

# Notes of Love for local military family



Andrea Fencel/Freeman Staff

Michael Johannes, veterans service officer for Waukesha County, writes a note to the Olson family on the unfinished walls of the home.



WAUKESHA — Operation FINALLY HOME in conjunction with Belman Homes held an event Friday inviting community members and supporters to write Notes of Love. The notes were posted around the unfinished home of injured U.S. Army Specialist Philip Olson and his family.

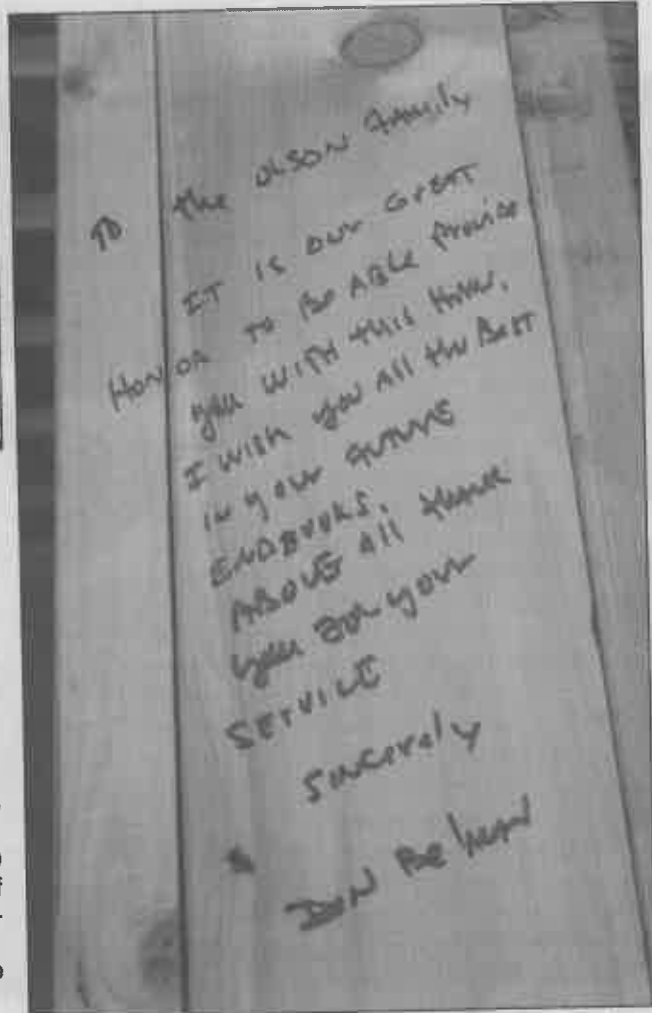
"We've been working on our contractors and suppliers to build this home for them free of charge," David Belman of Belman Homes said. "This is a celebration of the home and the work that people have put in so far."

Local schools also wrote messages and drew pictures that were stapled around the inside of the home. Today the Olson family will get a chance to walk around their home (pictured) in the Dunbar Oaks neighborhood and read the messages before construction on the house continues.

A majority of the labor and materials going into the 2,400 square-foot home has been donated. Ray Hoffman, chief selection specialist of Small Business Growth Partners, estimated under \$10,000 had been spent on the project.

Fotsch Business Match will match donations given to the family, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$150,000.

"Waukesha has been great. It's my hometown and we do so much work in the community that the project was well received," Belman said.



A note written to the Olson family by Don Belman of Belman Homes.



Montessori School of Waukesha was one of three schools that participated in creating Notes of Love for the Olson family.



Nicole McConkey of Belman Homes helps staple Notes of Love to the walls of the unfinished home.

# Cummings aims to represent the people

## Considers water compact major challenge, Riverwalk major success

By Lauren Anderson  
Freeman Staff

**Get to know ... Alderwoman Kathleen Cummings**

**Greatest accomplishment:** My greatest accomplishment is the faith the voters of the City of Waukesha's 9th District and Waukesha County Board 19th District have in my ability to represent their issues and concerns for over the past 17 years. I worked to establish the first dog park, getting the Nelson House back on the tax rolls, saving them \$2 million by bringing Johnson Controls to the city, just to mention a few. It has always been my belief that, personally, your family and children are your true legacy and I could not do this without the support of my husband and family.



Cummings

**THE FREEMAN: What do you feel is the role of government?**

CUMMINGS: The role of government is to serve the people because it is about "We the people."

**THE FREEMAN: Why did you seek to serve as an alderman? What do you feel the role of an alderman should be?**

CUMMINGS: I wanted to serve, represent and make a difference. I feel the role of an alderman must be to consider the facts, weigh the options, consider what staff recommends, and ask the questions that need to be asked, while asking, listening and considering their constituents' input. I am weary of the elected official who says, "staff recommends." We are elected to represent, consider, and make the tough decisions. That is what we are elected to do.

**THE FREEMAN: What are some of the major challenges you see Waukesha facing?**

CUMMINGS: The Great Lakes Water Compact is the No. 1 issue as Waukesha continues to move forward with the plan and its needed infrastructure. This is followed by jobs, drug use, and a balanced housing mixed.

**THE FREEMAN: What are some of the city's biggest successes and advantages?**

CUMMINGS: One of the biggest successes regarding City of Waukesha is its development of the Riverwalk. It was this vision, and commitment by many stakeholders which led to the "Renaissance of the Central City," and continues through today.

**THE FREEMAN: Do you feel that the federal and state governments have taken away too much local control?**

CUMMINGS: Yes.

**THE FREEMAN: What's the most interesting municipal meeting you have attended as an elected official?**

CUMMINGS: The most interesting municipal meeting was held on Nov. 20, 2007, which I attended. It was the adoption of the 2008 budget meeting, which ended at 4:35 a.m. I knew when I looked at the clock that morning that I was part of a historical moment. While I remember, all the issues the council handled that night being of policy, the Capital and the Operating Budget. None of those present or

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**Favorite movie:** "It's A Wonderful Life" and "Mr. Smith Goes To Washington," starring Jimmy Stewart; the "Harry Potter" movies; "The Hunger Games" movies; Syfy, and most recently, "13 Hours."

**Favorite TV show:** My favorite TV show today is "Gold Rush."

**Favorite actor:** Colin Firth

**Favorite actress:** Emma Thompson

**Favorite book:** "Harry Potter" series — connecting with my children

**Favorite musician or music group:** "God Bless The U.S.A." by Lee Greenwood

**Person I admire most:** My pop

**Best childhood memory:** The stories my pop would tell before bed. He was a storyteller.

**Three words people use to describe me:** I listen, care and ask tough questions.

**Hobbies:** Active member of Boy Scout Troop 159 and BSA Councilwide Merit Badge Counselor

**Favorite food:** Lobster tail and filet mignon

**Favorite vacation spot:** Dewey Beach, Delaware or anywhere with water where I can watch the sunrise or sunset.

**Vehicle:** My Trailblazer

**Pet:** None

**Something about me most people don't know:** In 1975, I panned for gold along Highway 49 in California.

**THE FREEMAN: What is your process of evaluating a proposal and deciding how to vote?**

CUMMINGS: An example of me evaluating a proposal and deciding how to vote on the matter, such as Waukesha Consolidated Dispatch, took over 40 hours of research and asking questions from many sources. There is a 15 to 45 second delay in transferring cellular 9-1-1 calls made by Waukesha taxpayers. 83.15 percent of all calls are made on cell-phones by city residents and are presently handled by Waukesha County.

The one-time cost to join in 2015 was \$442,934. The City of Waukesha taxpayer subsidy of 11 percent to County Dispatch in 2016

## STATE NEWS

### MADISON

#### Wisconsin sets early voting record; number expected to rise

MADISON (AP) — A record number of voters have cast their ballots early in the state of Wisconsin, with the number of early voters only expected to grow. Election officials have received more than 685,000 ballots so far. That exceeds the presidential

election total for 2012 by nearly 20,000 votes.

A surge of early votes in Dane County and the Fox Valley are a factor in the high numbers.

Increased voter activity in Dane County, which is liberal, could signal trouble for Republican candidates competing in statewide elections on Tuesday. But the number of voters on Election Day typically far outweighs the number of early votes.

Early voting is also on the rise in Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties, which are heavily conservative.

### DEERFIELD

#### Authorities ID 4 people killed in wrong-way I-94 crash

DEERFIELD (AP) — Wisconsin authorities have identified four people who died in a crash on Interstate 94 near Deerfield that allegedly was caused by a wrong-way driver

say the SUV turned around and headed against traffic, colliding with two cars.

Three passengers in one car were pronounced dead at the scene. They were identified as 26-year-old Katy Pasqualini and 28-year-old Kimberly Radtke from Milwaukee and 26-year-old Clenton Hall from Waterloo. The driver suffered life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the other car died at the scene. He was identified as 23-year-old Patrick Wasielewski from Northbrook, Illinois.

The driver of the SUV was