

The Connector

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

September 2012



Matt Lenss is named officer of the Year



Adam Mentzel & Mike Bursack help install a planet station near UW Fox Valley



Loretta Kjemhus & Liz Rosin participated in the Menasha Library Brain Walk



Chad Kolasinski & Adam Lukasavage represent DPW at the Memorial Day Parade

Welcome to the first edition of the Menasha City Employees newsletter. The concept for a newsletter came from a discussion with a group of employees this spring revolving around how we can better communicate with each other, what employees concerns were in the different city departments, and how we can create a better work environment. With all the changes that have been happening due to retirements and Act 10 I hope that more communication will stop some of the rumors and at the same time make this a more enjoyable place to work.

This newsletter is about all of you: the good things you do for the people of Menasha daily, the lasting impact you make on the community, and who you are.

With that in mind, I'm announcing the "Above and Beyond" award for employees showing outstanding leadership, effort, customer service, abilities, or volunteerism benefiting our community. Nominations will be collected from both managers and co-workers for this recognition with up to six awards given out each year. The first recipients are highlighted within this newsletter. If you know of someone who fits the description drop a note to your supervisor or the mayor's office to be considered for future awards.

Important Payroll Change

Due to the Holidays, the last payroll of the year is being moved from Thursday, December 27 to **Monday, December 31, 2012.**

We are sorry for this inconvenience but believe that early notice of this change will give each employee sufficient time to make necessary changes to his/her financial needs.

This change applies only to employees on the City payroll system


United Way



This year's United Way campaign is about to begin, and this year you have the opportunity to win a Mini Cooper if you donate. Last year 6.8% of employees participated putting us in the middle of the pack for communities, however, I know that generous people like yourselves are ready to help those in need and boost that percentage.

Look for a kickoff meeting soon.

Department Notes

Health Department

- To help prepare for national accreditation the Health Department received a State grant to initiate a quality improvement process.
- The Health Department has volunteered to be a pilot for document imaging. This project should decrease the amount of paper records and provide a more efficient method of retrieving documents and a more effective means of sharing relevant information.
- Food and drink establishment inspection reports are now posted on our website.

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue is pleased to announce Capt. Victor Voss completed the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program. The program requires a four year commitment from the student with a different course and written Applied Research Project.

Human Resources

- A group of employees began meeting in June to help the City understand employee needs and make recommendations for a Wellness Program. An employee survey is soon to come out. If you have ideas please talk to committee members: Cate Brandt, Mike Brunn, Loretta Kjemhus, Chad Kolasinski, or Tim Montour.

Menasha Utilities

- Tim Gosz, Water Plant Chief Operator, was promoted to Water Plant Supervisor
- Paula Maurer, Customer Service Rep, was promoted to Customer Services Manager.
- Our high lift pump station will be updated in the fall of this year including removal of the water tower at 2nd & Manitowoc.

Police

- Menasha Police cars have a new design. The design was modeled from a design created by Menasha High student Allyson Tafel.
- Brett Halderson is now the Operations Captain, Matt Albrecht and Jamal Kawar are both Patrol Lieutenants and Jeff Jorgenson will be serving as our first elementary school liaison officer.

Finance & IT

The Finance Dept. and Police Dept. are collaborating to make dog licenses easier to purchase. The Police Department will now sell dog licenses, outside of normal business hours, to people whose animals have been picked up by the police or humane society.

Library

- The library is hosting a MultiCultural Festival on Sat, Nov 10, from 10am- 4pm. We will have dancers, celebrity storytellers, live music, food, and stations around the library manned by people representing various cultures from around the world. This is an event you and your family will not want to miss.
- Download free ebooks and audiobooks to your reader, computer, player or smartphone from the library's website. Click on Ebooks and use your library card number, books may be used for a limited time, fines are not charged.

Parks & Recreation

Don Allen recently took first place in the 25 Super Stock Hydroplane Class in Grass Lake, MI. racing stock outboard hydroplanes (i.e. small speedboats this was his fifth national championship and his fourth consecutive one. Don has been the City's Summer Program Supervisor since 2005; and a teacher with the Oshkosh School District.

Public Works

- The Public Works Facility has a new look with the installation of new perimeter fencing. Removal of the interior fence will provide better mobility for yard operations while maintaining all existing services for the public.
- Corey Gordon was promoted to Engineering Aide III – Stormwater earlier this year following his re-certification as a State of Wisconsin Erosion Control Inspector.
- Public Works Department and Engineering Department employees have teamed up to complete this year's asphalt paving program. This program allows us to re-use pulverized asphalt and base course materials for future projects and economically undertake asphalt paving projects by performing our own engineering services and street construction.

Community Development

- The City is forming a TIF district around Alliance industries to assist expansion plans for 60 new jobs and create a housing revolving loan fund.
- Over 15 new homes have been built on the former City owned property in the vicinity of Lake Park Villas. The new homes will provide tax revenue to pay down debt associated with the purchase of the property by the City in 1999.

Congratulations!

These employees are celebrating a milestone in their years of service to our community in January-September of 2012. Thank you for your service!

Five Years

Joe Bongers	Library
Debbie Borchart	Police
Rebecca Clark	Library
Dan Hutter	Elec. Dist.
Mary Janssen	Police
Adam Lukasavage	Public Works
Travis Mac Donald	Public Works
Amber Olson	Police
Cassie Payne	Library
Shelly Schiessl	Health Aid
Mike Sipin	Fire

Ten Years

Jason Kluess	Elec. Dist.
Warren Luce	Parks
Mi Kyung Mennen	Crossing Gd
Shari O'Connell	Health Aid
Matt Schultz	Public Works
Mark Skubal	Elec. Dist.
Rob Ujzdowski	Water Plant
John Van Zeeland	Public Works

Fifteen Years

Mark Harding	Public Works
Cory Harrison	Public Works
Melanie Krause	Utilities
Amos Mikkelson	Fire
Wayne Nolden	Police Auxil.
Ken Popelka	Public Works
Sara Swenson	Police
Mike Weins	Public Works
Al Wroblewski	Fire

Twenty Years

Kathy Beson	Library
Kathy Hannah	Library
Kevin Kloehn	Fire
Roger Picard	Police
Sue Seffker	Finance
Tom Stumpf	Parks

Twenty-five Years

Larry Bonneville	Police
Cate Brandt	Library
Stephen Ellisen	Water Plant
Brian Fahrenkrug	Fire
Mike Hopfensperger	Police
Tina Jansen	Elec. Dist.
Mark Mauthe	Police
Dee Quick	Custodian



Ana Maria Acosta works two days a week as a reference librarian and Director Lenz calls her a dynamo! Ana does all of the library's Spanish translations, teaches computer classes, plans programs, works on committees, represents the library in outside organizations, presents at staff workshops, and is a great team player. Thank You!

ABOVE & BEYOND MAYOR'S AWARD

Tim Styka became Police Chief almost one year ago facing significant challenges including multiple retirements and an unsettled contract. Tim was able to settle the contract, improve morale, and fill vacancies, while maintaining his budget. Tim shares his expertise with other departments and works to find solutions to internal & community problems. Thank You!



Thirty Years

Bob Asmus	Police Auxil
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Thirty-five Years

Tim Jacobson	Public Works
Dick Sturm	Utilities

Former Union Pay Scales

Employee compensation for the employees who were part of locals 1035 & 1035B was formerly determined by union contract. The common council recently approved a pay scale chart that for the most part mirrors the former union scales for new employees. The chart can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ca46jou>

Welcome

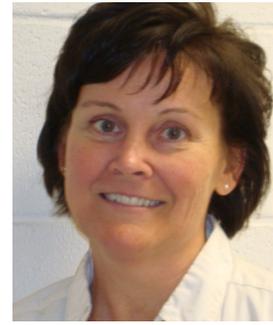
to our new employees, say hello!



Marty Effert
Police Officer 3-16-12



Dan Wisneski
Parks 4-23-12



Chris Drephal
Utilities 4-2-12



Tony Edwards
Police Officer 6-21-12



Denton Heidemann
Police Officer 7-29-12



James Brand
Public Works 7-16-12

Did you know?

That you can check out a Kindle® or NookColor® preloaded with great books for two weeks at the Menasha Public Library?

WRS Update

We have been notified that WRS contribution rates are increasing. We do not have a final number, the ranges that we have been given are:

General

- 6.4%-6.85% Employer
- 6.4%-6.85% Employee

Protectives with Social Sec.

- 9.2%-9.65% Employer
- 6.4%-6.85% Employee

Protectives w/o Social Sec.

- 11.5%-12.85% Employer
- 6.4%-6.85% Employee

Feedback Group

Earlier this year a group of employees chosen from diverse departments met for the first time. We plan to continue meeting several times annually to discuss things that cross departmental lines and affect the entire workforce here at the city. Our next meeting will include a discussion of the 2013 budget.

The members of the committee are: Nick Thorn, Scott Maurer, Loretta Kjemhus, Tom Stumpf, Sue Seffker, Julie Wing, Travis Mac Donald, & Al Wroblewski.

If you have ideas for topics of discussion or want to have your voice heard be sure to talk to someone on the committee.

Social Events?

It's always nice to get together and meet your co-workers in a social situation. We've done some all city socials in the past couple of years and would like to start again. Would you be interesting in a monthly informal get together at a local business or social activity?

Let us know!

Did you know?

The average residential property owner saves \$19 per month on their electric bill by having a municipal electric utility in Menasha?