

Isakson delivers final State of the City Address, sharing Theater has sold

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After becoming Mayor of Amery two terms ago, Paul Isakson implemented annual "State of the City Addresses" into the first Community Club meeting of each year to update residents on what has been tackled each year and what items have been placed on a list for the upcoming year.

Isakson is not running for another term, so January 10, he gave what was his final Address. Points of interest included the Mayor sharing the news that the Amery Theater has been bought and will once again show movies, which assists in Main Street being approximately 90 percent occupied currently. Isakson said there is also interest in the old Amery Bakery building.

Isakson said, "I think by the end of the summer we will have a complete downtown. If you go through any other small town in this part of the state, it is not completely full."

He shared millions of dollars have been invested in the City. "Bremer built a new building and moved in May of 2021 and we started the new City Center renovation. We needed a road into the South Industrial Park, it has been started and will be finished this summer. We finished the D.O.T. project October 30. Of this, a total of 13.5 million dollars has been invested in Amery infrastructure and development," said Isakson.

He said City Hall's move to the new location will begin January 17 and the investors interested in the current Dog Park location have stepped away.

"The downtown water/sewer project and the South Industrial Park will be completely paid for by TIFF 6 funds without raising anyone's taxes in Amery. However, we did have to go along with bonds and a loan was taken out for the City Center. The loan rate was .73 percent interest, which is very nice," Isakson said.

The Mayor shared the projects still being worked on are hotel development, recycling and finishing up 5K and 2K walk loops.

New items for 2022 include workforce housing, garbage drop off, an "Amery Cam" showing downtown Amery 24 hours a day, sidewalks on Hillcrest, downtown beautification, developing daycare options and cross-marketing of agritourism and Amery businesses.

Semi Annual Homeless Count, January 26, 2022

The Salvation Army of Polk County will be participating in the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care Point in Time Homeless Count on the evening of January 26, 2022. The Balance of State Continuum is an organization of homeless service providers in the state of Wisconsin. Each local area will count the homeless who are either sheltered in a facility or unsheltered and living on the streets. In a typical year, the Point in Time count simultaneously occurs in each county in January and July nationwide.

Volunteers will canvas the streets of Wisconsin communities to determine how many individuals are going unsheltered. The volunteers are equipped with the knowledge to assist those individuals in getting connected to local resources for food and shelter. Each community submits their counts for sheltered and unsheltered persons in each county for that night. Those numbers are then used to determine if current services are meeting the needs of those who are homeless.

Volunteers are needed county wide. If you would like to help in this effort, please contact Duana 715-338-9413 or duana.bremer@usc.salvationarmy.org. To learn more about the Balance of State Continuum, please visit www.boscoc.org.



CONTRIBUTED

Al and Lou Ann Schock are pictured at a Green Bay Packer game with children, children-in-law and grandchildren.

SCHOCKS: Thankful to have family time at Lambeau

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Champion title at Super Bowl 1, a young Packer loving couple, the Schocks, decided if they ever wanted season tickets, they better get on the long waiting list. Little did they know, it would be a longer wait than they bargained for.

The Schocks have always been big Packer fans. Al said, "When I was a kid, my father was a huge Packer fan. He was a linesman for NSP and taught me how to climb poles. This was useful to him, because he would have me climb a pole to turn the tv antenna to get the Packers on the set as they were being broadcast out of La Crosse. At the end, I would have to turn it back again."

Al remembers fondly his first game. He said, "It was 1969. We went to Memorial Stadium and saw the Packers play the Vikings. My cousin Oscar got four tickets for my father, brothers and myself."

In 1976 Al and Lou Ann were pregnant with their first child. They had saved up extra money they earned caring for a lawn and took a trip to Mackinac Island and Door County, making a stop at Lambeau Field. "The stadium was open, and we walked around, at that time we were even able to go out on the grass. These days, you do not go on the grass," said Al.

They decided to go to the ticket booth and sign up for season tickets because they knew it could take 20 years to get them. "I can still remember it plain as day. We walked up to a little plate-glass window with a little hole to talk through. We said we wanted tickets and they guy reached from his desk and pulled out a legal pad and asked how many we would like. Being young and foolish, I replied I wanted eight because I thought it would be nice to have six kids," he said with a laugh.

Lou Ann shared his chuckle saying, "After three kids, I said we had enough."

While ordering their eight tickets they recalled a woman walking into the office. Al said, "She was dressed to the hilt. When she walked in everyone in the office stood up. She nudged me over, leaned in and said there would be no practice that day and walked out. After she left, every sat down and she drove away in a Lincoln. It turns out it was Bart Starr's wife."

Before leaving, the Schocks gave their name, address and phone number and asked when they would hear something. "In about twenty years, you should get a call," responded the attendant.

A portion of Packer games used to be played in Milwaukee at County Stadium, when it closed, the couple thought it was surely time to be getting their tickets as it had been over twenty years. Al said, "I called up the Packer office and said I was looking for my tickets. They replied that I didn't have any."

"When they moved the names from the legal pad to the computer, we got missed and had to re-sign up," said Lou Ann.

"I called, and I was irate. I went through three operators and the last one hung up on me, but we did get our names back on the list," Al said.

When they re-signed, the limit had been cut down to four and they had the two of them and their three kids, Heidi, Heather and Brody. They decided to sign each kid up as well for four tickets a piece, making a total of 16 tickets.

Every year after that, the Schocks would get a postcard saying what their number was in terms of being "in line" for season tickets. It started close to 30,000. "We really thought we would never get them," Lou Ann said.

During their long wait Al and Lou Ann instilled their love for the team into their kids. They regularly packed up as a family and headed to Lambeau. Lou Ann said, "When the kids were still at home, we went 4 ½ years never missing a game including playoffs. We would just buy tickets in the parking lot where people sold them for face value. You would just hold up a sign showing you wanted tickets. Brody used to have the best luck getting us tickets as people thought it was so cute that this little boy wanted to see the Packers."

One time it was Al though, who secured the family's tickets. "I have a problem that every time the wind blows, my eyes water, so I would be standing there with my sign asking for tickets, looking like I was crying. A guy walked past four different people to sell to me because he felt I wanted them worse than anyone else because of much the tears were rolling down my face."

In 2020 the notice finally came they had been waiting over 44 years to get, but all great stories have an unexpected twist at the end, and a pandemic was one the Schocks did not see coming. Because of COVID-19, the first year they were eligible to attend, the Schocks could not go watch the Packers.

2021, 45 years after first signing up, was finally a year for the entire family to take their 16 tickets and attend. Lou Ann said, "The first game was so fun as each kid came rolling in. Our tickets are not all together; Heather got the best and always ends up on the Jumbotron, the rest of us are up high but we still have a fantastic time!"

Other than Al's knee replacement setting off the metal detectors each time they enter the stadium, the Schocks feel very grateful after 45 years to have their tickets and agree it was worth the wait. Lou Ann said, "When you live in Wisconsin, you've got to love the Packers!"

HELICOPTERS: Project will be finished in few weeks

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Sometimes the need for overhead distribution over long rural passes or rugged mountain landscape makes it impossible for traditional trucks and rigging. Aerial

lineman are usually responsible for installing, repairing, and maintaining overhead electrical power lines and auxiliary equipment.

With no path to ground, the linemen can safely work on live conductors

without taking a costly outage. The productivity of helicopters crews is noticeable. Rather than having to find road or ground access, an aerial lineman can be dropped in strategic locations. Linemen then inspect,

construct, and repair and upgrade transmission lines.

The Highway 8 project began in December and should reach completion within approximately the next two weeks.