

Highlighted Events at the Lake Region Public Library

Tuesday, June 10 @ 6:30 p.m. - Yoga @ the Library!

Every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. during the Summer Reading Program, Joanna Berger will be leading a FREE yoga class for all ages and experience levels outside the library! You do NOT need to be registered for the Summer Reading Program to participate. Bring a yoga mat, or one will be provided for you.

Tuesday, June 10 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. - Technology Tuesday.

Do you need a little extra assistance with

anything technology-related? Drop in between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for Technology Tuesday for 1:1 assistance with phones, laptops, apps, you name it!

Wednesday, June 11 @ 10:30 a.m. - Sensory Storytime.

This is a less-structured session that features a sensory-friendly read-aloud with fidget toys available for engagement, and other hands-on sensory play. Play before, during, or after the story — everyone is welcome!

Thursday, June 12 @ 11:00 a.m. - Preschool Storytime.

Join us in the Children's Area for stories, crafts, and friendship! This event is geared at ages 3-5 with a responsible adult present.

Thursday, June 12 @ 6:00 p.m. - Rock Painting!

Another program for the whole family will be Rock Painting! Thursday, June 12 at 6:00 p.m., join us for this low-stress, creative program for all ages! Materials provided, no registration required. Through June 15 Reg-

ister for the Summer Reading Program!

Students going into kindergarten through graduated seniors can register at devillakendlibrary.libcal.com for the student program, and adults can register directly through Beanstack at lakeregionpubliclibrary.beanstack.org! Visit our website or check out the May newsletter for more information.

Any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this press release should be addressed to Maddie Sharpe, Library Direc-

tor, at maddie@lrpubliclibrary.org.

New Arrivals at the Lake Region Public Library

Adult New Releases
King of Ashes- S. A. Cosby

Murderland- Caroline Fraser

Rich Girl Nation- Katie Gatti Tassin

Knave of Diamonds- Laurie R. King

The Life of Chuck- Stephen King

The River is Waiting- Wally Lamb

With a Vengeance- Riley Sager

Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil- V. E.

Schwab Kill Your Darlings- Peter Swanson
So Far Gone- Jess Walter

Juvenile New Releases

Chip Gets Swimmer Shivers- Maddie Frost
Masters of Disguise- Lisa McMann

What If You Fall for Me First?- G. F. Miller

Lake Region Public Library regular board meeting: Thursday, June 12 at 5:00 p.m. in the North Dakota Heritage Room at the Lake Region Public Library. All are welcome to attend.

Center

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it's currently structured," Halvorson stated.

A big concern for the City, he says, is the amount of space the Police Department has and the absence of garage space for police department vehicles and equipment.

"They are cramped for space as it is there. There is no garage space and they have very limited evidence storage space. We have 14 squad cars and no garage space, which is really hard on our vehicles, as well as our officers who have to start the vehicles, sometimes clean the vehicles outside when it's 20 below. There is also \$20,000 in electronic equipment in each patrol vehicle. So, it's not really a good quality of life for our officers or good for our vehicles or equipment, which leads to maintenance issues and higher costs. Anyone who has had their car worked on the last five years knows how expensive it's gotten and the City is paying that increase on 14 squad cars that sit outside all winter long," Halvorson said.

When asked why the City wouldn't want to have the Police Department included as part of a potential new Law Enforcement Center facility, he said unknowns and expected cost increases make it evident that having the Police Department detach from the LRLEC may be in the best interest of the City.

"We've been told that a new LRLEC facility without the Police Department in it would reduce the cost of the project by around \$10 million dollars. We could build

or buy a facility and fit it to our needs for well under that. Not to mention the long-term operational costs. We pay \$60,000 in a lease payment for our current space. Preliminary estimates provided to us indicate our yearly lease payment would double. So if we can save a bunch of money on both the initial capital and long-term operational costs, it seems like a financially wise thing to explore," Halvorson continued.

"Not to mention location. It is likely a new LRLEC would be on the fringes of town because of the greenspace required and the overall size of the facility. We could potentially centrally locate the Police Department downtown which would assist with the conversations around downtown safety the community has been having for a while. Plus, and I know this is important to Chief Toso, is the proximity to the school district properties and the hospital. So in the grand scheme of things, and I know the Commission views this as important, if we can save a bunch of public resources on building costs and operational costs, and all the while put the Police Department in a more strategic place in town, we wouldn't be doing our jobs if we didn't explore it," Halvorson added.

"Another factor is the unknowns on how a new LRLEC would get across the finish line. There are people at the LRLEC and County that are work-

ing hard on the issue and it's a thankless job. But there isn't a firm financial plan to pay for a new LRLEC. The County is exploring home rule, which is a long process that has been unsuccessful in the past and then they're exploring a 1% sales tax. But the sales tax wouldn't be enough to cover a 30-year bond payment on a \$60 million plus facility. Then you're talking multiple years to build a new facility. The unknowns and timelines are concerning. Given everything, it is important that the City takes ownership and grabs the steering wheel when it comes to the space for our Police Department to operate," Halvorson said.

If the Police Department was to relocate outside of the LRLEC, selecting a new site would be an important order of business for the City Commission.

"We are analyzing locations where the Police Department could go. We could build new or buy an existing building. There are options in town for both. The City has land in strategic locations around town and there are a few buildings for sale that could potentially work. We've reached out to a few owners and explored options," Halvorson said.

During the Journal's conversation with him, he said the City's original idea of moving the Police Department to the existing City Hall location and then moving City Hall to a different location downtown has been put on

the backburner.

"We were hoping such a project would be somewhere between \$4-\$6 million. We did the research on that and had some architects do some cost analysis and it's looking like it'd cost more like \$6 to \$8 million.

Adding, "I think its important to adapt as information comes in and while the concept was sound, we can probably get a better return on investment with a different strategy. In talking with Mayor Moe, we've kind of put that idea on the shelf and it is likely we'll propose keeping City Hall in its existing location and remove its relocation from consideration for now," said Halvorson.

One of the biggest factors in determining a location is knowing how big of a building the City will need for the Police Department relocation.

"We were intentional on defining the scale for the project and have made progress on that front. Obviously, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office is in the same position our Police Department is. Both the Police Department and Sheriff's Office like being in the same location. We had some dialogue with officials at Ramsey County. They made it known they were not interested in separating the Sheriff's Office from the LRLEC. That has provided clarity to the City despite what I think could have been some efficiencies and cost savings created by working together. I wish they would have

given it more consideration but that is how it goes sometimes I guess," said Halvorson.

With what he described as clarity on defining the scale of the proposed relocation, he says the City has multiple opportunities for sites that could accommodate just the Police Department.

"There are opportunities downtown. I know the City Commission is genuinely interested in what the residents of Devils Lake think in regards to a potential future location. Should location be prioritized or cost? If it cost a little more to relocate downtown compared to a different location, would that be worth it? Those are real policy decisions the City Commission will have to make. From talking with them I know they really want to get the

public's input on that."

As far as paying for the project, the City has put forward a sales tax proposal that will be before City of Devils Lake residents on July 22, 2025. Halvorson said, "That's a proposal that has multiple parts to it, but this Police Department relocation is a major piece of that proposal, as well as trying to ensure the long-term viability of our current public safety service levels. Bringing in a little over \$2 million in property taxes and spending around \$4.5 million on public safety will not be sustainable without an additional revenue stream. Over the next month and a half we will have a lot of community engagement on that front and we look forward to answering questions City residents may have."

-PUBLIC NOTICE-

A permit is required prior to a new construction or relocating a structure in Creel Township. A permit is also required prior to using township roads as haul roads and prior to excavation on Township right-of-ways. Placement of recreation vehicles (travel trailer, etc) is also restricted to certain zone districts. **Please contact Finley McLean at 701-230-1692 for more information.**

The Rotary Club of Devils Lake presents:

ARTS in the PARK

GALLEGER ELKS BAND SHELL
in Roosevelt Park every Tuesday Evening at 7 P.M.

June 10 AutoDrive (Starkweather), classic rock

June 14.... Saturday Celebrate Old Glory on Flag Day!
Devils Lake Elks Lodge #1216 and Devils Lake Elks Band

June 17.... Silver Lake Freak Show, county/ rock/ blues

June 24 Ron E. Cash, Johnny Cash tribute
Shop the bake sale sponsored by Sons of Norway

IN CASE OF RAIN: The performance will be at the KC Hall SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF DEVILS LAKE

THE **CEDAR INN** FAMILY RESTAURANT

Father's Day Buffet
Sunday, June 15th
10am - 1:30pm

Baked New York Striploin • BBQ Baby Back Ribs
Shrimp & Chicken Wings
w/ all the trimmings
PLUS Dessert!

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*2024 North Dakota State Study, Conducted by Coda Ventures