



# The Sheboygan Press

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**INSIDE TODAY**



**Meet me at the Crossroads**

■ "Movie theater church" continues focusing on outreach programs. **BELIEFS, A3**



**Vintage racing returns to RA**

■ Kohler International Challenge with Brian Redman has vintage car enthusiasts converging on Road America. **SPORTS, B1**



**2,700 lose power in storm**

■ Nearly 3 inches of rain measured in Sheboygan. **LOCAL, B3**

**FORECAST**

Today's High **85** Tonight's Low **70**

■ Sunny but windy with 30 percent chance of rain at night. **More weather on B3.**

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A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

## City panel to review ethics complaint

Filed against Ald. Scott Versey regarding fire dept. ambulance issue

BY BOB PETRIE  
Sheboygan Press staff

The Sheboygan Common Council's Committee of the Whole will review an ethics complaint filed against Ald. Scott Versey by a Sheboygan woman who claims Versey should have abstained from voting on a motion at a council meeting last month to dissolve the Fire Department's ambulance service, because the alderman's wife works for Orange Cross Ambulance.



LESSARD



VERSEY

The committee will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, to discuss whether the complaint against Versey, lodged by unsuccessful council candidate Susan Lessard, rises to the level

of being referred to the council's Ethics Board, which could investigate further and decide whether Versey should face disciplinary action, including possible removal from office.

"I bring no pleasure in bringing this before (the Committee of the Whole) but I'm looking for transparency in local government and I think there may be some violation of ethics in my opinion, and I think the Committee of the Whole is the appropriate place for this discussion," Lessard said.

Orange Cross Ambulance had a contract with

the city for nearly 20 years to provide emergency medical service for the City of Sheboygan before the council approved creating the Sheboygan Fire Department ambulance service, which started in 2008.

Versey, a 1st District alderman who took office in April, denies any conflict, saying that he made the motion to dissolve the ambulance service because of e-mails and calls from people asking him to do so. He said his wife, a paramedic, has worked for Orange Cross for 12 years, but said that had nothing to do with his motion.

"I stood up for my constituents," Versey said. "I was listening to the people that e-mailed me. It wasn't something I just stood up (because) it was (my) own little personal agenda going on."

Under city code, public official cannot be used for personal or financial gain.

"I'm more concerned with the issue of him voting on an ambulance issue when his wife is employed by Orange Cross and you take a look at our state statutes and our local ethics code, he has direct

See Complaint/A2

## No bike left behind

Volunteers fix up bicycles, find them new homes

BY JOSH LINTEREUR  
Sheboygan Press staff

In the basement of Paradigm Coffeehouse, a group of volunteers is making sure that no bicycle is left behind.

Every Wednesday night, the group gathers beneath the downtown coffee shop, where they go to work with an assortment of wrenches, socket sets, tire levers and pumps to rehab the more than 50 used bicycles they've collected there.

Their goal is to give each and every bike away to anyone in the community who wants one. All they ask in return is that recipients pitch in for a few hours before riding home on a refurbished bike.

"You've just got to put in your hours of wrench work, do a little tinkering and then you earn a bike," said Tom Crouse, a 38-year-old volunteer, before pulling a tire off a used mountain bike Wednesday at Paradigm.

The program, called ReBike, was launched three months ago by the Sheboygan County Bicycle Alliance, a community group formed in conjunction with the Sheboygan County Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program.

To earn a bike, participants must spend three hours helping to make repairs, with supervision from ReBike volunteers with expertise in bicycling maintenance.

"I'll use it to ride to school and to see friends," said Malik Muhammad, 11, of Sheboygan, while a volunteer showed him how to adjust the brakes on a bike he'd selected to take home.

Dave Smith, 66, a retired teacher who's been helping run the ReBike program, said that the bike alliance had been looking at ways to get the community more interested in biking. But they also wanted to



Aaron Brault, program manager for the Sheboygan County Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program, helps fit a bicycle to Donna Gamez, 17, of Sheboygan. The ReBike program helps youths get a bicycle of their very own. **Photo by Gary C. Klein/The Sheboygan Press**

help community members who might be unable to afford a bicycle — especially kids.

ReBike ended up being the perfect solution.

"It will get some kids biking that didn't have access to a bike before, or couldn't afford one," Smith said. "And this way, they get to learn how to take care of their bikes."

ReBike's fleet of road bikes, mountain bikes and cruisers was initially stocked using bikes donated by the Sheboygan Police Department and the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department. The group hopes to continue building their inventory through public dona-

See Bikes/A2

## SASD fees bumped up for the fall

Most have not been increased since 2001

BY DAN BENSON  
Sheboygan Press staff

Sending your children to school in the Sheboygan Area School District will get a little more expensive this fall as fees for everything from sports participation to parking to playing a musical instrument are going up, some for the first time in years.

For instance, renting a musical instrument from school is going up \$10 — from \$10 to \$20 in elementary school and \$20 to \$30 at middle and high school.

High school athletic participation fees are going up from \$25 to \$30 per sport, with an individual cap at \$70 and a family maximum of \$100.

Registration fees are going up from \$30 to \$35 at high schools, \$25 to \$30 at middle schools and \$17 to \$20 at elementary schools. Half-day kindergarten registration will cost more — up from \$10 to \$15.

The last time most of the fees were changed was in 2001.

One of the bigger changes will greet students who park their cars in the North or South High School parking lots. It used to just cost \$5 for the school year to park at South and it was free at North. Now it will cost \$30 at both places.

Students who can't pay the athletic participation fee cannot be denied participation, but they must get approval from the principal.

"Each principal has authority to waive a fee for a family in a hardship situation. But they have to talk to him," said Gretchen Thomes, the district's assistant superintendent of business and operational services.

Another big change is that district employees will no longer receive courtesy passes to school events such as athletic competitions. They'll have to pay the \$2 to \$4 to get into an event, or buy the new family or individual season passes, which cost \$125 and \$50, respectively.

There are other fees for what Thomes called "consumable supplies" for shop classes, lab fees in some classes and field trip fees.

"Those fees are limited to the cost of the consumable item," she said.

See Fees/A2

## Smoking ban rolling along just fine

BY BOB PETRIE  
Sheboygan Press staff

Using a two-handed push to send her olive green ball zigzagging down the lane, 4-year-old Jayme Cornell was having an absolute blast in her first ever try at bowling.

"I like bowling a lot," Jayme exclaimed, while taking in everybody's turn during a game at Lakeshore Lanes in Sheboygan.

Jayme was bowling her first game in a smoke-free atmosphere, part of a special event Thursday to celebrate Wisconsin's two-week-old Clean Indoor Air Law, which bans smoking in indoor public places and indoor workplaces.

For two hours, there was free bowling, pizza, soft drinks and door prizes at Lakeshore Lanes, with a few dozen people stopping in to bowl and breathe clean air.

"Everybody in here is like, 'I haven't gone bowling in so long because they were always smoky and now they're not — grea,'" said

Emily Dieringer, coalition coordinator for Re-Think, the Lakeshore Tobacco Prevention Network, which sponsored the event.

So far, backers of the ban say it's working just fine, with bar owners and customers self-policing themselves to make sure folks step outside for a smoke.

From July 5 until Tuesday, Re-Think officials say there have been about 100 customer-driven complaints

See Ban/A2



Emily Dieringer of Hortonville celebrates a strike during an event at Lakeshore Lanes celebrating the state's Clean Indoor Air Law. **Photo by Gary C. Klein/The Sheboygan Press**