

Bed bugs keep Waukesha library closed Thursday

Library

WAUKESHA — The Waukesha Public Library tweeted on Thursday it was closed “due to unforeseen circumstances.” Executive Director Grant Lynch explained the closing was the result of bed bugs that were discovered on a few chairs Wednesday evening. An exterminator with a bed bug-sniffing dog came in the library on Thursday and the dog picked up the scent.

“Out of an overabundance of caution, I closed the library to make sure we had a facility which was conducive for offering library services,” Lynch said.

See **LIBRARY**, PAGE 7A



The Waukesha Public Library was closed on Thursday due to bed bugs.

Charles Auer/Freeman Staff

From Page 1A

Lynch explained the library didn't want to contribute to spreading any infestation. He said bed bugs are a nuisance, but they don't carry any diseases. As a precaution, the exterminator sprayed the entire library. Four chairs and two tables were wrapped in plastic and duct tape, then disposed of. Lynch said the furniture was already scheduled to be replaced due to the 2017 furniture replacement plan.

“They sprayed everywhere even though the dog only focused a small section,” he said. Lynch commented he didn't want the bed bugs to become an issue so he was happy the whole building was sprayed.

“The expert who came in said it was a good idea to close,” he said. “I was proud of how our staff found out about the issue and 18 hours later the problem was solved.” He added that the maintenance, operational and city staff were amazing during the process.

Moving forward, Lynch said the city is working on a plan in case a similar situation occurs again, in order to provide support.

Lynch said late fees would be waived for Thursday only. He remarked many patrons showed up and they filled ten bins with material that was turned in.

The library will resume normal business hours today.

— Karen Pilarski, Freeman Staff