

New Funeral Home Site To Open Summer 2019

By Michael Stein
A fixture on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street southeast for the past 50 years, Dobmeier Funeral Home will be part of the Front Street business district the summer of 2019.
Dobmeier Funeral Home owners recently completed purchasing the former Wells Fargo branch, which closed last July.
Remodeling activity at the former bank site has increased over the past few weeks, as evident from the amount of material removed.
The former bank building will continue to house the offices of the Barnesville Economic Development Authority and the Barnesville Main Street Program.
The building, at 202 Front

Street North, was completed by First National Bank of Barnesville in March of 1978. The Wells Fargo branch was established in Barnesville in 1998 and remained until this year.
“We weren’t actively looking for a new location until after the Wells Fargo branch closed,” said Dobmeier’s Managing Funeral Director Duane Morey. “When it came up for sale, I presented the idea to the owners.”
Morey said the long-time location of the funeral home has served them well over the years.
“While I’ll miss the character and history of this building, the newer facility will allow for improved general accessibility and off-street parking, among other conveniences,” Morey said. “It’s exciting as we look forward

to a larger facility on the city’s Front Street that gives us more space for gatherings, offices and storage.”
Many funeral homes now include areas where food can be served. The new building will provide that opportunity, as well as technical upgrades. Morey said they’re currently able to do things like run video tributes during visitations, but the newer building will better facilitate modern digital technology.
The current facility dates back more than a century. It was built by a railroad tycoon Charles Oliver. Oliver was a major developer in Barnesville in the 1890s and early 1900s. He constructed the Oliver Block in Barnesville’s primary business district.
A small section of the Clay County Fairgrounds is named Oliver Park.
The Oliver Mansion building served for many years as a residence for Barnesville teachers and the Collin’s Funeral Home. Don and Margaret Dobmeier purchased the building in 1958.
“The Dobmeiers also raised their family on the second and third floors,” Morey said. “They also ran the ambulance service.”
Don and Margaret and Don’s mother, Mildred, also operated a Ben Franklin variety store on Front Street. Don and Margaret retired in 1988, selling the funeral business to their son John Dobmeier, and his wife, Terry. After 23 years, John sold Dobmeier Funeral Home to Thomas Vertin from



Remodeling work at the former Wells Fargo Bank building has begun in earnest. Workers are building and replacing walls and ceilings for what will be the new Dobmeier Funeral Home location on Front Street.



Dobmeier Funeral Home Managing Director Duane Morey

Breckenridge, MN.

Over the next few months, Morey said, the funeral home staff will be working with architects, city officials, the Minnesota Department of Health and others in remodeling the new location.
“We plan to re-configure the new facility, which will include a new embalming room, and a chapel,” Morey said. “We’ll have much more space for visitations and areas where we can meet with families.”

Morey, a Barnesville native, was happy to return and take over as managing funeral director in 2012, bringing 20 years of experience in the industry with him.
“It’s amazing and rewarding to have that trust from family members who have lost a loved one,” Morey said. “I love being back in Barnesville where I’m familiar with so many families. People in this community are so willing to be there when a family is grieving a loss. They’ll come and help shovel snow, or drop off food for the family. It’s beautiful to see how people come together during a difficult time.”
After visiting with other funeral directors at a recent

Funeral Director’s convention, Morey related an interesting contrast between large and small cities.
“Funeral services in small communities are generally better attended than those in big cities. And that’s because people in a community like Barnesville are more connected with each other, whereas people in big cities don’t know their neighbors as well as we do here.”
In looking forward to the change, Morey said Dobmeier Funeral Home continues to follow its mission statement: “Your Story Matters. Faith, Family, and Community.”



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Lorelee Benz,
Commissioned Lay Pastor
Church: 218 789-7368
11927 123rd Avenue South
Baker, Minnesota 56580

Assumption Catholic Church


Father Gary LaMoine, Pastor
Church Office: 354-7320
Hildebrand Hall: 354-2489

Hosanna Fellowship


Marlin (Pete) Ackerson, Pastor
Church: 354-7774 • Pastor’s Cell: 218 329-2823
nackerson@rrt.net

St. James United Church Of Christ


Rev. Frank Picard, Pastor
Church Office: 354-7198
E-mail: churchoffice.stjames@gmail.com
www.stjamesuccmn.org

Comstock - Hoff Lutheran Parish

One Faith Community, Two Locations
Comstock Lutheran Church, Comstock, MN
Hoff Lutheran Church, Rustad, MN
P.O. Box 7, Comstock, MN 56525
Jill Steichen, Pastor
Church Office: 218 585-4345
chsecretary@live.com

Trinity Lutheran Church


100 Second Avenue W.
P.O. Box 198, Sabin, MN 56580
Brett Hartwig, Pastor
Emmalee Kuphal, DCE
Church Office: 218 789-7259
Email: tlcsabin@gmail.com

HOPE Lutheran Brethren Church


Kevin Skaret, Pastor
Church Office: 354-7466 • hopelbc.org
807 Fifth Street Southeast, Barnesville
Email: hopelbc@outlook.com

OUR SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN CHURCH


302 Third Street NE, Barnesville
Pastor: Chris Leach
Church Office: 354-7101
oslstone@aim.com
oursaviorsbarnesville.org

Gran-Park-Rollag Parish

Three Churches One Ministry
GRAN - 11976 230th St. S. PARK - 29464 80th Ave. S.
ROLLAG - 10501 Hwy. 32 S
Hawley, MN 56549
Parish Office - 218 937-5499
Jim Greene, Pastor
Website: rollaglutheran.org

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