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Black River Falls, Banner Journal (1926-2005; & 2005-current)

BRFMU discusses water system and forebay projects, potential savings in wastewater treatment

By Garrett Aleckson

The Black River Falls Municipal Utility (BRFMU) Commission met for its regular meeting Monday, Dec. 18.

BRFMU general manager Casey Engebretson provided the commission with the water report, discussing the water system.

“With the break in the weather last week we were able to get out do hydrant flows and pressure readings in 14 different spots throughout the water system,” said Engebretson. “We were just sent some updated flow and pressure maps about an hour ago. Jeff (Bauer, lead water operator) is going to look at those and make sure the sizes

and layout are all correct. Then we’re going to set up a meeting and start some planning and figuring out what direction we’re going to go.”

Engebretson also presented the wastewater report.

“We just got an email from Hawkins Chemical,” said Engebretson. “They have a new chemical, or a new series of chemicals, that they did jar testing on our wastewater and they showed promising results, as far as even better removal than the Rare Earth at maybe one-third of the cost. From what they claim, it doesn’t change any sludge production, so the sludge hauling could remain the same. We’re going to look

to get a price on that and start with maybe 100 gallons and do a pilot for a few weeks and see if it works. If it does, it might help offset what the increase in sludge hauling will be.”

Engebretson also updated the commission on the forebay project plan and endangered resources review.

“We have done some preliminary talks with the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on historic and endangered resources reviews,” said Engebretson. “We went through all that and everything is good to go

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BRFMU From Front Page

that way. I presented our project to the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) regional engineer and explained what we were doing. There are things in the federal statutes that require them to review the plan if it's anything major and not what they call routine maintenance. After explaining what we were going to do, they said they would consider that routine maintenance. The way it sounds is we're pretty much ready to go. As soon as the design and bid documents are done, we can bid that any

time and hopefully get that done this summer."

In additional business, the commission approved disbursement of remaining 2023 public power funds.

"We have \$695 left in the community contribution fund, \$1,000 in the economic development and \$1,000 in the school education and outreach fund," said Engbretson. "I know earlier in the year you made a \$300 contribution to the All Abilities Playground and you did mention that, at the end of the year, if there are some left over you'd be willing to do more. I just put in there \$695 for the All Abilities Playground. I don't know how many years

it's been now that the economic development has gone to either the BRF Downtown Association (BRFDTA) or Black River Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), so I just split that end up there. For school, the tech education department at the BRF High School (BRFHS), they have some classes that have to do with electricity and stuff. And they can always use some school supplies."

The commission approved \$695 to the All Abilities Playground, \$500 to the BRFDTA, \$500 to the Chamber and \$1,000 to the tech education department at the BRFHS.

BRFMU donates to community organizations



Contributed photo

Black River Falls Municipal Utilities (BRFMU) got into the holiday spirit and gave back to the community. BRFMU donated to the Black River Falls High School technology education department to buy supplies for electricity classes, as well as to the All-Abilities Community Playground at Lunda Park. According to organizers, the project upgraded the playground equipment to provide a space where people of all abilities and generations could spend time together.

Additionally, BRFMU provided support to the BR Area Chamber of Commerce and the BRF Downtown Association. Both organizations help promote economic development in the area.

“Our locally owned, not-for-profit utility exists for the benefit of the community. It’s important for us to support our neighbors by giving back, especially during the holiday season,” said Casey Engebretson, general manager.

'It was a challenging weekend'

Brutal winter weather knocks out power, downs trees and has emergency responders scrambling

Jan
16

2024

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OZAUKEE COUNTY — You know a winter storm is wicked when conditions are so bad the snowmobile club suspends operations.

But that's what happened this past weekend when the Snow Runners Snowmobile Club in northeast Ozaukee County and southeast Sheboygan County closed trails on Sunday. It wasn't a matter of too much snow, but rather trees littering the trails.

As of Monday, some segments of the trails were open, according to the club's Facebook page.

Across the county, heavy snow, followed by sub-zero temperatures that froze piles of snow onto trees, powerlines and driveways wreaked havoc for thousands.

Thousands lost power across the county, with as many as 1,500 in Mequon and 800 in Thiensville on Saturday. As of Monday, We Energies was reporting that 10 Cedarburg customers and one Grafton customer were without power.

Warming centers for people to thaw out and charge their electronics were open in Mequon City Hall and Grafton High School over the weekend.

City Administrator Will Jones confirmed on Monday that since residents had their power restored, City Hall is no longer open as a temporary warming center.

The storms also interrupted cable service for some customers of both Spectrum and AT&T.

Grafton Saukville Fire Departments Chief Bill Rice said he noticed that trees and power lines started to fall under the weight of the snow first in Cedarburg, then Grafton and then Mequon and Thiensville.

In some cases, trees and limbs fell on power lines, causing sparking. Many times they will just cause arcing, but they have the potential to create a fire, Rice said.

"You have to take those seriously," he said.

The number of calls for medical service were high, though none related to the power outage, Rice said.

Downed trees and unshov-



Photos by Mark Justesen/News Graphic staff

Above, the hiking path bridge in Mequon's Mee-Kwon Park is frozen in time as Mother Nature left it this weekend. **Below**, trees covered in heavy, frozen snow in Ed Rappold Park in downtown Cedarburg hide the entrance to the Ozaukee Interurban Trail bridge.



eled driveways made the drive difficult for Fire Department members.

"It was a challenging weekend," said Rice, who noted he has extra crews on staff.

Grafton Public Works Director Amber Thomas said that she had 13 crew members working throughout the storm.

"This is the most snow most of our crew has ever taken care of," she said. "I think they did an excellent job amid the long hours and accumulations."

They are still working on snow cleanup on the streets, sidewalks, parking lots and

other areas.

The Cedarburg Fire Department was kept busy with storm-related issues from 5:15 p.m. to midnight Friday, said Deputy Chief Andy Heidtke.

The Fire Department received eight fire calls between that time, seven of those calls were about snow-covered trees touching and sparking service lines.

In one of the incidents, a tree limb fell and ripped out the power service mast from a home on the 400 block of Hilbert Avenue. Members of the Fire Department were on the scene for an hour, making sure no one walked

on the live wire. Heidtke said they stayed until the Cedarburg Department of Public Works and Cedarburg Light & Water Utility came to the scene.

One of the calls was related to carbon monoxide in a home. Heidtke said the homeowners had a fire in the fireplace and they suspect that when they extinguished the fire the strong winds pushed the smoke back into the home.

Heidtke stated that there wasn't a significant amount of carbon monoxide in the home.

See **WEATHER**, PAGE 6A

Weather

From Page 1A

Southern Ozaukee Fire & EMS Department Chief David Bialk shared with the News Graphic that during the 24-hour period from Friday to Saturday, the department responded to 28 calls for service. Among them were:

- Two vehicle accidents. All vehicles had moderate damage and airbag deployments, and there were multiple patient sign-offs with no transports;

- Eight calls relating to electrical hazards, blown transformers, trees on wires, etc.;

- Two carbon monoxide incidents with readings in the house requiring ventilation;

- Four fire/CO alarms that were due to power loss;

- Two assist citizen calls, where Battalion 9 was contacted by Mequon PD to assist with removing two residents from a house that lost power and for a citizen that became locked out of her apartment building due to power loss; and

- EMS calls, including crews responding to a resident having trouble breathing due to their oxygen machine failing as a result of the



Photo courtesy of the Grafton Fire Department

An Ozaukee County Department of Public Works employee gave a big assist to Grafton first responders Sunday when they were called for a serious medical emergency in the town of Grafton. The driveway was long and uphill, making it difficult for responders to reach the home. Fire Chief Bill Rice looked around and found the front end loader not far away. "It was awesome," Rice said.

power going out. According to Bialk, the patient was treated, and crews assisted in clearing snow from the driveway and transferring both the patient and their oxygen machine into a family member's car.

In addition, many stuck motorists

were assisted during their travels and multiple trees and other hazards found along the way were removed.

"Crews responded and acted professionally throughout the grueling shift and should be commended," SOFD Battalion Chief Brandon Boettcher said.

Planning for road work in Cuba City

By Elyssa Vondra

Publication for Tri County Press

Published: Jan 30, 2024, 10:00 AM



Main Street Cuba City

Cuba City is in the process of preparing for possible Main Street reconstruction work anticipated to potentially take place in conjunction with a state road project in 2028.

The city could address its utilities as part of the Main Street initiative. “It’s 50 years old ... It was done in 1973,” said Cuba City Director of Public Works George Morrissey, regarding the street.

The state Department of Transportation is planning to do work on Highway 80 in 2028, according to Morrissey, and has asked whether Cuba City will plan to complete work on its utilities then, as well.

The Cuba City Electric & Water Commission members have started to discuss whether the city may complete work on water, electric, sewer, sidewalks, streets, storm sewer and trees during the same general period.

“That’s a lot of work in a one-year timeframe to do in conjunction with what they’re doing,” said Morrissey during a November meeting.

The Electric & Water Commission discussed the idea of breaking at least some of the work up across more than one year.

Since it would be a large project, spreading it out over the course of two to three may, in part, make it more feasible to partner with local contractors who have generally provided more affordable rates, they noted then.

“Sidewalk replacement is all on the city,” as would be a number of costs, said Morrissey.

But state support could help with other pieces, such as those related to accessibility and certain curb and gutter work, he added.

A project that Cuba City is currently thinking of doing is replacing an eight-inch water main with a 10-inch one. “That helps with your volume” and with fire flow, said Morrissey.

The current main at subject is from 1973 and has had numerous breaks over the years, said Morrissey.

“The main needs to be replaced; I don’t think that’s even a question,” he said.

Currently, “there’s no water main on Main Street,” he added. “They’re all fed off different streets ... We want to loop that. That will be new installation of water main that’s never been there,” along with completing water main replacement work. In today’s estimates it could cost around an approximate, projected \$2.1 million for this type of work, but the price could increase in the years ahead, he added this fall.

Additional utility reconstruction projects could carry other costs for the city.

The end result should be that “Cuba City will have a very nice Main Street” that will hopefully last another 50 years or so, said Morrissey.

But there could likely be “growing pains” along the way since it will be a process to get to that point, he added.

The Electric & Water Commission members in attendance for a Nov. 29 meeting agreed 5-0 to approve moving forward with planning for replacing City utilities for the Main Street reconstruction project ahead of the State’s 2028 schedule, according to the city’s meeting minutes.

More discussions on the topic are expected to follow.



Florence Mining News - (1881-1894 & 2005-current)



JANUARY 2024 METERS FREE OF ICE AND SNOW

Florence Utilities strongly recommends that you check your gas and electric meters regularly to ensure they are free of ice and snow, especially if the meter is exposed to snow and water coming from the eaves. Metal roofs are especially susceptible to this happening. Do not plow or shovel snow onto the meters! It packs in firmly and will most likely block the meter vent. If you notice ice on your meter, are concerned that the meter's regulator vent may be blocked or you smell gas in the vicinity of the meter, please call our office at 715-528-3330. **SILENT KILLER**

Carbon Monoxide (also known as CO) is a colorless, odorless poisonous gas and is a common yet preventable cause of death from poisoning worldwide. Ap-

proximately half of the deaths from unintentional CO poisoning result from the inhalation of smoke from fires. Other significant causes are vehicle exhausts and deaths in industrial / commercial settings. The incomplete combustion of organic fossil fuels such as oil, gas or coal is a common environmental source of CO and is responsible for many cases of non-fatal unintentional CO poisoning.

In normal conditions the combustion process (the addition of oxygen) will result in carbon in the fossil fuel, combining with oxygen in the air, to produce Carbon Dioxide (CO2), the same substance we exhale when we breathe. However, if there is a lack of air for the combustion process or the heating appliance is faulty, Carbon Monoxide can be produced. When CO is inhaled into the body it combines with the

blood, preventing it from absorbing oxygen. If a person is exposed to CO over a period, it can cause illness and even death. Carbon Monoxide has no smell, taste or color. This is why it is sometimes called the "Silent Killer". Carbon Monoxide alarms can be used as a backup to provide a warning to homeowners in the event of a dangerous build-up of CO, but remember that Carbon Monoxide alarms are no substitute for regular inspection and maintenance of appliances, vents, flues and chimneys. For more information about Carbon Monoxide safety, see www.cosafety.org **PREVENT FROZEN PIPES AND METERS**

When below freezing temperatures occur over several days, water pipes and meters that are close to cold air may freeze. Property owners are responsible for protecting both water pipes and the water meter from damage. **Florence Utilities** urges residents to take steps to prevent water pipes and meters from freezing in order to receive uninterrupted water service as well as avoiding unnecessary and expensive repairs. Preventing pipes and meters from

freezing is much easier than trying to thaw them. We suggest providing warmth to the water pipes by doing the following:

- Eliminate cold drafts near water pipes.
- Tightly close doors and windows to the outside and eliminate drafts from crawl spaces.
- Fill cracks in walls and around windows.
- Turn off water to garden hose connections at an inside valve and drain the exposed piping before freezing temperatures set in.

• Open the door to the room where the pipes are located to allow warmth to circulate.

• Place a heat lamp or portable space heater near water pipes. (Never use open flames.)

• Wrap pipes in insulation or heat tape.

• Open cabinet door below the sink to allow warm air to reach the pipes.

Also, make frequent use of your water supply:

• Flowing water often breaks up ice below freezing.

• When outside temperatures remain below freezing, it's less expensive to run your faucet regularly than for you to repair a frozen or burst pipe.

What to do if pipes freeze?

If no water comes from your faucets when you turn them on, most likely the pipes nearest a wall, door, window, or along the floor are frozen:

- Start by opening a faucet near the frozen pipe to release any vapor from the melting ice and so that you'll know when the water starts flowing again.
- Begin warming the pipes nearest the faucet

and work toward the frozen section.

• Blow warm air on the pipe using a hair dryer. (Do not leave the dryer unattended or allow it to overheat.)

• Once water has begun to flow again, let a pencil-sized stream of water flow through the faucet until normal heating is restored to the area.

• Eliminate cold drafts and allow warm air to circulate around the pipes to prevent freezing again.

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Vehicle crashes into trees and damages utility poles in Slinger



Updated: 11:33 PM CST Jan 6, 2024
Sam Schmitz

SLINGER, Wis. — One person was injured in a single-vehicle crash near that happened around 4:16 p.m. near highway 175 and Glen Hill Drive in Slinger on Friday, Jan. 5, according to the Slinger Police Department.

Police say the vehicle crashed into trees and damaged power utility poles. The vehicle was trapped because tree branches were blocking the door. Officers utilized a borrowed chainsaw from a neighborhood resident. The driver was then removed from the vehicle and eventually taken to a hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

Police say they shut down highway 175 for several hours because they feared the utility poles could've fallen into traffic lanes. Hartford Electric and WE Energies utility crews helped render the poles and power lines. Highway 175 reopened around 1:28 a.m.

Police say the crash remains under investigation, however their preliminary investigation suggests the driver may have been impaired.

The Slinger Police Department thanked the Washington County Sheriff's Department, Slinger Fire Department, LifeStar, **Hartford Electric** and We Energies for their assistance.





By FOX6 News Digital Team

Published January 6, 2024 5:55PM



Crash on Washington Street near Weil Drive (Courtesy: Slinger Police Department | Facebook)

SLINGER - A [Slinger](#) car crash sent the driver to a hospital, cut through trees and damaged two utility poles Friday, Jan. 5.

It happened on Washington Street near Weil Drive. The [police department said](#) the driver crashed into a cluster of trees and a utility pole around 4:15 p.m.

The driver was trapped by heavy tree branches, and officers borrowed a chainsaw from a nearby resident to cut the branches and get the driver out. It was later determined that a utility pole across the street was damaged due to the impact tension on the wires that connected that pole to the pole the driver struck.

The driver was taken to a local hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. This crash is still under investigation, but police said preliminary information suggests driver impairment may have caused the crash.

State Highway 175 was shut down for several hours as We Energies and [Hartford Electric](#) worked on the power lines. The roadway fully reopened around 1:30 a.m. Saturday.

All Around the Bend to return April 17
 Registration open until April 11
 by Barbara Schaefer

Driver crashes into cedar trees and utility pole in Slinger
 West Bend reporter Barbara Schaefer reports

ON CALL
 Slinger officer provides remote assistance to school bus driver

Jan 09
 2024
 Page A03
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Photo courtesy of Slinger Police Department

SPD officers work to clear brush to reach a trapped driver after a crash on Friday.

Driver crashes into cedar trees and utility pole in Slinger

SLINGER — Just after 4 p.m. on Jan. 5, the Slinger Police Department along with members of the Washington County Sheriff's Department responded to the 600 block of East Washington Street for a single-vehicle crash.

According to the media release, upon arrival, officers located a vehicle on private property that crashed into a cluster of cedar trees and a power utility pole. The operator of the vehicle was trapped by heavy tree branches blocking the doors. Officers acted quickly and utilized a borrowed chainsaw from a neighboring resident. Officers cut the tree branches and removed the driver from the vehicle. The operator was taken to a safe location. It was later found that a second power pole across the street from the crash scene was damaged due to the impact ten-

sion on the wires.

Due to the damaged utility poles, and fear of the poles falling into traffic lanes, Highway 175 was shut down for several hours until [Hartford Electric](#) and We Energies utility crews could render the poles and power lines safe. The roadway was fully opened at 1:28 am.

The driver was taken to a local hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. This crash is still under investigation; however, preliminary information supports driver impairment may have caused the crash.

The release also included thanks to those who assisted SPD, including members from the Washington County Sheriff's Department, [Slinger Fire Department](#), [LifeStar](#), [Hartford Electric](#) and We Energies.



Kaukauna, Heart of the Valley Times-Villager

Utilities commission approves emergency water main relay work

By Brian Roebke
Editor

The **Kaukauna Utilities** Commission approved a water relay project on Linda Court for \$125,000 last week, with emergency underground work awarded to Carl Bowers and Sons in the amount of \$94,470 due to four recent water main breaks. Engineering & Operations Director Dave Pahl reported to the commission at an emergency meeting the current water main in the Linda Court area was constructed in the early to mid-1960s with cast iron pipe. Over the past decade there have been multiple breaks in the

area on Parkwood Drive, Ann Street, and one on Linda Court.

"In all these cases, we have been able to locate the break and make effective repairs with minimal issues. These breaks have caused this area to be placed in the budget for relay in starting 2030," he reported. However, an emergency arose after KU received a call at 15:08 from a customer reporting a water main break on Jan. 14. A KU crew worked through the night to restore water service but as the crew was cleaning up, they noticed another break that was repaired and restored. A third break then

occurred. Upon restoration the third time, hydrant was left open and drained to a catch basin to help drain any air that was trapped in the system. On Jan. 17, the water crews closed the hydrant and in a very short period another break occurred. This break was repaired with the addition of a water service

that was routed to the catch basin where it is currently running. Water is currently being provided to residents on the street but the water main cannot provide enough flow to provide desired fire protection. Staff's recommendation is relaying a section of water main. This typically isn't done in the winter due to

the difficulties dealing with the frost. KU would complete the restoration with cold mix temporarily until they can repair the concrete in the spring. Restoration is estimated to be an additional \$22,700. The contractor is available to start the work this week and complete it in approximately two weeks.

Little Chute dance team headed to state again





Jan 31 2024 Page 004 Clip resized 70%

Kaukauna Utilities approves partnership with WisDOT

By Brian Roebke Editor

Kaukauna Utilities commissioners have approved a temporary construction easement and statement of non-reimbursement submitted for the intersection of Moasis Drive and Freedom Road in the Village of Little Chute relevant to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's rebuilding of Interstate 41 through the Kaukauna Utilities service territory.

This coordination focuses on KU's crossings on that corridor to ensure that any conflicts are addressed prior to construction. Funding comes at 90 percent for the WisDOT.

Manager of Engineering & Project Management Eric Miller also reported at the January commission meeting the DOT was waiting for this approval before they can start construction on the project.

He said there is significant administrative burden on the part of KU, WisDOT, and their consultants to formally address each such minor request individually, and it would be of benefit to all parties to have such requests streamlined.

The commission authorized awarding KU's portion of the Oviatt and Division street water relay to the lowest bidder, Carl Bowers Construction.

This project replaces 5,200 feet of six- and four-inch cast iron water main with eight-inch c900 PVC pipe. The current water main was installed between 1923 to 1943 and has served its useful life. This project includes 51 private side lead services along with 106 utility side lead services.

KU's portion of the bid came in at \$1,249,242 of the total project bid of \$2,482,213. KU's project cost includes \$173,100 for private service replacement, which will be passed through to the customers receiving the new water service.

The typical cost is \$3,300 per property owner.

Committee members also approve the tree trimming contract with Makovsky Brush Services, LLC, for four years. The cost for 2024 is \$200,000, and includes a 5 percent annual escalator for years 2 and 3 and a 3-percent annual escalator for years 4 and 5.

Makovsky Brush Service has been clearing Kaukauna's lines since 2010 in a safe and professional manner.

Commissioners also approved a contract with Quanta Technologies for an amount not to exceed \$600,000 over the next five years for supporting Kaukauna Utilities with the implementation of the Department of Energy grant.

Energy Services Manager Steve Engebos was lauded for tripling the amount of energy saved by KU customers for 2023.

KU customers saved 18,674,051 kWh and received \$1,024,105 incentive dollars from Focus on Energy for their energy efficiency projects. The goal this year was 6,000,000 kWh.

The energy saved is equivalent to providing enough energy for 1,945 homes for one year.

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Wed. Jan. 31, 2024 to Diane at tlok.sd@meridiansenior.com 58-0281 with name and how many will be attending. Limited to 4 per family member. Respond early to get a spot!



on Drive, Kaukauna, WI 54130
ndingsofkaukauna.com

Supervisors discuss winter parking issues

Bellevue Herald-Leader
Bellevue, Iowa, United States

Thursday, January 4, 2024
Page 3,4, Section: Newspaper
633 words, 11in² in size
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Supervisors discuss winter parking issues

By **MARY HAYWARD**
for the Bellevue Herald-Leader

With winter approaching and snow removal from new parking areas to consider, the Jackson County Board of Supervisors approved an updated policy for parking county vehicles.

Drivers of county vehicles are asked to be aware of weather forecasts and to avoid parking county vehicles in locations which will need snow removal.

In April of this year, the county purchased a property on Second Street across from the courthouse which had been a portion of the U.S. Bank building property.

The city of Maquoketa and Jackson County cooperated on the restructuring of their separate lots to make parking easier.

The Supervisors recommended that employees who drive county vehicles park in the parking lot south of the library overnight. It was also suggested that the employees park their vehicles near each other.

The Supervisors approved two leases for county-owned buildings. Both leases clarified that the county maintains the building

and the renters provide and care for the equipment they need to run their business.

Imagine the Possibilities will continue to rent the Andrew-Jackson Care Facility. This lease provides a 2% increase in rent each year for the next three years.

Board Chairman Mike Steines said it is nice to have someone use the building, but there has not been an increase in rent for "a long time".

HACAP will see their rent at the Head Start building increase 4% for each of the next three years.

Director of Human Resources Becki Chapin responded to a previous offer from the Teamsters Local 120 requesting 15%

wage increases for each of the next three years.

In addition to some wording changes, the Supervisors approved a counteroffer of 6% wage increase in the first year and 3.5% wage increases in the second and third years.

The Supervisors declined to negotiate safety allowances, vacation and longevity provisions and cost of living increases.

Leisure Lake update

Jackson County Zoning Administrator Lori Roling brought five requests from Leisure Lake residents for 30-day extensions to clean up their properties in order to comply with nuisance violations.

Because this was the first time they had asked for more time and because they were making significant progress, the Supervisors approved their requests. Roling said one property owner was "on a crutch, but he was making a lot of progress.". She compared this to other property owners who "looked for ways to get out of the work".

Roling said that out of the 107 properties with nuisance violations, all but six have been served with a notice. So far, 49 properties have complied with the orders by cleaning up.

The Supervisors commended those residents who are cleaning up their properties.

In other county news:

- The Supervisors approved \$438,500.32 for county expenses in this claims period.

The Supervisors said this includes the pur-

chase of two pickup trucks ordered months ago for the secondary roads department.

It also includes \$25,000 for a grant to the City of Andrew from the Jackson County Rural County Transportation Program.

- Jackson County is working on an energy audit of most of the courthouse to see if there are any places where efficiency can be improved. Wisconsin Public Power Incorporated provides the service for its customers through the Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility.

- The Supervisors approved a field entrance permit for Chuck Ernst in Otter Creek Township. They also approved an underground utility permit for Cascade Communications in Otter Creek Township.

- County Engineer Todd Kinney said he has received a complaint from a party who believes a neighbor's fence goes across a public roadway. Kinney said the second property owner wants to put in a cattle-crossing grid in the area previously fenced. Kinney is looking into the exact road description and the legalities of cattle crossings.

Jan
11

2024

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Menasha turns 150

City celebrates with
series of contests, events

Duke Behnke

Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MENASHA — The city will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year, and organizers are getting a jump start on the festivities commemorating the March 5, 1874, incorporation.

The Great Button Hunt already is underway and will last through December. Participants can purchase a Menasha sesquicentennial lanyard for \$1.50 and then collect buttons from participating Menasha businesses and organizations.

The first stand-alone event of the Menasha sesquicentennial celebration will be the Menasha History Trivia Challenge, which will be held Jan. 19 at the Menasha Public Library, 440 First St.

The biggest event will be “Celebrate Menasha!” on June 21 and 22. The gathering will feature bands, kayak races on the Fox River, a motorcade of Ford Model T cars and fireworks.

Walt Ulbricht, a member of the Menasha Sesquicentennial Committee, said everyone is welcome.

“We not only want to attract local residents to these events, but we’re inviting our neighbors throughout the Fox Valley and beyond to discover Menasha and what we have to be proud of,” Ulbricht told The Post-Crescent.

Ulbricht and his wife moved to Menasha five years ago after living in Kenosha and South Pasadena, Florida. He is impressed with Menasha’s history, natural beauty and vibrancy.

“We discovered it’s a great place to live in so many different respects,” he said. “I think it has a tremendous potential to move forward as one of the premier cities of the Fox Valley.”

Menasha plans to spend \$100,000 on its sesquicentennial, according to the city’s 2024 budget. The city and [Menasha Utilities](#) each will provide \$10,000, and \$80,000 is anticipated in gifts and donations.

January: Public library hosts trivia challenge

The Menasha History Trivia Challenge will run from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Jan. 19. It is free and open to all ages.

Sixteen teams of four will compete against one another, testing their knowledge of notable Menasha people, businesses, organizations, landmarks and sports. Winners will receive gift cards to local businesses.

See MENASHA, Page 3A

Menasha

Continued from Page 1A

"It's a fun event to learn more about Menasha's remarkable heritage for local residents or any of our neighbors in the Fox Valley," said Sarah Bauer, chair of the Menasha Sesquicentennial Committee.

Registrations for the contest can be made online under the events tab at www.Menasha150.com.

February: 50 teams compete in speed puzzle contest

A speed puzzle competition will be held at 5 p.m. Feb. 3 at Maplewood Middle School, 1600 Midway Road.

Fifty teams of four will race to assemble a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle that depicts a collage of historic photos of Menasha. Prizes will be awarded, and each team will keep the puzzle.

"We have 30 teams already registered," Ulbricht said. "We'll probably have to cut off the registration fairly soon."

March: Birthday party at City Hall features time-tripping

The city will recognize its sesquicentennial at noon March 5 with a birthday party at City Hall, 100 Main St.

Menasha teacher Troy Wittmann, a historical reenactor, will emerge from a time machine to appear as O. J. Hall, Menasha's first mayor. He will tell attendees what Menasha was like in 1874.

And there will be cake.

April: Menasha will plant 150 trees on Arbor Day

The city will plant 150 trees on Arbor Day. A ceremony will be held at 9 a.m., but additional details haven't been released.

May: Historic house hunt and history walk are in the works

The Menasha Sesquicentennial Committee will partner with the Menasha Historical Society to organize a discovery of historical houses in the city.

"There are more hidden gems than there are signs," the sesquicentennial website says, "but we chose some of the most captivating houses that were once owned by prominent citizens or have interesting features."

In addition, the Menasha Landmarks Commission will hold a downtown history walk on May 11 to highlight businesses.

June: Downtown celebration will include surprises

The "Celebrate Menasha!" event on June 21 and 22 in downtown Menasha will offer music, kayak races, an antique car show and a Model T motorcade.

Ford Motor Co. mass-produced the Model T between 1908 and 1927.

"If you look at historical photographs of downtown Menasha or Neenah or Appleton during that 20-year period, what do you see on the streets? Lots of Model T's, either as passenger cars or delivery trucks or what have you," Ulbricht said. "It's a car that transformed America starting really at the hometown level like Menasha."

Evening sky shows will cap the festivities. Ulbricht described the shows as "fireworks and possibly some other surprising combinations." "I can't go into those details yet," he said.

Also in June, an art exhibition focused on Menasha's past, present and future will be unveiled at the Alyward Gallery at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus, 1478 Midway Road.

Contact Duke Behnke at 920-993-7176 or dbehnke@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@DukeBehnke](https://twitter.com/DukeBehnke).



2024 Brings Year-Long Celebration to Menasha

By Rachel Charniak

🕒 Jan 10, 2024 | 5:54 PM



PC: menasha150.com

MENASHA, WI (WTAQ) — It's a year-long party in Menasha to celebrate the city's sesquicentennial anniversary.

Menasha turns 150 on March 5, but events are happening all throughout the year.

"This is a special showcase for Menasha; to let the other neighbors in the Fox Valley know who we are, and the interesting things they can find and discover here," said Walt Ulbricht with the Menasha Sesquicentennial Committee.

Already underway is The Great Button Hunt. Menasha residents can collect buttons from participating businesses and add them to their lanyard. The participant with the highest number of unique Menasha150 buttons will receive a gift basket with a gift card. The winner will be determined after

buttons are no longer available, or December 31, whichever comes first.

On January 19, the Menasha History Trivia Challenge is happening at the Elisha D. Smith Menasha Library beginning at 7:30 p.m. Participants will explore notable City of Menasha events, people and businesses – and test their local knowledge.

So far, the biggest event is expected to be "Celebrate Menasha!", which runs June 21-22.

"There will be music, family events, kayak races and contests on the Fox River," said Ulbricht. "We're also planning a special Model T motorcade and antique car show."

Menasha officially turns 150 on March 5, and a birthday celebration will be held at City Hall beginning at noon. Troy Wittmann, a history teacher at Menasha's Maplewood Middle School, will transform into Menasha's first Mayor, O.J. Hall, and hop back in time to share what it was like to live in Menasha 150 years ago and discuss more of Menasha's history.

Menasha will spend \$100,000 on the series of celebrations; with \$10,000 coming from the City of Menasha and another \$10,000 coming from Menasha Utilities. The remaining \$80,000 will come from gifts and donations.

Currently, events are planned through July. More events will be scheduled through the end of the year. To learn more about the sesquicentennial celebration.

Oshkosh Northwestern

Menasha turns 150 and celebrates with series of contests and events

Duke Behnke
Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MENASHA — The city will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year, and organizers are getting a jump start on the festivities commemorating the March 5, 1874, incorporation.

The Great Button Hunt already is underway and will last through December. Participants can purchase a Menasha sesquicentennial lanyard for \$1.50 and then collect buttons from participating Menasha businesses and organizations.

The first stand-alone event of the Menasha sesquicentennial celebration will be the Menasha History Trivia Challenge, which will be held Jan. 19 at the Menasha Public Library, 440 First St.

The biggest event will be “Celebrate Menasha!” on June 21 and 22. The gathering will feature bands, kayak races on the Fox River, a motorcade of Ford Model T cars and fireworks.

Walt Ulbricht, a member of the Menasha Sesquicentennial Committee, said everyone is welcome.

“We not only want to attract local residents to these events, but we’re inviting our neighbors throughout the Fox Valley and beyond to discover Menasha and what we have to be proud of,” Ulbricht told The Post-Crescent.

Ulbricht and his wife moved to Menasha five years ago after living in Kenosha and South Pasadena, Florida. He is impressed with Menasha’s history,

See MENASHA, Page 3A



J-Council performs for fans in downtown Menasha at a Bazaar After Dark event.
FILE/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN



Oshkosh Northwestern

Menasha

Continued from Page 1A

natural beauty and vibrancy.

"We discovered it's a great place to live in so many different respects," he said. "I think it has a tremendous potential to move forward as one of the premier cities of the Fox Valley."

Menasha plans to spend \$100,000 on its sesquicentennial, according to the city's 2024 budget. The city and Menasha Utilities each will provide \$10,000, and \$80,000 is anticipated in gifts and donations.

January: Public library hosts trivia challenge

The Menasha History Trivia Challenge will run from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Jan. 19. It is free and open to all ages.

Sixteen teams of four will compete against one another, testing their knowledge of notable Menasha people, businesses, organizations, landmarks and sports. Winners will receive gift cards to local businesses.

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Menasha's remarkable heritage for local residents or any of our neighbors in the Fox Valley," said Sarah Bauer, chair of the Menasha Sesquicentennial Committee.

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How certain cities in Wisconsin are investing in a way to avoid weather-related power outages



By: Ben Jordan

Posted at 8:00 PM, Jan 09, 2024 and last updated 8:00 PM, Jan 09, 2024

OCONOMOWOC — Heavy and wet snow often comes with the potential of large power outages. Thousands of customers in southeast Wisconsin lost power Tuesday as a winter storm moved through our area. But not every community is susceptible in southeastern Wisconsin.

It's hard to find overhead power lines in Oconomowoc. That's because 90 percent of them are buried underground. It's an investment the city and its residents have made over time specifically for days like Tuesday.

For Marsha Pickl of Oconomowoc, the first winter snow storm is welcome.

"I think it's wonderful, I love winter weather," she said. "I was afraid we weren't going to get it this year again."

While shoveling is no fun, she knows from past experience that she doesn't have to worry about being left in the cold without power.

"We had the ice storm two years ago and the electricity did not go out, they replaced my roof, my siding, my deck, everything and the electricity did not go off one time," she said.

Oconomowoc Utilities Manager Kevin Kaari says it's all because of a decision the city made decades ago.

"What is the benefit of having power lines underground?" TMJ4 reporter Ben Jordan asked.

"On days like this, or thunderstorms or when you have high winds, the advantage is our lines aren't out there to be affected by the weather," Kaari replied.

Kaari says Oconomowoc has been slowly chipping away at its overhead lines by removing about 2 percent each year. He says it's all in an effort to have a more reliable power source than most other cities.

"The city of Oconomowoc, we're a little different in that we're a growing city. So right off the bat with our new developments and stuff like that, we do all of that underground from the start," he said.

While the city of Oconomowoc decided to pay for that change on its own, We Energies says nearly half of its power lines in southeastern Wisconsin are underground, including a neighborhood in Elm Grove.

"One of the big things is you look around. Elm Grove is known for what? Their large trees and so outage issues had been a real issue here for a long time because of those trees, because of branches coming into contact with our equipment," spokesman Brendan Conway said.

While the company invests millions in new underground lines each year, Conway says there's a reason most of its lines are still visible.

"45 percent of power lines are underground, why not 100 percent?" Jordan asked.

"Not only is that impractical, it would be incredibly expensive," Conway replied. "That would cost tens of billions of dollars extra onto customers rates. So it just doesn't make sense."

Conway says outages can still happen with underground lines due to freezing and flooding — and it typically takes much longer to fix.

"There's no perfect solution," he said. "That's why every neighborhood, every place we look at we try to find what's a solution that makes sense for that location and we are constantly analyzing and identifying that."

Pickl wouldn't have it any other way in her neighborhood.

"This is the lowest price we've had too, so whatever they did, they must have made it economically," she said.

Oconomowoc's goal is to have nearly 99.5 percent of its power lines buried within the next five years.



Plymouth, The Review

\$30k approved for pedestrian safety devices

by Emmitt B. Feldner of The Review staff

PLYMOUTH – New pedestrian crossing safety devices will be in place at two crossings on Eastern Avenue next spring.

The City Council Tuesday approved the purchase of two rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) crossing signs at a cost of no more than \$30,000.

The solar-powered, pedestrian-activated warning devices will be installed at the Eastern Avenue intersections at South Street and North Bruns Avenue and will include spotlights that will shine down on the crosswalk to make pedestrians more visible as they cross.

Director of Public Works Cathy Austin told the council that one such device had been included in the 2024 city budget for the crosswalk at Bruns Avenue.

But following a pedestrian being struck in the crosswalk at South Street last November, the Public Safety Committee recommending installing an RRFB at that intersection as well.

“There’s \$15,000 in the capital budget (for one signal), but the (two) signs alone will \$23,000,” Austin explained.

There will be additional costs for footings and bases for the signs as well as possible curb and sidewalk modifications, she added.

The council agreed to spend up to \$15,000 from the contingency fund in order to put up both devices.

Austin said the city may consider similar devices at other busy intersections if they work well at the two planned intersections.

...

The council approved an agreement with American Transmission Co. (ATC) for an additional substation being constructed by Plymouth Utilities in the town of Mitchell.

City Administrator/Utilities

Manager Tim Blakeslee said the substation is being installed to serve the ANR Pipeline compressor station expansion in Beechwood.

The project also includes additional transmission lines and other work by ATC to serve the substation.

The agreement approved by the council Tuesday ensures that ANR will reimburse the city for costs it will pay to ATC for their work on the project, which Blakeslee said will total around \$1.2 million.

Blakeslee said Plymouth Utilities received site plan approval and a conditional use permit from the Mitchell Town Board for the new substation last month.

The substation is to be completed by the end of 2025, he added.

...

An open house and public information meeting on the Mill Pond dam repairs scheduled for Tuesday afternoon was postponed to Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 5:30 p.m. due to the snow.

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Obituary: Kathryn I. Schultz

By [Door County Pulse](#), [Peninsula Pulse](#) – January 30th, 2024



June 6, 1942 – Jan. 25, 2024

Kathryn I. Schultz, 81, of Sturgeon Bay, died on Thursday evening, Jan. 25, 2024, in Appleton.

She was born June 6, 1942 in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin the daughter of the late William and Ruth (Moegenburg) Schultz. Kathy graduated from Sturgeon Bay High School in 1960. She was employed with Green Bay Public Service for nine years, and the City of Sturgeon Bay for 29 years, retiring in 1999. In retirement she worked at [Sturgeon Bay Utilities](#).

Kathy's greatest love was her family, her sons, and especially her two granddaughters, Madeline and Lydia. She enjoyed watching football, following politics, watching Brewers games in Spanish, free on Telemundo TV, and trips to Culvers.

Survivors include her son, Kevin (Jen) Schultz of Sturgeon Bay; two granddaughters, Madeline and Lydia; brother, Robert (Bonnie) Schultz of Hobart; and many dear cousins.

Preceding her in death was her parents, and son, Jeff.

At Kathy's request there will be no public service. She will be laid to rest next to her parents, and son, Jeff at Bayside Cemetery.

"As you think of Kathy, remember her strong independence, her dedication to her family and working career, her smile and smirk when she was happy or when she may not have been pleased with certain circumstances. She was one of a kind and appreciated by many."

Huehns Funeral Home in Sturgeon Bay is assisting the Schultz family. Expressions of sympathy, memories, and photos of Kathryn may be shared with her family through her tribute page at huehnsfuneralhome.com.

Sustainably Speaking: Local community welcomed to the DNR's Green Tier Legacy Program

by: Ryan Kudish

Posted: Jan 31, 2024 / 06:30 PM CST

Updated: Feb 1, 2024 / 11:02 AM CST

STURGEON BAY, Wis. (WFRV) – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has recently welcomed the city of Sturgeon Bay to its group of Green Tier Legacy Communities.

This program seeks to recognize communities throughout Wisconsin engaging in sustainable business practices and continually working to improve their environmental performance.

According to the DNR website, the legislation to get this program up and running was signed in 2004 and was restructured in 2009, and the first few communities joined in shortly after.

Those included Appleton, Bayfield in Bayfield County, the cities of Fitchburg and Middleton in Dane County, the village of Weston in Marathon County, and an unknown number of nongovernmental organizations.

Sturgeon Bay now joins a list of communities right in Door County that have been a part of this program already, including Egg Harbor, Ephraim, Gibraltar, Liberty Grove, and Sister Bay.

In the press release announced by the DNR, the city of Sturgeon Bay, in the past, has added free-to-use electric vehicle charging stations across the city, worked with the local utility program to encourage renewable solar adoption by offering renewable energy blocks for purchase, and operates an anaerobic digester that produces a biosolid that is spread on local farms as fertilizer.

This allowed the city to install solar arrays at Sturgeon Bay High School and Sawyer School and launch a solar buyback program. [Sturgeon Bay Utilities](#) General Manager Jim Stawicki says that those initiatives were not geared toward joining this program and were done out of good nature:

“You know, I’d have to say sustainability is kind of a way of life in Door County. We’ve always maintained sustainable business practices in order to protect the environment.”, says Stawicki. “The efforts that we’ve undertaken in the past were not aimed specifically at joining a green tier legacy program. We really jumped into that program because it made sense from a number of different perspectives.”

Stawicki mentioned that there are many aspects that Green Tier focuses on, including reducing transportation by adding more biking trails and ensuring public buildings are as efficient as they can be.

The biggest motivator to joining this program is to help aid the advancements taking place at the Sturgeon Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility. Currently, the city has five million dollars invested in projects at the facility, and twice as much is coming soon. Being a part of this green tier program gives them access to ‘Clean Water Fund’ Loans through the DNR that offer low-interest loans to municipalities and 10% forgiveness on qualifying projects.

One notable change coming to the wastewater treatment facility is the way in which the liquids are treated through a 3.3 million dollar project before that water is sent back into the bay:

“The liquids we will be treating in the future with ultraviolet disinfection. Currently we add chlorine, we add chemicals to that train that goes right into our bay that people recreate on a daily basis. So our intent going forward is rather than using chemicals to chlorinate that effluent and then dechlorinate it before it goes into the bay to simply use ultraviolet disinfection so that there’s no chemicals involved, it’s a lot cheaper process also and maintaining that process is a lot simple.”

- JIM STAWICKI

Stawicki mentioned this program is a great way to share ideas through the group of communities as he says Sturgeon Bay has been an ‘innovator of technologies’ over the years.

STATE JOURNAL STAFF, WIRE SERVICES, January 9, 2024

Storm knocks out power

Hundreds of southern Wisconsin residents were without power Tuesday amid a winter storm.

Nearly 700 Sun Prairie Utilities customers were impacted by outages by 5 p.m., while Alliant Energy counted 175 outages affecting more than 1,500 Wisconsin customers, more than half in Green County.

Sun Prairie Utilities did not have immediate timeline estimates and Alliant Energy estimated that its customers' power would be restored by 7 p.m.

More than 5,000 We Energies customers statewide also endured outages, including more than 2,000 customers in Waukesha County



Power outages spread through South Central Wis. amid winter weather

Electric companies are working to restore power as the storm continues

By [Mikayla Denault](#)

Published: Jan. 9, 2024 at 7:15 PM CST | Updated: 13 hours ago



MADISON, Wis. (WMTV) - The snow conditions are causing several power outages as the storm rolls across south and central Wisconsin.

[We Energies' Outage Map](#) shows 16 customers out of service total in Dane, Dodge and Jefferson counties.

[Madison Gas and Electric](#) have an outage impacting one customer. The company has a crew assigned to this outage.

[Alliant Energy](#) reports power outages are affecting approximately 389 customers across Wisconsin. Green and Iowa outages are impacting 30 and 37 customers respectively. Dane County has outages impacting 5 customers, while Sauk outages are affecting 12. Green Lake is reporting outages impacting two customers. However, it is important to note that their website states dates and times are not accurate due to the storm.

[Sun Prairie Utilities](#) lists 3 outages.

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Winter storm knocks out power to hundreds of customers in southern Wisconsin

by Kyle Jones | Tue, January 9th 2024



SUN PRAIRIE, Wis. -- Hundreds were without power Tuesday as a winter storm impacted southern Wisconsin. That includes over 650 Sun Prairie Utilities customers as of around 5 p.m., according to the provider's outage map.

The provider's map did not list a cause of the outages or a time when they will be resolved. As of 8:45 p.m., three customers were still without power.

Alliant Energy reported that over 1,400 customers were without power in Wisconsin, including 463 in Dane County and 785 in Green County. Most outages were expected to be resolved before 7 p.m.

As of 8:45 p.m., 216 customers were without power statewide, including 29 in Green County, 36 in Iowa County and 12 in Saul County.

We Energies reported over 5,000 customers were without service statewide, including 92 in Jefferson County and 18 in Rock County. Over 2,000 customers were without service in Waukesha County.

As of 8:45 p.m., just over 4,300 customers were still without power statewide including seven in Dane County, eight in Dodge County and one in Jefferson County. There were over 3,200 customers without service in Waukesha County.



Garage destroyed/house damaged in fire

January 21, 2024

At 8:23 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2024, The Waupun Fire Department responded to 502 S. West Street in the City of Waupun for a fire in a garage.

Upon arrival, a vehicle was found burning in the attached garage and it had started spreading to the rest of the structure. Multiple fire extinguishers had been discharged to no avail.

First arriving crews confirmed everyone was out of the house and quickly knocked down the fire in the garage before making their way into the home to check for fire extension. Crews did find fire in the attic and that was quickly extinguished as well. Personnel were on scene for 3 hours working on fire suppression and overhaul.

There are no initial damage estimates at this time however the home did sustain significant fire damage to the garage and much of the attic along with smoke damage throughout. The house is uninhabitable and 2 people are currently displaced.

No firefighters or individuals at the scene were hurt during the incident. The fire investigation is ongoing however it is believed that the fire originated in the vehicle's engine compartment.

Agencies assisting at this evening's call included: Alto FD, Brandon-Fairwater FD, Waupun First Responders, Lifestar Ambulance, Waupun Police Department, **Waupun Utilities**, and Alliant Energy.



Waupun fire displaces 2 people

TERRI PEDERSON
tpederson@wiscnews.com

WAUPUN – The residents of a home in Waupun were displaced on Saturday after a garage fire spread to their home.

Waupun fire crews responded to 502 S. West St. at 8:23 p.m. for a garage fire. Waupun Fire Chief B.J. DeMaa said in a press release that upon arrival, a vehicle was found burning in the attached garage and fire had started spreading to the house. Multiple fire extinguishers had been discharged to no avail.

After fire crews confirmed no one was in the house, they knocked down the fire in the garage before making their way into the house. Crews found fire in the attic that was extinguished. The Fire Department remained on scene for three hours for fire suppression and overhaul.

There were no initial damage estimates, but the home sustained significant fire damage to the garage and much of the attic along with smoke damage throughout, DeMaa said. The house is uninhabitable, and two people were displaced. The house is owned by Doug and Deb Darnick.

No one at the scene was injured. The fire investigation was ongoing, however, it is believed the fire originated in the vehicle’s engine compartment.

Agencies assisting included: Alto Fire Department, Brandon-Fairwater Fire Department, Waupun First Responders, Lifestar Ambulance, Waupun Police Department, **Waupun Utilities** and Alliant Energy.

Follow Terri Pederson on Twitter @tlp53916 or call 920-356-6760

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2 displaced after fire extends from garage to home in Waupun

Daphne Lemke

Fond du Lac Reporter

USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

WAUPUN — No one was injured in a garage fire last weekend in the city of Waupun, but two residents of the property were displaced.

Waupun Fire Department responded around 8:23 p.m. Saturday to the West Street home, where a vehicle was burning in the attached garage, a news release from the department said.

Multiple fire extinguishers hadn't suppressed the fire, which was starting to spread to the home when fire crews arrived.

Personnel were at the scene for three hours. Between fire damage in the garage and attic and smoke damage throughout the home, the property is uninhabitable.

The department believes the fire originated in the vehicle's engine compartment, although the investigation is still ongoing.

Alto Fire Department, Brandon-Fairwater Fire Department, Waupun First Responders, Lifestar Ambulance and Waupun Police Department assisted at the scene, as well as [Waupun Utilities](#) and Alliant Energy.

Contact Daphne Lemke at dlemke@gannett.com.