

# Elmbrook School District considering administrative office building options

By Lauren Anderson  
Freeman Staff

BROOKFIELD — The Elmbrook School District will be exploring administrative office building options over the next few months.

The district's current building, a former elementary school on Hope Street in Brookfield, has been on the market for five years and has yet to sell. "There have been a lot of tours," Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations, and Human Resources Erik Kass said, "but school buildings are very unique and don't always lend to redesign very well. So we've run into barriers with that approach."

At 50,000 square feet, the building is larger than needed for the district's purposes and requires some repair, Kass said.

Now the district is faced with options, including reinvesting in the current building, moving to another facility, building new on existing property and several other possible alternatives.

The School Board has set a goal of identifying a long-term solution by the end of the calendar year.

The plan is to analyze the costs of staying at the current location while bringing deferred maintenance up to an acceptable level and making some upgrades; the cost of upgrading the former Hillside Elementary into the administrative offices; and the cost of transitioning to the district's location on North Avenue either with renovation or new construction.

Other possibilities include purchasing a building within district boundaries, building a new one on existing property and short-term lease options.

Because Hillside Elementary was closed more recently than the current administrative offices building, Kass said, it requires fewer upgrades. However, the building is even larger than the district's current

administrative offices building and has spaces that wouldn't be particularly useful, namely the gym and cafeteria, Kass said. The most recent estimates put the cost of renovating the school into an office building at about \$2.5 million.

The district's property on North Avenue, a former administrative building, currently houses Amy Montessori School in front and stores district equipment in back. Located in the district's center, the building has advantages, Kass said, but the price for renovating it could be too high. A 2009 study estimated the transition to an administrative building would cost about \$4 million.

The district is also working with a broker to identify potential existing buildings for sale within its boundaries. Results from that are expected in September or October.

While all options are still on the table, Kass noted two members of the Finance & Operations Committee this week said they would not want to invest into upgrading the current offices on Hope Street, nor transitioning to Hillside.

Officials are determining the district's square footage needs for its administrative building, noting how many spaces are needed to support its current needs, while allowing for flexibility in the future. There are about 16 staff members who need an office for confidentiality and security, and about 40 staff members whose responsibilities allow for more flexible spaces where confidentiality isn't necessary. The current building also has five meeting spaces shared by employees.

Kass said the ultimate goal is to have a building layout that helps facilitate more collaboration among departments.

The Facilities & Operations Committee will continue exploring all options during the next four months before making a decision by the end of the year, Kass said.

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Submitted photos

The Pewaukee Antique & Classic Boat Show displays big bikes and fancy cars as well as boats.

# NOSTALGIA along the water

## Pewaukee Antique & Classic Boat Show coming up Saturday

By Karen Pilarski  
Freeman Staff

PEWAUKEE — Ahoy, mateys! The free Pewaukee Antique & Classic Boat Show docks at the 11th Annual Pewaukee Lakefront Park, 222 W. Wisconsin Ave., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wil Vidal, boat show chairman and past commodore, said: "The boat show is an opportunity for community members to see a piece of nostalgia." He said people can come by and peruse an array of boats of differing sizes and models. He said, "People will say, 'Oh my grandpa or dad had one of those,' then they ask about them. They ask about specific boats."

The show is a family event. There will be toy boat paintings and rides on big-wheel bikes. Vidal said, "People can go and talk to the bike experts on these bikes that were built at the turn of the century. You see them in a parade but never could ask questions (about them)."

Music includes the band Little Bit of Heaven. The band plays a variety of 1950-70s tunes and swing music. Vidal said, "Last year we had a bunch of people dancing." At the end of the show there is a tribute to veterans. Vidal said, "We have members of the military and play taps and do the Pledge of Allegiance. It is the only (boat) show that I know of in the country that has that type of closing."

### Boatsful of history

Vidal confessed that his love of boats "is an illness or disease." Once while in Waupaca he noticed someone going by with a wooden boat. It was love at first sight. He said, "I thought I had to have one."

"You never know where the hobby will start. It is fun and a great way to meet a lot of people and make friends." The culture of boating brings people of all walks of life together no matter if young or old, he said.

While there are beautiful modern boats available, Vidal prefers pre-World War II boats. He said, "I have a 1940 boat built before the war named 'In the Mood,' after a Glenn Miller song."

David Buckley is another boat enthusiast. Growing up and spending time on Pewaukee Lake, Buckley had friends or friend's parents that had boats.

"I love the old boats, never had one until eight years ago," he said. "I always wanted one. Now I have two!"

### Bucket List and Miss Chief

One of Buckley's boat's was built by Gar Wood, a boat company from Michigan that started in the 1920s. Garfield Wood, company founder, was into speed-boat racing. Buckley said, "He was the first guy to go over 100 mph in a speed-boat. The sound of the wood boat is like



A previous Pewaukee Antique & Classic Boat Show.

a Harley-Davidson on water. It is a specific sound that is unmistakable."

"Bucket List," a 20-foot Gar Wood utility boat, was the first boat Buckley purchased in 2008. He bought it on eBay sight unseen. Laughing, he said, "It was the dumbest thing anyone could do, to buy a boat that was 73 years old!" Luckily it turned out to be a great boat. Both his boats, "Bucket List" and "Miss Chief," are still running and in fine shape.

He proudly said, "Bucket List has the original engine and bottom to it. It is really rare that it hasn't needed to be replaced."

He mentioned he has photos from the 1940s of the daughter of the original boat owner sitting in the boat as a little girl. Through correspondence he was able to get photos and help celebrate the daughter's 86th birthday party at a boat show.

He said, "She was happy to see the boat again on water." He still receives Christmas cards from her.

Buckley's first boat had never had a name in all the years it was owned by others. Based on his last name and the movie "Bucket List" starring Morgan Freeman, the boat's name was born.

He said, "It hits home. This is something you want to do and why not get it done? It was on my bucket list to own a wooden boat. It has been a great boat and now I checked it off the bucket list. I had no bad luck."

"Miss Chief" was built in 1935 and is a two-person, gentleman racer. He said, "There were only 14 made because there wasn't a great demand."

"Miss Chief" has had eight owners during its 80 years of existence. In 2010, Buckley purchased it from country singer Alan Jackson, a big wooden boat collector. Jackson's wife had bought it as an anniversary present. Jackson, however, is 6'4 and couldn't fit well in the boat.

Buckley said, "Every boat has a story and lineage to families that had them. People enjoy hearing about (their history)."

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# Literacy for All

New nonprofit group helps people go beyond basic literary skills

By Katherine Michalets  
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — When she created Literacy for All, Cathy Kozlowicz said, she wanted to help people who have basic literary skills but need help to reach the next level, and who may not receive that help from other organizations.

For 12 years, Kozlowicz worked for the Literacy Council of Greater Waukesha, a position she said she enjoyed but left in March. She began to lay the groundwork for Literacy for All and its program College Still Achievable in October of last year.

Kozlowicz said she is not trying to compete with other literacy nonprofits, but feels there is an opportunity to provide additional services to those who still need help.

She is preparing her paperwork to file to be an official nonprofit with a 501(c)3 status and is not actively fundraising yet, although she is seeking volunteers to work with clients.

"We want to be able to provide literacy services for people whose skills are past the basic level," she said.

Kozlowicz said a client could be someone who has a job, but his or her lack of math or writing skills may be holding them back from advancing. She wants Literacy for All to be able to help them reach that next level.

"It is just something that I wanted to do for a while. I felt there was too much with literacy that I could do with one job," she said.

College Still Achievable seeks to work with individuals who want to advance their education but who likely struggle with the application process. Kozlowicz said a client could be someone who is 30 and wants to go to college, but hasn't written an essay in 12 years and doesn't know how to create one anymore.

Literacy for All has a board of directors that Kozlowicz praised and said is comprised of former students and people who are in education. Right now Kozlowicz said she is focusing on promoting the group and its objectives. She is also working from home for the time being, but hopes to one day have a paid staff and a national reach for College Still Achievable. For now she is focusing on Waukesha, Milwaukee and southeast Wisconsin.

"My goal is to work as hard as I can to improve literacy," Kozlowicz said.

While recognized by the state as an entity, Literacy for All is not a member of Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., which is a nonprofit coalition of 76 community-based literacy programs located throughout the state. To be a member, an organization must have its official nonprofit status.

Literacy Council of Greater Waukesha Executive Director Jim Hahn said his organization has been around for about 30 years and has strong partnerships with Waukesha County Technical College and the Waukesha School District.

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# 99th Assembly candidates announce endorsements

DELAFIELD — Two of the candidates in the 99th Assembly District special election announced endorsements Thursday as the campaigns seek to garner as much support as possible in a short time.

Former U.S. Senate candidate and Hartland businessman Dave Westlake announced he had the backing of former Waukesha County Sheriff Dan Trawicki.

"Dave is a West Point graduate and former member of the U.S. Army, so he knows what it takes to lead, serve, and protect others at his own risk — attributes we need more of in Madison," Trawicki said in statement released by Westlake's campaign.

Town of Delafield Supervisor Cindi Duchow announced she had the backing of several current and former Town Board members, including Chairman Larry Krause, supervisors Ed Kranik and

Ron Troy, former Chairman Paul Kanter, former Supervisor Clare Dundon and Fire Chief Paul Kozlowski.

Krause called Duchow "a relentless advocate for taxpayers."

"I have no doubt that she would continue those efforts on behalf of every resident of the 99th district," he said in a statement also released by Duchow's campaign.

Westlake and Duchow are joined in the Sept. 1 Republican primary by insurance agent Scott Owens and Spencer Zimmerman, the latter also a former U.S. Senate candidate.

Owens, a Town of Genesee resident, formally launched his campaign on Monday, although he was already certified for the ballot last week. He pledged to pursue "big bold reforms," focusing particularly on eliminating the state's corporate income tax.

— Freeman Staff

# Carroll builds international connections through agreement with Chinese university

By Lauren Anderson  
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — Carroll University has entered an agreement intended to bolster the school's international partnership with a university in China.

The agreement will allow students to earn an undergraduate degree in computer science and a master's degree in software engineering after two years of coursework at Tianjin Chengjian University and three years at Carroll.

The so-called 2+3 agreement follows a 2+2 agreement established last year that allows students to earn an English bachelor's degree both at Carroll and Tianjin after two years at each school.

University officials say the agreements are steps toward internationalizing Carroll's campus. While students are required to have a cross-cultural immersion experience as part of the general education program, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Joanne Passaro said bringing students from around the world into Carroll's classrooms will provide

a natural way for students to build international friendships.

"We know that when (students) graduate here, they will be more competitive if they are aware of the world around them and know how to live and work with people who are different than themselves," Passaro said.

President Douglas Hastad said it's particularly important for Carroll's students to have a "real-world experience" at the university.

"We want students from Illinois and Wisconsin, where most of our students are from, to walk across this campus and be able to see the world and feel the world," he said. "In order to do that, you need to have students from all over the world."

Several representatives from Carroll, including Hastad, have visited Tianjin to foster the partnership in recent years.

While welcoming a delegation of representatives from Tianjin Chengjian University Thursday, Hastad offered his condolences in light of recent explosions that have claimed at least 50 lives and injured hundreds in Tianjin, according to media reports



Charles Auer/Freeman Staff

Carroll University President Douglas Hastad delivers introductory remarks to representatives from Tianjin Chengjian University on Thursday morning.

Thursday. "Be assured that the families of those affected by the disaster will be in our thoughts and prayers over the course of the time that it takes for you to recover from this tragedy," Hastad told the delegates, with the help of an interpreter.

### Different approaches to teaching

TCU faculty have also come to Carroll for the past two summers to experience how English literature is taught in the U.S. and learn about

American pedagogical culture. Deirdre Keenan, chair of Carroll's department of English, said class sizes are among the significant differences in teaching practice between American and the Tianjin professors.

"They are often teaching English classes to 90 students," Keenan said. "It's very difficult to have a class based on discussion. It's very heavily based on lecture. Whereas our classes, in English especially, are discussion-based classes ... But that's more difficult to do

when you have 90 students in a classroom than in our department, where we have 20 or 30 students in a classroom."

As for the computer science students, professor Chenglie Hu said students will find many similarities between the technology field in both countries.

"The underlying logic is pretty much the same everywhere," he said. "Therefore, the skills they learn here can be used back in China as well."

But the difference in language and culture will provide for the students to grow, he said.

"I think a lot of Chinese students want to explore the opportunities here and I

think this 2+3 program will offer this opportunity, especially in an area which is safe and convenient," he said. "The students will learn a great deal about the culture."

The first group of Tianjin students are scheduled to arrive on Carroll's campus in the fall of 2016.

And, Hastad said, the growing partnership could inspire more Carroll students to consider a visit to the Tianjin campus in the future.

"My hope is that we end up getting many of our students to choose to do their cross-cultural experience over at that beautiful city at that great institution, TCU," he said.

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