

No residents speak at Delafield budget hearing

Council to vote on proposed budget Nov. 21

By Steve Van Dine
Freeman Staff

WISCONSIN – The Delafield City Council will vote on a proposed budget for the fiscal year ending in 2012 on Nov. 21. The council will also hear reports from various departments and discuss other city business.

The council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Delafield City Center, 1000 W. Wisconsin Ave. The public is invited to attend and speak during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

The proposed budget includes a 2.5 percent increase in property taxes, which is the same as last year. The council will also consider a request for a 1.5 percent increase in the utility tax.

City Manager Steve Van Dine will present the budget to the council. He will also report on the city's financial status and the progress of various projects.

The council will also discuss the city's participation in the state's new energy-efficient home program. The program allows homeowners to receive a tax credit for the cost of energy-efficient upgrades.

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Charles Auer/Freeman Staff

Tim O'Brien, left, speaks during a tour of an energy-efficient home his company is building in the new Dunbar Oaks subdivision at 320 N. West Ave. on the site of the former YWCA.

Construction almost done on green home at old YWCA site

First home in Dunbar Oaks subdivision is listed for sale

By Sarah Pryor
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA – Construction is nearing completion on the first of three single- and two-family homes in the Dunbar Oaks subdivision, but it's no ordinary construction site, contractor Tim O'Brien told a group of city officials who gathered at the home for a tour Monday afternoon.

The home is among the first in the state to achieve the National Association of Home Builders' Emerald Certification – the most stringent certification available in the world of "green" or environmentally friendly building.

O'Brien gave the group a tour of the 1,682-square-foot home at 320 N. West Ave., and explained some of the home's green-building components, such as the use of up to 65 percent recycled materials, a closed-cell foam wall system and attic sealant package, a heating and ventilation system that considers each room rather than the whole house and more.

"In building this house, we're using science rather than gut feeling or what we've done in the past," O'Brien said. "If there's anything we can

do to reduce energy consumption, it will be to the benefit of the city, county and community."

In 2009, Waukesha received a \$904,000 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant to help finance the project, which will feature a three-kilowatt solar electric system in each single-family home, producing about one-third of the home's electrical demand.

O'Brien said the home's exterior will be green and sustainable as well.

The home's yard will include vegetation that can serve as a habitat for robins and hummingbirds, and the subdivision will have a compost facility on-site for landscape waste.

The home is currently on the market for \$207,900, with its lot for sale for only \$1.

City Planner Jennifer Andrews explained that a potential homeowner must essentially commit to living in the home for 15 years, or risk paying the city a prorated amount for the actual value of the lot.

"Because it's such a great deal, we don't want people to come in and buy the house and flip it," Andrews said.

Construction should be



The Caroline is an energy-efficient home being built by Tim O'Brien Homes in the new Dunbar Oaks subdivision at 320 N. West Ave. on the site of the former YWCA.

completed by late December or early January, and O'Brien hopes to have broken ground on the other two homes by then.

The Dunbar Oaks revitalization neighborhood's purpose is to offer affordable, energy-efficient homes, as well as reinvest in one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, said interim City Administrator Steve Crandell in an earlier press release.

Habitat for Humanity is also building a duplex in the subdivision, which was once home to the YWCA.

"It's great for the city to recognize the site's potential, because it's a great template for future development," O'Brien said.

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Wrong-way driver caused deadly crash

Memorial service for victim set for Wednesday

By Amber Gagne
Freeman Staff



WISCONSIN – The life of a young woman who was killed in a deadly wrong-way crash on Nov. 1 was celebrated at a memorial service Wednesday.

The service was held at the First United Methodist Church in Delafield. It was attended by family members and friends of the victim.

The victim, a 21-year-old student at the University of Wisconsin, was driving on a residential street when she was struck by a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction.

The crash occurred on Nov. 1 at the intersection of a residential street and a major thoroughfare. The driver of the other vehicle was cited for wrong-way driving.

The victim's family is currently grieving the loss of their daughter. They are grateful for the support of their community during this difficult time.

The memorial service was a touching tribute to the young woman's life. It included readings, music, and a prayer for her soul.

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Committee puts new firearm language on h

WISCONSIN – The City of Delafield is currently reviewing a proposed ordinance that would change the city's language regarding firearms.

The committee is currently reviewing the proposed ordinance. It will be presented to the city council for a final decision.