

SPORTS

Successful Senior Night for Sun Prairie girls volleyball team • B1



LIFESTYLE

Sun Prairie Farmers Market accepting pie entries for Downtown Fall Festival pie contest • A6

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CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Police Commission dismisses resident's complaint against police officer

Commission finds that police officer did not violate policies

By Jennifer Fetterly
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A complaint filed by a Sun Prairie woman — who alleges that a Sun Prairie police officer



injured her, took her property and discriminated against her because she was Black — was dismissed last month by the Sun Prairie Police Commission. Margaret Williams filed a complaint against Sun Prairie Police Officer Benjamin Plum after an Oct. 9, 2019 incident where Plum and other police



Ben Plum

shoulder forcefully jerking my shoulder (resulting in an injury).

officers were searching Williams' Sun Prairie home.

Williams alleged in the complaint that Plum "snatched the money out of my purse which was across my

Williams, a Black woman, also alleged in the complaint that Plum "wouldn't have treated a White woman like that."

During a public hearing at the Sept. 27 Police Commission meeting, Williams had the burden of proof to show that Plum violated the department's code of conduct and use of force policies, as she claimed in the

See **POLICE**, Page A8

COVID-19

Badger Honor Flights cancel, organizers look to 2022

■ Oct. 2 and Oct. 23 flights a no-go

By Jennifer Fetterly
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The surge of COVID-19 delta variant cases has grounded the highly anticipated Badger Honor Flights scheduled for this month.

Badger Honor Flight Board of Directors canceled the Oct. 2 and Oct. 23 flights after almost two years of being grounded during the pandemic.

Board members said their decision was made to keep veterans, volunteers and supporters safe. Vaccination requirements were just one precaution that flight participants and volunteers were expected to take.

The Badger Honor Flights stopped last year as the COVID-19 pandemic virus hit the United States. The last flight on Nov. 2, 2019 had 88 veterans on board, according to the Badger Honor Flight website.

The October 2021 Badger Honor Flights would have given priority to World War II and terminally ill veterans, then Korean War and Vietnam War veterans. The flight halt has meant some veterans died before they were able to make the trip, organizers said.

Each Honor Flight chapter makes its own decision to fly. Other Wisconsin Honor Flights networks have remained grounded, while the Milwaukee-based Stars and Stripes Honor Flight chapter flew veterans in September.

Badger Honor Flight officials say there may be other options available for terminally ill veterans who want to fly and they should contact officials at Medical@badgerhonorflight.org.

Wisconsin's Badger Honor Flight has taken more than

See **FLIGHTS**, Page A2

CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

Proposed 2022 city budget focuses on safety, equity, growth

\$64 tax increase on average home

By Jennifer Fetterly
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Sun Prairie Mayor Paul Esser proposed a \$32.9 million 2022 operating budget to taxpayers Tuesday, saying it will boost public safety, equity, and prepare the city for future growth — all for a \$64 tax increase on the average property in the City of Sun Prairie.

"We are asking for \$64 a year, but we are giving them far more than we are asking of them," Esser said as he presented the 2022 recommended operating & capital budget at the Oct. 12 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Esser said initiatives in the budget will improve the quality of life for city residents.

In the proposed budget,



Paul Esser



Steve Stocker

a police officer and a social worker would be added to the department in what Esser said will prepare the police force to evolve with changes in policing and the estimated 1,000 resident population increase per year.

A paramedic will also be added under the mayor's proposed budget, along with an intuitive to purchase non-narcotic nitrous oxide for pain management, a reaction to the opioid crisis.

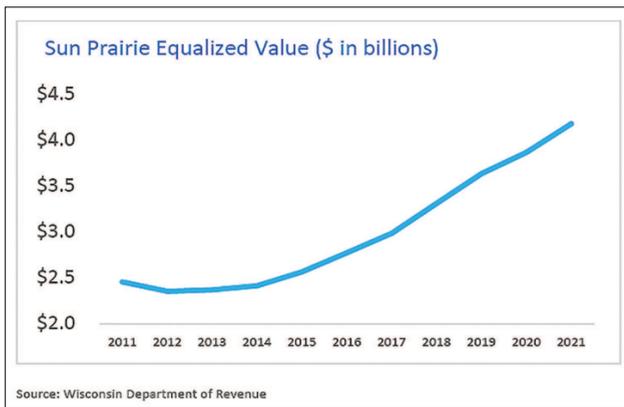
There's also money to create a bike/pedestrian plan for the city, continue the Dream Bus Library Service, and add a

See **BUDGET**, Page A3

Description	Budgetary Cost w/ Benefits	FTE	Funding Source	Start Date
LTE Museum Registrar	\$ 8,883	-	General Fund	1/1/2022
IT System Administrator	\$ 133,908	1.00	General Fund, Media Center, Stormwater, Wastewater	1/1/2022
Police Officer	\$ 154,305	1.00	General Fund/ERP	8/1/2022
Social Worker	\$ 125,130	1.00	ARPA Grant	1/1/2022
Paramedic	\$ 68,574	1.00	General Fund	5/1/2022
Neighborhood Service Specialist	\$ 64,096	1.00	General Fund	8/1/2022
LTE Office Assistant	\$ 16,171	-	General Fund	1/1/2022
Production Manager	\$ 8,872	0.13	Media Center	1/1/2022
WW Collections Systems Tech	\$ 171,759	2.00	Wastewater Fund	1/1/2022

City of Sun Prairie

The city's proposed 2022 budget document includes this table showing a list of proposed new city positions included in the budget.



Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

City of Sun Prairie

Among the graphics included in the 2022 City of Sun Prairie Proposed Budget document (available for download from cityofsunprairie.com) is this chart showing the change in the city's equalized value.

Sun Prairie School Board hears equity update on Indigenous Peoples Day

By Chris Mertes
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The Sun Prairie School Board heard an update from the Sun Prairie Area School District's Director of Systemic Equity & Inclusion on Monday, Oct. 11 — which was also Indigenous Peoples Day.

Michael Morgan Jr. was



Michael Morgan Jr.

to far exceed expectations and

named Director of Systemic Equity & Inclusion in the Sun Prairie Area School District effective July 1.

"There is endless potential as a district

overcome obstacles of inequitable practices and systems as we continuously aim to deliver on making sure that we are a high performing district of choice," Morgan wrote in a PowerPoint presentation reviewed by board members prior to the Oct. 11 meeting.

See **EQUITY**, Page A3

Board returns to in-person meetings at high school

By Chris Mertes
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Two letters received from district residents before the Oct. 11 Sun Prairie School Board meeting were not read aloud because of the board's return to in-person meetings in the library at Sun Prairie East High School, 888 Grove St.

Instead, the letters were placed on file and left in

BoardDocs (you can read them online with this story at sunpraiestar.com).

The first was a letter from Amy Kohl expressing disappointment with the board's Sept. 27 decision about unusually hazardous traffic areas: "I am disappointed to learn of the decision to change bussing to [Prairie View Middle School]"

See **MEET**, Page A8



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