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Stevens Point Journal

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Representatives from Meals on Wheels of Stevens Point and members of the CoVantage team are pictured holding a check for nearly \$26,400, raised through the CoVantage Cares Giving on Tuesday fundraising campaign.

PROVIDED BY COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION

Free sand and salt available for sidewalks

Nida Tazeen
AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

STEVENS POINT – Stevens Point residents are being asked to help make travel safe for pedestrians of all ages and abilities by working to clear sidewalks of snow and ice, according to a community announcement.

Due to many recent reports of slips and falls on public sidewalks, the city will respond to complaints of slippery sidewalks, according to a Jan. 9 post on the city’s website. Sidewalks the city deems post a safety hazard will be sanded and salted by a contractor and the property owner will be billed, the announcement said.

If removing snow and ice is difficult, residents are encouraged to use a sand and salt mix to help pedestrians cross.

The mix is available at six free sand and salt mix locations throughout the city. Residents can find them at Atwell Park (on the corner of Jordan Lane and Soo Marie Avenue), Morton Park (on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Bush Street) and at the intersections of Phillips Street and College Avenue, Fifth Avenue and Second Street, Illinois Avenue and Algoma Street, and downtown in front of 949 Main St.

There is also a sand service area at the city garage at 100 Sixth Ave. There, residents can collect up to two 5-gallon buckets of sand, as long as they provide their own buckets.

City ordinance 16.06(l) specifies it is the responsibilities of property owners, occupants, tenants or the person in charge to maintain adjacent city sidewalks in a condition that is reasonably free from snow and ice. For corner lots, this includes the sidewalk

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CoVantage Cares donates \$26K to Meals on Wheels

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USA TODAY NETWORK

STEVENS POINT – Meals on Wheels of Stevens Point is among 12 nonprofits receiving funds from the CoVantage Cares Foundation’s 10th annual Giving Tuesday campaign, according to a community announcement.

Meals on Wheels of Stevens Point received nearly \$26,400 through the

fundraising campaign.

The campaign, which ran from Dec. 2-16, raised \$502,900 to benefit organizations in communities where CoVantage Credit Union operates. The foundation matched up to \$200,000 in donations.

“Celebrating ten years of giving through CoVantage Cares is a powerful reminder of what’s possible when people come together with a shared commitment to generosity,” said Charlie Za-

nayed, CoVantage Credit Union CEO and CoVantage Cares Foundation president. “We are deeply grateful for the kindness of our members, employees and community partners who continue to make the Giving Tuesday campaign powerful.”

The campaign’s strength comes from the commitment of CoVantage Credit Union branches, which part-

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Banks sounding the alarm on ‘recovery scams’

Nida Tazeen
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USA TODAY NETWORK

Five local banks are warning consumers about a rising fraud scheme targeting people who have already lost money to scams.

The trend, known as a “recovery scam,” involves criminals who promise to help victims recover stolen funds – but demand a fee or sensitive information in return, according to a community

announcement.

Federal authorities, including the FBI, have reported an increase in these cases. Scammers often pose as law enforcement, government officials, banks, attorneys or professional recovery services. They may contact fraud victims days or weeks after the initial scam, claiming they can retrieve lost money if the victim pays an upfront fee or “verifies” account details through a link or payment.

“Once someone has been scammed,

they’re often emotionally vulnerable and eager to fix the situation. Unfortunately, criminals know this and exploit it,” Connie Zuleger, COO at Prevail Bank, said in the announcement. “Recovery scams add insult to injury by targeting people when they’re already under stress.”

Scammers use real details to appear legitimate

According to the announcement,

recovery scammers often reference real events or previous interactions to build credibility. They may claim to be following up on a fraud report, an online complaint, or a conversation with a bank or government agency. In some cases, they create fake websites or reporting portals that closely resemble legitimate resources, including well-known fraud reporting platforms.

“No legitimate bank, government

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