



## Where do we start?

When offered the chance to join a monthly rotation for a column, my first thought was “Where do we start?” There are many things I would like to share regarding our businesses, the role of the chamber and how best to get started. It is the question – where to start – that prompted me to feel that the question is actually the answer. So, how do we get started?

Not knowing where to start applies to many areas of our daily life, and it brings me back to a motto we have adopted at the chamber of #We-Can. In all situations, we have the ability to do something. Now more than ever, our businesses need our community and they need us to do what we can.

As the businesses start to reopen, we can show support for them in many ways – with your item purchases, gift card purchases and outdoor dining reservations, of course, but we can also show support by respecting for their individual reopening plan. Businesses are required to have an opening plan in place. Many businesses receive additional guidance from licensing departments and health departments, and some receive guidelines from a corporate level, but they all have a plan. What we can do is respect these individual plans as our businesses open. Many of the businesses didn’t make the rules but are trying to follow them and provide safe service. They want to be open so they can save their livelihoods and what they’ve spent their lives building. We can respect these guidelines and extend kindness as they try to comply with what has been required of them.

We can make reservations now that outdoor dining is open for our bars and restaurants; book that table, leave a great tip and again extend grace as they work within the



**Chamber Chat**  
by Stacie Michels  
President of the  
Sauk Centre Area  
Chamber of Commerce

limitations that have been imposed. Get your haircut and buy a bottle of shampoo or another product that you may not have otherwise purchased while you are there, and we can be patient as our salons work their way through scheduling your appointment.

We can extend understanding as difficult decisions are made regarding event cancellations and organizations needing to change their fundraising efforts to work within the safety guidelines. Nonprofits and businesses all benefit from these gatherings and, as a result, they are trying to find new and innovative ways to raise funds so they can continue their charitable work.

We can also support those businesses that remain closed by maintaining your memberships, purchasing gift cards and writing positive reviews, and we can reach out to these individuals to share our support. The chamber will also be partnering with other organizations soon to provide micro-grants, and you will be able to make a difference when this program launches. More information will be released as it becomes available, and we can invest in our community together.

If you ever thought you aren’t sure where to get started, just pause and focus on what you can do. I guarantee we can all do something, so let’s start doing it. Together, we can support our businesses, we can show respect and kindness and we can rebuild. We can stand together to support Sauk Centre.

For more information regarding the Sauk Centre Area Chamber of Commerce, please visit our website at [saukcentrechamber.com](http://saukcentrechamber.com) or reach us by email at [saukcentrechamber@gmail.com](mailto:saukcentrechamber@gmail.com).

## 24 crayons

What color are you? As far as I can tell, I am mostly a light medium golden with medium almond lowlights and some medium and light rose tones mixed in.

On May 26, I opened an email that got my heart beating a little faster. One of my favorite companies ever, Crayola, has released a new product: Colors of the World. The box shown was 24 gorgeous new crayons that reflect the skin tones of people from all around the world. As an artist, I can tell you that finding accurate, ready-made skin tones is difficult. I immediately flagged the email to remind myself to search out this box of crayons and use them for an art project. I could see portraits of many people in my mind.

Later that day, I began hearing whispers that something horrible happened a hundred miles away in Minneapolis.

Fast forward to the next morning. May 27 was sunny and warm, and getting out of the office to take photos was a treat, to say the least. I went out to the Ken and Brenda Middendorf farm to get a few photos for our Country Acres story (see tomorrow’s issue) about farrier Aaron Rousselage. The writer for the Rousselage story is working from home until this whole COVID-19 situation passes.

Anyway, Rousselage was in a great mood, happy and smiling as he talked about his work helping horses get onto their best feet. He was having a morning off from his full-time work overseeing the National Guard Armory here in Sauk Centre. At that time, I was barely aware of the name George Floyd.

That changed quickly, of course.

Three days later, I drove by the armory and saw a young kid standing on the sidewalk in full military gear with a backpack on. He looked like he was about 13 and I wondered if he had any idea what he was getting into. My photos Saturday morning just before noon were of Rousselage’s group and the military vehicles leaving town, heading to Minneapolis to help gain control of the riots that had been raging for three nights.



**Random Reflections**  
by Diane Leukam

I won’t begin to say I fully understand the situation, other than that it was triggered by a blatant abuse of power by four Minneapolis police officers resulting in the murder of a citizen. I will not say, either, that I understand the ongoing frustration and anger of so very many people “of color.” I use quotes here because I see color in every single human being, even us “white” people.

I have never been black – or, as Crayola might put it, deepest almond with medium almond highlights. The most discrimination I have ever faced is being regarded as a dumb blond, a dumb farmer or being labeled weird for being an artist.

Please don’t misinterpret me here, either – I wholeheartedly condemn every single act of violence, destruction, arson, vandalism and looting. I hope every last one of the people doing those things is prosecuted, along with every bad cop in this country.

On the other side of the equation, I think it is time we admit that what affects one group of people affects all of us. I think it’s time every one of us looks in the mirror and asks, “What can I do to make life better for every person on this planet? How can I give the deepest respect to every person, every one of us created by the same God?”

Maybe it starts with Crayola.

I would love to buy a brand new package of Colors of the World for every child in this community. As they start drawing, I would love to show them how every person, no matter how we label them, shares these beautiful colors.

We share the 24 versions of almonds, roses and golds – some darker and some lighter. Truth be told, for creating a highly developed portrait of any person on this planet, we would need to use most of the crayons in Crayola’s Colors of the World interchangeably.

Imagine a world where we are not color blind at all, but a world where we love every color!

What colors are you?

# Pro-testing protesting

Rest in peace, George Floyd. May the injustice you suffered never again happen to another person on earth.

“So, you’re against police officers? What are you, an anarchist?”  
Um, hello? Who is that?

“Nope, I’m not saying. Once you say a mystical entity’s name, you have power over it.”  
I do?

“Yes, and speaking of power over you, it’s a shame to see you’ve thrown in your lot with the anarchists instead of the literal officers of the peace.”

Actually, I’m quite pro-police. Not only have I been blessed to have nothing but positive experiences with law enforcement throughout my life, but I also find them a reassuring factor whenever I wake up in the middle of the night and wonder if someone’s stealing my major appliances or organs. I talk to the police all the time in my line of work, and I’m even related to an officer who was sent to Minneapolis to keep the peace.

“What? Are you a supporter of the racist, violent system that sent George Floyd to an early grave? I shouldn’t be surprised, looking at that mugshot of you that runs with this column.”

Uh, no, I’m not in favor of racism at all. First of all, I’m not white; I’m bright red.

“You’re what?”

It’s summer, the sun is out and I’m a jogger.

“That doesn’t –”

Secondly, the whole point of law enforcement is to enforce laws – many of which forbid racism and murder, hence the reason George Floyd’s killer was arrested. That’s why it’s such a big deal when an officer acts in a discriminatory manner: They are officers of the law who have broken said law. I’m glad to see George’s killer arrested and police forces across the nation striving for reform.

“You’re in favor of the protests, then?”

Not really. It looks like the protesters are getting everything they wanted – justice for George and a national movement against police discrimination and brutality. However, as riots continue on a daily basis, I’m curious how nights of fear benefit the social justice cause. In fact, the police’s progress toward reform could be slowed by all this, considering how busy they are trying to keep riots at bay.

“You’re against protests, then? It’s our constitutional right to protest injustice.”

I agree; as a multiple-year member and supporter of the March for Life, I’m quite on board with peaceful protests. When lives and livelihoods are endangered by the protests, though, I think we’re justified in drawing lines. I’m not OK with businesses burning – even if they ask to be burned, as was the case with that one Twin Cities restaurant. I’m not OK with looting, which I see as taking personal advantage of a monstrous injustice. I’m especially not OK with that knucklehead of a truck driver who drove his tanker into the protesters on the I-35W bridge. Peaceful protests promote unity and teamwork over disharmony and chaos.

“Peaceful protests won’t get the job done. Martin Luther King Jr. was a peaceful protester, and he was assassinated.”

Are you saying MLK’s movement was unsuccessful? His peaceful protests inspired generations, myself included.

“But peaceful protests are large groups of people; are you asking for the return of COVID-19?”

Wait, what? Are you the same entity I was talking to earlier?

“Yes, and I’m ashamed you want the deadly virus to spread to the most vulnerable members of our community.”

I really don’t want that. From what I’ve seen, it’s a little too soon to open up everything at full blast, so we should remain cautious at this stage.

“You monster! You want business owners and their families to starve under lockdown?”

Seriously? No! I have no interest in seeing a business collapse from COVID-19 restrictions any more than I want to see a business collapse from flames and looting. While we should be cautious, a lot of today’s restrictions seem a tad draconian.

“So, you’re against the protests against police racism and injustice, but you’re for the protests by conservatives who want haircuts?”

I’m not against the protests from either department, so long as they are peaceful. Come on, haven’t you been listening to me?

Wait a minute; your rapid-fire barrage of hot-button talking points, your inflammatory manner and your lack of reasonable debate give you away. Admit it – you’re a personification of social media, aren’t you?

“I – dang it.”

I knew it was a bad idea to have Facebook as one of the first icons on my phone. Get out of my column. Go on! Shoo!

“Fine, but you’ll only press that icon again in a few minutes. See you later, sucker!”

Beat it!

Where was I? Oh right, George Floyd. Could the readers of this column – yes, both of you – take a minute to pray for the repose of George’s soul and comfort to his family, complete with a balanced dose of justice and mercy to all? Don’t ask me why, but I feel like that action would be much more helpful than most of what’s happening on our feeds right now.



**Ultra Sonnek**  
by Ben Sonnek

## Letters to the editor accepted

Email to [office@saukherald.com](mailto:office@saukherald.com)

## Sauk Centre Herald

523 Shickler Lewis Ave.  
Sauk Centre, MN 56378  
Phone: (320) 352-6577  
Fax: (320) 352-6667

[www.star-pub.com](http://www.star-pub.com)

HOURS: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

*Subject to change during holidays.*

Periodicals postage pending at Sauk Centre, MN  
THE SAUK CENTRE HERALD (USPS 482-220) is published weekly on Thursdays by Star Publications, 523 Shickler Lewis Ave., Sauk Centre, Minn. 56378. Second-class postage paid at Sauk Centre, Minn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE SAUK CENTRE HERALD, 523 Shickler Lewis Ave., Sauk Centre, Minn. 56378

**Advertising:** Classified advertising and Classy Canary advertising are on a cash-only basis. Our ad takers have no authority to bind this newspaper, and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser’s order.

**Subscription Rates:** Stewart, Todd, Douglas, Pope & Morrison Counties, \$48.00. Elsewhere in Minnesota, \$55.00. Out of Minnesota, \$58.00.

Staff		
Mark Klopfenstein	General Manager	<a href="mailto:mark@saukherald.com">mark@saukherald.com</a>
Joyce Prochaska	Business Manager	<a href="mailto:joyce@saukherald.com">joyce@saukherald.com</a>
Pat Towner	Co-Production Mgr./Graphic Design	<a href="mailto:pat@saukherald.com">pat@saukherald.com</a>
Amanda Throck	Graphic Design/Page Layout	<a href="mailto:amanda@saukherald.com">amanda@saukherald.com</a>
Maddy Petersen	Graphic Design	<a href="mailto:maddy@star-pub.com">maddy@star-pub.com</a>
Dan Louison	Proofing	<a href="mailto:dann@saukherald.com">dann@saukherald.com</a>
Ben Sonnek	Editor	<a href="mailto:ben.s@saukherald.com">ben.s@saukherald.com</a>
Andrew Borgarding	Writer	<a href="mailto:andrew.b@saukherald.com">andrew.b@saukherald.com</a>
Jennifer Coyne	Writer	<a href="mailto:jcoyne@saukherald.com">jcoyne@saukherald.com</a>
Shelia Kuhn	Writer	<a href="mailto:shelia@star-pub.com">shelia@star-pub.com</a>
Hossein Louison	Writer	<a href="mailto:hossein@saukherald.com">hossein@saukherald.com</a>

**Deadlines:** The deadline for most news in the Herald is 5 p.m. Monday. Exceptions are obituaries and reports of weekend events, which have a deadline of 10 a.m. Tuesday. The deadline for advertisements in the Herald is noon on Tuesday, in the Shopper noon on Wednesday and Classy Canary noon on Thursday.

**Letters:** Letters to the editor and other opinion articles are welcomed. Letters must be signed with first and last name and include address and phone number. Letters should be short and to the point. We reserve the right to edit lengthy letters.

**Corrections/Clarifications:** The Herald strives for accuracy. If you would like to report a factual error, please call 352-6577.

Staff		
Miley Towner	Sales Manager/Marketing	<a href="mailto:miley@saukherald.com">miley@saukherald.com</a>
Rayna Humstler	Special Sections	<a href="mailto:rayna@saukherald.com">rayna@saukherald.com</a>
James O’Connell	Marketing	<a href="mailto:james@star-pub.com">james@star-pub.com</a>
Wesley Stone	Marketing	<a href="mailto:wesley@star-pub.com">wesley@star-pub.com</a>
Robin Brumby	Inside Sales Representative	<a href="mailto:robin@saukherald.com">robin@saukherald.com</a>
Emily Helton	Bookkeeping	<a href="mailto:emily@saukherald.com">emily@saukherald.com</a>
Christina Kumborn	Bookkeeping	<a href="mailto:christina@saukherald.com">christina@saukherald.com</a>
Leslie Swedberg	Receptionist, Circulation	<a href="mailto:leslie@saukherald.com">leslie@saukherald.com</a>
Logan Thomas	Sign Design	<a href="mailto:logan@saukherald.com">logan@saukherald.com</a>
Joan Emory	Sign Design	
Mike Indicko	Printer	