



# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Continuing to provide excellent educational programming to meet the needs of our students.

## Welcome



Craig Gerlach, Interim District Administrator

### Agenda

- Presentation about the operational referendum
- Q&A

# An Exceptional Education



The Wisconsin Heights School District is committed to providing exceptional education for all students.

## District Initiatives

- Community Collaboration
- Attracting & Retaining Staff
- Community Partnerships
- Proactive & Positive District Marketing
- Maintaining Small Class Sizes
- Innovative Teaching Styles

District	Overall Score DPI School Report Card
<b>Wisconsin Heights</b>	<b>78.5</b>
Middleton-Cross Plains	77.2
Mount Horeb	73.6
River Valley	71.7
Sauk Prairie	61.7

# Operational vs. Capital



**Operational** - Supports the annual, day-to-day costs to maintain the educational programs and services of the district:

- Staffing
- Supplies
- Programming
- Technology
- Transportation
- Food Service
- Maintenance
- Utilities

**Capital** - Borrow money to invest in facility improvements

- Large upgrades and additions
- New facilities
- Bond

# Operational Referendum

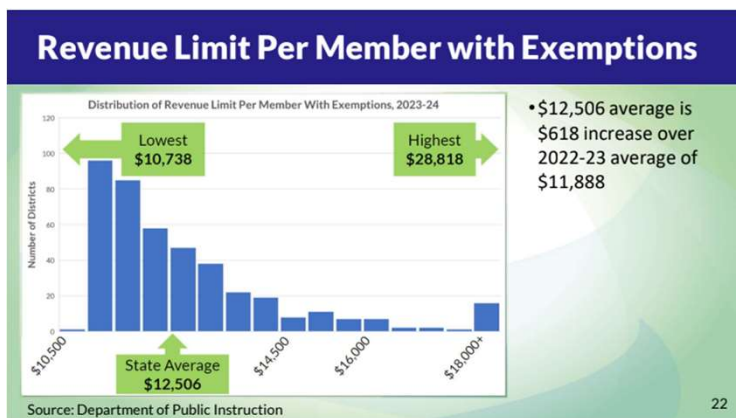


This type of referendum is necessary when the funds that districts collect for operations from state and local sources are not enough to sustain educational programs, staffing, and services.

**80%** of schools in Wisconsin have pursued an operating referendum from their communities.

## Why?

- Revenue limits
- 1993 capped
- QEO
- Act 10-Loss of \$600
- Low revenue ceiling



# Our History



The District has relied on operational referendum funds to maintain programs since 2009.

2009-2011:	\$850,000	(\$575,000 & \$275,000)
2011-2013:	\$850,000	(\$175,000 & \$675,000)
2013-2015:	\$1,875,000	(\$725,000 & \$1,150,000)
2015-2017:	\$3,250,000	(\$1,425,000 & \$1,825,000)
2017-2019:	\$4,111,202	(\$1,883,767 & \$2,227,435)
2019-2024:	\$11,000,000	(\$2,200,000 for five years)
2024-2028:	\$12,800,000	(\$3,200,000 for four years)

Why four years vs. five years?

# What is the Tax Impact?



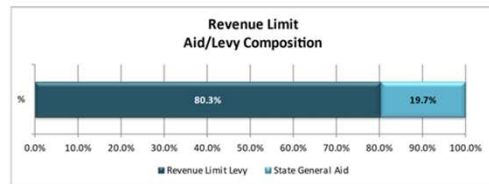
	Estimated 2024-25 Impact (month)	Estimated 2024-25 Impact
Property Value		
\$100,000	\$0.75	\$9.00
\$200,000	\$1.50	\$18.00
\$300,000	\$2.25	\$27.00
\$400,000	\$3.00	\$36.00

\$.09 per \$1,000 property valuation

Remember - Wisconsin Heights School District is just one piece of your individual property taxes. Dane County are the highest in the state.

<https://treasurer.countyofdane.com/property-tax>  
<https://smartasset.com/taxes/wisconsin-property-tax-calculator#Uej7a95Yfv>

Why is State General Aid Important?



The revenue limit calculates how much the district can raise through state general aid and the local tax levy. State general aid identifies who pays. The Revenue Limit less state general aid equals the revenue limit property tax levy. In 2024, approximately 20% of the school district's revenue limit authority is funded through state General Aid comprised of Equalization Aid, Computer and Personal Property Aid and/or High Poverty Aid.

figures based on 2023-24 budget figures provided by District

## What If The Referendum Fails?



We will no longer have the current \$2,200,000 operating referendum since that expires.

Estimating the district will be short \$3,000,000 for 2024-2025

Areas that will be reviewed

- Class sizes
- Academic programming
- Staffing
- Transportation

## How will the Ballot Read?



“Shall the Wisconsin Heights School District, Dane and Iowa Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,200,000 per year beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and ending with the 2027-2028 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of sustaining educational programming and operational expenses?”



# Thank You!



- Your attendance is appreciated
- For more information:
  - Website - <https://www.wisheights.k12.wi.us/o/whsd/page/2024-referendum>
  - Email - [info@wisheights.k12.wi.us](mailto:info@wisheights.k12.wi.us)
  - Call - 608-767-2595 (district office)



•••April 2, 2024•••



# Questions?

**Cooperative Agreement Between Capital Area Regional Planning Commission  
and the Village of Black Earth for Black Earth Creek Watershed Monitoring Activities**

This agreement is by and between the Village of Black Earth, hereinafter “Village,” and the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, hereinafter “CARPC.”

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the parties do mutually agree as follows:

1. Purpose. Regional municipalities and other non-governmental entities within the Black Earth Creek Watershed in Dane County, Wisconsin, have joined together to support the monitoring of water resources within Black Earth Creek and Brewery Creek (a tributary to Black Earth Creek), collectively being referred to as the Black Earth Creek Watershed Monitoring program. This monitoring program is conducted by the United States Geological Society, hereinafter “USGS”, and funded by the participants and USGS.
2. Term and Renewal. The term of this agreement is January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028. Upon mutual agreement of the parties, the agreement may be renewed for successive calendar years.
3. Scope of Services. The Village’s participation in the program is to partially fund the stream monitoring and related activities as part of the Black Earth Creek Watershed Monitoring program (USGS Station IDs: [05406469](#), [05406457](#), [05406479](#), and [05406500](#)). CARPC will serve as program facilitator. The Village will have access to data collected at any of the monitoring stations within the program, as well as the maps, records, or reports that may come out of the data collection. Notwithstanding, the Village acknowledges that scientific information and data developed as a result of the Scope of Work are subject to applicable USGS review, approval, and release requirements, which are available on the USGS Fundamental Science Practices website (<https://www.usgs.gov/about/organization/science-support/science-quality-and-integrity/fundamental-sciencepractices>).
4. Payment. The Village shall contribute a share not to exceed \$8,000 in 2024, \$8,000 in 2025, \$8,000 in 2026, \$8,000 in 2027, and \$8,000 in 2028 to the total cost of the monitoring program, as contracted via separate agreement between CARPC and USGS. This amount shall be paid to CARPC within thirty (30) days upon the Village’s receipt of an invoice from CARPC, which shall be issued no later than July 1 of each year.

**FOR THE CAPITAL AREA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

Stephen Steinhoff Agency Director  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title

**FOR THE VILLAGE OF BLACK EARTH**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title



# Proclamation

## National Library Week 2024

### April 7 – 13, 2024

**WHEREAS**, libraries offer opportunities for everyone to explore innovative ideas and become their best selves through free access to books, technology, multimedia content, workforce development, and educational programs;

**WHEREAS**, libraries provide the opportunity for everyone to pursue their passions and engage in lifelong learning, allowing them to live their best life;

**WHEREAS**, libraries have long served as trusted institutions for all members of the community regardless of the identities they may hold;

**WHEREAS**, libraries strive to develop and maintain programs and collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve and ensure equity of access for all;

**WHEREAS**, libraries adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities, continually expanding their collections, services, and partnerships;

**WHEREAS**, libraries play a critical role in the economic vitality of communities by providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for job seekers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs;

**WHEREAS**, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that promote a sense of local connection, advancing understanding, civic engagement, and shared community goals;  
**WHEREAS**, libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas for all;

**WHEREAS**, the Black Earth Public Library, librarians, and library workers are joining library supporters and advocates to celebrate the Black Earth Public Library and National Library Week;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Terry Moyer, President of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Black Earth, Dane County, Wisconsin, proclaim National Library Week, April 7-13. During this week, I encourage all residents to visit their library to explore the wealth of resources available.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Moyer, Village President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dani Fields, Clerk/Treasurer





February 2, 2024

To: Terry Moyer, Black Earth Village President

On behalf of the Gateway to The Driftless, Inc. Board of Directors, I am writing to thank the Village of Black Earth for including the \$1,500 funding commitment to the ongoing operational expenses of the Gateway to The Driftless, Inc. in your 2024 budget.

Since 2018, the Gateway has worked diligently to forge a partnership with the Villages of Cross Plains, Black Earth and Mazomanie, along with the surrounding Townships, to bring the promise of a year-round multi-use trail through the Black Earth Creek Watershed eventually connecting with the Great Sauk State Trail at the Wisconsin River to fruition.

That partnership has allowed the Gateway to work collaboratively with and speak on behalf of the Villages with representatives of the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department, Groundswell Conservancy, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Offices of Tourism and Outdoor Recreation, the Madison Region Economic Project (MadREP), the Great Sauk State Trail Commission and others to keep the focus on the trail and its impact on the economy of the region.

In 2024, your funding commitment will be put to good use throughout the year by:

- Continuing to serve as your representative on the Wisconsin River Bridge and Phase 1 of the Walking Iron Trail Rails-to-Trails conversion projects' workgroup;
- Working with Dane County Land and Water Resources Department to plan for Phase 2 of the Walking Iron Trail project to connect with the Wolf Run Trail;
- Seating a work group to identify and coordinate development of feasible trail segments with Groundswell Conservancy and Dane County Land and Water Resources from Cross Plains to the Wolf Run Trail that will supersede municipal boundaries;
- Marketing and promoting the abundance of our outdoor recreation opportunities and natural heritage using the Gateway's website, social media platforms and printed materials to increase tourism and economic growth;
- Continued pursuit of the responsible development of access to those natural resources for residents and visitors.

Please mail your \$1,500 check to Gateway to The Driftless, P.O. Box 425, Black Earth, WI, 53515 at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,  
Peter Antonie,  
Gateway to The Driftless Board Chairperson

Cc: Dani Fields, Village Clerk/Treasurer

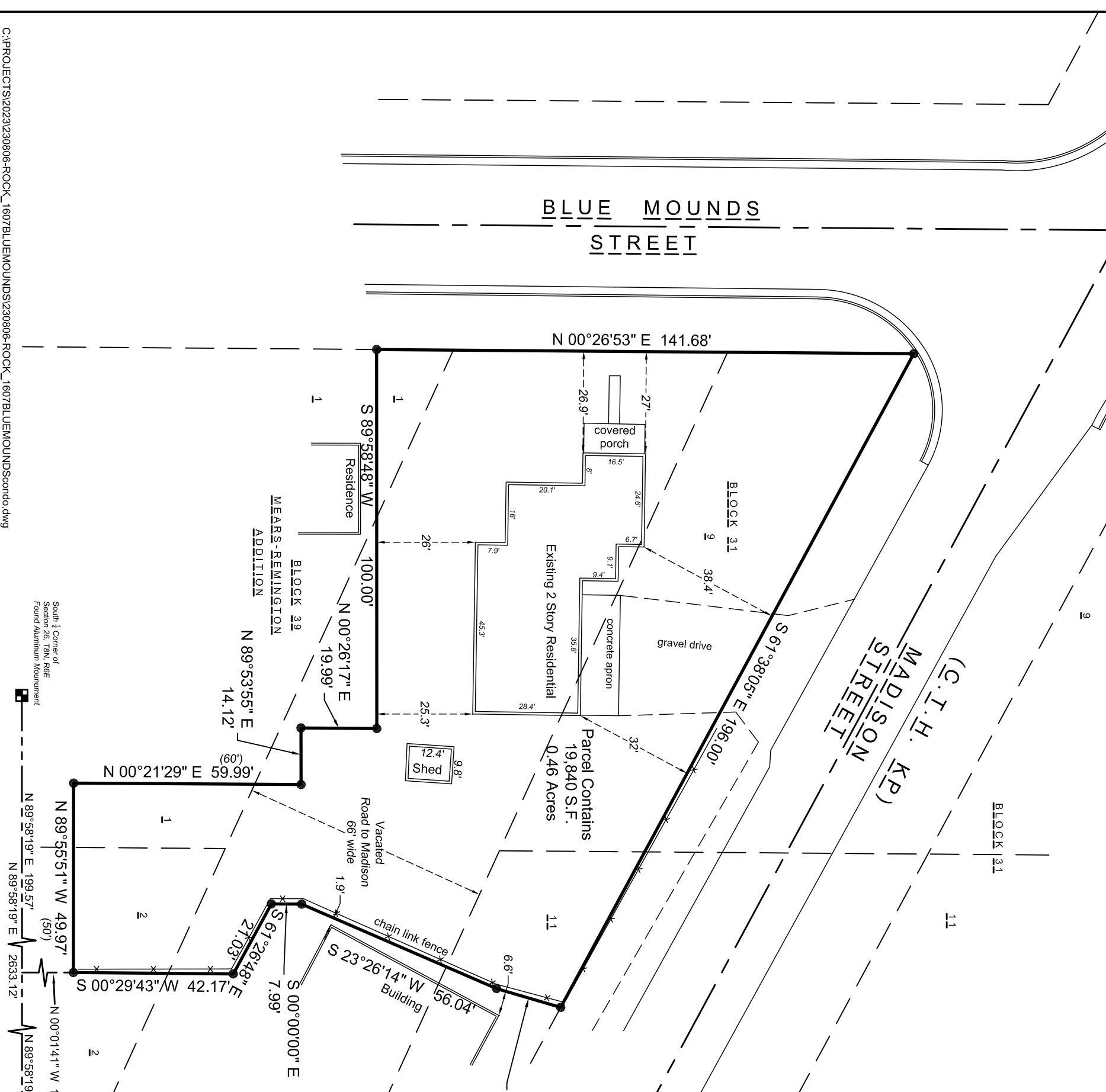
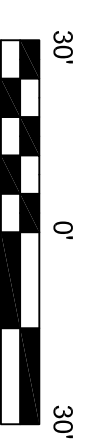
# BLUE MOUNDS CONDOMINIUM

Located In:

That part of Lots One (1) and Two (2), Block Thirty-nine (39), and that part of Lots Nine (9), Eleven (11) and Twelve (12), Block Thirty-one (31), and that part of the "Road to Madison", Mears and Remington Addition to the Village of Black Earth, all in the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 26, T8N, R6E, Village of Black Earth, Dane County, Wisconsin



BEARINGS ARE BASED ON THE WISCONSIN COUNTY COORDINATE SYSTEM, DANE COUNTY ZONE NAD83(97)



**Surveyor's Certificate:**  
I, Paul A. Speitz, Professional Land Surveyor S-2525, of Latus Surveying LLC, do hereby certify that in full compliance with the provisions of Chapter 703 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, I have Surveyed and mapped the following lands:

**Legal Description:**

That part of Lots One (1) and Two (2), Block Thirty-nine (39), and that part of Lots Nine (9), Eleven (11) and Twelve (12), Block Thirty-one (31), and that part of the "Road to Madison", Mears and Remington Addition to the Village of Black Earth, all in the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 26, T8N, R6E, Village of Black Earth, Dane County, Wisconsin more particularly described as follows:  
Commencing at the South ¼ Corner of said Section 26, thence N 89°59'19" E, along the South line of said Southwest ¼ of Section 26, 199.57 feet;  
thence N 00°01'41" W, 198.02 feet to the point of beginning of this description;

thence N 89°55'51" W, 49.97 feet;  
thence N 00°21'29" E, 69.99 feet;  
thence S 89°54'15" W, 14.84 feet;  
thence S 89°58'48" W, 100.00 feet;  
thence N 00°28'03" E, along the Eastern right-of-way line of Blue Mounds Road, 141.68 feet;  
thence S 61°38'05" E, along the Southern right-of-way line of Madison Street-C.T.H. K.P., 196.00 feet;  
thence S 23°26'14" W, 56.04 feet;  
thence S 00°25'19" W, 7.99 feet;  
thence S 61°26'48" E, 21.03 feet;  
thence S 61°26'48" W, 42.17 feet to the point of beginning.

This description contains an area of 19,840 Square Feet or 0.46 Acres.

I further certify that the condominium plat correctly represents the condominium described; that the floor plans are reproduced from plans furnished by the declarant's architect; and the location and identification of each unit and the common elements can be determined from the plat.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024; Paul A. Speitz, S 2525

**LEGEND**  
● SOLID IRON ROD FOUND (0.75" Dia, unless noted)  
( ) INDICATES RECORDED AS DISTANCES ARE MEASURED TO THE NEAREST HUNDRETH OF A FOOT.

**NOTES:**

- All areas not designated as units, or limited common elements (L.C.E.), or each respective unit, are common elements.
- Refer to the Declaration of Condominium for BLUE MOUNDS CONDOMINIUM for further definition of Units and Limited Common Elements.
- The approximate square footage of each Unit is depicted on each sheet. The approximate Unit areas provided are generally shown on the map and are further defined in the BLUE MOUNDS CONDOMINIUM Declaration.

Village of Black Earth Approval:  
Approved for Recording by the Village of Black Earth,  
dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

Dani Fields, Clerk/Treasurer

There are no objections to this condominium with respect to Sec. 703 Wis. Stats. and is hereby approved for recording.  
Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024  
Dane County Planning and Development

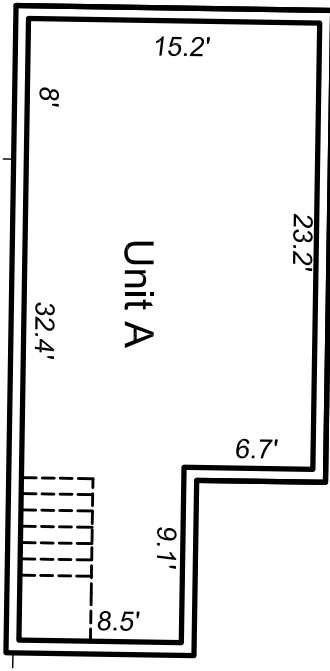
**RECORDING DATA**

**CERTIFICATE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS**  
Received for recording this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, at \_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_ M. and recorded in Volume \_\_\_\_ of Condominium Plats, on pages \_\_\_\_ as Document Number \_\_\_\_.

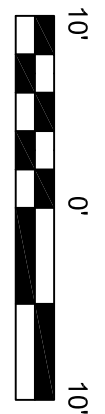
Kristi Chlebowski, Dane County Register of Deeds

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building footprint above



**NOTES:**

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3. The approximate square footage of each Unit is depicted on each sheet. The approximate Unit areas provided are generally shown on the map and are further defined in the BLUE MOUNDS CONDOMINIUM Declaration.

