

Study group suggests dredging lake

Under plan, Delafield, Nashotah property owners would pay

By **MIKE JOHNSON**
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Delafield — A group studying the restoration of Nagawicka Lake is recommending that \$2.7 million be spent to dredge several areas to improve navigation, and that all city property owners help pay for the work.

The funding question would be put to voters in a referendum, possibly in April, if Common Council members agree with the plan.

The Lake Nagawicka Funding Focus Group is expected to present its recommendation to the city's Lake Welfare Committee on Dec. 13. The committee, in turn, could present the recommendation to the council on Dec. 18.

The focus group, made up of lake and non-lake property owners from Delafield and Nashotah, is recommending that lakeshore property owners pay all of the costs of dredging along their property. The estimated cost, likely to be based on lakefront footage, for prop-

erty owners has yet to be calculated, said Bonnie Fieber, a spokeswoman for the Lake Welfare Committee.

Focus group members also are recommending that all non-lake property owners be assessed for dredging work because residents have access to Nagawicka from both private and public boat launches and parks, Fieber said.

Nashotah residents will be asked to help pay for the project because they have access to the lake through the Bleeker St. launch, Fieber said. The launch provides private access to the lake for Delafield and Nashotah residents.

The city is seeking state Department of Natural Resources approval for the dredging project. It filed a permit application with the DNR in late October.

Nashotah Village President Richard Lartz said the village has not yet decided "what route to take" on the project and potentially funding the municipality's portion of it.

"It's only a proposed project at this point. An application has been made, but not approved yet. ... If it's approved, the DNR has the option to approve it in its entirety or

scale it back. Then we'll get the prices," Lartz said. "It's nothing to get excited about yet."

Areas to be dredged include the Bleeker launch; the St. John's Pond Dock area; the Bark River inlet area; portions of Zastrow's Bay; the West, Northwest and Northeast channels; and the Kettle Access channels.

"Several areas of the lake are becoming increasingly difficult to pass," Fieber said. "Part of the St. John's Bay area has six inches deep of water and several feet of silt."

Fieber said the Lake Welfare Committee is in the process of formulating an estimated cost to be incurred by the residents.

"In the referendum, we would like to be able to explain how much, for example, the owner of a \$250,000 non-lakeshore property would incur. We are making every attempt to make the referendum as clear as possible so residents can make a well-informed decision," she said.

Delafield is required to hold referendums on capital projects of \$1 million or more.

More information about the lake restoration plan is at www.cityofdelafield.com/LakeNagawickaRestoration.htm.

3 arrested after report of \$10,000 scam

By **BOB PURVIS**
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Three men from Tennessee were arrested in a bank parking lot Wednesday on suspicion of hustling \$10,000 from one man and possibly scamming others, police said.

Police believe the men, two in their 40s and one 26-year-old, were using a variety of scams to con senior citizens out of money as they left banks around Milwaukee.

The scams ranged from rigged card games to made-up stories about hardships to gain victims' confidence, said Detective Donald Brown of the Milwaukee Police Department's robbery investigations unit.

Last month, a group of men approached a 70-year-old Milwaukee man and claimed they were coming into a \$100,000 insurance claim in the next few months. They offered to give the man a large cut of the claim if he fronted them some money. The man gave them \$10,000 and never saw them again, Brown said.

The group took the money and drove back to Memphis, but returned earlier this week and was spotted approaching customers in a bank parking lot Tuesday, Brown said.

Bank workers called police, who discovered a forged letter from an insurance company, envelopes filled with dollar-bill sized blank paper book-

ended with real money, and decks of playing cards, Brown said.

"Any time somebody is talking about a citizen giving them money and then they are going to give them back double the money, you have to realize that's a scam," Brown said.

Brown also advised that people never discuss their finances with a stranger and avoid withdrawing money in front of someone who looks suspicious or has asked for money.

Police believe other senior citizens were victims of scams and are asking anyone with information or who believes they were tricked to call them at (414) 935-7360.