Written by CAROL POMEDAY
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Two-story residence on Park Street is eighth built in city by county chapter

The first of three homes on a parcel of land between Park Street and Moore Road in Port Washington being built by the Ozaukee County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity Lakeside is nearing completion.

Construction manager John Orth said he expects Justine Makovec and her three children, ages 6, 2 and 1, will move into the house in late January.

"We're being pushed for Christmas, but we're not going to make it," Orth said.

Makovec and her father are working on the house at 170 Park St.

Orth expects the siding on the two-story home and heating and ventilation systems will be completed this week and drywalling will begin next week. Most of the electrical work and plumbing has been completed.

Work crews are at the site from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays.

"We have plenty of volunteers (for construction)," Orth said.

"Funding is definitely an issue because we haven't finished raising the funds for this one, and we want to start another one in the spring."

Habitat hopes to build the next house in Grafton. If that's not possible, a second house will be built on the Park Street property, said Alan Schupp, president of the Ozaukee County Habitat chapter.

Habitat is using its reserve funds for the current building project and needs to raise more money, he said.

"If we use up our reserves, we will have to start from scratch on the next one," Schupp said.

"We're still looking for people interested in volunteering to serve on committees — family selection, fundraising and church relations, as well as construction. And we're still seeking board members. We need more active members who are willing to participate in our mission rather than relying on a few members."

The Habitat board meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at First Congregational Church, 131 N. Webster, in Port. The next meeting will be Dec. 12.

Schupp is pleased with how quickly the current house is being built.

"You can get a lot done with a lot of enthusiastic volunteers," he said. "John is doing a great job pushing this forward."

Makovec will make no-interest mortgage payments to Habitat. That money will be used to help build the next house.

This is the eighth home built by Habitat, all in Port Washington.

For more information on the project or to volunteer, visit www.ozhh.org or call the Habitat office at 284-6880 or Schupp at 284-2703.

Image Information: THE EIGHTH HABITAT for Humanity home in Port Washington is nearing

completion. Construction manager John Orth expects the owner, a mother with three young children, will move into the house by late January. Photo by Sam Arendt