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ON THE COVER
The 40-ft. observation tower at the Mequon Nature Preserve attracts visitors from throughout the area. (See page 4 for a complete story about this unique habitat and its many amenities.) Photo: John O’Hara
**Mequon-Thiensville Today** is a community magazine providing useful information about the City of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville with news and feature stories about the people, businesses, places and events that make our communities very special places to live, work and do business.

**Mequon-Thiensville Today** is jointly published three times per year by the City of Mequon, the Village of Thiensville and the Mequon-Thiensville School District. The magazine receives additional support from MATC, Concordia University and local advertisers.

**Mequon-Thiensville Today** welcomes story ideas, content suggestions and advertising inquiries that are compatibility with our editorial mission, advertisement criteria and other publication standards. Paid articles are not accepted for publishing. Please email all inquiries and suggestions to info@M-Tmagazine.com.

**Mequon-Thiensville Today** is guided by a professional advisory committee comprised of representatives from the City of Mequon, the Village of Thiensville, the Mequon-Thiensville School District and residents from our respective communities.

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The deadline for advertising in the April 2016 issue of **Mequon-Thiensville Today** is March 1 on a space-available basis. For advertising information, email info@M-Tmagazine.com or call 414.962.7002.
One of the natural wonders of Wisconsin is right at our doorstep. The Mequon Nature Preserve (MNP) is an amazing 438 acres of woodlands, wetlands, prairies and open fields. Visitors come from throughout the region to engage in environmental science programs and nature-based recreation activities such as hiking, bird watching and cross-country skiing. MNP has over five miles of trails and a 40-foot observation tower that are free and open to the public 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset.

The Mequon Nature Preserve is truly a unique and compelling place for the metropolitan community. It is the largest nature preserve in the four county area including Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee Counties. Its size and the quality of its features support a highly bio-diverse environment not matched by other sites.

**A Return to Nature**

Mequon Nature Preserve’s mission is to be a guiding example of restoration by returning an urban/suburban area to pre-settlement conditions and establishing an environmental education conservancy and natural habitat that inspires exploration and cultivates stewardship, encouraging visitors to get off the path.

Prior to MNP, you would see corn and soybean fields and about 20 acres remained in three hardwood forest remnants. Today there are 30 acres of re-established wetlands; an oak savannah opening (a rare habitat in this area) that became visible with the removal of a buckthorn thicket; and a 30-acre field that has been transformed from a pumpkin farm to a prairie of native grasses and flowers. In addition, thousands of native trees and shrubs have been planted. An ecological consulting firm delivered a land management and restoration plan that provides MNP with specific direction and detail for the next five years of work.

While MNP is making steady progress, it will take another 150 years to return the land to what it was prior to the European settlement that started in the 1830s. This protected land will remain in a natural state in perpetuity with the 2011 recording of a conservation easement.

**A Look to the Future**

As the acreage of a nature preserve increases, its ability to supply water, food, and breeding habitat also increases. While some species need only a few acres to thrive and reproduce, others need hundreds or even thousands of acres. With 438 acres, today there are breeding populations of invertebrates, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals, as well as a number of native plant species – something not seen prior to the start of the restoration efforts. Animal species come here to stay. There is now a resident population of deer, muskrats, woodchucks, foxes, birds (including turkeys), invertebrates and fish species.

Mequon Nature Preserve’s water table is found at various depths throughout the property. Around the PieperPower Education Center, the table is sometimes only a foot or two from the surface. Artesian springs come to the surface in some of our ponds causing several areas...
to have open water throughout the year. This has provided a place for fish to winter. The year-round open water with its fish population has in turn attracted birds such as great blue herons, green herons, great egrets and sandhill cranes.

**An Exceptional Education Opportunity**

Because of the Nature Preserve’s increasing biodiversity, its great display of natural phenomena, and its proximity to the State’s population center, it is a place where students of all ages learn about their natural world. Approximately 7,000 students visit here each year. There are no fees for students or schools. And, busing is paid for by Mequon Nature Preserve for City of Milwaukee students.

Concordia University and Milwaukee Area Technical College also bring students here to help with land restoration projects. UW-Madison students regularly use the site to study soils and hydrology. In fact, UWM students have drilled wells throughout the property to track the water table. The wells allow students to monitor the water table to see how it changes with the restoration of the hardwood forests. UW-Madison graduate students studied the green parking lot features, and UW-Stevens Point students have studied the soils.

In addition to providing a free, comprehensive outdoor science program and a place to engage in nature-based recreation, MNP carries out an extensive land restoration program. The program’s goal is to restore the hardwood forest and wetlands that existed in the 1830s. Restoration efforts have already resulted in creating a more bio-diverse site that makes the Preserve all the more valuable as an outdoor classroom.

The MNPs primary building is the PieperPower Education Center, which is a 12,000-sq.-ft., multi-use classroom and conference facility renovated to sustainable standards. In addition to housing the MNP offices and programs, the building and grounds demonstrate sustainable technologies, materials and practices.

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**“In 2011, a conservation easement was placed on the land protecting it from development forever.”**

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**A Unique Partnership**

The City of Mequon leases Mequon Nature Preserve’s land and buildings to MNP Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt, friends group. MNP Inc. works to turn the vision for this land into a reality. MNP Inc’s education and land-restoration programs are funded entirely by charitable contributions and are provided at no cost to schools or students. The City of Mequon does not fund MNP Inc. operations or programs. For more information, visit mequonnaturepreserve.org.

**Dedicated to Education**

MNP Inc. endeavors to enlighten and educate. It links the landscape to people and gives children and adults an awareness and appreciation of the environment through hands-on teaching and free exploration. MNP educates through participatory demonstration projects in land restoration, conservation and environmental science. Programs offer critical thinking on how people live in, and with, the environment through the process of restoration.

Mequon Nature Preserve, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. In 2011, a conservation easement was placed on the land protecting it from development forever.

MNP welcomes the opportunity to share more about Mequon Nature Preserve. Come visit and see the transformation first hand! Or you may review MNP’s Field Guide and Master Plan at mequonnaturepreserve.org. Each offers a detailed look at the land and restoration initiatives.

For more information, please contact: Kristin Gies, Executive Director or Jason Nickels, Education and Restoration Director at 262.242.8055, ext. 106 or 262.242.8055, ext.103, or email kgies@mequonnaturepreserve.org or jnickels@mequonnaturepreserve.org.

Photos: John O’Hara
Ever drive by the corner of Bonniwell and Cedarburg Roads and see the old grey fieldstone house up on the hill? Ever wonder about its history? How long has it been there? Who lived there? What’s inside?

Located at 13615 N. Cedarburg Rd. in Mequon, this Mequon-Thiensville treasure is the Jonathan Clark House, a real piece of Wisconsin history. The house is one of the most architecturally significant historic buildings in southeastern Wisconsin and is a key part of Mequon and Thiensville’s rich history. Built in 1848, the year of Wisconsin’s statehood, the Greek Revival-style house is constructed of fieldstone with a limestone front. Made from Mequon’s raw materials, the house truly represents the very beginnings of Mequon, and the pioneering spirit of the growing community.

The house was built for Jonathan Clark, who migrated to the area in 1839. Clark was a Yankee and an inventor of sorts, who made many contributions to the community. He was one of Mequon’s first supervisors and was instrumental in founding Mequon’s first public school. The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 2, 1982.

The Friends of Jonathan Clark House, a non-profit organization of volunteers, was formed to collect, preserve and share the history of the Jonathan Clark House and the early settlers of Mequon and Thiensville. The Friends’ vision is the creation of a community historic house museum where you can learn about our early settlers and step back in time to 1848.

So now, instead of just driving by and enjoying the beauty of the house, you have a chance to visit inside and find out about Clark and his contemporaries. “Where did they come from?” “Why did they come to Wisconsin?” “What was their life like in the mid-19th century?”

In addition, with the Mequon-Thiensville School District, the Friends are collaborating with business, community and historical groups through programming, tours, exhibits and visioning conversations. The next exhibit will be at the Mequon Nature Preserve’s Winter Frolic on February 6.

“The Friends’ vision is the creation of a community historic house museum where you can learn about our early settlers and step back in time to 1848.”

You and your group can see for yourselves and take a museum tour. Contact Museum Director Nina Look (262.618.2051) to arrange for an individual or group tour. You can also make a financial pledge to “bring history to life” at the Jonathan Clark House Museum. Visit jonathanclarkhouse.org for more information.
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The third annual Taste of Mequon hosted by the Mequon Festivals Committee was held on Saturday, September 12 on Cedarburg Road in front of Mequon City Hall. For the third year in a row, the Mequon Festivals Committee organized a picture-perfect day for the community to enjoy. Taste of Mequon offered an array of delicious food, an attractive display of artwork, non-stop music throughout the day and fun activities for children to enjoy.

A highlight of the day was the unveiling of a private sculpture generously donated to the City of Mequon by Joe and Vickie Delgadillo, former Mequon residents. The unveiling of the sculpture took place along the wooded riverwalk across from Mequon City Hall. Vickie Delgadillo and artist Susan Falkman, the creator of the sculpture, were present for the unveiling.

The Mequon Festivals Committee would like to thank the sponsors of Taste of Mequon for their generous support – and the restaurants, musicians, artists, event participants, volunteers, event photographers and everyone who helped to create this enjoyable community celebration for the residents of Mequon and surrounding communities.

Members of the Mequon Festivals Committee include Pam Adams, Alan Day, Kirsten Hildebrand, Bridget King, Allen McIlwraith, Vanessa Nerbun, and Sharon Stillman.


**In-Kind Donations:** Frenz Garden Center, Go Riteway Transportation Group, Metro Market, Dr. Peter Shore, Suburban Rental.

**Featured Restaurants:** Anvil Pub & Grille, Cafe 1505, Cafe Hollander, the cheel, Falafel Guys, Fiddleheads Coffee, Harvey’s Central Grille, Joey Gerard’s, Leonardo’s Pizza, Mequon Chancery, Shully’s Catering, The Burg/Burger Parlor, Yummy Bones BBQ, Zarletti Mequon.

**Featured Bands:** Kyle Feerick, In The Know and Lovin’ Kind.

**Featured Artists:** Caricatures by David Fliss, hand-knitted accessories and garments by Lana Voskobeynik, stained glass by Mary Spencer, hand-crafted wooden kitchenware by Felisha Wild and Janelle Phalen, wood objects by Bob Holmes, jewelry by Michele Darling Ward, beaded and wired giftware by Sue Madden, fleece wraps and doll clothes by Connie Johnson, painted and restyled furniture by Annette Sachse, jewelry and decorated bottles by Jane Kraemer, woodwork by Brendan and Cathy Curran, jewelry by Deborah Dunn, photography by Ken Voigt, home décor products by The Vintage Market (Sara Harder), woodwork and home décor by Jacquelyn Zoeller and Evan Siodlarz, and woodcut prints by Jeff Ciula.


**Event Photographers:** Jean Hill and Sara Hays
The Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce holds its annual “Celebrate Your Community” awards program to recognize businesses/business owners that have made a significant impact on our communities. This year’s event was held on October 22 at the North Shore Country Club honoring three recipients for their many contributions in making a difference in Mequon and Thiensville.

**Business of the Year: Spectrum Investment Advisors**

This company was recognized for substantial growth and expansion of its company and offices as well as its outreach in the community. Founded in 1995, it has since grown from a staff of three to 18 employees and seven partners. In 2011, construction began on a new 12,500-sq.-ft. office building at 6329 W. Mequon Rd. An investment of $2.6 million was made to develop the land and building, now recognized as one of the catalysts for new business in the Mequon Town Center District. The building is frequently offered as a community gathering place for local non-profit organizations for annual board meetings and events in the “Spectrum Coffee House” or its large conference room.

In addition, Spectrum Investment Advisors awards an annual scholarship to a senior student at Homestead High School and Germantown High School. It also supports multiple community events/organizations including the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce, Family Fun Before the 4th, Gathering on the Green, Taste of Mequon, the Jonathan Clark House Museum and others.

**Citizen of the Year: Andrew Petzold**

Honored for his many years of giving back to the community, Petzold founded Concord Development Company in Mequon in 1995, and has since lent his name and professional talents to a wide assortment of community activities, organizations and boards. Included in this long list of activities to promote or improved the Mequon-Thiensville community are recruiting 50+ businesses to Mequon over the past 20 years, providing free legal work and technical assistance for the Rotary River Walk and Mequon Economic Development Board, and contributing financing and professional services to relocate the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce.

Petzold is committed to promoting community growth by attracting new businesses, encouraging business expansion and retaining existing businesses, along with developing commercial office/retail/medical projects that provide jobs and bring additional services and amenities into Mequon/Thiensville. A Mequon resident since 2003, Petzold believes “in creating and improving places to live, shop and work in the Mequon-Thiensville community, making it a better place to live and raise a family.

**Distinguished Service Award: Beth Bauer**

A longstanding Mequon resident for more than 36 years, Beth Bauer has been the executive director of Gathering on the Green for the past 16 years. Under her leadership, this much-loved summer arts festival at Rotary Park has grown and prospered. Bauer’s heart and soul have always been directed toward what is best for the community. She continues to come up with creative ways to market Gathering on the Green as well as the community as a whole. One recent example is the establishment of the M-T “Hub,” a way for local non-profit and service organizations to form a partnership/build an alliance to increase their awareness and keep residents informed.
Business Spotlight: The Feed Bag Pet Supply Co.
ENSURING THE HEALTH AND HAPPINESS OF OUR BELOVED PETS

If you are a pet owner, you know the importance of keeping your beloved pet happy and healthy. Whether you are a dedicated cat or dog lover – or a fan of fish or birds, hamsters, rabbits or guinea pigs, and even small reptiles, The Feed Bag Pet Supply Co. has everything you need.

Healthy food choices aren’t their only specialty. The company also offers a complete line of toys and treats, grooming supplies, training classes – and even a dog fitness pool – all complemented by friendly, expert advice and guidance.

The Feed Bag Pet Supply Co. is a relative newcomer to the neighborhood. Originally located in Grafton, Wis., the business moved to Mequon in January 2010. The former location of an Ethan Allen furniture store has proven to be the perfect home for the growing business, that now has 13,000 sq. ft. of space to offer customers the most comprehensive selection of pet supplies in the area.

According to owner Mark Haslam, there are more reasons why the move has been a definite success. “We have fantastic visibility along Port Washington Road, plus our surrounding business neighbors make Mequon a convenient shopping stop for almost anything.”

Haslam describes his customers as a delightful mix of diverse backgrounds, united by the goal of doing the best they can for their pets. They know the relationship between quality and value. And although they can be very savvy shoppers when it comes to price, they also will stop at nothing to ensure their pets’ health, safety and happiness.

Haslam cited a memory-foam orthopedic pet bed as an example. “Not an inexpensive item, but when their beloved, aging pet needs a place to rest those achy old joints, the value of that bed far exceeds the cost.”

Haslam says his business philosophy is very simple. “We treat our customers the way we would like to be treated, with courtesy, respect and trust. And we treat their pets as if they were our own. We will not carry any products that we would not give to our own pets, regardless of their popularity. We believe the key to good health begins with proper nutrition. For that reason, our store is stocked with the most healthy, natural and species-appropriate diets and treats we can find.”

Haslam enjoys working one-on-one with his customers. “They’re always willing to learn and try new things,” he says. “And we’re eager to learn about their pets so we can suggest a diet for optimum health.”

Haslam also is pleased with the cooperative spirit of Mequon businesses in sharing promotions, events and marketing. “I believe that when businesses, especially independents, work together, both we and the consumer benefit. For instance, we can offer complementary promotions such as a puppy package from us, and a wellness check from a vet clinic,” he explains.

He also credits being a member of the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce as a tremendous help. Tina Schwantes, Executive Director of the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce, says the Feed Bag Pet Supply Co. has become a strong partner in the community.

“We believe the key to good health begins with proper nutrition... our store is stocked with the most healthy, natural and species-appropriate diets and treats we can find.”
Director of the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce, returns the compliment. “Mark is a terrific, giving person with the highest standards for operating his business in terms of quality products, customer relations and genuinely caring about his clients – both the owners and the pets. His employees do a great job of carrying out the culture he establishes with their friendly service.”

See for yourself. Bring your pet with you when you come to visit The Feed Bag Pet Supply. The knowledgeable staff looks forward to getting to know you and your pet personally!

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The Frank L. Weyenberg Library of Mequon-Thiensville offers a variety of fun and free programs for all ages throughout the year. Check out the events below that are happening this season at the Library. All the information is also listed on the Library’s website and calendar – visit flwlib.org.

CHILDREN’S EVENTS

Family Storytimes
Weekly storytimes are offered every Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday at 11 a.m. starting January 12. Storytimes include stories, fingerplays, and songs. A responsible adult should be present and participation in storytime is highly encouraged. No registration is required, and all are welcome!

LEGO Club
LEGO Club meets the last Monday of the month at 4 p.m.
December 30, January 25, February 29 and March 28
Build up your creativity and Lego skills at the Library. Share ideas, work together and make new friends as we focus on a new theme each month. Children ages 5 and up are welcome to attend. Bring a friend, no registration required.

STEM Saturdays
February 13, March 12, April 9 and May 14
Participate in a variety of new programs in February through May, each focused on a specific STEM topic (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Each program will occur on the second Saturday of the month from 2-3:30 p.m. STEM Saturday consist of a short presentation, individual and group activities, and suggestions for how to explore more about each month’s topic. For children in grades 2-5. Caregivers are encouraged to participate. Registration is limited and is available at the Reference Desk or by calling 262.242.2593, ext. 320.

Reading with Reggie!
February 6, March 5, April 9 and May 7
This winter, cuddle up with a good book and a lovable, canine friend! “Reading with Reggie” returns to the Frank L. Weyenberg Library for one Saturday a month this winter from 12-1 p.m. Bring a book or two and read to our canine volunteer, Reggie, for 10 minutes. Registration is limited and is available at the Reference Desk or by calling 262.242.2593, ext. 320.

Dinosaurs, What’s New?
Monday, March 28 • 11 a.m.
Take an adventure-filled trip back to prehistoric times and discover the mysterious world of dinosaurs. Learn about new discoveries and theories including nesting dinosaurs, extinction and more. A presentation plus real dinosaur bones and fossils will be part of this program. Presented by the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and intended for children ages 3-10. Registration required. Stop at the Reference Desk or calling 262.242.2593, ext. 320.
Wisconsin Mammals
Thursday, March 31 • at 11 a.m.
Join us for this wildlife education program about Wisconsin mammals presented by the Wisconsin DNR. Children will learn about the different creatures native to Wisconsin, see and touch fur and pelts, and participate in a short activity on baby animals. The program is intended for children ages 3-10. Registration is required. Stop at the Reference Desk or call 262.242.2593, ext. 320.

ADULT EVENTS
Homestead’s Tartan and Treble Choirs
Thursday, January 21, at 6:30 p.m.
The Homestead Tartan and Treble Choirs and their director, Rebecca Renee Winnie, will perform a diverse program of a cappella choral repertoire as part of the Frank L. Weyenberg Library’s 2016 Fine Arts series. The Tartan and Treble Choirs are the advanced choir courses at Homestead High School and include auditioned student musicians in grades 10-12. Educational emphasis is placed on the development and refining of vocal, ensemble, musical and performing skills. Students study and perform music in a variety of styles and serve as a musical ambassador in the Mequon-Thiensville community.

Regular Library services will be suspended at 6 p.m. on this day for this special event. No registration is required for this free program, and all are welcome to attend.

An Evening with President Abraham Lincoln
Tuesday, February 23 • 6:30 p.m.
Join us for an exciting evening with President Abraham Lincoln as actor Fritz Klein’s portrayal brings an American icon to life. Klein’s program is a thoroughly researched and historically accurate performance, and blends Lincoln’s humor with his great humanity. Klein has performed as Lincoln in 43 states and regularly performs at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, Ill.

Regular Library services will be suspended at 6 p.m. on this day for this special event. No registration is required for this free program, and all are welcome to attend.

Amelia Earhart
Tuesday, April 5 • 6 p.m.
Enjoy actress Leslie Goddard’s performance about the life of American aviator Amelia Earhart. Earhart’s courageous exploits and spirited personality made her an international celebrity. Her dazzling achievements include becoming the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean by airplane in 1928 and the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic in 1932. She set numerous speed and altitude records before disappearing mysteriously in 1937 during an attempted around-the-world flight. This performance is inspired by Amelia Earhart’s book “The Fun of It.” No registration is required for this free program, and all are welcome to attend.
Many of the projects undertaken each year at the Frank L. Weyenberg Library of Mequon-Thiensville are funded not through tax dollars, but through fund raising and endowment proceeds by the Weyenberg Public Library Foundation, Inc. Without these donations, our Library would not be as we know it.

The Foundation was formed in 1982 by area citizens to focus attention on public library services and to encourage and manage donations and bequests. The Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) entity. Initially the Foundation Board was composed of nine members. Today its Board of Directors totals 13 members, two of whom are charter members. Foundation Board members are volunteers who are elected by its Board, and who operate in consultation with, but independently of, the Library Board of Trustees whose members are appointed by the two municipalities.

Generous citizens have donated over $3.5 million to the Foundation since its inception. All gifts support Weyenberg Library projects. Recent projects have included wireless Internet, a young adult area, east and south plaza entry improvements, children’s area renovations, and Kindles and online databases and collections. Annually the Foundation presents its Fine Arts Series offered free of charge to all residents of Mequon and Thiensville.

The Foundation Board of Directors has targeted two special projects for its 2015 annual fund drive which is now underway:

1. Ensuring beloved classics are available to young readers to instill life time reading habits. The funding goal is $15,000.
2. Preserving treasured family photographs and home movies to pass on to the next generation by digitizing them in a media conversion lab within the Library. The funding goal is $50,000.

The Board of Directors of the Weyenberg Public Library Foundation invite you to “Share the Adventure” and earmark a donation, large or small, to one of the above projects. Donors’ names will be recognized in the Library. Tax-deductible donations to the Foundation may be mailed to or dropped off at the Library or online at flwlib.org/foundation.
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While the campus may be tucked away from the rest of the community, Concordia University students and alumni are anything but isolated from Mequon-Thiensville residents, businesses and organizations as they live out the mission to serve and impact the Church, community and world.

“Service and community are in Concordia’s DNA,” says Steve Taylor, vice president of student life. “We intentionally include service opportunities into our student orientation schedules to set the tone early and get them out there participating.”

Taylor continues, “Mequon-Thiensville is a generous, active community that takes great leadership in solving problems and caring for people. Students have opportunities here that wouldn’t be available anywhere else.”

Whether they’re raking leaves at the homes of elderly residents, leading youth groups in ministry or serving lobsters at a local Rotary event, Concordia students are out there making a difference.

Concordia Brings the Community to Campus
The School of Nursing hosts a respite event on campus each semester that offers parents of children with special needs a much-needed break. Students play games, watch movies and eat lunch with the children, allowing parents time to regroup and strengthen themselves and their family. Nursing faculty members are on hand to dispense medication and provide care, if needed.

Several times during the academic year, Occupational and Physical Therapy students offer pro-bono clinics to area residents battling specific conditions such as lower back pain. Students see patients in one-on-one settings, allowing them to practice patient skills while providing care.

Serving Each Other
In the fall of 2014, Concordia University partnered with Bethesda Lutheran Communities, a nonprofit agency located in Watertown, Wis., to create a program that would allow young adults with intellectual and other complex disabilities to gain a post-secondary education experience. Through this collaboration, Bethesda College, a two-year certificate program combining a liberal arts focus with skills development coursework, emerged.

While the Bethesda program is designed to help students with disabilities learn in a traditional university setting, it also provides opportunity for CUW students, faculty and staff to grow in their own understanding.

One student in particular, Will Turner, a junior and a defensive lineman on the football team, is getting the chance to impact his fellow students both on and off the field by working with the Bethesda students. Turner is a life coach for the male Bethesda students, a job that entails teaching and improving skills such as independent living, time management and self-discipline.

“My job is to help the students enhance skills they already know but are not comfortable with, so that they can learn independence,” says Turner. “I want to help develop the relationship between CUW and Bethesda students and the football team,” adds Turner. “It’s like family helping out family.”

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SERVES THE COMMUNITY
Concordia University Alumna Serves Community by Preparing Athletes

As athletic trainer for Homestead High School and the Lakeshore Chinooks, Lindsay Thompson, AT’11 makes a big impact in the community through her service and dedication to the health and wellness of our student athletes. Thompson credits Concordia University for helping her find success in her career.

Why did you choose Concordia University?
I chose Concordia University because of their Athletic Training program. I can attribute all of my success to Concordia because of the professors and preceptors that I had along the way. I never left a classroom or an internship without learning something new to add to my tool box of knowledge.

What is your current position?
My current position is a licensed athletic trainer with Aurora Sports Medicine Institute. Through the Institute, I am outreached to Homestead High School and work exclusively with all of the athletes during the school year. I also am the athletic trainer for the Lakeshore Chinooks throughout the summer.

How did your education prepare you for your current position?
The great thing with the athletic training program at Concordia is you are able to get hands-on experience right out of the gate. The internships that Concordia offered helped me prepare for my current position – from working with a semi-pro football team to high schools in the area. The most pivotal part of my education was my senior internship with the Concordia baseball team. This gave me the most experience and training which helped mold me into the athletic trainer I am today.

What do you like best about your job?
Working with the Homestead student athletes and coaching staff. It is never a dull moment working with high schoolers! It is an honor to not only be a part of such a successful group of high school student athletes, but also to be a part of such a close-knit group of students who are always supporting one another in all of the different sports.

What does community mean to you?
As part of the Homestead community, I get to experience working with great kids, parents, coaches and staff. I am able to observe and help these young adults through obstacles of high school on and off the field. I am able to be there to see them achieve great things in their high school athletic careers. Community is why I love coming to work every day!
THIENSVILLE’S VILLAGE PARK REIMAGINED:
NEW MASTER PLAN TAKES SHAPE

Thiensville’s Village Park has always been a wonderful community asset and thanks to dedicated citizens and community leaders it keeps getting better. The Park’s picturesque, riverside overlook just above the dam at Elm Street has been a favorite gathering place ever since it got its start in 1923. That’s when the Thiensville Athletic Association borrowed $4,800 to purchase a 14-acre plot of land from Max Poeltzig, an enterprising local business operator who rented fishing boats on the Milwaukee River.

After staging picnics, dances, card parties to help pay off the loan, the Association generously deeded the land to the Village in 1933. Renowned landscape architect Robert Boerner was then engaged by the Village to design a community park in 1935. Over the years, improvements continued to be made and amenities added to make the Park an extraordinary addition to the community for sports, recreation, family events and home to everything from Lionfest to Family Fun Before the Fourth to the annual Village Market and the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot presented by the Junior Woman’s Club of Mequon-Thiensville.

Village Park Re-Imagined

Already Thiensville’s crown jewel, Village visionaries felt the Park had much more potential and the timing was right to look to the future. A committee representing Thiensville’s private and civic entities has recently been formed. Their mission is to review and evaluate the Park’s many offerings and functionality and recommend how it could be used to its fullest all year round. Their challenge is to explore the Park’s possibilities and develop a plan to reimagine it.

“We began by embracing the phrase: “Can you imagine?” And that’s exactly what we’re doing,” says landscape architect and committee member Kerry Mattingly. (Additional committee members include Andy LaFond, Colleen Landisch-Hansen, Colleen Krueger and Wendy Kickbush).

Andy LaFond, director of the Thiensville Department of Public Works, explains “With a project of this impact, “we needed to carefully analyze the Park’s current use and explore ways to make it more functional and appealing to our residents throughout the year.” The master plan’s goals and objectives include:

• Refreshing and updating the playground.
• Evaluating use of the athletic field.
• Creating a central gathering place.
• Addressing parking needs.
• Improving the infrastructure for community events.
• Developing a nature-inspired educational play area.
• Adding a water feature/band shell/ice trail/picnic area.
• Increasing winter use of the Park.

The plan also encompasses other goals such as increasing community engagement, providing more comprehensive learning opportunities, and promoting arts and cultural programs along with tourism for the area.

The nature-inspired educational play area for children is one of the most important components. Colleen Krueger, president of the Junior Woman’s Club of Mequon-Thiensville, emphasizes the importance of engaging children in interactive activities, which sometimes fall short with today’s youth more focused on “screen” time with phones, computers and iPads.

“Fresh air, running, jumping and exploring nature are all experiences that can’t ever be duplicated with video games or screen time,” says Krueger. “Village Park, with its naturally beautiful landscape, has always been a great place to spend time. With the new nature-inspired play areas, as well as a proposed interactive fountain, we will be giving a wonderful gift to our children, ourselves and to future generations.”

Taking the Next Steps

Because this project is just being launched, a confirmed timetable has yet to be established. While it is anticipated that a mix of private and
public funding will be used, meetings with various stakeholders will be held to garner financial support. The new Park design must be approved by the Village Board, along with a detailed timeline, confirmed funding sources and requests for bids before construction can begin. Most likely, a phased timetable will be implemented as funding becomes available so as not to interfere too drastically with the Park's ongoing operations.

According to Village President Van Mobley, “The park is already great and it will be exciting to learn what ideas they come up with to make it better,” he says enthusiastically.

Residents and guests can already enjoy the Park's many amenities: tennis courts and a softball field, children's playground equipment, a boat/canoe launch, and a covered pavilion for picnics and private functions. A recently completed, year-round, ADA-compliant comfort station is already open offering a family restroom, vending machines, a water bottle filler and a community bulletin board. This new facility can be heated in the colder months to accommodate winter activities in the Park.

But now Park improvements will be taken to the next level within a comprehensive master plan. Watch for more details as the Park's committee continues its work and make recommendations.

How would YOU like to see the Park reimagined? Provide your comments on the Village of Thiensville website, village.thiensville.wi.us (under "Community Voice").

VILLAG E O F THIEN SVILLE
CONTACT INFORMATION
village.thiensville.wi.us

- EMERGENCY ............................................................. 911
- Administration .......................................................... 262.242.3720
- Building Inspections .................................................. 262.242.3720
- Clerk's Office .............................................................. 262.242.3720
- Police Department (non-emergency) .................. 262.242.2100
- Fire (non-emergency) .................................................. 262.242.3393
- Public Works .............................................................. 262.242.3720
The bustling Thiensville business district, the center of a thriving community, is about to get a much-needed facelift. After several years of comprehensive planning and public discussion, the Main Street Rehabilitation Project will be launched in spring 2016.

Main Street was reconstructed in 1987. And after almost 30 years of wear and tear, the need for an update is apparent. The rehabilitation project will include profile regrinding of Main Street between the north and south borders of the Village and the addition of a number of new amenities. The aim is to create a more beautiful commercial district to showcase the Village’s stores, boutiques and restaurants, and make shopping, dining and walking a more enjoyable experience for residents and visitors.

Final designs were approved last summer, and bidding took place this November. Construction is scheduled to start in March 2016, with completion in June 2016, just before the busy summer season and in advance of Family Fun Before the 4th. During construction, Main Street will remain open to traffic at all times, and work will be limited to 1/3 of the roadway at a time, where possible.

The estimated cost of the project is $844,000 with funding by the Federal Surface Transportation Program of $544,000 and the remainder of the cost paid by the Village.

Here’s what to look for as work progresses:
- Profile grinding along Main St.
- Curb and gutter spot replacement
- Curb ramp replacement to meet WisDOT standards
- Upgrading curb ramps to meet ADA requirements
- Creation of islands and “bump outs” for beautification and pedestrian safety
- Trees and planters to fill in open spaces
- Upgraded LED street lights
- Enhanced Village monuments at north and south Village entryways
- Possible creation of corner plaza at Freistadt Road and Main Street

This project will enhance Thiensville’s commercial district and create a more welcoming atmosphere. Residents and visitors will be attracted to the fresher, newer look and that will certainly benefit Village businesses,” says project manager Kevin Wagner of Ruekert-Mielke, a Waukesha-based firm that partners with communities on these types of projects.

The Village would like to thank the community in advance for its patience and understanding during the construction process. Please pay attention in the work zone for your own safety and the safety of construction workers, drivers and pedestrians. Before we know it, we’ll be enjoying our handsome, refreshed Main St. next summer!

Stay informed at village.thiensville.wi.us/projects.
KEEP IN TOUCH WITH VILLAGE NEWS!

village.thiensville.wi.us

With so much happening in the community, the Village of Thiensville invites you to keep in touch via the Village website and social media. Stay informed and don’t miss out on all of the community news as it develops. There are a variety of options to choose from:

- Sign up for “Notify Me” to subscribe and unsubscribe to only the information you are interested in. Receive calendar and news alerts by email or text message.
- Make online payments.
- Use “Let us Know” to leave a message.
- Click on “Community Voice” to share an idea or vote on an initiative.
- Follow the Village of Thiensville on Facebook and Twitter.

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ADVERTISE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MEQUON-THIENSVILLE TODAY MAGAZINE

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Election inspectors or poll workers fill a vital role in today’s democratic society. Not only do they provide valuable assistance during official voting days, they make an important contribution to society by serving their community.

The Village of Thiensville is currently seeking additional poll workers, who work under the direction of the Chief Inspector. Poll workers are paid roughly $100 per full day. If the worker has other obligations, half days are also available. Poll workers start at 6:30 a.m. and can work until 9 p.m. In Thiensville, poll workers are trained by Village Clerk Amy Langlois. There are four elections during even years and two elections in odd years.

Poll workers conduct assigned duties on Election Day that can include issuing ballots to registered voters, registering voters, monitoring the voting equipment, explaining how to mark the ballot or use the voting equipment, or counting votes. Many poll workers agree that serving their community is more important than the monetary pay. It is also a good opportunity to meet and greet your neighbors and other residents.

To be an election inspector/poll worker, a person must:
• Be an adult citizen of the U.S. who has resided in the election district for 28 consecutive days and is not otherwise disqualified to vote.
• Be able to speak, read and write fluently in the English language.
• Have strong clerical skills.
• Be able to solve problems.
• Be an effective communicator.
• NOT be a candidate for any office to be voted on at the polling place at that election.

Senior citizens are eligible, along with high school students age 16 and older with certain provisions (including a GPA of 3.0 and written authorization from the student’s parent or guardian). If you would like to serve your community as a poll worker, please pick up an application at Thiensville Village Hall, 250 Elm Street.

For more information, visit gab.wi.gov/node/140 or gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/voters/become-a-poll-worker.
FISH WAY PROVIDES MULTIPLE BENEFITS FOR AREA

Something fishy is going on in the Mequon-Thiensville area—as the focus is on the Mequon-Thiensville Fishway and how the project is providing a boat-load of benefits to residents and guests, while helping ensure the healthy survival of native fish species in the Milwaukee River. With the 5-year anniversary of the Fishway, the timing is right to learn more about it. So let’s get educated at the “School of Fish.”

**Question:** What is a fishway and why is it so important?

**Answer:** Fish migrate to upstream spawning grounds and rearing habitats, and dams can be a significant impediment to fish passage. To protect the environment and its fish population, passageways—or fishways—can be created so fish and other aquatic life can bypass an existing dam, while maintaining the integrity of the dam. Fishways provide a creative way for fish to “beat the odds” when traveling upstream to reach their rearing habitats to spawn. These fishways may vary in size and type, depending on the fish species unique to the site.

In 2009-2010, the Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department, the Village of Thiensville, the City of Mequon and other partners began construction of a fishway along the Mequon-Thiensville dam in the former millpond, as part of the Department’s Ozaukee Fish Passage Program. Contractors excavated 400 cubic yards of soft sediment and brought in clean fill to shape the design.

A series of pools (resting areas), runs and riffles were created within a meandering channel design to mimic a natural stream. The fishway entrance is located downstream of the north dam abutment and the exit. Fish and other aquatic life are now able to navigate upstream past the 6.5-ft. high dam, helping bolster fish populations and increasing angling opportunities.

In 2011, the Village of Thiensville and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service installed an underwater camera and two Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag readers. The camera and readers, along with extensive fish tagging by Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department and WDNR, indicate the successful passage of thousands of fish from dozens of species, including many tagged fish.

Village of Thiensville and Ozaukee County staff maintain the equipment and troubleshoot the video while checking for new tags. Citizen volunteers pitch in to monitor the diversity of the local fish community, timing and duration of fish spawning runs, and the presence of invasive species.

Despite the focus on the fish, the dam wasn’t forgotten. It still holds a valuable spot in the community with a rich history that dates back to its construction in the mid-1800s to provide power for a grist mill. Since then, the dam has undergone many re-builds and in this latest effort, structural, safety and flood concerns were addressed. Large rocks were placed at the bottom of the dam to eliminate dangerous “water boil and roll” conditions and improve downstream fish passage, and the “fish slide” and abutment on the south end of the dam were reinforced.

**A Look to the Future**

Expectations for the Mequon-Thiensville Fishway are high. Anticipated results include continued access to historic spawning and rearing habitats, increased probability of restoring populations of imperiled fish species, decreased larval fish mortality for fish going downstream over the dam, increased genetic diversity of fisheries populations, and improved recreational opportunities for local anglers.

A big plus is that the Fishway has already become a magnet for regional and national groups visiting to see a highly successful fishway in use.

“The Mequon-Thiensville Fishway is an excellent example of how community partners can work together to ensure long-term population sustainability for native fish, while creating engaging educational opportunities for residents,” says Andrew Struck, director of the Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department.

This innovative project is part of the overall Ozaukee Fish Passage Program, responsible for the removal or remediation of 286 fish passage impediments in the mainstem Milwaukee River and 40 tributary streams in the Milwaukee River Watershed and Lake Michigan Basin, reconnecting more than 132 stream miles and thousands of acres of habitat.

For more information, please visit ozaukeefishway.org.
Thomas Jefferson once said: “Coffee is the favorite drink of the civilized world.” And he was right, because America’s romance with coffee is still going strong. Here in Mequon and Thiensville, Fiddleheads Coffee Roasters is the go-to spot for fans of the beloved brew.

With two Thiensville locations and another in Mequon, along with cafés in Cedarburg and Bayshore, Fiddleheads is keeping customers happily satisfied with its favorite coffee drinks and daily fresh, homemade bakery items and tasty sandwiches.

Founded 20 years ago, Fiddleheads’ passion has always been to produce great coffee sourced from around the world – with a special emphasis on locally roasted options. Although it has grown to five locations, the family-owned and -operated business is determined to keep the ambiance small, comfortable and inviting. Customers are welcome to linger in the cozy cafés and enjoy exceptional coffee served by the friendly, knowledgeable staff. And it’s hard to resist the delicious dishes prepared from locally sourced ingredients and tempting, made-from-scratch pastries.

A passion for great coffee and bakery has made Fiddleheads a hometown success story. Co-owners Mike Wroblewski and Steve Klimzak are very involved in the day-to-day operations. Wroblewski is dedicated to sourcing the very best coffee to be found. “We use only premium beans to bring out the natural, robust flavor to produce an unforgettable “bean-to-cup” experience,” he says. Klimzak is the master roaster, hand-roasting every batch of coffee that leaves the facility.

“Lately, we’ve seen a lot of interest in different brewing methods,” Klimzak says. “Manual home brewing methods – such as Chemex and Aeropress are popular right now. Recently there’s also been a lot of buzz about cold brewing, a process of steeping coffee grounds in a room temperature or cold water for an extended period. Other trends include a focus on lighter to medium roast coffees vs. dark, “strong” roasts. A lighter roast highlights the natural characteristics of the bean, which may include fruits, chocolate or vanilla,” he explains.

Wroblewski notes other trends at Fiddleheads. “As the seasons change and we move into the colder months, seasonal drinks are very popular. On the food side, we recently expanded our menu to include more vegetarian and dairy-free options. And we just introduced a white chocolate cranberry cookie that’s already a big hit.”

Wroblewski and Klimzak are very pleased with the exciting growth in the Mequon-Thiensville area as more people discover these fantastic communities. “The Thiensville café attracts everyone from local residents to bike enthusiasts who ride up from Milwaukee or down from northern Ozaukee County. That has helped us grow substantially to become a mainstay in the business community,” Klimzak shares.

For added customer convenience, Fiddleheads offers advanced order pick up for bakery orders and coffee to-go for large groups. Their customized corporate coffee service includes everything from brewing equipment to cups and creamers. The company also is recognized nationwide for its wholesale business distribution.

Visit a Fiddleheads Café soon. Stay awhile, meet your friends, chat with the friendly staff and treat yourself to a Fiddleheads’ custom-roasted coffee or delicious food.

*T Fiddleheads refers to a fern’s young, unfurling fronds, and signifies the growth of this business.
They’re called the Special Police Unit and they’ve been assisting the Thiensville Police Department in serving the community since 1967. Whenever there is a major happening in the Village, these dedicated men and women volunteers are in uniform, unarmed yet well-prepared to handle a variety of support services for Village activities including sporting, school and ceremonial events, festivals and parades.

During large events, the Special Police Unit members always work in teams of at least two, in tandem with sworn police officers, either directly or indirectly. Their responsibilities might include traffic direction, crowd control, security, giving directions, finding lost children — all the while conveying Thiensville’s welcoming image to our residents and visiting guests.

Special Police Unit members also participate in “ride-a-longs” with officers and are responsible for aiding at incident/accident scenes. They’re called on to assist the community in times of crisis (the past flooding in Thiensville is a good example). In emergency situations, they can be called in any time — day or night.

The Thiensville Special Police Unit supports the Thiensville Police Departments staff of seven, including the Chief, a Lieutenant and five patrol officers. The Special Police Unit currently has 21 volunteers. Their roster includes security personnel, a retired military officer, an electrician, a college professor, business professionals, a nurse, paramedics, a retired business owner, a school district employee, a cabinet maker, and men and woman with goals of becoming police officers. Thiensville residency is not required to be on the team.

“Those dedicated volunteers take time away from their families and lives to support our work, without any expectation of monetary rewards,” says Thiensville Lt. Chad Wucherer. “They play an invaluable and vital role in reinforcing our staff and enabling us to provide much-needed services. I thank them for their commitment and I encourage our citizens to thank them when they see them on duty at public events.”

Serving on the Special Police Unit doesn’t mean just showing up when needed. It takes real dedication and commitment. These special officers attend regular training to keep up-to-date on current police tactics and procedures. Each training session is two to three hours long and takes place the second Thursday of every month.

Members are required to attend five in-service trainings during the year and assist at a minimum of three separate incidents/events during the year. They are responsible for maintaining and keeping their issued equipment in working order, and must be able to use department radios and other equipment. Training includes use of equipment, self-defense, taking subjects into custody and searches.

Don Molyneux, a founding member, has attended every meeting since the first in 1967. “It’s an exciting and interesting volunteer activity. I can’t think of a better way to get to know the community and the people in it. If you want to get involved in something really rewarding, this is it,” he says.

Take a tip from Molyneux. With the number of events staged each year, and thousands of people in the community, the need for Special Police Unit volunteers is huge. Although there is no set length of service, because of the training and equipment provided, short-term commitments are not beneficial to the Special Police Unit.

To apply, contact Lt. Chad Wucherer at (262) 242-2100 or email cwucherer@village.thiensville.wi.us for an application. After acceptance of the application, an interview will be conducted by members of the Special Police Unit. A standard driver’s license and background checks are required. After successful completion of these steps, the application will be submitted to the Thiensville Village Board for approval.

Come join the proud forces of the Thienville’s Special Police Unit. It’s the volunteer experience of a lifetime!
The Investment in Infrastructure Achievement Award is presented to exceptional communities four times each year by Ruekert & Mielke, Inc. (R/M), a Waukesha-based firm that partners with communities throughout Wisconsin and Illinois to develop customized public infrastructure strategies. The award recognizes a community’s efforts toward bettering its community and residential life through successful infrastructure projects.

The firm was pleased to choose the Village of Thiensville for the award this fall. Thiensville is known for its long-term commitment toward building a better community. With this mission, a strategic partnership has been forged with R/M to for enhancement and designing of Thiensville streets, supporting the implementation of a Geographical Information System (GIS), helping solve local flooding problems, advocating for the improvement of village parks, and many more thriving projects; all of which have contributed significantly to the quality of life in the Village.

According to Robyn Ludtke, senior marketing coordinator for Ruekert & Mielke, “We have worked with the Village of Thiensville for more than 30 years. And we are pleased to honor them with this award as a symbol of its flourishing community efforts.”

The award is coupled with a $1,000 monetary donation to be given in the recipient’s honor to a non-profit of their choice. The Village chose the Thiensville Business Association (TBA) as its monetary recipient for its continued vision in educating and increasing the value of economic development and for their support of numerous local activities and events.

Marc Mrugula, TBA president, happily accepted the donation, saying it came just in time to help defray costs of holiday decorations in the business district. The TBA underwrites the costs of decorations up and down Main St. and Green Bay Rd., and sponsors the lighted Christmas tree in front of Walgreens. (Thanks to the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for the donation of this beautiful tree.)

“Last year’s tree has been replaced and new lights were needed,” explains Mrugula. “So thank you R-M and the Village of Thiensville for a gift that helps us say Happy Holidays to the Village.”

Above: TBA President Marc Mrugula (center) accepts a $1,000 check from Ruekert & Mielke on behalf of the Village of Thiensville

The Thiensville Business Association is proud to support Thiensville businesses with networking and special events to create a vibrant and successful business community. We stage the following annual events for Thiensville residents and guests – visit our website and find out more, and join us today!

- Village Market: Fresh produce and much more!
- Ladies’ Night Out: Terrific shopping and more throughout the business district
- Business Trick or Treat
- Holiday Tree Lighting
- Business After Hours Events

thiensvillebusiness.com
Wet Basement? Cracked Walls?  
Quality Repairs and Improvements from an Industry Expert

Q: I live in Mequon and am worried about my basement. How do I know if I have problems? What do I need to look for?

A: Using a flashlight, look closely at your basement walls and floor. Do you see interior cracks, cracked mortar joints, seepage where the floor and walls meet, seepage through the cracks, damp spots on the walls, unlevel floors, or mold/mildew?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you should have your basement inspected by a professional.

We offer comprehensive, cost-effective repairs for all your foundation restoration and waterproofing needs.

Call 414-744-6900 today for a FREE estimate from one of our trained, experienced experts. We are independently owned and helping Mequon and Thiensville homeowners restore/improve their property.
With hundreds of transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities, students can begin the road to a bachelor’s degree at MATC. Each fall and spring semester MATC hosts Transfer Days events that provide details about transfer opportunities to students. Representatives from four-year institutions visit each campus during these events and throughout the academic year to explain how students can pursue a bachelor’s degree after graduating from MATC. Additionally, staff members from UW-Milwaukee and UW-Green Bay are available throughout the semester to meet with MATC students.

MATC’s Associate in Arts (A.A.) and Associate in Science (A.S.) degrees are equivalent to the general education/liberal arts and sciences requirements for freshmen and sophomores enrolled in many bachelor’s degree programs at four-year colleges and universities. With planning, these degrees allow students to enter a four-year degree program with junior standing.

Specialized agreements with UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee and UW-Parkside have been developed to provide guaranteed admission to students who achieve certain academic requirements while at MATC. For students who plan to pursue a career as a teacher, MATC’s Educational Foundations Track fulfills the first two years of requirements for a bachelor’s degree and/or license in education.

Recently, MATC finalized an agreement with Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee that allows graduates of 56 associate degree programs to complete elective credits and earn a Business Management and Leadership Bachelor of Science degree.

For more details, visit tinyurl.com/MATCWLCagreement. Learn about MATC’s transfer agreements at tinyurl.com/MATCTransfer.

**Mequon Campus Is New Home of Biotechnology Program**

The college’s successful Biotechnology associate degree program has a new home at the Mequon Campus.
Dr. Wilma L. Bonaparte, vice president of the Mequon Campus, notes, “The Biotechnology program meets the needs of many students. We are excited to welcome the Biotechnology program to the Mequon Campus and look forward to continuing to build upon the program’s strong foundation.”

The state-of-the-art lab enables instruction in basic and advanced molecular biology laboratory techniques and practices. Program students are prepared to further their education in biotechnology at a four-year college/university partner.

“Students will learn about real applications through their lab work. They will learn how it works in the real world,” says Barbara Wimpee, the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences Biotechnology program coordinator. She also is a faculty advisor for the MATC Biotechnology Network. The Mequon Campus lab space also will be used for club activities, such as educational workshops related to biotechnology careers.

Relax and Rejuvenate at Mequon Campus Spa
The Mequon Campus is home to the college’s new aesthetician technical diploma program. MATC is the only technical college in the state to offer this program. Students perfect their techniques in the state-of-the-art campus spa, which opened in November. Services include facials, waxing and makeup application. An open house will be held on January 28.

Call 262.238.2222 to make your reservation to relax and rejuvenate!

MATC Promise Helps Make College A Reality for High School Students
In September, MATC launched the MATC Promise. This groundbreaking program will provide free tuition and fees for hundreds of eligible, area high school seniors who applied for admission to the college by Dec. 1 and will enroll at MATC next fall. MATC will pay the remaining tuition and fees after federal and state financial aid has been applied to a student’s account. While enrolled at MATC, Promise students will have the opportunity to participate in academic success and career exploration workshops, and service learning projects.

“The Promise is a pioneering initiative and will be life changing for our community and the college,” says Dr. Vicki J. Martin, MATC president. “There is incredible support for the program from our education and business partners and the community at large.”

The MATC Promise is made possible through the generosity of MATC Foundation donors. Thanks to overwhelming community support for the program, MATC is exploring the possibility of expanding the program to high school students of the Class of 2017.

“The Promise is a pioneering initiative and will be life changing for our community and the college. There is incredible support for the program from our education and business partners and the community at large.”

MATC Mequon Campus
5555 W. Highland Rd. • 262.238.2200 • matc.edu
Dr. Wilma L. Bonaparte, Vice President
Spring semester classes begin Tuesday, January 19.
Stop by the campus to meet with staff and learn about our academic offerings!
Homestead High School’s Class of 2015 recorded an average composite ACT score of 25.9, the highest district-wide score in the state. This marks the ninth consecutive year that Homestead has posted an average composite score of 25.0 or higher on the ACT.

“It is reassuring to know that the combined efforts of Homestead High School’s students, faculty, staff and administration continue to produce exceptional results,” says Homestead High School Principal Brett Bowers. “With nearly 90 percent of our graduates enrolled in post-secondary education, we strive to prepare all of our students for success beyond Homestead.”

“While we have much to be proud of as a district, we refuse to rest on our laurels,” says Superintendent Dr. Demond Means. “We chase continuous improvement with furious enthusiasm. I want to thank our students, staff and community for their continued support in our mission to provide an exceptional education to every MTSD student. We are pleased to know that we have achieved the state’s top ACT composite while increasing the number of students taking the college access exam.”

Additionally, Homestead High School’s subgroup performance reveals favorable results. African-American students in the Mequon-Thiensville School District outpaced their state (16.3) and national (17.1) counterparts with a 22.0 composite score. Special Education students (21.2) and Free and Reduced Lunch students (22.1) in the district also posted strong results on the most recent ACT.

“The District’s relentless focus on closing the achievement gap is reaping positive results,” says Dr. Means. “Although we are pleased with our aggregate and disaggregated results, we understand it is our moral imperative as public educators to ensure all of our students reach their full potential on important college access exams like the ACT.”

Lake Shore Middle School has been named a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School, placing it among the nation’s highest-performing schools. Lake Shore is one of nine schools statewide and 335 schools nationwide to be honored with this prestigious award based on overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Lake Shore is being recognized for its exceptional academic excellence, as measured by state assessments.

“We are thrilled to receive this award,” exclaims Lake Shore Middle School Principal Kate Dunning. “While the Mequon-Thiensville community already knows that Lake Shore provides its students an exceptional academic education, this national, prestigious award is a wonderful reminder. I want to thank our teachers, staff members, parents, students and community members for their continued support.”

Principal Kate Dunning, Superintendent Dr. Demond Means and eighth grade English Language Arts teacher Rose Riege accepted Lake Shore’s award during a ceremony in Washington D.C., on November 9-10. Principal Dunning shared the award with students during an all-school assembly on November 30.

Lake Shore Middle School was honored as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2004. “Our students and staff earned this award,” says Dunning. “We held an assembly to give them the opportunity to celebrate their hard work and success.”

“I continue to be proud of the education our teachers and staff members provide students on a daily basis at Lake Shore Middle School and across the Mequon-Thiensville School District,” says Superintendent Dr. Demond Means. “Although this is recognition for Lake Shore, the systems and processes used by the Lake Shore staff are emblematic of the work occurring throughout the District.”

Lake Shore Middle School among Best in U.S.
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Many hearts are swelling with pride at “the little school with the big heart” following the installation of a Buddy Bench. Located in the middle of Oriole Lane Elementary School’s playground, the bench is a unique way for students to foster friendships and inclusion.

“The Buddy Bench gives students a dedicated spot to sit if they are feeling left out during recess on the playground,” says Deb Apel, an Oriole Lane volunteer who helped facilitate the installation of the Buddy Bench. “When a child chooses to sit on the Buddy Bench, they are signaling that they would like someone to play with or to be asked to join in a new game; essentially, they would like a buddy.”

The Oriole Lane Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) donated the Buddy Bench in memory of Joe Martin, a parent and volunteer who lost a courageous battle with cancer in September 2014. Joe served on the PTO Board for several years and spent numerous hours volunteering in the school, including his favorite role as a playground supervisor. “When Joe passed away, PTO members knew they wanted to do something meaningful to honor his memory and recognize his dedication to the school,” says Apel.

“A bench to foster friendships among kids is a true testament to Joe’s character,” adds Oriole Lane Principal Mary Jo Tye.

Principal Tye aligned the Buddy Bench to the school’s Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) program, explaining the purpose of the bench during a PBIS assembly about behavioral expectations. Students are reminded often of the role they are expected to take if a child is sitting on the Buddy Bench.

“In order to have an impact it is our obligation as a school to remind students of the purpose and value; you have to keep it in the forefront,” explains Tye.

Since the Buddy Bench was installed in spring of 2015, students have embraced it. Principal Tye has seen several students sitting on the bench getting to know their peers and creating friendships. Additionally, the parent of a student new to Oriole Lane encouraged her child to utilize the bench in order to make friends. Students know the Buddy Bench is the place to go in order to feel welcome and included.

In a letter to the Oriole Lane PTO, Principal Tye and Head Custodian Andy Dowling, Sue Martin, Joe’s wife, thanked them for a wonderfully appropriate gift in Joe’s honor. She said it was a great addition to the Oriole Lane playground, and the perfect way to represent what Joe was all about.

The Oriole Lane family, composed of students, parents, and staff, are hopeful that the Buddy Bench will help many students grow their circle of friends and allow for positive playtime on the playground!
Tartan Bash: Then and Now
Tartan Bash 2016, Mequon-Thiensville’s premier fundraising celebration benefitting the students of the Mequon-Thiensville School District (MTSD), is all set for its annual “Party for Our Pupils” on Saturday, January 30, 2016, at the River Club of Mequon. Hosted by the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation (MTEF), the Tartan Bash has come a long way from its inception 16 years ago. The event brings supporters of public education together for a memorable night of dinner, dancing and bidding to raise funds to help the School District make advances in technology, curriculum and professional development. Through the years, the Tartan event has raised approximately $1.9 million. With the 17th Tartan rolling in, let’s see how much the event has changed through the years.

THEN: Tartan Ball
The inaugural Tartan Ball took place in February 2000 at the Midwest Express Center, attracted more than 800 attendees and raised approximately $80,000. The venue for Tartan continued to be the Midwest Express Center through 2003.

Kim Ebinger, past MTEF President and active supporter reflects, “The earlier Tartan events were much fancier. I always enjoyed seeing the fellas who showed up in their kilts.” The Ball moved to the Pfister Hotel from 2004-2006, landed at the Milwaukee Art Museum in 2007, and returned to the Pfister from 2008-2012.

Susan Malmquist, retired MTEF Executive Director, explains, “The 2012 Tartan at the Pfister was the lowest attended with 250 attendees. Following the event, we asked the Mequon-Thiensville community for feedback in a survey that revealed a local, Mequon-Thiensville venue was desired vs. a downtown location.” The Tartan Ball relocated in 2013 to the River Club of Mequon and was re-branded the Tartan Bash.

NOW: Tartan Bash
The Tartan Bash, “A Party with a Purpose” launched on January 26, 2013 at the River Club of Mequon. The event sold out with 400 guests and raised $157,000.

Tracy Lappin, three-time Tartan Chair, shares her perspective. “I think the biggest change in Tartan through the years is the dress. I remember wearing a long formal gown to my first Ball. Last year, it was a very simple cocktail dress. I like the more laid-back feel of the Bash, and being local is a definite plus,” she shares.

In 2014, The Bash sold out again with just over 400 guests and $146,000 raised. Lappin recalls, “We sold out two years in a row and are always looking for new ideas to integrate. We have more than 20 volunteers that spend a full year planning. The committees work hard to solicit ideas from the community and infuse new twists each year.”

Last year, 350 attendees raised $136,000.” Lappin attests, “The best part of organizing The Bash is to see the final dollar number raised and realize that the many hours of hard work put in by all of the volunteers has made a positive difference in our MTSD kids’ educational experience. We live in a very generous community, which has consistently raised more than $100,000 each year at the Tartan since 2006. This makes it all worth it.”

The anticipation of Tartan 2016 is high. Scheduled for Saturday, January 30, at the River Club of Mequon, everyone is welcome. Lappin shares, “There are lots of fresh new ideas coming from our young and energetic Co-Chairs, Tina Timm and Liz Braatz.”

It’s sure to be an exciting year for The Tartan Bash. To register, visit mtef.org. Tickets are $135 per person and a corporate table sponsorship is $2,500.

About the MTEF
The Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation was incorporated in 1998 as a non-profit organization committed to advancing educational excellence. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, which operates independently yet in conjunction with the Mequon-Thiensville School District and the Board of Education.

The MTEF benefits all six schools in the District. For more information on the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation and to register for the Tartan Bash, visit mtef.org.
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More than a dozen parents of Wilson Elementary School students transformed the gymnasium on October 15 into the place that they knew as children, including countries or regions such as Slovakia, United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Argentina, Ireland, China, Australia, Singapore, Japan, Iraq, India and Armenia. All of the parents were born outside the United States in one of the aforementioned countries or regions, but currently live in the Mequon-Thiensville community. The purpose of the International Fair is to teach Wilson students about other cultures, but it also became an educational lesson for their parents.

“I did not know that Mequon was so diverse,” says Ruchi Mathur, a Wilson parent, who moved to Mequon this year. Mathur, originally from India, has two children in the Mequon-Thiensville School District. Her oldest child was born in India, her youngest child born in the Midwest. They now call Mequon home. “I’ve only lived here a few months, but now I have friends forever.”

Mathur is referring to the other four Wilson mothers working the India table with her. “While we are all from India, every region is different and this event brings us all together,” says Mathur. The ladies from India showed students an authentic Indian dance as well as trinkets, jewelry and clothing.

Across the gym Ghada Shakir stood proudly behind the table titled Iraq. She has three children in the District, two children who attend Wilson. They have lived in Mequon for three years. “This event reminds us that we are all one,” said Ghada Shakir. “The students were very interested and asked a lot of really educated questions.”

“I am pleased that my child’s school offers an International Fair for elementary students,” says Neethi Kaushal. “I believe it is important for my kids to understand different cultures, points of view and religion.”

Wilson Elementary School’s Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) organized the International Fair.
Referendum Update

CONSTRUCTION: Major projects are underway across the District. Roofing replacement will wrap up this month at all seven buildings and window replacement is scheduled to begin around February. All projects, with the exception of the Homestead High School Performing Arts Center, will be completed before the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT: MTSD is proud to inform the community that the tax impact on homeowners is less than originally proposed. The District borrowed funds at an interest rate of 2.96 percent, which was significantly less than the 3.5 percent projected rate, saving taxpayers nearly $800,000 in interest costs.

HHS Field Turf Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon-cutting ceremony in celebration of Homestead High School’s new multi-sport turf field was held prior to the Highlander’s home football game on Friday, September 11. The field is a gift from Homestead High School Booster Club’s Highlander Strong Campaign. The Highlander Strong Campaign donated $1.1 million to the District in order to enhance the high school’s outdoor athletic facilities.

Highlander Strong Campaign’s largest donors include:
Sommer’s Automotive: $250,000
Tim & Nancy Speaker: $100,000
Ted & Mary Kellner: $100,000
Anonymous: $100,000
Aurora Sports Medicine: $50,000
Legendary Whitetails: $50,000

Drumming Up Character

Donges Bay Elementary School hosted “Drumming Up Character,” a unique multidisciplinary educational opportunity that helps students develop important character-building and critical-thinking skills. All students in grades 4K-5 participated in a drum circle (see photos above).

Outstanding Educators Announced

MTSD is proud to announce that three teachers have received the District’s 2015-2016 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award. They include Kirsten Ertl, Rose Riege and Jennifer Zortman (photo at right). An Outstanding Educator in MTSD has a widely recognized reputation for excellence and goodness. The award recipients were nominated by their colleagues for their continued professionalism and educational excellence. Ms. Ertl teaches orchestra in grades 4-8, Ms. Riege teaches eighth grade at Lake Shore Middle School and Ms. Zortman teaches mathematics and AVID at Homestead High School.

Dr. Demond Means cutting the ribbon in honor of Homestead High School’s new field turf.
A LITERACY PARTNERSHIP: 4K AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS CREATE JOY OF READING

In order to learn about service, the students brainstormed unique ways to help others. At Steffen, we want to give students real opportunities to serve – to nurture their hearts for service – where the only payment may be a hug. Priceless,” says Mary Lock, who teaches 8th graders at Steffen.

During the month of October, middle school students at Steffen Middle School walked next door to Wilson Elementary School to read to 4K students.

“We try to foster a joy of reading in our students at a very young age,” explains Wilson Elementary School Literacy Specialist Missy Vraney. “The younger students don’t care if the older students are smart or athletic, they are happy to spend time with them by sharing a good book.”

“The kids were nice and playful,” says Drew. “It was fun watching their enthusiasm and reactions while reading to them.”

Teachers at the elementary and middle school level agreed the partnership brought out the best qualities of all students regardless of age.
We are pleased to bring you the latest news from our two great communities – Mequon and Thiensville! As the year draws to a close, we acknowledge our City and Village staff who work tirelessly all year long to keep our neighborhoods safe, secure and running efficiently, no matter what the season. Enjoy the holidays and the special events taking place for residents and guests. We look forward to bringing you the latest news from Mequon and Thiensville in 2016!

1. The third annual Taste of Mequon on September 12 was another fun-filled event for community residents and guests (see pg. 8 for more photos and event details).
2. Homestead H.S. beat out Waukesha West 28-12 for the WIAA Division 2 State Football Championship on Nov. 20. Congratulations Highlanders!
3. Area residents learned about the Fire Department’s Dive Team during Public Safety Day in September.
4. Service and community are an integral part of campus life at Concordia University. Read more on page 16 about how their students strive to make a difference.
5. Grammy award winner Al Jareau performed at the Ozaukee Country Club on Nov. 8 to benefit Gathering on the Green.
6. The Thiensville Special Police Unit took part in a recent training session. Read about this important volunteer group on pg. 27.
DECEMBER

• Fri., Dec. 4: Thiensville Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, 6-8 p.m. Walgreens’ parking lot, 278 N. Main St., Thiensville. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy holiday music and refreshments. Sponsored by the Thiensville Business Association.
• Fri., Dec. 4-Sat., Dec. 5: Christmas at Concordia, 7:30 p.m. Chapel of Christ Triumphant at Concordia University, 12800 N. Lake Shore Dr. For tickets, email music.department@cuw.edu.
• Sun., Dec. 6: Pancake Breakfast with Santa, 8 a.m.-12 noon Mequon–American Legion Hall, 6050 W. Mequon Rd. Adults $7, children 6-10 years of age $5 and children 5 years and under are free. Tickets available in advance (by calling the Fire Department at 262.242.3393) or at the door. Sponsored by the Thiensville Volunteer Fire Department.
• Sun., Dec. 6: Winter Wonderland of Mequon, 4-6:30 p.m. In front of Mequon City Hall on Cedarburg Rd. Tree lighting at 5 p.m. and visits with Santa at the Isham Day House across from City Hall. Holiday music and free hot chocolate and cookies. Bring your cameras for photos of Santa and his reindeer. Visit ci.mequon.wi.us for more information.
• Tue., Dec. 8: Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m. St. Boniface Church (3906 W. Mequon Rd.)
• Wed., Dec. 16: Homestead High School Jazz Band, 7 p.m. James Barr Auditorium at Homestead High School, free.

JANUARY

• Tue., Jan. 19: MATC Spring classes begin in Mequon
• Thu., Jan. 21: Tartan and Treble Choirs, 6:30 p.m. Weyenberg Library Fine Arts Series at the Weyenberg Library. See pg 13.
• Thu., Jan. 28: MATC Aesthetics Open House in Mequon. Call 262.238.2222 for information.
• Sat., Jan. 30: Tartan Bash River Club of Mequon, to benefit the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation (see pg. 33).

FEBRUARY

• Thur., Feb. 4-Sun. Feb. 6: “12 Angry Men” Concordia University’s Todd Wehr Theatre, Mequon. Contact Lori Woodall at 262.243.2035 or lori.woodall@cuw.edu for tickets and more information.
• Sat., Feb. 6: Mequon Nature Preserve’s Winter Frolic
• Tue., Feb. 16: Spring Primary Election
• Thur., Feb. 18: National Lutheran Choir, 7:30 p.m. Chapel of Christ Triumphant at Concordia University. Call 262.243.4405.

MARCH

• Fri., Mar. 4: Wisconsin Brass Quintet, 7:30 p.m. Chapel of Christ Triumphant at Concordia University. Call 262.243.4405.
• Mon., Mar. 14: M-T Choral Collage, 7 p.m. (students grades 6-12)
• Sun., Mar. 20: Orchestra Tour Send-Off Concert, 5 p.m. Homestead High School Cafeteria

APRIL

• Tue., Apr. 5: Presidential Primary Election
• Tue., Apr. 5: Amelia Earhart, 6 p.m. Frank L. Weyenberg Library in Mequon, free. Learn about the courageous exploits of this American aviator who was the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean by plane in 1932.
• Fri., Apr. 15: University Band and Jazz Ensemble, 7:30 p.m. Chapel of Christ Triumphant at Concordia University. Call 262.243.4405.
• Sat., Apr. 16: Symphonic Wind Ensemble & Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. Chapel of Christ Triumphant at Concordia University. Call 262.243.4405.
• Thur. Apr. 21: Homestead High School Tartan and Treble Choir Concert, 7 p.m. St. Joseph’s Convent Chapel, 1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee.
• Tue., April 26: Homestead High School Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m. Mequon United Methodist Church, 11011 N. Oriole Ln.
• Fri., Apr. 29-Sun., May 1: Homestead High School’s “Peter Pan” For more information, visit mtsd.k12.wi.us/homestead.
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