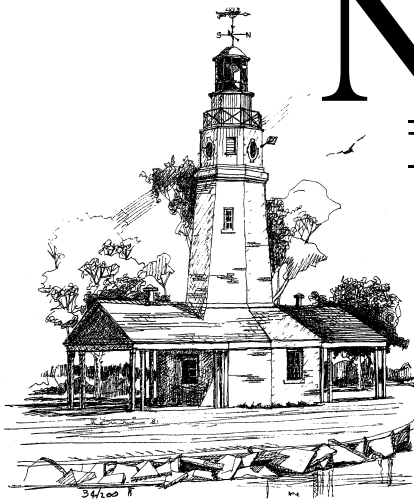


Neenah Notes

The City of Neenah Newsletter

VOL. 10 No. 4

Fall 2009



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City of Neenah Town Meeting

Tue., Oct. 20
7:00 p.m.

City Hall
Council Chambers

- State of the City
- 2010 budget
- Question City officials
- Express your concerns

Get involved!

Message from Mayor George Scherck

After serving this community as a teacher, coach, alderman and now as your mayor, you will forgive me if I am a little biased about our future and the quality of life Neenah offers to all of us today. But let's take an objective look at what makes Neenah a special community to live, work, and raise a family. All cities provide public services but a community provides opportunities, a sense of belonging, pride in the past, a common set of values, and a clear vision for the future.

Is all of this created because of decisive, political leadership? Elected officials who work together to create consensus without political bickering? The ability of government to create a partnership with the private sector? Leadership that is diverse, involving both

those in government but also private citizens who care enough to be involved? Or is it because of citizens who volunteer, share their resources or show respect for each other and their neighborhoods? Obviously, great communities exhibit all of these and much more. Sometimes these qualities are not easy to observe but here in our hometown, we are blessed by numerous events that illustrate just why we are such a special community.

First, there are the many concerts at Shattuck Park, built by taxpayer dollars and private contributions, organized by Future Neenah Inc., and sponsored by the generosity of people like Richard and Amy Jo Aylward, Kimberly Clark and numerous other local businesses. You can almost see Clara Shattuck smile as she looks down at

her park and watches kids playing, people dancing on the concert lawn, and families relaxing in an alcohol-free, picturesque environment. This is middle America at its best.

Community Band Concerts, Street-Ball, the Farm Market, youth sporting events, church picnics and the list goes on of opportunities for us to come together to celebrate our community. And let's not forget the biggest and best of all—CommunityFest.



Organized by a citizen committee under the leadership of Eileen McCoy, Neenah's Director of Parks & Recreation, financed by the civic leadership

of John F. Bergstrom, who raises private funds to fund many of the activities, spectacular fireworks paid for by your tax dollars and all of the real work that day carried out by dedicated volunteers like Judy Zaretzke. How can anyone not feel a sense of hometown pride as literally thousands of people gather together to celebrate not just our sense of community, but the freedom that allows us to come together?

And you wonder why I am so convinced that the best days of this community are always going to be ahead of us!

Best wishes,

Resources you can't find on Google

www.neenahlibrary.org

Contact us!

Mayor	
George Scherck	886-6104
City Attorney	
Jim Godlewski	886-6106
City Clerk	
Patty Sturn	886-6100
Community Development & Assessment Director	
Chris Haese	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 Deputy Director	
Heather Barber	886-6102
Information Systems Director	
Joe Wenninger	886-6170
Library Director	
Steve Procs	886-6300
Parks & Recreation Director	
Eileen McCoy	886-6060
Police Chief	
Kevin Wilkinson	886-6000
Public Works & Utilities Director	
Larry Wattering	886-6180

Aldermanic District 1	
Jim Hemes	450-2135
Mark Lange	729-0831
Nick Piergrossi	751-0842
Aldermanic District 2	
John Ahles	727-1306
Marge Bates	729-5556
Judy Zaretzke	722-1291
Aldermanic District 3	
Tim Hamblin	722-4593
Lee Hillstrom	722-0774
Todd Stevenson (Pres.)	722-5440

Credits

The 'Lighthouse' artwork courtesy of Henri Miles. Photographs were submitted.

34

Percentage of your property tax that funds city services.

Stimulus and other grants

Thanks to the perseverance and diligence of Neenah department heads, the City has received significant federal assistance through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds:

- A 20 hour per week employee at the library for one year.
- \$512,000 for the Adams St. bridge.
- \$500,000 for the reconstruction of W. Wisconsin Av.
- \$1.2 million for the Commerce Ct. storm detention pond (50% Clean Water Loan/50% stimulus funds).
- \$31,000 for the police department to help fund a regional crime analyst position.

Ongoing applications:

- The Community Development Authority has submitted an application

for \$400,000 for the Glatfelter/Plexus project.

- Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue has applied for several grants.

Other grant activity:

- Parks & Recreation has received a \$107,000 Wisconsin Waterways grant for the Rec Park boat landing.
- Neenah Police Department has received a \$20,000 drunk driving enforcement grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

While all of this is our money, we have a responsibility to take the burden off our taxpayers and get a fair share of the funds being distributed. The key was to focus on established needs and not try to create projects just to get federal or state dollars.

~Mayor Scherck

Ultraviolet light disinfection system

Neenah Water Utility boasts the first state accredited ultraviolet disinfection system for drinking water.

Ultraviolet light (UV) is usually thought about in a negative context. Our sun generates a lot of it and scientists warn us to avoid it. Fortunately, for the City citizens, the Water Utility is now able to harness the power of UV to assist in the generation of healthy, clean drinking water.

Ultraviolet light kills or inactivates many of the dangerous organisms such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia that can make people ill and that tend

to inhabit lake waters. Using ultraviolet light to aid in the disinfection of drinking water is very natural and safe, and does not involve adding additional chemicals to the treatment process.

The Water Utility has partnered with Good Measure, LLC of Oshkosh, McMahon Engineers of Neenah, and Carollo Engineers of Boise, Idaho and Portland, Oregon in order to complete the UV project and gain state acceptance. All water utilities treating surface water will need to have measures such as UV disinfection in place between 2012 and 2013.

Walk to Win!

Begin a lifelong habit that will improve your health, help you maintain or lose weight, enhance your mental sharpness and add energy to your day—Walk to Win!

You can reach your goal of 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity at least 5 days a week in more than one way.

1. Walk for 30 consecutive minutes at a brisk pace daily.
2. Walk for 15 consecutive minutes at a brisk pace twice per day.
3. Walk for 10 consecutive minutes at a brisk pace three times per day.



Our program is 3 months long and runs through December 1, 2009, but you can join at anytime. We are hoping all participants reach their goal so they can improve their health and fitness and also be eligible to win great prizes in our drawing at the end of December!

If you and your family are ready to start being physically active, join Walk to Win! Register online at www.walktowin.org or pick-up a registration form at any of the four YMCA of the Fox Cities locations or the Neenah Health Dept.

Meet your new department head

Name:

Kevin Wilkinson

Position:

Chief of Police

Previous position:

New London Chief

Police experience:

25 years

Education: B.A., Concordia University, Management & Communication; M.S., Marion College, Organizational Leadership & Quality

Family: Wife—Karla; children—Kade (20), Kennan (18), Keturah (13), Kreed (10), Kevin (8).

Hobbies: Wilderness camping, canoeing, songwriting, speaking, old matchbox cars.

Comment: Times have changed. Yet I still believe I can effect change and make a difference in the community.



New City website

The City's website now has a cleaner and more user friendly look and feel. New features have been added.

• Sign up to receive e-mail notification when agendas and minutes of committees/boards of interest are available. Click on the Agendas & Minutes link at the top of the left column of the home page, scroll to the bottom of the meeting calendar, click on the notification sign-up link, provide the requested information, and select your committees of interest.

• Sign up for the City's RSS feed (Really Simple Syndication). RSS feeds provide timely updates from favored websites, in this case anytime the News column on the right side of the home page is updated you will receive either a summary or full text notification. To subscribe to this service click on the RSS feed icon and follow the prompts.



• Announcements, such as severe weather and emergency website activation will be streamed across the top of the home page when warranted.

The City's website can be accessed at www.ci.neenah.wi.us

2010 proposed street construction

Bituminous Overlay

- Adams St. (Lake to Union)
- Betty Av. (Kitzerow to McKinley)
- Caroline St. (RR to Church)
- Cherrywood Ct.
- Fiesta Ct.
- Hunt Av. (Cecil to Madison)
- Madison St. (Reddin to Zemlock)
- Nicolet Blvd. (First to Kittiver)
- Reddin Av. (Cecil to Winneconne)
- Whitlow/Mayer Sts. (Harrison to Main)

Curb, Gutter, & Bituminous Pavement

- Fort Dr. (Marathon to east end)
- Grassy Ln. (Olde School to Fort)

Reconstruction

- Castle Oak Dr.—Marathon Av. roundabout
- N. Lake St. (RR to north limits)
- Winneconne Av. (US 41 to Neenah Slough; includes roundabouts at Green Bay Rd. and Lake St.)
- Wisconsin Av. (Main to Commercial)

Bridge replacement

- Adams St. bridge over the Neenah Slough

A formal public hearing will be held on Nov. 17, 2009 to discuss the 2010 Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets, which will include proposed street construction projects. The Wisconsin Av. and Adams St. bridge projects are being funded through federal stimulus grants.

Observe Crosswalks

Motorists are reminded to yield to pedestrians in marked crosswalks like the ones at Shattuck Park, in front of the Market Place, and at Neenah Paper.

With school now open, let's all be especially vigilant at school crossing by reducing speeds and obeying crossing guards' directions. Protecting pedestrians, especially our children, is everybody's job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- You don't need an appointment to meet with the Mayor; you can just stop in for a visit anytime?
- Winter rules require you to keep sidewalks free of ice and snow?
- We are still looking for volunteers for boards and commissions?
- It's not too late to start pairing up your garbage with your neighbor?
- Before putting leaves and yard waste out on the curb you should check the recycling guide?
- There is no parking on City streets after October 31st?
- Dogs & cats are allowed in City parks but must be on a leash and on the sidewalk or trail?
- You should rake your leaves onto the terrace not into the street?
- If you see a street light that is on during daylight hours or blinking or completely off at night, you should call We Energies at 1-800-714-7777, report on-line at www.we-energies.com/night_aura or call the Neenah Public Works Department at 886-6240?

West Side neighborhood visits

City assessment staff will be continuing door-to-door visits in Neenah's west side neighborhoods through the rest of 2009. Homeowners are asked to allow entry into their homes for a brief review of the property's interior and exterior to insure accurate property valuation records.

Department staff will have appropriate identification that will be provided immediately upon request. If residents have any concern or questions, they can contact the Community Development and Assessment Department at 886-6130.

PARKS & RECREATION

Fall Activity Guide

The *Fall Leisure Connections Guide* was distributed through the elementary schools in early September. The *Guide* includes youth and adult activities as well as parks and facilities information. Additional copies are available at the City Hall Parks & Recreation office, at the Neenah Public Library, and at the city website: www.ci.neenah.wi.us. Registration for most programs are accepted online. Facility reservations accepted by calling 886-6060.

Recreation Activities

Adult Yoga, Pilates, and Zumba
Ongoing (Ages 15+)

Adult Doubles—Badminton League
A great backyard game that is also fun indoors. Matches will be played at Shattuck Middle School on Wednesday nights beginning in January. We'll supply a gym supervisor/scorekeeper; you need to bring a racket. Registration deadline: Dec. 18. (Ages 16+)

Build a Scarecrow—Oct. 17
(Families)

Build-A-Gingerbread House—Dec. 5
(Families)

Kidstage (theater)—Sep. 29-Dec. 1
(Ages 5-14)

Basketball Open Gym—Mondays & Wednesdays, Oct. 5-Apr. 2010.
(Adults)

Start Smart Sports—Begins Oct. 5
(Ages 3-5)

Start Smart Basketball—Begins Nov. 16 (Ages 3-5)

Sewing Fun for Kids—Oct. & Nov. sessions (Ages 8+)

Master the Magic—Oct. 10 & 17
(Ages 9-12)

Parks & Recreation Contact & Registration Information

For more information (including registration) about events, visit the City Hall Parks & Recreation office, call 886-6060, or go to www.ci.neenah.wi.us

Mayor Scherck responds

Q Why is the City facing a large 2010 deficit and what are the plans to fill the deficit?

A For details, click on *Budget Update* and *Mayor's Press Release* on right side of Neenah's web page—www.ci.neenah.wi.us. The short version is that like every Wisconsin municipality we are feeling the shocks of state budget actions.

First, a 7.3% reduction in our shared revenue (\$140,000), an immediate doubling of the tipping fee (\$70,000), and an increase in Wisconsin Retirement System contributions (\$101,000).

In addition, projected investment earnings will be reduced by \$100-200,000. When added to increases in wages and benefit costs, the deficit for 2010 will be at least \$501,000 and could reach \$729,000—and that assumes that the Council will use the entire levy limit allowed by the state of 3%.

I proposed and the Council accepted an immediate freeze in non-union salaries through 2010 and a freeze in the mayor's salary through 2014. I met with union representatives and asked for similar concessions despite the fact they have an existing contract. I further asked department heads to make immediate reductions in 2009 spending.

We cannot fill the gap unless we reduce compensation levels for all City employees, so we need to find a mutually satisfactory solution to help us reach that goal.

Q What is the job of the complaint officer and what procedures does he follow?

A Our complaint officer is a part-time employee whose primary purpose is to help educate the public about City ordinances dealing with a wide-range of subjects, including rummage sale signs, brush on the curb, garbage and large items on the curb, weed control, junk on property, branches overhanging the sidewalk, etc.

Often responding to neighborhood complaints, he first places a notice on the property as to the violation and the need to correct. Our goal is not to fine but to gain compliance so we can make our neighborhoods places we can all be proud of.

If compliance is not voluntary, the next step is enforcement, which often means a City crew brings the property into compliance and bills the owner. This is a step we want to avoid whenever possible.

The best enforcement is for each of us to be a good neighbor and take good care of our property, following the rules. If you get a tag, please do not take offense, but simply correct the problem. Your cooperation will be much appreciated.

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

Lifeguard winners

The Northeast Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Organization-sponsored annual lifeguard competition was held at the Neenah Pool on Aug. 1. Our teams placed 1st, 3rd, and 6th of 9 teams. The competition consisted of 4 lifeguard/swimming events and an obstacle course.

FIRST PLACE TEAM (left to right): Brad Harris, Daryl Grable, Nick Kehler; Brittany Jochman, Hilary Shandonay, Brook Muggenthaler.



Community Spotlight

This edition's spotlight focuses on the **CommunityFest Committee** and the **dedicated volunteers and contributors** that make this special day so enjoyable for all of us.

The Committee meets year around to organize and plan for this great community event.

The Neenah representatives include Park & Recreation Director Eileen McCoy, Mayor George Scherck, former Mayor Marigen Carpenter, Alderperson Judy

Zaretske, Lynne Lambrecht, Ron Hopfensperger, Kim Vander Wyst, and Tamara Hasz.

Representatives of Menasha, led by Mayor Don Merkes also participate— yet another example of our two cities working together, sharing ideas in an attempt to benefit citizens on both sides of Nicolet Boulevard. Citizens who give of their time, talents, and resources to serve all of us is just one reason Neenah is such a great place to live.

Thank you!
CommunityFest
Volunteers

What to do if you get flu-like symptoms

The novel H1N1 flu virus is causing illness in the United States and countries around the world. The Centers for Disease Control expects that infections may continue for some time. As a result, you or people around you may become ill. If so, you need to recognize the symptoms and know what to do.

The symptoms of novel H1N1 flu virus in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Some people also have diarrhea and vomiting.

If you become ill or are at risk for complications, contact your health care provider. He/she will determine whether flu testing and/or treatment are needed.

Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Your Community

- Contact your health care provider regarding receiving the annual seasonal flu vaccine.
- Contact your health care provider with questions regarding the availability of H1N1 flu vaccine and when your family may be able to receive it.
- Cover all coughs and sneezes with a tissue and dispose of it in a waste container.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve if a tissue is not available.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.

- Alcohol-based hand cleaners may be used if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- DO NOT share eating utensils, water bottles, beverage containers, or other personal items.
- Avoid close contact with ill people.
- If you are ill with a flu-like illness, **STAY HOME** from work or **KEEP YOUR CHILDREN HOME** from school and other social activities for 24 hours after your/their fever has ended except to seek medical care. For children under 5 years of age it is recommended that they be out of school for at least 7 days and for 24 hours after their fever has ended.
- If you are ill and sharing a common space with other household members in your home, wear a facemask to help prevent spreading the virus.
- Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds, and other social distancing measures.
- Develop a family emergency plan as a precaution. This should include a supply of extra food, medicines, and other essential supplies.

Please visit the following websites for further information:

<http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov>

<http://cdc.gov>

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pandemicflu.html>

PARKS & RECREATION

Shattuck & Riverside Fountains

What's going on with the City fountains? The City is advising the public that playing in the fountains at Shattuck and Riverside Parks may result in serious injury or illness. Warning signs have been installed informing the public that playing in the fountains is not allowed.

Aren't the fountains supposed to be interactive? Yes and No. The City has always warned the public to stay out of the Riverside fountain, mainly because of the physical dangers of someone slipping and falling. Shattuck is a little different because it was designed and promoted to be interactive. While some human contact was expected, no one anticipated that it would be used like a swimming pool.

Why is this a problem? Water in the fountains is not treated and sanitized to the same degree as a swimming pool. The water may contain bacteria, viruses or parasites, such as Cryptosporidium or Giardia, which can cause serious illness. Children are at the greatest risk because they are most likely to play in the fountains, and they most easily spread pathogens due to wearing of diapers, drinking the water and/or hand to mouth behaviors.

Why now? Children have been observed in the fountain with diapers. Dogs and other animals have been seen in the fountain. When people walk through the fountain with shoes on, they are depositing dirt and other debris that contaminates the water. Injury is also a concern because children can slip and fall on wet concrete surfaces. City officials are now more keenly aware of the possible health hazards associated with people playing in the fountains. The risk for infection, illness or injury is simply too great to ignore.

The solution? Enjoy the sound and beauty of the fountains. Don't put your children or yourself at risk by playing in the fountains or drinking fountain water.

LIBRARY

School Year Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 - 9
Friday 9 - 6
Saturday 9 - 5
Sunday 1 - 5

MMBK

Monday Morning Book Klatch discusses a selected title one Monday a month at 10:00 a.m. in the Shattuck Community Room. Anyone who has read the book is encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. You can pick up a copy of the selected title at the Adult Services Desk. Information: Nicole — hardina-wilhelm@neenahlibrary.org; 886-6315.

Oct. 26 — *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova
Nov. 23 — *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
Dec. 14 — *Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg

Readers Review

The Readers Review book discussion group meets the third Monday evening each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Carpenter Conference Room on the second floor of the library. Anyone who has read the book it invited to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. Check at the Adult Services Desk for availability of a copy of the book. Information: Cheryl — 886-6315; kraft@neenahlibrary.org.

Oct. 19 — *House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton
Nov. 16 — *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga
Dec. 21 — *Outliers: the Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell

Adult Afternoon Programs

The first Monday of the month brings interesting programs to the Shattuck Community Room at 2:00 p.m. Light refreshments. Free.

Nov. 2 — **Apple Betty & Sloppy Joe** with the authors, the Sanvidge Sisters.
Dec. 7 — **The Christmas Tree Ship** with the author, Rochelle Pennington.

Tuesday Night Movies

Movies at the library on Tuesday nights in the Shattuck Community Room. Popcorn and soda will be served. Information: 886-6315. Most movies start at 6:30 p.m. Titles subject to change depending on DVD release dates. Free.

Oct. 6 — *Monsters vs. Aliens* (PG)
Oct. 20 — *Land of the Lost* (PG-13)
Nov. 10 — *Up* (PG)
Nov. 24 — *Star Trek* (PG-13)
Dec. 15 — *Julie & Julia* (PG-13)
Dec. 29 — *Harry Potter & the Half-Blood Prince* (PG)

First Friday Concerts

Held in the Shattuck Community Room at 2:00 p.m. on selected Fridays. Free.

Oct. 2 — **The Art of Song** — Michelle Peterson, Mezzo-Soprano; Nell Buchman, pianist
Nov. 6 — **Quartette Affetuoso** — string ensemble
Dec. 4 — **Holiday Harp Selections** — Julie Meinke, Harp

Sunday Concerts

Held in the Shattuck Community Room at 2:00 p.m. on selected Sundays. Free.

Oct. 4 — **The Redbirds** — traditional bluegrass and old time fiddle.
Oct. 25 — **Copper Box Band*** — polka, Zydeco, country, blues.
Nov. 8 — **Steve Young Band*** — polka, big band, waltz.
Dec. 13 — **Danny & Michelle Jera-bek Duo*** — polka.

*Sponsored by Performing Arts for Youth.

Monday Matinees

Movies at the library on the second Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Shattuck Community Room. Popcorn and soda will be served. Information: 886-6315. Free.

Nov. 9 — *The Soloist* (PG-13)
Dec. 14 — *Last Chance Harvey* (PG-13)

Shakespeare on Screen

Films moderated by Katherine Roberts. Third Wednesday in the Shattuck Community Room. Information: Gretchen — raab@neenahlibrary.org; 886-6315. Free soda/popcorn. Free.

Oct. 21 — *Romeo and Juliet* with Claire Danes and Leonardo DiCaprio, 6:30 p.m.: 120 minutes (PG-13)
Nov. 18 — *West Side Story*, 6:00 p.m.: 152 minutes
Dec. 16 — *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Michelle Pfeiffer and Kevin Kline, 6:30 p.m.: 116 minutes (PG-13)
Jan. 20 — *Taming of the Shrew* with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, 6:30 p.m.: 122 minutes.
Feb. 17 — *10 Things I Hate About You* with Heath Ledger and Julie Stiles, 6:30 p.m.: 97 minutes (PG-13)

Bowling at the Library!

Wii Bowling at the library—no experience necessary and no heavy lifting. Adults only. Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. in the Shattuck Community Room. Information: 886-6315. Free.

Event dates: Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 14.

Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Neenah Public Library's annual used book (and DVDs, VHS, CDs, etc.) sale will be held in the Shattuck Community Room.

Donations are always accepted for the book sale (please—no magazines, condensed books, or encyclopedias).

Thu., Oct. 15 — 5:30-8:30 p.m.
(\$3 admission—children under 11 free with paid adult)

Fri., Oct. 16 — 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 17 — 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 18 — 1:30-4:00 p.m.
Books by the Bagful—\$5

Mon., Oct. 19 — 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Remaining Items FREE

Yard debris useful

Using yard debris on-site saves municipal tax dollars for collection and processing while reusing natural materials to beautify one's yard.

Mulching Leaves in Place. Leaves are rich in carbon, phosphorus, and potassium—all essential nutrients needed by plants, including turf grasses. Simply mow leaves along with the grass during fall, and let the small leaf pieces filter down among the grass blades.

Composting is a natural recycling process that can be done at home with lawn and garden waste. Microorganisms from the soil interact with compost materials to help break down plant matter. Proper moisture, air, and temperature aid these microorganisms in their work. Finished compost is used as an organic plant food and soil amendment.

Grasscycling is leaving grass clippings on the lawn to decompose. Grass clippings are mostly water. When you mow regularly, clippings quickly decompose and release nutrients to fertilize the lawn. Research shows that when grass clippings are left on the lawn, one-third less fertilizer is needed to achieve the same color and grass density found on lawns where the clippings are removed.

Mulching. Mulches help soil retain moisture, moderate temperature fluctuations, and reduce erosion and soil compaction. Yard wastes such as grass clippings, leaves, and chipped or shredded brush and branches can be used as organic mulches.

Vermicomposting. Red worms live in the upper layer of the forest floor. These worms can turn food waste into nutrient-rich humus for gardens and houseplants. Use a worm composting bin or vermicomposting bin to make a valuable soil amendment out of things like: old newspapers, vegetable food scraps, trimmings from house plants and other organic materials that would normally be thrown away.

Alternative landscaping. If you have a big yard and don't use it for activities, consider planting an area of prairie grasses, native shrubs, or trees. Using native plant species reduces the need for watering, mowing, and pesticide use.

LIBRARY

Kids Reading to Canines

What do you get when you bring children, dogs, and books together? Happy, confident children who love to read!

In partnership with the Fox Valley Humane Association, kids in first through fifth grade read to trained therapy dogs with a handler present. Registration required. Second Saturday of every month with scheduled appointment times. Call 886-6335 for more information or to register a child.

Brown Bag Lunch Book Club

Parents and teachers: pack a lunch and drop children ages 8-10 off at the library for an opportunity to discuss books, characters, writing, and stories. We'll provide beverages. The discussions will include a related activity.

Sessions are the first Saturday of each month from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Registration is required, but only on a monthly basis. Pick up the books at the Youth desk. Please call 886-6335 for more information or to register.

Event dates: Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Feb. 6, Mar. 6, Apr. 3.

Food for Fines

The Neenah and Menasha public libraries will again be sponsoring a **Food for Fines** food drive Sat., Nov. 7—Sun., Nov. 15. Bring non-perishable food items to the checkout desk at either library. The food will be given to the Neenah-Menasha Chapter of the American Red Cross. (Please—do not bring food before Nov. 7!)

- \$1.00 worth of food will pay off \$2.00 in fines.
- No damaged or expired food items accepted.
- Food items may be applied only toward fines—not lost books.

Call Nancy at 886-6320 with any questions.

GirlfriendsRead

Enjoy and explore the joy of children's literature featuring books with strong girl characters by women authors in these unique book groups. Come alone or come together! Enrollment is limited, so please call 886-6335 to register and stop by Youth Services to obtain a copy of the current book. Information: youthdesk@neenahlibrary.org; 886-6335. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Especially for ages 9-12 (with or without an adult):

Oct. 4 — *Strawberry Hill* by Mary Ann Hoberman

Nov. 1 — *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly Giff

Dec. 6 — *Understood Betsy* by Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Especially for teens 12 and up:

Oct. 11 — *Keturah and Lord Death* by Martine Leavitt

Nov. 8 — *What I Saw and How I Lied* by Judy Blundell

Dec. 13 — *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

Storytimes!

Spring storytimes continue through Dec. 18. No registration is required. More information: 886-6335.

Babytime — Wed. or Thu. — 9:15 a.m. (Babies, birth—12-months-old).

Toddle Time — Tue. or Fri. at 10:30 a.m. (Toddlers, 12-23 months old).

Lapsit — Wed. or Thu. at 10:00 a.m. (2-year-olds *with* a caregiver).

Our Time — Tue. At 9:15 a.m. and Wed. at 1:00 p.m. — (For children 3 to 5-years-old *without* a caregiver).

Story Craft — Stories & crafts for children aged 3 to 5 only *without* a caregiver. Second Friday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

14,055

City of Neenah residents with library cards.

The Green Corner

Fall Yard Care

Now that fall is here one has to consider what to do with the leaves and other yard waste. Leaves and yard trimmings can be harmful to lakes and streams after washing into storm sewers, but they can be used wisely to mulch gardens and planting beds.

Mulches help to retain soil moisture, reduce weed growth, moderate daily and seasonal soil temperatures, and reduce soil erosion.

If homeowners mow their lawns properly for example, so as not to remove more than 1/3 of the blade length, then grass clippings will disappear in a couple of days as they dry and filter down to the soil surface for decomposition.

If you bag grass clippings, use them as mulch in vegetable gardens to retain moisture and keep weeds down. Leaves can also be an excellent mulch. Use them to protect roses and other plants over winter. Using a mower to shred leaves greatly reduces volume and exposes more leaf surfaces to speed up decomposition. These mowed leaves are a good source of organic fertilizer.

Composting and mulching your yard waste are just two ways to save money by reducing the need for fertilizer in your yard and garden. The bonus is that you are benefiting the environment as well.

Fall leaf collection

All leaves must be loose on the terrace. No plastic bags or containers of leaves will be collected. Please check your *2009 Recycling and Refuse Guide* or the City of Neenah website for the fall leaf collection dates in your area:

www.ci.neenah.wi.us

Single stream recycling starting 2010

Beginning Jan. 1, 2010, the City is changing to a single stream recycling system. Single stream refers to a new system that takes the two recycling “streams”—mixed paper and commingled containers (aluminum, tin, plastic, glass)—and puts them together in one bin. Single stream does NOT mean regular trash is mixed with your recyclables, only that your paper, cardboard, and commingled aluminum, tin, plastic, and glass may be mixed together.



Your recyclables will be collected weekly, the same day as your regular garbage pick-up. All recyclables (i.e., glass, tin, aluminum, paper, cardboard) can be commingled in one container. Blue bags will no longer be allowed.

Your *Winter 2010 Neenah Notes* will contain two recycling stickers to place on a container (or 2 containers) that meets your needs. More than one recyclables container is allowed. Approved containers can be up to 35 gallons (metal or plastic) with handles and removable covers (no homemade containers). When filled, the containers must weigh less than 50 pounds.

Single stream recycling starts Jan. 1, 2010....it's simple, convenient, and saves resources.

Top 5 Recycling Questions

Which plastics are recyclable?

You can identify recyclable plastic by the numbering system on the container. Only plastics with a #1 or #2 with a narrow neck are recyclable.

Why only #2 narrow neck bottles?

The #2 plastics are made of high-density polyethylene which can be blow-molded to form bottles or injection-molded to form tubs. The two applications are chemically different and have different melting points.

Do I need to rinse the containers before recycling them?

Yes. Rinsing containers helps with the sorting of recyclables.

Do I need to take the labels off jars and cans?

No. There is no need to waste water and energy struggling with labels. The labels are burned off during the recycling process.

Should caps be removed before recycling?

Yes. Removing bottle caps and lids is a good recycling habit. Caps are considered a contaminant when mixed with other plastics. Also, when caps are left on, the liquids stay in the bottle, which makes it difficult for the specialized machinery to properly sort the plastic.

Arts of Fire @ Bergstrom-Mahler

Master glass artists from the Corning Museum of Glass will bring a fully operational glass working studio to demonstrate glassmaking Oct. 15-18. The four-day event will feature live glass blowing demonstrations; the **Italian Influence in Glass** exhibition showing the evolution of glass artistry; and a museum-benefit Venetian Carnivale-themed

Gala with Italian music, dancing, food, and wine (costumes encouraged). For glassmaking demonstration themes and times, please go to artsoffire.org. For more general information, including Gala ticket pricing, contact museum staff at 751-4658. The museum houses the world's most extensive collection of glass paperweights (as well as other art objects).