

Suckow Mill in Young America up for sale

The historic Suckow Mill in Young America is for sale, again. But this time the building has undergone an extreme makeover.

The 3,000-square-foot Suckow Mill sits on a 2-acre parcel along the west side of the Milwaukee River. The building dates to 1857. In its prime, a grist wheel was used to mill wheat flour and operate a saw mill.

The cream city brick building is covered by stucco. Suckow Milling is printed across the front of the third story.

On Aug. 10, 2009 Larry Christianson of Cudahy bought the dilapidated mill for \$128,000.

The building, zoned residential, had been occupied until 2007 and was falling apart.

"It was a disaster with major water damage - primarily because it needed a roof," said Kari Roehl, real estate agent with The Right Address.

The old mill had definitely seen better days. Basement walls had buckled, raccoons lived upstairs for "many, many years" and there was "just a lot of stuff."

"It wasn't like a hoarder lived there but it was a collection of stuff - like somebody wanted to fix it up, but just never got around to it," said Roehl.

Random items included a brand new patio door, a cast-iron stove and metal left over from the milling days.

"The hand-bewed beams are still there but the rusty gears, pulleys and turbines are now gone," said Roehl.

The remodeled mill features much of the original hardwood floors, an upgraded electrical system, new roof, and all the brush and weeds have been cleared, so 700 feet of shoreline is accessible.

The property has been assessed at \$150,000 with taxes are listed at \$1,915. The current asking price is \$375,000.

Kreilkamp hopes to close on old Amity building

John Kreilkamp, chairman of Kreilkamp Trucking in Allenton, is working on a deal to purchase the old Amity building on Highway 33.

"Hopefully this will happen but we haven't signed anything yet," said Kreilkamp adding he liked the building because it was "clean and well-maintained."

Negotiations between the two parties, Kreilkamp and Tandy Brands, have been going on for two months. The 35-acre parcel



AROUND THE BEND

JUDY STEFFES

has been on the market since November 2007.

The next step will be for Kreilkamp and Serigraph, Inc. Chairman of the Board John Torinus to go before the Common Council as the property purchase agreement includes some possible tax relief from the city.

Kreilkamp said he hopes to close on the deal in 60 days.

Tandy Brands had been asking \$6.5 million for the property. It dropped to \$4.1 million within the last year.

No price was unveiled by Kreilkamp, however, he said the purchase was for the building only and not the adjacent land.

Seems like old times

It's starting to feel like the old days when there was a Common Council meeting every Monday night - that's because there are back-to-back-to-back Monday meetings slated for this month.

"We missed a meeting on the first Monday of the month because of Labor Day and they wanted two in the same month and now city officials are considering a meeting on Sept. 27, as well, because we need to go over the borrowings for general obligation refunding bonds and taxable general obligation refunding bonds," said City Clerk Amy Reuteman.

The council is slated to hold meetings through the end of the month on Sept. 20 and 27. On Monday the council is scheduled to take up the tax relief issue regarding Kreilkamp and Serigraph at Amity.

Regular Monday meetings were held by the council up until the first quarter of 2008 when the group started meeting on the first and third Monday of each month.

Buff bobcat

After getting an education at the School of Hard Knocks, the Barton bobcat came back buff. On Wednesday chainsaw artist Tom Weiss repaired the carved statue vandalized over the Labor Day weekend when the arms on the 6-foot bobcat were cut off.

"Look at those pipes," said Weiss, power sanding the new animal arms smooth.

Weiss arrived early in the morning, and after swallowing the lump in his



Judy Steffes For the Daily News

Woodcarver Tom Weiss works on Barton Bobcat on Wednesday at Barton Elementary School. He used new wood and re-positioned the vandalized arms.

throat and reviewing the situation he set to work.

"I took this vandalism personally - after I'm done with it this time, let's see what they can do," he said.

Using Gorilla Glue, Weiss bolted a couple blocks of spruce to the body. "This is a harder wood; I'm having the grain run parallel to the ground so it'll be stronger and I'm tucking things in so the arms aren't protruding like before."

Weiss also used steel rods through the arms and the back of the head of the carving for reinforcement.

"The message I wanted the bobcat to originally send was 'assertiveness' - now it's 'fighting assertiveness,'" he said.

Business updates

■ There's a new thrift store coming to West Bend. Funky Threadz & More will open mid-October at 1727 Barton Ave., up near Sandy's Barton Café.

Bonnie Jost of Campbellsport is the owner. "We'll have more eclectic items for adults and teens and we'll have crafty items like a lot of homemade jewelry," said Jost.

■ An expansion to Al's Hideout was given the green light during Monday night's Common Council meeting. Tavern owner Alan Pesavento plans to add a "customer lounge" to the west of the building, 1004 Park Ave., formerly the Park Avenue Pub.

More than 200 people are expected tonight for the retirement party of golf pro Don Hill who has been with the West Bend Country Club for 41 years.

■ The annual meeting for the West Bend School District is on Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. - the same night and time the Green Bay Packers kickoff against the Bears in Monday night football. "The NFL did not contact us and ask us if it was all right to schedule the Packer-Bear game that night," said School Board member Kris Beaver. The date for the 2010 annual meeting was voted on by membership during last year's annual meeting held Sept. 28.

■ The West Bend Sunrise Rotary presented former District 7 alderman Terry Vrana with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow award. Vrana was recognized for his overall contributions to the community including 16 years of service on the city council and his consistent commitment and organization of the Memorial Day Parade and the 4th of July Parade.

■ Last week, Around the Bend reported on Vic Albiero and his 10,000 stickers drawing attention to Obama Care. "It is a poison bill for small business," said Albiero. As of Tuesday, he had 1,000 stickers left.

■ John Chamberlain has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of John Aynesworth on the West Bend Library Board.

■ Country Blast to Replace the Grass is next Saturday, Sept. 25 at Regner Park. The event, 3 to 10:30 p.m., is hosted by the West Bend Grid Iron Club. Money raised goes to Operation Turf, a plan to install a turf football field at the West Bend High School. Tickets for the fundraiser are available at Mountain Outfitters, Tennesse Ace Hardware and Jumbo's.

■ At 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, a ceremony will be held to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Peace Pole at the Labyrinth Garden in West Bend. A new Braille will be added.

■ As knots of fall reds and yellows begin to dot the local landscape there's the question: Do you remember Kettle Kountry Kolers? When was the last time it was held? Answer next week.

Lithia draws interest

West Bend Lithia has a nice write-up in the fall edition of Suds, Wine & Spirits, a 28-page newspaper published in Milwaukee.

Lithia is featured in an article titled "Retro beers making a comeback."

The piece features a Lithia beer logo followed by a brief rundown of the beer's rich history in West Bend and the resurgence of the craft by local businessman Gunter Woog.

"Our Web hits on www.lithiabeer.com have tripled since this story came out last week," said Woog.

The newspaper has an extensive distribution including drops in Milwaukee, Madison, Chicago, northern Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky and Ohio.

Lithia releases in the works include a new Lithia Christmas brew and Bender Blonde, a lighter ale set to be unveiled in spring.

In 1940, postcards were sent to neighbors around West Bend announcing, "On Wednesday, December 11, 1940, The Famous Lithia Xmas Brew will be ready for distribution. Best ever - try it - you will like it."

Different labels were designed for the seasonal beer. One paper label featured a green wreath with holly berries and red bow. Inside the wreath was the familiar Lithia logo, underlined by the words "Christmas Beer" in thick German script. Other designs featured the words "Holiday Brew" above a profile of Santa, who was bordered by pine branches.

There was the red label special dark Christmas beer and the well known Xmas label with six bearded elves each working to stoke the fire under the vat of beer; pour hops, stir the mix, tap a pint and test the product.

Lithia's Christmas beer was available nearly all year long. You could only buy Christmas beer in bottles and you needed an opener to get the cap off. The beer didn't come in cans and it wasn't on tap.

Lithia's Christmas beer was sold by the case at liquor stores and at taverns within the West Bend area. Berres Liquor Mart, Triangle Beverage Mart, The Oasis bar (by Gehl Company), Pat's Tavern (owned by Pat Pault), Kuhn's Liquor, Palashes Liquor and Janz's Liquormart in Barton were just some of the local distributors.

Judy Steffes is a West Bend resident. Her column runs on Saturday in the Daily News.