

LOWER WISCONSIN RIVER

VALLEY SENTINEL

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Spring Green, Wisconsin

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Cranes gather on the Wisconsin River ahead of migration as legislators debate their status as game animals



Photo by Nicole Aimone, *Editor-in-Chief*

On Saturday, the Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC) hosted a sandhill crane viewing in the town of Troy just north of Spring Green to view thousands of cranes making their journey from area agricultural fields to overnight on the safety of the sandbars as they prepare for their southward winter migration.

A bill recently introduced in the Wisconsin State Legislature, Senate Bill 620, would authorize the hunting of sandhill cranes.

Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) recently announced in a statement that he has registered his opposition to Senate Bill 620 and will be voting “no” on the issue.

Pictured at left: Attendees react as the first flocks of cranes circle the sandbars to overnight the evening of Nov. 6.

Arena sells Oak Street property, passes camping ordinance, contracts \$125,000 to drill test well

Adeline Holte, *Editorial Intern*

The Village of Arena held a board meeting on Nov. 2 to discuss the selling of properties on Oak Street in the village, drilling a test well for the planned second well and to pass their annual budget.

One of the main action items discussed in the meeting was whether or not to accept an offer for the sale of the village’s property at 516 Oak Street, which previously housed the Crusaders Clubhouse motorcycle club. Initially the village had been asking \$28,000 to \$32,000 for the property, but they received an offer of \$34,000 for the property from Robert Bendtsen. The village will still need to do a survey, with the closing scheduled for Nov. 19. A motion was made by Kristin Shea and seconded by Charles Burch to accept the offer to purchase 516 Oak Street in the Village of Arena and passed unanimously, 5-0, with Jim Doerflinger and Paul Pustina absent.

The board also took action to sell a parcel at 0124 Oak Street via quit claim deed to Rick Kerska and Sean Crook. The board made a motion back in 1993 to sell the property for \$1.00, though the paperwork was not finished. The property was formerly a fire station and salt shed. Kerska/Crook have been utilizing it for their renters at 504 Oak Street.

The next item discussed was an ordinance relating to camping. The ordinance had been taken up at last month’s meeting, but was sent to the village attorney and brought back with grammatical errors fixed and some slight clarifications.

Shea expressed concern that the ordinance could be considered an overreach, affecting being able to camp on private property over the summer. Shea expressed that she felt people should be able to and asked if police were expected to enforce the ordinance.

“I don’t understand why we need an ordinance like that, because it seems like you’re denying somebody their personal property rights,” Shea stated.

Arena Police Chief Nicholas Stroik reassured Shea that the village is not trying to prevent anyone from enjoying their property, and that the concern was people who do not take up residence in the Village of Arena but take up residence by staying in a camper or a tent on private property throughout the year. Stroik stated there have been complaints over the years because of this and that it has been called a nuisance in the past. A motion was made by Shea and seconded by Rachel Maxwell to approve the ordinance related to camping, passing unanimously, 5-0, with Doerflinger and Pustina absent.

The board unanimously adopted their 2022 annual budget and established the 2021 property tax levy payable in 2022. After hearing no public comment during the public budget hearing, the board approved a \$372,377 levy (excluding debt), a 0.31% (or \$1,186) increase over last year. The debt service levy decreased by \$3,350 (or 5%) compared to 2021 due to a loan on the Fire Station being paid off.

According to the budget overview by Village Clerk DeNean Naeger, the proposed budget includes \$3,644 capital police outlay but nothing for buildings or equipment.

“Due to levy limits, it is impractical for the Village to save adequate funds each year to fund the purchase of vehicles/facility improvements. This would transition to funding such purchases through shorter term borrows,” said Naeger in the overview.

The board also reviewed the sole bid that had been submitted for the contract to drill a test well that would evaluate the location of a second well for the village. Sam’s Well Drilling, Inc., of Randolph, WI, submitted a bid in the amount of \$124,870.00. The bid is 36% (or \$32,735) higher than the village engineer’s estimate submitted in August, but still within contingency.

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Spring Green EMS vaccinates 5-11 year olds for COVID-19 as Pfizer gains authorization

Photo by Nicole Aimone, *Editor-in-Chief*

On Friday evening, the Spring Green Fire Station opened its doors to a large crowd of families seeking Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines after its recent authorization for children 5-11 years old.

Every available slot was taken for the vaccination event. EMS Chief Derek Miller said the department has the immediate capacity to vaccinate 300 children in the community and is planning on holding more events for kids to be vaccinated.

The next pediatric Pfizer vaccination event for 1st shots is on Sunday Nov. 14 from 3 to 5 pm.

Parents can go to [springgreenems.com](https://springgreenems.com) for more information and to book appointments.

Pictured at right: Kids explore the fire engines, ambulance and other equipment at the Spring Green Fire Station Nov. 5 as they wait for their COVID vaccinations.





# RVRC Girls Swimming competes in sectionals, Harper qualifies for State

Mike Nachreiner, RVRC Girl's Swimming Coach

Last Saturday the RVRC Swim Team competed at the Sectional Swim Meet in Deforest. The RVRC Swimmers represented their schools well. RVRC finished 9th out of 14 teams beating Lodi/ WI Heights, Fort Atkinson, Portage, Black River Falls/Blair Taylor and Platteville/ Lancaster. The top 16 times out of the 4 sectionals move on to the State Meet which is Friday, November 12th. Beverly Harper qualified for the State Swim Meet in the 50 yard freestyle seeded 11th and in the 100 yard freestyle seeded 14th. The 200 free relay finished tied for 18th, just missed qualifying for State by 2 spots with Bobbi DuCharme, Kris Langrehr, Megan Nachreiner and Beverly Harper.

The meet started out with the 200 Medley Relay. The RVRC team of Lily Saperstein, Beverly Harper, Megan Nachreiner and Bobbi DuCharme finished 8th and had the best time of the season for RVRC. DuCharme's 50 split in the relay was a personal best. Nachreiner and Harper clock season best time in the splits of the butterfly and breaststroke, respectively. The fast swimming continued for the team in the next event, the 200 yard freestyle. Senior Elizabeth Jewell had her second

best time of her swim career and Bobbi DuCharme, Charlotte Ferstl and Marissa Needham all clocking personal best times. Next up was Lily Saperstein in the 200 Individual Medley swimming a personal best. Next up was Beverly Harper is the 50 freestyle finishing 6th in the meet and qualifying for state swimming a personal best time of 24.85. RVRC's next swim was Kris Langrehr in the 100 butterfly who finished 16th and scoring points for the team. The next event was the 100 freestyle. Beverly Harper finished 6th in the meet and qualified for State with a time of 55.12. Bobbi DuCharme swam a personal best time of 58.17 along with Alivia Glasbrenner with a time of 1:04.98. In the 500 freestyle, Megan Nachreiner finished in scoring position at 14th. Marissa Needham finished 21st and Charlotte Ferstl finished 22nd swimming a personal best time of 6:25.01. In the next event, the 200 yard freestyle, the team of Bobbi DuCharme, Kris Langrehr, Megan Nachreiner and Beverly Harper had RVRC's best time of the season with a 1:46.64 and missing qualifying for State by 2 positions. In the 100 yard backstroke Megan Nachreiner missed a season best time by less than a second, but scored for RVRC finishing at 16th. Lily Saperstein finished 20th. Alivia Glasbrenner swam



Photo by Mike Nachreiner  
Lily Saperstein swimming the backstroke portion of her 200 yard Individual Medley. Saperstein clocked a personal best time in this race.

next in the 100 breaststroke finishing 24th overall and Molly Peckham scored points in the same event taking 15th overall with a season best time of 1:19.79. The last event was the 400 yard free relay. RVRC's team of Marissa Needham, Charlotte Ferstl, Lily Saperstein and Kris Langrehr finished 11th overall with Ferstl clocking a personal best time of 1:06.81 in her 100 yard split. Coach Nachreiner said, "It was very good season. The team had great attitudes and

worked hard all season long. We had great leadership from our Seniors Beverly Harper, Kris Langrehr, Molly Peckam and Elizabeth Jewell. I am happy with the effort that all the swimmers gave in practice and in every meet. We finished the season with a winning record with 4 wins and 2 losses, finished well in all four invitational, getting several personal best time in every meet including Sectionals and qualified a swimmer in 2 State events."

## Arena to hold special board meeting Nov. 16

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According to Naeger, three other contractors expressed interest in bidding but were deterred by a backlog of well drillings in the industry and the ambitious construction schedule set by the village. MSA stated they had worked with Sam's Well Drilling, Inc. in the past and described them as qualified. The contract was awarded by unanimous vote of the board.

Also discussed and approved is a special board meeting to be held Nov. 16 at 7pm to update engineering firm MSA on the sewer project the village is undertaking. Shea stated she will not be able to attend the meeting. Gravity sewer fieldwork for Sharon Street and High Street corridors is currently finished, so the preliminary design has started. Sewer depths will be 20 feet, and another alternative is being considered for South Street and Willow Street. Public Works and MSA have already met and discussed the current lift station facilities and flow data. There is a need to upgrade the lift station capabilities on Pine Street from 7.5 horsepower to 30 horsepower. Cost estimate, design exhibits and recommendations will all be discussed at the Nov. 16 special board meeting.

The board heard that Public Works had discussed with MSA the possible cost for a resurfacing project on Village Edge Road that would include an asphalt path, with the total estimated cost being \$332,000. The project will be submitted to the Local Road

Improvement Program for 50% funding. The application is due to the Iowa County Highway Commissioner on Nov. 20. The part of the project that stretches between Lois Lane and Fortier Road will need Town of Arena approval as well. A motion was made by Kathy Stoltz to submit the grant application for the project and was seconded by Shea.

Also discussed was a recommendation from the Plan Commission to approve an ordinance to subdivide lots on Sharon Street and rezone them from Agricultural to Single Family Residential. Motion from Stoltz and seconded from Shea to approve, with the board passing the ordinance 6-0, with Doerflinger arriving at the meeting.

### Other selected actions/discussions by the board

—Historians thanked the village and board for the use of the room in the Village Hall they were previously able to use until they could find a new home at the redeveloped ACES building that previously housed the elementary school.

—The board was reminded that emails shouldn't be sent between board members due to potential violations of open meetings law and were reminded to email Naeger with questions.

—The monthly Police Report stated that the highest driving speed in the Village of Arena this month was 97 mph on Highway 14.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be no new Valley Sentinel published the week of Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Happy Holidays!

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