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# Brookfield & Elm Grove

JULY 2021

# Housing crunch not going away anytime soon

But new builds, approaches to development could provide some relief

By Cara Spoto cspoto@conleynet.com 262-513-2653

WAUKESHA COUNTY -If there is one thing everyone in the greater Milwaukee area has talked about this year, it's the almost crazed state of the local housing market.

Stories of homes selling within a day or two of being listed and skyrocketing offers have left many wouldbe first-time buyers wondering if their dreams of home ownership might ever materialize.

For those wondering when there might be some relief, the simple answer is: Not anytime soon.

development, and a little flexibility on the part of homebuyers, could provide some relief in the months and years to come.

#### Sales up, supply down

Speaking about the phenomenon, Mike Ruzicka, president of the Greater Milwaukee Association of Real-(GMAR), said the impacts of the low-supply, high-demand market are expected to continue for at least another 12 to 18 months.

recently

released by GMAR shows that home sales across southeastern Wisconsin area that includes Waukesha, Racine, Ozaukee, Kenosha, Walworth, and Washington counties

were up by 26.6 percent in May, Ruzicka notes that the number homes sold during the month is still 5 percent below where sales were in May 2019. In Waukesha County, sales only increased by about 9 percent. And in Washington County, they were down by 7.5 percent.

The problem, said Ruzicka, continues to be the overwhelming lack of singlefamily homes on the market.

"Right now inventory is at 2.6 months of supply. It's But new approaches to actually under a month if you exclude all the houses on MLS (the multiple listing service) that are active with an offer," Ruzicka said.

'We're kind of seeing a little bit of cooling now (as far as the bidding goes). But it's going from 10 offers on a property that was listed yesterday to five offers on a property that was listed last week. It's like going from a 104-degree fever to a 102degree fever. It's still a

#### What gives?



An "accepted offer" sign sits atop a Shorewest sign on Greenfield Avenue in Waukesha.

listings here, and across the boomers looking to downcountry, isn't just due to COVID-19 supply chain and labor impacts.

"The situation we are in right now is really a hangover from the Great Recession," Ruzicka explained. Many people got out of the building trades. At the same time, household formation never really stopped."

With increasing numbers of millennials entering the The reason for the lack of housing market, and baby road," he said. Demograph-

size into condos, it created the perfect storm, especially when COVID-19 hit. With no new construction happening, there was nothing to alleviate the pressure, Ruzicka said.

Both supply and demand are kind of on steroids right anced market, which would now ... if you are looking for a 20-foot view, we are looking the Milwaukee Metropolitan at (things staying the same) area for several years down the

ics aren't expected to change significantly in the coming years, he added. Neither is the shortage of people in the building trades, which has been impacting new home construction for around 25 years.

In order to reach a balbe six months of inventory, Milwaukee, Wash-

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**Brookfield East's** Irwin, Scullen win state title

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Al Pauli exits the Eisenbahn Trail after a bike ride with his wife.

# Outdoor sporting store sales still rising

## Trend began during pandemic lockdown last year

By Christina McAlister cmcalister@conleynet.com 262-717-5148

When the pandemic sent Wisconsin into a lockdown last year, residents went outside in record numbers and outdoor sporting stores were left with empty shelves.

the summer of 2021 as outdoor sporting store sales are selling out their products fast. In fact, Kevin Schultz, owner of Mountain Outfitters in West Bend, said there is only a limited supply of outdoor sporting goods at his store.

"The ability to replenish and restock our products has all been messed up because of COVID," Schultz said.

Schultz added that customers should be open to any products that are available in sporting stores right now because the demand is far outweighing the supply. Despite the difficulty in maintaining supply, Schultz said business has still been very good and sales are keeping up from the spike in 2020.

Nate Scherper, president and owner of Sherper's, said his stores experienced a similar supply and demand problem.

"Our business and sales have been the same as last year's, it really hasn't died down," Scherper said. "But getting inventory has been tough this year as compared to 2020 when we had a lot of supply.'

Scherper said the new customers his stores saw last year are coming back This trend continues into and bringing even more business with them. He added that this trend of people wanting to get outside has definitely contin-

"We love to see people turning this bad situation with COVID into something positive for small, local businesses," Scherper said.

Data from the Department of Natural Resources found that fishing license sales jumped 13% between March 2020 and January 2021, reaching a five-year high of 1.4 million, including some 93,414 first-time licenses, which is more than double the number sold in 2019.

Extreme Tackle in West Bend was one of many fishing stores in the area that received a significant increase in new customers because of these fishing license sales records.

'This past year has surpassed anything we've ever experienced before,"



Submitted photo

Amy Scherper kayaking with her dog.

Extreme Tackle owner Steve Wiedmeyer said. "We even had to cut our vacations short because our online store was going crazy."

The same report also noted large increases in sporting goods sales. Wiedmeyer added that it was because of these increases that many stores were out of stock, which meant better business for him.

"I had extra supplies in 2020, but now my summer supply is all backed up,' Wiedmeyer said.

With outdoor sporting stores experiencing similar sale highs, it is safe to say their shelves may be emptying out once again.

# Housing From Page 1A

ington, Waukesha and Ozaukee counties needs 6,000 additional listings, Ruzicka wrote in a May homes sales report. In Waukesha County, for instance, new home listings actually decreased in May by about 6 percent.

#### New builds

As real estate agents and homebuyers bemoan the lack of available listings, homebuilders and developers have been getting back to work. In Waukesha County, there are several subdivision projects in the works, some designed to help fill the region's need for entry-level homes.

John Wahlen of Cornerstone Development has been working on a pair of developments in Waukesha County that include newly built homes and condominiums on smaller lots that could offer price tags more in line with the budgets of younger families or retirees.

In Pewaukee, Cornerstone is in the process of developing The Glen at Pewaukee Lake. Slated to be constructed on the buildable portions of the roughly 14-acre St. Mary's Church property, the development will include 46 ranch-style, single-family homes.

Wahlen has estimated that home and lot packages in the development would be somewhere around \$450,000.

Over in Waukesha, Cornerstone is looking to develop The Glen at Standing Stone. Located off the northwest corner of the Sunset Drive and Les Paul Parkway, the 69.7-acre development is slated to have 64 double-duplex condominium homes, 28 large-lot single-family homes, and 16 smaller-lot single-family homes. The larger-lot homes are expected to accommodate houses between 1,600 and 2,600 square feet; the smaller lots, homes between 1,400 and 1,800 square feet. Home and lot packages for the smaller-lot homes are expected to be around \$410,000, with construction starting sometime this summer.

"What we wanted to do is provide a variety of housing styles to try to help people get into home ownership, and still hit price points,' Wahlen said of the development.

#### Material prices

With some of the owner-occupied condos he's been developing, Wahlen said he had been hoping to hit price points in the high \$300,000s. But with the rise in material costs, especially lumber, that just wasn't possible.

In April 2020 1,000 board feet of lumber had an average price of \$336. In May of this year, the price was roughly \$1,700.

And while lumber prices are forecasted to drop to around \$1,200/1,000 board feet by April 2022, there are other impacts in building costs, including higher prices for PVC pipe and steel garage doors.

#### 'Hurry up and wait'

For those still in the trenches, reading new home listings with baited breath and perhaps even a little exhaustion, Ruzicka encourages a bit of flexibility. Being willing to expand the area you want to live, and/or purchase a fixerupper, are just a couple of options.

'A fixer-upper will require sweat equity to get the property to what your standards are, but a lot of people with houses that need new paint or siding might be willing to let them go for less, so they don't have to make the updates themselves," Ruzicka said.

While homes are expected to mostly hold their value, at least over the next 10 years, Ruzicka warns against desperate homebuyers taking risks that are too great. While offering a few percentage points over the asking prices is fine, an offer of 10 or 20 percent above asking is foolhardy, he said. He also cautions against waiving home inspections and appraisals.

"People need to be really careful with that sort of stuff," he said.

The best advice Ruzicka can give buyers in this market, he said, is the old adage: "Hurry up and wait."

'You really need to be patient in this market, and take your time, and be able to jump on something as soon as you see it," he said.

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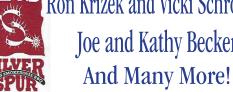
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# Brookfield bar to hold 10-day music festival

## Will feature live music during traditional Summerfest dates

By Derek Johnson Special to The Freeman

BROOKFIELD-Summerfest may have been pushed back to September, but the community can still enjoy 10 straight days of live music this summer during the Saloon on Calhoun with Bacon's "Saloonfest" until July 3.

The festival, which starts at about 5 p.m. on weekdays and noon on weekends at 17000 W. Capitol Drive, will feature at

from a variety of genres that will play both inside and outside.

Dave Dayler, the owner of the roughly 6,000-square-foot Dayler said. "They want to bar, said there will be something for everyone to enjoy during the 10-day musical celebration, from rock classics to heavy metal.

ed to hold the event during

least four bands each day are to see live music after tions like a medical tent and over a year of pandemic restrictions and cancelled shows

"People are hungry," get outside. They don't want to wait until September."

At the festival, Dayler said that there won't be any of those pandemic-related He also said that he want- restrictions, but the bar will be providing sanitizer, and the time that Summerfest is that there will also be water traditionally held because stations as well as traditional he knows how eager people music festival accommoda-

security to ensure the event goes smoothly.

There will also be no carryins allowed, Dayler said, but the bar will be offering its full menu and drinks throughout the event. He also said that. because he expects the event to be incredibly popular, he's hired extra staff to make sure everyone has a great experience.

Anyone interested in attending needs to be at least 21 years old, and entry costs mation and to see a full line-



Submitted photo

The Spare Change Trio plays at the Saloon on Calhoun with Bacon in 2018.

\$15 on Friday and Saturday, up of the bands that will be and \$10 on Sunday through Thursday. For more infor-

playing, visit www.saloononcalhoun.com/events/saloon



### Riding for the Arts

BROOKFIELD — The second of three events in the 2021 UPAF Ride for the Arts Series took place June 13 at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts in Brookfield. It was the first time the annual ride event was held in Waukesha County. Ride participants chose their path and pace arriving at the Ride Reward Station. Above: Waukesha County Rides team participants Whitney, Stella and Delilah Ruiz pose with their bikes. Right: Kristi, Max, Tyler and Zoey Volles attend the UPAF Ride for the Arts in Brookfield.

Submitted photos





The Elm Grove location of Fresh Baked Cafe, which will be opening in early July, at 890 Elm Grove Road.

# Fresh Baked Cafe to open Elm Grove location

By Derek Johnson Special to The Freeman

ELM GROVE — Fresh Baked Cafe, a French cafe that has locations in Oconomowoc and Brookfield, will be opening a new location in Elm Grove in early

Jennifer Betances, the owner of the three cafes, said that the newest location will be opening during the week of July 7 at 890 Elm Grove Road.

She said that she decided to open the cafe because she thinks Elm Grove is a nice community that reminds her of Oconomowoc, where she opened the first cafe, and because other business owners encouraged her to open a location in the village.

Betances also said it was easy to open the new location, both because she's used to the maybe enjoy a pastry," Betances said.

process after opening the two previous cafes, and because everyone in the community has been supportive.

"Everyone has been very helpful," she

More importantly, she said that while the newest location will have the same menu of homemade pastries, sandwiches, quiches and fresh coffee as the two other locations, at 18900 W. Bluemound Road No 124 in Brookfield and 114 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Oconomowoc, the new cafe will have a large interior space.

Although the interior is still being renovated, she said that when the Elm Grove location opens, it will have places for people to work, study and even hold meetings all while enjoying fresh pastries.

'We're trying to make it like your hometown cafe, where you can sit down and

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# What a day for Brookfield East's doubles

## Irwin, Scullen win state title

By Jim Hoehn Freeman Correspondent

EAU CLAIRE — Henry Irwin and Reed Scullen saved their best for last.

Brookfield East's No. 1 doubles team avenged its only loss of the season with a 6-2. 6-1 victory over previously undefeated Sam Kredell and Nick Tiahnybik of Arrowhead to capture the doubles title at the WIAA state boys individual tennis tournament.

"Brookfield East was on fire," Arrowhead coach Russ Trimble said. "It was unbelievable how they were play-

ing.
"They are good to be begin told me with, and Henry told me that's the best match they have played all year long.

"It's tough. We came in with no losses at all, and then here you are at the very end.

you'd rather have then have a senior Arrowhead duo's only like and take that pressure off and Tiahnybik acknowla little bit.

The only blemish on Irwin ing from behind. and Scullen's 23-1 season was a narrow three-set loss to Kredell and Tiahnybik, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 10-6 on May 22. But both said they learned a lot from that setback.

"I thought the big thing for us in that last match was just our returns," Irwin said. "We played them early in the year and we couldn't return their serves. But we made adjustments, staying farther back, muehlen won in 2014 and and all of our returns were going in cross court. We were making them play low balls at their feet. We just played really, really smart tennis in that last match.'

Scullen said they played more consistently from start nament was held in 2020 due to finish in the rematch.

"We were just focused." took it one point at a time We just played really well at the end of the day."

the East tandem was the stone and Nick Fisher, 6-2, 6-3,

loss earlier to see what it's three-set match of the season edged the difference in play-

> 'Mentally, when we went down that first little break ... we've been up in our all our matches, so that's a whole different feel," Tiahnybik said. And, then where's 100 people here cheering for the other team when you're down

in the finals, it's tough." It was the third doubles title East's program history. Patrick Krill and Henry Ter-Krill and Doug Francken won in 2016.

The Spartans were runners-up to Marquette in the team tournament in both 2018 and 2019. Neither the individual or team state tourto COVID-19 To reach the final, Kredell

Scullen said. "We kind of and Tiahnybik had to get past Brookfield East's two other compared to a lot of matches doubles entrants. In their where we weren't as focused. first match Saturday, Kredell defeated Tiahnybik East's fourth-seeded No. 2 The previous meeting with doubles team of Simon John-

In the quarterfinals, the Arrowhead duo handed East's ninth-seeded No. 3 doubles team of juniors Owen Kendler and Michael Francken its first loss of the season.

Trimble said having to run the gauntlet of the three East doubles teams was challeng-

What I was worried about in the beginning was our first match against Oshkosh North wasn't that tough," Trimble said. "But it was kind of like our conference matches, too, where they aren't pushed. So now you get a little bit lazy, or you start to play down to that level, and all of a sudden it's like they're shot out of a gun and people coming at you.'

Johnstone and Fisher bounced back to defeat defeated 11th-seeded Cooper Moss and Khaled Saleh of Neenah, 7-5, 6-4 for third place.

Kendler and Francken came back to take fifth place, winning both of their matches on Saturday. The East tandem defeated Arrowhead juniors Ben Brandel and Alex Deubel, 6-2, 6-4 in the

Pictured are all of Brookfield East's medalist from the WIAA Division 1 Individual State Tennis Tournament, which finished up June 19 in Eau Claire. Juniors Michael Francken and Owen Kendler, first two on left, finished fifth place in doubles. Seniors Simon Johnstone (white shirt) and Nick Fisher (red shirt) finished third in doubles. Juniors Henry Irwin and Reed Scullen, two on right, were the Division 1 doubles state champions. In the middle, senior Christopher Knutson added a sixthplace finish in singles.

fifth-place match after edging Viste, lost in the fifth-place 12th-seeded Andrew LaBelle and Ryan LaBelle of Mukwonago, 7-5, 7-5.

Brookfield East senior Christopher Knutson, who lost in the quarterfinals to eventual runner-up Noah

match to No. 9 seed Nolan Kubiak of Neenah, 6-1, 6-4. Knutson, seeded 11th, defeated Solomon Dunsirn of Neenah, 7-6 (3),6-1 in his first consolation-round match on



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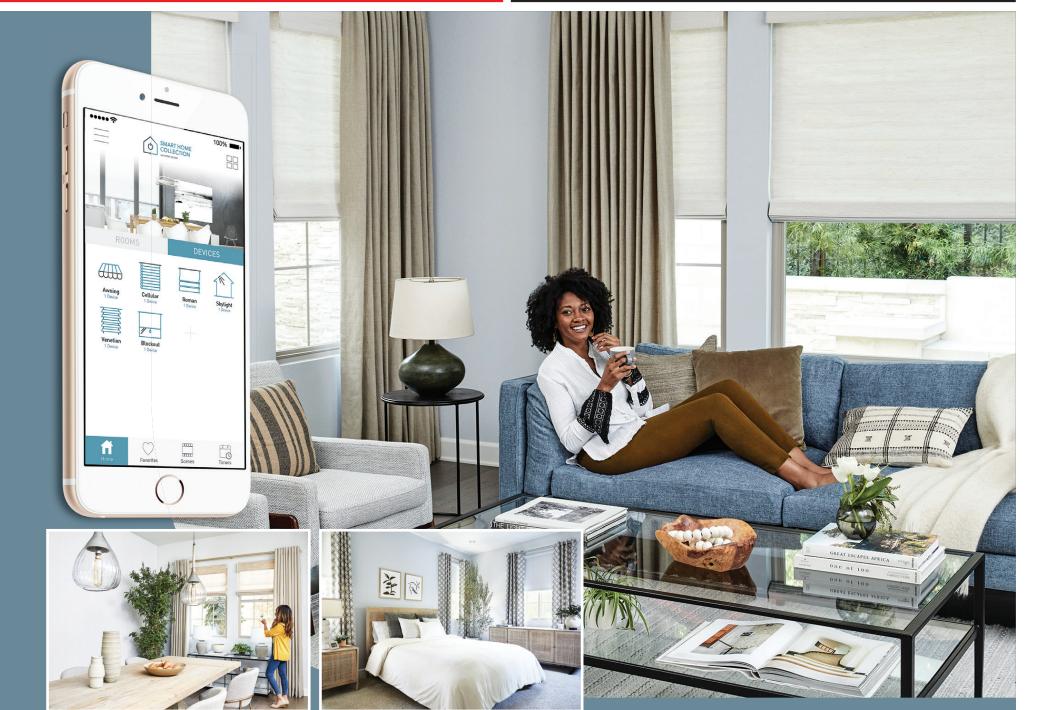


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