

# What's next for WLFD after failed referendum?

▶ See story, Page 2A



# OCONOMOWOC ENTERPRISE

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Thursday, August 18, 2022

gmtoday.com

## 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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**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

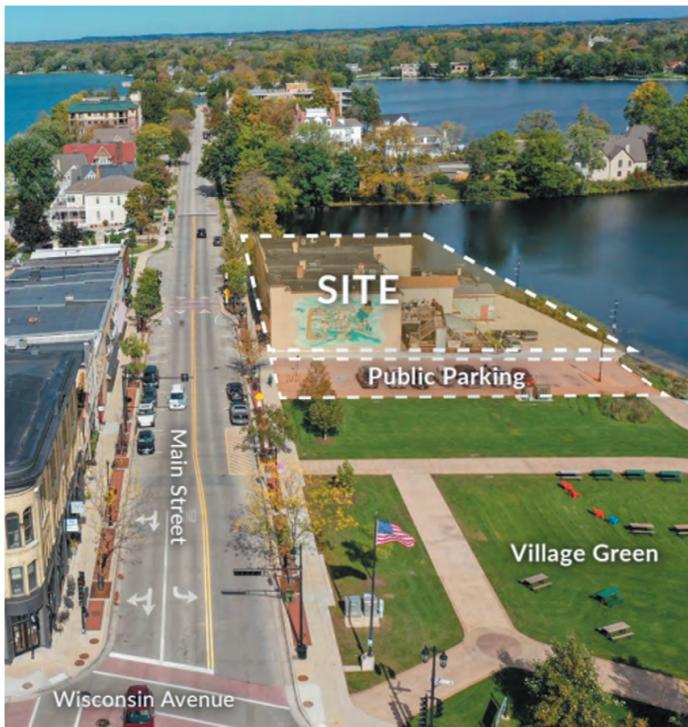


Photo from city of Oconomowoc public documents

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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**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're 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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**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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See Page 6A for a list of graduates and 7A for graduation photos.



## Congratulations High School Graduates

CLASS OF 2022



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Thursday, June 16, 2022

gmtoday.com

## Class of 2022



Sue Boyer/Special to the Enterprise

OCONOMOWOC — Graduate Kathryn Stuckey celebrates the moment and relief of graduation with a classmate at the conclusion of the program on Saturday morning at Rux Stadium. See more photos on Page 7A.

## Schraufnagel resigns from Oconomowoc school board

By Dan Colton  
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OCONOMOWOC — Oconomowoc Area School District School Board member Chad Schraufnagel announced he is resigning from the board in an email Tuesday morning.

According to the email, Schraufnagel said he is resigning to take a position as district administrator for the Lake Country School District.

"The Lake County School District deserves an administrator whose sole focus is on the district and conversely, the Oconomowoc Area School District deserves a board member whose focus is the Oconomowoc Area School District," Schraufnagel wrote. "Therefore, I will be resigning from the Oconomowoc Area School District Board of Education effective June 30th, 2022."

Schraufnagel said he is thankful to have worked with board members and is proud of achieving goals including hiring a new superintendent and listing for sale the for-

mer Meadow View Elementary School property.

"I am grateful for the work that the Board of Education has been able to accomplish in a very short time," Schraufnagel continued. "This board has been able to focus on the work of the district and not personal projects that did not align with the strategic plan and use a policy and governance model that allows for the effective operations of the school district."

According to its policy, remaining members of the board will appoint a new member to replace Schraufnagel following proper public notification.

Schraufnagel was himself first appointed to the board in September 2021 to fill one of several vacancies. At the time, there were three open seats vacated by a contingent of former board members who cited a "toxic and impossible" work environment as rationality for their departures.

Schraufnagel then kept the position by winning one of four seats in the April 2022 election.

## All hail breaks loose



Photo by Jason Curtis/Special to the Enterprise

Friday's hail storm covered the Oconomowoc High School's Rux Stadium in ice and water. Graduation ceremonies were set for Saturday morning at the field, and district employees and community members came together to have the area cleared and ready to go for the next day's event.

## Oconomowoc struck by intense weather, widespread damage reported



Submitted by Manda Christine of Oconomowoc  
Some examples of the pieces of hail that fell on Oconomowoc on Friday.

Dan Colton  
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OCONOMOWOC — Friday's hailstorm left the city covered in a sheen of ice with streets flooded and property damaged after an unexpected, severe and slow-moving weather event struck the area.

Oconomowoc resident Dan Moldenhauer said he'd never seen anything like it before. He was on his way back from the QDOBA Mexican Eats restaurant — about three miles from him Lakeridge Drive home — when the sky opened up.

His car received a few dents before he managed to park it inside his garage to spare it from the storm's worst moments. Some hail was golfball-sized, Moldenhauer said, and the tree canopies' leaves were shredded. The street outside his home became flooded with knee-deep water topped with floating ice.

By the next morning, repair crews — all of whom appeared to be from out of state, Molden-

### Images from the hailstorm

See submitted photos of the hailstorm on today's Page 2A and look for more photos online at: <http://bitly.ws/sfft>

hauer said — were roving his neighborhood and going door-to-door to offer their services. He also reported seeing damage nearly everywhere on his route to work.

"Most of my neighbors are going to get new roofs," he said. "Hopefully it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Stacia Faith moved to Oconomowoc in 2002. She previously lived in Texas and Oklahoma where severe weather often strikes. She said the storm was on-par with any other hailstorm she'd experienced through tornadoes, hurricanes and tropical storms.

See HAIL, PAGE 2A

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### WEATHER



Friday forecast:  
Sunny  
High 79 / Low 54

See weather statistics on Page 8A.

### Fun Things To Do

**The First Congregational UCC Annual Car Show,** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. The free family event includes food, kids activities, a silent auction and raffles. This is a fundraising event for youth mission trips. The event takes place rain or shine.

**Monches Chickenfest,** one of the largest chicken cookouts in

Wisconsin, 2:30 p.m. Saturday. More than 2,000 dinners will be served until 7 p.m., and live music by the Sojourn Rocs is scheduled from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dinners include half a rotisserie chicken, potato salad, coleslaw and a roll. There will be youth baseball and girls fastpitch games throughout the day with kids games and bounce houses available. Pro-

ceeds go to the Monches Recreation Club. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in advance at [monchesrecclub.org](http://monchesrecclub.org). The event is at the Monches Recreation Park at W300-N9223 County Highway E in Hartland.

**Oconomowoc Five Os Baseball Game,** 12 p.m. Sunday, Roosevelt Park Ball Diamond at 630 S. Main St. The Five Os take on the West Bend Spirits. Free to attend.

### Inside



See this month's edition of Waukesha County Home.



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## Track & field teams compete in Classic 8 Relays

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# OCONOMOWOC ENTERPRISE

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Thursday, April 28, 2022

gmtoday.com

# DockHounds ready to play ball

## Q&A with the DockHounds, Lake Country's new pro baseball team

OCONOMOWOC — In just a few short weeks, the first pitch will be thrown for the home opener of the Lake Country DockHounds — the area's very own professional team.

The team's director of marketing and communications, Lisa Kelenic, shared some background on the team with the Enterprise. The home opener on May 20 is already sold out. It will be played against the Winnipeg Goldeyes at Wisconsin Brewing Company Park on Blue Ribbon Circle in Oconomowoc.

For more information and to buy tickets, go to [www.dockhounds.com](http://www.dockhounds.com).

**ENTERPRISE: Why was Oconomowoc chosen as the DockHounds' home city?**

**KELENIC:** It had been a four-year process to evolve to our current home. We had looked at a couple of different leagues, three different locations and through that evolution it became very clear the location in Oconomowoc was going to align best with our goals and vision of what this facility can be. The rich baseball history, the strong community support and the location were all factors.

**ENTERPRISE: There are teams as near as the Milwaukee Milkmen and the Chicago Dogs. Is there an early rival for the DockHounds?**

**KELENIC:** The fun rivalry with the Milwaukee Milk-

men has definitely already started, and it is the perfect start to our season at the Milkmen's field on May 13.

**ENTERPRISE: The Lake Country DockHounds is a team within the American Association of Professional Baseball and is affiliated with Major League Baseball. What kind of partnership does the AAPB share with the MLB?**

**KELENIC:** It is a partnership with the league. We are not affiliated with one specific team. As the MLB made changes to their minor league structure, this really opened up a big lane for MLB teams to leverage the talent pipeline from independent teams and give players a chance for more looks.

**ENTERPRISE: How are players recruited into the DockHounds organization?**

**KELENIC:** There are a variety of lanes players can be identified — scouting reports, current relationships with players and knowledge of their skillset and what they can bring to a team, tryouts etc. Every day the team has access to see who is out in the baseball market — either recently been released or opted to play for an independent team.

**ENTERPRISE: According to the team roster, DockHounds players come from as far away as Taiwan. What attracts them to play in**



Photo provided by the Lake Country DockHounds

An aerial photograph provides a glimpse of the DockHound's Wisconsin Brewing Company Park on Blue Ribbon Circle. Work at the site is continuing ahead of the May 20 home-opener against the Winnipeg Goldeyes.

### Lake Country?

**KELENIC:** Each player who travels internationally to play — the number one reason is their passion for the game and seeking the best opportunities for them to best advance their baseball career. The uniqueness of being part of a brand new team in a community who has been so welcoming and excited for the DockHounds to start their first season.

**ENTERPRISE: Are players encouraged to engage with the Oconomowoc community, and if so, how?**

**KELENIC:** Most definitely.

Players will always share how much they feed off the energy from the fans at the games and that only strengthens when they are engaged with the community off the field. They will participate in player appearances at schools, businesses or community events. Many are staying with host families and will have a chance to get more familiar with the community through those relationships, signing autographs and speaking with fans, or interacting with kids at the games.

**ENTERPRISE: The stadium, Wisconsin Brewing**

**Company Park, is slated to include a brewery of its own. Will there be a special DockHounds variety of beer?**

**KELENIC:** The brewery will include a five-barrel brewhouse located on-site that will have eight different batches brewing at all times. This brewhouse team is committed to creating popular tastes that has the craft beer world buzzing about. The DockHounds will feature its very own Louie's Walk Off Lager, that will be available at the stadium and also at local stores, along with favorites from Wisconsin Brewing

Company and Lake Louie.

**ENTERPRISE: Did Colt, the DockHounds' bat-retrieving dog, require any special training?**

**KELENIC:** Colt has been trained by Kate, local trainer and owner of KC K9 Training Academy. He has been featured on "America's Top Dog" show. He has competed nationally in a number of different obstacles, endurance, skill competitions. He has been the Bat Dog for Madison Mallards for a number of years and is very excited to be performing in his hometown of Oconomowoc.

## A team of their own

Rasberry, Clarke and Kelenic join a wave of women getting involved in sports, as they form the all-woman front office for the Lake Country DockHounds

By Michael Grennell  
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This summer will mark the 30th anniversary of the release of the movie, "A League of Their Own," which highlighted the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League that ran from 1943 through 1954.

That movie is generally seen as one of the

main inspirations for a growing interest to pursue careers within baseball among girls. And in recent years, there has been a steady increase in the number of women playing a major role within the sport. In 2021, Kim Ng became the first woman to be named general manager of a Major League Baseball team when she was hired by the Miami Marlins.

See **DOCKHOUNDS**, PAGE 6A



Photos provided by the Lake Country DockHounds

The DockHounds front office is comprised of three women. From left to right: General Manager Trish Rasberry, Assistant General Manager Noelle Clarke and Communications and Marketing Director Lisa Kelenic.

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### WEATHER

**Friday forecast:**  
Mostly Cloudy  
High 53 / Low 43

See weather statistics on Page 5A.

### Fun Things To Do

**The Etcetera Bar and Grill's Bag Toss tournament returns Saturday.** Teams consist of two people and a \$20 registration fee is required. First and second place earn rewards, and drink specials will be on hand. The Etcetera Bar and Grill is located at 118 E. Wisconsin Ave. in Oconomowoc. Call 262-569-2734 for more information.

**The Ashippun Lions Club All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast,** 8 a.m. to

1 p.m. Sunday, Pribnow's Maple Inn, N887 Highway 67, Ashippun. \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 4 through 10. Children under 4 eat free. The breakfast includes sausage, eggs, beverages and homemade desserts. Bring a food donation for the Ashippun Food Pantry drive. All proceeds go toward Lions' projects.

**Vino Etc. Open Mic is back** at 6 p.m. Tuesday. Sign-up is at 5:30 p.m., and all

genres are encouraged to participate. **Vino Etc.** is located at 120 E. Wisconsin Ave.

**Art show,** 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Fish Hatchery Building, 417 Main St., Delafield. Original art for sale. Presented by Erinwood Artists.

**The Okauchee Lions' Super Flea Market** is happening 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 21. It is located at the Okauchee Lions Park.



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