

# The Connector

A Publication By and For the Employees of the City of Menasha

December 2012



Erik Whitman & Adam Lukasavage represent DPW at the Labor Day Parade



Officer Chris Greoeschel at the YouthGo Badges for Baseball program



Cassie Payne participates in the Banta Book Fair



Kristin Sewall manages the Menasha Farm Fresh Market and Hometown Halloween

Another year is coming to a close, this one being bright for Menasha in large part due to efforts of all of you who dedicate a good portion of your waking hours to our community. The 2013 city budget passed including a tax levy reduction for citizens and a salary increase for employees.

Thank you to all who participated in the Springsted study, further results will be presented in 2013. The preliminary observations show dedicated and skilled employees with ideas to make this a better place.

I'm looking forward to a successful 2013!

## Menasha Utilities Linemen Assist in Restoration Efforts

Steve Hammen & Jason Kluess, from MU, joined 10 other municipal utilities and left Wisconsin on Tuesday, October 30th for Pennsylvania. The crews worked for Pennsylvania Power and Light (PP&L) in the Pocono Mountains area. This is a heavily wooded area that sustained a long windstorm after Hurricane Sandy made landfall. When the crews arrived on Thursday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, there were still 198,000 customers without power. As of Sunday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, there are approximately 20,000 customers still without power – very impressive restoration figures!

On Tuesday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> the crews moved to the Delaware River area as they still had 9,000 customers out in that area and helped with restoration. The crews then helped Jersey Central Power and



Light and were given a substation and it was their task to run out each circuit and repair any problems to ensure all circuits were back up and all customers were back in power. The crews finished up on Monday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> and headed back home. All of our crews were complimented by every utility they worked for and they were amazed at the amount of work our crews had done and how many customers they restored power to.

A huge thank you goes out to our linemen and their families for the dedication and sacrifice to help those in need on the east coast.

# Department Notes

## Health Department

- 349 adults and children were vaccinated at flu shot clinic held at BDM Elementary School on 10/25/12. Trained volunteers were utilized to practice at this clinic to better prepare for a "real" emergency mass clinic event.
- Health Department staff have administered a total of 863 doses of flu vaccine since September.
- The 60+ Health Screening program sponsored a wellness clinic on Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at the senior center for interested individuals including city employees.
- Health department staff as a group completed a new employee orientation packet as their first initiative to prepare for national accreditation.
- Todd Drew and Kathleen Endres are working with the earth science classes at the high school on a radon home testing project to map out areas of elevated radon in the city.

## Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue

- Kevin Kloehn has been promoted to Shift Commander in October. Kevin began his career as a Menasha Fire Fighter in 1992 and had been president of IAFF local 695 before the merger.
- Mike Flunker retired from NM Fire Rescue in October after 31 years of service. Mike was recognized as Public Educator of the Year and Fire-fighter of the year in 2013

## Menasha Utilities

- On October 13 the Utility and the Sustainability Committee hosted a Recycling event and we had 205 residents drop off the following materials to be recycled: 3,586 lbs of Small Electronics - 1,741 lbs of Freon Items - 4,059 lbs of TV's - 2,263 lbs of Monitors - 864 lbs of CPU's - 2,420 lbs of Printers / Fax Machines - 212 of Fluorescent 4 ft Bulbs - 4 Fluorescent 5 ft Bulbs - 102 Circular Bulbs - 2 U-tubes, Total Weight Recycled: 15,253 lbs
- MU sponsored an Energy Efficiency/Electrical Safety poster contest for Menasha students. The winners of the contest received prizes and will have their posters included in a 2013 calendar. Calendars are available at MU for a donation of two canned food items.
- Lindy Eake will be retiring in January; she began her career with MU in 1993.

## Finance & IT

- This year's budget hearings will be the last with Tom's money tie. After 31 years Comptroller Tom Stoffel will be retiring from the city of Menasha in January.

## Library

- The Menasha Public Library is selling cookbooks of favorite recipes of its patrons for only \$5.
- The library will be holding holiday break events for kids. Dec 26<sup>th</sup> Seek 'n Find treasure hunt party beginning at 1:30 and Dec 27<sup>th</sup> Movie Event 12 Dogs of Christmas beginning at 1:30. Great events for your family together time.

## Public Works

- The Public Works Department and Menasha Utilities have collaborated on upgrading their radio communications systems. Equipment was recently added to the communications tower at the Public Works Facility which allows the City to comply with federal regulations requiring narrow band radio operations starting in 2013. This equipment also will provide broader coverage and more reliable service for both the City and the Utilities. Best of all, both the City and Menasha Utilities benefited financially with the shared cost arrangement for providing the improved radio communications.

## Community Development

- Community Development is in the process of finalize marketing and branding materials in partnership with Ark Media Group for the Lake Park Square and Lake Park Villas developments to be unveiled in time for the spring building season.

## Police

- This year the Police Department launched a Facebook account in an effort to pass along and receive information from the community. Over the past few months we have had some terrific successes with the webpage in everything from providing information of community events to identifying suspects to locating a missing child. Some of the posts we have done have reached over 25,000 people in several countries. The use of social media is continuing to grow. If you have a Facebook account, consider "liking us" to receive interesting tips, updates and information.

## City Clerk

- The most recent of five elections in 2012 was just completed in November. The November elections had a turnout of 78% with 1122 registering at the polls and 9938 total voters.

## Human Resources

- Springsted has completed employee interviews and will meet with management and the council and commission presidents in January to discuss their findings with a presentation to employees and the community to follow.

# Congratulations!

These employees are celebrating a milestone in their years of service to our community in October, November, & December 2012. Thank you for your service!

## Ten Years

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| Mary Fritz   | Health |
| Tara Theisen | Fire   |

## Twenty-five Years

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Tim Montour      | Engineering |
| Brian Fahrenkrug | Fire        |



Matt Schultz's ability to quietly lead by example and broad skills running equipment are recognized throughout the department. His assistance in growing a team concept has allowed us to accomplish even more this year, while transitioning to ten hour shifts over the summer. His positive attitude and willingness to share is much appreciated!

Thank You!

## In the Spotlight...

A special thanks goes out to Ken Popelka of Public Works for his off duty assistance to a citizen in need.

When a 90 year old customer at McDonalds was choking, the last weekend of November Ken stepped in when others didn't know what to do. By providing abdominal thrusts he was able to save the woman's life.

Ken's quick thinking and willingness to help is a shining example of the remarkable people that work for our community.

## Nominate...

Your peers for the next Above and Beyond Award, share your suggestions with your supervisor or the Mayor's office.

## ABOVE & BEYOND MAYOR'S AWARD

Thad Brown's "can-do" attitude is recognized throughout the department. He assisted growing a team concept along with a new summer schedule allowing us to accomplish even more this year. His willingness to share his knowledge with peers and management has nourished growth over the 9 years he has been part of the group. His pride in the community and department are much appreciated!



Thank You!

## Jeff Jorgenson Promoted to PSLO



This fall students in the elementary schools found someone new roaming the halls... a police officer. This was a new concept for both the School District and the City. There are a few ideas behind this position. First, there have been changes to State Law which limits the response of school employees to student who are physically disruptive. Next there were an increasing number of calls to the various schools which patrol officers would deal with. Finally, having an officer in the school allows for earlier intervention and streamlining services for children in need. Ideally this earlier intervention will decrease problems down the road.

Officer Jorgenson was selected to serve in this new position. Jeff has previously worked in Crime Prevention and has spent countless volunteer hours working for the Brigade. His interest in helping children reach their full potential provided Jeff the foundation to develop this new program. Having to juggle his workload between 5 different building and staffs has been a bit of a challenge. However, this new partnership has gotten off to a great start.

# Welcome

to our new employees, say hello!



Bryan Hauser  
Police CSO  
7-2-12



Anita Stadtmueller  
Library  
9-17-12



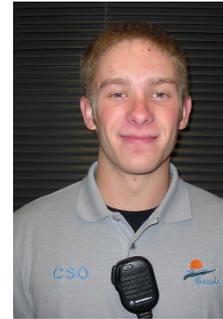
Mike Novy  
NM Fire Rescue  
11-12-12



Casey Masiak  
Police CSO  
6-27-12



Alyssa Breider  
Police CSO  
10-19-12



Andrew Mc Nulty  
Police CSO  
10-4-12

## Shop Local!

Making a list and checking it twice? Why not make checking out some of the great locally owned stores in the Fox Valley as part of the process. With unique stores come unique gifts, your gift will stand out as being something special, something that you took the time to find just the right thing.

Not only do local businesses provide unique gifts they help maintain Menasha's unique heritage and provide reasons to celebrate of our community. The money spent at local stores comes back to us in jobs, tax revenue and, perhaps most important, quality of life.

Don't forget to eat locally too!

Remember Keep the Cheer Here! shop right here in Menasha for those special people on your list.

## Leaf Collection

When the city was faced with being ordered to cease its leaf collection due to safety concerns, public works employees moved into action to rectify the situation. The City faced dire consequences if we couldn't discover a cost effective substitution.

With the assistance of the State Patrol, the guidance of Tim Jacobson and the creative and technical ability of Mark Harding, John Quella, Kevin Schmahl, John Van Zeeland, & Travis McDonald, the City was able to reinstate one of the leaf collection units in a matter of days.

Our staff offered a collaborative approach and creative vision in problem solving this predicament. When one views the modifications made to these two units it is apparent this was a heavy duty mechanical fabrication that was necessarily accomplished in a compressed period of time, thus returning the leaf collection service to a safer, yet effective, level of service.

Great Job, leading the way for communities around the state!



## 2013 Paid Holidays

- New Year's Day**  
Jan 1
- Memorial Day**  
May 27
- Independence Day**  
Jul 4
- Labor Day**  
Sep 2
- Thanksgiving**  
Nov 28  
Nov 29 (except library)
- Christmas**  
Dec 24 & 25
- New Year's Eve**  
Dec 31 (library only)