



The Stoughton Courier Hub

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Stories of the Year



A half-century of helping

National Head Start program turns 50

KIMBERLY WETHAL
Hub correspondent

For the past 50 years, Head Start has aimed to help level the playing field for children with less access to educational opportunities, and Stoughton has been one of the main beneficiaries.

"We all want our children to grow and have a better life than we do," said Dane County Parent Council (DCPC) Board vice-president Ellen Foley said. "That's the American way."

Stoughton, along with Madison, Sun Prairie and DeForest, each have a Head Start education facility, with close to 1,000 children receiving the program's benefits. Their efforts have helped increase literacy and math test scores from those students, as well as intervening in children's education at an early age to give them an extra boost to succeed in school.

It started as a simple program, Foley said, growing from simply providing meals and education for children in the summer the 1960s to a year-round program that looks to close the achievement gap for minority students and fix future societal problems in children through education. She said the mission to help children from economically disadvantaged families has resulted in "superstar babies" in the Dane County Head Start and Early Head Start programs, which work with 4-5 year-olds and 0-3 year-olds, respectively.

Foley said getting off to a good start in reading and education is critical for development.

"If you can't read by the time you're in third grade, what chance do you have to get a job (or) graduate from high school?" she said. "Twenty years ago, people said, 'Oh, they'll catch up and be fine.' Now we know that's not the truth; they don't have as many words as children do by the time they're two years old because they don't have an environment where people were talking to them over time."

Overcoming challenges

The Head Start facility in Stoughton differs from other day care and 4K programs because it employs teachers with special training in

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Focus stays on KPW

Opening of heritage center, citizen involvement mark busy year

For the second year in a row, Kettle Park West dominated Stoughton headlines.

At the beginning of the year, it seemed the Wal-Mart Supercenter-anchored project on the west side of the city was ready to hit the ground running, but several problems pushed back the start to the fall. There was the three-question referendum – complete with questions about its eligibility and legality – there were financing snags and there were several Common Council arguments that often required the assistance of the city attorney.

No other story comes close to the importance, emotion and disagreement that came with KPW. And it influenced some of Stoughton's other top stories, including an increase in citizen involvement and increased attention on downtown redevelopment and events.

Whether it was good news or bad news depends largely on your perspective. But some of Stoughton's other big stories were a bit easier to categorize, like the opening of the Norwegian heritage center, Livsreise (good news), the arrest and jailing of a trusted community member who embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from a local booster club and an elderly woman (bad news) and more great wrestling performances (good).

Other top stories included the school district's continuing enrollment decline, a brief uproar about changes to teacher compensation, progress on a veterans memorial, many leaders at the Chamber of Commerce and the renovation of the library.

2015 Top Stories

1. Kettle Park West moves forward
2. Norwegian Heritage Center opens
3. Citizens active in democratic process
4. Braaten embezzles nearly \$300K
5. Teacher compensation battle fades
6. Klein wins title, wrestlers are 2nd
7. Turbulent year for the chamber
8. District enrollment down again
9. Library finishes second-floor update
10. Veterans memorial breaks ground

1. Kettle Park West yet again

Much of 2015 was a bumpy ride for supporters of the Kettle Park West development.

The project appeared to be in jeopardy several times, but each time, Forward Development Group was able to find a way to move the project ahead. It also forged ahead through constant division among alders and an advisory referendum that rejected the project.

But the developer broke ground in a quiet ceremony with city officials in

mid-September and work has continued throughout the fall and into the winter.

The 35-acre first phase of development is expected to generate approximately \$34 million of new tax base for Stoughton, though it will be several years before that provides a boost to the budget. The city is providing up to \$4.8 million of taxpayer funding to cover the cost of public infrastructure improvements leading to the site at the corner of U.S. Hwy. 51 and State Hwy. 138 on the city's west side. That includes a long-sought upgrade to that intersection.

Other phases include both commercial and residential development.

The project's future appeared in doubt in April, when days after an advisory referendum showed a majority of voters against the project with or without taxpayer funding, FDG asked the city to change the terms of its development agreement for the third time in its 15-month existence.

With the referendum result on his mind, Ald. Eric Hohol – a strong backer of the project who has since moved out of the district and forfeited his seat – said he would not support any new version of the agreement that included tax-increment financing.

What was originally presented as a response to the referendum was really about getting financing and financial guarantees, FDG later acknowledged. It also lacked a fourth buyer for a lot in the development.

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At left, a view of the Kettle Park West construction site facing north from McComb Road in December.

Photo by Samantha Christian

2015: Heritage Center opened Syttende Mai weekend to tell story of Norwegian emigrants

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When it became clear a majority of the council would not approve the change, FDG abandoned the new agreement and got the financing through McFarland State Bank anyway.

But it still faced a major problem in meeting obligations in its development agreement – namely that it sell four of the eight lots by June 30. It solved that problem by selling a fourth lot essentially to itself after the council extended that deadline by 60 days.

That June 9 extension vote required Mayor Donna Olson to break the tie and Hohol to alter his position slightly, as he agreed to allow a 60-day extension of the development agreement. He told the Hub that he hadn't "softened his position" in approving the deadline extension because it was still the same basic agreement that the council approved in November 2014.

That vote didn't clear everything, either, as the council voted explicitly that same night to prevent the developer from using contingency funds that had been allocated at the start of the construction process because an early cost estimate was off.

Dist. 3 Ald. Greg Jenson had backed KPW from the beginning but voted with the opposition in a 7-5 tally because, he said, contingency is something that's set aside in case things go wrong or are more expensive than anticipated. He reversed his vote at the council's next meeting on June 23, saying he wanted the project to go forward and realized it couldn't without access to those funds early on.

Also in June, a group of citizens opposed to using TIF for KPW announced it had filed a lawsuit against the city because it was planning to allow Wal-Mart to join a three-way agreement between the city and Forward Development Group.

FDG said Wal-Mart had required that it be allowed to use the city's TIF in the case that FDG defaulted and couldn't complete the infrastructure work for KPW. A Wal-Mart official later told the Hub that McFarland State Bank had actually asked Wal-Mart to join the agreement before it would issue FDG the letters of credit.

At a Committee of the Whole meeting in July, council members decided to remove Wal-Mart from the three-party agreement and guarantee the bank that even if the developer were to default, the city would complete the infrastructure work. The bank then agreed to issue FDG the letters of credit, and Stoughton Forward decided to drop its lawsuit against the city.

On Sept. 22, the council voted 10-1 to authorize the city to borrow up to \$4.8 million to fund the TIF for Forward Development Group. McFarland State Bank is providing financing for the project.

The project is anchored by a 152,000-square-foot Wal-Mart



Photo by Jeremy Jones

Jerry Gryttenholm demonstrates one of the interactive exhibits at Livsreise.

Supercenter. The first phase also features a Kwik Trip gas station/convenience store and new offices for McFarland State Bank. A fourth lot has been sold to a company called Lot 4-Kettle Park West LLC, which the developer established with the help of Verona-based JSD Professional Services, the project engineer.

Earlier this month, the Hub learned that JSD president Dave Jenkins is a partner in all three entities involved in developing KPW – Kettle Park West LLC, Forward Development Group, and Lot 4-Kettle Park West LLC. He and others began planning the development in 2009 and formed Kettle Park West LLC to assemble and develop the properties at the northwest corner of U.S. Hwy. 51 and State Hwy. 138.

– Bill Livick

2. Heritage center opens downtown

The Bryant Foundation's gift to Stoughton arrived long before the holiday season. Livsreise, the new 15,000-square-foot Norwegian Heritage Center, opened May 16 on Syttende Mai weekend and was designed to tell the stories of emigrants who traveled from Norway to the United States between 1825-1910.

Construction of the red gabled-roof building began early in December 2013.

The entire project was the brainchild of Bryant Foundation trustees June Bunting and Jerry Gryttenholm, who said they wanted to honor the memory of Janet Bryant, who established the Bryant Foundation in honor of her late husband, Edwin Bryant, the founder of Nelson Muffler in Stoughton.

Gryttenholm told the Hub the heritage center is about education and history – not about making money or competing with Stoughton businesses. On the contrary,

his hope for Livsreise is that it will help the city become a destination for visitors in the same way that the Opera House has attracted people from outside the community.

Located at the corner of Page Street and West Main Street, the center's 9,000-square-foot main floor includes a striking, spacious Exhibition Hall with a 43-foot-high vaulted ceiling and timber trusses. Other main floor features include a special exhibits room, genealogy library, lounge, 68-seat auditorium and gallery space.

There are four distinct technology stations inside the 2,200-square-foot Exhibition Hall that combine to tell the stories of Norwegian emigrants. Gryttenholm and Bunting worked with Zebradog of Madison to create the mixed media stations using the latest technology, including computerized vignettes and wall art.

The 800-square-foot special exhibits room hosts temporary installations that the center has on loan from similar institutions throughout the Midwest, most notably the prestigious Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum of Decorah, Iowa.

In May, Gryttenholm said the opening of the heritage center is only the first phase because there's more to accomplish with the project. In the second phase, he plans to create a secondary exhibit.

"We want to have fresh stories available in the permanent exhibit area and also start working on what we're going to have for the extemporary exhibit," he said.

– Bill Livick

3. Citizen involvement hits a high note

Democracy is alive and active in Stoughton. That was demonstrated in several ways this year, including when a group of

citizens gathered enough signatures to place three Kettle Park West referendum questions on the April ballot.

Other grassroots actions were seen when environmental advocates in Naturally Stoughton chose to merge with another group called Sustainable Stoughton, and a group calling itself the Stoughton Action Coalition formed to hold monthly meetings to address issues of importance to residents and voters.

Local gadfly Buzz Davis organized and represented the petition campaign against Kettle Park West. The group called itself Stoughton Forward and opposed using tax increment financing for the development; many in the group opposed the project regardless of whether the city's TIF were used.

In February, Stoughton Forward submitted petitions to City Hall that contained two advisory referendum questions and one direct-legislation question. Direct legislation is a process in which citizens gather enough signatures on petitions to force an outcome that's not necessarily sanctioned by the governing body – the Stoughton Common Council.

City clerk Lana Kropf certified that the petitions had enough valid signatures to meet the threshold of 866, and the council held a special meeting to decide whether to ask Dane County Clerk Scott McDonnell to place three advisory referendum questions on the April election ballot. The council rejected putting a question on the ballot that, if adopted, would have become a new city ordinance on TIF borrowing, but did agree to ask the county clerk to place non-binding questions on the ballot.

The questions all passed with more than 50 percent approval, but ultimately had little effect on the Common Council's votes on Kettle Park West.

Stoughton Action Coalition formed this fall with an eye toward the 2016 spring elections. With numerous changes to voting laws – voter ID, voter registration and absentee voting – the group sponsored a workshop in October to educate people about the changes, assist them in obtaining the proper documents and even help register them to vote.

The coalition began meeting monthly in October at local eateries with the purpose of promoting social justice and the common good through education, advocacy, and direct involvement in government.

Organizing member Roger Springman said the impetus behind creating the coalition was to find a better way to get people together around nonpolitical issues.

"We thought let's create something that's non-political, inviting and open-ended and that didn't care if you're Democrat, Republican, Independent, Libertarian or Green or whatever," he said. "We decided to meet at eateries instead of public buildings to create a different atmosphere."

In an email to the Hub in January, members of Sustainable Stoughton and Naturally announced that their organizations would merge, keeping the Sustainable Stoughton name, and work together because they hold shared values and goals.

The merger came about after Sustainable Stoughton held a community meeting in January of like-minded groups and individuals.

Naturally Stoughton formed in 2013 to encourage the city not to use pesticides in city parks and playgrounds. Organizers Sylvia Lawrence and Sara Downie had wanted to expand what Naturally Stoughton does by not only focusing on parks but also working on larger sustainability issues.

The new Sustainable Stoughton's goals for this year were to keep the Green Thursdays info meetings going and continue the garden projects that Naturally Stoughton had started, along with holding a few more of the community meetings that brought the groups together.

– Bill Livick

4. Braaten steals \$300K

The former treasurer of the Stoughton Vikings Wrestling club and house cleaner for an elderly woman pled guilty in November of embezzling nearly \$300,000 over five years.

Accusations against Deanna Braaten, 50, became regional news in March, as Stoughton police began investigating Braaten, for stealing about \$86,000 from the club and more than \$220,000 from a "vulnerable adult" who had given her power of attorney over her finances. By Braaten's sentencing in November, she also stood accused of defrauding state benefits programs.



Braaten

The extent of her theft might have stretched further. The elderly woman's sister claimed valuables had gone missing, and the wrestling club's vice president told the court that her own, unofficial counts of cash fundraiser donations were higher than deposits made later by Braaten.

In August, the investigation found more trouble, this time for Deanna's husband, Byron Braaten. He now faces seven felony counts of possessing a firearm, after investigators found letters on a computer seized from the Braaten home in which Deanna implored friends to reach out to Gov. Scott Walker and request clemency for the felony (injury-causing) OWI Byron was convicted of in 1983.

The day before she faced punishment, Braaten's elderly victim, Barbara Simandl, died of natural causes. At the plea hearing, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Josann M. Reynolds noted that the court could not speculate as

2015: Teacher compensation concerns, continued enrollment decline affect SASD

Continued from page 8

to whether Braaten's actions killed Simandl, but she said it was reasonable to assume that the death came "sooner and with greater suffering as a result."

After a mandatory 30-day jail sentence, Braaten will spend 10 years of probation trying to repay a community its cash or face a return to jail. Only time can tell, however, whether a woman whom judge Reynolds called "deplorable" will ultimately regain some community trust.

— Jacob Bielanski

5. Battle over teacher compensation fades

The Stoughton Area School district had 37 educator resignations and retirements this year after averaging fewer than 14 the past five years, according to the district.

That news, as well as the release of details this summer about a new teacher compensation plan, caused quite a stir for a group of teachers and parents who wanted more teacher input in the plan.

Board members voted 5-3 at their Sept. 8 meeting against putting the compensation plan on hold for a year, while a special committee works to draft suggested changes. That committee would include teachers from a variety of district buildings.

District administrator Tim Onsager said the district's staff losses were not "out of whack" with other districts in Dane County.

"Do I like the number any more than you do?" he asked. "No."

Onsager said 28 of the district's 244 educators have opted out of the compensation plan, though he noted that new hires didn't have the choice.

The board had approved the plan in May without much opposition, though it was not endorsed by the Stoughton Education Association. Board member Wanda Grasse, who put forth the motion to put the plan on hold, said it's clear that when the board initially voted on the plan, they could not foresee the "significant amount of hardship" that would result.

"We made a mistake, I think, as a board, and it's time for us to acknowledge it and show that we do listen when people let us know they're very, very, very disappointed," she said at the Sept. 8 meeting.

Board president Menzer said the plan hasn't even been "given a chance" to work, as it's not yet been implemented. She said staff should be given the opportunity to "work through" the plan and make needed changes in time for next school year.

— Scott De Laruelle

6. Klein wins title, wrestlers are 2nd

The 2015 state wrestling team and individual state tournaments completed more chapters to add to the Stoughton High School varsity team's storied history.

The Vikings brought home one more individual title and a team runner-up finish.

The individual tournament took place Feb. 26-28 at the Kohl Center in Madison, and six Vikings represented Stoughton there.

Brandon Klein won the 106-pound state title as a sophomore, while Zach Hasselberger finished his high school career with a runner-up at 126 pounds. Collin Kraus also picked up his second third-place finish at state — following a state title in 2014.

Three other Vikings made the individual tournament — Gunnar Helland, Tristan Jenny and Garrett Model — and all six also helped Stoughton earn its second straight trip to the team wrestling state tournament from March 6-7 at



At left, Stoughton co-head coach Dan Spilde celebrates with the Stoughton wrestling team after clinching a spot in the WIAA Division 1 state finals at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Field House. The Vikings defeated Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln 36-33 in the semifinals, advancing to the first state final since 2004. The last time Stoughton won a state title was 1988, and Spilde was on that squad.

Photo by Anthony Iozzo

the University of Wisconsin Field House. The Vikings made team state with a 29-24 win over Milton in the team sectional and carried some momentum back to Madison.

On March 6, Stoughton first held off Sauk Prairie with a 36-30 win in the Division 1 quarterfinals. But the semifinals match was when Stoughton really began to believe. The Vikings got a comeback pin by Jenny late in the match, which fueled a 36-33 win over Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln.

Despite falling to top-ranked and defending champion Kaukauna 41-21 in the finals, Stoughton reached the state final for the first time since 2004 and finished 23-2 in duals for the season.

With several of the wrestlers back from that team for the 2015-16 season, the Vikings will be attempting to win their first team state title since 1988.

— Anthony Iozzo

7. Turbulent year for the chamber

Though it rattled the whole community, 54-year-old Dale Volenberg's death shocked few others more than the Stoughton Chamber of Commerce.

The community-minded Volenberg was fired up to bring stability to a chamber that had struggled for a year to fill its spot for executive director.

Before then, the chamber's last permanent director, Dave Phillips, held the position for roughly five years. Phillips left the chamber in 2013 to take a position as Dane County's first director of economic development.

The Chamber thought it had lined up a replacement for longtime visitor services worker and acting director Erica Dial even earlier in the year. Shortly after Dial and her family relocated to Washington state, in February, her announced successor, Nancy Hoffman, suddenly rejected the position for "unspecified reasons."

By April, the chamber had found an ideal candidate in Volenberg. The man who grew up on a dairy farm in Utica told the Hub in June that he hoped to use his 23 years of business experience to accomplish everything from growing the Coffee Break festival to attracting more high-tech business.

Shortly after his death, chamber president Kate Schieldt said, "The chamber and the Stoughton community have lost a staunch supporter."

To fill the gap, former chamber board member Randy Olson,

husband of Stoughton mayor Donna Olson, took the role as interim director.

In September, the board finally selected a new permanent replacement, long-time Wisconsin Department of Justice employee and 20-year Stoughton resident Marilyn Housner. Housner, who started Oct. 5, told the Hub in September that she was "really looking forward to" the position.

— Jacob Bielanski

8. District enrollment down again

While the decline in enrollment at the Stoughton Area School District is less than in previous years, the small group of incoming students is more cause for concern in a district struggling to stop a damaging trend of losing students.

The district's 4K class is the lowest — by far — among its 14 classes, down 22 students from last year., district director of business services Erica Pickett told school board members in September. She said that's a "concerning" number, though state 4K numbers are down this year.

"Not sure what that means, long-term," Pickett said of the drop in 4K enrollment. "Hopefully, we can keep our fingers crossed that we're seeing some potential growth within our existing grade levels."

According to district statistics, enrollment a decade ago was 3,663 students. By 2019 that number is projected to be down by nearly a quarter.

The enrollment news is a bad sign for a district already struggling financially. In 2009, the district closed aging Yahara Elementary School to save money, and hamstrung by state-imposed levy limits to raise taxes, pushed hard in April 2014 for a \$20 million recurring referendum to raise its "funding floor."

In recent years, the district has reached out to community members and businesses to find ways to help slow or reverse the enrollment decline, and added school-to-work initiatives and projects like the Fab Lab to increase student opportunities.

The district has 3,180 students for the 2015-16 school year, down 28 students from last year's mark of 3,208, Pickett said. The district also lost students due to open enrollment, she said, with 67 coming into the district and 188 going out for a net loss of 121.

That is lower than last year's net loss of 131 students, with 16 more students open enrolling into the district this school year.

Looking at trends, she said it was encouraging to see that the district's overall loss of students has been getting smaller in the past few years, dropping from 66 to 38 last year, and 28 this year.

The state uses a three-year average to look at public school district enrollment, and Pickett said Stoughton is still declining by that measure.

— Scott De Laruelle

Honorable mentions

Hospital makes big changes

Stoughton Hospital began a \$13.2 million renovation and expansion in October that's expected to be completed in early 2017.

Earlier this year, the hospital completed changes to the facility's main entrance and parking areas that were designed to make the campus safer for pedestrians and patients. The work reduced the disparity in elevations and slopes on the property, and was completed in August.

Long-term, the hospital plans to renovate and expand the Emergency Department, Urgent Care and a new laboratory. Other improvements will include expanding outpatient day surgery facilities and physician specialist clinic space, which will be located in the ER/Urgent Care area.

Hospital president Terry Brenny told the Courier Hub earlier this year that the hospital has outgrown the facility's current space and layout.

"Our current facilities simply weren't designed for the nearly 20,000 annual visits we see each year," he said during a groundbreaking ceremony at the hospital.

— Bill Livick



Photo by Mark Ignatowski

The redesigned lots at Stoughton Hospital allow for safer pedestrian access.

Catfish River festival returns

The second annual Catfish River Music Festival took place the first weekend in July with 17 music acts at the downtown Rotary Park gazebo.

Stoughton Opera House director Bill Brehm organized the festival, which was free and open to the public. Most of the musicians who performed came from the Madison area, but some from as far away as Duluth. The music ranged from folk and bluegrass to jazz funk and honky-tonk. The biggest change from the inaugural festival in July 2014 was that there were no ticketed performances inside the Opera House. Instead, all the music was free and held in the park next to the fire station.

— Bill Livick

Pigeon plan passed on

The Common Council in April denied a resident's request to be allowed to keep and raise homing pigeons at her home in the city. Rosalie Bjelde initially made the request in the fall of 2014, but both the Planning Commission and the council rejected the idea.

Alders who voted to deny Bjelde's request did so for a variety of reasons. Ald. Greg Jenson said he changed an earlier position to allow the birds after a March 9 public hearing held by the Planning Commission, when three neighbors spoke against the idea. Ald. Sonny Swangstu said he just didn't think the birds should be allowed in the city. Others cited such concerns as monitoring the number of birds, the fact that only one person made the request (although others spoke in support of her request), and the fact that the birds don't provide food the way that backyard chickens potentially do.

The council would have had to amend a city ordinance in order to allow the birds in the city. Former alder Tricia Suess encouraged Bjelde to continue trying to educate the public on the value of pigeons and their ability to live without incident in a city.

"I think what people need is just more education on the issue," Suess said after the April vote. "So if she wants to continue, I hope she'll work on educating her neighbors."

— Bill Livick

Millfab rezone

A 6-acre site along the Yahara River that was home to the MillFab/Holly Moulding factory was in the news this year because of the city's desire to acquire the property and turn it into a developable parcel. The Common Council and Redevelopment Authority agreed to make an offer of \$700,000 to purchase the property last year, and this year the council rezoned the parcel, along with another eight acres, from heavy industrial, single-family residential, neighborhood business and institutional to multi-family residential. A total of 17 parcels were affected. Officials say the change was a necessary first step to redeveloping the area for mixed use.

The area slated for rezoning is bounded by Fourth and Seventh Streets, and South Street and the Yahara River. It's at the center of the Redevelopment Authority's hope to develop the area for a mix of housing and business purposes.

The Common Council voted to rezone the property twice, first in September and again Nov. 10, after a court-appointed receiver for the Holly MillFab Holding Company complained the city hadn't followed the proper legal procedure for the rezone process in September.

2015: Library second-floor renovation completed, groundbreaking for veterans memorial

Continued from page 9

9. Library finishes second-floor update

After months of construction – including an entirely renovated second floor – the “new” Stoughton Public Library was unveiled this fall.

Library director Richard

MacDonald talked to the Hub excitedly about the many changes at the building, including the new look second floor, with its consolidated teen area and expanded room for materials, clients and employees alike.

The second-floor renovation includes new “library

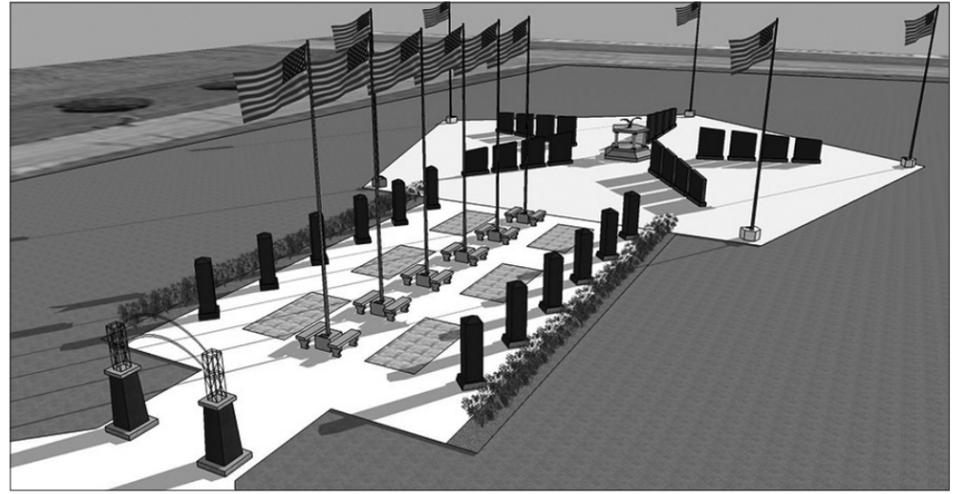
grade” shelving, an increase in square footage and display space, improved lighting and furniture, more electrical outlets and new carpeting. Meeting rooms were moved and enlarged to accommodate groups as large as nine, and the service desk was slimmed down.

The teen area has been consolidated, with extra outlets added for a variety of electronic devices.

Some work was done on the first floor as well. To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the library’s single front doors were replaced with double doors and exterior outdoor lighting was added, along with more than a dozen security cameras. The first-floor restrooms and circulation area were also enlarged.

The renovations cost \$650,000, with the City of Stoughton picking up \$410,000 and the library covering the remaining \$250,000 through a variety of fundraisers and donations. The library had a “grand opening” on Nov. 5 to celebrate the renovated areas.

While work started in August, library staff started the process around the Fourth of July weekend, moving books to the basement and removing items. For the past few months, a significant portion of the library’s materials were unavailable, including much of the adult



Renderings courtesy Pechmann Memorials

Concept drawings are shown above for the planned Stoughton Veterans Memorial Park, which will be constructed at the corner of County B and Country Club Road in Pleasant Springs.

collection.

– Scott De Laruelle

10. Veterans memorial begins construction

It’s a project that has been more than 150 years in the making, and 2015 was a big year for a push for a permanent memorial for Stoughton area veterans, highlighted by a Sept. 23 groundbreaking ceremony.

Bud Erickson of Stoughton American Legion Post 59, one of the coordinators on the project, said in an email to the Hub on Monday that while recent wet weather has “put a crimp in our plans,” the goal is to have the project ready on schedule. He said soil has been tested, but the ground has been too wet to begin foundation work.

The Stoughton Area

Veterans Memorial Park committee has raised more than \$300,000 toward a goal of around \$800,000, with hopes to have the memorial ready for Nov. 11, 2016 – Veteran’s Day. At press time, 11 flag poles and bases have been sold at \$5,200 each, 16 benches (\$3,000 each), and three of twelve educational pillars (\$16,000 each). More than 300 pavers have been sold, and the Wahlin foundation has made a pledge of \$50,000 to pay for the archway.

A cooperative project between Stoughton’s American Legion Post 59 and VFW Post 328, the memorial is on a 2.38-acre site at the corner of Cty. B and Country Club Road, donated by Oscar and Shirley Linnerud.

The memorial will feature a black marble monument to include the names of all veterans from the Stoughton area, dating back to the Civil War, including National Guard and Reserves. There will be 12 educational plaques, benches, a centerpiece on a pedestal with an eagle mounted on top, a variety of service flags and a parking lot for up to 50 vehicles.

The group hopes to eventually get around 5,000 names on the memorial. Erickson said an estimated 150 Stoughton veterans have died in service, including Sgt. Truman Olson, who posthumously won the Medal of Honor after he was killed in Italy in World War II.

– Scott De Laruelle

Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Stoughton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 6:00 o’clock p.m., or as soon after as the matter may be heard, at the Public Safety Building, Second Floor, 321 S. Fourth Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin, 53589, to consider a request by Ashley and Tim Hoffensperger to amend the City of Stoughton Municipal Code of Ordinances. The proposed ordinance amendments are to sections 78-206(1)(a) 2 and 78-206(1)(a) 3, of the City of Stoughton Zoning Ordinance, Dane County, Wisconsin.

The amendment is proposed to allow all newly constructed duplexes be installed with two separate water shut off valves off one lateral within the terrace for each individual unit while splitting the sewer lateral within the terrace to provide a separate sewer to each individual unit. Additionally, converting a duplex to a twin home would require separate water and sewer laterals. The proposed amendment may be viewed at the Department of Planning & Development, City Hall, 381 E. Main Street, Stoughton, WI, 53589.

For questions regarding this notice please contact Michael Stacey, Zoning Administrator at 608-646-0421.

Michael Stacey
Zoning Administrator
Published: December 24 and 31, 2015
WNAXLP

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The amendment is proposed to allow accessory structures in excess of 900 square feet in area within the MR-10 and MR-24 Multi-Family Residential Dis-

tricts as a conditional use. Additionally, the amendment would allow 10 dwelling units per acre for the MR-10 district as a conditional use and 24 dwelling units per acre for the MR-24 district as a conditional use. The proposed amendment may be viewed at the Department of Planning & Development, City Hall, 381 E. Main Street, Stoughton, WI, 53589.

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WNAXLP

TOWN OF PLEASANT SPRINGS CAUCUS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the electors of the Town of Pleasant Springs in the County of Dane, State of Wisconsin, that a Town Caucus for said Town will be held at the Pleasant Springs Town Hall, 2354 County Rd N, Stoughton, WI, 53589, 2873. Office hours are Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. Telephone: (608)873-3063 e-mail: clerk@pleasantprings.org

Candidates will be nominated for the following offices, for a term of two years, which expire in April of 2018:
Town Supervisor No. 3
Town Supervisor No. 4

Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, or to request this service, contact the Town Hall, 2354 County Rd N, Stoughton, WI, 53589, 2873. Office hours are Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. Telephone: (608)873-3063 e-mail: clerk@pleasantprings.org

Cassandra Suettinger
Clerk/Treasurer
Posted: December 22, 2015
Published: December 31, 2015
WNAXLP

140 LOST & FOUND

MISSING CAT. Thin, young orange/buff-colored tabby with cream/white on nose, paws, and ringlets on tail. Lost 11/4 in Stoughton area. **Reward!** Please call 608-422-3734. Thank you!

143 NOTICES

SOCIAL SECURITY Disability Benefits. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We can help. Win or pay nothing. Contact Bill Gordon & Associates at 800-960-0307 to start your application today! (wcan)

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (wcan)

163 TRAINING SCHOOLS

DENTAL ASSISTANT Be one in just 10 Saturdays! WeekendDentalassistant.com. Fan us on Facebook! Next class begins 1/2/16. Call 920-730-1112 Appleton. WI approved. (wcan)

340 AUTOS

DONATE YOUR Car, Truck or Boat to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3-Day Vacation. Tax Deductible. Free Towing. All paperwork taken care of! 800-856-5491 (wcan)

DANE COUNTY’S MARKETPLACE. The Courier Hub Classifieds. Call 873-6671 or 835-6677.

342 BOATS & ACCESSORIES

BOAT & Pontoon Blowout - (new/used) Over 400 to choose from @ the guaranteed best lowest price. American Marine & Motorsports www.americanmarina.com, 866-955-2628 (wcan)

350 MOTORCYCLES

TOP CASH paid! For old motorcycles, 1900-1980. Dead or alive! 920-371-0494 (wcan)

355 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

ATV & SIDE-BY-SIDE Headquarters. Huge blow-out pricing. Youth ATV’s starting @ \$699 plus FSD. Over 100 Honda/CF Moto at liquidation \$ \$ 866-955-2628 www.americanmarina.com (wcan)

360 TRAILERS

TRAILERS @ LIQUIDATION PRICING. For boat, ATV, sled or pontoons. 2 or 4 Place/Open or Enclosed. American Marine, Shawano
866-955-2628 www.americanmarina.com (wcan)

402 HELP WANTED, GENERAL

DISHWASHER, COOK, WAITRESS, & DELI STAFF WANTED. Applications available at Sugar & Spice Eatery. 317 Nora St. Stoughton.

EXPERIENCED DISHWASHER WANTED. Apply at Sunrise Family Restaurant 1052 W. Main, Stoughton.

THEY SAY people don’t read those little ads, but YOU read this one, didn’t you? Call now to place your ad, 873-6671 or 835-6677.

THE Courier Hub CLASSIFIEDS, the best place to buy or sell. Call 873-6671 or 835-6677.

SUPER 8 VERONA
has immediate openings for:
Driver (P/T) \$10/hour
Front Desk Associates: \$9-\$10/hour (F/T and P/T).
Driver: \$10/hour
Experience preferred, but willing to train the right people.
Paid training, vacation, and uniform.
Free room nights.
Apply in person at 131 Horizon Dr., Verona

434 HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES & CHILD CARE
COMFORT KEEPERS IN MADISON
Seeking caregivers to provide care to seniors in their homes. Need valid DL and dependable vehicle. FT & PT positions available. Flexible scheduling. Sign-on bonus.
Call 608-442-1898

FOUR WINDS Manor is expanding and looking to fill current and future openings, including:
FULL-TIME DIETARY AIDE/COOK which includes every other weekend. Also **PART-TIME RNs** and **FULL/PART-TIME CNA’s/CBRF CARE GIVERS** for various shifts.
We offer excellent benefits w/ FULL-TIME positions, incl. health/dental/ paid time off/flex spending/ 401k. If you share our commitment to a positive attitude and respect for residents and colleagues, please consider joining us.
Applications available at: www.fourwindsmanor.com or 303 S. Jefferson St. in Verona

OREGON MANOR, a 45-bed skilled nursing facility just 8 miles from Madison has an opening for a FT cook. This position is 10:30 am to 7pm, 32 hours a week including every other weekend with rotating holidays. We offer a competitive benefit package. Experience is not required. You may apply on-line at www.oregonmanor.biz or stop by 354 N. Main St, Oregon for an application. EOE

440 HOTEL, FOOD & BEVERAGE
MARIA’S PIZZA
IS HIRING!
Dishwashers (age: 16+)
Servers (age: 18+)
Delivery Driver (age: 18+ with own car/valid DL/proof of insurance). Evening & weekend/part-time hrs. Come in and fill out an application today!

449 DRIVER, SHIPPING & WAREHOUSING
DRIVERS: SEMI - Home weekends for 550 mile radius runs. Mainly WI. Park truck at home. Must have 1 yr exp. Good driving record. Benefit pkg avail. Call 800-544-6798. (wcan)

452 GENERAL
OFFICE CLEANING in Stoughton Mon-Fri 4 hours/night. Visit our website: www.capitalcityclean.com or call our office: 608-831-8850

548 HOME IMPROVEMENT
A&B ENTERPRISES
Light Construction Remodeling
No job too small
608-835-7791

ALL THINGS BASEMENTY!
Basement Systems Inc.
Call us for all your basement needs!
Waterproofing. Finishing. Structural repairs. Humidity and mold control.
Free Estimates!
Call 800-991-1602 (wcan)

DOUG’S HANDYMAN SERVICE
"Honey Do List"
No job too small
608-845-8110

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE IS Noon Friday for The Great Dane and Noon Monday for the Courier Hub unless changed because of holiday work schedules. Call now to place your ad, 873-6671 or 835-6677.

HALLINAN-PAINTING WALLPAPERING
Great-Winter-Rates
35 + Years Professional European.Craftsmanship
Free-Estimates
References/Insured
Arthur Hallinan
608-455-3377

RECOVER PAINTING currently offering winter discounts on all painting, drywall and carpentry. Recover urges you to join in the fight against cancer, as a portion of every job is donated to cancer research. Free estimates, fully insured, over 20 years of experience. Call 608-270-0440.

TOMAS PAINTING
Professional, Interior, Exterior, Repairs.
Free Estimates. Insured.
608-873-6160

560 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
A PLACE for Mom. The nation’s largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. Call 1-800-930-3021 (wcan)

COMPUTER PROBLEMS - Viruses, Lost Data, Hardware or Software Issues? Contact GEEKS ON SITE! Service. Friendly Repair Experts. Macs and PC’s. Call for FREE Diagnosis. 1-800-290-5045 (wcan)

572 SNOW REMOVAL
PLOWING, BLOWING.
Residential & Commercial.
20+yrs exp. Fully insured.
608-669-0025.

586 TV, VCR & ELECTRONICS REPAIR
AT&T U-VERSE Internet starting at \$15/month or TV & internet starting at \$49/month for 12 months with 1-year agreement. Call 1-800-385-0843 to learn more! (wcan)

DISH NETWORK. Get more for less! Starting at \$19.99/mo (for 12 mos). PLUS Bundle & Save (fast internet for \$15 more/month) Call now 800-374-3940 (wcan)

601 HOUSEHOLD
LOOKING FOR a unique gift for everyone on your list? Not just Christmas - great for ALL occasions. Go to www.everythinginitials.etsy.com (wcan)

602 ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
COLUMBUS ANTIQUE MALL & CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS MUSEUM
"Wisconsin’s Largest Antique Mall"
Customer Appreciation Week!
Feb 01-07. 20% Discount!
Enter daily 8am-4pm 78,000 SF
200 Dealers in 400 Booths
Third floor furniture, locked cases
Location: 239 Whitney St
Columbus, WI 53925
920-623-1992 www.columbusantiquemall.com

606 ARTICLES FOR SALE
SWITCH & SAVE EVENT from DirectTV! Packages starting at \$19.99/mo. Free 3-months of HBO, Starz, Showtime & Cinemax. Free Genie HD/DVR Upgrade! 2015 NFL Sunday Ticket included with select Packages. New Customers Only. IV Support Holdings LLC- An authorized DirectTV Dealer. Some exclusions apply. Call for details 800-918-1046 (wcan)

638 CONSTRUCTION & INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
HOLIDAY SALE-STORE-WIDE-VENDOR Deals/New Products! WoodworkersDepot.com M-F 8-6, Sat 8-4. Oneida St., off 41 @ Subway, 2965 Ramada Way, Green Bay 1-800-891-9003 (wcan)

646 FIREPLACES, FURNACES/WOOD, FUEL
DRY OAK and Cherry Firewood For Sale. Contact Dave at 608-445-6423 or Pete 608-712-3223

FIREWOOD: TRUCKLOADS 8’ pulp, cut/ split or retail pkg. Quality outdoor wood boilers & furnaces 920-833-7839 (wcan)

Greenspire
924 Jackson St., Stoughton, WI
608-873-7855

We have 1 & 2 bedroom apartments designed for older adults and handicapped or disabled individuals. We are currently accepting applications for occupancy. SPECIAL FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Attentive on-site management
- 24 hour emergency service
- Rent based on your income (you pay approx. 30% - income limitations apply)
- Elevator/chair lifts
- Convenient to shopping, hospital and doctors
- Community room with fully equipped kitchen
- Same floor laundry rooms
- Numerous resident services

Call (608) 878-7855 for more information.
Managed With Care™ by Broihahn Management & Consulting, LLC
www.bmcmadison.com
THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

R. NELSON ROOFING
SHINGLES/STEEL
Family Owned - Serving the Stoughton Area 50+ Years-
Residential/Farm
Richie Nelson
(608) 212-4086

CLASSIFIED NETWORK OF WISCONSIN
Increase Your sales opportunities...reach over 1.2 million households! Advertise in our Wisconsin Advertising Network System. For information call 845-9559 or 873-6671.

HELP WANTED- TRUCK DRIVER
OTR DRIVERS needed for Solo & Team Positions. Midwest and West Coast Lanes. Competitive pay package. Scheduled Home Time. Assigned Equipment. Call 800-645-3748 (CNOW)
Marten Transport. NOW HIRING DRIVERS FOR DEDICATED & REGIONAL RUNS! Dedicated Fleet, Top Pay, New Assigned Equipment, Monthly Bonuses. WEEKLY HOMETIME! CDL-A, 6mos. OTR exp Req’d EEOE/AAP LIMITED POSITIONS! APPLY TODAY! 866-370-4476 www.drive4marten.com (CNOW)

CDL DRIVERS NEEDED, 2yrs Experience, \$2,500 Sign-On, Average \$60,000+/year Company, \$170,000+/year O/O, Safety/Performance Bonuses, Newer Equipment and MUCH MORE. Call Q Carriers (952) 403-7118 (CNOW)

MISCELLANEOUS
ATTENTION TRUCK RECRUITERS: RECRUIT an applicant in over 179 Wisconsin newspapers! Only \$300/week. Call this paper or 800-227-7636 www.cnaads.com (CNOW)