

Menu



E-Paper

Benefits

Account

Trending Articles

HOCKEY

New-look Grizzlies ready to bear down, chase an NA3HL championship

SOCCER

New turf field a game-changer for St. Charles athletics

CRIME AND COURTS

Rochester woman mourns child's father found dead in quadruple homicide in Wisconsin

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

\$950,000 deal means Med City eatery has new landlord

FIRES

Neighbors help residents during senior facility fire

The garage, the attached breezeway roof and the contents of the garage were destroyed, but the residential area was not destroyed.

Written By: [Brian Todd](#) | 5:49 pm, Nov. 17, 2020



Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at 707 Upper Meadow Lane on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

Good neighbors are worth their weight in gold.

Just ask Jackie Seifert, who along with her husband, Brian Seifert, owns the Willows & Waters Senior Living facility in the 700 block of Upper Meadow Lane Northwest in Rochester.


At about 2 p.m. Tuesday, the garage at the senior living facility caught fire, destroying the structure, the attached breezeway roof and the contents of the garage. The residential area, which is semi-attached via the covered breezeway, was evacuated of the nine residents, according to Capt. John Busch of the Rochester Fire Department.

'I'm very thankful and blessed for the neighbors we have offering their heated garage, drinks and snacks for our residents,' Jackie Seifert said.

Busch said when fire crews arrived shortly after being called out at 2:09 p.m., staff at the living center were still evacuating residents, most of whom are wheelchair-bound, while the ambulatory ones were 'slow movers.'

Michelle Broadwater Grappa, who lives across the street on the cul-de-sac, said the residents were moved first to the neighbors between the senior facility and her own house, but because her own garage is heated, they eventually moved the group to her place.

'It's a very quiet neighborhood, and we all watch out for one another,' she said.

 Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at 707 Upper Meadow Lane on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)
Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at 707 Upper Meadow Lane on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com)

By 5:30, all the residents had returned to the senior facility, having spent about an hour at Broadwater Grappa's house, she said.

Busch said the garage was fully involved with flames when crews arrived, and the staff at the facility was evacuating the last of the residents. It took fire crews about 30 minutes to get the fire under control, and hot spots were still being extinguished almost two hours later.

The residential portion of the building should be habitable for tonight, Busch said, though he had not made that determination as of 4:30 pm. The only damage to the residential portion of the home was to the siding near the garage and a little smoke inside the home. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

No one was injured.

Thanking her staff, her neighbor and the fire department, Seifert said God was watching over them



Businesses To Follow



Budget Blinds of East & West Rochester

Like
Brighten your cooking space with a pop of color. If you thirst for color, adding vibrant window shades and colorful tiles are... (View post)

07:07PM



The Homestead Rochester

Menu



E-Paper

Benefits

Account

"We're very thankful, considering COVID, that people are willing to help out," she said.

Rochester, MN Fire Dept.
about 10 months ago

Your Rochester Fire Department responded to a fully involved garage fire in Northwest Rochester today. Crews went to work and kept the fire from spreading to the residence.

93 2 16

Post Bulletin was Live

Share

- Brian Seifert, owner of Willows & Waters Senior Living facility, watches as Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire that destroyed the garage on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. Nobody was injured in the fire. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)
- Brian Seifert, owner of Willows & Waters Senior Living facility, watches as Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire that destroyed the garage on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. Nobody was injured in the fire. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)
- Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at 707 Upper Meadow Lane on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)
- Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at 707 Upper Meadow Lane on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)
- Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at 707 Upper Meadow Lane on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)
- Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at 707 Upper Meadow Lane on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)
- Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at 707 Upper Meadow Lane on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)
- Rochester Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at 707 Upper Meadow Lane on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, in northwest Rochester. (Traci Westcott / twescott@postbulletin.com)

Related Topics

- ROCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT
- FIRES
- SENIOR LIVING FACILITY

Suggested Articles

Menu



E-Paper

Benefits

Account

FIRES

Eight dogs killed in Duluth house fire, family displaced

Framed by the boots of wildland firefighters U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, from left, U.S. Sen. Tina Smith and Gov. Tim Walz listen to firefighters talk about fighting the Greenwood Fire on Monday, Sept. 6, 2021, in the Superior National Forest near Lake County Highway 2 and the Jackpot Trail OHV trailhead south of Isabella. Clint Austin / Duluth News Tribune

FIRES

Klobuchar, Smith and Walz tour Greenwood Fire zone

Downtown Detroit Lakes blaze started as 'recreational' fire on apartment deck

An overnight fire destroyed the Rohler Rink in Brownsdale. The fire was reported before 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021. Photo taken Sunday, Sept. 5. Andrew Link / Post Bulletin

FIRES

Southeast Minnesota's last indoor roller-skating rink burns to the ground

The cause of the Greenwood Fire was a lightning strike. Clint Austin / File / Duluth News Tribune

FIRES

Greenwood fire now 67% contained

Account

- Manage My Account
- Privacy Policy
- Terms and Conditions

News

- Subscription Options
- Email Newsletters
- E-Paper
- Our News Network

Contact

- Get Help
- News
- Advertising
- Work with Us

More

- JobsHQ
- Motors
- HomesHQ

Social

Also of Interest:

- Online Auction Helps Secure Semva's Future
- 2020 Rochester Record Roundup
- Netflix Series An 'Extraordinary Experience'...

© Post Bulletin and Forum Communications Company
1700 Greenview Dr SW, Rochester, MN 55902 | (507) 285-7600