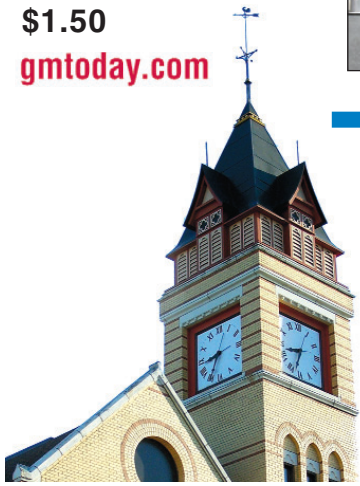




Ellis pushing up to push fundraising for foundation ▶ Page 3A



Apple season offers much to smile about ▶ TIMEOUT 8B



OCONOMOWOC ENTERPRISE

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ROLLING OUT A PARK



Max Gernhardt, an Oconomowoc resident who played a large part in getting the park built, rides around its bowl.

‘Beyond what I can even put into words’
Ellis reflects on time in NYC in aftermath of 9/11

By Alex Nemeć
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OCONOMOWOC — Saturday is the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center and on that fateful day in 2001, Kevin Ellis, — now an alderman in Oconomowoc — like a lot of parents, was dropping his son off at school in New Jersey.

“I noticed that the bus to New York was still there,” Ellis said. “Usually by the time I get there it’s pulling out ... so I was kind of concerned about that.”

At the time, Ellis lived in nearby Butler, New Jersey and worked for Northwestern Mutual. He was running into his office and then leaving to begin his trek into Hoboken, N. J., — right near where the World Trade Center was — for a meeting.

As he went to leave his complex, Ellis said he saw black billowing smoke coming from downtown and as he got closer became very worried.

“What I saw I didn’t like,” Ellis said. “It was beyond what I can even put into words.”

What Ellis saw was the second tower getting hit. He said traffic on Route 3 into the city had slowed to a halt and people were out of their cars.

He said a police officer had come over to him and asked him to move. Ellis said he was getting ready to get back in his car and when he did that he heard the rumbling of one of the towers falling.

“At that point, the police officer leaned against my car and put his head in his hands,” Ellis said.

It takes a community

Ellis said the next day his biggest client, McDonald’s Corporation, called him to ask him if he had time to go

See 9/11, PAGE 8A

Oconomowoc skate park hosts grand opening

By Alex Nemeć
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262-513-2661

OCONOMOWOC — Years of a vision and trying to get a skate park built in Oconomowoc have come to fruition as the popular park was officially opened Saturday afternoon at Roosevelt Park.

The skate park, which had a majority of its funding raised through community donations, features a slew of ramps, bars to grind on and bowls fit for skateboarders, BMX bikers, scooter riders and more.

Craig Schiefelbein — who has been one of the leading people behind the park — said seeing his dream of a skate park being built in Oconomowoc become a reality really moved him.

“This is better than any birthday I ever had includ-



City officials and community members hold the ribbon at Alderman Lou Kowieski, middle left, and Craig Schiefelbein, middle right, cut the ribbon on the skate park.

Photos by Alex Nemeć/Enterprise Staff

ing the time I got my skateboard,” Schiefelbein said. “It’s unbelievable.”

The city put down the first large chunk of money for the project near \$125,000

and the rest of the \$450,000 was donated by residents. The process to get the skate park built officially commenced earlier this year and hit its lofty expectation



Matthew Stack spins his scooter’s handlebars as he jumps off an obstacle at the skate park.



Camden Weed beams with happiness as he holds his scooter in front of a ramp.

of a Labor Day opening. “The amount that we raised it shows how many

See SKATE, PAGE 8A

Castle Senior Living sues Delafield over facility denial Federal suit alleges discrimination, fair housing violations

By Brian Huber
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262-513-2674

DELAFIELD — A company hoping to bring a senior living facility to the former Seven Seas site on the shores of Nagawicka Lake in Delafield is suing the city in federal court over the project’s denial.

The suit, filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Milwaukee, seeks an unspecified sum in damages, as well as punitive and exemplary damages. It alleges that the city’s refusal to grant a conditional use

permit for the proposed project violated the U.S. Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act in that the city discriminated “in the sale or rental or otherwise making unavailable or denying a dwelling because of disability in violation of the FHA,” the suit said. Because the prospective residents of the proposed community-based residential facility are “qualified individuals with a disability” and the city is a public entity, its denial of the permit constituted an exclusion of “qualified individuals with disabilities from

participation and den(ied) them the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity on the basis of disability in violation of Title II of the ADA,” the suit alleged.

“The City failed to provide reasonable accommodations to allow senior citizens with disabilities to live in a residential neighborhood. In fact, it provided no accommodations at all. The City did not even provide the pretense of complying with its legal obligations to provide accommodations, and it went out of its way to ignore its own

ordinances to ensure senior citizens with disabilities could not live amongst the residents of Delafield,” the suit said. “By failing to provide accommodations, the City violated its own zoning ordinances, state law and federal law.”

Phone and email messages with attorney Jim Hammes, whose firm represents the city, were not immediately returned Wednesday.

According to the suit, Castle Senior Living, a New Berlin-based

See LAWSUIT, PAGE 8A

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WEATHER



Friday forecast:
Mostly Sunny
High 78 / Low 58

See weather statistics on Page 7A.

Fun Things To Do

Apple and Sunflower Fest, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Basse’s Taste of Country, 3190 County Line Q, Colgate, \$13.95 per person, children under 2 free.

Oconomowoc Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Bank Five Nine campus parking lot, 155 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Fall Fest, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Village Green, 104 E. Wisconsin Ave.

Delafield Brewhaus Oktoberfest, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Delafield Brewhaus, 3832 Hillside Drive, Delafield

Wildlife in the Park, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Cork Park, 160 S. Main St., Dousman

HAWS Fall Family Fun on the Farm, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Shallock Center for Animals, W330-S1205 Highway C, Town of Delafield

Holy Trinity Fall Fest, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Holy Trinity Learning Center, N50-W35057 Wisconsin Ave., Town of Oconomowoc.

Bands at the Beach and the Oconomowoc Great Card-board Boat Regatta, boat regatta from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., bands playing from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday, Rhodee Memorial Band Shell, 324 W. Wisconsin Ave.



Volume 134, No. 11

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What's next for WLFD after failed referendum?

▶ See story, Page 2A



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Thursday, August 18, 2022

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Q&A: The Rockwell Project

Oconomowoc economic director Bob Duffy and Jeff Scrima of Rockwell Partners provide answers on downtown project



Photo provided by Rockwell Partners, LLC

A rendering of the downtown Rockwell building. Construction is expected to begin later this year pending additional approvals.

By Dan Colton
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262-513-2661

OCONOMOWOC — As the plan for the downtown Rockwell development progresses onward, the developer and city officials weighed in on some frequently asked questions. The project location is at 125-131 Main Street near the Village Green and Fowler Lake.

Questions were answered by Jeff Scrima of Rockwell Partners, LLC and Oconomowoc's economic director, Bob Duffy. Some of their answers have been edited to eliminate redundancy.

1.) What is the Rockwell project?

Scrima: Rockwell is new mixed-use development which utilizes historic architectural design and provides public improvements — including continuing the boardwalk, increasing parking, providing restrooms, and improving the village green — which will enhance the renaissance of downtown Oconomowoc.

2.) Why is the project called Rockwell?

Scrima: The project name is "Rockwell" in honor of John Rockwell, who in the 1800s helped establish Oconomowoc — including constructing a mill, the first store, hotel, fire department, elementary school, library and donating land

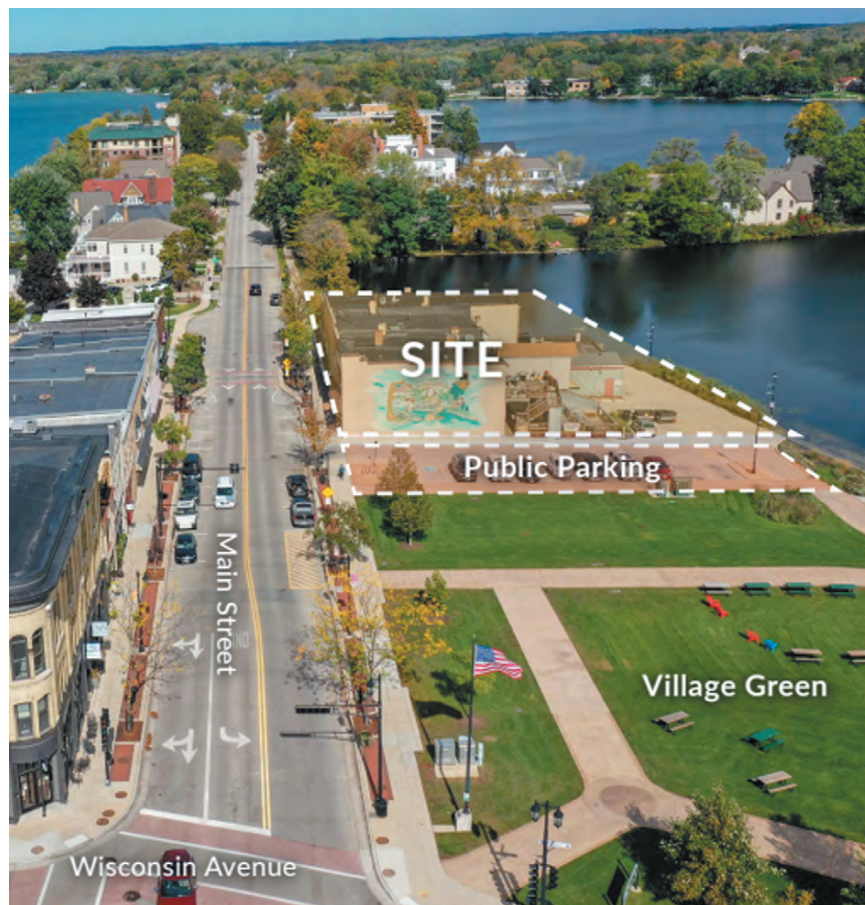


Photo from city of Oconomowoc public documents

An overlaid map showing the location of the downtown Rockwell project.

for the community's churches.

3.) Will the boardwalk still be accessible to the public?

Duffy: During the construction the existing boardwalk will still be

accessible to the public. Through the project, the city will have the opportunity to expand the boardwalk where it had existed previously behind the development, which will be also accessible to the public when completed.

See **ROCKWELL**, PAGE 8A

Council denies park design

Mayor says John and Lavinia Rockwell Park could be delayed a year

By Dan Colton
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262-513-2661

OCONOMOWOC — The Common Council denied approval of an \$85,000 contract for the John and Lavinia Rockwell Park, leading some officials to speculate the project could be delayed for a year.

The proposed contract with SEH, Inc. included design and engineering for the second and final phase of the project. But it was rejected by a majority of council members largely because it would have used funds that are needed for the completion of phase one construction.

The vote fell 6-2 with Alderwoman Karen Spiegelberg and Alderman Matt Mulder voting in favor of the measure.

The city previously sent out a bid request for phase one construction, and a single offer was received. That offer was not accepted

because its approximately \$678,000 was far in excess of the phase one construction's \$400,000 estimated cost.

Oconomowoc currently has two fiscal accounts associated with the park project, including a city account and an account with money donated by the Friends of Rockwell Park.

Combined, the accounts contain about \$388,000 for work at the park, a number slightly below the estimated \$400,000 cost.

Prior to the vote, several common council members said they were concerned with spending money on future plans when the first phase still needs funding.

"I don't think it's fiscally responsible to move forward to phase two engineering until we've fundraised and we know what we have (for phase one)," said Alderman Matt Rosek. "I don't think there's a rush."

See **PARK**, PAGE 8A

Oconomowoc Festival of the Arts returns for 51st year

By Dan Colton
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262-513-2661

OCONOMOWOC — The Oconomowoc Festival of the Arts returns this weekend.

Phil Heinle, president of the festival, said it is the city's largest event of the year and is expected to draw about 20,000 to the free festival's venue at Fowler Park.

Artists, 110 of them, will also travel in to the area from across 13 states to display their work. They've been selected from hundreds of applicants for the opportunity to attend, Heinle said.

The event is a nationally-recognized juried arts festival now in its 51st year. It was started by Virginia Harris as a way to showcase artwork she and her friends produced.

"She has since passed away, but the festival continues to grow and get stronger every year," Heinle said.

See **ARTS**, PAGE 8A

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WEATHER



Friday forecast:
Few Showers
High 80 / Low 61

See weather statistics on Page 7A.

Fun Things To Do

The Oconomowoc Festival of the Arts returns Saturday, Aug. 20 and Sunday, Aug. 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. As one of the Midwest's premiere outdoor arts festivals, the event features a juried art exhibition with 110 artists from across the country. There is a silent art auction, interactive children's area, live music and delicious food. The festival is held at Fowler Park, 438 N. Oakwood Ave. in Oconomowoc.

Village Green Beer Garden offers craft beers, trivia and music in downtown Oconomowoc from 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20 and Sunday, Aug. 21. It is held at the Village Green, 104 E. Wisconsin Ave. in Oconomowoc.

Fuel Your Passion Annual Car Show is scheduled at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20 and is held at the YMCA at Pabst Farms, 1750 Valley Road in Oconomowoc. There will be live music by The Hit Men and food will be served by Okauchee's Boy Scout Troop 169. Trophies for first, second and third-place cars are handed

out at 3 p.m. A 50/50 raffle will also be held at that time. Registration to enter a car is \$5 on the day of the event and proceeds go toward the YMCA at Pabst Farms.

Light Up the Lake Celebration comes to downtown Oconomowoc at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20. Enjoy a performance by the Oconomowoc American Legion Band followed by a lighted boat parade on Lac La Belle at 8:30 p.m. and fireworks over Lac La Belle at 9:30 p.m. The event is held at City Beach, 324 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Oconomowoc.



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The last Coon Feed?

Delafield event in jeopardy due to low raccoon pelt prices ▶ 7B



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Thursday, February 3, 2022

gmtoday.com

Summit honors fallen police officers

Former chief, widow recall 1975 murders

By Dan Colton
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262-513-2661

SUMMIT — About 60 people gathered on the evening of Jan. 26 at Summit Village Hall to honor Officer Robert "Rocky" Atkins, Jr. and Officer Wayne Olson, who were ambushed and killed outside the old village hall on Jan. 26, 1975.

A 16-year-old boy was charged with their murders almost 50 years ago. Court records indicate Alan Randall ambushed and killed the two officers behind the Summit Village Hall in the early hours of that morning.

To honor the fallen officers' legacies, the department embarked on a fundraising campaign two years ago to create a memorial in their names. The fundraiser's initial goal was to raise \$1,200; a total of \$7,200 was collected.

About a dozen members of the officers' families attended the stone monument's unveiling. They were joined by Summit police officers, both active duty and retired, along with elected village officials and community members.

The stone memorial — which depicts an artist's rendition of Olson and Atkins — now resides in the Village Hall lobby, which is connected to the police department and government chambers.

Summit Police Department Chaplain Rick Rielley offered a prayer in remembrance.

"This stone monument is a memorial to our entire community and will be cherished by all," Rielley said.

Summit Police Chief Michael Hartert, former Summit Police Chief James Schuyler, Summit Police Captain Steve Schroeder and Atkins's widow, Karen Herbert (formerly Karen Atkins), also addressed those gathered at the ceremony.

Former sergeant recalls event

Former Summit Police Chief James Schuyler was a sergeant with the department at the time of Atkins' and Olson's slayings and spoke with the Enterprise after last Wednesday's memorial ceremony.

See OFFICERS, PAGE 8A



Derek Johnson/Enterprise Staff

Summit Police Chief Michael Hartert speaks during the unveiling ceremony on Jan. 26 for a monument for two Summit officers who lost their lives in the line of duty 47 years ago.

"This stone monument is a memorial to our entire community and will be cherished by all."

— Rick Rielley,
Summit Police Department Chaplain



The monument for two Summit police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty 47 years ago.

Oconomowoc High School's free clothing store has a big heart

By Rebecca Seymour
Special to the Enterprise

OCONOMOWOC — Oconomowoc High School has opened a new thrift store called OCON Luv2Give that offers free, gently-used clothing and accessories of all types and sizes to anyone who stops by.

The store's colorful and eclectic inventory includes unclaimed items from the school district's lost and found, as well as donated clothing from OASD staff.

Looking beyond the racks of clothing, guests will soon discover that the OCON Luv2Give shop offers so much more.

Kristi Staus is a learning strategist in the OHS 18-21 Transition Program that helps students with learning vocational and independent living skills at East Campus and in community settings. She and her team of paraprofessionals and young adults participating in the program work together to run the store, which opened in September.

"OCON Luv2Give is a valuable community and district resource that also offers vocational experiences for our learners in the 18-21 Transition Program. Our students help launder, sort, and inventory all donations, and are responsible for organizing and staffing the store," she explained.

Fabian Garay, 19, helps in the shop as part of the vocational skills and experiences class.

See STORE, PAGE 8A



Rebecca Seymour/Special to the Enterprise

OHS 18-21 Transition Program students CJ Jones, 20 (left) and Fabian Garay, 19, team up to organize a rack of clothing in the OCON Luv2Give store located on the OHS East Campus. Students participating in the vocational skills and experiences class help launder, sort, and inventory all donations, and are responsible for organizing and staffing the store.

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WEATHER

 Friday forecast:
Mostly Cloudy
High 20 / Low 5

See weather statistics on Page 7A.

Fun Things To Do

The Oconomowoc Public Library's Gaming Group meets at 6:30 p.m. on Friday at the library. Activities include Jackbox, Magic the Gathering, video games and more. Gamers between the ages of 12 and 18 are invited. Registration is required, but there is no fee to attend. Visit the Oconomowoc library's online events calendar and click on

the event link to sign up.

Waukesha County has multiple farmers markets this weekend. The Stone Bank Farm Market is scheduled 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. The market sets up at N68-W33208 County Road K and Highway C in Stone Bank. The Waukesha Winter Farmers Market takes place at 231 Main St. in Waukesha

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring the family, explore the market and support local growers while stocking up for the week ahead.

The Hartland Walking Club encourages families with small children to attend the **Wee Walkers Hike** at Nixon Park from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday. The hike, designed for children between the ages of two and eight, will head south on the Ice Age Trail's Hartland Segment. Children must be

accompanied by an adult. The group meets at the park's playground. The event may be canceled due to unsafe weather conditions, including wind chills below zero degrees.

The Milwaukee County Zoo Free Day is scheduled 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Entrance gates close at 3:15 p.m. While entrance into the zoo is free, visitors will still need to pay for parking. Advance registration is not required.



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