

City still looking at vets building options

By Dean Landers
Special to the Reporter

The future of the Veterans Building at 414 Albion Street does not seem to concern most Edgerton residents, as few people attended a Special Veterans Building Assessment Committee meeting Oct. 30.

A three-year lease was approved Oct. 8 by Edgerton City Council for the Edgerton Children's Center located in the Veterans Building, the lease in

effect from Sept. 1, 2019 to Aug. 31, 2022. The Children's Center has leased the building since 2010.

Veterans Building Committee Chairman Fred Falk said on Sept. 24, "I have received no letters, calls or other electronic communications related to this issue. There have been a number of attempts by the city to lease the building to non-profits for \$1, with no success. We have bent over backwards for veterans' groups."

Former Edgerton Mayor Matt McIntyre, provided the only citizen's input at the meeting, stating "the Veterans Building has a long 60-year history with lots of users, and I commend the city for its due diligence on this issue."

Five options were presented by the committee on Sept. 24 including:

- Continued ownership by the City of Edgerton with one tenant.
- Renting building to vari-

ous short term users.

- City funded community center with staff.
 - Lease building to non-profit with \$1 lease per year.
 - Sell the building.
- Edgerton City Administrator Ramona Flanigan said that if the building is sold, the current lease could be terminated after Feb. 20, 2020.

The next meeting on the Veteran's Building matter is scheduled for 6 p.m. Nov. 20 at city hall.

Local heroes honored at State Patrol ceremony

By Sanika Bhargava
WMTV NBC 15
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Two local heroes from Edgerton were among 59 people recognized at Wednesday's annual Wisconsin State Patrol awards ceremony.

State Patrol inspector Travis Lauer and Wisconsin Department of Corrections Captain Andrew Lyga said they are grateful and humbled, but they were just doing their jobs.

Lauer joined the State Patrol almost 20 years ago.

"One of the biggest things was a desire just to help others," he said.

In the early morning hours of July 5, while Lauer was off-duty, he and Lyga, his neighbor, had their chance to help.

"We had just kind of gotten

together and we were sitting around a fire," Lauer said.

The two men started to hear a consistent honking nearby. When they looked for where the sound was coming from, they knew something was wrong.

"We just saw this orange glow over the treetops," Lauer said.

Lauer and Lyga ran towards it and found a garage on fire with flame spreading quickly to the house and people still inside.

"They were completely asleep, so they had no idea what was going on," Lauer said.

Two decades of training kicked in, and the men jumped into action.

"I kicked the door open and immediately two of the grandchildren that were in the house

came out from around the corner," Lauer said.

An aunt and the children's grandparents were also in the house. Lyga and Lauer made sure all five family members and their two dogs made it to safety.

"We stuck around all night to help if needed," Lyga said.

For their quick thinking, Wisconsin State Patrol recognized both at an awards ceremony Wednesday afternoon.

Both men said they are humbled, but they insist they are not heroes.

"We're not the only ones out

there doing things like this, responding to emergencies like this, and there are people that respond to much worse things than we've responded to," Lyga said.

This is just what they do. "I don't think it's anything that anyone else in our line of work wouldn't have done," Lauer said.

Both men said they are still in touch with the family they helped. The couple is renting a house in the same area while their home is rebuilt. The work should be done by the end of the year.



Contrasting styles

Snowfall last week provided striking contrast to the colorful leaves that had yet to drop this fall.

Photo by Jason Francis

Lincoln-Tallman House tree show brings 21 days of joy

Submitted by Susan Melton
Janesville Area Visitors
and Convention Bureau

Bright, festive, and uniquely decorated each year, the 2019 Holiday Tree Show features more than 30 Christmas trees adorned by local businesses, nonprofits, and individuals. The 21 days of open-house style tours at the Lincoln-Tallman House begin Nov. 29 and runs through Dec. 30.

Guests will discover trimmings in each room of the Lincoln-Tallman House, at 440 N. Jackson Street in Janesville. While strolling the mansion, folks are welcome to enjoy complimentary Christmas cookies and cider.

This year, the Rock County Historical Society (RCHS) is

partnering with the Rotary Botanical Gardens, with dates of the Holiday Light Show and Holiday Tree Show corresponding.

"We are excited about this partnership," said Timothy Maahs, RCHS' Executive Director. "By coordinating dates, we're offering families and adults alike two magical experiences in Janesville."

Maahs is also enthusiastic about the variety of sponsors decorating trees this year. "With more than 30 businesses, nonprofits and individuals sponsoring trees, this is another

way that RCHS is working in tandem with the community to help get the word out about the many offerings in Rock County," he added.

From a tree dressed like a ballgown by a local designer, to an evergreen bejeweled with hats, scarves and ribbon by a downtown hair salon, the unexpected greets each visitor.

New this year, a ticket to the Holiday Tree Show may be used on any of the tour dates. All tours are open-house format, allowing guests to view at their leisure. Evening Tree

Shows will be lit only by the glow of the Christmas trees and gasoliers, providing an even more enchanting experience.

Opening day is Nov. 29, with the season running through Dec. 30. Days and hours are, Thursdays and Fridays, noon to 7 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. On Monday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 30, hours are noon to 7 p.m. Closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31.

Tickets are available online at www.rchs.us/event/ or by calling RCHS at 608-756-4509 Ext. 301.



State Patrol inspector Travis Lauer (left) and Wisconsin Department of Corrections Captain Andrew Lyga were honored at last week's Wisconsin State Patrol awards ceremony in Madison.

Photo courtesy of WMTV NBC 15

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