

Regular garbage pickup coming to Port soon

■ City to dump hauler that can't manage to collect trash on time, contract with Fox Valley company

By KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM

Ozaukee Press staff

Port Washington residents are expected to have a new waste hauler in town later this month, a move city officials hope will once again result in regular pickup of garbage and recyclables.

City Administrator Tony Brown said the Common Council on Tuesday is expected to terminate its contract with Waste Management effective Sept. 17 and approve a contract with Harter's Fox Valley Disposal that will take effect Sept. 20.

The news can't come too soon for residents who have had garbage pile up as they waited for it to be picked up.

Officials said problems began springing up within a few months after Waste Management purchased Advanced Disposal on Oct. 31 and took over the city's contract.

Judy Klumb, the Department of Public

Works administrative assistant, said it hasn't been unusual to get 10 calls from residents about collection being missed.

A few weeks ago, she noted, the company failed to pick up garbage and recycling in four subdivisions, and some residents had to wait four days before it was picked up.

Last week, Brown said, the firm was on schedule but this week is behind.

"Unfortunately, it's a circumstance where we have to live with it for the next couple weeks," Brown said.

The city has tried working with the company to resolve the issues to no avail, he said, so it began looking for a new contractor.

Brown said the city talked to four companies before officials decided to recommend Harter's, which he said is just entering the local market.

See **Garbage** on page 13B



A LINE OF GARBAGE and recycling carts along a Port Washington street were waiting to be collected by Waste Management recently. *Press file photo*



TAKEN FROM a gas station at the corner of Highway 60 and Gateway Drive in Grafton, this photo shows the Ulao Creek Gateway Property with the Schmitz Ready Mix plant to the east. The land, which was poised this week to become an Ozaukee County nature preserve, runs along the east side of Gateway Drive, which provides access to Water Street Brewery and the Hampton Inn and Suites as seen in the photo below. *Photo by Bill Schanen IV*

An unlikely nature preserve

■ An out-lot next to Grafton's east-side Gateway development was poised this week to become a county nature preserve intended to introduce the public to the Ulao Creek watershed

By BILL SCHANEN IV

Ozaukee Press staff

Flanked by a swath of concrete on one side and a cement plant on the other, a seven-acre out-lot on the far east side of the Village of Grafton doesn't look much like a nature preserve.

Yet that is exactly what it was poised to become this week.

The Ozaukee County Board on Wednesday was expected to accept the donation of the land referred to as the Ulao Creek Gateway Property from Patriot Properties — the company that has sold adjacent land for development — and add it to the county parks system.

That would make the land off Gateway Drive — a short street extending north from Highway 60 east of I-43 that provides access to Water Street Brewery and the Hampton Inn and Suites — the first county park in the Village of Grafton.

See **Preserve** on page 6B



County panel reconciles redistricting concerns

■ Committee makes change, signs off on plan that keeps board at 26

By CONNOR CARYNSKI

Ozaukee Press Staff

The Ozaukee County supervisor district map was approved by the Executive Committee Aug. 30 and will go on to the County Board for final review.

County Administrator Jason Dzwiniel said the map will essentially mirror the previous district map with a few minor changes, so long as the County Board decides to maintain 26 supervisor positions in 2022.

While the map is largely the same, supervisors raised concerns about a section of the redistricting resolution that states the addresses of supervisors were taken into consideration when drawing district lines.

Committee member and Supr. Marty Wolf said language seemed to suggest that district lines may have been drawn specifically to keep incumbents in their same districts.

Wolf said he and other supervisors who noticed the wording of the resolution believe the wording to be self-serving.

Supervisor Thomas Ritchart attended the meeting and said the wording seemed like it was included to keep incumbents in their districts, not to create the fairest districts.

"We're here to serve the public," he said.

He said if a supervisor happens to land in a new district that's the way it should be.

Wolf questioned if any of the district lines had been changed to keep incumbent supervisors in their districts.

Register of Deeds Ron Voigt said incumbents were a final consideration when putting together the map, and that only two incumbents landed on a border of the map with the new drawings.

"For the most part, most of them were not problematic," he said.

Voigt said the incumbents could be included in their districts with minor adjustments. He said his office tries to keep the district blocks as square as possible and that it is apparent by looking at the new map that there are no district lines reaching out to include specific areas.

"If we really did it without that consideration, there would be minor changes," he said.

Committee members unanimously voted to remove the portion of the resolution, which does not change the map.



New faces in the Grafton School District

More than a dozen teachers new to the Grafton School District greeted students when they returned to classes this week. They are (front row, from left) Ann Helmbrecht and Jenni Fote at Kennedy Elementary School, Laura Boerner at John Long Middle School, Sara Smith, Brandi Becker and Lindsay Boerner at Kennedy, (back row) Aaron Schwantes, Michael Seefeld, Will Hall and Joe Brown at Grafton High School, David Schroeder at the middle school, Marie Arthur at Woodview Elementary School, Stephanie Saali at Kennedy School, and Nicole Littau at the middle school. High school teacher Cindy Macwan is not pictured.

Photo courtesy of Visual Image Photography

Commission backs permit for manufacturer's expansion plans

■ Recommendation comes after nasal-swab firm agrees to alleviate neighbors' concerns

By CONNOR CARYNSKI

Ozaukee Press Staff

The expansion of a nasal-swab manufacturing facility in Grafton has gotten a go-ahead from the village's Plan Commission after the business agreed to adjust its request for a conditional-use permit to better accommodate neighbors.

The commission on Aug. 14 unanimously recommended that the Village Board approve the permit.

If the permit is approved by the board, the Young Innovations Inc. operation will grow from 14,000 square feet to 28,450 square feet in the northern half of a building at 550 Beech St. that also houses Grafton Self-Storage.

Several neighbors objected to the expansion during a July 27 Plan Commission meeting, citing issues with current facility operations, including delivery vehicles blocking roads and frequent noise from employees.

While the building borders residential areas, it is zoned for industrial use.

At that meeting, the commission tabled consideration of the permit request to create additional provisions that would address neighbor concerns.

During the public hearing portion of the Aug. 14 commission meeting, three neighbors of the facility voiced opposition again.

Brad Josephitis said there have been multiple occasions where semi-trucks delivering goods to the facility have used his driveway to back into the loading dock at the north end of the building.

"I continually have to monitor this and wonder if there is going to be an inexperienced driver who's going to end up on my lawn again or utilize my driveway again," he said.

Neighbor Michelle Borchardt said she has experienced issues with employees making noise during shift changes.

She recounted one experience in which she had to cancel a video conference call due to loud music coming from an employee's vehicle in the facility parking lot.

Borchardt said that three of four residents with driveways bordering the north side of the facility were present at the meeting with complaints about operations, and that the fourth was not present because they are an older couple.

Several Young Innovations representatives were present at the meeting, including John Baeten, the corporation's director of business process optimization.

Baeten said the company has worked with the village on addressing delivery issues that will be enforceable through the permit.

"We're trying to do everything we can to make this not be a loss for the residents," he said.

Conditions of the permit include limiting the number of people in the facility to 24 employees and six visitors on site at any time, restricting parking on Bridge Street and restricting some delivery operations.

The permit mandates that Young Innovations use box trucks for deliveries when available, use a limited subset of drivers to ensure consistency and quality in collections and to develop detailed instructions to ensure drivers are consistent with how they enter and exit the area.

Additionally, semi-truck shipments must be limited to one per day between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Box truck deliveries will be allowed between 8:30 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Before voting on the recommendation, commission member Heidi Ham had an

See Permit on page 7B

Preserve: Land to open Ulaio Creek to public

FROM PAGE 3B

Restoration work on the property, which because of wetlands cannot be developed, has been ongoing since 2014, but county ownership of the land will preserve in perpetuity a significant stretch of the environmentally important Ulaio Creek watershed.

The nature preserve designation is also important because it will provide the first practical public access to the Ulaio Creek watershed, a unique environmental corridor that runs from the south end of the City of Port Washington to the Milwaukee River in the Thiensville area.

"We're hoping this will help us share the Ulaio Creek watershed with people," said Andrew Struck, the county's director of planning and parks.

Under assault from both farming practices and urban development, the Ulaio Creek watershed, which — in addition to supporting a variety of important habitats is a spawning site for fish — has been the subject of a decadeslong restoration effort led in part by the Ulaio Creek Partnership, a grassroots group founded in 1995 by former Ozaukee County and Town of Grafton supervisor Tim Kaul, who died in 2012.

Much of that work, in which the county and other agencies have participated, has gone unnoticed. The nature preserve, Struck said, has the potential to change that.

"By providing access to it, we hope it helps us show people the importance of the Ulaio Creek watershed and its importance to the Milwaukee River watershed," he said.

The county plans to develop trails and

perhaps a boardwalk on the property within the next few years to provide so-called passive use recreational opportunities.

When the county has hosted environmental programs on the land in the past, the adjacent restaurant and hotel have allowed participants to use their parking lots, Struck said.

The hope is those lots can now be used by nature preserve visitors. If not, there is a corner of the property that could be developed into a parking area, Struck said.

"I'm not expecting large numbers of people here, so hopefully the parking works out," he said.

"And actually, we're fully expecting people who visit the restaurant and stay at the hotel to visit the nature preserve. We hope it strengthens these businesses."

Volunteers lend Habitat helping hand

A group of volunteers spent time constructing a Habitat for Humanity house on the south side of Grafton on Aug. 21. Near right, Bob Meier climbed the unfinished steps of the house with his tools. Far right, Dan Miller (left) and Nick Don took measurements on a piece of siding. Below, volunteers installed a new window in the house.

Photos by Sam Arendt

