

The Connector

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

April 2014



NM Fire Rescue is hosting the Backdraft Bike tour June 8, 2014



The wellness committee hosted luncheons with the step program



NM Fire Rescue helped bring Santa to the community to the delight of children of all ages

Well Menasha

The City & Utility Wellness committees have been meeting to bring you new wellness activities.

Well Menasha will be hosting John Shier – “that nurse guy” on April 16th at 2:30PM all employees are welcome check with your supervisor to sign up.

Sign up for your FREE health risk assessment if you are eligible for the City’s health insurance. Everyone participating will receive an incentive envelope with at least \$20. It’s important for you to know what your health status is. Utilities health risk assessments are scheduled for this fall.

Keep watching for information on fun activities, lunch and learn events, and competitions between departments.

Sign up for the Fox Cities Bike Challenge at nationalbikechallenge.org.

City and Utility employees are eligible for a complementary pool pass at the Menasha Pool as part of our wellness program ask for yours at the park and rec office at city hall.

After a long winter we appreciate the warmer days of spring, it’s also the time we recognize the effort and pride that each of you devote to our community and residents. We will be celebrating:

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|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| National Public Health Week | April 7-13 |
| National Library Week | April 13-19 |
| Municipal Clerk’s Week | May 4-10 |
| Public Service Recognition Week | May 4-10 |
| Police Week | May 11-17 |
| Public Works Week | May 18-24 |
| National Recreation and Parks Month | June |

It is through your dedication as an employee of the City of Menasha that our residents feel safe in their homes, have access to electricity and water, have roads to drive on, parks to play in, and opportunities for lifelong wellness and education. The things that you do are important to us!

You’re Invited

Each year the newly elected Common Council members hold a community social event following the first meeting of the year. This year’s event will be Tuesday, April 15th, following the meeting (approximately 7:30PM) at Aspen Landing downtown.

It’s a great opportunity to meet the elected officials in a social atmosphere. Light snacks are provided.

The event is open to the public, bring a friend!

Department Notes

Parks

Construction should begin this summer and is expected to be finished by late fall on a new waterfront trail on the former Gilbert Paper Site. The trail will offer several viewing and activity areas, most notably a 300' "mini-trestle". When complete, the trail and park will become a great lunch walk destination for those working in downtown. The city received approval of a DNR grant totaling nearly \$500,000 for the project. It is expected that parks and public works crews will assist with some parts of the project, counting towards the city's share of the grant and allows our talented workforce to take pride helping beautify the community.

Menasha Utilities

With the long cold winter the Water Utility experienced 30 main breaks and 43 customer freeze-ups. Kudos goes out to our water distribution employees for their efforts getting water restored to our customers. This spring we will be starting a main replacement project on London Street. The Arbor Day Foundation recognized Menasha Utilities for the second year with the Tree Line USA designation. The Utility, partnering with the City, on our tree trimming program has helped to deliver reliable electricity while maintaining healthy trees.

Menasha Utilities along with the Sustainability Board will be hosting a Spring Electronics & Household goods recycling event on Sat April 26th from 8AM-Noon. You don't have to be a City resident to participate. Keep electronics out of the landfill and help St. Vincent de Paul recycle your household items.

Public Works

The Public Works Department will be assisting the Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue with the development of an educational storm water management project this spring. DPW crews will be constructing bio-filters in several areas at the Manitowoc Road Fire Station location to treat storm water runoff. NMFR crews will be assisting with this project by planting the almost 3,000 native wetland plants in the bio-filters.

Health Department

It is spring cleaning time at the health department and the public health director is being swept out the door!!! Long time public health director, Sue Nett has announced her upcoming retirement after 28 years of service to the community. Her life without an alarm clock begins on May 27th. Other News: The health department has hired two public health nurses, Kortney Gonerling and Vicki Schultz. Kortney joined the staff in July and Vicki started as a regular part time employee in January.

Police

After a few months of fundraising and several weeks of drug training, our new K9 Officer Athos has hit the streets. Athos comes to us from the Czech Republic. He is a black German Sheppard and is just under two years old. Later this year Athos will complete his training by learning tracking. This capability will assist us in finding missing people or suspects.

Both the Police and Fire Department have a new computer system for being dispatched to calls. The system is called Premier One or P1 for short. This new computer program is part of a three county system which provides more information and enhanced capabilities. As with most new technology comes some bugs. It has been a neat experience for police personnel to work with City IT Staff, consultants and the Winnebago County IT Department to navigate through the issues and challenges. On Saturday, April 26 from 10a-2p we will be participating in the annual drug take back day. Feel free to stop in the lobby of the PD to drop off any old prescriptions.

Library

The library participates in the annual Fox Cities Book Festival, which runs this year from April 7 to April 13. More than 50 authors and poets will be appearing at libraries, coffee shops, bookstores, universities, and schools around the Fox Cities. Our library is hosting some great authors. For more information check the website at foxcitiesbook-festival.org. Fox Cities Reads, encourages everyone in the Fox Cities to read one book. This year's book is *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio, about a 10-year-old boy with a cranial deformity who decides to attend public school for the first time.

Administrative Services

As you may or may not know, a new department, the Administrative Services Department, has recently been created. The department includes: Assessor, Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology. While the department is in its infancy, and is still coming together, the focus is to create a strong foundation to ensure that we serve our customers, both internal and external, in the best manner possible. Some ongoing/upcoming projects in the department include: the ongoing work to complete the property assessments for 2014, the upcoming financial audit for the year ended 12/31/13, the ongoing work to fill open positions and update all employee off-time accruals and display them on the paystubs, and the ongoing work to get up to date with IT support tickets as well as streamlining the process for users to report IT issues.

Congratulations!

These employees are celebrating a milestone in years of service to our community from 8/2013 –6/2014 Thank you for your service!

Five Years

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|----------------|---------|
| Ana Acosta | Library |
| Jody Gerdin | Library |
| Sarah Konrad | Library |
| Vince Maas | Parks |
| Pam Moran | Library |
| Liz Rozin | Health |
| Matt Spiegel | Police |
| Vanessa Taylir | Library |
| Nick Thorn | Police |

Fifteen Years

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|------------------|----------------|
| Al Conger | Engineering |
| Jason Calkins | NM Fire Rescue |
| Todd Drew | Health |
| Debbie Galeazzi | City Clerk |
| Joel Heider | Electric |
| Anthony Leiton | NM Fire Rescue |
| Brian Moore | Electric |
| Jason Peerenboom | NM Fire Rescue |
| Greg Peterson | Water |
| Steve Ritchie | Electric |
| Carol Schmidt | Engineering |
| John Teale | Utilities |

Twenty Years

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|-------------|----------------|
| Sara Page | Library |
| Jim Peglow | NM Fire Rescue |
| Dan Schultz | NM Fire Rescue |

Twenty-five Years

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|--------------|--------------------|
| Adam Alix | Municipal Services |
| Shannon Ely | Library |
| Pete Jungers | NM Fire Rescue |
| Julie Wing | Library |

Thirty Years

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|------------|-------|
| Pete Biese | Water |
|------------|-------|

Thirty-five Years

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|--------------|-----------|
| Don Bojarski | Utilities |
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Forty Years

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|---------------|----------------|
| Steve Deleeuw | NM Fire Rescue |
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John has been an integral part of our Public Works Maintenance Facility for over 10 years ensuring that our equipment is ready for action when needed. John also served as union president.



John's willingness to think out of the box, assisting in fabricating new accessories like last year's modification to our leaf vacuum trucks is a great asset to the community. His willingness to take on unique projects like the restoration of the Memorial Building lantern exemplifies his efforts to go above and beyond.

Thank You!

ABOVE & BEYOND MAYOR'S AWARD

Not to give her an ego but Kate Clausing is probably the most important person on the City's payroll; the person who does payroll.



Over the past few years she has taken on added responsibilities with the changes in HR and massive projects like the retroactive pay for police officers.

Her acceptance of the Springsted Study recommendations shows her team spirit continues

Thank You!

Retirements

Menasha has long been fortunate to have exceptional employees, we wish our retiree's well after many years of service to the community.

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|--------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Joe Meyer | Water Plant | Dec. 2013 |
| Kris Seifert | Library Admin. Asst. | Jan. 2014 |
| Tim Jacobson | Public Works Sup. | Feb. 2014 |
| Sue Nett | Health Dept. Dir. | May 2014 |

Discount Tickets

Going to Noah's Ark or Great America? Discount tickets will be available 5/12-8/29 at City Hall. Noah's Ark tickets sell for \$31.25 (save \$10.27) and Six Flags Great America tickets are \$43.25 (save \$22.74). Additional discounts apply if you are planning a trip to Great America between 7/5-13 tickets are only \$33.25. Cash or check only, tickets are available for both public & employee purchase.

Welcome

to our new employees, say hello!



Adam Miller
Police Officer
October 2013



Vicki Schultz
Public Health
Nurse
January 2014



Kathy Dreyer
Library
Admin Assistant
March 2014



Lori Walbrun
Park and Rec
Admin Assistant
March 2014



Gary Thiele
Water Maintenance
Mechanic/Operator
March 2014

Skin Cancer Screening

The health department is sponsoring a free skin cancer screening on April 25th from 1PM to 3:30PM at the Menasha Senior Center. The screening is being provided by Dr. Douglas Horan. This screening is recommended for anyone who works or spends time outdoors. Appointments are needed and can be made by calling the health department at 967-3520.

IT Helpdesk Requests

Everyone with access to BOSS needs to enter their IT Request/Support Item through BOSS to get the issues documented & resolved as quickly as possible. If you do not have access to BOSS, please note that there is a new helpdesk phone number, Ext. 4357 (HELP). This number will be answered when possible, but since staff is typically working on Requests throughout the day, it is likely that a message will have to be left. Please provide as much information as possible when leaving a message.

In the event of an Emergency, i.e. a mission critical system is not working – network down, phone system down, etc., and there is an immediate NEED to speak with someone, please call the helpdesk, 4357 (HELP), and press "0", which will connect you to the cell phone

Reorganization

Recognizing priorities and opportunities the City has instituted several changes in staffing and management.

Continuing with the implementation of the [Springsted Study](#) the management structure of Public Works and Parks have been revised; recognizing their suggestion to consider combining parks and street maintenance. The management structure has been revised to have the Asst. Director of Municipal Services (Adam Alex) supervise both the Public Works Sup. (Jeff Neiland) and the Parks & Facilities Sup. (Vince Maas). In addition, we are in the process of hiring a Facilities Technician to handle maintenance of our buildings and building systems. Applications can be found on the [City website](#).

Kristi Heim has taken a new position as the Community Development Coordinator. The position's role in assisting with zoning, permitting, enforcement and plan review will allow us to process development projects more timely and efficiently. In addition, increasing capacity in the Community Development Department will allow greater focus on recruitment & growing our tax base. A growing tax base will allow us more budget flexibility in future years to maintain employment and competitive salary structures.