

WXER-FM Program Listing
01/2024 - 03/2024

TITLE	SOURCE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	TIME/FREQ
NEWS	L		BI-HOURLY BROADCASTS OF LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION	5AM-8AM M-F

A minimum of ten public service announcements per week address ascertained needs and problems as well as community events and needs, and addressing community concerns took place during regularly scheduled newscasts.

Prepared and submitted by



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04/02/2024

SPD Reports Incident That Prompted Lock-downs Concluded With Subject Taking His Own Life

Mar 13, 2024 | 7:35 PM

The Sheboygan Police Department spent much of Wednesday managing a tactical situation that began at 9:55 a.m.. That's when a call for assistance was received from a 31-year-old Sheboygan man who was working at a home in the 2700 block of South 9th Street. The man told dispatchers that as he was working on a door, something blew up in his face. First responders found the man with a gunshot wound just under his right eye. He was treated at the scene and taken to a local hospital, but later flown to Froedtert Hospital in Wauwatosa for specialized care. His injuries were said to be non-life threatening.

Precautionary lock-downs were put in place for a short time at Sheboygan South High School, Farnsworth Middle School and Wilson Elementary School, while residents in the immediate vicinity were told to "shelter in place."

Officers set a perimeter around the home, beginning an investigation that indicated that the person responsible was likely still inside. Multiple attempts to contact the person were made via phone and from outside, but all were unsuccessful.

The Sheboygan Police Department's Emergency Response Team was then deployed and used noise distraction devices and other methods in attempts to prompt the individual into communicating. Eventually, contact was made between the subject and the Emergency Response Team, which worked "diligently" to persuade the individual to come out. After the individual again refused to comply, a search warrant to enter the home and arrest the subject was obtained. However, when officers attempted to enter the home a gunshot was heard from inside. A drone was deployed to safely investigate, and it revealed a 52-year-old man deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The incident is now under investigation by the Sheboygan Police Department and the Sheboygan County Medical Examiner's Office. Until family members are contacted and support services are coordinated, there will not be any names released.

SPD: Two in Custody in Connection to Graffiti, Vandalism on Tuesday Morning

Mar 13, 2024 | 8:44 AM

The Sheboygan Police Department has announced that it has two juveniles in custody in connection with an early Tuesday morning vandalism and graffiti spree in the Franklin Park and Swift neighborhoods that also included several burglaries.

The value of damage attributed to the two suspects, resulting from red and black paint sprayed on houses and vehicles, was estimated at between 20-30 thousand dollars.

Reports of the activity began coming into police dispatch at around 3 a.m. Tuesday, and police had asked for the public's help through review of their security and doorbell cameras. That apparently paid off, as police thanked the public for the surveillance footage that was received.

Early this Wednesday morning, two SPD officers on patrol observed a suspicious juvenile riding a bicycle. Subsequent investigation revealed that there were two juveniles involved. Both have been referred to juvenile authorities on 21 counts of criminal damage to property and 3 burglaries.

Suspect On the Run From Pursuit, Gunfire Incident, Turns Himself In

Mar 12, 2024 | 4:24 PM

The driver wanted in connection to a pursuit that ended in gunshots and another suspect taking their own life has surrendered to Sheboygan County authorities.

28-year-old Mario Rezall Dajuan Doyle, Jr., fled for a second time in a series of traffic stops by Sheboygan County Sheriff's deputies late on the night of Saturday, March 2nd. After leading officers on a pursuit from the initial stop, a passenger in the car fled on foot during the second stop while firing his gun at officers, allowing Doyle, Jr. to again escape in his vehicle. The passenger later took their own life before officers could apprehend him. Doyle, Jr. was being sought ever since.

Sheboygan County Sheriff's officials confirmed that Doyle turned himself into custody, accompanied by his lawyer, at about 2:30 on Tuesday afternoon. He remains in custody as the Sheboygan County District Attorney's Office develops official charges against him.

First-Of-Its-Kind Dementia Living Village Planned for Town of Wilson

Mar 12, 2024 | 5:44 AM

A project described as a “first-of-its-kind” in the United States is planned to take form right here in Sheboygan County. To be known as “LIVASU”, the project by Dementia Innovations, a Sheboygan-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is to be built in the Town of Wilson. The concept operates under a “living as usual” design that incorporates pocket neighborhoods of 10-14 small square-footage homes surrounding a village center. LIVASU is planned for 124 homes in all, with the village center featuring a restaurant, a theater, a chapel, a grocery and an atrium area.

According to Chuck Butler and Mary Pitsch of Dementia Innovations, the village and its amenities will be open to the public with the goal of reducing the stigma of dementia through the integration of the residents into the community. The concept focuses on support for the person with dementia and their family, who are given a greater role and autonomy in decision-making, with the support and care provided 24-7 as-needed and at the level requested. The homes will be privately owned, allowing spouses to remain together.

Dementia Innovations said that they’ve received generous support of many organizations in the community. Land for the project was secured primarily through a donation from the Ruth DeYoung Kohler Community Impact Fund, with additional support from the West Foundation and Bank First.

Groundbreaking is planned for late this spring or early summer, with homeowners able to move in sometime in the fall of 2025.

Sex Offender Placement in Sheboygan Announced by SPD

Mar 11, 2024 | 6:19 AM

Calling it a matter of public safety, awareness and protection, the Sheboygan Police Department has notified City residents that a convicted sex offender will be living nearby. State law allows that notice at the discretion of police when a lifetime registered sex offender reaches the end of their prison term and will return to the community.

Andrew Becker was released on Sunday, and will now be residing at 930 Michigan Avenue in Sheboygan. Terms of his release require supervision by probation and parole agents, and as a condition of his release, Becker is not allowed to have unsupervised contact with minors, may not use illegal substances, and may not possess smart devices or have access to the internet.

Becker is no longer wanted for any crime, and will be under 24-hour electronic monitoring.

Evergreen Park Tree Removal Will Keep Large Portions Closed for Weeks

Mar 11, 2024 | 6:25 AM

Sheboygan's Evergreen Park is usually closed to vehicular traffic from October 15th through May 15th each year while left open for other use – but this year is going to be different. Even walking, biking and other use in much of the popular park will have to wait for several weeks as crews work to remove a large number of felled trees. Those trees are among hundreds that were downed when severe winds blew through the area on June 15th of '22. Most of those remained either where they fell or were moved nearby, and now Department of Public Works crews will be undertaking the task of clearing them out.

In order to do that safely the east half of the Park, consisting of areas 2 and 4, will be closed to all public use between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, leaving only the early morning, along with the late afternoon and evening available for visitors to those areas on weekdays – at least until early April. The remainder of the park can still be used between 4 a.m. and 10 p.m.

While those operations will restrict hours for now, it will allow for vehicular traffic to return to the entire park 2 weeks earlier this year, with the opening now planned for May 1st.

City of Sheboygan Puts Out Call for Poll Workers

Mar 6, 2024 | 5:38 AM

With the April 2nd election approaching, the City of Sheboygan is looking for people to work the polls. According to the MyVote website, poll workers do everything from checking in voters and helping people register to vote, to checking photo IDs and process absentee ballots. In order to qualify, a person must be an adult who's resided in their election district for at least 28 consecutive days, be able to read and write fluently in the English Language, and must not be a candidate for any office on that district's ballot.

Training is required beforehand, and the City Clerk's office will be holding training sessions on March 14th, 15th and 18th. You can fill out an application in the Clerk's office at City Hall during regular business hours.

For more information, call 920-459-3361 or visit online at <https://www.sheboyganwi.gov/pollworkers/>

Sheboygan's In-Person Absentee Voting Hours for Upcoming Election Announced

Feb 28, 2024 | 4:17 PM

Sheboygan residents who want to take advantage of in-person absentee voting in the upcoming Spring and Presidential Preference Election can now plan ahead, as hours and dates were announced by the City Clerk's office on Wednesday.

Any qualified elector who's unable or unwilling to go to their polling places on April 2nd may choose to vote at City Hall on the following dates:

March 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, or 28 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

March 21 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. -or

March 29 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Those wanting more information can visit elections.wi.gov, or contact the Sheboygan City Clerk's Office at 920-459-3361.

SASD Invites Public to Review Urban, Farnsworth Rebuild Plans

Feb 26, 2024 | 6:14 AM

The public is being invited to learn about plans to address two aging Sheboygan schools that would require a referendum on the November ballot.

Community meetings to present the issues and tour the facilities will be held at 6:30 p.m. this Thursday, February 29th at Urban Middle School, and on Monday, March 4th at Farnsworth Middle School.

The likely referendum will request some \$126 million in order to build a new Urban Middle School on Mill and Najacht Roads and completely removing the existing facility, while a new Farnsworth Middle School would be built on the existing property in phases, using the existing school while the new one is built.

A Citizens Advisory Committee convened in 2019 made those recommendations to the board in 2022, and Bray Architects was hired to develop the plans that will be reviewed at the upcoming meetings.

Assistant Superintendent Jake Konrath explained to media last week that the two schools, approaching 100 years old, are at a point where renovations alone couldn't possibly address issues such as outdated HVAC, structural and site issues, or accommodate 21st Century approaches to education. He said that "Our ultimate goal is that everyone is well-informed as we consider the best options for the future", and that "Schools are at the heart of our community, and we want to ensure we have safe and high-quality facilities to serve students today and for generations to come"

City Seeks Candidates for Open Aldermanic Seat

Feb 21, 2024 | 5:53 AM

Candidates for Sheboygan District-3 Alderman are being sought to fill the vacancy created when Amanda Salazar announced moving out of her district and resigned her seat on Monday, but candidates have only three weeks in which to register.

The Common Council will conduct an election during the March 18th Common Council meeting to fill the remainder of Salazar's term which ends in April 2025.

Anyone living in Wards 5 and 6 which comprise the District are eligible, and interested persons must submit a letter of interest and brief resume to City Clerk Meredith DeBruin by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14th.

For more details or inquiries, call the City Clerk's office at 920-459-3361, or visit sheboyganwi.gov/departments/city-clerks/

18% of Eligible Voters Turn Out for Tuesday's Primary – Unofficial Results

Feb 21, 2024 | 5:58 AM

18 percent of those eligible to vote in Sheboygan County's spring primary election turned out to state their preferences on Tuesday. The largest by percentage lived in the Village of Howards Grove which saw 22 percent casting votes to pick the top four candidates who will vie for two seats on the Howards Grove School District board, but by the numbers, City of Sheboygan Wards 3,4, 15 and 16 topped the turnout as 1623 voters, or 18 percent, narrowed the field who will compete for two aldermanic seats in April.

In the City of Sheboygan District 2, Incumbent Alder Roberta Filicky-Peneski advanced to April's general election to face challenger John Belanger through an 18-vote margin of 272-254. Markus Savaglio was eliminated after garnering 74 votes.

District 8 Incumbent Zachary Rust outnumbered challenger Jesse Roethel 186-73 to advance, while Denny Runge had 68 votes and was eliminated from the race.

The Village of Howards Grove along with the Townships of Herman, Mosel, Rhine and Sheboygan Falls had a field of six candidates going for two seats on the Howards Grove School District Board, with the top four advancing to April's contest. Newcomer Courtney Athorp captured the most votes with 437, with second place going to Brandon Suemnicht, another newcomer who had 233 votes. Incumbent member and current treasurer Janina Siemers received 177 votes to advance; also surviving the primary was current Board President David Loomis who received 172 votes. Challengers Debbie Knoener and Nicole Schumacher were eliminated from April's election, with the top two vote-getters then receiving seats on the Board.

Sheboygan's Dan "Bogie" Bogenschuetz Elected to Packers Fan Hall of Fame

Feb 19, 2024 | 3:42 PM

The Green Bay Packers have named Dan "Bogie" Bogenschuetz as the 26th inductee into the team's Fan Hall of Fame. The announcement came this Monday morning, honoring the well-known green-and-gold booster who's been hosting trips of fans wherever the Packers might play for the past 36 years. Nine other finalists, mostly from Wisconsin but as far away as Colorado Springs, Colorado to the west, and Severn, Maryland on the east, were nominated for this year's honor. Bogenschuetz was selected by the public through an online vote, but the final decision was up to the Green Bay Packers' Board of Directors.

WHBL caught up with Bogie just as he sat down with friends at the departure point for many of the trips he's organized for fans to see their team in action, telling us: "We just pulled into Tommy's bar here in town and we're buying everybody one drink, and the bus is sittin' outside the bar waiting for us."

For some of those games covering many decades the bus was only the first leg of the trip. "This was my 36th year, and there's not many games at Lambeau...most of the games are on the road. Even this last year we did London."

As the most recent inductee into the Packers' Fan Hall of Fame Bogenschuetz will be receiving four club seats to a 2024 home game along with four pre-game sideline passes, four passes to the Packers Hall of Fame, a custom Packers jersey, a \$500 Pro Gift Shop certificate and a one-year subscription to PackersNews.com. But the highlight will likely be something he doesn't take away from Lambeau Field – a plaque with his name will be installed in the largest such establishment in the NFL, and in true "Bogie" fashion, a trip for that is already being planned.

"The day my plaque with my name actually goes into the hall of fame I'm definitely gonna bring a bus up there so we can all witness it at the same time."

Former City of Sheboygan, and Current Outagamie County HR Director, Arrested on Child Porn and Exploitation Charges.

Feb 16, 2024 | 2:52 PM

Former City of Sheboygan Human Resources Director Adam Westbrook, who resigned his position on August 30th last year under a cloud of suspicion, has been arrested on four counts of possession of child pornography and four counts of sexual exploitation of a child. The arrest of the current Outagamie County Human Resources Director at 3:40 a.m. Friday by the Sauk County Sheriff's Office was reported by Fox-11 News in Green Bay. Formal charges have yet to be filed, but a court appearance for arraignment is scheduled for Monday according to the Sheriff.

Westbrook submitted his resignation from the Sheboygan position one week after an open records request was filed concerning allegations that Westbrook made an unwanted homosexual innuendo toward a City of Sheboygan intern. Of those allegations, City Attorney Charles Adams confirmed that his investigation into the matter was closed after finding that there was no violation of any city codes. Adams added that Westbrook's resignation was "simply a resignation", and had nothing to do with the allegations.

Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson's office released this statement Friday: "We are shocked by the charges and have begun the process to terminate the individual. We will continue to cooperate with authorities and do all that we can to assist in the investigation."

Two Distinguished City of Sheboygan Leaders With a Combined 68 Years of Service Announce Retirements

Jan 31, 2024 | 3:44 PM

Two key leaders within City of Sheboygan administration for over three decades each have announced that they are retiring from their positions. The announcements of both longtime Director of Public Works, David Biebel, and City Engineer Ryan Sazama, were made jointly in a release from City Administrator Casey Bradley on Wednesday.

Biebel, who has served the City of Sheboygan for 37 years, was cited by Bradley as having left “an indelible mark on our city’s infrastructure and development. His leadership, commitment, and expertise have been instrumental in the growth and maintenance of our public works projects, ensuring the well-being and quality of life for Sheboygan residents.

Simultaneous with the Biebel’s announced retirement, City Engineer Ryan Sazama announced his plans to step down after 31 years of service to the City. Bradley said that Sazama has been “a key contributor to the city’s engineering endeavors. His innovative solutions and attention to detail have played a pivotal role in enhancing the efficiency and functionality of our city’s infrastructure.”

Dave Biebel told his Public Works team today that “I am grateful and humbled to have been able to serve the community that I am proud to say has been my home since childhood. Furthermore, it has been a pleasure to serve with many past and present dedicated city employees working to improve our community and provide quality services.” He went on to say that “This has been a difficult decision, but with the support of my family and friends, I am looking forward to this next chapter in my journey.” which, according to Biebel, includes pursuing other interests and enjoying time with family and friends.

In revealing his intentions to his team, Engineer Ryan Sazama said that “Throughout my tenure as City Engineer, I have had the privilege of working alongside an exceptional team and serving the residents of Sheboygan.” Sazama went on to point to highlights such as the design and implementation of crucial infrastructure projects that have supported new developments and improved the quality of life for residents. He concluded by saying that “It has been an honor

Sheboygan County Deer Farm Confirmed Positive by DATCP for CWD

Jan 25, 2024 | 3:29 PM

A fatal disease that affects deer, elk, and moose has been confirmed on a Sheboygan County deer farm by the Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection.

The agency did not identify the farm under scrutiny, but said that the presence of Chronic Wasting Disease was confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa. The positive result for CWD came from a 5-year-old buck. The premises will remain under quarantine while the US Department of Agriculture and DATCP veterinarians and staff conduct the epidemiological investigation. The DATCP regulates deer farms for registration, record keeping, disease testing, movement, and permit requirements.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease caused by an infectious protein called prion that affects the animal's brain. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that to date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in people, however the Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommends that people only consume venison from health-appearing deer with test results indicating that CWD was not detected.

Wisconsin state law requires enactment of a 3-year baiting and feeding ban in counties where CWD has been detected, as well as a 2-year ban in neighboring counties within 10 miles of a CWD detection. Areas beyond Sheboygan County that would be affected were not yet named.

Snowmobile Trails in Sheboygan County Open, in “Good Condition”

After last week’s winter storms, snowmobile trails in Sheboygan County are ready for recreation. The Northern Kettle Moraine Snowmobile Association of Sheboygan County said that while a few trail sections remain closed due to open water issues, clubs have been out grooming, clearing brush, and that all Sheboygan County trail sections are open.

The organization stressed that barricades should not be bypassed since they’re only placed in cases of safety, and that driving around them or riding off the trail is trespassing and could lead to trail closures.

The Wisconsin DNR is observing this week as Snowmobile Safety Week, and emphasized the importance of responsible riding, which includes abstaining from alcohol when sledding. DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Administrator Lieutenant Jake Holsclaw said that excessive speed and inexperience contribute to snowmobile crashes, but alcohol stands out as a primary cause. Holsclaw said that in the early months of last year there were 16 fatal snowmobile crashes in Wisconsin; 10 of those involving alcohol.

Those planning to use Sheboygan County’s trail system can find essential information at the Northern Kettle Moraine Snowmobile Association of Sheboygan County online at www.nkmsnow.com

Sheboygan County Transitioning to FBO Provider as “Lake Breeze Aviation” at Airport

Jan 17, 2024 | 2:58 PM

Final steps have now been taken, clearing the way for Sheboygan County to take over as Fixed Base Operations provider for the Sheboygan County Memorial Airport. Services provided to aircraft owners and operators will now be under the name of “Lake Breeze Aviation”. Approval came at Tuesday’s County Board Meeting, concluding a process that began last summer with a vote to acquire the assets of the previous FBO provider, Burrows Aviation LLC. In announcing finalization of the deal on Wednesday, Airport Superintendent Matt Grenoble said that the two entities had been in regular communications in order to ensure a seamless transition and minimize any impact to customers.

Sheboygan County Board Chairman Vernon Koch said of the acquisition that “I am proud of the overwhelming sense of collaboration that has taken place throughout this transition. This change will have a valuable, lasting impact on our community, and I am confident that Lake Breeze Aviation will be a great asset for Sheboygan County.”

The owner of Burrows Aviation noted of the transition that she believed that it “...assures the long-term provision of excellent FBO services at the Sheboygan County Memorial Airport.” She said that they looked forward to working with the County to accomplish a smooth transition, and thanked her current and past employees who worked hard at success in providing Sheboygan County with an essential service.

The full takeover of FBO services by Lake Breeze Aviation becomes official on February 1, 2024.

Sheboygan's Dierdre Martinez Elected to Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce Board of Advisors

Jan 10, 2024 | 4:04 PM

Dierdre Martinez, the Executive Director of the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce, will serve as a Director on the 2024 Board of Advisors to the Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce. The 2024 leadership was announced on Wednesday by the Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce Executives, a program of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce.

Martinez will serve as one of seven directors under the Chair leadership of Becky Bartoszek, the President & CEO of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce. The President and CEO of the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce David Eckmann will serve as immediate past chair, while Sadie Vander Velde, the President & CEO of Envision Greater Fond du Lac Inc., will serve as Chair-Elect.

The Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce Executives functions as the state's professional association of full and part-time executives and staff members of local chambers of commerce, representing regions and communities all across the state.

New Salary Schedule for Sheboygan Mayor, Alders Headed for Likely Council Approval

Jan 10, 2024 | 6:02 AM

A new schedule of raises for the Sheboygan Mayor and Alderpersons are one step away from final approval after the Finance and Personnel Committee sent the ordinance to the Common Council with a favorable recommendation.

The ordinance would bump the Mayor's salary from an already-established \$59,448.04 rate this April, up to \$75,000 in 2025 with 3.5% annual increases through 2028. Alderpersons would get a 4% increases in 2025 to \$6,327, and another 4% increase in 2027.

Alderman Trey Mitchell voted against approval, but with "yeas" from Alders Ackley and Filicky-Peneski, the measure will be up for a vote when the Common Council meets this coming Monday.

Mercury P1 Racing Event Confirmed for August 2024 Return to Sheboygan

Jan 9, 2024 | 3:25 PM

The “Malibu of the Midwest” will, for the second consecutive year, host a Mercury Racing Midwest Challenge in the waters off Sheboygan this coming August. Powerboat P1 unveiled its 2024 P1 Offshore and Class 1 race calendar on Tuesday, including Sheboygan’s sophomore experience hosting the world-class competition from August 9-11. According to the Sheboygan Area Tourism Zone, last year’s inaugural event pumped \$4.7 million worth of economic activity to the Sheboygan area, with over 40,000 people attending the three-day event.

Sheboygan Mayor Ryan Sorenson said that he was “...thrilled to welcome back this exhilarating event to the Malibu of the Midwest. It not only showcases our City’s stunning waterfront but also brings together the community in celebration of speed, skill and the thrill of competition.”

City Administrator Casey Bradley added: “This event not only brings a surge of energy to our City but also underscores our commitment to hosting world class events”

The 2024 P1 season begins with Thunder On Cocoa Beach, Florida in mid-May, the 15th such event in that city. Sheboygan’s Mercury Racing Midwest Challenge in August is the second race in the 2024 series. Following that will be September’s 40th anniversary of the Sarasota Powerboat Grand Prix, establishing it as the second longest-running powerboat festival in the US. The season finale will be the Monster Energy St. Pete Grand Prix, now in its fourth year in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Sheboygan Police Investigate Death of Husband & Wife

Jan 3, 2024 | 4:59 PM

Sheboygan Police are investigating the deaths of two citizens.

Police were called to a home on Euclid Avenue Wednesday morning after a neighbor reported they hadn't seen their neighbors since Monday and were growing concerned. When officers went into the home, they found the husband and wife dead of gunshot wounds. Officers also found a note with instructions for funeral arrangements.

Police say their deaths are under investigation and that the public isn't in any danger.

The victims are a 66 year old man and his 69 year old wife.

Johnsonville to Shutter Meadowside Plant by End of 2024

Jan 3, 2024 | 6:34 PM

Multiple sources were reporting on Wednesday afternoon that Johnsonville Sausage Company will shut down its Meadowside facility by the end of this year. Meadowside is one of three units on the Johnsonville campus, and the other two; the Countryside and Riverside facilities, will remain fully operational according to statements made by the company to the online site BizTimes.com.

That report relates that the company hopes to keep as many of the 390 affected workers as possible, and that a stay-on bonus is being offered to employees who remain with Johnsonville through the end of this June.

The closure announcement follows Johnsonville's earlier acquisition of Denmark, Wisconsin-based Salm Partners, which manufactures fully-cooked sausage and hot dogs. That acquisition brought two Denmark-based production plants under the Johnsonville umbrella, and according to Wednesday's announcement, Johnsonville will be transitioning some of its ready-to-eat production to Salm throughout 2024.

Johnsonville CEO told BizTimes.com that "...it's not lost on us how a plant closing is distressing for our members to hear", and that they are "...working diligently to retain as many of our valued members as we can in other roles here in Sheboygan (County) and across our manufacturing network."