

Restrooms ■ from Page A1 — Wayland cuts ribbon on new pavilion

said he had a change of heart after discovering the deck above it is not part of the concession stand and the city is not paying to have it built.

"The cost would be minimal because it's just a bump-out with electrical outlets," he said.

A draft form of the lease with JML Real Estate has been developed by the city attorney. Council members were not asked to approve the lease at the meeting.

A few Hubbard Street building owners questioned the arrangement.

"I have concerns about the new toilet proposal and I hope the city doesn't get into a royal flush," said John Watts. "You're going to pay \$25,000 for the design but what if the developer changes their mind—is that money just wasted?"

Watts said it seemed a rush to judgment and asked if any other places or proposals were looked at.

Peter Hanse also opposed approving the design expense before a lease was approved and building a \$200,000 facility he said the city won't own in the end.

Hanse also said the concession stand would be in competition with his father's Boardwalk Ice Cream business.

As a new resident and "Rollin on the River" volunteer, Debra Adams supported the restrooms and service counter (she didn't like the term concession stand.)

"The riverfront is a gem and the city is on the cusp of greatness with a beautiful view, waterpark and the momentum of getting people down here is incredible," she said. "Restrooms are needed and after people come to riverfront venues and drink a beer they patronize the local establishments afterwards."

City manager Joel Dye said the concession stand and storage area would reduce staff time and costs for setting up and tearing down after events by 60 percent. The restrooms are a necessity for usage at the new splash pad and other riverfront events. He said an independent structure was looked at.

"But I shot that down because the riverfront is a jewel and it shouldn't be crowded out with structures that block the view," he said. "We looked at one location behind the stage completely on private property but the flow didn't work so we reached out to JML who is giving of their company time to help out with events and discussed 'what ifs.'"

Council member Nancy Ingalsbee was against taxpayers paying for a concession stand and wanted to know how much could be saved if it was taken out of the design.

Dye said the majority of the cost of a building lies in the foundation, the flooring, the walls, the support beams and the roof. In discussing this project

with other engineering firms and builders, the restrooms and concession stand are just rooms within the structure and the only way to significantly reduce the cost is to reduce the size of the structure.

Tony McGhee of Abonmarche said not building a restroom facility would be a deterrent for people visiting the riverfront. He said it should be looked at as a quality-of-life issue and an investment for bringing tax dollars to downtown—not as a cost to taxpayers.

"We should work together with people for leverage," he said, adding that the city is taking advantage of already having water and sewer installed for the facility.

Council member Mike Manning asked what risk there was if JML Real Estate changed their mind before being locked into a lease.

Jim Liggett of JML Real Estate was there to answer.

"I've already spent \$25,000 on my own design plan," he said. "We need bathrooms and its our vision along with the city."

Liggett said he is developing a restaurant and Air B&Bs above the restaurant that will also be accessing the riverfront.

After investing \$6 million in Allegan properties, including Allegan Event and the zipline, Liggett said he is also trying to make Allegan his home and bathrooms are a need for the community. Plus rent is only \$1. Other than that, Liggett said he's not getting a penny out of the deal.

Tripp said Liggett could have invested anywhere in the world; however, he chose Allegan so he didn't think a partnership would be risky.

Manning said the council would have more specifics when the design plans are presented.

Wayland Main Street/Downtown Development Authority (DDA) hosted a ribbon cutting at the newly constructed "ITC Pavilion" at the corner of Pearl and Pine streets in downtown Wayland on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

The project was funded by ITC of Michigan which supported the design and creation of the downtown rain garden (completed in 2017) as well as the pavilion; the Michigan Realtors Association's MI Great Places Inc. placemaking grant that empowers communities to achieve "small wins" through community driven projects; #TeamGarcia (Abe and Natalie Garcia), Jean Farrell of Real Estate One—Success, and Jason Makowski of NAI Wisinski that provided the local match necessary to complete the project; and the Wayland Main Street/DDA for additional match and visionary leadership that spearheaded the project.

This project was com-



pleted with the support of the City of Wayland and the Department of Public Works that constructed the pavilion. PCI reviewed plans and permitted the project at no cost. "The ITC Pavilion project is a testament to the community-driven, revitalization ef-

orts at work in downtown Wayland," said Main Street executive director, Ingrid Miller. "With the support of multiple community partners, the pavilion is an added public asset for all to enjoy. "We look forward to

adding new landscape features around the pavilion in the spring and are currently partnering with Wayland Union High School students to design and construct furniture for the space."

Christmas Wish Program

Here is a sampling of some of the letters we are receiving for the Christmas Wish Program at the The Allegan County News and Union Enterprise.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, write us by Dec. 7, and we'll partner with local businesses to help make some of these Christmas wishes come true.

If you read these and want to help, write us as well. We're in the process of gathering up businesses and individuals who want to donate.

Send letters to editor@allegannews.com.

Hoping for presents for sons

I'm writing you in hopes to maybe be picked for your wish program as I have two sons, 14 and 16.

I just got Section 8 and got a place to live. It has been hard to buy things for them as

I'm on Social Security.

I just would like for my boys to come to my house on Christmas and have some presents for them to open. I have never been able to do that.

Struggling with food, presents

My husband and I have four children, ages 14, 13, 9 and 7.

My husband works but currently I'm off of work due to knee surgery. With him being the only one that is currently working, it is making struggles even harder.

We are constantly fighting to keep food in our cupboards and that seems to be the biggest problem we have with four children. We are behind on bills and we also don't even have food for our Thanksgiving holiday.

Christmas scares me the

most. I don't want my children to be disappointed. We keep trying to start getting gifts, but one bill after another keeps hitting us hard and we are left to set other bills aside.

I am embarrassed to ask for help, but I have nothing else to turn to.

I have been trying to find things in my household I could sell for a little bit of money, but I'm not really finding anything.

I just wanted to reach out and see if there is any help we can get.

VILLAGE OF HOPKINS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2019 BUDGET

This hearing will be held on
Monday December 10th 2018 at 7:15 PM.
At the Hopkins Village Hall, 128 S. Franklin St., Hopkins.

Purpose of this hearing is to discuss the proposed budget for the 2019 year for the Village of Hopkins. A copy of the proposed budget may be obtained by contacting the Village Clerk at villageofhopkinsclerk@gmail.com

The notice is published by:
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Mike Alberda, Village Clerk

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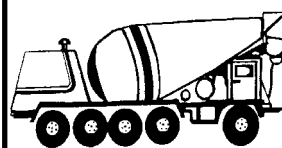
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