

Surge forcing some businesses, groups to self-regulate

Delafield Legion, Schwefel's restaurant, Waukesha Library each making changes

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WAUKESHA COUNTY — With COVID-19 cases surging across the state and region, some restaurants, groups and institutions in Waukesha County are taking steps to reduce the chance that their activities could further increase infection rates.

In Oconomowoc, Schwefel's Restaurant recently moved to a carry-out-only model as it attempts to protect staff and customers from potentially falling ill, or becoming unwitting spreaders.

Asked about the decision on Tuesday, owners Dan and Lori Schwefel said they felt they could not keep people safe if their dining room stayed open.

"Our employees and our

customers are like family, and we just can't protect them anymore," Dan Schwefel said. "It is not about money anymore; it is about surviving for tomorrow. People trust us, and we can't guarantee (that we can keep them safe) anymore because of asymptomatic people coming into the restaurant and refusing to wear a mask."

Schwefel said he hoped the closure of the dining area wouldn't last long.

"This is one of the toughest decisions we have ever made in 33 years of being in business, but we have to protect our family — our staff and customers," he said. "We are doing this to ensure we can get together with our friends later in life and not at a funeral."

Day by day

It was not immediately



Cara Spoto/Freeman Staff

Library Assistant Christine Jahnke assists Waukesha resident Dave Richmond on Tuesday at the Waukesha Public Library, 321 Wisconsin Ave. The library recently imposed new COVID-19 guidelines, asking all patrons to limit their time in the library to 15 minutes to help limit the potential spread of the virus.

clear if any other restaurants in the county were closing their in-person dining, but Susie Taylor, an owner of People's Park in downtown Waukesha, said the restaurant was taking things "day by day."

"We have tried so hard to do our very best," Taylor said Tuesday. "We have air purifiers, and all staff are wearing masks. Do I wish that we still had outdoor dining? Yes. We are following the Wisconsin

Restaurant Association guidelines and are social distancing. We are doing our best to keep everyone safe. We want to keep downtown going, and we cannot do it without customers."

Library limits

A few blocks away at the Waukesha Public Library, staff have asked all patrons to limit their time inside the library to 15 minutes apiece.

The new guidelines come at

the same time that the library has closed public computers and microfilm readers to public use. The main library lobby and media collections remain open for brief browsing, and people can still come in to pick up and check out their hold items.

"We are doing it out of concern for the staff, and people who come in," Library Director Bruce Gay said Tuesday. "By limiting the amount of time people are in contact with each other, we hope to suppress the surge in our own way."

The library is currently open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

No poppies 'til spring

Over in Delafield, American Legion Post 196 has moved its annual poppy sale, which typically takes place in November, to this coming spring.

"In years past we have stood outside Kwik Trips and Sentries and sold the poppies, but we are postponing that," the post's Second Vice Commander Keith Roeber said Tuesday of the fundraiser.

Gatherings of the cornhole and pool leagues that typically

Legion baseball fundraiser continues

DELAFIELD — In addition to adjusting its operations in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, American Legion Post 196 has also been working to collect money to help purchase equipment to maintain the baseball diamond on its property.

The nonprofit learned this summer that the city of Delafield would be ending its lease of the ball diamond this December.

Now, after 15 years, the post is now responsible for the upkeep of the space and does not yet have the resources to do so.

In order to help obtain the proper supplies, the post launched an online fundraiser via GoFundMe this July, and, so far, it's about 30 percent shy of its goal.

As of Tuesday evening, the group had received about \$5,585 in donations.

It's hoping to raise a total of \$8,000.

Speaking about the effort this week, the post's Commander Terry Frazier noted that raising funds for the upkeep of the baseball diamond would likely be ongoing.

In addition to new bases, the Legion is hoping to buy a zero-turn mower, trimmers, weed eaters, and rakes and shovels.

ly play at the post's bar and restaurant have also been halted, he said, as has January's Raccoon Feed.

"We have put everything on hold until the crisis passes," Roeber added. "We might end up canceling the Annual Delafield Fisheree, but we haven't made that call just yet."

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