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Council sets driveway, storage rules

City updates code for outside aesthetics

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Common Council amended city code related to residential driveway standards and portable storage containers at a meeting earlier this month.

Under Neenah's current municipal code, no standards existed for residential drive-

ways. The council considered an ordinance focused on newly constructed driveways.

Deputy director of community development Brad Schmidt noted in a memo that the ordinance also attempts to consider common complaints regarding existing driveways related to location, material and size.

The ordinance is intended to clarify the standards of new driveways constructed after May 1, 2023, and existing driveways constructed before that date. Under the or-

dinance, new residential driveways and the expansion of driveways constructed after May 1 must meet several requirements.

Driveways must be constructed with concrete, asphalt, permeable pavers or other material approved by the zoning administrator. The maximum driveway width at the front property line is 30 feet for single-family homes and 36 feet for two-family homes with a side-by-side garage.

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Vintage Choir photo

Neenah's Vintage Choir, shown in a previous concert at Pickard Auditorium, takes the stage May 13 on its 50th anniversary

Vintage Choir prepares for jubilee

Vines reflect on 50 years of special performances

By Patti Lee
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah Show Choir known as Vintage will take the Pickard Auditorium stage for its annual Finale performance May 13 as it marks 50 years of musical excellence.

Reaching this golden anniversary is notable on its own merit. But there's a lot more to the story that started in the 1960s when a vivacious girl who worked at Pearl Harbor went out one night to the Queen's Surf Club in Waikiki. There she met a talented guy with a most beautiful voice and some major musical chops.

That guy and that girl – Jim and Sue Vine – recently sat down in a roomy booth at the Ground Round to reminisce and remember nearly three decades of the Neenah High School Vintage Show Choir.

Vine was raised in a musical family. His father, Richard, was chairman of the music department at the University of Hawaii. With a special passion for the trumpet, Vine was instrumentally and vocally



Photo by Patti Lee

Sue and Jim Vine talk about their many years involved with the Vintage Choir in Neenah.

Wayne Newton and lead guitar with Bette Midler for more than two years. But after a stint in Las Vegas, Vine informed his new wife, Sue, that he wanted to get off the road and be a teacher.

"I always loved the 'being out front' part," Sue said with a smile, who was a bit surprised at the career change. "But Jim really wanted to be the one in the background, the one who makes it happen for everyone else."

"Yeah," Jim said laughing. "I was tired of making so much money!"

Earning his teaching degree from the University of Hawaii, Vine joined the faculty at Neenah High School (then Conant Jr. High) in 1970. After transitioning to the 'new' high school, Vine created the Swing Choir in 1972.

He drew heavily from his performance career and lessons learned while student teaching under Shigeru Hotoke of Kailua School. Hotoke's madrigal singers toured the world as Ambassadors of Aloha and that performance model was firmly set as his swing choir began its musical journey.

About and around the same time, cre-

prolific early on, playing trumpet, guitar, trombone, French horn, conga drums and flute.

He enjoyed a highly successful performance career, playing trumpet for notables such as Lou Rawls, Sammy Davis Jr.,

Activities put focus on environment

By Rob Zimmer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

With both Earth Day and Arbor Day approaching, there are many great ways you can get together with others in the community to help celebrate and honor the tradition of these important days.

The Neenah Public Library is offering programs Saturday for all ages to celebrate Earth Day and teach the importance of keeping our community clean, especially area waterways, as well as recycling and using discarded items to create art and beauty.

The first program for kindergarten through middle school children is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. where the wonders of algae are explored with the American Chemistry Society. The program will include a presentation, demonstrations and activities.

The Winnebago County Solid Waste Department will later present a family program to teach all ages the importance of recycling at 1 p.m. It will include a fun activity where children can create art and

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Neenah News

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New sign ordinance challenge filed

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is being sued for its sign ordinance – again. This time it’s by the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) Litigation Center that filed a lawsuit in Winnebago County Circuit Court last week on behalf of four residents, asserting that the ordinance violates the First Amendment right to free speech.

WMC is representing residents Gail and Margaret Minks, and Gary and Kim Novak.

WMC Litigation Center executive director Scott Rosenow said the city’s sign

ordinance essentially bans commercial advertising via signs within the city, “which is a slap in the face to small-business owners.”

“Neenah residents have a right to free speech, including a right to express themselves and advertise their businesses with yard signs,” he said.

The city was first sued over its sign ordinance in federal court in late January by the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty (WILL) on behalf of residents Tim and Megan Florek. WILL contends the city’s efforts to have signs removed from homes in the Shattuck Middle School neighbor-

hood protesting rezoning efforts are unconstitutional.

The city agreed to voluntarily halt enforcement of the sign ordinance in February while awaiting Judge William Griesbach’s decision on whether to grant a preliminary injunction. Earlier this month, Griesbach issued an injunction prohibiting the city from enforcing the sign ordinance during the duration of the lawsuit, which is ongoing.

Last week WMC filed its own lawsuit against the city in circuit court. WMC argues that Neenah’s ordinance prohibits signs that advertise off-premises businesses and commercial advertising on parked vehicles, and imposes time-related restrictions for certain signs.

WMC noted that while the ordinance allows a person to advertise an in-home business with a yard sign, the sign would need to be removed after 30 days. A Support Our Troops yard sign would also need to be removed after 30 days; while “No Trespassing” or “Parking in Rear” yard signs may remain up indefinitely.

“The ordinance would also prohibit a plumber from parking his work van in his driveway if his van was visible from a street and advertised his plumbing company,” WMC wrote.

City Attorney David Rashid said in late January that the sign ordinance is content neutral because it regulates any such signs, regardless of the message appearing on them. Rashid declined to comment on the lawsuit filed by WMC, citing the pending litigation.

Rosenow said that signs are a relatively inexpensive form of advertising that small businesses depend on, especially if many of their customers are local.

“We filed this lawsuit to hold the city government accountable for its blatant overreach and to prevent the city from wasting taxpayer money enforcing this clearly unconstitutional ordinance,” he said.

WMC is seeking a declaration that the sign ordinance is unconstitutional and invalid and an injunction prohibiting the city from enforcing its sign ordinance. WMC is also seeking unspecified damages, costs and attorney fees.

The city had not filed its response to the lawsuit as of Wednesday.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Bowling build

The Island Recreation Bowling Alley at 327 N. Commercial St. was originally built by Joseph Muench in 1930. Featuring 10 bowling lanes, pool and billiards, Muench’s Bowling Alley replaced the six-lane alleys in the basement of the Valley Inn Buick garage. Joseph’s son Albert took over in 1955 until it was purchased in 1975 and renamed Atomic Bowl.



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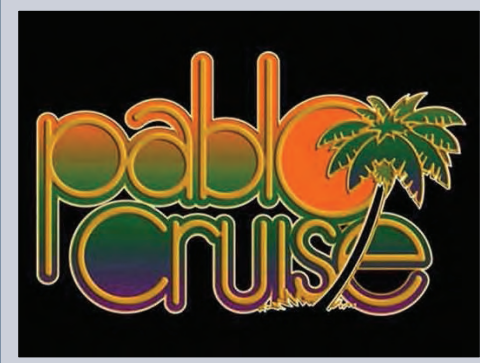
June 22

Hairball
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The Michael Weber Show



June 29

38 Special
Mt Olive
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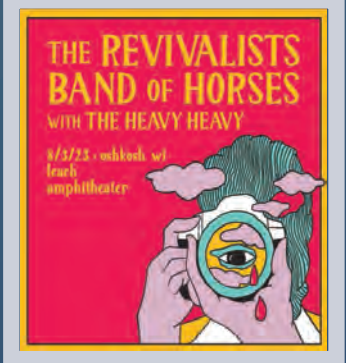
July 13

Pablo Cruise
The Jimmy's
Lil' Davy Max



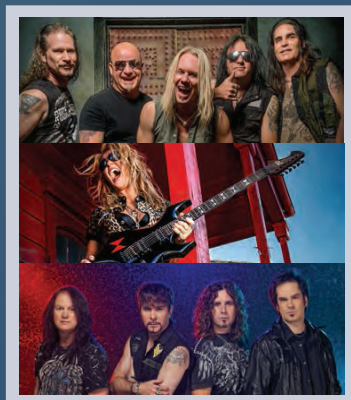
July 20

Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue & Ziggy Marley
Mavis Staples
Robert Randolph Band



August 3

The Revivalists
Band of Horses
The Heavy Heavy



August 10

Warrant
Lita Ford
Firehouse



August 17

Tower of Power
Alex McMurray Band w/Paul Sanchez
The Pocket Kings

WWW.WATERFEST.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Using personal mailbox discouraged for sending items

Neenah News

Placing outgoing mail in a home mailbox for postal carriers is no longer recommended, according to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, noting the fraud risk that is created by stolen mail.

The announcement posted Friday on the sheriff's office Facebook page follows a small rash of mailbox thefts in Fox Crossing in late March on American Drive and other locations in Outagamie County.

Police note that mailed items often have identifiable information, such as personal checks or account information, that is used to perpetrate fraud if stolen.

Fox Crossing community liaison officer Daniel L. Wiechman said the mail thefts in the village included some local businesses

and were connected to suspects in Outagamie County that have been arrested. He said those investigations are concluding and it appears none of the businesses was defrauded by them.

"Their alert is sound advice for any time of the year, as these mail thieves can strike at any time," Wiechman said in an email. "Leaving sensitive documents, including payments/checks to other businesses, is not recommended for this very reason."

Residents are asked to either use official blue USPS mailboxes, give mail directly to a carrier or take items to a post office.

Among the tips from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to prevent mail theft:

"The most secure way to send mail is through the local Post Office retail counter.

If that is not feasible, the next safest way is to use the inside collection slots that deposit mail directly into the Post Office. If using the Postal Service's outside blue collection boxes, never deposit mail after the last dis-

patch time. Each box has dispatch times printed on a label, and it will point you to the location for the latest pickup time in your area. Avoid depositing mail during the night, Sundays and federal holidays."

Friends of Library name volunteer of year

The Friends of the Neenah Public Library have recognized Sharon Kufner as its Volunteer of the Year for 2022.

Kufner has volunteered at the library since July 2021, contributed more than 330 hours and said the book sale donation task is her favorite because "it's always a discovery."

"The more I learn about the services and events the Neenah Library offers, the more I love it," she said. "I am proud to be

a volunteer."

Lisa Laux-Robak, volunteer coordinator at the library, said, "Sharon always has a positive attitude and sage advice for those she encounters. Sharon is a valued volunteer at the library, and we are lucky to have her."

Contact Laux-Robak at 920-886-6321 or go to neenahlibrary.org to find volunteer opportunities.

Winnebago County bird count scheduled for May 13

The annual bird count in Winnebago County, conducted every year since 1966, is set for May 13 as an opportunity for participants to challenge themselves to identify birds not only visually but by their songs while contributing to world-wide bird research.

The activity can be done individually or with family and friends. Observers record all birds seen or heard and the final results

are submitted to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

Participants can watch their feeders or yard for an hour or all day, walk, bike or boat in a certain area, or survey one of the 30 designated county areas.

For details on surveying an area or information on general counting, contact Tom Ziebell at ctiebell@new.rr.com or 920-312-1976.

Driveway code

FROM PAGE 1

Existing gravel driveways can be maintained and expanded with gravel subject to width and location requirements, while existing paved driveways may expand, subject to certain limitations.

No driveway expansions are permitted in front of a dwelling, but sidewalks and other hard surface areas attached to the driveway that are not used for vehicular access or parking purposes may be permitted.

The ordinance also sets a maximum width for driveway aprons, the portion of the driveway within the public right of way.

At the April 5 council meeting, Alderman Kathie Boyette expressed concern about the effect of the ordinance on older neighborhoods.

Schmidt said the setback requirement was eliminated from the final ordinance and any driveway that existed before the May 1 deadline may be reconstructed up to, but not on, the property line. Existing driveways that do not meet the requirements in the ordinance are grandfathered in, he added.

The other new ordinance is in relation to portable storage containers, defined as "a portable receptacle designed and used for the storage or shipment of household goods, refuse, building material or mer-

chandise..."

The ordinance indicates portable storage containers may be temporarily used on nonresidential properties. Construction-related portable storage containers are exempt.

The new definition expands the types of containers allowed and includes standards for using the containers.

The ordinance lists dumpsters, construction trailers, shipping containers, semi-trailers, portable on demand storage units (PODS) or other similar containers on wheels, or placed on the ground, as examples.

No more than two portable storage containers are allowed on a property and residents are prohibited from storing refuse material, tires or opened containers of paint, oil, gas or any other hazardous material.

Usage is limited to up to 120 days in a calendar year. The ordinance provides flexibility to extend the duration of usage up to a year and to increase the number of containers to five with Plan Commission approval.

The containers must be placed on a hard surface behind the principal structure and outside of any required yard, building setback or buffer yard area and must not obstruct drive aisles or impact off-street parking.

Both the driveway standards and portable storage container ordinances were unanimously approved.

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Fox Crossing Fire Department photo

Engine 240 from Fox Crossing prepares to head to western Wisconsin with a team to assist firefighting efforts last week.

Fox Crossing firefighters help with wildfire containment

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

Last week's wildfire in west-central Wisconsin burned more than 3,000 acres and drew a statewide response that included a team from the Fox Crossing Fire Department helping with the later phases of controlling the blaze.

The mutual aid response included two areas within the Black River Complex wildfire, the largest of which originated at Fort McCoy's U.S. Army base where controlled burns lost their containment and spread into other areas of the 60,000-acre base. Dozens of residents in Monroe County were told to evacuate Thursday evening but have since returned home.



Harbison

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) got Wisconsin Emergency Management involved, which engaged the state's MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) response system that deploys fire, rescue and medical services personnel from among six regions.

"We quickly sent an IMT (incident management team) out to the site to assess what was going on and what was going to be needed, and how we were going to be needed," said Fox Crossing Fire Chief Brian Harbison, who coordinated his four-person unit to join the East-Central response group.

With Winnebago County already part of the high fire risk area that encompassed two-thirds of the state, Harbison said they had to be careful on choosing resources to support the effort.

Fox Crossing sent its Engine 240 with a lieutenant, driver and two firefighters to team with fire engines and tender trucks from Brown and Outagamie counties to

form a 10-apparatus group that convened at Community First Credit Union in Fox Crossing early Friday morning before heading to Fort McCoy.

Harbison said being part of a larger emergency effort was welcomed by his young group of firefighters.

"They get excited when they get to see a bigger picture than something locally," he said.

Other MABAS response teams worked the earlier stages of the fire before the East-Central group was needed for the last 24 hours. Fox Crossing and Brown County tenders patrolled neighborhoods to protect structures and keep any fire from crossing roads.

"We had a three-tiered approach to supply the DNR with equipment and manpower to contain this fire," Harbison said, which included brush trucks, tenders and engines for structural protection.

"We had a good break with the weather too," he said. "The humidity changed late Friday night so we knew the fire was going to slow down drastically and then we could catch up to it. And then Saturday morning of course the rain came in and we were all good."

The smaller of the two blazes, outside of Necedah in Juneau County, was mostly contained by late Tuesday after burning through 87 acres of oak, jack pine and grass by last Wednesday night.

Harbison said last week's response by this region's mutual aid group was the 12th event supported either internally or externally in the past three years.

"(East-Central region) is by far the busiest region for MABAS in the entire state and we have been for about the last three years running," he said.

Residents in the affected wildfire area expressed their thanks on the Fox Crossing Fire Department's Facebook page.

Calendar of events

Friday, April 21

Erskin & Brendan in concert, 6:30 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road

Saturday, April 22

Earth Day Algae Program, 10:30 a.m., Recycling Program, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Sunday, April 23

Lawrence Jazz Quintet's Giants of Jazz Series (Thelonious Monk), 2 p.m. Neenah Public Library

Monday, April 24

2023 Clean Sweep, 3 p.m., City Garage, 1495 Tullar Road

Thursday, April 27

Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society Kitchen Tour, 10 a.m., five locations
Future Neenah 40th birthday, noon, 135 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Open Chess Night, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, April 28

Celebrate Arbor Day, 10 a.m., Kimberly Point

Saturday, April 29

Bowling for Kids' Sake, 1 p.m., Rolling Thunder Lanes, 934 Byrd Ave.

Friday, May 5

Unsolved Mysteries (ages 13-17, 5:30 p.m., Fox Crossing Community Center

Business news roundup

A **Noodles and Company** location is set to open May 10 at 645 S. Green Bay Road. Formed in 1995 and with more than 450 restaurants in 26 states and more than 8,000 employees, the restaurant is taking job applications through its company website.

Smart Real Estate Group has opened a new office near downtown Neenah at 314 S. Commercial St. operated by real estate agent Dylan A.B. Diersen. An open house is set from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 29 that will include a food truck, bouncy house and beverages.

Kinley Kay Beauty Studio announced that it will be moving to a new downtown Neenah location at 111 E. Wisconsin Ave. in July. Owned

by Kinley Kasper and currently at 110 E. Bell St., the studio offers skin care treatments that include dermaplaning, chemical peels, lash extensions and microblading among other services.

Cedar Bar & Grill at 1330 S. Commercial St. is marking its 25th anniversary with an open house from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday with food specials and live music by Pat Pedersen.

Send business bits

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Vintage Choir

FROM PAGE 1

ative and philanthropic forces in Neenah had some big plans for its students. Neenah was already gaining a reputation as a destination for the arts and Sam Pickard, along with a group of anonymous donors, moved to set the bar even higher. With a 1969 gift of \$750,000 presented to the Neenah School Board, the group effectively guaranteed students the opportunity to learn, train and perform in a cutting-edge theater arts venue.

With an audience capacity of 1,609 and state-of-the-art light and sound systems, a new Neenah High School auditorium opened in October 1972. Pickard passed the following January and the school board voted to dedicate it in his honor. Pickard Auditorium would go on to serve as a springboard to countless careers for students during 50 years of performances.

Meanwhile, with everything happening everywhere all at once, Vine was busy challenging and forming the Vintage Choir. Renamed by the students and incorporating the names of Vine and his son, "Tag," Vintage was a standout, staying ahead of its peers with a secret weapon. Vine, along with the talents of a gifted student named Jeremy Landig, wrote all the charts (arrangements) for the choir and band, enabling Vintage to perform tunes that had not yet been arranged for such choirs.

Vintage thrived on a steady diet of commitment to excellence, hard work, (twice a week, 2½-hour rehearsals) and creativity. Renowned for high energy and a driving beat, Vintage toured internationally.

They went to Washington, DC, for the



Photo by Sue Vine

Jim Vine performs at the Queen's Surf Club in Waikiki in the 1960s.

bicentennial, performing on the famous White House Ellipse. They took a 16-day bus tour to Mexico City and back – with scheduled performances on both legs of the trip. Then there was Denver, Monterey, Montreal and Toronto.

In 1990, the fee policy on for-profit groups was changed from a percentage of ticket sales to a flat daily rate. This meant more revenue for the venue, which translated to upgrades, including the hiring of Bill Heidke as Pickard's technical director.

With a master's degree in theater tech and a commitment to community theater, Heidke would serve to raise the level in every aspect of show quality, providing yet another quality learning experience for students. Heidke upgraded the lighting and sound systems, enabling the theater to support outside for-profit performers and casts that demanded professional venues.

Students who loved theater but not "out front" got a shot at set construction, sound engineering, lighting and the proper way to handle technical equipment. Vintage performers could now experience the amazing feeling of properly hearing their own voices, how it feels to wear a great costume, and the thrill of stepping center stage into that bright spotlight.

Heidke passed suddenly in 1999, but his contributions set a process and roadmap in teaching tech to students that remains the standard.

As the world moved to the millennium, Jim Vine retired with the bar set high. More often than not, a program will falter when a legendary teacher and mentor moves on. Musicians and artists are well known for outsized egos and competitiveness.

But not with Vintage.

"Amy Halberg-Westcott with the choir and Dave Dunning with the band have done a wonderful job," Vine said. "In all these years there have only been two directors of Vintage. Amy just took over the reins and ran with it," he beams. "And Jeremy Landig still does charts for the choir."

Westcott has had those reigns now for 23 years.

"Around the time he (Vine) retired, show choir made a switch," she recalled. "'70s, '80s, even '90s it was a swing choir but in the 2000s the trend changed to more show. People were using lots of props, backdrops and more elaborate sets, costume changes and lighting effects. They added story shows and new themes, all utilizing more and more popular music."

Vintage incorporates the showy performances while remaining true to many of the traditional aspects originally set by Vine.

"I like to stick to the basics," Westcott



Photo by Patti Lee

Amy Halberg-Westcott and Dave Dunning have been leading the Vintage Choir in recent years.

said. "We're still on risers and we remain a singing and dancing group. I don't add a whole lot of props, but definitely do the costumes and lighting effects."

The group will continue to perform at Pickard after the transition to the new school.

"Our Opener and Finale concert audiences are so big that they won't fit, even in the new auditorium," she said. "Those are the only times we're in an auditorium as a show choir. Other than that, we do curricular concerts. We typically do five competitions in a season, staying mostly in the Midwest."

Of course, COVID put its nasty dent in choir activities. "When we shut down in 2020 we weren't able to do our Finale concert," Westcott said. "But especially that year, I wanted to do something special for the kids. So I prepared a slide show for them."

"We met in the parking lot and used the white side of the building as a projector screen. The kids and their families watched from their vehicles and I presented their competition set, including the individual introductions of each student. We had a recording of our Finale song, 'Celebrate' and they all sang from their cars. It was our very own mini-finale there in the parking lot."

The group didn't travel to compete in

2021 but participated along with several other schools in two virtual competitions. Dominic Mataas, Vintage choreographer since 2018, taught the dance steps via Zoom from his home in California.

The group extended the risers for distance during dancing and then spread out on the floor for everything else. Competing groups recorded their shows and sent them to the hosting school where the shows were judged. In January 2022, Vintage was able to record their show and present it via live stream.

That February, Vintage did a combined concert with "Act Two," the beginner show choir to Vintage, allowing up to four family members to attend. The invited guests spread throughout the auditorium.

"We worked through the challenges," Westcott said. "A lot of show choirs didn't do anything but we definitely went out of our way to be as normal as we possibly could." She pauses. "We were really lucky to have administrators who totally supported us and let us meet as a class. They knew how important it was for the kids to get together for their activities and we were encouraged to meet as much as we could in a safe manner."

Vintage has now picked up where it left off. COVID illnesses left the group short a few members for competition, but they participated and did well. Numbers have been a bit lower but that is part of a national trend.

"We are a little smaller this year; I'm at 24 singers and dancers, and 12 in the band. But they held their own at competition; we made finals at several of them," Westcott said. "Our theme this year is 'Be Loud' and I'm telling you, we make the most of our numbers."

Dave Dunning is the longtime band director working with Landig's charts and arrangements.

"I sometimes use additional arrangements but for the most part we still like to do it in house," Westcott said.

The Finale concert will be a grand affair.

"Typically at Finale we call the alumni up to join us in singing 'Celebrate,'" Westcott said. "This year I want us to do a choreographed alumni number. We've sent out videos and the arrangements and we've begun rehearsals."

"We're getting emails and Facebook posts from all different eras of the group. So, yeah, it looks like there's going to be a big response."

Big, indeed. Vintage alumni have marked their calendars and will soon make their trek to Neenah for the concert. Tickets go on sale in early May, first for members and families and then to the general public. Sale dates are yet to be announced.

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Thank you to the community for your continued support as we work together to keep Winnebago County healthy!



For more information, call the Winnebago County Health Department at 920-232-3000 or visit wcvaccine.org.

Arts Council photo contest brings out the visual best

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Arts Council held a reception at the library last week to honor winners of its annual photography contest, which highlighted the city's 150th anniversary being celebrated this year.

The contest in partnership with the public library focused on capturing the spirit and beauty of Neenah. The submissions showcased the downtown, Friendship Trail, rocket slide and Doty Park, to name a few.

The Arts Council is a city of Neenah committee made up of residents and city staff, according to Youth Services Librarian Jodi Leslie, who also serves on the committee.

"The Arts Council promotes arts in the community and enjoyment of the arts in all forms and promotes and supports art related activities," she said.

There were 74 submissions this year, divided into a novice category for residents 18 or younger and an adult category. Judges were Common Council member Lee Hillstrom, middle school art teacher Ryan Anderson and graphic designer and illustrator Sean Keepers.

The judges evaluated the entries with-



First-place winner in the adult category was Vicki Streat for her photo from the 2022 Very Neenah Christmas live mannequin display.

out knowing the name of the photographer, scoring the photos independently. The photos were rated on impact, technical excellence and overall composition, with the winners selected based on the highest score.

The overall highest scoring photo was awarded a grand prize, with placings from first-third and six honorable mentions.

The grand prize went to Scott Francis of Menasha for his Friendship Trail photo titled "Neenah Trestle." Francis enjoys photography as a hobby, often posting his photos in local social media groups.

"It really kind of started with the pandemic, getting out and shooting pictures and stuff, and I just kind of kept it going from there," he said. "It's a good way to get out and make the walks a little bit more enjoyable."

Francis said his favorite photography subjects are landscapes, sunsets, animals, flora and fauna, adding that the most difficult part of the contest was choosing which photo to submit from the thousands of photographs he has taken.

First-place winner in the adult category, Vicki Streat of Menasha, said she had no trouble deciding what photo to submit. Streat's photo was the only entry that included people, depicting a scene from the 2022 Very Neenah Christmas live mannequin display.

The photo shows a child looking intently into a window display as the Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland stares back.

"This was just a very spur-of-the-moment photo," Streat said. "So, (the Mad Hatter) was standing, and all of a sudden he got down to that child's level, and he looked him in the eye, and I was right there and I thought, this is perfect. This takes it from ordinary to extraordinary. That's what I loved."

Jacy Park of Neenah was awarded second place in the adult category for her photo of the stone bridge in Doty Park, framed by flowering trees.

"I literally went through my pictures and I'm like, what do I have that would be worth putting in, and then got their feed-



Scott Francis took the photo contest's grand prize for his photo titled "Neenah Trestle."

back," she said.

Atif Qureshi of Neenah, placed third in the adult category, for his photo titled "Fall in Love."

In the novice category, Elliot Krueger placed first with a photo showing Red Door Mercantile in downtown Neenah; second place went to Michaela Lavalle who submitted a photo of sunny trees with grass; followed by Krueger in third place with a photo of boats.

Neenah News photo contributor David Hall received an honorable mention, along with Susan Ake, Morgan Feltz and Park. Qureshi received honorable mentions for two photos.

Mayor Jane Lang, who attended the

April 12 contest awards, said she loved the photo submissions.

"They're so wonderful and what a great way to celebrate Neenah's beautiful landscape and our story," she said. "I just really enjoyed it."

The photos are on display at the Neenah Public Library in the Shattuck Room through next Friday and may also be viewed at neenahlibrary.org/arts-council-photo-contest-submissions.

From landscape photos, architecture, parks and nature-inspired photos depicting all four seasons, the entries showcased the best of the city.

"It's everything that makes Neenah great," Leslie said.

Work Zone Awareness Week highlights safety

The beginning of construction season in Wisconsin and nationwide gets special emphasis this week as Gov. Tony Evers has proclaimed National Work Zone Awareness Week.

In Wisconsin, work zones include highway construction and rolling maintenance operations as well as emergency response, municipal projects and utility work along local roads. Every year there are typically

more than 300 state highway and bridge improvement projects in Wisconsin.

Preliminary data shows more than 2,000 crashes were recorded in Wisconsin work zones in 2022, resulting in eight deaths and more than 650 injuries. There were 54 fatalities in work zones reported between 2018 and 2020 in the state.

Cellphone use is one of the most common factors in distracted driving crashes.



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Earth Day

FROM PAGE 1

projects using recycled items.

Interested volunteers will be meeting in the Neenah Wal-Mart parking lot's southeast corner at 11 a.m. Saturday. Garbage bags will be provided and volunteers are asked to dress for the weather, bring gloves and durable shoes, and prepare to spend three hours on cleanup projects.

The following Friday, April 28, a tree-planting ceremony will take place at Kimberly Point Park in honor of Arbor Day. Visit the Neenah Parks Facebook page or website for more details.

The annual Fox-Wolf River Alliance Watershed cleanup takes place May 6. This annual event encourages residents to band together to help clean up shorelines and waterways.

More than 65 sites throughout the Fox Valley, all along the Wolf and Fox rivers, are targeted for cleanup during this annual event.

Doty Island is one of the cleanup locations with volunteers meeting at 9 a.m. at the Smith Community Building at 181 E. North Water St. Another will take place at Fritse Park and the Rydell Conservancy.

Those interested can also take part in a water cleanup by kayak or canoe along the Loop the Lake trail.

Go to fwwa.org under Watershed Recovery for sign up information. Contact Kelly Reyer, program coordinator, at kelly@fwwa.org or 920-915-1502 with questions. Cleanup sponsorship opportunities are available.

After the morning cleanup throughout the region, a picnic for volunteers will be held in Appleton's Telulah Park.

Teaching children and youngsters at



Photo by Rob Zimmer

A clean Fox-Wolf River watershed creates a safe and rich environment for wildlife such as lake sturgeon that spawn each April along the shores.

home the importance of a clean planet, recycling and other environmental issues is even more important in instilling a life-long passion and attitude for helping our community remain a vital and life-giving landscape and waterscape.

It is not necessary to spend these days involved in public efforts. There are many simple things to do at home to educate children on the importance of environmental issues.

Starting a compost pile or bin is a great way to encourage children to recycle and the rewards that come from simply gathering recyclable items, garden scraps and other materials and watching it transform into valuable garden compost.

Participating in volunteering at local nature centers and parks is also a great way to instill a passion for keeping our community clean.

Planting a tree or a garden and committing to a pesticide free landscape are other simple things you can do to honor the Earth.

You'll find several excellent projects and activities and crafts to help young children understand the importance of a litter free, clean environment online.

Look to find ways to be more sustainable every day

By Merrie Schamberger
SUSTAINABLE NEENAH COMMITTEE MEMBER

Being more sustainable is something you can do every day. It can be something big like buying an electric car or something smaller, like taking cloth bags to the grocery store.

Every action adds up to a more sustainable world.

Skip the plastic utensils when you order food for takeout. Keep a set at work. Use fewer single-use plastic dishes and utensils for social gatherings. We bought an inexpensive set of dishes and utensils from a thrift store for that purpose. Just pop them in the dishwasher and they're ready for next time.

Buy fewer items packaged in plastic, such as a reusable water bottle or coffee mug, make a pitcher of iced tea instead of buying a plastic jug of it, and buy bulk dry goods (pasta, dry beans, peas, coffee) using your own container.

There are several stores in Wisconsin that offer bulk items: Bulk Food Store, Free Market and Outpost Natural Food Coop just to name a few.

Buy fewer clothing items and thrift when you can. Host a clothing exchange at school or church. Donate unwanted furniture and clothing items. There are many thrift stores in the area that will pick up larger items. You will be getting rid of your unwanted items and helping others with the donation.

Use earth-friendly cleaning products when you can. There are many companies that offer subscription services for natural cleaning products. You can also make your own with a few simple ingredients.

Compost your kitchen waste and small amounts of yard waste to make "soil" for your plants. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by keeping food waste out of the landfill.

You can even use the finished compost on the lawn for a natural fertilizer to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers.

Combine trips to save on gas. Walk or ride a bike instead of using your car for errands that are close by.

No matter how you choose to be more sustainable, the Earth will be better for it.

Recycling programs offered at city garage

There are two upcoming recycling events at the Neenah City Garage at 1495 Tullar Road.

A hazardous waste recycling opportunity is set from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday. Sponsored by Winnebago County Solid Waste, the event is by appointment only.

For a list of accepted materials and to make an appointment, call 920-232-1800

or go to winnebago-solidwaste.com/clean-sweep.

Electronics recycling is being hosted by the city from 8 a.m. to noon May 13. Some of the items accepted include unwanted or obsolete computer equipment, speakers, DVD players, VCRs, cellphones, televisions, microwaves, appliances and dehumidifiers. Fees apply on some items.

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Lynch looks to lead Zephyrs to state golf meet

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Growing up competing against his older brother, Blaine, never resulted in much success for St. Mary Catholic's Spencer Lynch.

Blaine was roughly 15 years older than his younger brother and with that much of a size and experience advantage, the elder Lynch – who golfed collegiately at Carroll University – never let his younger sibling enjoy a victory.

Spencer had to become an uncle to catch up to his older brother.

“Around my freshman year in high school, he had a couple of kids and so he wasn't able to get out as much anymore,” Lynch said after competing at last week's invitational at Lake Breeze Golf Course. “That was when I started to pick it up. I finally grew and I was able to hit it just as far as he did and compete with him.”

And with that not-so-subtle twinge of sibling swagger, Lynch proudly professes to being the lead golfer between the two brothers. Yet, he also knows how he got there.

“He was my role model. I watched him when he was in high school and college and I was in elementary school,” Lynch said. “He never let me win. Now, he can beat me occasionally, but I get him the majority of the time.”

Lynch may not only hold the bragging rights in his family – he said the game started with his late grandfather before trickling down to his father and then the two brothers – but he is also one of the top golfers in Division 3.

He finished tied for fifth at the WIAA Division 3 state meet last spring where he shot a two-day total of 155 at Blackwolf Run in Kohler. That was coming off a sectional meet where he tied for the low round of the tournament.

“It obviously gave me a lot of confidence,” Lynch said of his sectional round. “After nine holes, I was three or four under (par) and I kind of let my foot off the gas a little bit. It was good. It let me know I belonged there.”

Senior Spotlight

Getting another shot at the state meet is certainly on Lynch's mind as the season starts to get rolling.

He said he has improved on the mental side of the game more than anything over the past year and he has a simple recipe for cooking up another state trip.

“It's going to take myself staying in it mentally, hitting some good golf shots and making some putts. It's that simple,” Lynch said. “Play smart golf. Play my game.”

For Lynch, though, there is more to this season than just making sure he gets to play the two rounds at Blackwolf Run in early June. He wants his teammates there as well.

The core of the Zephyrs' squad this season is made of a group of seniors who are a close group of friends and Lynch – who was a member of St. Mary Catholic's state-qualifying basketball team – would love for the group to finish their high school careers at the state meet.

“We've got six seniors (who competed at the invite) and we are all friends. We just have a really good time together. It really is fun playing with those guys,” Lynch said. “It's good that we have those friendships and we can grow them in golf and come out here and compete. With our sectional this year and the coaches who are helping us this year, I think we can get there as a team as well.”

That's a big part of why Lynch likes golf.

Yes, it's about the competition and testing your skills and all of that as well. But with that comes the numerous friends he has made in the area and around the state competing in high school events or in the summer Wisconsin Junior Golf Association tournaments.

“I know a lot of people from around the state and the WPGA Junior Tournaments is where I found a lot of my friends,” Lynch said. “The golf community is a great place to make a lot of relationships and grow.”

SEE **Senior Spotlight** ON PAGE 11



Neenah News

Senior Spencer Lynch tied for fifth at the WIAA Division 3 golf meet last season but bragging rights over his brother, Blaine, may be his proudest accomplishment.

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Zephyrs, Rockets return plenty of talent to courts

Neenah News

Coming off a memorable 2022 season, the lineup for the St. Mary Catholic tennis team will have a bit of a different look this season for head coach Tate Whitlinger.

However, there is a core group returning for the Zephyrs to build around, plus one

Tennis OUTLOOK

other very important leftover from a year ago when St. Mary Catholic earned the program's first WIAA Team State appearance.

"For me as a coach, it's about the inspiration and hope that was created within these kids and the school system that what we did is possible. Just having that belief in the kids is important," Whitlinger said. "Then it's just going out on a daily basis where we are showing up and putting in the work and having a good attitude and effort at practice is important to that whole thing about this year.

"We are looking to improve daily. If we do what we did last year, great. If not, that's OK, too."

One of the key members of last year's state tournament teams returning to the same flight as last year is No. 1 singles player Wesley Auth.

Auth finished 25-1 last year playing at the top singles flight as a freshman and finished fifth at the WIAA Division 2 Individual State Meet. He also posted St. Mary Catholic's lone win in a 6-1 loss to Brookfield Central at the team state meet.

Whitlinger believes he could be even better this season.

"I think his serve is the main area that he has improved and it is a big part for him to play better tennis," Whitlinger said. "Getting his first serve percentage up and adding a few mphs and then having a second serve that can't be attacked (are where he improved).

"He plays an all-court game but he is still learning to apply pressure to his opponent when the opportunity presents itself."

Sophomore Grant Bergstrom will also be returning after playing No. 1 doubles last year and earning a trip to the state meet where he won two matches with Felipe Gaztelu, one of three foreign ex-

change students from last year's state qualifying team who won't be returning.

Senior Michael Fairweather, who played No. 2 doubles last season, teamed with sophomore Harry Bergstrom, who played at the No. 3 doubles a year ago in a dual meet this week. That pairing would give the Zephyrs another strong duo to lead the doubles groupings.

Sophomore John Osland was also in the St. Mary Catholic lineup on Tuesday after playing at No. 3 doubles a year ago.

"The guys who are coming up have filled in great so we are very optimistic about this year," Whitlinger said. "Once the lineup is set, we are pretty vigorous about the challenge matches and letting scores tell the story. We want to put guys where they are going to play all year long to build their records and to get them matches."

Neenah expected to be force in FVA again

With 17 straight outright Fox Valley Association championships and 22 overall titles in a row, there is no reason not to

expect to see Neenah set the pace in the conference.

The Rockets will have a slightly different lineup from the one that finished second at the WIAA Team State meet a year ago.

Neenah will have to replace five of six doubles players as well as Solomon Dunsirn who won the Division 1 singles title, but the talent stream doesn't appear to be empty.

Senior David Murphy, who played No. 2 singles a year ago and advanced to the Individual State Meet, will likely move into the top position.

Sophomore returnee Carl Hein moves into the No. 2 flight, while junior Tristin Yun has gotten off to a strong start at No. 3 singles.

In doubles, the top pairing will be a pair of returning players in seniors Ben Kotchen and Satchel Moss. Koss played at No. 4 singles a year ago, while Moss was a member of the No. 2 doubles team.

Other players who were in the early-season lineup for the Rockets were Brady Hildreth, Andrew Werner, Brady Lawatsch, Drew Kearney, Zack Bitter, Layton Brandt and Harry Tanger.

Prep sports roundup

TENNIS

Rockets pick up key FVA win over Wildcats

Neenah collected a key early-season win with a 6-1 victory over Oshkosh West on Tuesday.

The Rockets collected three singles wins, including a 6-0, 6-0 victory by Tristan Yun at the No. 3 flight. Carl Hein at No. 2 singles and Brady Hildreth at the No. 4 flight also posted straight-set wins.

In doubles, Satchel Moss and Ben Kotchen dropped only two games in collecting the win at the No. 1 flight. Andrew Werner and Brady Lawatsch at the No. 2 flight and Drew Kearney and Zack Bitter at the No. 3 flight also won.

Over the weekend, the Rockets com-

peted at the Steinbach Classic hosted by Brookfield Central and took seventh among the 32 teams.

Neenah finished 3-2 with wins over Pewaukee (8-0), Lake Geneva Badger (6-2) and Sussex Hamilton (4-3).

Moss and Kotchen at No. 1 doubles and Yun at No. 3 singles each finished 4-1 to lead the Rockets.

Zephyrs edge Blue Bombers in showdown

St. Mary Catholic scored a 4-3 win over Kohler on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs won at both No. 1 flights with singles player Wesley Auth and the doubles team of Harry Bergstrom and Michael Fairweather collecting the victories.

Jose Vaquero added a win at No. 2 sin-

gles for the Zephyrs, while Ethan Tines and George Staner teamed up for a victory at No. 3 doubles.

BASEBALL

Neenah knocks off Appleton East

The Rockets never trailed in handing the Patriots a 9-5 loss on Tuesday.

Will Sorenson was one of three players with two hits and drove in four runs for the Rockets. Ethan Van Dyke and Will St. Claire also finished with a pair of hits in the game, with St. Claire and AJ Price collecting doubles.

Appleton East trimmed Neenah's lead to 5-4 after the fifth inning, but the Rockets responded with a run in the sixth and three in the seventh to secure the victory.

Beckett Davidson struck out seven over four innings to earn the win on the mound for Neenah.

Last Friday, Hortonville used a pair of four-run innings to upend Neenah, 9-2.

Six different players had hits in the game for the Rockets, with Van Dyke and Payton Miller each tallying doubles. Miller also scored both runs for the Rockets.

Hortonville scored four runs in the first inning to take the lead and scored again in the second after Neenah plated a run in the top of the inning. The Rockets pulled to within 5-2 in the fourth inning but the Polar Bears scored four runs in the sixth inning for the final margin.

Isaac Verbruggen took the loss on the mound.

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 11

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 10

Zephyrs erupt in win over Mishicot

St. Mary Catholic pounded out 20 hits in a 16-4 win over Mishicot on Tuesday.

Collin Nigl went 4-for-4 with a pair of doubles and drove in four runs to lead the offense, while Fisher Mackenzie finished 4-for-5. Owen Ripley, Joseph Pirillo and Ray Pingel each chipped in three hits for the Zephyrs, who scored in every inning but the first and secured the win with a six-run seventh inning.

Ripley struck out 11 in 5 2/3 innings, allowing three hits and three earned runs in earning the win.

The Zephyrs pulled out a 6-5 win at Winneconne on Saturday, with Ripley and Nigl each collecting four hits. Nigl also drove in four runs.

Mackenzie pitched into the seventh allowing seven hits and three walks while striking out five to earn the win. Pirillo got the final out of the game for the save.

SOFTBALL

Zephyrs split twinbill, then fall to Indians

St. Mary Catholic split a Saturday doubleheader with Iola-Scandinavia on Saturday, dropping the opener 9-4, before coming back to take the nightcap 6-5.

The Zephyrs led the first game 4-1 after four innings, but Iola-Scandinavia seized the lead with a five-run fifth inning and tacked on three more in the seventh to seal the win.

Emily Vogel and Chloe Vogel each had two hits and an RBI in the game for the Zephyrs. Samantha Weiss and Allie Strande also drove in runs.

In the second game, St. Mary Catholic rallied from a 5-2 deficit with two runs in the fourth inning and two more in the sixth.

Adel Schneider went 3-for-4 to lead the way for the Zephyrs, while Emily Vogel, Weiss, Chloe Vogel, Rhiannon Reichenbacher and Naveah Saringer each finished with two hits. Emily Vogel led the team with two RBIs.

Saringer struck out five and did not walk a batter in earning the win in the circle.

The Zephyrs ran into a tough Mishicot team Monday and lost to the Indians, 21-6, as Mishicot used a 16-run second inning to take the lead for good.

Schneider and Jaylyn Akey each had two hits to lead St. Mary Catholic while Saringer crushed a three-run home run.

Rockets collect pair of shutout wins

Morgan Harwood pitched 14 straight scoreless innings over a pair of games as Neenah blanked Appleton East 7-0 on Tuesday, after stopping Marinette 6-0 Saturday.

Against the Patriots, Harwood allowed

just two hits and two walks while striking out eight. The senior hurler fanned nine batters against Marinette, while walking one and giving up just a seventh-inning single.

Piper Alberg finished 3-for-4 and drove in three runs to pace the win against Appleton East as Neenah broke a scoreless tie with two runs in the fourth and scored at least one run in each of the last four innings. Taelyn Bauer and Savanna Knuth each had two hits, while McKenna Herm finished with two RBIs.

In the win over Marinette, Alberg smashed a three-run home run in the fourth inning to give the Rockets the lead and Harwood made the runs stand up. Alberg, Harwood and Bauer each finished with two hits.

SOCCER

Zephyrs use late goal to upend Wrightstown

Audrey Wanless scored with less than two minutes to play to break a tie match and lift St. Mary Catholic to a 3-2 win over Wrightstown on Saturday.

Wanless drilled the game winner from about 25 yards out, putting it just out of the reach of the Wrightstown keeper. Madeline Mittelstaedt assisted on the goal.

The Zephyrs jumped to the early lead as Stella Virlee scored off a Wanless assist a little more than three minutes into the match, while Wanless added an unassisted goal in the 16th minute. The Zephyrs led 2-0 at halftime.

On Tuesday, the Zephyrs scored less than a minute into the match, but the Comets came back to tie the game by intermission and tallied a pair of second-half goals for a 3-1 win.

Wanless charged through the Waupaca defense to start the match, notching the goal just 15 seconds after the start of play.

Bethany Ruppert finished with seven saves in net for St. Mary Catholic.

Rockets collect FVA win over Lightning

Neenah evened its Fox Valley Association record at 1-1 by notching a 3-1 win over Appleton North on Tuesday night.

Mia Wasco opened the scoring for the Rockets, while Annabelle Perry added the second goal. Nicole Schmidt assisted on each of the first two tallies.

The final goal for the Rockets was scored by Kayla White, with Lizzy Luenburg getting the assist.

Bella Jones made 10 saves in goal for the win.

GOLF

Rockets finish 24th at Hartford invitational

Julian Gallmeier shot an 85 to lead Neenah at the 27-team Hartford Invitational at Washington County Golf Course on Saturday.

Luke Albing added a 95, followed by Cole Bauer with a 101 and Nathan Putala with a 102.

Like previous seasons, Lynch tuned up for the start of the high school season with a trip to Florida where he was able to get in a few rounds away from the chilly spring in Wisconsin.

"I played a handful of rounds down there to get myself loose and get ready for the early season. I'm not in summer form yet," Lynch said. "I just have to keep thinking that when you hit a bad shot, don't get frustrated by it. I hit some bad shots today (at Lake Breeze), but I moved on right away. It didn't snowball at all and I just worked my way forward afterward."

On Tuesday, the Rockets dropped a Fox Valley Association dual meet at Country Side Golf Course to Kaukauna, 168-192.

Blaise Beckman earned medalist honors for Neenah shooting a 39 in the cool and windy conditions.

Gallmeier added a 49, while Sam Couthard and Tucker Brackin each shot 52s.

Lynch leads Zephyrs at Big East mini-meet

Spencer Lynch carded a 35 at Towne & Country Golf Club to finish two shots ahead of the field for medalist honors at a Big East Conference mini-meet Tuesday.

The Zephyrs finished fourth overall with a 172 in a tight race at the top of the standings. Kohler won the meet with a 165, followed by Sheboygan Lutheran (167) and Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah (169).

Ethan Moschea was the next lowest golfer for the Zephyrs with a 44, while Cole Uhlenbrauck finished with a 46 and Danny Griffith had a 47.

TRACK & FIELD

Zephyr girls win Big East quadrangular

Led by a strong showing in the middle distance and distance races, the St. Mary Catholic girls track and field team topped a four-team field at Mishicot.

Valley Transit detour on Route 30 announced

Valley Transit announced three new route detours that started this week, including Route 30 Neenah/Menasha that involves the Appleton part of the route and will travel on Franklin Street instead

The Zephyrs won every race 400 meters or longer and grabbed the top two places in two of the races.

Norah Lee won the 400 meters, followed by Addison Dinka and Maria Marti going 1-2, respectively in the 800 meters. In the 1,600 meters, it was Lauren Ripley taking first followed by Haley Gustafson, while Katharine Schoeni won the 3,200 meters.

St. Mary Catholic had one other 1-2 finish with Ripley winning the long jump and Gabby Ruback taking second.

Nolie Anderson won both the shot put and discus, while the foursome of Dinka, Lee, Marti and Madeleine Breen took first in the 1,600-meter relay.

Dinka in the pole vault and Ruback in both the 100-meter hurdles and triple jump were second.

The boys had four individual first-place finishers as they finished third at the quadrangular.

Charlie Nackers won the high jump, Ashton Post took first on the pole vault, Benjamin Schoeni earned the win in the 1,600 meters, while Dylan Dwyer tied for first in the 100 meters.

Dwyer, Nackers, Alex Alvarez and Harry Higgins teamed up to finish first in the 400-meter relay for the Zephyrs.

Nathan Seiske in the 800 meters, John Romnek in the discus and the 1,600-meter relay team each placed second.

of College Avenue where there had been two stops.

Go to myvalleytransit.com for route maps or call 920-832-5800 with questions or for additional information.

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Miscellaneous

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1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)

Senior Spotlight

FROM PAGE 9

Many of those friendships are built during the rounds he plays as he admits he likes to talk to those golfing with him.

Yet, when it's time to hit a shot, the chatting stops and the focus takes over.

"Once I can see the point of view from where my ball is, I start to think about what I'm going to do for the next shot," Lynch said. "Otherwise, I'm not too quiet out there. I like to talk a little bit."

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Ecobricks

Some soft plastics are not recyclable and end up in landfills.

People around the world are using these soft plastics to make ecobricks. Ecobricks are plastic bottles tightly packed with wrappers and other soft plastics. They can be used for building walls, furniture, play structures, houses and more.

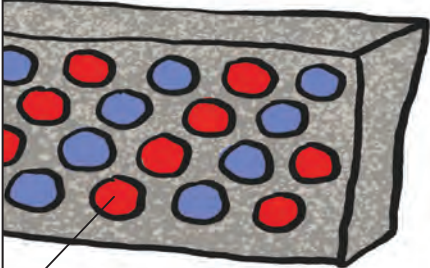
All it takes is imagination and some plastic bottles and plastic waste.

Can you find these things hidden in the ecobrick?



The Plastic Problem

Over 380 million tons of plastic is produced every year. The world uses 500 billion single-use plastic bags every year. A plastic bag is used for only 15 minutes on average, but the plastic itself can last more than 1,000 years!



Plastic pollution is a big problem, but people around the world are finding solutions. Ecobricks is one of the solutions.

Ecobricks can be set in concrete to build walls for homes, planter boxes and much more.

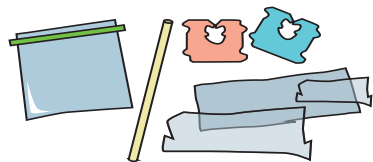
Standards Link: Solutions for human impact on ecosystems.

How to Make an Ecobrick

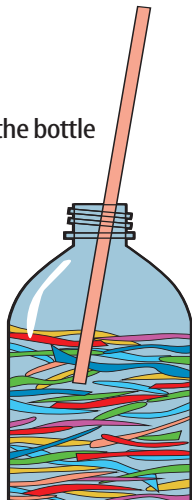
Stuff you need:

- Plastic bottles (including lids)
- Clean and dry plastic garbage
- Scissors
- A stick that is at least the length of the bottle
- Scales
- Permanent markers (for writing on the bottle)

What to do:



STEP 1: Make sure your plastic materials are clean and dry



STEP 2: Add small pieces of plastic, plastic bags and other kinds of clean plastic to the bottle. Use the stick to push more plastic in as you fill the bottle.



STEP 4: Choose a project to support. Find out if there are any local community projects that are looking for ecobrick donations. If you can't find one, there are hundreds online to get involved in.

STEP 3: Pack it tight. Tip: mix up soft and hard plastic. Don't overfill it. There should be 1-2 cm between the cap and the plastic inside.

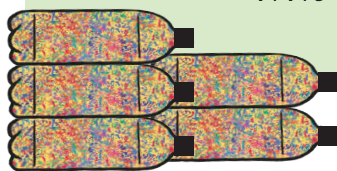
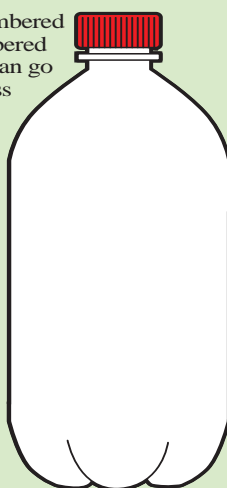


Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

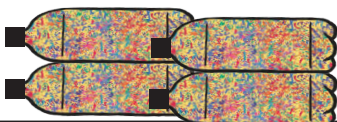
What can go in an ecobrick?

Do the math under each item. Even-numbered answers can go in ecobricks. Odd-numbered answers can not. Circle the things that can go into an ecobrick bottle in green and cross out the things that can't in red.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| PLASTIC BAGS
4+4+4= | STYROFOAM
6+4+2= |
| FOOD WASTE
3+7+5= | PAPER
2+8+9= |
| STRAWS
3+7+4= | GLASS
7+7+7= |
| CELLOPHANE
8+4+6= | METAL
1+1+3= |



Ecobricks are sometimes called **bottle bricks**. Why do you think that name fits?



Extra! Extra! Plastic Scavenger Hunt

Look through a newspaper to find examples of products that come in plastic or have plastic in them. Choose five and come up with a way to get that product without plastic.

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How much should an ecobrick weigh?

A 2-liter bottle should weigh about 1 1/2 pounds when full of clean plastic.



Look very carefully. Can you find the ecobrick that's different than all the others?

Standards Link: Understand point of view using visual cues.

Double Double Word Search

- BAGS
- BOTTLES
- CAP
- CLEAN
- DRY
- GREEN
- LOCAL
- PACK
- PLASTIC
- PROBLEM
- STICK
- STRAWS
- TONS
- WALLS
- WORLD

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

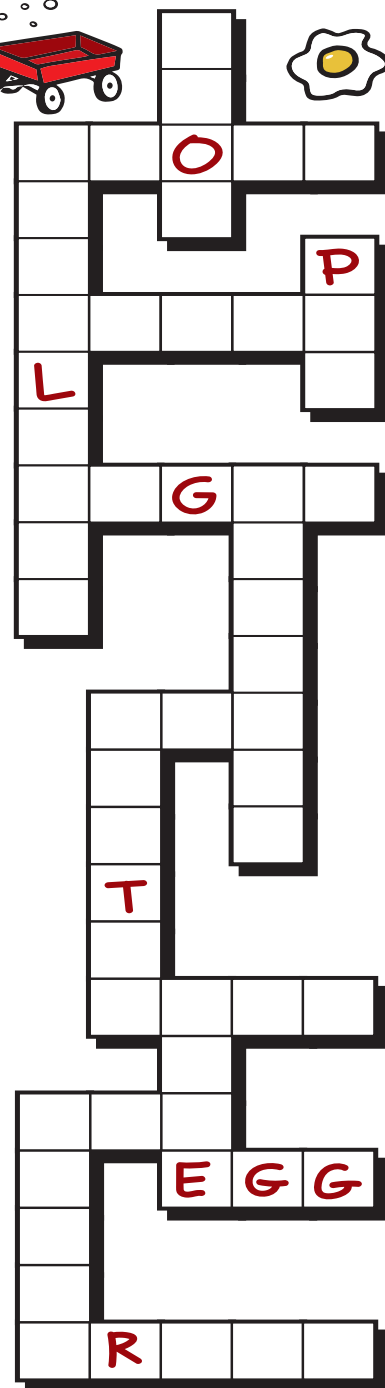
W L G X J C L E A N
D N R W A L L S E K
S X E B C F F P K C
W D E O I M Y F Q I
A R N T T E I R D T
R K T T S L W T D S
T C O L A B O P A C
S A N E L O R C Q R
G P S S P R L G A Z
S G A B E P D H J L

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together

Picture Crossword

Using the pictures as clues, work with a family member to fill in the missing letters.



Write On!

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