



Montgomery

# Messenger

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Officers from the Montgomery Police Department, Le Sueur County Sheriff's Office were among the honor guard at the funeral of Montgomery Police Officer Bryan Tupy on Sunday, Aug. 1, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. The honor guard also included members of the Montgomery Ambulance Service, Fire Department and officers from area police departments, sheriff's offices, the State Patrol and other departments.

## City declares building as hazardous

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The Montgomery City Council took action on a building involved in a fire in 2018 by declaring it hazardous at a special meeting, Monday, Aug. 2.

The structure is located at 618 4th Street NE. City Administrator Brian Heck said the city has been dealing with property and owners since a fire significantly damaged the trailer on July 7, 2018. He said the owners want to rehabilitate it, but have done nothing since that time.

After a year and a half Heck said the owners wanted to remove the mobile home and build an addition using the existing roof structure, living area, and garage. As of May 2021, no work has been completed. Heck stated that resident complaints continue to come into the City regarding the property. A letter from one was included with the council packet.

"The property is still boarded up with tarps over it. It looks terrible," he said.

Mayor Tom Eisert agreed the building should be declared hazardous, saying, "It's been over three years. On my second day as Mayor, I took a phone call on this," he said.

City Building Inspector Corey Block said the building, owned by Pillar Building LLC, meets the definition of a hazardous and standard building and should be razed and disposed of for the health and safety of the general public.

The council was unanimous in its approval for the declaration.

Also at the meeting, the city opened its meeting for public comments on the police department's proposal for the use of body-worn cameras. No comments were received. Chief Nathan Hintz recapped the need for body-worn cameras and said at the August meeting, he will ask the council to approve a bundle program that will include taser replacements.

City administrator Brian Heck reported the city has received its first half of the funds from the

## Funeral held, memorial fund created for Montgomery police officer

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Family, friends, members of the Montgomery Police, Ambulance and Fire Departments, and officers from area police, sheriff and State Patrol departments, gathered on Sunday to remember and honor Montgomery Police Officer, Bryan Tupy.

Tupy, 31, of Jordan, the son of Chuck and Shelly (Walerius) Tupy, died suddenly at his home on Monday, July 26, 2021. Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in New Prague.

Tupy worked with the Montgomery Police Department since October 2019. Montgomery Chief Nathan Hintz said his department lost a "brother in blue" way too early. He called Tupy a great human being, husband, father, and fellow

officer.

"The profession of law enforcement brings us, as officers, very close to one another. We have a very tight bond that is built on education and training, dealing with very difficult stressful situations, and each of us would protect the other with our life," Hintz said.

Hintz said his fallen officer was always working to better himself as an officer.

"Bryan was an all-around great officer. He was currently working on his BCA investigator certificate, and was set to start investigating some of our more difficult and time consuming investigations. He was always eager to attend trainings and seminars to better himself as an officer," Hintz stated. "He enjoyed being active while working, from routine traffic enforcement, searching for and apprehending people with out-

standing warrants, drug investigations, to just having a casual conversation with the citizens of Montgomery."

The chief said Tupy's passing leaves an enormous void in the Montgomery Police Department's family. On Monday, the Montgomery City Council began filling that void when it authorized the recruitment process to replace him.

"He always had a warm smile and a friendly 'hello' to everyone he met. If you met him, you know what I'm talking about! He will be truly missed by all!" Hintz stated.

Tupy's career in law enforcement began before he came to Montgomery in 2019. He got his feet wet in the law enforcement field working in dispatch in the Communications Center for Le Sueur County. Sheriff Brett Mason remembers

Tupy to 5

Council to 6

## A topiary for her hometown

Award-winning artist hopes to create special piece for Montgomery

Lisa Ingebrand  
Montgomery Messenger

Fresh off her big win as the first-ever champion of the Discovery+'s fast-paced topiary design show "Clipped," Meghan Petricka wants to create something special for her hometown—a Czech-themed topiary.

"My dad taught me that if you have some knowledge or talent it's your responsibility to share it, and I can't think of a better way to share my talent than creating something special for my hometown," stated the 2002 Montgomery-Lonsdale High School graduate and 2001 Kolacky Queen.

Petricka, who now resides in Eden Prairie, has partnered with the Arts and Heritage Center of Montgomery, a local non-profit, to help collect monetary and material donations to support the project. She and her welding-wiz of a husband, Christopher, plan to donate their time and talents.

"My goal is to create a life-size female Czech dancer—and possibly a male dancer, too," Petricka explained.

After speaking with representatives from the Arts and Heritage Center, the plan is to make the topiary mobile, so it can be used as a showcase or landmark piece at various places and events.

The one-of-a-kind topiary will be created using metal, wire, and a mix of artificial and preserved flowers. It will be constructed for indoor

Patricka to 6



Photos courtesy of Meghan Petricka

A rough sketch shows Meghan Petricka's plan for a 76-inch Czech dancing girl topiary. Petricka, who is an award-winning topiary artist, is asking the community to help fund the project, which she will gift to the community.



Wade Young Photo

Visitors to Kolacky Days were able to view Montgomery's restored Log Cabin.

## Labor of love – Log Cabin is restored

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What began as a roof repair to Montgomery's Old Log Cabin, quickly turned into a full-blown restoration project for a dedicated group of volunteers.

"The roof was leaking. The only intention was to get the shingles replaced and nothing more," explained Dale Ruhland, a member of the Montgomery Historical Society and one of the volunteers spear-

heading the cabin's restoration. "We began working on that, and began to tell stories and history about the cabin. Then the history started to tug on us."

The labor of love was opened to the public on Kolacky Days. On Sunday after the Grand Day Pa-

Cabin to 6



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