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More outdoors recreating in 2021

Make and take more time outdoors was a general counsel from many who saw park visits, fishing licenses sold, deer taken for those in need, and others who simply found being in the fresh air refreshing.

"First ice is best," reminded John Borzick, at Boscobel's Tall Tails Sports and Spirits. "There were so many out panfishing that I ran out of bait to sell two weeks in a row. Things have slowed a bit now, and there are still "thin ice" spots, so watch out."

Word smiths at Lake Superior State University in Michigan's Upper Peninsula nominated a list of words and phrases from 2020 they want to kick out of usage, including COVID-19.

Based on a clear upswing in outdoor recreation participation, "not out of the woods yet," is another phrase that should go, too.

Maybe dating back to days when bad things could happen in a woods and children and adults got lost, attacked by wolves, and run over by deer, this phase has worn out its

welcome. It sounds derogatory to those who want to continue snowshoeing, winter hiking, bird watching, and hunting rabbits. Being delayed in the woods or simply marveling longer at summer shade, autumn colors, wildlife activity, and spring renewal is a good thing. It's oaky to be late for supper, slowing down because the berry bucket is heavy, or pausing to observe.

Don Martin, at his Martin's Sport Shop in Monroe, hopes those who purchased equipment, including jigging rigs, squirrel rifles, binoculars and compasses don't toss them in a cabinet and forget the new enjoyment the outdoors brought during 2020. "The free time some had in 2020 allowed folks to find out what's there. Now they should be encouraged to continue, even now with ice fishing, snowmobiling and calling coyotes," he said.

"We've been too wrapped up in work and need to make smarter choices, but need to be on safe on ice, ask permission and cherish the fresh air. If 2020 taught us one thing, it may have been we work

too hard, and work too long," Doug Williams, at his Portage place.

There is something outdoors for everyone and during all seasons, too.

In some areas, all these good activities may have had something to do with a step down in fishing action. "Everyone hears how good it is, talks about it and goes out for a meal of fish and it can slow down after first ice," Borzick said. "Go to lesser known locations for a while."

On the other hand, Williams didn't hear a single comment about the early trout season, which opened Saturday. "This activity is many times for those who are more solitary and want to be by themselves," he said.

That doesn't mean many didn't feel the need to get rid of all the stored up energy since the season closed Oct. 15, 2020.

The regular catch and keep trout season opens May 1, 2021 and runs to mid-October.

Bird feeding, with added ground cover, is in its prime. Because there are a number of ground feeding

birds who get their meals under feeders, take time to shovel a bare spot for these feathered friends.

A few handfuls tossed on the ground is okay, too, but not so much that seeds don't get eaten before sunset.

Even though some recommend millet and safflower seeds for certain birds, it's better to spend money on mixes without these seeds in the mix. Some birds, like cardinals, will take safflower seeds; they are more apt to prefer other varieties.

While it will be months before data from the Southwest Wisconsin CWD, Deer and Predator Project starts to appear in reports and the media, individual GPS reports from collared deer shot during the 2020 seasons have been sent to the hunters and landowners.

One doe, collared Jan. 2, 2018 was taken on Nov. 21, 2020, so her report includes only that period, even though she was about six years old. Her range during those two years was about 1.2 square miles with more than 90 percent of the time in less than a half square mile.

She tested negative and died of a rifle shot, rather than disease, vehicle, predator or other causes.

Remember to target trout during the noon to 3 p.m. time period most days, when air temperature is highest. Also begin and concentrate on familiar streams first.

Wayne Whitemarsh, Sauk City, has used the past pandemic period expanding his gathering of wild foods, including goldenrod galls for the grubs inside for ice fishing bait. He picks the grubs, freezes them, saying they last throughout the season.

He also has expanded his gathering, freezing or canning hickory nuts, raspberries, morels and his favorite fish. While some collect and sell hickory nuts or morels, Whitemarsh does not. Remember fruits, nuts and mushrooms, harvesting on public land are for individual use, not to be sold. That would be illegal.

Contact Jerry Davis, a freelance writer, at sivadjam@mhtc.net or 608.924.1112



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NATURALLY SPEAKING

By Jerry Davis

If tufted titmice are coming to a feeder, it's likely there are chickadees, nuthatches, and downy woodpeckers there, too. They form mixed-species groups during winter.

The tuft or crest is similar to blue jays, cardinals and waxwings, even though the titmouse is much more closely related to the chickadee.

Much like the chickadee, titmice drop in, grab a seed and take it to a deciduous tree limb to work on getting the dry fruit removed before eating the inner seed. The chickadee does the same.

The connection with mice comes mostly from the light gray feathering except for the side panels and breast area. This bird is a cavity nester and likely, like the chickadee, uses cavities and bluebird nest boxes for winter protection.

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THE RECIPE BOX

Basic Ham and Bean Soup



Hearty ham and bean soup. Easy to make and a great way to use a leftover ham bone. This soup also has lots of mixed vegetables.

- Ingredients**
- 1 pound dry great Northern beans
 - 8 cups water
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - 1 ham hock
 - 1 cup chopped carrots
 - ½ stalk celery, chopped
 - 1 cup chopped onion
 - 1 teaspoon minced garlic
 - 1 teaspoon mustard powder
 - 2 bay leaves
 - 2 cups chopped ham
 - ½ teaspoon ground white pepper

Directions

Step 1
Rinse the beans, sorting out any broken or discolored ones. In a large pot over high heat, bring the water to a boil. Add the salt and the beans and remove from heat. Let beans sit in the hot water for at least 60 minutes.

Step 2
After the 60 minutes of soaking, return the pot to high heat and place the ham bone, carrots, celery, onion, garlic, mustard and bay leaves in the pot. Stir well, bring to a boil, reduce heat to low and simmer for 60 more minutes.

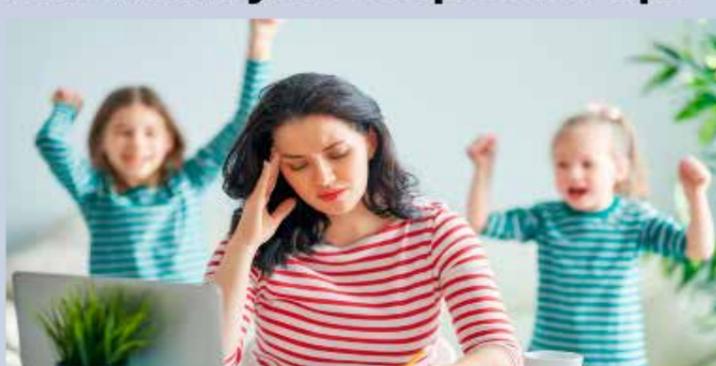
Step 3
Remove ham bone and discard. Stir in the chopped ham and simmer for 30 more minutes. Season with ground white pepper to taste.

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COMMENTS FROM UPLAND HILLS HEALTH PHYSICIANS REGARDING THE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS.

Dr. Charles Pearce

Emergency Physician, Vice President of Medical Affairs at Upland Hills Health, serving on the COVID-19 Incident Command Team

What concerns you most about the current state of the pandemic?

"As I write this nearing the end of December, there is a COVID related death every 30 seconds in the United States. The numbers in our state continue to improve, but who is to know how transient or durable that may be."

Do you feel the development and approval of COVID-19 vaccines happened too fast? Please explain.

"The vaccination development and now deployment has been phenomenal- a testament to solid science, international collaboration, an infectious disease out of control, and courageous volunteers. I don't think there were any corners cut; in fact, I think safety has been paramount to the whole process."

Do you feel the vaccine is safe? What is the most important piece of evidence that brought you to this conclusion?

"I do feel the current approved (Pfizer and Moderna) vaccines are safe. mRNA technology as a delivery platform has been around for 30 years. There has been significant research in both infectious disease and oncology. From the early days of the pandemic, I watched closely as the mRNA technology was spotlighted and then ultimately took center stage. I had faith in the principles and science behind the technology, but reserved judgement until the data of the trials started to come out this fall. Now that the data has been published, reviewed, and evaluated by the FDA, CDC/ACIP, I feel very comfortable with both the safety and efficacy of these two vaccines. In fact, I have already been vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine and I can tell you that I wouldn't have done so without great confidence in both safety and efficacy."

What concerns you most about the vaccine(s) or the vaccination allocation or distribution process?

"One concern of mine is patience. This first distribution/allocation is simply the groundbreaking ceremony in a massive, multi-national construction project that will take months to years to complete. We will get there. Great things are to come, but we need to continue our mitigation practices (hand washing, face covering, physical distancing) until we at least have a solid foundation."

Throughout this pandemic, I have worried most about vulnerable populations and these populations continue to concern me. Equitable vaccination allocation to these vulnerable populations in our community, in our own country and abroad is essential."

Will you get the vaccine? In addition, what motivates you most toward this decision?

"Yes, I have already been vaccinated with the first dose. The day after being vaccinated, I had some soreness to my shoulder at the injection site and I had about an hour and a half of fatigue/malaise. I expect to have more notable symptoms after my second shot, but I view this as a small price to pay to eventually get ourselves back to a semblance of normalcy and most importantly to protect my community, my colleagues, and my family."



was very important to have those first preparation steps done quickly so that the researchers could take their time with the safety trials."

Do you feel the vaccine is safe? What is the most important piece of evidence that brought you to this conclusion?

"I have confidence in the safety of the available vaccines. I have looked at the data from the vaccine research trials, and have read articles from the scientists who were involved in the evaluation of the safety of the vaccine, some of whom I know personally."

What concerns you most about the vaccine(s) or the vaccination allocation or distribution process?

"I am concerned that the distribution may not be entirely fair-rural areas will see some delays to getting vaccine supply, and the process for allocating vaccine to different sites has not been entirely transparent. I am hopeful that as we see more vaccine be available that our rural population has the same access that those in more urban areas have. Storage and administration of this vaccine is something that is very complicated, and nothing on this scale has ever been attempted in our lifetimes- it will definitely feel frustrating that most people will not be able to get vaccinated for several months. I am hopeful, though that the delay to getting vaccine might help some members of the public feel more comfortable with vaccine safety by the time they would be in line to get the vaccine."

Will you get the vaccine? In addition, what motivates you most toward this decision?

"Absolutely, no question. I have seen personally, how devastating this illness can be for patients and families- I myself lost my dad to COVID in early April. I have seen and will continue to see patients who have COVID, and it is important for me to have the extra layer of protection against this illness. My family will all get the vaccine when it is available to them as well. The vaccine is a crucial turning point for this- the beginning of the end of this pandemic."

Dr. Rachel Hartline

Family Medicine Physician, serving on the COVID-19 Incident Command Team

What concerns you most about the current state of the pandemic?

"So many concerns! Though we are not at this very moment without available hospital beds, utilization remains high and this has clearly been a very tough year on us as a community of healthcare workers (and humans!). I worry about the way that this long-term continued stress affects us, and about the impact of the



pandemic on the individuals who have gotten sick—many have a prolonged recovery and lingering symptoms."

Do you feel the development and approval of COVID-19 vaccines happened too fast? Please explain.

"Vaccine development and approval occurred in impressive time, but still took the necessary steps to be safe. There are a few reasons why a vaccine was developed so quickly:

SARS-CoV2 (COVID) looks and behaves a lot like SARS Cov1 ("SARS" from a few years ago) so folks were able to pick up from the work that was done trying to make a vaccine for that.

The COVID genome was sequenced and available very early—posted online from Chinese researchers last winter.

A vaccine was identified as a necessity early. I remember the first anything I listened to about COVID was back in Jan or Feb, before it was at all clear that it was even going to be a pandemic and the researcher was talking about timeline to a vaccine, and how it may be shorter because of the work that was done in 1 and 2 above.

*The government and drug companies have made it a priority, so barriers that would normally take a while to clear like showing efficacy in one phase before being ready to go with the next were not in the way. This is not to say that the drug companies were not required to progress through the normal phases of testing, but normally it would be **phase 1**; if things look good, then get greenlighted, collect supplies and patient and funds for **phase 2**, then **phase 2**; if things look good, get greenlighted and collect supplies and patients and funds for **phase 3**. This time around, the needs for phase 2 were being lined up during phase 1 so that if/when it showed appropriate response they were ready to roll. For example, millions of doses of the Pfizer vaccine were all ready to ship prior to the emergency use authorization, which normally Pfizer wouldn't produce until after the authorization was granted since there is substantial financial risk to them that it might not be."*

Do you feel the vaccine is safe? What is the most important piece of evidence that brought you to this conclusion?

"Each vaccine receiving emergency use authorization has gone through all of the usual safety checks and evaluation, and has been administered to over 20,000 people and monitored for 2+ months afterwards before it received emergency use authorization. The brightest scientific minds the world over have been working on this non-stop since it was clear that COVID was a problem, and now it is being offered to the US healthcare workforce—critical thinkers who I am proud to call friends and colleagues who have appraised the available evidence and also decided without hesitation that the vaccine is the safe solution that we need to end the pandemic."

What concerns you most about the vaccine(s) or the vaccination allocation or distribution process?

"I am most worried that because it is a new vaccine and was developed quickly, people will be concerned that it isn't safe and will hold off on receiving it. A vaccine only works if people take it!"

Will you get the vaccine? In addition, what motivates you most toward this decision?

"100%, as soon as humanly possible. I want life to get back to normal again; to hang out in groups, go to parties, to safely visit my grandparents, and to travel and this is the only safe way to achieve that! Also I don't want COVID or the risks that go along with it, and the vaccines are >90% effective at preventing infection!"

Dr. Sarah Fox

Family Medicine Physician, Vice President of Primary Care at Upland Hills Health, serving on the COVID-19 Incident Command Team

What concerns you most about the current state of the pandemic?

"We continue to see high rates of community spread of this illness, despite months of knowing what prevents the spread of this: social distancing, staying home when sick or exposed, hand washing, and consistent mask wearing. We are seeing some of our friends, neighbors, and family members end up with severe disease, resulting in hospitalization or death in some cases. Some cases have been quite prolonged, with patients in the hospital for weeks or months."

Do you feel the development and approval of COVID-19 vaccines happened too fast? Please explain.

"This vaccine development was certainly much faster than we typically have seen, but that does not mean it was done "too fast". Scientists were fortunate to be able to build on previous vaccine efforts for other SARS viruses, and thanks to scientific work from the last decade, the genetic sequence of the virus was shared worldwide months before some countries even had their first case of the virus. That allowed researchers to develop vaccine targets and start working through design of the production and study of vaccine safety at an accelerated schedule. The safety and effectiveness trials are not something that can be speeded up, so it



Iowa and Lafayette Counties (WI) Face Second Largest Wind Installation in Midwest¹

Too few residents of Southwest Wisconsin are aware that a Canadian-owned, multinational corporation, Pattern LLC,² has salespersons on the ground encouraging landowners to sign agreements allowing the company to construct at least 170³, industrial-scale wind turbines across Iowa and Lafayette Counties. With heights of around 650 feet, views of the system would permeate the natural horizon from the outskirts of Madison to the bluffs of the Mississippi River⁴ negatively affecting property values over 250 square miles of the Driftless area.⁵ (Figure 1).

Were it not for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission publishing Pattern paperwork in late November⁶, no one would have learned that the fate of the proposal essentially rests on the signatures of about 50⁷ landowners who are likely to be insufficiently informed. In the experience of Iowa farmer, Mason Fleenor, looking back on his decision, “Nobody knew they were

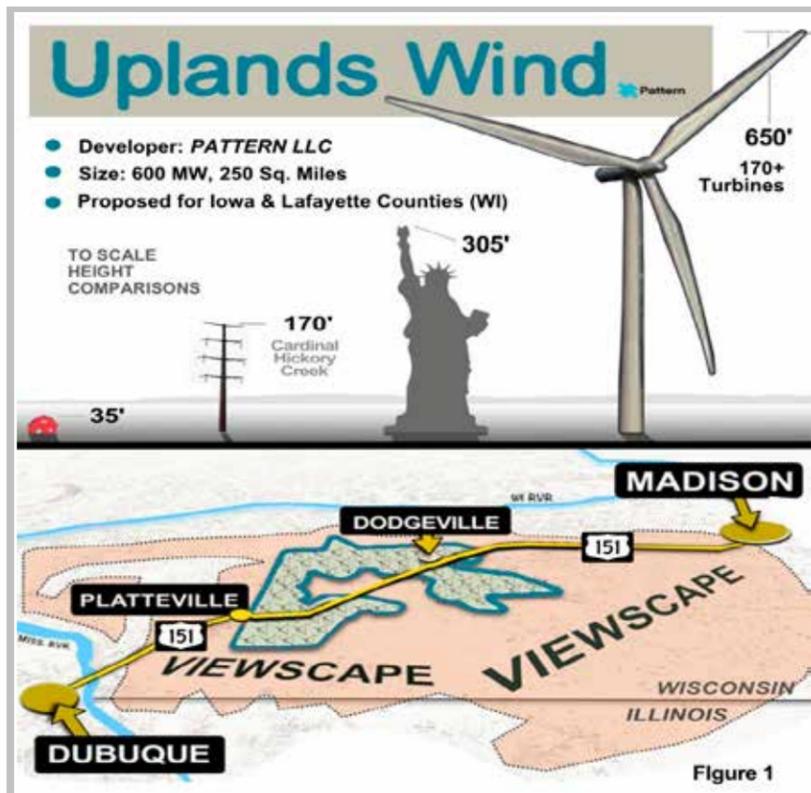
going to be this loud, or hurt our property values or be this big. . . No one wants to build around these windmills so you just cut your economic activity down. . . I just want to see the countryside.”⁸

Local and state taxes are no longer collected for land with wind turbines. Independent studies estimate property value losses from 15 to 45%.⁹ Landowners and local officials must stop and

consider that the diverted state tax dollar payments to partially cover these losses would fall at least \$100 million short over 40 years if only 1% of the affected properties were sold per year at a 10% loss.¹⁰ (Table 1.) Local tax bases would be forever compromised causing mill rates to soar at the same time compatible, agricultural, residential and business development vanishes.

Keep in mind that *unaffected* farmland in Wisconsin *appreciates in value*

at the rate of about 4% per year. Landowners pondering the possibility of net income from a 40 year wind turbine lease are encouraged to do the property devaluation math (and get an experienced attorney to carefully review the 60 page contract!). Should the value of one’s land drop at the national average, it would take decades of lease payments to make up for this loss.¹¹ The “option agreement”



also forces a landowner to give up rights to determine where turbines, wide access roads and electrical lines would be located¹². This uncertainty makes it impossible to accurately inform neighbors of pending hardships, not to mention, obtain their blessings.

Readers with any doubt that turbine noise thoroughly shatters natural soundscapes and peaceful living are encouraged to spend some time internet searching for personal video testimony about “wind turbine noise.”¹³ Wisconsin state code allows turbines to generate 45 dBA sound levels during the night and 50 dBA during the day.¹⁴ The turbine sound described as a “hovering plane”¹⁵ is about four times *louder* than quiet sounds that comprise natural sounds.¹⁶ The resulting sleeplessness, nausea, disorientation and depression has forced Wisconsin families to vacate their homes and farms with turbines half the size of those being proposed.¹⁷ Follow this search with “wind turbine shadow flicker,” an equally disruptive experience that Wisconsin code also allows households to endure¹⁸. And there are better alternatives for climate change and for our pocketbooks.

Wisconsin already has more electrical power plants than we can use.¹⁹ (Table 2). As electric

customers, we must pay the high interest debt on existing and added power plants over 40 or more years whether fully utilized or not. Pattern’s

inferred electric bill savings from the “zero fuel costs”²⁰ of wind power compare very poorly to *directly* addressing our CO2 and economic challenges with familiar alternatives. If the approximate, 40 year, \$1.8 billion cost²¹ for the 600 MW *Uplands* wind power plant was invested, instead, into dramatically increased *Focus on Energy* rebates for efficiency and solar power improvements for our homes, farms and businesses, this would eliminate about 115 million metric tons of CO2 emissions over 40 years compared to 58 million metric tons from the intrusive power plant.²² (Table 3). Alternatively doubling the home/business solar panel incentive to 52 cents of the approximate \$2.50 per watt cost could empower about 450,000 households to “go solar” and save an average of \$143 per month.²³ Creating attractive appliance and equipment rebates for Wisconsin families and businesses would enable long overdue efficiency and dwelling improvements

	10% Loss in Value (Acreage sold at rate of 1.02% per year.)
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Year	Wisconsin Power Plant Capacity (Megawatts)	Excess Power Plant Capacity Compared to Public Need	Associated Electricity Cost Increase	Fossil Fuel Generation Capability by Percentage	Wind Generation Capability by Percentage	Solar Generation Capability by Percentage	Property Value Impacted Land (Square Miles)
1980	10,722	-	-	93%	0%	0.0%	47
1998	12,918	11%	28%	77%	0%	0.0%	57
2017	16,967	20%	50%	71%	2.3%	0.1%	552
Utility Proposed, by 2026	27,501	51%	126%	64%	4%	10%	3,043

Data compiled from announced new power plants and retirements in the Wisconsin Public Service Commission 2020-2026 Strategic Energy Assessment, new plants sought in the MISO Interconnection Queue (October 2020), US Department of Energy (EIA) Form 861 and SEDS records for WI, US census, and US inflation data. 1998 Reserve Margin used as standard.

TABLE 3. Uplands 600 MW Wind System vs. Accelerated FOE Incentives

Electric Customer Spending Option	Uplands 40 Year Cost	Total MW Installed Solar	Added Solar Homes (5 kW each)	Energy Savings Per Solar House Per Month	Avoided CO2 Emissions Over 40 Years Million Metric Tons	Estimated Electricity Cost Savings Per Year BILLION (2022 Dollars)
Uplands Wind System	\$1,788,630,808	600	0	0	58	\$0
Solar Installations Distributed to Homes						
Current FOE Incentive .26 per watt	\$1,788,630,808	4,504	900,851	\$140	229	\$1.5
Doubled FOE Incentive .52 per watt	\$1,788,630,808	2,252	450,425	\$143	115	\$.8
2010 FOE Incentive .90 per watt	\$1,788,630,808	1,325	264,982	\$146	67	\$.5

Assumptions: 600 MW Uplands wind system: (40 Years): \$1,319,000 / MW base cost; transmission expenses, blade replacements; 20% Revenue Adder; Operation & Maintenance; land use leases; diverted state tax dollars, other payments to counties/municipalities and decommissioning costs. Distributed Solar Homes (40 Years): \$2.50 /watt less .26, .52, .90 per watt Focus on Energy (FOE) incentives, 97% Efficiency; Electricity cost: .26 per kWh 40 year Average; Inflation Rate 2.5% per year; Owner Assumed Solar Costs per 5kW array: \$11,000; \$9,800; \$8,000 and \$12,500; Monthly savings include solar panel/installation costs.

with the superior environmental results.²⁴

The federal report also confirms that the 600 MW wind system is fully dependent on building the *Cardinal Hickory Creek* 345 kV expansion transmission line which Iowa and Dane Counties are trying to appeal in court.^{25 26}

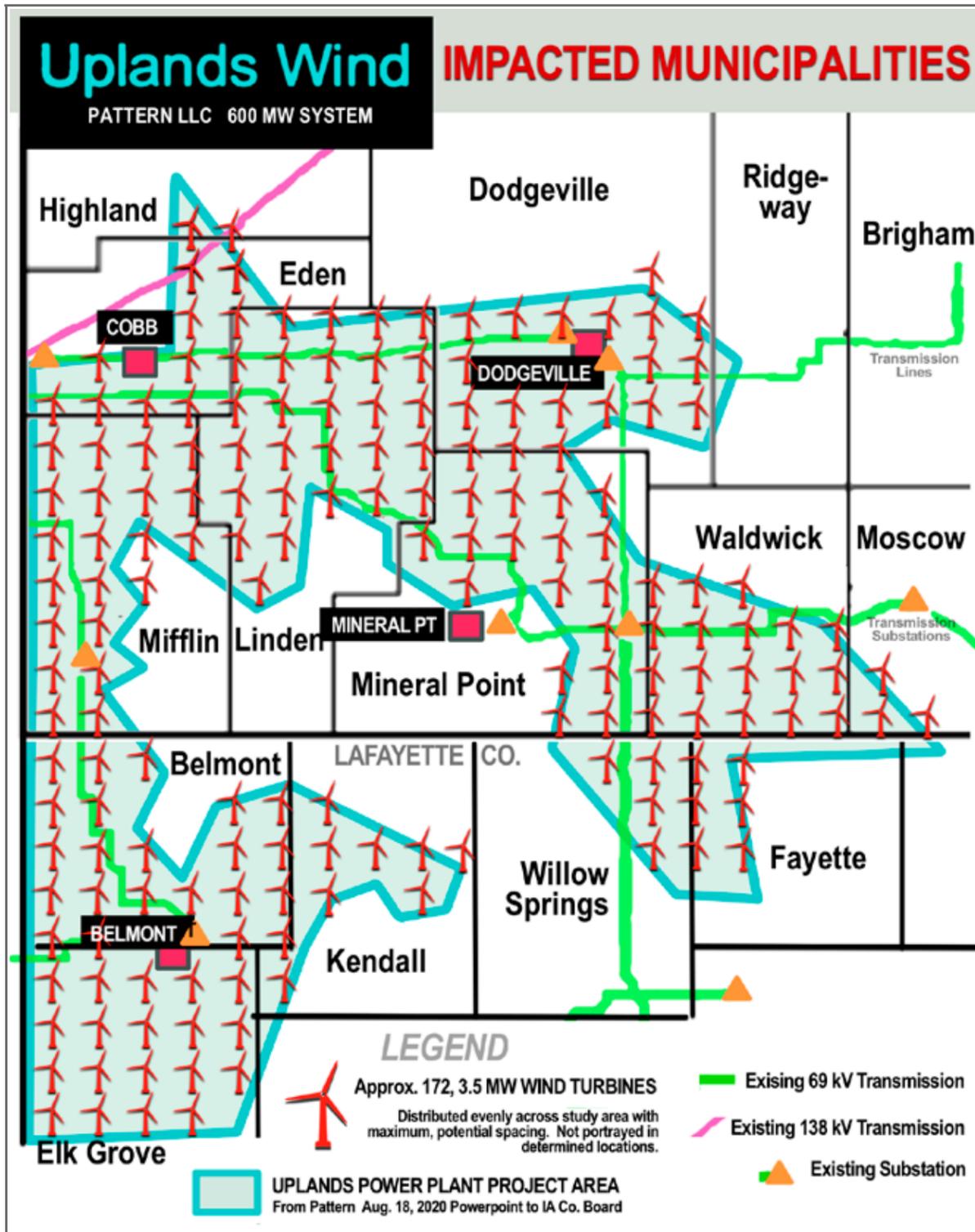
Immediate sharing of these findings is critical as Pattern salespeople are working daily to get the 50 additional contract signatures before February 24, 2021.²⁷ Hopefully, both the Iowa and Lafayette County Boards will act quickly to at least add the minimal, still insufficient protections from state code to their Wind Ordinances.²⁸

The additional signed agreements from landowners would allow Pattern to take their power plant proposal directly to the PSC for likely approval as state laws *do not require such plants to be evaluated for need* or require that benefits from alternative investments be compared.²⁹

This article may be accessed on line at <https://bit.ly/Uplands-editorial> with operative links to citations and spread sheets with calculations.

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BARNEVELD BOOSTER CLUB

Booster Club meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm in the school library. We need your support for our student athletes! Email questions to barneveldboosterclub@gmail.com



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N	E	A	L	I	P	E	B	G	D	T	I	D	I
U	L	I	I	H	E	A	I	O	O	L	R	R	O
H	I	T	E	U	D	C	E	R	X	P	I	E	M
C	E	A	U	A	P	N	O	O	R	E	D	H	E
O	W	M	D	H	S	I	U	R	E	E	R	P	T
D	T	L	A	U	E	O	N	H	G	D	T	E	C
I	T	A	B	A	T	N	I	S	S	I	A	H	R
L	O	D	B	S	T	C	A	H	C	H	E	S	U
M	R	P	O	I	E	C	T	G	L	H	C	G	L
D	H	O	S	R	R	R	E	E	N	N	E	A	D
P	B	X	U	S	T	H	O	U	N	D	L	R	D

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- *Insurance Billing Specialist - full-time day shift position
- *Medical Coding Specialist - .7 FTE day shift position
- *Patient Access Supervisor - 1.0 full-time exempt position
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AMERICAN LEGION SAL meets the 2nd Tues. of each month @ the Legion Hall.

AMERICAN LEGION will meet the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion hall.

THE COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET'S hours are the 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 10 a.m. -noon and the 3rd Thursday, 5-7 p.m. The Clothes Closet located at 102 E. Lincoln St., Mt. Horeb.

FOOD PANTRY: The Barneveld Food pantry is a cooperative outreach of the Barneveld & Ridge-way churches, local organizations and private donations. The Food pantry, housed at the Barneveld Lutheran facility is available for those in need in the area. The Pantry is Open on Wednesday 9:30 - 3:30 or by appointment by contacting 924-8621. Donations are always welcome.

THE BARNEVELD ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION is looking for new members. We meet the **2nd Tuesday of every month**, so if you're interested in giving back to the community please come to the American Legion Hall at 7pm.

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SPECIAL THANKS FROM BARNEVELD SANTA COP 2020

With your generosity, we were able to help 13 families and 33 Senior Citizens in the Barneveld-Brigham School District and in our community have a merrier Christmas. We believe every child should have a gift. Thank you!!!! The Barneveld Police Department would like to thank the following people for their donations to the Santa Cop program:

Bonnie Hurlbert, Capitol Painting, Barneveld Advancement Association, Beulah Manteufel, Ervin Leister, Debra & Roger Hallet, John Jenson, Donna Irish, Shannon Suchomel, Deb Piquette, Carrie Kramer, Jennifer Neumaier, Barneveld Legion Post #433, David and Kathy Wienkes, Steve and Sue Hellenbrand, Donald and Denise Steinhauer, Al Wright, Ted and Marcia Thompson, Rue Excavating, Quantum Devices, Crest Concrete, Robust Tools, Jim & Wanda Owens, P & J Eagle Sheet Metal, Inc, Larry & Sharon Walters, Ann Stamm, Rita Zander. Shenanigans Bar & Grill, William and Diane Schlimgen, Vortex Employees, Cheryl Koerwitz, Barneveld UCC, Randy Hendrickson, Ethan's Shining Light Foundation, Angie Schulting, Barneveld Giving Tree, Isaac Baumgarten and Braeden Bomkamp.

The following for coming and wrapping presents: Mike, Emily and Casin Weier, Megan Meiden and Michelle and Jessica Walker

Jean Ann Swenson and Michelle Walker for shopping.

This program could not continue without all the support we receive from the Barneveld Community. THANKS AGAIN!!!!



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Winter in Wisconsin means snow, ice and colder temperatures. Air sealing around windows and doors is an effective way to keep heated air inside your home this winter. These strategies can help:

Window Film

Window film is an inexpensive way to help reduce drafts and condensation in winter. It is easy to apply and can even be used over mini blinds. □

Caulk

Caulk to seal air leaks around windows. Caulking compounds come in a variety of strengths and prices. Most are available in disposable cartridges that fit in a caulking gun. Additionally, some caulk comes in squeeze tubes, ropes or aerosol cans. Caulk should be applied during dry weather when the temperature is at least 45 degrees Fahrenheit outside. □

Weatherstripping

Weatherstripping works well to seal air leaks around movable components like doors. It is available in many different materials, so it's important to read the packaging and choose the right type for your project. Proper application is key. Be sure your weatherstripping meets tightly in the corners. Apply one continuous strip along each side. Weatherstrip the entire door jamb.

Check Your Attic

Another good place to consider air sealing is the attic. Air sealing and insulation go hand in hand. Air sealing should be done first to stop warm air from rising into the attic. Consider hiring a professional to install a full air-sealing package.

Ask The Experts

MGE's energy experts are available to answer your questions and provide tips on staying comfortable and saving energy this winter and throughout the year. Call them between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at (608) 252-7117 or email AskExperts@mge.com.

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