



JANUARY 2023

The FREEMAN & ENTERPRISE

Lake Country

THIS MONTH

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NASHOTAH HONORS LARTZ

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Village
president
died Dec. 17

By Kelly Smith
Special to The Freeman

NASHOTAH — A nearly mile long parade of fire trucks and snow plows, along with cars and trucks driven by local residents and friends, weaved its way along village streets Jan. 7 paying tribute to Village President Rich Lartz, who died on Dec. 17.



Lartz

"Rich's life was his family, the village and the church," Senior Pastor Caleb Kolstead of Lake Country Bible Church said at a memorial service following the parade.

See **LARTZ**, PAGE 3

Kelly Smith/Special to The Freeman

Fire trucks from Lake Country Fire & Rescue along with village public works trucks and plows and cars driven by village residents and friends participated in a nearly mile-long parade through Nashotah on Jan. 7 honoring Village President Rich Lartz, who died on Dec. 17.

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A stroke of beauty

Local calligraphy and hand-lettering artist offers beginner classes at local businesses

By: Faith Rae
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From hobby to side hustle, Salena Salomone turned years of self-taught calligraphy skills into an online business. And after working with a national company called Sip & Script for a year, Salomone is offering even more classes for those looking to take up a new hobby in light of the New Year.

Salomone works as a kindergarten teacher and started her calligraphy journey in 2016 through bullet journaling. The fun hobby eventually transformed into an online business called Lettered In Blush, two-and-a-half years ago.

As a calligrapher and hand-lettering artist, Salomone works with clients locally in Waukesha and throughout Lake County. She creates a variety of personalized items including shirts, mugs, signs, envelope addresses and more, but she specializes in weddings.

For weddings, Salomone uses her calligraphy skills for all things written. This includes hand-addressed envelopes, place cards, escort cards, welcome signs, seating charts, menu cards, signature drink signs, gift favor tags and more.

"I think I enjoy calligraphy so much because there are so many different things you can do with it. It's not just writing," said Salomone.

Local beginner classes

About a year ago, Salomone was contacted by Sip & Script. The company has over 100 instructors teaching calligraphy classes to their home cities across the country. Looking to expand into Wisconsin, the company found Salomone.

"Our goal was to be apart from those really rigorous, three-hour, extensive courses," said Salomone, adding that they aimed for a laid-back approach. "We connect with small businesses and host hour-and-a-half long classes where people can pick up a margarita and a pen and just kind of have a fun class to learn calligraphy."

Salomone connects with small, local businesses to host her classes. This



Courtesy of Salena Salomone

People taking local artist Salena Salomone's beginner calligraphy classes.

month, she is offering a variety of beginner classes. On Jan. 16 at 11 a.m. she is hosting a class at Catrina Café, 118 W. Broadway St., another one at Whelan's Coffee & Ice Cream, 163 E. Wisconsin Ave. in Oconomowoc on Jan. 22 at 2 p.m., one at I.d., 415 Genesee St. Suite #1 in Delafield on Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m., and two others in Wauwatosa and Mequon.

Salomone's ultimate goal is to share her hobby, especially for those looking to try something new in 2023. Joining Sip & Script is one of the best decisions she's ever made, according to Salomone.

"It allows me to combine what I know teaching kindergarten, like my teaching background, with my hobby," said

Salomone. "I can't imagine a better combo."

In continuing to teach beginner classes, she hopes to also bring awareness and more clients to her own business, Lettered In Blush.

Sharing a hobby that inspired a business in important to Salomone, especially when it might inspire others to do the same.

"It's been nice to bring that to people," she said.

To reach out to Salomone's personal business, visit <https://bit.ly/3WKpanB>, and to sign up for a beginner calligraphy class through Sip & Script visit <https://bit.ly/3VCH1vn>.

The FREEMAN & ENTERPRISE

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THIS MONTH

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Courtesy of Panga Bar & Grill

Plunging into a new year

OCONOMOWOC — Partygoers woke up early on Jan. 1 for Panga Bar & Grill’s annual Polar Plunge, 34422 Delafield Road. The bar and grill had activities all day to welcome the new year.

Lartz

From Page 1

Richard A. “Rich” Lartz, 80, is survived by Kathy, his wife of 51 years, stepchildren Terry and Laurie, six grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, nieces and a nephew, and the family dogs Sophie and Hazel.

He was a leader of Pink Heels Lake Country, which raises funds to fight cancer and other serious illnesses; and The Friends of Nashotah, which raises money for local charities and village activities.

“He loved the village. He couldn’t stop talking about it,” church member Mike Umland said during the service.

During his 20-year tenure as village president, Lartz was “forward thinking” in his ideas to modernize village government.

And he was “a visionary” in improving fire and emergency medical services, according to Village Clerk Cynthia M. Pfeifer.

“He was quiet and unassuming, but he got things done,” added Village Attorney John Macy.

Lartz began his service to the village in 1994 as a member of the volunteer fire department before being elected village president in 2003.

Lartz urged the consolidation of local fire departments no longer able to recruit enough volunteers because the Lake Country region was changing from small rural communities into rapidly growing suburban subdivisions.

“He recognized the new people moving into the village were too busy commuting to and from work during the day and involved in their kids’ activities after work to volunteer with the fire department,” Pfeifer explained.

In the early 2000s, the villages of Nashotah and Chenequa merged their fire departments.

“Nashotah had the volunteers and Chenequa had the equipment and money,” Lartz once explained to a reporter.

About eight years later, Lartz and Chenequa Village President Bryce Styza and Delafield Mayor Ed McAleer began discussions resulting in the creation of Lake Country Fire & Rescue, which serves seven communities in the region.

The 2010 contract that described how the department would be funded and governed became a template for other fire and emergency medical service consolidations now serving more than a dozen Waukesha County communities, according to Macy, who helped draft the agreement.

The three municipal leaders kept a close, behind-the-scenes watch over the department during its formative years.

However, failing health has prevented them from advising the department as it seeks new revenues to hire full-time staff to make up for the continuing loss of volunteers.

McAleer died in October and Lartz succumbed in December to a nearly three-year-long battle with complications from COVID.

Lartz’s remains were cremated and the family waited until after the Christmas holidays to schedule the memorial celebration, according to village officials.

The parade formed near the village’s northern boundary with Delafield and Chenequa and proceeded south on the overpass above Hwy 16 and through the village’s business district along Hwy C.

It weaved through several subdivisions before turning north and passing Village Hall on Watertown Plank Road and proceeding due east to the church, which was quickly filled to its nearly 300-seat capacity.

Ironically, Lartz played an instrumental role in construction of the church in 2014.

He persuaded Chenequa to allow the farmland to be annexed into Nashotah so the church could be built.

He later became a member of the congregation.

“He came to visit one day and it seems he never left,” said Kolstead.

During the eulogy, Kolstead described Lartz as “a member of the exclusive 80-50-20 club.”

Lartz celebrated his 80th birthday in November. He and Kathy had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2022. Local officials had been planning an event celebrating his 20th year as village president.

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How much are antique toy trucks worth?



Texaco Fueling Tanker

- Length of 23 inches — kids used this size as a ride-em toy
- Logo signage on the back doors reads, “Tour with TEXACO,” sound your horn, the road is yours
- The entire surface has paint loss.
- Estimated value: \$85



Hubley Tow Truck

- Manufactured by Mighty Metal Toys, Lancaster, Penn.
- 12 inches long but has faded color
- Estimated value: \$75



BARBARA EASH

Antiques



Yellow Horse Trailer

- Dodge trailer, articulated horse van with the logo of Ascot Stables made in Lesney, England
- Two entry ramps for the horse figures — that were originally included
- Missing parts and excessive paint loss.
- Estimated value: \$100



Buddy L Wrecker

- Repair It Unit manufactured in East Moline, Ill.
- Pressed steel, 24 inches long
- Buddy L is also marked on the tires
- Estimated value: \$165

Toy versions of full-size vintage trucks have become a desirable collectible. Many models represented the American workforce. Some trucks have hidden working mechanisms and/or unattached, additional pieces. The original box is an added bonus for the value.

In 1927, the Sears & Roebuck Catalog featured a steel, 20-inch long dump truck for \$1.79. Smaller trucks were only 98 cents. Today, very few vintage toy trucks are found in excellent condition. Both paint loss and the use of generic replacement parts impact value.

To schedule an appraisal appointment at the Wauke-sha Antique Mall (or at your location), email Barbara J. Eash: beappraisals@gmail.com (fees vary).

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