost from causing problems during the winter season. More improvements are planned for 2015.



City Logo

Over the past year, the City Council set out to establish a logo for the City of Cologne. The process included evaluating the existing images that are on the two water towers and also a few ideas that were presented by a local graphic designer. In the end, the Council chose this logo as we move forward and grow our fine city. The image captures the strength of our community, the water which drew our townspeople here originally, and the farm land that surrounds our area and contributes to our economy.

COLOGNE Minnesota The Year in Review

Public works staff, have been busy this past year working on the beauty of Cologne. Our mission and goal is to be a great place to live, work and grow. We are passionate about the quality of life here and the decades along with those who have just moved in, are

For this year, please consider sharing with your Council that Cologne is a great place to Live, Work and Grow!

Garbage Cans

Maybe not the biggest item for the year but one that we as a city are glad we have: new garbage cans. The old faded red cans have been replaced with new white cans showcasing the new city logo. The cans were donated by M&M Home Contractors of Cologne.



Doggy Pot Stations

The City of Cologne has installed additional doggy pot stations along the walking paths and in the parks this year. We ask that all people walking their dogs please use this service if needed. If there is a location that would benefit from having one installed, please let us know.



Water Fill Stations

Thanks to a generous donation from MVEC Operation Round Up, the Cologne Community Center was able to install water bottle fill stations. These systems deliver filtered water to your reusable drinking bottle. Just one more way we continue to improve your facilities whether you are working out or attending a social event or need a refill while out walking.



Public Works Building

After close inspection of the condition of the Public Works building, City Council approved repairs to the structure that will help keep the facility in solid shape for many years to come. The building received a new roof, new windows and doors and a fresh coat of paint. Prior to painting the building, over 200 blocks were replaced that had deteriorated due to moisture.



Trail Coating

The City of Cologne took steps this past year to maintain the 3+ miles of walking path in our town. A soy-based product was applied to the oldest part of the path, which is located around Benton Lake. This product is formulated to work into the asphalt and seal the path from water. More seal work is planned for this coming year.



Exmark Mower

The City purchased a new Exmark mower with a striping kit for the parks department. This new piece of equipment will make it safer for staff while mowing smaller areas that include inclines.



Bond Rating AA-

The City's bond rating was upgraded to AA- from A+ by Standard & Poor's rating agency. The higher the credit rating, the lower the bond interest rates. The primary reasons for the upgrade are: Cologne is a growing community with proximity to Minneapolis/St. Paul region, has low unemployment, and strong policies and procedures in place to keep the City on track. Credit goes to the City Council for their vision and leadership and staff who manage the City.

AA-

Calendar of Events

Oct. 25 - Trunk or Treat - Zion Lutheran Church and School - 6:30-8 p.m. "Trick or treat" from "trunk to trunk"! Concessions also available.

Oct. 20, 29 and Nov. 6 - Informational Meeting - Cologne Academy 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 4 - Soup & Pie/Craft & Bake Sale - Zion Lutheran Church and School - 4-8 p.m.

Nov. 9 - Vendor Fair - Cologne Academy

Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day Program - 2:30 p.m. Cologne Academy

Nov. 14 and 15 - Scrappy Campers - Cologne Academy

Nov. 25 - Grandparent's Day - Cologne Academy

Dec. 2 - Cologne Area Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon - Cologne Community Center - Noon

Dec. 11, 16 and 18 - Cologne Academy Winter Concerts - Cologne Community Center

Dec. 24 - Christmas Program - Zion Lutheran Church and School - 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 20 - High School Open House - Cologne Academy 6:30 p.m. (representatives from seven area high schools will be present)

Jan. 23 and 24 - Scrappy Campers - Cologne Academy

Jan. 29 - Art, Science and Spanish Expo - Cologne Academy

Feb. 20 and 21 - Scrappy Campers - Cologne Academy

Feb. 27 - Cologne Academy Middle School Musical - Cologne Community Center - 7 p.m.

Feb. 28 - Cologne Academy Middle School Musical - Cologne Community Center - 3 p.m.

**COLOGNE LIONS
OKTOBERFEST**

VIVA LAS VEGAS

2014

**Saturday, October 25, 2014
6:30 pm - 11:30 pm**

**Cologne Community Center
1211 Village Pkwy., Cologne, MN**

Tickets are available from any Cologne Lions member
or by calling (952) 693-8439

**LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS!!!
GAMES!! PRIZES!! WALL OF WINE!!
LAS VEGAS STYLE APPETIZER BUFFET!!!**

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT ARE USED FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

General Election Nov. 4

General elections will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The polling place for residents of the City of Cologne is City Hall/Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Parkway, Cologne. For questions, contact Sue Mueller, Deputy Clerk, at the Cologne City Offices at (952) 466-2064.

Candidates for City Council and Mayor are:

MAYOR

Matt Lein (incumbent)
Scott Williams

COUNCIL MEMBERS (TWO SEATS OPEN)

Kyle Evenski (incumbent)
Don Meyer (incumbent)
Carol Szaroletta

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1) **Who is eligible to vote?**
 - a) At least 18 years or older
 - b) A Citizen of the United States
 - c) A resident of Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding the election day
- 2) **How do I register to vote?**
 - a) The Minnesota Secretary of State has a great web-site that will answer most questions regarding registration at <http://mnvotesinfo.sos.state.mn.us>. Residents of Cologne can register to vote on elections day. Please take advantage of this web-site if you have questions regarding registration or absentee voting. Pre-registration closes Oct. 14 at 5 p.m.
 - b) Registration is required if any of the following has occurred:
 - i) Change of address
 - ii) Change of name
 - iii) Have not voted for four years in a row

Around the Community

Watermain Loop

Watch for construction this fall. The City will begin the water main loop project.

Open Gym

The Community Center's gymnasium is available for Open Gym use on Wednesdays and Sundays. The cost is \$1 per person and a change of clean tennis shoes is needed to participate. Open gym participants can enjoy basketball, volleyball, a climbing wall and other gym activities. Open Gym is available Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. and Sundays 3-7 p.m.

Get Fit at the Cologne Community Center

Aerobics Classes at Cologne Community Center: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:15-6 a.m. Contact Katelyn at 952-200-6191

Evening/Weekend Classes: Times to be determined. Contact Christine at 651-357-7296

Personal Training and Fitness Classes at Cologne Community Center: Varied schedules. Contact Susie at 612-423-1316

Cologne Fitness Center: The City of Cologne/Cologne Community Center has a great 24x7 fitness center. Stop by City Offices to check out our facilities and get a head start on your New Year's resolution.

City Ordinance reminders

- Do not blow or shovel snow onto city streets or sidewalks during the winter season.
- No parking on any city streets following a 2-inch snowfall. Plow trucks will be able to do a much more efficient job if the streets are cleared.

SHAMBOUR

► continued from 1

purchased by the city and was used as late as the 1990s to perform work on the alleys in town. This summer, public works staff moved the grader to the front of the Public Works building as a monument to the hard work put in by the past and current staff. City Council recently dedicated the area to Bernie Shambour Sr., who dedicated more than 38 years to the City as a public works employee.

As the sole full-time em-

ployee of the city, Bernie was involved in every aspect of maintaining all functions of the city. This included taking water samples, street maintenance, snow plowing, street sweeping, park upkeep, sign maintenance, lawn mowing, completing and filing all paperwork, and all other aspects of maintaining a well-managed city.

The piece of equipment most critical to Bernie's workday was the dump truck with wing that was purchased and donated to the city by the local VFW club. This truck was used for various jobs within

the city, including plowing snow, hauling salt, sand and gravel and all other large items.

The most challenging part of Bernie's employment was the necessity to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For the majority of his years at the city, Bernie was the only full time employee on staff. Still today, current public works staff will call on Bernie for insight on past projects, infrastructure within the city, and general historical information on curb stops and other vital pieces of information within the city.

M&M

► continued from 1

event, or visit them locally at their offices at 413 Paul Avenue S. in Cologne. You can find

their staff at the Cologne office location on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon, or schedule an appointment to meet with them at your convenience.

You can find more information about M & M by logging

on to their website at www.MandMQuality.com. Their website contains important information as well as extensive galleries of their projects. You can also find them on Facebook and Houzz.com.

City of Cologne

1211 Village Parkway, P.O. Box 120, Cologne, MN 55322
Web site: www.ci.cologne.mn.us

Contact Us

City Hall/Clerk's Office(952) 466-2064
City Administrator John Hendel
Deputy Clerk..... Sue Mueller
Event Coordinator..... Brenda Good
Utility Billing Clerk..... Lori Kasel
Public Works..... Jeff Wildung, Damon Klein
Emergency/after-hours
public works pager.....(612) 579-7054

Cologne City Council

Mayor Matt Lein
Scott Williams
Kyle Evenski
The City Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission

David Reif
Joel Sievers
Don Meyer (Council Rep)
The Planning Commission meets on the 1st Monday at 6 p.m.

Don Meyer
Jeff McInnis

Pete Mitchell

Park & Recreation Board

Craig Pexa
Scott Rynerson
Open Park Board position

Nicole Evenski
Mark Willems

District #108 Community Education

531 Morse Street, Norwood Young America, MN 55368
Phone: (952) 467-7390
Web site: www.dist108ce.org

Cologne Community Center - (952) 466-2064

Graduation parties, wedding receptions, showers, anniversary parties, birthday parties and other social events.