



The Stoughton
Courier Hub

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Helping to write history

SHS students assist on veterans park project

SCOTT DE LARUELLE
Unified Newspaper Group

For most high school students, learning about history can be a very one-sided process – digesting information from books, videos and Internet searches.

But a group of Stoughton High School students is taking a very different approach to history this year – they are helping to create it.

Around 15 students in the SHS history/archaeology club are writing up dozens of historical vignettes that will be placed on pillars of the planned Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park. In the past few months, they’ve been busy researching 76 possible titles, of which the the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park committee will select 48 to be engraved on the dozen pillars, said committee member Bud Erickson.

The group meets after school on Fridays, led by volunteer adviser Joe Monarski, a substitute teacher in the district who’s an archaeology major

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Photos by **Samantha Christian**

Facing the freeze

Fluffy snow fell and temperatures dipped well below freezing at the start of this week. Above, Amelia Hereid, 11, bundles up and shields herself from falling snow on her 10-degree walk home along Main Street from River Bluff Middle School on Monday afternoon. At right, an icy snowflake clings to a car window.



City of Stoughton

KPW Phase II begins

Commission gets first look at master plan

JACOB BIELANSKI
Unified Newspaper Group

Developers took their first public steps Monday night toward breaking ground this fall on construction for Phase II of the Kettle Park West development.

The city’s Planning Commission reviewed some of the plans for the 82-acre site, which includes nearly 550 residential units, tentative plans for a hotel and approximately 3,300 feet of trails.

Dennis Steinkraus of Forward Development Group, which manages the project at the KPW site, said of particular importance was 224 units of independent senior housing. He noted that the people behind that project “want it to be in the ground this year” and if the necessary approvals from the city and state aren’t in place, “we run the risk of losing them.”

Though the commission was not tasked with taking any action on the plans at this meeting, city planning director Rodney Scheel took time to note areas that will be of importance. Of particular concern was the timeline for Department

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More than a hobby

Andersen’s latest creation finds a home at senior center

SCOTT DE LARUELLE
Unified Newspaper Group

Even though Mike Andersen’s last name has a Danish “e” rather than a traditional Norwegian “o,” the life-long Stoughton native has fit right in.

So has his latest creation – a beautifully carved bench celebrating the city’s Norse heritage that now sits along the Yahara River at the Stoughton Area Senior Center.

Andersen, 59, got the idea for the bench – depicting Stoughton and its Norwegian “sister city” of Gjøvik – from the



Andersen

new Livsreise Norwegian Heritage Center, which focuses on immigrants’ journey to Stoughton from Norway. Installed last month, it joins a piece Andersen donated to the center several years ago – the Viking that stands guard in front of the building.

“They originally had a gnome down there and they asked if I could come up with something,” he said. “I said, ‘How about a Viking?’”

Andersen – who had no formal training – got his start in art around 15 years ago by creating “intarsia” pieces – mosaics of wood inlaid and formed in a wooden support. A few years ago, encouraged by noted area wood carver Bob Younger – “a great friend, a great guy” – he started

chainsaw sculpting and has never looked back.

“He saw my intarsia stuff and said, ‘If you can do that, you can carve,’” Andersen said. “He showed me a couple lessons, showed me what kind of saw to get, and the rest was history.”

Andersen started the bench last February, hoping to have it ready in time for Syttende Mai. Not all of his creations take quite so long, though he’s always juggling several projects at a time, depending how he’s feeling and what a growing number of customers are asking for.

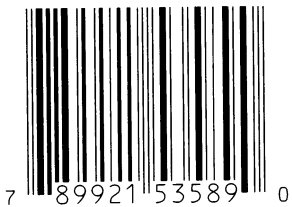
“If the intarsia stuff doesn’t work, I go down below and carve,” Andersen

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Photo by **Scott De Laruelle**

While it may be a few weeks before the weather’s nice enough to sit down and enjoy watching the Yahara River roll by, Mike Andersen’s recently completed bench showing Stoughton and its Norwegian sister city of Gjøvik is ready and waiting at the Stoughton Area Senior Center.



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KPW: Tentative plans for project include hundreds of residential units, hotel, trails

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of Natural Resources approval to break ground near a preserved wetland, as well as the state Department of Transportation approval of a road connecting the site more easily to Hwy. 138.

In addition to the senior housing, FDG showed preliminary plans for 228 apartments, and 58 single-family lots, of which 16 would be condos.

A proposed park in the middle of the residential development tentatively features three fall fields and a playground, as well as walking trails.

Other senior housing

In addition to the senior housing at KPW, the commission looked at another potential independent senior living development.

Developer Todd Nelson presented a plan for a site just east of downtown. It would develop multiple lots at the intersection of Vernon Street and Chalet Drive.

The project would develop a 42-unit apartment building, tentatively slated for 55 and over only, as an additional 12 to 16 rental apartments.

Ald. Ron Christianson worried that too much development was focused on the over 55 target.

“We are talking about the future of Stoughton,” Christianson said. “At some point in time, this surge of senior citizens we have is going to go away.”

Commissioner also debated whether the two buildings should switch places on the lot. Nelson pointed out that the placement of the buildings was based on his ability to use the land within current guidelines.

Earlier in the meeting, another project of Nelson’s, at the 400 block of Van Buren Street, earned a unanimous recommendation for approval by the council. The development, which originally purported to be aimed at a more “mature” crowd, would combine



Map courtesy Forward Development Group

The second phase of Kettle Park West is expected to develop around 80 acres of land into a possible hotel, office space and nearly 550 residential units.

two currently undeveloped lots to make room for a single 14-unit apartment complex.

After neighbors had raised concerns at the Nov. 9 commission meeting, this plan was sent to the Public Safety committee to look

further into potential parking issues. Having found none, the plan was forwarded back to planning.

Dog daycare starts over

After a long search to secure a location, the request for a dog daycare was restarted for a new site at 1115 W. Main Street.

Scheel told the Hub that while he wasn’t privy to the details, the owners, Nicole

Hines and Jordan Tilleson, apparently had a leasing issue with the site the council had approved in August. The commission had rejected a previous attempt closer to downtown.

Approval of a conditional use permit was on the Monday agenda, but Hines and Tilleson had not yet responded to requests by the commission for more detailed information, so no action was taken.

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Photos by Scott De Laruelle



Can't help falling in love

“Elvis” was in the building Jan. 5 at the Stoughton Area Senior Center, belting out a variety of classic hits to the delight of a full house.

At left, it's not an Elvis show unless he's flirting a bit with the ladies, and there was plenty of that at the senior center show with impersonator Alan Graveen.

On the web

See more photos from the Elvis show:

UNGphotos.
SmugMug.com