**Bridgewater Township Newsletter**

May 2020

**SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD MAY 12, 2020**

A Special Township Election will be held Tuesday, May 12th. This election will fill the two new Supervisor roles on the Town Board.

This election will be run differently due to concerns with the virus. The election will be conducted as a drive-thru election. We will have two 10’x10’ tents set up next to the hall in the parking lot. Residents will enter the parking lot at the south end, stop by the first tent to sign the roster, then proceed to the second tent to fill out the ballot. They will not be leaving their cars. We are taking protective measures to the best of our ability. These measures include: pens for each voter, clipboards that can be wiped down, sanitizer, and face masks, face shields, and gloves for the election judges. The roster page and ballot will be placed on clipboards for the voter. We will be doing everything possible to make this a safe experience for all residents.

**Pre-Election Open House**

Per Government guidance, we will not be hosting an open house to meet the candidates. In place of this, the candidates have provided the following information. Candidates are running for one of two positions which are notated by position “D” and “E” after their name.

**Candidates for the position of Township Supervisor**

**Mary Franz** (candidate for position “D”)

As a second-generation local family farmer, I seek the position of Township Supervisor in order to bring a fresh, younger perspective to the board. Farming beef, dairy cattle, and crops on our small farm, I know first-hand the need for completing projects, finding solutions, and working as a team all within the context of our community. Not only do I bring in a rural, youthful perspective, but also have a husband that works at College City Beverage helping me to gain a commercial viewpoint additionally. Along with that, we have a 16-month old son that stays home with me, this view shows that I am able to help represent the young families in this grassroot government body. I am eager to work and learn by representing the township and my neighbors, addressing concerns, and finding solutions as our community evolves.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns, 507-301-9878.

**Thomas Hart** (candidate for position “E”)

I have enjoyed being a resident of Bridgewater Township since 1988. I am married and live with my wife of 32 years, Kathy who retired as a Special Education teacher. We have two grown children, one in Minneapolis and one in Ottawa, Canada. I worked first for Land o’ Lakes, Inc., Ag Services for 27 years ending my career in the corporate office and as a Feed Ingredients Merchandiser. After leaving Land O’ Lakes, I took a job with Cabela’s Inc. in Owatonna, MN. I retired from Cabela’s as the store Inventory Manager.

I am a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam era. I served 4 years in the Air Defense Command, two of the years stationed in Germany.

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and Business Administration from the University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture, graduating in 1972.

I am very active in the Northfield American Legion Post 84 and currently hold the positions of Adjutant and Finance Officer. I have co-chaired the Memorial Day Program in Northfield for the past several years. I proudly serve in the Legion Color Guard, performing Military Rites at veterans’ funerals.

I have been involved as an election judge for Bridgewater Township in the 90’s and again the last several years.

I am running for the Supervisor position to use my skills in maintaining the Bridgewater Township’s rural personality while ensuring its financial stability into the future. I would appreciate your vote to ensure the positive future of our Township.

Please contact me with questions, 507-301-1558 or Thart@q.com.

**Tracy Jonkman** (candidate for position “D”)

I moved to Bridgewater Township 7 years ago with my husband Nate Watters and two children, Tristan and Fiona, to continue with our vision of sustainable land use for an organic orchard and farm.  With my husband Nate Watters, we started Keepsake Cidery and Woodskeep Orchard. We have invested a lot of ourselves in this region and frankly, love it here and have found a wonderful place to grow food, make cider, and raise our children. I want to continue to improve Bridgewater Township as a dynamic yet solid community, and feel I have a lot to offer as a board member. I am a physician in Emergency Medicine, a small business owner, organic farmer, and mother. I respect the depth and wisdom of those who have been around longer but also understand the need to adapt. To thrive in an ever-changing world, it is important to have many different viewpoints and backgrounds.  I grew up on a small farm in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with rural, small town values rooted deeply as a consequence but have also traveled around the world and lived in many parts of the US, always considering the Midwest my home. My experiences elsewhere have strengthened my ability to see the big picture while maintaining core values. Keeping the rural values and characteristics of Bridgewater Township while adapting to ensure long term viability is important, and I will work to protect it. Thank you for your consideration!

Please contact me with questions, tracyjonkman@gmail.com.

**Nathan Menge** (candidate for position “D”)

I grew up in Faribault and I've resided in Anoka for the last decade.  I finally moved back to the area last summer and I found myself interested in making a difference in the Township after attending a few meetings.  I have a B.S. in Construction Management and a minor in Business Administration from Minnesota State University-Mankato.  I've been in the heavy highway/ civil construction industry for 18 years and I have experience in estimating, project managing, building and maintaining roads/ parking lots.  I think my education and experience in roads are well suited to help the Township as we continue to grow.  I do see the Township being annexed by a surrounding city and I would like to be an essential part of that process.  If you would like to know more or have any questions, please email me at nmenge83@gmail.com.  Thank you.

**Brad Pfahning** (candidate for position “E”)

Brad Pfahning will serve the residents of Bridgewater Township well as their next township supervisor.

Brad and his wife Kay are long-time residents and have raised a daughter and two sons at their rural wooded residence.  They appreciate the vibrant community opportunities, solid education system and the active local government that strives for our goals and priorities.

During ten years as township treasurer, Brad has participated in the conversations that developed budgets and actions to strengthen Bridgewater’s future.  Brad is eager to join the Bridgewater board to use his experience in real estate, finance and business management to lead with decisions and transparency that continue to produce positive outcomes for you, the township.

Brad can be reached at 952-994-1092.

**Election Results**

Results of the election will be announced following the Board of Canvass on Wednesday, May 13th, at 7:00 pm in the Bridgewater Town Hall. These results will also be posted on the Township website: **www.bridgewatertwp.org**