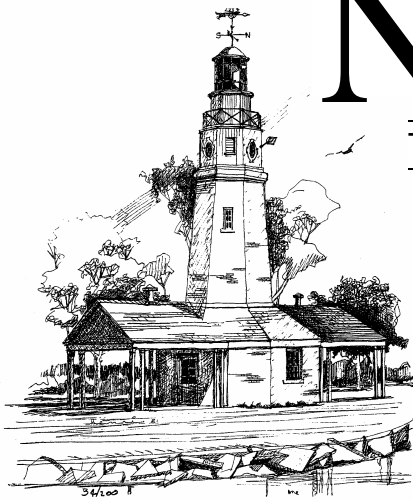


Neenah Notes

The City of Neenah Newsletter

VOL. 7 No. 1

Winter 2006



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Visit the City's web site!

www.ci.neenah.wi.us



Message from Mayor George Scherck

After several years of positive developments and good news, Neenah has recently had its share of issues that raise concerns. The newspaper reported stories related to the police department; water rates are going up; and rising costs continue to challenge our ability to govern.

But let's keep a balanced perspective. Neenah continues to be a great place to live and people all over the world would love to have our problems. Even more importantly, I have always viewed obstacles as opportunities not as barriers. It is appropriate, in fact, essential, that citizens and the press question and challenge their government and elected representatives. How we respond to those questions and criticisms determines the kind of government we will have and what the relationship with our citizens will be.

The police department investigation has been the source of several letters to the editor. It reminds us that our ultimate responsibility is always to the public; however, do we really want any police investigation to be influenced by elected officials, the press, or public opinion?

Rising costs of government, like those you experience at home, re-emphasize the importance of our continuing efforts to control operating costs *and* enhance the tax base through planned investments as we work to improve Neenah's quality of life. The 2006 budget I proposed to the Council called for a 1.06% increase in the tax rate. Neenah experienced \$32,538,000 in new residential construction this year and \$13,538,000 in commercial construc-

tion, which allows us to control taxes you pay and provide additional opportunities to all Neenah citizens.

With the benefit of a storm water utility, the owner of the average assessed home of \$101,500, will pay \$16.24 less in property taxes for municipal purposes in 2006 than they paid in 2001. Total tax paid by Neenah citizens actually declined for 2006 compared to 2005.

The newly created City Services Task Force will continue to examine every city service for cost effectiveness and increased efficiency. We will continue to explore cooperative ventures with our neighboring communities and

restructuring of our own departments to insure that your tax dollars are spent wisely. Neenah will also continue to play a leadership role in both regional and state issues.

We can and will enhance our quality of life *and* make government more cost-effective.

Through the town meeting, citizen advisory council, Neenah website, and this newsletter, we will continue to work to keep you informed and seek your input. Every community faces challenges but together we will turn obstacles into opportunities for a better Neenah, both today and tomorrow.

May the New Year bring you and your family joy, our community prosperity, and our nation peace.

Best wishes,



If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant...

Anne Bradstreet

Refuse & Recycling Guide Inside

Contact us!

Mayor	
George Scherck	886-6104
City Assessor	
Jack Ophoven	886-6115
City Attorney	
Jim Godlewski	886-6106
City Clerk	
Patty Peterson	886-6100
Community Development Director	
Bob Buckingham	886-6125
Finance Director	
Mike Easker	886-6140
Fire Chief	
Len Vander Wyst	886-6200
Health Department Director	
Judy Crouch-Smolarek	886-6155
Human Resources Coordinator	
Heather Fuller	886-6103
Information Systems Director	
Joe Wenninger	886-6170
Library Director	
Steve Procs	886-6300
Parks & Recreation Director	
Eileen McCoy	886-6060
Police Chief	
Ray Appel	886-6010
Public Works Director	
Tim Hamblin	886-6240
Water Works Director	
Larry Wattering	886-6180

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	
Kip Kitzerow	722-3551
Bruce Rhoades	727-0243
Todd Stevenson (Pres.)	722-5440

Credits

The 'Lighthouse' artwork courtesy of Henri Miles. Photographs courtesy of city staff.

65

Citizens that attended the
Sept. 30, 2005 Town Meeting.

Tap water white?

Every winter, people throughout the City open their cold-water faucet and fill their clear glass with white water. We receive many calls at the water treatment plant and office asking about this phenomenon.

In the winter, when temperatures of the lake water coming into the water treatment plant are just above freezing, the water molecules expand. This causes the density of the water to decrease. This is a common characteristic of water that can be easily confirmed because ice is lighter than water and it floats.

When water molecules are cold, air dissolves in the water by filling the empty spaces between the expanded water molecules. When there is a sudden change in pressure, for instance by opening a faucet, the air is released and comes out of solution. Because the released air is in the form of bubbles,

it reflects light and appears to be white, and colors the entire glass of water. When the glass is left to sit for a few seconds the bubbles rise to the surface, burst, and the white color disappears. This phenomenon is most noticeable in a clear glass, but also occurs in a colored glass.

This same white color appears in ice cubes year around for the same reason. When ice melts, the color disappears and you are left with clear water.

This cold, white water is of the same high quality as the warm summer water, and is safe to drink. Generally, most people believe the cold winter water tastes better than the warm summer water, and we receive far fewer taste complaints in the winter than in the summer. This is because the cold water numbs the taste buds and they become less sensitive to taste.

Snow removal

All snow must be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following the cessation of any snowstorm.

If sidewalks are not shoveled in a timely manner the City may do the work and charge the property owner (minimum charge is \$105). The City will attempt, but is not obligated, to contact the property owner of the sidewalk that needs to be shoveled.

Shoveling, plowing, or blowing snow into a City street is a violation of Municipal Code 6.04(1) as it may result in unsafe and icy streets.

Depositing snow in the street could result in being fined up to \$500 for each violation.

For efficiency and safety, the Public Works Department will make every effort to plow the streets at night or when traffic is at a minimum. No overnight on-street parking is permitted from November 1 to April 1. All vehicles must be off the streets from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. or they will be ticketed and towed.

During heavy or long lasting snowfalls we may need to plow your street more than once to clean it completely.

Mayor's regular office hours

Citizens are always encouraged to stop in anytime to visit with Mayor Scherck about their concerns or to call him at 886-6104. However, a specific time is set aside each week as open office hours. During January, February and March open office hours will be on Friday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If you want to schedule a specific time, call the above number or just stop into his office at your convenience. Local government is just a phone call away for everyone.

Mayor's special office hours

Questions about City services? Concerned about your tax bill? Mayor Scherck has once again set aside special year-end office hours to meet with taxpayers and answer questions about any City matter:

Wed., Dec. 28 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Thu., Dec. 29 - 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Fri., Dec. 30 - 10:00-11:30 a.m.

If these times are not convenient, call 886-6104 and set up an appointment.

Meet your citizen representatives

Name:

Neenah Plan Commission

Meets:

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

Main purpose:

The Plan Commission reviews and makes recommendations to the Council on special use permits, annexations, rezonings, planned unit developments, official street mapping, redevelopment plans, and tax incremental finance plans. It reviews and approves all commercial developments and also prepares the City's comprehensive plan.

Contact for more information:

Principal Planner Chris Haese—886-6127.

Members:

George Scherck, Chair

Ed Goodsmith, Vice-Chair

Tim Hamblin

Director of Public Works

Bob Buckingham

Community Development Director

Mike Faulks

Parks & Recreation Comm. Rep.

Karen Genett

Gerry Andrews

Nick Piergrossi

City Council Representative

Community updates

- ❑ Property acquisitions are almost completed for the **Cecil St. overpass**.
- ❑ Construction activity is on schedule for the new **Oak St. bridge**.
- ❑ Multiple new businesses are on their way into Neenah's new **Westowne Village** development.
- ❑ Welcome to **Cannova's New Italian Restaurant** and to **Jeffery Cook Photography**, both new to downtown Neenah.
- ❑ Welcome to the **Bemis Corp. national headquarters**, which is moving from Minneapolis to Neenah. Quality of life continues to be a major factor as businesses relocate. We look forward to the new Bemis Corp. employees joining our community!

Pair up!

Combining your garbage cans and recyclables with your neighbor is one way you can help reduce the costs of City services.

Fewer stops means:

- Less gasoline used.
- Less wear and tear on an expensive vehicle.
- Increased ability for fewer employees to make more pickups.

Get to know your neighbor—pair up today!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Until April 1 there is no parking on Neenah streets between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- Combining your garbage cans with your neighbor's reduces the number of stops and saves tax dollars.
- Snow? When it comes, you have to remove it within 24 hours.
- It costs \$100,000 plus fuel to pick up leaves. Mow the leaves, add nutrients to your lawn, and save tax dollars.
- Recently a young woman from Stephenville, Michigan saw Neenah, WI on a manhole cover and liked it so much that she legally changed her first name from Nina to Neenah.
- If you see a streetlight on during the day or off at night, call We Energies at 1-800-714-7777. Dark streets decrease our safety and lights on during the day waste energy.

Dial-A-Ride

Northern Winnebago Dial-A-Ride provides lower-cost transportation to residents of the Cities of Neenah and Menasha and the Town of Menasha who are aged 60 or older. Each trip costs \$2.75 and is provided by Fox Valley Cab.

For 2004, 448 Neenah-Menasha residents were served; a total of 7,000 rides were provided.

This service is funded by the Cities of Neenah and Menasha, the Town of Menasha, United Way Fox Cities, and state and federal funds through an agreement with the city of Appleton and Valley Transit.

For more information, contact the Neenah Community Development Department at 886-6125.

Property tax collection dates & hours

Payments can always be made at the Treasurer's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

First installment or in full payments can be made in January only at Associated Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, or M & I Bank.

Due date for first installment and for in full payments:

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Due date for second installment:

Friday, March 31, 2006

Due date for third installment:

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Due date for the fourth installment:

Monday, July 31, 2006

For more information, call 886-6143.



.95

Percentage increase in the 2005 tax rate (for 2006 budget).

PARKS & RECREATION

January to May Activity Guide

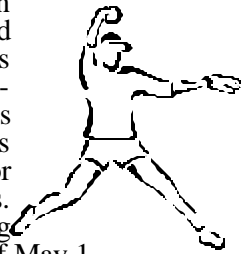
The Neenah Parks & Recreation Department's *January to May 2006 Activities Guide* has been distributed through the Neenah Schools. The guide includes youth and adult recreation activities and parks and facilities information. Additional copies are available at the City Hall Parks & Recreation office and the Neenah Public Library. Call 886-6060 for more information.

Adult Co-ed Summer Volleyball Leagues

Get your friends, family, co-workers, or neighbors together for fun in the sun! Co-ed volleyball leagues will play on the Neenah Pool outdoor sand courts on Thursday evenings. Tentative starting date is June 8 (10-week season). Registration packets are available at the Neenah Parks & Recreation City Hall Office and on www.neenahgov.org beginning Feb. 6. Team entry deadline is May 19. Limited spaces available. (Ages 16+)

Adult Summer Softball Leagues

Exciting adult softball action Mon., Wed., and Thu. evenings May through mid-August. Leagues play twelve games at Memorial or Washington Parks. Tentative starting date is the week of May 1.



Leagues Schedule:

Men's (A, B or C) – Mon. & Thu.
Co-ed (A & B) – Wednesdays.
Men's Over 35 – Thursdays.

Registration packets will be mailed to 2005 team managers and will be available at the Neenah Parks & Recreation City Hall Office or www.neenahgov.org beginning Jan. 9. Team entry deadline is March 17. Limited spaces available. (Ages 18+)

Mayor Scherck responds

Q Why are water rates going up again?

A In 2004, the Water Utility received approval for a \$16.67 million Safe Drinking Water loan to pay for the first phase of construction at the new water treatment plant. In order to pay for the principal and interest on this loan, the Public Service Commission approved a 48% rate increase. In 2005, we received approval for the second phase of the Safe Drinking Water loan of up to \$10.4 million. The only option open to the Utility to pay the debt is to increase water rates once again. In addition, the Utility's largest water user stopped using City water, a projected decrease in revenue to the Utility of \$280,000. Like the price of gasoline, natural gas, and electricity, there are some increases over which we have no control. We absolutely needed to build a new water plant, and the water users have to pay for it. But to guarantee an adequate supply of safe drinking water for today and the foreseeable future is certainly worth the cost to each of us.

Q Why is the Neenah Water Utility building a new plant?

A The Water Commission's decision was based on four factors. First, we are unable to meet current state and federal general stan-

dards for water treatment plants. Second, the current plant does not meet new federal and state regulations that address cryptosporidium and other issues related to a safe supply of drinking water. Third, plant capacity is being challenged. In 2001, we had a peak day of 8.8 million gallons with a capacity of 9.0 million. This is based almost entirely on residential demand. The only reason we have not exceeded plant capacity is the fact that we have had cooler and wetter than normal summers. Finally, the existing plant is both electrically and chemically inefficient. The simple truth is that to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water, the Water Utility had no choice but to build a new plant.

Q Why are Neenah's water rates higher than surrounding communities?

A For many years, Neenah had the lowest water rates in the Valley. Because of the new plant, our rates will temporarily be higher than other communities. However, Menasha is in line to close on a Safe Drinking Water loan for their new water treatment plant by April, 2006 and Appleton has not had an increase since 2002, and is also considering an increase.

For the complete text of all Mayor Scherck's responses, go to the City's website: www.ci.neenah.wi.us.

2006 taxes decline

City taxpayers will pay less total property tax in 2006 than in 2005. The owner of the average assessed home of \$101,500 will pay \$124.27 less and the owner of a \$200,000 assessed property will pay \$252.31 less. Expanding the tax base by making investments in our community benefits not just the quality of life but the amount of taxes paid by all of us. The citizens of Neenah expect and deserve a high level of public services but at a cost we all can afford. This is great news and our efforts to control taxes *and* improve our quality of life will remain a top priority.

33%

Percentage of your property tax that funds city services.



1,996

Calls for service by Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue in 2004.

Community Spotlight

Today, we focus the community spotlight on the **Boys' and Girls' Brigade**. The Brigade's mission is: "We Build Leaders" and since 1900, they have been doing exactly that. With a vision of serving as a center of excellence for youth character and leadership development, the Brigade has positively impacted the lives of thousands of young people in our community.

The countless volunteers who make the Brigade's work possible are the backbone of both the organization and our community as they commit their

time and talents to positively impacting young people.

Serving over 900 youth in grades 6-12 in the Fox Valley with 350 adult volunteers, the Brigade offers a year 'round program with weekly meetings from October through March and summer camp at Onaway from June until September.

For more information visit www.bgbrigade.com or telephone 920-725-3983. Thanks to the Brigade staff and dedicated volunteers for making Neenah a better place to live for all of us.



The Green Park Shelter, 337 Columbian Ave., accommodates a party of 40 with tables, chairs, heat, and restrooms. The park has picnic tables, open green space, tennis courts, and playground equipment. Available for daily rental Mon.-Thu./\$25; Fri.-Sun./\$40 (City of Neenah resident rates). For more information on this facility and others, call 886-6060.

Property revaluation

The City of Neenah is in the process of reassessing all residential and commercial properties to establish uniform fair market value community wide. City properties were last reassessed in 1999. Since then, staff from the Assessor's Office have been completing exterior and interior inspections of approximately one-fifth of city residential properties each year.

Completing a citywide reassessment is an important role for local government. By establishing accurate and uniform values for all taxable properties, the city can better ensure property tax fairness. Information gathered during these inspections assists with establishing the fair market value. The firm of Tyler/Cole Layer

Trumble will be assisting the city with the reassessment. The Assessor's Office and personnel from Tyler/CLT will continue to do door-to-door inspections. If the property owner is not home, a card will be left on the door requesting a callback to set up an appointment. All staff members from the Assessor's Office and personnel from Tyler/CLT will have photo identification. The fieldwork is estimated for completion by April 2006.

Once the fieldwork is completed and new assessed values are determined, all property owners will receive a notice of change of assessment.

There will be an opportunity to discuss your assessment during the Open Book session at City Hall.

PARKS & RECREATION

Band Concerts

The **Neenah Ambassadors Dance Band** *Spring Into Music* concert will be held Sun., Feb. 19.

The **Neenah Community Band** will perform Sun., Mar. 19.

Both concerts:

- Will be held at Neenah High School's Pickard Auditorium.
- Will start at 2:30 p.m.

FREE admission. Donations welcome.

Summer Part-Time Job Openings

Applications are available at the City Hall Parks & Recreation Department Office (211 Walnut St.), Neenah High School Student Services Office, or online at www.neenahgov.org.

Deadline for accepting applications is Fri., Feb. 3.

Jobs are open to **15-year-olds and older**. The minimum age requirement varies with the position. Check the job descriptions.

Recreation Instructors: Archery, Baseball, Tot Lot, Crafts, Playgrounds, Drama, Nature Quest, Gymnastics, Tennis, Golf, Soccer, Tot Sports.

Swimming Pool Jobs: Lifeguards, Lesson Instructors, Concessionaires, Admission Controllers.

Other: Softball Scorers, Umpires, Volleyball Officials, Park & Cemetery Maintenance Workers.

Competitive Wages & Excellent Working Conditions. Call 886-6060 for more information.

368

Acres of parks in Neenah.

LIBRARY

School Year Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 - 9

Friday 9 - 6

Saturday 9 - 5

Sunday 1 - 5

Adult Afternoon Programs

Monday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the Shattuck Room:

Feb. 6 — **Tour Wisconsin through the Works of its Traditional Artists** — Anne Pryor

Mar. 6 — **Marooned in the Robin Crusoe Islands** — Tom Lammers

Apr. 3 — **In and Out of Labor Camps in World War II** — Curtis Brown

Readers Review book club

Everyone is welcome to attend and discuss these books. Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Carpenter Room:

Jan. 16 — *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls

Feb. 20 — *A Long Way Down* by Nick Hornby

Mar. 20 — *The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd

Apr. 17 — *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* by Mary Roach

May 15 — *Appaloosa* by Robert Parker

Jun. 19 — *The Turtle Warrior* by Mary Relindes Ellis

For more information, call 886-6315.

Library ranked #1

U.S. public libraries are rated every year, using statistics submitted to a federal agency. For 2005, the Neenah library was rated the highest of public libraries in Winnebago and Outagamie counties. Ranking factors used include low cost per checkout, per capita support, visits per capita, circulations per hour, and percent of budget spent on library materials. The Oshkosh library ranked second.

Girlfriends Read

A Reading Group for Girls & Women

Enjoy and explore the joy of children's literature with girlfriends, moms, aunts, sisters, grandmothers, or neighbors. This new reading group is just for girls and women! Come alone or come together, but don't miss out on reading and talking about these super books about girls written by women.

Enrollment is limited. Call 886-6335 to register or stop by Neenah Library Youth Services by January 2.

We'll meet Sundays at 2:00 p.m. The books are written for girls ages 9-12, but have appeal to all "girls." (Ages 9+)

Jan. 22 — *Ida B. ...and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World* by Katherine Hannigan.

Feb. 26 — *Heartbeat* by Sharon Creech.

Mar. 26, — *Each Little Bird That Sings* by Deborah Wiles.

May 7 — *The Penderwicks: a Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting boy* by Jeanne Birdsall.

Get the lead out!

Do you live in a house built before 1978? If so, you should be aware that lead can be found in the following areas of a house:

- Old paint and varnish on doors and windows.
- Dust and paint chips on window wells and sills.
- Old painted furniture and toys.
- Dust in rugs and carpets.
- Baseboards, woodwork, and carpets.
- Old paint on porches, railings, and steps.

- Food or drink prepared or stored in pottery and ceramics.
- Bare dirt in the yard.

The Neenah Department of Public Health can provide you with cleaning tips, lead testing in your home, and suggestions on how to protect your children, especially those under six years of age, as they can become ill and have problems with learning, growth, and behaviors that can affect their entire life if poisoned with lead. Please contact the Neenah Department of Public Health at 886-6163 for details.



Participants in the 2005 Neenah BooFest Build-A-Scarecrow program, (from left) Gretchen Hamernik-Winters, Meghann Hamernik-Winters, Michelle Hamernik.

Musical programs

The Neenah Public Library offers free Sunday afternoon musical programs at 2:00 p.m. in the Shattuck Community Room:

Mar. 5 — **Musical Review** — Kent & Emily Paulsen, Holly Rottier & Chad Lemerande

Apr. 23 — **Renaissance Music** — Duffey & Denise

\$670,960

Decrease in state aid payments to the City of Neenah from 2003 to 2006.

Neenah Reads! *The Glass Castle*

A hardscrabble, nomadic childhood. Parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both a curse and salvation... Welcome to the Neenah Public Library's third community-wide book club.

The Glass Castle, by MSNBC correspondent Jeannette Walls, tells the true story of Rex and Rose Mary Walls and their four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Cooking a meal that would be consumed in 15 minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever.

Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town—and the family—Rex Walls had done everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money and disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as

they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

What is so astonishing about Jeannette Walls is not just that she had the guts and tenacity and intelligence to get out, but that she describes her parents with such deep affection and generosity. Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.

Neenah Reads! *The Glass Castle* will conclude with a reception with author Jeannette Walls on Sat., Jan. 28 at 1:00 p.m. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing.

For more information, contact Gretchen Raab at the Neenah Public Library at 920-886-6310 or at raab@neenahlibrary.org.



The library has multiple copies of *The Glass Castle* available for checkout. Look for the display in the lobby on the first floor and in the Adult Department on the second floor.

LIBRARY

Poetry Circle

I Looked into My Heart Poetry Circle will meet on the following Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the first floor Story Room in the Youth Services Department:

Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, April 6, and May 11.

Everyone is welcome—you need not be a poetry lover to attend! During each gathering, 3 or 4 adult-level poems will be discussed. Some background material on the poet is provided and books, with the poems, are available from Pat (phone 886-6330; e-mail Hewitt@neenahlibrary.org).

Storytimes!

Winter–Spring storytimes run Jan. 10–May 19. No registration is required. All programs are free.

Babytime — Wed. & Thu. — 9:15 a.m. (Babies, birth–12-months-old) Thursday is a repeat of Wednesday's program.

Toddletime — Wed. & Thu. — 10:30 a.m. (Toddlers, 12-23 months old) Thursday is a repeat of Wednesday's program.

Lapsit — Wed. & Thu. — 10:00 a.m. (2-year-olds) Thursday is a repeat of Wednesday's program.

Family Time — Tue. — 10:00 a.m. & Wed. — 1:00 p.m. (Especially for children 3- to 5-years-old, but adults and siblings are welcome)

Thursday & Friday Fun Days — Stories & Crafts for children aged 3, 4, 5, & 6 only. For a special time just for the 3- to 6-year-olds, parents as well as younger and older children must wait elsewhere in the library. Caregivers only are invited in to help with the craft.

Thurs days — 1:00-1:45 p.m. — Jan. 12, 26; Feb. 9, 23; Mar. 9, 23; Apr. 6, 20; May 4, 18.

Fridays — 10:00-10:45 a.m. — Jan. 13, 27; Feb. 10, 24; Mar. 10, 24; Apr. 7, 21; May 5, 19.

For more information, call 886-6335.

Food for Fines

The Neenah Public Library's annual Food for Fines program went well for both the library and the Red Cross. Library customers donated over 2,400 food items that will help our neighbors in need. Customers paid off \$2,641 in library fines and returned many overdue items, making them available for others. Thanks to all who participated!

15.27

Percentage decrease in state aid payments to the City of Neenah from 2003 to 2006.

Dog and cat licenses

March 31, 2006 is the due date for purchasing dog and cat licenses. You must present a valid rabies certificate for licensing.



Licenses may be purchased at the Treasurer's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri. (except holidays).

2006 Elections

After the uncertainties created by the 2000 U.S. Presidential Election, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). HAVA requires states to create a comprehensive system of voter registration for all voters. The Wisconsin Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) is scheduled for implementation in 2006 and will make getting voting information easier for citizens and managing elections more comprehensive for election officials.

The SVRS will have a public section that allows individuals to check their registration, see where they can vote, and check which offices and candidates are on the upcoming ballot for their areas.

2006 Election Dates

Spring Primary - February 21

Spring Election - April 4

Partisan Primary - September 12

General Election - November 7

Residents should bring along a driver's license or Wisconsin ID card in order to register and vote. Voters can register to vote prior to Election Day in the Office of the City Clerk, 211 Walnut Street, or at the polls on Election Day.

For more information about the Wisconsin Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) and election procedures, see the Wisconsin State Elections Board website at <http://elections.state.wi.us>.

Carbon monoxide poisoning

The Neenah Department of Public Health urges people to use carbon monoxide detectors and perform regular inspections of gas heaters and appliances to guard against carbon monoxide poisoning. Detectors can be purchased at most hardware stores and function like smoke detectors, sounding an alarm if carbon monoxide levels are high enough to cause illness.

Carbon monoxide poisonings become more common during the fall and winter months when fumes from furnaces, wood stoves, fireplaces, and kitchen ranges build up in tightly sealed homes. Fumes from portable heaters, charcoal grills, and idling vehicles can also build up in a tent or cabin.

"Buying and installing carbon monoxide detectors in your home and having your heating system, gas range, fireplace, and chimney inspected are the best steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning," said Neenah Public Health Director Judy Smolarek.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas produced when fuels such as gasoline, kerosene, wood, coal, oil, natural gas, and charcoal do not have enough oxygen to burn completely. Breathing carbon monoxide replaces the oxygen in the blood, making the person sick.

Carbon monoxide alarms should be placed in a central location, near bedrooms. If you have multiple floors in your home, a detector should be placed on each floor. Avoid putting alarms inside garages where initially

high carbon monoxide can trigger false alarms. Also keep alarms away from doors and windows, where fresh air can cause a false low reading. Hunters, anglers, and campers are advised to take a portable, battery-powered detector with them and keep it in their sleeping area.

To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Have your furnace, gas appliances, fireplace, and chimney checked annually by a qualified professional to make sure they work properly and have adequate ventilation.
- Never use a gas oven to heat your home.
- Never allow an engine to run in an enclosed space, such as a garage. This includes cars, snowmobiles, motorcycles, space heaters, mowers, trimmers, chain saws, or generators.
- Never ride inside a camper or trailer that is being towed by another vehicle.

Symptoms of low level exposure are often mistaken for the flu and include headache, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, and mental confusion. High levels of exposure may lead to more serious health problems, including loss of consciousness and death. If anyone in your home exhibits symptoms that clear up when they leave the home, carbon monoxide may be in the home.

For more information on carbon monoxide, visit the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services website at <http://dhfs.wi.gov/eh/Air/> or call the Neenah Health Department at 886-6155.

High levels of exposure may lead to more serious health problems.

Refuse & Recycling Guide Inside

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