

Brookfield & Elm Grove

THIS MONTH

DECEMBER 2018

Brook-Falls vet clinic gets online TV show

Aim is to help pet owners get best info, vet says

By Royce Podeszwa
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MENOMONEE FALLS — Brook-Falls Veterinary Hospital & Exotic Care unveiled the debut of its short TV series on basic pet care in the modern age on Facebook, YouTube and other online platforms Nov. 12.

Each episode of "Expert Veterinary TV" will last between one and three minutes and will stream every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"The average pet owner gets so much info from the internet, we want to make sure it is the right information," said Dr. Jennifer Bloss, one of Brook-Falls' owners.

Topics will vary in every episode, from dealing with pet anxiety and heart disease to selecting the right dog food.

Each episode will feature one of the six doctors on staff at Brook-Falls. The first season has 12 episodes with more planned for next year.

Debra Lopez, producer of the series, said the idea of proper pet care has changed tremendously over the years and the show is meant to help inform people of these changes.

"Pets have become family members," Lopez said. "It's not like the old days when you had a dog on a chain living outside."

Besides dogs and cats, Bloss' animal hospital also deals with all manner of exotic pets. Her clients



Submitted photos

Dr. April Wittenburg, Dr. Meryl Schimek, Veterinary Assistant Molly Mertens and Dr. Jennifer Bloss with a large tortoise.

include rabbits, birds of all sizes, bearded dragons, prairie dogs and even a one-eyed 45-year-old Cuban tree frog.

"The majority of exotic pet problems are because nobody ever told owners how to care for them properly," Bloss said.

Bloss said that up until recently, most people didn't realize that animals like rabbits suffered from elderly issues like arthritis. Health care has improved so much that pets can now live well into their twilight years, which come with many of the same health problems as most human senior citizens.

Bloss' all-women staff also regularly helps local agencies treat wildlife in the area.

"It's one of those jobs where you never know what's going to walk in the door," Bloss said.



CVT Jamie Branham, Veterinary Assistant Morgan Johnson and Dr. Jennifer Bloss give a dog an ultrasound.

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Leszczynski is Freeman's Player of the Year

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From Candy Cane Lane to the Holiday Train: Area events lighting up the Christmas season

By Catherine Jozwik
Special to TimeOut

Glowing Christmas light displays bring a magical and nostalgic quality to a cold winter night. The metro Milwaukee area boasts several stunning holiday displays the whole family can enjoy.

Every year, the area of 96th Street and Montana Avenue to 92nd Street and Oklahoma Avenue in West Allis is transformed into a holiday wonderland of lit-up Santas, snowmen, and, of course, that iconic peppermint treat. Even the trees are wrapped by local student volunteers to look like candy canes.

Since 1984, Candy Cane Lane residents have collected more than \$2 million for the Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer, Inc. Fund. Candy Cane Lane volunteers will collect MACC Fund donations at the intersection of 95th Street and Manitoba Avenue.

This year, it runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, beginning Friday and ending Dec. 26. For more information, including Santa appearances: www.candycanelanewi.com.

Truly enchanting

West Bend's Regner Park will host Enchantment in the Park, an interactive light show featuring a number of family-friendly holiday activities, including horse and carriage rides, performances by local schools, civic groups and entertainers, and roasting marshmallows over fire pits.

The interactive holiday displays with nearly 1 million lights benefit local charities that can be seen by car or carriage rides. Three light displays have been added this year, including



Submitted photo

More than a million lights decorate the mile-long Country Christmas trail at the Ingleside Hotel in Waukesha.

"Dancing Donuts."

Since 2009, more than 340,000 food items have been donated to local pantries as well as \$175,000 to local nonprofit groups.

"This interactive holiday experience not only brings people together, but it also gives back to the communities that we live and work in," Enchantment in the Park Executive Director Lori Yahr said in a statement.

Drawing more than 50,000 visitors annually, this year it runs from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. through Dec. 24.

Theme nights include vendor night on Dec. 19, live music and a Santa visit on Dec. 21 and superhero night on Dec. 23. A 5k run-walk will take place Dec. 2. Visit enchantmentpark.org for more information.

To pull it off, 1,500 volunteers work the event found-

ed by local Rotary clubs.

In lieu of admission, food or cash donations are collected for area pantries. A \$10 donation to benefit future Enchantment events and local nonprofit organizations is suggested.

Largest drive-through light display

Waukesha's Ingleside Hotel (formerly Country Springs Hotel) is hosting its 23rd annual Country Christmas, the state's "largest outdoor drive-through lights display" according to its website, <https://www.thecountrychristmas.com/>. Over a million lights illuminate a mile-long trail. Families can park their cars at the trail's end and explore Christmas Village, a building decorated to look like Santa's workshop, complete with elves and a model train, and enjoy concessions, then head over

to the Streets of Bethlehem, a replica village of life-size figures made by Italian designer Fontanini.

Tiffany Woodward, Ingleside's director of marketing and water park sales, said Country Christmas attracts about 15,000 vehicles, among them mini-buses, each year.

"We really have people who have made this their holiday tradition," Woodward said.

Ingleside also offers Country Christmas getaway packages which include an overnight hotel stay, a complimentary pizza, and passes to the hotel's waterpark.

Downtown Holiday Lights Festival

Now celebrating its 20th year, the downtown Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival runs through Jan. 1. More than 500,000 lights will decorate the area. Youngsters



Photo courtesy of Canadian Pacific

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will again roll through southeastern Wisconsin. Lit up for the season, the train includes live entertainment and food collection to benefit pantries. It will be in southeastern Wisconsin Dec. 6 and 7.

can meet with and share holiday wish lists with Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy free cocoa and cookies at Cocoa with the Clauses on Dec. 8 at Cathedral Square Park, 520 E. Wells St.

For \$2, downtown Milwaukee visitors can hop on the Jingle Bus and view the sights, lights and holiday decorations of the area. The bus departs from Plankinton Clover Apartments, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave., and runs 6 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays.

"It's definitely a family tradition for many," Erica Chang, marketing and events coordinator at Milwaukee Downtown Business Improvement District No. 21, said of the Holiday Lights Festival.

A moving display

The spectacularly lit Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will make its way through southeastern Wisconsin beginning Dec. 6.

Milwaukee musician Willy Porter and Canadian rock band The Trews will be

on board to perform for crowds at each stop. At each train stop, local food banks will collect donations.

The area schedule:

Dec. 6

■ 7:20 p.m. — Sturtevant

Amtrak Depot

■ 8:35 p.m. — Milwaukee

Amtrak Depot

Dec. 7

■ 4:15 p.m. — Wauwatosa at the Hardwood Avenue crossing

■ 5:45 p.m. — Hartland at the Cottonwood Avenue crossing

■ 6:55 p.m. — Oconomowoc at Silver Lake Street

■ 7:55 p.m. — Watertown at Brandt-Quirk Park

It arrives at 9:05 p.m. at the Columbus Amtrak depot.

The holiday train began running in 1999. Since then, Canadian Pacific has collected more than \$14 million in donations and over 4 million pounds of food for those in need during the holiday season.

Visit www.cpr.ca/holiday-train/unitedstates for more on the train.

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Buyer beware

Tips to avoid online scams this holiday season

By Ashley Haynes
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WAUKESHA — It's the season of giving. A large portion of Americans are thinking of how they'll give back to their friends and family, which means there are also people looking to take advantage of their good intentions. As more and more holiday shopping is done online, older adults may have a difficult time spotting scams on the internet.

Waukesha Police Department Detective Eileen Micklitz says there are a few simple tips that can help prevent a scammer from ruining your holiday season.

"The biggest online scams we see lately, which just seem to be rampant, is the pop-up computer virus scam," Micklitz said.

She explained the scam involves a box popping up on your computer that tells you it's been infected with a virus. The box then tells you to call a 1-800 number to solve the issue and if you do call the number, it allows people access to your computer who can do harm. Micklitz says you should never call a 1-800 number if you get such a message, but take it to a reputable store like Best Buy to diagnose the issue.

"I had a guy who had the pop-up virus show up on his computer six months ago and so he paid \$900 to allow someone to have access to his computer," said Micklitz. "Six months later, he got a call, supposedly from the same company, saying, 'We want to return your money, but you have to do this, this and this.' And \$14,500 later, this guy is out that amount of money."

Micklitz encouraged online shoppers to make sure they go to a reputable website and only provide credit card information over a secure connection, often noted by an "https" address in which the "s" means secure. Also look for a lock symbol near a

Web address. She also cautioned against the holiday gift exchanges that are common on Facebook around this time of year, but says she hasn't seen any complaints on them so far.

Advertisements on Facebook that offer flash deals on items at a significantly reduced price should serve as a red flag for users.

Online safety tips

The Better Business Bureau warns that since brick and mortar stores have been outfitted with chip card readers, scammers have shifted their efforts online.

Look-alike websites with Web addresses that use the names of well-known brands are a common problem. Keep an eye out for addresses that may include extra, unrelated words.

The BBB says fake shipping notifications can also pop up in your email that have attachments to links or sites that will download malware to your computer, allowing scammers to access personal information.

If you haven't purchased an item online, do not open a shipping notification for it.

Some common schemes this time of year also include social media gift exchanges, commonly circulated on Facebook.

They may sound like a good deal as you only buy and send out one gift and are promised 36 in return, but the BBB says these exchanges are just pyramid schemes — and illegal.

Overall, the BBB warns that shoppers should be wary of deals that sound too good to be true.

If you aren't feeling confident about your Internet literacy skills, your local library may be the place to brush up on your knowledge. Several Waukesha County libraries offer tech-related classes and even allow for one-on-one appointments with a librarian.



Cara Spoto/Freeman Staff

Ring in the Season

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD — Volunteers and employees for The Salvation Army of Waukesha County kicked off the charity's 2018 Red Kettle Campaign on Nov. 9 at The Corners of Brookfield. The charity's brass band performed as part of the event and staff and volunteers spoke briefly about what working and volunteering for the organization means to them. From left: Josh Pham, the nonprofit's grant writer; Major Nelson De La Vergne; Brookfield Town Chairman Keith Henderson; Judy Mudlitz, chairwoman of the Salvation Army's Advisory Board; Waukesha Community Foundation President Shelli Marquardt; and bell ringers Frank Steffel and Alan Gaudynski.

Insight Life Learning Institute to teach 'strategic languages'

Hope Street site also will be immersion school, offer weekend classes

By Ashley Haynes
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BROOKFIELD — Insight Life Learning Institute, Inc. aims to be a nonprofit offering educational opportunities that promote diversity and inclusion in the community. Emad Abu Tabanjeh applied to open the first Insight Life Learning location in Brookfield at the site of the former Brookside Elementary School, 13780 Hope St.

His application for a conditional use permit was approved by the Common Council recently.

As a resident of the city, Abu Tabanjeh says Brookfield's values matched closely with the goals set by Insight. That's part of the reason the Hope Street

site was identified.

"The building did not need a lot of work or renovation. The second thing is the main focus of Brookfield in education. We have the Elmbrook School District and we'll try to collaborate with them," said Abu Tabanjeh.

There are several offerings that Insight wants to bring to the community, including a language learning program, weekend community lectures and an immersion school.

Abu Tabanjeh explained that there are similar immersion schools in Milwaukee that give students the chance to learn more common languages. At Insight, the immersion school will offer "strategic language" classes that have been identified by the State Department. Lesser-

known languages like Russian, Chinese and Arabic will be offered. These "critical languages" have been identified by the State Department as being "essential to America's positive engagement in the world," according to the department's website. They are not taught commonly in the U.S.

"This (Insight) is a brand new organization and we're trying to be more inclusive than anything else," said Abu Tabanjeh.

He says the immersion school will be a way for the nonprofit to test the waters and gauge how many community members are interested in learning these languages, starting off with younger students in elementary grade levels.

Insight also has plans to provide diversity training to the community and support individuals with special needs through educational and sports programming.



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The importance of recycling the right way

County striving to reduce unacceptable items put in bins

By Cara Spoto
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WAUKESHA — When communities across the state and country started recycling programs decades ago, the goal was simple — to keep recyclable materials out of landfills.

Thirty-odd years later with the embrace of single-stream processing, recycling has become a nearly effortless task for consumers, but a highly sophisticated one for recyclers.

Although Waukesha County and its recycling partners at the city of Milwaukee have managed to weather the downturn in the global recycling market — mainly thanks to a healthy stock of domestic buyers — efforts are afoot to help residents reduce the amount of non-recyclable materials they put in recycling bins every other week.

The hope is to help reduce the costs associated with rerouting such materials to the landfill, and avoid damage to expensive sorting machinery.

‘Wish-cycling’

One of the main things recycling officials track at the Waukesha County/City of Milwaukee Materials Recovery Facility, or MRF, is something called the residue rate — the percentage of materials the facility receives that cannot be recycled. Those materials can include everything from items that one might assume could be recycled, like paper plates and plastic utensils, to things like car parts and hoses.

If everybody put only acceptable recyclables in their recycling bins, the

What not to recycle

The current recycling guide put out by Waukesha County lists about 30 things that are considered unacceptable, and thus can't recycled at the recycling plant. While many of the items, such as food waste, diapers, and car parts, are things you probably know to throw away, the list mentions several items that you may unwittingly be putting in your recycling bin.

- Those unrecyclable items include:
- Ceramic dishes or mugs
 - Drinking glasses
 - Styrofoam packaging, cups, containers and trays
 - Hangers
 - Light bulbs
 - Loose caps and lids
 - Mirrors
 - Paper plates and cups
 - Plastic “take-out” knives, forks, spoons
 - Window glass
 - Plastic bags

recycling plant's residue rate would be zero, said Kelly Mehring, a recycling specialist with Waukesha County. But according to the latest figures from Waukesha County, the current rate stands at just under 15 percent.

Much of the residue rate can be attributed to a phenomenon that the recycling industry refers to as “wish-cycling,” Mehring said.

“Residents love to recycle, so they think if they throw it in their bin maybe it will get through the system somehow or maybe we can (recycle it),” but what really happens is that it just ends up in the trash after all, she said.

New guide coming

While everybody means well, Mehring says it would be better for everyone involved if residents operated under the motto: “When it doubt, throw it out.”

That's because every time someone puts a ceramic dish or pile of plastic bags in the recycling bin, it just ends up turning into an extra cost.

“Plastic bags wrap up in rotating discs that we have at the facility and that takes a lot of staff time for employees to go in there and cut them out,” Mehring said.

Next year the recycling

officials plan to issue a new recycling guide that they hope will provide more clarity on just what items are and “are not” accepted at the recycling plant, and why.

Surviving the down market

While they're working to reduce the number of non-recyclable items they have to deal with at the recycling plant, recycling officials here and in Milwaukee County are still finding they have buyers for all of the recyclables baled at the plant, Mehring said.

The agreement the partners have with Republic Services — the recycling contractor that operates the plant — states that 98.5 percent of recyclables delivered to the facility must actually be recycled into new materials.

And although the downturn in the market may be affecting prices, Mehring said a lack of demand from China isn't having a huge effect on the county.

“All of our buyers, for the most part, are in the United States. For example, a lot of our paper goes up to Green Bay, and a lot of our steel stays within the Milwaukee area. Our aluminum is definitely staying in the United States,” she said. “We haven't been sending things out of the country.”



Submitted photo

Subzero science

BROOKFIELD — Brookfield Academy sixth-grade students explored the physical properties of dry ice and learned that it is made up of carbon dioxide. Rachel Simmons, left, and Katherine Bullio placed their dry ice in water and collected the carbon dioxide in a laboratory glove.

Brookfield Academy's middle-school Science Club allows students who love science to expand their knowledge through hands-on activities and experiments.

When aging parents need help

What to watch for; how to discuss it with moms and dads

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — The holidays are approaching, a time when some adult children may notice signs their parents need some assistance.

“What happens over the holidays, a lot of times families gather and you begin to notice things in the fridge that are way outdated. Or you'll notice things walking through the house. Signs begin to indicate to you as you are there with your loved ones that there's maybe a slow decline,” said Kristie Minnickel, a senior living consultant with Three Pillars Senior Living Communities in Dousman.

As more families today live spread across a larger geographic region, adult children may not be witness to a parent's need for extra help on a regular basis.

“It's been my experience that people don't stay in one community. They're spread out across the country and they have different dynamics,” Minnickel said.

Bryan Polinske, chief operating officer at Shorehaven in Oconomowoc, agreed.

“A day or two after Thanksgiving, we'll get an influx of phone calls,” he said, noting that family members from farther away may notice changes more quickly than those who are there every day.

Shorehaven is a nonprofit corporation that provides homes and resources for seniors.

Minnickel, who focuses on independent living options, has been at Three Pillars for eight years.

She said some families will decide to seek out assisted living accommodations following a specific incident, like a fall, or as because of the cumulative result of smaller trends.

Broaching a delicate subject

How should one broach the subject of helping a family member get more in-home assistance or in coordinating a possible move?

Minnickel and Polinske offered the following

suggestions:

Ask questions. Avoid taking an accusatory tone, and ask if more help is needed.

“Say, ‘Mom, do you need help cleaning the fridge?’ Or, ‘Are the chores getting more difficult?’” Minnickel said. She recommends the adult child can point to ways they seek extra help around their own home — like using a cleaning service — to help fuel the conversation.

Ask how parents are feeling and whether any new health concerns have arisen.

Polinske recommends having a plan for the conversation before broaching the subject, and advises being respectful in all communications. He also advises having the family member with the most influence with the parents take the role of point person in such conversations.

Talk with other family members, friends, and neighbors to see if they have noticed similar things, like a change in behavior or difficulties around the home.

“Try to get as much information as possible,” said Minnickel, who suggested offering to accompany a parent to the doctor or asking whether you can speak with the doctor about your parent's needs.

Polinske added that a trusted person, like a pastor or financial adviser, may also be a good resource.

Seek education

If possible, Minnickel recommends checking in with the parent's power of attorney or power of health care attorney for more information.

For those who are themselves in that role, she said seeking general medical advice can help.

The Aging Disability Resource Center, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, offers resources on the state level. Minnickel said the centers can help provide assessments or connect families with social workers who can help answer questions.

And the Senior Resource Directory, located at seniorresourceonline.com, offers a healthy list of

contacts and services, Polinske said.

Many hospitals offer free senior evaluations and assessments, Minnickel said.

She said such assessments can provide a baseline to work from.

“You can say, ‘I am worried about you. I live so far away. To give me peace of mind, would you have an evaluation?’” Minnickel said.

Sometimes, she noted, things are not what they initially seem. Memory loss doesn't necessarily mean a person has Alzheimer's; a change in behavior can be the result of something like an infection, Minnickel said.

Face the difficulty

Role changes, Minnickel said, can be “dreadful.”

“To go from being a son or daughter to a caregiver is not a role that anybody cherishes,” she said.

Minnickel said she has seen both parents and children feel reluctant about this shift. She encourages them to focus on results — if the older generation can get the help they need, the change can be a gentler one.

“What I tell families is, ‘I'd like to give you back the relationship that you had. You're going to spend time with your folks, as a child,’” she said.

Polinske advocated honesty, but also recommended having such conversations outside of scheduled festivities.

“Try not to do this when there's a party going on or there's a lot of activity,” he said.

There are various types of senior living arrangements, but Minnickel said many offer benefits like increased socialization, access to transportation, a sense of community, and relief from needing to maintain a home or yard.

She recommends accompanying a parent to locations they are considering for lunch or coffee, to get a feel for the place and to help with transitions.

“The number one comment I hear, more than anything, whether it's six weeks after moving in or six months, is, ‘I only wish I had done this sooner,’” Minnickel said.

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Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?

Grandfather’s ice skates carry priceless memories



BARBARA EASH
Antiques Appraised

Q.: These sleigh bells are a treasure that my ancestors brought to the U.S. in 1875. The pair would be carefully wrapped and only brought out for Christmas holidays. They are now in the possession of the great-grandson and will continue to be passed forward. What would the value be on a set like this?
— *Carl, Walworth*

A.: The original purpose of sleigh bells is not always as romantic as Victorian images portray. Horse hooves and sleigh runners are quiet on soft snow and unable to stop quickly. Different qualities of bells became an early warning system preventing collisions by alerting approaching sleighs, carriages and riders. The ringing could be heard up to a mile away, making it safer, especially on foggy or moonless nights.

Most 18-inch-high bell chimes were sold in pairs producing harmoniously graduated tones. They would be positioned on the back of horses over the front shoulders and secured tightly to the harness. The nickel-plated brass set with open-wing eagles were a favorite icon during the late 19th century. This set is of excellent quality and nearly mint condition.

Although priceless for your family, the fair market value for this pair of globe bells is **\$1,100**.

strapped to a wooden platform that had been attached to an iron blade. Extremely difficult to control, skaters actually did more gliding then skating. With the networks of canals, ponds, channels and lakes, enthusiasts waited every winter for freezing temperatures. Often these frozen waterways were also used to reach a personal destination. Ice skating became a national pastime and all levels of society thoroughly enjoyed and treated it as a social event. Leather strapping on these early skates proved inadequate and added to hazardous falls.

Vintage examples like yours are used for decorative purposes.

Value: \$40

Pressed glass candy container

Q.: I bought this candy container at an estate sale several years ago. Can you tell me its current value?
— *M.A., Brookfield*

A.: Between 1942 and 1945 using metal to manufacture toys was completely banned; all metal was being used for the war effort. Children’s toys have always reflected society and a war slant was even given to toy production.

Several manufacturers in Jeannette, Pa., implemented a marketing technique using molded pressed glass. A variety of sturdy candy containers were shaped like Santa but also included

trains, animals, people, military tanks, etc. Entry to reach the candy would have been through a removable cardboard bottom. This packaging lived on through hours of imaginative play and lasted much longer than the candy.

Your 4-inch combat vehicle retains some ruby flash paint, and the soldier and gun turret are not broken or chipped.

Estimated value: \$55

NOTE: In the 1970s, many pressed glass candy containers were reproduced and worth only a few dollars.

Submit an item for consideration

Do you have an item or collection of items that could be shared in a future newspaper column? Let Barbara Eash hear about it!

To have your item or collection considered send the following information: up to three, sharp, well-lit photos of front & back of the item(s), measurements as well as any history or hearsay, length of ownership and your full name, address and daytime phone number. Mail: Waukesha Antique Shop, ATTN Barbara Eash, 1427 E. Racine, Ave. Unit E-2, Waukesha, WI 53186 or email: beappraisals@gmail.com. If your item(s) are considered for a future column, we will contact you. No photos can be returned and no purchase of items will occur.

(Barbara Eash is a member of the Certified Appraisers Guild of America, specializing in appraisals of antiques and collectibles and has extensive experience writing and speaking about antiques.)



Grandfather’s original Dutch ice skates

Q.: This original pair of Dutch ice skates was used by my grandfather. Could you give me a value?
— *J.H.B., Brookfield*

A.: Very early the Dutch were known for sport skating. Boots or shoes were



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Looking forward: Farrow shares goals for Waukesha County

By Cara Spoto
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WAUKESHA — When Paul Farrow became Waukesha County executive four years ago he was a state senator about to become the chief executive officer of a organization with 1,300 employees.

On his election night in April 2015, he said wanted to see county government partner with business.

Today, as the 54-year-old City of Pewaukee resident looks toward a run for another four-year term, he remains focused on boosting economic growth in the county.

Farrow recently sat down with The Freeman to talk about his goals toward that end, including the need to create more housing for young professionals, and the way Waukesha County can benefit from the Foxconn project.

THE FREEMAN: You recently announced your plans to run for re-election this April. Should voters elect you to a second term?

What are some of your goals for the next four years?

FARROW: One of the main things I am going to be working on is the economy, and one of the biggest issues we are facing, along with everybody else, is a need for more workers.

There is kind of two aspects to that. One is that was we have companies that are expanding and growing. There's Milwaukee Tool, and you're already seeing companies grow from their partnerships with Foxconn.

We need to provide workers who live close to job sites, and part of that is looking how (we provide more housing) in Waukesha County. A big focus for us is going to be providing that 1,600- to 1,800-square-foot home for young professionals. How do we make it at a price point that they can afford?

Another key we are going to be looking at is how do we provide transportation to individuals who don't live in the county, but want to work here. We need to create a process that is affordable for them, but is also affordable

for government and make sure that it is funded properly. We have been in discussions, trying to work through ideas, and looking to see if there are efforts other places are using where they are partnering with Uber or Lyft.

THE FREEMAN: You've talked about the need for more housing to accommodate workers, what is the county doing to fill that need?

FARROW: When we talk about young professionals, we're talking about individuals each making possibly \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year, or a combined income of anywhere between \$100,000 to \$150,000. They are looking for houses around \$250,000. Those houses are typically on the market in this area for less than 30 days, anecdotally they can be on the market for less than a week.

Early next year we hope to begin convening a group of individuals to start talking about what it would take to produce a home around \$250,000. We are going to have builders, developers



County Executive Paul Farrow says finding workers for available jobs, as well as ways to connect them to those jobs, are priorities for the region in the months ahead.

and municipalities, and other entities really look at how we can do that. Are we going to be looking at higher density, smaller lot sizes? The county can't decree: "This is what we are going to do." But we can engage the 37 municipalities here.

THE FREEMAN: Are there any plans for working toward lower-income housing for workers who may

just be starting out?

FARROW: When we talk about the four stages of houses, the first stage is the apartment. Having an apartment that is affordable across different sectors. I think you have seen in different communities that they are able to provide apartments where some might be subsidized and others not, but you really can't see the difference. And that's what we have to continue work toward, having apartments, second-stage homes (for young professionals); third-stage or destination homes of 2,000 to 4,000 square feet for people who are settling down and raising their families; and stage-four homes, the condos and apartments for empty nesters looking to downsize.

THE FREEMAN: When we look at the economic impact of Foxconn on Waukesha County, what are some ideas for connecting Waukesha workers to those jobs?

FARROW: We have met with Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave and

we are working with him to see if there are some transportation alternatives that we can look at. Is it a ride-share system? A bus that takes a different route (to avoid some of the traffic on Interstate 94)? Could we look at going south through Waukesha County, into Walworth County, and then over to Racine County?

With Foxconn, you are already hearing about a half dozen different organizations that are looking at housing within walking distance of the plant. But when you look at the white-collar level workers they are possibly going to want to live further out.

If you look at Mukwonago right now to the Foxconn facility, that's only about 40 minutes.

We are already seeing that about a third of the supply chain companies are going to be local companies that already exist. And we are already hearing anecdotally about dozens of companies in Waukesha County that have been contacted about being part of the supply chain.

Dealing with split households during the holidays

How divorced, separated families can ease stress on children

By Alex Nemec
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OCONOMOWOC — The holidays can be a difficult time for everyone. Between making meals, buying gifts, traveling and planning it all, they can be quite stressful.

It can be even more stressful for children with divorced or separated parents who have a hard time putting their feelings aside to care for the child first.

Each parent obviously wants to see the child on the holidays because the parents love them, which is where the problem often stems from.

Psychologist Amy Schley, known by all of her clients as "Dr. Amy," said if there is a positive therapist around, they can tell the child why their parents are arguing.

"This is an argument out of love," Schley said. "So we tell the child 'See, they both want to be with you

and it's because they love you so much.'"

On Purpose Psyche Counselor Kelly Rooney said she thinks holidays can bring out the best and worst in people and humans naturally put a lot of stress into them.

"If mom and dad are fighting or both of them are sad, kids can pick up on that," Rooney said. "It could lead to the kids not enjoying the holidays."

Rooney added when the mother and father begin fighting, it often leads to each of them overcompensating the child and the holidays turning into a bidding war for the child's

love.

"They use their children as pawns to get back at each other," Rooney said. "Then they create these expectations for the children that every year mom and dad are going to up themselves from the next year and it becomes a competition."

"That isn't what the holidays are about and it takes away or shifts from the moral values of the holidays like spending quality time with family."

Children bond with others through talking about their holidays and Santa Claus, Rooney said, and if they have negative feelings

with the holidays it can inhibit them socially.

"The kid could start brushing it off and dismissing Christmas, rather than showing legitimate excitement and joy from their gifts," Rooney said.

Schley said she has a rule that parents aren't allowed to make disparaging remarks in front of their kids.

"It's really hard for the child because the child loves both parties and they're really torn that way," she said.

Parents need to communicate during the holidays, Schley said.

"They need to talk to one

another about things like the Christmas list so the list doesn't get duplicated," she said. "If there is an agreement of fewer video games, the child shouldn't get 40 games at one house. That's an important time, to sit down and talk about the gift list."

Schley said the mom and dad should be genuinely happy their kids are spending time with family, even if it isn't their own.

"It is a busy time of year, but the parents have to remember the child is the most important thing they have ever done together and should always come first," she said.

Spend smart during holidays so debt doesn't haunt you in 2019

Create a budget and use cash to purchase items

By Katherine Michalets
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WAUKESHA — An enjoyable holiday season is often associated with the spending of money — on perfectly selected gifts, delicious meals, the ideal Christmas tree and ornaments, cute little Secret Santa gifts at work and generous charitable donations. But while this spending can result in immediate gratification, the debt can last well into the new year if a careful budget wasn't crafted and followed.

The atmosphere alone inspires spending, said Deanne Phillips, CFP, director of client learning at Annex Wealth Management — from Christmas music to the lively shopping atmosphere.

"A lot of time people will get into the holiday spirit and it will become an 'I deserve it mood,'" she said.

That can lead to paying back Christmas-related credit card debt four to five months into the new year.

She recommends thinking about how to spend money and cautions against shopping too early for gifts because that often results in

spending even more money.

"If someone is trying to go for the feel-good right now, it leads to not feel so good for four to five months after the holidays," Phillips said.

Ways to avoid overspending are to keep a tally, pay only with cash and put money aside throughout the year for Christmas and holiday shopping.

Budgeting

Valerie Richter, Financial Peace University Ministry lead at Elmbrook Church, also stressed the importance of a budget that not only takes into account the obvious holiday expenses such as gifts and charitable giving, but also the extra food needed to feed college students home for winter break, gas money to drive to grandma's and the additional utility expenses.

Richter recommends creating a zero-based budget, which can be made for free at everydollar.com, which is affiliated with Dave Ramsey, the creator of Financial Peace University.

She said it helps to "tell every dollar where to go instead of wondering where it went."

Holiday spending based on what people can actually afford without using a credit card is key.

And to do that, Richter said, you really need to consider all of the holiday-related expenses, such as if you go to a show with friends, that probably means dinner first. Or the money needed for wrapping gifts and baking cookies.

"What I would recommend is to have a plan and in that plan you need to have a budget. A budget is not meant to limit you, it's meant to help you control your spending," Richter said.

Planning for holiday spending shouldn't start at Thanksgiving, but should be incorporated into year-round budgeting, Phillips said.

She recommends using cash for purchases and having a certain amount set aside so when it's gone, the gift buying is done.

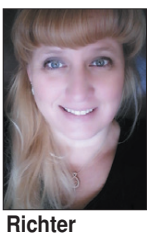
Shopping decisions

Phillips said if "somebody really has the discipline to go online and shop than know that I am going to get my husband X, then target-shop it online. Be a wise consumer and then stop."

Richter on the other hand highly recommends online



Phillips



Richter

shopping because the buyer can get free shipping and the item delivered right to their door. She does say having an ID protection plan is essential.

Gift alternatives Richter said should be considered are coupons, such as for cleaning a mother's home that includes some one-on-one socialization or a Red-box movie night. Richter also said to look for ways to get rebates on Christmas gifts that can be saved and used for future birthday gifts.

Phillips also suggests considering outside the gift box thinking by getting the family involved in the planning. Perhaps instead of several individual gifts, the family members receive stocking stuffers and then there is one large gift of a future family vacation.

Also be aware of how you shop, Phillips said, and she advised against shopping just to shop.

"Women are more opportunistic than men and will

Responsible holiday spending tips

- Remember a gift is from the heart, not the wallet — so you don't have to set a dollar amount that is the same for every recipient to feel that you are treating them "equally."
- Retail therapy. It's real. So it's easy to get into the feeling of the season, and shop as therapy instead of with a purpose. When we do that, it is much easier to overspend. However, that fleeting happiness can lead to 4-5 months of agony after the holidays when it is time to pay off the bills.
- Use cash if you are concerned about overspending. Take that only when you shop and don't take a credit card at all.
- Set an amount that indicates a psychological spending threshold for you (for example \$100), and if you are about to spend over that on a gift, wait 24 hours first to make sure your decision is the right one for you.
- Go in on family gifts — from your family to your in-laws for example, instead of individual gifts. Perhaps they would love that outdoor fire pit and be able to enjoy it as a family. This can potentially save both time and money, and even be more meaningful.
- If there are small children in the family, make it about them and their gifts. Then give the rest of the family stocking stuffers that are meaningful.

Source: Deanne Phillips, Annex Wealth Management

walk around a whole mall where a man will go for two minutes and be done," she said. "Be a hunter and not an over-gatherer and not overspend."

Some ways to cut back on expenses are to shop at discount stores, pick a name for the gift exchange and have everyone bring a dish for the holiday meal. Richter also suggested keeping a can of coins in the car so every

time you are asked for a charitable donation, you can dip into that money.

But ultimately, she said, it should be decided ahead of time how much is allocated for charitable giving.

While Ramsey's Financial Peace University plan calls for having \$1,000 in an emergency savings account, Richter said Christmas spending is not an emergency.

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