

## **Alger Delta**

- ACEC Linemen Help Restore Power To The North

## **Cedarburg**

- Cedarburg Light & Water Utility creates new recycling program Year-round program will provide bill credits for customers

## **Eagle River**

- Gov. Evers declares state of emergency for North Woods

## **Florence**

- Natural gas safe digging safety month
- 20th annual Sustainable Forest Conference held at Keys Peak Lodge
- March 2025 Safe Digging Month

## **Hartford**

- Hartford Common Council notes

## **Kaukauna**

- Van De Hey retiring from public service after 53 years
- Kaukauna Utilities approves bids related to construction projects

## **Marshfield**

- Utility shut-off moratorium ends April 15

## **New Glarus**

- New Glarus appoints WPPI Energy board members
- Freeman will depart for Waunakee position

**New Holstein**

- Heavy refuse, recycling events slated

**Oconto Falls**

- Kuhn hired to lead OEC operations

**Plymouth**

- Site plan for potential new Sargento facility reviewed
- Plymouth citizens request impact statement
- Two streets to be rebuilt

**Reedsburg**

- RUC Lightspeed projects to go forward in Witwen and Iowa County

**Richland Center**

- City Utilities honored with national award for safety
- APPA Safety Award

**River Falls**

- Fourth annual Earth Fest set for April 26

**Waterloo**

- Waterloo City Council approves Hendricks Street reconstruction



## ACEC Linemen Help Restore Power To The North



Recently, six of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative linemen were called to assist two electric cooperatives to the north, Alger-Delta Cooperative Electric Association and Washington Island Electric Cooperative, to restore power due to wind and ice. On April 4 they wrapped up their work restoring power for those in need!

--SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Cedarburg Light & Water Utility creates new recycling program

Year-round program will provide bill credits for customers

By Christina Luick - News Graphic Staff   Apr 29, 2025

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CEDARBURG — [The Cedarburg Light & Water Utility](#) has developed a new recycling program in replacement of its appliance and electronics recycling events.

CL&W General Manager Karsten Huse said the vendor the utility used for the recycling events was no longer offering the same service and CL&W decided to try something new this year.

"This new year-round program offers a more convenient and accessible option for our customers," Huse said. "This approach allows customers to recycle items on their own schedule. The addition of a bill credit is also intended to help offset, if not fully cover the cost of recycling."

With this new program, CL&W customers can drop off their items at a recycling center of their choice.

The following are some local places to recycle appliances and electronics:

- City of Cedarburg Appliance Pickup;
- Ozaukee Iron and Metal in Port Washington;
- Best Buy in Menomonee Falls (mail in electronic recycling option available);
- A&W Iron & Metal in Kewaskum; and
- American Metal and Paper in West Bend.

After recycling, customers must complete the Appliance and Electronics Recycling Incentive form and submit their receipt with the list of recycled items and any fees that were paid for reimbursement.

Customers can earn up to a \$50 bill credit for recycling appliances and electronics (limited to one per customer per year). Credits are available on a first-come, first-served basis as funding is limited.

“So far, the program has been well received, we’ve begun processing numerous credits and are encouraged by the community’s response,” Huse said.

For those interested in getting rid of hazardous waste items, Ozaukee County hosts an annual Clean Sweep event. The next event is from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Cedarburg Highway facility, 1221 Hilltop Drive in Cedarburg. The cost is \$20 per vehicle. For more information, visit [www.ozaukeecounty.gov/2577/Clean-Sweep-Program](http://www.ozaukeecounty.gov/2577/Clean-Sweep-Program).

For more information about the new recycling program, visit [www.cedarburglightandwater.org/recycling-program](http://www.cedarburglightandwater.org/recycling-program). Founded by the citizens of Cedarburg in 1901, Cedarburg Light & Water Utility serves more than 7,000 homes and businesses in Cedarburg.

Visit [www.cedarburglightandwater.org](http://www.cedarburglightandwater.org) for more information.



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Eagle River, Three Lakes News



# Gov. Evers declares state of emergency for North Woods

## Nearly 200,000 aided in restoring power

**BY JOSEPHINE  
HINDERMAN  
NEWS EDITOR**

Following severe winter weather blowing through the area, Governor Tony Evers last week declared that Wisconsin was in a state of emergency as accumulations of ice and snow left thousands in the North Woods without power.

Starting Saturday, March 29, and continuing through early last week, severe weather with high winds, heavy snowfall and ice affected large portions of the northern parts of the state, causing widespread damage that included the loss of heat for homes and water, tree and structural damage, and power outages.

“As Northern Wisconsin still works to recover from severe weather, this declaration will help support local efforts to restore power where there are outages, support local efforts to clear debris, set up warming shelters and

respond to local emerging needs, and keep folks, families, and communities safe,” said Gov. Evers.

Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) says that work to restore power to nearly 200,000 customers in the northern part of the state has been a tireless effort, with some crews working 16 hours a day to remove debris and fallen trees, replace broken poles, restraining power lines and rebuilding circuits.

It wasn’t until last Friday that the historic scope of their efforts was starting to wrap up in most areas, but even then, some areas, such as parts

of Forest County, were without power moving into the weekend.

With over 6,500 people without power, Forest County Board Chairman Ron Skallerund also declared a state of emergency last Tuesday to expedite emergency response and recovery efforts, which included aid from the American Red Cross. As a part of these efforts, a warming shelter was set up at the Crandon Public Library. As of Monday morning, WPS reported no outages in the area.

**To EMERGENCY Pg. 5**

Apr  
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# Emergency

FROM PAGE 1

Closer to home, towns like Eagle River were kept busy restoring power and repairing other damages brought about by the winter storms.

“We had about 10-12 separate incidents, mostly caused by broken tree branches, with approximately 45-50 of our customers that had lost power in our service area,” said Mike Sanborn from [Eagle River Light and Water Utility](#). “We did not send our crews elsewhere as we were

dealing with our own issues over those couple of days.”

As WPS wrapped up power restoration efforts on Friday, they advised that a small number of customers may still have had damage to customer-owned electric equipment that could prevent WPS from reconnecting power. If this is the case, WPS requires the customer to hire an electrician or qualified contractor to make repairs to ensure they can be safely reconnected.

WPS says that this had been one of the largest restoration efforts in company history.

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## ENERGY NEWS Consumer Information FLORENCE UTILITIES A WPPI ENERGY COMMUNITY

### APRIL 2025 SAFE DIGGING MONTH

As April marks the traditional start of digging season, Florence Utilities strongly encourages residents and professionals to stay safe by calling 8-1-1 at least three working days prior to any project that disturbs the soil in any way. If your outdoor projects include excavation (move, remove or displace earth, rock or other material in or on the ground), grade, trench, dig, drill, augur, tunnel, scrape, plow cable or pipe, state law requires that you notify Diggers Hotline. Diggers Hotline is Wisconsin's statewide one-call notification system. It gives excavators and the general public the ability to notify multiple owners of underground facilities with a single call so a locator will mark the approximate location of your underground lines, pipes and cables so you will know what is below and be able to dig safely. Plan ahead! Remember to allow three working days (excluding weekends and holidays) before you dig. Stay safe by calling Diggers Hotline at 8-1-1. It is free. It is the law. For more information on Wisconsin's Digger's Hotline program, please visit [www.diggershotline.com](http://www.diggershotline.com) or call Florence Utilities at 715-528-3330.

### NATURAL GAS SAFETY

Know Where to Dig – The best way to avoid disrupting utility service in your area or being injured is to know the location of buried natural gas pipelines. The depth of natural gas pipelines varies and there may be other utilities buried in the same area. The most common cause of underground natural gas leaks is damage from digging. Encourage your neighbors and contractors to “call before they dig” whenever they plan to landscape, install a fence, build a deck or do any other kind of excavating, anywhere. It's the law.

Before You Dig – Dial 811 – One easy phone call to 811 instantly begins the process of getting underground gas pipelines and other utilities marked on residential, public or commercial property. Diggers Hotline will contact the appropriate utility companies, who send crews out to mark the location of underground utilities within three days. The service is free of charge.

Detecting Leaks – Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, but leaks can occur. Look Blowing dirt, bubbling streams or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead vegetation surrounded

by green, live plants may indicate a gas leak. Listen. An unusual hissing sound near gas lines or appliances is an indication of a natural gas leak. Smell. In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Utility companies use a substance called mercaptan to create the familiar, rotten egg like odor associated with natural gas. Take action even if you only detect a slight odor of natural gas.

If You Detect a Leak – Leave the area immediately. Do not try to find or stop the leak. Don't Touch. Do not smoke; use a cell phone or a flashlight. Do not turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any vehicle or equipment that could create a spark. Dial from a location away from the leak immediately call Florence Utilities and 911. Wait for professionals to arrive. Do not go back into any building where you smell gas. For more information regarding natural gas safety visit [florenceutilitieswi.com](http://florenceutilitieswi.com).

### MORATORIUM ENDS APRIL 15

The winter moratorium on residential service disconnection ends April 15th. After April 15th, utilities statewide may begin to disconnect service to customers who are past due on payment of their utility bills. Florence Utilities is advising customers who are behind on their bills to contact our office to discuss payment arrangements. Customers with outstanding balances are urged to call 715-528-3330 as soon as possible. Office hours are Monday

through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm and Friday from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. The utility will gladly discuss various payment options available to customers, which includes accepting credit card payments. Any customer who fails to set up arrangements or pay the outstanding balance on their account will be issued a final disconnect notice prior to any action taking place.

### BE AWARE OF POWER LINES

Florence Utilities reminds residents to take proper steps to ensure their safety when working near power lines. It is critical to always treat power lines and electrical equipment as if they are energized; and know that you don't have to touch a line to be seriously injured. Tools, tree limbs, ladders and other equipment can conduct electricity. This applies to power lines on utility poles as well as those entering your home or buildings.

Keep this in mind if you are planning to plant trees or bushes this summer. Make sure you are aware of power lines and other utility equipment in the area – both above and below the ground. A tree growing near a power line can cause a potential power outage or safety risk. A tree growing too close to overhead power lines gives electricity a path from the power lines to the tree which can result in electrical outages, fires and shock hazards. Be aware. Stay safe.



## 20th annual Sustainable Forest Conference held at Keyes Peak Lodge

**Tracy Asanuma**

One hundred thirty-five lawmakers, industry experts and forestry industry representatives from Wisconsin and Michigan attended the 20th annual Sustainable Forestry Conference held at Keyes Peak on Wednesday, April 16. The event was hosted by UW Extension with Florence County's Economic Development Director Eric Printz acting as Master of Ceremonies. Among the many distinguished guests were Wisconsin seventh district US Congressman Tom Tiffany and 36th Assembly District State Representative Jeff Mursau.

"We had 14 speakers this year who discussed a variety of topics about the timber industry," said Printz.

Legislative and market updates, Lyme disease, and wildlife management were some of the topics discussed at the conference. The event also offered an opportunity for industry leaders and lawmakers to connect and network

Photo contributed by Eric Printz

From left to right, Eric Printz, Florence County Economic Development Director, Congressman Tom Tiffany, Representative for 7th District of Wisconsin, Henry Scheinebeck, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Wendy Gehlhoff, Director, Wild Rivers Interpretive Center, and Jeff Mursau, State Representative, 36th Assembly District.



with others in the forestry industry.

Attendees to the event were served breakfast, lunch, and snacks provided by The El Capitan Supper Club and Michaela May's Bakery. The Florence County Forestry & Parks team prepared the lodge for the conference with Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College Brian Murray providing IT assistance for the event.

Conference sponsors included: Nicolet National Bank, Biewer Sawmills, Renewable Resource Solutions, Michigan Registered

Forester, **Florence Utilities**, Billerud, Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development, Florence Hardwoods, LLC, Sagola Hardwoods, INC, Florence County Forestry and Parks, Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands, Green Bay Innovation Group, Langlade County Economic Development Corporation, and Great Lakes Timber Professionals.

The Steering Committee included: Alex Anderson of the Wisconsin Department of National Resources, Wisconsin Department of National Resources

Forester Andy Nault, Biewer Lumber Procurement Forester Bethany Polchowski, USDA Forest Service Forester Eric Anderson, Kari Divine of Renewable Resource Solutions, Jane Lindow of UW Extension, Pat Smith of Florence County Forestry and Parks, Tracy Beckman of Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development, Brian Murray from NWTC, and Florence County Economic Development Director Eric Printz.



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**MARCH 2025**

## SAFE DIGGING MONTH

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## Dementia awareness

Dementia is one of the most pressing health challenges of our time affecting millions of families. Alzheimer's is one type of dementia. There are more than 6 million Americans that live with Alzheimer's disease and even more impacted by it. This number is expected to double by 2060. Dementia is not just a disease but it is a complex condition that affects an individual's thinking, behavior, and memory.

As dementia continues to impact millions of families, it has become essential to raise awareness and to advocate for early detection, preventative habits, and good support systems. Some healthy habits to help prevent dementia and Alzheimer's are:

- Engage in activities that stimulate the brain
- Proper stress management
- Eating a healthy diet
- Getting good quality sleep

- Maintaining a social connection with friends and family
- Reducing alcohol intake and quit smoking

Alzheimer's Association offers services and support for you and your family. There is a 24/7 helpline that can be reached at 1-800-272-3900 or on their website [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

Florence County Health Department can be reached at 715-528-4837. Visit our website at [www.florencecountywi.com](http://www.florencecountywi.com) for more information on programming. The health department is located on the second floor, 501 Lake Avenue in the Florence County Courthouse, open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. open during lunch time and by appointment after hours. Need health insurance? Visit [access.wi.gov](http://access.wi.gov) to see if you qualify for benefits.





## Hartford Common Council notes

### Arbor Day proclamation

The city of Hartford will be holding a tree planting ceremony for Arbor Day on at Homestead Park on April 25. During the April 15 Hartford Common Council meeting, Mayor Dennis Regan read a proclamation stating that the city has been recognized as a Tree City USA and Tree Line USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

According to the proclamation, in 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a

special day of planting be set aside for the planting of trees. The day, now called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska.

### Tariff impact discussion

During the aldermanic reports, Ald. Dean Kirley requested the city administrator to have a discussion item on the next council agenda regarding the impact of tariffs on the daily operations on the city of Hartford, including

equipment on order from Canada for the city's wastewater treatment plant.

"We know there's going to be tariffs coming in on that and we want to make sure we are all aware of the impact that these tariffs are going to have on budgeted items in the foreseeable future," Kirley said.

Kirley added that the cost of replacement vehicles for the city's electric [utility](#) that have two-to-three year lead times be included as part of the discussion on the impact of tariffs.

### Contract approved refinishing library floor

The council approved a contract with Artistic Concrete, LLC of New Berlin to refinish the epoxy-stained concrete floor at the Jack Russell Memorial Library at a cost not to exceed \$10,646. Artistic Concrete was one of two firms to submit bids on the project, which will be paid out of the library budget. The item was approved as part of the consent agenda.

*-Compiled by Thomas J. McKillen, Managing Editor*

Kaukauna, Heart of the Valley Times-Villager

## Van De Hey retiring from public service after 53 years

By Brian Roebke  
Editor

Wrapping up 53 years of public service when he retires in May from the Fox River Navigational System Authority, Ron Van De Hey thinks he's had a charmed life, being in the right place at the right time again and again.

Van De Hey is giving up the leadership position as board chairman of the Fox Locks system for the past five years.

In 2001, the state legislature approved a law creating the Fox River Navigational System Authority and transferred operation of the system from the Army Corps of Engineers to the State of Wisconsin. A community-wide effort from FRNSA board members, local citizens and businesses resulted in raising \$14.5 million to restore the system from 2000-2015.

Van De Hey was in a leadership role at every step of the process to restore the locks.

His business career began in insurance after graduating from Kaukauna High School in 1963 and working for Roloff Manufacturing for three years.

He dabbled in college for a while but with getting married and bigger fish to fry, he left that behind.

He actually had chickens, not fish, to attend to on the family farm, which was six acres in the Town of Vandenbroek but on the edge of the city.

"My brother and I, we butchered, then we brought them to the local supper clubs like Van Abel's and Starlite Bar, and even Lox Club back in the day," he said.

His dad decided to retire and asked his sons if they wanted to take over the business, and both declined, so it was off to the job market.

"My father had just a great work ethic," he said. "In fact, he probably worked too hard, but I can say I worked too hard too. Life just goes

on."

It's ironic, then, that after decades of high schools encourage students to get college educations, it's come back around to where he was half a century ago where people realize they can be successful without the university experience.

Van De Hey retired several times, eventually going to work with his cousin Dave Van De Hey, where he was a benefits adviser with Van De Hey Financial Services for nine years and becoming a full-time community volunteer.

"It's such a social business," he said. "I was a salesman in my younger years, I was in government for years, and I was in the banking business too."

He feels fortunate he had natural communication skills and grew them over the years.

"It took some learning to get there but that's what life's all about," he said.

His career in public service began when he was 27 years old in 1972 when he was elected to the Kaukauna school board, for which he served for 10 years.

He remembers being at Rich & Sally's Cove Bar one Friday night when one of the school's athletic teams was not doing well and he was selected by his friends to become a candidate for the board of education.

"I was so green at the time but as it turned out, things went well," he said.

He started working for Metropolitan Life Insurance and things grew from there and he was then smarter and decided to run for mayor.

"Knowledge is cumulative," he said. "You grow up with a lot of common sense in your household but then you accumulate knowledge and an understanding of how the system works, and the city was having some major trouble."

The financial situation at city hall



Brian Roebke photo

**Ron Van De Hey of Kaukauna is ending 53 years of public service from school board to mayor to county executive to the Fox River Navigational System Authority when he retires in May as FRNSA chairman.**

was not good and Van De Hey "got the fever" and it was time for him to get involved. He feels fortunate he has a good business sense and that helped the city turn things around.

"It was nothing that wasn't fixable but I'm the new guy coming in and the people who had been there for a long time when I slid into that position, it's hard for them to correct it," he said.

Van De Hey said he didn't sleep well the first year and often told his wife, Janet, that the situation was worse than he thought it was.

It was a matter of looking at the

financial statements, restructuring the debt, borrowing smart, and having a plan for the future.

He remembers going to the Villa Restaurant almost every day and got all kinds of free advice from men more experienced in life than he was. He can still hear Pat Kenney saying, "Don't go into debt" and that was good advice. The city managed its debt over the years and the job got easier and he eventually got bored, leading to running for Outagamie County executive after five terms as mayor.

"The county board was like herd-

ing cats," he remembered. There were "city people" and "town people" and they had to find some middle ground to operate county government.

He remembers his predecessor, John Schreiter, giving a report to the county board and the supervisors would "go after him" and he would leave the meeting with a red face.

He got tired of that and endorsed him to run for the position, and Van De Hey was elected and the board eventually went smoothly.

"Then one day I get a phone call out of the blue from a friend I had known from days gone by with M&I Bank, asking if I would be interested in changing careers, and you always take that call," Van De Hey said.

They needed a "rainmaker" to shake up some new business and he was on to the next thing. However, it wasn't working with the public as much and after four years, he was bored to death and decided to get out.

"It was different from who I was," he said.

He had four good years but it was time to move on. He worked for a year for U.S. Oil but it wasn't a good fit for him. That's when he joined his cousin, Dave, and they had a great relationship for nine years.

"I don't think we've ever had an ill word, and that's how good he is," Ron said. "I always worked around smart people."

He thought the staff at Outagamie County was very smart but they needed a common direction that he provided for them.

Van De Hey got involved in the Fox Locks system in 1981 when Appleton Mayor Dorothy Johnson called a meeting of community leaders. He was running for mayor at that time, but he was elected and that led to more involvement with the locks.

See Van De Hey, page 10



Kaukauna, Heart of the Valley Times-Villager

Page 10 Kaukauna Times-Villager

www.timesvillager.com - Wed, April 23, 2025

## Van De Hey

continued from page 1

He presided over the City of Kaukauna's decision to replace the Catherine Street Bridge with another lift bridge that was named the Veterans Memorial Bridge.

It was a controversial decision at the time since boat traffic on the river had almost come to a halt, but the city went ahead with another lift bridge instead of a fixed span over the government navigational canal.

"We had reports that it could fail and when we tore it down, they drove the biggest D-9 Caterpillar across the bridge to assist in the tearing down process and the bridge we thought might fall down ... didn't," he said. "But it had to be replaced."

He ran into a group of great people that were passionate about the Fox Locks System, led by Bill

Kellett, chairman of the board at Kimberly Clark, who thought the system should remain open.

Filling in the system with ground after operating for 200 years was a possibility, but Van De Hey didn't want to be the guy to have his name attached to that, so he went along with it. "That system will be there long after we're gone," he said.

He spent a lot of time during his youth on the river, and now nearing 80 years old, he's leading the group in charge of it.

"It's a part of my DNA," he said while noting he's never owned a power boat.

The use of the river has turned from commercial when he was a youth to recreational in the 2000s.

For decades, Kaukauna High School students were distracted from their teachers when large boats went down the river, with the bridge tender raising both bridges.

Today, River View Middle School students would probably be startled if the bridge rose.

"It's quite a story," Van De Hey said.

He doesn't see the locks system becoming much more active than it is now because boats can't get all the way through, with closures at Rapid Croche north of Kaukauna and Menasha to keep invasive fish species out of Lake Winnebago.

Van De Hey noted the agreement between FRNSA and the state ends in 2034.

"Let's face it, the State of Wisconsin doesn't want it back," he said. "They have people like us to run it. Why would they take it and run it. It's pretty complicated for the state itself."

Funding for the system comes from the various sources including the state, which gives the group \$125,000 a year, but most of the

operating money comes from the endowment fund that contains \$16 million.

They also receive money from the Fox Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau, Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region, and the David L. and Rita E. Nelson Family Fund.

"We're living off our endowment," he said.

With limited funds, Van De Hey does not foresee the Rapid Croche or Menasha locks reopening any time soon because the plans to keep the sea lamprey and round goby fish out of the system are too costly or unproven.

Van De Hey had a five-year sabbatical from the board, then returned in 2020 to become the chairman. He also has more than a full page listing of memberships, boards, and commissions he's been involved with over the year.

He believes he's leaving the board in FRNSA good shape, with two new directors joining the group and Jeff Feldt, the retired general manager from [Kaukauna Utilities](#), taking over his position.

## Students named to NMU dean's list

Northern Michigan University announced the dean's list for the Fall 2024 semester.

Savannah Van Daalwyk of Kaukauna qualified with a grade point average of 4.00.

The following students in our area qualified with a grade point average of 3.50-3.99.

**Appleton** — Emma Iles, Kayla Kerstner, Helen Mooren, Madi Tourville

**Kaukauna** — Noah Hofmann, Kathryn Ortner, Ashlyn Roskowski  
**Sherwood** — Spencer Winnekens



## Kaukauna Utilities approves bids related to construction projects

Compiled by Brian Roebke  
Editor

The Kaukauna Utilities Commission made several approvals for construction projects at its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 16, at the utility office.

The commission authorized the general manager to award KU's portion of the water and sewer relay for Linda Court and Thelen Avenue area to Carl Bowers & Sons Construction Company for \$671,027. Environmental & Compliance Manager Zach Moureau said along with the City of Kaukauna, KU solicited bids for this project that replaces 2,000 feet of six-inch cast iron water main with 730 feet of eight-inch C900 PVC pipe and 1,500 feet of 12-inch C900 PVC pipe. The current water main was installed between 1960 and 1980s and has served its useful life.

Due to the favorable pricing received for relay in the Desnoyer Street area and industrial park, several nearby troubled areas were incorporated into the Linda Court/Thelen Avenue project. This includes areas with frequent water breaks and aged valves and hydrants.

This project doesn't include any lead services.

The commission awarded the No. 10 well pump replacement (adjacent to the BP gas station on 10th Street) to Municipal Well & Pump for \$51,136.

The well pump has been in place for more than 10 years and industry professionals recommend a well pump should be inspected at least every 10 years. This pump has experienced several component failures over the last year and needs to be replaced. These component failures have not impacted the operational capability of the well pump, but failure would occur if ignored.

A new well pump, motor, associated piping, and well base will be installed during this project.

Commissioners approved a \$255,126 agreement with Quanta Technologies for support of the micro grid project in amount of with Quanta's understanding of the deliverables in the change order.

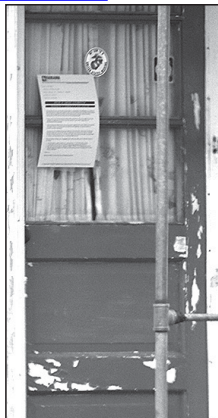
This \$6.1 million project will be paid roughly 50 percent through a grant that the utility has received from the U.S. Department of Energy. The reporting requirements for this \$3 million grant are both complex and extensive in order to ensure those federal financial resources are well invested in this endeavor.

Moureau presented information on the John Street plant flume and intake deck structural repair project and the commission awarded the contract to Lunda Construction Co. for \$36,520.

During 2023 flume inspections at the John Street Hydroelectric Plant, a cracked support column and seepage through a stacked stone foundation were encountered. In addition, concrete on the left intake deck has been slowly deteriorating and needs repair. The repair consists of polyurethane injection on the stacked stone foundation along with application of a concrete overlay. The cracked support column will be encased in concrete with hooked rebar and the deteriorated concrete along the intake deck will be replaced.

"Lunda has really been trying to get some business from us," Moureau said.

Engineering & Operations Manager Dave Pahl told the commission after completing the first round of reporting requirements, KU has recognized the extent of the burden that this has placed on staff. "We have further recognized the impor-



Brian Roebke photo

**The first round of electric disconnects is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23. Notices are mailed every other Friday, with notices also put on doors to the house, with disconnect dates on Wednesdays (12 days after notices are sent).**

tance of accuracy and experience in our dealings with the DOE, given the current environment there, and thus deemed it appropriate to ask the consulting firm we are working with on this project, Quanta Technologies, for what it might take for them to assist in this regard," Pahl said.

Coupling with them in this additional capacity is intuitive in so much as they already are working with KU on the technical components of this project. There is no impact to the overall project budget for this change since it is largely offset by funds that were allocated for in-house staff to manage this aspect of the grant.

"Having a veteran consultant savvy in such matters will likely only fortify our position in our dealings with the DOE ensuring that all of the details are met," Pahl added.

Pahl also gave an in-depth presentation to demonstrate the work KU has done to build out risk models for its assets. "These models and others that will be built over time will help us to make data driven decisions on how we invest in our infrastructure," he reported.

In department updates, General Manager Michael Avanzi said he

recently received the news that the FEMA grant program KU was pursuing for the water treatment project has been canceled.

"I'm not giving up on it yet," he said. "I've reached out to a couple of our congressional representatives to ask them what's going on."

KU did submit an application for congressionally directed spending through Senator Tammy Baldwin. "We are awaiting instructions from Congressman Tony Wied to do the same through the House Appropriations Committee," he said, noting this grant could have funded up to 75 percent of the project.

"That took a little bit of wind out of our sales," Avanzi said.

Energy Services Representative Frank Barth nominated Ahlstrom for a Focus on Energy Efficiency Excellence Award and they were chosen to receive one of 12 awards statewide.

Pahl noted the geothermal project for the main office building is moving forward with parallel paths. The test bore is being requested because it's no longer valid. KU is also soliciting quotes for the traditional method.

Staff have been working on looking at different design ideas for Kaukauna North Substation since leads on a grounding transformer continue to come up as dead ends.

"The actual interconnect transformer will have all control wiring complete and checked out," Pahl said. He hopes to energize that transformer this week and it will remain unloaded until they have a solution in place.

The April 13 outage on the south side of Kaukauna involved mainly two circuits, and both were caused by galloping lines due to the ice

build-up and wind. One of these circuits experienced an underground fault as well, resulting in a failed cable termination.

In the investigation process, they discovered the wrong stud was used with the terminator. They have identified all areas where this lug was used and will soon replace them.

Moureau reported the engineering team is working with the Village of Combined Locks with regard to their rebuild plans for Park Street. This project has had some technical complications that will result in

sidewalks going around some KU power polls because of a lack of right-of-way between the street and private property.

Director of Finance & Administration Clara Pickett said seven significant data requests have been received from PSC audit staff regarding the electric rate study.

"Although expected, it consumes a large amount of time and resources to gather the data and reply," she reported.

The Citizens Utility Board and Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group are formally intervening.



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## The Landings of Kaukauna is Honored with 2025 Best of Senior Living Award by A Place for Mom

The Landings of Kaukauna is honored to receive the 2025 Best of Senior Living Award from A Place for Mom, the largest senior living referral service in North America. This distinction places us among the top 1-2% of senior care providers nationwide, based on reviews from residents and families.

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# Utility shut-off moratorium ends April 15



## FOR THE CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – The end of the moratorium on disconnection of electric service for customers who have gotten behind on their energy bills ends April 15, and utility officials want people who have fallen behind on their bills to know they have options.

Marshfield Utilities has sent customers multiple notices if they are at risk of disconnection, and officials say it's important these customers contact Marshfield Utilities to set up a payment plan to get caught up on their bill to

avoid disconnection.

There are also energy assistance programs that can help those who are behind. More information about those programs is available by contacting Energy Services, Community Action Agency or the Marshfield Utilities payment assistance.

MU also offers a deferred payment arrangement plan that allows customers who have gotten behind on their bills to spread their outstanding balance over several months instead of paying it all at once. Call

(715) 387-1195 for details and questions.

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New Glarus, Post Messenger Recorder

# New Glarus Police Department roof contract approved

By CHRIS MENTES

Post Messenger Recorder

The New Glarus Village Board on March 18 approved the contract to complete the roof replacement at the village's police department.

Although the board previously awarded the bid to Midwest Roofing for \$58,630, the contract had

not been approved until Tuesday night's meeting.

"It's a total tear-off," remarked Village President Roger Truttmann about the project, which is scheduled to begin and be completed this summer.

Village Administrator Lauren Freeman said the contract indicates other costs could arise as the project proceeds because

the roof will be completely removed and it is unknown what repairs may be required once the roof is completely removed. Freeman said Midwest was the contractor who worked with the village during the 2020 village hall roof project, which was widely criticized because of miscommunication and materials left behind at the site.

"Our current Public Works Director will plan to provide additional supervision to the project," Freeman wrote via email after the meeting. "And I plan to communicate with them the issues that transpired before and set our expectations for this project."

**Village receives large fee for New Glarus Brewing Company expansion**

In the board's packet is a listing of fees paid to the village. At the bottom of the list is an \$18,599 fee paid to the village for building permit and inspection fees by the New Glarus Brewing Company for its expansion.

When asked if that is a sizable fee for the village in recent history, Freeman replied that she suspected that is the largest fee paid to the

village in recent memory.

**Board approves parking changes**

In response to a request from the New Glarus School District, the village board approved an amendment to village parking ordinance to prohibit some parking near the elementary school.

The amendment to Sec-

**continued on page 11**



## New Glarus, Post Messenger Recorder

### NEW GLARUS VILLAGE BOARD

*Continued from page 1*

tion 288-21 parking prohibited zones will prohibit parking on the south side of 14th Avenue between Second Street and the New Glarus Elementary School Driveway, which is located at 19 14th Ave.

#### **WPPI Energy Board member appointed**

The board acted on Freeman's recommendation to appoint new members to the Wisconsin Public Power Inc. board of directors. The

board voted to appoint Bill Kosmeder as WPPI Director, with Pete Heil being the WPPI Alternate.

The appointment is being made due to the retirement of Kevin Funseth effective Jan. 8.

#### **Portable restroom contract OK'd**

Acting on a recommendation from Freeman and recommended approval from the Parks & Recreation Commission, the board approved a bid for \$5,750 from

Monson Septic Pumping & Portable Restrooms for \$5,750. The bid includes five ADA-compliant units with weekly service from April 1 to Nov. 1, 2025.

Freeman said the company has been more than responsive with more frequent than weekly service of its portable restroom units in past years and recommended the approval.

#### **What about Sasquatch?**

The board approved a request

from Jack Links Beef Jerky to host a company picnic at Village Park from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on June 25. The approval is pending a renewal of the company's certificate of insurance, which expires a few days before the picnic.

Board members joked around about placing a requirement that the company would have to include beef sticks as part of its use of the park, but staff cautioned against that even in jest (and there was no

mention about the company advertising character, Sasquatch, possibly being in attendance).

"If we can't have fun doing this," one board member asked, "what's the point?"

"Because it's going to look funny in the newspaper," Village Clerk Kelsey Jenson replied.

The board approved the permit — without the beef stick requirement.



New Glarus, Post Messenger Recorder

# Freeman will depart for Waunakee position

By **CHRIS MERTES**

*Post Messenger Recorder*

New Glarus Village Administrator Lauren Freeman has resigned, with her last day of employment being May 16, according to an email sent April 16 to the *Post Messenger Recorder*.

Freeman said she is resigning her position to accept a new role at the Village of Waunakee as their new Deputy Administrator/Community Development Director. Freeman came to the Village of New Glarus after working in an administrative capacity in the

City of Sun Prairie's Public Works Department.

**Library update:**

**Town staying**

**until May 23**

Freeman said the Town of New Glarus will remain in the existing town hall building — which will be razed to make way for the new New Glarus Public Library building — until May 23. Habitat for Humanity of Green County will then come in to salvage any materials that could be resold to support its efforts to provide new owner-built, owner-occupied housing in



**Village Administrator Lauren Freeman has resigned, with her last day of employment being May 16.**

Green County.

"Then the Fire Department will conduct training

in the building," Freeman wrote in an email.

Freeman, who said the library project will begin in June, said she has also received many questions from residents about whether or not the bells will be saved from the town hall.

"Yes, we plan to incorporate the bells into the new library design," Freeman wrote, "likely in the interior front entrance."

**Borth honored  
after 30 years**

Village President Roger

**continued on page 14**





# VILLAGE BOARD

Continued from page 1

Truttmann read a proclamation honoring Jason Borth on his retirement from New Glarus Utilities after 30 years of service.

Village Clerk Kelsey Jensen said the village is planning a small party beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, at the Village Hall to honor Borth's service.

The proclamation, which praised Borth for completing continuous education to maintain his Water Operator credentials and staying active with the Wisconsin Rural Water Association,

hailed Borth for dedicating "his career to ensuring that New Glarus residents and businesses always have safe drinking water readily available at their faucets and a working fire flow system to fight fires."

The proclamation also noted Borth's "long career in New Glarus has provided stability and a wealth of knowledge to the utility department, playing a vital role in maintaining reliability of the infrastructure that residents depend on every day."

"Thank you very much," Borth said, referring the proclamation. "It's very sweet."

Borth also changed his mind when he said he might miss the routine of his job. "I'm also not going to miss it," he added, saying that he is involved in other activities outside of work.

## Arbor Day proclaimed

Truttmann also proclaimed April 25 as Arbor Day in the Village of New Glarus, and May 2 as the planting day for the village and urged "all citizens to

support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands and to support our community forestry programs."

The proclamation recalled the origins of Arbor Day in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. Known as Arbor Day, the holiday was observed with the planting of more than 1 million trees in Nebraska.

The Village of New Glarus has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

## Heavy refuse, recycling events slated

Heavy refuse and other disposal/recycling events are coming up in the city of New Holstein.

Curbside brush pickup is happening this week (April 21 to 25) for city residents only.

The city's annual heavy refuse drop-off for city residents only is scheduled for this Saturday, April 26 from 7 to 11 a.m. It is held behind the Public Works garage off Taft Avenue in the far northeast corner of the city.

Acceptable items include chairs, tables, desks, sinks, toilets or any other household furniture; carpeting, pads from carpeting and rugs

cut into four-foot sections and tied securely; bed springs, mattresses, bed frames, swing sets, clothesline poles (with concrete removed), bicycles and parts; and non-hazardous household refuse that is properly bagged or bundled. No loose material will be accepted.

Items which will not be accepted are computers and electronics (telephones, laptops, CPUs, fax machines, printers, photocopiers, VCRs, DVD players, Blue Ray players, TVs, radios); tires; appliances containing freon; fuel-powered engines; large amounts of con-

struction and remodeling debris (plaster, shingles, siding); yard waste (shrubs, branches, grass clippings, leaves); liquids (spray cans, chemicals, paints, varnishes); fluorescent bulbs; and batteries.

**New Holstein Utilities** will hold an electronics recycling event on Thursday, May 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to handle many of the electronics items mentioned above. For more information visit [www.nhutilities.org](http://www.nhutilities.org).

Also this Saturday will be a drug

take-back event at the New Holstein Police Station from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Use the police entrance on the lower level of City Hall.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TOWN OF BROTHERTOWN  
CALUMET COUNTY, WI  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF  
ADULT-ORIENTED  
ESTABLISHMENTS ORDINANCE**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on April 1, 2025, the Town of Brothertown, Calumet County, Wisconsin, adopted the Town of Brothertown Adult-Oriented Establishments Ordinance. The Ordinance covers the following topics:

- Findings and Purpose
- Definitions

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**



Apr  
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2025

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# Kuhn hired to lead OEC operations

## Utility Commission to seek applicants

By **WARREN BLUHM**  
*News Editor*

The manager of **Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities**

for the last decade plans to move across town to become operations manager of Oconto Electric Cooperative.

Greg Kuhn told the city council April 8 that his first day in the new position is May 9. Kuhn was hired in June 2015 after 12 years as a journeyman line-man with the water department and water treatment facility in Hartford.

"I appreciate the work that we've all put in to get where we're at," Kuhn said. "I'm proud of the work that I've accomplished

along with everybody here and the commission ... I can leave knowing that I left it in better shape than I came."

The city utilities commission has appointed Beth Rank, customer service representative, and Jason Valentine, utility foreman, to share interim managerial duties while a new manager is recruited.

"Normally we would try to do it with one, but given the scope of the amount of work we have this summer, we thought it best to try to designate the two parties so they can each concentrate on appropriate tasks," Kuhn said.

The city got good news earlier this month when

parts for the new lift station on Columbia Street arrived two months early and the steel for a new substation was delivered, he said.

"The two biggest looming projects might be completed before I leave, so that would be good," Kuhn said.

The commission asked Kuhn to update the manager's job description for its April meeting, and commissioners will review applications and resumes as they come in, he said.

Mayor Clint Braun and council members thanked Kuhn for his service to the city over nearly 10 years.

[wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com](mailto:wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com)

# Site plan for potential new Sargento facility reviewed

by **Emmitt B. Feldner**  
of The Review staff

PLYMOUTH — Sargento Foods' next major facility in the city came into a little clearer focus last week.

The Plan Commission at their April 3 meeting endorsed a rezoning and master plan map amendment for a 66-acre plus parcel at State 57 and County PP which Sargento purchased last fall.

"In an effort to accommodate potential future development, Sargento has submitted a request for rezoning (from agricultural) to HI heavy industry and a comprehensive plan amendment to change its future land use to industrial," City Administrator/Utilities Manager Tim Blakeslee wrote in a memo to the commission.

The property at the southeast corner of the State 57/County PP intersection is roughly equivalent in size to the company's main campus at 1 Persnickety Place on the city's northwest side. That property is some 65 acres.

The new land is located to the east of the city's Pilgrim Road industrial park and south and west of the County PP industrial park.

While Sargento provided no specific plans for the property, it did provide a preliminary site plan for future development as required for the rezoning request.

That showed a large building at the northern end of the property with two driveways off County PP, one for trucks and one for other vehicles, along with a large parking lot north of the building.

The Plan Commission would have review and approval over any final site plan for the property, Blakeslee added.

The City Council is expected to act on the rezoning and master plan map amendment at their May 13 meeting.

Garages/storage buildings for two different city departments won commission approval.

**Plymouth Utilities** will build a 12,000-square foot detached garage on their County PP campus to provide covered storage for equipment and material currently stored in the open behind the utilities' headquarters building.

Blakeslee explained that the proposed garage was originally approved by the City Council in 2019.

It is still awaiting final approval by the state Public Service Commission before it can be built, he added.

The Police Department will get a new storage garage in the southeast corner of the parking lot behind the Fire Department off Caroline Street.

Police Chief Kenneth Ruggles explained that his department currently stores impounded vehicles in the Public Works Department's two-car garage on Valley Road.

That has caused conflicts on occasion with the Public Works Department, he added.

"It is not common for us to have vehicles in our custody," Ruggles noted. But he added the department can use the new garage for storage of evidence,

See **PLAN/4**

Apr  
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Plymouth, The Review

PLAN from 3

department vehicles and more.  
“We've been looking for a location to have secure storage,”

Public Notice

April 11, 18 & 25, 2025  
STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY  
In the matter of the estate of  
Constance M. Wuestenhagen  
Notice to Creditors

Ruggles explained. “We already have lighting on the area and have cameras focusing on the area.”  
The Taco Bell restaurant on Kiley Way will get a new look in-

Public Notice

April 11, 18 & 25, 2025  
STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY  
In the matter of the estate of  
Wendy S. Pfeifer

side and out under plans approved by the commission.  
“The project is a renovation of Taco Bell,” Tricia Muellenbach of Excel Engineering told the commission. “The exterior includes new paint and minor site and sign upgrades.”  
Assistant City Administrator/Community Development Director Jack Johnston said the project would not change the footprint of the existing building.



## Two streets to be rebuilt

by Emmitt B. Feldner  
of The Review staff

PLYMOUTH – Bids for two major public works projects for this summer came in over budget, but the City Council approved both Tuesday with assurances that the extra costs could be covered.

The council approved the summer street work project to rebuild Collins Street and Hill Court, as well as the installation of rapid flashing beacon pedestrian crossing signs at the intersection of Eastern Avenue and North Bruns Avenue.

David Tenor Corp. of Green Bay, one of seven bidders on the street project, had the low bid of \$1.35 million, while Kapur and Associates was awarded the construction management contract for \$98,970.

Public Works Director Cathy Austin allowed that the project, to be funded through a proposed city/utility bond issue later this spring, were originally estimated to total \$1 million, meaning the project is about \$400,000 over projections.

Austin blamed the increased cost on inflation and the addition of Hill Court to the project.

“We televised the sanitary sewer (on Hill Court) and it is in need of replacement. It makes sense to dig up the water mains and replace the lead lines. That makes up about \$150,000 of the cost overrun,” Austin explained.

City Administrator/Utilities Manager Tim Blakeslee said the cost of the project will be split between the city and **Plymouth Utilities.**

He said the city has sufficient money in the capital projects funds, thanks to the cancellation of a \$287,000 county trail project this year, to cover its share of the cost overrun.

The utility portion will be added to the bond sale, expected in June, in order to protect the utilities' financial reserves.

“I don't see these costs going down,” Austin said whether the city should reschedule the streetwork until next year and include it in the 2026 budget. “I don't see rebidding saving us

any money.”

ZR LLC Concrete of Plymouth was the lowest of six bidders on the enhanced crossing warning at Eastern and South Bruns, with a bid of \$64,980.

That was above the budgeted amount of \$50,000, Austin informed the council.

“When we went to do the installation, it became apparent that water was ponding in the crosswalk and it does not

See **PLYMOUTH/9**

# THANK YOU

## TO OUR DEDICATED LINE CREW

**Our line workers brave the elements day and night to make sure we all have safe and reliable power.** They live and work in the community and are quick to respond after a storm or unexpected power outage to get the system restored with as little downtime as possible. In honor of National Line Worker Appreciation Day April 18, we thank our line workers for all they do, today and every day.

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## PLYMOUTH from 7

meet ADA standards,” Austin explained.

The curb and gutter, and access ramps at the intersection will have to be replaced, she said, increasing the cost.

The city has enough money in the capital projects reserve fund to cover the overrun, Austin added.

Her department will look to see if there is any of the work, such as stripe painting, they can do to reduce the costs as well.

The council approved a utility easement and an encroachment agreement with LAG Family LLC for the Laack Block renovation project.

Blakeslee said the easement across the west municipal parking lot off Stafford Street would be for a private sewer line to serve the Laack Block building.

“Part of the project is uncovering window wells along Stafford Street to allow natural light into the basement area and install fencing around the reopened window wells,” Blakeslee told the council.

The window wells and fence are in the Stafford Street right-of-way, he added, necessitating the encroachment agreement.

Council President John Nelson, who did not run for re-election to the council, was honored with a proclamation for his years of service on the council.

“It's all about quality of life and trying to make things better,” Nelson said of his 11 years on the council.

“My request to all of you is to keep focused on expanding, progressing, not just being satisfied with the way the city is right now. We can always make it better,” Nelson told his colleagues.

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## GOVERNMENT

# Plymouth citizens request impact statement

BY TRACY FOLZ  
Editor

Several community members spoke during the community feedback section of the Plymouth Common Council meeting on Feb. 27 about the ATC transmission line.

Everyone who spoke asked the council to request an Environmental Impact Study from the Public Service Commission and asked for the transmission line to be re-routed to an area that would not have as great of an impact.

Joann Friedman said she was told each official and town board member could tell the Public Service Commission an EIS is necessary on a project to prove its safety. "Our elected state officials

were told there is nothing they can do to help the constituents," Friedman said. "We are concerned about who advised our Sheboygan County state elected officials not to help the constituents who elected them. This is in violation of the oath of office and commitment to the community that all elected officials pledge to fulfill. Therefore, the professional advisors we have retained are looking into this."

Randall Pietsch lives on Cedars Springs Trout Farm and said if the transmission line would go through as proposed it would clear cut much of his front yard. "The clear-cutting will warm our class 1 trout stream, Nichols Creek and combined with the stray voltage will kill trout,"

Pietsch said. He said the cedar trees are over 100 years old and the land was bought by his grandfather in 1906. Pietsch said, "It would require removing hundreds, if not thousands of trees. This cannot be good for the environment," he continued. "I am asking you to please change the route. ATC is going to tell you it is too late. It is not too late, it is up to you."

Mike Ronga is on the board of Lakeshore Trout Unlimited and the organization has cleared and cleaned the Onion River and Nichols Creek. "We cannot move one rock in the river until the EIS is complete. When I learned how potentially dangerous these powerlines could be to the trout streams and to the livelihood of many fam-

ilies and farms, I asked why was an EIS not done? How could a project as big as this not require an EIS? We are asking and demanding an EIS be done to prove these transmission lines will not harm these farms, the environment and the trout streams. If ATC cannot prove it, then they should not be built."

Dan Kraemer operates a dairy farm and the proposed power line would go across his front lawn. He has lived there for 63 years and is a fourth-generation owner of the farm. His wife has a pacemaker and the doctor told her she cannot live close to the line as the electromagnetic field would alter her pacemaker. "For this reason, I would not be able to continue



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Plymouth area residents are concerned that proposed ATC transmission lines through the area could harm the environment, including streams and trout farms.**

to live there and I am not old enough to retire. This will also mean 240,000 gallons of milk per year from the farm which goes to Sargento Cheese would be affected. You call yourself the Cheese Capital of the World."

He provided copies of a map with a proposed alternate route that would have less impact on families and farmland. "If you could propose the map with the alternate route, you would look like heroes to our community," he said.

Mayor Donald Pohlman said, "We appreciate people coming in and telling us what is on your mind, that is what this session in our council proceedings is for. Thank you."

[Plymouth Utilities](#)

created an informational update on the [Plymouth Utilities](#) Substation No.5 and ATC

Transmission Lines. It states "A proposed transmission line must include a review of environmental impacts and a 72-page report of the review the PSC, conducted in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is available, detailing the scope, issues identified, public input received and staff recommendations. As summarized on pages 2-3 of the PSC final decision in the ATC docket, based on the review that had been completed, the PSC found that a formal EIS was not required. (Updated 2/26/25)"

For more information on the informational update on the transmission line, visit the [Plymouth Utilities](#) website, <https://plymouthgov.com/utilities>.

Contact Editor Tracy Folz at [tfolz@wisconsinmediagroup.com](mailto:tfolz@wisconsinmediagroup.com)

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Reedsburg, Independent Star News

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Free Medication Take Back Day April 26

Protect our environment and drinking water by properly disposing of your expired and unused medications at the Free Medication Take Back Day on Saturday,

April 26, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. at Sauk Prairie Healthcare.

In a Ziploc bag, combine all pills (discard/recycle empty bottles), ointment/creams (discard boxes), and powders. Keep liquids in original container. In an-

other bag, place inhalers, injectable medications, and sharps containers. Sharps containers will be available upon request.

Note: Discard sunscreen, soaps, moisturizer, and other cosmetics in regular trash.

Sponsored by the Drug

Enforcement Administration and the Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation. Special thanks to the Sauk City and Prairie du Sac Utilities, Sauk Prairie Police Department, and Sauk Prairie Healthcare volunteers.

# RUC Lightspeed projects to go forward in Witwen and Iowa County

RUC LightSpeed, powered by Reedsburg Utility, is excited to announce that construction for the Witwen and Iowa County projects has been officially approved for 2025. The Iowa County project will be managed by J&R Underground, with construction slated to begin later this summer. Michaels Underground will kick off work on the Witwen project by May 2025.

RUC LightSpeed is currently offering a “Pre-Construction” offer for those who have not already signed

up for service. Project area residents can secure construction from the main road to their home with only a \$100 payment, which includes a \$100 bill credit toward internet service on their account. This offer will remain available until the completion of mainline construction, after which prices will increase.

After the promotion ends, standard costs are expected to range from \$4 to \$6 per foot for construction from the road to your home. Visit the “Projects” tab on the

RUC LightSpeed website at [RUCLightSpeed.com](http://RUCLightSpeed.com) for more information or to sign up.

Residents should be aware that other companies may falsely claim to be affiliated with LightSpeed. If you have already signed up and an employee visits your home for installation, please confirm that they are working with Reedsburg Utility/LightSpeed.

Project-specific details will be mailed to residents in the project areas very soon!

Richland Center, The Richland Observer

## City Utilities honored with national award for safety

City Utilities of Richland Center has earned the American Public Power Association's Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2024. The utility earned the diamond award in the category for utilities with 15,000 worker-hours of annual worker exposure.

More than 200 utilities entered the annual Safety Awards for 2024. The entrants are placed in accordance with their number of worker-hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records and overall state of their safety programs and culture during 2024. The incidence rate is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2024, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"City Utilities is proud of our safety culture," said Scott Gald, Utility Manager of City Utilities. "This award is a testament to the safety culture we have built and the hard work that goes into ensuring that our team members have a safe work environment."

"Harnessing electricity to keep our communities powered is vital work that can be dangerous, even deadly, if the proper attention isn't paid to tried-and-true safety practices," said Jon Beasley, Chair of APPA's Safety Committee and Vice-President of Electric Cities of GA. "This award honors utilities that hold fast to these practices and – in doing so – put the safety of their personnel and their customers above all else."

APPA has conducted the Safety Awards annually for more than sixty-six years. APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.



From left: Grant Bruckner, Gerald Klatt, Scott Gald, Hunter Dischler, Angie Edwards, Rowen Wipperfurth and Darren Mott.

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# Fourth annual Earth Fest set for April 26

## *Community event features new activities and offerings*

RIVER FALLS — The fourth annual Earth Fest will take place April 26 from noon to 4 p.m. at the University Center at UW-River Falls at 501 Wild Rose Ave., River Falls. The event is free and open to all. Earth Fest is a celebration of community and environmental wellness efforts and a collaborative effort coordinated through Hope for Earth in partnership with the School District of River Falls, the UWRF Sustainability Office, the City of River Falls and many additional entities.

This year, the festivities will begin with an exclusive pre-event performance by the Smokeytown Singers at 11 a.m. in the Falcon's Nest, University Center. The Smokeytown Singers are a renowned drum group from the Menominee Tribe in Wisconsin. The group works to promote and protect traditional Menominee music and culture by performing at powwows and cultural events nationwide. The performance will also include a component honoring and recognizing military veterans.

Additional event highlights:

Forager Chef Alan Bergo: Following the Smokeytown Singers, Forager Chef Alan Bergo will give a presentation about walnut milk at noon. Bergo will then have an exhibit in the Meet Your Farmer & Local Ag area where attendees will have the opportunity to learn about sustainable foraging and enjoy delicious samples.

Electric Vehicle Charging 101: ZEF Energy will provide a brief presentation at 12:45

p.m. Attendees can ask questions and learn more at the ZEF Energy exhibitor space.

Trashion Show: At 1 p.m., the Trashion Show will highlight the fallout from fast fashion and showcase local talent with creative alternatives. Participants will present outfits made from recycled and repurposed materials, demonstrating innovative and sustainable fashion choices. Three categories will be presented including recycled/up-cycled, mended, and thrifted.

Bluegrass Music: At 2 p.m. The Pickled Beats Bluegrass Band will perform. The performance is through a partnership with the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and the annual River Falls Bluegrass Festival.

Seasonal Spotlight: This year, Earth Fest will feature a Seasonal Spotlight partnership with local farms and restaurants. Attendees can enjoy free samples of local and sustainable food options, with an ongoing focus on seasonal ingredients and dishes at local restaurants throughout the growing season.

Exhibitors: 90+ exhibits intended to educate about sustainability-related practices and local opportunities for involvement. There will also be giveaways of trees, LED light bulbs, laundry detergent sheets and other sustainability related items. For the first time, exhibitors will be allowed to sell items such as honey, cookbooks, and reusable bags.

Activities: An assortment of activities for those of all ages will include outdoor learning and play for young

children, Humble Horse Ojibwe ponies, interactive surface water displays, clothing swap, Coco's Heart dog rescue, book giveaway and an art project with Community Arts Base. Attendees will also be able to participate in a new community mosaic project.

Electric cars, tools and more: Talk with owners of electric vehicles and tools to learn about charging, battery life and performance.

Parking is available on public streets around UWRF as well as in various campus parking lots.

Free shuttle transportation is available from several River Falls locations in collaboration with the River Falls Bluegrass Festival.

Attendees are asked to bring well water to be tested and one to two gently used adult clothing items to trade to help reduce throwing away clothing. The site also will be home to battery recycling. Event organizers encourage attendees to help reduce waste by bringing their own water bottle or coffee mug for use at the beverage stations.

Old growth sponsors of this year's event are the City of River Falls, River Falls Municipal Utilities and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Interfacial Consultants and the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy are sapling sponsors.

For more event and parking information, visit <https://www.hopeforearth.org/earth-fest> and [facebook.com/earth-fest.RF](https://facebook.com/earth-fest.RF)

*Submitted by Earth Fest*

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# Waterloo City Council approves Hendricks Street reconstruction

**CHRIS LEE**

chris.lee@apg-sw.com

**WATERLOO** — The City of Waterloo will move ahead with the Hendricks Street reconstruction project and associated repaving of the Department of Public Works (DPW) parking lot this summer.

Mayor Jenifer Quimby said the City Council approved the project on a 7-0 vote April 17.

"People will no longer have to walk in the road," Quimby said of the project, which includes adding sidewalks on both sides of the street up to Bishop Circle, and then on the west side of Hendricks up to the bridge over the Mauneshia River at the entrance to Fireman's Park.

The Council approved the low bid for the Hendricks Street reconstruction of \$2,624,231 from Dorner Inc., from Luxemburg, Wis., plus their additional bid for the DPW north-side parking lot of \$103,125, for a total of \$2,727,356, according to City documents.

The project will run from East Madison Street north to the bridge

over the Mauneshia River, but will not include the bridge itself, according to DPW Director Chad Yerges. It includes the street, new curb and gutter, and sidewalks.

Currently, Hendricks Street does not have curb and gutter or sidewalk north of Cleveland Street.

The project also includes adding an entrance to the back side of 333 Portland Road in the City's industrial park, Quimby said, which will allow development of that parcel. The City is getting a \$470,000 grant to cover that work, she said, adding that currently there is no street access to that parcel.

Some of the project's total cost is for the City's share, while some is for sanitary sewer and water-main work through Waterloo Utilities, officials said. The sewer will be lowered several feet, Quimby said.

To save some money, the City and Waterloo Utilities will share the work of removing trees as needed for the project, she said. She added that the City has been saving its wheel-tax money for the project.

Hendricks Street is the City's largest street project for this year.

Future projects include a reconstruction South Van Buren Street in 2027, State HWY 89 / East Madison Street in 2028, Maple Street in 2029, and State HWY 19 / Portland Road which will now be moved from 2031 to 2033, Quimby said.

In other action April 17, the City Council:

- Elected Charles Kuhl as its new Council president, replacing Alderperson Tim Thomas in that role, according to Quimby.
- Approved Cody Lee as the City's fourth full-time AEMT/firefighter, after former new-hire Roxanne Schneider left to join another department.

• Received a report on Baker-Tilly's 2024 audit of the City. "We are very healthy," Quimby said. "We are very low in our debt, especially compared to other municipalities."

In other Waterloo news, new Police Officer Daniel Aguero was sworn in April 14. He has been a paid-per-call firefighter with Waterloo Fire and EMS since 2019 and will be the City's first officer who is fluent in Spanish. He will attend the police academy starting in August.