

# Residents have a deep appreciation for the library's existence

When you work in a library, there aren't many opportunities to stop and watch what's going on around you. Instead, you're kept busy with materials to shelve, programs to plan, printer ink to replace, resources to find ... and the list continues. (For those who wonder if library staff get to read all day, the answer is definitely not!)

However, last Monday I arrived early at a library for a meeting and sat near the front doors to wait. I pulled my phone out to check email, but I soon set it aside. It turned out the entrance wasn't a quiet, boring place

to be. On the contrary, people came in and out so often that I couldn't help but start to pay attention. I noticed the parents and grandparents with kids scampering behind them or riding in strollers. The man in the business suit who came in with a coffee and briefcase. The student whose backpack looked too heavy to carry. The twenty-somethings who dropped off their returns and ran back out to their cars. The older



Fuller

couple who strolled in together. So many different people, but each with a story, a reason to be there, a purpose for opening the door.

For the past few months, the Bridges Library System has collected stories about how people use their libraries and why the library is important to them. The stories are as varied as the people themselves.

One little girl in a party dress was visiting the library because it was her birthday. One mother talked about developing friendships with other moms while attending storytime with her son. A teen spoke about being accepted at the library as an LGBTQ individual. An older gentleman named Ralph was looking up Cubs stats online at the Menomonee Falls Public Library when I talked to him.

"I have the Internet at home but I come here because the service is better," he said.

A teenager named Tess told me the Oconomowoc Public Library has given her "volunteering opportunities and leadership opportunities, which is really important."

Vicky brings her daughters to the Waukesha Public Library several times a week.

"We come for fun and educational activities," she said. "On the schedule pamphlet, we have the programs high-

lighted and circled so we don't miss them."

Jackie had come to the Delafield Public Library to do research for her upcoming backpacking trip when I spoke to her.

"The library is like the third place. It's not home, it's not work, it's a special place," she said.

Each story is different, but with one key thing in common: a deep appreciation for the library's existence, the simple fact that it is there. Libraries continue to make people their priorities, even with budget cuts amidst arguments that libraries are no longer necessary in the 21st century. The stories we've collected prove how wrong that argument is. The people of Waukesha County go to their libraries to learn. To make friends. To find answers. To feel safe. The story of a library is the story of the people who use it. As long as that continues, libraries will be here, doors open, ready to serve the next person to walk in.

You can see new stories each Saturday morning on our Facebook page. If you're interested in sharing your story with us, please contact me at [jfuller@bridgeslibrarysystem.org](mailto:jfuller@bridgeslibrarysystem.org). We'd love to hear what your library means to you.

*(Jill Fuller is coordinator of marketing and communications for the Bridges Library System.)*

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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# Brewpub proposed for northeast Waukesha

## New office and restaurant building could include yoga studio

By Katherine Michalets  
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WAUKESHA — Vacant land on the northeast side of Waukesha could be occupied by a new office and restaurant building containing a brewpub if the city approves the plans.

On Wednesday, the Plan Commission will review the preliminary site plan and architectural review for the roughly 12,000-square-foot, two-story building off Meadow Lane. The construction site is the vacant property between Good Harvest Market and the recently approved Avid Hotel development.

According to city documents, the applicant of the office and restaurant building is the owner of the Good Harvest Market property, and they are working with the developers of the Avid Hotel and the owners of the CVS pharmacy property to the north to ensure that they will have cross access easements in both directions. The documents shows that a brewpub restaurant would take up the western third of the building, and several office suites would be located in the other sections.

Office tenants could include a chiropractor, a yoga studio, and a co-working space, along with more general business services, according to the city documents. The exterior walls will be fiber cement board designed to have a rustic appearance, with a mason-



Submitted rendering

A roughly 12,000-square-foot, two-story building off Meadow Lane has been proposed that would include a brewpub and office space.

ry course around the base of the north, east, and west sides. The south side of the building, which will face a wetland area, will include a small deck at ground level for outdoor restaurant seating, as well as additional outdoor seating on the second floor. In addition, 77 parking spaces are planned.

City staff recommendations for the project include that the lighting would conform with the city of Waukesha lighting standards and the applicant will provide a Landscape Plan for final approval. Landscaping will be similar to or exceed the standards shown in the building renderings and will specifically screen any ground level mechanicals.

Also on the Plan Commission agenda is a final site plan and architectural review for a request from ProHealth Waukesha Memorial Hospital for a new 27-space parking lot at

the northwest corner of Fairview Avenue and Lawndale Avenue. The hospital, according to city documents, is proposing to reconfigure the lot across the street to accommodate 32 parking spaces. These two lots will be used for the valet parking service provided at the hospital.

The former school building at 1721 Northview Road may get new life as the location for Celebrate Recovery, a Christian-based 12-step recovery group that helps people with a range of addictions.

### Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery has applied for a conditional use permit, which the Plan Commission will also discuss Wednesday.

According to city documents, Celebrate Recovery offers a large group during the week from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., which currently has 15 members, with more expected. Smaller groups for various addictions and counseling will be offered throughout the week. They will operate every day between the hours of 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., which will depend on meetings that are scheduled. The site has approximately 60 parking spaces available to visitors and staff; however, they expect several people using the bus, since a stop is located right at the location.

The Plan Commission is scheduled to meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in City Hall Council Chambers, 201 Delafield St.

### Waukesha Public Art Committee

The Waukesha Public

## SOUND OFF

What do you think?

Phone: 262-513-2641

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Art Committee will meet at 12 p.m. Tuesday in the Waukesha Public Library Board Room, 321 Wisconsin Ave.

The committee will hear an update and have discussion on the library's first floor redesign and the possible impact on the public art collection.

There will also be discussion and recommendation regarding the possibility of relocating City Hall's concrete relief wall sculpture to the Waukesha Public Library.

### Speedbump



Reporter

**Cara Spoto**

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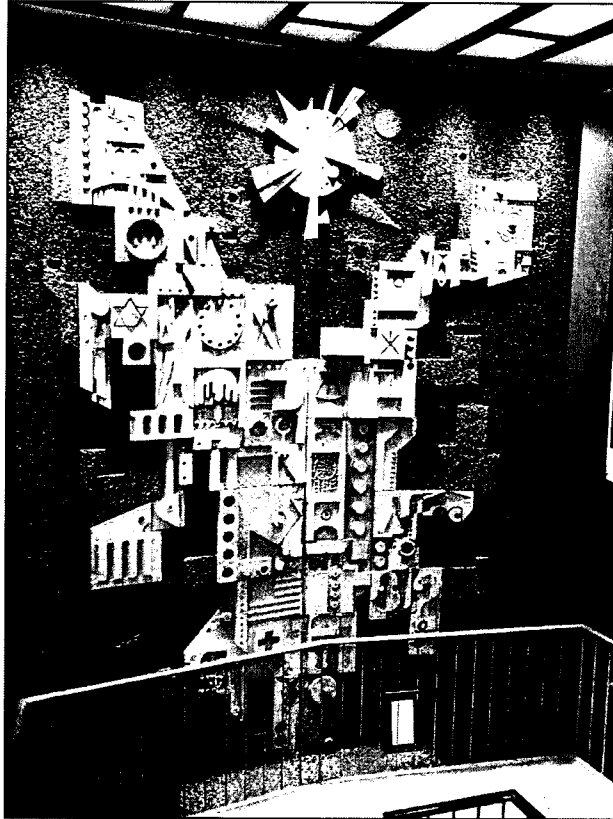
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The Waukesha Public Library's Public Art Committee is discussing whether the library could accommodate the "Waukesha Wall" mural currently located in the outgoing City Hall, 201 Delafield St. With City Hall slated to be demolished in January 2021, city officials are hoping to find a new home for the artwork.

## Panel discusses moving City Hall mural to library

WAUKESHA — A city panel is exploring the possibility of moving a concrete mural affixed to a wall at the outgoing City Hall to the Waukesha Public Library.

The Library Public Art Committee began discussing the idea this week, but the library's Executive Director Bruce Gay said research still needs to be done to see if the move is possible.

Called the "Waukesha Wall," the two-story mural was created in 1967 by the

late sculptor Franklin Boggs.

With the 53-year-old City Hall building slated to be demolished in 2021 when the new City Hall is completed, the city's Landmarks Commission has been talking for months about how best to save the sculpture.

"There is some interest in preserving it, and if the library can help we are interested in doing that, but we are not sure what that looks like yet," Gay said Thursday.