

Sumner declares emergency

From Sumner Town Clerk

Thursday, March 19, the Sumner Town Board declared an Emergency by Resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent orders of the President and Governor. Declaring an emergency allows the town to expedite the use of resources and take any measures needed to protect the health, security, safety, and well-being of its residents, public, and the town employees. John Dohner, Town Board Chairman stated “We are trying to assure the continuity and reliability of town operations.” For this reason, Dohner also issued a proclamation limiting access to the town hall and office. Appointments will be needed to conduct business at the town office. This measure has been implemented as one more

means to provide protection for the public health, safety and welfare of the officers and the public, as well as ease the burden of the clerk as she prepares the election under extraordinary conditions, including a spike in absentee voting and shortages and/or absence of election materials and sanitation supplies.

The proclamation also addresses the upcoming election. The April 7 election will be conducted providing the same opportunities to cast your vote. In-person registration and voting will be provided during established election hours (7 a.m. to 8 p.m.). Although governmental facilities are exempt from the maximum ten-person gathering order, with six to seven election inspectors on-site, electors will be limited to three at any one time within the town hall for the purpose of reg-

istering and voting. The Sumner Town Hall is a confined space and this will require safe distances to better protect electors and election workers. All voters should dress appropriately for the weather conditions, in case of a line outside of the town hall.

Dohner added, “These measures are meant to protect our public. As conditions change, the town board and the clerk are prepared to address them as needed.” The Emergency by Resolution, proclamation and further notices can be found on the town’s website at www.townofsumner.com. In addition, the guidelines established for voting on April 7 will be posted on the Town of Sumner website. Please note we are encouraging absentee voting via www.my.wi.gov in order to reduce risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.



Janesville and Edgerton firefighters, including Drew Mortimer, Seamus Murphy and Jerek Clifford, prepare to enter the structure to perform salvage operations in the home part of the structure and protect some of the homeowners’ furniture and belongings, as well as recover personal property for the homeowners, who were displaced by the fire. Photo by Dave Sheen – Edgerton Fire Dept.

MILTON FIRE

Lukas further explained, “Evone and Daniel Walsh were busy, as a lot of people are on Saturdays, working around their house, when Evone heard the smoke detector go off and acted quickly.”

Though Lukas lives in the City of Milton and serves as its battalion chief, his full-time job is the battalion chief for the Janesville Fire Department. Regardless, the Walsh’s were glad that Lukas and a combination of fire departments came to the couple’s rescue that Saturday morning.

Lukas said in a post-incident interview, that besides the fire departments of Milton, Janesville, and Edgerton, there were quite a few others that were also called upon.

He indicated, “We wanted to make sure we had enough water to fight the blaze, so we asked for water tankers from Orfordville, Clinton, Whitewater, Footville, and Town of Turtle just to make sure.”

One of the firefighters dispatched from Edgerton was division commander Brandon

Whitmore, who was on scene to confront the conflagration and served as water supply officer.

“Fortunately,” Lukas iterated, “We got the fire out quickly.”

“Unfortunately,” he added, “there was significant heat and smoke damage to the inside of the home, though we managed to stop the fire itself from entering the home.”

The battalion chief said the blaze was entirely contained to the garage itself, with only some external fire damage to the exterior of the home.

EFPD’s Pickering said, “Fire crews from Milton, Edgerton and Janesville found the bulk of the fire was coming from the garage and did an outstanding job stopping the fire from consuming the entire house.”

Upon approaching the residence from afar, Pickering further remarked, “Smoke from the house could be seen for miles.”

Though the cause of the fire is still under investigation by the insurance underwriter, Lukas guesstimated, “There’s probably over \$100,000 worth of

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damage done.”

He also said that fire crews—though they got the blaze out in near record time—stayed on premise for about three hours to “overhaul and ventilate” and make certain there would be no flare-up.

Regardless, the Walsh’s have been displaced—as the residence, due to smoke, heat and water damage, is untenable—and the couple is living elsewhere until the premises are refurbished.

No one is quite certain when that will be. However, both fire chiefs were glad to be able to assist in limiting the potential extensive damage that could have been done had they not been deployed in such an rapid and effective manner.

SCHOOL BOARD RACE

To the citizens and employees: as a school board member and as a team, it’s important to be united with a positive atmosphere to help out the employees and school district as a whole.

9. As our city has grown over the years, many new people have moved to our area and school district. This has given us all an important understanding of new ideas and backgrounds for all of us to enjoy and experience. This helps forge a better understanding of a lot of exciting new things from other areas of the world we live in. This gives us board members a boost to our decisions we help make to achieve good things for us all.

TIM SHAW

1. Tim Shaw. My wife, Angie, and I bought our first home in Edgerton 18 years ago.

2. I’m the only candidate who is an incumbent, having served on the Edgerton School Board for the last two years. During my time on the board, I’ve worked with the other board members and administration on several key accomplishments: Passed two referendum questions for facilities with 70 percent approval and operations with 60 percent; increase student opportunities by approving the creation of a fishing team, girls gymnastics, boys swim, and additional high school courses.



SHAW

My track record on the board proves I’m a passionate and effective board member. We have three daughters; all have either graduated from Edgerton or are currently enrolled. They are a testament to the excellence of education an Edgerton student receives. Katie, my oldest (college sophomore), is studying to be a high school math teacher. My youngest, Nickie (8th grade), has job-shadowed with a classroom teacher to gauge her interest in being an elementary teacher. My middle daughter, Taylor (senior), will graduate this year and has chosen Psychology (with an emphasis in Art) to study at Wisconsin-Platteville.

3. 1) Ensuring all our teachers and staff have the resources necessary to provide a high-quality, high-achieving, students first environment. Part of doing this is insuring we are compensating our teachers and staff comparable with others in our area, which I’m committed to continue.

2) Completing the facilities

referendum updates on time and within budget.

3) Prepare our students for the next chapter of their lives; whether that is college, trade school, military or the workforce. Each student is unique, and we must foster the uniqueness and provide them with the skills to be successful in life.

4. It starts with insuring our students are the priority. My philosophy is students first, balanced with the needs of staff, facilities and budget. I vow to provide teachers and staff with resources necessary to be successful and provide a work space that is inviting and efficient. When teachers are comfortable and feel valued, our students thrive.

All decisions have a financial component, and it’s my mantra to spend district money like it’s my own. No one wants high taxes and Edgerton has done a good job keeping the tax levy lower than surrounding communities. I will continue to bring a business perspective to discussions and decisions.

5. All of them, 14.

6. I’ve visited all our schools during regular school hours to meet with teachers, students and administrators. It’s important to understand everyone’s point of view of our district and understand opinions on how we can improve. I’ve joined the beginning-of-the-year staff meeting, including breakfast. I’ve also visited during the middle school Black History Month and Holocaust presentations.

7. As a current board member, I am committed to education in the arts. I believe it is crucial to a well-rounded student, and the research backs me up.

Statistics show that art benefits childrens’ academic achievements. Those students actively involved in the arts are:

- Four times more likely to take part in a math or science fair.
- Three times more likely to have good school attendance and win an award for it.

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•Four times more likely to be recognized and acknowledged for academic achievements.

•Likely to have higher SAT scores.

•Less likely to drop out of school.

•More likely to gain employment after school due to their creativity.

As a board member, I will continue to insure our arts (performance, music and art) are supported, from a financial, facilities and personnel perspective.

8. School board members have a vital role in maintaining a positive relationship with teachers, staff and the community. Our community is fully supportive of our school district, and part of the reason for this fantastic support is the trust built up between the community and the school board. This is evident from the overwhelming approval of both the facilities and operational referendums. The Edgerton community trusts the district will do what is right for students and staff, while making sure our taxes stay in line or lower than neighboring districts.

I will continue to be proactive in improving our district and will to listen to parent and teacher/staff concerns. Most importantly, I will not only listen to the concerns, but actively work to alleviate those concerns. Working as a community team to advocate for our schools is crucial.

9. As a school board member, it’s my responsibility to lead by example when it comes to respecting cultural and racial diversity ... it’s also my duty to hold our district accountable to insure all people are treated equal regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. It’s my commitment to our community to abide and require this of everyone I meet. School board members shape policy for all district behavior, which lays the groundwork for community behavior.

Rock County Register of Deeds to provide all services online or by mail

Submitted by Sandy Disrud

The Rock County Register of Deeds will take recommended health and safety precautions to protect the public and reduce the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) by conducting all public services through online and mail options. Public access to the office at the courthouse will be unavailable in order to keep residents and employees safe while continuing to serve customers.

The office will remain fully staffed. They will continue to process vital records applications, record real estate documents and fulfill document copy requests during regular business hours. They will also be available to answer phone calls and emails. Birth, Marriage, and Death Certificate applications are available on the website for mailing in or purchasing online. Please call the office at 608-757-5650 for assistance accessing your records or visit their website. www.co.rock.wi.us/registerofdeeds.

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