

# County continues work on shoreland rules

By Katherine Schulz

The Rusk County Land Information/Zoning Committee continued reviewing proposed updated shoreland zoning ordinances (Chapter 50) to bring them in sync with the changes made to the state's shoreland protection program. On April 12, the committee reviewed proposed Rusk County Ordinances Sections 50-191 and 50-192.

## Shoreland-wetland districts

Shoreland zoning applies in shoreland-wetland districts. A shoreland-wetland is a wetland lying within 1,000 feet of a pond, lake or flowage, or within 300 feet of a river or stream.

Wetlands are difficult to define so the state maps wetlands and designates them on the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory. Proposed 50-191 makes reference to the most recent version of the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory as depicted on the Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Data Viewer. The SWDV is an online, interactive Web-mapping tool found at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/> www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/.

Wetlands are seldom suitable for building. The proposed ordinance makes no significant changes to the designation of shoreland-wetland districts, or to the permitted uses of shoreland-wetlands, either with or without a permit.

Rezoning of shoreland-wetlands is not permitted if it may result in a significant adverse impact on one of seven categories of wetlands, all of which are the same under the current and the proposed ordinance, except one:

“Wetlands both within the boundary of designated areas of special natural resource interest and those wetlands which are in proximity to or have a direct hydrologic connection to such designated areas as defined in NR 103.04 which can be accessed at [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/nr/100/103](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/103).

## Non-conforming uses and structures

Proposed Sec. 50-192 relaxes the rules for non-conforming uses and structures which do not meet the setback requirement [75 feet from the ordinary high water mark] and is at the heart of shoreland zoning revision. The relaxed rules apply only to non-conforming structures that were placed lawfully, and the burden is on the property owner to show the structure was placed lawfully.

Non-conforming structures are those which exist at the time the revised ordinance takes effect and which are not in conformity with the provisions of the new ordinance.

The rules governing non-conforming structures that meet the setback requirements are unchanged in the proposed ordinance.

The proposed ordinance treats principal non-conforming structures less restrictively than accessory non-conforming structures. Principal structures are those intended for habitation, such as homes and cabins. Accessory structures are those not intended for habitation, such as garages, sheds and boathouses.

Proposed Section 50-192(c)(3) b is the only section that applies to non-conforming accessory structures that do not meet the setback requirements. The section also applies to non-conforming principal structures.

Formerly, no more than 50 percent of the structure could be rebuilt.

In addition, the structure may be expanded vertically if the finished structure would not extend more than 35 feet above grade.

Formerly, the roof height was limited to a maximum of 18 feet or the current height.

Counties have some leeway to allow expansion beyond the existing footprint if the expansion is necessary to comply with applicable state or federal requirements.

So, for example, a house or a shed 50 feet from a lake may be rebuilt in the same location, with the same footprint, and it may be rebuilt to a height of 35 feet above grade. But other, less restrictive provisions also apply to the house.

Up to 200 square feet may be added to the side of the house if the house is 35 feet from the OHWM provided the following conditions are met:

The house has not been vacant for 12 months, if the use is non-conforming;

The house may not be expanded any closer to the OHWM;

A mitigation plan is required; and

All other provisions of the shoreland ordinance must be met.

Land Conservation and Development Department Director Cece Tesky says this is not much of a change in Rusk County, where the policy has been to permit small additions, for example, a bathroom or laundry room, to a principal structure located in the setback area.

The house may also be expanded to the side, to the back, or vertically provided the addition meets the building setback requirements and that all other provisions of the shoreland ordinance are met.

So, for example, if the house is 60 feet from the OHWM, additions may be added to the side and to the back, so long as no part of the addition is closer than 75 feet to the OHWM. The part of the house in the setback area may be built up to a height of 35 feet.

Tesky says this also is not a major change in Rusk County policy.

The point system for mitigation is not new, but Tesky expects more mitigation activity with the relaxed rules for non-conforming structures in the setback area.

When mitigation is required, the property owner must choose at least three points of mitigation such as restoring native vegetation in the buffer area or in the side yards, tearing down accessory buildings in the setback area, directional lighting, natural building colors, and other techniques as agreed by the zoning department and zoning committee.

Because of the unique features of each shoreland lot, Tesky expects mitigation will be administered on a case-by-case basis.



**TUMA FUNDRAISER** — A special quilt made for a fund-raiser to help with medical bills for the Ryan and Shelly Tuma family will be up for bid in a live auction Friday, May 13 at JS Supper Club. Last September, Shelly's 8-year-old son, Blake, was diagnosed with a rare disease called Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis and he is now undergoing chemotherapy. Ryan, a Ladysmith firefighter and Rusk County Sheriff's deputy recently was diagnosed with cancer, and he too is now facing a long road of chemotherapy. The quilt was designed by Sherry Wallace and sewn by Karen Swada. It features patches from 50 of the state's 72 county sheriff's departments, 14 fire departments and numerous out of state law enforcement agencies. There are also patches from agencies in Philippines and Mexico. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources donated the fire hose for the border. Ladysmith Fire Department donated the coat and pants. An e-mail went out weeks ago to law enforcement agencies and fire departments for their patches for this fund-raiser, and the quilt took 10 days to make.

— News photo by Luke Klinc

# Higher jail fees weigh on Ladysmith man

By Katherine Schulz

A Ladysmith man is feeling the weight of new Rusk County jail fees approved by the county board April 19.

Joshua C. Morse, 25, has misdemeanor and traffic charges pending in Rusk County Circuit Court, and as a condition of bond he is forbidden to drink alcohol and required to submit to preliminary breath testing twice daily. PBT detects alcohol on the breath.

The new fees approved by the county board include a \$5 fee per PBT. For Morse, that comes to \$10 per day, \$70 per week, close to \$300 per month.

On Monday Morse appeared

in court with his attorney, Assistant State Public Defender Annette Barna. Barna asked that the PBT requirement be discontinued. Barna told the court when the county board approved the fee, they did not take into account indigency. She said Morse wants to enroll in the Intoxicated Driver Intervention Program through Aurora, but cannot afford both the cost of IDIP and the cost of twice daily PBTs.

Judge Steven P. Anderson was reluctant to discontinue the PBT testing until Morse enrolls in IDIP. Anderson ordered the PBTs cease when Morse enrolls in IDIP and, until that time, he be permitted to take the PBTs at no cost to him.

# Firearm theft ring suspects appear in court

By Katherine Schulz

Five people arrested and charged in connection with a break-in in the town of Flambeau appeared in Rusk County Circuit Court Tuesday. The five are accused of stealing firearms, then using the firearms as collateral for the purchase of a car for one of the women.

The car dealer said he was given two .127 caliber rifles and a 12 gauge shotgun April 27, and a day later two men came back with a .22 caliber rifle and a .308 caliber rifle.

The dealership provided receipts for all five firearms.

According to the complaints, Dix-

sia P. Dedrickson, 33, Ladysmith, admitted she broke into the home with the help of Kyle E. Baker, 18, Glen Flora, and Mark A. Larose, 18, no address given, and took a Remington pump action .22 caliber rifle and a Remington pump action .308 caliber rifle. Also taken was \$100 in cash and change.

Also according to the complaint, Andrea L. Mankus, 24, Ladysmith, did not have enough money to purchase a car after trading in her old car. Mankus, Dedrickson and Cory F. Woodmansee, 34, Ladysmith, offered three firearms April 27. The next day, Mankus and two men

came back and offered the stolen .127 caliber rifle and 12 gauge shotgun as collateral.

Baker, Dedrickson, and Larose are each charged with one felony count of burglary armed with a dangerous weapon, one felony count of theft of movable property (special facts), one count of criminal damage to property, one count of theft of movable property worth \$2,500 or less, all as party to a crime. Baker and Dedrickson were released on \$5,000 signature bonds. Larose remains in custody on \$5,000 cash bond.

Mankus is charged with two

felony counts of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, and one count of receiving or concealing stolen property worth \$2,500 or less. She was released on \$5,000 signature bond.

Woodmansee, is charged with one felony count of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He remains in custody on \$5,000 cash bond.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled May 17 at 4 p.m. for Larose.

Preliminary hearings are scheduled June 21 at 2:30 p.m. for Dedrickson, Baker, Woodmansee and Mankus.

# Fresh Start shortfall hinders Weyerhaeuser school plan

Indianhead Community Action Agency Fresh Start in Rusk County needs about \$200,000 in community support along with dependable renters or an outright sale of a brand new triplex in Weyerhaeuser to effectively recoup the ICAA investment in community housing. Without this help, ICAA will no longer be able to operate after June 17.

The loss of Fresh Start will affect a business set to begin operating in the 62,000 square foot Frederick Weyerhaeuser School. The non-profit Blue Hills Friends of Scouting bought the 8-acre campus last January; and it has since been renamed Frederick Weyerhaeuser Specialized Technologies.

CenterLine was going to use Fresh Start workers in making its products, according to Spec Tech spokesman Bob Lorkowski.

CenterLine, a brand new business, recently announced they are willing to invest in the education and training of young adults in Fresh Start in the near future.

“This is an opportunity for the residents in the county to signal their seriousness in wanting to provide opportunities for youth to succeed in,” said ICAA Executive Director Pam Guthman. “This means an additional economic impact to supply growth in the construction industry, and provides jobs to more than Fresh Start members in training”

“It is also an opportunity to continue positive community interventions for county youth, young adults, and the community,” Guthman said.

Fresh Start also partners with surrounding school districts, Boy Scouts of America, Rusk County Drug Court, Wisconsin Department of Corrections, United States Department of Housing Administration, Northwest Concentrated Employment Program, and Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. Since the program began in 2009, 87 participants have been accepted into the program from various counties.

There were 223 Rusk County youth ages 16-24 eligible as of last fall. Of the 87 participants, there were 75 percent who did not have a diploma prior to enrollment in the program, and 26 percent who were diagnosed with either a learning or physical disability. The median grade range at program entrance testing was between sixth and seventh grade levels in reading and math. None had steady job placement in the six months before program enrollment.

There were 28 percent of participants under the supervision of Community Corrections, with 79 percent of participants acknowledging drug or alcohol use ranging from casual to addiction levels and 54 percent of participants having had mental health services in the past and/or

currently being in need of such services. Another 21 percent reported being homeless.

There were 48 percent of youth who received their diploma while enrolled in Fresh Start program or within 30 days of completion. In addition, 16 percent pursued post-secondary education afterward, and 59 percent exited with full-time job placement being obtained within three months of completion at an average wage of \$10.25 per hour.

Fresh Start participants have built eight homes for low-income families, totaling a community building investment of \$1.2 million. In addition, they contributed at least \$90,000 through post-secondary vocational or college tuition, and increased their employability and wages earned to above \$1 million per year.

With 51 members receiving full time job placement at \$38,000 as a median income, this contributes \$1.94 million as a productive working adult. With a 40 year work history, this would equate to \$77.5 billion.

Fresh Start youth also provide many community service hours at soup kitchens, Rusk County Animal Shelter, Historical Museum, state Department of Natural Resources, and Rusk County Parks. Some entered the military.

# Sex offenders change residences

The following registered Wisconsin sex offenders recently updated their place of residence. They are:

Dwayne D. Werner, 709 1st St. S., Ladysmith.

Cory F. Woodmansee, 311 Miner Ave. E L100, Rusk County Jail, Ladysmith.

David Evans, 311 Miner Ave. E L100, Rusk County Jail, Ladysmith. Brandon J. Mead, 311 Miner Ave. E L100, Rusk County Jail, Ladysmith.

Aaron Simpson, 402 Fritz Ave. W, Ladysmith.



**Thank You!!**  
Ladysmith Main Street left out two important thank you's for our Sugar Bush Pancake Breakfast: Christianson's and Platteter's for their donations of maple syrup and Gordy's for their great prices and service.  
THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE THIS ANOTHER TERRIFIC COMMUNITY EVENT!

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Open Monday-Saturday 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  
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**IF IT'S NOT INSULATED, NEITHER ARE YOU.**

**REPLACE, NEVER REPAIR DAMAGED EXTENSION CORDS.**  
Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership. Learn more from the experts themselves at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

**Jump River Electric Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative  
**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**