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Delano Kindred Group meets to study history, honors city's namesake

BY BEN ERNHART
Editor

For the first time in history, Delano Kindred held its annual meeting in a town that bears the family's name last week.

Members from the Delano family traveled from across the country, from as far as Massachusetts and California, to celebrate their lineage and the legacy of a man who played an important role in not only Delano's history, but Minnesota's

history as well.

"We've never met in any other town by the name of Delano," said Delano Kindred President, Tom Delano. "Not even Delano, California, or Ohio, or Pennsylvania, or Kentucky, we just never have."

Delano Kindred is a family lineage organization that was started in 1991, for the purpose of exploring the ancestry and genealogy of their common ancestor, Philippe de Lanoy.

Currently the organization has about 250 members.

Philippe de Lanoy, who eventually changed his name to Philip Delano, was born in Leiden, Holland in 1602, and in 1621 at the age of 19, he immigrated to Plymouth, MA on the ship Fortune which was the second English ship to arrive in the Plymouth Colony, about a year after the Mayflower.

After arriving in Plymouth, Philip became a successful land owner, farmer, and fisherman, and founded Duxbury, MA in 1627. Coincidentally, Tom and his wife Kris, who are Minnesota natives and met at Bemidji State University, moved to Duxbury about 45 years ago and had no idea Tom's ancestor founded the town.

"We ended up there quite by accident," said Tom. "The house we liked the most was in Duxbury, so we put in a bid and they accepted it. I saw my dad after and I said, 'Oh we bought a home in Duxbury,' at which point, and he had never said this before, he said, 'You know that's the ancestral home of the Delanos.' It really is fate."

Philip's descendents would go on to become some of the more notable names in US history including three presidents: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Ulysses S. Grant and Calvin Coolidge. But how did Delano, MN get its name?

Who was F.R. Delano?

The three-day Delano Kindred meeting was kicked off by a presentation by Tom that covered the history of the Delano family in North America. Delano, MN was named after Tom's great great grandfather

Francis Roach (F.R.) Delano, who was the focus of this year's Kindred meeting.

Philip's great great great grandson, F.R. was born 1823 in New Braintree, MA, to Gideon and Elizabeth Delano. see KINDRED, page 5



PHOTO BY BEN ERNHART

Tom Delano, the president of Delano Kindred, gives a presentation on his great great grandfather, Francis Roach Delano, the namesake of Delano, MN.



PHOTO BY BEN ERNHART

For the first time in history, Delano Kindred hosted its annual meeting in the town that bears the family's name. Here the Delano clan poses for a group picture in front of Delano City Hall.

HAPPENINGS

Delano High School Homecoming Football Game Friday

Friday, September 23 the Delano Tigers hope to celebrate homecoming with a victory when they take on the Big Lake Hornets. Kickoff will take place at the DHS Football Field at 7 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive Wed., Sept. 28

A Red Cross Blood drive will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Lake on Wednesday, Sept. 28 from 1 a.m. to 5 p.m. To become a volunteer sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d49a4a82ba20-blood or to donate blood sign up www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=tlclonglake.

Cultural Responsivity Dinner Thursday, Sept. 29

You are invited to participate in a Cultural Responsivity Dinner Celebration Thursday, Sept. 29, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Delano Senior Center. This dinner is sponsored by the Delano United Diversity Task Force and The Spirit of Community Commission. The goal is to hold dinners every other month to research and celebrate the various cultures in America today. This dinner will be celebrating the Polish culture.

If you can attend, (RSVP required) call in your name(s) or email the number of people in your group. We have room for about 40 people. Contact the Delano Senior Center at 763-972-0574 or email: lvannlith@delano.mn.us for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICES

- Delano City Council minutes
- Abandoned property notice
- Montrose request for proposals: garbage collection

See PUBLIC NOTICES, page 3

Delano City Council adjusts preliminary tax levy to mitigate tax burden on homeowners

BY BEN ERNHART
Editor

Delano City Council unanimously adopted a resolution at Tuesday's meeting with one major addition to the preliminary tax levy for the 2023 budget that would mitigate the tax burden on Delano's homeowners.

During the council's Aug. 24 work session, Delano Finance Director Brian Bloch projected that the preliminary tax levy would total \$4,553,013, an estimated 14% increase from the previous year. The original preliminary tax levy would have increased the city tax rate by 4.1%. Still, at Tuesday's meeting, Bloch proposed that the city transfer funds from the sanitary sewer fund instead of raising the levy by 14%.

"What we were thinking is maybe instead of increasing our taxes so

high, is moving money from the sanitary sewer fund to pay for their portion of the administration and stuff like that," said Bloch.

Bloch proposed that a total of \$350,000 be transferred from the city's sanitary sewer fund to the general fund for administration and payment in place of taxes. The transfer would decrease the preliminary tax levy by \$357,143, reducing the total amount to \$4,195,870, an approximately 5.1% increase from the year prior.

"The tax rate would actually be reduced next year," Bloch added. "Instead of going up 4%, it would go down 4%."

Councilmember Betsy Moran clarified what Bloch meant by rates going down, explaining that property owners would only pay less in taxes if

their home values stayed the same over the past year.

"So when you talk about the rate going down, that means if your house is exactly the same value as was last year, then your property tax will be down," Moran said.

"That's exactly it," said Bloch. "I know property values did not go down or stay the same. Most of them are going up. But unfortunately, most residential properties have gone up 17% or so statewide, while commercial properties are going up less than 3%. So that tax burden is basically being shifted from those commercial property owners to residential property owners, so they will probably still see a tax increase next year. Still, if we do this, it wouldn't be as much of a tax increase."

Bloch also said in an email after the

meeting that the transfer would not impact residents' fees for sanitary sewer services.

The council approved dates for further budget discussions as part of the resolution. The council will tentatively meet on Sept. 27 and Nov. 29. The plan is to approve the final levy, budget, and capital improvement plan at its Dec. 6 regular meeting, ahead of the state's Dec. 20 deadline.

Pickleball court hours

Based on noise concerns, the city council adjusted a consent agenda item that would have extended the city's pickleball court hours. Currently, the pickleball court is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., with the lights at the courts set to turn on in the evening and turn off at 10 p.m. see COUNCIL, page 4

Semi rolls over on Hwy 12 near Maple Plain

BY BEN ERNHART
Editor

Authorities closed off a portion of Highway 12 Tuesday morning after a semi rolled over just west of Maple Plain, at the roundabout at Highway 12 and County Road 90.

According to a press release from West Hennepin Public Safety, at approximately 5:07 a.m., authorities responded to an overturned semi-tractor trailer.

The officer on the scene determined the driver was conscious but had suffered injuries, including head contusions. Neighboring agencies, including Hennepin County Sher-

iff's Office, Orono Police Department, Medina Police Department, Maple Plain Fire Department, and North Memorial Paramedics, assisted with traffic control, medical assistance, and extracting the driver from the vehicle.

Police officers and members of the Maple Plain Fire Department were able to extract the driver, 73-year-old John Charles Hathaway of New London, and his dog out of the truck through the front windshield by using the halogen tool. Hathaway admitted he was not wearing his seatbelt and claimed the brakes on the truck locked up, and

that was the cause of the crash.

According to police, evidence, skid marks, and witness statements contradicted the driver's claims. According to one witness, the truck came into the roundabout without slowing down and guessed the truck was still going approximately 50 miles per hour when the semi was overturned.

Hathaway was cited for failure to drive with due care and failure to wear a seat belt in a commercial motor vehicle. The driver was transported to the hospital, where his injuries were treated. see CRASH, page 4



PHOTO BY WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

Local authorities assess the damage after the semi-tractor trailer rolled over early Tuesday morning. Authorities were able to extract the driver, 73-year-old John Charles Hathaway of New London, and his dog out of the truck through the front windshield by using the halogen tool.

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Early voting: what you need to know

BY ANDREW MEULENERS
Editor

Early voting begins on Friday, Sept. 23, in Minnesota, allowing voters to cast their ballot for the Nov. 8 midterm elections as many as 46 days early.

According to the Minnesota Secretary of State's website, Minnesota allows people to vote early via absentee ballot either by mail or in person at their county election office.

Voting early in person

Locations offering early voting for federal, state, or county elections are typically open during normal business hours. In addition, they must be open the last Saturday before Election Day until 5 p.m.

If voters aren't registered to vote, they can still vote early in person if they show proof of residence.

The last day to vote early in person is Monday, Nov. 7.

Voting early by mail

Voters can apply for an absentee ballot to be mailed to them online. If voters are going this route, they need to be sure to apply for a ballot early enough so election officials can mail them a ballot and so they can return it by Election Day.

If voters are voting early by mail, their ballot must be received by Election Day, or it will not be counted. Voters can return their ballot in person no later than 3 p.m. on Election Day to the election office that sent your ballot. Voters can drop off ballots for up to three other voters, but they will need to show an ID with their name and signature when returning a ballot for someone else. Voters may not drop off their ballot at their polling place on Election Day.

Absentee voters must have a witness sign their ballot's envelope, and ballots must be received by Election Day to count.

Voters can track the status of their absentee ballot at mnvotes.org to confirm it was received and accepted without a problem.

What's on my ballot?

Voters can view a sample ballot at mnvotes.org. The sample ballot shows a list of the candidates and any ballot questions they'll be voting on.

How to register to vote/check your voter registration

Voters can check their voter registration or register to vote at mnvotes.org.

If voters are not already registered to vote or needs to update their voter registration, they can do so at their polling place on Election Day or an early voting location.

To register at their polling place on Election Day (or at an early voting location), voters need to bring one of the following for proof of residence:

ID with current name and address

- Valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or ID; or a receipt for any of these.

- Tribal ID with name, address, photo, and signature.

Photo ID and a document with current name and address

Approved photo IDs (the ID can be expired):

- Driver's license, state ID, or learner's permit issued by any state.

- US Passport.

- US Military or Veteran ID

- Tribal ID with name, signature, and photo.

- Minnesota university, college, or technical college ID.

- Minnesota high school ID.

Approved documents with current name and address (can be shown on an electronic device):

- Bill, account, or start-of-service statement due or dated within 30 days of the election for phone, TV or internet, solid waste, sewer, electric, gas or water, banking or credit card, rent or mortgage.

- Residential lease or rent agreement valid through Election Day.

- Current student fee statement.

Registered voter who can confirm a person's address

A registered voter from a voters precinct can go with them to the polling place to sign an oath confirming their address. This is known as 'vouching.' A registered voter can vouch for up to eight voters. Voters cannot vouch for others if someone vouched for them.

College student ID with housing list

Colleges and universities may send election officials a student housing list. If voters are on the list, show their college photo ID to complete their registration.

Valid registration in the

same precinct

If voters are registered in the precinct but changed names or moved within the same precinct, they only need to tell the election judge their previous name or address.

Notice of Late Registration

If voters register to vote within 20 days of the election, they may get a Notice of Late Registration in the mail. Bring it with them and use it as their proof of residence to register.

Staff person of a residential facility

If voters live in a residential facility, a staff person can go with them to the polling place to confirm their address. This is known as 'vouching.' A staff person can vouch for all eligible voters living in the facility.

The staff person must prove their employment at the facility. There are several ways to do this, including by showing an employee badge.

There are two other ways to register to vote, although registration temporarily closes 20 days before the election and opens again on Election Day for voters who register at their polling place.

Register online: Voters can register to vote online at mnvotes.org. To register to vote online, voters will need an email address and either their Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota ID card, or the last four digits of their social security number. If voters do not have those things, they can use a paper application.

Register on paper: Voters can download and print a voter registration application from mnvotes.org. Applications can be mailed or dropped off at either their county election office or to the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office at

Secretary of State
60 Empire Dr.
Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55103

What if I returned my ballot and want to change my vote?

Voters can ask to cancel their ballot until the close of business one week before Election Day. After that time, they cannot cancel their ballot.

To cancel their ballot, voters should contact the election office that sent them the ballot.

Their options are to have a new ballot mailed; vote in person at their local election office; or vote at their polling place on Election Day.



PHOTO BY BEN ERNHART

Members of Delano Kindred look on as Tom Delano gives the opening presentation for the Kindred's annual meeting. Members of the Delano family traveled from across the country, from as far as Massachusetts and California, to celebrate their lineage at this year's meeting.

F.R. Delano was here often but probably not overnight

from KINDRED, page 1

As a descendent of American patriots, F.R. was named after Francis Rotch, the owner and captain of the ship Dartmouth, which was one of the three ships that participated in the Boston Tea Party in 1773.

In pursuit of a better education for their children, F.R.'s parents sold their farm in New Braintree and moved to Amherst, MA where he attended Amherst Academy, which eventually became Amherst College.

After graduating from Amherst's English Department in 1839, F.R. went to work for the US Army Corp of Engineers where he learned railroading and engineering skills while working as a fireman and engineer on the Boston and Worcester Railroad.

In 1840, F.R.'s parents and older brothers William and John moved to Bunker Hill, IL, just east of St. Louis, MO. In 1844, F.R. ventured west and joined his family in Bunker Hill. However, that same year, his father Gideon passed away.

While in Bunker Hill, F.R. married Calista Ann Cavender of New Hampshire, and after spending a few years working in local mills, F.R. was offered a job to run a mill in St. Anthony, MN.

F.R. arrived in St. Anthony in 1848 and ran a mill that was leased to Congressmen Robert Smith of Illinois for three years. When Smith's lease expired, F.R. moved to Stillwater.

When F.R. arrived in Stillwater, he joined the Jesse Taylor and Company, where he used his engineering skills to draft plans for Minnesota's first prison. Tom said that while Jesse Taylor and Company did not receive the bid to construct the prison, the company that was hired to build it, used F.R.'s plans for the prison and the warden's house.

In 1853, F.R. became the first warden of Minnesota's first prison, but records show that he very much disliked the work and welcomed the end of his five-year term in 1858.

He quickly moved on, founded a high grade lumber company, worked as the Stillwater engineer and surveyor, and was also elected mayor of Stillwater in 1862 before moving to St. Paul that same year.

F.R. returned to railroading in 1860 when he joined the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. Shortly after joining, he was promoted to general superintendent of the first division of the railroad.

"The railroad had been around for five years before he took control of it as a general superintendent and really hadn't gotten much out of St. Paul," said Tom. "He quickly built it out in almost 10 years."

While working for the railroad he oversaw the construction of two major railroad lines, one that extended northwest from St. Paul and eventually reached St. Cloud in 1866, and another that extended west from Minneapolis that

reached Breckenridge by the time he retired from the railroad in 1872. Both lines are now a part of the BNSF rail network.

"He was responsible for not only building out the railroad, but he was also responsible for building revenue on the railroad," said Tom. "He did everything he could to get more people to ride the railroad, to get more cargo, and so he advertised heavily in all the local newspapers at the time."

In 1868, the railway that F.R. was building west of Minneapolis reached Crow River Station, which is now present day Delano. Two years later, in 1870, the Minnesota State Legislature passed a bill renaming the town of Crow River Station, Delano.

Despite building the infrastructure that connected the town that would eventually bear his name to the rest of the state, F.R. never lived in Delano.

"He never actually lived here, but he would have passed through many times," Tom said. "He built the railroad west from St. Paul to Minneapolis up to Moorhead, so he would have passed through many times because he was always at the head of the line when they were building it out, but I've never seen anything that indicated that he even spent the night here."

According to Tom, naming towns after railroad men wasn't that uncommon in the late nineteenth century either.

"A lot of the towns along the railroad were named after executive shareholders of the railroad," he said. "So towns like Litchfield, Willmar, Breckenridge, Moorhead were all named after railroad men."

After retiring from the railroad, F.R. had a variety of jobs. He purchased a significant amount of land near Sauk Rapids, and formed the Sauk Rapids Water Works in 1872. In 1874, he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and served one term. He also served as a right-of-way agent for the Northern Pacific Railroad before his death in 1887.

F.R.'s cause of death was typhoid pneumonia. Tom said his illness began as a simple head cold, but within a week it turned deadly. F.R. was buried in St. Paul's Oakland Cemetery, and there are now three generations of Delanos that have been buried there.

In closing, Tom shared words used by F.R.'s friends and business partners to describe the type of man he was. Based on his research, F.R. was described as a typical New Englander, keen, shrewd, brusque, and courteous.

"I think the thing that sort of set him apart, and the reason the town was named after him was because he was a guy who could get things done," said Tom. "He did not sit and study things, he just went out and did it. He was very passionate, very direct, very energetic . . . and this town is named after him as appreciation for how much he did for the railroad."

Wright County's population continues to grow at rapid pace

WRIGHT COUNTY

In the years between census periods, official population numbers are determined by the state demographer and become the official population statistics used in determining funding based on population.

Wright County's continued growth is reflected in the state demographer's official statistics for 2021. As a state, the population of Minnesota grew by 0.6% — approximately 37,500 people. Only four

counties grew by more than 2%, with Wright County being one of them.

The other three counties — Crow Wing, Hubbard, and Cass — are small counties whose combined population is less than Wright County. These are the population increases by county in 2021:

Crow Wing County up 2.7% (66,123 in 2020 Census to 67,887 as of Dec. 31, 2021)

Wright County up 2.6% (141,337 in 2020, 144,948 in

2021)

Hubbard County up 2.6% (21,344 in 2020, 21,909 in 2021)

Cass County up 2.4% (30,066 in 2020, 30,784 in 2021)

If those numbers continue, by the end of the decade, Wright County will have grown by more than 36,000 residents — a 26% increase of the population for the 2020 census.

Fire destroys Watertown store

BY ANDREW MEULENERS
Editor

Fire officials are investigating what caused a two-alarm fire at a Watertown business Wednesday morning.

According to the Watertown Fire Department, crews were called to a fire that was re-

ported to be near a lumber yard on the south side of Watertown shortly before 4 a.m.

When firefighters arrived, they found flames had engulfed the rear warehouse.

Watertown Fire Chief Tom Hanson said the building, which was determined to be

Arrow Building Center, is considered a complete loss.

Hanson adds no one was reported injured. Multiple fire departments were called in to help extinguish the flames, including Delano, Mayer, Montrose, and St. Bonifacius.



Firefighters from Delano assisted in putting out a two-alarm fire at the Arrow Building Center.

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