Q Search

Menu

POST BULLETIN

■ 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

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

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

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 Denartment.

Tm 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 3:30, 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.

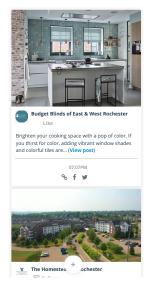
The residential portion of the building should be habitable for tonight, Busch said, though he had not made that determination as of 4:30 pm. The only damage to the residential portion of the home was to the siding near the garage and a little smoke inside the home. The cause of the fire is still under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

No one was injured.

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



## **Businesses To Follow**



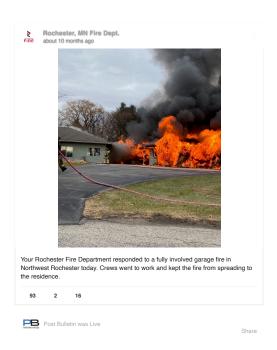
Q Search

Menu

POST BULLETIN

III E-Paper

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



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 / twestcott@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 / 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)

 $Rochester\ Firefighters\ work\ to\ extinguish\ a\ fire\ at\ 707\ Upper\ Meadow\ Lane\ on\ Tuesday,\ November\ 17,2020,\ in\ northwest$ 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)  $Rochester\ Firefighters\ work\ to\ extinguish\ a\ fire\ at\ 707\ Upper\ Meadow\ Lane\ on\ Tuesday,\ November\ 17,2020,\ in\ northwest$ 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) 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) 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)

## Related Topics

ROCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRES

SENIOR LIVING FACILITY

## Suggested Articles

Menu

Q Search POST BULLETIN ♥ Benefits ■ E-Paper Account The cause of the Greenwood Fire was a lightning strike. Clint Austin / File / Duluth News Tribune FIRES **Downtown Detroit** Lakes blaze started as Eight dogs killed in 'recreational' fire on FIRES Duluth house fire, apartment deck Greenwood fire now family displaced 67% contained 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 An overnight fire destroyed the Rohler Rink in Brownsdale. The fire was reported before 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021. Photo taken Smith and GoV. Intil water tisten 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 Sunday, Sept. 5. Andrew Link / Post Bulletin Southeast Minnesota's last indoor roller-FIRES skating rink burns to the ground Klobuchar, Smith and Walz tour Greenwood Fire zone Account News **Contact** More Manage My Account Subscription Options Privacy Policy Email Newsletters Motors News Terms and Conditions E-Paper Advertising HomesHQ Our News Network Work with Us **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