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INSIDE

Lurvey surpasses 1,000 career points

■ Pines Eagle Nolan Lurvey was given the game ball to honor his achievement. Story on pg. 9A

Judged as Wisconsin's Newspaper of the Year



Wisconsin Newspaper Association
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VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW

Section A

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28, 2022

Fickle December weather may impede '23 ice castle

By MICHELLE DREW
EDITOR

The fate of Eagle River's popular ice castle, erected each winter as weather allows by members and volunteers with the Eagle River Fire Department, is once again in the hands of Mother Nature.

What started out as a cold and promising December has been upended by the winter storms over the last two weeks, which causes problems with the ice formation. Fire Chief Michael Anderson explained that cold temperatures are what is needed to create those crystalline blocks that are used to construct the castle.

"Slush on top of good ice is most often the condition that prevents the construction

of the castle," Anderson said. "Slush will form if there is early December ice, followed by a large amount of snow and then rain. Unfortunately, this is a familiar December weather pattern in the North Woods.

"Whether it is too much early snow or a late December rain storm, sometimes the ice conditions simply don't permit pulling quality ice blocks to build the castle."

This year there is a minor slush problem in conjunction with an unfrozen layer of water below a solid layer of ice. Anderson said the hope is that the recent below-zero weather will freeze everything solid before too much snow arrives to insulate the water from freezing.

He said that in years past removing snow from the ice was a priority, but that can be

a very big and time-consuming job to keep the lake clear. It also invites people to head out on the cleared areas and ice fish or ice skate, which damages the surface of the ice as well.

"Over the years we have learned to let Mother Nature take control," he said. Mother Nature also determines when the castle comes down.

"In 2017 the weather turned warm immediately after we completed the castle and melted it in under a week," Anderson said. "However, last year the castle stood until March and still looked quite sound when the city took it down."

Longtime attraction

The popular attraction has a long history in the town. The ice castle has been designed by the Hanke family

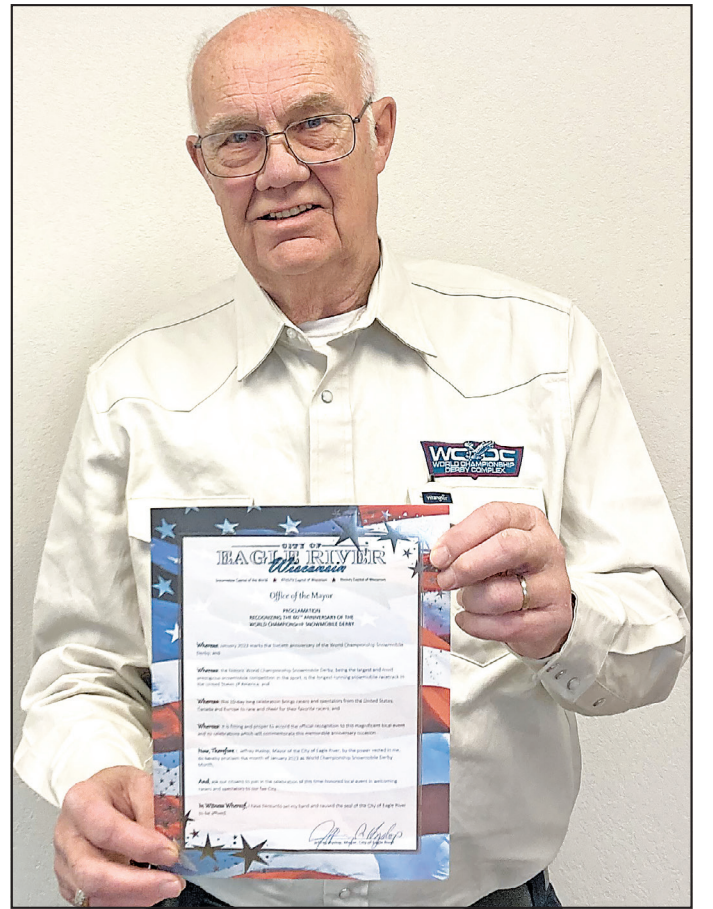
since 1942, but got its start in Eagle River's King Winter Festival in 1933.

Charles Hanke was the fire chief in the '40s and was succeeded by his son, Rollie Thomas and then grandson, Jack Thomas. Jack Thomas continued to design the Eagle River ice castle until his death in 2019, but Anderson noted the fire department will continue to use castle designs in his style for the foreseeable future.

"The construction always starts with a snap block model that I construct using about 2,000 2-by-8 snap blocks. This ensures the castle can be built without reshaping the block after it is shaved and ready for use," Anderson explained.

Once the model is built

To CASTLE, Pg. 6A



PROCLAMATION — Derby Complex CEO Tom Anderson displays the proclamation given by Mayor Jeff Hyslop and the city of Eagle River naming January 2023 as "Derby Month." See related story below.
—Staff Photo By JON EICHMAN



EARLY RIDERS — A rider in the St. Germain area took to the freshly opened trails last Friday amidst a scenic and snowy back-

drop. Trail systems in both Vilas and Oneida counties opened Dec. 23 for the snowmobiling season. —Staff Photo By DOUG ETTEN

Snomo trails open in Vilas, Oneida

By MICHELLE DREW
EDITOR

Snowmobile trails in both Vilas and Oneida counties opened last Friday morning ahead of the Christmas holiday weekend, which is always good news for winter enthusiasts who visit the North Woods between Christmas and New Year's.

Todd Bierman, Vilas County Parks and Recreation supervisor, announced the opening after a meeting was held with the 11 Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance clubs to decide if trails were safe and ready for operation. Oneida County released a similar report.

Volunteers and members of the 11 snowmobile clubs have been out throughout the fall and early winter to brush, sign and clean up trails to make for a fun and safe riding season.

"Without these dedicated clubs, snowmobiling would not be possible in Vilas County," Bierman said. "Please thank them for their efforts and patronize their business sponsors."

Department heads in both Vilas and Oneida counties remind riders that trails are

To TRAILS, Pg. 4A

Snomo clubs launch Groom to Ride raffle fundraiser

Groom to Ride, a major annual fundraiser for local snowmobile clubs to help cover costs of trail maintenance and grooming, has been launched.

The event is sponsored by Track Side in Eagle River and co-sponsored by three area snowmobile clubs — the Sno-Eagles of Eagle River, Sno-Buddies of Conover, and Northern Lights Snowmobile Club of Three Lakes.

A number of valuable prizes are up for grabs this year, including the first-place prize of a 2023 Ski-Doo 600 snowmobile, donated by Track Side. Second prize is four Hot Seats for the World Championship Snowmobile Derby

which includes admission and parking to the event, donated by the World Championship Derby Complex.

Third prize is a two-night stay at the Northernaire Resort in Three Lakes, dinner for two at SpiritView Lakeside Restaurant, and dinner for two at 32 South Bar & Grill. Fourth prize is a two-night stay at Bauer's Dam Resort, plus a \$100 gift card.

Raffle tickets cost \$10 each or three for \$20 and are available at local restaurants, bars, resorts, marinas, businesses and at the World Snowmobile Headquarters in Eagle River.

The drawing will be held

To GROOM, Pg. 2A

Derby track prep underway

By JON EICHMAN
ASST. EDITOR

Intense preparation for the upcoming Vintage Series Championships and the World Championship Snowmobile Derby has begun at the World Championship Derby Complex (WCDC) in Eagle River.

Preparations have included a focus on track upgrades, making racer safety a priority, adding to the extension of Vintage racing due to popularity, and a special proclamation being put into place for this coming January.

Over the summer, the track was recently reconfig-

To PREP, Pg. 8A



The WCDC ice team has been out in full force nearly every night dumping water

down to get a good base come race time.
—Staff Photo By JON EICHMAN



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NEWS

Castle
FROM PAGE 1

the design is presented to the department leadership for adjustments. After the final adjustments are made to the design, the work of preparing for the construction begins.

"The height of the castle is determined by the equipment available to us for the project. In recent years we have borrowed variable-reach forklifts in order to build higher towers," the fire chief said. "If those forklifts are not available to us, then we have to build a shorter tower to match the reach of the equipment we are able to borrow."

As with all aspects of the planning and construction, tweaks to the design continue right up until the castle is actually built.

"The design is never complete until the castle is actually built — we continue to adjust the model until the first block is placed. Our goal is to build an elegant castle that is sturdy enough to withstand the warm southern exposure it receives in its designated location," Anderson said.

Tools of the trade

The department utilizes a lot of specialized tried-and-true tools to bring the castle to fruition each year. The castle requires more than 700 hours of labor over a five-day span of cutting, hauling and hand-placing approximately 2,000 10-by-20 inch ice blocks that weigh in at 60 to 70

pounds each.

Preparations begin each year by checking all the equipment over and making sure everything starts and runs properly.

"Most of the tools we use are tools we built ourselves or we have asked different businesses in the area to build for us. In the past seven years, we have rebuilt and overhauled most of the mechanical equipment we use," Anderson said.

One of the tools used each year is a conveyor that pulls the blocks out of the water and is run by a hydraulic pump. The chief noted the conveyor was built from a slide that was replaced in the city park many years ago, and has undergone several overhauls over the years.

"We also used a new ice saw to score and cut the ice last year. The saw was designed by our Deputy Chief Steve Burr in conjunction with Otto Fabrication and Towing who constructed the saw for the fire department," he said. "We do still have the old ice saw and also used it last year, but it belongs to the Jack Thom- as family and is only on loan from them."

After all the heavy equipment is coordinated and the ice saw, shaver, and hand tools are prepared, the department simply waits on the ice to reach the needed 14 inches.

"If the ice is 14 inches on the lake, by the time we get blocks shaved and palletized it is roughly 12 inches high, creating a 10-by-20-by-12-inch block of ice and weighing about 70 pounds," Anderson said.

When the ice reaches 14 inches, volunteers head out to plow the surface of the lake and begin the five-day process it takes to build the castle.

"On the first day, we score the ice, pre-cutting 2,500 10-by-20 blocks of ice. The goal is to cut down to within one inch of the bottom of the block without cutting through the ice," Anderson said. "The entire grid is connected, so if you cut into the water at any point the entire grid will flood and refreeze."

Once the pre-cuts are made, volunteers take the special tools they created to pack snow into all of the grid intersections. This process is referred to as "caulking the grid" and is done to stop the grid from flooding when they start to pull the blocks of ice. When the caulking is complete, day one is complete.

Day two, volunteers hand-cut the remaining inch of ice, pull the blocks from the lake and haul them to the Railroad Depot for shaving, and ultimately construction.

"Day two is the day when we need the most volunteers," Anderson said. "We operate on Silver Lake and at the Railroad Depot, and we need trucks to haul the ice from the lake to the depot," he said.

"Ideally, we will have three forklifts operating at the depot, eight ½-ton pick-up trucks able to haul 20 blocks of ice each, a crew loading ice on Silver Lake, a crew unloading ice at the depot, a crew cutting ice out of the lake, and then in the afternoon we would add an additional



Harvesting ice blocks for last year's ice castle out of Silver Lake was a cold task with temperatures hovering near the 0-degree mark. While

the cold makes it harder to harvest, volunteers still completed the task by about 3 p.m.

—STAFF PHOTOS

crew to start shaving the ice."

Anderson stressed that all blocks must be pulled out of the ice in one day.

"Whatever we get out of the lake is what we have to build the castle. Some years we have continued to pull ice until well after dark, and then last year we were done pulling ice at 3 p.m. The colder the weather, the harder it is to pull the blocks out of the ice," he said.

Day three is when the build begins on the actual ice castle, starting with the tower. The height of the tower depends not only on the equipment available to the department at the time of construction, but also the lighting options.

"In 2018, we built a 28-foot tower. It was beautiful, but in the dark the light didn't quite reach the top," the chief said. "In 2022 we added a light to the top by running an electrical cord through the center of the tower. LED lights really changed how we light the castle and opened up a lot of options for us."

In addition to the forklifts, the department also borrows scaffolding for the build from various sources, which Anderson said is a necessity for building the castle and completing the tower and outer wall on days four and five of construction. Volunteers also build in pockets for trees and lights, and then construct pillars to give the castle enough structure to withstand warmer weather and south winds.

"On the final day, we build the throne, hang the signs and place the trees," Anderson said. "The throne is never designed, it is constructed with whatever ice remains. Some years there is enough ice for a throne at the north and south ends, and some years there are just enough blocks for a north throne."

Serious responsibility

Much of the knowledge and tricks used to erect the castle has been passed on from member to member throughout the years. They have learned through trial and error what works and what doesn't, and certain duties have been adopted as their own by members.

One such case is Mike Dreger, who has been part of the department for 35 years, and has always been in charge of designing and placing the additional ice decorations on the castle.

Anderson explained the fire department and its members take the responsibility of building the ice castle seriously. When members are hired into the department, the ice castle is a point of emphasis and the responsibility of constructing it is explained during the interview process.

"It is important to build the ice castle to keep the tradition as a way of honoring the past, current, and future firefighters and Eagle River community members," said Assistant Chief Pat Crum.

Anderson said although it's a lot of work, the firefighters generally enjoy building the castle.

"They may not actually enjoy the process of working five days in subzero weather lugging around 70-pound blocks of ice. However, when it is done and they see the joy it brings to literally thousands of people, they cherish the knowledge that they are an integral part of that joy."

"In addition to the joy the castle brings to others there is a huge sense of accomplishment that everyone feels when the project is complete."

This year, if the ice conditions work themselves out, the fire department plans to build the castle during the first week of January.

Anderson reported that as of Monday morning, there was 11 inches of ice on Silver Lake, but a stubborn 1-inch layer of water remained that would need to turn to freeze up in order to build the castle. A warm-up forecast toward the end of the week with a small chance of rain could potentially pose additional problem.

"We need at least 14 inches of ice to safely harvest the blocks to build the castle, but we've got a little bit of time for it to work itself out," Anderson said. "Earlier this month there was not a doubt in my mind we'd be good to go on ice this year. With the weather we've had lately, we're just going to have to wait and see."



Specialized tools have been modified and created over the years to streamline gathering the more than 2,000 ice blocks necessary to construct the castle each year.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Dec. 9, 2022

Paul O'Brien to James W. O'Brien and Marcia L. O'Brien, gov lot 5 in 23-40-9, \$645

Ruth Alexander Real Estate Trust and Matthew D. Rowe, Trustee to Alexander Plum Lake Property LLC, gov lot 4 in 31-41-8, \$3,386.70.

Dec. 12, 2022

Rick A. and Margaret M. Lovdal Revocable Trust, Rick A. Lovdal Trustee and Margaret M. Lovdal Trustee to Gulleddge's Northwoods Venture LLC, SW NW and NW SW in 32-41-8, \$750

Amy J. Wilcox and Anthony J. Wolf to Andrea J. Reynolds and Julie Wolf Lightfoot, gov lot 1 in 6-43-7, \$870

Dale Baeseman to Karen Baeseman, gov lot 6 in 28-44-5 and NW SW in 27-44-5, \$120

Jean Erickson Revocable Living Trust and Lynn Ingram Trustee to Joseph Stalker and Melissa Stalker, SE NW in 32-44-6, \$690

Brittney-Shea Herbert to Patrick A. Frega and Kathryn R. Frega, Units 31 and 60 in Bradford Point Condominium, \$2,175

Dec. 13, 2022

Thomas E. Konkol and Tom Konkol to Anthony Rogacki, gov lot 3 in 12-43-6, \$279

Michael V. Maile and Lisa

M. Maile to Jeffery D. Johnson and Jenny R. Nienow, gov lots 5 and 6 in 28-44-5, \$1,185

Susan M. Lloyd Trust and Susan M. Lloyd Trustee to Jeffrey Earl Simmons Revocable Trust, Jeffrey Earl Simmons Trustee, Corlyn Lee Simmons Revocable Trust and Corlyn Lee Simmons Trustee, gov lot 4, NE NW, NW NW, SW NW, SE NW in 29-41-8 and gov lot 4 in 20-41-8, \$2,100

Dean J. Re and Sheila M. Re to Patrick C. Hettinger and Amy E. Hettinger, gov lot 5 in 25-41-5, \$2,814

Dec. 14, 2022

Lori A. Cate to Paul R. Cate Sr. and Paul R. Cate Jr., lot 1 in Mikich's Shorewood, \$51

Dec. 15, 2022

Ardyce M. Mayo to Benjamin M. Mayo and Jacob M. Mayo, gov lots 2 and 3 in 1-40-10, \$135

Jay and Helyn Woolf Joint Revocable Living Trust, Jay Woolf Trustee and Helyn Woolf Trustee to Lakeland Lumber and Hardware Inc., unit 1 in Hansons Commercial Condominium, \$354

Island City Storage-Service & Rental LLC to Nyman Worldwide Properties LLC, SE SE in 33-40-5, \$2,880

Dec. 16, 2022

Judith P. Manzelmann

to Richard A. Grochan and Denise M. Grochan, gov lot 2 and NW NE in 21-40-10, \$654

Jon M. Strom and Penny M. Strom to Joseph W. Moore III Trust and Joseph W. Moore III Trustee, gov lot 2 in 14-40-8, \$4,575

Patrick and Mary McDaniel Trust, Patrick and Mary McDaniel Trust, Ryan P. McDaniel Trustee, Ryan P. McDaniel Trustee, Colleen L. McDaniel Trustee and Colleen L. McDaniel Trustee to David B. Witken and Dina M. Witken, gov lot 6 in 18-40-5 and lot 4 in Young and St. Germaine's, \$1,281

James Hoffman and James Hoffmann to John Hesper and Janine Hesper, lots 7, 8, and 9 in Rockwood Estates North Div #4, \$34.50

Bernard A. Stromberg Jr. Trust and Carol L. Bidus Trustee to David F. Christofferson and Stephanie I. Christofferson, NW SE in 33-40-10, \$66

Steven M. Pederson to Dallas J. Stamberger, SE SW in 6-42-10, \$174

Cela Clair McGinnis, Cela Claire Mc Ginnis and Conservatorship Plus LLC Guardian to Matthew Ullrich, NW SE in 16-42-5, \$105.30

Backwoods Land Holdings LLC to Shawn Michael Nelson and Angela Dee Nelson, SE SW and gov lot 2 in 3-39-10, \$1,215

PUBLIC NOTICES

(Three Weeks, 12/28/22-1/11/23)
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT VILAS COUNTY
Case No. 22CV118
Code No. 30405

FRANK ROBERT FLOWERS
31988 RED TAIL RESERVE BLVD.
SORRENTO FL 32776

THOMAS LEE FLORES
12320 SW 100 AVE
MIAMI FL 33176

RICHARD ALLAN FLORES
PSC 478 BOX 138
FPO, AP 96212

ROY DOUGLAS FLORES
10097 US HWY. 421
CURRIE NC 28435

WILLIAM PATRICK FLORES
5602 UNION GROVE RD.
OAK RIDGE NC 27310

MARY ANN PICQUET
286 DOLLY ROAD
MADISON NC 27025
vs.
TONY L. SCHULTZ & ANNA SCHULTZ

THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS,
SUCCESSORS, & ASSIGNS OF TONY L.
SCHULTZ AND ANNA SCHULTZ
and
UNKNOWN PERSONS OR ENTITIES OF
INTEREST.
Defendants.

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND
NOTICE OF OBJECT OF ACTION

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO SAID
DEFENDANTS:
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the
plaintiff named above has filed a complaint
against you.

Within 20 days after December 28, 2022,
exclusive of the date just stated, you must
respond with a written demand for a copy of
the complaint.

The demand must be sent or delivered to
this court, whose address is:
Clerk of Court
Vilas County Courthouse
330 Court Street
Eagle River, WI 54521
and to plaintiff's attorney, whose address
is:

John M. Cirilli
Cirilli Law Offices, S.C.
116 E Davenport Street
Rhinelander, WI 54501
You may have an attorney help or repre-
sent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the com-
plaint within 20 days, the court may grant
judgment against you for the award of mon-
ey or other legal action requested in the
complaint, and you may lose your right to
object to anything that is or may be incor-

rect in the complaint. A judgment may be
enforced as provided by law. A judgment
awarding money may become a lien against
any real estate you own now or in the future,
and may also be enforced by garnishment of
wages or seizure of property.

NOTICE OF OBJECT OF ACTION

The object of the above action is to quiet
title to the following described real estate:
The west 24 rods of Government Lot 6,
Section 22, Township 40 North, Range 9
East, Town of Cloverland, Vilas County, Wis-
consin, except that parcel of land described
in Volume 246, Page 76.

Together with and subject to any easements,
restrictions and reservations of record or of use.

Dated this 20th day of December, 2022.
CIRILLI LAW OFFICES, S.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs
Electronically signed by: John M. Cirilli
WI State Bar No. 1005421
0768

(Three Weeks, 12/28-1/11/23)

NOTICE - TOWN OF LAND O' LAKES

The application for vacation of Partridge
Lane in the Plat of Lake Charlotte Cabin
Sites located in the Town of Land O' Lakes,
Vilas County, Wisconsin, will be on file in
the Town Hall located in Land O' Lakes, Wis-
consin, for a period of 30 days commencing
January 2, 2023 for public inspection
in accordance with Section 236.41 of the
Wisconsin Statutes. Persons interested in
inspecting this application may do so during
regular office hours of the Town Clerk Mon-
day through Friday after which the applica-
tion for vacation will be presented to the
Town Board of the Town of Land O' Lakes
on February 8, 2023 to hear any interested
parties and to act on the resolution author-
izing said vacation. Following the passage
of the resolution the matter will be present-
ed to the Circuit Court of Vilas County for
the hearing of all interested parties and the
Order of Vacation.

Dated this 19th day of December, 2022.
/s/ electronically signed by Steven C. Gar-
bowicz

Steven C. Garbowicz
Attorney for Town of Land O' Lakes
State I.D.#1018485
221 South First Street; P.O. Box 639

Eagle River, WI 54521
715.479.6444 x 22
0761

(Two Weeks, 12/28/22-1/4/23)
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE VILAS COUNTY
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
STATE OF WISCONSIN

ss
COUNTY OF VILAS
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Pursuant to Chapter 59.694 and 19.84 of
the Wisconsin State Statutes and Article X,
Section 10.3 of the Vilas County General
Zoning Ordinance:

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons
that a public hearing will be held at the
Land O' Lakes Town Hall at 4331 County
Hwy B, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540 on Wednes-
day, January 11, 2023 at 10:30 AM.

Relative to Board of Adjustment Variance
application B1-22, submitted by Joe Muehle-
thaler, property owner. On the following real
estate to wit: Part of Government Lot 3, Sec-
tion 7, Town 42 North, Range 10 East, Town
of Land O' Lakes, Vilas County, Wisconsin;
identified by Vilas County Computer Parcel
Number 12-1724-012.

Requesting a variance to Vilas County
General Zoning Ordinance Article V, Section
5.17 which states:
A setback from a private driveway easement
and/or private road, used for ingress
and egress easement to a structure or tax
parcel for building purposes will be 15 feet
from the traveled center line of the easement
road or 15 feet from the edge of the easement
whichever is greater.

Applicant is requesting a variance to build
a new house inside the required setback.
The Board of Adjustment may conduct an
on-site inspection of the above-described
property prior to the public hearing. The
Board will meet at the Land O' Lakes Town
Hall at 10:00 AM to proceed to the property.
A copy of the application is on file at the
Vilas County Zoning Office.

All persons interested are invited to attend
and be heard at the Land O' Lakes Town Hall,
Vilas County Board of Adjustment
Bridgette Nutter, Secretary
Dated at Eagle River this 22nd day of
December, 2022

0767

WNAXLP

PRACTICE DEMOCRACY. READ YOUR LEGAL NOTICES.

The reason publication of legal notices is required in newspapers is YOU, the citizen. In a democracy, the government is required to inform you of the public business, because you and your neighbors are the basis of government.

These notices provide essential information about all local government entities, including schools, cities, villages and counties.

A democracy is a system of checks and balances. Your right to be informed is a check on government. Public notices shed light on the actions of all governmental bodies, but it's up to you, the citizen, to read them and obtain more information on the actions that have an impact on you.