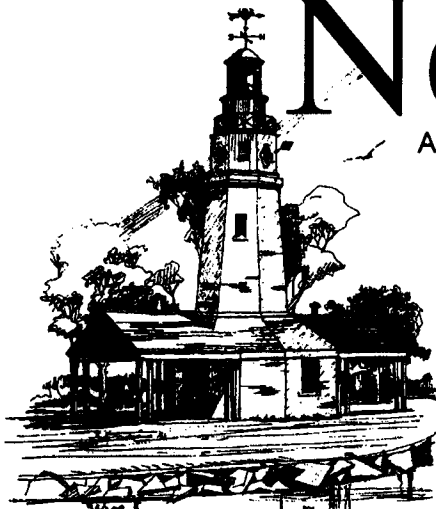


Neenah Notes

A City of Neenah Publication

Summer 1999, Volume 1, Number 1



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City Assessor

Jack Ophhoven 751-4610

City Attorney

Jim Gunz 751-4606

City Clerk

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Community Development Director

Bob Buckingham 751-4660

Finance Director

Michael Easker 751-4642

Fire Chief

Len Vander Wyst 751-4700

Health Department Director

Judy Crouch-Smolarek 751-4650

Information Systems Manager

Joe Wenninger 751-4714

Library Director

Steve Proce 751-4728

Park and Recreation Director

Eileen McCoy 751-4614

Police Chief

D.J. Forcey 751-4677

Public Works Director

Tim Hamblin 751-4625

Water Works Director

Larry Wetering 751-4622

Aldermanic District 1

Jim Hemes 729-1289

Mark Lange 729-0831

Don Winter 725-1520

Aldermanic District 2

Ernie Bellin 729-6122

Mike Faulks 722-2685

Bill Mattes 725-5759

Aldermanic District 3

Bruce Rhoades 727-0243

George Scherck 725-3279

Todd Stevenson (Pres.) 722-5440

The city Web Site can be found at:
www.ci.neenah.wi.us

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read our newsletter. We are experiencing some exciting times in Neenah. Our new library and expanding retail, business and residential projects, will all help our community to not only grow but also prosper.

The key to success is our citizens. On the left you will find the names of the department heads and your elected officials. Use this list and the meeting schedule below to keep us informed. We are faced with many challenges in city hall, and I believe the best decisions are made when we hear from you.

Ken Harwood
Neenah Mayor

"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out until sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in."

That's good advice from naturalist John Muir. According to a 1996 Duke University study, many psychologists are now using 'walking therapy' as part of their practices. These experts agree that walking can do the following things for our emotional health:

- Help lift depression
- Lessen tension
- Lessen confusion
- Increase optimism and hope
- Boost self-esteem
- Increase energy

Your parks are great places to walk to and to walk through. In addition to the physical benefits of the walk itself, you may find yourself enjoying the beauty of a flower garden or the joyous voices of children at play.

Meeting Basics

The Common Council Meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7PM.

The Finance and Personnel Committee meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7PM.

The Public Works Committee meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7PM.

The Plan Commission meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:15PM.

The Mayor holds open office hours on the Friday before the first council meeting of the month from 9:00 until 11:00 A.M.

Several additional committee and board meetings are scheduled each month.

The agendas for these meetings are posted in city hall and at the library. A directory of all committee members and regular meeting times is available in the clerk's office.

A schedule of meetings is also available on the Internet at:

www.ci.neenah.wi.us/schedule



Slip away from the sights and sounds of the city on the trails in Wilderness and Memorial Parks. Wander along the shore and watch the river go by at Riverside, Kimberly Point or Doty Park. Discover the Bill Miller Trail and the perimeter path at Southview Park.

In 1843, Kierkegaard wrote *"Most men pursue pleasure with such breathless haste that they hurry past it"* Still true today. Take a walk tonight. Watch a bird. Smell the grass. Hear the sound of children playing.

Enjoy Your Parks and Recreation system -The Benefits are Endless.

Neenah Notes

New Library Update

Work is progressing well at the new library. Demolition of the old library has been completed. The former building's metal window ornamentation, steel beams, and copper tubing were all recycled. All asbestos containing materials went to a special federally-approved disposal site. The 1904 inside pillars, which were on the second floor landing, are safely resting at the temporary library.

Care is being taken to safeguard the river bank, particularly because all bidders expressed concern about its stability. Steel piles have been driven down to bedrock to support a concrete slab which will be the library's first floor. Structural steel for the two-story building should be erected in August, with perimeter masonry (red/brown brick) to follow in September or October.

The new 47,500 sq. ft. library will provide ample space for library collections, many different seating areas (with views of Shattuck Park and the river), small group meeting rooms, a large-group multi-purpose room, a children's story room, and a teen area. Parking will be provided on Wisconsin Avenue and in a lot straddling the library/Shattuck Park properties.

Construction is slated to be finished in June 2000.

State Relief for Property Tax Burden

The City of Neenah works hard to maximize the services you receive for your tax dollars while minimizing the amount collected. We are also aware of situations beyond your control that can make it difficult to pay property taxes. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue offers two programs to help property taxpayers pay their real estate tax bills.

The Wisconsin Homestead Credit Program benefits are based on the property taxes on your home. If you are a renter, a portion of your rent qualifies as property tax. To be eligible, total 1998 household income must have been below \$19,154. There may be other qualifying criteria. To claim a Homestead Credit, you must file a Schedule H, with or without a Wisconsin income tax form. For more information or a copy of Schedule H contact the local DOR office at 832-2727 or write to Wisconsin Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 8903, Madison, WI 53708. State forms are also available on the Internet at: <http://www.dor.state.wi.us>.

The Property Tax Deferred Loan Program allows homeowners to borrow the amount of their property tax bill to be repaid only when they move, sell or die. To be eligible for the program you must be at least age 65, with spouse at least age 60 or handicapped. Annual family income is limited to \$20,000. Loans will be made for the amount of your tax bill up to a maximum of \$2,500 at an interest rate to be determined annually. To apply call 1-800-755-7835; for hearing impaired, call 1-800-943-9430.

Trails

The City of Neenah, working with local organizations and citizens, has developed over 20 miles of bike routes and trails to provide a safe and convenient means for non-motorized travel in our community. The routes are identified with lane striping, painted markings, and signage. Maps of the system are also available at city hall.

A pedestrian, bicyclist or in-line skater is no match for a motor vehicle. A few basic rules can greatly reduce your risk of injury:

- Always wear a helmet. Skaters should also wear wrist, elbow and knee protectors.
- Bikers and skaters should ride with the flow of traffic, on the right-hand side of the road.
- Ride within marked bike lanes, where available.
- Obey all traffic signs and use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- Ride smart. Do not assume the motorist sees you.
- Yield to all pedestrians.



Motorists are urged to respect the rights of cyclists, share the road, and keep alert. The marked bike lanes are designed to be a safe area for cyclists and skaters. They have been placed along streets that have sufficient widths to allow motor vehicles to travel safely without having to go into these lanes.

The use of the bike routes has steadily increased since they were first initiated two years ago. They are a great asset to the community and are a safe travel alternative to the automobile. Enjoy using the routes. Always think safety first -- and have a great time!

Health Notes

First Responder Program

Since August 10, 1998 the City of Neenah Fire Department (NFD) has responded to 743 calls for medical assistance. Currently equipped with ten Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) the Neenah Fire and Police Departments are both trained and equipped to respond quickly providing the most effective and immediate care to your medical emergency. The First Responders serve a critical role in a tiered, professional emergency medical response system. Several components are in place for an effective emergency response system in the City of Neenah including:

- **Winnebago County E-911 Center** - Knowledgeable telecommunicators quickly ascertain appropriate needed assistance after receiving a 9-1-1 call for help from the general public.
- **Public Safety First Responders** - The NFD and NPD have the appropriate training, equipment and response guidelines to efficiently respond to reported medical emergencies. This training avoids duplication of service and keeps the time to definitive treatment at an absolute minimum.
- **Gold Cross Paramedics** - Highly qualified paramedics are available throughout the Fox Valley and in the City of Neenah to assume treatment from the first responders and transport patients to a health care facility.
- **Medical Facilities** - Theda Clark Regional Medical Center provides coordinated services through physicians to ensure quality care.

Remember early access to medical assistance via 9-1-1 can save lives

Immunizations and Your Child

Children entering kindergarten through grade 12 and children attending day care centers must show that they have received the appropriate immunizations by the beginning of each school year. Immunizations protect children from the damaging complications of many diseases. Complications, often more dangerous than the diseases themselves, can result in permanent disabilities such as blindness, hearing loss, mental retardation, paralysis, liver failure, and even death.

Wisconsin law is designed to eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases through immunization, just as smallpox has now been eliminated from the world. The law is working. Since immunization laws went into effect in 1980, cases of all vaccine-preventable diseases in Wisconsin have dropped significantly.

Additionally, in 1997, State statutes were revised to require the Hepatitis B vaccine (3-dose series) for children entering kindergarten and grade 7. This school year, 1999-2000, children entering grades K, 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 are required to have the 3-dose series of Hepatitis B in addition to the other required vaccines of 4 DTP/DTaP, 4 oral polio, and 2 MMR.

Take a few minutes this summer to make sure your children have the vaccinations they need before they go back to school next fall. Call the Neenah Department of Public Health for more information or to make an appointment.

Free Immunization Clinics

- When:** 3rd and 4th Thursday of each month (3:00 - 5:00 p.m.)
3rd Friday of each month (7:45 - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.)
- Where:** City Hall, 211 Walnut Street, Room 212
- Who:** For children 18 years old and under; Adult Td is also available
- What:** Immunizations for polio, measles, rubella, mumps, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis B, haemophilus influenzae b, and varicella.
- How:** Just call the Neenah Department of Public Health (751-4650) for more information or to make an appointment.

Bike Helmets Save Lives!

Office Hours

City Hall

Mon - Fri 7:30am - Noon & 1pm - 4pm

Treasurer's Office, Community Development, Health, Park and Rec & Water departments are open during the noon hour.

Police Department

Mon-Fri 8am - 4pm (Records/Office)
Everyday 24Hrs. (Lobby)

Neenah Pool (Open Swimming)

Sun - Fri 1pm - 8pm
Sat Noon - 8pm

Neenah City Parks

Everyday 4am - 10pm



211 Walnut St., P.O. Box 426, Neenah, WI 54957-0426

Monthly Yard Waste Collection



June through November 1999

June through November yard waste will be collected monthly. Yard waste must be placed curbside on the Monday dates listed in the Recycling & Refuse Guide. Depending on the amount of yard waste, the collection in an area may

take one day or as many as five days. A Recycling & Refuse Guide may be obtained from the Public Works & Services Department by calling 751-4625.

The City will not collect grass clippings. You may dispose of grass clippings at the Winnebago County Landfill (727-2884), County Road Y, Oshkosh, for 25¢ per 30 gallon paper bag (5 bag limit).

Year 2000 Elections

One of the main functions of the City Clerk's office is to conduct elections for the City's residents. Although we have completed the 1999 elections, we are beginning to prepare for the year 2000 elections.

The year 2000 brings the presidential preference election on April 4 and the presidential election itself on November 7. If you are interested in assisting your fellow citizens on election day by becoming a poll worker, please contact the Clerk's office at 751-4602. You will receive ample training and there is a small compensation.



Can I trim my neighbor's tree?

A commonly asked question deals with the right of a property owner to trim tree limbs overhanging their property. The common law is simple. Property owners have the right to trim overhanging tree limbs up to their property line. One caveat to be aware of is, if the trimming results in the overhanging tree dying, you may be held civilly responsible for the value of the tree. The best course of action, as always, is to work cooperatively with your neighbors in solving problems.

What do I need a permit for?

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 including service changes, basement remodels, new or replacement furnaces and central air conditioners, plumbing work including water heater replacement, moving any building within city limits, demolition of buildings. Handouts are available in the Department of Community Development.