



MILWAUKEE — Maya Carman, 5, watches Snow Lily munch on crab legs during Groundhog Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo on Friday. She's the youngest of four children that her mother, Susan, of Mukwonago has brought to the zoo for the past eight years.

## Polar bear replaces groundhog at Milwaukee zoo



Mary Catanesse/Special to The Freeman  
Milwaukee County Zoo polar bear Snow Lily looks for her shadow on Groundhog Day. She did see it, meaning six more weeks of winter.



Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele listens as Beth Rich, head curator, delivers a history of Groundhog Day. The zoo presented Snow Lily, who replaces Wynter, a nine-year-old groundhog who passed away in 2017.

## Frame Park public meeting kicks off busy week for city, Town of Waukesha

By Cara Spoto  
cspoto@conley.net  
262-513-2653

WAUKESHA — A busy week of public meetings in the city and town of Waukesha next week is slated to kick off with a second public information meeting on the proposal to build an amateur baseball stadium in Frame Park.

The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday in the Common Council Chambers at Waukesha City Hall, 201 Delafield St.

After dozens of residents expressed their concerns about the project at the first informational meeting last month, City Administrator Kevin Lahner has said he and the Big Top Baseball representatives plan to delve deeper into the financing of the project, which calls for the city to shoulder \$4 million of the \$4.5 million capital investment with Big Top supplying \$800,000.

In exchange for use of the

newly built stadium, Big Top would pay the city \$150,000 as part of a 20-year lease, while also contributing \$25,000 annually for improvements to the park outside the stadium.

City officials and Big Top representatives will also share their parking plan for the stadium. The current plan does not call for constructing a parking lot, but Big Top claims it has identified more than 1,000 off-street parking spots within a half-mile of Frame Park that could be accessed for its events.

### Other city meetings

There will be no action taken Monday regarding the baseball proposal, but the Common Council is scheduled to gather at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall to consider a few noteworthy matters.

Among the items coming before aldermen is a rezoning request that would allow Lutheran Social Services of

Wisconsin to convert an adult day center at 2000 Blue-mound Road into a 22-bed, live-in drug and alcohol treatment facility for men and women. A public hearing on the request is slated to take place during the meeting, with possible action to follow.

Alderman will also consider a request to allow the city to hire its own security guard for the transit center. The city currently outsources security at the transit center, but guards the vendor has hired often show up late or not at all, the city has claimed.

On Thursday evening the Landmarks Commission will meet to review plans for a new single-family home on a vacant lot at the corner of East Broadway and North Porter Avenue in the Broadway Avenue Historic District.

### Town meetings

In the Town of Waukesha, public officials will continue discussions with their coun-

terparts in the Town of Vernon about a possible merger of their respective public works departments.

The two town boards will hold another joint meeting on the issue at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the Waukesha Town Hall on Center Road north of Highway 59. That joint meeting will be followed by open and closed session discussion by the Waukesha Town Board at its regularly scheduled meeting, to take place after the 6:30 p.m. Plan Commission meeting.

The commission and board will also discuss some land use requests, including a petition from developer and Town Chairman John Marek to amend the town's land use plan for a property on Highway 164 south of Glendale Road, where he hopes to put a condo development.

Supervisors will be asked to review the request, set a public hearing on it for March 6, and "determine there is an urgency to 'fast track' the request."

## IN BRIEF

### Waukesha man charged with child abuse

WAUKESHA — A Waukesha man has been ordered to answer charges that he beat his stepdaughter with a belt.

The Freeman is not naming the 38-year-old man to protect the identity of his juvenile accuser. The man was charged Friday with a count of child abuse and faces up to 1 1/2 years in prison if convicted.

According to the criminal complaint, a 16-year-old girl reported to school authorities last June that her mother and father struck her multiple times, that her father hit her on her right calf with a belt, leaving a considerable bruise, that he usually uses fists instead of objects to hit her, and that "she does not feel safe at home," even though three other siblings are normally those who get hit.

The father admitted he hit the girl in the leg with a belt, saying he intended to hit her on the buttocks after she was being disrespectful to her mother, but she moved and he hit her leg instead. He added he felt "very bad for hurting" the child, the complaint said.

### Waukesha man charged in fleeing case

WAUKESHA — A Greenfield man was ordered held earlier this week on a \$2,000 cash bail after he allegedly was intoxicated while leading police on a chase last Satur-

day morning. Andre Mack, 46, was charged with fleeing police and second-offense operating while intoxicated. He is to appear in court again Thursday.

A criminal complaint said a police officer saw Mack's vehicle speeding, doing 48 mph in a 35-mph zone, on St. Paul Avenue near Albert Street at about 2:20 a.m. Saturday, then it headed onto North Street at about 50 mph.

The officer gave chase, with Mack entering eastbound Interstate 94 and going 50 to 66 mph, until spike strips stopped Mack near Calhoun Road, the complaint said. Mack was arrested without incident, the complaint said, adding an officer observed a strong odor of intoxicants about him, his slurred speech and bloodshot, glassy eyes. Mack refused standardized field sobriety tests and said an officer could take his blood instead, the complaint said.

### Complaint: Chase suspect gave cops false name

WAUKESHA — A man led Menomonee Falls police on a chase that exceeded 100 mph and then gave an officer a false name, according to a criminal complaint filed against him Friday in Waukesha County Circuit Court.

Cameron Curtis, 25, of Germantown was charged with fleeing police, possessing an

illegally obtained prescription and obstructing an officer.

A criminal complaint said a manager at HomeGoods HomeGoods store flagged down an officer on patrol last Nov. 28 to report a theft at his business and to point out a suspect, who was leaving the area. As the officer tried to effect a traffic stop, the suspect vehicle entered Interstate 41 at Pilgrim Road and headed south, weaving in and out of traffic and reaching speeds up to 105 mph.

The car eventually stopped, and Curtis gave an officer a false name at least twice, the complaint said. It added after the arrest, the officer searched Curtis' car and found IDs in his name — a check later showed six outstanding warrants for him — as well as prescription medications, the complaint said.

### OWI arrest near The Corners of Brookfield

BROOKFIELD — A 32-year-old man was arrested early Friday morning for operating while intoxicated, second offense, after he was seen speeding over 100 mph on Interstate 94.

According to a Waukesha County Sheriff's Department notification, a deputy saw a vehicle speeding westbound around 12:45 a.m. near The Corners of Brookfield. The car accelerated when the deputy tried to catch up, but the driver slowed and pulled over when the officer turned on his squad's emergency lights.

The driver presented a suspended license and said he was coming from a bar. The car smelled of alcohol and the man failed a sobriety test, according to the notification.

## NEW BERLIN

# Condo developer seeking committee approval Monday

Public hearing also scheduled for the 20-unit development

By Hannah Weikel  
hweikel@conley.net  
262-513-2651

NEW BERLIN — The Architectural Review Committee on Monday will review a proposal to build New Berlin Villas, a 20-unit condominium development on West Honeyager Drive.

A public hearing will also be held Monday for residents living near the site, according to city documents. Crosswind Preserve, LLC recently purchased the property and has developed the neighborhoods surrounding the 7-acre parcel.

Dan Kassees, developer for Crosswind Preserve, said a different development went through the same rezoning

and architectural review with the city about 10 years ago, but the application has since expired. His company is now asking for a similar design — 10 two-family condominium sites placed along a snaking neighborhood road.

"I imagine it being received well," Kassees said. If the proposal is approved Monday, it will then go to a Common Council vote later this spring. Kassees said he'd like to start developing the land as soon as possible.

The Architectural Review Committee will meet at 5 p.m. in a conference room AB at City Hall, 3805 S. Casper Drive on Monday. The public hearing will start at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Common Council chambers.

## WAUKESHA WATER PLAN

# Federal program could lower Lake Michigan pipeline costs

Reilly is 'pretty confident' city will get some such financing

By Cara Spoto  
cspoto@conley.net  
262-513-2653

WAUKESHA — A federal program could help the city of Waukesha reduce borrowing expenses related to its \$286.2 million effort to get Lake Michigan water from Milwaukee's lakeshore to homes and businesses here.

Named after the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), the program provides long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant water infrastructure projects. Overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency, the program is open to local, state, tribal, and federal government entities, partnerships and joint ventures, as well as corporations and trusts.

Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly and Waukesha Water Utility General Manager Dan Duchniak spent Wednesday in Washington, D.C., meeting with staff members for U.S. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Menomonee Falls, and U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison and Ron Johnson, R-Oshkosh, about their interest in getting financing help through the program.

"I'm pretty confident we'll get some federal (financing). We are hoping it will be one of our financing options," Reilly said, adding that he and Duchniak flew in and out of D.C. in one day.

## SOUND OFF

What do you think?

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Email: soundoff@conley.net

"We're laying the groundwork so we can get through the (application) process." Whether the project ultimately receives WIFIA assistance hinges on the likelihood of a federal infrastructure bill, Reilly noted.

"We have about a \$105 million gap we are trying to fill," Duchniak said Friday. "We want to limit our use of water revenue bonds, because that is the most expensive money to borrow. We want to find lower cost options, and achieve the mayor's goal of keeping the average water bill under the \$1,000 a year for the water and return flow part of this project."

The Waukesha Common Council has already signed off on one leg of the financing plan for the project. Last month it approved an administration request to competitively bid for two, five-year draw bonds, totaling almost \$50 million.

The two draw bonds for \$32.7 million and \$16.5 million are expected to act like a line of credit for both the clean water and sewer utility during the first two years of permitting and tentative construction of the pipeline.

Duchniak has said the water utility decided to fund the first leg of the project with draw bonds because they don't know when those funds will be needed as the phases of the project hinge on permitting. With draw bonds, the utility will have all the money available to draw from, but no interest needs to be paid until money is spent out of the fund.

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