

Milton Courier staff to work remotely

Building at 513
Vernal Ave. will no
longer be
newspaper hub

By Rebecca Kanable
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The Milton Courier will consolidate its office with the Daily Jefferson County Union in Fort Atkinson by the end of the month.

Both are papers are published by Adams Publishing Group, which purchased Hometown News in December.

For more than 110 years, the building at 513 Vernal Ave. has been the center of local news. In 2015, the Courier building was listed on the National Register and State Register of Historic Places.

The writing and reporting in Milton will continue. Rebecca Kanable, managing editor of the Milton Courier, said with the help of laptops, smartphones and other technology, newspaper staff members are committed to working remotely in Milton.

When not out covering the news at



The building at 513 Vernal Ave. is for sale.

schools, city hall and other locations, they'll be found working on laptops, and accessible to the public, at the Milton Public Library, The Gathering Place and other public spaces. A schedule of when and where you can find Kanable and Sports Editor Jack Miller will be printed in the newspaper each week beginning Feb. 28 and shared on the newspaper's website and social media sites.

"Other than on Tuesdays, which is our layout/production day when we must be

PAPER

Continued from Page A1

in Fort Atkinson, we expect to spend our time working remotely in Milton," Kanable continued. "We encourage readers to visit us during our posted 'office hours' to drop off subscriptions, bring us community news and news tips, and just to talk."

"The newspaper building in Milton is closing but the staff is not going anywhere," continued

Kanable, who has lived in Milton since 1998 and has been newspaper's editor since 2017.

An advantage to moving the office to Fort Atkinson, Kanable continued, is the ability to share staff resources on production days, and to improve overall efficiencies, "which will expand and improve our ability to cover news for our readers in each community we serve."

Robb Grindstaff, general manager of Hometown News, said the office

consolidation is related to industry-wide changes in the newspaper business.

"This decision was made to ensure we'll be serving Milton for many more years," he said. "Constantly improving technology makes it possible, and our commitment to publish the highest quality local journalism for our readers is unwavering."

"Our offices have very little walk-in traffic," Grindstaff continued. "Our staff is out in the community doing their

jobs, covering events during the daytime and evening hours, and we deliver our products directly to our readers homes, so we're not a typical retail business where we need to maintain a brick-and-mortar storefront.

"For the Milton Courier's small staff, trying to keep standard office hours while also being expected to be out in the community covering news no longer makes sense from an operational or financial standpoint," Grindstaff said. "In fact, it is a hardship on the staff and detrimental to doing our jobs."

"With digital cameras, cell phones, email and laptops," Grindstaff said, "our editors and reporters will be able to spend most of their time working remotely in the community. Technology will free them up to spend more time covering the news and meeting customers and less time tied to a desk in an office."

Newspaper history in Milton

In the late 1800s, Milton boasted two weekly newspapers. The Weekly Telephone, located in the Dunn and Boss Building, had been founded as The Register in 1878 and was printed in a building where the late Green Lantern stood. When the paper moved to Milton, its name was changed to The Express, then the Weekly Telephone. When the paper moved back to the Junction, apparently because the Milton Journal was splitting the eastside market.

The Milton Journal started in the Goodrich Block printing plant and continued until 1912 when it was purchased by the owners of the Weekly Telephone. With the merger, the name changed to Journal-Telephone.

The name changed again in 1946 to the Milton Courier.

Classified ads, subscriptions and customer service calls have come through phone, email and the website to Hometown News hub offices for years, and production has long been centralized.

Milton Courier sales and editorial representatives can be reached as usual; email addresses and phone numbers for the staff will remain the same.

Questions on this

change can be directed to Managing Editor Rebecca Kanable at (608) 208-1681, or by email at couriernews@hngnews.com. Kanable can also be reached by phone or text via her office cell phone, (608) 333-9454. Sports Editor Jack Miller can be reached at (608) 208-1678 and by cell phone, (608) 843-0653 or by email at couriersports@hngnews.com.

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