



Russell Newsletter

August 2026

Would you like us to email you your newsletter?
As long as you're not a Russell Boxholder we can email you the Russell Newsletter.

Email your request to:
russellnews@fibmn.com

NOTICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
TO ENSURE YOUR AD GETS IN THE PAPER PLEASE SEND TO THE ABOVE EMAIL BY THE FRIDAY BEFORE NEWSLETTER WEEK.

Russell Newsletter,
PO Box 360,
Russell, MN 56169.

**Join Grace First Parish
for church every
Sunday**
8:30 fellowship
Church service at
9:00 a.m.



Russell Bar & Grill
Open Monday thru Saturday
at 11:00 a.m.
If you would like to order
take out, call 507-823-9766

Tree Dump Hauling Reminder

Russell residents are doing a great job keeping our city looking good this summer with tree and brush cleanup. Thank you for helping keep Russell clean and well maintained.

Please remember when hauling items to the tree dump, everything must be loaded on a trailer. Nothing may be dragged on city streets.

This requirement follows Russell City Code Ordinance 2024-11, Section 5.07:
Section 5.07(B): Recyclables and yard waste shall be hauled in a closed or covered vehicle or trailer.

Section 5.07(E): When transporting solid waste, vehicles or trailers shall be loaded and unloaded so contents do not fall, spill, or get dragged on the ground or street.

If you have questions, please contact Jason or Laurie at the City office, or reach out to any council member.

Thank you for helping to keep our streets in good repair.

Animal Waste Reminder

Please remember to bring a bag with you when walking your dog and to clean up after your pet. Keeping sidewalks, parks, and private property clean helps everyone enjoy our beautiful city.

Russell City Code Section 9:017 states that owners or caretakers are responsible for collecting and properly disposing of all animal waste or feces left on public or private property by animals under their control.

Failure to clean up after your animal is a violation of city code and is a misdemeanor. Thank you for doing your part to keep Russell clean, safe, and enjoyable for neighbors and visitors.

NOTICE:

The water hydrant in the park is for park use only. The city office has had reports of some people hauling water out of the park in barrels. If you want to buy water from the City of Russell, other, than your normal water service please speak with Jason or Laurie to make arrangements.

Thank you!

Help Wanted:

First Independent Bank in Russell is looking to hire someone for snow removal this winter. Must be able to clear sidewalks and drive thru before business hours. If you are interested and able, please contact Justin at 507-823-4391.



The bridge to the City Park is now complete! Thank you for all of your patience during the road closure! We should have a very nice bridge for years to come!

City of Russell Clerk

Office Hours:

Monday 6:30 am-2:00 pm
Tuesday: 11:00 am-5:30 pm
Wednesday: 6:30 am-2:00 pm
Thursday: 6:30 am-2:00 pm
Friday: 6:30 am-2:00 pm

Hours are subject to change due to appointments. If you have any questions, please leave a message at 823-4366.

Join Grace First Parish for church every Sunday
8:30 fellowship
Church service at 9:00 a.m.



Minnesota Memories August 2026...nearly 62 years of memories

Most who read this will know that my wife, Barbara, passed away on 28 July 2026. This coming December, we would have been married 62 years. Sixty-two years is a lot of life and memories. Composing Barbara's obituary was an emotional and editing challenge. She would have been 84 on 17 August. Eighty-four years of life described in detail would fill volumes. The challenge is to write an obituary which is appropriately brief, yet appropriately inclusive, to provide the reader a sense of the person and the life lived. I hope my effort comes close to meeting those requirements. Barbara was in in-house hospice care (our hospice people were absolutely superb) for about seven months, during the last months she was on oxygen 24/7...but she pressed on, insisting that she go to her hair-dresser of many years a mere four days before she passed. She passed peacefully at home in the early morning hours. Her life was full and well lived. We want to thank all who have called, written, emailed and texted condolences...all much appreciated. As for my family and myself, we are adjusting (as we must) to our new reality. As near as I can tell we are doing okay. I must confess, however, that over the years I should have paid more attention to the operation of the clothes washer and dryer and the dishwasher. Additionally, neither tidiness nor cooking is among my strong skills...but I am working through the challenges and daughter Megan is coming to inspect my efforts in the next few days. Our house is still full of Barbara's presence and frequently, for a brief instant, I expect to see her in a familiar location or pose. It can be a bit disconcerting, but I think it natural. In closing, as in past experience I know that old axiom "time is a great healer" is true and will be true in this instance as well. Be careful out there and if you want to know what your obituary will say, consider drafting it yourself. © Marland J. Burckhardt



Barbara Jean Burckhardt 1942 – 2026

Barbara Jean (nee Livingston) Burckhardt, long of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully at home, 28 July 2026. She would have celebrated her 84th Birthday on 17 August 2026. Barbara “Barb” Livingston was born 17 August 1942 in Tyler, Minnesota, to Lee and Lucille (nee Wood) Livingston... She was baptized at an early age and Confirmed in the First Presbyterian Church of Russell... She grew up in Russell, Minnesota, and graduated from Russell Public High School in 1960.

Barbara was quite active in High School, including Band, Chorus, Student Council, F.H.A., School Paper and Annual Staffs, Class Plays and Cheerleading. Additionally, she danced many a night away in local venues, including Lyndwood, Hollyhock, and Blue Moon Ballrooms (referred to as “dance halls” by most). Rock and Roll was the music and she was a devoted fan of Elvis (the Pelvis) Presley. With her High School Annual photograph was the descriptive sentence, “If giggles were golden, I’d be a millionaire. Her confidant from toddler-hood, Colleen (nee Swanson) Longstrom offered another glimpse into Barb’s personality when she admitted that the two of them “would occasionally skip piano lessons”.

After graduating high school Barbara, like many of her contemporaries, was off to the “Cities” (Minneapolis and Saint Paul) to seek employment, which she found in the secretarial pool of a large insurance company in Minneapolis. Over time she worked her way up to a more responsible position writing and preparing correspondence to company clients. While in the Cities (1960-1967) she met many interesting people and made life long friends (you know who you are).

On 26 December 1964 she married Marland J. Burckhardt in Russell, Minnesota. Upon graduation from the University of Minnesota in 1967 her husband was commissioned an officer in the United States Army. So began Barbara’s 30 year long stint as an Army wife. They moved frequently being assigned over the years to duty in Colorado, Georgia, Germany, Maryland, Arizona, North Carolina (4 times), Kansas, Texas, Utah, Pennsylvania (twice), and Massachusetts. Barbara adapted to the life of a military spouse and all that that entailed, wives clubs, military community activities and the frequent moves and separations (her husband served in Vietnam (1970) and DESERT SHIELD/STORM (1990-91)), not to mention the many military training and exercise deployment separations, and most importantly the births of a daughter in Baltimore, Maryland and a son at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Barbara finally settled in Carlisle, PA in 1993 when her husband retired from active duty at the Army War College, and stayed on at the College as an instructor. Each military move meant packing and unpacking all of her families’ worldly possessions (her husband’s boxes of books were a frequent frustration) and putting them back together (modifications were many) to make them fit in yet another “set of quarters”, keeping hearth and home together.

Barbara loved her family and friends and especially enjoyed returning to Russell, Minnesota to enjoy their company. She was a quilter of repute and a bowler who was a stickler on ensuring league rules were followed to the letter...to the point that some fellow bowlers referred to her as the “bowling nazi”.

Barbara is survived by her husband Marland of Carlisle, daughter Megan (David) DiToro of Warrington, PA, son Montz of Fuquay-Varina, NC, grandchildren Ayden and Adyson Burckhardt of Fuquay-Varina and Nichole DiToro of Warrington, and numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Wayne and Darwin, sister in law Jane, two nephews and one infant niece. Barbara has found comfort, peace and reward with those she lost and wishes solace to her survivors. May she rest in peace.

In lieu of flowers or memorials please consider donating to a charity of your choice.



Maxine Mae Wilmes was born on May 19, 1928 to Andrew and Vera (Ferry) Jensen in Tyler, Minnesota. While growing up she lived on the family farm in rural Tyler and attended country school in Lake Benton, Tyler and Ivanhoe, graduating in 1947 from Ivanhoe High School. On September 8, 1947, Maxine was united in marriage to Earl Wilmes at the Zion Lutheran Church in Island Lake Township. They lived on a farm in rural Russell before moving to town in 1965, where they lived for several years. Their marriage was blessed with the birth of their five children. Maxine was baptized and confirmed on June 13, 1948. She worked for 25 years at Schott Corporation in Marshall before retiring on January 5, 1999. Maxine moved into the Lakeview Senior Housing before moving into Avera Morningside Heights Care Center in Marshall, Minnesota, where she passed away on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at the age of 98 years, two months and 13 days.

Maxine was a dedicated member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and more recently, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Marshall, where she was an active member in the women's group. She loved embroidery, playing cards, working on diamond art, completing crossword puzzles, reading and following the Twins and Vikings. Maxine will be remembered for the love she had for her family - she always welcomed her children's friends into their home with open arms to join in meals. If someone had no place to go on a holiday, she would welcome them into the family. She loved keeping in touch with friends on Facebook and filling the air with music that made her happy.

Maxine is lovingly remembered by her children, Barb (Bill) Driscoll of Russell, Minnesota, Mark (Kathy) Wilmes of Tyler, Minnesota, Darla (Mark Heinis) Anderson of Russell, and Todd (Susan) Wilmes of Springfield, Minnesota; daughter-in-law, Linda Wilmes of New Hope, Minnesota; grandchildren, Brian Driscoll, Brent Driscoll, Nicole Denney, Lindsay Layman, Christopher Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Seth Anderson, Paul Wilmes and Lea Zarrett; great-grandchildren, Mackenzie Driscoll, Chase Driscoll, Ellia Kruid, Autumn Driscoll, Peyton Driscoll, Karsyn Driscoll, Aoife Layman, Brice Denney, Michaela Denney, Larisa Denney, Odin Anderson, Thorin Anderson, Lucien Anderson, Raina Zarrett, Roland Zarrett and Petra Zarrett; and her brother, Howard "Mike" (Zena) Jensen. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl Wilmes; son, Clayton Wilmes; parents, Andrew and Vera Jensen; brothers, Donald Jensen, Maynard Jensen, and Dennis Rick Jensen; sisters, Mavis Stegmeier, Dagmar Owen, Mary Hartman and Carole Jeanne Jensen.

All Memorials can be directed to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Marshall, Minnesota in Maxine's Memory.

Russell Community Newsletter
PO Box 360
Russell, Minnesota 56169

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Return Service Requested