



File photo

Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow at the signing ceremony for Foxconn's Wisconsin plant on July 26.

## Farrow to seek second term

County executive announces plans Tuesday

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WAUKESHA — County Executive Paul Farrow will seek another term in office.

In a press release issued Tuesday, the City of Pewaukee resident and former state lawmaker said he was running for re-election, because he wants to ensure that the children in Waukesha County "have a great place to grow up, live, and raise their own families."

"I am honored to have served the people of Waukesha County as their County Executive for the past four years, but our work is not done," he said in the release. "We must always be looking to the future and finding ways to make our county safer, more prosperous, and an even better place to live and raise our families. I am running for re-election eager to face the challenges ahead and optimistic about the future of our great county."

Farrow was elected county executive in April 2015, winning 67 percent of the vote to beat out County Board Supervisor Thomas Schellinger and take over the reins from retiring county executive Dan Vrakas. At the time he was a state senator representing the bulk of Waukesha County.

In the release Farrow pointed to the sustained economic growth and record low unemployment the county has experienced during his tenure. He also noted that the county has main-

## Wartman recommended for county clerk post

WAUKESHA — A Waukesha County panel has recommended that former Elm-brook School Board President Margaret "Meg" Wartman be appointed to serve out the remaining two years of Waukesha County Clerk Kathleen Novack's term.

Novack, 68, announced last month that she would be resigning. Her last day in office was Nov. 7.

A panel with representation from the County Board, County Executive's Office, Human Resources Department and the Wisconsin County Clerks Association reviewed applications and interviewed preferred candidates last week, according to a county press release.

The panel was impressed with Wartman's organizational and leadership skills as well as her readiness to improve customer service, the release states.

Wartman currently serves on the Waukesha County Board of Canvassers, and as a chief inspector and poll worker for Brookfield.

The County Board is slated to vote on her appointment on Dec. 18. If approved, Wartman would be sworn in as county clerk on Jan. 7, and serve until Jan. 3, 2021, when Novack's current term expires. If she wants to hold office past that date, she must run for the post in the fall 2020 election.

# Waukesha Common Council approves sewer, return flow rate hikes

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WAUKESHA — Water and sewer customers in the city will see their quarterly bills increase by roughly 12 percent next year as a result of sewer and "return flow" rate increases slated to take effect on Jan. 1.

Aldermen approved the new rates, which are being put forward to pay for costs related to various sewer

upgrades and the Lake Michigan diversion project, during Tuesday's Common Council meeting.

The vote was 12-0. There was no discussion.

Residential sewer rates are currently \$6.62 per 1,000 gallons of use, with the average homeowner paying about \$94 a quarter for the usage, according to utility data. Homeowners will see that rate increase to \$7.25 per 1,000 gallons of use on Jan. 1, bringing the sewer portion of their

quarterly bill to about \$103.

A presentation made to the Board of Public Works earlier this month noted a number of factors prompting the proposed increase, including projected operating increases of 2.13 percent, and plans to issue \$5.4 million in debt to pay for system projects in 2019.

New to bills this year, the residential "return flow" rate is currently 62 cents per 1,000 gallons of use, with the average home-

owner paying about \$7.50 per quarter for that usage. Homeowners will see that rate increase to \$1.85 per 1,000 gallons of use on Jan. 1, bringing that portion of their quarterly bill to about \$22.

The "return flow" rate was added to water and sewer bills in June to help finance preliminary costs associated with a \$125.6 million pipeline that will return treated water back to Lake Michigan as part of the diversion project.

## Muskego-Norway board president to step down

Petfalski has two decades of experience on board

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MUSKEGO — Muskego-Norway School Board President Rick Petfalski has seen two decades of change happen within the district. He's decided now is the right time to step down from his presidential role, after 5 years, and welcome some fresh ideas and viewpoints into the district. Before being president, Petfalski spent 15 years as a board member. He won't seek re-election this April.

"I think the district's sitting in a good space right now. I feel comfortable with everything that's been accomplished," said Petfalski.

He says that while he was re-elected in 2016, he had considered not running at the time but decided to stay because of the referendum on the ballot.

"I was concerned that if you leave the seat open with a referendum on the ballot, there may be people who choose to run just for that reason. I think the position is much deeper than a single issue like that. I also kind of wanted to see the district through the projects," said Petfalski.

Petfalski noted several accomplishments achieved by the district during his 20 years on the board. He says that Muskego-Norway went from having some of the lowest test scores in the county in 2004 to being one of the highest per-

forming districts in the state. The district is rated by the state as "Significantly Exceeding Expectations."

Muskego-Norway also recently completed a \$46 million referendum covering five building sites and updated their football stadium and swimming pool, all while lowering the tax levy eight years in a row.

"I am proud to live in this great community and it is my hope that there is strong interest in citizens to serve the public and run for this office," said Petfalski.

He says he plans to devote future free time to his small business and spending more time with family.

As for advice to citizens interested in filling his

role, Petfalski says, "For one, be a good listener. Pay attention to what the community wants and not necessarily what you always want and try not to come in with an agenda."

### Application process

Interested district residents who are eligible may file a declaration of candidacy and a campaign registration statement at the Educational Services Center, S87-W18763 Woods Road, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, beginning Dec. 1. The deadline for filing is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2019.

A primary election, if necessary, will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

The spring election will take place on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

## Man charged with using business's credit card for personal use

WAUKESHA — Larell Mitchell, age 27 of Milwaukee, is facing three counts of burglary of a building or dwelling and one count of unauthorized use of an entity's identifying information or documents after he allegedly used a credit card belonging to Hot Tubs and More for personal purchases.

According to a criminal

complaint, a detective spoke with Mitchell after several complaints about the business were made.

A printout of transactions made on the store's American Express Business credit card was provided and there were several transactions made within Milwaukee that were believed to be made by Mitchell.

The detective also followed up on reported burglaries at Hot Tubs and More, during which Mitchell was allegedly captured on video entering the business.

Mitchell allegedly told the detective that a co-worker had given him the credit card and things had "got a little rough" as far as the hours he worked. He also

said "he had enough" and allegedly didn't show up to work on his birthday, but used the credit card for two days.

The complaint also says Mitchell admitted to taking money from the business's register.

Mitchell faces up to 43 years in jail and up to an \$85,000 fine upon conviction.

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