

The Summer Sale!
HURRY! SALE ENDS SOON!

Up to 60% off!
SAVE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS OFF FURNITURE, HOME DECOR, BEDDING & MORE.

Great Estates
FINE FURNITURE

1854 S. Commercial St., Neenah, WI 54956 • (920) 961-9700

Disputed halfway house shuts down

Neighbors put steady pressure on TLP home

By Jack Tierney
OSHKOSH HERALD

A temporary living place (TLP) in the Midtown neighborhood for individuals recently released from prison did not receive a contract renewal from the state Department of Corrections and will end its

service there at the end of this month after more than 10 years.

The TLP on Jefferson Street, within walking distance of Merrill Middle School, has been accused of mismanagement by representatives of the Midtown Neighborhood Association who have spoken publicly about it for years.

At a city workshop meeting in September, the association alleged contract violations, deficient monitoring systems, intimidation from the residents, substance

use among residents and a lack of respect for the concerns of the neighborhood from Triniteam Inc. in addition to the TLP's proximity to the school.

The end of the contract marks a relief for the neighborhood association after years of activism.

"I am thankful that after years of hard work by our neighborhood the DOC has finally made the right call," said Joe

SEE **Halfway house** ON PAGE 16

INSIDE



Prep previews

High school football back in fall action

Page 18

Netzer legacy

County will retain wildlife area near expo

Page 4

Steady support

Rental support agencies stay busy with clients

Page 5

Title defense

Wisconsin Glo repeats as league champions

Page 21

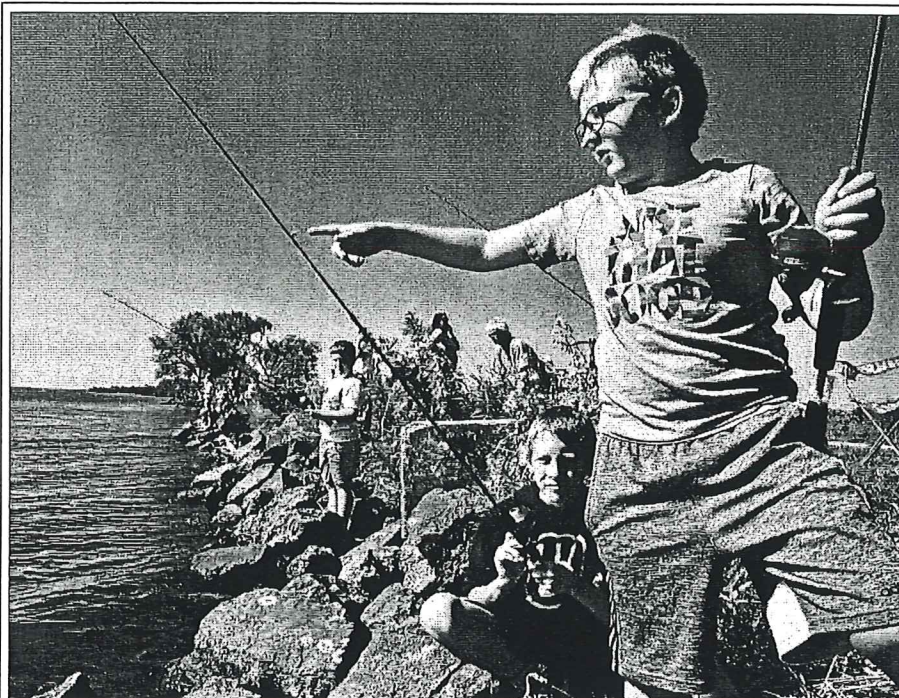


Photo by Michael Cooney

Fishing buddies

Ayden Schettle (right) and Brennah Frank test their angling skills at the Otter Street Fishing Club Kid's Fisheree held Saturday at Ames Point. They are two of the about 400 children who took part in the annual event, where they are provided with a free fishing pole rigged and ready along with a complimentary lunch, prizes and other activities through the sponsorship of many local groups. Contest trophies were awarded for the biggest, smallest and most fish.

South-side flooding issues persist

Affected residents say city projects not soon enough

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

Sometimes during heavy rain events — like the most recent one in late July — roads around the city get blockaded due to overflow and flooding.

Residents along 9th Avenue and surrounding areas by its intersection with Ohio Street feel the effects of storms much more than other neighborhoods and have gone to the city for solutions.

Jerry Bartlet and wife Myrna have been living in their home since 1975, and Jerry recalls a flood about 20 years ago when

they lost everything in their basement. Since then, they've put everything on tables in case it floods again.

In last month's storm, the couple measured 8 inches in their home.

And when Brittany Nennig and her husband bought the building for their business, Artful Touch Massage and Wellness Center, they didn't know about the issues that would lie ahead. The foundation is collapsing on their property because of these large rain events.

"It makes us feel very insecure in our home for something that isn't our fault," Nennig said. "I think they need to look back on records to find who made the mistakes and how they can fix it."

She said the business is struggling be-

cause of the money they're spending to maintain the structure.

Melissa and Eric Tesch were first-time homebuyers in the city after purchasing their 9th Avenue house nearly a year ago. In October during a severe weather event, they were inundated with 6 feet of water in their basement, ruining several years of personal items.

Then in July, they got 5 feet, and their insurance company is threatening to remove their service after filing two claims in a year. They lost their water heater and furnace in October and are still without a furnace.

A short-term solution was to install a

SEE **Flooding issues** ON PAGE 10



Photo from Eric Tesch

Basement flooding from late July's rainstorm is shown at Melissa and Eric Tesch's home on 9th Avenue.

Flooding issues

FROM PAGE 1

swing valve where the water enters the home from these heavy rain events to curb more severe flooding.

Soon after that storm, the couple went door to door collecting signatures from neighbors who would like to see the issue dealt with, and attended a recent Common Council meeting to express their concerns.

"I've never had to deal with this before," Melissa said. "With all these other people around us (flooding too), it's heartbreaking. We wanted to show the city it wasn't just us. There are so many people in this neighborhood that are hurting and it's not fair."

Eric also said his biggest concern is making sure his family has a safe and warm place to stay.

"If this happens again, I don't know what we're going to do," he said.

Marie Weber has been living at her home on 9th Avenue for about five years and her family had significant flooding in their basement as well.

"Other than that, I don't get a drop of water in my basement," she said. "I was shocked the first time I walked downstairs and I stepped in a foot of water."

After attending a recent council meeting, she doesn't plan to stop going until something is done. Shortly after the meeting, she sat down with City Manager Mark Rohloff and Public Works Director James Rabe to discuss further actions.

"Now I understand (the situation) but it doesn't really help the fact that we have flooding," she said.

"Where our location is right now is under the Stringham watershed. The city was built over it, and part runs through South Park. As the city built up around all this, the watersheds are not big enough to han-

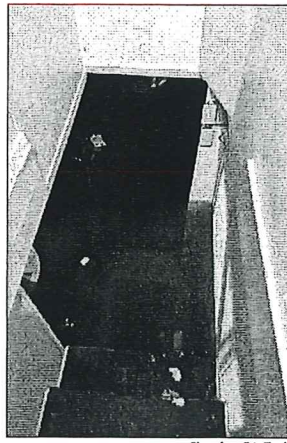


Photo from Eric Tesch

Basement flooding from late July's rainstorm is shown at Melissa and Eric Tesch's home on 9th Avenue.

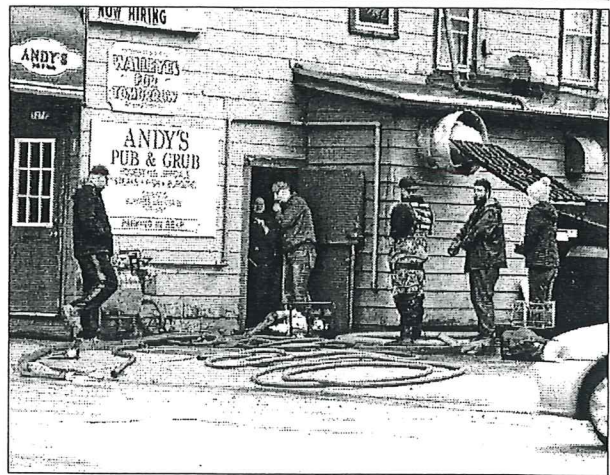
dle all the stormwater that flows through."

In 2019 and 2020, the city began constructing box culverts with a larger capacity to hold stormwater. As of late, only about a block and a half of it is completed between 5th and 6th avenues on Iowa Street.

The three remaining phases will make its way to the affected area near 9th and Ohio all the way to South Park. Design work for the remaining parts of the project is slated for 2023, and construction would get underway in 2024 and 2025.

"It doesn't really help us short-term," Weber said. "I wanted to know what we can do to move up one or two of these phases to (happen) sooner to alleviate some of the flooding we have going on."

"It was nice talking to (Rohloff and Rabe) but now I want some action. I'm go-



Oshkosh Herald

Workers deal with flooding issues last October at a business on 9th Avenue near Ohio Street.

ing to keep pushing to get some answers. I hope they don't think I'm just going to go away. We still have to push these projects sooner than 2023. ... We can't have citizens having their basements flooding twice a year."

The Stringham watershed is one of 124 in the city, and spans about 1,000 acres in the area of 9th and Ohio to South Park, Rabe said. The city was built directly above these expansive watersheds. Over the course of time, Stringham Creek was enclosed in a storm sewer system.

"While the storm sewer may have had the same relative capacity as the creek, we lost some of the floodplain storage area," Rabe said. "Naturally, there would have been this creek channel and some low-land areas next to it that, during heavy rain events, would probably flood and then drain back into the creek."

Rabe said there were a few ways the city could move these phases forward: essentially drop every other project in the CIP this year to fix it; using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to complete the project; and to shuffle existing 2021 CIP projects out to fit the final phases.

But to consider any of these options, Rabe said the neighborhood needs to make their voices heard – help the city by telling them exactly who is having these issues, including the Common Council and appropriate departments.

"We have a lot of instances where people might have flooding problems and they just don't tell us," Rabe said. "I can't fix a problem if I don't know about it. It's a matter of how great and how impacted the property owners are."

Rabe also said these recent weather events worked in the neighborhood's favor because the city is undergoing a review of its CIP plans.

"I hate to say it this way but the rain event happening when it did is good for the residents so they can make their voices heard during the time the council is talking about this," he said. "It's much easier for everybody to keep it on their minds while it's already a topic of discussion."

"Quite frankly, it's time for this watershed to get some major work done to it. We've done a lot of work on other watersheds and made some significant improvements, but this one's time is now."

8.28

SAVE THE DATE

12:30-8:30 pm

OSHKOSH JAZZ FESTIVAL

free family friendly

OshkoshJazz.com

Make plans now!

Headliner

Joey DeFrancesco

Emcee + Performer

Joe Piscopo

Guest Star

Haley Reinhart

Landau Murphy | Nicolas King | Janet Planet | Davis Damiriz | Steve March-Rom | Pegasis | Tom Theabo | John Harmon | Walter City Jazz Orchestra

TJ's Highland

THE FAMILIES OF:

RJ & KATHY SHARPE

JOHN & SUSY VETTE

Howard

Shrinidhar Swanson

Panther

OSHKOSH

GRAND

HEIR

911

Health Care Credit Union

WHERE YOU ARE TREATED LIKE A PERSON, NOT A NUMBER.

429 N. Sawyer Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902 | 920.233.1140 | www.healthccu.org

Hickey

ROOFING, INC.

EST. 1985

With more experience than any other area roofer, we stay up-to-date and involved in the ever-changing world of residential roofing products and services. We provide the best results, because roofing is all we do!

Voted best of Winnebago/Oshkosh for 13 years running.

920-426-4008 • 1427 Broad St. • Oshkosh, WI 54901

Unplug, Untie & Unwind

Aboard Elektra Cruise

Elegant - Electric - Easy!

Step aboard our quiet, new electric Duffy 22' Sun Cruiser and feel your stress melt away. Book a private cruise for up to 10 people, for a few hours, a half day or full day trip. Captained trips also available (limit 6 guests) or meet new friends on our 45-minute "Happy Hour Cruise".

Call for reservations and specific details: 920-252-8118
Email: Sue@elektracruise.com • www.ELEKTRACRUISE.com
Schedule any special occasion aboard!