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KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Wastewater bill increase approved by Common Council

KAITLYNN MYERS
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Kokomo residents will see a small jump in their wastewater treatment bill next year as the Kokomo Common Council this week approved an increase – yet another consequence of kicking the can down the road. Wastewater treatment improvements, along with some other mandated projects, have reached the end of that road and now have to be dealt with immediately.

As the Common Council closes in on its final meeting of the year on Dec. 8, members were faced with yet another decision impacting residents. The wastewater bill increase was introduced at the Common Council’s last meeting on Nov. 10 and faced backlash from two locals, citing the transparency and timing of the increase.

Timing was not optimal as the council had earlier implemented a trash service fee, for the first time, and was forced to increase the local income tax (LIT) to help pay for a new county jail.

“There is not a council member here that likes it any more than you do,” Councilor Greg David, District 5, said. “What I am really frustrated by is the fact that this started back in 2003 and we’re now left to pick up the cards that were dealt and have to assign these

See **WASTEWATER** on A3

Greg Davis

Matt Grecu

Counting blessings

Kokomo couple reflect on baby’s NICU experience

KIM DUNLAP
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Charlotte Schacht might not know it yet, but she’s a miracle.

And for the 11-month-old’s parents, Devin and Madison, this Thanksgiving is a lot more than just about turkey and football.

It’s also about giving thanks for the gift of life.

‘CONSTANT MONITORING’

Like a lot of young couples, the Schachts did not expect it would be difficult to conceive when they started trying.

But then the days turned into months, and the months turned into years.

Six-and-a-half years, to be exact.

“I honestly had given up hope that we’d have children,” Devin said. “I had come to terms with the fact that children were not in the cards for us. I had accepted it wholeheartedly, and I thought it was not in God’s will for us to have kids. And I tried to convince Maddy of that, but she’ll tell you all she ever wanted was a kid, and she definitely didn’t want to hear that.”

So one day, the Schachts shook hands and agreed if they didn’t get pregnant in six months, they would stop trying and just focus on each other, their two dogs and their extended families.

They got pregnant by month four.

It seemed like a rather ordinary pregnancy too, the couple explained. Until it wasn’t.

It was around Thanksgiving 2024 when Madison first noticed swelling around certain parts of her body.

That was just normal for pregnancy, she thought.

But by Dec. 2, her eyes were almost swollen shut, and her blood pressure was spiking to 190 over 90.

See **CHARLOTTE** on A2



Submitted photo
Eleven-month-old Charlotte Schacht poses with her parents, Madison and Devin. Charlotte spent 46 days in the neonatal intensive care unit after being born last December.

“Life’s so fragile and precious, and you just have to appreciate the fact that you even have a chance to live it. She taught me that.”

DEVIN SCHACHT, Father of 11-month-old Charlotte

Kokomo YMCA opens Rehab and Recovery Studio

KAITLYNN MYERS
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Nearly 10 years ago, Kokomo welcomed the YMCA to the downtown area.

Monday, it unveiled a project that had been in the works for more than a year.

YMCA of Kokomo, 114 N. Union St., partnered with Community Health Network and Ascension St. Vincent to bring a Rehab and Recovery Studio to the second floor of the YMCA.

“Both hospitals are referring cardiac care,” Kokomo YMCA CEO Trisha Severns said. “You have individuals here, so it’s really more of a warm handoff that they can come here and they can do it in a nice, serene space where they will have support.”

Included in the Rehab and Recovery Studio is a built-in palates studio for all YMCA members to enjoy.

Although there is not an age-limit on the studio, Severns emphasized its use for adult behavior.

“All of our memberships are always financial based, so if someone can’t afford to have a membership, we don’t want that to be a barrier for them,” Severns said. “So, they are always welcome to come in and have a sponsorship which will help alleviate some of the burden for them. It’s just open to our entire community. So we want folks to come in and enjoy it, whether they’re rehabbing from a physical injury or a cardiac event. We want them to feel supported and loved and cared for here.”

In attendance at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday were members of the YMCA board of directors, Kokomo Mayor Tyler Moore and members of the Greater Kokomo Chamber of Commerce.

Announced at the ceremony were new programs coming to the YMCA in 2026 to help combat diabetes, arthritis and cardiac wellness pathways. They will be similar to the Parkinson’s program, rock steady boxing, that is already in place.

“We do have one piece that’s going to be opening up,” said Severns, referencing a space in the corner of the rehab center. “we have a Christmas gift for all of our members, but we’re not going to share it yet. But be sure to follow up on our social media to find out there.”

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WEATHER



Snow possible and it will be cold with wind chills in the teens.

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Full forecast on A8.

INSIDE

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