



RED COW



GAZZETTE

Amboy, Minnesota



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The 2017 Amboy Community Parade Weekend September 8, 9, 10 — The Sound of Music Continues



Perry Scherer brings chamber music to Amboy at the First Presbyterian Church on Friday, Sept. 8, 7pm



Perry Scherer

Perry Scherer, son of the late James and DuAnn Scherer, spent the first 18 years of his life in Amboy. He studied piano with Marlene Satre, Maxine McCormack and Edward Epple of Minnesota State University. He was the winner of the 1979 Schubert Club Competition, the Young Artists Concerto Competition (Beethoven Concerto #3), and 3 time winner of the Hiawathaland Midwest Music Competition in Rochester, MN.

Recently, Perry has started performing again with various chamber groups in Italy,



Natalie Kress

London, and New York. He is on a mission to “make classical music great again” by performing, sponsoring and supporting home-based chamber concerts in lieu of the usual formal venues. Perry holds 2 United States patents in artificial intelligence and multi-media internet broadcasting. Recently he fulfilled a lifelong dream by building a fully functional astronomical observatory of his own.

Perry will bring with him, violinist Natalie Kress and cellist Alison Rowe.



Alison Rowe

Natalie Kress is currently artistic director of Three Village Chamber Players of Long Island, NY, which presents classical concerts at numerous venues throughout New York State, and provides educational outreach performances.

Alison Rowe is currently a student at Stony Brook University in Long Island as a Staller Scholar. She is an avid performer of chamber music of all eras. Her most current endeavors have been with the Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players and various other chamber groups.



The Jamboyz (AGT alumni) return for a concert in the Amboy Park

Brad Blume, Dan Corbett, and Jeff Kaul – Three talented musicians, well known in this area and beyond: Brad grew up in Amboy, AGT Class of '73; Dan also grew up in Amboy, AGT Class of '74; and Jeff is from rural Good Thunder, AGT Class of '74.



As the 3rd inductee to “Amboy’s Musical Hall of Fame” they have a varied and interesting musical history and we are proud that they are part of Amboy’s history as well. They put on a very popular concert in the Amboy Park last year. They received a standing ovation and many asked us to bring them back in 2017! We are looking forward to welcoming Brad, Dan, and Jeff back to their old stomping grounds to perform for us at **12 noon at the Amboy Park. Look out Amboy! The Boyz are back in town!**

The group will perform the following classical selections:

Beethoven Violin Sonata #9: The “Kreutzer” Sonata, Piano + Violin

Beethoven Cello Sonata #2 in G-minor, Piano + Cello

Mendelssohn Piano Trio #1 in D-minor, Piano, Violin, and Cello


In addition, Jonathan Davies

(bass) and Taylor Ackley (banjo/fiddle) will join the group for an assortment of Bluegrass in the “American Roots” style.

There will also be some lighter numbers from 1970s popular music, and possibly some sacred music.

There will be opportunity to interact with the musicians in this informal concert.

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Plein Air Painting

If you were wondering what was happening on our street one fine June day...Amboy has been a party to Plein Air Painting group this summer. As the French call it, Plein or Open Air painting is enjoying the outdoors and painting your subject at that very moment in time as you see it.

If you would like to see some of the artists work on display, there is an exhibit at the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory until Sept 4th.

Gerry Tostenson Lime Valley Arts and Margie Larson Bittersweet Arts, both from Mankato are lifetime artists that are retired and enjoy painting landmarks and towns across Minnesota. Martha Elchert recently moved to Michigan, but came back for a summer vacation to paint, and Sue Kral and Geri Leavens are from New Ulm. Working mostly in watercolor, but some in oil, they have painted in several local communities capturing the local scenes and historical buildings.

Amboy was chosen for our historical buildings, several had chosen the Depot as their subject and the others did the Cottage Café where they had just had lunch.

If your interested in Plein Air painting, the Outdoor Painters of Minnesota (OPM) was started as an informal group of artists in 2002. It grew into a more structured group in 2008, then started recruiting new members, and in 2015 officially became a 501c3 organization.

If you would like to become a member of the group, and participate in the events, road trips, and workshops, they have a website you can check out at www.outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org. They have a calendar of events, and gallery to check out as well as the info to join the group.



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COW TALES – LATE SUMMER/FALL – 2017

Bessie's Bridge - a story of Thomas Dodd

by Kelly Reuter



Man (possibly Thomas Dodd) on the old Dodd Ford Bridge in the early 1900's



K.C. Reuter and his daughter walk the Dodd Ford Bridge in 2009

A typical pioneer story is the one of Thomas Dodd and his family. Bessie Toland remembered her grandfather, and wrote a tribute to his spirit and faith in "A Minnesota Pioneer". The following is a short synopsis of his story.

Bessie's Bridge

In 1823, when Minnesota was still a wilderness, the William Dodd family came from England and landed in New York with their four children. Thomas, then age 5, would one day become a Minnesota pioneer who helped to shape both the physical and spiritual needs of this area.

Thomas grew up in Hudson and Catskill, attended Rutgers and later became principal at the "House of Refuge" in New York City. Following his

marriage to Elizabeth Stevens, and the birth of Grant and Gertrude, he bought a wagon and a yoke of oxen and started west. After settling first in Iowa, then in Wisconsin and Illinois, where baby Spencer was born, the Dodd family traveled to Minnesota. As they came into the state, they met many families leaving in fear, for it was at the time of the Sioux Uprising.

When things calmed down, they built their log cabin, with the help of the new neighbors, and began the life of a Minnesota Pioneer farm family. They endured the hard work, and some deep sorrows, always keeping their strong faith alive in their family.

During the years of the grasshopper plague in the 1870s, the family returned to

New York for a time to work and make enough money to return to Minnesota. When they returned, Thomas became a Sunday school missionary, traveling throughout Minnesota holding services and organizing Sunday schools.

Gertrude taught school and helped run the farm. In 1890 she married James Lovell. Later the young couple, along with their little daughter Bessie, moved in with Thomas and Elizabeth, in their house at a ford of the Blue Earth River. The family became involved in church work at the Amboy Presbyterian Church. Bessie remembered going to church with her grandfather. When the Blue Earth River was not too high, they would ford it at the place where the "red bridge now stands". Bessie remembered being "a little

afraid and would hold her small toes tightly curled in her high buttoned tasseled shoes, until they were safely across."

Bessie's story of her grandfather ends with this tribute: "The grand old pioneer was gone. He leaves a bridge which bears his name at the same place where Thomas and Bessie forded the river so long ago. But his great legacy was the strengthening of the Christian faith in the hearts of many."

So now we see the old bridge in a new light. It's not just wood and concrete and steel... the building of the Dodd Ford Bridge was the gift of a pioneer farmer, and an act of love from a Grandfather to his little Granddaughter.

[note from The Historian: In doing research (back in the 70s) for my book, Amboy, Minnesota "A Heritage Rooted in Rural America", I came across many interesting facts and stories. When writing a History you need the facts, but also the stories...the things that make you laugh or cry are what makes history come alive. I knew little Bessie, for she and my great aunt Mayme were life-long best friends, both historians, and "God bless them" they loved their hometown and wrote stories about it. When they came to visit, my Grandma Hazel would host a fancy coffee party in their honor, and I got to help her. It was what I adored, being the only child in a room full of dear elderly ladies who grew up in my beloved town of Amboy.]

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Amboy Community Parade under new leadership

Scenes from parades in the 1950s



Marilyn Ruzich



Kent Boyd



Nancy Runge

This year the Amboy Parade Planning Committee consists of Marilyn Ruzich, Kent Boyd and Nancy Runge. They hope to continue the fine tradition of this event which has taken place in some form since the 1930s. For any questions regarding participation in the parade call Marilyn at 507-674-3964.



Arnie Lillo to unveil Crazy Horse Sculpture at the 2017 Parade



Arnie Lillo, renowned metal worker from Good Thunder, will bring something new to this year's Community Parade, a large metal cutout of Native American legendary leader, Crazy Horse.

On September 23, Arnie will host an all-day event for the entire family on his property in Good Thunder which will feature a talk on Crazy Horse's life by Paul Nelson, Native American expert from Owatonna. Other activities include the narration of the Jesse James story, some Wild West shows, including a reenactment of a train robbery featuring the Sontag boys from Mankato back in the 1890s, firing of Arnie's world's largest firing rifle every two hours, food vendors and crafters and carnival rides with a Ferris wheel and merry-go-round.

There will be free parking, free admittance and all the carnival rides will be free to the public, so bring your kids and grandkids and enjoy the day. www.arnielillo.com



Merv Urban will be Grand Marshall of the 2017 Parade



Merv Urban and Urban Oil, two staples of the Amboy community

Merv Urban, of Urban Oil, has worked in Amboy nearly all his life, mostly in the oil business. He has worked at his current location since 1961, when it was called FMW Service Company, affiliated with Standard Oil. He was attracted to the company because it had a nice retirement and savings plan (which has since gone by the wayside). The name changed to Urban Oil in 1976 and Merv will still wash your windshield when you stop for gas.

He started working in town when he was 18 years old. For a time he worked for Bud Torgesen who had a grocery store and produce outlet. Merv went to the country and picked up about 100 cases of eggs per day (he occasionally broke one). He enjoyed getting to see all the different people along his route.

Merv served Amboy as mayor for 8 years and as a volunteer firemen for around 20 years. His wife Loraine, the love of his life, died 10 years ago and all of his three children were born here, graduated from AGT High School and still live around the area.

Win Big at the Festival



Purchase your 2017 Festival Button designed by local livestock artist Carol Herden.

Buttons can be purchased for \$5 from select Amboy Merchants as well as members of the Amboy Lions Club.

Each purchaser becomes eligible for the Festival Drawing, Saturday September 9th at 4:30pm. You do not have to be present to win.



Prizes for the 2017 Amboy Festivals Drawing 11 prizes worth over \$950

- 1st prize - (1) Apple ipad mini 2
- 2nd prize - (1) Samsung galaxy tablet A 8"
- 3rd prize - (1) Amazon Fire Tablet HD8
- 4th prize - (4) \$50 gift certificates to the Amboy Cottage Cafe
- 5th prize - (4) \$50 gift certificates to Vernon Center Market



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Dodd Ford Bridge Celebration - a fitting end to a 10-year project



Aerial photo of the Dodd Ford Bridge Celebration by Brian Herdon

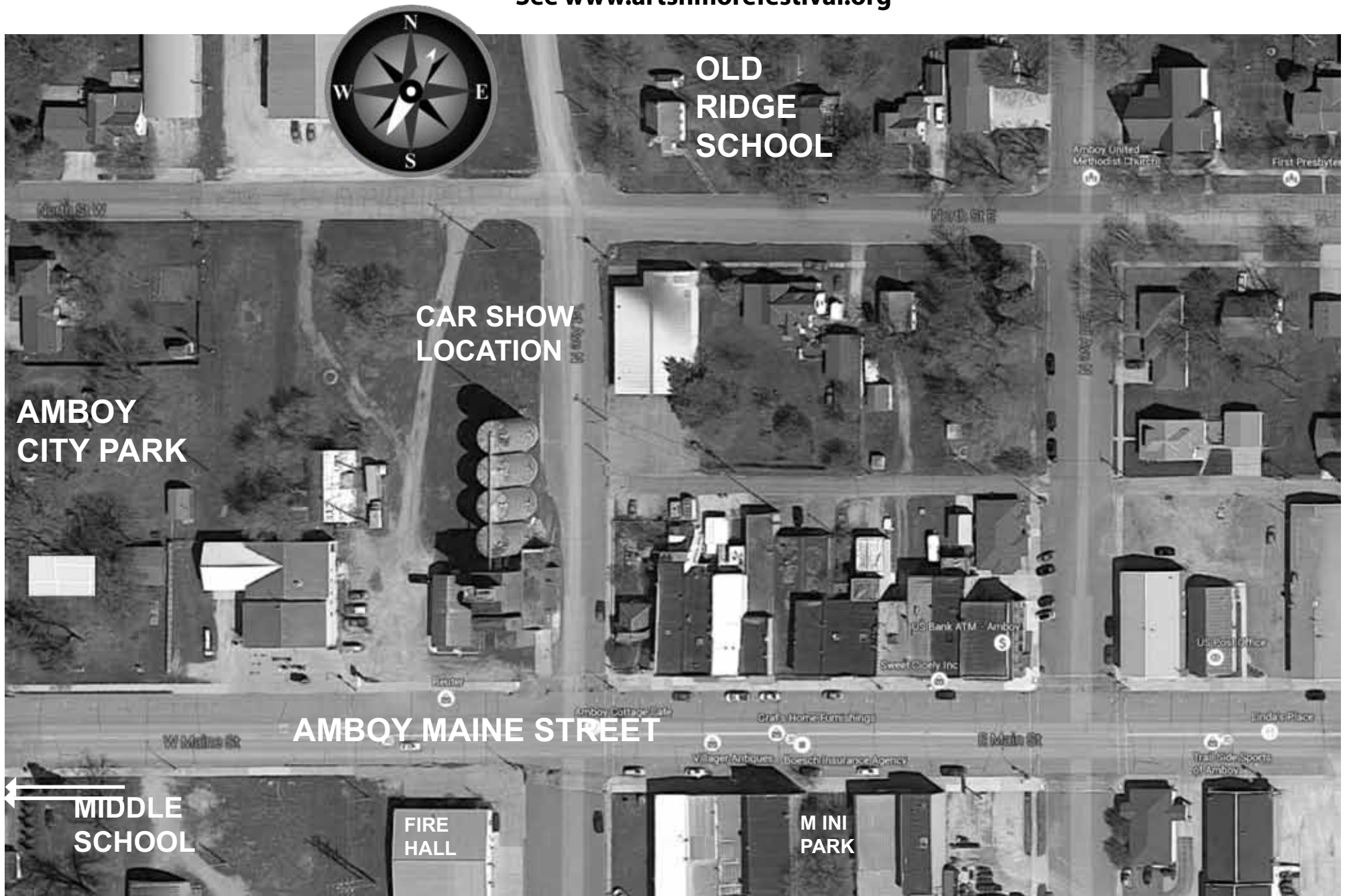


Kristin Johnson with father & son - descendants of bridge builder Lawrence Henry Johnson

On June 24th, around 150 people attended a celebration of the renovation of the historic Dodd Ford Bridge at the bridge site on CR 147, southwest of Amboy. Highlights of the celebration were: a visit from Kristin Johnson and her family, descendants of bridge builder Lawrence Henry Johnson, who came all the way from California to take part in the festivities, rides to the bridge site in classic automobiles, a dinner catered by the Vernon Center Market and a special song, "The Dodd Ford Bridge", composed for the occasion and sung by Johny Hoy of Minneapolis.

This was the first time that local residents had the opportunity to view the new walking path and observation platforms, displaying information about the bridge and the history of the land surrounding the bridge. Visitors got to walk on wooden planks saved from the old bridge deck and sit on limestone from the old bridge abutments, a gift for generations to come.





SCHEDULE FOR COMMUNITY PARADE WEEKEND

See www.artsnmorefestival.org

Time	Activity	Location
Friday September 8		
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Chamber Music Concert - Perry Scherer & friends (featuring classical, blue grass, pop music)	First Presbyterian Church
Saturday September 9		
9:30am - 11:00am	Amboy/Good Thunder Alumni Brunch (ticket required, registration at 8:30am)	Snowbirds Club Building
11:00am - 3:00pm	Information Booth open	Maine Street by Fire Hall
11:00am - 12 noon	*Lunch at the Fire Hall	Amboy Fire Hall
11:00am - 12 noon	Minnow Races for Children	Amboy City Park
11:00am - 3:00pm	Petting Zoo	Amboy City Park
12 noon - 3:00pm	Food Vendors	Near Depot & City Park
12 noon - 1:00pm	Musical Concert featuring the Jamboyz	Amboy City Park
12 noon - 3:00pm	Car Show	Near Grain Elevator
12 noon - 1:00pm	*Beanbag Tournament	Across the street from Fire Hall
12 noon - 2:30pm	*Bingo for all ages	Amboy Fire Hall
3:00pm - 4:00pm	COMMUNITY PARADE	Maine Street
4:30pm - 4:45pm	PRIZE DRAWING	Information Booth
*5:00pm - 8:00pm	*FIREMENS DINNER (pork chop/hot dog)	Amboy Fire Hall
*6:00pm - 8:30pm	*FIREMENS DANCE w/Jim Lawrence Orchestra	Amboy Fire Hall
Sunday September 10		
10:30am - 11:45am	Community Worship	Amboy City Park
12 Noon	Picnic Lunch, sponsored by the Lion's Club, with Root Beer Floats by LUMPY -	Amboy City Park

***Amboy Fire Department event**

Notes: For questions regarding the Community Parade, Contact Marilyn Ruzich - 507-674-3964
For questions regarding the Car Show, Contact Bob Zech - 507-674-3577



Shelby's Dance begins 12th season

Shelby's Dance Studio will begin their 12th dance season this fall. Located on Maine Street in Amboy, instructor Shelby Kirchner teaches children the love of dance. Recital 2017 "Back To School" took the audience back to the good old school days dancing to songs like Teacher's Pet, Hip to Be Square, Centerfield and Hey Mickey.

It was a fantastic performance by all the dancers. Classes in tap, jazz, ballet, tumbling, hip hop and lyrical are offered for ages 3 and up. To register your child for the 2017-2018 season which begins on September 18th or for more information, contact Shelby at sdkirchner@hotmail.com or 507-674- 3553.

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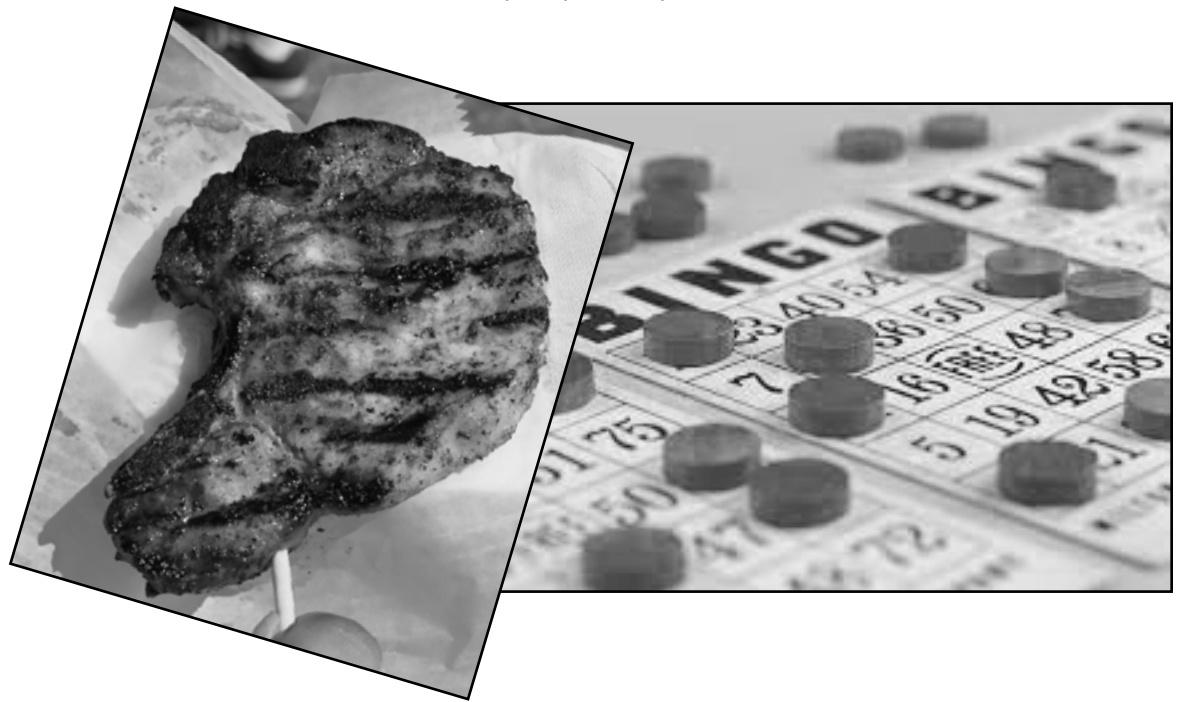


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Food & Fun at the Fire Department

by Twyla Curry



Saturday Sept 9th, the Amboy Fire Department will be offering food, drinks, activities, and music throughout the day.

We will be starting our day around noon offering pork patties & hot dogs. We will have a bean bag tournament in the grassy area across from the station.

We will have bingo for all ages in the Fire Hall from noon to 2:30pm

We will be driving the trucks in the 3pm Parade and after the parade is finished we will serve pork chop on a stick and sides for dinner starting at 5:00pm.

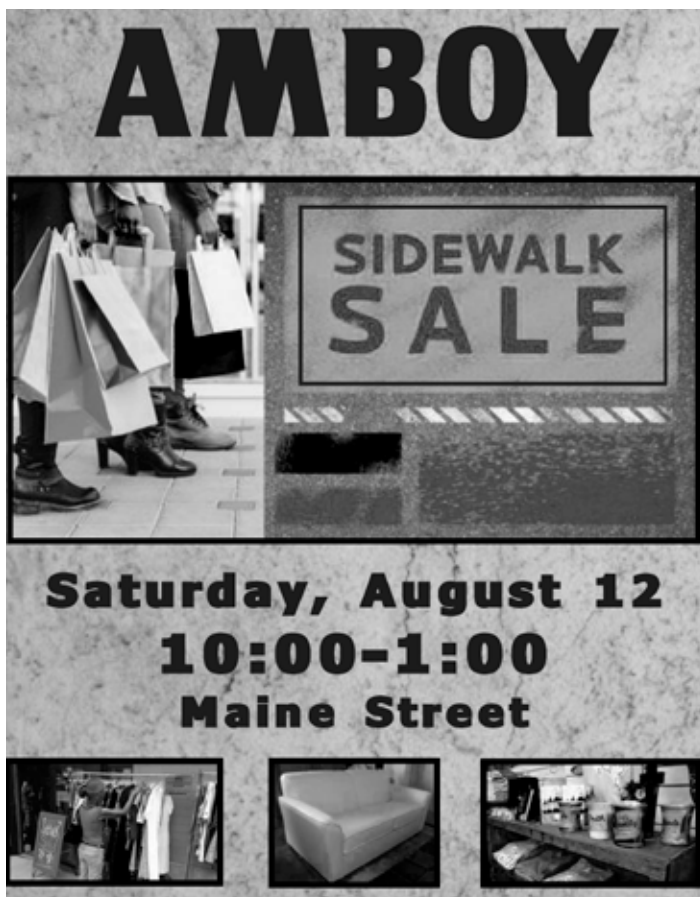
Dinner will be for a free will offering as a

fundraiser for our local Volunteer Fire Department. Please come out and support us.

Jim Lawrence Orchestra will be setting up inside after the parade and will play through the supper hour until 8:30pm.


Come enjoy some food and dance!

AMBOY



SIDEWALK SALE

Saturday, August 12
10:00-1:00
Maine Street



Amboy Sidewalk Sale!!!!

Amboy's maine street businesses are holding a sidewalk sale on August 12, from 10 am to 1 pm. All participating businesses will have table sales outside, selling all kinds of items at great savings. Come to Amboy have a meal and enjoy the deals!



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Tons of fun with our new playground equipment

by Patty Smith



Slides, tunnel and lots of fun – the City of Amboy has purchased the Timber Towers from Midwest Playscapes. The city has been putting money away for a few years to replace the older yellow slide that has given kids from Amboy many hours of fun park time. The new equipment was installed on May 25 - 26. The kids in Amboy - and some adults also – have been extremely excited to play on this new equipment. It should last many years and get lots of use.

Crystal Stix in the Amboy Park on September 9



Kristofer Hoehn (middle) and friends at the Minnesota Renaissance Fair



Kristofer Hoehn performs tricks at the Minnesota Renaissance Fair



You can watch Kristofer perform tricks with the crystal stix on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRXYDCy1OS4>

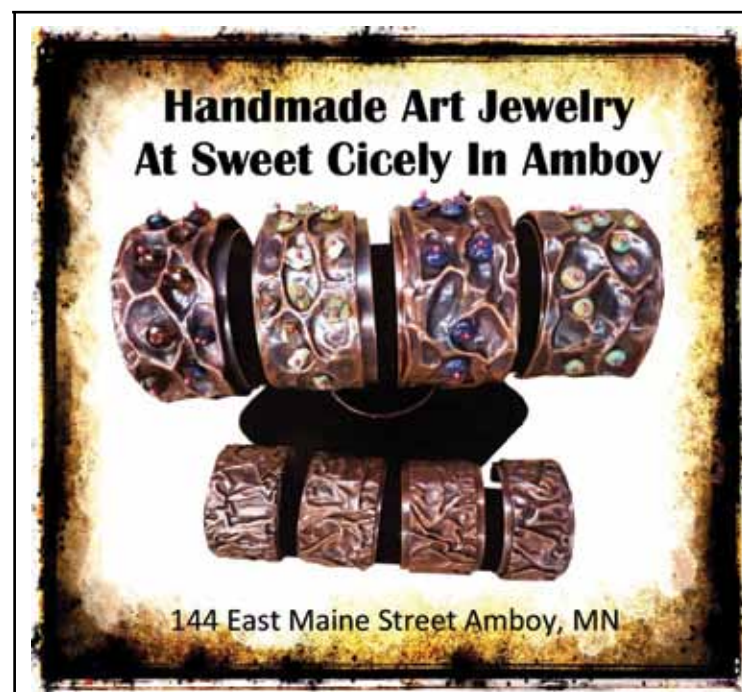
Kristofer Hoehn is a new resident of Amboy who has a passion for playing with sticks, “Crystal Stix.” These toy sticks are the brainchild of Bill Vestal of Colorado, who started Crystal Stix back in the 1970s, and Kristofer will set up a booth in the Amboy Park on September 9th to demonstrate and teach the use of these sticks for fun and fitness.

Kristofer first encountered the stix at the Minnesota Renaissance Fair when he was just a boy, looking for a job at one of the booths. He had won an award as “Hawker of the Year” but was looking for a new challenge. He came upon the Crystal Stix booth and was challenged by Bill Vestal and his wife to learn some basic tricks and was promised a job if he could master them. He practiced all summer and has been doing crystal stix for about fifteen years.



CRYSTAL STIX

Kristofer feels that the benefits of using the stix are endless such as improving hand-eye coordination, reflexes, muscle tone, timing, etc. He would love to see a set of crystal sticks in every home, as ubiquitous as a television set. He will also be marching in the Amboy Parade with his 11-year old son.



Upcoming Events

- Aug 1 Night to Unite
- Aug 10 Iowa State Fair
- Aug 24 Minnesota State Fair
- Sept 4 Labor Day
- Sept 8 Chamber Music Concert
- Sept 9 Community Parade/Firemens Dinner/Dance
- Sept 10 Community Worship
- Sept 27 Community Dinner
- Oct 20 Amboy UMC Bake Sale & Supper (Canned Beef)
- Oct 22 Presbyterians Harvest Ham Dinner
- Oct 25 Community Dinner
- Oct. 31 Firemen's Halloween Party



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.