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STATE SENATE

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Photo by Samantha Strong

Selfie photos from senior citizens are displayed on the board at the Oshkosh Seniors Center.

Nonprofits see financial, priority shift

Oshkosh Herald

A recent survey of local nonprofit organizations reveals some of the struggles that the ongoing pandemic is causing these groups while trying to remain sustainable as revenues shrink and expenses still need to be met.

Findings from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation's Pandemic Recovery Nonprofit Survey explored what it will take for nonprofit agencies to recover, some of the lasting changes expected in their operations, and areas where innovation can help them evolve.

Amy Putzer, director of programs at the Community Foundation, said the comments provided a sobering snapshot of the impact of social distancing and Safer at Home orders. She said more than four out of five nonprofits reported some degree of decreased fundraising or revenue, leaving the health of many groups in jeopardy.

"Two frequently recurring words dominated the survey comments: technology and fundraising," Putzer said in an overview of the survey. "Nonprofit organizations are working hard to shift to a new virtual landscape for service delivery, fundraising and remote work."

One nonprofit leader shared, "Special events made up nearly 40 percent of our annual operating budget. Until we are able to gather again in groups (and folks are comfortable doing so) and the economic climate is more stable, we will continue to struggle to bring in the required dollars to fund our general operations."

The Day By Day Warming Shelter's executive director said the pandemic hit while the organization was in its off-season but still impacted its main fundraising event that had to go virtual. Molly Yatso Butz said Mile of Style went forward with an online format but with no expectation it would

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Isolated elderly need connections

Technology tools offer one solution

By Samantha Strong
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Isolation is a social issue that multiple groups in the city of Oshkosh are working to combat, as it can have long-term, devastating mental and physical health impacts. Some of those effects include depression, anxiety, thoughts of suicide, heart disease, loss of muscle tone and memory loss.

About the series: Page 2 According to the National Institutes of Health, social isolation can be defined as the lack of social interactions, contacts and relationships with friends, family, neighbors and society at large on a broader level. Anyone can suf-



Part 1 of a series

fer from isolation and its effects, but some argue seniors are the most vulnerable as they typically lack the resources, abilities and knowledge of technology that younger groups have grown up with.

Though research for this series was started before the coronavirus took hold, the fallout of the virus has only exacerbated the issue of isolation among Oshkosh seniors and brought it to the forefront of conversations on the mental and physical health of the growing senior community.

SEE **Isolation** ON PAGE 19

City's namesake clothing maker started 125 years ago

By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

OshKosh B'gosh is marking 125 years in business this year, making its debut in 1895 as Grove Manufacturing before the work clothing maker grew nationally into one of the city's largest employers.

While it's no longer the local manufacturer of its 20th-century heydays known for its "Genuine Article" bib overalls, the Carter's subsidiary has maintained community ties, as has its former family ownership.

The Wyman and Hyde families led the company's growth nationally and its community leadership locally for decades. Bill Wyman credits his father, Tom, and uncle Charles Fritz Hyde with teaching him and his cousin Doug Hyde the family business



Photo from historicOshkosh.com

The OshKosh B'gosh factory is seen with employees outside during the early 1900s.

they later helped lead into its next generation.

"The company was very sensitive about giving back to the community because for 100 and some years OshKosh B'Gosh

was in Oshkosh," Bill Wyman said, "and without the community we wouldn't have been as successful both with its names and even more so all the employees."

The company and some of its past employees maintain that gratitude through an Oshkosh Area Community Foundation fund that supports children's programs. The community awareness that was part of the company's culture led to Wyman's connection to the foundation, first as a board member for a decade and now as its president and chief executive.

Former executives and employees here fondly recall their time with the company and the pride that national recognition brought to its union-made products.

SEE **OshKosh B'gosh** ON PAGE 18



Courtesy of Oshkosh Public Museum

Lorraine Meyer Diener sits at a sewing machine to work on a garment in this photo from 1945.

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Isolation issues just got more real

Last summer, Anne Schaefer of the Oshkosh Seniors Center contacted us regarding partnering on a series of articles to raise awareness of the effects on seniors being isolated and how technology can help connect them.

At the time she was working on pulling together community partners to be part of a grant application through the Helen Daniels Bader Fund to deal with social isolation among older rural adults using technology.

The Oshkosh Seniors Center already had experience with a similar program in which it worked with students of the Oshkosh North Communities program on helping seniors access and use e-readers, smartphones and other technology.

The grant application was successful, planning began – and then COVID hit.

The pandemic has affected all of us in different ways and you've most likely



Karen Schneider
Herald publisher

heard family members share the effect they believe the forced separation of seniors from friends and families had not only on their loved one's mental health, but also physically.

Empathizing with the loneliness that COVID forced on people, we celebrated when local facilities created outside areas for family members to be able to gather with their loved ones – even if through a plastic safety shield.

A six-part series on Seniors in Isolation begins in today's Oshkosh Herald. Samantha Strong, Herald contributor and author of last year's Women in

Poverty series, provides a real look at the increased impact the pandemic added to the already growing issue of older adults not feeling connected due to health and transportation barriers.

The Seniors Center is developing a Connecting through Tech program with classes specifically designed for older adults to master technology resources to connect seniors with family, friends and experiences.

Other partners in this endeavor include Oshkosh Media, Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods, the Winnebago County Aging and Disability Resource Center, and area schools.

This is a real issue with or without a pandemic. Our hope is this series increases awareness of the effects of isolation and enables residents to connect with the tools available to zoom in and reconnect our community.

Lakeside Plastics nominated for 'Coolest Thing'

Lakeside Plastics' ever-present traffic cone is in the running for the "Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin" program sponsored by the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce organization.

First-round voting opened this week and runs until Sunday. To pick from the nominee list for the Top 16, go to madeinwis.com.

The Oshkosh manufacturer is a third-generation, family-owned company established in 1972 that produces products for traffic safety, screen printing inks and custom plastisol formulations. It is the



Submitted photo

Most of the traffic cones found nationwide are made by Lakeside Plastics.

largest cone manufacturer in North America, moving into a 35,000 square foot facility in 2016 after partnering with PS&I in Waukesha in 2004 to form Lakeside Polymer Services across multiple states, according to their website.

Voting for the "Coolest Thing" contest resumes Sept. 22 to narrow the candidates down to eight, then to four between Sept. 29 and Oct. 4 before the winner is ultimately chosen Oct. 14.

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Isolation

FROM PAGE 1

The Oshkosh Seniors Center, along with other community organizations such as the Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods group and Winnebago County ADRC, is working to better understand the problems seniors face and help them connect with others through devices such as smartphones, tablets and Internet calling.

Initially, the Seniors Center planned to roll out Connect through Tech in June, but the impacts of COVID-19 delayed the project, as well as many other city safety initiatives that were on the docket.

The Seniors Center applied for and received grant funding in late 2019 to purchase and use new technology it will use to teach its visitors to continue to have conversations and spend time, virtually, with friends and family while self-isolating to stay healthy during the coronavirus.

“We’re excited to be able to facilitate those meaningful connections our seniors are desperately missing right now,” Anne Schaefer with the Oshkosh Seniors Center said. “Through our research, we have some really good insight as to the challenges of truly being isolated and specifically these days, the best tactics to stay socially connected are hooked to technology.”

Although the Connect through Tech program’s goals and programs have been modified since COVID-19, the Seniors Center is still using the grant to help older adults use technology to connect with others in the Oshkosh community and their loved ones.

Humans are inherently social creatures, and social isolation and loneliness can have a lasting effect on a person’s well-being, according to the National Institute on Aging (NIA). The older we get, the more isolated we become due to a wide variety of personal, physical and mental health factors such as limited mobility, memory loss and cognitive decline.

According to the AARP Foundation’s Framework for Isolation in Adults Over 50 Study, isolation for those ages 50 and older is typically caused by:

- Living alone.
- Mobility or sensory impairment.
- Major life change (social network, social role, physical health or mental health).
- Socioeconomic status.
- Language.
- Location.
- Psychological, cognitive vulnerabilities.
- Membership in a vulnerable group.

In 2019, the NIA found that 28 percent of older adults in the U.S. — 13.8 million people — live alone, but noted that doesn’t always mean they feel lonely, and vice versa. In Winnebago County, one in

five adults are not getting the social and emotional support they need, according to a study conducted by the county’s Health Department.

The study also found households with only one adult are not getting the support they need. Single-person households make up 29.6 percent of Winnebago County homes, and 12 percent of those people are 65 and older.

Stephanie Gyldenvand, Winnebago County Health Department community health strategist, said there are three additional factors that typically contribute to people not getting the support they need: having a sense of strong relationships in their lives, such as neighbors, co-workers, family and friends; contributions to the community; and that they are offering something they find meaningful — not necessarily what a neighbor finds value in.

“Those are the three pieces and with a lot of older adults, especially those who don’t have access to technology, they’re physically and virtually removed from the community, which is what makes someone feel like they belong,” Gyldenvand said. “When you’re sitting by yourself, there is no way to help or contribute to helping another person.”

“When COVID hit, we knew we already had a ton of isolated seniors and we knew we needed a way to reach out to them because this has been an issue for a long time,” said Stephanie Carlin, community outreach coordinator at Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods. She has been doing extensive research on how to reach isolated seniors in the community, including direct contact to find out needs. Carlin is also helping lead the Connect through Tech programming.

“As people get older, they don’t want to be a burden,” Carlin said. “Seniors are mostly likely to be isolated because, as we age, we naturally can’t do the things we used to do, like driving. When you take away transportation you rely on the bus system, but we all know they need more help.”

In addition to interacting face-to-face, Carlin mentioned that many seniors will come to the center to use the Internet because they don’t have access at home.

“Can you imagine living through COVID with no technology, all you have is a flip phone and you can’t figure out how to check your voicemail? It’s devastating,” Carlin said.

Although not all seniors struggle to use technology, Schaefer said it is one of the biggest barriers they are facing during the pandemic.

“If we become a more age-friendly community because of this, I’ll be thrilled,” Schaefer said. “We’re all going to be there someday and there are a lot of economic factors at play. If our community is friendly to older people, everyone benefits.”



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Monday, September 28, 2020



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Photo by Michael Cooney

Within easy reach

Sam O'Connell makes some sweet choices during his family's apple-picking visit to Rasmussen's Apple Acres on State 21, one of the area orchards bursting in fruit for the next month. He and his mother, Abby Tritt, and sister Ida Mae from Black Wolf were choosing between Cortland and McIntosh.

Virus case rise stirs new review

Public officials look at restriction updates

By Miles Maguire
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Winnebago County Health Department warned last week of "significant uncontrolled spread" of COVID-19 and urged municipal bodies "to pass ordinances to require masking, limit gatherings and limit occupancy in bars and restaurants."

For the third day in a row, the department early Thursday reported a record number of positive cases, 149. This compares with 94 new cases reported Monday, 111 on Friday and 86 last Wednesday.

The state also set a record Thursday, with 2,034 new cases, according to the Department of Health Services.

The Oshkosh Common Council was considering a mask ordinance at this Tuesday's meeting, according to City Manager Mark Rohloff. The venue has been changed to the Convention Center to accommodate an expected large crowd.

Given the composition of the council, passage of a mask ordinance is probably a "done deal," said John Casper, president of the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce. He said the local business community is taking the situation seriously and working to keep employees and customers safe.

The chamber's executive committee met Friday to discuss the situation, Casper said.

SEE **Virus spread** ON PAGE 10

Isolation amplified during Safer at Home orders

By Samantha Strong
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

While the impacts of COVID-19 have been felt by everyone in the Oshkosh community, one of the groups affected most has been seniors — partly due to its potential direct effects but also indirect effects.

Self-isolation has played a role in fighting COVID-19 as Wisconsinites were under the Safer at Home order March 25 through May 13 by helping slow the rate of infection, with orders still in place to

maintain social distancing. Unessential travel and activities were halted, but that also left many seniors in their homes — alone — for an extended amount of time. Those who had difficulties with technology were especially affected.

Because seniors are such a vulnerable population to the coronavirus, assisted living centers in Oshkosh implemented extra safety measures to protect their residents, as this virus is notorious for spreading easily and quickly.

At Miravida Living's Bethel Home, one



Part 2 of a series

of Oshkosh's retirement communities, 225 N. Eagle St., typically houses 105 residents. During the pandemic, center administrator Dave Merkley said residency dipped with fewer admissions from the

hospital. A majority of seniors are coming there after a hospital visit due to illness, disease or a fall. He said fewer hospital admissions lead to fewer referrals to the center.

"The hospital staff said people aren't going in because they're scared to get help because they don't want to get COVID," Merkley said. "So they're coming in later and later, which sometimes leads to other diseases or sickness progressing."

SEE **Isolation** ON PAGE 15

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Isolation

FROM PAGE 1

Early on, only one patient with COVID-19 was admitted to Miravida early in the disease's manifestation in Wisconsin, but Merkley said that patient contracted the virus before arriving. Over the duration of the pandemic, these numbers increased to 19 people infected, and two deaths, in May.

Aside from the usual increase in cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting of surfaces, wearing masks and social distancing, Miravida implemented a no-visitor-or-pet policy. In addition, the center restricted its staff from having any outside jobs. To ease any financial instability, staff members were given a choice to work their other job or to pick up more hours at Miravida to make up the difference.

"We've tried to take away the financial insecurity so they can keep their focus on the elders," Merkley said.

While all of these changes had an impact on the seniors in the center, the one with the biggest impact was to social activities such as dining and bingo. The layouts of communal dining areas were changed to maintain social distancing, and bingo is now played in the hallway with seniors spread out 6 feet apart.

Miravida also has a nondenominational chapel program to serve in a support capacity. Additional activities were added, Merkley said, and the center's staff works hard bringing the activities to the seniors so they can stay safe.

"The worry we have, though, is the people who have decided that rather than eat in our social distancing space to dine in their room, and then they stay and never come back to the dining room when it opens back up," he said.

This is concerning to Merkley and others because a lack of social stimulation and isolation has been clearly linked to depression and cognitive decline.

"It's very much on our radar, and I've seen people who self-isolate, so we make sure to try to engage them as much as possible," Merkley said. "It's the seniors at home alone I'm most concerned for, though, because a lot of times when they come here, they really blossom."

Technology has proven to have a big impact on staff and residents of Miravida during the pandemic by providing an alternative way for residents to get health care and social interaction from family. Many of the residents use telehealth services to get physical care from qualified professionals, and the center purchased iPads that residents can use to communicate with loved ones. If an individual is unsure or unaware of how to use the technology, staff mem-



Photos from Joel Rasmussen

Donna Rasmussen is shown in February and later in June, by which time she had been experiencing deteriorating health during isolation while living with dementia before her death June 18.

bers are easily available to assist — something not all seniors have in place.

One segment of the population that faces difficulties using technology and relies on human-to-human contact are those with dementia. Winnebago County Board supervisor Joel Rasmussen experienced this personally with his 90-year-old mother who was living at Bethel Home, one of Miravida Living's facilities, at the time of her death.

Rasmussen said his mother, Donna, was in a special part of Bethel that focused on memory care due to her dementia, so she was not included in the general population of the center — already adding an isolating component to her day.

Rasmussen said his mother was fairly active up until restrictions were put in place that families were not allowed to visit.

"She had her family here, my sister and I, and that's all she had in her life," Rasmussen said. "All of a sudden with the COVID shutdown her family wasn't there anymore, and everyone had masks on, and no one could explain to her what was going on."

Even with technology such as FaceTime or email, Rasmussen said his mother wouldn't have been able to understand.

"We watched my mother in three months go from vibrant to withering away," he said. "She died of isolation from COVID."

Toward the end of Donna's life, the family was able to see her through a glass door. After that day, Rasmussen said, she didn't get out of bed again. A few days later, the

family was finally able to be with her for her last moments of life, able to touch her and hold her hand. Donna passed away June 18.

Rasmussen said he and his family were not required to wear masks during their final visits with Donna, which he said was a good thing because she wouldn't have been able to recognize her family otherwise. No one has since experienced any symptoms of COVID-19.

Her cause of death was initially listed as respiratory failure due to pneumonia and possible coronavirus, but after requesting another autopsy be done by the coroner's office, it was changed to vascular dementia due to small vessel cerebrovascular

disease. She never had any symptoms of COVID-19, according to Rasmussen.

"They don't need to look at someone through a piece of plastic," Rasmussen said. "They need to touch you."

He said the situation speaks to the broader issue of isolating seniors.

"The way the world is going, we're losing human contact," Rasmussen said. "Just pick up the phone and talk to somebody. The way we look at this is the (no visitor) policy killed our mother so the person in the next room might not get the flu."

Isolation in real time

Not all seniors in Oshkosh live in a retirement community, and there are plenty who live alone or with other family members. Those fortunate enough to have a support system before Safer at Home orders were able to maintain personal connection.

Patty Shea and her mother, Grace Martel, were able to shelter in place together with Patty's husband, Dan, at the couple's Oshkosh home. Even though the three were together, the required isolation hit Martel particularly hard, Shea said.

"I can definitely tell she misses her routine," Shea said. "She's used to going and exercising, seeing her friends or even just the people she would bump into when she exercises. I've also noticed she's stopped doing some of the things she would normally do, like coloring."

Martel lived with the Sheas for 16 years before the Safer at Home order, which allowed Patty to notice when Martel started to change behaviors such as becoming more withdrawn and anxious. Martel's daily routine had involved a lot of interaction with others, especially at the Oshkosh Seniors Center. Martel would visit Monday

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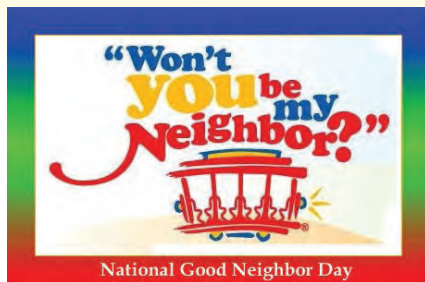
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- Invite your neighbors to your home for a meal.
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Facilities

FROM PAGE 15

through Friday to exercise and see friends.

“This break in the routine is so traumatic for (seniors),” Shea said. “Her biggest fear is going anywhere by herself. She can’t hear very well and her eyesight isn’t the greatest, so it’s those vulnerabilities we take for granted even during COVID.”

Shea said another change the family had to make was limiting TV time because the constant influx of news seemed to make Martel nervous.

“I would just try to reassure her she’s in a safe place, but it’s something that we forget — how vulnerable our seniors feel,” Shea said.

During the Safer at Home order, Shea said one of the things that always perked Martel up was receiving phone calls and letters from friends. Shea also said the time at home with her mother made Shea become more cognizant of the time they were spending together.

“I learned I need to be more frequently stopping my world for a moment of time throughout the day to check in and spend time with my mom,” Shea said. “We see each other every day, but that doesn’t mean we’re spending time together.”

A community alone together

The Oshkosh Seniors Center typically sees 200 to 300 people daily between the two buildings. It was closed from April through July, with limited capacity in August. Center director Anne Schaeffer said she worries for those seniors who didn’t have the ability to remain connected to others during that time, as the center is often the main source of socialization for

those who live alone.

“What we’re hearing is most people don’t want to be a burden to family or friends, and many aren’t reaching out for fear of losing their independence,” Schaeffer said. “Luckily, we’re mostly hearing that people’s basic needs are being met. But we’re also hearing the isolation is difficult and that it’s really hard for some to have their routines change.”

Schaeffer said a lot of the center’s guests visit regularly to attend programming, socialize with others and receive health and wellness care. Many seniors are wary about coming back, though, because they have underlying health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable, she said.

The lack of in-person guests is forcing the center to look at the future of its programming and how to bring seniors together virtually in spite of challenges such as money, technology and time.

The center moved some of its events online using video chat programs like Zoom — Knitting with Friends, Book Club and Mah Jongg — but Schaeffer said this isn’t the cure-all as some seniors have had trouble figuring out the technology.

In addition to virtual programming, staff are working on initiatives to try to keep spirits high and maintain those much-needed social connections.

“We’ve had our volunteers place a lot of phone calls to our seniors, and we’ve been trying to buddy them up with another senior who will touch base with them a couple of times a week,” Schaeffer said. “It’s hard to do though when we can’t physically meet. We’re hoping this fall we’re able to hold very small groups where social distancing can be maintained.”

This article is the second in a series exploring the issue of Oshkosh seniors in isolation, why it’s a problem and how the community can help. Prior week’s stories are available at oshkoshherald.com.

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Police funding holds steady

City, county budgets stay below average

By Miles Maguire
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Amid national and local calls to defund the police, both the Oshkosh Common Council and Winnebago County Board of Supervisors are starting to turn their

attention to law enforcement budgets for next year.

But even while acknowledging the need to reckon with racial disparities in the community, local officials show little enthusiasm for cutting the amount of money spent on police.

Bill Wingren, chairman of the county's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, said he saw "no problem" with the 2021 budget proposed by Sheriff John Matz.

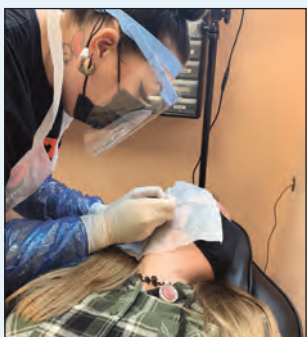
"It's a very large budget, obviously."

For next year Matz is asking for \$21.7 million, up slightly from the \$21.6 million that was approved for 2020. Because it includes more than \$11 million to run the jail, the county's law enforcement budget is significantly larger than the city's.

Oshkosh police spending, at \$14.1 million, represents the largest single expense

SEE **Police budgets** ON PAGE 19

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Steady pace
Tattoo parlors stick with safe approach
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On the ballot
Referendums, races ready for decisions
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Prep sports
Lourdes volleyball team falls to Kaukauna
Page 20



Photo by Michael Cooney

Exploring the creeks

It was a perfect Saturday afternoon for brothers Danny and Chris Schierl to kayak on the channel creek that runs off Candlish Harbor into the Oshkosh Country Club grounds.

City, county officials work to combat isolation impacts

By Samantha Strong
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Social isolation affects the physical and mental health of an individual but can also create a lasting impact on a community, which is something Oshkosh and Winnebago County officials are working to combat.

Beth Roberts, Winnebago County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) director, said nearly 30 percent of Oshkosh seniors are socially isolated, which she defined as when someone spends 10 or more hours alone in a day.



Part 3 of a series

Wisconsin is ranked seventh in the U.S. in its rate of socially isolated seniors, and Roberts said there's been a "staggering" increase in these numbers due to COVID-19. Most commonly, someone begins to self-isolate because of a decrease

in mobility, cold weather or a loss of a relationship, she said.

Physical health

Isolation has been proven to lead to heart disease, decreased mobility and an increase in vulnerability to infectious illness. In turn, these physical effects can take a toll on city services and the Medicare system, Roberts said. With more older adults self-isolating, due to fear of the virus or other reasons, more are at risk of serious health problems.

"The 30 percent of seniors who are so-



Roberts

cially isolated is pre-COVID," Roberts said. "COVID has really exacerbated the situation because of the number of seniors who are considered more vulnerable."

Another health impact COVID has had on isolated seniors, according to Roberts, is through nutrition.

SEE **Isolation impact** ON PAGE 18

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Isolation impact

FROM PAGE 1

Some are afraid of going to the grocery store so instead order food. Being able to order groceries online and healthy food options has helped, but only for those who have the technology or knowledge to do so.

“You think about our community and eating; eating is such a social thing and our eating habits are very much based around our social life,” Roberts said. “So with people not having the social contact, it’s impacting their nutrition.” She said the effects of that isolation can begin to be noticed in as early as a month.

Falls and isolation

While conducting research for another initiative, the Oshkosh Fire Department found a correlation between isolation and falls, which make up a good portion of service calls in a given year. Fire Chief Mike Stanley said those in isolation can be more prone to falls due to the increased time spent at home.

“The effects of isolation can lead to a fall, I would say,” Stanley said in citing decreased muscle memory and strength, in addition to spending more time in unsafe home environments. “The longer someone is isolated, there are going to be health ramifications.”

The most common reason for a senior to fall is clutter around their house — rugs, piles of books, pets, throw pillows. Stanley has been working with other organizations in the county to increase education around fall prevention, but some of these initiatives have been put on hold due to COVID-19 precautions.

Stanley said Oshkosh Fire Department ambulances were assigned 897 hours for fall calls in 2019, which adds up to more

than 37 days.

Mental health

Isolation can also lead to depression, anxiety, dementia and substance abuse. Beth Clay, executive director at NEW Mental Health Connection, said COVID-19 created the “perfect storm” of increasing health risk factors and decreasing preventive measures for those in isolation.

“There’s a lack of access to regular preventative health care, social support and more,” Clay said. “It’s exacerbated something that was already a problem before this happened.”

Clay emphasized that while depression is not a normal part of aging, many older adults have depression or anxiety, which can and often leads to isolation.

“Losing friends and family is very common among older adults, which can lead to depression,” she said. “They start realizing they don’t have a lot of time left and may start to shut down and isolate themselves. After being isolated for a while, someone might develop social anxiety and not want to be around people, which can lead to further isolation, depression and other mental health impacts.”

Clay emphasized the importance of integrating mental and physical health, and though many mental illnesses are treatable, screening and diagnosis can be difficult because of the stigma still surrounding it.

“We have tons of access and capacity inside the mental health system of care,” Clay said. “The public perception is I can’t access it, but mental health providers are saying, ‘We’re here, open and ready to help.’”

Effects on a city

Isolation was on City Manager Mark Rohloff’s radar before COVID-19, but he said the pandemic has made it a more important issue. Oshkosh has a growing

senior population and a reputation of valuable resources, a strong seniors center and proximity to supplemental health services.

Rohloff said one of his goals is to keep residents living independently and is proud of the services the city provides to enable people to do that much longer than they could otherwise.

“Our goal is to keep seniors independent and that has a greater societal value too, because the cost of serving somebody in a care facility is expensive,” he said. “It can potentially take away a lifetime of savings from an older adult.”

COVID-19 has created a cyclical problem because one of the components of older adults maintaining their independence is to have a healthy and active lifestyle, including social connections. With COVID, there are limited opportunities for seniors, a population vulnerable to the virus, to maintain their social and physical activity without the knowledge of and access to technology.

Rohloff is proud of the work the seniors

center is doing to help adults remain connected through technology and believes it’s a valuable part of the solution.

“We want to prevent (older adults) from going down that de-escalation that impacts quality of life,” he said. “Technology can help until we’re all able to be together again.”

The area’s senior population will continue to increase as the baby boomer generation is hitting its peak now and demand for services and care subsequently grow. Rohloff said the key to the city being able to sustain this type of activity — an increased reliance on technology — is to implement plans and resources now.

“It may not be your loved one today, but it will be in the future,” Rohloff said. “We need to get this infrastructure built so we can build and grow our senior population, and we need to keep them independent.”

This article is part of a series exploring the issue of Oshkosh seniors in isolation, why it’s a problem and how the community can help. Prior week’s stories are available at oshkoshherald.com.

United Way program grants awarded

The Oshkosh Area United Way has awarded 39 community programs with Community Investment grants funded by the annual OAUW community campaign serving residents in the area on mental health, childhood development and living wage impact areas.

Each impact area is overseen by a volunteer committee that reviews and interviews each program applying to ensure measurable outcomes and strong financials. More than 40 volunteers are involved in the grant process, giving about 1,000 hours of their time to the community.

Funding for next year went to these programs:

- Bridges, Skills Enhancement Program, Homeless Job Placement and Oshkosh Home Delivered Meals for ADVOCAP
- Mentor 2.0 and Youth Mentoring Programs for Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Back to School Fair, Radford Kids, Trees from Seeds Mental Health and Great Futures Start Here Mentoring for Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh
- BFI Driver’s Education Support Program for BreatheFree
- Empowerment Agency and Emergency Shelter for Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services

- Community Engagement and Respite for Covey Resource Coordination for Day by Day Warming Shelter
 - Home Visits for Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin
 - Financial Counseling for the Financial Information and Service Center
 - Connections to Success for Forward Services Corp.
 - Membership and Reaching Out for Girl Scouts of Northwestern Great Lakes
 - Eviction and Homelessness Prevention for Legal Action of Wisconsin
 - Making the Ride Happen for Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan
 - Kids Programming for Oshkosh Area Community Pantry
 - Member Scholarships for Oshkosh Community YMCA
 - OFD Mental Health Initiative for Oshkosh Area Fire Department
 - Kindergarten Plus for Oshkosh Area School District
 - Education, Counseling, Advocacy and Sexual Abuse Treatment Training for Reach Counseling
 - Robert Glass Focus on the Children Program for Tri-County Dental
 - VITA for University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
 - 2-1-1 and Be Well Fox Valley Food As Medicine for United Way Fox Cities
 - Road to Work for Winnebago Literacy Council
- For more information, contact oauw@oshkoshunitedway.org.

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Submitted photo
Betty is shown on FaceTime with Stephanie Carlin, Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods' outreach coordinator, as part of the Oshkosh Seniors Center's Connect through Tech program.

Clinic plan focuses on vulnerable

Water City Care Mission set to open

By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

A new clinic for uninsured and underinsured community residents found its home with the help and blessing of Most Blessed Sacrament parish.

Under an initiative called the Water City Care Mission, an Oct. 20 opening is planned for St. Anne's Medical Clinic in the congregation's school building next to Day By Day Warming Shelter. The charitable clinic will offer primary care, health promotion and disease prevention, chronic disease management, mental health care and weekly AA meetings.

While working to find a brick-and-mortar location for the clinic, the Water City Care Mission started offering online consultations in April as the pandemic hit and forced restrictions on all health care organizations.

Laurie A. Pollack, coordinator of pastoral outreach for Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, said nurse practitioner Brianna Klotz explored the possibility of using space there to open a clinic about a year ago.

"At that time we didn't have the means to utilize our space in a way that would work," Pollack said. "Brianna came to us again several months ago and this time we were able to work to accommodate her by moving some of our offices around."

Klotz, who had volunteered for 14 years with Father Carr's Place 2B in a similar role until earlier this year, said her church offered a space that opens up another health resource in the community that complements existing services for those lacking medical coverage.

She noted that Living Health Clinic, which had been on the UW Oshkosh campus until 2017, had been a comprehensive free clinic and its closing left some gaps in charitable care for the community, including the ability to schedule appointments.



Klotz

INSIDE



Refugee journey
Among studies program initiated
Page 4

Senior Spotlight
North runner Scherer stays ahead of pack
Page 18

Halfway house for offenders gets more city scrutiny

By Miles Maguire
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Oshkosh residents who have been struggling with the assignment of newly released prisoners to a poorly maintained duplex in their north-side neighborhood got a measure of satisfaction during a Common Council workshop last week.

The workshop was called at the request of the Midtown Neighborhood Association, which has documented a long list of complaints about the way the Department of Corrections runs a Transitional Living Program, known as a TLP, in the 1100 block of Jefferson Street.

Their concerns range from the proximity of the TLP to Merrill Middle School,

SEE **Halfway house** ON PAGE 22

Seniors upgrade their online people skills

Program revised as pandemic wears on

By Samantha Strong
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Oshkosh Seniors Center was awarded a \$150,000 grant by Bader Philanthropies in January to help older adults in the community learn to connect with others and use online services through the wide variety of technology available today that many are unfamiliar with how to use.

When notified that they'd been selected for the grant, Anne Schaefer of the Seniors Center, said she was "gobsmacked."

"I knew the amount of this grant was going to be transformational for the center," Schaefer said. "We'd never seen anything



Part 4 of a series

of this magnitude and we knew how much this would help get our future programming setup."

The Seniors Center has since purchased six iPads, a MacBook and various smart home devices such as lightbulbs and speakers to be kept at the center for training and use. The grant money was also used to restructure the center to create pods of furniture strategically placed to foster an envi-

SEE **Isolation** ON PAGE 16



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Julie Davids, Owner

Isolation

FROM PAGE 1

ronment of learning from each other.

The main portion of the grant will go toward leading the actual programming of Connect through Tech, which is a series of one-on-one appointments and classes aimed to help seniors learn to use technology to enhance their quality of life. While the implementation of the program has changed dramatically from initial plans due to the pandemic, the overall goal of getting seniors connected has not. Many argue it has become even more important.

The first large-scale technology-related program the center hosted was called Senior Connects. It was started with help from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation's Women's Fund after the foundation's isolation booth event in 2014. The foundation set up clear panels where individuals would stay for a set amount of time and others would walk past, seeing the isolated person in real time, and could offer words of support and encouragement.

Karlene Grabner, Oshkosh Area Community Foundation director of donor services and executive director of the Women's Fund, said she's proud to have worked on a project that is still impactful this many years later. When the foundation started to explore tackling the issue of isolation in Oshkosh, Grabner said she was shocked just how often the issue of isolation came up and how many people it affects in the community.

"There were elderly women in each group, over and over, saying how they had so many feelings of isolation," Grabner said. "They would tell us nobody's physically touched me in six to nine months. That's just devastating and really has an

impact on someone."

Grabner said the grant couldn't have come at a better time.

"If isolation was an issue before, it's only going to be exacerbated now," she said. "It's the shadow pandemic. We need to keep talking about isolation and try to keep it in front of people."

After the isolation booth, Senior Connects was started as a way to bridge the gap between younger and older generations while teaching skills in technology. Junior and senior North High students visited with older adults at the center and would, twice a week for eight weeks, teach seniors everything they wanted to know about technology and electronic devices — from sending an email to starting a video call.

Before COVID-19, the Seniors Center had a pretty good idea of what it wanted to accomplish with the Connect through Tech program and how it wanted to accomplish those goals. However, after the virus began to spread and businesses were shut down, Schaefer said she knew from that point on everything was going to be different.

Stephanie Carlin, who primarily works with Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods, joined the Connect through Tech team to help Schaefer reach out to seniors in the community and let them know of the available services. Carlin is also now helping train visitors at the center on how to use their personal devices.

"Initially, we envisioned the program to be a series of classes of 20 people or so, and we would go through things like how to use Zoom and how to FaceTime," Schaefer said. "But when COVID hit, we had to drastically change courses."

Due to social distancing requirements and safety precautions, Schaefer and Carlin — wearing masks and social distancing — started to hold group appointments in August of two to three people

to help with setting up their devices. Through these meetings, it came to light many of the people Schaefer and Carlin were seeing had little understanding of how their devices worked or were apprehensive to use them.

"Almost everyone we've seen so far has been running into startup issues," Schaefer said. "Each device has its quirks and takes us a fair amount of time to work through everything, but once we do that, learning how to use Zoom will be a piece of cake."

The center is still holding one-on-one appointments for those interested. Instructors will show how to buy, set up and install a laptop or smartphone, use video call technology, and order services and products online.

After Carlin and Schaefer meet with more seniors for the workshop to get everyone set up with Zoom, FaceTime, etc., the duo will begin teaching more formal classes on how to use the technology.

The first topic-specific class in October will cover voice-activated technology, such as Alexa, Google or Siri, and what it can be used for. Schaefer said programming may also be expanded if these classes go well.

"It's exciting because we can teach people to use this technology for health and safety reasons, too," Schaefer said. "If they need to get up in the middle of the night, they can just say, 'Alexa, turn on the light' rather than stumbling around in the dark. There are also smart devices that alert family members if someone falls. Knowing what's available and how to use these types of technology can be life changing for the senior and their family."

Besides connecting with others, although that is the main component of fighting isolation, many physicians and hospitals are moving to tele-health services, which consist of a virtual video call to assess and discuss health. Additionally, online ordering of groceries, toiletries and other necessities for delivery or pickup is beneficial to those who do not want to go out in public due to the pandemic. Many churches are also holding services virtually through GoToMeeting and Webex, which can both be explained in one-on-one appointments.

"We want people to understand: When you come here, you won't be judged," Carlin said.

"Everyone is at their own starting point and we want to share with them things that could benefit and improve their quality of life, to make them happier and joyful, to connect with their families," Schaefer added.

There are more and more seniors looking for tech advice, which means more potential for scams. With technology becoming a necessity to remain socially connected through the pandemic, it's not something that can be ignored, Carlin

said. Schaefer and Carlin said they've already seen attempted fraud and scamming of their attendees, even before the program officially started.

"It shouldn't be this difficult to connect with a loved one," Carlin said.

Through pricing out devices for the Connect through Tech program, Schaefer said she experienced a level of difficulty getting a straightforward price for a device with simple features from just about every retailer in the area. Another part of the Connect through Tech program is the helping older adults not fall prey to being upsold items they don't need.

"We'll actually go with them to Best Buy or Verizon, or wherever, because a lot of times they're taken advantage of," Carlin said. "The salespeople are either annoyed with all the questions and want to get them a quick solution so they'll leave, or they see an opportunity to sell them what they don't need to make more money."

The Oshkosh Seniors Center's proposal was selected by Bader Philanthropies, a private foundation in Milwaukee, as one of five ideas it will fund to help improve quality of life for the community's aging population. There were 14 submissions total, according to Bader Philanthropies' senior program officer Helen Ramon.

Ramon said what set the Oshkosh Seniors Center's proposal apart from the others was the fully developed plan to include adults ages 55 to 90.

"Oshkosh has a thriving senior center and they're gearing toward making it even more user-friendly by redesigning it to accommodate more older adults," Ramon said. "Social isolation has been an issue for older adults for a really long time and it's been a nightmare during COVID."

Ramon said her hope for the program is that it will enhance what the center is doing and allow older adults to interact more with others.

"It's time to end the fear or uneasiness around technology," she said. "It isn't going away and it's hard to keep up, so we're excited about this program because there's a lot of one-on-one training."

"We don't have to create awareness for isolation anymore — the empathy is already there," Schaefer said. "With COVID and the lockdown, everyone knows what it's like to feel lonely. We remember it. Now it's about connecting people."

To register for a personal appointment or class, call 920-232-5300 or go to www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/seniorservices. Attendees are welcome to bring their own devices so they can learn to better use them or use the center's iPads and computers it purchased with the grant money.

This article is part of a series exploring the issue of Oshkosh seniors in isolation, why it's a problem and how the community can help. Prior week's stories are available at oshkoshherald.com.



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Unified virus response backed

Government, business interests discuss issues

By Jack Tierney
OSHKOSH HERALD

As hospitals begin to reach maximum capacities, city stakeholders agreed to endorse a unified message to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, saying there has been too much misguided communi-

cation from too many people, resulting in the Oshkosh-Neenah area being the second most contagious area in the country based on positive case rates the past two weeks.

City Manager Mark Rohloff negotiated the endorsement idea and received buy-in from business, health and city representatives at a three-hour meeting called by first-year council member Michael Ford. Ford and council colleague Debra Allison-Aasby will begin drafting the message

Inside

Hospitals near capacity/ **Page 3**

after a recommendation from council member Matt Mugerauer.

Chamber of Commerce president John Casper and Tavern League president Pat Purtell agreed to endorse the message. University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Chan-

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Outside route
Biking trail group keys on Wiouwash
Page 6

Connections
Catch-A-Ride grows with its volunteers
Page 4

Extra stress
Mental health concerns escalate
Page 8



Photo by Michael Cooney

Early on the water

Duck hunters head out to their blind at sunrise Saturday on Lake Winnebago. The first part of the season for the state's south zone that includes this area ended Sunday and resumes Saturday through Dec. 6.

Seniors face added isolation amid pandemic

Routines for some elderly become undone

By Samantha Strong
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

It's almost impossible to discuss seniors in isolation without the shadow of COVID-19 looming over the issue. The pandemic changed everything. Not only is isolation still a serious health issue, but the heightened safety precautions prove an additional challenge when preventing isolation for seniors in the Oshkosh com-



Part 5 of a series

munity.

Before the global pandemic, Betty Messner, 88, didn't consider herself isolated since she had a regular routine that included friends and family, but since the threat of the virus became more serious, Messner said she has felt lonelier than ever

before.

"I have been able to visit with my children," Messner said, "but I miss the physical hugs. That's a major part of the isolation that I've felt."

Messner's typical week before COVID-19 consisted of breakfast with friends twice a week, movies and game nights. She had a couple of common interest activities including a recreational vehicle group and book club. Now, Messner said she often loses track of which day of the week it is.

"The nights are the hardest," Messner said. "I'm still active and can be outside,

but from 4 p.m. on it gets pretty lonesome. You lose track of the days now that everything's cut off."

She said at the beginning of the Safer at Home order there was a stretch of time where she wore the same clothes for three days.

"I got out of bed and thought: That's not a good thing," Messner said. "Those are the things I think are really easy to bypass and get in a rut, and eventually depressed."

Messner said she really didn't realize how much isolation was affecting her until

SEE **Isolation** ON PAGE 17

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Thomas Rowland, treasurer

Isolation

FROM PAGE 1

she had a change in her day and was going to ride in the car with her daughter to Milwaukee.

“That morning, I jumped out of bed, got ready and realized I was excited because I had something to do that day,” Messner said.

Aside from going to the grocery store and waving to her neighbors, Messner said she rarely leaves the house.

Messner has been living alone for almost six years, so she said she’s somewhat used to being by herself. But the pandemic’s social fallout has exacerbated her loneliness and she’s especially concerned for those seniors who don’t have a support system or knowledge of available technology.

Messner had been an Oshkosh resident since 1955 when she moved here with her husband, Robert. He taught orchestra in the Oshkosh Area School District and after the couple’s four children were in school, she went to work part time for an accounting firm. Both retired in 1989.

The couple had four children — Karen, Cynthia, Gail and Leann — seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

After Robert passed away in 2014 after fighting Parkinson’s disease for six years, Messner moved into a condo where she is still living today. She said she thinks about

moving into an assisted living center once in a while for the community component but has no intention of moving until she cannot take care of her home anymore.

“There’s never been any pressure from my kids, but now that I’m alone I have to admit I probably think about it for 30 seconds, but then I think, Why would I want to move? I’m comfortable where I’m at,” Messner said.

The family had always been active and after retirement, Betty and Robert did a lot of traveling in their RV. Messner no longer travels but still keeps in touch with some of their RV travel buddies.

Messner had experience with technology before COVID-19, which she recognized was an advantage and even allows her and her family some peace of mind. For example, she has an Apple watch she can use to alert her children or emergency services if she has an accident or needs help. She said if she was not connected to others through technology she’d likely be living with depression.

“People don’t realize how important friendship is,” Messner said. “I found that out when Robert passed away. I do think things will get better, but people who aren’t connected, I worry about them.”

This article is part five of a series exploring the issue of Oshkosh seniors in isolation, why it’s a problem and how the community can help. Prior week’s stories are available at oshkoshherald.com.



Submitted photo

Business boost

Nathan Kastein, business banker at Bank First, presents a check for \$5,000 to Dr. Jill Anderson of Dr. Jill’s Optical Shoppe in Oshkosh. Through a partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, Bank First applied for grants on behalf of seven regional businesses and organizations to support relief efforts for populations hardest hit by COVID-19 and promote equity and opportunity for communities of color.



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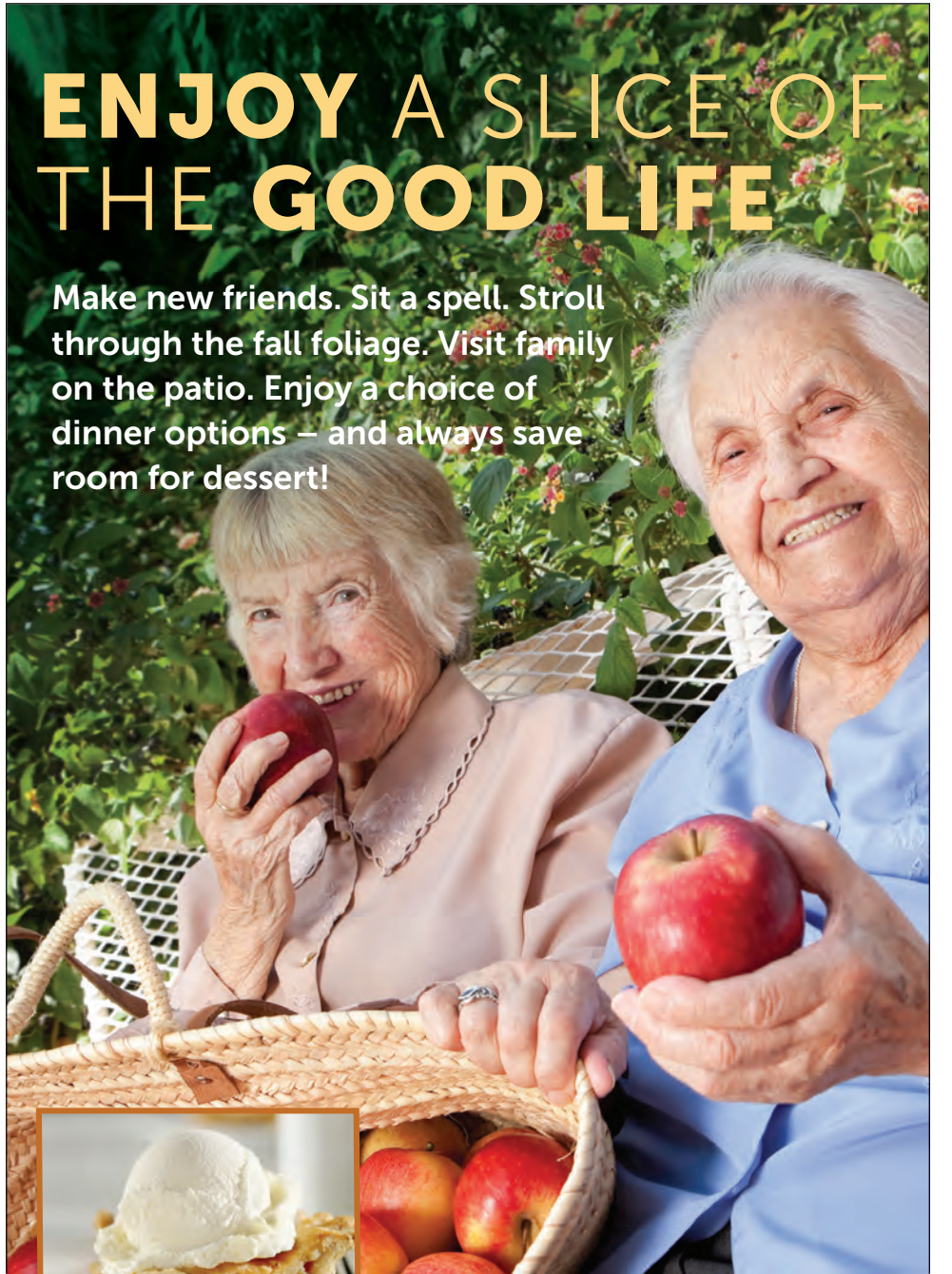
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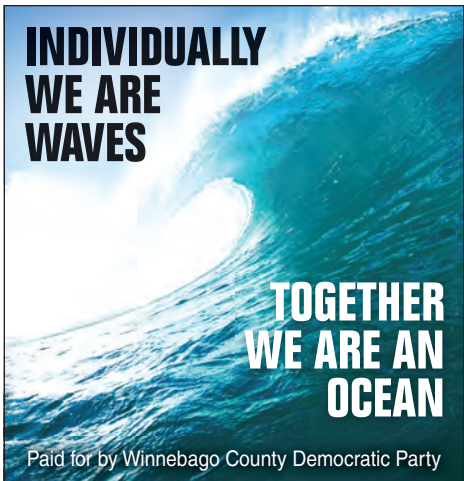
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Seniors Center looks forward

Programs geared beyond restrictions

By Samantha Strong
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

As Oshkosh residents continue to navigate living with and after the COVID-19 pandemic, life as many knew it has and will continue to change. It's going to take a lot of adaptation, flexibility, understanding and a hint of compassion for all of us to move forward together, and the Oshkosh Seniors Center is doing just that for one of the most vulnerable populations — seniors.

Less than a year ago, the Oshkosh Seniors Center had an idea of what its 2020 programming would look



Last of a series

like. It would include a lot of in-person training and workshops about what types of technologies are available today and how these technologies could benefit a senior's life. For example, using FaceTime to stay in touch with family, ordering groceries through Instacart, getting around in an Uber and more.

Little did Anne Schaefer and Jean Wollerman know that their programming would be crucial to the emotional and physical health of seniors in the Oshkosh

SEE **Isolation** ON PAGE 10



Photo from Oshkosh Seniors Center

A visitor to the Oshkosh Seniors Center communicates with his granddaughter recently through one of the center's online stations.

INSIDE



Spring football
North, West part
of 20-team conference
Page 20

Home base
Hmong center
dedicated downtown
Page 3

Local team was toast of pro basketball world

Oshkosh All-Stars were early Lakers foe

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Dick Naslund was among the millions of television viewers who watched LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers win the franchise's 17th world championship last week.

As James and Anthony Davis hoisted the coveted Larry O'Brien Trophy, the 95-year-old resident couldn't help but think about the Oshkosh All-Stars.

That's right, the Oshkosh All-Stars. And if that name doesn't resonate with you, then you are missing out on a big chunk of local history.

Like King James and Co., the All-Stars



Photo courtesy of Oshkosh Public Museum

Actress Martha Raye throws up a jump ball between the Chicago American Gears' George Mikan, who would go on to star for the Minneapolis Lakers, and Oshkosh All-Star Clint Wager for a promotional photo before a game April 3, 1946.

were once the best in the basketball business. One of their top opponents in their final years was none other than the Lakers — then based in Minneapolis and led by George Mikan, the game's first superstar.

All of this happened more than 80 years ago during the pre- and post years of World War II and before the actual birth of the NBA. Yes, there was professional basketball back then. It just wasn't called the NBA. The Oshkosh All-Stars and Minneapolis Lakers were prominent members of the country's most established pro basketball league: the National Basketball League.

The All-Stars were not just another

team in the NBL, which operated from 1937-1949. They were two-time league champions, winning titles in 1941 and 1942, and making the league playoffs in 11 of the league's 12 years.

"They (the Oshkosh All-Stars) were big-time — best in the country," Naslund said.

The All-Stars disbanded after the 1949 season when the NBL merged with its competitor, the Basketball Association of America (BAA), and formed the NBA.

"That was a great team," said Ken Parsons, another longtime resident who is closing in on his 88th birthday. "They had it all: good shooters, great coach and they were a good defensive team. We used to sit on a stage and watch the game on Friday and Saturday nights. The gym was always

SEE **All-Stars ball** ON PAGE 15



Naslund

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www.oshkoshherald.com.

We've been here before and prevailed

Every Thursday at 2 p.m. you can find our editor, Dan Roherty, and me on a Zoom call with Miravida Living's community services coordinator, Emily Schwartz, and a handful of their residents discussing the current week's issue and other community news.

This has been going on for a few months and our regulars — Ann, Holly and Elaine — have become family.

Each week we have discussed the Seniors in Isolation series, but last week it took on a more solemn tone as Ann shared that Betty's story felt much more personal. The women could relate to the feeling of not getting dressed or making their bed in the morning because they would not be having visitors — the feeling of not having anything to look forward to.

Ann shared how she can leave her apartment to go get mail or for a walk around the building and not pass one other human being. Not one. They reside with people all around them, but everyone is staying safe in the confines of their own home.

The look on Ann's face as she spoke was heartbreaking.

Voting, registration available at City Hall

Early voting started this week at City Hall, where residents also can come in to register to vote.

"We want those wishing to cast in-person absentee ballots to do so in as safe a manner as possible," said City Clerk Pam Ubrig. "Out of an abundance of caution, voters will be the only members of the public to be able to conduct business in City Hall."



Karen Schneider
Oshkosh Herald publisher

We later discussed how parents were instructed to keep their children away from crowds and not play with other children. That bathing suits weren't needed as public pools were closed, the movie theaters were shut, camps and schools closed, drinking fountains taped off and non-essential meetings canceled.

But this part of our discussion could have been from Beth Sokol's book "Fear of Polio in the 1950s," not our current epidemic.

We have a generation living in isolation now as they did as children. They were high risk as children and now they are high risk as seniors. People in the mid-1950s lived in fear of the unknown of how polio was contracted and frustration with the uncertainties as information changed as more was learned about the virus — like many of us are feeling today.

Community leaders have come out on both sides of the public health mandate to limit occupancy in businesses and enforce a mask mandate, but last week a message was shared from Kurt Bauer, president and chief executive of Manufacturers & Commerce; and John Casper, president and CEO of Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, who has been vocal against government limitations on the business community. Together they communicated this message Thursday to business owners:

"You are a business leader in this state, which means you are also a community leader. As such, I am asking you to remind your employees that it is critical to be careful and responsible at home, just as it is at work. This includes wearing a mask, social distancing and washing hands frequently.

"I know people are tired of this pandemic and want to resume normal activity. But that does not make COVID-19 go away. It is clearly still here and still very much a grave threat to public health, particularly for the elderly and people with pre-existing health conditions.

"Studies show that employees respect and, therefore, listen to their employers. So please, for the health of your employees, your community and our state, please consider sharing the following communication with your employees urging them to be safe by being diligent and resolute."

Just replace "business leader" with parent, teacher, coach or any title you hold dear and let us all work together to stop the spread of COVID. What you do matters.

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Hmong center dedication marks special goal

By Jack Tierney
OSHKOSH HERALD

For 36 years the Hmong Service Center Inc. organization grew its membership and board member representation. In 2016, Mee Yang became the first woman elected as president of the board.

It became her goal to give the Hmong center a home. For three years members looked for the perfect place. In November the center closed on a location at 726 N. Main St.

Yang said the Oshkosh Hmong center is the only one of its kind in Wisconsin to completely fund its facility through fundraising. She said every other Hmong organization in the state she could think of had major donors and wide government financial support.

"We had to work for every penny," she said, "and I'm very proud of the work I have done." During Yang's presentation on opening day, she gave a special notice to her van that hauled around the belongings of the organization for many years. She was happy to say that the van is still working.

Yang has dedicated more than 30 years to the organization — her most recent pursuit for the benefit of future generations. The center started in 1984 with a mission to assist Hmong refugees coming to the area with language and economic barriers. When Yang became president, she held firmly to the original values of the organization.

Today, as Hmong families are here for longer periods of time, the needs have changed, she said. Yang now looks to provide community resources, youth deviance prevention, education, scholarships,



Submitted photo

Hmong Service Center president Mee Yang (left) and Mayor Lori Palmeri dedicate the new center on North Main Street.

Hmong language classes and collaborating/networking events with other organizations in the community.

Reflecting on her experiences, Yang shared a special message for young female leaders.

"In the history of the organization, and in the tradition of the Hmong community, we have always had men for our leadership roles," she said. "I would like our young girls out there to know that women

in leadership roles is very, very important. I encourage anyone out there who wants to be a leader to get out into the community and help our brothers, husbands and men bring up this community into a more prosperous one."

Mayor Lori Palmeri, who was at the dedication event, said she hoped the center will be around for generations.

"I am honored that this location is in the heart of downtown Oshkosh," she said. "It

is improving spaces in our Main Street."

Yang gave special thanks to Michael Moore at AZ Home Improvements, the general contractor. Moore said he did some in-kind work to help the organization. Yang said Moore was knowledgeable and helped the organization financially when funds were limited.

For more information on the center, email oshkoshhmongservicecenter@gmail.com.

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Rental assistance program continues to bridge gaps

Oshkosh Herald

Financial help for renters impacted by the pandemic either through financial struggles or the chronic delay in state unemployment payments continues to be available from the regional ADVOCAP agency that is expected to continue through the rest of the year.

ADVOCAP's affordable housing director provided an update last week on the Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program (WRAP) to the city's Rental Housing Advisory Board. Lu Scheer reported that as of Oct. 7 more than \$658,000 was distributed to 396 households in Winnebago County.

She said from that date there was about \$120,000 left from what ADVOCAP received to distribute to Winnebago, Green and Fond du Lac counties, adding that Gov. Tony Evers had just announced an additional \$5 million statewide that will extend the WRAP program to Nov. 25.

Scheer said her agency would ask for up to \$250,000 more from that funding extension as they are going through between \$75,000 and \$100,000 weekly from the current fund to help tenants and landlords deal with housing costs. She estimated a likely deadline of Nov. 9 for getting on the wait list to allow ADVOCAP to catch up to paperwork on the 100-plus cases normally in the works.

"The wait list has been going very well but we're still getting consistent calls," Scheer said.

She said among the reasons tenants con-

tinue to need the help, which is capped at \$3,000 for a household, has been the months-long delay in receiving unemployment benefits.

The state Department of Workforce Development announced last week that it is making progress catching up and reported that 92 percent of the 7 million claims have been processed.

The WRAP program administered by ADVOCAP is in cooperation with landlords who agree to take part. The agency runs the program through its energy services funding.

There is a moratorium in place nationwide by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control that prevents evictions based solely on nonpayment of rent through the end of year, but certain criteria keep some renters vulnerable to eviction. Legal Action of Wisconsin offers free legal aid to tenants who are having troubles with payment agreements.

"We can pay December rent also," Scheer told the board, "so we feel that we're going to be able to help as many households as we can until the end of December, which is also the end of the eviction moratorium."

Homeowners in Winnebago County impacted financially by COVID-19 may qualify for assistance to pay their mortgage through a program initiated Sept. 1 by the Human Services Department or by working with separate programs offered by their mortgage holder.



Photo by Michael Cooney

Julie Gordon purchases a pumpkin at the Oshkosh Farmers Market earlier this month from Terry Schmoldt of KT Gardens. "We grow pumpkins for the enjoyment that they bring to our customers," Schmoldt said. "We don't grow your normal farm stand or grocery store pumpkin. We like to grow these large pumpkins to see the eyes of the little one's light up and give our customers bragging rights on their block."

Saturday market outdoor season nears conclusion

The Oshkosh Saturday Farmers Market winds down its unprecedented outdoor season with two more events before fall weather triggers its indoor version Nov. 14 at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

Organizers said they are working on procedures for the winter market and planned to release that information this week.

COVID-19 safety precautions continue to be coordinated with city officials as before its cautious spring start. Market manager Michelle Schmid-Schultz said protection of both vendors and customers

has become a model how to do a large outdoor public event with social distancing at the point of engagement with customers and regular surface sanitation, hand-washing stations and sanitizer in all booths.

"The market vendors have done such a wonderful job of vending during this pandemic and have gone over and above the requirements placed upon them to vend this summer," Schmid-Schultz said. "The market vendors are in full compliance with Governor Evers' mandate because the market is outdoors."

Gordon Hintz

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Oshkosh Area Community Foundation

This year, keeping young people on track academically means clearing a major hurdle – logging on to the virtual classroom.

Grants totaling \$23,900 helped the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh and Oshkosh Community YMCA quickly pivot when the Oshkosh Area School District announced its plan to start the school year with a hybrid virtual/in-person schedule.

Both the Club and YMCA have created learning pods where more than 300 students access computers, all while learning and playing at a safe distance from each other.

Being flexible to quickly meet evolving needs did come at a cost. The switch from before and after school care to all-day care increased program expenses for both organizations, mostly due to extended operating hours, smaller youth to staff ratios, and purchases of personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies.

The Oshkosh COVID-19 Relief Fund, established jointly by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and Oshkosh Area United Way, stepped up to provide grants to help with unanticipated staffing costs and much-needed Internet service upgrades.

Learning pods comprise 12 children and one staff at the Boys & Girls Club, and 15 children and two staff at the YMCA due to larger classroom sizes. Staff don't take the place of teachers but help keep children focused, field questions and anticipate challenges with virtual learning.

Kids stay in the same classroom for the entire day except for breaks in the gym-



Submitted photo

Young students are shown in morning meetings online with their school teachers recently at the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh.

nasium and outdoors. Breaks in online learning are also interspersed throughout the day for mindfulness activities, reading, art, yoga and more.

“We are doing everything we can to ensure that our kids learn and stay physically and mentally healthy,” said Tracy Ogden, chief operating officer of the Boys & Girls Club. “Stressful home environments can hinder learning so it’s important that we also continue to serve the entire family by helping them access needed resources like food and rent/utility assistance programs.”

Safety protocols in place include daily temperature readings, mandatory face coverings and frequent deep cleaning.

Since the start of the school year, only one learning pod at each organization has had to isolate at home for two weeks due to a COVID diagnosis.

“Parents have shared that their kids love being able to see their friends in this controlled setting. The entire community benefits when children have a safe place during the day and parents can maintain employment,” said Jeff Schneider, president of the Oshkosh YMCA.

In addition to considering a gift to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, residents are encouraged to continue to support the charities they care about that are struggling with diminished revenue. For more infor-

mation on how to donate to the fund, visit www.oshkoshunitedway.org/COVID19.



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Submitted photos

A renovated home in the Stevens Park neighborhood is shown after the work done by Greater Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods.

Home renovation complete for local GO-HNI

Oshkosh Herald

Greater Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods (GO-HNI) completed a full renovation at 83 Frankfort St. in the Stevens Park neighborhood. With the help of volunteers and community partners GO-HNI sold the renovated property to first-time home buyers from Neenah who said the property is “perfect” and that they had fallen in love with it after touring the north-side neighborhood.

“We can’t wait to plant our roots here,” they said.

Starting in February, GO-HNI had Frankfort Fridays once a month where volunteers cleaned and prepared the house for renovation. GO-HNI also purchased an adjacent lot for the house and built a two-car garage.

The project was listed in August and sold shortly after. The purchase, renovation and sale of the house marks the end of



The Stevens Park home before improvements.

a significant community-based project for GO-HNI, a public-private partnership that works to identify blighted properties and convert them into desirable places. GO-HNI thanked the John E. Kuenzl foundation and contractors for helping.

GO-HNI also provides the annual Rock the Block event, and grants for porch improvement, landscaping, stump removal or similar projects. Twenty projects were approved in seven neighborhood associations this year. Applications for 2021 grants begin May 15.

Health Department authority being put to full board vote

Oshkosh Herald

A proposed ordinance to define the powers of the Winnebago County Health Department to enforce public safety measures in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic was being considered by the County Board for a vote at this Tuesday’s meeting.

Health officer Doug Gieryn would be authorized to issue quarantine orders on businesses and individuals with the ability to issue fines under the ordinance advanced Thursday by the Board of Health, something originally proposed in June but revised to be advisory and more in line with existing state law. The County Board would review and approve any orders.

The Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce reiterated the business group’s opposition to Health Department authority and the revised ordinance draft.

“This newest proposed county ordinance should be alarming to all area businesses and county residents alike,” chamber president John Casper said in an email to members. “We believe that these items are too far reaching, too broad and provide too much authority and discretion.”

But Casper also pointed out the need of businesses to follow recommended guidelines to combat the spread of COVID-19 that is surging in the region at a rate higher than most anywhere else in the nation.

“You are a business leader in this state, which means you are also a community leader. As such, I am asking you to remind your employees that it is critical to be careful and responsible at home, just as it is at work,” he said in a Thursday email to members. “This includes wearing a mask, social distancing and washing hands frequently.”

Earlier this month the county issued a public health emergency alert as high levels of cases resulted in increased hospitalizations and deaths while limiting timely notification of positive cases and their close contacts. Local hospitals have enacted emergency plans to take on the

recent surge in cases requiring treatment and hospitalization.

During an Oct. 8 online town hall meeting sponsored by the chamber, County Executive Mark Harris said the lack of state legislative guidance has forced counties to come up with their own health code in regard to a pandemic that puts the responsibility on local governments without any enforcement powers.

“It’s become a politically difficult position. The state Legislature has indicated that they won’t take any action in regard to COVID, that they will rely entirely on the local health officers,” Harris said. “But 70 of the counties did not have language in their county codes that would allow for enforcement. As counties attempt to add it back to their code they are experiencing extreme resistance.”

Harris said the use of local enforcement power would be on a case-by-case basis such as where employees confirmed to have the virus continue to serve customers.

“I don’t think anybody wants to do a total lockdown again, but you might have ... an individual gathering place that has a real problem and you might want to do an order involving a particular business.”

A Sawyer County judge last week blocked Gov. Tony Evers’ attempt to put a 25 percent capacity cap on public gatherings at places like bars and restaurants that was challenged by the Tavern League of Wisconsin.

A Barron County judge on Monday reinstated the Evers’ administration’s order.

The city and county issued a joint statement after the ruling to encourage residents and businesses to continue following basic public health guidelines.

“The Oshkosh community cannot get caught up in the noise of arguments and what may or not may not be mandated by court decisions,” said City Manager Mark Rohloff. “We just need to stick with the basics: Wear masks, keep at least 6 feet apart from one another and avoid gatherings.”

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Biogas fuel generation university-backed effort

UW Oshkosh Communications

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh has partnered with Agra Energy Corp. to promote a new technology that converts biogas to fuel.

The renewable solution makes use of Agra Energy's gas-to-liquids technology that converts methane-rich biogas into fuels that meet diesel specifications.

"Agra Energy's partnership with UW Oshkosh supports our mission to implement renewable energy solutions that shift consumption away from fossil fuels," said Gary D. Simpson, founder and chairman of the Irvine, Calif.-based company.

A pilot unit is installed and connected to the UW Oshkosh-operated digester on Allen Farms in Oshkosh. A portion of the biogas produced from the dairy manure is used to create synthetic fuel products. Goals of the project include:

- Yielding results appropriate for commercial applications.

commercial applications.

- Producing fuel that meets diesel specifications.

- Evaluating operations, controls and safety to support commercial design and manufacturing.

- Creating academic research opportunities and student internship opportunities at Agra Energy labs.

"With a focus on sustainability, UW Oshkosh strives to be a powerful partner with regional agri-businesses by delivering cutting-edge engineering and energy solutions," said Bob Roberts, vice chancellor of university affairs. "This opportunity with Agra Energy allows our students to combine their dedication to academics and on-site lab work with a vision for the future."

Agra Energy and UW Oshkosh also are pursuing opportunities to advance technology and provide students with career preparation in the engineering and renewable energy sectors.

Council approves Oshkosh Avenue development plans

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Commercial development projects along Oshkosh Avenue near Oshkosh Corp. headquarters received development plan approval by the Common Council at its Oct. 13 meeting.

Council members in a virtual meeting approved general development and specific implementation plans for Vision Architecture LLC that will enable construction at 1844 Oshkosh Ave., part of overall general development along that corridor that had been recommended for approval

by the city's Plan Commission.

Other projects already approved include a 103-bed hotel, a Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins combined outlet, and a 22,000-square-foot office building at 1650/1660 Oshkosh Ave. A Casey's General Store is already open in the area.

Another site on Oshkosh Avenue owned by Fox Communities Credit Union will be considered by city officials for development of a new location for the credit union.

The virtual meeting plan adopted by the city will include city advisory boards as well.

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Oct. 12, 1887

Cow Takes A Swim: While coming through Lake Butte des Morts Saturday afternoon, Capt. Johnson and crew of the tug Badger ob-

served a curious-looking animal in the lake about three quarters of a mile from shore. Upon going to the place where the strange creature was observed, the men beheld a cow which evidently escaped from her pasturage along the shore. The unfortunate animal was towed to shore. When landed, the cow was so "utterly" exhausted that she was unable to stand up. How long the animal had been in the water is not known.

Source: Oshkosh Northwestern, Oct. 12, 1887

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City's proposed levy pushed by recent impacts

By Miles Maguire
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

A computer virus, empty hotel rooms, police accountability, reduced state aid, tax shifting to homeowners and the pandemic are some of the key factors that have gone into a proposed 2021 budget of \$142 million for city operations.

The preliminary budget, published last week, would lead to a nearly 3 percent bump in the tax levy to \$42 million. The levy supports the general fund, special service funds for activities like garbage collection and the debt service fund.

The spending plan would also mean a 22-cent increase in the tax rate, to \$11.12 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The Common Council has until Nov. 10 to make adjustments.

Included in the budget is \$1 million in "unclassified" spending, which may be used for dealing with COVID-19 contingencies, increasing pay for city workers and funding new positions. Negotiations are currently underway with city unions.

The costs of the cyberattack the city endured this year are now showing up in the tax levy. That attack cost the city \$130,000, but the fallout could have been worse except for the city's cyber liability policy.

"Because of this claim, our cyber liability costs are increasing significantly for 2021," City Manager Mark Rohloff said in his budget message. "The increase also reflects additional coverage we believe (is) necessary to protect us from future attacks."

Insurance expenses, including higher costs for workers compensation and for employee health care, will add almost \$400,000 to the city's general fund spending next year.

The 2021 general fund budget, which is supported mostly by property taxes, is proposed at \$48.8 million, roughly 2 percent higher than this year's.

Public safety costs are expected to rise by \$301,000. Some of this money is for additional staffing in the Fire Department while \$72,000 will go toward adding body cameras for police detectives and field supervisors.

One area of lower costs is in public works, where lower prices for fuel and road salt as well as mild weather are projected into next year.

Some costs in public works and finance are being shifted out of general fund spending and into the city's water, wastewater and stormwater utilities. This change makes the general fund budget look smaller, but residents bear the costs and pay for them in fees.

The part of the city budget that has been hit the hardest by the pandemic is the Convention Center Fund, which is financed by a tax on hotel rooms. This fund is short by \$1 million.

The room tax revenues are used for a variety of purposes, such as paying off long-term debt associated with the Convention Center, partially funding the Oshkosh Convention and Visitors Bureau, supporting the Grand Opera House and paying for part of the city's special event coordinator position.

"We will have our work cut out for us to fulfill these obligations," Rohloff said.

The pandemic cut some personnel costs, as the city has done less recruiting to fill open positions. But the city has exceeded its overtime budget to cover public safety workers who have tested positive for COVID-19 or gone into quarantine.

For 2020 the pandemic has cut revenues by \$880,000, including reductions in liquor license and special event fees.

Another hit to the city budget is coming in state funding, through expected reductions in shared revenue and aid for local streets.

The city's overall tax base is projected to rise by almost 1 percent, to \$3.8 billion. But Rohloff warned that homeowners can expect to pick up more of the tax burden as commercial property owners are able to take advantage of favorable court rulings to lower their assessments.

"As the real impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic occur, I expect that further erosion of commercial values will continue, exacerbating the property tax shift to residents," Rohloff said.

Miles Maguire is editor of the Oshkosh Examiner (www.oshkoshexaminer.com).

Belgium military to buy 322 tactical vehicles from Oshkosh

The Belgium Ministry of Defence has awarded Oshkosh Defense a contract for 322 command and liaison vehicles for its military forces.

The vehicle acquisition announced last month by Belgium has the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) platform from Oshkosh Defense, an Oshkosh Corp. company, equipped with Belgian communication systems. The JLTV is used by the U.S. military.

"The Oshkosh CLV offers Belgian soldiers the world's most advanced light military vehicle," said John Bryant, Oshkosh Corp. executive vice president.

"The Belgian Defence opted for a worldwide competition in which 'mon-

ey for value' was the only criterion," said Director Land Systems Col. Filip De Vare. "The CLV will be integrated in the CaMo program, an international partnership between the French and Belgian land forces."

Traditionally acquired through foreign military sales, the Belgian procurement marks Oshkosh Defense's first large direct commercial sale of a JLTV-based vehicle. The United Kingdom, Lithuania, Slovenia and Montenegro have also purchased vehicles with the JLTV platform.

The U.S. military awarded Oshkosh Defense the JLTV program in 2015 and the Army approved full-rate production in June 2019.

Spirits of Grand 'ghost seats' available

The Grand Oshkosh is currently operating with livestreaming and a reduced seating capacity — but the Spirits of The Grand are prepared to fill the gaps.

Professed to be one of the most haunted venues in Wisconsin, the nonprofit performing arts center has launched its Ghost Seats Campaign, a fundraiser to supplement loss of ticket revenue. Every \$5 donation fills a Ghost Seat, seats left empty for distancing purposes.

The "ghoul goal" is to pack 3,100 seats by Oct. 31.

"Although we have successfully implemented a plan for reopening, we are limited to 25 percent capacity, plus any livestream income," said Joseph Ferlo, Grand director. "We must rely on the continued philanthropy of our supporters to survive. That said, the Ghost Seats is a whimsical

nod to The Grand's reputation for the paranormal and gives people a fun way to support us at a modest level. I hope we generate 3,100 ghost seats, as well as a few hundred smiles. We could all use both."

While The Grand had to cancel its annual Spirits of The Grand tours, the Ghost Seats campaign continues to carry on their paranormal stories, both real and imagined. The lady in the balcony, the despondent Shakespearean actor, the coal boy in the basement, and more spirits are waiting for their sponsored seats.

Any number of \$5 Ghost Seats can be added to a ticket order. Ghost Seats can also be donated separately at thegrandosshkosh.org/ghosts. Supporters can sponsor ghost seats for individual spirits, pairs, or families of four.

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Photo by Michael Cooney

Celebration of Lights returning but no parade

While the annual holiday parade will not take place this year as announced last week by Downtown Oshkosh, the Celebration of Lights through Menominee Park is returning with its socially distanced drive-through holiday route.

The nonprofit Friends of Oshkosh Parks group had its special event permit approved by the Common Council last Tuesday at its regular meeting and is already in park setup mode for the event that will run from Nov. 27 through Jan. 2.

Santa won't be seeing visitors in his workshop this year but will be there to wave to visitors passing by.

The group is looking for more volunteers to help with the work needed to build up and run the 5:30 to 9 p.m. nightly event (Go to www.oshkoshcol.org for details and to sign up). Community service officers will assist with traffic control on busy evenings.

Sweet treats

Oshkosh's Parks Department combined two popular events, Zooloween Boo and Touch a Truck, into a safe way to trick-or-treat this year. Truck or Treat allowed families to drive through Menominee Park and pick up treats from booths sponsored by community groups. Tickets cost \$10 per family, which were limited to 500 and sold out. Cars were lined up for blocks waiting their turn.

Salvation Army begins Red Kettle signups

The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle season that begins next month takes on added importance in the midst of an economic crisis where 30 million Americans find themselves out of work.

Oshkosh's Salvation Army officers said their own local study found that 37 percent of clients are relying on its food pantry more now than they did before the start of the pandemic. More than half said they have lost their jobs or had work hours reduced since the beginning of the crisis.

The Salvation Army nationwide is calling on supporters and partner organizations to sign up to ring bells this holiday season. A visit to RegisterToRing.com reserves a preferred location. The Salvation Army will have personal protection equipment at all locations, including face masks, gloves and sanitizing wipes.

Participants are asked to enter a date range and search for available locations between Nov. 2 and Dec. 24.

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Dr. Eric, What Are the Keys to Avoiding Surgery for My Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Problem?

Advertisement



Dr. Eric Koehler PT, DPT

When nagging, annoying shoulder pain and weakness seem to go on and on with no relief in sight, it is easy to see surgery as your only option. You have other options. In only a few circumstances is scheduling surgery right away the right thing to do. Dr. Kuhn, a renowned Orthopedic Surgeon, published a research paper in 2013 that outlined a program that helps people recover **NATURALLY** from Shoulder Rotator Cuff Tears **WITHOUT** surgery. The key ingredient in the recovery program sounds simple. It is the willingness of the person to get expert level hands-on care, called manual therapy, AND individualized exercise instruction. This program isn't for individuals who want a quick fix or who won't do their part to help the healing. The successful program that has the best chance of getting you back to your active life is a specific program that is standard with the Shoulder Experts at Physical Achievement Center. This program allows people of all ages to avoid surgery and get back to their active life.

You can arrange a time to come in and chat with one our expert doctors at no charge to you. Your Doctor of Physical Therapy will determine what is going on and what is the best next step based on your condition. We can help you move away from pain and worry and move towards your active self, all the while staying away from the busy, crowded medical doctors and urgent care centers!

What we will do to get you healthy and moving again:

- Take time to listen to your concerns and discover what you have been missing out on.
- Perform an individualized examination to get to the root of the problem.

Dr. Eric Koehler is a Physical Therapist and owner of Physical Achievement Center. He has lived in Oshkosh since 1991 while raising three children. He is an expert in both in person and digital communication to deliver care where patients choose-in the safety & convenience of home or in the clinic. His goal is to help you achieve greater mobility and strength to stay independent without medications, injections, or surgery.

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Isolation

FROM PAGE 1

community. Schaefer is the marketing and fund development coordinator and Wollerman is director of services at the Oshkosh Seniors Center.

During the pandemic, the seniors center programming shifted to small groups to allow for social distancing as soon as it could to accommodate as many seniors as possible who were left behind when the state went into quarantine.

It quickly became clear their mission of teaching seniors to use technology was more important than ever, and the seniors center along with other supporting organizations worked quickly to offer this education however possible.



Programming continues at the Seniors Center in small groups and is still focused on teaching seniors

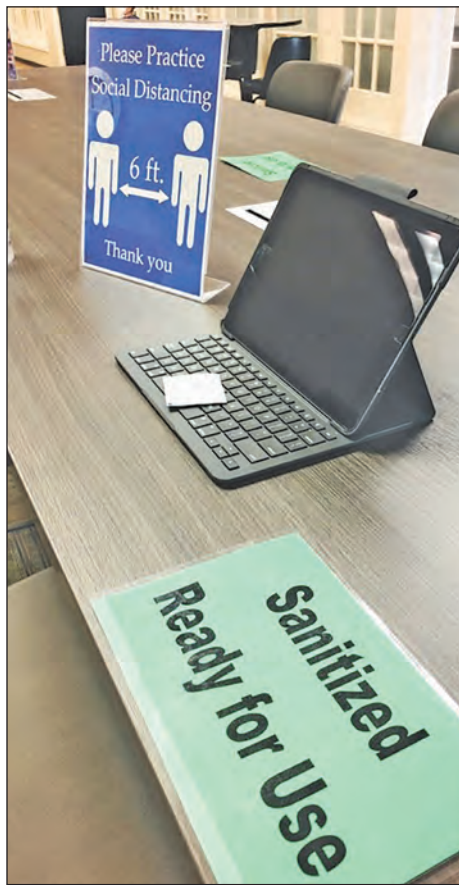
to use tech. The impacts of the coronavirus are far-reaching though, and Wollerman said the future of programming at the center could look quite different as a result.

“Technology will be a continued focus of the center because it’s going to keep changing,” Wollerman said. “We’re always going to be needing to know how to use the latest and greatest. That’s been made clear especially through the pandemic.”

Wollerman said that details of future programming are unknown at this time.

“Requirements and safety protocols change so quickly that we’re taking it day by day,” Wollerman said.

One thing she knows for sure though is



Submitted photo

A view of the Oshkosh Seniors Center check-in desk. Center staff say they and residents are adjusting well to tech challenges.

that technology will continue to be incorporated into their education and programming.

“We’re regrouping right now because what COVID did was brought to light how technology is used by everybody to stay connected and informed,” Wollerman said. “Right now some seniors are only relying on TV and they’re missing connecting with their family and in the community.”

During the Safer at Home order and through August, the Seniors Center did

offer some virtual programming for the first time, such as book club. Wollerman said there wasn’t a lot of participation though because so many seniors weren’t equipped to attend virtual classes without assistance. Now that there are steps in place to help center visitors and keep everyone safe, Wollerman said she thinks the center will see an expansion of virtual programming offerings.

“It’s still not fine-tuned but I think it’s a good start,” Wollerman said. “Everything is going virtual — doctors and other appointments — it opens the door to a lot of things, but again, everybody’s got to know to use it.”

The availability of technology is almost endless, but does Oshkosh have the bandwidth to accommodate the increasing number of users? Oshkosh City Manager Mark Rohloff says yes.

“We have very good technology capabilities,” Rohloff said. “I know when you’re talking about people living in different residential areas, having high-quality broadband access is vital. It’s not just for entertainment anymore. It’s for accessing services — even health providers are doing this remotely.”

Rohloff said he is not concerned about the increase in users and Oshkosh is “well positioned” to accommodate it. The trick, he said, is teaching people how to use it.

“It’s overcoming the fear that people have with respect to tech, and we have to make them aware it’s a lot easier than you think.”

The Oshkosh Seniors Center relies on other community organizations to assist with fundraising, donations and programming. Some of those organizations include the Winnebago County ADRC, Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods and the Friends of the Oshkosh Seniors Center.

Each year the Friends of the Oshkosh Seniors Center donates more than \$65,000 in funds for the center and are an “integral” part of the center’s community support, Schaefer said. One of its biggest capital campaigns built the South building on the center’s campus. The second campaign raised additional funds to purchase and renovate the center’s current North building, giving 30,000 additional square feet of space for Seniors Center activities — now also being used for the Connect through Tech programming.

“This grant money (from Bader Philanthropies) was a big deal for us, but we’re also extremely grateful for all of our other community partners,” Schaefer said. “Without them, there’s no way we would be able to continue to teach our seniors about technology, which we’ve all come to understand is crucial in this day and age.”

Carolyn Edgerton, president of Friends of the Oshkosh Seniors Center, said the



importance of the center in the community is undeniable and the organization is proud to be able to support the center in its work of keeping seniors connected through technology.

“This (programming) allows you to challenge yourself and learn to continue to change along with society’s changes, and the benefit from it is so immediate,” Edgerton said. “When you see someone doing a Facetime for the first time, it’s amazing. It’s such an immediate improvement to life and it’s exciting to see the amount of dedication the Seniors Center is pouring into this issue.”

Beth Roberts, director of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), another partner of the Oshkosh Seniors Center, said the pandemic has only heightened the awareness of the need for accessible, affordable technology. The Seniors Center receives some annual funding from the ADRC and will be supplementing the cost of certain technology items for those seniors who cannot afford them.

“Some people just can’t afford it,” Roberts said. “Technology changes very regularly and what was new a year ago is no longer new. Sometimes it doesn’t even work. Keeping up with technology is an issue.”

Judy Richey, a longtime Oshkosh resident, lives in an apartment complex specifically for seniors. Richey said she’s experienced a lot of the same pain many others have experienced throughout the pandemic that is related to isolation.

Going forward, Richey said she doesn’t think it’s going to be easy adjusting to our new way of life, especially for seniors, but if we’re all kind to each other, it can make a big difference.

“I think we definitely need to adjust our mindset and really question, ‘do we need to be part of a large group to be content?’” Richey said. “All it takes is baby steps. Think about the little things you can do. Look more at what little things you can do that are almost second nature that don’t mean much to you but could mean a lot to somebody else.”

Those interested in donating to the Friends of the Oshkosh Seniors Center can send a check to PO Box 3423, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

This article is the last in a six-part series exploring the issue of Oshkosh seniors in isolation, why it’s a problem and how the community can help. The full series is available at oshkoshherald.com.

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3-lb. Bag - Wisconsin McIntosh, Empire, or Jonagold Apples \$2.99	3-Pack Affy Tapple Caramel Apples \$3.99	Jumbo Sweet Onions \$1.29 lb.	On-the-Vine Tomatoes \$1.99 lb.
Washington State - Premium Red Delicious, Fuji, or Gala Apples \$1.29 lb.	12-oz. Package Fresh Ocean Spray Cranberries \$2.49	8-oz. - Pennsylvania Dutchman Sliced White Mushrooms \$1.89 <small>8-oz. - Pennsylvania Dutchman Organic Baby Portabella Mushrooms \$3.69</small>	5-lb. Bag - Wisconsin Russet Potatoes \$1.99
Golden Pineapple \$3.49 ea.	Fall Favorites! Empire, Cortland, or McIntosh Apples \$1.29 lb.	Acorn, Buttercup, Spaghetti, or Butternut Squash 79¢ lb.	Wisconsin Green Cabbage 69¢ lb.
Fancy Lemons 2/98¢ <small>Fresh Limes 3/1</small>	Washington Bartlett Pears \$1.49 lb. <small>Washington Bosc Pears..... \$1.79 lb.</small>	3-lb. Bag - Green Giant - Gold Potatoes 2-lb. Bag - Red or White Onions \$1.99 ea. <small>Mix or Match</small>	5 to 7-oz. Bag - Fresh Express Tender Baby Salad Blends 2/6.50
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Organic

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14 to 16-oz. Great Grains, 18-oz. Honey Bunches of Oats, 20.5-oz. Grape Nuts, or 25-oz. Raisin Bran Post Cereal \$3.29	64-oz. Bottle - Select Blends or Langer's 100% or Juice Cocktail \$1.79	5 to 12-Count - General Mills Cereal Bars, Pillsbury Brownies or Bars, Nature Valley or Fiber One Bars \$2.59
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8-Count Package Kellogg's Pop-Tarts \$2.49	46-oz. Can Food Club Vegetable or Tomato Juice \$1.49	8-Count - Hot Dog or Hamburger Buns or 20-oz. Loaf Village Hearth Honey Wheat Bread \$1.99 <small>10-Count - 8-Inch Frescoda Burritos.... \$1.99</small>
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8 to 10-Count Package Better Oats Instant Oatmeal \$2.29	18 to 20-Count Package Bigelow Tea \$2.99	7-oz. Jar - Original or Decaffeinated Tasters Choice Instant Coffee \$8.99	Select - 22 to 24-oz. - Ground or Whole Bean Eight O'Clock Coffee \$9.99
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Half Pint
Dean's Heavy Whipping Cream
14-oz.
Dean's Dairy Pure Half & Half
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Small Curd, Large Curd, Fat Free, or Lowfat
**Dean's
Cottage Cheese**
24-oz.
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14-oz. - Sharp Cheddar, Almond Swiss, or Port Wine
**Merkt's
Cheese Spread**
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52-oz. Bottle
**Simply
Orange Juice**
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12-oz. Package - Dumpling, Medium, Wide, or Extra Wide
**Creamette
Egg Noodles**
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Select - 6 to 8-Count or 11.75 to 16-oz. - Select
**Campione Breadsticks,
Garlic Bread or Toast**
2/\$5 WITH CARD

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**Azteca Homestyle or
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12-oz. Can - Select
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3/\$3.99 WITH CARD

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**Food Club
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16-oz.
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**Birdseye Premium or Steam Fresh
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14.5-oz. Can - Select
**Swanson Beef or
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4.2 to 5-oz. Package
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Potatoes**
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12-Count Package - Seeded Hamburger Buns or 20-oz. Loaf
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12.5-oz. Can - 98% Fat Free
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12-Quart Package
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99¢ WITH CARD

16 to 32-oz. Jar - Select
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33.8-oz. Bottle
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1.48-oz. - Puffs, Lil' Crunchies, or Wheels
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Trash or Tall Kitchen Bags**
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30-Count Package
**That's Smart
Foam Plates**
89¢ WITH CARD

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Pretzel Pieces**
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16-oz. Package - Original or Unsalted
**Food Club
Saltines**
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6 to 8-Count Package
**Act II Microwave
Popcorn**
2/\$5 WITH CARD

42 to 100-oz. Bottle
**Gain Laundry
Detergent**
\$10.99 WITH CARD

33.8-oz. Bottle
**Tippy Toes
Electrolyte Solution**
\$2.49 WITH CARD

6-Pack - Vanilla or Chocolate
**Tippy Toes
PediaSure Shakes**
\$7.49 WITH CARD

12-oz. Bottle
**Aveeno
Body Wash**
\$4.99 WITH CARD

31-oz. Bottle
**Tide Simply Laundry
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\$2.99 WITH CARD

15.25-oz. - Butter Golden, Yellow, White, or Devils Food
**Duncan Hines Classic
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2/\$3 WITH CARD

Half Liter Bottles
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**Roma
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<p>Smithfield Fresh Ground Pork \$1.99 lb. Bulk - Homemade Italian Sausage... \$2.29 lb.</p>	<p>Smithfield Stuffed or Seasoned Pork Steak \$1.99 lb. Seasoned - Boneless Porketta Roast... \$2.49 lb.</p>	<p>Smithfield QUICK-TO-FIX! Thin Sliced Pork Steak \$1.99 lb. Boneless Pork Steak..... \$2.49 lb.</p>
<p>Gerber's Amish Farms Fresh Boneless/Skinless Thighs \$3.29 lb.</p>	<p>Oven Ready! Stuffed Chickens \$1.29 lb. Oven Ready - Stuffed Split Chicken Breast..... \$1.49 lb.</p>	<p>Smithfield QUICK-TO-FIX! Thin Sliced Chicken Breast \$1.99 lb. Thin Sliced or Tenderized Boneless Chicken Breast Cutlets..... \$2.99 lb.</p>
<p>Sugardale Ham Steaks \$3.29 lb.</p>	<p>2-lb. - Country's Delight Chicken Nuggets, Rings or Tenders \$3.99 WITH CARD</p>	<p>7-8-oz. - Old Wisconsin Snack Sticks or Bites \$4.39 WITH CARD</p>
<p>10-oz. - Legal Seafoods - Jumbo Breaded Popcorn Shrimp \$3.99 WITH CARD</p>	<p>51-60-Count - 16-oz. - Diamond Reef Cooked Shrimp \$6.99 12-oz. Bottle - Food Club Cocktail Sauce... \$1.69 WITH CARD</p>	<p>Fresh - Wild Caught Lake Trout Fillets \$5.99 lb. 16-oz. - Supreme Choice Swai Fillets..... \$2.99 WITH CARD</p>

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<p>11-oz. Joseph's White Pita Bread \$1.99 WITH CARD</p>	<p>Ham Salad \$5.99 lb.</p>
<p>Asian Chicken Salad \$4.49 lb.</p>	

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<p>Fresh Baked 4-Count Our Very Own Piggly Wiggly Cinnamon Rolls \$2.99</p>	<p>6-Count Our Very Own Piggly Wiggly Brownies \$3.49</p>
<p>Fresh Baked 16-oz. Assorted Varieties Wheat Breads \$2.49</p>	<p>Harvest Time 10.5-13.5-oz. Frosted Cookies or 12-Count - 2-Bite Mini Cupcakes \$3.69 WITH CARD</p>
<p>Fresh Baked 8-Inch Dutch Apple or Razzleberry Pie \$4.99</p>	<p>6-Count Cake Donuts \$3.49</p>
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All-Stars ball

FROM PAGE 1

packed.”
Naslund and Parsons grew up and spent most of their lives in Oshkosh, playing and watching sports practically every day. Both were regulars at All-Stars games and each can dial up memories of contests like they happened last week.

The two remember watching the All-Stars host the Minneapolis Lakers and the 6-foot-10 Mikan, who also played for the NBL's Chicago American Gears before becoming the NBA's first dominant big man. The Lakers joined the NBL in 1947 and won the league title in their first year as a franchise, topping the All-Stars 3-1 in an opening-round playoff series.

“He (Mikan) was very good — rebounded everything,” Parsons said. “At the time there was no three-second rule in the lane, so you could stay in there all day. He could dunk it easily but back then you weren't allowed to dunk in games.”

The All-Stars traveled around the country — primarily the Midwest — and played home games to crowds ranging from 800 to 1,200. Most players earned roughly \$15 to \$25 per game. The All-Stars initially formed in 1929 and began as a barnstorming team, playing other state-based squads.

Lonnie Darling, a local seed distributor and salesman, was the All-Stars' founder and original coach. All-Stars games were played at the Recreation Gym, and the Merrill and South Park School gyms.

The All-Stars made five straight appearance in the NBL championship (1938-1942) despite representing one of the league's smallest cities. They were led by standouts such as LeRoy “Lefty” Edwards, a former consensus All-American at the University of Kentucky. Edwards was a three-time league MVP and is the NBL's second-all-time leading scorer with 3,221 points.

“Lefty was kind of a legend,” Naslund said. “He was a center, about 6-3, and that was pretty tall back then. He had a great



Photo courtesy of Oshkosh Public Museum

The Oshkosh All-Stars take on the Chicago American Gears in a game from the mid-1940s. The All-Stars and National Basketball League dissolved after the 1948-49 season as the league merged with a rival league to form the NBA.

hook shot. Hook shots were big back in those days.”

Another elite All-Stars player was Gene Englund, an Oshkosh native who guided the Wisconsin Badgers to their first and only NCAA basketball championship in 1941. Englund is the All-Stars' third all-time leading scorer (2,600 points) behind Edwards and Fort Wayne product Bobby McDermott (3,583).

“I remember going to one game and a guy named Bob Carpenter broke the scoring record, which was 35 points,” Naslund said.

“That was a night to remember, but today it's no big deal.”

Naslund doesn't waste his time making comparisons between today's NBA and the NBL.

“The players of today are so much better,” he said. “The players from teams back then can't match up in any way, shape or form. It was a different game — a slower game. Players were smaller and they didn't have the 3-point shot. Now they shoot the 3-pointer like it's a layup.”

Most NBL members folded upon the creation of the NBA because many didn't have large enough facilities to compete in the new league. Naslund's only disappointment concerning the All-Stars was that he feels they were never appropriately honored for winning two league titles.

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Lourdes scores 26 straight to remain unbeaten

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

For the first time this season, the Lourdes football team found itself faced with adversity.

Not only were the Knights shorthanded on positions, they trailed for the first time all season while allowing their opponents to score points in the first quarter for the first time in two seasons. The Knights also trailed by double digits for the first time since last season.

Like all good teams, Lourdes didn't panic. After allowing two early scores, Lourdes scored 26 unanswered points to pick up the hard-fought 26-12 win over New Holstein on Friday.

"These are the type of wins where you learn everything you need to know about your team," Lourdes coach Kevin Wopat said. "This was the first time in two years where we allowed first-quarter points, down big early and making mistakes, but once we settled down I thought we played more like the team we were capable of, especially during the second half."

The season has been a struggle in terms of scheduling for Lourdes as they have had an opponent cancel on them each week thus far. With New Holstein being another late fill-in, the Knights didn't have much time to prepare and the Huskies used that to their advantage. Led by the running attack of Michael Volz, Cody Abler and Sam Cady, the Huskies moved the ball at will in their opening drive, which was capped off by an eight-yard Cady touchdown run.

Josh Bauer and the Knights offense appeared to have the answer when he hooked up with Preston Ruedinger for 59



Photos by Dustin Riese

Tim Kaull scores on short yardage (left photo) against New Holstein on Friday night. Lourdes quarterback Josh Bauer (right) outruns Huskies defenders for a big gain in the Knights' comeback win.

yards, but a penalty nullified the big play. Facing a 4th-and-10, Bauer found Adam Arnoldussen, but he was unable to pick up the first down. New Holstein continued with some well-designed offensive sets and the Knights defense was reeling again.

With the ball inside the five, the Knights defense rose to the occasion stopping the Huskies on fourth down inside the one. That momentum would be short lived as Bauer was sacked inside the 20 and fumbled. New Holstein took over and a few plays later it was Volz getting to the outside on a five-yard scamper, extending the lead 12-0.

Bauer and the offense began to heat up as they drove down the field in less than

two minutes with Ruedinger coming down with a 30-yard score to cut things to 12-6.

Looking for a knockout punch before the half, Henry Schnell went up top on third and long to find Volz for 37 yards. The Huskies would score a few plays later but it was called back due to holding and a missed field goal kept things at 12-6.

Bauer used his legs to open the second half as his two long runs set the offense up in great position. He then hit Ruedinger on fourth down for a 13-yard score.

"We had two scores called back in the first half and some other opportunities that we couldn't capitalize on during the first half," he said. "The biggest thing for us was self-inflicted wounds, but we showed some great resilience. I told the kids to keep playing and believe in themselves and that is exactly what they did."

After a turnover on downs, Bauer went near the sideline for Jack Huizenga, who took it 59 yards to the house to give Lourdes a 19-12 lead.

The Knights' defense took care of the

Huskies the rest of the way with McKellips coming up with a fourth-quarter interception to set things up for their final drive.

After Bauer set the team up inside the five after a first-down run, Kaull's one-yard score was the dagger giving the Knights a 26-12 lead with two minutes to go.

Next week the 4-0 Knights return to the field for their biggest showdown as they welcome No. 4 ranked Randolph to St. Mary's Catholic field in Fox Crossing. The second-ranked Knights have had the Rockets number of late, but Wopat knows the quality opponent his team is set to face.

"I know there has been some talking from both sides regarding this game, but we have had their number significantly as of late," Wopat said. "They do have a good team and I am not going to sugar coat that as they have a very senior heavy squad like us. For them to attain their goals they need to go through us and hopefully we continue to improve."

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Photo by Andy Ratchman
Chas Mulbauer makes a save for Lourdes/
Valley Christian vs. Omro.

Prep sports roundup

CROSS-COUNTRY

Warriors take second in Trailways tournament

The Valley Christian boys cross-country team had its best finish ever in the Trailways Conference Championships last week, finishing second with 71 points.

Elijah Wade finished third overall to lead the Warriors, finishing in 18:02 – right behind Lourdes' Peyton Kane, who was second with a time of 17:43.3. The Knights had an incomplete score.

Joshua Geffers added a 15th place finish for the Warriors.

Host Palmyra-Eagle won the invite with 42 points while Parkview was third, Rio/Fall River was fourth, Horicon fifth,

Wayland Academy was sixth and Johnson Creek was seventh.

In the girls race, the Knights finished second in a close battle for first. Lourdes finished with 41 points while Dodgeland won the event with 37 points.

Mary Husman was second with a time of 20:51 while Valley Christian's Leah Patterson was third with a time of 21:09. Molly Moore was fifth, Mackenzie Stelter was eighth and Addy Hafemeister was ninth.

Valley Christian finished fourth and got a 19th place finish from freshman Norah O'Brien.

BOYS SOCCER

Lourdes/VC uses big first half to beat Omro

The Lourdes/Valley Christian boys soccer team scored four first half goals as it picked up a 5-1 win over Omro in a Flyway Conference game played Tuesday.

No statistics were available.

The WIAA recently released the playoff bracket and in Division 3, the Knights earned the No. 4 seed and was to host No. 5 Omro on Thursday but will have to forfeit due to the lack of enough available players who are quarantined as a result of potential COVID-19 exposure.

VOLLEYBALL

Lourdes swept at home against Dodgeland

The Lourdes volleyball team lost a Trailways battle on Saturday, falling 3-0 (25-23, 25-10, 25-11) to Dodgeland. No statistics were available.

The WIAA recently released the play-

off bracket and Lourdes earned the No. 4 seed in Division 4, but were forced to forfeit to No. 5 Stockbridge due to team quarantines that didn't leave enough available players.

Lady Warriors lose their season finale

The Valley Christian volleyball team lost its last regular season game Thursday, falling 3-0 (25-22, 25-13, 25-16) in a match against Sheboygan Christian played in Oshkosh.

Stella Wright had eight kills and eight digs, Anna Giannopoulos had three kills and two aces while Grace Rolston had eight digs. Camryn Hass led the way with 15 assists.

The WIAA recently released the playoff bracket and the Warriors earned the No. 3 seed in Division 4. The Warriors will travel to face No. 2 Tri-County on Thursday.

EIGHT-MAN FOOTBALL

St. Mary Catholic/VC dominates Williams Bay

The St. Mary Catholic/Valley Christian 8-man football team picked up a 38-18 win on Friday night against Williams Bay, moving to 2-2 on the season.

Danny Griffith had a big day for St. Mary Catholic/VC, throwing for 380 yards and four touchdowns. Ethan Campbell rushed for 95 yards and two touchdowns, Sam Pingel had 86 yards and two touchdowns while Luke Steffen had 50 yards on six catches and a touchdown.

Compiled by Alex Wolf,
Herald contributor

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North golfer thrives on serenity of game

By Tim Froberg
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Golf is a tough game to master. There are lots of mechanics involved and it can be frustrating trying to overcome an A-Z list of difficulties.

And then there's Grace Miller, who sees the game in a different way. She loves the quiet, chaos-free atmosphere of a golf course and embraces the challenges of the sport, while welcoming the independence



Miller

and sole responsibility golfers commonly deal with.

"I love the serenity (of golf)," said Miller, the Oshkosh North senior standout. "There is something about walking the evening course alone that resonates differently. When

I make a mistake, I have no one to blame but myself. All the pressure is on me, and I do rather well under pressure. I take advantage of being alone and thriving in situations where most would rely on teammates to help them."

That chill mentality — call it Grace under pressure — has helped Miller become one of the area's top prep golfers. A year ago, she became the first golfer from Oshkosh North to compete in the WIAA state girls' tournament where she tied for 20th individually. She was a member of the all-Fox Valley Association first team and finished second individually at the conference tourney. Miller made second-team all-conference as a sophomore and received honorable mention as a freshman.

Her personal-best score is 75 for 18 holes and 36 for nine holes.

"Grace is a very talented golfer who has really improved her game the last few years through sheer determination and hard work," said North coach Dan Dunn. "She's very thoughtful and represents herself with integrity and class on and off the



Submitted photo

Grace Miller is a standout golfer at Oshkosh North High School and the first from her school to compete in the WIAA girls' tournament last year.

course."

Miller started golfing at the age of 7, taking lessons from local golfer Jeff Kemp at Utica Golf Club and Oakgreen Golf Course in Fond du Lac.

"He's the one who introduced me to it and helped me develop my love of the game," Miller said. "I would have never found the passion to pursue it without him. He took this little girl who knew next to nothing about golf, placed an iron in her hands and told her to swing."

And when she swings, the little white ball flies and usually gets to Miller's target area.

"My grandpa (Joe Viotto) and my uncle (Joey Viotto) both golf, so I would say my natural swing definitely came from them," she said. "I played nearly every day all summer long the past three or four

Senior Spotlight

summers. Taking that time to focus on my game is what allowed me to improve and succeed as much as I have."

Miller hopes to get the chance to resume her prep career in the spring when girls golf is expected to start after the Oshkosh School District's decision to postpone its fall sports season due to the pandemic. She isn't sure whether she will play golf at the next level but is headed for college next year. Miller is a top-notch, high-honors student who carries a 4.0 grade-point-average. She once held dreams of golfing professionally but has tempered them and is making sure there is more to her life than golf.

"When I first realized I couldn't compete, yes, I was angry, but I also saw the bright side," Miller said. "I would be able to focus on other things outside of golf, and maybe that wasn't so bad. I'm still golfing when I get the chance, but I've backed off a considerable amount."

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North, West join 20-team football conference

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Before the start of fall football this season, most schools planned on playing their normal schedule. That was until COVID continued as a public health threat and schools were given the option of either pushing forward or holding off to play in a modified spring season.

For both Oshkosh North and Oshkosh West, they decided to wait until spring with no idea what a schedule would look like or how things would unfold.

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association revealed plans late Wednesday for 20 teams across the state to make up a super conference, a one-time option called the Fox Valley Classic football conference. Along with North and West, the conference will be made up of Fox Valley Association, Fox River Classic and Wisconsin Valley schools who also delayed their seasons.

The conference will be split into four groups of five, each playing a five-game schedule with the potential of a two-game postseason based on success.

Unlike how the current FVA is broken down, schools will be grouped based on size and past success to produce the most balanced schedule and provide competitive matchups. It also gives schools a chance to maintain some current rivalries.

Each school will play the four teams in their group along with a cross-over game against another team. Practice is set to begin March 8 with the first game set for March 26. Playoffs will be held April 30 and May 7 with the top two teams from each of the four groups.

The third- and fourth-place teams from Groups A and B will make up another four-team bracket and the third- and fourth-place teams from Groups C and D will also play off. The fifth-place teams from all four divisions will play two games against each other the final two weeks. In



Photo by Dustin Riese

Oshkosh West and North are shown in last year's intracity game. The two schools are not scheduled to play each other in the spring season.

essence, each team will get to play seven games regardless where they fall in the standings.

Here are who we can expect to see:

Group A: Bay Port, Fond du Lac, Green Bay Preble, Neenah and Stevens Point. This group is made up of the five largest schools in the conference as they will be paired off. Bay Port and Fond du Lac should be the favorites.

Group B is heavily represented by the Fox Valley and features Appleton East,

Appleton North, Ashwaubenon, Kimberly and Pulaski. These teams make up the middle enrollment levels of the conference with Appleton North, Kimberly and Pulaski as most likely to push for the championship.

Group C is where you will find the first of the Oshkosh schools with West. They will be joined by Appleton West, De Pere, Green Bay Southwest and Manitowoc. This is one of the more wide-open divisions as anyone could win it.

Group D includes Oshkosh North along with Green Bay East, Green Bay West, Sheboygan North and Sheboygan

South, another evenly matched division.

North and West will begin play March 26 with West traveling to the Banta Bowl to take on Appleton West and North heading to Green Bay West. Surprisingly, both local teams will not play each other ending a streak of 50 consecutive seasons. There is a chance they will meet in the additional two games.

Oshkosh West's schedule: at Appleton West, home against De Pere, home against Manitowoc, at Stevens Point and at Green Bay Southwest. Oshkosh North will battle at Green Bay West, home against Green Bay East, home against Sheboygan South, at Ashwaubenon and at Sheboygan North.

"I think it is great that multiple conferences came up with a plan to give our athletes the most meaningful experience possible during these unique times," West head coach Duane Hartkopf said. "It is obvious a great deal of planning and coordination went into this spring schedule. "It is also a great opportunity for us to play teams we typically may not have the opportunity to play. Makes for a fun season for coaches and players as it will present us with a wider variety of offenses and defenses we will face.

"Pairing the teams based on pod success is great as it ensures two more competitive games for all teams, which can create a little momentum going into the off-season. I imagine some would prefer a typical play-off format but these aren't typical times and it gives our student athletes a great opportunity, which is what it is all about."

North head coach Juston Wara was equally enthusiastic about the schedule.

"I think it's impressive that we have so many teams that have come together and worked out a plan to have a successful football season this spring," Wara said. "As long as we get the opportunity to play football, it doesn't matter who we line up across from. We just want to play football again.

"I know there is a lot of time between now and March, but having a plan is the first step."

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Grocer's partnership generates donated meals

A recent partnership between Festival Foods and Mighty Spark has yielded 25,862 donated meals, which will be distributed by Feeding America's network of food bank partners in Wisconsin. A giving campaign from March 17 to Sept. 8 donated a meal for each Mighty Spark poultry product purchased at Festival.

"This was a great opportunity for our guests to help fight local food insecurity

simply by purchasing Mighty Spark products," said Mark Skogen, president of Skogen's Festival Foods. "We are grateful to our guests for making this donation possible to provide meals to people in need throughout Wisconsin."

The match program will help the one in seven people throughout the U.S. who are in need of food assistance.

Obituaries

Gregory C. Bauer

Gregory Charles Bauer, age 82 of Oshkosh went peacefully home to his Heavenly Father on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Greg was born November 8, 1937 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin where he lived his entire life. He was the son of the late Joseph and Myrtle (Hofmeister) Bauer. He married his high school sweetheart, the former Patricia Petzold on May 16, 1959 at Sacred Heart Church (St. Jude). They were Married 61 years and had two sons, Michael (Mary) of Sheboygan, WI and Paul (Kim) Bauer of Oshkosh, WI. Greg has five grandchildren: Oliver (Jenny), Sheboygan, WI; Macaulay (Luke) Adesso, Monona, WI; Madeline (Fiancé Alec) Bauer, Cedarburg, WI; Emily (Wyatt) Bauer; Nick (Chantal) Bauer all of Oshkosh, WI.

Greg was a lifelong member of Sacred Heart (St. Jude) Parish where, as a child, attending Sacred Heart School, serving as an altar boy. Later he was an usher and as his children grew and also attended Sacred Heart School, he became very active with the youth of the parish. He led the school's cub scout program, coached several of their baseball teams and also coached football for the Oshkosh YMCA. Greg, along with his wife and several other couples worked Sacred Heart's "First Picnic," camping out overnight, sleeping in lawn chairs not having the funds to pay police protection for all the tents set up. Of course, it was all work and absolutely no play!

Greg was a barber by trade, earning his journeyman's masters and shop manager licenses before becoming part owner of Guddens' Barber Shop on Oregon Street. He also worked at Hoffmasters due to the arrival of The Beatles and their long hair changing the barber profession.

Greg was a member of the National Guard, 127th Infantry, member of the Oregon Street Merchants Association as well as Toastmasters and the Traveler Protection Association.

In his younger years Greg did a little ice fishing with friends and his father-in-law but his passion was in tinkering with older car purchases. One car was named "Puddle Jumper" by his mother-in-law because of its size.

Greg sang with the Barbershop quartet, had fun square dancing especially at the Hobo party he was in charge of where the winner's chili was served in a huge galvanized garbage can.

Greg loved all kinds of music and was a drummer in many polka bands as well as playing for the "Geriatric Jazz" and "Gentlemen of Jazz" all over the state.

He very much enjoyed watching his sons develop and play sports, especially

at Lourdes Academy. Greg also loved all the concerts and music events that took place. One funny story, still on the books, was when his eldest son was freshman, marching in all the holiday parades meant black band shoes, one pair for four years as dad bought size 10's! His son still has not grown into them.

In Greg's middle age years, he and Pat did a lot of biking, hiking, roller blading and especially loved skiing. Their favorite place was up North, Minocqua area and Winter Park and Nicolet National Forest. Their absolute favorite dining spot was beautiful romantic "Norwood Pines" in Minocqua, Wisconsin. Greg and his wife also loved long slow convertible rides that lead them to early morning breakfast spots and sunset evening dinners around and near Oshkosh. They really enjoyed the fall colors. Knowing "Nature is the Art of God."

Later years found Greg hanging out at the 20th Street YMCA. He would spritz his shirt and face with water just in time to show his wife how hard he had been working out. The ladies chatting with him smiled while telling Pat "he just got caught up in visiting."

Greg is survived by his loving wife, family, two brothers: Jerome (Judy) Bauer, Oshkosh; Joe Bauer, Green Bay; and one sister, Diane (Gerald) Gunther, Oshkosh. He is further survived by a brother-in-law, Michael (Mary) Petzold and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Besides his parents, Greg was preceded in death by a brother Bernie; in-laws: Frederick and Lucille Petzold; and three sisters-in-law: Kris Trudel, Berna Petzold, and Denise Petzold.

Cremation has taken place and a private mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Jude Parish (Sacred Heart Site) with Greg's final resting place at Ellenwood Cemetery with full military honors.

Greg's family has been unbelievably blessed and as they thank their Lord God, they also want to extend a sincere thank you to all his caregivers, physicians, Hospice, Aurora at Home Assistance, and especially Dr. Eric Duwell, Brittany, Tammy, Tina, Karen, Kim, Kathy, and Greg's angel here on earth, Melissa. Thank you also Father Louis Golamari, Marianne, and Chaplin Michele.

"Greg honey, this has been a long, long journey and as we have prayed, laughed and cried together, through it all, you know how much we all love you and will miss you. You will always be in our hearts. Love you Honey, until we meet in Heaven." - Pat

During this most difficult time in our lives our stability comes from the presence and peace of God. Because HE goes with us, we can walk into the future with confidence.

KONRAD-BEHLMAN
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Two found dead in vehicle from shootings

Two people were found dead at the scene of a shooting incident Friday in a parked vehicle near Badger Avenue.

Oshkosh police responded to an emergency call at around 5:40 p.m. about a weapon in a parking lot of a business in

the 2200 block of Badger Avenue.

Upon arrival at the location, officers found a 61-year-old man and 47-year-old woman who were pronounced dead at the scene. Police said they were not seeking any suspects.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Specialized Transportation Assistance Grant Application for 2021 is scheduled for a public hearing on Tuesday, November 10th at 1:30 pm via zoom at link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83582615676?pwd=aDhhVmtOZU5RN29HS3RBuY9VODRLZz09>. Meeting ID: 835 8261 5676, Passcode: 702342.

Join by audio only by calling: 1-312-626-6799. When prompted enter Meeting ID: 835 8261 5676, Passcode: 702342.

The public hearing will be held to receive public comment on Winnebago County's proposed plan for spending \$441,016 authorized under Section 85.21 of Wisconsin Statute to implement elderly and disabled transportation services in Winnebago County.

Proposed 2021 projects requesting 85.21 funds include Go Transit specialized transportation services (\$410,930) and Valley Transit specialized transportation services (\$96,199) for those persons unable to attend the hearing and wishing to submit comments in advance may do so by mailing their comments to:

**Bryn Ceman, Aging and Resources Program Supervisor
Winnebago County Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 2187
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54903-2187
877-886-2372**

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations wishing to attend the virtual hearing should contact the person listed above prior to November 5, 2020. The location of the hearing is handicap accessible.

Obituaries



Violet E. Chapin

Violet E. Chapin, age 89, of Oshkosh went home to her precious Lord and Savior on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at

Lakepoint Villa Assisted Living. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at Community Church, 2351 Ryf Road with Pastor Dave Chapin officiating. Visitation will be at the church on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until time of service.



He was a devout and charter member of Cavalry Lutheran Church. Cliff will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Helen Eichman; his children, Susan Eichman, Steven (Anita) Eichman, and Michael Eichman; grandchildren, Alissa Eichman, and Emilie (Greg) Wurzbach; great-grandchildren, Lucy and Augie; daughter-in-law, Holly Eichman; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Preceding Cliff in death are his parents, John and Ida; and 11 brothers and sisters.

The family would like to thank all of the compassionate and caring staff at Elijah's Place.

Memorials may be sent to Cavalry Lutheran Church or Elijah's Place in memory of Cliff.



Clifford D. Eichman

Clifford "Cliff" D. Eichman passed away October 13, 2020 at Elijah's Place. He was born December 24, 1921 to John and Ida (Klaska) Eichmann in Oshkosh.

Cliff married Helen Luebke on May 26, 1948 and together they shared 72 blessed years together. He proudly served his nation during World War II in the U.S. Coast Guard. Cliff was known as a hard worker and had an excellent work ethic. He spent many years working for Segor Construction and the Oshkosh school system. He spent many hours outdoors gardening, doing lawn-care, shoveling, and biking. Cliff was a jack-of-all trades building and repairing things. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather.



CITY OF OSHKOSH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2021 ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY AND BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held before the City Council of the City of Oshkosh on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in Council Chambers in the City Hall of the City of Oshkosh, 215 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The purpose of the public hearing is to solicit public comment on the City's 2021 Annual Property Tax Levy and Budget. A copy of the proposed 2021 Annual Budget is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk in the City Hall and at the City Library during normal business hours. The City has also posted a copy on the City website <https://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/BudgetFinancials/>.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that at such time and place, any interested party may appear in person, by attorney or agent, and be heard on these matters. A summary of the proposed budget and tax levy is listed below. The City may elect to change the proposed budget and tax levy prior to the public hearing.

The schedules below summarize the 2021 budget as it is proposed.

2021 General Fund Revenues & Expenditures

	2019 Actuals	2020 Original	2020 Projected	2021 Proposed	Change from 2020 to 2021	% of Change
Revenue						
41 - PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	(19,625,639)	(20,309,700)	(20,294,900)	(22,233,500)	1,923,800	9.47%
42 - INTERGOV REVENUE	(16,559,975)	(16,826,100)	(16,824,200)	(16,583,900)	(242,200)	-1.44%
43 - LICENSES AND PERMITS	(1,020,195)	(974,000)	(888,600)	(947,000)	(27,000)	-2.77%
44 - FINES & FORFEITURES	(901,930)	(799,900)	(489,300)	(901,900)	102,000	12.75%
45 - CHARGES FOR SERVICES	(3,358,025)	(2,835,850)	(2,470,300)	(2,615,300)	(220,550)	-7.78%
48 - INTERNAL SERV CHRGE	(5,004,217)	(4,182,500)	(4,073,700)	(3,691,000)	(491,500)	-11.75%
49 - MISC REVENUES	(1,094,489)	(902,000)	(928,700)	(793,200)	(108,800)	-12.06%
52 - OTHER FINANCING	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	-	0.00%
53 - SALE-CAPITAL ASSETS	(15,057)	(6,500)	(6,500)	-	(6,500)	-100.00%
Revenue Total	(48,579,528)	(47,836,550)	(46,956,200)	(48,765,800)	929,250	1.94%
Expense						
61 - DIRECT LABOR	27,957,412	29,598,100	28,881,100	29,150,200	447,900	-1.51%
62 - INDIRECT LABOR	-	-	-	925,000	(925,000)	0.00%
63 - PAYROLL BENEFITS	9,539,973	10,214,200	9,875,200	10,255,500	(41,300)	0.40%
64 - CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	4,811,199	5,034,450	5,227,660	5,445,400	(410,950)	8.16%
65 - MATERIAL & SUPPLIES	2,509,617	2,648,300	2,502,400	2,508,800	139,500	-5.27%
72 - CAPITAL OUTLAY	255,223	279,200	275,400	330,900	(51,700)	18.52%
74 - OTHER FINANCING USES	1,100,000	50,000	50,000	150,000	(100,000)	200.00%
Expense Total	46,173,424	47,824,250	46,811,760	48,765,800	(941,550)	1.97%
Grand Total	(2,406,104)	(12,300)	(144,440)	-	(12,300)	-100.00%

2021 Special Revenue Funds - Revenues & Expenditures

	2019 Actuals	2020 Original	2020 Projected	2021 Proposed	Change from 2020 to 2021	% of Change
Revenue	(12,038,990)	(14,633,000)	(14,752,111)	(14,367,900)	(265,100)	-1.81%
Expense						
02010760 - SENIOR SERVICES REVOLVING	39,242	47,200	26,300	41,100	6,100	-12.92%
02020740 - CDBG REVOLVING LOAN FUND	99,505	550,000	550,200	550,000	-	0.00%
02091030 - BID DISTRICT	181,023	192,700	194,800	192,700	-	0.00%
02110480 - RECYCLING	803,465	1,030,800	1,043,400	1,057,700	(26,900)	2.61%
02120470 - SANITATION DIVISION	1,380,267	1,390,300	1,429,300	1,502,600	(111,700)	8.03%
02150211 - POLICE SPECIAL	151,693	114,600	94,800	115,000	(400)	0.35%
02210211 - PD ASSET FORFEITURE - STATE	2,350	3,800	10,300	5,000	(1,200)	31.58%
02220211 - PD ASSET FORFEITURE - FEDERAL	-	15,000	-	15,000	-	0.00%
02230460 - STREET LIGHTING	1,024,232	1,075,000	1,024,300	1,075,000	-	0.00%
02240010 - SPECIAL EVENTS - COUNCL	-	12,500	-	12,500	-	0.00%
02271070 - MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP	58,397	59,000	50,700	140,850	(81,850)	138.73%
02281070 - MUSEUM EXHIBITION	3,630	-	-	-	-	0.00%
02310760 - SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION	322,993	582,500	680,800	604,300	(21,800)	3.74%
02350230 - FIRE SPECIAL REVENUE	12,041	11,100	341,092	115,400	(104,300)	939.64%
02391060 - LIBRARY	3,640,384	3,814,700	3,706,600	3,746,300	68,400	-1.79%
02411070 - MUSEUM	1,156,148	1,233,800	1,219,600	1,325,500	(91,700)	7.43%
02421070 - MUSEUM COLLECTIONS	6,506	15,200	15,200	17,200	(2,000)	13.16%
02431099 - HISTORICAL MARKER	666	3,000	-	3,000	-	0.00%
02470650 - CEMETERY DIVISION	392,042	406,900	396,300	415,700	(8,800)	2.16%
02490740 - COMM DEV SPECIAL FUND	67,982	2,065,000	2,100,000	1,500,000	565,000	-27.36%
02590610 - PARKS REVENUE DIVISION	450,950	130,900	439,800	487,400	(356,500)	272.35%
02590610 - LEACH AMPHITHEATER	75,178	111,100	65,500	87,300	(23,800)	-21.42%
02570410 - LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT	167,930	250,000	148,200	250,000	-	0.00%
02590610 - POLLOCK POOL	414,275	425,500	71,200	428,500	(3,000)	0.71%
02710710 - RENTAL INSPECTION	14,747	17,800	9,700	9,800	8,000	-44.94%
03020740 - HLTHY NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE	426,699	831,800	672,500	826,400	5,400	-0.65%
03030740 - COMM DEV BLOCK GRANT	815,527	810,000	810,000	850,000	(40,000)	4.94%
03040740 - LOCAL EC DEV - GO EDC LOAN PRO	215,000	250,000	500,000	300,000	(50,000)	20.00%
Expense Total	12,110,873	15,450,800	15,600,592	15,674,250	(223,450)	1.45%
Grand Total	71,883	817,900	848,481	1,306,350	(488,350)	59.74%

2021 Enterprise Funds - Revenues & Expenditures

	2019 Actuals	2020 Original	2020 Projected	2021 Proposed	Change from 2020 to 2021	% of Change
Revenue	(52,760,655)	(54,711,900)	(53,415,200)	(55,135,200)	(423,900)	0.77%
Expense						
05011020 - GRAND OPERA HOUSE	41,816	37,400	28,400	29,600	(7,800)	-20.86%
05031040 - CONVENTION CENTER	1,641,132	1,517,400	1,306,200	1,306,300	(211,100)	-13.91%
05061040 - CONVENTION CENTER PARKING RAMP	71,320	104,000	109,500	69,700	(34,300)	-32.98%
05091717 - PARKING UTILITY DIVISION	253,593	268,400	243,500	251,600	(16,800)	-2.53%
05111728 - TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT	5,373,315	5,219,400	6,002,300	6,181,000	961,600	18.42%
05151040 - INDUSTRIAL PARK	26,873	45,000	870,900	49,600	4,600	10.22%
05411810 - WATER UTILITY ADMINISTRATION	6,155,775	6,089,200	6,066,600	6,433,100	343,900	5.65%
05411861 - SUPPLY EXPENSE/OPERATIONS	5,600	110,000	110,000	110,000	-	0.00%
05411862 - PUMPING	647,988	753,800	666,300	698,500	(55,300)	-7.34%
05411863 - PUMPING EXPENSE-MAINTENANCE	215,097	210,300	244,300	239,700	29,400	13.98%
05411864 - WATER TREATMENT EXPENSE/OPERAT	1,692,280	2,050,500	2,112,900	2,031,900	(18,600)	-0.91%
05411865 - WATER TREATMENT EXPENSE/MAINTEN	281,471	348,500	401,500	376,900	28,400	8.15%
05411866 - WATER DISTRIBUTION EXP/OPERATI	654,627	969,100	864,800	948,700	(20,400)	-2.11%
05411867 - WATER DISTRIBUTION EXP/MAINTEN	1,485,763	1,882,800	1,909,200	1,984,600	101,800	5.41%
05411890 - CUSTOMER ACCT EXP/OPERATION	357,758	391,500	577,200	562,200	170,700	43.60%
05411892 - GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE OPERA	623,073	1,264,100	1,311,900	1,327,400	63,300	5.01%
05411899 - TRANSPORTATION CLEARING ACCT	-	-	45,500	-	-	0.00%
05511910 - SEWER UTILITY ADMINISTRATION	160,061	150,000	226,700	250,000	100,000	66.67%
05511920 - INTERCEPTING	2,265,938	2,617,800	2,738,100	2,814,300	196,500	7.51%
05511930 - PUMPING STATIONS	777,887	551,700	760,500	761,400	209,700	38.01%
05511940 - DISPOSAL PLANT	3,550,145	4,076,700	4,048,100	4,039,500	(36,800)	-0.90%
05511941 - SOLID DISPOSAL	1,224,828	1,180,700	1,180,700	1,234,000	53,300	4.51%
05511945 - LABORATORY	117,985	132,300	132,300	136,100	3,800	2.87%
05511946 - MAINTENANCE	1,043,328	1,239,000	1,239,000	1,236,100	(2,900)	-0.23%
05511950 - GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	2,851,707	2,823,700	2,834,800	3,059,100	235,400	8.34%
05511951 - METER READING	622,346	572,000	617,900	617,900	45,900	8.02%
05511955 - PRETREATMENT PROGRAM	32,832	55,600	55,700	55,700	100	0.18%
05612010 - STORM WATER ADMINISTRATION	2,590,284	3,182,200	3,120,800	2,992,700	(189,500)	-5.95%
05612020 - PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	311,851	415,300	399,300	418,700	3,400	0.82%
05612030 - ENGINEERING & PLANNING	526,179	591,100	608,100	596,900	5,800	0.98%
05612040 - INSPECTIONS & ENFORCEMENT	90,800	100,200	89,000	92,200	(8,000)	-7.98%
05612050 - OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	3,665,048	3,739,100	3,824,900	3,960,300	221,200	5.92%
05710720 - WEIGHTS & MEASURES	96,333	111,200	99,700	95,900	(15,300)	-13.76%
05710750 - INSPECTION SERVICES	856,219	851,400	860,200	831,700	(19,700)	-2.31%
Expense Total	40,311,854	43,651,400	45,725,400	45,803,700	2,152,300	4.93%
Grand Total	(12,448,801)	(11,059,900)	(7,689,800)	(9,331,500)	1,728,400	-15.63%

City of Oshkosh Tax Levy 2021 Preliminary Budget

	Actuals 2018	Adopted Budget 2019	Adopted Budget 2020	Budget Preliminary 2021	Change from 2020 to 2021	% of Change
General Fund	\$ 18,375,900	\$ 19,216,400	\$ 19,945,900	\$ 21,874,500	\$ 1,928,600	10.04%
Special Revenue Funds						
Garbage Collection & Disposal	1,324,700	1,331,200	1,350,300	1,460,400	110,100	8.27%
Street Lighting	1,052,000	1,052,000	1,075,000	1,075,000	-	0.00%
Museum	907,500	977,700	970,000	970,000	-	0.00%
Senior Services	312,100	320,400	327,400	327,400	-	0.00%
Library	2,627,000	2,696,100	2,772,700	2,772,700	-	0.00%
Cemetery	302,700	304,000	300,000	300,000	-	0.00%
Leach Amphitheater	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	-	0.00%
Pollock Water Park	64,000	64,000	64,000	64,000	-	0.00%
Rental Inspections	-	25,000	25,000			

Classifieds

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