

TOSA EAST TOWNE

ISSUE 96

JUNE 2022

TOSAEASTTOWNE.ORG



Residents encouraged to apply for micro grants to enhance neighborhood

By Molly Dill

Have you ever had an idea to improve your neighborhood or enrich your neighbors' lives? Now is your chance to make it happen!

The new TETNA Micro Grant Program provides financial support directly to residents to take on projects that improve and engage our community. Individual grants from \$1 up to \$1,000 will be considered.

David Paulsen, then President of the board, announced the program at the TETNA Annual Meeting on April 20.

"We have a lot of cash reserves, one of the reasons being not spending as much money during the pandemic," Paulsen said. "We really want to find a way to put some of the money that we have to use."

Projects can be as simple as hosting a block party or as complex as filming a documentary. Bringing neighbors

together, cleaning or beautifying a space, fixing a broken structure, and sharing resources with each other are all encouraged. Be creative and paint your vision of the impact.

The board will assess entries for their broad impact, determining whether the project has clear ties to the neighborhood and will benefit the community as a whole; and for feasibility, with preference given to projects that have a high likelihood of succeeding and that match the applicant's capabilities and capacity to execute.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The TETNA board will review all applications and provide a response within 60 days. Grantees will be asked to complete an evaluation upon completion of the project, and report back to the TETNA board.

Those with questions about the grant program should contact Zack Goehner, TETNA Secretary, at zack@braveappliance.com.

Complete the online application:
tosaeasttowne.org/grants

Qualifications:

- Applicant must be a resident in the Tosa East Towne neighborhood;
- Projects should benefit the TETNA community (i.e., not a new sofa);
- Projects should be completed before Dec. 31, 2022;
- Funds cannot be used for: alcohol, tobacco, fireworks or other restricted items; political or religious activities; charitable donations; wages; loans or debts.

Q&A with Alderman Sean Lowe p.4
Cornerstone Village Project p.5
Schoonmaker Creek p.10

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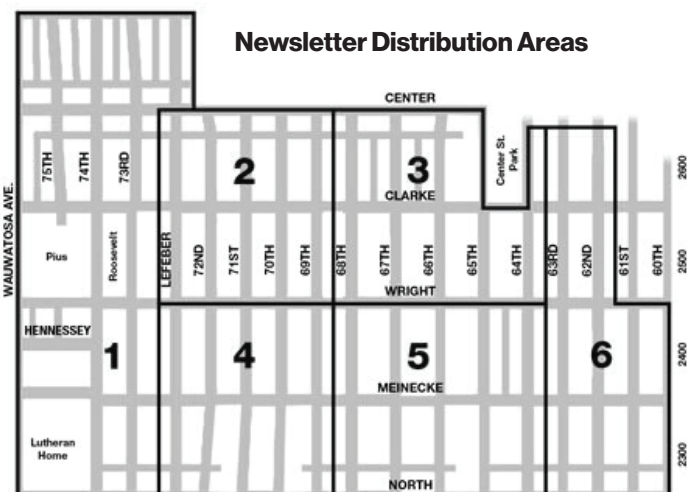
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Sophia Heffner awarded TETNA's 2022 scholarship

By Christina Piel

TETNA is proud to offer a scholarship to one of the neighborhood's graduating high school seniors again this year, thanks to the generous donations of its members. TETNA honors a bright young person from Tosa East Towne whose essay response best represents TETNA's philosophy of providing "a welcoming and nurturing environment ... and sense of community through shared interests."



This year, the scholarship committee chose Wauwatosa East High School senior Sophia Heffner as the winner. Sophia is co-president of the Student Council, a member of the national competition We the People Team, a Wauwatosa Youth Commission Liaison and an active participant in the local Democratic Party. In addition to her leadership activities as president of the student body and in local government, Sophia also gave back in Key Club and Best Buddies. Sophia plans to attend Scripps College in California with a goal to eventually attend law school and become an immigration attorney.

In selecting Sophia as the recipient of this scholarship, the scholarship committee commented, "Sophia's passion for community came through in every part of her application. We admired her extensive involvement on the neighborhood-, school-, city- and state-wide levels. We also respected that she wrote, 'No community is perfect. And I am lucky in that – when I see something that I feel should be changed – I can utilize my leadership skills to advocate for it.' Wherever life takes this amazing young woman, we are sure she'll be a force for good who will make TETNA proud." Congratulations, Sophia!

The TETNA board presented Sophia with its \$750 scholarship for 2022 at its Annual Meeting on April 20 at Tosa Bowl & Bun. To all our members and neighbors, please consider donating to the TETNA scholarship fund at tosaeasttowne.org/scholarship to continue this tradition of supporting some of our neighborhood's top high school seniors.

Q&A with Alderman Sean Lowe

After a very close April 5 race, Sean Lowe beat out incumbent Rob Gustafson to become the new District 5 alderman representing the Tosa East Towne neighborhood. We sat down with Alderman Lowe, the first Black man ever elected to the Wauwatosa Common Council, to learn more about him.

How long have you lived in Wauwatosa and what do you love about it?

"Seven years. I love the walkability and accessibility of Wauwatosa, how we support our local small businesses and that big city, small town feel."

What could use improvement?

"Infrastructure repairs to Schoonmaker Creek, which is something I'm working on with the city. (We) need to ensure we truly commit to having affordable housing in this city as well."

You've said you decided to jump into local politics when Wauwatosa created an Equity & Inclusion Commission in 2019. What drew you into a larger role in the city?

"Aging out of my involvement with 'young professional' groups, but looking to still be able to lend a voice to civil rights and racial justice issues. The Equity & Inclusion Commission was a perfect fit for me. Having led the Milwaukee Urban League Young Professionals as President, and led the National Urban League Young Professionals as Central Region Vice President, it was an easy transition."

What's first on your list to tackle?

"First? LOL I have EIGHT items I put forth in the last month alone. I feel like that's not even enough but it's a good start. Banning no-knock warrants, updating the ordinance to not fining homeless people for panhandling, rebates for resident e-bike purchases, \$15 minimum pay for citywide staff (are) just a few that I am fighting for."



Affordable housing is a key issue for you -- how can Wauwatosa best go about improving access to the community for those of all income levels?

"Updating outdated ordinances to allow more duplexes in neighborhoods, approving funding for the city to purchase several homes that can be utilized for this effort, making sure large scale projects have a strong affordable housing component."

How can TETNA members stay informed on Common Council business?

"I would LOVE if TETNA members would join various city commissions and committees because there are a lot to choose from. Also by attending the Common Council or committee meetings on Tuesday nights either in person or virtually. Also if they miss a meeting, read the minutes to see who is doing what and truly fighting for our city."

NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

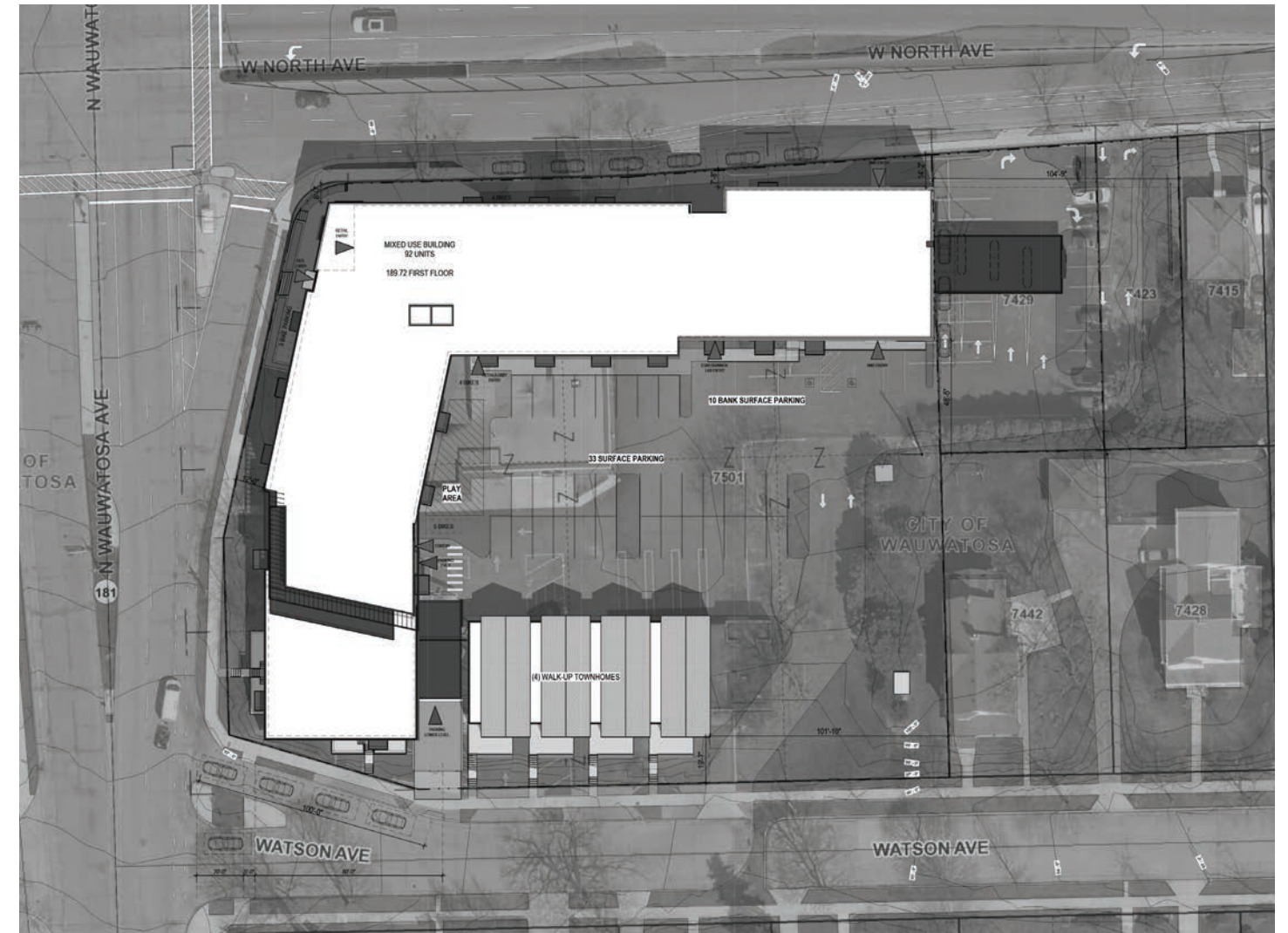
Two new members joined the Tosa East Towne Neighborhood Association board of directors at the Annual Meeting on April 20.

Kelli Kerkman

Kelli and her husband, Steve, moved to the neighborhood in 2019. They were drawn to the area because of the walkability to North Avenue and the friendly neighbors. She is a real estate agent and in her free time enjoys cooking, gardening, and checking out the area's local breweries.

Nick Becker

Nick Becker and his wife, Laura, have been residents of Tosa East Towne since 2017. Since then, they have been joined by their two daughters, Anna and Eloise. Nick enjoys the walkability of our neighborhood and seeing people out and about in the community. He loves walking to their favorite spots on North Avenue as well as all of the nearby parks for their daughters to play. Nick looks forward to serving on the board to start giving back to the neighborhood that has given him so much over the past five years.



Cornerstone Village development to move forward at 76th and North

The Cornerstone Village project proposed by AbleLight to replace the BMO Harris Bank branch at the southeast corner of North Wauwatosa Avenue and West North Avenue has been approved by the Wauwatosa Common Council and is expected to open in 2023.

The new mixed-use building will include a new drive-thru BMO Harris Bank branch, as well as residential living and retail. The residences, 92 residential units and four townhomes, will welcome adults with developmental disabilities as well as traditional renters. Twenty-three units are to be set aside at affordable rates for independent adults with developmental disabilities, and the remainder will be rented to people of all abilities at market rate.

Elm Grove real estate developer Luther Group has partnered with Watertown-based AbleLight (formerly

Bethesda) in the development of the project. They plan to include a Discovery Lab in the retail space to allow people with disabilities the chance to gain independence and life skills through employment. A small retail or cafe is planned to offer hands-on training and education for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities who want to live independently. The Wauwatosa School District would potentially partner on this initiative, teaching students to shop, cook, clean and manage a budget at the Discovery Lab.

The five-story building will have 103 parking spaces on two levels and a 33-stall surface lot, with two-car attached garages on the townhomes.

Rendering above by Engberg Anderson Architects



Spring Egg Hunt returns

On April 9, the Spring Egg Hunt returned after a two-year hiatus induced by COVID-19.

Dozens of neighborhood children converged on Center Street Park at 9:30 a.m., where they played on the equipment, created arts and crafts projects, met a pet rabbit and visited with the Easter Bunny.


The main event kicked off at 10 a.m. with a staggered start for younger kids, and in the blink of an eye the candy-filled eggs had all been gathered into baskets to be enjoyed.

Special thanks to the event sponsor, Ruckus & Glee!



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Run Tosa Run

Thanks to all the runners, volunteers, officers and sponsors who came out on May 14 to help us put on another successful Run Tosa Run! TETNA is happy to again raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities, and we will be providing an update on our donation amount soon.

Thanks also to BelAir Cantina, GRAEF and Lutheran Home for their continued support of Tosa East Towne's 5K and kids' run. Promotional items were provided by BelAir, Cranky AI's, Camp Bar Tosa, Rocket Baby Bakery, Tosa Yoga and The Nobleman Barbershop.

Finally, congratulations to our men's winner, Zack Bruns (17:22), and our women's winner, Jennifer Cosgrove (20:33). The 5K generated nearly 200 registrations this year, and our kids' run topped 50. It was a great turnout for our first May race since 2019. We look forward to seeing everyone on the course again in 2023.



A vertical advertisement for GRAEF. It features a collage of images including a street scene, a building, and a person. The text reads: "WE ♥ RUN TOSA RUN - GRAEF www.graef-usa.com". The GRAEF logo is prominently displayed in the center.

An advertisement for LIFE NAVIGATORS. It features a star logo and the text: "LIFE NAVIGATORS Your Disability Partner EST. 1949 Resources for Families of a Loved One with a Disability". Below this, there are two photos of people. The first photo shows two men, one with a star logo on his shirt. The second photo shows two women. Text next to the photos reads: "Life Navigators Special Needs Trust Program Helping Families Plan for the Future of their Loved One with a Disability Multiple Affordable Options for Individuals and Families". At the bottom, it says: "A Trusted Community Partner for Over 70 Years Learn About Our Additional Family Resources 414-774-6255 • LifeNavigators.org 7203 West Center Street, Wauwatosa".

An advertisement for My Release. It features a logo of a stylized figure and the text: "My Release Restore Functional Fitness". Below this, it says: "Addressing specific joint, muscle and fascia issues as well as overall strength, flexibility, balance and cardio conditioning in virtual small-group classes and private sessions via Zoom during Covid." The name "Marjorie Chepp Personal Trainer" is listed, along with "Over 30 years of experience in the fitness industry" and the website "www.myrelease.net". Contact information includes "7202 W. Center Street 414-334-5097 • info@myrelease.net". At the bottom, there is a logo for "FIND ME ON THE MedFit Network medfitnetwork.org".

An advertisement for LUTHERAN HOME & HARWOOD PLACE. It features a logo with the letters "L&H" and the text: "LUTHERAN HOME & HARWOOD PLACE". Below this is a photograph of a large, modern building. Text below the photo reads: "Lutheran Home and Harwood Place Two Wauwatosa locations. One organization. Lutheran Home, located at 76th and North, provides: Short Term Rehabilitation Skilled Nursing Memory Care Assisted Living Adult Day Services Child Care Harwood Place, located at 8220 Harwood Ave, provides: Independent Living Assisted Living www.thelutheranhome.org | 414-258-6170".



Schoonmaker Creek Project impacts several East Tosa neighborhoods

By Paul O'Keefe

Our neighborhoods are in the Schoonmaker Creek Watershed. When it rains, water flows from your house down to the Menomonee River. When it really rains, we have flooding in three main areas along the river. In the areas north of Lloyd Street, the pipes are not large enough and we can have considerable backups and flooding. The open creek in the Highlands regularly floods. As you get closer to the river there can be considerable flooding in the State Street area.

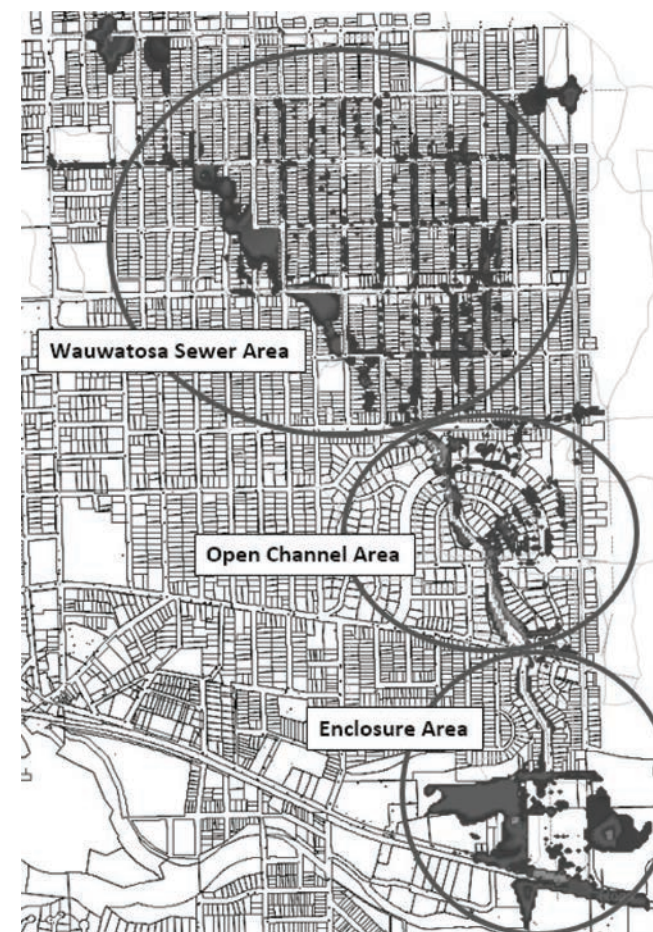
The root cause of the majority of the flooding is the overall stormwater design of the entire watershed, especially north of Lloyd. When the original creek north of Lloyd was buried by the city, the underlying stormwater pipes were not large enough to mitigate flooding. The implication is that in larger storms, the amount of stormwater overloads the system and the creek in the Highlands, as the only portion of the watershed that is an open channel floods. And this is just a regular storm.

In a 100-year storm (which seem to happen a lot more than every 100 years!), there is extensive flooding in the neighborhoods north of Lloyd and south of Milwaukee Avenue.

The city is very aware of the problems with the stormwater design throughout the watershed. According to City

Engineer Bill Wehrley, studies "have identified the pipes in the ground are too small to convey the flows we have" and "that pipe is too small and that is why we have flooding." The city and Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District requested a special report on the watershed and potential alternatives from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. This was delivered in 2019 and outlined 16 alternatives. These alternatives range in complexity and costs; some address the 25-year floods and others the 100-year floods. The Wauwatosa Public Works Department is currently reviewing these options and will be presenting a narrowed down list of options to further study at the July meeting of the Community Affairs Committee. The city has stated that the chosen alternative will be designed to address the 100-year flood.

There are a number of alternatives that would entail the razing of houses. One option is to create an open pond we have nicknamed Lake Wauwatosa in South Park of the Highlands. One house would need to be demolished and those living in Highland Park would be living downstream from a dam. Other alternatives impact East Towne, Pabst Park and Inglewood, and could lead to up to 76 houses being demolished by creating open storage ponds. The good news is that the Engineering Department stated at the April 26 Financial Affairs Committee meeting that staff will not be recommending the destruction of property



The Schoonmaker Creek watershed encompasses roughly 1,100 acres (1.7 square miles) in the City of Wauwatosa and the City of Milwaukee. Within Wauwatosa 2,700 houses are situated within the watershed representing over 13% of Tosa residents.

Much of the original Schoonmaker Creek now flows underground through stormwater sewer systems, except for a short reach in the City of Wauwatosa where it flows in an open channel. It then flows through an enclosure that daylights just south of W. State Street where Schoonmaker Creek discharges to the Menomonee River.

The watershed has experienced numerous heavy storm events since 1986, causing flooding to streets, homes, and businesses due to undersized storm sewer capacity, a confined open channel, and inadequate enclosure capacity at the downstream end of the watershed.

to create retention ponds. We will watch closely to ensure these options are officially taken off the alternative list at the July 12 Community Affairs Meeting.

The Washington Highlands submitted two proposals to request ARPA funding (the \$24 million federal funding to the city that was related to the pandemic). One was to address urgent issues relating to the erosion to the creek. The second was to kickstart the design process of the larger Watershed project. Unfortunately, neither project was selected by city staff for funding. The one positive is that the attention on the creek has increased during this process. Thanks to everyone who responded to the recent survey the city posted when it was discussing the ARPA funding. Sean Lowe, the new Alderperson from District 5, reminded the Financial Affairs Committee that "addressing infrastructure issues with Schoonmaker Creek was the highest rated issue." This has made it clear to the Common Council that this is an issue that residents want addressed.

So what's next? James Moldenhauer, District 1 Alderperson and Financial Affairs Committee Chair, has asked for a detailed graphical outline of the process and deadlines the city will follow to put the first shovel in the ground. What we do know is that the Public Works department will present their preferred alternatives to the

Community Affairs Committee on July 12. Further studies and cost analysis of those proposals would then follow before Public Works presents the financial implications to the Financial Affairs Committee. This project would likely be the most expensive infrastructure project in the city's history.

For any questions or comments, please reach out to Paul O'Keefe (6211 W. Washington Blvd.; paul@usaf1.com; 414-460-4406) who is leading the Washington Highlands Association Creek Committee and is working in conjunction with your neighborhood board.

About the Author:

Paul O'Keefe lives in the Schoonmaker Watershed at 6211 W. Washington Boulevard. He is a retired Managing Director with Accenture. He is passionate about the creek and loves watching everyone play in the creek throughout the summer. He is leading the Creek Committee for the Washington Highlands Association Board and is liaising with TETNA on working together for a solution that benefits every neighborhood in the watershed.

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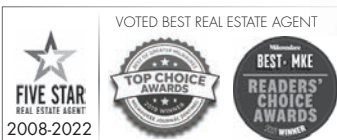
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