

## Bond is set for Steinbrink

Former Pleasant Prairie official facing multiple felonies

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John Steinbrink Jr., the former director of the Pleasant Prairie Public Works Department facing multiple felony charges alleging theft and misconduct in public office, made his initial appearance at intake court Wednesday afternoon.

Steinbrink Jr., 53, appeared in court in a dark suit and what appeared to be sunglasses.

Court Commissioner Loren Keating set a \$25,000 signature bond.

"These are allegations that strike to the heart of public trust," Keating said.

As a condition of his bond, Steinbrink Jr. is not allowed to contact former or current employees of the Public Works Department. He is also not allowed to discuss the case with relatives employed by the department or the village.

His father, John Steinbrink Sr. is the current village president.

The case is being prosecuted by Racine County Assistant District Attorney Chris Steenrod. Pleasant Prairie turned over the misconduct investigation of Steinbrink Jr. to the Racine County Sheriff's Office to avoid conflict of interest.

Steinbrink Jr. faces one count of theft-false representation and five counts of misconduct in public office-excess authority. The theft charge can come with up to \$25,000 in fines and/or up to 10 years in prison. Each misconduct charge can come with up to \$10,000 in fines and/or up to three years and six months in prison.

Steinbrink Jr. had been the public works director since 2010 and employed with the village the last 28 years. He was placed on administrative leave following an alleged undisclosed complaint filed earlier this spring.

The complaint states that interviews with employees painted Steinbrink Jr. as a "angry narcissistic and manipulating person," who was feared by employees. Those who disagreed or did not do as he instructed would be "out of a job." One employee described the work environment as "being happier since Steinbrink Jr. had left the department."

He's also alleged to have taken advantage of village resources.

"This was not a favorable work environment that Mr. Steinbrink, Jr. fostered," Steenrod said.

### 1 charge dismissed

During the hearing, Steinbrink Jr.'s attorney, Richard Joseph Smith, pointed out that the criminal complaint against Steinbrink failed to explain what incident had occurred on Feb. 3, 2022 as listed as Count 4. Keating dismissed the charge, although he said it could be refiled at a later date.

After a brief discussion outside of the courtroom with his attorney, Steinbrink Jr. chose to waive his right to a preliminary hearing.

A statement was sent to the Kenosha News by Nola Hitchcock Cross, an attorney with a firm in Milwaukee who said she was also representing Steinbrink Jr. Cross said Steinbrink Jr. denied "all charges against him," and expected them to be dropped "once the facts are fully understood."

"Unfortunately," Cross said in the statement, "the charges seem to stem from a

## WELCOME TO INDIAN TRAIL



SEAN KRAJACIC PHOTOS, KENOSHA NEWS

Cyriah Crump, a freshman, left, learns things about Jimena Gonzalez, a junior, and her new school as the two chatted during freshman orientation at Indian Trail High School on Wednesday.

# Freshman get preview from upperclassmen

ITA juniors and seniors look to make transition to bigger school go easier

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Incoming freshman at Indian Trail High School received a warm welcome from Link Crew Leaders during freshman orientation Wednesday morning.

Link Crew is a national program designed to help middle school students transition to high school.

"I think the transition from middle school to high school is one of the bigger transitions that kids face," said Matt St. Martin, an assistant principal at Indian Trail.

Link Crew Leaders are typically juniors and seniors, and serve as role models and friendly faces for the incoming freshman class.

"I think they (freshman) can see upperclassmen who are good role models, and they're excited to be here," St. Martin said. "That sense of welcoming and being friendly, I think sets a good example for the incoming freshmen about what we are all about at Indian Trail."

During the orientation, the freshman class of 2026 participated in icebreakers, such as a balloon popping game, and met with Link Crew Leaders to ask questions and learn more about the school. The Link Crew pro-



Freshman orientation was held at Indian Trail High School on Wednesday and a nationally developed program was employed to make the incoming students feel more at ease with the transition to the very large high school.

gram, icebreakers and activities at the orientation are developed by a company called Boomerang.

### 'Low risk activities'

"They start out with very low risk activities, and then build up to some medium risk activities, and then what are called high risk activities, and what they mean by "high risk" is just very personal to them," said Ryan Nachtigal, a geometry teacher at Indian Trail. "So they start out with just naming a number, which was obviously low risk, and then they talked about their name, and then they move into more personal information in terms of risky or opening them-

selves up to being part of the group."

Audrey Kessler, a junior at Indian Trail, said she volunteered to be a Link Crew Leader because she wanted to make the freshman class feel more comfortable navigating the high school.

"My main reason was to make everyone comfortable with high school since we're such a big school," Kessler said. "It's a really stressful coming in as a freshman and I didn't get a freshman orientation because it was part of the COVID year."

Isabella Waldschmidt, a senior at Indian Trail, said she wanted to be a person freshman can approach or eat lunch with at



Danica Popp, a freshman, is put on the spot as she answers a question about herself during freshman orientation at Indian Trail High School on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022.

school.

"I wanted to be a familiar face for someone walking the hallways just because a lot of people come in from all different middle schools, so it's really hard to mix everyone," Waldschmidt said. "So to give someone a familiar face to be able to look for and sit with that lunch, that would be awesome."

Kessler and Waldschmidt worked together with a small group of incoming freshman to do more get-to-know-you activities and answer questions. The two leaders made goodie bags for their group.

The first day of school for Indian Trail students is Sept. 1.

# City creates clean-up stations

Simmons Island facility encourages people to lend a hand

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Simmons Island is one of the most popular spots for beach-goers in Kenosha. On warm summer days, hundreds of people spend the day picnicking, building sand castles and taking a dip in the brisk waters.

The Kenosha Parks Department dedicates employees to cleaning up the beaches daily during the summer season, but sometimes litter still accumulates due to the high volume of visitors. A new beach clean-up station makes it easier for citizens to lend a hand keeping the beaches clean.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The clean-up station was set up on Simmons Island beach at the end of July to encourage visitors to assist in keeping the beach and area free of litter.

People are welcome to grab a white plastic bucket from the clean-up station located near the

Simmons Island beach house and collect litter while strolling the beach. There is a trash receptacle

in the station where people may then empty the trash and return the empty bucket.

Kenosha Parks Dept. Supervisor Joe Bill said a summer employee brought the idea to the department after seeing a picture of a clean-up station online. He said the department had their carpenter build the station and it was set up on Simmons Island at the end of July.

The city clean-up crew spends about two to three hours each day cleaning up beaches, Bill said.

"It takes a big chunk of their day," he said.

Along with using the clean-up station, Bill encouraged beach visitors to bring their own garbage bags to the beach to collect their trash and throw out later. For people interested in volunteer clean-up efforts, Bill said to contact the mayor's office.

## Betty A. Paul

July 4, 1936–Aug. 4, 2022



HUNTSVILLE, AL— Betty A. Paul, age 86, passed away in Huntsville, AL on Thursday, August 4, 2022.

Born on July 4, 1936, she was the daughter of Kelly and Jeannie Tenuta.

On December 7, 1960, Betty was united in marriage to James Paul until his passing on August 13, 2017.

Betty was a member of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.

She was many things to many people, a daughter, loving wife and mother, a supportive sister and aunt, caring grandmother and great-grandmother, a dear friend and kind neighbor. She will be dearly missed by her son, Jamie (Deana) Paul; her grandchildren, Jamie Paul, Jr., Sarah Paul, Garrett Paul and Jordan (Matthew) Eagles; her great-grandchild, Haylee Eagles; her sister, Mary Jane Lequia; her nephews, Tony (Lisa) Lequia and Michael (Debbie) Lequia.

In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her husband, James Paul and her brother, Robert Tenuta.

A visitation honoring Betty's life will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. on Friday, August 12, 2022 at the Piasecki Funeral Home. Private interment will take place in All Saints Cemetery.

Piasecki Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
3720 39th Avenue—262-658-4101  
www.KenoshaFuneralHome.com

## DEATH NOTICE

Howard Francis Zelenski, 98, of Kenosha, died at Hospice Alliance Hospice House on Friday, August 5, 2022. Proko Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## Steinbrink

From B1

misunderstanding about what occurred. Not only did Mr. Steinbrink do nothing wrong, but his personal contributions to the Village attest to his civic spirit, dedication to the Village, and generosity to the community. When the facts are

fully known, Mr. Steinbrink will be vindicated."

The next time Steinbrink Jr. will appear in court will be for arraignment, scheduled for Aug. 26.

After his appearance, he declined to speak with reporters outside of intake court.

— Kenosha News journalist Daniel Gaitan contributed to this report.

## Pleasant Prairie Village Board holds busy meeting

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The Pleasant Prairie Village Board had plenty on the agenda Monday evening besides a tax incremental district, from pipelines to internet antennas to a threat of lawsuit.

The Board approved an amendment to the Village Municipal Code pertaining to the abandonment of water transmission lines. Originally, abandoned lines had to be filled or removed, but the new amendment allows the lines to be abandoned without additional action.

In addition, the Board approved an agreement between the Village and Wisconsin Electric Power Company to have the Village assume ownership and responsibility for portions of three pipelines from WE Energies that connected the former power plant to Lake Michigan.

WE paid the village \$412,500 for the Village to takeover the sections of the pipelines within the Village public right of way, while retaining responsibility and obligations for the sections of retired waterlines within private property.

The Village plans to remove the abandoned water pipelines as needed," said Jean Werbie-Harris, Community Development Director. "The water lines are well constructed and not at risk of failure, which gives the Village sufficient time to approach the project cost-effectively."

Staab Construction Corporation presented a \$1.2 million claim against the village surrounding construction of the state highway 165 lift station replacement, arguing the village had failed to show the extent of "soft-soil, sand and silt," in boring

logs according to Remzy Bitar, an attorney with Municipal LAW & Litigation Group and the legal representative for the village.

Bitar said the village viewed the responsibility lay with Staab to do "due diligence," rather than relying on the village. Ultimately, both parties arrived at a settlement for \$200,000, far below the initial claim.

The Board approved a bid from a contractor for \$370,000 to repair the sewer force main that failed along 104th Street near 65th Avenue. The repairs are planned to be completed by this mid-December.

A previous bid by Fischer Excavating was rejected for being more than three times estimated costs, and the project was re-advertised with a longer-time-line.

Area residents can expect improved AT&T cellular service around the Pleasant Prairie water tower south of Wilmot Road and west of 88th Avenue, with an agreement to lease the tower for wireless internet antennas. The village will get \$2,250 per month for the use of the tower and the surrounding area.

The Board awarded the contract for an extension to a water main running along 47th Avenue between 83rd Place and 84th Street into Beverly Lane to Reesman's Excavating & Grading, Inc., for \$100,000.

An agreement between Lake County, Illinois and the Village could bring another roundabout to Pleasant Prairie, this time to the intersection of Russel Road and 47th Avenue. Plans include multiuse paths and a proposed water-quality path.

## ASSEMBLY DIST. 61

# Nedwiski wins GOP primary

To face Winkels for seat held by Kerkman

TERRY FLORES  
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A Kenosha County Board supervisor won the Republican primary in the 61st Assembly District race Tuesday night.



Nedwiski



Honold



Winkels

Clerk Regi Waligora.

Nedwiski will face Democrat Max Winkels, of Randall, in the general election on Nov. 8. Win-



kels ran unopposed in Tuesday's partisan primary receiving 3,298 votes or 99.76% of those cast. Nedwiski and Winkels are vying for the assembly seat previously held by long-time legislator Samantha Kerkman who was elected Kenosha County executive in April.

Nedwiski, who herself was elected in the spring to the County Board representing the 16th District, said she campaigned on public safety, the economy and education, three issues that resonated with voters in the district. In canvassing 4,000 doors with her two campaigns, Nedwiski said residents in the district have especially felt the economic crunch with inflation that has left many struggling.

"They're struggling with where is this economic crisis going to go? And they don't feel positive about it," she said. "As the first day of school ramps up, you know, they're concerned and they're anxious about are

there going to be suddenly new restrictions like there were (during the pandemic). They're concerned with what's happening in the curriculum.

"They want to have more transparency and they want to have more accountability," said Nedwiski, co-chair for Moms for Liberty of Kenosha County, which advocated for a parents bill of rights, which was passed by the Republican-controlled state legislature, but later vetoed by Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat. "Parents want to have an equal partnership in their child's education ... even people without children are very, very concerned about what's happening in schools because it's affecting us culturally overall."

Nedwiski said election integrity has also been an issue.

"People acknowledge that regardless of the investigations and proof of fraud or no proof of fraud, doubt has been cast and we need to restore trust in our elections process," she said. "And I'm very committed to that effort."

Honold, who ran a campaign that focused on law enforcement and public safety had endorsements from a number of Kenosha-area police and fire unions.

"I ran with the hope of helping get them the re-

sources that they need to ensure the safety of residents of Kenosha County," he said.

Honold said that with 2020 civil unrest still fresh in minds of voters, he said he was "very glad" voters approved Kenosha's public safety referendum which will allow the city to exceed its levy limit to hire an additional 10 police officers and six firefighters, with associated equipment. As a result, the levy will rise to 3.3% or an increase of \$2.5 million for a total of \$78,263,738. The current levy limit is 2.654%, or \$75,763,738.

"Police departments and fire departments need more help," he said.

The candidates complimented each other for running overall "clean campaigns."

"I'm glad that he and I were able to make that agreement from the start and stick to it because, you know, negativity is not the way to go and the voters don't like it," said Nedwiski.

"It was a good race, a clean race. And, I'm happy that it wasn't a negative race and I'm very happy both sides kept it clean," said Honold. "That's the way more elections should be run. Let the chips fall where they may."

Winkels could not immediately be reached for comment.

# Ridding Army bases of Confederate names to cost \$21M

BEN FINLEY  
Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — Renaming nine U.S. Army posts that honor Confederate officers would cost a total of \$21 million if the installations rebrand everything from welcome marquees and street signs to water towers and hospital doors, according to an independent commission.

The Naming Commission released its final report on recommending the new Army base names to Congress on Monday. It included a 17-page list of assets that are tied to the Confederacy, from the decals on 300 recycling bins at Fort Bragg in North Carolina to the sign for a softball field at Fort Hood in Texas.

The report is the latest step in a broader effort by the military to confront racial injustice, most recently in the aftermath of the May 2020 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The renaming process was laid out in a law passed by Congress in late 2020. The secretary of defense is expected to implement the commission's plan no later than Jan. 1, 2024.

Monday's report provided detailed — and sometimes unflattering — descriptions of the Confederate officers whose names would be



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Bragg is seen on Feb. 3 in Fort Bragg, N.C. An independent commission said Monday that renaming nine U.S. Army posts that commemorate Confederate officers would cost \$21 million.

removed as well as the accomplishments of those whose names would replace them. Fort Bragg is the only base that would not be named after a person. It would be called Fort Liberty.

The commission wrote that Fort Benning in Georgia was named after a "lawyer, ardent secessionist, bitter opponent of abolition and senior officer in the Confederate Army."

The report stated that Henry L. Benning "is on record as saying that he would rather be stricken with illness and starvation than see slaves liberated and given equality as citizens."

The commission recommends renaming the base

after a married couple: Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, who served in Vietnam and received the Distinguished Service Cross, and his wife Julia, who prompted the creation of teams that do in-person notifications of military casualties.

Renaming the base would cost just under \$5 million, the report stated. The effort would target anything from the wording on airfield doors to the name of an airstrip. It would also include removing Confederate names from paver stones on a walk to a memorial that honors U.S. Army Rangers.

Fort Bragg, which is home to the 82nd Airborne Division, was named after a "slave-owning plan-

tation owner and senior Confederate Army officer," the report said.

Braxton Bragg is "considered one of the worst generals of the Civil War; most of the battles he was involved in ended in defeat and resulted in tremendous losses for the Confederate Army; highly consequential to the ultimate defeat of the Confederacy," the commission wrote.

Renaming the base to Fort Liberty would cost about \$6.3 million, the report said. It would include rebranding 45 police vehicles and 15 emergency services vehicles, such as fire engines and ambulances.

The other bases recommended for renaming are Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Lee and Fort Pickett in Virginia; Fort Gordon in Georgia; Fort Hood in Texas; Fort Polk in Louisiana and Fort Rucker in Alabama.

For years, U.S. military officials defended the naming of bases after Confederate officers. But in the aftermath of the Floyd killing, and the months of racial unrest that followed, Congress ordered a comprehensive plan to rename the military posts and hundreds of other federal assets such as roads, buildings, memorials, signs and landmarks that honored rebel leaders.

## Financial markets summary as of the close of Wednesday, August 10, 2022

▲ DOW 33,309.51 +535.10	▲ NASDAQ 12,854.80 +360.88	▲ S&P 500 4,210.24 +87.77	▲ GOLD 1795.60 +1.60	▲ SILVER 20.718 +2.60	▲ PLATINIUM 946.10 +13.10	▲ CRUDE OIL 91.93 +1.43	▲ EURO 1.0304 +0.0099	▲ MEXICAN PESO 0.49926 +0.00590
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## Local Stocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	YTD	VOL	P/E	DIV	NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	YTD	VOL	P/E	DIV
AbbottLab	ABT	101.24 142.60	110.27	+2.36	-21.6	39518	23	1.881		JPMorgCh	JPM	106.06 172.96	118.39	+3.01	-25.2	126616	9	4.001	
AbbVie	ABBV	105.56 175.91	140.94	+0.69	+4.1	40655	20	5.641		Johnson Outdoors	JOUT	54.55 124.90	67.51	+2.31	-27.9	317	12	1.201	
AccoBrds	ACCO	6.36 9.76	6.73	+0.21	-18.5	7250	6	3.01		Kohls	KSS	26.07 64.38	31.33	+1.65	-36.6	36433	7	1.00	
Amazon s	AMZN	101.26 188.11	142.69	+4.86	-14.4	536701	cc			ManprvGp	MAN	73.66 123.84	80.01	+2.59	-17.8	2804	11	2.721	
Apple Inc s	AAPL	129.04 182.94	169.24	+4.32	-4.7	684866	28	9.21		Microssoft	MSFT	241.51 349.67	289.16	+6.86	-14.0	240353	30	2.481	
AssocBanc	ASB	17.45 25.78	20.82	+0.44	-7.8	10993	10	8.01		Modine	MOD	7.67 15.87	16.23	+0.51	+60.9	6379	14		
BMO Harris	BMO	90.44 122.77	101.09	+2.58	-6.2	5603	13	4.246		RPM	RPM	74.56 101.48	91.75	+3.51	-9.2	4612	26	1.60	
Baxter	BAX	57.49 89.70	59.90	+0.95	-30.2	31273	30	1.161		RockwAut	ROK	190.08 354.99	253.61	+8.45	-27.3	9530	47	4.481	
Brunswick	BC	61.89 108.51	81.78	+1.74	-18.8	5954	11	1.461		Sanmina	SANM	35.06 50.36	49.23	+1.59	+18.7	5175	13		
CNH Indi	CNHI	10.60 17.13	12.89	+0.42	-23.6	16478	11	3.16		SnapOn	SNA	190.08 235.36	226.79	+5.32	+5.3	1866	14	5.681	
CardinHlth	CAH	45.85 64.53	62.75	+0.98	+21.9	29514	...	1.981		Twilflex	TFX	235.01 405.90	254.05	+4.75	-22.7	1775	24	1.36	
FBHmSec	FBHS	56.86 109.23	67.88	+3.03	-36.3	12158	12	1.04		TwiniDisc If	TWIN	7.91 18.20	9.80	+0.39	-10.6	42	...		
GenElec	GE	59.93 116.17	77.14	+2.21	-18.3	101599	...	3.2		VailRst	MTN	206.03 376.24	241.10	+7.38	-26.5	2338	69	7.641	
Graingr	GWV	391.16 566.31	564.97	+7.00	+9.0	2417	22	6.881		WEC Engy	WEC	86.84 108.39	105.17	-0.05	+8.3	9815	24	2.911	
HarleyD	HOG	29.80 44.46	38.87	+1.19	+3.1	14011	9	6.31		WalgBoots	WBA	36.57 55.00	39.90	+0.77	-23.5	57899	14	1.921	
Honwillnt	HON	167.35 234.68	197.23	+3.14	-5.4	26118	27	3.921		WestRck	WRK	38.28 54.78	41.67	+0.81	-6.1	13220	14	1.001	

Stocks are those that affect the local economy. Kenosha Area Business Alliance contributed to the list.