



GRANT COUNTY Herald Independent

WISCONSIN'S OLDEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022

HERALD INDEPENDENT **Holiday Section**

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Council readies for new year

Three alderpersons look to not run in 2023

BY DAVID TIMMERMAN
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For their final meeting of 2022, the Lancaster Common Council discussed a great deal, from debating whether or not to increase the rates at the Municipal Golf Course, to discussing replacement squads for the police department, to seeing who is running, or not running to be on the council in 2023.

On the issue of golf course fees, after a lengthy discussion with course manager Sarah Williams, the council ultimately decided to stick with the rates recommended by the golf course committee.

Members of the council looked at whether the rates, which are the lowest for an 18-hole course in the region, were satisfactory in order to keep the course in the black for 2023 (operating revenue covered operating costs for 2022).

Williams said that she worried that raising rates would mean some patrons of the course would go elsewhere, and noted that part of the fee schedule for 2023 would include charging for sales tax on purchases, as well as charging for the processing fee on credit card payments. That alone would be an increase, as in 2022 the sales tax was included on charges, and the city took the fees from their own payments.

Mayor Harper also wanted to thank Shane LaBudda for his indication that he plans to return to the council for another term.

LaBudda had filed a notice of non-candidacy for his current at-large seat, but has indicated he plans to run for the seat that is currently held by Robert Schmidt. Schmidt has signaled that he does not plan to run again, but has yet to fill out non-candidacy paperwork.

If Schmidt does not file either candidacy or non-candidacy paperwork, there would be an extension of time for individuals to file.

LaBudda filing non-candidacy paperwork for his current seat, he cannot run for that post again.

Also filing non-candidacy paperwork are Joel Ingebritsen and Sara Burks.

Harper said to those at the meeting that if they had anyone interested in running for a council seat, encourage them to do so.

For those waiting to see ground to be turned for the \$7 million apartment complex, that will not happen before the end of the year, because it doesn't need to, as City Administrator David Carlson explained. He noted that there were changes in the language of the grant the city received for the apartment complex, which eliminates a groundbreaking date, but still requires the project be done for 2024.

For the Lancaster Police Department, which welcomed its newest member, Emma Bloom, who was sworn in at the council meeting, the council approved a memorandum of understanding with the Wisconsin Professional Police Association on work schedules when the department is down staff, which includes Sgt. Justin McLimans taking rotation duties (McLimans is not in the WPPA in his administrative position), and creates a rotation for weekend and evening hours.

The council also reviewed the request for purchasing a new K9 squad, as the current squad has a blown engine, and will not be repaired. Chief Deb Reukauf said for the time being, staff are transferring the K9 related equipment to another squad for temporary use, as it would have cost \$11,000 to have that contracted to do.

The council asked about the current K9 officer, Arrow, and his longevity and the future of the program. Reukauf felt that Arrow would be in service for another four years, and the K9 fund, which has been filled with donations and fundraisers, like the golf outing, would cover expenses to set up the next squad, and acquire and train the next K9.

Reukauf said that while there may be changes to the training a K9 will gain in the future, as the move towards cannabis being legalized continues, she spoke with other departments, and they said that with a K9, they believe drug-related crime goes down, and one department that then went without a K9 officer, saw crime increase afterwards.



One week after a snowstorm delayed their concert, River Ridge Elementary students showered the stage with fake snow and snowballs during their annual concert. With visitors like Santa and the Grinch, none of the spirit was lost during the week delay.

County board wraps up year

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With the ground freezing up, a portion of the county communications project will hibernate until spring, while other portions will continue through winter.

That is one of several topics the Grant County Board of Supervisors heard about during their last meeting of 2022.

IT Director Shane Drinkwater updated the board on the communications project, which calls for completely replacing the aging communication towers that law enforcement and emergency responders use in the county.

That project, which includes tying each tower to a fiber optic loop so there is no downtime even if a tower fails, and allows the county to expand broadband throughout the county.

Drinkwater stated that installation of the conduit from Lancaster, to Fennimore, Muscoda, and Boscobel, and the fiber optic should be in by mid-January, finishing that leg of the loop.

The conduit going to the connection to WISNET, which will allow schools to have access to that network through the fiber loop, is also progressing.

The board got presentations from Family Promise of Grant County as well as Grant County Economic Development Director Ron Brisbois.

Grant County Economic Development Corporation and Grant County have entered an agreement where the director position will be an employee at the start of 2023, while the corporation will contract and pay for the cost of the position. This was done to get the post health insurance, which it has not had in the 35 years the organization has been in existence.

Brisbois, who has been with the corporation since 1999, noted that economic development has expanded to areas he never imagined, from housing, to other items like parks and communications.

Brisbois shared about past successes, like negotiating with the Department of Natural Resources for land for two expansion projects in Muscoda, as well as the spec building in Jamestown that quickly was filled.

Students highlight kindness during season

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"It's just normal, everyday things, it is just easy," said Nick Gozda, a student at Ss. Andrew-Thomas School, about how difficult it was to decide what should go up, and what doesn't need to, on the "Light up the Season with Kindness" Board the school has up in their cafeteria, highlighting good deeds for the season.

Shouldn't everyone do good deeds for everyone, the children thought.

It is why several of the students have had a tough time reporting acts of kindness on the board, because they are trying to do those all year round.

Gozda said that he opens doors daily for people, and does other things to help others.

Wesley Bartell notes that he is picking up chairs after events, picking up books, picking up bibles.

What motivates him? "Kindness," was his simple response.

"If anyone needs help, just help them," Zoey Udelhofen said.



Students from Ss. Andrew-Thomas include: (back) Nick Gozda, Keaton Richardson, Zoey Udelofen, Charlotte Bartell; (front) Christopher Voelz, Conner Voelz, Wesley Bartell.

Keaton Richardson said that his focus has been to help teachers throughout the day whenever he can. Conner Voelz said he is focused on helping friends whenever they are in need, whether they fall on the playground, or in class.

Brother Christopher Voelz said he

wasn't sure if he had anything on the board because any act of kindness is just routine.

For Charlotte Bartell, who was modest that she would not share any examples, her fellow students shared about different kind acts she dose to help others in the school. The students

talked about working with the younger students at Ss. Andrew-Thomas, like for a group alphabet project hanging up next to the Kindness board. One of the students accidentally created one of the letters, but the older students took that bend out so that the letter could be hung.