

Issues and Programming – Q1 2024

(Voices of the Valley Runs Sunday Evenings)

1/19/2024 – 2/2/2024

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Today we're tackling the big topic of transportation in the Valley. The needs, the gaps and the dreams we have for improving public transit, roads, and our vast network of trails. What do we mean when we say "Transportation," and which entities are paving the way for our future progress? Our journey begins with a spotlight on the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, established in 1972. **In segment 1**, we hear from Kim Biedermann who explains its contribution to shaping the transportation landscape in the Fox Valley. We're going to define how we get from one place to another, and what it takes to make that happen efficiently, cost effectively, and for all.

Like many communities, the Fox Valley does face challenges in making transportation accessible for all, including rural residents, seniors, people who are new to our area and culture who speak different languages, and people with physical and cognitive disabilities. In Segment 2, we discuss the challenges and solutions through collaboration, with SOAR Fox Cities' Erin Wege and Valley Transit's Sarah Schneider. These two groups have come a long way in a short time to build a foundation for change

2/2/2024 – 2/15/2024

Community Foundation Scholarships

Who doesn't need help funding their dreams? For students pursuing post-high school education, the Community Foundation will award more than \$1.7 million in scholarships in 2024 to students from more than 70 high schools. We offer scholarships to high school seniors, college and nontraditional students, and K-12 art and music camps and lessons.

It's all possible through the generosity of our donors, who set up scholarships for many different reasons, like remembering a loved one or paying tribute to their alma mater. We have more than 200 of these funds, making us one of the largest scholarship providers in our region. In this episode, we explore how students can get started making their dreams come true!

3/1/2024 – 3/21/2024

Chilton Public Library

How does one preserve the stories and history of a rural town like Chilton? Today we're visiting the Chilton Public Library, where staff members are unveiling the untold tales that shape the community's identity, through modern technology. A \$4,947 grant from the Chilton Area

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Community Foundation, our regional affiliate partner, allowed the library to purchase podcasting equipment to record and produce the oral stories of local residents, artists, historians, business owners and more. The fledgeling podcast is called Sharing Our Stories,

"Each episode of *Sharing Our Stories* is a journey into the personal, heartfelt, and extraordinary stories that define our town. From cherished memories to pivotal moments, we explore the threads that bind us and make our community a home," says Rebecca Barry, the library's assistant director.

In this episode, we visit the [Franzen Family Farm](#), and we hear about [The Lasting Impact of Boy Scouts](#).

3/21/2024 – Present

Voices from the Valley: A Podcast of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

People of all walks of life have been impacted by the Community Foundation since its founding in 1986. We hear their stories, and we want you to hear them too.

Today as we remember the life and legacy of the late Walter S. Rugland Jr., we are revisiting our very first podcast episode, Our Story in which he reminisced about the early days of the Community Foundation.

Our *Voices from the Valley: A Podcast of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region* podcast launched in September, 2021, and we've come a long way in telling the eye-opening, heartstring-pulling stories people and nonprofits in our community have shared with us. 30 episodes later and more than 3,000 downloads from around the world, we are celebrating and sharing the unique facets and challenges of living in our area!