

## | ENJOY EVERY SANDWICH |

# I'll Still See You Next Week

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EDITOR



Our most observant readers will find in this edition a job posting for the role of this newspaper's editor. It is printed on p. 23.

After the December 14 edition of this paper, I will be stepping down from the role of editor. I have accepted a deputy editor position for a global construction magazine, and I begin my duties there mid-month.

While this change may seem sudden, I can assure you it was for me, as well. The entire process was quite brief – from interview, to offer, to acceptance – and spanned roughly 48 hours (amid a Thanksgiving holiday).

This was not something I expected, though I feel fortunate to have been selected.

“Fortunate” would be an understatement, though, when applied to the position that I’m departing.

The last two-plus years as editor of this publication were, without an exaggeration, the highlight of my career.

I’ve worked as a photographer for Major League Baseball, for one season I was the director of media for an Australian professional baseball team, and I interned at NFL Films but, even though I have reverence and admiration for those prior jobs, the last five years serving communities I love through the newspaper has been an honor.

Writing this week’s column, however, was hard.

Last year, I committed to writing one each week through 2023, and so far, I am on track for a perfect 52/52.

Normally, with a spirited idea, “Enjoy Every Sandwich” comes together in 10-15 minutes; inspiration, passion and a healthy dose of obsession make writing 700 words a breeze.

Right now, writing this, it feels a bit like standing alone in the darkness. I know what’s in front of me and how to turn on the lights, but I’m just frozen in the middle of the room, eyes wide open, seeing nothing.

Before anyone gets concerned, I’m also excited for my career change, but with that comes an expected heap of nostalgia and guilt, and I think it’s made this task more difficult than necessary.

This job has been my life since 2018. I poured my heart and soul into it, and I hope that some readers recognized that. Much like an athlete “leaves everything on the court,” this is how I approached my duties as a journalist and editor. I know that we fell short at times of our own expectations, but it was never for lack of effort, or care, or desire.

Newspapering is a tough and rewarding industry. There’s always a paper, every week, and no matter how “bad” or “good” last week’s edition was, you got to put together another one (and then another, and another, and so on).

It can drive you mad if you don’t let it keep you honest.

Removing myself from the weekly cycle will be

difficult, admittedly. I’ve become accustomed to my days being oriented in a certain way, but I’ll figure it out.

What I’ll miss the most are people. Our readers, community leaders, teachers, event organizers, coaches and everyone that makes this place special is what inspired me to be the best editor I could be.

I love these villages, cities, and townships because you love them.

At risk of spouting out too many more clichés (though I sincerely mean them all), I’ll transition to the “sweet” part (for me) about this bittersweet announcement.

While I am stepping down as editor, I plan to stay with the papers for spot coverage and support staff through the transition and as long as I am welcome. Doing the news is in my blood now, and there are still stories left to be told and community projects I want to finish.

Additionally, I’ll remain in charge of putting together our annual Visitor guides, and I’m eager to get started on our revamped version of those publications.

So, while it won’t be the same, I will still “see you next week,” which I always write at the end of this column (this column, which I will also continue to write, at minimum, until the close of the year; a promise is a promise).

If anyone still wants to read more rambles on music from 60 years ago or my irreverent takes on the changes in weather, I will continue “Enjoy Every Sandwich” into 2024.

Either way, here I am now, just shy of 700 words, standing in my kitchen, trying to make sense of what I’ve struggled to write for the last two hours.

It’s not, “goodbye,” just a different kind of “hello.”

To Andrew and Laura Johnson, Andi Abler, Karen Rouse, Anne Trautner, Dave Wood and Pat Wood: Thank you for all the opportunities and guidance over the years. My ability as a writer and journalist was cultivated as a result of your belief in me and your leadership.

To Dawn Krueger, Gayle Rydstrom and Jessica Billington: Thank you for the support, the education and the pursuit of putting out a great paper. You are the glue that holds these papers together.

To all past and present employees and journalists and contributors: I’m incredibly proud of all the work we’ve done together, and I know I’ll talk to you sooner than later!

As for all the readers: Thank you for all the kind words and constructive criticisms over the years. I adored this job because of you.

Since this isn’t “goodbye,” I won’t say it.

I’ll still be here, in a reduced capacity, but you’re all welcome to reach me anytime: [mitchell.keller@mmlocal.com](mailto:mitchell.keller@mmlocal.com).

Remember to support local news, celebrate your community and find opportunities to grow together; with all things combined, you cannot fail.

*See you next week*