

The Maple Lake Flyer

A newsletter of EAA Chapter 878, Experimental Aircraft Association

EAA Chapter 878: a part of the aviation communities of Maple Lake, Buffalo, and surrounding areas of Minnesota.

34 Years.....1986 - 2020

November, 2020

EAA CHAPTER 878 MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 10

Location: Buffalo Airport (KCFE), in the Arrival / Departure building

Meeting Time: Light meal provided – at 6:30 PM

- chili provided by Laura Herrmann

- caramel apples by Greg Thomes

Meeting to follow, approximately 7 PM

Notes: - The courtesy of distancing as possible, a facemask, and hand sanitizing is appropriate upon the conditions, circumstances, and your personal comfort level

As with any other activity, a personal "Risk Assessment" should guide you. If you
don't feel well, have been exposed to COVID-19, or think you may have, please stay home
and join us another time

FLIGHT TO SUCCESS by Greg Thomes, Chapter President

As we reflect on the events of 2020, there are several constants among the crazy newsmakers. One constant is that good people continue to be visible and involved in civic affairs like those espoused by EAA.

This brings the opportunity to thank all of our EAA heroes that have been *involved* with us.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, EAA 878's Board of Directors expresses our appreciation for your efforts in making this a great organization.

May your skies be bright and breezes light!

Greg

Remember to regularly check our chapter's website and Facebook page:

https://chapters.eaa.org/eaa878 (Note: the QR code here will take you to our website))



https://www.facebook.com/eaa878



UPCOMING CHAPTER 878 AVIATION EVENTS – 2020/2021

- Dec 11 Holiday party and Awards Banquet at Huikko's in Buffalo
 - 22 IMC / EAA878 meeting
- Jan 9 EAA Chapter 878 meeting, at Arrival/Departure building at Buffalo airport
 - 26 IMC / EAA878 meeting
- Feb 13 EAA Chapter 878 meeting, at Arrival/Departure building at Buffalo airport
 - 23 IMC / EAA878 meeting
- Mar 13 EAA Chapter 878 meeting, at Arrival/Departure building at Buffalo airport
 - 23 IMC / EAA878 meeting

Note: this list generally will not include the many pancake breakfasts and other fly-ins or local aviation events because they are well publicized on other sites dedicated to that purpose. For other event information, see our EAA Chapter 878 website www.878.eaachapter.org/, and websites such as https://www.eaa.org/eaa, https://www.aopa.org/community/events, www.socialflight.com, and http://www.flyins.com. Also see various Calendars of Events in magazines, and airport bulletin boards.

HELP SUPPORT EAA CHAPTER 878 AS YOU SHOP If you're an Amazon shopper, consider using AmazonSmile

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice – please designate EAA Chapter 878!

CHAPTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT John Honour – EAA Chapter 878 Member and Angel Flight Volunteer by Wayne Flury

The members of EAA Chapter 878 are a diverse group of pilots, past pilots, radio control pilots, and even some non-pilots. The pilot group, both current and past, includes everything from Students to Private to Instrument to Instructor to Drone to Air Show and Airline. And, there's at least one Angel pilot.

Now, before you start imagining that we'll be singing hymns and passing a collection plate at the next chapter meeting, let me clarify that this Angel is one of our member pilots who provides "charitable flights for health care or other humanitarian purposes" to clients of the Angel Flight organization.

John Honour, an EAA Chapter 878 member since 2017, retired from USAir as a 727 captain with over 21,000 hours. He had learned to fly while a student at the University of Minnesota in the early 60's, progressed

through the pilot ratings and built hours towards his eventual airline career.

After retirement, he and his wife enjoyed several years of traveling throughout much of the world, and they now split the year between a summer home in Buffalo and one in Florida for the winter. In retirement he was initially an inactive pilot, but eventually found he missed flying. This led to the purchase of a Cherokee 180, with a later upgrade to a Beechcraft Debonair to allow faster travel between Minnesota and Florida.

I sat down with John one morning at the coffee table inside West Metro Aviation's hangar at the Buffalo airport and asked how he became involved with Angel Flight.

John told me his introduction to Angel Flight was after an IMC meeting about 4 or 5 years ago. While speaking with one of the IMC members after the meeting, that member



John Honour, with his Beechcraft Debonair, named "Sweet Adeline"

told John he justified his ownership of a Cirrus by using it for Angel Flight missions. John said this piqued his interest and satisfied a desire to make more practical use of the Debonair. John did a "ride-along" on a

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mission with that pilot and subsequently became a volunteer pilot himself. He has since contributed approximately 125 hours of his own flight time. On average, he takes about 3 missions every two months. He flies missions both in the "central" section of the US when he's in Minnesota and in the "southeast" section while he winters in Florida.

John explained that the volunteer pilots have access to a website which lists all available missions, and the pilots self-select those they want. This allows the pilot to set a mission schedule that fits their personal schedule. A typical mission involves flying to an airport near the home of a client, and then flying that person (and a parent or guardian for youth) to an airport close to whichever medical facility they need to go. The client must be ambulatory and able to enter/exit the airplane without assistance. All ground transportation is the responsibility of the client. Upon completion of the client's appointment, he flies them home.

I asked John what causes any pilot to commit to flights such as this? They could certainly be high stress, with passengers who are possibly facing life threatening medical conditions. John noted there is no pressure from Angel Flight to complete any mission. All GO/NO GO decisions are his, and primarily based upon weather and his personal minimums. All Angel Flight pilots must be IFR rated, though John says most of his flights are completed under VFR conditions.

As John talked, he mentioned the things you might expect...the satisfaction of "giving back" to a community, the chance to fly to places he may not otherwise have gone, and the opportunity to use his pilot skills and utilize his airplane for purposes other than just personal recreational travel. He noted that some clients, particularly youngsters with life threatening medical issues, remain in his memory long after the flight is completed. His voice caught just a bit when he talked about some of those clients and it's obvious that, while this may not have been what got him started on Angel Flights, it's surely a reason to expect him to continue as long as possible.

John Honour has found a great combination of volunteering, flying, and utilization of his airplane in the service of others. He may not claim to be an "angel" but he's certainly doing his part to make the world a better place.

For more information about Angel Flight, see: https://angelflightcentral.org/, or just ask John.

Author Note: as John described, his path into Angel Flight came via a fortunate contact within the IMC club that is now a part of our chapter. There may be other chapter members (particularly within the IMC/878 Club association) who are also Angel Flight pilots and of which I'm unaware. If so, I encourage a response and input regarding your own experiences with this amazing organization.

CHAPTER 878 OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR 2021/2022 TO BE HELD AT NOVEMBER MEETING Volunteer Opportunities Within Your Chapter by Wayne Flury, Current Secretary

Chapter 878 bylaws state that election of officers is to be conducted at an annual meeting (a regular meeting in the election year held prior to November 30). Terms of offices are two years. Our last election was in November 2018, making our next election due November 2020, with the terms running January 2021 to December 2022.

The offices to be filled by election are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Eligibility is simple: you must be a chapter member and 18 years or older.

If you are interested in a chapter leadership position, prepare to have someone enter your name into nomination, or contact President, Greg Thomes.

Elections – A Note from Wayne Flury– I want YOU to be our next EAA Chapter 878 Secretary: I need a volunteer to replace me as Chapter 878 Secretary.

I have been chapter secretary since January 2001 (a total of twenty years by the end of 2020). This is long enough! I believe all organizations are best served by having a variety of representative persons in the leadership positions. This shares responsibilities and knowledge amongst the membership, and helps to prevent burnout.

Secretary: duties as outlined in the Chapter 878 Bylaws:

- (a.) keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors;
- (b.) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws or as required by law;
- (c.) be custodian of the corporate records of the Chapter; and
- (d.) perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Note: While not strictly addressed in the Bylaws, the Secretary also takes minutes of each general chapter meeting and distributes them to the membership. Our current chapter membership size and organization has not justified a separate "Board of Directors" meeting (by consensus the general meeting and Board of Directors meeting are considered equivalent) so there is only one meeting per month at which minutes are required.

Contact Wayne at 763-670-6021 or wflury@outlook.com for questions or more info.

INTRODUCTION -- NEW CHAPTER 878 NEWSLETTER EDITOR by Ray Svobodny, Newsletter Editor (effective Jan. 1, 2021)

Beginning in January, I will be your new EAA Chapter 878 Newsletter Editor. I look forward to providing our Membership with important and interesting information focused on aviation areas.

Following Wayne will not be easy – his dedicated Newsletter authoring over many, many editions have left a tremendous legacy and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his selfless work; his shoes will not be easy to fill.

A guiding editorial philosophy will be "as if seen through the eyes of a curious lifelong student, eager to share interesting and fascinating information."

A few key points about style: the Newsletter will feature regular and guest columnists, notes from Chapter Leaders and aggregated aviation content. The Newsletter will also present a new design and, at times, multi-media content. The Newsletter will also welcome advertisers, becoming a positive revenue stream for EAA Chapter 878.

January 2021 will be my first issue and plans are to continue coinciding publication with our 2^{nd} Saturday or 2^{nd} Tuesday of the month meetings.

Newsletter & Advertising Schedule

► Monthly Meeting: January – April: 2nd Saturday of each month.

May – November: 2nd Tuesday of each month.

December: Holiday party, date to be determined

Publication: January – April: 1st Saturday of each month.

May – December: 1st Tuesday of the month.

- ➤ Interested in submitting a story? Select <u>EAA Chapter 878 Monthly Newsletter Publication Schedule & Editorial Guidelines.</u>
- ➤ Interested in becoming an advertiser? Select EAA Chapter 878 Newsletter Rate Sheet.

For the hand-off from Wayne to be successful, I will need your editorial contributions, avid readers, and above all, your support.

RaySvobodny@gmail.com

612-327-4232

IMC CLUB

by Dave Wendt, Coordinator - IMC/EAA 878

IMC/EAA 878 Club meetings: Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM

This month - November 24

IMC CLUB

Special Meeting Location Information Until Social Gatherings Are Allowed – meetings will be a "virtual" event, utilizing the "Zoom" meeting app.

Download this app if you do not yet have it. Expect more info later regarding a meeting sign-in code.

ATTENTION: All interested pilots (IFR & VFR), are you interested in joining IMC/EAA 878 Club? Cost is \$25.00 (EAA Chapter 878 dues) per year. All meetings are free and open to all IFR and VFR pilots. Our Mission and Purpose is to become BOTH current and proficient pilots!

For more information about IMC club and program content each month, please contact Dave at DaveWendtInsurance@gmail.com, or 612-272-4600.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP TRAINING WEBINARS Learn more about EAA Chapters and Programs by Wayne Flury

As promoted in recent EAA emails and on the EAA website, chapter leaders (and, I believe, any chapter member just looking to expand their general EAA knowledge) can join EAA Chapters department staff members for six weekly Chapter Leadership Training Webinar sessions designed to help improve our chapter and to learn about the many programs available to chapters from EAA HQ.

Whether you're interested in learning about how chapters succeed, the variety of resources made available to chapters by EAA, or having the opportunity to simply ask our EAA Chapters staff questions, you will not want to miss out!

Important Note: Chapter officers who attend all six webinars will provide their chapter with EAA Chapter Recognition credit.

One surprising thing is that all of these webinars are scheduled from noon to 1 pm, CST. Most webinars are scheduled in the early evening.

EAA has noted that the webinars will also be offered again this winter for those whose schedule doesn't mesh with the fall presentation.

Register at: https://eaa.org/eaa/eaa-chapters/chaptergram-articles/2020-10-Chapter-Training-Goes-Virtual-this-Season.

Session Dates and Topics are:

11/5/20	Habits of Highly Successful Chapters
11/12/20	Chapter Programs
11/19/20	Chapter Online Presence
12/3/20	Tax Exempt Basics and Fundraising
12/10/20	Insurance and Risk Management
12/17/20	Resources Available To Chapters

A CHALLENGE TO ALL MEMBERS TO SHARE THE GIFT OF EAA EAA's Legacy Membership Campaign by David Leiting, EAA Membership Development Manager; Vice President of EAA Chapter 252 (Oshkosh)

(Ed. Note: The following article by David Leiting was sent to all chapter newsletter editors with a request to share it with our membership. It notes that, as EAA members we all have a shared passion, and then outlines a new EAA membership campaign with the goal of planting the seed of this passion by introducing EAA and chapters to a new member, i.e., "paying-it-forward." David was newsletter editor for EAA Chapter 1342 at Grand Forks, ND while he was a student at UND. The majority of 1342's members are UND students.)

The past 10 months have flipped the world upside down for many of us, but they have also allowed us to spend more time focusing on our families and our passions. For all of us, the shared passion is aviation. It is what brought us together, and has been the one constant we can look to when the days get rough.

The flying club of which I am a member shut down operations for 90 days as we evaluated how we could safely operate amongst the COVID-19 pandemic. It pained me to stay out of the cockpit for more than three months. This was the first time since I passed my private pilot check ride that I was out of my 90-day currency! Additionally, my local EAA chapter put all of our events on hold. Although we were able to conduct virtual gatherings and board meetings, it wasn't the same as our usual in-person events.

This lack of aviation activity caused me to reflect on my passion for aviation, and remind myself how easy it is to take for granted the aviation opportunities afforded by EAA. Like many of you, much of what I use to fuel my passion for aviation has come from EAA: EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, my Young Eagles flight, the relationships built through my local chapters, and the educational opportunities. Without EAA, I am not quite sure where I would find myself on my aviation journey.



David Leiting (center) with fellow UND classmates and EAA Lifetime members Nick Meyer (L) and Kreg Anderson (R). They reconnected at SnF 2018 and posed alongside an obliging Stearman. Kreg is currently the airport manager at KAXN, Chandler Field Airport, Alexandria, MN.

One of the great pillars of EAA is the opportunity to give back, and pass the torch to future members. Perhaps you have given a Young Eagles flight that led to a career aviator, or lent a helping hand to a friend building their own aircraft. There is also a great chance that you have benefited from the generosity of a fellow EAAer. It is the lifeblood of our organization!

We all remember our mentor who introduced us to aviation and are forever grateful for the gift they gave us. That mentor may still be a close friend of yours within your EAA chapter. EAA is now asking you to join us in helping to preserve the legacy of EAA Founder Paul Poberezny, and of all our past and current members, by gifting an EAA membership to someone you feel will continue to carry on EAA's mission within The Spirit of Aviation.

It is EAA members such as you that can bring aboard the next generation of members. Your involvement in your local chapter is even a greater reason to introduce them to EAA. Chapter members are the most engaged and passionate members you'll find within EAA. There is no better group than a local chapter to welcome a newcomer to EAA.

Once you identify whom you'd like to sponsor, simply visit www.EAA.org/Legacy to register EAA's newest member. After you gift this membership, invite the individual to your chapter, and show them the opportunities and community that exist in their own backyard. By gifting a membership and becoming a Legacy sponsor, you will receive a Legacy sponsor pin and patch.

EAA cannot thank you enough for your continued support of the organization, and especially of your local chapter. Chapters are the lifeblood of EAA, and without them the impact of EAA would be a fraction of what it is today. Enjoy your holiday season, and we hope to see you in Oshkosh this July!

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TREE OF HOPE – UPDATE by Ray Svobodny, Tree of Hope

As you read this, Tree of Hope is less than 3-weeks away from our December 1st deadline of raising \$65,000 to purchase 6,500 toys for hospitalized children during the holidays. We are fearful that we will not be able to help sick children this year.

We are far behind!

Last year, over 6,000 gifts were given to many thankful children, parents, and surrounding health care professionals.

Will you please help? Please click Campaign 2020 to reach our website for donation details. Also, pass the word to family, friends, and business associates.

Additionally, see the Campaign 2020 Flyer attached to this Newsletter.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you, hospitalized children will be deeply grateful!

Ray

RaySvobodny@gmail.com 612-327-4232

EAA CHAPTER 878 FLYING CLUB

As discussed at the October meeting, and noted in the minutes of that meeting, chapter member Dick Borrell proposed a Chapter 878 flight club that would make use of his Cessna 172. The initial reaction was very enthusiastic, and a committee of volunteers – Dick Borrell, Henry Williams, Thomas Eckstrom, and John Schnettler – will meet to discuss and make recommendations to the chapter.

An EAA webinar on this subject was presented on October 27. As with all webinars, this is archived and available for viewing at any time.

Persons with an interest in a flying club as part of our chapter opportunities are encouraged to view the webinar and also let the committee know of your interest. To view the proposal from Dick Borrell, see an attachment to the October newsletter on the Chapter 878 website at: https://chapters.eaa.org/eaa878/media/31AC67C4EB5640FCA1B790A686BF6EBC.ashx.

MIDWEST FLYER MAGAZINE MOVING TO ON-LINE SUBSCRIPTIONS (MOSTLY)

Important changes are being made by Dave Weiman, Editor and Publisher of the Midwest Flyer Magazine.

Here's the note from their October/November issue: Effective with the December 2020/January 2021 issue, Midwest Flyer Magazine will publish five (5) issues ONLINE, and one (1) issue — April/May 2021 — ONLINE and IN PRINT. Subscribe To Midwest Flyer Magazine Online **FREE!** Go to MidwestFlyer.com Click the "Subscribe Now" banner ad and sign up! By becoming an ONLINE SUBSCRIBER, you will be eligible to receive the April/May 2021 printed edition AT NO CHARGE!

A link to the subscription form is: https://midwestflyer.com/?page_id=12844.

• MAPLE LAKE AIRPORT PLAN PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL

See the attachment to this newsletter for an article taken from the October 28, 2020 issue of the Maple Lake Messenger. It summarizes the recently completed airport master plane and layout study, and identifies the next steps in the process. This is particularly relevant and important to EAA Chapter 878 in relation to our current hangar ownership.

EAA CHAPTER 878 and MAPLE LAKE FLYER INFO

EAA Chapter 878 PO Box 169

Maple Lake, MN 55358-0169

https://chapters.eaa.org/eaa878 a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

The Maple Lake Flyer is published monthly by Chapter 878 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) for the use, education and enjoyment of Chapter members and others to whom it is provided. No claim is made for the accuracy of materials submitted. Editorial content is the opinion of the contributor and does not necessarily reflect the position of Chapter 878 nor the EAA.

Submissions for publication are encouraged and should be sent to the attention of: Newsletter Editor.

Send "change of address" information, email address and phone number changes to: Chapter Database Manager. Permission is granted to other Chapters to reproduce any or all of this publication, with credits to be acknowledged.

Chapter meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of each month (except for the winter months of January –

April when we meet on the second Saturday morning). Meeting location and time may vary each month, depending upon the meeting program or other chapter activities. Our December meeting is usually a family social event held at a local event center, with date, time and place to be determined annually.

Chapter membership is open to all persons interested in aviation. To become a member, simply contact any one of the current officers and request a membership application, or click on the "Membership" link on our website. Annual dues are \$10 for members up to 35 years of age, \$25 for age 35 and over, and \$35 for a family membership.

Current Off	icer	s:
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Buffalo Fly-In

current officers.			
President:	Greg Thomes	763-443-7039	greg@thomesinsurance.com
Vice-President:	Peter Radintz	320-963-1980	peradintz@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Wayne Flury	763-670-6021	wflury@outlook.com
Treasurer:	Henry Williams	612-363-1803	hawms1@q.com
Chapter Leaders and Coordinators:			
Beverage Coordinator:	OPEN		
Chapter Assets Monitor:	OPEN		
Chapter Librarian:	Harold Greseth	763-682-5486	hjgreseth@gmail.com

Chapter Manager of	David Wendt	612/272-4600	DaveWendtInsurance@gmail.com
Non-Profit Programs:			
Chapter 878 Database Manager:	Ray Svobodny	612-327-4232	raysvobodny@gmail.com
(Chapter Roster)			
Chapter 878 Website:	Elaine Morrow	952-913-2356	pilotelaine@aol.com
Culinary Coordinator:	Monthly Volunteers		
Eagle Flights Leader:	Kyle Weatherly	612-759-5227	k.weatherly@live.com
Facebook Leader:	Jon Niska	218-290-0112	j_nisk@hotmail.com
Facilities Committee Coordinator	Fred Jude	320-274-2599	fjc@lakedalelink.net

Facilities Committee Coordinator	Frea Juae	320-274-2599	rjc@lakedalelink.net
Flight Advisor:	Chris Glaeser	952-239-4081	chris.glaeser@gmail.com
Flying Club Committee	Dick Borrell	612-799-3337	dbborrell@yahoo.com
Fly-In Committer Chairpersons			
Winter Chili Feed	Laura Herrmann	952-210-8600	ljherrmann@yahoo.com

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Maple Lake Fly-In	OPEN		
Fly-Out Coordinator:	Dick Borrell	612-799-3337	dhhorrell@vahoo.com

OPEN

IMC/EAA 878 Club Coordinator:	David Wendt	612/272-4600	DaveWendtInsurance@gmail.com
Mahila Cian Managan	ODEN		

Mobile Sign Manager:	OPEN		
Newsletter Editor: (until end of 2020)	Wayne Flury	763-670-6021	wflury@outlook.com
(eff. Jan. 2021)	Ray Svobodny	612-327-4232	raysvobodny@gmail.com
Ray Foundation Scholarship Co-ord.	Boyd Emmel	612-414-6743	bjemmel3@gmail.com
RV-4 Build Project Coordinator:	Tom Rammel	320-286-5283	Tom.Rammel@zeiss.com
Scholarship Committee Coordinator	Kyle Weatherly	612-759-5227	k.weatherly@live.com
STEM Coordinator:	Kyle Weatherly	612-759-5227	k.weatherly@live.com
Technical Counselor:	Dick Burns	952-473-1887	dickburns1@aol.com
Young Eagles Co-Coordinators:	Kyle Weatherly	612-759-5227	k.weatherly@live.com

EAA Chapter 878 Advocates:	All Members
LAA CHaptel 0/0 Auvocates.	All Wichibers

Add your name to the list above – how can you help and support your chapter?

Boyd Emmel

612-414-6743

bjemmel3@gmail.com



Help put a smile on the face of a hospitalized child over the holidays!

We need eGift Cards for infants to 18 years of age!

Target

Walmart

Amazon

PayPal









100% goes toward gifts for sick children!

Email to Sec-Treas@HolidayTreeOfHope.org

HELP! We need to raise \$65,000!

Deadline: December 1st!

Thanks to sponsors & volunteers, 100% of your donations go to the kids!

Serving:

- 37 Minnesota hospitals,
- 2 Wisconsin hospitals,
- 1 North Dakota hospital,
- 2 Catholic Charities child shelters,
- 5 Ronald McDonald Houses

Since 1991, Tree of Hope collects and distributes gifts to children in hospitals during the holidays!

For more information visit

holidaytreeofhope.org/2020-campaign





New airport layout plan is not a mandate

By Brenda Erdahl

At their most recent meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 20, Maple Lake City Council members were briefed on the status of an airport master plan and layout study by Marcus Watson of TKDA. The airport layout plan is now 90 percent complete.

A primary objective of the layout study was to review the feasibility of the airport site to meet aviation demand and facility needs. This process included evaluating airport development options, impacts and costs.

During this process, the team has coordinated with city staff, a technical advisory committee, the city engineer and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Aeronautics to collect feedback. After coordination with the stakeholders, an initial preferred airport development alternative has been identified.

The preferred alternative proposes to maintain a visual approach and to extend runway 10-28 to the west by 408 feet, increasing its length to 3,200 feet. This would require a realignment of County Road 37 and necessitate land acquisi-

tion to ensure safety standards are met.

TKDA also recommended that the city apply for an exception to the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Clear Zone policy for structures located in the clear zone of Runway 28. TKDA is inquiring to MnDOT to see if this would be eligible for a grant amendment.

Preferred hangar development is to the east, while preserving the opportunity for hangar development to the south.

The preferred plan's total cost is estimated at \$7.3 million, 95 percent of which would be covered by MnDOT Aeronautics, leaving the city to pay expenses of around \$400,000.

Watson stressed that the following of this process by no means indicates the city's endorsement of the plan or that any of the proposed changes need necessarily take place.

"The plan is not an obligation whatsoever to complete any of the improvements," he said. "But if improvements are completed, they must be consistent with the plan."

City council continued on page 9

City council

Continued from page 1

City Engineer Phil Gravel agreed, saying, "You can maintain what you have to perpetuity."

Councilmember Kirk Larson asked if the \$400,000 cost would ultimately benefit the city, and Mayor Todd Borell said it would not, regardless of the subsidies, because not a single Maple Lake tax payer is currently using hangar space at the airport. Councilmember Deb Geyen said she considers the airport to be an asset to the town and suggested making comparisons to other small towns with similar sized airports. Watson recommended that this single alternative be carried forward for public review and comment, and a public open house meeting will be held in the fall of 2021. This will allow members of the public to ask questions, consult with city and technical staff, and provide feedback on future airport development. In-person and online meeting formats are being considered. The city's eventual approval of a master layout plan will greatly influence funding decisions by MnDOT Aeronautics, and for that reason, councilmembers voted to move ahead with the process. The open house will be followed by a final technical advisory committee selection of a preferred alternative and an implementation plan. This recommendation will go first to the airport commission and then to the city council for adoption. The city's plan will then be submitted to MnDOT Aeronautics for approval.