

TOM VOS

Making a comeback at 75



SCOTT WILLIAMS, JOURNAL TIMES FILE PHOTO

Tom Vos, left, shown addressing the Burlington City Council in November on a proposed stormwater management district, is a former alderman who served 36 years, and is running uncontested for a return to the council.

Robin Vos' father jumps back into Burlington politics, citing love for community

SCOTT WILLIAMS
 scott.williams@journaltimes.com

BURLINGTON — At an age when many politicians are riding into the sunset, Tom Vos is saddling up for another rodeo.

The 75-year-old father of Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Robin Vos is back on the ballot April 5, asking voters to return him to Burlington's non-partisan city government.

With no opposition in a race for alderman, Vos is virtually assured of winning election and re-joining the Burlington City Council, where he previously served for nearly four decades.

Vos says he has no specific

agenda, other than that he still feels passionate about public service. And he remains committed to Burlington, where he grew up, ran a business and raised a family.

"I think giving back to the community is an important thing," he said, adding with a laugh, "it's certainly not for the money." Burlington aldermen serve two-year terms at a salary of \$3,600 a year.

Before calling it quits in 2018, Vos had served in City Hall for 36 years, representing neighborhoods in Burlington's west-side Third District, generally between Milwaukee Avenue and Park Avenue.

His colleagues elected Vos five different times to the leadership position of City Council president. He also served on the plan commission, finance committee, health board and airport commission, among others.

"Tom loves the city," said Bob Miller, who served as mayor from 2000 to 2008. "And he loves doing

what he can to help the city."

Miller recalled working with Vos on improvements to city properties, recruitment of new businesses and public recreation upgrades. Vos always was cost-conscious about city funds, and he never let political considerations get in the way, Miller said.

"If there's one thing Tom is not, it's a political creature," the ex-mayor said. "It's not a matter of conservative or liberal; it's a matter of working for the city."

Vos, who ran a home improvement business in Burlington, was first elected to the City Council in 1982.

His son, Robin, graduated from Burlington High School in 1986, and after college the younger Vos got involved in politics. He worked for a state legislator and a congressman, then got elected to the Racine County Board.

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Thoughts for Food 2022 to be virtual

JOURNAL TIMES STAFF

Thoughts for Food, the annual benefit for the Racine County Food Bank, will be virtual again this year.

In its 30th year, the planning committee reported that it was forced to look at either canceling the event or getting creative due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"To avoid the potential for a 'super-spreader' event and still raise money for the Food Bank, an alternative was settled on," said a release from the organization.

The event, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, will be broadcast on YouTube. Seven bands are to perform during the benefit.

To view the event, visit bit.ly/3gDRhRJ.

To make donations to the RCFB, visit facebook.com/thoughtsforfood or thoughtsforfood.org.



SEAN KRAJACIC, LEE NEWSPAPERS

Amy Hamlet-Roetzer of Racine stocks up for the Super Bowl at Tenuta's Delicatessen & Liquors on Saturday in Kenosha.

Back-to-back big days

Shoppers deal with Super Bowl Sunday-Valentine's Day combo

JOE STATES
 Lee Newspapers

KENOSHA — A first-ever conjunction had local shoppers out Saturday gathering what they needed to mark today's Super Bowl Sunday, followed by Valentine's Day on Monday.

It is the third Super Bowl during the pandemic and the first to be held so close to the holiday for romance. One store director jokingly warned people to try and "remember Valentine's Day," while they were buying drinks.

At Tenuta's Deli, shoppers

filled carts with plenty of beer, snacks and deli meats.

Owner Chris Tenuta said turnout had improved somewhat compared to the last two years, as people slowly returned to family sports traditions.

"Things are loosening up a little," Tenuta said. "There's not big get-togethers, but people want to get together and have fun."

Amy Hamlet-Roetzer, from Racine, said she would be watching the game with just her close family. She talked about how prices had climbed in the past months, making even a small event like hers costly.

"It's all more expensive than it normally is," Hamlet-Roetzer

said. "Food in general costs more."

At Festival Foods on 80th Street, Store Director Sam Balk warned people shopping for the Super Bowl not to forget about Valentine's Day on Monday. In his years of working in grocery stores, Balk said he'd seen plenty of people rushing in last minute, when most flower bouquets and gifts will already have run out.

"This year's a little unique," Balk said. "We hope the guys grabbing beer remember Valentine's Day."

David Lopez, of Kenosha, said it was going to be a busy few days.

"Don't forget, it's Valentine's weekend. We're all booked up. We're Super Bowl ready and

Valentine's Monday ready," Lopez said.

Without any home teams on the roster, support was divided between the Cincinnati Bengals and the Los Angeles Rams.

"I would've liked to see the Packers," Hamlet-Roetzer said. Instead, she'll be cheering for the Rams, "because they beat the 49ers."

Lopez said he would be supporting the Bengals.

"They're the Cinderella story," Lopez said.

Beyond the game itself, Lopez said he was looking forward to the halftime show, featuring Eminem, Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Kendrick Lamar and Mary J. Blige.

"All those rappers are from back in my day," Lopez said.

WISCONSIN IN BRIEF

Bring your own coffee cup to Kwik Trip

As supply chain issues affect businesses across the nation, Kwik Trip says it's out of coffee cups.

The La Crosse-based gas station chain said Friday that customers who want coffee or other hot beverages will need to bring their own cups.

During the shortage, customers can get any size refill for 99 cents, Kwik Trip said in a Facebook post.

Kwik Trip was somewhat vague about what caused the shortage, but said the cups "were, in fact, taken from us."

"A gas station that shall not be named stole them," the gas station quipped in its post. "I wish I was kidding."

Please see BRIEFS, Page B2

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Vos

From B1

Ten years later, Robin Vos was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly. Today, he serves as Assembly speaker representing District 63, R-Rochester, and is considered Wisconsin's most powerful Republican.

Tom Vos said his interest in Burlington government and Robin's interest in state government rarely intersect.

"We try not to talk politics," he said. "If we do, it's pretty generic. And it never gets heated."

Not everyone in Burlington is a Tom Vos supporter.

Joel Jacobsen, a political



SUBMITTED

From left, former Burlington Alderman and current City Council candidate Tom Vos; his wife, Margie; his son, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos; and Robin's wife, Michelle Litjens Vos.

activist, ran against Vos for aldermen unsuccessfully in 2004. Jacobsen later got elected in a different district and served one term on the City Council.

Acknowledging that Tom Vos is "a hard worker" in city government, Jacobsen said he wishes newcomers would step forward to serve, rather than Tom Vos coming out of retirement.

More recently, Jacobsen ran as a Democrat trying unsuccessfully to unseat Robin Vos in his state Assembly district in 2018 and again in 2020. Jacobsen noted that he got 45% of the Burlington vote in one of his Assembly campaigns.

"Obviously, the Vos name in Burlington is well known," he said. "But there are not always people who are in full agreement with either of the Voses."

Tom Vos decided not to seek re-election as alderman in 2018 because he wanted to spend more time helping with TS Food Packaging, one of his son's private businesses.

Newcomer Steve Rauch won Vos' old seat in the Third District. After two terms, however, Rauch has decided to step down this April.

Seeing nobody else come forward, Vos decided to get back into city government. He approached Mayor Jeannie Hefty and asked if she knew of anyone else interested in his old aldermanic seat.

Hefty said she will be happy to have Vos back on the City Council.

"He is very level-headed, always thinking of the community as a whole," she said.

In Loving Memory of **Josephine H. Mata**



On Valentines Day 1955 God allowed us to meet and shared sixty-two years together, five years ago on February 18th we had to part but somehow remain together and now I am selling our house you designed and we had built, sorry but after forty five years it has gotten to much to keep up with. So with Gods Blessings and your understanding I hope and pray all will turn out ok. I love and miss you. Love, thoughts and prayers, Grandpa and families

Memorial Funds

For the guidance of those who, as a tribute to the memory of a departed friend or relative, wish to contribute to a recognized charity or wish to make a bequest, the following addresses may be helpful:

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10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd.
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158
652-4400

RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION
c/o Racine Public Library
75 Seventh St.
Racine, WI 53403
636-9170

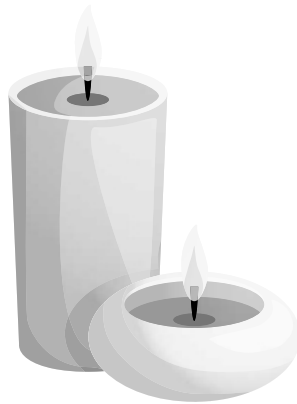
SIENA RETREAT CENTER
5637 Erie St
Racine, WI 53402
(262) 898-2590
www.SienaRetreatCenter.org

NAMI-RACINE CO.
Support/Advocacy for People Affected by Mental Illness
2300 DeKoven Ave.
Racine, WI
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ST. CATHERINE'S HIGH SCHOOL
1200 Park Ave.
Racine, WI 53403-1895
(262) 833-5521

RACINE COUNTY FOOD BANK
Curing Hunger in Racine County
2000 DeKoven Ave., #2
Racine, WI 53403-2481
(262) 632-2307
www.racinecountyfoodbank.org

RACINE COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS
1717 Taylor Ave.
Racine, WI 53403



RACINE HERITAGE MUSEUM
General & School House Endowments
701 Main St.
Racine, WI 53403-1211
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GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION
3520 30th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53144

Briefs

From B1

Ex-professor to plead to defrauding students

MILWAUKEE — A former University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee professor has agreed to plead guilty to federal crimes connected to defrauding Chinese graduate students and visiting scholars.

The Milwaukee-Journal Sentinel reported that prosecutors charged Yue Liu on Friday with wire fraud and making an unlawful financial transaction. A plea agreement also filed Friday calls for him to plead guilty to both counts.

Liu, a civil and environmental engineering professor, created a foundation in 2016 to help foreign graduate students at UW-Milwaukee meet various expenses, according to court documents.

Students wired \$1.1 million to the foundation between 2016 and 2020. Liu used some of the money to pay personal expenses and repay the university for research expenses. A relative also paid Liu to become a research assistant at the school and several visiting scholars from China also paid him to spend time on campus.

Liu was still working at the university as of last year. UW-Milwaukee spokeswoman Michelle Johnson told the Journal Sentinel that he's no longer employed at the school.

— Associated Press

DEATHS

ANDERSEN, Gilbert L., 79

Kenosha, Feb. 11, at Grande Prairie Health and Rehabilitation Center in Pleasant Prairie, Draeger-Langendorf Funeral Home & Crematory, Mount Pleasant.

BESTWICK, Rick E., 69

Kenosha, Feb. 11, at Aurora Medical Center in Kenosha, Draeger-Langendorf Funeral Home & Crematory, Mount Pleasant.



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