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- Groups say transmission line plan should be rejected
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- Jefferson's 250th Celebration brings over 1,500 attendees
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- Kids From Wisconsin to perform at UWRF
- Kids from Wisconsin to perform

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- Slinger Utilities donates funding to St. Vincent de Paul program
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Sun Prairie

- Sun Prairie aquatic center plans grand reopening Saturday
- City Administrator's corner
- Sun Prairie electric rates to increase Aug. 1

Waterloo

- Kids cool down thanks to Waterloo Fire & Rescue's pop-up splash pad
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Waunakee

- Waunakee Village Administrator receives lifetime achievement award
- Waunakee homeowners seek answers after sewage flood

Algoma Save the Catwalk committee receives grant from Algoma Utilities and WPPI Energy



Algoma Save the Catwalk committee members Tod Zimmerman, Tom Levy, Dennis Andre, Linda Andre and Jacqueline Toepfer were on hand Wednesday afternoon when Algoma Utilities office manager Sara Krouse presented a symbolic giant check representing a \$1,000 grant to the group from Algoma Utilities and WPPI Energy.

Kevin Naze photo

It's all about the balance

By Tom Still

Balance is important in many aspects of life...the food we eat, the politics we preach, the work habits we follow and the exercise routines we do (or don't do).

Balance is also critical when it comes to how electric energy is generated and transmitted to our homes, businesses, hospitals and more.

That theme emerged in recent interviews with utility executives gathered through Competitive Wisconsin Inc., a nonpartisan group of business, labor, agriculture and education leaders focused on improving Wisconsin's economic competitiveness.

Their wide-ranging conversations covered the need to balance generation sources—from coal to wind, from natural gas to solar, and from nuclear to emerging technologies that may still be decades away.

They also extended to the tricky balancing act of transmitting electric power from where it's generated to where it's needed in an increasingly energy-hungry society.

"As a state, we have to embrace every form of energy," said Brent Ridge, president and chief executive officer of Dairyland Power Cooperative, which is based in La Crosse, WI, and operates in parts of four states. "We have to find balance."

Rising energy use in Wisconsin is in part driven by the rise of large data centers, but it's also fueled by other trends.

Overall use has grown in the industrial sector, which includes agriculture and food manufacturing. Industry accounts for about 30% of the state's total energy consumption and has finally passed pre-COVID levels. Electric vehicles are here to stay. More housing is being constructed. Residential use in existing homes has climbed, led by heating and cooling units, but other systems and devices are a growing part of the picture.

"Everything in our house is getting plugged in," quipped Karl Hoesly, president of Xcel Energy – Wisconsin and Michigan.

The rise of the digital economy isn't new, added Te-

resa Mogensen, chair of the board of directors, president and chief executive officer at American Transmission Co. (ATC), who noted data centers have been around for years to power the internet as well as fundamental changes in how people live and how industry functions.

"This is a digital revolution that has followed on the industrial revolution of the past. We are absolutely experiencing an increase in demand...and I view it as a long-term trend," she said.

All these trends are not only complicating the generation side of the equation, but the transmission side, as well. Alliant Energy President and CEO Lisa Barton described the electric grid as "the largest synchronous machine in the world" and offered a picture that would be familiar to many people.

"An analogy that works well is the U.S. highway system," Barton said, which is constantly evolving with new on- and off-ramps on interstate highways, efficient secondary highways, other roads and streets, and constant construction and repairs.

For travelers of all types, that system must work efficiently 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The electric transmission grid is similar: It is never static; requires regular construction and repairs; and it must be reliable and cost-effective for users. Today's electric transmission world is complicated by the need to juggle those needs in an environment dominated by regulatory hurdles that are sometimes inconsistent.

"[Transmission line siting] processes were put together decades ago and don't necessarily match the urgency of today," ATC's Mogensen said. Delays and lawsuits can slow transmission projects that are needed to match rising demand for power.

Such delays can "really stifle the economic growth for the state," she added.

ATC is a part of the Mid-continent Independent System Operator (MISO) network, which extends from Manitoba, Canada, to Louisiana. It balances the power grid throughout, shipping power to where it's needed when there are spikes in

demand. Those spikes can be triggered by weather and even natural disasters.

Alliant Energy's Barton likened the system to a "Rubik's Cube" for solving questions of reliability, system resiliency, growth and affordability. But it is not without its problems.

Dairyland's Ridge noted that certain energy sources can be hundreds of miles from where the power is needed. It took 13 years to win permits for a transmission line to carry wind power about 100 miles and only two years to build it.

"The very same groups that focus on renewable energy being our sole source of energy are the same type of groups that are suing us as we try to build these projects," Ridge said. He added Dairyland works in four states that have "four very different state regulatory and climate-related laws," which suggest federal regulatory coordination could be better.

ATC's Mogensen noted Wisconsin should adopt a "right of first refusal law" that gives incumbent utilities the right to build transmission projects that connect to existing infrastructures, potentially without a competitive bidding process. Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota have such laws. Similar laws in Wisconsin have yet to clear the Legislature.

Despite the complex nature of expanding the transmission grid to meet today's energy demands, Jeff Keebler, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Madison Gas and Electric (MGE), thinks it's the job of utilities to do so. Public utilities cannot pick up and move like a retail store or factory—they're here to serve the needs of people in their respective territories in a balanced manner.

"We have been planning this system for 100 years," Keebler said. "Do we need to build more? Absolutely. Are we capable of doing that? 100 percent."

It's all a matter of balance.

Tom Still is the past president of the Wisconsin Technology Council.

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Groups say transmission line plan should be rejected



Photo courtesy of Tom Stolp

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the native grasses and wildflowers of County Line Preserve in West Bend, which risks the placement of four transmission lines within its boundaries and the clear cutting of 150 feet of sensitive forested wetland habitats if the [American Transmission Company's](#) preferred power line path were to be approved.

By Lisa Curtis
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262-305-8934

PORT WASHINGTON — A coalition of local concerned citizens and property owners filed a complaint with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Tuesday saying that a utility's application for data center transmission lines is incomplete.

The Responsible Energy Alliance argues that [American Transmission Company's](#) proposed extra high-voltage transmission lines needed to support the Vantage Data Centers in Port Washington will run "through pris-

tine lands in western Ozaukee and eastern Washington counties," and that the application is incomplete and should be rejected.

Restoring Lands — formerly Ozaukee Washington Land Trust — also filed a similar request with the PSC.

[ATC](#) is seeking approval to build between 96 to 123 miles of transmission lines and up to five new substations to support the interconnection of the data center. The size of the proposed energy load addition is substantial and would be one of the largest in Wisconsin, according to [ATC's](#) application. It would overwhelm the existing transmission facilities in the Port

Washington area and will require additional kilovolts of transmission sources to reliably serve this load.

Two different routes are under consideration, a north scope and south scope.

In Ozaukee County, the preferred route would impact the towns of Port Washington and Saukville, while the alternative route would impact the towns of Cedarburg, Fredonia, Port Washington and Saukville as well as the villages of Fredonia and Saukville, according to

See **LINES**, PAGE 6A

Cedarburg, News Graphic

Lines

From Page 1A

the application.

In Washington County, the preferred route would impact the towns of Farmington, Jackson and Trenton. The alternative route would impact the town of Jackson.

Alternative route preferred

Many of those who have submitted comments to the PSC, including state, county and local officials, favor the alternative route because it uses substantially more existing electric transmission corridors and associated rights-of-way and impacts fewer environmentally sensitive areas.

The Responsible Energy Alliance's complaint speaks directly to those concerns.

"Rather than utilizing existing utility corridors to site the high-voltage transmission lines, as state law prioritizes, ATC proposes to construct them through 'greenfield' areas in western Ozaukee County and eastern Washington County," the group said in its press release.

They note that Vantage Data Centers itself has publicly expressed its support for the alternative routing, which would largely follow existing utility corridors instead of dissecting greenfield areas as ATC proposes.

An initial PSC determina-

tion in December 2025 found that the ATC application was complete, starting an up-to-360-day clock for a final power lines routing decision.

"ATC has since filed hundreds of amendments, supplements, clarifications, and modifications to its initial proposal," according to the press release. "Yet ... nowhere in the voluminous filings does ATC ever explain why the 'greenfield' segments of its proposed routing should be approved, instead of alternative routing that complies with the priorities established under Wisconsin's statutory routing criteria."

PSC orders revised documents

The Public Service Commission on July 1 did order ATC to clarify, update and refile certain application documents, saying that the nature, volume and filing pattern have "unreasonably complicated the identification of the current application in this proceeding."

The commission issued the Completeness Determination Letter on Dec. 15, 2025 based on application documents ATC filed Nov. 14, 2025, according to the PSC's order.

"Since Dec. 15, 2025, ATC has filed 564 application documents and 168 staff data request responses. Together, these filings proposed a plethora of changes, modifications and updates to an

application that ATC previously represented to the Commission as complete," the PSC wrote.

The commission gave ATC until 1:30 p.m. Friday to complete the filings.

ATC immediately filed a request on July 1 for the PSC to reconsider the order.

The citizen group said its filing was in response to ATC's request.

Restoring Lands criticizes project's speed

Restoring Lands Executive Director Tom Stolp shares the concerns of Public Service Commission staff and others that ATC's application is in "disarray."

"The state of ATC's application suggests that ATC has been motivated by the desire for speed that seems to typify data center-related projects like this one, rather than the deliberate process that Wisconsinites would expect for a utility expansion project that will cost more than \$1 billion and affect hundreds of property owners and negatively impact our community's forever-protected landscapes," Stolp said. "Restoring Lands has experienced ATC's prioritization for speed rather than accuracy firsthand."

Stolp said that ATC's application has failed to identify important conservation lands, natural areas and easements, including Restoring Lands' properties within the Kinnamon Conifer

Swamp Natural Area.

"ATC later said it had not considered those properties because it was not aware of them. But Restoring Lands had provided that information to ATC's own pre-application comment form," Stolp said.

That is not a harmless oversight, he said.

"It is evidence that the process was moving faster than the facts could be absorbed by ATC staff, to the detriment of the PSC process in which numerous parties and landowners are now engaged," he said.

He said the PSC's July 1 order should not be reconsidered, and in fact, Restoring Lands believes the Public Service Commission should consider withdrawing its completeness determination.

"Projects of this size and significance should not be rushed," Stolp said. "The PSC should be able to make an informed decision before approving a high voltage transmission line route that would undo decades of planning and investment by Restoring Lands for the benefit of our community now and for future generations."

Testimony submitted

In a separate filing, the citizens group submitted expert testimony from Gary Casper, Ph.D., who has worked for 40 years as a wildlife biologist in Wisconsin, initially at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Casper now owns Great Lakes Ecological Services, LLC, conducting wildlife research throughout the western Great Lakes Region.

In the filing, Casper said that the proposed routing "most definitely will cause harm, there is no question about that."

He said it is his opinion that neither of the proposed greenfield routes is acceptable. The application fails to convincingly demonstrate that either option is necessary or offers functional or environmental advantages over using the alternative route the uses utilizes the existing utility corridors, consistent with Wisconsin law, he said.

Revoked application would have widespread effects

A decision on the transmission line routes was expected before the end of this year. The citizen group's complaint notes that if the PSC revokes its completeness determination and requires ATC to file a brand-new application, the process could start all over again — causing a material delay to the Port Washington AI data center operations.

The group said that, "from an environmental and public safety standpoint, more time to analyze this enormous and expensive transmission line project would be a blessing rather than a

burden."

Casper notes that, for example, there has not been sufficient time for him to perform adequate gap surveys for missing information on wildlife occurrences in the subject area. He notes that many species standard survey protocols have seasonal guidelines and biologists are typically allowed one to two full seasons — years — to conduct their studies, which has not been the case here.

Casper also tentatively found a federally endangered dragonfly in the study area, but it must be verified in the July to August flight season.

A member of the American Transmission Company media team offered the following response to the group's filing:

"ATC has submitted route options as part of its application to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. We believe the routes included in our application meet Wisconsin's statutory requirements, and they are intended to reduce impacts on local areas and communities. We are participating in the established regulatory process as the commission reviews the project. ATC will continue working with commission staff and intervenors and provide information to support the commission's review."

A PSC official said Wednesday that the commission had no public comment.



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Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the native grasses and wildflowers of County Line Preserve in the Town of Trenton, which risks the placement of four transmission lines within its boundaries and the clear cutting of 150 feet of sensitive forested wetland habitats if the American Transmission Company's preferred power line path were to be approved.

Groups say transmission line plan should be rejected

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Restoring Lands Executive Director Tom Stolp is pictured in County Line Preserve.

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Citizens and municipalities continue to oppose 765 kV transmission line

By GILLIAN POMPLUN

Citizens opposing construction of the state's proposed largest transmission lines through the Driftless Region - MariBell and BECI 765 kV lines - have continued to work with potentially impacted landowners and municipalities.

In the last week, Seneca and Haney townships in Crawford County passed resolutions stating their opposition to the line being built through their towns, as did the Village of Ferryville. In Seneca, 36 citizens attended the town board meeting to express their concerns, and ask the board to pass the resolution.

The Town of Clayton adopted an information request resolution, asking the developers for maps and other information to better understand how town citizens would be impacted by the line.

Perhaps most significantly, the activity has shifted to the east into Richland County with last week's announcement by BECI developers of their intent to submit an application for the 190-mile line, to run on an unspecified route through eastern Crawford, Richland, Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Jefferson and Walworth counties.

On Thursday, July 16, 120 Richland County residents gathered at the Phoenix Center in Richland Center to learn more about how their land and communities could be impacted by the proposed line. No 765 Line educators Rob Danielson and Tennille Osthoff addressed the participants.

Danielson explained the history of energy market deregulation in Wisconsin, that energy companies make money by putting steel in the ground, that energy demand has been flat in Wisconsin between 2004 and 2024 but that has not stopped construction of new transmission lines, that energy profits have outpaced inflation by 300% in the same timeframe, and that the cost of these transmission lines is borne by ratepayers, whose costs have gone up 30% faster than inflation.

He explained that the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, who runs the energy market that includes Wisconsin employs Dr. David Patton as an independent analyst. Patton has condemned the current plan put forward by MISO as unrealistic because it calls for construction of \$234 billion worth of new power plants, including large-scale wind and solar. Patton said the plan is unfair to the ratepayers, and that the money would be better spent helping homeowners and businesses become more energy efficient.

Osthoff explained that other lines had been stopped in other parts of the country, especially by "intense landowner opposition." She encouraged citizens to speak up, attend

town and county board meetings, call their legislators, and write letters to the editor for their local newspapers.

"When your parents or grandparents signed giving the utility company a transmission line easement on their property, they didn't know that this was what was going to happen," Osthoff observed. "They will run over us if we don't speak up."

PROCESS MATTERS

Danielson contrasted the approach the MariBell and BECI developers are taking compared to that employed by developers of the Badger-Coulee or Cardinal Hickory Creek 345 kV lines. He particularly emphasized that with BECI, developer Midcontinent Grid Solutions (composed of American Electric Power, Transource and Berkshire-Hathaway Energy) is only allowing seven months for the 'public information phase' prior to filing their application with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

"I'm going to talk about the problems that are created by the developer in proposing a seven-month public information phase. The public information phase for Badger-Coulee and for Cardinal Hickory Creek were in excess of three years long, and I'm going to talk about why it is necessary to have a long public information phase," Danielson told the group.

Danielson told the group about his experience with American Transmission Company in the three-year public information phase for the Badger-Coulee line. He said that in that process, along with the initial announcement of the project, they mailed to 120,000 potentially impacted landowners, with personal invitations to eight planned open house events. On the back of the invitation was a map showing all of the existing transmission line easements in the municipality where the landowner's property is located.

Then, they followed up with another mailing to 147,000 potentially impacted landowners, with a more close up map of existing transmission lines. Then, they did a third mailing after they began to narrow down their preferred and alternate routes, and started meeting with landowners one-on-one. Then, 20 months after their initial announcement, they did a fourth mailing to a narrowed down group of potentially impacted landowners, with parcel specific maps.

"For the third year of the public information phase, they went out and met with landowners and transmission siting engineers who know how to site transmission lines, to have conversations with landowners about adjustments that would reduce impacts for them," Danielson explained. "So, they went out

for one year after they had the preferred and alternate routes, they met with landowners and they resolved lots of things. Can you imagine how much time it took for all those siting engineers to meet with a 200-mile transmission line to work out all of those things one by one by one? A lot."

Danielson pointed out that in order for BECI developer Midcontinent Grid Solutions to provide the same number of open houses that ATC did for Badger-Coulee, they would have to have an open house every three weeks in seven counties, and that would not even include the opportunity to meet with the

siting engineers.

"Their website says they're going to have next steps, but they don't say for what. There are no meetings with transmission siting engineers or anything remotely like that mentioned," Danielson pointed out. "We're in the early stages, and I say we're not providing nearly enough time to even get part of the job done that the Public Service Commission requires of developers."

RICHLAND COUNTY

In April of 2026, as recommended by the Natural Resources Committee, the Richland County Board of Supervisors passed an informa-



Tennille Osthoff, an educator with the group No 765 Line, explained to concerned citizens from Richland County about other transmission line projects that have been stopped, and about how their voice matters.

Then, out of the blue, a

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tion request resolution. That resolution was then mailed to the developers.

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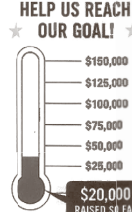
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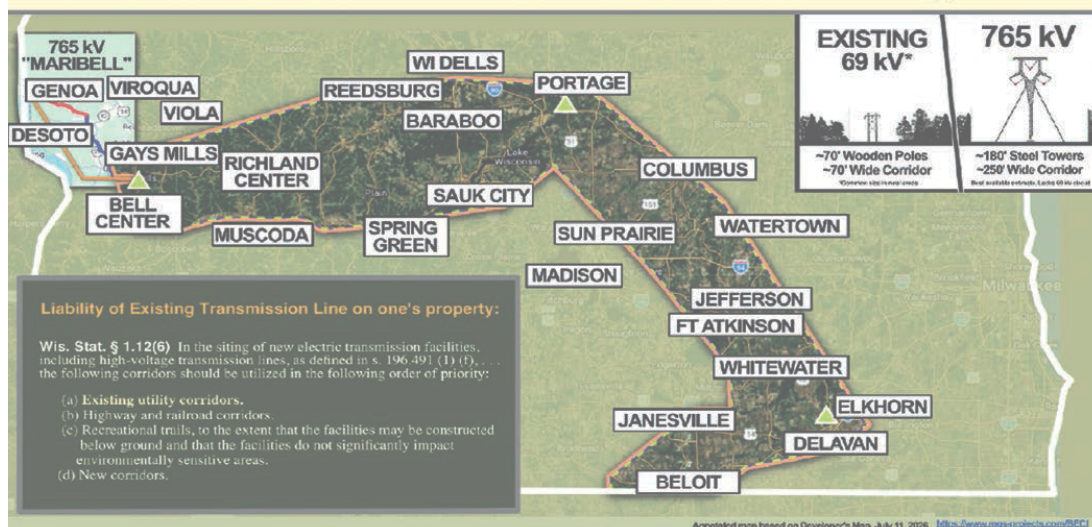
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765 kV "BECI" Transmission Line Study Area



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communication addressed to the County Highway Commissioner and County Conservation Director from a representative of HDR, Inc. arrived on June 17. The communication explained that HDR, Inc. is employed as a subcontractor/consultant for the BECI developer. An introductory meeting was requested to initiate communication with county staff.

On July 9, county board members attended the requested meeting, where two Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) employees, a communications specialist, and a technical consultant showed up.

According Supervisor to Steve Carrow, chair of the Natural Resources Committee, the MGS employees were unaware of the information request that had been sent to them from the county, and were provided with a copy of it.

The matter was then taken up at the meeting of the Richland County Executive and Finance Committee meeting, where Carrow was assigned to be the point of contact for MGS with the county. As a result, the transmission line topic was added to the agenda for the July 21 meeting of the Richland County Board of Supervisors.

Citizens attending the July 16 landowner education event in Richland Center had heard that the meeting between

some county board members and MGS had taken place, and expressed concerns about the public transparency of that meeting. They encouraged

citizens to attend the July 21 Board of Supervisors meeting to let the board know about their concerns with the proposed line.

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Meet your local service providers at National Night Out gathering

Northwoods service departments will again take part in the National Night Out celebration Tuesday, Aug. 4, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Eagle River City Hall.

This family-friendly annual event gives people of all ages the chance to learn more about how agencies help the public while also allowing staff to interact with the residents and visitors they serve. There

also will be plenty of kid-friendly activities and swag items, along with lessons on how power works at the PowerTown exhibit but on by [Eagle River Light](#) and Water, forestry and emergency preparedness, and other displays from local organizations.

A big draw of the event is the chance to interact directly with equipment and staff provided on site

by the city's fire, police, light and water, and street departments.

Aspirus MedEvac will have a helicopter available, barring any medical emergency use required. County staff from Emergency Management and Public Health, U.S. Forest Service, and other representatives will also be in attendance.

City hall is located at 525 E. Maple St. in Eagle River.

Eagle River, Vilas County News-Review



STORM DAMAGE — A powerful thunderstorm rolled through the area Monday morning, darkening skies nearly to black, high winds tearing down trees, and dropping large hail. Thousands were out of power while fire departments and crews worked quickly to put out fires and repair downed power lines.

Above: Town of Lincoln resident Mark Deditz clears a tree that came down and blocked Sharon Lane during Monday's storm.

Right: The storm hit "hard and fast," according to Cole Sanborn of [Eagle River Light and Water](#). Utility crews were out fixing areas like this near Silver Lake Beach, where poles were sheared off and lying on the ground.

— Staff Photos By MICHELLE DREW



EHS Green Team earns Earthguard Award

The Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education has announced that Evansville High Schools' Green Team was awarded the 2026 Earthguard Award, presented in recognition of student leadership in developing and conducting outstanding environmental action projects.

Since 2021, the Evansville

High School Green Team has proven that sustained student leadership can transform a school's energy future. After three years of planning, fund-raising, and collaboration, students oversaw the installation of a 32-kW solar array, 60 rooftop panels generating clean energy for their school. But they didn't stop there. They removed over

300 unnecessary fluorescent bulbs, converted 75 fixtures to LED lighting, conducted energy audits, secured grants including a WPII Energy Energized Education Grant, and launched a Renewable Energy Day for middle school students. "Renewable energy stopped being abstract once we saw it on our roof," one Green Team

member reflected. "Now it's part of our daily reality." The results speak volumes. Despite a 10% rise in electricity rates between 2022-2025, school energy spending dropped significantly, saving over \$50,000 compared to 2022 costs. Students tracked the data themselves, linking classroom knowledge to measurable out-

comes. "This isn't just about saving money," a team leader said. "It's about proving students can drive real solutions." Their work reduced the school's carbon footprint, strengthened community partnerships, and created a replicable model of experiential environmental education.

The Wisconsin Association

for Environmental Education is a member-based, professional community of individuals and organizations with diverse backgrounds that promotes environmental action, elevates voices for environmental justice, and celebrates excellence in environmental education.

For more information, visit wace.org.



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West Bend, Daily News

Hartford Maxwell Street Day to reappear

Downtown District, chamber to host annual event Wednesday

HARTFORD — The Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce and Hartford Downtown District's annual Maxwell Street Day will return to downtown Hartford on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

This free event is happening whether there is rain or shine, according to the Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce website. Enjoy food, drinks, live music, and vendors all along the downtown corridor.

Maxwell Street Days have been around for over a century, starting as an impromptu open-air market in the late 19th century in Chicago on Maxwell Street.

"The Original Maxwell Street Market, centered at Maxwell and Halsted Streets and stretching from Roosevelt Road to 16th Street, was an impromptu market established in the late 19th century by newly arrived Jewish residents from Eastern Europe," according to the history of Maxwell Street Days on Chicago's city website. "A Sunday-only affair, it was a precursor to the flea market scene in Chicago."

On Wednesday, Hartford businesses and vendors from all over will continue their Maxwell Street Day tradition with plenty of shopping deals along North Main Street in the city.

In addition to shopping, city residents will be able to meet with city and elected officials to "Talk City" during Maxwell Street Day.

"Have a question about City services? Curious about a project in your neighborhood? Want to meet the people who help keep Hartford running everyday?" said a news release from the city. "On Wednesday July 8, City of Hartford department leaders and elected officials will be taking to the streets during Maxwell Street Day to connect with the community."

According to the city's release, representatives will be stationed in front of Hartford City Hall, 109 N. Main St., Hartford, to answer any questions, listen to any concerns and have casual conversations with residents.

The schedule for "Talk City" is as follows:

■ 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Director of Parks & Recreation Randy Wojtasiak, City Clerk Shanna Kreilkamp, Administrative Assistant Tori Story, and City Planner Jacob Maas.

■ 12 to 2 p.m.: Utility Director Brian Rhodes, Energy Service Manager (WPP) Ashley Sonsthagen, utility billing specialist Holly Wenzel, and District 2 Alderman Dean Kirley.



Daily News file photo

Central Middle School Assistant Principal Jordan Stephans gets dunked at Hartford's Maxwell Street Days in 2025.

■ 2 to 4 p.m.: Sewer Utility Director Dan Dentice, Fire Chief Tony Burgard and Jack Russell Memorial Library Director Vanessa Taylir.

■ 4 to 6 p.m.: City Engineer Chris Walter, Director

of Community Media Tiffany Tyner-Sohm and Mayor Dennis Regan.

■ 6 to 8 p.m.: Police Chief Richard Thickers, District 1 Alderman Tom Pechacek and District 2 Alderman Wayne Rusniak.

"Whether you have a specific concern, want to learn more about City services or simply want to stop by and say hello, everyone is welcome to pull up a chair and join the conversation," said the release.

"Maxwell Street Day is a great opportunity to enjoy everything downtown Hartford has to offer while getting to know who serves your community.

"Come down, grab a seat and let's talk Hartford!"

No injuries reported in Monroe Avenue garage fire in Hartford

HARTFORD — No serious injuries have been reported following a garage fire in Hartford on Sunday.

According to a news release from Hartford Fire & Rescue, it responded to the report of fire in a house located on East Monroe Avenue just after 4 p.m., with reports to units while that one of the vehicles in the garage may be on fire.

The release said:

A Hartford Police Department officer arrived on scene first and deployed a Fire Suppression Tool into an open garage window to slow the fire. Upon arrival of the first fire unit, firefighters found black smoke pushing out of the closed garage door and confirmed that all occupants were out of the building. The first-arriving engine crew deployed two hose lines, one to the garage and one to the house. Units made entry into the garage through the open garage window, and quickly initiated a rapid-fire attack.

The next-arriving Hartford truck company set up, laddered the roof and prepared to provide ventilation. The Hartford fire engine companies that arrived afterward assisted with water

supply from the fire hydrant on the street, and provided additional crews to check the attic, house and basement.

Units did not find any fire extension into the house.

The fire in the garage was extinguished and the area was overhauled to ensure no other fire remained. Salvage efforts were taken to protect the belongings of the homeowner from further water damage, and the vehicles were removed from the garage.

While Hartford Fire & Rescue was working the scene, additional assistance was requested through the mutual aid box alarm system, or MABAS, and was provided by the Washington County Sheriff's Office with dispatch services and the Hartford Police Department with law enforcement assistance.

Mutual aid assistance was provided by the St. Lawrence Fire Company and the Slinger Fire Department. The Jackson Fire Department provided an engine and an ambulance at change of quarters to cover Hartford's service area while at the fire. [Hartford Electric](#) Utility and Water Utility, along with We Energies gas, also assured that there were



Photo courtesy of Hartford Fire & Rescue

The aftermath of a garage fire on East Monroe Avenue in Hartford on Sunday.

no utility supply concerns.

The emergency medical crew assessed one homeowner for possible smoke inhalation, then provided rehabilitation efforts to the firefighters as well as staffing an ambulance on scene. Smoke was removed from the house using

fan-powered ventilation.

No citizens, fire personnel or EMS personnel were injured during this incident.

An active fire investigation was still underway at the time of the news release to determine the origin and cause of the fire.



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Hartford Express News

Hartford fire contained to garage

At approximately 4:05 p.m on July 19, Hartford Fire & Rescue responded to the report of fire in a house located on E. Monroe Avenue. Dispatch advised units while they were en route that one of the vehicles in the garage may be on fire. A Hartford Police Department officer arrived on scene first and deployed a Fire Suppression Tool (FST) into an open garage window to slow the fire. The first arriving incident command vehicle found black smoke pushing out of the closed garage door, and confirmed that all occupants were out of the building.

The first arriving engine crew deployed two hose lines, one to the

garage and one to the house. Entry was initially made into the garage through the open garage window, and a rapid fire attack was initiated. The next arriving Hartford truck company set up, laddered the roof, and prepared to provide ventilation. The following Hartford fire engine companies assisted with water supply from the fire hydrant on the street, and provided additional crews to check the attic, house, and basement. No fire extension into the house was located. Additional assistance was requested through the MABAS system at the Working Still level.

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extinguished, and the area was overhauled to ensure no other fire remained. Salvage efforts were taken to protect the belongings of the homeowner from further water damage, and the vehicles were removed from the garage. The EMS crew assessed one homeowner for possible smoke inhalation, then provided rehabilitation efforts to the firefighters as well as staffing an ambulance on scene. Smoke was removed from the house using fan-powered ventilation. No citizens, fire personnel, or EMS personnel were injured during this incident. An active fire investigation is still underway at the time of this

release to determine the origin and cause of the fire.

Assistance was provided by the Washington County Sheriff's Office with dispatch services and Hartford Police Department with law enforcement assistance. Mutual Aid assistance was provided by St. Lawrence Fire Company and Slinger Fire Department. Jackson Fire Department provided an engine and an ambulance at change of quarters to cover Hartford's service area while at the fire. Hartford Electric Utility and Water Utility, along with WE Energies gas, also assured that there were no utility supply concerns.

Title: Fourth festivities

Author: BY AILIS MCCARDLE EDITOR@BULLETINJOURNAL.COM

Size : 184 Inches Sq Independence,IA Circulation: 2029

Keywords: Independence Light & Power, Telecommunications



Fourth festivities

BY AILIS MCCARDLE

EDITOR@BULLETINJOURNAL.COM

Independence's Fourth of July weekend was packed with silliness, surprises, and celebration this year for the nation's 250th birthday.

Friday was Military Appreciation Night, where service members could get one free drink with their military ID. The evening also featured fun at the Kid's Zone, dinner by the Pork Producers, and

live music from Plug Nickel, 90's Kid, and Journey to the Heart.

Saturday morning was stormy from the start but cleared out just in time for Iowa's oldest Fourth of July parade. The party started off at Riverwalk Park with a reading of the Declaration of Independence and live music from the Independence Community Band.

Kids had much to do on Saturday between magic shows by Eric Michaels and all the inflatables in the Kids Fun Zone.

Live music in the evening included the BrassBlast Brass Band, Boogie Monster, and Flatland Ridge.

Surprise struck with a sudden, small fire in the food and beverage portion of the park late on Saturday.

According to the Independence Fire Department, the fire was electrical, requiring Independence Light and Power staff to come disconnect the electricity before the issue could be repaired. The fire department was assisted by the Independence Police Department, Independence Light & Power, Buchanan County Emergency Management, and some Celebrate Indee! Committee Members.

"No damage was reported to any food trucks in the area and no injuries were reported," the fire department said in a statement.

Independence's signature fireworks show rounded out the evening without issue.

Sunday morning was quiet after so much revelry, with a breakfast hosted by the Independence Lions Club and the Buchanan County Historical Society at the Mill, followed by an ecumenical church service at Veteran's Park.

Title: Fourth festivities

Author: BY AILIS MCCARDLE EDITOR@BULLETINJOURNAL.COM

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AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

The Best Float Winner in the Fourth of July parade.

Title: Fourth festivities

Author: BY AILIS MCCARDLE EDITOR@BULLETINJOURNAL.COM

Size : 184 Inches Sq Independence,IA Circulation: 2029

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MICHAEL POWER/CONTRIBUTED

Fireworks over the Wapsi on the Fourth of July.



AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

2025 Fair Queen Kaydence Zeien rides in the Fourth of July parade.

Title: Fourth festivities

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AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

A couple holds hands during the parade.



AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

Candids from the Independence Fourth of July parade.

Title: Fourth festivities

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AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

Candids from the Independence Fourth of July parade.



AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

Supervisor John Kurtz waves during the Fourth of July parade.



AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

The Independence Mustang Softball team rides in the Fourth of July parade.

Title: Fourth festivities

Author: BY AILIS MCCARDLE EDITOR@BULLETINJOURNAL.COM

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AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

The Buchanan County Health Center parade float on July 4.



AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

Board of Supervisors candidate John Lynch walks the parade on July 4.



AILIS MCCARDLE/PHOTO

Fair Queen candidate Piper Reck smiles during the Fourth of July parade.

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Jefferson's 250th Celebration brings over 1,500 attendees

LAURIE STRACHE

Jefferson Area Chamber
of Commerce

JEFFERSON — More than 1,500 residents and visitors gathered in downtown Jefferson last Saturday to celebrate the community's 250th Celebration in a day filled with "hometown pride, family fun, and patriotic spirit."

The celebration began with a community motorcycle ride organized by Tan-A-Latte and benefiting the Jefferson Optimist Club, bringing riders together in support of local youth programs. Throughout the day, attendees enjoyed a variety of activities, including the shrimp boil hosted by the Jefferson Lions Club, boat rides along the Rock River provided by SkipperBud's, live musical performances, and a drone show that illuminated the night sky to conclude the festivities.

"It was a beautiful day of community and pride as our residents gathered in tremendous numbers to celebrate together," said Laurie Strache, Executive Director of the Jefferson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.



JEFFERSON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The logo for Jefferson created by a choreographed fleet of drones during the Jefferson 250th Celebration.

"From delicious food and live music to glow sticks and an incredible drone show, there truly was something for everyone. It was wonderful to see so many families spread out on blankets, enjoying the evening together and dancing the night away."

As darkness fell, the bridge over the Rock River was illuminated in red, white, and blue, creating a backdrop as spectators lined the riverbanks to watch the choreographed drone show. The display featured a series of

patriotic images celebrating America's 250th anniversary, including the American flag, an eagle, stars, and other iconic symbols of freedom. The show also displayed the logos of event sponsors Kikkoman, Nestlé Purina, Aztalan Bio, Festival Foods, and the City of Jefferson, recognizing their support in making the celebration possible.

Adding a Jefferson touch, the drone show incorporated local icons, including a goat representing Goat Island, imagery celebrating Gemuetlichkeit Days, and

other community-inspired designs that honored Jefferson's heritage while blending with the evening's patriotic theme. The combination of national pride and hometown tradition made for an experience that captivated the audience.

The event was made possible through the collaboration and dedication of numerous community partners, volunteers, and organizations. Special thanks have been extended to the City of Jefferson, Parks and Recreation Department, Jefferson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Jefferson Police Department, Jefferson Lions Club, Jefferson Optimist Club, SkipperBud's, event sponsors, Home Instead, Loos Homes, Gorman & Company, Jefferson Utilities, Jefferson Live Music Foundation, volunteers, and the many community organizations whose planning and hard work helped bring the celebration to life.

The Jefferson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism extends its gratitude to everyone who attended and helped make the celebration a success.

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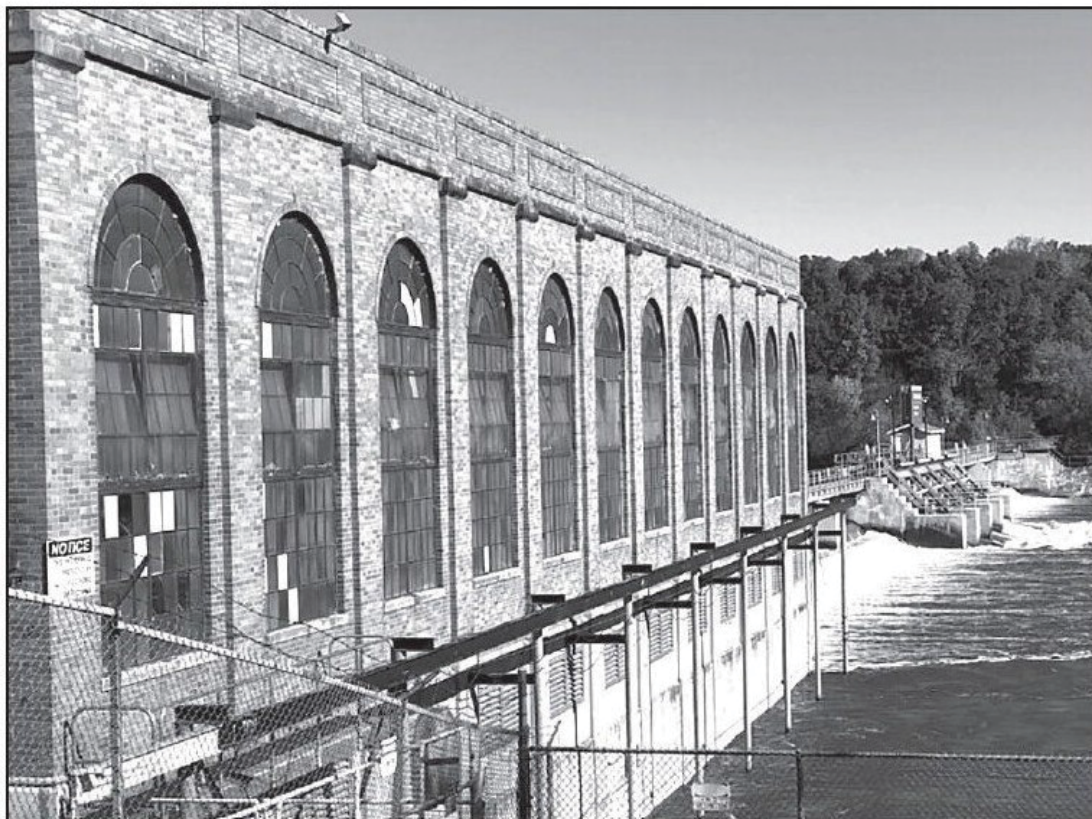
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Department, Jefferson Lions Club, Jefferson Optimist Club, SkipperBud's, event sponsors, Home Instead, Loos Homes, Gorman & Company, Jefferson [Utilities](#), Jefferson Live Music Foundation, volunteers, and the many community organizations whose planning and hard work helped bring the celebration to life.

The Jefferson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism extends its gratitude to everyone who attended and helped make the celebration a success. The outstanding community participation showcased the strong sense of pride and togetherness that continues to make Jefferson a special place to live, work, and visit.

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At ideal water conditions, Rapide Croche Hydro can generate enough energy for almost 1,800 homes. The hydro plant is located on Highway ZZ just inside the Outagamie-Brown County line. [Kaukauna Utilities](#) photo

Kaukauna Utilities celebrating 100 years of Rapide Croche Hydro

Rapide Croche Hydro began generating electricity from the power of the Fox River in 1926, marking a significant milestone in [Kaukauna Utilities](#) history.

Built to meet the growing demand for electricity and support economic growth throughout the region, the facility helped expand local electric service, attract industry, and establish a legacy of affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy that continues today.

As Rapide Croche Hydro celebrates its 100th anniversary, [Kaukauna Utilities](#) invites the community to join them on Tuesday, July 21, at 10 a.m. in commemorat-

ing a century of innovation, community impact, and clean, renewable hydropower.

The celebration includes remarks from utility stakeholders, cookies and refreshments, and guided tours of Rapide Croche Hydro.

RSVP by Friday, July 10, at [kaukaunautilities.com](#).

Due to limited parking at the facility, shuttle transportation may be provided depending on attendance. Parking and transportation information will be shared with confirmed attendees closer to the event. Additional event details will be communicated in the coming weeks.

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who have been v
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Kaukauna, Heart of the Valley Times-Villager

Kaukauna Utilities breaks ground for lifechanging water treatment system

By Brian Roebke
Editor

There weren't many Kaukauna residents on hand at the groundbreaking for the Water Treatment System Improvement Project on Tuesday, July 7, at 807 Boyd Avenue, just above the Kaukauna Aquatic Center, where water treatment plant No. 1 is slated to be built.

However, they will receive the benefits of the project that corrects a lifetime of hard water in the city.

The new reverse osmosis water treatment system is expected to be completed in summer 2028 to replace facilities nearing the end of their lifespans.

Perhaps **Kaukauna Utilities** Commission President Lee Meyerhofer said it best. As someone born and raised in Kaukauna,

Meyerhofer thought it was a super exciting day.

"As a kid I remember growing up with the hard water and the effects of it," he said. "It didn't matter if you washed your hair, took a shower, brushed your teeth, or washed the car. Get those hard water spots off the car when your dad asked you to wash your car, that was impossible."

General Manager Michael Avanzi said it was incredibly exciting for him after four years of studying, planning, designing, and community engagement for the new water treatment system.

Water rates will increase but other household costs should reduce, leading to an overall cost decrease for living in a home or operating a business.

Once operational, the enhanced



Brian Roebke photos

Kaukauna Utilities General Manager Michael Avanzi, Commission President Lee Meyerhofer, Congressman Tony Weid, and Mayor Tony Penterman participated in one of the several ceremonial groundbreakings at the site of the new Kaukauna Water Treatment System last week.



Kaukauna Utilities General Manager Michael Avanzi told the audience at the groundbreaking ceremony he thought of his young children prior to the groundbreaking for Kaukauna's new water system that will eliminate the infamous hard water from the city's water pipes.

treatment process significantly reduces water hardness for residents and businesses in the city. Not only can customers anticipate improvement in water quality, they will see reduced buildup on appliances and fixtures, as well as prolonged appliance lifespans.

In addition, customers opting to bypass or remove their water softeners can gain additional savings.

"We feel this is an investment in future generations to come," Avanzi said, noting his children will not have to worry about things that generations of Kaukauna residents have had to.

"They won't have to worry about treating their water, they won't have to worry about going to the store to buy salt and refilling the water softener," he said. "They won't have to worry about buying water softeners or their water heat-

ers failing prematurely because of the water."

Meyerhofer noted hard water leaves its mark whenever it contacts something, including plumbing fixtures, their lives are short due to the water in Kaukauna. It costs residents a lot of money they don't realize but this will eliminate those expenses.

"After living for 62 years in Kaukauna and building a new home in town over 35 years ago, I'm well aware of the effects of hard water," he said. "As a member of the **Kaukauna Utilities** Commission for the past 30-plus years, I had a front row seat to see the challenges the utility faced every day with hard water."

He's also witnessed the decisions that were made during the past three decades by the commissioners who live in Kaukauna and repre-

sent all the water users.

"Those seven community members acting as commissioners are ultimately the responsibility parties for making the decision to proceed with this project," Meyerhofer added. "They took this very seriously and took some ownership, formed an ad-hoc committee made up staff and commissioners, we hired a consulting firm and tasked them with doing an in-depth study of the current system and all reasonable options to address our needs and come back with a recommendation."

The new osmosis water treatment system should improve the lives of Kaukaunans, the community, and the customers.

"I believe when this project is completed, we will have the best water in the State of Wisconsin, if not the United States of America," Avanzi said.



Kaukauna breaks ground on \$35 million water treatment plant, the largest project in utility's 114-year history

Published: Jul. 7, 2026

Kaukauna Utilities broke ground Tuesday on a \$35 million water treatment plant, launching the construction phase of a project four years in the making that officials say is the largest in the utility's 114-year history.

The new facility will replace the existing water treatment plant near the Fox River, parts of which have been in operation for more than 125 years. Construction is expected to be complete in August 2028.

Why a new plant was needed

General Manager at [Kaukauna Utilities](#), Michael Avanzi, said the existing plant has reached the end of its operational life.

"Our main water treatment plant down by the river has components that are over 125 years old. We have absolutely maximized the life of that facility," Avanzi said.

The new plant will be built outside the Fox River flood plain. The project also includes the addition of backup power generation at all wells and treatment facilities, allowing the utility to pump water from its five groundwater wells even during a power outage.

Reverse osmosis system

After four years of studying treatment options, Kaukauna Utilities selected reverse osmosis as its treatment method. The system will be the largest of its kind in Wisconsin and only the fifth reverse osmosis water treatment system in the state.

Avanzi said the process will remove hardness from the water, eliminating the need for residential and commercial water softeners.

“They will notice that their water will be a lot softer. They should no longer need to use water softeners in their homes, their businesses. They should no longer have to buy salt to fill up water softeners. Their water heaters should last longer. They should no longer notice build-ups on their fixtures and appliances like they have in the past,” Avanzi said.

The reverse osmosis system will also provide protection against PFAS contamination if it is ever detected in the city’s groundwater.

Cost and rate impact

The \$35 million project will require a rate increase. Kaukauna Utilities is seeking approval from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for a projected increase of approximately \$28 per month on a typical residential water bill.

Avanzi said the utility expects much of that cost to be offset by customers no longer purchasing water softener salt or replacing appliances and water heaters prematurely due to hard water.

Project partners and funding

Engineering for the project is being handled by CBS Squared. MidCity Corporation is the construction partner, with project manager Sarah Nunn overseeing the construction phase. Legal counsel is provided by Boardman Clark.

Kaukauna Mayor Tony Penterman acknowledged Congressman Tony Wied and U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin for their support in securing funding for the project.

Kaukauna moving archery range

The City of Kaukauna and **Kaukauna Utilities** have removed the archery range from 807 Boyd Ave. (adjacent to the aquatic center) as a first step toward construction of the new KU reverse osmosis (RO) water treatment plant.

The removal of the range is necessary for the safety of the users and

for the construction crews working on the site.

The archery range will be relocated to a new site after the completion of the project.

The Village of Combined Locks has a public range at Memorial Park, located behind the civic center.

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Kaukauna High School Class of 2026 scholarships and awards

Bailey, Anna — Sheldon Niquette Education Scholarship

Banaszynski, Addison — Aurora Bay Care; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Kaukauna Girls Basketball Association Scholarship

Bargenquast, Madyson — George Anderson Memorial; Kiwanis Club of Dayboy Key Club Scholarship; Sherwood Area Optimist Club Scholarship; UW-Whitewater General Merit Scholarship

Bass, Ian — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Northern Michigan Board of Trustees Music Scholarship; Northern Michigan University Competition Award; Northern Michigan University NMu Bridge Award; Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship

Bass, Iris — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

Beversdorf, Shaylyn — Arnoldussen Family KHS Dance Team Scholarship; Dance for Finn Scholarship; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; UW-Oshkosh CAPP Future Titan Scholarship; UW-Oshkosh Honors College CAPP Scholarship; Wisconsin Fox Valley Sheet Metal Contractors Association Industry

Beyer, Jack — Ariens Family Foundation Scholarship 4 yr.; Brian D. Vandenberg Track & Field Scholarship

Beversdorf, Carly — Rhoades Sanford Education HS Scholarship

Bodenheimer, Paige — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

Brudwick, Hailey — Bernie Schuessler/K.A.T.O.D.A. Scholarship

Buckoski, Aiden — Kaukauna Boys Hoops Club Scholarship

Canino, Frank — Kaukauna Athletic Club Scholarship

Crabb, Jack — UW-Green Bay Nextera Point Beach Scholarship

Creten, Emma — Roy Wentzel Science Scholarship

Deering, Madison — Kaukauna Athletic Club Scholarship

Domack, Sven — Rhoades Sanford Foundation, Inc. Scholarship

Donnermeyer, Ryker — Kaukauna Youth Baseball Scholarship

Driessen, Saylor — Ferdinand

Kowalke Award; Jamie Vander Velden Soccer Memorial Scholarship; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Soccer Booster Club Scholarship

Eickelberg, Edison — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Kaukauna Utilities Scholarship; Technical Excellence Scholarship

Ernest, Ava — Kelly Dix Fassbender & Phillip Fassbender Scholarship

Ernest, Brielle — Kaukauna Athletic Club Scholarship; Kaukauna Girls Basketball Association Scholarship

Evers, Ashley — Cynthia L. Wyngaard Educational Scholarship

Evers, Brielle — Ferdinand Kowalke Award; Genevieve F. Wentzel Nursing Scholarship; Nazareth University Aspire Scholarship; Nazareth University Presidential Scholarship

Exarhos, Matthew — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

Fauske, Reese — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

Federwitz, Taylor — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Kaukauna Elks Technical Scholarship; Sherwood Area Optimist Club Scholarship; Wisconsin Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship

Figueroa, Kayleen — Bernie Schuessler/K.A.T.O.D.A. Scholarship

Fuerst, Chase — Technical Excellence Scholarship

Fuest, Addison — Gordon & Marjorie Jacobson Scholarship

Gates, Carson — Fox Valley Tech Tyler Kreiter Legacy Scholarship

Geitner, Oriana — Gordon & Marjorie Jacobson Scholarship; James D. Brogan Memorial - Bank of Kaukauna Scholarship

George, Collin — Clear Approach Optometry Health Care Scholarship

Gerrits, Claire — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Kaukauna Girls Volleyball Scholarship

Illis, Greta — KHS Ghost Scholarship

Gonzalez-Martinez, Laura — George Anderson Memorial

Greenthal, Josie — Breaking Boundaries Mentor Scholarship; Ferdinand Kowalke Award; Gordon & Marjorie Jacobson Scholarship

Gross, Karlee — Kaukauna Girls Basketball Association Scholarship

Guzman, Ariana — Anna Lucas Nursing Scholarship

Haak, Jack — Kaukauna Athletic Club Scholarship; Kaukauna Youth Baseball Scholarship

Haen, Aaron — Soccer Booster Club Scholarship

Haen, Abigail — Mayor Anthony J. Penterman Scholarship; River Surge College Scholarships; Soccer Booster Club Scholarship; Soccer Excellence Scholarship

Hahn, Anna — C.L.A.A. Combined Locks Advancement Association

Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship District Award; Ferdinand Kowalke Award; Gordon & Marjorie Jacobson Scholarship; James D. Brogan Memorial - Bank of Kaukauna Scholarship

Hanson, Allison — Student Council Leadership Award

Haw, Gavin — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; United States Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Musical Excellence

Hemme, Reece — Albert W. & Louise M. Wuyts Scholarship; Technical Excellence Scholarship

Holtz, Vaughn — Leo & Frances Driessen Family Scholarship

Hubers, Lillian — Gordon & Marjorie Jacobson Scholarship

Huettl, Alex — Kaukauna Education Association Teaching Scholarship; Walter & Ruth Schmidt Scholarship

Hungerford, Adelle — Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship District Award; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Ronald J. & Audrey K. Huss Memorial Scholarship; Winnebago Community Credit Union Scholarship

Hussin, Samuel — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

Jens, Andrew — Kaukauna Boys Hoops Club Scholarship; Lang Trophy

Johnson, Kale — C.L.A.A. Combined Locks Advancement Association; Kaukauna Elks Technical Scholarship; Wisconsin Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship

Kelderman, Maverik — Kaukauna Athletic Club Scholarship

Kelly, Leighton — Arnoldussen Family KHS Dance Team Scholarship; Dance for Finn Scholarship; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; UW-Stevens Point John Runkel Merit Scholarship; UW-Stevens Point John Runkel Merit Scholarship

Kern, Jenna — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Sherwood Area Optimist Club Scholarship

Kinas, Jenna — Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship District Award; Ferdinand Kowalke Award; KHS Ghost Scholarship; ProAmpac Community Scholarship; WIAA Scholar Athlete Award

Koehnke, Serray — Sheldon Niquette Education Scholarship

Koester, Frances — Ric Schiedermayer Memorial Scholarship

Kolb, Sarah — Cynthia L. Wyngaard Educational Scholarship

Kress, Kaden — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Kaukauna Youth Baseball Scholarship

Krueger, Brynn — Leila I. Blajeski ("Mrs. B") Memorial; Rhoades Sanford Foundation, Inc. Scholarship

Krutke, Isabel — Donna Mae Wentzel Scholarship; UW-Green Bay Dr. Charles Ihrie Scholarship

Laubert, Anthony — Gordon & Marjorie Jacobson Scholarship

Leitzke, Hailey — Sheldon Niquette Education Scholarship

Lendobaja, Nehemiah —

Donald T. Straus Scholarship

Lisowe, Caleb — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

LyBoualoug, Asha — Albert W. & Louise M. Wuyts Scholarship; Community Blood Center Scholarship; Ferdinand Kowalke Award; Hagan Scholarship; Outagamie County Bar Association Scholarship; United States Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award

Mader, Delilah — Elmer & Margaret Otte Scholarship; Paulsen Family Scholarship at Lawrence University

Maronn, McKenna — Academic Excellence Scholarship; American Legion Post 496-Thomas Kees Scholarship; C.L.A.A. Combined Locks Advancement Association; Community Blood Center Scholarship; David Nelson Scholarship; Ferdinand Kowalke Award; Kaukauna Elks U.S. Constitution 1st Place Winner; Marie VanDeBruggen Memorial Scholarship; UW-Madison Rath Academic Foundation Scholarship; Wisconsin Elks U.S. Constitution Contest 4th Place Winner

Matthies, Brenna — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Kaukauna Girls Volleyball Scholarship

Mayer, Jackson — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

McDaniel, Madilynn — John, Agnes, Paul and Catherine Reichel Scholarship

McGuire, Maia — Art Scholarship; Dr. & Mrs. Robert F. Nagan Scholarship; Ferdinand Kowalke Award

Meyers, Hunter — Ferdinand Kowalke Award; Gordon & Marjorie Jacobson Scholarship; United States Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award

Micke, Madison — Mayor Anthony J. Penterman Scholarship

Micke, Nolan — Kaukauna Athletic Club Scholarship

Millard, Harrison — Philip B. Foxgrover Memorial Scholarship

Mischler, Micah — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

Moore, Sawyer — Kelly Dix Fassbender & Phillip Fassbender Scholarship

Moseng, Myles — Albert W. & Louise M. Wuyts Scholarship

Mursau, Evelyn — Ferdinand Kowalke Award; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

Myers, Amethyst — Northern Michigan University NMu Bridge Award; Northern Michigan University Wildcat Merit Scholarship; Rhoades Sanford Foundation, Inc. Scholarship; Student Council Leadership Award

Niles, Anna — Dance for Finn Scholarship; Parents Advisory Committee (PAC) Scholarship

Novak, Lilah — Christopher Langel Memorial; Giddings & Lewis Scholarship \$1,000/4 yrs

Nushart, Ashley — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

Patschke, Annabel — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

Pingel, Lillian — Burger King

Scholarship; Dr. Dwight Bastian Scholarship; Kaukauna Community Players - Arlene Trettn Scholarship; Kay Vandenberg Arts Scholarship; Wisconsin Forensics Coaches Association Scholarship

Plutze, Alyssa — Dr. George Behnke Memorial Scholarship

Raisleger, Kahlia — C.L.A.A. Combined Locks Advancement Association; Ric Schiedermayer Memorial Scholarship

Reardon, Aiden — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

Riley, Rian — Claire Fell Doherty Nursing Scholarship

Roehrig, Jonah — Al Zierler Memorial Scholarship; Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship Local Award; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Kaukauna Boys Hoops Club Scholarship; St. Ambrose Men's Basketball Scholarship; St. Ambrose Men's Golf Scholarship; St. Ambrose Presidential Scholarship; St. Ambrose Traditions Scholarship

Romenesko, Wyatt — Kaukauna Quarterback Club Scholarship; Kaukauna Youth Baseball Scholarship; Student Council Leadership Award

Rydzewski, Hope — Academic Excellence Scholarship; C.L.A.A. Combined Locks Advancement Association; Ferdinand Kowalke Award; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Theda Care Regional Medical - Appleton Volunteer Health Career

Sanderfoot, Marli — Arnoldussen Family KHS Dance Team Scholarship; Dance for Finn Scholarship; DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution); Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Sherwood Area Optimist Club Scholarship; Wisconsin Association of Cheer & Pom Coaches (WACPC)

Schiedermayer, Jada — Kaukauna Athletic Club Scholarship; Kaukauna Lions Club - Technical Scholarship

Schmidt, Payton — Geraldine Loderbauer Scholarship

Schuh, Paxton — Kaukauna Youth Baseball Scholarship

Seghers, Taron — Kaukauna Lions Club - Technical Scholarship; Ron Margelofsky Memorial Scholarship

Smith, Cole — Ferdinand Kowalke Award; Kaukauna Elks U.S. Constitution 2nd Place Winner; Kaukauna Quarterback Club Scholarship; PPC Pillars Memorial

Steif, Annessa — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Soccer Booster Club Scholarship

Stenen, Paul — Rob Jackels Memorial

Swedberg, Addison — Arnoldussen Family KHS Dance Team Scholarship; Dance for Finn Scholarship; Kaukauna Athletic Club Scholarship; Kaukauna Lions Club Scholarship

Swedberg, Olivia — Arnoldussen Family KHS Dance Team Scholarship; Dance for Finn Scholarship; Joseph Lucas Education

See Kaukauna, page 9



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Kaukauna

continued from page 8

Scholarship; Rhoades Sanford Foundation, Inc. Scholarship

Swick, Sophia — Bellin College (over 3 years program); C.L.A.A. Combined Locks Advancement Association; Kaukauna Clinic Medical Staff Scholarship; Kaukauna Lions Club Scholarship

Tschantz, Payton — Lyle Vandenberg Health Care Scholarship; UW-Green Bay Dr. Charles Ihrke Scholarship

VandeHey, Logan — Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship Local Award; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

VanDeLoo, Cole — Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship Local Award; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

VanDeLoo, Peyton — Al Zierler Memorial Scholarship; Arnoldussen

Family KHS Dance Team Scholarship; Country Visions Cooperative Scholarship; Dance for Finn Scholarship; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship

VandeVoort, Ashlynn — Foremost Farms Foundation Scholarship; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Kaukauna Girls Volleyball Scholarship

VanDriel, Jaxson — Kelly Dix Fassbender & Phillip Fassbender Scholarship

Verboncouer, Logan — Richard Arts "Trade" Memorial

Verhagen, Lea — C.L.A.A. Combined Locks Advancement Association; Community Blood Center Scholarship; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Kiwanis Club of Dayboy Key Club Scholarship; Unison Credit Union - John Aman Memorial Scholarship

Waters, Donovan — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship;

Kaukauna Elks US Constitution 3rd Place Winner

Wendt, Lily — Academic Excellence Scholarship; Ferdinand Kowalke Award; Gordon & Marjorie Jacobson Scholarship

Weyenberg, Kavanaugh — Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; Kaukauna Boys Hoops Club Scholarship; WIAA Scholar Athlete Award

Winnekens, Zachary — Donald T. Straus Scholarship; Kaukauna Alumni Association Scholarship; United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

Wyne, Phoenix — Bruce and Teresa Mathis Scholarship

Wyngaard-Dewhurst, Emma — Alex Sprangers Peace Scholarship

Yang, Chloe — Gordon & Marjorie Jacobson Scholarship; UW-Oshkosh CAPP Scholarship

Zarneke, Zachary — Masonic Scholarship - Appleton Lodge 349

Appleton, Post-Crescent

Inside the Kaukauna hydroelectric plant powering 1800 homes

Emma Johnson
Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

As Rapide Croche Hydro Plant celebrates its 100th anniversary on July 21, [Kaukauna Utilities](#) is looking forward to commemorating a century of innovation, community impact, and clean, renewable hydropower.

Here's what to know.

What a century signifies for the company

In 1926, Rapide Croche Hydro began generating electricity from the power of the Fox River, marking a significant turning point in [Kaukauna Utilities'](#) history.

The plant was constructed in 1925-26 and housed four, 600kW turbine generators. The 167-by-60-foot powerhouse operates alongside the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-maintained dam.

Maintenance superintendent Eric Murphy, an employee of [Kaukauna Utilities](#) for over two decades, said the older technology meshes with modern-day solutions. In the past one specific person had to turn generators on manually on-site, today an employee can do it with a button off-site.

"You really get to appreciate both sides of [new and older technology]," Murphy said. "There are certain things that were done in the past that we don't do now, but there are different ways we are able to harness the hydropower in the same way we have for the last 100 years."

Engineering and operations director Dave Pahl said the sustainability of hydropower is one of many reasons that allowed the Rapide Croche plant to be the second of [Kaukauna Utilities](#) plant to reach this centennial milestone.

"Hydropower has a key place in the generation market," Pahl said. "One, it's because we are harnessing the power of energy, so the cost of fuel is zero for the plant."

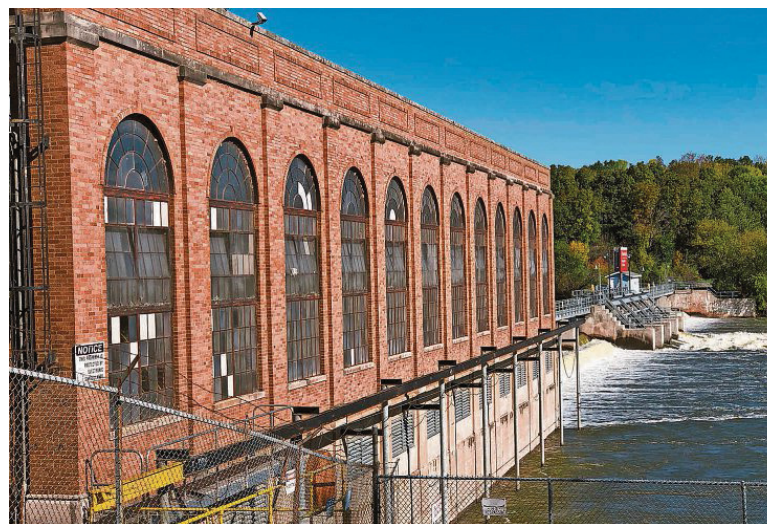
Avanzi said hydropower, a renewable energy, remains a reliable source of energy for homeowners in Kaukauna today. [Kaukauna Utilities'](#) general manager, Michael Avanzi, discussed with the Appleton Post-Crescent the large-scale impact of engaging with the public.

"Today, we generate around 30% of the community energy needs," Avanzi said. "That is 1,800 homes for the whole year, 180,000 homes worth of energy for the last 100 years. [Hydropower] really is the most cost-effective ... no fuel, or natural gas."

A geological phenomena in the Fox Valley

Avanzi noted how the drop in elevation of 170 feet over 40 miles of the Fox River is roughly equivalent to Niagara Falls.

"I mean, that is what makes this so special too," Avanzi said. "We have something like this in the Fox Valley, and it is why [we] were able to create this renewable energy here. It is why I hope we can [have hydroelectric power] for years



Rapide Croche Hydro can generate enough energy for almost 1,800 homes.

PROVIDED BY [KAUKAUNA UTILITIES](#)

and future generations to come."

Day of festivities to include talks, treats and tours

The private celebration will include remarks from utility stakeholders, cookies and refreshments and guided tours of the facilities. Kicking off 10 a.m., two of the expected guests are the mayor of Kaukauna, Tony Penterman, who is anticipated to give a speech, and WPPI Energy, one of the partners of [Kaukauna Utilities](#).

Additionally, tours of the physical

plant are expected, along with live demonstrations of rack raking and a glimpse into hydropower's contributions to the past and future.

"These kind of tours are special because it gives a glimpse into the facilities. ... I mean Kaukauna is the Electric City," Avanzi said. "Today we have old tech married with new tech, and these demonstrations can show how something so simple as hydroelectricity and hydropower can be interesting."

Emma Johnson is the Appleton Post-Crescent's summer intern. Reach her at ejohnson@gannett.com.



Maquoketa leaders share plans and power safeguards for potential data center

Maquoketa residents have been informed of the city's plans for a potential data center, as the fast-growing industry continues to draw scrutiny over noise and environmental concerns.

City leaders said they have put several restrictions in place for any projects and said anything done would be considerably smaller than projects being considered in areas like Clinton.

City points to utility controls, power safeguards

The city also said safeguards are in place for power, even with significant interest in the project.

Maquoketa City Manager Josh Boldt addressed concerns about the impact on the local utility.

"It's a non-starter with your **Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility**. It's not an investor-owned utility. It's not an Alliant, it's not a Mid American. You have a city-owned utility with local controls measuring the numbers and you can go to those people and explain to me how this proposal is either going to hold my rate steady or even drop it," Boldt said.

Residents given chance to weigh in

Maquoketa residents were given a chance to watch the city's presentation to learn more and raise any concerns.

City leaders said a formal vote on any project is weeks or even months away.

Title: Can MMEU meet data center needs?

Author: By KELLY GERLACH News Editor kgerlach@mspress.net

Size : 86 Inches Sq Maquoketa,IA Circulation: 3879

Keywords: Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility



Can MMEU meet data center needs?

Krogman: More demand stabilizes utility rates

By KELLY GERLACH

News Editor

kgerlach@mspress.net

Maquoketa is close to going dark. Electricity is running low.

If that scenario were to happen tomorrow, Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility (MMEU) would start up its generators to supply power to its customers until the situation was resolved, according to Chris Krogman, MMEU general manager.

That response would remain the same even if a data center is built within city limits because the data center would be running its own backup power generator, not using city power, Krogman explained.

"It doesn't matter where the data center is, the demand on the system is the same. Maquoketa is at no greater risk of blackout" with or without a data center, he said.

"We have all we need to back up our current load [electricity demand]. If we had a data center in town, they would be so independent of our portion of the system that we would tell them up front, as far as backup generation goes, you provide your own," Krogman said.

Electricity consumption and rates feature heavily on the minds of people both here and across the country who oppose data centers.

Data centers house rows of servers and other technology used to store information people access every day. Operating that equipment requires a lot of power, and the larger the

data center, the more power they consume.

Local fears echo those of people around the nation: If a data center moves in, it will use too much of the available power, forcing the electric utility to build new substations, the cost of which would land on the

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DATA CENTER

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backs of ratepayers.

And if there's a blackout, who's at the top of the pecking order to get power first – residents or data centers?

Let's take a look.

Who gets power first?

Every new electricity user added to the system increases the load, whether that be a single-stall garage or a hyperscale data center. The rapid pace of data center construction nationwide is fueling a massive expansion in energy demand, and many eastern Iowans are worried about what that could mean.

One of the most common questions asked in social media posts associated with data center-related news stories published by this newspaper involve how electrical shortages would be managed.

The originator of a Facebook page titled "No Data Center in

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Maquoketa” asked: “How does Maquoketa plan on fueling a power hungry data center when they are literally asking

us to turn off our ceiling fans?” The question came after MMEU publicly encouraged people to reduce their power use July 15 due to the extreme heat.

Krogman explained that Maquoketa gets its power through WPPI Energy based in Wisconsin. WPPI is part of MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator), a not-for-profit organization that manages the electric power grid and wholesale energy markets across 15 states stretching from Canada to Louisiana.

Being part of a larger network can lead to more power supply at lower costs, Krogman said. That’s crucial because blackouts happen when electricity demand outpaces supply. Sometimes, as was the case last week with high temperatures, MMEU asks consumers to reduce their electricity use as much as possible to conserve energy.

Increased demand in one area can affect everyone on the MISO system, Krogman said, but he maintained that blackouts are extremely unlikely.

But, if MMEU added a data center to its load, would a blackout be more likely?

“I would say no,” Krogman said. “Regardless of where a data center is built, it’s attached to the grid, ... still requiring the same power. The power has to be provided somewhere. So, really, it doesn’t matter where a data center is built, it doesn’t change the effects.”

When electricity on the grid runs low, that’s when MMEU uses its backup generators to provide power to its residents and businesses, Krogman said, but that electricity would not go to a data center if it put Maquoketa’s network at risk.

In a crisis situation, Krogman said a data

center would be temporarily severed from the grid and would rely on its own emergency generators.

What about electric rates?

An increase in energy consumption leads many consumers to fear increased electric bills.

Eric VonKilburg, a digital creator from Dubuque, posted on Facebook that data centers “actually can make electric and water prices go up.” And Karyn Goodenow feared, “We’d have electricity and water bills beyond believe and couldn’t support it.”

Does the increased demand for energy lead to higher electric bills for consumers? The answer is yes, and no.

WPPI purchases wholesale power. MMEU in Maquoketa does not control those prices, just like a shopper does not control the price of coffee when buying it from the grocery store. So, wholesale costs may increase electric rates, but that’s not new nor is it related specifically to data centers, Krogman said.

It is true that data centers have sometimes sought property tax breaks and favorable electricity rates. But, as they have faced public pushback around the nation, that trend has shifted, and Maquoketa City Manager Josh Boldt has said the developer seeking approval for a project in the city’s industrial park would receive no incentives.

If the city signs a development agreement for a data center, the developer and

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end-user would be responsible for any and all project costs, including infrastructure and utilities if needed, Boldt and Krogman said.

Krogman said MMEU has the capacity to add about 5 megawatts of demand to its load. Anything more than that would require building a new substation, and that “would for sure be the responsibility of the data center.”

Krogman also said a new data center would help stabilize rates, not increase them.

“The chances of rates going up because of something like a data center, there’s really no chance if we do it properly,” Krogman said. “We would be sure we aren’t going to take any costs and pass that on to the rest of our customers.”

MMEU demand and capacity

■ MMEU typical demand: 10 to 11 megawatts per day (for all customers)

■ MMEU peak demand on a hot summer day: 17 megawatts (for all customers)

■ MMEU’s largest users: Family Dollar and Sonac. They each have a demand between 1-2 megawatts, depending on the day.

■ Data centers consume 1 megawatt to more than 100 megawatts per day depending on the size of the facility. The average U.S. household consumes about 10,500 kilowatt hours of electricity per year, according to the U.S.

Energy Information Administration. So on the small end, the power used by a data center using 1 megawatt of power per day could power about 10.5 homes per year.

Editor’s note: Facebook activity from the Maquoketa area ignited after the Maquoketa City Council began discussing a possible data center to be built on city-owned industrial property south of town.

The Maquoketa Sentinel-Press compiled a list of the most common topics from those public comments and is researching them to provide more information to the public. Those topics include data centers and their relationship to: electricity usage and consumer costs, water consumption and local water resources, noise generation, transparency, and land use.

Look for more information on these topics in upcoming editions.



JOSH BOLDT

Maquoketa
City Manager



**CHRIS
KROGMAN**

Maquoketa Municipal
Electric Utility
General Manager



Additional content:

■ Watch more on this story by visiting our website:

maqnews.com

Tornado rolls through Winnebago County

Appleton, Menasha among cities reporting damage

SCOTT BAUER, CYBELE MAYES-OSTERMAN AND JOHN SEEWER

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A tornado struck northeastern Wisconsin on Monday, blackening the midday sky and sending workers sheltering in office basements as fierce winds splintered homes, scattered twisted metal across a highway and knocked out power to more than 30,000 people.

There were no reports of fatalities or injuries as of Monday evening, but emergency officials were still searching, said Gordon Hintz, Winnebago County's top elected official.

The National Weather Service confirmed a tornado in Winnebago County, about 90 miles northwest of Milwaukee. Damage was reported in cities including Appleton and Menasha, where Police Chief Matt Albrecht said some homes and businesses were "severely impacted."

The twister was spun off by a large storm system that moved through the Great Lakes, fueled by a buildup of heat and humidity, National Weather Service meteorologist Scott Berschback said.

Hintz said it could be several days before power in the stricken area is restored.

Heather Schroeder said she heard cracking and popping all around her as the tornado tore apart a laundromat, a bakery and a neighborhood tavern that were clustered around a street corner in Menasha, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south of Green Bay.

Rescue workers pulled someone out of one of the buildings, said Schroeder, who works nearby. She said it wasn't clear if the person had survived. Cars were turned upside-down, and there was a gas leak at the laundromat, she said.

"There's nothing left," Schroeder said.

The twister ripped roofs off homes and flipped vehicles in one neighborhood in Menasha, just blocks from the shores of Lake Winnebago. Video showed a trail of destruction, with some homes reduced to their outer walls.

Greg Van Driest was working in downtown Appleton when the sky got as dark as night.

"The word we all were using was 'ominous,'" he said. "It's like, 'Whoa, look at that.' ... You looked outside and you thought it was three in the morning, it was that dark."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman walks among debris after a tornado struck Monday in Menasha, Wis.

NO REPORTS OF DEATHS OR INJURIES, BUT SEARCHES CONTINUE

Hintz said he's received multiple reports of buildings destroyed and vehicles overturned. All storm warnings that could be made ahead of time to get people to safety were activated, he said.

"Obviously when you look at the damage, Mother Nature doesn't really care," he said.

Weather service meteorologist Holley Kamba said the agency was receiving reports of damage in southern Outagamie County and eastern Winnebago County. "We have been receiving calls of damage with a lot of trees down, power lines down," Kamba said. "We've been searching for some pictures of the structural damage."

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers said the state "is ready to assist communities however we can."

Weather service meteorologists in Green Bay issued a tornado warning at 11:59 a.m. for the Fox Cities region, which includes Appleton, Menasha and Neenah. It warned of flying and dangerous debris, damage to mobile homes, vehicles and trees, while warning people to seek shelter.

The area had already been under a severe thunderstorm warning for about 45 minutes, and meteorologists indicated the storm was capable of producing winds up to 60 mph (97 kph).

EXTENSIVE DAMAGE AND AN ENTIRE CITY WITHOUT POWER

Images on social media showed extensive damage in Appleton, including homes stripped of roofs, a car tossed onto a lawn, and streets littered with tree limbs.

The Appleton Police Department said on social media that it was aware of "several downed trees and large tree limbs throughout the city." Traffic signals were out and some roads were "heavily backed up," the department said.

Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson said he didn't have any confirmation of fatalities or injuries in the county, which includes Appleton. But he said there was "extensive and severe damage" in Menasha and Fox Crossing.

"All indications are that this was a devastating system that has caused extensive damage," Nelson said.

In Menasha, the electric utility said the entire city of about 18,000 people was believed without power. Authorities were opening a shelter at a church.

The storm hit Menasha and the east side of neighboring Fox Crossing at around 12:20 p.m., Albrecht said.

"At this point, we are unaware, unsure of how bad the damage is because many roads in those same areas are impassable," Albrecht said, adding emergency crews were seeking to enter the affected area to "look for injuries, look for victims" and clear the roads.

He urged people to stay away from the hard-hit areas: "Right now, there are many downed power lines, downed trees, multiple hazardous situations. Please stay out."

Later Monday the storm was clearing out of Wisconsin and moving south of Milwaukee through the Chicago area as it began to dissipate, he said.

Celebrating our nation's 250th

Editor's Note: This is written in excerpt format to follow along from the Bicentennial 1976 version. This is Muscodia's history since 1976 to 2026 and how the Muscodia area has changed over the past half century.

By KEN THIEDE

Since 1976 several people have served in the capacity of the Village of Muscodia President with Bernard Schwingle having concluded his term in April of 1977. Those village presidents serving to the present day include: John Hanrahan, Robert Johnson, Larry J. Miller, Anthony Broadbent, Brent Stadele, and Dorothy Hackl.

Our present Muscodia Village Board includes President John Imhoff with Larry Anderson, Dave Wiederholt, Kim Seifert, Doug Meyer, Eric Johnson and Mike Hill who are all serving on the Muscodia Village Board.

The Clerk-Treasurer has been Cinda Johnson for over four decades. She had the title of administrator added after the tragic death of Louie Stenner in 2006 while he was serving the village on a job site. As of 2026, Carla Doudna has accepted the position of Muscodia Administrator - Clerk / Treasurer for the village.

Today our police department includes Chief Bill Schramm and one full time patrolling officer as well as two part-time officers.

**** Do check out the Village of Muscodia Website for more information about the village ****

The Kratochwill Building still serves as the village office and police station.

The village board meetings are also held there.

Gone is the old laundromat from the 1970s to the

area north of the Kratochwill Building replaced by a parking lot and a large mural was painted in 2011 on the north wall of the building painted by the Riverdale Art Department and organized as a project of the Leading Ladies. There is a coin laundromat on East 2nd Street one block to the south that has been operating there now for over four decades.

POST OFFICE

Our current post office was built in 2007 and was moved from the southwest corner of Front Street and Wisconsin Avenue to the present location at 1025 North Wisconsin Avenue across from Rivers Edge Health Care which had been known as the Riverdale Manor for many years from when it was built in the 1970s. The HVAC Guys now operate out of the former post office building.

The postal service has changed notably with packages dropped off in Madison and mail transferred to Milwaukee for sorting and then returned to the post office for distribution. Muscodia is now referred to as a RMPO - Remote Managed Post Office connected to the APO - Area Post Office which is Richland Center.

The last postmaster to serve in Muscodia was Leo Ellenbolt. Now one clerk, Amanda Phillips, works the Muscodia post office and 3 rural carriers are utilized for the Muscodia area delivery covering approximately 400 miles of routes.

A first class stamp has been 78 cents, yet as of July 12, 2026 a first class stamp cost will be raised to 82 cents with a stamped postcard costing 61 cents to mail.

The hotel that was formally

known as the Pfeister Hotel built in 1895 is currently Wolfy's Irish Inn with long-time owner Jody Wolfgram and the upstairs rooms have been transformed into apartments. The home known as Smythe Photography to the north was razed. There is no 'hotel' in the Village of Muscodia having had as many as three in the latter 1800s, yet none since the 1970s. The only motel near town is across the bridge at the junction of St. Hwy. 60 & 80. When built, it was the Nordic Inn with a restaurant to be added a few years later. The building was recently renovated as Honkers Inn having been Honkers since 2007.

Now, in the 2020s, Air BnBs as well as VRBOs are more common in our area.

FIRES

Fires remain a concern with several of notoriety to mention [as any fire is tragic, these fires occurring in the past fifty years have been notable] to mention the following:

In 1984, Walsh Stores on Front Street and Nebraska Street burned which included three buildings and then Ernie's Supper Club in 1998 also burned; what had been the longtime Blackhawk Supper Club until the mid 1990's located at 130 North Wisconsin Avenue.

Both of these establishments were in the Uptown area of the village and both of these businesses had a significant impact on the daily routine in the community.

Walsh's rebuilt and included years later an addition as they are now operating as an Ace Hardware store from what had formerly been the

MUSCODY

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MUSCODA

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largest grocery in the area which had also included a dry goods section built along with the hardware section that was in the old theatre building to the east of the grocery portion. Located to the west on that block was the former Schwingle Hardware building at 124 W. Front Street which remains today as for a brief time it was the location of a pharmacy and is now used for apartments. Across the street to the west was Vern's Signs which today is Electric Designs.

Gone also is Miller's Market that offered a prominent alternative as a small personalized grocery store on West Wisconsin Avenue that closed in July of 1987. Miller's Market remained for a time period as Miller's Meat Market. Then Karl Miller purchased the restaurant known as The Calico Cupboard and built a new building on the northwest corner of the Walnut Street block behind his store building.

Thus a new business location, Karl's Cafe, was started. Then it became Lila's followed by Mary's Sunshine Cafe. Today it is known as Vicky's Cozy Cafe.

SUPPER CLUBS

There was no longer a formal supper club in the village when Ernie's burned down as Froh's Supper Club had changed by the 1970s to The Carrousel which as of 2026 was known as The Copper Lounge. Recently it has become Buck Valley Saloon.

Sportsman's Lounge, operating where the former Red Rooster was located along with Honkers across the bridge offer supper club formats and are both run by the Dan & Patty Behrens. The Ernsts had purchased the building on west Wisconsin Avenue, what was LJ's Bar & Grill which at the time served popular sandwiches for 15 years into the latter 1980s; then a makeover and addition as Mike Ernst added on a dining area to the northwest part of the building along with renovating the bar area. Honkers just across the river on the east side of Hwy 80 which was first built as the Nordic Inn that replaced the Junction Bar which was across the road on the west side of Hwy 80. The Junction was razed for the Hwy 60 road construction that was done in sections extending from Prairie du Chien to Blue River and then eventually to Muscodas. That location had been Les & Dee's during the 1970s and before that known as Vern and Ruth's as a popular location at the intersection it provides a wonderful view of the Wisconsin River backwater region; especially noting the trumpeter swans that have populated the river area extending all the way to Boscobel and beyond.

Road construction from the Blue River to Muscodas also removed The Eagles Nest located at Eagle Corners and another popular supper club

further west, The Manhattan Landing, that was north of Boscobel. At Port Andrew, The Port, with the old gas station following their renovation became a restaurant as well as a convenience store as that too remains a popular site north of Blue River.

GROCERIES

Having a major positive impact for the Village of Muscodas in the latter 1900s was the announcement of a new grocery chain that was built in 1987 across from Walsh Stores on the other side of Nebraska Street by the Pierce Family and that grocery store is now operated as Bender's. Specifically for that development to happen, several homes with families relocated were removed from the north side of the Nebraska Street block for the building of the new grocery store and with a large parking lot south side of the building as well as providing a parking area for the restaurant on the northwest side of that block for the restaurant.

MORE FIRE

Two other notable fires plagued the area south of Muscodas.

Studnicka Brothers Farm tragically in January of 1979 had the entire 200+ milking herd lost as the cattle were in the barn and were overcome by the smoke. Yet, within a year to the week in 1980, they were back up and running with a new state of the time period milking parlor.

Castle Rock, a popular supper club and reception hall dating back to the mid 1900s south of Muscodas burned in 2014 and shortly thereafter was rebuilt having been replaced by a new and much larger facility all on one level that today is advertised as a venue for a variety of types of gatherings.

A third fire on the west side of the village along Sportsman's Drive in 2020 was the Muscodas Sportsman's Club with a rich history in the Muscodas area the clubhouse burned from what was determined as a lightning strike. The clubhouse has been replaced with a new facility taking only months to reconstruct so as to be ready for their annual trap shot. Still a tradition, drawing a large number of participants annually and crowds to watch the Labor Day Weekend Team Shoot. From Spring to Fall very common on Wednesday evenings as well as weekends the familiar fire of guns in the not so distant western edge of the village. Local names to mention would be Dennis Taylor who was a North American Trapshooting Champion, Norbert 'Nub' Hipenbecker winning in the Veteran's Class at state competition along with Virgil Bomkamp in the Seniors Division and then there is the 'Young Guns' of Brad Bomkamp, Matt Schneider, and Jay Adams who have grown up at the facility all having gone on to successful careers.

Recently a high school team has been developed now taking aim at area and state competitions.

An establishment north of the Wisconsin River east on Highway 60 midway to Gotham known for many years as The Rivers Edge as a popular nightclub hosting bands and entertainment on the weekends burned to the ground on New Years morning 1979. Originating as Bremmer's Riverview Gardens serving in a variety of capacities over the years, even a roller rink when roller skating was popular in the 1950s, yet it is most memorable as a music and bar establishment. Many old timers will recall two entrances providing separate 18 year old & 21 year old access leading to a large dance hall on the western half of the building. The fireplace on the east side of the building was all that remained after the fire and the large graveled parking lot to the west side of the building is today overgrown with trees and foliage.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Our Fire Department has grown in numbers and moved into a new location between Uptown and Lowertown with this building much larger to house all the vehicles and equipment located at the corner of West Greentree Trail and Wisconsin Avenue with 25+ members strong and Jeff Hackl as the Fire Chief. Tragically one Muscodas fireman was killed answering a call; Harvey Ashmore in October of 1989.

The Muscodas Fire Department still has two main fundraisers with their annual steak feed on Saturday night of Morel Mushroom Fest and the annual Chicken Barbeque that originated in the 1960s which for many years was in Lowertown near the boat landing; now moved to barbeque pits north of the parking lot by the new building and served meals or carryouts available.

Twelve EMTs are actively dedicated to supporting the village and surrounding area for transport when needed. Dorothy Hackl is the current president.

Located west of the Fire House building and adjacent across the street on West Greentree Trail is the long-time business of Riverside Trucking and Hackl Construction.

Located across Wisconsin Avenue from the current fire department building to the east is a car wash that has been there in operation for close to fifty years which was first opened by the partnership of Walsh, Schneider & Cattellino. Prior to that, in the 1960s and 1970s it was an A & W Root Beer Stand and known as the Muscodas Drive-In. The metal canopy was moved to the Jaycee Park as one of the many improvements for that location and remains there still today.

A block north and on the east side of the street M.B. Victoria Insurance built their building which became LJ's River Inn through the early 2000s and now is Pratt Funeral Home having replaced

the former Godager Funeral Home located on Iowa Street northwest of the basketball court for St. John's parking lot.

The former fire department building is now used by the Muscodas Street Department and Muscodas Utilities has noticeably expanded and enlarged their building located a block to the east of Wisconsin Avenue on the southwest corner of Nebraska and 2nd Street led by Troy Wardell. Across the street to the southeast corner of the block is the St. Vincent de Paul Store, a combination of 3 buildings, that has been in operation for many years.

KEY EVENTS

Historically, it was Booster Week that was the celebration in Muscodas in February for those early years until the mid 1900s. Historic pictures record the event known as Cheese Days held October, 1930. Then for decades, the Harvest Festival was held traditionally in late August, but that also is no longer as that too culminated in the latter 1900s as a Muscodas tradition.

Since 1982, when Muscodas was named 'Morel Mushroom Capital' of Wisconsin and credit goes to Merna 'Mushroom' Frye for her contributions for that effort, Muscodas has held an annual event the third weekend of May to present times; now held for 47 years in 2026.

The Muscodas American Legion Post 85 has a landmark memorial along with having two ongoing noteworthy projects.

The first is a visible addition entering the village of Muscodas from across the bridge, the Veterans Memorial is on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue.

Key Events to date are also monumental with 'Burgers in the Park' that draws record crowds monthly during the spring, summer and fall months commonly held at Railroad Park the fourth Wednesday of each month with Commander Tom Nordorf regularly involved.

Second to mention was the annual canoe race on a Sunday in the middle of summer that originated with the Legion organizing and planning. Races from Gotham, Lone Rock and at times Spring Green boat landings were a part of the event. A 1978 Progressive article and photo told of the National Canoe Races that would be held here in 1979 with Julius Ward as the chair for the event.

Not to be overlooked are the efforts of the Legion and Auxiliary with our yearly Memorial Day and Veterans Day community programs as well as the presenting of the colors at 'Friday Night Lights' for home football games.

The Leslie J. Lee 'home' Post # 85 with the vintage signage is on the southwest corner of Pine and Iowa Streets.

The Lions, as they meet on a regular basis, are arguably, in number of events, one of the most active in the village with the many varied projects annually taking place. Candidly, too numerous to list, these projects are throughout the year involving fundraisers

to activities for community enjoyment.

To make mention that for a time a prominent group was known as the Leading Ladies in the greater Muscodas Area as they were influential in supporting projects that was for the betterment of the community.

Certainly recognition should be made of The Muscodas Chamber of Commerce that revitalized in the early 2000s. Several have served as president, yet to recognize Katy Grimm who was the first female to serve as president for the organization. They have an annual Fall Opener each September organized yearly with the direction of Cliff Schneider along with others used for raising monies for worthy community projects. It has been the Chamber that recently put in the 'Historic Muscodas Mile' which was a signage project. Providing the leadership was Dan Behrens as Chamber President as they went through a detailed process with history markers, 5 each at the anchors both at Railroad Park and at the Victoria Riverside Park near the Lowertown boat landing. Along with those to there are 4 more panels on the Southwest corner of the block opposite the Veterans Memorial and another set to be placed in the park on the east side of the camping area leading to the prairie walk region that was established several years ago by the local Muscodas Garden Club.

ELECTRICITY

Electric Power is no longer provided by the Balmoral Dam as it was until the latter 1900s. Instead, that area, over a long and time consuming process, saw the historic dam with the Mill Creek pond removed having been located on the west side of the road midway along Hwy 193 dating back historically to origins in the latter 1800s in Eagle Township.

There was the DAM Alliance, often making headlines, as a group that was formulated to protect the area having maintained concerns

for the Mill Pond and its watershed.

Historic Franks Hill to the south of Mill Creek is located nearby and also the more recently identified conical hills south of the pond west of Hwy 193 on the adjoining hill.

It was the effigy mound shaped as an eagle facing the Wisconsin River in the 1960s located about a mile west of the Junction of Hwy 80, along the south side of Hwy 60, that gained early recognition. Now several mound groups are identified stretching along the Lower Wisconsin River from Gotham to Wauzeka.

During the 1990s, with the purchase of the Hardy Stadelde, and Shadewald Farms west on Hwy 60, established as a Buffalo Ranch was operated by the Ho-Chunk Nation for a number of years.

Significantly a new Wisconsin State agency gained approval and was signed by then Gov. Tommy Thompson. The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway with an office originating in the Village of Muscodas in February of 1990, that continues to be maintained there next to the Kratochwill Building still today. Mark Cupp, native to Richland Center, became the first Director of the state agency having remained in that position to present day.

At one time there was a proposal suggested to have a Native American Culture Center to be located along the river west of the bridge where the old brewery once stood along the river banks a century earlier, but that idea which went into the planning stages never gained its fruition at least to date.

HISTORICAL HOMES

Historic homes, in addition to the octagonal house mentioned at 125 North Beech Street, which itself has had renovations with a new look from the 1970s.

There are three locations along Wisconsin Avenue to the south, in the central, and to the far north of homes to

MUSCODA

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MUSCODA LIONS CLUB BBQFEST

JULY 12
11 A.M. - 2 P.M.
OR UNTIL SOLD OUT

THIRD RACK OF RIBS, QUARTER CHICKEN AND SIDES \$18

AVOCA BLUE RIVER MUSCODA LIONS CLUB

Great Food ★ Great Company ★ Supporting Our Community

MUSCODA

from page 1

Now it has been 25 years since a Terror Attack within the country when the towers in NYC fell and just over 5 years removed from the virus that paralyzed the entire world.

Many will reflect on a third world event, the Gulf War with Iraq in the early 1990s as well.

Locally, the failed Incinerator was a project which almost from the beginnings left significant long term impacts on the Village of Muscodas.

It was a combined project of three counties; Richland, Iowa and Grant. The rising costs and poorly constructed facility was clearly and controversially detrimental to the Village of Muscodas. That site by the early 2000s had entirely been cleared, still the decade long finances remain sadly memorable to many in the community and surrounding area.

INDUSTRIAL PARK

The Industrial Park located on the Southeast side of the village has grown notably as three businesses having thrived are still to date going through major expansions. Covering each of them from west to east in location to the south parcel of the village:

First, Riverdale Ag Service which occupied Muscodas Milling and across the street to the west was Krouskup Mill and Kroskup Lumber as all three are now all part of the expansion of Riverdale Ag along with the addition of several large grain bins located next to the railroad tracks east of the facility.

Second, Scot Industries which has expanded north from their original plant location in the Industrial Park extending north along the cemetery to being located just across the street from the Riverdale Elementary building.

And third, Meister Cheese which following their 1974 fire built in the Industrial Park having over the fifty years gone through several additions and expansions to the east and now having a plant also operating south of Hwy 133.

Further east in the Industrial Park is Nelson Hardwoods and Rux Mobile Home Park established in 1993 are on the far east side extending past the Iowa County line.

Across the road on Hwy 133 is the Riverdale Vet Clinic built in 1980, Hemmersbach Trucking and K J Cold Storage located to the west entering the village.

Gone is Mathews Lumber Company which is now the main yard for Wilkinson's Auction. Storage units on the north side of the road are part of that area along Highway 133.

To the south of the village is a large, growing subdivision of new homes being built.

Three water towers have served the village since the 1970s when what was referred to as the 'old' water tower in the downtown location to 1983 when a new water tower was built in the Industrial Park. Just a few years ago another water tower would be built behind the library on the southeast corner of Maple and 2nd Street. Unique to the painting of that water tower was the error in the spelling of Muscodas which some photographers captured prior to it being corrected. Gone is the old water tower in the Uptown area that was located on the Southeast corner of Nebraska and 2nd Street as it was taken down.

Gone is EZ Trail, a wagon running gear industry that started in the 1970s in the village Uptown as they relocated from the Kratochwill Garage on west Wisconsin Avenue to the former furniture factory buildings on the southeast area of the Industrial Park which still bears their small metal signage above the door to the north. Now this has become Foggy Bottom Woodworks as they have expanded and grown utilizing both buildings along with two adjoining larger canopied work areas. Foggy Bottom Woodwork's offices operate from 550 E. Warehouse Street.

Gone is Universal Silencer and in that building is Zephyr Wind Services which works on wind turbines like those located 15 miles to the south along Hwy 18 near Monfort.

Gone is the Howard Rotavator plant from the 1970s although A 1 Pallets still remain.

Gone is Hidden Valley Greenhouse which for a time also included a paint ball area with a high fence netting enclosure and now in that area is a cement plant, Allied Redi Mix.

GAS STATIONS

Just two gas stations now in the Village with Muscodas Mini Mart having replaced Duffeys Service Station on the south side and another operating as a BP station on the north side of the village. This location on the north side of the village from the 1970s was known as Ike's and included a major addition by the Isenhardt's for sporting goods having been in easy walking distance from the boat landing; then for much of the 2000s known as JODEN's purchased by Joe Bailey and Dennis Brown.

Old timers will recall at the time of the mid 1900s when 9 gas stations existed for the village that extended from the north across the bridge, a Union 76 pump at Les & Dees Tavern to the ninth location at the very southern edge of the village at Nelson's Station.

OPEC of the 1970s with elevating gas prices from

double digits to over \$1.00 per gallon were the topic of discussion to now in 2026 a war with Iran that has gas prices soaring over \$4.00 per gallon with diesel fuel even more expensive.

Three gas station locations have been transformed into other businesses as one has become a used car lot for a long time known as Highway Motors and now operated by Tom Franklin [the Franklin family for many years have had Christmas tree sales for the village and the present site continues to be at the southwest corner of Front Street and Wisconsin Avenue. Another location which operated as Phil's Service is today Fenton's Garage and the third in recent years after standing vacant has been completely razed which was Vance's Service Station until December of 1992.

A colorful mural has been added to the north wall of the building a 107 S. Wisconsin Avenue which carries a fading history of the village with the painted RESTAURANT sign from when the Azim's operated a business there in the mid 1900s. There are vague remains of a phone booth with only 4 cut off bolts to mark the spot on the northeast corner of Nebraska Street and Wisconsin Avenue. Then north across the street the cut off remains of a rectangular post for the old bank time and temperature sign.

From early origins as English Prairie in the 1700s along the river in what would become "Lowertown" to the move to "Uptown" with the coming of the railroad in the mid 1800s and then the developments of the early 1900s to the BiCentennial of 1976;

Muscodas has witnessed many changes to the SemiQuinCentennial July 4, 2026.

CLOSING LIST

This closing list was created for recognition and is left for development with additions to be made, not intended to omit anyone, yet to offer a starting point for honoring people of our area.

Dr. Joseph Shafer, who would die in 1941 originally from Muscodas will gain state notoriety as the head of the Wisconsin Historical Society from the early 1900s

Marge Wallace, a Muscodas native, went on to lead the Richland County Teachers College and become the eventual Dean of the UW - Richland Campus in Richland Center

Cheryl Baxter from Avoca was a Riverdale graduate who has went on to fame in Hollywood as a dancer and choreographer following in the footsteps of her mother - Betty Hayes Baxter who was recently recognized by Guinness World Records

Jill Machovec from rural Muscodas and a Riverdale graduate for achieving the title of "Alice in Dairyland" serving as our state ambassador for the year 2007

Dan Bomkamp has become a recognized local author with several books published; specifically for his Thunderfoot series with tales of Muscodas

Paul Tichenor as a local artist for his many varied art works including pictures and drawings that make connections with this area's history and beauty.

Ellis Nelson for distinguished recognition as his many metal sculpture works from a meager local yard as a business lot display to achieving state and national notoriety to beyond bringing people to the village seeking his works, documenting on film and magazine his accomplishments and for the many displays of his work at museums.

Sherwin Gillett should clearly be credited for preserving the history of this area from the early to mid 1900s with his collection of postcards taken with pictures by having some 2000 listed at the State Historical Society and to mention he was a longtime owner of Eagle Cave located north off Hwy 60 midway between Blue River and the Junction with Hwy 80 in southern Richland County

And certainly local historian John Duffey a distinguished WW II veteran who would return to his hometown to carry on his father's business providing the village and surrounding area with his 'Bits of History' that ran in the local weekly

newspaper for 18 years from 1976 to 1993

Finally, with special appreciation to The Progressive editors, Wendal and Vi Smith, who for over fifty years documented and maintained the Village of Muscodas history extending to communities in the surrounding area a recorded history with their stories and pictures of the time period - THANK YOU BOTH!

And as a closing notation with somber recognition the passing of Wendall in late May 2026 just as this document was in its Final Draft; we acknowledge Wendell Smith for his iconic impact on the Village of Muscodas and greater Wisconsin community.

Public Notices

Probate Notices

Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
GRANT COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of Dennis Meyers.
DOD: 05/07/2026
Case No. 26PR-49
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth February 14, 1957 and date of death May 7, 2026, was domiciled in Grant County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of: 108 North 4th Street, Muscodas, WI 53573.
3. All interested persons

waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is September 29, 2026.
5. A claim may be filed at the Grant County Courthouse, 130 West Maple St., Lancaster, Wisconsin, Room A360.
BY THE COURT:
/s/ Jerarda J. Bartels
Probate Registrar
Dated: June 17, 2026
Peter J. Walsh
20975 Swenson Drive, Suite 400
Waukesha, WI 53186
262-923-8674
Bar No. 1034607
(Pub. 6/25/26, 7/2/26, 7/9/26)
WNAJLP



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The Helpful Place

1525 Bohmann Dr.
Richland Center, WI
(608) 647-8925

115 W. Nebraska St.
Muscodas, WI
(608) 739-3175







OFFICE CLOSED

Due to staffing
and vacation scheduling the
Boscobel Dial/Muscodas Progressive
office in Boscobel will be

CLOSED JULY 3-13, 2026

PLEASE CALL 608-723-2151

with anything you may need during
that time. We are sorry for
any inconvenience
at this time.



July is the high noon of the northern year... firefly nights and corn growing so fast out in loway that you can hear its joints pop in the moonlight.

~Hal Borland

Kiel, Tri-County News

SCHOOL NEWS

NHHS announces scholarship winners

New Holstein High School officials have announced the list of scholarships earned by members of the Class of 2026, as follows:

Joseph Abrams—Lorraine Stemper, New Holstein High School Alumni - College, **New Holstein Utilities**

Kaden Anhalt—Harvey G. Baker, Harry Steenbock est, Edward Casper Family

Riley Danes—Margaret Reineck Family

Rya Danes—Feider Family/Herman Timm/Bernard and Otilia Roegner, Marytown Area Farmers & Business

Colton Doherty—Adam Buechel & Bob Randl Memorial

Paige Erickson—Courtney Krebsbach Memorial, Fond du Lac Credit Union, Bellin College

Maggie Faber—Courtney Krebsbach Memorial, Lorraine Stemper

Garet Feider—Country Visions Cooperative & CP Feeds, LLC

Alayna Flanigan—Harvey G. Baker, Wisconsin Academic Excellence, Bright Penny for Continuing Education, Violet & Ruben Laack Memorial, **New Holstein Utilities**, UW-Whitewater Chancellor, New Berlin Soap Box Derby

Landon Floyd—Terry Leibham Memorial, Calumet County Tavern League, Mount Calvary Athletic Club, Milwaukee School of Engineering Fred Loock, Destination MSOE, Milwaukee School of

Engineering Grant

Zarek Gaedke—Calumet County Auxiliary VFW Post 3153

Matthew Guyette—Wieser Family, Ruth & John Mattke, Judith Krueger/Else Vollstedt, Lakeland Boatwright, Lakeland Theatre, Lakeland Service & Leadership, Lakeland Presidential, Lakeland Alumni Legacy

Emma Halbach—Diane Ploederl Memorial

Madison Halbach—National Exchange Bank Foundation, Sami Nelson Memorial

Ethan Hanke—Leo Hanke Memorial, New Holstein High School Alumni Technical - College

Arica Hartsel—Anonymous Donor/Iversen/Langenfeld, John Hemauer Memorial, University Martin Academic Achievement, University Martin Voyager

Kourtney Karls—Aurora Medical Center Sheboygan, Winnebago East Shore Lions, Courtney Krebsbach Memorial, Marytown Athletic Club

Joseph Kraus—Stout Evalyn Van Stratum & Walter N. Brinkman

Parker Kuba—Sargento Advanced Manufacturing

Molly Lewis—Laack Scholarship for the Arts, Courtney Krebsbach Memorial, Lorraine Stemper, Sami Nelson Memorial, Key Club, UW-Platteville Wedell & Janet Sisson

Keira Luedtke—Donald & Mary Muenster Memorial

Emma Manderscheid—Charlie Schwarz Memorial, Todd Nagel

Memorial, Henry Reineck Family I, Courtney Krebsbach Memorial, American Legion Post 124

Gretchen Mertens—Rick Sattler Memorial, Donald & Mary Muenster Memorial, **New Holstein Utilities**, New Holstein Optimist Club

Makayla Meyer—Joe Schneider Family Nursing, Courtney Krebsbach Memorial, Key Club

Addison Nett—Harry Steenbock est, Neil Bollinger Memorial, Courtney Krebsbach Memorial, New Holstein Community, New Holstein Firemen, Jacob Scharpf, E.F. Zoerb, Fond du Lac Chapter

Brooklyn Neumann—New Holstein Lions Club

Ty Ninmer—Moraine Park Technical College Foundation High School Senior Award

Gavin Oakley—Donald & Mary Muenster Memorial

Hunter Oye—Ryan Zwart Memorial

Kenzie Pailing—Tina Marie Stephanie, Roger and Mary Rulseh

Elizabeth Paredes—**New Holstein Utilities**

Eduardo Paz-Galindo—Wisconsin Technical Excellence, Margaret Reineck Family, Dr. I.A. Walsdorf Memorial, Courtney Krebsbach Memorial

Laurn Pfister—Henry Reineck Family II, Jim & Grace Flora, Janet Nagel Memorial, National Society Daughters of American Revolution, St. Norbert Trustee

Caleb Schmitz—New Holstein

Lions Club, Kohler Company Local 833 UAW

Claire Schmitz—Courtney Krebsbach Memorial, Rob Stellpflug Memorial, Community Blood Center, Marian Academic Achievement Award, Marian Legacy Award, Marian Early Sabre Award

Ethan Schmitz—Harvey G. Baker, **New Holstein Utilities**

Ruby Stephanie—Harvey G. Baker, Sami Nelson Memorial, Lynn & Jerry Burton Business, Leonard Gentine Sr., Key Club, **New Holstein Utilities**

Olivia Strobl—Harvey G. Baker, New Holstein Chamber of Commerce, **New Holstein Utilities**

Mylee Tabbert—Ryan Mueller Memorial, Courtney Krebsbach Memorial, Tim Meyer Agricultural Leadership, Leo & Jeanette Steiner Family Foundation, Modern Woodmen of America, Madame Joanne Thorkelson Legacy

Dustin Wagner—Donald & Mary Muenster Memorial, Ambrose & Lorna Lisowe, Calumet County Sportsmen Alliance Grant, Kiel Fish & Game

Natalie Wagner—Courtney Krebsbach Memorial, Violet & Ruben Laack Memorial, Ralph & Alice Steiner Family

Carl Westphal—Charlie Schwarz Memorial, Orin C. & Gertrude V. Lindemuth, New Holstein High School Alumni College

Prairie du Sac Public Works Director Troy Murphy spotlighted by WPPI Energy

By Joe Block

Longtime Prairie du Sac Public Works Director Troy Murphy was highlighted by WPPI Energy this spring in an article on its website. WPPI is the member-owned wholesale power supplier for Prairie du Sac.

"Much like the Wisconsin River that runs alongside it, Prairie du Sac is a strong and enduring community," the article opened. "The village of just under 4,500 is home to [Prairie du Sac Utilities](#), a public power utility that has served the municipality for more than a century."

Before introducing Mur-

phy, the article notes that the Prairie du Sac municipal utility has been in operation since 1914. Years later, Murphy joined the crew.

"He began his work with the village in 1997 as an apprentice line technician," the article states.

With his 30-year work anniversary approaching, Murphy said, "In this industry, there is always change." He added, "I'm proud to be part of a team that implements new technologies and takes on different projects to make our utility better for the community we serve."

During Murphy's tenure,



Troy Murphy, Village of Prairie du Sac Public Works director. (Submitted photo)

[Prairie du Sac Utilities](#) "implemented new advanced metering infrastructure, or 'smart meters,' converted streetlights to LEDs and

completed a microgrid study at the Sauk Prairie police station." After he became public works director in 2016, "the utility has only grown under his leadership. The village has made significant upgrades to the electric distribution system, increasing redundancy and reliability."

In 2025, Murphy received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award. The distinction, given out by the American Public Power Association, recognizes managers of small public power utilities who wear many "hats."

In addition to Murphy be-

ing honored for his work as a "renaissance manager," Prairie du Sac Utilities was recognized last year by the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin for its work to keep electric crews and utility staff safe.

"I know I've been here a long time, but I'm only one part of a team that helps ensure we provide reliable and safe service to our friends and neighbors," Murphy said. "That dedication comes with being a small, local utility. We all work hard for the people who call the village home."

Kids From Wisconsin to perform at UW-River Falls

Show to honor nation's 250th birthday with tribute to American music

RIVER FALLS— Kids From Wisconsin will perform a free show July 23 at 6 p.m. at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Melvin Wall Amphitheatre outdoor stage. This will mark the group's 51st appearance at UWRF since forming in 1969. The show is open to the public.

Join Kids From Wisconsin in their 58th season as they honor the 250th anniversary of the United States with America's great composers, songwriters, musicians and instrumentalists. The show, titled "The Pulse of a Nation," will salute their creativity, innovation and unforgettable contributions to the world of music.

From the smoky pulse of rhythm and blues to the soaring spirit of jazz, from the electric fire of rock and roll to the raw power of soul, and from chart-topping pop



Members of the Kids From Wisconsin perform at the Wall Amphitheatre in July 2025. The group is scheduled to return to UWRF July 23. *Contributed photo*

to timeless folk, country live show—brought to life and classic Broadway, this by Wisconsin's finest young performers—ignites the very heartbeat of American music.

"Summer wouldn't be complete without the beloved Kids From Wisconsin show," said Elise Peters, assistant director of student involvement. "It feels like a family reunion here at UWRF. Bring your bug spray, invite your friends and get ready for one of our favorite evenings of the year."

Concertgoers are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket to sit on and arrive early to get a good seat. The venue opens at 5 p.m. Pets are allowed, but all pets must remain on a leash.

Grilled food, ice cream and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase beginning at 5:30. Personal picnics and non-alcoholic beverages are allowed but carry-in alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited.

In case of inclement weather, the show will be held in Hunt Arena at the

Falcon Center.

Free parking is available in N and G lots. Rain site parking will be available in Pay Lot 3.

The Kids From Wisconsin free concert is made possible thanks to support from the UW-River Falls Foundation, River Falls Municipal Utilities, River Falls Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Board, Ptacek's Family Market and WESTconsin Credit Union. Concert guests are encouraged to experience the vibrant River Falls downtown for food and accommodations before and after the show. Be sure to visit Experience River Falls for the latest town happenings.

Call 715-425-3911 with questions or to receive updates on the weather and venue.

Submitted by UW-River Falls

RIVER FALLS BRIEFS

Kids From Wisconsin to perform at UWRF

Kids From Wisconsin will perform a free show July 23 at 6 p.m. at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Melvin Wall Amphitheatre outdoor stage. This will mark the group's 51st appearance at UWRF since forming in 1969. The show is open to the public.

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From the smoky pulse of rhythm and blues to the soaring spirit of jazz, from the electric fire of rock and roll to the raw power of soul, and from chart-topping pop to timeless folk, country and classic Broadway, this live show — brought to life by Wisconsin's finest young performers — ignites the very heartbeat of American music.

"Summer wouldn't be complete without the beloved Kids From Wisconsin show," said Elise Peters, assistant director of student involvement. "It feels like a family reunion here at UWRF. Bring your bug spray, invite your friends and get ready for one of our favorite evenings of the year."

Concertgoers are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket to sit on and arrive early to get a good seat. The venue opens at 5 p.m. Pets are allowed, but all pets must remain on a leash. Grilled food, ice cream and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase beginning at 5:30. Personal picnics and non-alcoholic beverages are allowed but carry-in alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited.

In case of inclement weather, the show will be held in Hunt Arena at the Falcon Center.

Free parking is available in N and G lots. Rain site parking will be available in Pay Lot 3.

The Kids From Wisconsin free concert is made possible thanks to support from the UW-River Falls Foundation, River Falls Municipal Utilities, River Falls Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Board, Paček's Family Market and WESTconsin Credit Union. Concert guests are encouraged to experience the vibrant River Falls downtown for food and accommodations before and after the show. Be sure to visit Experience River Falls for the latest town happenings.

Call 715-425-3911 with questions or to receive updates on the weather and venue.

UWRF staff win Chancellor's awards

Seven University of Wisconsin-River Falls staff members have been honored with the Chancellor's Employee Excellence Awards for outstanding service to the university. The awards recognize employees who go above and beyond expectations, actively contribute outside their primary duties and demonstrate helpful-



Members of the Kids From Wisconsin perform at the Wall Amphitheatre in July 2025. The group is scheduled to return to UWRF July 23.



Winners of the UW-River Falls Chancellor's Employee Excellence Awards. Top row L-R: Rachelle Harolds, Becky Pribnow, Joni Rose. Bottom row L-R: Steve Stocker, Jolene Summers, David Toles, Dan Waletzko.

ness, teamwork, customer service, a positive attitude and strong work ethic in supporting the fulfillment of the UWRF mission.

Recipients of the UWRF Chancellor's Employee Excellence Awards include:

Rachelle Haroldson, teaching, learning and technical specialist, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).

"Rachelle exemplifies an unwavering commitment to cultivating a welcoming and supportive environment for all," one nominator wrote. "Despite the significant demands of her work, Rachelle remains highly collaborative and consistently makes herself available to support others. She is a natural connector and bridge builder, demonstrating how strong partnerships can move institutional efforts forward in meaningful ways."

Becky Pribnow, Navigate program manager, Student Success.

"Becky's contributions over the past 12 years have left a lasting mark on our campus," a nominator wrote. "She has strengthened the student experience, supported her colleagues and helped move the university forward in meaningful ways. Becky represents the best of UW-River Falls: a commitment to service, a collaborative spirit and a sincere investment in the success of others."

Joni Rose, facilities coordinator, Facilities Management.

"Joni is a dynamic and highly valued member of our team," a nominator wrote. "She brings a unique combination of tangible energy and steady leadership to everything she does. Her positive attitude

and collaborative spirit make her a joy to work with, even during the most demanding projects. She has a natural ability to bring calm, thoughtful insight into challenging situations and she consistently uplifts those around her."

Steve Stocker, associate athletics director, UWRF Athletics.

"What sets Steve apart is not just the breadth of his service, but the manner in which he serves," a nominator wrote. "He leads with humility, approaches challenges with professionalism and supports colleagues and student-athletes with genuine care. He embodies the values of UWRF and represents the very best of what this award is meant to recognize."

Jolene Summers, administrative assistant III, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES).

"If I am asked to characterize Jolene, 'dedicated' and 'passionate' begin to describe her commitment to the college," a nominator wrote. "During the years I have worked with Jolene, she has approached every task as if it is the most important thing to date."

David Toles, associate director of Admissions, Enrollment and Student Services.

"I would say that David is the 'rock' of our department, but that is not accurate. David is the boulder," a nominator wrote. "His calm tone and consistency in showing up for our team and this campus is undeniable and ever-present. Our team and greater university can always count on David to be thorough in his work, dedicated

for everything you do to support the mission of UW-River Falls, to help prepare students to be productive, creative, ethical, engaged citizens and leaders with an informed global perspective."

Chancellor's Employee Excellence Award honorees will be recognized at the All-Campus Awards reception taking place prior to the UWRF fall Opening Meeting Aug. 24.

River Falls Social Club to host summer picnic

The River Falls Social Club will hold its fourth annual summer picnic Thursday, July 23, from



A flyer on the picnic.





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Kids From Wisconsin to perform

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS

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PAT DENINGER, CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Kids From Wisconsin perform at the Wall Amphitheatre in July 2025. The group is scheduled to return to UW-RF July 23.

West Bend, Daily News



Photo courtesy of the Village of Slinger

Slinger Engineer Jim Haggerty, St. Vincent de Paul Director Barb Horst, Village Administrator Margaret Wilber, and Energy Services Manager Ashley Sonsthagen with a ceremonial donation check.

Slinger Utilities donates energy assistance funding to St. Vincent de Paul program

SLINGER — This week, Slinger village staff presented St. Vincent de Paul of Washington County with a \$5,000 donation for energy payment assistance.

According to the information provided in an announcement from Slinger Village President Scott Stortz, the funds for the donation came from a grant from WPPI Energy, a not-for-profit, member-owned regional power company owned by 51 locally owned, community-based electric utilities across Wisconsin, Iowa, and Upper Michigan. This includes Slinger Utilities, a municipally owned and operated electric and water utility, serving more than 2,500 customers.

“As a locally owned utility, we aim to make sure our neighbors have support in many ways,” said Slinger Utilities in the announcement. “We’re proud to provide more than electricity and water service to the community and we are grateful for a partnership that means this assistance will reach the people who need it most right here in Slinger.”



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West Bend, Daily News



Slinger Village Board approves road borrowing application

Board shows support for proposed county EMS levy

By Andrew Abler
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262-306-5076

SLINGER — The Slinger Village Board approved two resolutions regarding the borrowing of \$440,000 for the reconstruction of village roads at its meeting on Monday, as well as conducting other business.

The village first approved a resolution requesting approximately \$440,000 from the State Trust Fund Loan Program managed by the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, according to information provided in the meeting's agenda packet. This program provides direct, low-risk loans to municipalities, counties, and school districts to fund infrastructure, equipment, and economic development. The interest paid on these loans goes entirely to fund

public school libraries.

According to Village Administrator Margaret Wilber, the program is effective for instances in which the loan amount required is lower, fitting for smaller projects like the ones the village plans to undertake.

"It's a great resource for communities; it's a fairly simple application process, and the rates are usually competitive," said Wilber. "It's been a real help, especially when you're talking about lower amounts that really don't justify the borrowing costs involved with a formal bond issuance."

However, according to Wilber, in addition to the application for the loan, the village anticipated some preparatory costs like engineering fees to come due before the loan funds are expected to be obtained, so the board also passed a resolution stating the intent to reim-

burse itself for these costs with the loan funds when they are received.

WPPI agreement

Also approved at the meeting was an amendment to the village's agreement with WPPI Energy, a not-for-profit, regional joint-action agency that provides wholesale power and utility resources. Slinger Utilities represents one of 51 locally owned, public power electric utilities across Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, and Iowa represented by WPPI. The organization operates as a "joint action agency," meaning it allows these 51 smaller utilities to pool their resources, share costs on modern technologies, and invest in joint power generation and transmission. This cooperative model gives local municipalities the bargaining power and economies of scale needed to secure diverse, afford-

able, and responsible electricity. Together, these community-owned utilities purchase their power from WPPI to supply reliable and affordable energy to over 200,000 homes and businesses.

The approved amendment extends its contract with the service through December of 2073. The agreement's previous end date was set for 2055, but WPPI came in and presented plans and projects that would provide additional benefits to its partners which are expected extend past the original end date. This extension allows for the village to benefit from WPPI's ongoing improvement endeavors.

EMS levy supported

Other business conducted at the meeting was the approval of a resolution supporting the county's continued development and potential implementation of a countywide EMS levy. The proposed system has been in development for the past two years, and would

involve the county implementing a countywide fire and EMS levy in lieu of each municipality taxing for its own departments individually and then utilizing that revenue to provide for each department.

One primary advantage to this proposed levy, as stated by the county in not only the latest agenda packet but also numerous presentations across the county, is the ability to avoid the need for communities to go to referendum for fire and EMS needs due to limitations from levy limits. With the proposed system, these limits can be circumvented by shifting taxing authority for EMS services from municipalities to the county. The county would not be bound by such restrictions, and would be able to collect enough to assist in meeting the needs of its departments.

The next meeting of the Slinger Village Board is scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. on Aug. 17 in the Village Board Room of Slinger Village Hall, 300 Slinger Road.



Sun Prairie aquatic center plans grand reopening Saturday

Jul 7, 2026

The City of Sun Prairie will welcome the community back to the newly renovated Sun Prairie Family Aquatic Center with a Grand Re-Opening Celebration on July 11 from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Following a multi-year planning effort and extensive renovation, the Family Aquatic Center has been transformed into a modern, state-of-the-art aquatic destination that will serve residents and visitors for generations to come.

Originally opened in 1992, the Family Aquatic Center has long been a favorite summer gathering place for families. The renovation builds upon that legacy by enhancing the guest experience, improving accessibility, increasing operational efficiency, and incorporating sustainable design features throughout the facility.

“This is an exciting milestone for our community,” said Chad Shelton, Recreation Director for the City of Sun Prairie. “This project is so much more than a pool renovation. It represents an investment in our community and creates a place where families will gather, children will learn to swim, friends will spend summer afternoons together, and lifelong memories will be made for years to come.”

The renovated facility features a variety of exciting new amenities, including:

- A fully renovated bathhouse designed to improve accessibility, efficiency, and patron flow
- A new aquatic play structure for toddlers and young children
- A family slide, tube slide, zip line and an aqua climbing wall
- Artificial turf sunning areas

- Additional shade structures and seating throughout the facility
- A refreshed concession stand
- Outdoor recreation spaces featuring ping pong and cornhole
- The renovation also places a strong emphasis on sustainability and operational efficiency.
- Among the facility's most unique features are three 25-foot solar trees, designed to offset the energy usage of the aquatic center while also providing shade to guests.
- Each solar tree includes a 5-kilowatt solar array, LED lighting, and charging ports for mobile devices. During the off season, excess energy generated by the solar trees will be returned to the electrical grid. Each solar tree trunk features custom artwork created by local youth, making them both a functional and artistic addition to the facility.
- The solar tree project was made possible through the support of Bank of Sun Prairie, Sun Prairie Utilities, Kwik Trip, Milwaukee Tool, Unique Sewing Creations, Pellitteri Waste Systems, and Herzing University.
- To help celebrate the grand re-opening, Kona Ice will be onsite from 2 to 4 p.m., providing free Kona Ice cups while supplies last, courtesy of Monica Patrick Dental and Josh Erickson with American Family Insurance.

- Residents are encouraged to purchase a season pass for the best value and enjoy everything the renovated Family Aquatic Center has to offer throughout the remainder of the summer.
- For more information about the Family Aquatic Center, season passes, admission, and hours of operation, visit <https://rec.cityofsunprairie.com>.

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City Administrator's Corner

AARON OPPENHEIMER

Sun Prairie City Administrator

As the season heats up, there is so much to celebrate right here in Sun Prairie. Last month, Visit Sun Prairie hosted the second annual Mural Fest, bringing nine vibrant new murals to our downtown. These incredible works of art add color, character, and energy to our community — giving us all just one more reason to love Sun Prairie!

Another exciting project will come to life this weekend as the newly renovated Family Aquatic Center (FAC) celebrates its Grand Re-Opening on Saturday, July 11. Since the close of last season, the FAC has undergone a significant transformation. Residents can look forward to an updated bathhouse, more modern amenities, expanded shade and seating, and energy efficiency. All designed to create a more comfortable, enjoyable experience for families for years to come.

If you haven't yet, mark your calendars for the upcoming



AARON
OPPENHEIMER

Partisan Primary Election on Aug. 11. This election will be our first with the newly established polling locations. In June, City Council approved the consolidation from eight polling locations to four, with one in each district. This change is being made in response to the increase in absentee voters combined with our staff's increased efficiency and familiarity with voting technology. Moving forward, District 1 will vote at the [Sun Prairie Utili-](#)

[ties](#) Building, District 2 at United Methodist Church of Sun Prairie, District 3 at the Sun Prairie Public Library, and District 4 at the Westside Community Services Building. More information can be found on the City's website.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge that July 10 marks the eighth anniversary of the downtown gas explosion that forever changed our community. Sun Prairie lost a lot that day — most tragically Fire Captain Cory Barr, who gave his life in the line of duty.

As I reflect on that day, I can't

help but also feel a sense of pride. On Sun Prairie's darkest day, our Fire, Police, EMS, and municipal teams responded with extraordinary courage, professionalism, and compassion. Neighbors supported neighbors, rallying around one another to offer comfort and hope when it was needed most. And it was during that difficult time that the phrase Sun Prairie Strong became a reflection of who we are as a community.

To this day, that spirit continues to define us. While our community, like any other, faces challenges and differing perspectives, I remain confident in our shared commitment to the future of Sun Prairie.

As we remember July 10, 2018, may we also recommit ourselves to the values of service, resilience, and unity that carried us through one of the most difficult chapters in our city's history.

To stay informed on city happenings, please follow City of Sun Prairie, WI, USA on Facebook, subscribe to TextMyGov by texting "SPNOTIFY" to 91896 and sign up to receive our monthly Big 5 e-newsletter by visiting www.cityofsunprairie.com/stayconnected.

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Sun Prairie electric rates to increase Aug. 1

ETHAN FERRELL
eferrell@hngnews.com

Customers of Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) will see their electric rates go up starting on Saturday, Aug. 1.

The increase was approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC) on July 14. SPU first applied to increase its annual revenue by roughly \$1.78 million, or 5.4%, on Dec. 11, 2024.

The rate change was sought in light of increased operations and maintenance costs for a variety of reasons like inflationary factors, the increase in overall customers and the capital investment into the new SPU Facility.

The PSC used a 2025 test year to determine a final allowed annual revenue increase of \$1.55 million (or 4.69%) for the utility. This figure is roughly \$220,000 less than originally applied by for SPU.

"The applicant's present rates are unreasonable and unjust as they are insufficient to cover the application's test year operating expense and to provide an opportunity for a reasonable return on utility investments," the PSC's finding of the fact report for its decision reads.

THE IMPACT ON RESIDENTS AND COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

Residents owning homes equipped with single-phase motors will be charged a flat customer



charge of \$13.75 per month. This represents a \$.25 increase from present rates, which were last updated in 2023.

Residential customers' monthly energy charge rate is now set at \$0.1085 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). This is a \$.001 increase from SPU's previous rates.

Customers who fall under "General Service" will now be charged \$.1106 per kWh on a monthly basis, representing a \$.25 increase.

These customers will also see \$.25 increases to their flat charge for single- and three-phase motors.

The "General Service" distinction applies to commercial, institutional, government, farm and other customers whose Maximum Measured Demand does not exceed 40 kilowatts for three or more months in a consecutive 12-month period.

Those interested in seeing additional changes for other customer classes, like industrial, small and large power, can find them by viewing the Sun Prairie Utilities Commission's Monday, July 20 online meeting agenda.

Appendix D in the PSC's final decision document shows the rate changes for each class.

Fort Atkinson, Daily Jefferson County Union (1870-2005 & 2005-current)

Kids cool down thanks to Waterloo Fire & Rescue's pop-up splash pad

With heat indices around 100 or higher, area fire departments send out spray to beat the heat

CHRIS LEE

chris.lee@apg-sw.com

WATERLOO — With temperatures in the 90s and heat indices around 100 or above, some area fire departments helped kids cool down with “pop-up splash pads” created using their firetrucks and hoses.

At Waterloo Firemen's Park, a Waterloo Fire & Rescue ladder truck sprayed water down onto kids near the “B” ball diamond on July 1, as a hose extending from the side of the truck created another water fountain, this one shooting up, for them to run through.

“It's nice that they do stuff like this in a little town,” said Angelica

Martinez as she watched her 2-year-old daughter, Camilla, run around in the spray and smile.

“People are having a good time, it looks like they're beating the heat,” said Assistant Fire Chief Garry Whitebird, who thanked the mayor's office, Parks Department, and [Waterloo Utilities](#) for supporting the effort.

Even one father took part in running through the spray.

This is the first time the fire department has done this in Waterloo, Whitebird said.

Nearby, firefighter/EMT Aiden Ciha handed out freezer pops to kids.



CHRIS LEE/CHRIS.LEE@APG-SW.COM

More **SPLASH** | **A5**

Kids run through the spray from a fire hose during Waterloo Fire & Rescue's pop-up splash pad at Firemen's Park on July 1. The event aimed to help kids beat the heat during a week of high temperatures in the region.

Sun Prairie, The Star

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OTHER FIRE DEPARTMENTS HOLD SIMILAR EVENTS

Other area fire departments also provided or planned similar events to beat the heat. DeForest Windsor Fire & EMS held splash-pad events on June 29 and 30 at DeForest Fireman's Park. The Watertown Fire Department held one on June 30 at Timothy Johnson Park. And Palmyra Fire and Rescue had them planned for July 1 and 2 at Lower Spring Lake Beach.

Some noted the plans might have to be cut short or postponed if they were called away for an emergency.

In a different move, the Lake Mills Fire Department was offering free one gallon jugs of fresh spring water at its fire station.

After a little over an hour of providing the cool spray in Waterloo, the fire department turned off the water and started packing up, as shouts of “thank you!” were heard from the kids and adults.



CHRIS LEE/CHRIS.LEE@APG-SW.COM

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CHRIS LEE/CHRIS.LEE@APG-SW.COM

Ivy G., 5, smiles while playing in the water sprayed from a Waterloo Fire & Rescue ladder truck during a pop-up splash pad at Firemen's Park on July 1. The event aimed to help kids beat the heat during a week of high temperatures in the region.



CHRIS LEE/CHRIS.LEE@APG-SW.COM

Morgan C., 4, cools off in the spray from a Waterloo Fire & Rescue ladder truck during a pop-up splash pad at Firemen's Park on July 1. The event aimed to help kids beat the heat during a week of 90-plus degree temperatures in the region last week.



CHRIS LEE/CHRIS.LEE@APG-SW.COM

LEFT: Isaac G., 12, stands in front of the hose during Waterloo Fire & Rescue's pop-up splash pad at Firemen's Park on July 1. The event aimed to help kids beat the heat during a week of high temperatures in the region.

Waunakee, The Tribune Enterprise

Waunakee Village Administrator receives lifetime achievement award

Todd Schmidt honored by WCMA

CONTRIBUTED
Village of Waunakee
Wisconsin City/County Management Association

Longtime Waunakee Village Administrator Todd Schmidt recently received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Wisconsin City/County Management Association (WCMA).

Schmidt was recognized by the WCMA for his over-30-year career in local government, as he is set to retire from his role in March 2027.

"Todd has not only shaped the growth and success of the communities he has served but has also left a lasting impact on the professionals who



CONTRIBUTED

Todd Schmidt (center with award) is joined by (from left to right) Waunakee Administrative intern Shobhita Bharadwaj, Deputy Administrator/Community Development Director Lauren Freeman, Deputy Administrator Jared Heyn, Community Development Support Specialist Kylie West, McMahon Associates' Russ Van Gompel, [Waunakee Utilities](#) Director Caitlin Stene and Cottage Grove Assistant Administrator Inga Cushman.

have had the privilege to work alongside him throughout his career," a WCMA release on Schmidt's recognition read.

WCMA noted that highlights from Schmidt's time in

Waunakee that led to his award included, the village's Main Street redevelopment effort, the creation of Create Waunakee Inc., and the cleanup and redevelopment of the old Waunakee Alloy Castings

foundry for what is now the Waunakee Public Library.

"More than seven of his former mentees contributed to his nomination, many shared how he is the truest example of strong public service,



CONTRIBUTED

Schmidt and his wife Tonya with his lifetime achievement award at WCMA's 2026 conference in La Crosse.

that his leadership style is grounded in empathy and compassion, and he always created an environment where staff feel genuinely supported and valued," the release continued.

Several Waunakee staff joined Schmidt in La Crosse, Wisconsin, for the 2026 Annual WCMA Conference between June 24-26 to congratulate him on his accomplishment.

Waunakee homeowners seek answers after sewage flood

ROBERTA BAUMANN
rbaumann@hngnews.com

Waunakee condominium owners are looking for answers after two sewer backups on Kearney Way led to flooding in their homes and mitigation, including flooring and drywall removal and replacement.

The owners of three of the four affected condos attended the July 27 Waunakee Utilities meeting to ask if the village's insurance would cover the damages and when that could be expected.

Kathy Sorum said her unit was most affected, with raw sewage seeping into her home on May 23 and then again on June 2.

"The sewage was like a volcano coming out of a manhole," said Sorum, who shared video footage with the Tribune. She called Waunakee Utilities but said an hour later, a truck from Middleton's utility department showed up.

"Everything was soaked," Sorum said.

Tim Kiefer, a member of the condo association, said people have been waiting since then to hear from the village's insurance company.

Sewage also flowed to an inlet behind the condominium complex, which flows into the Village Center Pond and Sixmile Creek.

Sorum spent multiple days at a hotel while mitigation took place for both of the failures. She is back in her home, and while drywall has been replaced, the unit remains without doors, flooring and baseboards.

She and other affected residents said they have tried contacting village officials.

"No one will give us an answer," Sorum said. "I don't have any money to fix it."

Another condominium owner said his unit was damaged in the second flood and was looking for information about compensation.

The condominium association has paid to replace all drywall for the entryways, hallways and laundry rooms, according to Kiefer. To remediate the damage from the first backup, the cost was \$22,750; the second incurred a cost of \$26,124.

Homeowners will also have to replace furniture and other ruined items.

After listening to the homeowners and condo association members, the utilities commission met in closed session with the village attorney.

When the commission reconvened in open session, residents were told to contact the village administrator.

"We need to defer to the Waunakee Village Board," said John Roessler, utilities commission chair. "The village carries the insurance and the administrator for that is Todd Schmidt."

Roessler said the water utility staff followed the procedures, cleaning out the lines to restore the flow after the first flood.

Grease that had solidified was removed from the lines, he said, noting that the village has had problems with restaurants not keeping their grease traps clean.

The next village board meeting is Aug. 3, said Caitlin Stene, Waunakee Utilities general manager, and a discussion about a claim may be on the agenda then. Agendas are made available on the village's website on the Wednesday before the meeting, in this case, July 29.

Contacted by phone on July 28, Schmidt was unable to confirm how long the claims process would take or if the condo association and homeowners would be eligible for compensation. Initially, the process involves filling out a claims form, then submitting all documents. The village administrator can approve claims up to \$5,000, but anything above that requires the village board's consideration, Schmidt said.



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