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## Bridgewood housing plan moves ahead

### Former golf course will sport multifamily homes

By Dan Roherty  
NEENAH NEWS

A multifamily housing project at the former Bridgewood Golf Course on the city's south side will begin to transform the 46-acre space starting this year with some of the living units ready by fall 2023.

Developers' plans that received the city's go-ahead last week include a 60-unit apartment complex along Harrison Street and another 206 units in 26 buildings. Access to the estimated \$22 million development would be created from Jewelers Park Drive and Harrison Street. The Common Council at its May 4

meeting approved recommendations from the Finance and Personnel Committee and Plan Commission that included amending the Bridgewood Planned Development District Master Plan, originally created in 2002, to change of use of the former golf course to multifamily residential with the new access points.

The amended master plan includes changes to tax incremental financing (TIF) No. 7 that was created to facilitate development in the golf course area that would allow for the work on the public course that closed in October 2019. A separate TIF No. 12 will overlap the existing district.

Site work is expected to be underway by early summer ahead of foundation work by the end of the year, according

to Community Development director Chris Haese.

"It's a phased project so they will build a number of units through the course of the next five or six years," Haese said. "It can be accelerated or slowed depending on how quickly units are being leased."

The city will provide 70% of the tax revenue from the district to the developer for up to 15 years or until the assistance totals \$3.16 million. The project is expected to add about \$20 million to the city's tax base.

The overall project includes a pedestrian connection to the new public recreational trail being completed this month along Jewelers Park Drive that will connect with the Bridgewood and

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Neenah native back with UWO band  
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## 3rd District council seat seeks entries

The city of Neenah is seeking applications to fill the vacancy created for 3rd District alderperson by former council member Jane Lang after her election as new mayor.

The new appointee will serve until next April when the seat will be up for election. Candidates must be a resident of District 3 and able to attend weekly meetings.

Those interested need to complete an application and return it to the city clerk's office by May 27. The application can be completed online at [seam.ly/nROBKDwv](http://seam.ly/nROBKDwv).

Selected applicants will attend the June 1 council meeting to provide a brief presentation highlighting their qualifications and interests in the role. The council will then vote and appoint a candidate.

Additional details can be found at [ci.neenah.wi.us](http://ci.neenah.wi.us).



Police Officer Zach Mulroy (left photo) with his K9 partner, Bobby, and Officer Sam Santiago (right) with K9 partner Cam are shown recently at the Neenah Police Department.

## Officers, dogs build relationships

### K9 police unit integrates work and regular life

By Patti Lee  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

If you think law and order has gone to the dogs, you're right. In Neenah, that's a good thing.

Meet the members of the Neenah Police Department K9 Unit. This elite crew is made up of Capt. Tom Van Sambeek, Officer Zach Mulroy and partner K9 Bobby, a Belgian Malinois/German shepherd, along with Officer Sam Santiago and partner K9 Cam, another German shepherd.

Van Sambeek, a Neenah officer since 1999, is the unit coordinator. But that wasn't his first choice. When the program was getting off the ground, the then-lieutenant was one of three applicants for a

### K9 information

Go to [ci.neenah.wi.us/departments/police/npd-canine-project](http://ci.neenah.wi.us/departments/police/npd-canine-project).

position as handler. His family had included three German shepherds through the years and he wanted that handler job.

His rank precluded him from that role so Van Sambeek asked for a demotion. The request was denied but he was offered the position of coordinator. K9 Cedric came to town with officer Christopher Gordon in 2012 and the unit was up and running.

Cedric was older than most K9s at 4 years. They're usually between 18 months and 2 years old. A Schutzhund dog, Cedric was purchased through donations at no cost to taxpayers. He was a dual-purpose K9 specializing in narcotics and tracking,

earning more than a paw-full of awards and accolades.

Mulroy and partner Bobby have been on patrol working night shift since September 2018. They trained with Jessiffany Kennels in Iron Ridge, Wis. These dogs are a lifetime commitment, living and working with their handlers.

Mulroy said Bobby was great on the work side from the drop – in fact, a little too good.

"Bobby is tightly wound and has a hard time unwinding, so learning how to be home was something we had to navigate together," Mulroy said.

Bobby would jump at the back door to signal he wanted to go out. Mulroy watched him jump all the way to the top of the door, an example of his energy. Mulroy

SEE **K9 police unit** ON PAGE 12

Photos by Patti Lee

# Neenah News

Local news for you

124 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
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# ThedaCare hospital update breaks ground

Neenah News

ThedaCare officially marked the beginning of its \$100 million modernization project at its Neenah hospital campus with a groundbreaking last Friday. The first phase of the work expands and redesigns its Emergency Department.

Emergency Department (ED) enhancements will advance coordinated care throughout the ThedaCare service area, according to health system officials, including critical access hospitals such as the region's Level 2 Trauma Center and Comprehensive Stroke Center.

"This milestone in the investment at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah comes as our health system is reinventing health care," said Dr. Imran A. Andrabi, ThedaCare president and chief executive. "Through investments such as this, to our anchor hospital in Neenah, we can continue to prepare and respond to the needs of the communities we serve, keeping our patients and families safe and healthy, now and in the future."

Neenah's former Mayor Dean Kaufert noted in his closing remarks at a May 5 event that keeping ThedaCare's medical facility on Doty Island was one of his more important accomplishments "because they had one foot out the door."

Construction teams will double the current care space of the ED. After completion, there will be 20 exams rooms, including specialized rooms for trauma and behavioral health. The design plan also includes an increased number of negative pressure rooms, also called isolation rooms, which provide a safe space to care for those with an infectious illness.

The ED health care team's worksta-



ThedaCare photo

Officials from the city, ThedaCare and developers break ground Friday on the Neenah hospital modernization project.

tion will be in the center of the area, with treatment rooms on the perimeter, giving teams a direct line of sight into each room. With an increasing demand for behavioral health support in the ED, the new space includes designated rooms for behavioral health services.

Current services, including ED care, will remain open during the construction process.

"Our patients and families were our priority when we planned our intentional construction phases, allowing them to continue accessing critical services with ease," said Lynn Detterman, senior vice president of ThedaCare South Region. "We appreciate the community's understanding as we work through construction at the Neenah campus."

Also in this first phase of construction, the ThedaStar Air Medical Program Helipad will be relocated adjacent to the ED entrance. There will be a separate hallway for patients experiencing a trauma, allowing them privacy.

The enhancements were funded in part by donors who support the ThedaCare Foundation-Neenah, contributing more than \$15 million to date.

"We have a rich history of providing compassionate care to the people in this

community, and are immensely fortunate to have caring, generous community members who support our mission of health and well-being," Andrabi said.

Other highlights of the modernization:

- Enhanced specialized space to care for stroke patients as the region's only Comprehensive Stroke Center, a designation given to hospitals that have specific abilities to care for the most complex stroke cases.

- Updated operating rooms to include advanced robotic surgical equipment and four dedicated robotics suites.

- Updated Family Birth Center.

- A new environment for the Women's Center, which includes mammography, diagnostics and imaging, and bone density testing.

- Improved and expanded access for Behavioral Health services by redesigning the inpatient space.

- "Main Street," where key diagnostic outpatient services will be on the first floor.

- A new dining area on the main floor for visitors and team members.

The next phase of construction, which will include work on "Main Street," is set to begin in the fall. The full modernization is expected to be complete in fall 2023.

## Bike auction scheduled

A bike action is set for noon May 22 behind the Neenah Police Department, 2111 Marathon Ave., with proceeds going to Youth Go.

The auction offers residents a chance to donate their used adult or youth bicycles that can be brought to Youth Go at 213 Nicolet Blvd. before May 21 from 2 to 8 p.m. weekdays.

Only cash or credit cards will be accepted for payment. For more information contact 920-722-1435 or [youthgo.org](mailto:youthgo.org) info@youthgo.org.

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# Brigade continues to find its youthful balance

## Youth organization marks 122 years of service

By Amber Brockman  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Since 1900, the Brigade in Neenah has provided youth opportunities to discover their potential through programs that promote wholesome values and character development.

It is the largest Brigade organization in the world, according to executive director John Benberg, serving future leaders between fifth through 12th grades.



**Benberg**

“Since our founding over 122 years ago, we have taught life and employability skills to thousands of youth through our fall-to-spring Fox Valley program and at Camp Onaway each summer,” Benberg said. “The Brigade experience is focused toward a balanced life consistent with the ‘My Own Self, At My Very Best, All The Time’ mantra.”

In the Building Leaders program from October through March, youth attend Brigade one night a week and experience different physical activities, workshops, guest speakers and small group discussions.

Additionally, the Brigade offers a variety of hobby clubs, summer camps and music programs.

“Summer is also when hundreds of dedicated volunteers help Brigade host over 1,000 youth through various camp offer-



Photos from the Brigade

Brigade members experience a variety of project activities and workshops along with presentations and group discussions.

ings at Onaway Island in the Chain O’ Lakes near Waupaca,” Benberg said.

Brigade has adapted over the years with the needs of youth to more effectively serve the entire community while also enriching member experiences.

“Recognizing we live in an instant-gratification world, our menu was expanded to include Discover Series, an a la carte offering of local workshops and music/tech experiences, which allows youth to allocate a portion of their limited free time to selected activities only,” Benberg said.

Brigade began as a boys-only organization with 30 young men enrolled in the new society.

“The concept of a Boys Brigade started in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1883 and found its way to Neenah in 1900 via S.F. Shattuck after he and his wife saw the model on an

overseas trip,” Benberg said. “In the 1970s a program menu for girls began locally. In the 1980s, both genders were blended into a combined program, which remains in place today.”

The original Boys Brigade model emphasized quasi-military and spiritual concepts, which evolved significantly in the organization over the past century, according to Benberg.

“Our values are influenced by early Christian roots,” Benberg said. “Youth today are encouraged to explore their own beliefs, with all being welcome.”

Along with a safe, structured environment for youth to expand their interests, Brigade produces resilient people who can interact constructively with others to solve problems, Benberg said.

“People who care about our future should care about the impact Brigade has on the next generation — we are equipping youth to become entrepreneurs, engineers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, elected officials, welders and more,” Benberg said. “Our proven model also encourages giving back and following the ‘leaving it better than you found it’ mantra.”

What makes Brigade so unique is the volunteer support behind it, program di-



## Brigade online

To learn more about how to get involved or show support, visit [bgbrigade.com](http://bgbrigade.com).

rector Marnie Spielbauer said.

“Volunteers are invested in every facet of our programming and operations, many of them for a lifetime,” Spielbauer said.

The goal of the paid staff at Brigade is to leverage as many volunteers as possible for the good of the kids, she said.

“They are a priceless resource and our program opportunities are unlimited because of the volunteers who choose Brigade and Onaway as worthy investments of their time,” she said.

The two facilities are filled with a seemingly endless list of things to try, Spielbauer said.

“Of course we hope that kids have fun and learn things as they participate, but what seems to stand the test of time are the friendships and lifelong connections that can be built here,” Spielbauer said. “It’s a community gem for sure; oftentimes people don’t realize until a decade or so later what a difference it made while they were growing up.”

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Photo from Valley Academy

Valley Academy for the Arts performers are preparing to present “The Tales of Peter Rabbit” on stage next week.

## Academy presents ‘Tales of Peter Rabbit’

Valley Academy for the Arts students will take their audience through the stories of Beatrix Potter with the group’s production of “The Tales of Peter Rabbit” being presented May 19 and 20 at The Grand Oshkosh.

Academy dancers also will be hosting a Peter Rabbit Tea Party from 4 to 5:30 p.m. this Saturday at The Plaza and Globe Coffee Shop in downtown Neenah. Tickets are available for \$20 at Valley Academy, 139 N. Lake St., or at the coffee shop.

Vignettes of Jeremy Fisher, Tabitha

Titchswitch and Squirrel Nutkin are brought to life in “The Tales of Peter Rabbit” by the performers who interpret the characters through a range of dance styles. Tickets for the 6 p.m. performances are available through The Grand Oshkosh.

The academy serves students of all ages with an emphasis on classical, contemporary and foundational ballet using Applied Kinesiology Dance methods to promote holistic wellness and human development.

# What makes Neenah water great for brewing beer?

## W A T E R

Wordle aside, there's no guessing beer's most important ingredient: WATER

Hops, yeast, barley malt, fruit, chocolate, gummy bears (?!). Whatever ingredients may be used to satisfy modern beer drinkers, none is more important than water.

Some breweries are known for their water — Deschutes Brewery in Bend, Oregon, comes to mind — and some breweries shun water's importance (to their detriment).

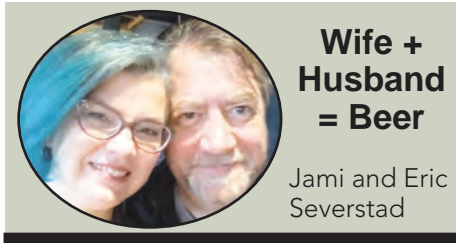
Here's a historical example: The water supply in Burton-on-Trent, England, rises up through a sandstone aquifer with a high content of gypsum, which is ideal for brewing pale ales. By contrast, London's water is naturally hardened by calcium carbonate, making it perfect for dark beers, such as porter.

As we touched on last month when discussing homebrewing, you can use the best possible hops, yeast and malt, but if the water isn't right for that style of beer, it'll taste off.

Both local breweries exclusively use the city of Neenah's water supply for brewing. How they use it, however, is a bit different, as we'll cover. Both also pay close attention to Neenah's annual "Water Quality Report," which examines the quality of the water produced by the Neenah Water Utility. Some breweries also use independent water testing labs to evaluate water in even greater detail.

Nate Sharpless, head brewer at Barrel 41 Brewing Co., has only used Neenah water his entire brewing life, first homebrewing alongside his older brother, and now as a professional.

"Understanding water chemistry is what can make a good beer great," Nate states. For him, that starts by reviewing the annual water



**Wife + Husband = Beer**

Jami and Eric Severstad

analysis report and also using a brewing industry water-specific spreadsheet. By plugging in values of the water — a mineral level, for instance — and the beer style to be brewed, it suggests how to adjust the water to hit the target profile.

Of course, brewers tweak their recipes for local customers' palates and their own creative spirits. Yet, having a base to begin a brew is not only reassuring, it's smart.

Speaking of smart — he's described as a "wizard" by Nate — Lion's Tail Brewing owner Alex Wenzel has a background in chemistry, which instantly gave him a leg up when he began brewing.

Nick Leak, Lion's Tail's vice president of operations and marketing, has brewed with Alex and confirms the passion for water excellence.

"Neenah's water is great for brewing. Neenah has a more robust treatment and filtering system than many other cities due to the paper mills and other production that has historically happened here," he says. "That process removes, or at least reduces, a lot of the minerals that we would otherwise be looking to offset ourselves."

How a brewery decides to prepare water for brewing varies from one brew master to another. Lion's Tail runs all water through a charcoal filter to remove any remaining minerals that could produce off-flavors. Barrel 41 doesn't take this step but may explore it in

the future.

"Eventually, we'd love a filtering or RO system to help with consistency," Nate says. Reverse osmosis (RO) removes dissolved solids and sediments (iron, fluoride, chlorine, bicarbonate) from water.

"You can make so many changes and improvements to the brewing process, but it all starts with the right water," he adds.

To prepare for brewing, the key is hitting specific pH levels for the "strike water," the water into which malted grains are steeped, transforming it into the mash (really, the first step of the brewing process). Each style of beer calls for a different pH level, dictating the tartness of the beer as well as its bitterness, color, alcohol by volume (ABV) and other factors.

Like sour beers? That strike water has a lower pH to achieve the tartness that people love about that style. Enjoy the soft, juiciness of a New England IPA? Adding calcium chloride changes the pH of the strike water to accomplish that.

Nick explains it further. "Strike water target pH needs to be adjusted to take into account pH levels of all the ingredients being processed to make wort (the liquid that results from the mashing process), such as the malts' pH levels, too," he says.

Making high-quality beer from Neenah's water goes beyond treatment of the water; it involves how the temperature of the strike water affects the target mash temperature.

Nick adds, "The mash temp has an effect on the perceived dryness versus boldness and/or juiciness of the finish. Not to get too 'sciency' (too late, Nick!), but temperature also plays a role in the mouthfeel of the beer, (resulting in) smooth, creamier beers or lighter, crisp beers. That comes down to

the science of how chains of proteins and sugars are created and the chemical reactions needed to create longer or shorter chains as needed for each style."

Nate's take at Barrel 41 is similar. "A target mash temperature may be 147 degrees for a Belgian quad and 152 for an IPA, a very different beer. Yet, those target temps are quite close. Mash temperatures are so important, as is the length of the boil," he said.

Beer has been around for a looong time, possibly dating back to 7000 BCE. So, humans have had a lot of time to perfect beer production techniques, including water use, to hit various style guideline targets.

"Because good water, and proper treatment of that water, is so important, any information — no matter how small — we're able to get our hands on that can aid us in maintaining that piece of the puzzle ... we'll take it," Nick says.

It's clear that using chemistry and water properly can be a meticulous process. It turns out that craft beer truly is a craft, with a lot of science with some artistic creativity thrown in.

"I'm still learning," Nate says. "I try new recipes on a 1-barrel system to make pilot batches about once a month. No matter what ingredients I use, I know that because beer is 95% water, it always needs to be top of mind," he adds.

**Downtown beer news:** Cheers goes out to Greene's Pour House on its 10th anniversary this month. Their tap options are always worthy, and they support many Wisconsin craft breweries.

*Let us know what we should discuss, share your beer-related events, and suggest story ideas you think Neenah readers need to hear about. Email: wife.husband.beer@gmail.com*

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# Farm education stays on modernized pace at FVTC

## Class instructors promote wide range of opportunities

By Kaitlyn Scoville  
NEENAH NEWS

While planting season is underway on farms across the nation, educators at Fox Valley Technical College work around changes in the industry to ensure their students are graduating with current skills and knowledge.

Instructor Kevin Rauchholz said the FVTC agriculture department offers two-year associate degrees in dairy, animal science and agronomy (soil management and crop production), as well as an agriculture power program and a shorter-term course called Farm Operations that runs from October to March.

Whether it be for agriculture or dairy, professors at FVTC work with advisory panels to keep up to date with industry trends and issues that can affect how students are taught.

"We bring in people from the outside that are on our advisory committees, and they give us suggestions for what we're supposed to be teaching," Rauchholz said. "For example, I have about 2,500 dairy cows and other instructors are involved with a very large dairy herd. Another one has their own beef herd, and another farms for cropping purposes."

Rauchholz and his colleague Jason Fischer, who teaches agronomy, both said that the industry from their perspectives is constantly changing.

"If you're not growing, you're dying," Fischer said. "Employers are looking for good quality employees that understand technology. The agronomy area specifically is aging; the average age of an agrono-

mist keeps increasing. "Companies are looking for individuals that are young and exuberant and understand the technology because the older agronomists don't understand it and aren't necessarily willing to adapt to it."

Rauchholz said labor has been a large issue, citing recent advancements in automation and robotics. Though current and previous methods are still around, instructors and farmers alike have to adapt to what's coming.

"It's a moving target in education. Obviously, we've got the old production methods, but now we've got to be on top of all the current changes in management," he said. "If you think about analyzing databases, for example, not many farmers would have been interested in doing that a few years ago, and that's become more important."

Fischer noted there are tractor companies that are already looking into autonomous vehicles, and some produce them.

Rauchholz said while there is a rise in automation, the costs of human labor and the technology are about the same. However, he added that technology and automation hasn't been detrimental to the workforce.

"Some of it's due to the availability of labor," Rauchholz said. "Some people have a pretty big pool of labor and others we've talked to don't have anybody left in the neighborhood to work anymore."

But even if costs of manufacturing new equipment and labor remain level, Fischer said the agriculture industry is no stranger to supply-chain issues and material shortages, specifically for machinery, herbicides and pesticides.

"Fertilizer has to be bought months ahead. Me and other farmers are buying



Photo from FVTC

A calf is weighed by a student at Wichman Farms, an Appleton area dairy farm that is a living classroom for agriculture students.

fertilizer now in October, November and December because they can't be guaranteed in April, May or June when they need it," Fischer said.

Rauchholz said farms in the area have worked around the pandemic "just fine," noting that "most of them are in a location where they didn't have a lot of exposure to COVID."

Fischer echoed Rauchholz on the industry struggling with supply issues, adding that fertilizer prices have nearly doubled in the past 12 months.

"I never thought I would see this, but feed companies have requested that people carry an extra four to five days inventory just because they're worried about getting product to the farm," Rauchholz

said. "I don't ever remember a problem like that."

But both Rauchholz and Fischer said there are several positives and opportunities within the industry with a broad range of skillsets and knowledge many need to keep everything operating smoothly.

A lot of people industry-wide, especially in Wisconsin, have strong ties with one another to work efficiently.

"I think the big thing is just having people understand that agriculture is such a diverse career. There are unbelievable amounts of opportunities in agriculture," Fischer said. "I think a lot of people just don't understand the magnitude of opportunities there are within the agriculture career field."



Photo from FVTC

Agriculture program classrooms at Fox Valley Technical College include simulated equipment training.

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# Music education major back on track after brain tumor

By Shane Nyman  
UW OSHKOSH TODAY

He may always have a smile on his face, but it's been a trying two and a half years for Eddie Stuczynski.

And not for the reasons you'd think for a northeast Wisconsin college student. Sure, the Neenah native began his pursuit of a music education degree at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in fall 2019 and that transitional time can be difficult



Stuczynski

for anyone. He also was just in his second semester – his first living on campus – when the pandemic hit, pushing all classes online and disrupting daily life across the world.

But on top of the everyday obstacles facing an 18-year-old and the fear and uncertainty we dealt with in 2020, Stuczynski began to notice a recurring tingling sensation in his face that spring. Soon after came erratic behavior of his right eye. These were the kinds of symptoms that, even in the early weeks of the COVID-19 crisis, were worth heading to a hospital to get checked out.

What was hoped to just be a pinched nerve or some other benign occurrence turned out to be much worse. An MRI in late April revealed a mass in his skull measuring more than 3 inches in diameter.

"I named my tumor Karen, after the Karen meme," Stuczynski said. "It was about the size of a medium Cutie or tangerine. It started at the base of my skull and grew up into my skull, kind of pressing up against my brain stem and my optical nerve and



UW Oshkosh photo

Eddie Stuczynski (front and center) is a member of both the UW Oshkosh jazz ensemble (pictured) and symphonic band.

my facial nerves, so that's what caused the facial tingling.

"After we found the tumor it was like 10 days and I was in my first surgery." It would be the first of three craniotomies – the surgery that includes opening of the skull – to beat back what was diagnosed as myxoid chondrosarcoma, a slow-growing bone cancer.

Now back at UW Oshkosh after about nearly a yearlong hiatus, the cancer is not in remission but parts have been removed, parts have been blasted with radiation and what remains isn't growing.

Life goes on, Karen and all.

Which, in a way, is how it's always been. "(Doctors) said that it has probably been in my head since utero," he said. "It was probably a lesion at the time but it's one of those things, it's bone cancer, it grows extremely slow. And this type of cancer grows even slower. ... It was definitely there for 18 years and we didn't notice anything until that face tingling."

To honor his journey and to inspire others, Stuczynski was chosen as the honorary survivor for last Saturday's American Cancer Society Sole Burner 5K Run/Walk in Appleton.

The spotlight was special for many reasons, but maybe tops among them is Stuczynski's personal history with the event. Now 21, he's taken part in the Sole Burner most years since he was about 7 years old. The run/walk became a yearly tradition because of a neighbor and close family friend who for years lived with breast cancer. He was part of a team of participants that included another family friend who died more recently from testicular cancer.

"I am so happy that they thought of me," he said. "I love to share my story. I love to share it because I can show that no matter what you're going through, you can get through it."

Stuczynski has done that – gotten through these past two years – with a remarkable attitude given the circumstances.

Few people on campus know him like associate music professor Drew Whiting, his academic adviser and saxophone instructor. And Whiting, who taught saxophone lessons to Stuczynski beginning

in high school, knows that along with the optimism, sense of humor and smiles is a lot of hard work and discipline.

"Over the course of the last year I've seen him have this wonderful attitude but also deal with some very real challenges," Whiting said. "I think sometimes we who know Eddie, we think of him as this cheery, amazing person – and he is that at his core – but there also are these moments where he really has to fight."

"It's not just the bright and happy person. There's a warrior under there."

The nightmarish whirlwind of a brain tumor diagnosis put an end to his spring semester and the series of surgeries that followed kept him away from UWO for about a year. He had to take either incompletes or a failing grade in his classes, depending on a variety of circumstances, and then either finish or retake those courses when he returned in fall 2021.

Stuczynski said Associate Dean of Students Houa Xiong made sure he had a clear path forward. It's going to take time, but he's now likely to graduate in 2024 or 2025 if all goes as planned.

"Honestly, if it wasn't for them and (Xiong), I probably wouldn't still be enrolled in college," said Stuczynski, who now works the front desk in the dean of students office. "She still meets with me on a monthly basis to make sure things are going well. She met with me that often if not more throughout my surgeries."

He knows the goal of earning a degree is still reachable, it just will take more time to get there than he'd imagined when he first came to Oshkosh. Stuczynski said he's fine with that and the silver lining is he will be older and wiser when he does start his career. He'll be a better teacher if he takes his time, puts in the work instead of trying to race to the finish.

"His maturity is beyond his age," Xiong said. "He's respectful, humble and has a pure heart of gold. I'm impressed by how, no matter what happens, he has the ability to stay positive, strong and continues to focus on his academic, wellness and personal goals."

Stuczynski said through it all he's allowed himself to have a down moment here or a bad day there, but he keeps his mind on all the good in his life now and up ahead. It's that mindset that makes him the kind of person the Sole Burner organizers would want to give a platform to.

"I've always been a very naturally optimistic person. ... That has always been such a big help getting through this – of course I let myself have that bad day because I deserve it at this point," he said with a laugh, "but I don't try and look at the negatives, I don't look at the bad things that might have happened that day, I try and look at how can I grow from here."

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**NEENAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Photo from Neenah Historical Society

## 19th-century mom

*In celebration of Mother's Day, this 1906 photo shows Laura Pinkerton and her son John. The Pinkerton family lived at 325 9th Ave. She was active in many civic organizations, including a charter member of the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society, Visiting Nurses Association, Women's Tuesday Club, the Red Cross and Neenah Historical Society.*



Submitted photo

## Eagle honors

Bryce Mau (left) and Shamus McMahon from Boy Scout Troop 14 in Neenah were awarded the highest rank of Eagle Scout recently in a ceremony at United Congregational Church of Christ. Bryce is the son of Brett and Beth Mau, and Ed and Dawn Drengler. Shamus is the son of Scott and Jennifer McMahon. Jim Gregory is the troop's scoutmaster and assistant troop leaders include Eric Larsen and Jon Jorgenson.

## Armed Forces Day event slated for May 21

The Neenah-Menasha Honor Guard, with the help of VFW Post 2126 from Menasha and American Legion Post 153 of Menasha along with Neenah American Legion Post 33, will be holding an Armed Forces Day event at the Isle of Valor in Menasha at 11 a.m. May 21.

A new flag and pole will be dedicated

in honor of the U.S. Space Force, which is now a branch of the military.

The Neenah Community Band will play music.

There will be a short remembrance for Ken Stumpf, a Medal of Honor recipient born in Neenah and a Menasha High School graduate who died April 23.

## Online class offered on Alzheimer's support

The Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter is offering Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances, a free online program to enable caregivers to learn about financial strategies for supporting their loved one.

The program will be available statewide on a regular basis starting May 24. Regis-

tration is encouraged online or by calling 800-272-3900.

The program will cover tips for managing someone else's finances, how to prepare for future care costs and the benefits of early planning. The program is open to caregivers of individuals living with Alzheimer's, dementia or another chronic illness.

# Calendar of events

### May 18

Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation Blood Drive, 1 p.m., Village Hall

### May 21

Greene's Pour House 10th anniversary street dance, 2 p.m., Church Street

Native Plant Sale, 9 a.m., Wild Ones Fox Valley Area, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road

Brigade at Beamons tournament events, 10 a.m., Willie Beamons, 2590 County II

JDRF One Walk, 10 a.m., Riverside Park

### May 22

Bike Auction, noon, Neenah Police Department, 2111 Marathon Ave.

### Through May 22

Story Walk at Southview Park. Read a children's story along a walking path.

### May 13

NEW Piano Guys, 10 p.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort

### May 14

Electronics Recycling Event, 8 a.m., Neenah City Garage

Garden Party, 9:30 a.m., Neenah Animal Shelter, 951 County G

### May 16

Big Band Reunion, 7:30 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

## Walk for diabetes starts from Riverside

Neenah's JDRF One Walk in support of type 1 diabetes research will step off at 10 a.m. May 21 at Riverside Park. The event is one of about 150 held across the country each year by the national research funding organization.

Those wanting to participate in the 5-kilometer walk can either create or join a team, or register on their own. There are three types of walking teams: family, corporate and schools/youth organizations.

Email Dana Brill at [dbrill@jdrf.org](mailto:dbrill@jdrf.org) or call 920-997-0038 for more information on either supporting the walk or registration.

JDRF is the leading global organization funding research for type 1 diabetes (T1D), an autoimmune disease that strikes children and adults and is unrelat-



ed to diet or lifestyle. In T1D, the pancreas stops producing insulin, a hormone needed to get energy from food.

## Lead pipe replacement funding sought

The city of Neenah is an applicant for funding through the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) to improve its public drinking water system, the state Department of Natural Resources announced last Friday as part of its ongoing statewide initiative.

The project includes the replacement of lead service lines throughout the city. Activities related to this project will not

require environmental analysis, but an environmental review must be conducted before there is state funding of the project.

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the project and potential environmental impacts by May 20 to the DNR, c/o Kevin Olson, Community Financial Assistance, 101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707. Email [Kevin.Olson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kevin.Olson@wisconsin.gov) for more information.

## Legacy adds Downs to board of directors

Legacy Private Trust Co. recently announced the appointment of Marissa Downs to its board of directors in a newly created position.

"Marissa will be a valuable resource in expanding our company brand, strategically analyzing and positioning our company and expanding our service offerings and geographical footprint," president Mi-

chael Mahlik said in a statement.

Downs has a bachelor's degree in real estate and urban land economics from UW-Madison in 2001. She began her career as an analyst at Related Capital, after which she was director of development at SunStarr Real Estate Group and senior vice president at Commonwealth Development Corp. She is currently a principal at Mosaic Property Ventures.

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# Zephyrs' Decker has a passion for baseball



Submitted photo

St. Mary Catholic senior shortstop Daniel Decker has a big passion for the national pastime and hopes to keep playing once his prep career is done.

By Tim Froberg  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Daniel Decker grew up in Nebraska, so he likes to joke that he used to play baseball in the cornfields.

Then again, ballgames in a cornfield – the theme that worked so wonderfully in “Field of Dreams” – would make perfect sense for a baseball lover like Decker.

The St. Mary Catholic senior shortstop has a serious passion for the game. It’s the only sport he plays and he plays it well. Decker was a first-team all-Big East Conference selection last season and led the Zephyrs in practically every offensive category.



Decker

A right-handed-hitter with power to the gaps, the 5-foot-11, 185-pound Decker hit a robust .521 with an on-base percentage of .589 and a slugging percentage of .708 – good for an OPS of 1.298. Decker also had just four errors and a fielding percentage of .902 at perhaps the toughest defensive position to play in baseball.

“What I like about baseball is that there is no repetition,” Decker said. “Anything and everything can happen and will happen. It’s just a great sport. There’s none other like it. I like the last at bat in the ninth inning when you’re down by one. I like making a diving play. I like being in the spotlight.”

And Decker likes playing shortstop – his position since Little League. A shortstop is generally considered to be a baseball team’s best fielder and an on-field coach and quarterback.

“I love being the leader of the team and helping put people in the right position,” Decker said. “Obviously, at shortstop, you get the most action and I love that. I love when a ball is hit to me. I’ve always been like that. When I was a little kid, I always wanted the ball. Wherever the most action was, that’s where I wanted to be.”

Decker spent most of his childhood in Columbus, Neb., before moving to the Fox Cities with his family ahead of his freshman year.

“I definitely like the baseball better here – the competition is just better,” he said. “I chose this place (St. Mary Catholic) because of the extensive history of the baseball program. I love it here. We’re getting a new field here and Jeff

## Senior Spotlight

(Hogenson) is a great coach. He’s always trying to get us one percent better each day. He focuses on the little things to get us better.”

Decker has also developed a deep affection for the Badger state.

“I love living in Wisconsin,” he said. “It’s my home. There’s so much more to do here than in Nebraska. I want to live here the rest of my life.”

Daniel is the oldest of five siblings and isn’t the only Decker on the Zephyrs. His younger brother, Noah, is the team’s catcher.

“It’s fun having him on the team,” Daniel said. “We have really good chemistry when we team up on plays like a runner trying to steal second. My older sister, Gracie, is also part of the team. She’s the team manager.”

Daniel plays the game practically year-round. He’s trained with Rick Cavaiani of CBT (Cavaiani Baseball Training) based at Players Choice in Appleton, and has played summer travel baseball and fall ball with Cavaiani teams.

“Daniel has been an incredible pleasure to coach,” Hogenson said. “He’s been a great example for younger players to help build the culture of our program by putting others first, leading by example and most importantly, lifting others up by being a very positive person.”

Decker will play the game at the college level. He plans to attend Milwaukee Area Technical College – a two-year vocational technical college – and will play on the school’s baseball team.

“I think it’s a good way to start,” Decker said. “There are less restrictions on coaching with junior colleges, so you get to work with coaches a lot longer throughout the season and there are more practices. I’ll play baseball there for two years and my goal is to transfer to a Division I school.”

Hogenson added: “Milwaukee Area Technical College is getting a very talented baseball player and an incredible person. I’m excited to see the great things Daniel will accomplish in life, on and off the field.”

Until then, Decker is focused on helping the Zephyrs build on a solid 2021 season in which St. Mary Catholic went 14-7 overall and 8-4 in the Big East.

“We haven’t played our best ball yet, but we’re playing for the end of the season,” Decker said. “The postseason – that’s when you want to play your best ball.”

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# Darkness dampens Rockets' hopes of ending skid

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

OSHKOSH – Sometimes you win. Sometimes you lose. Sometimes, you just run out of daylight.

With the score tied at 7 between Neenah and Oshkosh West on Monday night, the Fox Valley Association baseball game was halted because of darkness and will be completed at a later date.

Before the game was stopped, Neenah looked like it might be on its way to snapping a three-game losing skid.

The Rockets opened up with four runs in the top of the first to grab the early lead. Brady Corso started the rally with a lead-off double and later scored on a West throwing error.

Andrew Carlson picked up an RBI double later in the inning, followed by a two-run single from Payton Miller that staked Neenah to its lead.

“We started off great and then became complacent. We need to attack from the first inning on,” Rockets head coach Jack Taschner said.

“You can’t expect to score all your runs in the first inning and hold teams scoreless

the rest of the way. We need more balance on the offensive side which hasn’t happened a ton this year.”

Oshkosh West, however, battled back to take a 5-4 lead in the third inning, but the Rockets wouldn’t go away.

Still trailing by a run entering the top of the seventh, Miller smacked a one-out single followed by another base hit from Matthew Stuczynski that, after a Wildcat error, allowed Miller to score to tie the game.

Another West miscue allowed Stuczynski to score while a clutch run-scoring single by Evan Paque pushed the Rockets to a 7-5 lead going into the bottom of the seventh.

West would knot the score again, sending the game into extra innings. The teams would then play a scoreless frame before darkness brought an end to things.

Corso, Carlson and Miller all have multi-hit games going for the Rockets, while Miller already has a pair of RBIs.

AJ Price got the start for the Rockets and struck out six in 4 1/3 innings of work. He allowed five runs – three earned – and walked three. Paque was on the mound when the game was stopped,



Photo by Jim Koepnick

A Neenah baserunner tries to avoid a tag on a play at second base on Monday.

having allowed four hits in 3 2/3 innings, while tallying one strikeout.

“I would like to see us put together some complete games,” Taschner said. “We have

yet to do that, and our record indicates that. I want to find our stride as we hit this point in the season as we need to be at our best for the postseason.”

## Prep sports roundup

### BASEBALL

#### Zephyrs win fourth straight after starting 0-4

The St. Mary Catholic boys baseball team has found a groove, picking up its fourth straight win after beating Cedar Grove-Belgium 11-1 last Thursday and Valders 11-3 last Saturday.

On Tuesday, St. Mary Catholic lost to Random Lake, 4-0.

No stats were available for the Zephyrs.

#### Big inning hurts Rockets

The Neenah baseball team lost two games last week, falling 12-0 to Hortonville and then 11-6 to Oshkosh West.

The Rockets were outhit 14-2 against the Polar Bears while Neenah committed three errors. Brady Corso and Eli Schmidt recorded the lone hits.

Against Oshkosh West, the Wildcats scored seven runs in the fifth to help pull away as both teams combined for 25 hits.

Darius Jones led Neenah with a 3-for-4 day, with a double and two RBIs while Andrew Carlson, Max Medrano, Payton Miller and Ethan Van Dyke each had two hits.

Van Dyke had two doubles while Miller had two RBIs.

### GIRLS SOCCER

#### Middleton shuts down Neenah

The Neenah girls soccer team faced Middleton in a game played at Brookfield East last Friday and the Rockets were shutout, falling 1-0.

No statistics were available.

### SOFTBALL

#### Rockets take wins over Appleton, Kimberly

The Neenah softball team picked up two wins last week, 4-1 at Appleton North and then a dominating 11-1 victory over Kimberly at home Friday.

The Rockets got two great performances from Morgan Harwood, who pitched two complete games. Against Kimberly, she allowed one run on three hits and struck out 10. Against Appleton North, she allowed one run on a hit and struck out 11.

At the plate against Kimberly, she homered and drove in three while Bella Coulman was 3-for-3 with two RBIs.

Taelyn Bauer added two hits and an RBI. Against the Lightning, Harwood led the way at the plate once again, going 2-for-3 with two doubles and three RBIs. Parker Zipperer had a double and an RBI.

#### Zephyrs win big against Cedar Grove-Belgium

The St. Mary Catholic softball team split last week, picking up a 12-1 win over Cedar Grove-Belgium on Thursday while losing a tight 5-4 game against Iola-Scandinavia on Friday.

The Zephyrs pounded out 13 hits in the win, scoring 12 runs in the first three innings. Nevaeh Saringer, Rhiannon Reichenbacher, Allie Strande and Teagan Miller each had two hits – with Miller driving in four runs.

Emily Vogel added two RBIs while Saringer picked up the win in circle, giving up one run on two hits with six strikeouts.

Iola-Scandinavia scored a game-winning run to pick up the win Friday as the Zephyrs committed five errors in the loss. Saringer pitched well, as only two of her five runs were earned.

Vogel went 3-for-4 with two RBIs while Miller added two hits and an RBI.

St. Mary Catholic also suffered a 10-0 loss to Random Lake on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs were held to just two hits in the game, with Reichenbacher and Addy Modder each finishing 1-for-2 in the game.

### BOYS GOLF

#### Rockets handle Kimberly at Ridgeway course

The Neenah boys golf team, led by John Callahan, picked up a Fox Valley Association win against Kimberly last week after firing a 165 to Kimberly’s 179 in a match played at Ridgeway Golf Course.

Callahan was medalist with a 1-under 35 while Payton Kramer shot a 40 and Nick Hein had a 43.

The Rockets also picked up an FVA win over Hortonville on Monday, 164-170.

Kramer turned in a round of 36 to earn medalist honors, while Callahan added a 39 and Eli Oitzinger carded a 41.

#### Zephyrs face tough field at Blue Bomber Invite

St. Mary Catholic placed 11th out of 12 teams in an invite Monday hosted by Kohler at Blackwolf Run.

The Zephyrs carded a score of 440 at the meet with Spencer Lynch leading the way with a 91. Ethon Moschea was the next highest finisher for St. Mary Catholic with a score of 111.

West De Pere won the team title with a score of 346.

### TRACK & FIELD

#### Neenah competes in Myrhum Invitational

The Neenah girls track and field team competed in the Myrhum Invitational on

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 10

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# Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 9

Saturday and they tied for 24th as over 30 teams competed in the invitational.

Leading the way for the Rockets was Mazie Olkowski, who finished third in the 3200 with a time of 11:36.42 while Lydia Delene had two top 10 finishes – a sixth-place finish in discus (105-03) and a 10th-place finish in the shot put (32-09).

## Neenah boys top field at FVA triangular

Backed by three 1-2 finishes as well as wins in three of four relay events, the Neenah boys held off Oshkosh West at a Fox Valley Association triangular in Kimberly.

The Rockets won the boys meet with 89.5 points, while Oshkosh West came in second with 84.

Charles Fredrickson and Jack Monson in the 400 meters, Drew Gentile and Alex Thayer in the 800 meters and Ian Cowell and Jaden Leal in the 3,200 meters each finished first and second in their respective events. Cowell also picked up a win in the 1,600 meters.

Trevor McGinniss added a first place in the high jump, while Aaron Merkley in the 110-meter hurdles and Michael Price in the discus each took second.

The Rockets also placed first in the 800-meter, 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter relays.

Madeline Delene picked up a second in the shot put and a third in the discus. The Rockets were also second in the 800-meter, 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter relays.

The Rockets finished third in the meet with 43 points, behind Oshkosh West (102) and Kimberly (97).

## Zephyrs finish third, fourth at Hilbert invite

The St. Mary Catholic boys and girls track teams competed in the Hilbert Invitational last Friday and the girls finished third while the boys were fourth out of 10 teams.

The boys were led by Charlie Nackers who took first in the high jump (5-09) while Alexander Groppel was second in the 800 (2:07.82) and third in the pole vault (9 feet).

Dylan Dwyer took second in the 200 (24.24), Benjamin Schoeni was third in the 1,600 (5:13.04) and fifth in the 3,200 (11:05.54) while Cam Connolly added a top five finish in the shot put with a 41-04.

The 400 and 3,200 relay teams were second while the 1600 relay was third.

On the girls side, Anna Vanden Acker won the triple jump (31-10.50) while Jaydin Vosters was second in the 300 hurdles (52.66) and third in the high jump (4-06).

Sylvia Walentowski added a runner-up in the 800 (2:51.19) while Katharine Schoeni (3200 run), Grace Dominowski (100) and Nolie Anderson (discus) all finished third.

The relay teams did well as the 3,200 team took first while the 800 and 1,600 teams were third.



Photo by Scott Kruger

## Flatgrass competitors

Girls teams compete in a match during the Neenah Soccer Club's annual Flatgrass Showdown tournament held at Memorial Park that ran through last weekend.

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Photo by David Hall

## Watershed cleanup

Volunteers pick up trash around the Neenah Slough between Arrowhead and Herb and Dolly Smith parks as part of the 2022 Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup on Saturday. The Fox-Wolf organization reported that 1,617 volunteers helped out at 60 locations, collecting 8,429 pounds of trash overall.

## Chamber cites Sure-Dry for work environment

Sure-Dry has been certified as an Employee Friendly Workplace in the Fox Cities by the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce.

The bronze-level certification recognizes employers who demonstrate commitment to work/life integration by creating a positive work environment for all employees.

Sure-Dry was noted for offering employees a variety of supplemental benefits including paid time off for vacations and holidays, health insurance, and a company retirement plan with match. They also offer a training program and a defined career path, opportunities for continued educa-

tion and quarterly off-site team building activities.

The Fox Cities Employee Friendly Workplace Initiative encourages more employee friendly workplace practices and policies in order to enhance work/life balance and attract and retain the best employees to the region.

The Chamber program, which has certified seven other companies as being employee friendly, is open to employers with operations in Calumet, Outagamie and northern Winnebago counties. To learn more, visit foxcitieschamber.com.

## Winnebago COVID cases rising again

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its COVID-19 Community Levels last week with new local data that raised Winnebago County's status to the Medium category.

Community Levels are based on the number of new cases per 100,000 people, number of new hospital admissions, and average percent of staffed inpatient beds in the past seven days.

Recommendations for Medium community level:

- If immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, talk to a health care provider about whether to wear a mask in public.

- If living with someone at high risk or coming in contact with people who are high risk, consider wearing a mask while indoors with them or using a home test before coming in contact.

- If having symptoms or exposed, get tested and stay home while waiting for results.

- Stay up to date with vaccines.

"We have been seeing cases, hospitalizations and percent positivity increase in our area over this past month due to the COVID-19 Omicron subvariants," said Doug Gieryn, Winnebago County Health Department director. "The medi-

um level does not indicate a crisis level, but it does signal that the risk of infection is increasing in our communities and provides guidance for lowering the risk for yourself and those around you, especially if someone has a high risk for severe disease."

Area vaccination opportunities:

- Fox Crossing Fire Department, 1326 Cold Spring Road, Tuesdays, 3 to 5 p.m.

- Walk-In Wednesday, Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E County Y, Wednesdays, 3 to 6 p.m.

Local COVID-19 vaccine clinics can be found at wcvaccine.org or call 920-232-3026.

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Porch Rummage Sale: Friday May 13th 10:00 to 5:00 and Saturday May 14th 10:00 to 4:00. Location the corner of New York Avenue and Jackson Street in Oshkosh. I will have a rummage sale sign up. Items for sale: Adult clothes, Kitchen items, Electronic items, etc. Parking on New York Ave on the south side of the street (right side).

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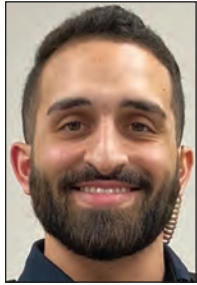
## K9 police unit

FROM PAGE 1

used tools such as removing Bobby's work collar and providing a lot of hard-rubber Kong toys help work out that Malinois energy. He will never be laid back, but home is getting easier for Bobby now.

Santiago and his partner Cam started patrol on day shift in April 2020. They trained with K9 Services in Edgewood, N.M., for six weeks, then came directly to Neenah.

Cam had the easier time adapting to the work/domestic life switch. Santiago was initially concerned as to how Cam would get along with their family dog.



Santiago

"These K9s are big alpha dogs," he said. "But Cam flips the home-and-work personality really well and gets along with everyone after hours."



Mulroy

Santiago said Cam enjoys the down time with his family. His favorite treat? An ice cube over food every time.

When Santiago and Cam were ready to come on the scene, it was time for Cedric to hang up his work collar for good. He was 12 years old, retiring in March 2020. Size and deterioration from getting in and out of patrol cars usually dictate that K9s age out earlier. But Cedric's last several years were spent in the Metropolitan Enforcement Group drug unit so he didn't have that repetitive wear and tear.

After 10 months of R&R, retired Cedric passed away peacefully June 7, surrounded by his family who included Van Sambeek. "I cried like a baby," he said.

Maintaining excellence is a huge endeavor. K9 Services performs certification for the area group on a biannual basis. The group includes Neenah, Oshkosh, Appleton, Kaukauna, and Outagamie and Winnebago counties. The group participates in regular trainings, about 16 hours annually.

They work the dogs together, learning and sharing insights. The goal is to channel their natural energy and aggression into the work. The dogs train in tracking, apprehension, obedience, voice commands, article search and proofing.

Tracking is "ground disturbance." When a person walks across a surface the dog picks up on that scent and tracks it. Article search is an odor that "doesn't belong



Photo by Patti Lee

Badges, the Neenah Police Department's animal ambassador, is surrounded by plushies of police K9s Bobby and Cam at the station recently.

there" i.e. a person running from police might toss something from a pocket or bag. The K9 catches that fresh scent and shows the handler the item by laying down beside it.

Obedience and apprehension are dealt with in one certification, narcotics work in the other. Trainers assess handlers and dogs in various rooms – some clean, some with drugs or items to hit or "proof" such as latex gloves. Those gloves have a scent and the dogs need to ignore it. Other temptations to ignore, like toys and tennis balls, help to keep the K9s sharp and ready for duty.

Another important assessment is ensuring the handler holds control of the dog with voice. If an officer sends a K9 in to apprehend and a suspect becomes compliant, the officer must stop the K9 en route. Scenarios are set up to assure that voice command is tight and secure. A certification training will take place this month.

Neenah is surrounded by water, so Bobby and Cam get to enjoy a special training the day before the annual Drool in the Pool. Bobby and Cam head to the Neenah Pool for some fun and training in the water. They play and practice various exercises, mostly trying to make it fun so the dogs see water as good and inviting.

Bobby and Cam were apparently not too crazy about it at first, with Bobby hitting the brakes and falling in, and Cam doing a long-legged, vertical stroke.

"But not anymore," Santiago said. "Now they love it."

The reward for all the time, money and effort is validated by the K9s. According to Mulroy, Bobby has always liked tracking.

"His face is in the ground 24/7. The one that really sticks out to me is we had just under a mile track up in Menasha. We ended up getting to the actual person and arresting him," Mulroy said. "That's very rare to have a live deployment as a track, and get to the end with a real person, a real arrest. Usually there are obstacles, people get picked up in cars, or something interrupts the track."

"Bobby was dead tired but he wanted to keep going. He really showed his determination and work drive. It was one of my highlights with Bobby."

Cam had his own success story with a building search in Fox Crossing. A man was breaking into houses along the railroad tracks near Winchester. The suspect took off on foot and the on-scene officers couldn't find him. It was a particularly large perimeter.

"It's nearly impossible to locate one person in an area that big so they called in Cam," Santiago said. "We tracked about a quarter mile through varied terrain, residential, thick brush, then a large property with a main house, barn and outbuildings. The officers on the ground floor said it was cleared so Cam and I went upstairs. But Cam kept alerting downward."

## Bridgewood plan

FROM PAGE 1

Harrison trails. Haese said the housing development's trail will bisect the golf course space along its southern boundary to the Harrison Street trail, creating a figure-8 loop.

A new bridge will be constructed by the city across Neenah Creek at the primary entry point into the development along with other curbing improvements around the development.

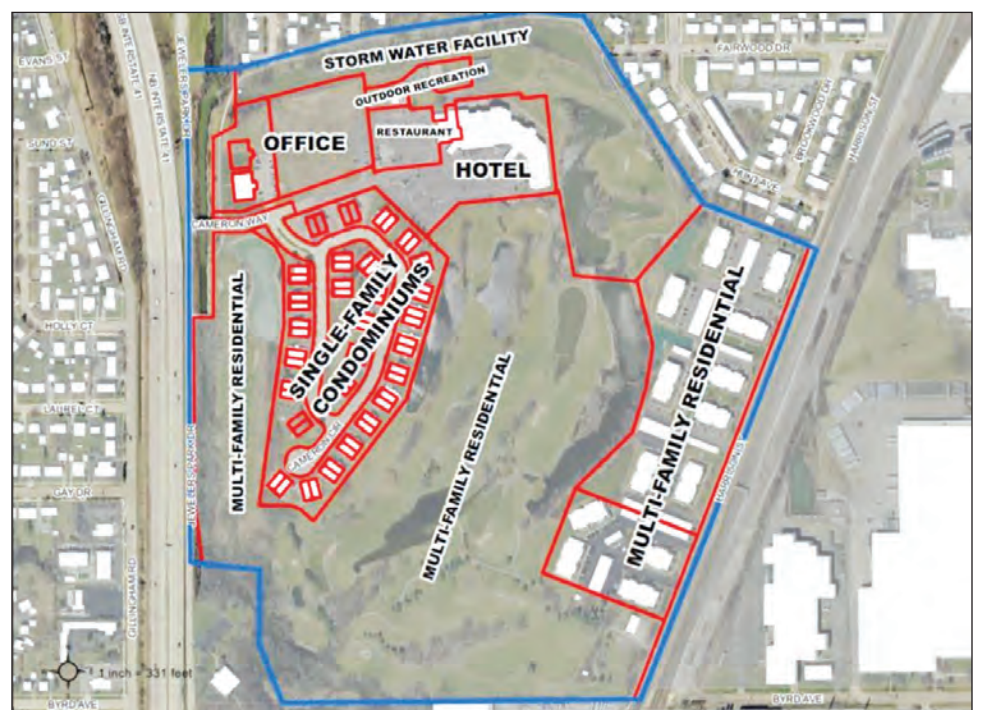
The original Bridgewood master plan identified the proposed use of the site to include single-family condominiums, hotel/restaurant, office, multifamily residential and the nine-hole golf course. Since then, several amendments to the plan were approved before the golf course owners and developer Thomas Vandeyacht brought forward the multi-

family residential idea.

The style of the buildings is described as similar to the Pendleton Park Apartments, which were also created by this developer.

City officials said existing public utilities are sufficient in size and capacity to service the development and will not impact existing roadways including Cameron Way or Cameron Circle. The current pond will be extended and another added to accommodate the development.

Vandeyacht, representing Versatile Real Estate Holdings, said in response to a resident's question that they will not be removing trees beyond those needed for access to the development. He added that current condo residents may experience a decreased level of highway noise when the buildings between the highway and condo area are built.



Map from city of Neenah

Developers' plans for condominiums and multifamily housing are shown at the Bridgewood site.

Alert is a change in behavior showing that the dog has found something and is making it known.

"The officers heard a rumbling noise and found someone hiding in the ground floor area they'd previously cleared," he said.

The K9s are big, handsome animals and the first instinct for a dog lover is to ask to pet them. They're good boys and will certainly take a pet but that's not the best for them because of their responsibilities.

Social settings aren't the way to put their best paws forward. Demos and skill exhibitions where they can highlight their abilities are much more enlightening for the public and better for the K9s.

But if you want an ambassador, look no further than station dog Badges. This gregarious Goldendoodle is a big, curly bundle of joyful energy. An energetic member of the police department family, he spends three days per week at the station, going home with his handler, Lori, the department's open records clerk. Administrative assistant Lindsay Alliance is Badges' office companion and gets his extra attention as he makes the rounds for pets and treats.

Badges can be seen at the Future Neenah Farmers Market and other public events. He loves everything involved with being a man about town. Folks in Neenah should expect to see a lot of him now that the weather is nicer. He will be happy for a meet-and-greet and might even offer a joyful howl.

The K9 program is funded by the community. According to Van Sambeek, there is a small budget for the officers and dogs with a food stipend, and financial assistance for vehicles and a few necessities.

A K9 vehicle with kennel, rear air conditioning, "hot and pop" system, K9 purchase and training (officer and dog) costs above \$100,000. The program is wholly supported through donations, sales of Cam and Bobby plush toys, coffee mugs, and NPD Challenge Coins.

It's a special call of duty and the unit officers consider themselves beyond fortunate to work with these amazing dogs. While Van Sambeek still regrets never being a handler, he loves everything about his job, especially the K9s.

"I'm just amazed at what they can do," he said. "I love the 'no quit' that you have in German shepherds."

Santiago echoes that sentiment. "The dogs make it worth the work. Seeing the dog show you the fruits of your hard work is deeply rewarding."

Mulroy agrees. "We assist officers and departments all over the area. Trust the dogs and they will help you. It's the most rewarding job the police department has to offer."