



**WayForward Resource (formerly MOM) received a large donation of shelf stable food items from Metro Market and Pick 'n Save last week. For more information, turn to page 2.**

# Middleton • Cross Plains Times-Tribune

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## Lake Weeds, Silt Cause Mess at Boat Launch, Shoreline

By Michelle Phillips

*Times Tribune*

MIDDLETON—In recent weeks, residents of Middleton have been voicing their concerns about the mounting weeds along the shore of Lake Mendota and particularly the Middleton boat launch on Lake Street. They have contacted the city and Mayor Emily Kuhn, who living on the lake, agrees the weeds are a problem. In fact, last year Kuhn invited then mayor Gurdip Brar to her house to see the pile up of aquatic plants. She also got an estimate from the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department for the cost of removal. The county charges a fee to remove weeds homeowners and municipalities place on their docks during scheduled times. The city, however, chose not to participate in the program due to the cost because they see the program benefiting few people.

John Reimer, Assistant Director at Dane County Land & Water Resources Department, said that although the plants are a nuisance, that don't pose any harm. He added that green algae is not harmful, but blue-green algae contains toxins. He warns that if you see blue-green algae blooms, stay out of the water. The dry weather has caused the aquatic plants to grow, while lack of runoff has halted a lot of algae blooms.

"More plants are a sign that the water is in better health because the sunlight can get down

and penetrate to the bottom," he says, but also acknowledged that the weeds can be a navigation problem.

The county cuts the weeds to allow for navigation paths. The cutting vessel gathers up most of the weeds, but many end up on the shore.

Reimer says that the county's Aquatic Plant Harvesting Program, the initiative that picks up plants from docks, has participation from most of the municipalities in the chain of lakes. The cost of pickup is based on the amount of shoreline within the city.

"We provide this service to keep the lakes clean," reminds Reimer.

He says the collected aquatic material goes to the City of Madison composting site and is used in applications around the city.

"It's worse than last year," says Kuhn as she scoops weeds out of the water and heaves them onto the dock at her home last Friday.

She said the city tells residents they will pick them up for composting, but they don't get picked up when left on the curb.

The city's public works department says that aquatic plants can be put out with leaf and garden waste during scheduled pickup times.

Kuhn also points out what she refers to as "the salad" an area at the end of her dock which is clogged with weeds and occasionally traps a paddler in its clutches. Kuhn pulls at the tall aquatic plants and says, "I try to make a path for them."

The boat launch is suffering from a similar problem as weeds pile up in both the motorized and non-motorized launch areas. In addition to the weeds, there is a great deal of muck that has built up at the site, and according to the city the last time the site was dredged was in 2007.

Middleton resident Jeff May-

ers first brought the matter to the attention of Kuhn and city council members at the end of May. He says that the lake is an asset and used by many for recreation.

He was especially concerned about water discharged from the Iconica construction site on Lake Street. Mayers said he first noticed the weeds and sludge Memorial Day Weekend. "I noticed it yesterday, Sunday, when I went to put a boat in. I talked to a couple who live in the condos, and they said they had complained to the city and DNR," Mayers said.

Kuhn says she feels that the silt is coming from the creek corridor as Pheasant Branch Creek deposits into Lake Mendota near the site.

She contacted Erik Sorensen Assistant Public Works Director and Assistant City Engineer regarding concern about the con-

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Michelle Phillips, *Times-Tribune*

Middleton Mayor Emily Kuhn scoops aquatic plants from the shoreline in front of her house. The weeds have become a problem along the Lake Mendota shoreline and the Middleton boat ramp. Kuhn has pledged to donate her mayoral salary to pay for a county weed cleanup plan as the city has no intention of funding the program at this time.

## Common Council Approves Boat Launch Redesign

By Cameron Bren

*Times Tribune*

MIDDLETON—The Middleton Common Council approved a concept proposal for a redesigned boat launch on Lake Street of Allen Boulevard. The complete details will be included when final design comes back to the council for approval, but the concept proposal calls for limiting the boat launch to hand launch craft only and prohibiting motorized and trailered craft.

In July 2022 the city hired planning and design firm Parkitecture + Planning to develop master plans for Lakeview East Park and the Lake Street boat launch. The project area includes the boat launch site and adjacent right of way, including on-street parking on Lake Street, the city-owned parking area to the east of Harbor Athletic Club, Middleton Beach Road Neighborhood, adjacent properties around the boat launch and Lake Street, and Lakeview Park Neighborhood.

The initial concept proposal for the boat launch received broad public attention when presented to the council for approval with public comments relating to the use, safety and environmental concerns. The council referred the proposal to the plan commission, public works, sustainability and public safety committees.

The plan commission, public works and sustainability com-

mittees recommend the launching of paddle and non-motorized craft only. The public works committee recommends having no ramp so that trailered boats could not be launched.

The sustainability committee recommends safety and accessibility with easy access for all mobilities; maximizing green space with native plantings; preventing shoreline erosion; consider working with nearby property owners to preserve natural springs; new tree plantings for shade; create an infiltration basin to manage runoff; keep the design within Riparian Rights; and do not use sand at the lake's edge.

The public works committee also recommends no median islands be included to allow for grass terrace areas that separate sidewalks from the curbs and to provide room for snow storage in winter; sidewalks along both sides of the road between Allen Boulevard and Lake Mendota, except along a portion of the south side of Lake Street to preserve mature terrace trees near the Harbor Athletic Club parking lot; posting a "no boat launch" sign on Lake Street near Allen Boulevard to inform drivers that there is no longer a motorized boat launch; construct raised crosswalks for speed control; and have accessible parking stalls near the lake.

The parks and recreation committee recommends keeping the design within the right-

of-way and accommodating the fire rescue boat.

During the public comment period several residents and users commented on the concept proposal.

Tom Carman who owns the two single family homes next to the boat launch said the move to limit motorboats would help environmental resiliency and improve the look and feel of the area.

Don Anderson, who is a sailor, said he would like to maintain access to trailer boats, but does not have an issue with limiting motorboats. He said a lot of small, craft, sail boats launch out of there. Anderson said it is used a lot in the winter to drive trailered craft out onto the lake and he isn't sure that could be done safely at Marshall Park. He said the change would eliminate a big part of the launch's use.

Resident Robert Victory said he supports keeping the use as-is.

Resident Barb Regan said she is a paddler and opposed to limiting motorboats. She says she feels safer launching with power boats and prefers to launch her

kayak from a dock rather than a beach. She said she is also opposed to restricted hours and launching fees. Regan questioned why the city was trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist. She also complained that the bay is filled with muck and covered with garbage and said there is not a need for more green space in the area.

Resident Tom Yost said the muck is so thick he can no longer safely launch his sailboat. It will need to be dredged before it can be used for hand launching. He said there should also be a sandy lane for small paddle craft to safely dock.

Resident Maryanne Doll said she is shocked and appalled that the city is not cleaning up the muck at the boat launch. She questioned why the project was moving so fast and whether the city has the capacity to take it on and maintain it.

Developer of Lake 61 apartment on Lake Street, Tim Carey, said he supports the concept because it creates a more park-like setting which better matches the residential area. He said he feels

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### NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

Due to the upcoming Independence Day holiday, DISPLAY AD DEADLINE for the Times-Tribune issue of July 6 will be THURSDAY, JUNE 29 at 1 pm  
Classified ad deadline will be Wednesday, June 28 at noon



## LOCAL

# WayForward Resources Receives \$30,000 Donation from Local Grocers



Michelle Phillips, Times-Tribune



**Above:** Wayforward volunteers and staff and employees of Metro Market and Pick 'n Save with some of the pallets of food that were delivered on June 21. **Pictured L-R:** Brian Miron Area Vice President of Operations, Pick 'n Save, Leslie Huber Strategic Engagement Director, WayForward; DawnMarie Puch, Sun Prairie Store Director Metro Market; Mitch Leggett, District Operations Specialist, Metro Market; Carmen Carvelis WayForward volunteer, Megan Ernestee Wayforward volunteer, Meghan Sohns WayForward Program Director (standing) Wayford Executive Director Ellen Carlson and Wayforward volunteer Kevin Walther (standing). **Left:** Miron and Carlson look into the semi to see what kinds of things are being donated to the food pantry.

MIDDLETON—WayForward Resources (formerly Middleton Outreach Ministry or MOM) received a large food donation last week from local grocers Metro Market and Pick 'n Save.

The \$30,000 in-kind donation of food items was delivered on approximately 20 pallets and weighed in nearly 18,000 lbs.

"We are so excited about this

donation," said WayForward Resources Executive Director Ellen Carlson.

"Metro Market and Pick 'n Save store teams are committed to our communities" said Brian Miron, Vice President of Operations, "We're proud to be able to donate 20 pallets of assorted grocery items and have members of my team on-hand

to help unload this donation filling the shelves at WayForward Resources."

WayForward Resources promotes food security and food access to the residents of Dane County. WayForward serves more than 5,000 people a year, the most ever in their 40-year history and has seen a significant increase in demand over the past several months.

"Inflation and the end of Covid-era assistance has led to us serving the equivalent of more than 90,000 meals a month, a 130 percent increase from last year," said Carlson. "We are so excited about this donation from Metro Market and Pick 'n Save stores because not only does it help fill our shelves with nutritious food for people in our community, but it will make available a huge variety of food, allowing people to select food that makes sense for them and their families."

"It's a variety of dry goods" Miron said of the donation. He added that large donation are common within the company, but this delivery was one of the larger ones.

## Greenway Boulevard to Close at Pleasant View Road

MIDDLETON—As of June 27, the Pleasant View Rd. contractor will close Greenway Boulevard at Pleasant View Road to all traffic. Road work will be confined to the east side of Pleasant View Road and two-way traffic will continue to use the west side of the road. This stage of construction is expected to last three to four months.

To access the golf course, follow the marked detour from west-bound Greenway Boulevard, left at Gialamas Way, right at Deming Way, then right at Blackhawk Road to Pleasant View Road.

## Design

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the boat launch is not able to safely support motorized craft.

President of the Middleton Beach Road Neighborhood Association Ginny Corwin said she is supportive of the concept design. She said it would be a win for paddlers and the environment.

Mayor Emily Kuhn asked city staff to respond to the public comments.

Director of Parks and Recreation Kiley Scherer said the city cannot dredge the bay without DNR approval. She said keeping it clean is a high priority for parks staff and they are currently working on pulling weeds and cleaning up any garbage.

Kuhn asked how the redesign could impact access for the EMS/Fire boat.

Scherer said currently the rescue boat is located there and nothing is planned to change.

"I've been in conversation with the fire chief and with the EMS as well over the course of this design concept as we prepare all the designs," Scherer said. "They've been included in every single design...and they are aware of all of the different designs."

Alder Katy Nelson asked which of the five concept designs include in the agenda packet the council is voting on. Scherer said the design is not yet finalized. A detailed design will be created based on the priorities and input of the common council and committees.

Alder Jeffery Jackson said he did not feel like the safety and environmental concerns have been addressed.

Scherer said the safety concerns have been part of the discussion of the new design. She said the council should address any safety concerns during the discussion.

Alder Lisa Janairo who sits on the public works and plan commission said the committees did work through and address the safety and environmental concerns raised by residents and the council.

"I trust that the next step will be for architecture, maybe with a reminder that they need to demonstrate their credentials and their ability to design specifically for a park-like setting that includes launching of canoes, kayaks and other paddle craft by hand," Janairo said.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Shawn Stauske explained the reason for the redesign.

"Our real focus from a public works perspective is we need to redesign the road in large part because the water main keeps breaking," Stauske said. "That's been a trend and it's been accelerating...but we didn't want to take on the road design until first we figured out what we want at the end of Lake Street to func-

tion as and that's what started this concept planning initiative."

Stauske described the intention of the redesign process.

"The intention was to focus on what sorts of elements the city council wants to see in Lake Street," Stauske said. "Do we want sidewalks? Do we want boats? Do we want trailers? Do we want on-street parking? Because at the end of the day we have 66 feet of width, so if we want sidewalks, we have 56 feet of width. Things get tighter and tighter. Right now, we have curb and gutter and asphalt largely from right-of-way to right-of-way with a little bit of variance, but that doesn't allow room for other things."

Mayor Kuhn asked what the timeline would be for dredging the bay. Stauske said he generally plans those about a year out. Kuhn asked if the city is planning to filter runoff from Allen Boulevard. Director of Planning and Community Development Abby Attoun said public works staff said a retention pond would be challenging within the tight constraints so that likely couldn't be part of the final design.

Alder Randall Crow asked if there were specific discussions about excluding a ramp for launching small-trailed boats. He said he believes the project should include a small boat launch for craft under 20 feet long.

Alder Jenifer Cole said she was having a hard time visualizing what the design of the park would be.

Scherer explained the current input from committees, council members and residents combines different aspects of the various concept designs. The final design will be presented to the council for approval.

Alder Nelson asked if the EMS boat will launch out of Marshall Park and park at Lake Street for the season. Scherer said that is correct. Nelson asked what the discussion was about regarding fees. Scherer said there were some committee members both in favor and opposed to launching fees but that is not included in the current plan.

Alder David Lorman said he is a paddler, and his paddling partner needs to use a hand trailer. He said he does not think any of the concept proposals seem accommodating to that method.

Janairo made a motion to approve the concept design consistent with the 18 comments and recommendations from public works, plan commission and sustainability committee listed in the staff memo. The council voted five to one to approve the concept proposal with Lorman voting opposed.

### CHURCH NOTES

#### Gateway Community Church

Pastor Paul Lundgren  
Services 8:30am & 10:45am  
Adult & Kids Sunday School  
9:45am-10:30am  
Nursery available for 10:45 service

High Point Church  
7702 Old Sauk Road,  
Madison. 608-824-1800  
Info @ gccmiddleton.org

#### Middleton Community Church

Connecting Faith and Life  
645 Schewe Road- 2 mi. West  
of Beltline on Old Sauk Road  
Visit: www.middletonucc.org for  
a schedule of all events

#### St. Martin's Lutheran Church

2427 Church St. Cross Plains  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.  
www.stmartinscp.org

#### St. Mary's Catholic Church

3673 Co. Hwy. P Pine Bluff  
608-798-2111  
Father Richard Heilman  
Mass:  
Saturday: 8:00am & 4:00pm  
Sunday 7:30am (TLM) &  
9:15am  
Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
7:30am

## NO TRASH & RECYCLING PICKUP ON JULY 4th

Service July 4th - July 7th will be delayed one day later than your normal pickup day.

Service on Monday, July 3rd will not be delayed.



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