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# NORTH SHORE JOURNAL

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*Christine Mallory, Editor*

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## New City Attorney & Planning Strategic Development in Two Harbors

By Kitty Mayo

Tim Costley has become the city attorney for Two Harbors, replacing long-time city attorney Steve Overom in that position.

City clerk Patty Nordean says Overom had worked for the city for more than 20 years, and in making the move to cut back on his workload was also taking a great deal of historical knowledge with him.

"He was great to work with and trustworthy, when you work with someone for that many years they become a friend," said Nordean. Overom vacated the position during the third week of September.

The city council began to discuss the need to make a decision about hiring a new attorney at the beginning of 2021, and in August reviewed and narrowed down applications for the position.

Ultimately, the council made the decision to hire local lawyer Tim Costley to represent the city in an official capacity, discussing the benefits of having representation by someone who is a part of the local community during their regular council meetings.

"He grew up here, he's steeped in Two Harbors, and I'm sure he's going to work for the best interests of the city moving forward," said councilor Jackie Renwald.

At the most recent regular city

council meeting, the council considered putting a temporary pause on city land sales while they developed a strategic plan for development. The next move will be to look for a city development strategy consultant who can give a long-term perspective on how to approach development that improves the quality of life for all residents.

"The analogy is that when you build a house you don't just install things as they are delivered, you follow a plan that makes the most sense," said Renwald.

While Renwald says the current council looks favorably on development and building in the community, they are thinking ahead to make sure issues of zoning and other considerations that may need to be adjusted to create the most favorable development path with a sound strategic plan.

"The need for more housing and business is driving this, and you have to do some common sense thinking ahead so we have a guide to what location could be a good fit," said Renwald.

Renwald says that wetland delineation and maintaining communication with potential developers is ongoing.

"This is about responsible stewardship and the best use of land, and doing this the right way," said Renwald.

## Friends of the Bandshell Park Move Forward with Performing Arts Center

By Kitty Mayo

Members of the nonprofit Friends of the Band Shell Park say that progress is being made toward their dream of a reimagined performing arts center and city park. The center will replace the bandshell at Thomas Owens Park in Two Harbors that was built over 70 years ago. The new center will be an indoor/outdoor center that is accessible and can be used year around for many venues.

The FOBSP first formed with members of the Two Harbors City Band, a band that has been playing at the current bandshell since 1937. The City Band first organized in 1897, and is an autonomously operating organization, with a modest annual allocation from the city.

It's a tradition that city band member Al Anderson says the city should be very proud of. However, the wood-frame structure has aged, and provides inadequate storage space for the city band in the the form of just one usable narrow passageway behind the back wall. A basement under the structure is prone to flooding, and in past years has caused damage to band equipment when a sump pump failed, leaving most equipment stored in a variety of alternative locations, including the city hall basement and individual band members' homes.

Mary Planten-Krell moved to Silver Bay over four years ago and immediately began looking for some place she could play her flute. She soon found that the Two Harbors City Band was the only place in the area where she could play.

"It's a wonderful organization and wonderful location, but getting down the steps you are really taking your life in your own hands," said Planten-Krell.

Narrow stairs that Planten-Krell dubs "rickety", an unreliable hand-rail, and band members carrying instruments looks like a recipe for an accident to Planten-Krell. There are also "soft spots" in several places on the floor of the stage that are marked to show particularly weak places to avoid.

"This project is way more than just a bandshell, it's incredibly exciting to me that we could attract theater, dance, small and large bands, both for Two Harbors and from all around the area," said Planten-Krell.

Throughout the pandemic some work has been slowed down and the FOBSP realized that with the forced hiatus of the city band during the summer of 2020 members of the public may be wondering about the project's progress, but work that

Planten-Krell says "is mostly invisible" has gone on.

Some of the behind-the-scenes work already completed includes; property and soil surveys, and architectural work right up to the preconstruction process. The FOBSP has met regularly with the city to work out how the property will be managed while it remains in city ownership.

The FOBSP has already purchased the property with a house and garage located on one corner of the park and intend to have the buildings removed and transfer that site to the city's ownership so that it can become part of the park.

The group says their vision is creating a town square atmosphere, a space that is inviting to people who live here and out of town visitors.

The block will feature a north-facing performing arts building backdropped by Lake Superior, with an outdoor stage the same size as the existing bandshell, and an indoor stage for smaller performances. Restrooms, a ticket booth/office, additional office space, storage space, and a large hall that could accommodate gatherings like wedding receptions are also in the plans.

A key piece of the plans for the new building is to create space for other groups and individuals, such as dance, choral, and community gatherings.

"This is a whole different concept that is community building. We want to build something that will serve the community for the next hundred years," said Planten-Krell.

In addition to the performing arts center, the project has commissioned conceptual drawings for landscaping that would create some terracing for the audience of the outdoor venue, as well as winding walkways, garden areas, foliage, and a small children's playground.

Anderson says the most frequently asked question is about timing, and when the project will actually see construction.

"We are so close that if we could get the rest of the money together we would have the building finished in a year," said Anderson.

The Friends of the Bandshell Park are urging community members to get in touch with them with any ideas, to participate in the project planning, or to help with donations. Visit their website for more information at: <https://friendsofthebandshellpark.com/>, or call Al Anderson at (218)830-9319.

## STORY STROLL FOR KIDS

*From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle

Saturday, Nov. 6,  
10am - 2pm

The Grand Marais Public Library and Cook County Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) will host a story stroll on the lawn in front of the library Saturday, November 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Families can walk through a giant version of Eric Carle's picture book *From Head to Toe*, then pick up a treat and information about ECFE and the library's offerings for young children. Youth Services Librarian Erika Ternes and Early Childhood Coordinator Krista Olson will be on hand in the morning to answer questions and help families sign up for library cards and the library's Reading Ready early literacy program.

"A story stroll is a playful, active way to read with young children," said Youth Services Librarian Erika Ternes. "Toddlers and preschoolers will especially enjoy clapping, stomping, and wiggling along with the animals in Eric Carle's classic illustrations."

All families and caregivers of young children are welcome to participate in this free event. The library and Cook County ECFE are both dedicated to helping young children in Cook County develop a love of reading and improve their literacy. Connect with Krista and ECFE by calling 218-387-2271 extension 401, or Erika and the library by calling 218-387-1140 and visiting [online](https://www.grandmaraislibrary.org) at [grandmaraislibrary.org](https://www.grandmaraislibrary.org).

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