The Connector

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

September 2013

Joe Polzien and a group from YouthGO helping with neighborhood clean-up

Summer Interns Morgan Rae and Kevin Englebert along with Kara Homan help citizen volunteers plant the Broad Street lot

Firefighters at station 35 help build the Mayor's float for the lighted parade

Scott Maurer and Melanie Krause assist with the electronics recycling event

Partnerships were a key component in the Springsted study and will continue to be a component in the way we do business here in the city. Not only can working together provide more efficient service delivery to our residents and employees it can be more fun!

Case in point both the City and Utility are developing wellness programs for their employees. Out of the two very different programs being put together was born a single step challenge available to employees in each organization. While the competition has been fierce, it has opened new opportunities for employees to meet others who they don't work with on a daily basis and develop an understanding of what they do as well. It's also led to a better partnership on the planning for new wellness programs as we beta test a "lunch and learn" series at the Utilities and a "rewards for healthy activity" program at the city. In the future our goal is to have the most popular and useful wellness activities available in a consistent format for both City and Utility employees.

Our Sustainability Board has been partnering with UW Fox Valley which has lead to Danielle Handler joining us as our new Farm Market Manager. Danielle worked with the UW to study recycling preferences and participation in the community providing useful information to help plan for future services to reduce solid waste in the community.

The ties with UW helped form another prestigious recognition for the community as Menasha received a triple-crown designation this spring helping both Menasha Utilities and UW Fox Valley obtain Tree Line and Tree Campus designations to add to the 30 year tradition of the city's Tree City designation. We will continue the celebration with 8 planting events this fall of 30 trees in each district donated by Canadian National Rail Road.

As we move forward on the filling of the General Manager and Administrative Services position I look forward to additional opportunities to work together. If you have ideas where we could work more closely be sure to pass them along.

Department Notes

Health Department

The health department has been busy the past few months. Todd Drew submitted the leaf truck revisions for safer leaf collection to CIVMIC for their 2013 significant program award. The winner will receive $1000 to use in their safety program. Liz Rosin, Loretta Kjemhus, and Linda Palmbach provided CPR education and a class on health, nutrition, and exercise to students enrolled in the Youth Academy. Kathleen Endres, with the assistance of UW-O nursing students initiated a memory café that is now being held monthly at the senior center. Department staff has also been teaching CPR/AED/First Aid to city and school district employees, & emergency volunteers. Future activities include participation in the Neenah-Menasha Back to School Fair to distribute information about the health & dental services offered.

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue

Neenah-Menasha Local 275 Firefighters recently hosted the 2nd Annual Backdraft Bike Tour and raised $3,000 for WFSA Youth Burn Camp. Duwayne Schwartz and Garrett Gee participated in the American Lung Association Fight for Air Climb Challenge. NMFR and the Bruce Peterson family have reached the fundraising goal of $90,000 to implement our Dive Team. We were awarded a regional smoke alarm grant, which involves installing smoke alarms in owner-occupied homes within the Cities of Neenah and Menasha for free. We are struggling to meet our goal of 125 homes would appreciate employees helping us spread the word.

Menasha Utilities

Good bye old friend, the Manitowoc Street Water Tower, built in 1929, serving our community for 86 years, was taken down in July. Upgraded variable speed drive pumps at the High Lift Pump Station pumps gave the Utility the ability to control the pressure of the distribution system via the newly installed PLC controlled system. The new system provides steady pressure to the distribution system and reduces the need for elevated storage tanks. Menasha Utilities will continue to rely on the Ahnaip St. tower for elevated storage needs built in 1968 with its 750,000 gallon capacity.

Parks

The Isle of Valor has been enhanced with new flags and benches donated by people and businesses throughout the area. The new east side park has been seeded, with design and construction to begin in 2014-5. Will we receive a grant for the Gilbert River walk? We'll find out later this fall.

Library

Everyone here at the library is going to miss half-time library clerk Marina Nelessen, who is leaving after 20 years at the library for a new opportunity. Marina was part of Support Services, which is responsible for materials, adding them to the database, checking them out, and shelving them. Marina's hours will be divided among other library clerks.

Public Works

The Street Department and Engineering Department collaborated on several street rehabilitation projects this summer. Design, staking and administration of the projects were done by the Engineering Department staff and the actual construction was accomplished with Street Department employees. Arthur Street, Milwaukee Street, Hickory Hollow Lane, Dunning Street and Northridge Court were all scheduled for completion this summer. In spite of the heavy work activities including excavation, grading, curb and gutter replacement and asphalt paving, local traffic was maintained during all non-working hours allowing residents daily access to their homes.

Police

Our officers worked closely with the Park Department to use the evection process to remove people causing many issues in the parks. Code Enforcement rallied up PD employees, volunteers from Youth-Go and Public Works employees to clean up a yard which was filled with several dumpsters full of trash. These kinds of situations show when the employees of the City work together anything is possible.

As part of our traffic program we are now using a device which measures traffic speeds 24 hours a day. This allows us to confirm if an issue is taking place, as well as narrow down the days and times speed is an issue. Thank you to engineering for the insights on this project and helping us select the equipment we are using.

The Com Techs are no longer sitting hidden behind a variety of office equipment. We have moved their workspace closer to the window to provide better and more personal citizen contacts.

Community Development

The Ponds of Menasha & the Cottages at Lake Park continue to show strong growth. Work continues to market the Villas and commercial property. Thanks to our summer interns the city zoning map has been updated.

Congratulations!

These employees are celebrating a milestone in years of service to our community from January - August 2013 Thank you for your service!

Five Years

Diane Jagla	Utilities Customer Service
Elana Leon	Police
Caleb Palmer	Auxiliary Police
Linda Palmbach	Health
Joe Polzein	Police
Pete Sawyer	Police
Kevin Schmahl	Mechanic
Linda Ward	Health

Ten Years

Thad Brown	Public Works
Chris Halweg	Public Works

Fifteen Years

Greg Friedrich	NM Fire Rescue
Tony DiPiazza	NM Fire Rescue
Jeff Ellis	NM Fire Rescue
Brian Goldschmidt	NM Fire Rescue
Tim Gonnering	NM Fire Rescue
Jennifer Heller	Utilities Customer Service
Jamie Leonard	NM Fire Rescue
Dennis VanDinter	Water Treatment

Twenty Years

Mark Fahrenkrug	NM Fire Rescue
Larry Losselyoung	Parks

Twenty-five Years

Steve Hammen	Electric Distribution
Mark Radtke	Public Works
Chuck Sahr	Police
Martin Schrampfer	Police

Thirty Years

Denis Martuszak	NM Fire Rescue

Forty Years

Ruth German	Library

Keep Menasha Green

UW and the Solid Waste Research Program have funded a *'Feasibility Study on Neighborhood-led Compost Programs'*. The City has partnered with UW-Fox offering two composting sites to assist residents in diverting organic waste from our landfill. The organic waste will be composted to generate a nutrient rich soil & healthy fertilizer. You are welcome to participate in the project by separating your organic waste from home or at lunch and placing it in the white 5 gallon bucket labeled *'Composting Project'* in the basement kitchen area of City Hall. Composting and project information will be available in the same location.

Amy Cook Officer of the Year

Congratulations go out to Amy Cook who was named Officer of the Year in May. As anyone who has worked with teens knows it can be both challenging and rewarding. Despite this, Officer Cook will tell you how much she loves her job and maintains a positive attitude. Her co-workers in the school have recognized this as well; receiving a Distinguished Service Award from the MJSD this year.

Elections, Recalls, & Voter ID oh my! Debbie Galeazzi handles it all in stride. Celebrating her 15th year with the City of Menasha Debbie not only handles elections, but finds time to include common council and committee meetings, liquor licenses, and a multitude of other tasks. Not to mention she knows almost everyone in the community.

Thank You!

ABOVE & BEYOND
MAYOR'S AWARD

WRS Presentations

The department of Employee Trust Funds is offering statewide benefits presentations for both mid-term employees and employees nearing retirement. Topics include vesting requirements, ways to enhance your retirement benefit, core and variable fund, contribution rates, beneficiary forms, return to work rules, annuity adjustments, and the difference between joint survivor and beneficiary.

New and Mid Career Employees
Thurs Sept 19th 6:30-7:30 Fox Valley Technical College

Employees Nearing Retirement
Thurs Oct 17th 6:30-7:30 Morine Park Technical College

Welcome

to our new employees, say hello!

Chris Balck

Public Works
August 2013

Josh Gallagher

Police Officer
April 2013

Kortney Gonnering

Public Health Nurse
July 2013

Susan Kleinmann
Utilities Customer Service Rep.
February 2013

Dawn Lucier
Utilities Admin & Accounting
February 2013

Lauri Miranda

Library Aid
July 2013

Sue Strauss
Admin Assistant
Deputy Clerk
August 2013

Adam Smith
Water Maintenance Mechanic/Operator
July 2013

Thanks to our summer crew

Public Works &Parks

Adam Mentzel, Nathan Maas, Nick Martini, Pedro Zavala, Mitchel Buss, Jason Kitkowski, Michelle Knuijt, John Lisowe, Andrew Quella, Alex Stumpf, & Mariah Tralongo

Community Development Interns

Morgan Rae & Kevin Englebret

Administrative Services

We are pleased to announce Peggy Steeno as the new Administrative Services Director for the City of Menasha beginning Sept 30th. This position replaces the former Finance Director position and manages Finance, Human Resources, IT, and the Assessor. A recommendation coming out of the Springsted Report, the position will strengthen and consolidate services provided internally to the city.

Ms. Steeno comes to the City with a wealth of knowledge in the finance and HR fields including an MBA in Human Resources from UW-Whitewater, and BA in Managerial Accounting. Peggy previously served as the City of Oshkosh Finance Director, Waukesha Water Utility Business Director, and West Allis Finance Supervisor.

Menasha Employees Credit Union

Did you know that as an employee of the City of Menasha, Menasha Utilities, or NM Fire Rescue you can join the Menasha Employees Credit Union? Having recently added **online home internet banking**, this hidden gem even provides the service of the big boys while maintaining that personal touch of knowing their members.

Unlike banks, credit unions are cooperative, not-for-profit financial institutions organized to promote saving and provide credit to members. They are member-owned and controlled by a volunteer board of directors. The result: members are provided with a safe, convenient place to save and borrow at an institution which exists to benefit them, not to make a profit.

Menasha Employees Credit Union's motto, "*Once A Member, Always A Member*," means all its services are available to members in good standing, even if they retire, change jobs, or move away.

Are you a member? Check them out at: 310 Appleton St, www.menashaemployeescu.org, or 722-1722