

))news

Stable Growth All Year Long *continued from page 1*

Collections by Municipality

Municipality	Total Room-Tax Revenue
Gibraltar	\$998,929
Sister Bay	\$985,676
Sturgeon Bay	\$927,469
Ephraim	\$832,686
Town of Egg Harbor	\$658,484
Baileys Harbor	\$588,730
Village of Egg Harbor	\$569,805
Town of Liberty Grove	\$548,792
Sevastopol	\$475,286
Nasawaupee	\$202,516
Jacksonport	\$172,068
Washington Island	\$133,397
Town of Sturgeon Bay	\$69,071
Gardner	\$67,819
Union	\$22,287
Clay Banks	\$11,310
Town of Forestville	\$2,448
Village of Forestville, Brussels	\$0

Open Hearth's general manager, John Zacek, said growth was consistent all year long.

"Even with our 13 additional rooms, our occupancy rate across the board was higher than in 2019," he said. "We were a little surprised."

Zacek said it's too soon to consider 2021 the new baseline, but he's hopeful.

"I'm skeptical based on conversations I've had with customers," he said. "A lot

of people were coming here for the first time and said they came because other travel was limited."

But that also means a lot of travelers were introduced to the county for the first time and may return. In addition, Zacek points to the growth of Door County as a wedding destination – particularly the Northern Haus venue down the road from Open Hearth – as well as events such as

the Christkindlmarkt, which brought many December visitors. One reason to believe the trend will continue? Advance bookings are up for his business.

"So many people have been turned down because of lack of availability that people have been trained to book earlier," Zacek said, which reverses a two-decade trend toward last-minute bookings.

Gonzalez Allegedly Started Fire By Spilling Lighter Fluid *continued from page 1*



The demolition of the Butch's Bar building leaves a space on the corner of 3rd Avenue and Nebraska Street that has not existed since 1919, when the Butch's Bar building was constructed. The bodies of the two men who died in the Butch's Bar fire having been recovered, the building was demolished and reduced to a pile of rubble. Photo by Rachel Lukas.

a request also made via Zoom by family members of one of the deceased.

Ehlers said that although he appreciated Henry's arguments in favor of a lower bond, he couldn't lower it given the seriousness of the charges and the penalties those charges carried. All eight charges added together carry a maximum sentence of 135 years, repeater penalties included, and fines of up to \$335,000.

"If there were ever a potential to abscond, that would be the circumstances," Ehlers said. "[A] \$250,000 cash bond is significant, but I'm not going to be revising that. It's appropriate, reasonable and necessary."

Gonzalez Accused of Starting Fire with Lighter Fluid

According to the criminal complaint, police dispatch was alerted to the fire at 3:37 am on Feb. 22, and Sergeant Kyle Engesobe of the Sturgeon Bay Police Department was the first on the scene. He witnessed smoke billowing from the building and flames coming from the side. At the front of the building closest to 3rd Avenue, a man would be rescued by the Sturgeon Bay Fire Department ladder truck out of a second-floor window. He was taken to a Milwaukee-area hospital for significant burns and smoke inhalation.

Gonzales had lived in Sturgeon Bay since 2014, and in Butch's Bar's room 3 for the past two years. He exited the building the night of the fire and allegedly told responding officers that he "spilled lighter fluid on my bed" while trying to light a lighter that was "like a Zippo," according to the complaint.

The statement Gonzales gave investigators later, according to the complaint, was that he fell asleep while watching TV and woke up during the early-morning hours wanting a cigarette. He grabbed the closest lighter, which he described as a "torch-type lighter," according to the complaint.

The lighter was out of fluid, so Gonzales allegedly grabbed the can of fuel to fill up the lighter off the table next to his bed, and while still in bed, attempted to fill the lighter. He allegedly said he could not see very well and started spraying fluid all over while trying to fill the lighter, getting some on his hands and the corner of the mattress.

Once he got the fuel in the lighter properly, according to the complaint, he struck the lighter once to light his cigarette, but it did not light. He struck it again, according to the complaint, at "which point his hands caught fire, and the corner of the mattress also caught on fire."

Gonzalez allegedly tried to stifle the fire with a pillow. When that didn't

work, he pulled the fire extinguisher off the wall of his room, and "he thought he pulled out the pin and used the extinguisher on the fire on the bed," according to the complaint, but "the next thing he knew, there was smoke coming from the ceiling."

Gonzalez allegedly pounded on a neighboring tenant's door, who attempted to help put out the fire, but it was too hot by that time to enter the room.

Gonzalez denied being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, according to the complaint.

In addition to the cash-bond requirement, Gonzales was ordered not to have any contact with the other residents of the building or the relatives of the two deceased men who were recovered from the fire scene – the first on Feb. 22, the second on Feb. 24.

Gonzalez's preliminary hearing will be held March 31, 1:15 pm, in Door County Circuit Court.

DOOR COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

Those municipalities that publish their legal notices with us are indicated below with "LEGALS."

COUNTY OF DOOR, POP. 28,650 - LEGALS
co.door.wi.gov
920.746.2200

County Board meets 4th Tuesday of month
City Clerk: Jill Lau
jlau@co.door.wi.us

TOWN OF BAILEYS HARBOR, POP. 1,069 - LEGALS

baileysharborwi.org
920.839.9509
Town Board meets 2nd Monday of month
Clerk: Haley Adams

admin@townofbaileysharborwi.org

TOWN OF BRUSSELS, POP. 1,129

townofbrussels.com
920.825.7618
Town Board meets 2nd Wednesday of month
Clerk: JoAnn Neinas

jonein789@centurytel.net

TOWN OF CLAY BANKS, POP. 392

townofclaybanks.org
920.495.7383
Town Board meets 2nd Monday of month
Clerk: Jessica Bongle

townofclaybanks@gmail.com

TOWN OF EGG HARBOR, POP. 1,404

townofeggharbor.org 920.745.6141
Town Board meets 3rd Monday of month
Clerk: Pam Krauel

clerk@townofeggharbor.org

VILLAGE OF EGG HARBOR, POP. 207 - LEGALS

villageofeggharbor.org
920.868.3334
Village Board meets 2nd Monday of month
Clerk: Lynn Ohnesorge

lohnesorge@villageofeggharbor.org

VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM, POP. 288 - LEGALS

ephrain-wisconsin.com
920.854.5501
Village board meets 2nd Tuesday of month
Clerk/Treasurer: Andrea Collak

acollak@ephrain-wisconsin.com

TOWN OF FORESTVILLE, POP. 1,109

forestvilletown.com
920.856.6551
1364 Mill Road, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Town board meets 3rd Monday of month

Clerk: Ruth Kerscher

clerk@forestvilletown.com

VILLAGE OF FORESTVILLE, POP. 427

villageofforestville.com
920.366.3640
Village board meets 3rd Monday of month
Clerk: Tiffany Dufek

villageclerk@centurylink.net

TOWN OF GARDNER, POP. 1,228 - LEGALS

townofgardner.org
920.825.1157
Town board meets 2nd Wednesday of month
Clerk: Amy Sacotte

togclerk@townofgardner.org

TOWN OF GIBRALTAR, POP. 1,057 - LEGALS

gibraltarwi.gov 920.868.1714
Town board meets 1st Wednesday of month
Clerk: Kelly Murre

clerk@townofgibraltar.us

TOWN OF JACKSONPORT, POP. 727 - LEGALS

jacksonport.org
920.823.8136
Town board meets 4th Tuesday of month
Clerk/Treasurer: Theresa Cain-Bieri

jtownclerk@portfd.com

TOWN OF LIBERTY GROVE, POP. 1,783 - LEGALS

libertygrove.org 920.854.2934
Town board meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of month

Clerk/Treasurer: Anastasia Bell

tlibertygrove@gmail.com

TOWN OF NASAWAUPEE, POP. 2,114

townofnasawaupee.com 920.495.0920
Town board meets 3rd Thursday of month
Meetings: 3388 Cty PD

Clerk: Jill M. Lau

nasawaupeeclerk@gmail.com

TOWN OF SEVASTOPOL, POP. 2,743 - LEGALS

townofsevastopol.com
920.746.1230
Town board meets on the 3rd Monday of month
Clerk/treasurer: Amy M. Flok

office@townofsevastopol.com

VILLAGE OF SISTER BAY, POP. 966 - LEGALS

sisterbaywi.org 920.854.4118
Village board meets 3rd Tuesday of month
Clerk: Heidi Teich

info@sisterbaywi.gov

CITY OF STURGEON BAY, POP. 9,467

sturgeonbaywi.org 920.746.2900
Common Council meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of month
Clerk: Stephanie Reinhardt

info@sturgeonbaywi.org

TOWN OF STURGEON BAY, POP. 826 - LEGALS

townofsturgeonbayus
920.743.3908
Town board meets 1st Monday of month
Clerk: Nancy Anschutz

nanschutz@yahoo.com

TOWN OF UNION, POP. 995

sites.google.com/site/townofuniondoor/home
920.866.8011
Town board meets 2nd Wednesday of month
Clerk: Beth Hanson

unionclerk026@gmail.com

TOWN OF WASHINGTON, POP. 719

washingtonisland-wi.gov
Town board meets 3rd Wednesday of month
Clerk/Treasurer: Alexandria McDonald

townoffice@washingtonisland-wi.gov

STURGEON BAY

Hands Off Sawyer Park Boat Launch, Nault Says And council agrees



The alternate sites shown on this map of the Sawyer Park boat launch parking area have been taken off the menu of potential locations for a NERR headquarters site. Only the Public Pavilion and green space behind it (shown above, left) are at play. Source: City of Sturgeon Bay.

by DEBRA FITZGERALD
debra.fitz@ppulse.com

Of the sites the City of Sturgeon Bay has identified as potential National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) headquarters locations, the 190-stall parking area of the Sawyer Park boat launch will be eliminated following a strong argument made by one alder who swayed the rest. Sturgeon Bay has been working during the past year on its pitch to become the NERR site.

"One of the things we think we need to do is some of the heavy work and share with the NERR site-selection committee [at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay] a kind of menu of sites located within the city" that could be used, said Josh VanLieshout, city administrator. The identified city-owned sites were Sunset Park, the Yacht Club property and Sawyer Park. The city is also querying owners of other sites. These include the privately owned Shipyard Development property near Martin Park and the former vacant Younkers building at 56 N. 4th Ave. that's owned by the County of Door. The county recently revealed that it did not have a use for the building that it purchased in 2019 for \$505,000.

A NERR facility would make improvements to underserved areas of Sunset Park, VanLieshout said, and the land the city owns at the Yacht Club is

vacant and undeveloped. The Sawyer Park boat launch site was considered because of its location next to the Department of Natural Resources site.

Alder Gary Nault said during the Common Council's March 1 meeting that he was "shocked" to see the Sawyer Park boat launch on the menu. Nault took the council all the way back to the 1980s, when the city bought the land and received state and federal grants to turn it into a launching site. The grants were funded by user fees, and to this day, the operation and maintenance of the site is funded by boaters and anglers.

"It's known as one of the best launching ramps on Lake Michigan," he said, and it brought in \$54,000 in 2021 in launching fees. The fishing tournaments that bring in anglers from around the country and the increase in recreational boating all help to fuel Sturgeon Bay's economy. "This is not the time to start cutting space in our very popular ramp," Nault said. "It's time to start looking for more [boat launch areas]."

The council voted to amend the Sawyer Park listing so that it remains on the site-selection menu, but only the green-space portion, not any of the parking.

The decision puts the sites on a list of potential locations for a NERR. If Sturgeon Bay were selected, any negotiations for any of the city-owned parcels would return to the council for deliberation.

))business

Proposed Development at Woldt's Corner Includes Starbucks

by DEBRA FITZGERALD
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A developer is interested in constructing a three-unit commercial building with a Starbucks on the Sturgeon Bay corner that's home to Woldt's Corner Pub.

"Right now we have a set of plans," said Christopher Robinson-Sullivan, City of Sturgeon Bay planner and zoning administrator. "They're asking questions to make sure they've met general zoning codes."

The national coffeehouse and roastery chain would anchor the development.

"There's two other tenant spaces that we don't know anything about," Robinson-Sullivan said.

The restaurant located on the busy corner of South Duluth Avenue and Highway 42/57 has been closed since last year, but on the market for longer than that. Rumors of a sale were rampant

but not supported by official real estate transactions, and they still aren't. The property remains on local and digital real estate sites as an active listing for \$1.1 million. City officials said the sale would take place, as such sales normally do, once all approvals had been secured.

At this early conceptual phase, the Woldt's Corner Pub building would be razed; six smaller rental units behind the pub building would be moved; and a two-story home that's also behind the pub building would remain.

The development could be on the agenda for the plan commission's next meeting, which is scheduled for March 30, Robinson-Sullivan said.

The development is an allowed use at the site, which is zoned for general commercial, but the plans show a drive-through window and that requires a conditional use permit (CUP) from the city's plan commission.

BUSINESS briefs

NEW EQUIPMENT INCREASES PRODUCTION AT SEAQUIST

Seaquist Orchards has increased its production by 40% with a new conveyor that no longer requires the manual inversion of jars during the canning process of jams, salsas, pie fillings and other products.



Cole and Lisa Seaquist.

"Prior to this equipment [conveyor line], we were manually flipping jars over on baking sheets and then flipping them over again after they finished their inversion [cooling] time," said Cole Seaquist, co-owner and canning operations manager at Seaquist Orchards. "This equipment completes the inversion time immediately after the capper

STURGEON BAY

Farmers Market Management Transferred

by DEBRA FITZGERALD
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The Sturgeon Bay Common Council unanimously transferred management of the Sturgeon Bay Farmers Market to Destination Sturgeon Bay (DSB) beginning with this year's season, which runs every Saturday, June 4 – Oct. 15, 8 am – 12 pm.

"DSB looks forward to increasing communication with the Farmers Market vendors, filling vacant booth spots with daily vendors on a weekly basis, increasing the Sturgeon Bay Farmers Market promotional and marketing efforts, and providing a positive impact on a weekly event that is so important for our community," said Cameryn Ehlers-Kwaterski, DSB's executive director.

Transferring the management to the professional marketing and event organization was seen as a good move by all parties, including the market's regular vendors. What hadn't been embraced by a number of regular vendors were the plans DSB rolled out a month ago for a change in the location from Market Square to 3rd Avenue. The vendors said at that time they were caught by surprise and confused as to how it would work logistically with vehicles, setup and teardown.

"I think there was a lot of disappointment in the beginning because this started on social media, so I think it put a bad taste in everyone's mouth," said Alder Kirsten Reeths.

Ehlers-Kwaterski agreed that the original plan was "a bit premature," but she said they've made positive steps since then to increase communication with the vendors.

"Don't give up; don't take anything personally; and don't take no for an answer. You never know what you're going to learn along the way." SOPHIA AMORUSO

The city is currently updating its codes, and that drive-through CUP requirement could be eliminated. If that were the case by the time the developer submits official preliminary plans, those plans would need to make only one public stop in front of the city's Aesthetic Design and Site Plan Review Committee.

A Starbucks is currently located a short distance away, inside Target. Robinson-Sullivan said Starbucks has separate agreements with Targets and would not move out of that store if the free-standing store were built.

(From top right) The Woldt's Corner Pub building would be replaced by a three-unit commercial structure anchored by a Starbucks if conceptual plans viewed by the City of Sturgeon Bay become a reality. Photo by D.A. Fitzgerald.

The real estate has not been sold yet, according to both local and digital real estate sites.

That included a Feb. 28 Zoom meeting that DSB held with the vendors. About 25 people attended and submitted questions via chat. During that meeting, two location options were presented, though DSB hasn't decided yet which one would be used. The first location would use only half of Market Square on the Nebraska Street side, then Nebraska Street from 5th to 3rd avenues, and 3rd Avenue from Michigan to Oregon streets.

The second option would use just those streets, not half of Market Square, with the addition of Nebraska from 3rd to 2nd streets as needed for daily vendors.

Vendors were present at the March 1 council meeting, but none spoke during the public-comment period.

Although details need to be worked out, DSB told the council it intends to increase the number of vendors, have a staff person at the site from opening to closing every Saturday and form a committee that will include vendor members. DSB may also bring back the acceptance of EBT cards so that SNAP benefits can be used for purchases. Bathrooms and additional resources would also be more accessible in the DSB office, which is open on Saturdays during the Farmers Market hours.

"Maybe they can't make everyone 100% happy, but they can make positive changes and really make the market a destination place," said Alder Helen Bacon.

City Administrator Josh VanLieshout said he's in the process of drafting a license agreement that would be signed in the future between the city and DSB.

"They can keep going, and we'll keep going, and it should all come together nicely," he said.



and before the labeler, they are ready to be cooled and then boxed."

The new equipment came from Multi-Conveyor, a Winneconne, Wisconsin-based manufacturer, that also added dual belt-drive assemblies prior to the first inverter to ensure the accurate inversion of larger, heavier jars. Seaquist currently has one line at its Sister Bay canning facility and two lines at the Egg Harbor cherry plant.

RURAL CHILD CARE WEBINAR MARCH 9

Are you, like so many others, overwhelmed by the many difficulties in the rural child care system? Hear about some partnership models and projects happening in west-central

Minnesota that are working to recruit and retain family and center child care programs.

The Radically Rural. Rural Child Care webinar will be offered March 9, 2 pm, and presented by Nancy Jost. She's the director of early childhood at West Central Initiative and a champion for creating the best possible start for children toward a healthy life of learning and achieving.

Following the program, participants will have discussion time to share models that are working in their rural community.

To register, visit ticketell.com/events/rural-childcare-we-can-do-so-much-3-9-2022.

doorcountybroadband.com 920.868.9100

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