To the residents of Zumbro Falls,

It is with mixed feelings that I inform the residents of Zumbro Falls that I have accepted a Production Manager's position is Crawfordsville, Indiana and, therefore, must resign as Mayor of Zumbro Falls, effective 8/15/2013. For almost 20 years, I have served the citizens of Zumbro Falls, first as a councilperson and, since 2011, as Mayor. I have enjoyed my time working for you, through good times and bad, and will certainly miss all of you.

To make the transition as smooth as possible, Alan VanDeWalker has graciously agreed to accept the Council's appointment to finish the current Mayor's term. We all know Al's past service to the City of Zumbro Falls as Mayor and Fireman. Al's and the current Council's abilities will ensure that the revitalization of Zumbro Falls will continue to progress over the next 17 months. I encourage residents and business owners to get involved with this effort. The next few years will be difficult, with many issues that need resolving on the table related to the flood, along many opportunities.

Some of those opportunities include the Zumbro Valley Foundation, a Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) sponsored 401©3 non-profit with the mission to promote the Zumbro River Valley as a place to visit, grow a business, and to raise a family. With my leaving, someone from Zumbro Falls needs to assume my seat on the ZVF board. So far, we have representation from Mazeppa to Millville. While still in its infancy, this board has the opportunity to be a major force in the valley over the course of the next several years.

We also have many committee and boards in town that needs involvement from the community too. Our 'Zumbro Falls Christmas', Ripplin River, and Green Space committees; our Park and Zoning boards, and our Fire Department needs new members. In a small town, everyone needs to contribute for our town to thrive, please see the Mayor or a Councilperson for details.

Sincerely,

Allen Christenson