

# Brookfield & Elm Grove

## THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 2022

## Brookfield teenagers coordinate COVID-19 aid for rural India

More than \$17,000 raised, medical equipment donated

By Jake Ekdahl  
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BROOKFIELD — When the delta variant of COVID-19 emerged last year and was rapidly spreading throughout India, Garv and Armaan Bhasin heard their parents, both physicians, take endless calls from worried friends and relatives seeking advice.

“Our parents were up really late, even early morning,” Garv Bhasin said. He and his brother were born in the United States while both their parents are of Indian origin and grew up in New Delhi. For a time, the Bhasin family moved to India as well; they currently live in Brookfield.

Garv, 17, and Armaan, 14, decided they had to find a way of helping to mitigate the virus. They decided to target the rural Indian states of Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh due to their “very limited resources and infrastructure,” Armaan Bhasin said.

“(It’s) the Montana and the Wyoming of India, they’re very remote locations,” Garv Bhasin said.

A specific issue they sought to address was the lack of sufficient medical equipment in hospitals there, especially oxygen concentrators — with requisite masks and tubing — and pulse oximeters; both vital in treating COVID-19 patients. They also set out to get necessary medical injections and tablets to patients.

### Finding the right platform

Simply finding the appropriate platform for the fundraising effort to acquire and transport the medical gear was a task in itself.

“We looked at a lot of platforms in America,” Garv Bhasin said. But platforms like Patreon, Kickstarter



Staff at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences stand over the donated medical supplies sent by Brookfield locals Garv and Armaan Bhasin through fundraising.

and GoFundMe don’t have the levels of service to India that they needed, and often have fees. “We wanted to maximize the efficiency of our funds,” he said.

As an alternative, the Bhasin boys found Milaap, an Indian-based fundraising platform which accepts funds from all over the world. They ultimately got donations from the U.S., India, Germany and Canada and raised more than \$17,000. The initial goal was \$10,000 but it was raised a couple times after donations kept rolling in.

“We really just wanted to help these people,” Armaan Bhasin said.

Normally, Milaap would see a wire transfer in U.S. dollars take five business days because of security checks, but Garv and Armaan managed to get special permission to trim that down to two days due to the urgent nature of their project. They gave the Milaap managers a shoutout for their flexibility.

In order to make every dollar count, Garv and Armaan also got multiple quotes from different pharmacies for equipment prices and went with whoever could offer the most competitive price.

Armaan said the experience offered them a cross-section view of how things get transported and the time that requires.

One of the locations to receive the donated goods from the Bhasins’ fundraiser is the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.

India’s Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju thanked the Bhasin family on Twitter for the medical equipment donations. He said the donation totaled 10 oxygen concentrators, 50 oxygen masks with tubing, 150 pulse oximeters and hundreds of Encoxel and Parihep medication doses.

The fundraiser is still ongoing. To donate, visit <https://rb.gy/4akkoz>.



Submitted photo

Garv, left, and Armaan Bhasin. Together they helped raise more than \$17,000 to help fight COVID-19 in rural India.

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### Comfort Keepers Home Care

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# The mass trash-xodus

## Some Waukesha County municipalities end contracts with Waste Management in 2022

By Derek Johnson  
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WAUKESHA COUNTY — The end of every year brings many changes, and for some municipalities in Waukesha County, this year that change was with garbage pickup providers. At the start of 2022, Brookfield, Summit, New Berlin and the Village of Waukesha opted to end their contracts with Waste Management, the company that bought previous garbage collector Advanced Disposal in 2020. Most of these municipalities saw their contracts with Waste Management up at the end of the year. The reason for the switch varied by municipality. Dave Ament, the mayor of New Berlin, said the city terminated its ongoing contract with Waste Management after the company missed numerous garbage pickup days, did not communicate with residents and didn't address problems despite the city's concerns. "In the end, we were seeing little to no progress," Ament said. Tom Grisa, director of public works in Brook-

field, said the reason Brookfield opted to switch to a new provider at the start of the year was primarily because Waste Management's contract bid wasn't competitive for the services that the city wanted. Jack Riley, Summit village president, said this also influenced Summit's decision. He noted, though, that the village had been receiving complaints from residents about Waste Management's performance especially during the final weeks of its contract last year. "Waste Management kind of left us high and dry," Riley said. Lynn Morgan, a public affairs manager for Waste Management's upper Midwest region, said these issues were primarily caused by the ongoing labor shortage. Ament said, however, that Waste Management's issues shouldn't have become the city's concern. "In the end, that's not our problem," Ament said. And since New Berlin, Brookfield, the Village of Waukesha and Summit have transitioned to new companies, things have

become less stinky for residents. New Berlin is now in a five-year contract with John's Disposal, Summit and Brookfield both switched to Green For Life, and the Village of Waukesha is now using LRS for its garbage pickup. Representatives from all four municipalities said the newly contracted companies have been picking up all the garbage left by Waste Management with minimal delays. "Guys are working 12-hour shifts," Grisa said. Waste Management still has contracts in multiple municipalities in Waukesha County, including but not limited to Waukesha, Menomonee Falls, Pewaukee and the Town of Lisbon. Jeff Knutson, Pewaukee village president, said many of the issues they were experiencing with Waste Management more recently have been resolved. "Service has been much, much better; no issues in the last few months other than (some small sporadic issues) every once in awhile," he said. City of Waukesha Administrator Kevin Lah-



Derek Johnson/Freeman Staff  
A pile of garbage that was not picked up by Waste Management in Brookfield on Jan. 4.

ner said although the city was also previously having issues with Waste Management, things more recently have stabilized and returned close to normal, with only a few issues here and there. Waukesha's contract with Waste Management ends in 2025. To date, Waste Management has been fined more than approximately \$65,000 for service issues by the city of Waukesha — with the majority of issues occurring particularly in July, August and Septem-

ber, Lahner said. City Engineer Alex Damien said in October, November and December issues have greatly improved, although still not perfect. "Globally, this year has not been good and I think that Waste Management has recognized that and works with us to address our issues as quickly as (they can)," Lahner said. **Contributing:** Nikki Brahm, Freeman Staff

# Discover Brookfield, Corners of Brookfield to debut art festival in June

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD — Discover Brookfield and The Corners of Brookfield are announcing the town's first-ever art festival, Arts, Crafts & Drafts, debuting in partnership with Amdur Productions on Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12. The festival will high-

light around 75 local artists, makers and artisans showcasing and selling clothes, candles, home décor, jewelry, works of art and more, according to a press release. "We're thrilled to be bringing this family-friendly event to the town center this summer," said Chelsea

Roessler, director of marketing and events at The Corners of Brookfield. "We can't wait to celebrate the talents of our local makers and we encourage anyone who is interested to sign up now while booths are still available." From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 11 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

on June 12, attendees can also enjoy live music as well as food and beverage vendors, including sampling from local craft breweries. "There is so much talent in the Town of Brookfield and beyond and we can't wait to see the local artists' and makers' masterpieces.

This is sure to be a fantastic weekend with art, music and local treats," said Anna Antoine, tourism director at Discover Brookfield, the presenting sponsor of Arts, Crafts & Drafts. Registration for artists and crafters was due Feb. 1. For more information, visit: bit.ly/3qi3tgJ.

# Elmbrook Education Foundation announces second annual Thank You Thursday

BROOKFIELD — The Elmbrook Education Foundation announced the second annual Thank You Thursday, in partnership with The Corners of Brookfield, to recognize the School District of Elmbrook staff. Danielle Leitner Baxter, Elmbrook Education Foundation board member and staff appreciation chair,

said: "The EEF, in partnership with The Corners of Brookfield, is honored to recognize our extraordinary Elmbrook staff. We thank them for their kindness, passion, flexibility, and determination this year ... . This campaign is an easy but meaningful way to let the staff know they are appreciated." The EEF encourages

Elmbrook families, students, staff, alumni and community members to show their appreciation for the staff. In 2021, the EEF received almost 1,000 thank-you nominations. The public is invited from Thursday through Feb. 3 to use the Google form to nominate an outstanding staff member at <https://tinyurl.com/TYT2>

2. Each Thursday from Feb. 10 through March 17, the EEF, in partnership with The Corners of Brookfield, will randomly select 10 nominees and award them a \$25 gift card for The Corners of Brookfield. Weekly winners will be featured on The Corners of Brookfield marquees on Bluemound Road and Interstate

94. The staff member with the most nominations will win a \$250 shopping spree at The Corners of Brookfield. "The Corners is grateful to be a part of Thank You Thursday for the second year in a row," said Chelsea Roessler, director of marketing at The Corners.

# Stan's Fit For Your Feet to hold 'Share-A-Pair' drive this month

## Aims to help less fortunate in Greater Milwaukee

BROOKFIELD — Stan's Fit For Your Feet is announcing its annual "Share-A-Pair" drive will take place from Feb. 1 through Feb. 28. The public is encouraged to drop off new or gently used shoes, sneakers and boots for men, women and kids as well as new socks. According to a press release, the pandemic has been difficult the last two

years and a lot of people have been negatively impacted financially. The drive is a way for the community to spread kindness to those less fortunate in Greater Milwaukee by simply clearing out their closets. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at any of the "Share-

A-Pair" collection bins. Bins are located at Stan's in Brookfield at The Plaza at 17155 W. Bluemound Road; Stan's in Glendale across from BayShore at 505 W. Silver Spring Drive; Stan's in Greenfield in the Layton Plaza at 7405 W. Layton Avenue; New Balance Milwaukee store in Brookfield at 17155 W. Bluemound Road, Suite A; or New Balance Milwaukee in Greenfield at 7411

W. Layton Ave.; and the Vionic Store in Brookfield at The Plaza at 17155 W. Bluemound Road. This year the donated shoes, sneakers, boots and socks for men, women and kids will be distributed locally to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission/Joy House, Repairers of the Breach homeless day shelter in Milwaukee, and Father Gene's HELP Center in West Allis. The remainder of the shoes will be given to Soles4Souls, a global not-for-profit orga-

nization that distributes shoes to impoverished people in over 125 countries around the world. According to Megan Sajak, marketing director for Stan's Fit For Your Feet: "Customers will also be able to round up their in-store and online purchases to benefit these three deserving local Milwaukee charities participating in Share A Pair Shoe Drive. It's just one more way we thought we would continue to help those less fortunate in our commu-

nity." Anyone donating gently used or new shoes, sneakers or boots or new socks to the "Share-A-Pair" drive will also receive \$10 off their next regular price men's and women's shoe purchase valid through the end of February at any Stan's Fit For Your Feet or New Balance Milwaukee location. The community can also view Facebook Live events on Feb. 9, 17 and 23 at 7 p.m., and watch video profiles at [Stansfootwear.com](https://www.stansfootwear.com).



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WAUKESHA COUNTY PARK SYSTEM

# County implements automatic license plate reader system

Park entrances have full camera system enforcement this month

By Tanner Duffney  
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA – Waukesha County Park entrances will be using an automatic license plate reader system for the foreseeable future since their introduction in November, with full camera system enforcement beginning on Feb. 1.

The systems have already been installed at the entrances of Fox Brook, Fox River, Menomonee, Minooka, Mukwonago, Muskego, Naga-Waukee and Nashotah parks. The lake access sites of Nagawicka, Nemahbin, Pewaukee and School Section lakes have a camera system or mobile camera enforcement system that was recently added.

“The way the system works is that any vehicle entering will have its license plate recorded and the system automatically recognizes what is in the system and flags the plates that are unknown,” said Emily Heller, public communications coordinator for the Waukesha County Park System.

Visitors must pay the entrance fee within five days of their visit to avoid a ticket.

Heller said this project will help improve user fee management, increase park security for all and effectively use staff time and talent for other priority park operations.

“We had about an 80% compliance rate with people paying park fees before and we’re hoping this system closes that 20% gap,” said Heller. “It will also allow staff to work on other priorities such as land management.”

The Waukesha County Park System awarded Rekor



Photo courtesy of Emily Heller/Waukesha County Park System

One of the automatic license plate readers at Naga-Waukee Park.

Recognition Systems the bid for the automated license plate reader camera system project in June of 2021. The project was funded directly through the annual Park System operating budget, according to Heller.

Enforcement testing began Nov. 29. The system is completely enforced beginning Feb. 1.

2022 annual stickers, daily entrance permits and daily lake access prices have the same cost and can be purchased now at [www.waukeshacounty.gov/parkentry](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/parkentry).

Patrons may also pay in person at the Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Administration Office or at the Retzer Nature Center, but they cannot pay in person at the parks.

The correct place to put the sticker is on the lower driver’s side corner windshield. If the sticker is not in this location, it will otherwise be invalid with no exceptions.

For the two-vehicle package, the sticker can be

placed on either vehicle, but patrons should keep the back piece of the sticker as proof of purchase. Lost, stolen or misplaced stickers cannot be replaced.

If patrons are replacing their vehicles or need a new windshield installed, be sure to scrape off the current sticker and keep what remains of it. An Annual Sticker Replacement Form can be found at [replacement-sticker-application.pdf](http://replacement-sticker-application.pdf) ([waukeshacounty.gov](http://waukeshacounty.gov)).

To update accurate license plate information into the system, contact guest services Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 262-548-7801 or by emailing [parksinfo@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:parksinfo@waukeshacounty.gov).

Wisconsin’s State Park System vehicle admission stickers are not valid for Waukesha County Parks entry. For more information, visit [www.waukeshacounty.gov/currentparkprojects/](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/currentparkprojects/) #ALPR. For questions and comments, call the Waukesha County Park System at 262-548-7803.



Jake Ekdahl / Freeman Staff

People demonstrate at an anti-gerrymandering rally outside the Menomonee Falls Village Hall building on Jan. 21.

# Locals rally against gerrymandering

About 100 turn out in Menomonee Falls to call for fair maps

By Jake Ekdahl  
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262-513-2657

MENOMONEE FALLS — About 100 people turned out in Menomonee Falls outside the Village Hall Jan. 21 to urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to end the practice of gerrymandering.

The event, put together by Grassroots Germantown and Menomonee Falls Action Team, included remarks by Assembly Rep. Sara Rodriguez, D-Brookfield, who spoke on the importance of fair maps.

Rodriguez, who is also running for lieutenant governor, said she introduced fair maps legislation at the Assembly, but “it didn’t even get a hearing.” She said gerrymandered maps lead to more extreme partisanship, even as voters urge elected officials to work together.

The event had a conserva-

tive speak out against Wisconsin’s existing legislative maps as well. Voters First Wisconsin Executive Director Lena Eng, a self-proclaimed conservative from New Berlin, likened gerrymandering to the then-upcoming Packers-49ers football game — if the Packers made the 49ers end zone “half as deep and wide” as their own to make it easier for one team to score than the other.

“Regardless of our political leanings we all want fair and free elections,” Eng said. “(We) must start with maps that are not rigged to favor either political party.”

Rallygoers signed a pledge to support candidates who are in favor of nonpartisan redistricting. They also held signs calling for fair maps and an end to gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering is a practice of drawing district boundaries to favor one party despite overall voter

preference. Wisconsin and other states, such as Illinois, have been found to have made use of gerrymandering to heavily advantage one political party over another. Republicans in the former case and Democrats in the latter.

“I think the biggest statement we would like to make is that democracy depends on citizens being active and upholding democracy, and we currently do not have citizens acting in their own interest,” said Vicki Aroschackmuth, chair of WI Fair Maps Waukesha County Team and one of the event coordinators.

She said the Wisconsin Supreme Court and Legislature are acting in a partisan fashion, so it’s on the people to put pressure on them.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court is weighing the merits of competing maps for the next decade. A final decision has not yet been issued.

## Elmbrook board approves COVID-19 sick leave for staff

BROOKFIELD — The Elmbrook School Board on Jan. 18 approved a recommendation for providing up to 10 days of sick leave for COVID-19 related absences to be retroactive to the start of the school year. The qualifying reasons listed include employee COVID or illness, employee quarantine, and employees staying home to care for a young child with COVID or on

quarantine or with school/day care closed due to COVID.

The move comes after 12 staff used up their sick time for a total 30 collective unpaid days due to COVID-19-related reasons.

The staff most affected by the pressures COVID-19 places on sick days tend to be newer at Elmbrook. Newer staff get nine sick days, while those who have

been around longer have had time to build more days into their sick bank.

Additionally, substitutes have been harder to come by — for Elmbrook and for districts across the country. According to a district presentation, the pre-pandemic number of teacher subs has declined from 384 to 261 even as absences have gone from a peak of 40 prior to the pandemic to 97 this year.



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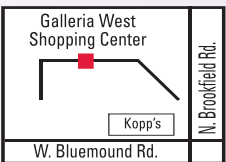
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# Xtreme Dance Team adjusts to ‘new normal’

Keeps dancing despite parade tragedy

By Derek Johnson  
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262-513-2653

WAUKESHA — Since the Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy, the Waukesha Xtreme Dance Team is still performing despite everything that took place that night.

On Nov. 21, members of the group, which has multiple smaller teams for different age groups, were part of the Waukesha Christmas Parade when the event turned into a tragedy. Some of the dancers were seriously injured, and even those who weren't had to witness the horrors that happened that night firsthand.

Sandy Feller, the director

of the nonprofit team, said the dancers are starting to adjust to life, and dance, after the parade.

"It's a new normal," she said.

For those who were directly impacted by the parade, Feller said, that normal involves therapy and spending less time physically practicing, and more time being around the other dancers.

"They have a long road ahead of them," Feller said.

She also said that, since the parade, the way team members interact with one another has changed too. Feller said dancers have become closer and open to one another now, and that even when they can't physically practice, some dancers still attend sessions just to be with the other team members.

And, in addition to practice, Feller said the team created a dance routine dedicated to those impacted by

the parade.

Feller said last month, the team performed the new routine in Menomonee Falls, where kids injured in the parade were able to watch and show support for those on the dance floor.

"Of course, there wasn't a dry eye in the house," she said.

Anyone who wants to help the dance team can still donate to its GoFundMe at <https://bit.ly/3fGtb8l> and to the United for Waukesha Community Fund at <https://bit.ly/3AidT3h>.

The team will also be holding a dance showcase at Mount Calvary Church, at 1941 Madison St. in Waukesha, on March 12 at 6 p.m. Tickets will cost \$6, or \$5 with a donation of a gently used pair of shoes to the team's shoe collection fundraiser.

For a full list of the team's events, visit <https://www.waukeshaxtremedanceteam.com>.



Submitted photo

Members of the Waukesha Xtreme Dance Team's junior team perform in Menomonee Falls last month.

# Children's psychologist offers parents advice about pandemic, parade

Waukesha counselor also weighs in on handling recent events

By Derek Johnson  
djohnson@conleynet.com  
262-513-2653

WAUKESHA — Between the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy, kids have had a tough time in Waukesha County recently.

Dr. Patricia Marik, a pediatric psychologist at Children's Wisconsin, said both major events have had an impact on kids' mental health, and that there are things parents can do to make sure their kids are mentally OK.

She said parents should first simply figure out how their kids are handling recent events mentally by chatting with them.

"The first thing is to talk with your children," she said.

Once parents know if their kids have questions about recent events and how their kids are feeling, Marik said families can

work together to ensure they stay healthy. She said doing things like keeping a steady schedule and helping other people can help kids immensely, and that simply pointing out why they're doing the things that they're doing to stay safe can also be useful.

She also said it's important for parents to recognize that, especially after about two years of the pandemic, many kids have likely developed mentally despite recent tragic events.

"The growth didn't stop," she said.

Stephan Gunn, a counselor at Summit Counseling in Waukesha, said many of

**Mental health resources available for children**

<https://www.nctsn.org/>  
<https://kidshealth.org/>

the same things as Marik. He also suggested, however, that parents and their kids should focus on things other than the recent bad that's happened.

"When it comes to this kind of stuff, be informed but don't overdose," Gunn said.

He also said families should spend time doing their hobbies and getting outside. Specifically, he

said, parents should take their kids with them when they go outdoors and play games that allow their children to focus on things other than recent events.

And both Gunn and Marik said parents need to look after themselves. Marik said many parents' first reaction is to focus on their children, but they're likely still dealing with many of the same events as their kids. Children often look at their parents' emo-



Marik

tions, Marik said, so parents need to make sure that they're handling things mentally so that their kids can model that behavior.

But, when it comes to children, Marik said parents should be on the lookout for when their kids have extra anxiety, aren't as interested in their hobbies, are angrier, or even complain about things like stomach aches or headaches.

All these things, Marik said, are possible signs that children need targeted help, which can either be provided by doing activities at home or by seeking professional help.

# Parade tragedy shines renewed spotlight on domestic abuse cases

Collaboration, early intervention cited as preventive measures

By Dave Fidlin  
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — Two months have passed since the Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy. One of the aftereffects has been a renewed focus on bringing domestic abuse incidents to the authorities and seeking out resources.

The focus comes in response to Darrell Brooks, the suspect in the November parade incident that killed six people and injured more than 60 others. Brooks' criminal history is lengthy and, more recently, included alleged domestic-related incidents.

Across the country, domestic abuse cases have been rising amid COVID-19 and its challenges. In Waukesha County, however, numbers have held steady in recent years, with a three-year peak of 969 calls to the Waukesha County Emergency Operations Center in 2019.

Jessi Trauth, director of shelter and transitional living services at The Women's Center, said the venerable Waukesha organization has been a resource to the com-

munity since the parade tragedy, though statistical data from the past two months has not resulted in any anomalies.

"We've received about a thousand calls since the incident, which, I wouldn't say, is necessarily an increase," Trauth said. "It is on par with what tends to happen within that time frame."

However, Trauth said The Women's Center did field a number of calls and worked with clients days after the incident.

"Many of our clients who were in very dangerous situations at that time were afraid to call the police because they didn't want to detract from law enforcement's focus on (the parade tragedy)," Trauth said. "We did a lot of messaging, reminding people that if you're fearful for your life, please, please reach out."

The importance of collaboration between law enforcement, county agencies and nonprofits is another concept that has entered the spotlight in recent months.

"When agencies share a common goal to improve the

**Calls for help**

Number of calls across Waukesha County for service for domestic incidents through 911 emergency line

2019 — 969  
2020 — 947  
2021 — 876

Source: Waukesha County Emergency Operations Center

well-being of survivors of relationship violence, such as The Women's Center and Waukesha County, the partnership benefits the clients," Linda Wickstrom, public information officer with the Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services, wrote in an email statement.

The county's DHHS offers such services as trauma therapy groups and individual psychotherapy to survivors of domestic violence through its clinical services division. On the other end of the spectrum, the DHHS offers medical mental health services to offenders in the Waukesha County Jail, as requested.

Wickstrom said the DHHS' services have evolved over time as new specific case types have arisen.

"The anti-human trafficking task force has recently partnered with our Wauke-

sha County Sheriff's Department to present a human trafficking awareness program to increase the number of community partners who understand this epidemic through a victim-centered, multi-disciplinary, collaborative community

effort," Wickstrom said, pointing to one example.

While no two domestic abuse cases are alike, Trauth said there is one simple, unwavering message The Women's Center frequently delivers, year in and out.

"Every individual has the right to be safe, and to be safe in their home," Trauth said. "It's so important, and we're so happy to be in a community that recognizes that. We want survivors to know that we're here for them."

# WisDOT waives portion of test to address school bus driver shortage

MADISON — To help school districts strained by a shortage of school bus drivers, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles will implement a temporary waiver to a portion of the test to get more drivers behind the wheel and encourage former drivers to restate.

"WisDOT is taking every available opportunity to ease the strain on communities struggling to recruit drivers by removing barriers that might keep prospective drivers from applying," said DMV Administrator Kristina Boardman.

Drivers seeking their school bus license (S endorsement) will have the portion of the test that identifies "under the hood" engine components waived until March 31. All other components of the written and road tests will remain. A recent waiver from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration temporarily allows states to mod-

ify the CDL test for school bus drivers.

"Wisconsin's CDL examiners will focus on the testing requirements that are critical to safety in order to help school districts and communities struggling to recruit qualified school bus drivers," said Boardman.

Drivers receiving a CDL under this temporary waiver are permitted to operate intrastate school buses only. They are not authorized to operate trucks, motor coaches or any other type of commercial motor vehicle requiring a CDL.

Additionally, the DMV sent a letter to nearly 1,000 former drivers who let their school bus license lapse. The letter encourages interested drivers to renew their endorsement and check out employment opportunities in their community. Many school bus companies have implemented employment incentives, including increased wages and sign-on and referral bonuses.



Photo courtesy of WisDOT

In addition to temporarily waiving a portion of the test, WisDOT also sent letters to former drivers whose licenses have lapsed to encourage them to come back to the job, as well as incentives.

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