



McINTOSH

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Times

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McIntosh, Minnesota



Freedom Christian Academy recently hosted Breakfast on the Farm at the Breckel Farm, Hilltop Ranch, north of McIntosh. Pictured are Jason and Holly Breckel, Cayla Blackburn, a teacher at FCA, Bo Buehler, Dean of Students, and Sofia and Denton Nikolayson.

Freedom Christian Academy provides an alternative education option for our area

Area families that are looking for an alternative to the Minnesota public school system have an opportunity to enroll their preschool and elementary age children in the new Freedom Christian Academy.

The new, privately funded school will offer faith based education focused on integrating the Bible into each subject area.

Children enrolled in the school will be given the opportunity for daily prayer and praise along with developing the child's ability to learn based on their individual needs and with encouragement of each child's special talents and

abilities.

FCA is a private school and does not have any government funding. The school will operate on tuition and donations. Tuition rates are available on their website at www.fcaerskine.org.

The school is located in the former Erskine Elementary School and can be visited during the Wojo's Rodeo this weekend, when they will be holding an Open House and fundraising cookout on Saturday, July 2nd from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Visitors will be able to walk through the school and see the progress of the remodel and new classrooms.



There was a petting zoo, pony rides, pancakes and music for all during the recent Breakfast on the Farm at Hilltop Ranch north of McIntosh.

Mac Library will host Pint Size Polka

The McIntosh Public Library is inviting audiences of all ages to go under the sea with accordion player Mike Schneider in an ocean-themed polka-palooza! Polka enthusiasts will enjoy clapping and singing along to the music in this interactive program which will also include magic, comedy and trivia. These programs are geared toward children ages 6-11 and will last approximately 45 minutes.

A Pint Size Polka per-

formance will be held at the McIntosh Public Library on Thursday, June 30th at 10:00 a.m. Admission is free thanks to funding from the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

Lake Agassiz Regional Library is a consolidated public library system comprised of 13 branch libraries and nine LINK sites serving the residents of seven counties in northwest Minnesota. More information is available at www.larl.org.

The history of America's Independence Day

Each year, family, friends and revelers anticipate the arrival of the holiday so they can host barbecues, enjoy the sun, listen to their favorite summertime tunes, and commemorate the freedoms afforded by the monumental events that led to the holiday's establishment.

Independence Day became a federal holiday in 1941, but July 4th has stood as the birth of American independence for much longer. July 4th marks a pivotal moment in the American Revolution. According to PBS, the colonies were forced to pay taxes to England's King George III despite having no representation in the British Parliament. "Taxation without representation" became a battle cry and was one of several grievances colonists had with Great Britain.

Conflict between the colonies had been going on for at least a year before the colonies convened a Continental Congress in Philadelphia in June of 1776, says Military.com. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence from England. Two days later, on July 4, 1776, delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration of Independence is an historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson was considered the strongest and most eloquent writer of the declaration writing committee charged with putting the colonies' sentiments into words. Richard Henry Lee of Virginia was one of the first people to present a resolution for American independence, and his commentary was the impetus for the formal Declaration of Independence. A total of 86 changes were made to Jefferson's original draft until the final version was adopted. The signing of the document helped to solidify independence, and eventually lead to the formation of the United States of America.

A total of 56 delegates signed the document. Although John Hancock's signature is the largest, it did not hold more weight than

the other signatures. Rather, rumor has it, Hancock signed it so large so that the "fat, old King could read it without his spectacles." However, the National Archives says it was also customary that, since Hancock was the president of the Continental Congress, he be the first person to sign the document centered below the text.

The Pennsylvania Evening Post was the first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence on July 6, 1776. The first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence Square on July 8, 1776.



4th of July program in Mac

Dan and Darlene Dierkes invite you to their home at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, July 4th to hear the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence by Ben Ramse. Listen to the grievances of the colonists against King George III and remember the 56 brave men who signed their names to the document that became the birth certificate of our country.

The local quilters will also be presenting quilts to veterans Bob Olson and Bud Kiecker, who have honorably served to protect our precious freedom.

Coffee, lemonade and water will be served; thanks again to the neighbors for volunteering to bring treats. Feel free to stay afterwards and visit with friends, or be on the road by about 10:20 to wherever the rest of your holiday plans take you. The Dierkes home is located at 28891 350th St SE, McIntosh. If you have any questions, call 320-250-5711 or email darlene1978@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

PCSO reminds boaters of laws and rules

The Polk County Sheriff's Office is asking if you are operating a boat or personal watercraft on Polk County lakes to be mindful of the high-water tables due to recent rainfall. Please use slow no wake zone around or close to any shoreline property.

One the Water Laws & Rules

It is against the law: To operate a watercraft so its wash or wake endangers, harasses, or interferes with any person or property; and to operate a

watercraft in a careless or reckless manner.

Own your Wake

Large wakes produce by some watercraft operated at certain speeds can cause a number of negative impacts, including:

- Shoreline erosion, which results in impaired water quality and property loss.
- Damage to others' property, including docked boats.
- Hazards to public safety both on the water (swimmers, paddlers) and on shore



The Class of 2000 played some basketball with parade goers during the All-School Reunion parade held on June 4th. Here the class cheers as Connie Strom hits the basket.



Ellen Burslie, Mac-Winger Class of 1946, with her son, Craig and daughter-in-law, Rosann during the McIntosh All-School Reunion parade held on Saturday, June 4th.

Pint Size Polkas

Featuring Accordion Player Mike Schneider

Go under the sea with an ocean-themed polka-palooza! Polka enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy clapping and singing along to the music in this interactive program which will also include magic, comedy and trivia.

McIntosh Public Library
Thursday, June 30 at 10:00 a.m.



Find more free summer programs at lari.org/explore!

M15C



Festive facts for July 4th

Each year on July 4th, Americans celebrate the birth of their nation and independence from Great Britain. This day marks the anniversary of the presentation and acceptance of the Declaration of Independence, signed 246 years ago on July 4, 1776.

The Declaration of Independence began as a letter to Britain's King George to explain why the Continental Congress was interested in declaring independence from Great Britain.

The writing of the declaration began on July 2nd and the final wording was established on July 4th.

The following are some interesting details about the origins of Independence Day and the celebrations that surround it.

Although 56 people eventually signed the Declaration of Independence, only John Hancock signed the document on July 4, 1776. The rest added their names later on. John Hancock's signature is ornate and widely recognized. Putting your "John Hancock" on a document has become synonymous with the process of signing something.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted while the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Statehouse. That building is now known as Independence Hall.

The average age of the signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest person to sign was Thomas Lynch, Jr., who was 27 when he signed the document. Benjamin Franklin, at age 70, was the oldest signer.

The stars on the original American flag were placed in a circle. This was so all of the colonies would be equally represented.

Independence was gained in 1776, and the first celebration took place in Philadelphia four days later. The White House held its first Independence Day festivities in 1801.

Mac Library closed for July 4th

All Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARI) branches and LINK sites will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of Memorial Day, with regular hours of operation resuming Tuesday, July 5.



State Representative, Deb Kiel and Larry Roed visit during the recent Breakfast on the Farm held at Hilltop Farm, north of McIntosh on Saturday, June 11th.

Did you know?

Men and women may have more free time after 50 than they had in previous decades. As children grow more independent and even leave the house, parents look to various activities, including travel, to fill their free time.

Travel is often seen as a luxury, but heading off for parts unknown can produce some serious health benefits. A joint study from the Global Coalition on Aging and the Trans-america Center for Retirement Studies found that women who vacation at least twice a year have a lower risk for heart attack than those who travel once every six years.

The study also found that men who do not take annual vacations are at a significantly higher risk of death (20 percent) and heart disease (30 percent) than those who make who take time to get away each year. Vacations don't even need to be long to produce significant, positive results.

A 2018 study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health found that a four-day long weekend vacation positively affected well-being, recovery, strain, and perceived stress for as long as 45 days.



Wed. June 29:
Cole Shaver, David Herem

Thurs. June 30:
Jade Pries

Fri. July 1: Justin Burslie, Carla Grundyson

Sat. July 2: Nickolas Schow, Hudson Smeby, Gabe Paskvan, Westin Enger, *Paul & Mary Schow, *Dan & Mary Salvyhus

Sun. July 3: Chase Svalen, Beth (Brekke) Rominski

Mon. July 4: Josh Bartz, Barb Urness, *Phillip & Amy Carlson

Tues. July 5: Ron Roed

LSS
Meals Menu
687-2262

Call to reserve your meal.
Indoor dining at 11:30 am;
drive-up available at 11:00 am.

Mon. July 4: Closed for Independence Day

Tues. July 5: *Bingo* Baked Ham - Boiled Potatoes - Cabbage & Carrots - Wheat Rolls - Tapioca Pudding - Milk

Wed. July 6: Beef Macaroni Hotdish - Corn - Fruit - Garlic Toast - Ice Cream - Milk

Thur. July 7: *Bingo* Bratwurst - Mashed Potatoes - Sauerkraut - Bread - Rice Krispie Bars - Milk

Fri. July 8: BBQ Pork on Bun - Potato Wedges - Baked Beans - Pineapple Tidbits - Banana Bars - Milk



CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Fosston
Fr. John Suvakeen,
Pastor

Fri. July 1: First Friday 8:00am Benediction & Adoration; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

Sun. July 3: 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Wed. July 6: 11:30 am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

Fri. July 8: 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

Sun. July 10: 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Wed. July 13: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

Fri. July 15: 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

OURS SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
(ELCA)
McIntosh

Interim Pastor Keith Zeh
Synodical Authorized
Minister Katie DeMarais

Sun. July 3 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services

Sun. July 10: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services

Our Saviors Lutheran Church, McIntosh will run church services on Channel 30 on Garden Valley Channel 30. They will also be available on YouTube on channel One in Spirit - The Journey. Our Saviors service will be available by 8:30 am each Sunday until further notice.

MCINTOSH AFLC
McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:
Interim Pastors John Anderson and Phil Rokke

Sunday Services
9:30am Mt Carmel
11:00am Trinity
Sunday School
9:45am Trinity
10:45am Mt. Carmel

GOSEN LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Independent
Gary Johnson, Pastor
www.gosen-church.com
Face Book: Gosen Church

Fri. July 1: 10:00am Telecast of the Luther league program on GVTV - 30

Sun. July 3 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook: gosenchurch and gosenchurch.com); 7:00am Gosen Luther League (see article elsewhere in paper)

Tues. July 5 : 10:00am Sunday worship service telecast on GVTV--30

Wed. July 6: 6:30pm Bible Study at Sharon Ramberg's home

Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Highways 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then 1/2 mile east on County Road 206. For information call 268-4242 or 687-3461.

VERNES LUTHERAN
CHURCH (LCMC)
McIntosh
Pastor Lee Laaveg

Sun. July 3: 9:00am Worship
Sun. July 10: 9:00am Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
McIntosh
Pastor Bruce Blocker

Sundays: 9:00am Worship;
10:00am Fellowship Hour;
10:15am Sunday School

Little Bobby's

295 Cleveland Ave, McIntosh, MN • 218-563-3008

Tacos
on
Tuesdays

Corn Hole
and Wings on
Wednesdays

Live Music and
Open Mic on the
Weekend

Upcoming events:

July 1st at 9PM – Blind Joe and then Rehab - \$35 per ticket

July 2nd at 9PM – Lydia Rose and then Rehab - \$35 per ticket
\$50 for both days

July 22nd at 9PM – Indigenous with special guest "Dubble Down"
\$20 general admission

OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK AT 3:00 PM

Celebrate Our Independence!

On July 4, 1776, our founding fathers created a new nation. The Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence declaring our freedom from Great Britain.

As we celebrate the anniversary of our nation's founding, we can be thankful for the freedom we enjoy as American citizens.

First National Bank of McIntosh will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.



260 Cleveland Ave. SW
PO Box 129
McIntosh, MN 56556
www.fnbmcintosh.com

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M15C

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"Serving the Win-E-Mac area"

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Impress guests with homemade burgers this Fourth of July

Backyard barbecues are a staple of summertime. In fact, many Fourth of July celebrations just wouldn't feel right without hamburgers and hot dogs cooking over an open flame in the backyard.

Burgers may not qualify as fancy fare, but they're perfect for Independence Day celebrations. This year, party hosts can add a little something extra to their barbecues by whipping up some homemade hamburgers. This recipe for "Mushroom and Swiss Burgers with Bacon and Aioli" from "The Essential Kamado Grill



Cookbook" (Rockridge Press) by Will Budiaman is sure to make your Fourth of July festivities more flavorful.

Mushroom & Swiss Burgers with Bacon & Aioli
Serves 4
8 bacon slices
8 ounces cremini mushrooms, sliced

- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 pounds ground beef
- 4 Swiss cheese slices
- 4 kaiser rolls, split
- 1/2 cup aioli (see below)
- 1. Prepare the grill for direct grilling at 500 F, then preheat a 10-inch cast iron skillet on the grate with the lid closed.
- 2. Put the bacon in the skillet. Close the lid and cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until browned and crispy around the edges. Transfer to a plate.
- 3. Add the mushrooms to the skillet. Close the lid and cook,

- stirring once, for 7 to 9 minutes or until browned. Transfer to a plate. Season with salt and pepper.
- 4. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, season the beef with pepper and 4 teaspoons of salt. Using your hands, mix until just incorporated; form into four 1-inch-thick patties with a slight dimple in the center.
- 5. Put the burgers on the grate. Close the lid and cook, flipping halfway through, for 8 to 10 minutes total for medium, or until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the center registers 135 F. (If us-

ing store-bought ground beef, always cook it to 160 F, or well done.) In the last minute of cooking, top the patties with the cheese to melt and place the rolls cut-side down on the grate to toast.

6. Spread the aioli on the buns and assemble the burgers, dividing the bacon and mushrooms between them. Serve immediately.

Aioli
Makes 11/4 cups
1 large egg
1 cup vegetable oil
2 garlic cloves, peeled
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1. Put the egg in the bowl of a small food processor. Blend until beaten.

2. With the machine running, slowly stream in the oil through the feed tube until emulsified (the mixture thickens).

3. Blend in the garlic and salt.

4. Transfer to an airtight container, refrigerate, and use within 5 days.

Troubleshooting: Is your aioli just not coming together, staying thin and runny instead of thickening? You may be streaming in your oil too quickly. But don't throw out the batch. Instead, pour it into a small cup or bowl, wash and dry the bowl and blade of the food processor, and start again with a fresh egg. Use the previous batch as your "oil."

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CITY OF WINGER, MINNESOTA

General Notice
The City of Winger (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

2022 SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION
AND TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS
Project No. 19.01475

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received by the City of Winger, Minnesota by mailing to PO Box 70, Winger, MN 56592-0070 or by hand delivery to Winger City Hall at 10 E Minnesota Ave, until July 21, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. local time. The opening and reading of the Bids may be modified subject to COVID-19 preventative measures. After that time bids will be received by hand delivery to the bid opening at the Winger City Hall at 10 E Minnesota Ave, Winger, Minnesota until 11:00 a.m., July 21, 2022, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for furnishing all labor, materials, and all else necessary for the construction of:

The Project includes the following Work:

COMMON EXCAVATION	4,200 C.Y.
AGGREGATE BASE CLASS 5	3,800 C.Y.
BITUMINOUS BASE AND WEAR COURSE	1,800 TON
SANITARY SEWER AND APPURTENANCES	14,500 L.F.
CONSTRUCT DRAINAGE STRUCTURE.....	48 EA.
36" - 48" PIPE STORM CULVERT	250 L.F.
SANITARY SEWER LIFT STATION	2 EA.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents
Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:

www.ulteig.com
www.questcdn.com

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website using QuestCDN project number 8193848. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

Ulteig Engineers, Inc
1345 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota 56501

Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00AM TO 4:00PM, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office by paying a non-refundable fee of \$300.00 for each set. Make deposit checks for Bidding Documents payable to ULTEIG ENGINEERS, INC.

Instructions to Bidders

All bids shall be made on the bidding documents included in the project manual. All bids shall be in a sealed envelope with a brief description thereon of the work for which the bid is being submitted and shall contain the required bid security. Bids may be filed with the City of Winger during normal office hours or hand carried to the meeting prior to the scheduled bid opening as specified above. No bidder shall withdraw his bid for at least sixty (60) days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids.

All bidders must be able to submit a sworn statement to the City of Winger demonstrating that it is a responsible contractor as defined by Minnesota Statute 16C.285. The failure to provide such a statement will render any proposal non-responsive.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bidder's security in a sum equal to five (5) percent of the full amount of the bid. The bidder may submit a Bid Bond, certified check, or cashier's check payable to the City of Winger. The bid security is a guarantee that the bidder, if awarded the contract, will enter into a contract for the work described in the Contract Documents. The bid security of the three (3) lowest bidders will be retained until the contract has been awarded and executed, but no longer than sixty (60) days after the opening of bids. The successful bidder will be required to furnish contract Performance and Payment Bonds, each in the full amount of the contract.

Wage rates for this project are subject to the current Federal (Davis-Bacon) and State prevailing wage rate laws.

Any contract or contracts awarded under the Advertisement for Bid are expected to be funded by a loan and grant package from the USDA Rural Development.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Orders 11625 and 12138 and Section 129 of PL 100-590 Small Business Reauthorization and Amendment Act of 1988 regarding service contracts to minority, women's business enterprises, and small businesses and requires recipients to utilize affirmative steps in procurement. The requirements for bidders and contractors covered by this policy are explained in the Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with President's Executive Order No. 11246 regarding Equal Employment Opportunity and any amendments or supplements to that Executive Order.

Bidders shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (PL 88-352), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (PL 93-1123, 87 Stat 355, 29 USC Section 794), the Older Americans Amendments of 1975 (PL 94-135 Section 303, 89 Stat 713, 728, 42 USC Section 6102), and subsequent regulations, ensures access to facilities or programs regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap.

Complete instructions for filing bids are included in the Instructions to Bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalties.

All questions regarding the bidding documents shall be directed to the Project Engineer: Brian Hiles at 320-289-5257 or by e-mail at brian.hiles@ulteig.com. All questions must be received in writing or by e-mail on or before 5 days prior to the bid opening. Responses to technical questions will be issued by addendum within 2 days prior to the bid opening.

This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: City of Winger, Minnesota
By: Ms. Dominica Zarkoff
Title: City Clerk
Date: June 14, 2022



The Win-E-Mac classes of 1996 and 1998 during the recent All-School Reunion parade held in McIntosh.



Celebrating 20 years was the class of 2002 during the parade for the Win-E-Mac All-School Reunion.



The classes of 2003 and 2004 during the All-School Reunion parade in McIntosh.



Mac-Winger Class of 1974 during the All-School Reunion parade in McIntosh on Saturday, June 4th.



The Win-E-Mac Class of 2006.



Mac-Winger Class of 1966.



There was great weather, and many gathered together, for the Breakfast on the Farm fundraiser for Freedom Christian Academy on Saturday, June 11th at Hilltop Farm, north of McIntosh.

Drought relief application window now open

Apply by July 6, 2022 for up to \$7,500 reimbursement.

Minnesota livestock farmers and specialty crop producers can now apply for up to \$7,500 per farm in reimbursement for expenses incurred due to last year's drought, through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) 2021 Agricultural Drought Relief Program (ADRoP).

"Last year's drought caused hardship for lots of farmers, and we want to get help to them so they can pay a few bills," MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen said. "Whether it was buying feed, installing irrigation, or something else, we know there were a lot of extra costs last year that we're hoping to offset with this opportunity."

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$8.1 million for ADRoP, which will reimburse farm operators for drought-related expenses incurred after June 1, 2021, and before May 23, 2022.

Farms must be located in a county designated by the United States Department of Agriculture as a primary natural disaster area after July 19, 2021 and before January 1, 2022, or in a county contiguous to a designated county. All Minnesota counties except Goodhue, Rice, Wabasha, and Winona are eligible.

Eligible expenses for specialty crop producers include water handling equipment; water hauling; wells; irrigation equipment; replacement plants, seeds, or seedlings; ad-

ditional hired labor; farmers' market fees for canceled markets; and more.

Eligible expenses for livestock farmers include water-related expenses; feed-related expenses; custom bailing; equipment rental; livestock transportation; livestock pond dredging; cover crop, pasture, or forage replanting; fencing; grazing rights; additional hired labor; and more.

In addition to a completed application, you must submit an IRS Form W-9 and a list of all drought-related expenses. Documentation of these expenses does not need to be submitted with the application, but you must be able to make it available for examination if requested.

If the total amount requested from all eligible applicants during the initial application period exceeds the total amount of funds available, all applications will be pro-rated.

Applicants are highly encouraged to submit their application through the online grants management system to ensure it is received in a timely manner. Applications completed online or emailed must be received by 5 p.m. on July 6, 2022. Mailed applications must be postmarked July 6 and received no later than July 12, 2022 to be considered.

More information, including the application, is available on the MDA's drought relief page. Farm operators can email drought@state.mn.us or call the Grants Line at 651-201-6500 with any questions.

How to conserve energy while keeping the AC on

Air conditioning is a welcome luxury come the dog days of summer. Few people can imagine getting through a hot summer afternoon without turning their AC on, and that can make July and August some of the more costly months on the calendar in regard to energy consumption.

Though the months of July and August may not seem well-suited to cutting energy consumption, there are ways to conserve that don't require turning off the AC.

- **Reconsider the location of your thermostat.** The Performance Building Institute, Inc. notes that thermostats are sensitive to heat. Thermostats located near heat-generating appliances like lamps, televisions and computers may be fooled into thinking a home's interior is warmer than it actually is. That will keep a temperature-controlled AC running longer and more frequently than is necessary. If necessary, move the thermostat to a part of the home where there are no electronics and appliances.

- **Emphasize maintenance of the AC unit.** Even the most energy-efficient AC unit will be forced to work harder, and consume extra energy, if it's not well-maintained. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy notes that ENERGY STAR-certified HVAC equipment can yield annual energy savings of 10 to 30 percent. But such products must be maintained. Annual maintenance appointments with an HVAC technician can



ensure the unit is clean and refrigerant levels are correct, helping it run as efficiently as possible.

- **Embrace natural ways to keep a home's interior cool.** Cranking the AC is not the only way to maintain a comfortable temperature inside a home during the months of July and August. Closing curtains on especially warm days keeps the sun out and makes it easier to maintain comfortable temperatures inside without lowering the temperature on the thermostat. Avoiding the stove on hot nights and preparing cold meals or firing up the grill outside is another way to keep the house cool.

- **Address insulation issues.** Cracks around windows and doors affect the temperature inside the home, making it colder in winter and warmer in summertime. Seal cracks around doors and windows to keep the cool air in during the summer. Keeping that air in should allow you to raise the temperature on your thermostat without compromising comfort.

Come the dog days of summer, conserving energy needn't come at the cost of comfort. Various strategies can help people reduce their energy consumptions and keep their air conditioners on.