



Woodlawn

the work that will be needed for Woodlawn to be repaired and reopened. Insurance may cover the damage to headstones and to the roof of a shed that was harmed by the twister, but the lion's share of the work needed will not — removal of mountains of wood from the dozens of trees that were uprooted or toppled and repairs to the grounds.

"We're working hard to correct it, but it's

going to take time," Woodlawn Superintendent Tim Leahy said of the work ahead. "It will change the landscape of the cemetery, unfortunately."

According to Todd Shea, warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service, the F1 tornado reached peak winds of around 95 mph and touched down for approximately one minute early on Wednesday morning. It was approximately 0.2 miles in width.

Leahy said at first, cemetery staff thought the damage had possibly been done by

strong winds, but quickly learned that the storm included a funnel cloud that touched down on the grounds, a rarity in the river valley.

As work is done to repair the damages, clear roadways and remove the trees from the site, Woodlawn will remain closed to the public. Leahy said that he understands family members are likely concerned about whether their headstones may have been damaged by the tornado, but asks for patience as crews continue to focus on the work ahead and make the cemetery safe

for visitors again. Funeral services, in the meantime, will be evaluated and only held if it is deemed the burial site is safely accessible.

For now, those who would like to help Woodlawn recover from the destruction, estimated at more than \$150,000, are urged to consider a donation to help with the costs of repairs. Donations may be mailed to Woodlawn Recovery Effort and mailed to Woodlawn Cemetery, 506 West Lake Boulevard, Winona, Minn., 55987, attn: Donations; or, visit woodlawncemeterymn.com.

Storms

continued from page 1a

Despite the heavy rainfall, most local rivers were still within their banks as of Friday. Trempealeau River in Arcadia reached minor flood stage. The Trempealeau River at Dodge was projected to reach minor flood stage this weekend, according to the NWS. The Black River at Galesville and the Middle Fork of the Whitewater River were close to flood stage last Friday.

There were no flash flood watches or warnings issued at press time, but Boyne said flooding was still a risk. "We'll have to watch it coming through. There is potential severe weather tomorrow and tomorrow night," Boyne said on Friday.

Winona County Emergency Management Director Ben Klinger reported the house fire in Rollingstone and minor street flooding in St. Charles. "Other than that, I think we got pretty lucky this round," he said.

Elsewhere in the Driftless Area, some locations received over four inches of rain in 24 hours, and the Cedar and Kickapoo rivers reached minor flood stage.

Chris@winonapost.com

Council

continued from page 1a

Fifth streets, as well as paint "sharrows" on several other city streets.

Assistant City Planner Luke Sims said the proposal was an attempt to implement some of the lowest-hanging fruit in the city's 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. That plan recommended that the city spend millions creating new bicycle lanes and paths. The current proposal is estimated to cost \$5,800. It would paint dedicated bike lanes on Fifth and Huff streets and "sharrows" — symbols reminding drivers to share the road with cyclists — on parts of Seventh Street, Gilmore Avenue, Lake Boulevard, and Clarks Lane.

Local cyclists expressed mixed opinions on the proposal, with many praising it as an important step forward for bicycle safety and some criticizing the sharrows as ineffective and pushing for bike lanes with more separation between cyclists and vehicular traffic.

On Huff Street, the proposal would require eliminating on-street parking to make space for the bike lanes. In the parking-scarce neighborhood next to Winona State University's campus, several Huff Street business depend on that parking for their customers. "Obviously for my business it would be a huge negative," Warpzone video game store owner Wyatt Russell told the Post.

Bike parking; paths instead of sidewalks

Apartment developers could provide bicycle parking instead of off-street vehicular parking under a new rule city staff proposed. Normally city code requires two off-street parking spaces per apartment unit — or one space in downtown. Under the proposal, landlords could swap out up to four vehicular spaces for bicycle parking. They would have to provide two bicycle parking spots per vehicle stall and the bicycle parking spots would have to include a roof, tall bike racks, and plenty of space between bikes.

"If you look at the data, one rental unit essentially does not equal two cars. In a lot of cases, it equals less than two cars," city planner Carlos Espinosa said, citing a survey Sims conducted. "The purpose of [the proposed rule] is to allow more flexibility in meeting parking requirements given the unique characteristics of our city and the fact that a lot of people walk and bike and that should be incorporated into standards for transportation," he stated.

Many existing apartments in Winona either predated the off-street parking requirements and are "grandfathered in" or received variances from the parking rule.

In either case, the two-space-per-unit rule does not apply to them. However, new and expanding apartments might take advantage of the increased flexibility the change would provide.

Would this rule change increase apartment development or the conversion of single-family homes into apartments? Espinosa said that in central Winona, there are so many grandfathered-in properties and 30-percent-rule-saturated blocks that the new rule might not have a significant effect on apartment development. "I see this as maybe adding some additional rentals into areas outside the core of Winona," he stated. "In areas where there are smaller properties and you don't have two off-street parking spaces, you could have those turn into rental as a result," Espinosa continued. "But do I think this will have a tremendous impact on wholesale conversion? No. I think this is something that would be a benefit in a limited number of situations."

Among a host of zoning changes slated for a public hearing on Monday, another change would allow new subdivisions to build "shared-used paths" instead of sidewalks. In an effort to make Winona more walkable, a few years ago city leaders added a requirement that new subdivisions and other developments include sidewalks on at least one side of the street. The proposed rule change would allow developers to construct shared-used paths instead of sidewalks, if they choose. The term "shared-used path" generally refers to a walking and biking path, such as the Lake Park bike path. Espinosa defined shared-used paths as being wider than sidewalks and typically made of asphalt instead of concrete.

Do property owners have to shovel snow off paths like they do on sidewalks? Earlier this summer, ProGro Leasing proposed a new 73-home subdivision on Garvin Heights Road with a shared-used path instead of a sidewalk. At the time, the company proposed that homeowners would not be responsible for clearing snow on the path. That did not sit well with some Planning Commission members who said that not having a passable walkway in the winter undermined the purpose of the sidewalk requirement.

The Planning Commission approved the proposed rule change with the understanding that city code should require property owners to clear those paths of snow. However, there is no language in city code currently specifying that shared-used paths must be cleared of snow, and the proposed rule change does not include that requirement either.

Does the city need to write new rules that will make it clear shared-used paths are also subject to snow-removal requirements? "I think it would be appropriate if there is confusion, definitely," Espinosa answered. Will Espinosa draft rules to that

effect? "If this is something we really need to flesh out, then, yeah. If it's something that's a non-issue, then we wouldn't," he responded.

New rules for homeless shelters

When local volunteers launched the Winona Community Warming Center in 2017, city staff permitted the overnight homeless shelter by fitting it into existing rules. Now that the warming center is seeking to expand its number of beds, city staff decided to draft new rules specifically regulating homeless shelters for the first time. On Monday, the City Council will hold a public hearing before voting on those rules.

The rules would apply to any new or expanding shelters. The rules are based on other cities' ordinances, and they place several limits on new shelters. Homeless shelters would only be allowed in mixed-use zones — such as downtown — and in business districts, under the proposed rules. Shelters would not be allowed in any residential or industrial zones. Where they would be allowed, shelters would have to get a CUP, which requires a public hearing and votes by the Planning Commission and City Council. CUPs are discretionary — meaning that the city could deny the permit or place extra requirements on it.

The parking requirements for homeless shelters would match the requirements for group homes and state-licensed residential care facilities: one parking space for each staff or volunteer on duty during the busiest shifts. In other ways, the proposed rules are more strict than those for group homes. Group homes are permitted without CUPs in many residential, mixed-use, and business zones.

The proposed ordinance would require homeless shelters to be 1,000 feet away from other shelters. In addition to the normal public hearing requirements for a CUP, the new rules would require homeless shelters to conduct a "community meeting" prior to applying for a CUP — something the city does not require for any other land use.

In past meetings, city officials eliminated proposed requirement — regarding shelter entryways — that the warming center coordinator said would be difficult for the warming center to meet. Otherwise, warming center organizers have told city officials they do not object to the proposal.

The City Council will meet on Monday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers on the third floor of city hall. The council will hold public hearings on the proposed zoning changes regarding shelters, bicycle parking, shared-used paths, and more. It will not hold a public hearing regarding the proposed bike lanes. A full agenda is available on www.cityofwinona.com under the link "Go to Public Documents."

Chris@winonapost.com

23,782
households



ask for classifieds
EMPLOYERS!

When you are ready to hire help,
the Winona Post is here to help **YOU!**

Post your opening in the
one newspaper that delivers to

EVERY HOUSEHOLD
in Winona and surrounding areas of southeastern
Minnesota and western Wisconsin, 23,782 strong!

call **507.452.1262** or **800.353.2126**

or email us at class@winonapost.com

winonapost

WEATHER Forecast

source: weather.com

SATURDAY

Isolated
Thunderstorms
High 77°
Low 66°

SUNDAY

Partly
Cloudy
High 81°
Low 61°

MONDAY

Partly
Cloudy
High 83°
Low 67°

TUESDAY

Partly
Cloudy
High 84°
Low 69°

winona's twice-weekly newspaper since 1971
winonapost
f | winonapost.com

