

Highwood Hoots

By Carol Stai
Special to the Reporter

Mother's Day has come and gone and Kathryn called and offered to make us dinner but we opted just to chill at home. We will take her up on the dinner a little later.

We did not make the Flea Market on Saturday, but with the not so great weather, it went well. Highwood made money for the playground equipment.

The next event is the party on May 25 celebrating the Memorial Day weekend. Plan to come down to the clubhouse and have some fun, DJ Tanner will entertain. The clubhouse will be open on Memorial Day.

Just a quick reminder that if you want to apply for bartender license, you must do so soon. Also, bartenders should sign up to take a shift so a variety of people are behind the bar, not the same ones every weekend.

Bingo is on the schedule for June 1 and I will have more details next week. Everyone usually has a great time even when "false bingos" are called out.

We must not forget the big Norwegian celebration, Sytende Mai, that brings travelers from all over, even from Europe, to enjoy the entire weekend taking in all the Norwegian traditions, food and the parade on Sunday. The weather looks to be warm but possible show-

ers. I cannot remember a Sytende Mai without rain but it does manage to have the sun shining on the parade on Sunday. We will be there sometime over the weekend.

Birthdays coming up are Anne Jenson of Edgerton, grandson, James Moretti of Lemont, Ill., Lorie Brown of Jefferson on May 17; classmate, Joe Walling of Stoughton, Landon Houk of Highwood, Bill Sund and Brittany Sund all on May 20; Victory Day, Lou Barlow, "Pa Bear" John Rossman on May 21 and Debbie Rossman and Emma Stovall celebrate on May 23. Wedding anniversary wishes to Mary and Myron Sime of Stoughton on May 21. Wishing everyone a great celebration.

On my last note, the Shelley family had daughter; sister; cousin; mother; Laura Soma passed away on Saturday in Chicago. She had been ill for a short time and it was hard to say "good bye" but she now is in a better place. We all will miss her and she did spend lots of time in Highwood growing up and still made visits mostly during the summer. I know her presence will still be felt in Highwood as she always had a good time at the Clubhouse.

Have a great week.

Q: What do you call a lazy kangaroo?

A: A pouch potato

Ground breaks on Consolidated Koshkonong Sanitary District's facility upgrade project

By Tristan McGough
Special to the Reporter

On May 8, 2019, commissioners of the Consolidated Koshkonong Sanitary District (CKSD) heard gratifying words from Greg Droessler, the District's engineer, "The tree line has been cleared, you'll see a crane at the project site, as well as a job trailer; and official groundbreaking will begin next week Monday, weather permitting."

"Amazing," Rich Plywacz, Fulton's rep to the commission, uttered, summarizing for the board what they all were thinking, now that the plan developed over the last three years is bearing fruit.

It's been a long haul and the CKSD Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project is finally entering its third phase: Construction.

The first phase of planning and the second of design are now parts of process past; the planned design will now be implemented. The fourth and final phase of the project—Commissioning—involves the complete start-up and testing of the system to make certain it operates optimally.

That good news was re-

flected in the financial report Lynne Lund, Internal Operations Manager., was to later give to commission members, where the Staab Construction Corporation, General Contractor for the project, had a check cut from the District to honor its first pay request from the GC in the amount of \$123,401.20.

Also, Quarles & Brady, as bond counsel, will receive a \$17,000 check for legal fees relating to the project and the necessity of having an independent third party monitor and certify the regulatory compliance of the process. District Counsel Jonathan Groessl clarified that he is the single legal counsel for the District; however, Q&B will be acting in the role of bond counsel, where they oversee the legitimacy of bond development and its issuance process.

At the previous April meeting, Brian Roemer, a financial specialist with Ehlers, was contracted to facilitate the successful application of the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) Loan from the WI-DNR and DOT. Now onboard, Roemer was at May's meeting to discuss the allocation and amortization of the 2019 CWF Loan.

Roemer commented on the enviable financial position the District finds itself in, noting, "All is healthy there." Of course, it took considerable time to walk through the tables, schedules and timeline before that terse conclusion could be enunciated.

Nevertheless, with bond counsel Q&B, financial consultant Ehlers, and project engineer T&C now aligned along the same project track, Roemer believes that the CW loan to finance the project will be closed on either on Aug. 7 or July 24, 2019.

The CWFP is designed by the state to provide financial assistance to municipalities and

special districts, such as CKSD, for wastewater and storm water infrastructure projects. At this point, Ehlers has allocated \$7.7 million as the Total Project Cost Estimate to be financed through the CWFL; however, that figure has been arrived at, according to Roemer, after spending the approximately \$2 million Cash on Hand from the District's own coffers.

Whatever funds are made available to the District from the CWF, commissioners want to retire the loan in 19 years. To that end, Roemer offered a tentative payment schedule that assumed full disbursement of the \$7.7 M loan on the loan closing date, which, of course, is not how the fiscal realities of a construction project work.

In point of fact, the District will be paying accordingly as it draws from the fund to pay its bills, whether these payments are for engineering, design, third-party consultants, such as Q&B, or the building contractor. All are covered under the CWFP.

The CKSD Wastewater Facility Upgrade has a projected completion date of sometime in the month of October, 2020.

On a financially positive note, Droessler updated the board on certain "work change directives" (that will later be "rolled-up into an actual Change Order"), all four of them are deductions from the contract amount for certain aspects of the project.

Involving contracted sums for services, force field materials, fittings, and erosion control, Droessler told commissioners that the deductions were: \$15,700, \$13,000, \$25,000 and \$2,000.

The board moved to accept the work change directives as outlined by T&C and then discussed the possible authorizing of either Field Operations Manager Dave Houfe, Jr. or Lund to

approve project related payments for work up to \$5,000 limit.

"They are both well qualified," stated Chair John Traynor.

After a bit of clarificatory discussion, the board acted upon authorizing both District managers to approve deducts and purchases up to the designated limit.

Nonetheless, as Lund and Houfe both affirmed, it is their common practice to consult with Traynor prior to any transactions of any sizable amount.

TRIVIA

Trivia answers for May 15

1. Water
2. The Amazon rain forest
3. Australia
4. Telephone
5. Windows. The passing trains produce a lowpressure area between them that can actually pull the glass out of the frames.
6. Donald Duck
7. Vincent Van Gogh
8. Cabbage leaf
9. 1/100
10. Honey
11. 3 years
12. Rubber

Bonus answer #1 Dog

Bonus answer #2 Flamingos

Bonus answer #3 Germany



New activities, freshly-curated rooms for Lincoln-Tallman House tour-goers

Submitted by
Terri Holznecht
Holznecht Marketing

When the Lincoln-Tallman House opens for tours this month, visitors taking the Traditional Tour will discover new interactive experiences, freshly curated rooms, and more stories about life and customs in the Victorian era.

From playing the piano or sketching a vase in the parlor, to lounging in the library while knitting, reading or playing a board game, activities are designed to help visitors feel what it was like to live in the mid-1800s Tallman home.

The Traditional Tour narrative will focus on how a prosperous Victorian family would have lived, weaving in stories

about the Tallman family.

"We want visitors to walk into the house and fully experience what life was in this Victorian mansion," explained Timothy Maahs, Executive Director of the Rock County Historical Society (RCHS). "Take a seat, touch the artifacts, read a book. While tours will still be led by interpreters, guests set their own pace and, for the most part, choose how to spend their time in the house."

Several rooms have been freshly curated this year, including a parlor in which women would have gathered, often sketching or sewing. The drawing room, where men would have retired, now highlights artifacts such as taxidermy and weaponry, and artwork of a masculine nature.

The Traditional Tour is one of two tours running through the season. Another is the Help Wanted Tour, designed for people to learn about Victorian life through the eyes of a servant. This interactive tour experience encourages guests to don an apron and join in a variety of 19th century chores and activities.

Tours, which last approximately one hour, are open most weekends in May. The official tour season begins Saturday, June 8, and runs until Sept. 1. Detailed dates and hours are available at www.rchs.us. Tickets are available at the door. Walk-ins are also welcome during tour hours.

For more information on tours, visit www.rchs.us/tall mantours or call 608-756-4509.



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