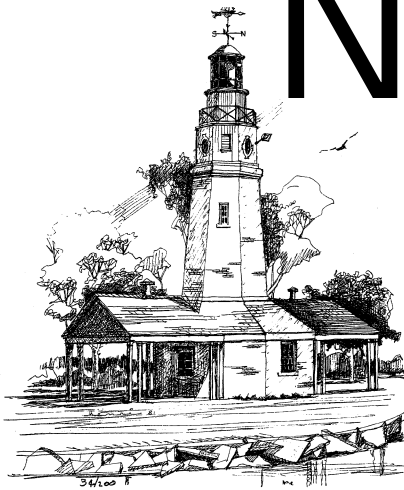


Neenah Notes

The City of Neenah Newsletter

VOL. 3, NO. 3

Fall 2002



Message from Mayor George Scherck

Since April, our focus at City Hall has been on utilizing technology to make local government more efficient and cost effective. We have also worked hard to improve lines of communication and make government even more responsive to your needs. City Hall is now open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday—Thursday and until 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

Improving communication between the Mayor and City Council, with citizens, and with surrounding municipalities will be an ongoing point of emphasis. I have scheduled open office hours on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. You are also reminded that every local government meeting has a public forum section to allow your opinions to be heard. We are actively exploring televising City Council meetings as well. Government works best when your voice is heard and you are kept informed.

Another major initiative is to examine every department for possible consolidation or other creative cost saving techniques. The state budget deficit makes it imperative for local government to do everything we can to provide quality services at a cost you can afford. Both the administration and the City Council are committed to that objective.

We have been meeting regularly with the Town of Neenah to develop a boundary agreement that will allow us to finally work together in a cooperative spirit. That same spirit has been applied to working with Menasha Mayor Laux and County Executive Van De Hey. We can accomplish more working together than working alone.

Neenah is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. One of the major reasons is that we have citizens who care and get involved in an attempt to make a difference. Twenty-two citizens volunteered to serve on the Mayor's Citizen Advisory Council. We are constantly looking for volunteers for a wide variety of boards and commissions. If you would like to get involved, give my office a call at 751-4604 or call your alderman.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call. I look forward to talking to many of you in the months ahead.

Best wishes,

Mayor	
George Scherck	751-4604
City Assessor	
Jack Ophoven	751-4610
City Attorney	
Jim Godlewski	751-4606
City Clerk	
Jean Moxon	751-4602
Community Development Director	
Bob Buckingham	751-4660
Finance Director	
Mike Easker	751-4642
Fire Chief	
Len Vander Wyst	751-4700
Health Department Director	
Judy Crouch-Smolarek	751-4650
Information Systems Director	
Joe Wenninger	751-4714
Library Director	
Steve Procs	751-4722 ext. 100
Parks & Recreation Director	
Eileen McCoy	751-4614
Police Chief	
D.J. Forcey	751-4677
Public Works Director	
Tim Hamblin	751-4625
Water Works Director	
Larry Wattering	751-4620
Aldermanic District 1	
Jim Hemes	729-1289
Mark Lange	729-0831
Nick Piergrossi	751-0842
Aldermanic District 2	
John Ahles	727-1306
Don Winter	725-1520
Judy Zaretzke	722-1291
Aldermanic District 3	
Darlene Hengels	729-9230
Bruce Rhoades	727-0243
Todd Stevenson (Pres.)	722-5440

Visit the City's web site!
www.ci.neenah.wi.us

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Waterfront project first step

From the time Neenah was first settled, water resources have been a key part of our community's development and prosperity. Once again, at the beginning of the 21st century, the waterfront is a key to the future. The recent completion of the Neenah Waterfront Master Plan represents the culmination of a thoughtful planning process that identified a wide variety of projects aimed at improving our community's recreational, cultural, and economic centerpiece.

The opportunity the waterfront presents for the future enjoyment of all citizens was best summarized by Richard Hitchcock, lead consultant for the project, when he observed that, "Neenah's waterfront has always been an asset, but it has the potential to be so attractive, so comfortable and so compelling that people and investment dollars will be drawn to it like a magnet."



The City Council has identified the Shattuck Park/Library area as the logical place to begin the waterfront improvement project. Hitchcock Design Group has been engaged to complete schematic design/engineering work for the renovation of this park. Some of the possible improvements that will be considered include a shoreline promenade, park improvements to accommodate large-scale public events, new boat docks, and a major conversion of the existing boathouse to a community-use pavilion. This design work will be completed by October of this year, after which the City Council will explore ways to fund and implement the project.

Mayor Scherck has observed that beginning the waterfront project at Shattuck Park is a logical starting point. "We have a tremendous opportunity to make this asset accessible to every citizen in our community, while also increasing the tax base with new development that should occur nearby," he said.

A citizen-based Task Force will provide input and oversight as the design and engineering phase moves forward, and a Community Workshop will be held to receive further public comment. The workshop is scheduled for October 10, 6:30 p.m. at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum and the public is invited to attend. To receive further details on this meeting or the project in general, please call the Department of Community Development, 751-4660.

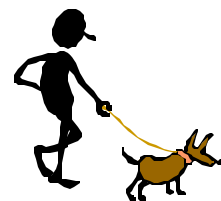
Student immunizations

Parents of students in the Neenah Joint School District are reminded of the State of Wisconsin student immunization law (Wisconsin Statutes 252.04), which defines minimum immunization requirements for school entrance.

Parents are urged to contact their family physicians or the City of Neenah Health Department at 751-4650 for further information and/or to schedule an appointment for their child to receive these required immunizations. The intent of the state immunization law is not only to protect individual children from vaccine-preventable diseases but also to protect the community from unnecessary outbreaks. Feel free to call the Neenah Department of Public Health with further questions.

Dogs in parks?

In general, you can walk with your leashed dog on the paths or roads in Neenah parks. The exercise is great for you and your dog, and time spent together is an important part of being a dog's "person."



For the comfort and safety of all park users, the following rules must be observed:

- Dogs are not allowed in playgrounds, picnic areas, shelters, or athletic fields.
- While in the parks, keep your dog on a leash, no matter how well behaved it is.
- Most importantly, always clean up after your dog. As a matter of fact, the city ordinance requires anyone walking a dog anywhere in the City to carry some means of cleaning up.

Enjoy time with your dog. It's a walk in the park!



Caregiver Brianna Balliet reads a story to group home resident Richard Wheeler at the Neenah Public Library.

Residential property owners to save \$\$

The City of Neenah will implement a storm water utility January 1, 2003. Currently, city properties pay for storm water costs based on their tax value—not how much they contribute to actual storm water runoff.

Under the current system, about 7% of the city's property tax bill is used for storm sewer costs. A home assessed at \$100,000 pays about \$67 each year in property taxes for storm sewer functions. Under the proposed utility method of billing, an average-size home (94% of homes) will pay about \$10 each quarter on the water bill for storm water fees. Small homes will pay about \$6 each quarter and larger homes will pay about \$20 each quarter. All other properties will be charged based on the actual amount of "hard surface" on their property. Hard surface areas such as roofs and parking lots are the major contributing factors to storm water runoff.

With a storm water utility, out-of-pocket expense for homeowners will be about one-half of what they are currently paying when storm water costs are included in the property tax bill. This property tax relief is possible because under the current system schools, churches, hospi-

tals, and other tax exempt properties pay nothing even though their huge parking lots and large roofs contribute greatly to the total amount of storm water runoff. In addition, industrial properties will now pay their fair share based on the actual amount of surface runoff.

Homeowners will realize the property tax relief as all properties will now pay for the service that they actually use. This user fee system is quite similar to how electricity, water, and natural gas are charged. A property is billed only for the amount that it uses, not on the property's assessed valuation.

Even though the storm water utility charge is not deductible on state and federal income tax returns (for those who itemize), the total out-of-pocket cost reduction is greater than the savings that would result from the itemized deduction.

Storm water utilities are not new. Currently over 20 communities in Wisconsin have established these utilities and another 20-30 are in the process of being formed. More information will follow. Public information sessions are being scheduled for later this fall.

Neenah Library presents authors

Pat Mora—This award-winning author of poetry, nonfiction and children's books will visit the library on Sept. 28. The children's program is at 10:00 a.m. and the adult presentation is at 1:30 p.m. Mora promotes multi-cultural literacy and heritages from her Southwestern U.S. home. Raised in a bi-lingual (English/Spanish) household, Mora bridges two cultures. She has written 18 books for children.

Neenah Reads Steinbeck!—Our first attempt at a city-wide reading program is in honor of the centennial of John Steinbeck's birth. His works celebrated the common man and are uniquely American. (He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962.) The library has purchased dozens of copies of such classics as *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *Travels with Charley*. Join your friends and neighbors in reading a true American classic.

Programs include:

Oct. 22, 7:00 p.m.—"John Steinbeck's America: Revisiting Depression Era Culture and Society," UW-Oshkosh History Professor Stephen Kercher.

Oct. 24, 7:00 p.m.—Showing of the Arts & Entertainment film: "John Steinbeck: An American Writer."

Oct. 27, 1:30 p.m.—Door County author Norbert Blei will discuss Steinbeck's major works. Blei is a novelist, short-story writer, and essayist. He is the author of 16 books, including the Door County Trilogy—*Meditations on a Small Lake*, *Neighborhood*, and *Chi Town*.

Citizens Advisory Council

The following people have volunteered to serve as an advisory group to open up lines of communication and provide valuable input on the future direction of our city. Let them know your concerns or call Mayor George Scherck at 751-4604.

Gary Burr	315 Division St.
Tom Kees	122 Whitlow St.
George Brick	135 Curtis Av.
Mary Erickson	709 Kensington Rd.
Laura Kemp	629 Chestnut St.
Cari Lendrum	320 11 th St.
Don Miller	864 Zemlock Av.
Bill Thompson	326 9 th St.
Harry Miller	665 McKinley St.
Jon Fleming	1178 Farm Ridge Rd.
Wanda Dorn	1434 Baytree Ln.
Terry Bomier	33 3 rd St.
Dean Moede	803 Grant Pl.
Merry Whipple	922 S. Park Av.
Gene Jessup	725 Amber Ln.
James Girard	155 Richard Av.
Lori Bishop	663 S. Park Av.
Lou Wilhelm	661 Congress St.
Ron Roberts	710 Lincoln St.
Aaron Sabel	317 Brantwood Dr.
Eric Procs	773 Manchester Rd.



Yard waste reminders



In April and May, yard waste is collected weekly. From June through November, yard waste is collected monthly. Yard waste must be placed curbside on the Monday dates listed in the *Recycling and Refuse Guide* (mailed to you each January or available at City Hall).

City-wide collection of leaves will begin in late September or early October and continue until it snows or through Thanksgiving (whichever comes first). All leaves must be loose on the terrace—please do not rake them onto the street, which pollutes storm sewers and causes accidents.

During the summer, brush is collected monthly with the normal yard waste collection. Following major wind storms, a brush drop-off site may be available at the City Garage on Tullar Rd. Call 751-4732 for information.

Fall clean-up help available

The Advocap Volunteer Services Department is available to help Winnebago County homeowners age 55 and over and those with disabilities with seasonal yard chores. There is no cost for the service (donations are gladly accepted). Contact Kara Klein, Advocap Volunteer Services Coordinator at 725-2791.

Advocap is also looking for volunteers of all ages to help with this and with other volunteer projects.

Volunteers in parks (VIPs)



Neenah's parks are among the best and most beautiful in Wisconsin. They offer several benefits by creating recreational, educational, and community opportunities for all. Parks are more than simply aesthetically pleasing, they are an important part of our neighborhoods

and our city. And you can help! Volunteers are needed for such chores as:

- Invasive species detail (Buckthorn eradication, Gypsy Moth banding, Purple Loosestrife pulling).
- Trail maintenance (spread woodchips, pick up branches, watch for vandalism).
- Trash clean-up (on trails and fields).
- Garden maintenance (assist in planting, pruning, & weeding).
- Playground maintenance (report vandalism, defects, broken equipment; remove graffiti).
- Educational and informational signage.
- Emergency/Storm clean-up.

Contact the Neenah Park & Recreation Department, at 751-4614, for details. Share your sense of pride!



Christopher Garza enjoys a quiet moment with a furry friend at the Neenah Public Library.

West Nile virus

West Nile Virus is an arbovirus transmitted by mosquitoes. This virus causes infections in birds and mammals, including humans. Most human infections have no symptoms or result in only mild symptoms of low-grade fever, headache, or rash.

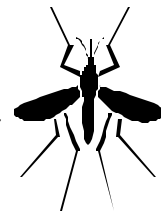
More severe symptoms are possible and persons who become ill with high fever, headache, or other neurological symptoms, should definitely contact their physician for further assessment and medical care. The type of birds usually infected with West Nile Virus are crows, blue jays, or ravens.

The risk for human infection is low

The risk for human infection is low; however, taking precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes is prudent. The Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Public Health recommends the following:

1. Maintain window screens in good repair.
2. Avoid being outside during times of high mosquito activity.
3. Wear protective clothing such as long pants, loose fitting long sleeved shirts, and socks
4. When outdoors, consider using an effective mosquito repellent containing the active ingredient DEET (on children use DEET products containing 10% or less DEET).
5. Do not provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Remove containers, old tires, and any objects where water can collect and mosquitoes can lay eggs.

Call the Neenah Department of Public Health at 751-4650 or the West Nile Virus toll-free number at 1-800-433-1610 with further questions or to report a sick or dead crow, blue jay, or raven.



Major projects at Water Utility

Two major projects are in progress at the Neenah Water Utility. Already underway is the design of a new 1.5 million gallon elevated tank to be located just to the north of the existing elevated tank at the City's Cecil Street garage. The new elevated tank should be completed in October 2003. Upon completion, both the existing elevated tanks at Cecil Street and at the water treatment plant will be razed.

Simultaneously, the Water Utility is reviewing the water treatment plant efficiency, capacity, and ability to meet current and pending regulations related to water quality.

The preliminary recommendation is to replace the existing water treatment plant with a new plant that will address issues such as Cryptosporidium, disinfection by-products, storage below groundwater level, and pending issues such as organic reduction. The new plant would still be a softening plant, and would have a new disinfection method, which would eliminate the transport and storage of hazard materials in Neenah.

As an off-shoot of this study, Neenah officials are discussing the possibility of a joint water treatment plant with Menasha officials. The nearby Menasha water treatment plant is facing many of the same issues as the Neenah water treatment plant.

A final recommendation on the water treatment plant is expected to be made to the Neenah Water Commission in November. If a new plant is approved, design could begin in 2003 and construction could occur in 2004 and 2005.



Trees for the living

There are times when we would like a special way to express our feelings. Adding to the beauty and comfort of our parks can fill that need. Planting trees to enhance parks is a thoughtful and distinctive way to present a living memorial to a deceased relative or friend, to honor a person whom you love or respect, or to say thanks to a person or a group. That living, growing tree will be a constant remembrance. This unique gift has a very personal and individual meaning to you, and at the same time it will be appreciated and enjoyed by all who see it.

Give the gift of a tree for a memorial, Mother's or Father's Day, an anniversary, grandchildren, a special friend or co-worker, a beautification project, Arbor Day, Earth Day, a Club or Scout project, or a special occasion.

Your tax-deductible contribution will provide for the purchase, planting, and maintenance of the tree.

Call the Park & Recreation Department, at 751-4614, for more information.

You've got mail...from the library!

E-mail reserves are now free at the Neenah Public Library. They cost the library nothing to send out, they arrive sooner, they save paper, and they save postage costs. (You will also receive all overdue notices by e-mail.)

Complete the electronic form at www.neenahlibrary.org.

- Click on "Have your reserve notices sent to you by E-mail," located just underneath the "Neenah Public Library" logo.
- Read and follow the directions carefully.
- Fill out the online form.
- Click on "Click here to send your request."
- A window will pop up saying "Thank you." Click on "OK."
- A window will pop up telling you that the form is being submitted using e-mail. Click on "OK."
- If you have problems, or continue to receive printed notices, please call Nancy at 751-4722 ext. 300.

Free radon detection kits

To assist in assessing a potential radon hazard, the Neenah Health Department will be distributing 200 free radon detection kits. Watch for a news release or, after January 1, 2003, contact the Health Department, at 751-4650, for more information.

(Radon detection kits are also available at local retail outlets.)

Permits protect people

Building permits insure that your residence (and the next one you rent or buy) is safe and sound. Permits are required for the following projects (call the City Inspection Department, at 751-4660, to make sure):

- New buildings.
- Additions to existing buildings.
- Swimming pools.
- Decks (over 24" in height).
- Garages.
- Sheds.
- Interior remodeling.
- Fences.
- Signs.
- Wood burning stoves and fireplaces.
- Electrical wiring and service changes.
- Basement remodeling.
- New or replacement furnaces or central air conditioning units.
- Plumbing work, including water heater replacement.
- Moving any building within the city limits.
- Demolition of any building.

Hours and locations

City Hall is located at 211 Walnut St. It is open Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Call 751-4602 for general information.

The **Mayor** holds **Office Hours** at City Hall on the first Wednesday of every month 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

The **Police Department** is located at 2111 Marathon Av. The Records/Office area is open Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The lobby is open 24 hours. Call 751-4677 for a non-emergency. Call **911** for an emergency.

The **Main Fire Station** is located at 125 E. Columbian Av. The Office area is open Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The lobby is open 24 hours. Call 751-4700 for a non-emergency. Call **911** for an emergency.

Neenah City Parks are open everyday from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call 751-4614 for general information.

The **Old City Garage** is located at 333 W. Cecil St. Wood chips there are free for Neenah citizens.

The **Neenah Public Library** is located at 240 E. Wisconsin Av. School-year hours are Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Fri. 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sun. 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Call 751-4722.

Meetings (At City Hall)

City Council

First and third Wednesday of each month - 7:00 p.m.

Finance & Personnel Committee

Monday of the week prior to the City Council meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Public Works & Services Committee

Tuesday of the week prior to the City Council meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Plan Commission

Tuesday of the week prior to the City Council meeting - 4:15 p.m.

Several additional committee meetings are scheduled each month. The agenda for these meetings are posted at City Hall. A directory of all committee members and regular meeting times is available from the City Clerk. The meeting schedule is on the Internet at www.ci.neenah.wi.us. Click on "Community," and then on "Calendar."

Credits

The 'Lighthouse' artwork courtesy of Henri Miles. Photographs courtesy of Darlene Hengels and Gretchen Raab.

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Neenah, WI 54956**

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CITY OF NEENAH NEWSLETTER

City of Neenah
211 Walnut Street
Neenah, WI 54956



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