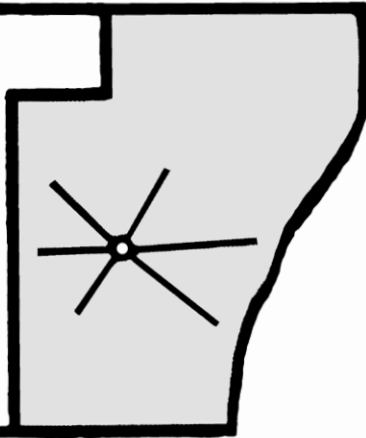


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Journal salutes dairy industry

This week's Journal includes a 16-page section devoted to June Dairy Month. It spotlights the Manitowoc County Breakfast on the Farm Sunday at Twin Cities Vue Dairy Farm. The section includes stories about the breakfast and the host farm, along with features on Cedar Crest ice cream, a farm history book written by a local native, the 100th anniversary of Country Visions Cooperative and more. Local advertisers support the dairy industry with their messages.

Whitelaw officials OK new permit

Salvage business must sign off before final ink

By Todd S. Bergmann

The Whitelaw Village Board on Monday approved a conditional use permit for Third Generation Salvage, after almost two years of discussion.

Willis Clark, owner of the property, has until June 30 to accept the conditional use permit. Then, it will go for final approval at the next village board meeting on July 10.

In May 2019, the village issued Clark a permit for the business, which states "all salvage vehicles shall be enclosed in a fenced-in 85-foot-by-80-foot area located on the north side of the existing building. The fence shall be 10 feet in height, have a privacy screen attached and shall be maintained."

Since then, the business has grown beyond the specified area. Members of the public and some village trustees started complaining in the summer of 2021, as they could see junk, such as old school buses, from Menasha Avenue/U.S. Highway 10 and from a street leading to the village park.

Trustee Lois Kiel, chairman of the zoning committee, said after the meeting that she likes the new terms of the agreement.

"Hopefully, this conditional use permit will control that and put it out of sight," she said. "It will allow the salvage yard to be compatible with the surrounding environment."

"We would like to be a good neighbor. Then, we would like the salvage yard to reciprocate and be a good neighbor."

In the past two years, the business has installed fences around a larger area than specified in the original permit.

"They are going to cooperate and make this work," Kiel said.

Also, village officials became concerned about drainage in and around the property.

The new permit gives the village an easement to do drainage work on the east and north sides of the property.

Fences west and south of the easement will allow the village to clean or work in the area whenever needed, Kiel said.

"Then, the village can get in without having to tear down the fence," she said.

During the meeting, Kiel told the board that the zoning committee amended the conditional use permit to allow the salvage yard to store up to 100 used tires, compared to the original 20.

Randal Christiansen, village president, said the owner must sign both the conditional use permit and an easement for a drainage ditch.

■ In other zoning matters, the board set a public hearing for 6 p.m. on June 21 for rezoning of a former bank and bakery building at 104 E. Menasha Ave., to allow a residential unit in a business zone.

Christiansen said there are precedents to allow dwelling units on business property, typically in the upper level. However, the new owner is requesting a dwelling unit on the lower level.

The owner will have to pay the cost of the public hearing because June 21 is not a regular meeting night.

See Permit p. 27



Walking Into the Future

Kristin Pederson (above) happily greets friends as she and other members of the Valders High School Class of 2023 take the senior walk on Friday. Middle school students (right) shake hands with the seniors, including Spencer Pattee and Cole Fisher. The tradition of the senior walk has taken hold the past several years, with seniors spending time reading to kindergartners in the elementary school while wearing their caps and gowns. They then walk through the halls and up to the high school, being greeted by younger students and family members.

—Journal Photos



Class of '23 celebrates one last time

By Todd S. Bergmann

Indoor "fireworks" recognized the 100th Valders High School graduating class, following the traditional tassel turning on Sunday afternoon.

Blue and red dust hung over the Class of 2023 as the graduates got ready to leave the gym for the last time as students.

Micaela Huesemann, class president and valedictorian, said movement of the tassel from the right side to the left of a graduate's cap "signifies the movement from candidate to graduate."

A few seconds of silence followed the moving of the tassels.

Then Huesemann said, "Congratulations, Class of 2023," followed by applause, the dust fireworks, smiles among the graduates and the recessional.

During the speeches, salutatorian Garrett Ulness said that being part of the 100th graduating class is important to him.

"On this centennial graduation, I want to look back on the past," he said. "I am honored

and privileged to be the fourth generation to have graduated from Valders High School."

This started with his great-grandfather, Orrin Ulness, in 1935.

"I have great memories of being raised on my family's farm and attending Faith Lutheran Church," he said.

In fall, Ulness will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study dairy science and agribusiness. He then plans to return to Valders to be the sixth generation to work on his family's dairy farm.

The 100th graduating class, dressed in red caps and gowns, is eager to start its next journey in life, Ulness said.

"I see future business men and women, healthcare workers, farmers, mechanics, tradesmen and engineers," he said. "I am excited to watch my classmates being who they want to be."

"These last four years have helped me gain a better understanding of life and taught me many lessons along the way."

The class experienced tough times from

losses in sports to activities canceled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These experiences have helped us dig deeper in resiliency, determination and empathy," he said.

These will be important qualities as adults, Ulness said.

In high school and in life, Ulness challenged his classmates to work hard to achieve goals.

Superintendent Debra Hunt recognized the centennial class.

"It is my great honor to be part of this memorable occasion," she said.

After talking to parents and other relatives, Hunt addressed the graduates.

"Graduates, while you have experienced many large events throughout the school year... please make no mistake that today is the most important event of the school year," she said.

While graduation culminates four years of study and fun, Hunt said it also focuses on the future.

See Grads p. 25