

Editorial

## Voting is important for Tuesday’s primary

In our discussions with residents, we have found that only a few know two things:  
1. There is a primary election next Tuesday.  
2. You must have a photo ID to vote.

**Primary for Wisconsin Supreme Court**  
Three candidates are facing each other in this significant election. Voters will chose one candidate on the ballot and the top two vote-getters will face each other on April 3. It is important because the winner in April will sit on the Supreme Court for a term of 10 years.

**Two judges and an attorney are running: Attorney Tim Burns, Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Rebecca Dallet and Sauk County Circuit Judge Michael Screnock have their hats in the Supreme Court ring. Complete information is available at Wisconsin Public Television’s “Vote.org.” Study them and make your choice.**

**For our Milton and Town of Milton readers**  
You have eight people running for six seats on the Milton School Board. Two people will be eliminated in Tuesday’s primary. Two incumbents and six new faces are running to be on a board that makes crucial decisions regarding your children. Running for re-election are Shelley Crull-Hanke and Brian Kvapil. New to the race are Tony Astin, Joe Martin, Diamond McKenna, Brent Miller, Harvey Smith and Gabriel Szerlong.

**See story about both primaries on page 1.**  
**Remember your identification (ID)**  
You must show an ID to cast your ballot. You must have one of the following: Wisconsin Driver’s License, Wisconsin State ID Card, Military ID Card or a U.S. Passport. Officials say IDs are still valid if expired after the date of the most recent general election (which was Nov. 7, 2017).

**While there is still much discussion about the value of having to show an ID when voting, it is now the law. What’s important is for you to respect your constitutional right and responsibility to vote.**

**Turnout is expected to be extremely low, perhaps not even cracking 10 percent, which makes every single vote all the more valuable. It’s cliché but true: a handful of votes can—and often do—make the difference in elections. Make sure you vote.**

**See you at the polls on Tuesday.**

Request

## We welcome your input

While still in the first portion of the new year, we have a request of you, our readers, for assistance.

We will soon be editorializing about items we think should be priorities in 2018. For example, we believe the townships of Albion and Fulton should join with the City of Edgerton to form a Tourism District. This is allowed by statutes and would supply an estimated \$50,000 in marketing dollars plus other revenue for all three governmental entities through a room tax. All surrounding areas have such a source of marketing dollars and we should take advantage of this opportunity.

**What other items or issues would you like to see addressed by local or state government, the schools or other civic groups to improve our community?**

**Please let us know. We would like to have community input into this important list.**

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:  
If teachers teach the same way they did 15 and 20 years ago, their students miss out on so many learning opportunities. To fully utilize technology in our schools, three things must happen.  
First, there must be the infrastructure to have a robust network and enough internet bandwidth to support all of the devices in all of the school buildings. If we want teachers and students to use technology, it must work fast and consistently, or they will not use it.  
Second, we must provide proper professional development. By providing a variety of training and mentoring opportunities, teachers will be more will-

ing to gain new skills. Training and learning opportunities must be available throughout the year.  
Third, in order to fully implement and integrate technology, we must provide continued financial support, both from the school district and from the state. The state needs to make a commitment to expand broadband internet service to all areas of Wisconsin, and local districts need to continue to support their teachers with technology coaches, who should become a part of each building’s culture.  
When teachers don’t feel supported, then technology integration will decline.  
Don Vruwink  
State Representative  
43rd Assembly District

## EDGERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Submitted by Dr. Dennis Pauli,  
Edgerton School District Administrator



### Join Tider Nation today! Edgerton School District launches effort to engage alumni, residents and friends

*Through Tider Nation, the school district seeks increased graduate and community engagement, including feedback through community survey.*  
The Edgerton School District is moving forward with a new initiative to increase its connections with graduates and the community, including the launch of Tider Nation.  
Through the online community, Edgerton alumni, supporters and community members can stay connected, receiving regular updates and news articles, along with information on special events, mentoring, and volunteer opportunities. There’s also an alumni directory, where former students can submit their names and connect with old friends and classmates.  
To help launch the effort, the school district is conducting an alumni and community interest survey, seeking feedback from alumni and community members on the information, services and updates that are important to them. The survey is available at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/tidernation](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tidernation)  
Our alumni and Edgerton residents are some of our most passionate supporters, and we believe we can do much more

to keep them engaged into the challenges and opportunities of our community’s public schools. Through the community interest survey, we hope to learn a lot about what it would mean for our school district to forge stronger bonds with our former students and all our community members. We are excited to launch this effort.  
Graduates of Edgerton High School, former school district students, supporters and all Edgerton residents may sign up for Tider Nation and receive regular news and updates. This includes information on district news and events, community points of pride, class reunions and how alumni and residents can get more involved in Edgerton schools. There will also be regular profiles on alumni who have gone on to serve their communities in notable ways.  
To learn more about Tider Nation and to sign up today, visit <https://tidernation.nation-builder.com>.  
It is a privilege to serve as the District Administrator in the Edgerton School District.  
Dr. Dennis Pauli  
District Administrator  
Follow me on Twitter @dpauli1

## City’s TIF District 8 bustling

By Jack McLaughlin  
Special to the Reporter

Edgerton’s TIF District 8 may be out of sight for many, but the zone is bringing a host of new expansions and job opportunities into the city.  
Located on the city’s far west side, the district (which was originally created in 2004 and its parameters expanded in 2007) is bound on the south by Fulton St., and to the north by the rail line that determines the edge of Racetrack Park. With IKI Drive as its eastern boundary, it extends as far west as N. Dallman Rd., making up an a 160-acre hotbed for local industry, and includes 90 acres of land available for development.  
Short for Tax Increment Financing, TIF funds are tax dollars re-invested into specific districts to incentivize growth. The expansions that take place then create new money for the city by increasing property values.  
And while, according to city administrator Ramona Flanigan, Edgerton’s downtown TIF zone, District 6, has been the city’s most active, TIF District 8 has been highly productive as well, generating a \$3,294,000 boost to the city’s tax base from 2008 until the present.  
Since 2008, five Edgerton businesses within TIF District 8 have implemented TIF funds to

expand. Some, such as Brigitte’s Boutique, located at 4 Gear Dr., have used TIF dollars to create an entirely new building. The online fashion seller, who previously operated out of the home of namesake Brigitte Almized, created a new 2,500 square-foot building which generated \$133,800 in new tax base.  
TIF initiatives have also helped create new businesses for local developer Dan Rinehart. In 2015, a 17,000 square foot construction for his taxidermy business, in addition to an expansion of 17,400 square feet in 2017, boosted the city’s tax base by more than \$1 million.  
Additionally, local companies Southern Wisconsin News and Edgerton Gear, both inside the city’s TIF 8 district, have undergone significant expansions in 2010 and 2015.  
Most recently, Nelson Truss has come to a development agreement with the City of Edgerton that will utilize TIF funds for a public utilities extension that will help power new equipment for the company. This agreement, reached in 2018 during an early-February City Council meeting, could bring up to seven jobs into the city in the coming years. Nelson Truss, located at 104 Artisan Dr., also underwent a 16,000 square-foot expansion in 2008, funded through TIF dollars.

## Pegged Right: Valentines traded for a text message?

By Peg Stanley Zaemisch  
Special to the Reporter





Happy Valentine’s Day gentle readers. I realize I have very recently written a column on Valentine’s Day and I think the rule is one per year—but please, cut me some slack. It’s February and my world is wrapped in snow and ice. My options are few.  
I have been sitting in front of my laptop for the past hour or more trying to come up with some kind of topic. Something funny. Something interesting. Something meaningful. Something wise. Hmmmmm. Nothing. So Valentine’s Day re-visited it is, although clearly none of the above.

Bear with me. Nostalgia is a beautiful thing. And it’s free.  
I have been recalling with fondness those years when my three sons were my dearest little Valentines and the day was quite special to us. We’d put those paper lace hearts on the windows and I’d buy them some special treat (usually a Matchbox car) and one of those small heart-shaped boxes of candy. They would go through their chocolates carefully, taking tiny mouse-sized bites from the bottoms of each piece to find their favorite filling. All of them hated those hard jelly fillings and avoided them completely. Eventually, when all the other “good candies” were gone, they’d eat the jellies. But I know over the years, I threw out a lot of heart-shaped boxes with one or two jellied candies remaining.  
Baking and decorating Valentine’s cupcakes together was a must, and by sundown on the Big Day, those had disappeared and the boys had red-stained lips and teeth.

There was usually pink frosting and those bright “red hots”—the tiny, red hearts that were full of spice and were certainly an “acquired taste” but seemed appropriate and even necessary on a holiday cupcake.  
Remember those candies that had messages? U-R Mine. Sweet Thing. Love You. Cute-T. They were hard as rocks, but fun to trade with friends or tuck into Valentine cards for the class.  
I could anticipate some of the boys’ handmade Valentines crumpled and wrinkled to be pulled from their backpacks on the Big Day and proudly presented. In rather crooked handwritten messages they would send their greetings. Sometimes the card would say “To my favorite Mom” and I’d have

to wonder what other Mom they had? I guess it didn’t really matter since I was their favorite.  
The cards were typically construction paper and hearts. The “chambers” of the hearts were seldom even, but nevertheless well-intentioned. There were usually a few foil heart stickers and sometimes a drawing of themselves. Large round heads stick figure bodies and for my oldest son—a pair of glasses slightly askew. I’ve saved a few and enjoy looking at those. Artistically, not so great, but the sentiments on those handmade cards from the elementary years were always the best.  
Like most school things, they came marked with their ownership. Brian Zaemisch. Chad Zaemisch. Kyle Zaemisch. Sometimes they still write that on the cards they send because we always laugh at the idea that there might be some other child with the same first name sending me a Valentine.  
What I remember most about those handmade cards was the paste. What was it about boys that called for inordinate amounts of paste? That white paste (purchased in September) that they kept on their desk and had big, hard goobers in it because they didn’t keep the top screwed on tight. So they had to use a lot and that led to a rather lumpy presentation which retained that funny paste smell.  
I wonder what kids are sending to their parents these days? I hope it is not an instant message or a text. I hope that the elementary students are still cutting with those little-rounded tip scissors (the boys had to use their tongues to establish the direction of the cutting) and I hope they’re still printing some kind of original message for parents or grandparents to save.  
Handmade cards spark creativity and make kids think about how much they love their recipients. Those old, heavily pasted cards held questionable value to most but were more beautiful than any Hallmark to someone who loved those kids.  
It is a good lesson for kids to learn that their recipient will exclaim how beautiful it is and will offer such praise one would think it was a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. And in a way it is.  
Ahhhhh. The beauty of a simple heart.  
For the second time around: Happy Valentine’s Day gentle readers.

Active member - **Wisc. Newspaper Association**



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**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Edgerton, WI

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
**PRINT:** Edgerton address \$47 per year, \$27 six months.  
State of Wisc. \$48 per year, \$29 six months. Out of State \$51 per year, \$31 six months.  
**ONLINE:** 1 week \$3, 1 month \$9, 3 months \$21, 6 months \$35, 1 year \$65.  
**PRINT & ONLINE:** Edgerton address \$68 per year, \$38 six months, \$24 three months. State of Wisconsin \$70 per year, \$40 six months, \$27 three months. Out of State \$72 per year, \$42 six months, \$30 three months.

**EDGERTON REPORTER**

Mission: To be the Best Community Newspaper  
Published weekly by The Reporter Co., Inc.  
21 N. Henry St., Edgerton, WI 53534 • Phone 608-884-3367 • Fax 608-884-8187  
e-mail: [info@edgertonreporter.com](mailto:info@edgertonreporter.com) USPS # 167-900