



# The Horizon

A Publication of the City of Menasha, Wisconsin

Fall 2008

## The Mayor's Corner

By Donald Merkes, Mayor

Earlier this spring I offered a vision for Menasha. My goal is to help move the city to a sound financial footing, increase pride in our community, and provide more opportunities for involvement. Many things are already underway.

Moving the city to a more sound financial footing begins with planning for our future. We have begun to implement a five-year capital improvements plan to assure that our infrastructure, public buildings, staff, and technology are ready as we need them.

The largest unknown in our financial picture is the steam plant. While there is optimism, as we have been able to cover interest payments and operating costs in 2008 as well as turbine #5 coming online recently, there is still much ground to cover. With the mediation behind us the utilities commission is beginning strategic planning focusing on upcoming refinancing of debt, customer satisfaction and recruitment, and progress on the recommendations from the Sargent & Lundy Plan. Periodic progress reports will be given to the council including the refinancing plan in the beginning of 2009.

I'm happy to announce several new opportunities for community involvement. First, I'm taking steps to form a citizen's round table to bring the voices of the community back to City Hall, as well as provide an opportunity for citizens from different parts of the community to share their ideas and concerns. Second, I will be holding open office hours regularly, on the second Tuesday of each month from 8:00-10:00 AM and 5:00-7:00 PM. However there is no need to wait, you're always welcome to stop by. We are also in the process of restructuring our Common Council schedule to provide more opportunities for public comment before decisions are made. Look for more on this in the near future.

A talented group of Menasha business owners and citizens are brainstorming a proposal for a brand and image for the community. We have a lot to offer here in Menasha. The image will emphasize the positives already existing here like the friendly lifestyle, waterfront, and educational system, with a vision for the future. I will be looking forward to bringing an initial draft to the community yet this fall.

This process has affirmed for me what most of us already know: that we have a lot to be proud of - and it's time we promoted it.

Let's start with our Library. Did you realize that our circulation levels are as high as communities twice our size in some cases? With the addition of Sunday hours, we've achieved the "excellent" rating in all four rating categories, which is something almost no other library of our size in the state has done. Our recent switch to one central circulation desk has allowed our event programming to bloom as well, including the recent Green Scene and Heard art show. Look forward to our library continuing to be cutting edge in many ways!

Our Library isn't the only center of excellence in our city by any stretch. I'll highlight the efforts and achievements of other city departments in future newsletters. We have a good group of people willing to listen to new ideas and try new things, while continuing the tried and true to get things done. We're counting on you to let us know what's working, as well as where you believe we can do more or do better. I look forward to meeting you personally, at City Hall or in your neighborhood.

Be sure to welcome these new, expanding, or relocated businesses to Menasha:

**Absolute Danz** – 1261 Appleton Road

**Benefit Administration Inc.** – 400 Ahnaip Street

**East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning** –  
400 Ahnaip St

**Express** (Expanded) – 700 Third Street

**CVS Pharmacy** (Opening Soon) – 1485 Oneida St.

**El Jaripeo #2** - 14 Tayco Street

**Natural Healthy Concepts** – 1620 Appleton Road

**The Wreath Factory & Otter Creek** –

(Expansion Opening Sept.)- 226 Main Street

**Thrivent** – 180 Main Street

**Valley Social Dance Studio** – 167 ½ Main Street

**Van Zeeland Auto** -1370 Oneida Street

**Wize Guys Pizza** -1440 Oneida Street

Visit the City of Menasha web site at [www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov](http://www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov)



TO: Potential Volunteers  
FROM: Menasha Health Department  
RE: Volunteer Opportunities  
DATE: Fall 2008

**MENASHA RESIDENTS HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

The Menasha Health Department is looking for people to assist them in catastrophic emergency events. Communities throughout the United States are being asked to prepare for natural or manmade emergencies that may occur in their local area. Examples of emergencies may include acts of bioterrorism or pandemic flu. In order to have adequate man power during an event, we are asking that you consider being a member of our Citizen Volunteer group. As a member, you would be trained to perform certain non-medical tasks. These may include: assisting at an emergency immunization clinic. Clinic roles may include assisting in registration, helping with paperwork, security and getting clients through the clinic process in a timely and orderly manner.

One or two educational sessions/year will be provided at a later date for those who are interested in becoming a Menasha Citizen Volunteer. If you are interested in attending one of these educational sessions, complete the form below. You will be contacted regarding educational sessions when they are scheduled.

\*You do not need to live in Menasha to volunteer for the Menasha Health Department.

Please complete and return form to: Menasha Health Department  
316 Racine Street  
Menasha, WI 54952  
Telephone: 967-3520 or 967-3528  
Fax: 967-5247

\*If you have previously filled out a form, please disregard this.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Check all that apply**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in volunteering for emergency events only.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am also interested in volunteering for other non-emergency events.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am currently employed **by** the City of Menasha or by the Menasha Schools.

## From the Menasha Senior Center

By Sylvia Bull, Center Coordinator

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### To Get Connected and Get Answers, Dial 2-1-1

We all know and remember to call 9-1-1 for emergencies, **but** we must also learn and remember to call **2-1-1** for connection to community services (food, health care, counseling, housing, support groups, clothing, legal aid, education and employment).

This United Way Fox Cities program provides easy, simple access to health and human services, gives callers an opportunity to give and get help and serves as a hub for community information. This is a free, confidential, 24/7 service to residents of Winnebago, Outagamie, Waupaca and Calumet counties.

Additional sources of information: your very own Menasha Health Department at 967-3520 and the Menasha Senior Center at 967-3530.

### Food or Medication?

Are you age 60+? Is it difficult deciding whether you should buy food or your medications? Do you want to “go out to eat” but don’t want to pay high prices? Or are you tired of making your own lunch every day?

We have the answer for you. Visit the Winnebago County Nutrition Program meal-site at the Menasha Senior Center for a nutritious, good tasting and very reasonably priced noon meal (suggested donation is \$2.75 or whatever one is able to pay).

You have no way to get there or the high gas cost is keeping you at home? Well, we can help you with that as well. You can be picked up and taken back home at no cost to you. The Winnebago County Nutrition Program has contracted with Lamers Bus to provide this service. You just need to call 832-8890 to arrange the ride.

Here are a few things to know:

1. The meal site is open Monday through Friday (with a few holiday exceptions).
2. You need to make a reservation 24-hours in advance. For reservations call 725-6323.
3. Food is served at approximately at 11:20 AM so plan to arrive around 11:00 AM.

If you have questions, call Advocap at 725-6323 or the Menasha Senior Center at 967-3530.

If after the meal you choose to stay for an activity at the Menasha Senior Center, you can arrange a ride home with Dial-a-Ride for \$3.25.

## Heating Safety

By Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue

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It’s a cold winter night. You decide to use a space heater, or perhaps light a fire in the fireplace, to save on the heating bill. Comfortable from its warmth as bedtime approaches you think, “What harm could it cause to leave it on overnight?”

Think again. While these heating devices may help you feel cozy and warm, they can become extremely dangerous if not used properly. Home heating fires are largely preventable when you know the rules. Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue’s goal is to reduce the number of home-heating fires in our community. But we need your help to do this. We urge you to use extra caution this winter when heating your home. The majority of fire deaths are caused by space heaters or by creosote build-up in the chimney. To help keep you and your family safe this winter, Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue recommends that you follow these simple guidelines:

- Keep all things that can burn at least 3 feet away from space heaters such as paper, bedding, furniture, etc. Space heaters need space!
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord. Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. If it is damaged, replace it before using it.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned, if necessary, by a professional.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. Test your smoke alarms once a month.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

With these simple precautions, help us meet our goal of decreasing home-heating fires this winter. If you have any questions, please call Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue at 886-6200.

# Neenah-Menasha United Way Dental Clinic

By Loretta Kjemhus RDH

The United Way Dental Clinic (an agency of Neenah-Menasha United Way) provides early diagnosis and prompt dental treatment through dental screenings facilitated by the Menasha Health Department. These screenings are conducted every Fall at the elementary schools for students in preschool and kindergarten through grade 4.

Students requiring immediate care for dental needs may be eligible for **FREE DENTAL CARE\*** if the parents' income qualifies their child for the free or reduced hot lunch program. **This program is open to students enrolled in private or public schools, preschool through twelfth grade.** If your child does not qualify for the lunch program, you still may be eligible for the dental clinic program based on need, insurance status, unemployment, outstanding medical bills and other factors.

Please contact Loretta Kjemhus at the Menasha Health Department at 967-3528 for an eligibility form.

\*Note – If you already have Badger Care or Medical Assistance for your child you do not qualify for this program. You must see a Medical Assistance/Badger Care dental provider.

## Important Information Regarding Badger Care/Medical Assistance Dental Providers

Currently, there are no dental providers accepting **NEW** Badger Care and M.A. insurance. Therefore, if you have M.A. or Badger Care insurance and you've been seeing a dentist for dental care, please continue to see that dentist at least annually for regular visits so that you will remain a current patient. It is important that you show up for your appointments, otherwise your dentist can refuse to keep you as a patient.

For those that are seeking a new dental provider, the only clinics accepting M.A. or Badger Care insurance is:

Tri County Community Dental Clinic  
9 Tri-Park Way  
Appleton, WI 54914  
920-882-5500

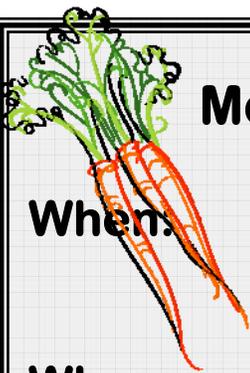
- For emergency dental treatment only.
- Accepts medical assistance and clients without dental insurance.

Marquette Dental Clinic  
1801 W Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
414-288-6790

- Accepts all clients and some dental insurance policies.

Family Health Center  
400 S Townline  
Wautoma, WI  
920-787-5514

- Accepts all clients and some dental insurance policies

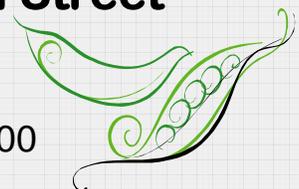


## Menasha Main Street Farm Fresh Market

**When:** Thursdays, 2:00-6:00 PM  
August 28 – October 23

**Where:** Menasha Marina Terrace on Main Street

For information on becoming a vendor,  
please contact the City of Menasha at 967-3600



# Menasha Police Department News

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## New Addition



Menasha Police Department was recently awarded with a brand new 6X6 Polaris Ranger utility vehicle. We hope to get this unit out in our parks especially during times that need additional presence to stop vandalism and other criminal activity. The Ranger was awarded as one of about 45 nationwide to receive this gift from the US Smokeless Tobacco Company. The Menasha Police Department wrote a grant for their consideration of our community. Watch for it in Jefferson Park soon.

## Crime Free Multi-Housing

Menasha Police department is currently exploring with other Fox Valley Police Departments a joint crime free multi housing project. The project which has great success internationally formally establishes a 3 step process to register rental properties as crime free multi-housing. This crime free multi housing logo can then be used in signage on the property, as well as in for rent classifieds. The 3 step procedure includes an education component, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design analysis of the property and an annual safety social conducted on the property.

The Menasha Police Department has also established a formal communication process for all property owners in the City. As a property owner you can now receive a daily email documenting police service to the property you own. Green Bay PD is the nearest community that is utilizing this service and they are paying a third party to provide the service. Fortunately, we have a talented Officer who wrote the script to provide this service without charge to Menasha property owners. Why wait register today.

## Livescan Fingerprint Capture Equipment

By Lt. Chuck Sahr, Police Dept.

For decades, the Menasha Police Department has taken fingerprint impressions from people arrested and brought back to the Department and/or taken to the County Jail. These fingerprints are acquired by using black ink that is rolled on to a subject's fingers and then rolled on to a paper fingerprint card. The fingerprint cards are subsequently submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ).

In recent years, the fingerprinting process has seen major technological improvements. The Wisconsin DOJ reports that approximately 93% of fingerprint impressions from agencies around the State are captured with digital equipment and the images submitted electronically. In fact, the paper prints received by DOJ are digitized with similar equipment and then stored in electronic databases.

In efforts to increase the number of electronic fingerprint submissions, Wisconsin DOJ recently awarded the city of Menasha an 80/20 cost sharing grant in the amount of \$17,000 to obtain Livescan Fingerprint Capture Equipment. Federal funds will cover \$13,600 and Menasha will cover \$3,400 of the electronic fingerprinting system. The equipment will be acquired and in use by early fall 2008.

## Code Enforcement Officer

Please help us welcome Joe Polzien who was hired to fill this newly created position. Below is a synopsis of his experience and background.

Hello, my name is Joe Polzien and I am the Code Enforcement Officer. I work under the direction of the Police Department as a non-sworn officer. I come to the City with a little over 7 years experience as a code enforcement officer in Yavapai County, Arizona. My job history in Arizona included the following duties:

- Inspect property for conformance with zoning and related regulations
- Review deeds and legal descriptions
- Determine if properties have legal access
- Assisted the public with preparation of building and zoning permit applications
- Provided technical information pertaining to land use and zoning
- Issued permits and enforcement action as it pertained to violations of ordinances
- Conducted inspections and investigations of violations and prepared detailed and accurate records for use in legal proceedings.

I was certified by the International Conference of Building Officials in May 2002 as a property maintenance and housing inspector.

I plan to use my past experiences to develop a Code Enforcement Program which will not only be successful but, a program that will bring recognition from other cities and counties across the State of Wisconsin. I am available for questions or concerns directly at 967-3548 or by email at [jpolzien@ci.menasha.wi.us](mailto:jpolzien@ci.menasha.wi.us).

## Menasha Library News

By Tasha Saecker, Director

The Elisha D. Smith Public Library is booming! We are seeing increases in the number of materials being used that are amazing. Even better, our check outs of books for all ages is up, increasing by around 10% for adults and 30% for children's materials. Our programs for all ages have increased too and include movies, musical programs, art shows, educational lectures, and much more.

This fall you will find book discussion groups like Lite Lit, which will be discussing *The Brambles* by Eliza Minot on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and *Lucky You* by Carl Hiaasen on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. You can check out the library's website at [www.menashalibrary.org](http://www.menashalibrary.org) for information on the other 2008 discussion titles. Extra copies of the discussion books are available at the Reference Desk at the library. All are welcome to attend!

Another special program this fall is our Sights, Tastes and Culture of India program on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. Come and experience a different culture right here in Menasha.

We will of course be continuing our on-going programs of storytimes for babies and preschoolers and computer classes for adults. You can call the library at 967-3660 for information on the times of these programs.

This summer, the library released its new Long Range Plan that will carry us forward for the next five years. You can pick up a copy at the library, or head to our website to read it online.

Our popular Sunday hours return after Labor Day. We will once again be open on Sundays from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Our longer Saturday hours return at this time too.

If you haven't used the library in awhile or don't have a library card, this is the time to do it! Our Sunday hours give you more opportunity to visit the library. Our friendly staff will be happy to help you find what you are looking for, get a new card, use the Internet computers, or give you space to have a quiet moment in your hectic day. Remember, this is YOUR library!

## Election 2008

By Debra Galeazzi, City Clerk

There are two elections remaining in 2008. September 9 is the Partisan Primary and November 4 is the General (Presidential) Election. All voters must be registered on or before Election Day in order to vote. If you have voted in the City of Menasha in the past four years and reside at the same address, you are currently registered. If you are unsure if you are registered, you can contact the Clerk's Office at 967-3600 during normal business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM or you can e-mail Debbie Galeazzi at [dgaleazz@ci.menasha.wi.us](mailto:dgaleazz@ci.menasha.wi.us) or Kristin Sewall at [ksewall@ci.menasha.wi.us](mailto:ksewall@ci.menasha.wi.us)

You can register by mail up to 20 days before the election, in the Clerk's Office during regular business hours or on Election Day at the polling places. If you decide to register on Election Day at the polling place, allow extra time as there can be a wait. Any way you register, you'll need to provide a driver's license number if you hold a valid Wisconsin driver's license. If you do not hold a valid Wisconsin driver's license, you'll need to provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. You must also provide proof that you are a resident of the City of Menasha for at least 10 days before the election. Acceptable forms of proof-of-residence needs to contain your complete name and Menasha address such as your driver's license, Wisconsin ID card, real estate tax bill, utility bill, bank statement or pay check.

City of Menasha has four polling places:

- Menasha Senior Center, 116 Main Street (District 1 & 2)
- Banta School Administration Office, 328 Sixth Street (District 3 & 4)
- Jefferson School, 105 Ice Street (District 3 & 4)
- Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, 1305 Plank Road (District 7 & 8)

If you are unsure which polling place you vote at, please contact the Clerk's Office during regular business hours. Please check the Clerk's website for more election information at [www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov](http://www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov)

## MEDICATION TAKE-BACK

Got leftover, outdated medications? Bring them to our next Medication Take-Back at the Menasha Health Department, 316 Racine Street on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to 12:00-Noon. Gather up your old pills, inhalers, creams, drops and pet prescriptions. Let's all help to clean up our local lakes and waterways!

## Public Power Week October 5 – 11, 2008

Public Power Week is an annual event that celebrates the benefits of locally owned and operated utilities. Public power utilities, like Menasha Utilities, are dedicated to the community, and exist to provide safe, reliable and low-cost services to residents and businesses.



Again this year, Menasha Utilities will be hosting a **Customer Conservation and Renewable Energy Expo** for their residential customers in recognition of **Public Power Week**. Residential customers will have the opportunity to build their own FREE energy conservation kits from a variety of energy efficient, conservation, money saving products. Further details will be included with the September utility bills.



### Renewable Energy Program Protects Our Environment

Participation in our Renewable Energy Program helps protect our environment and preserve our limited resources. Renewable resources replenish themselves naturally, leading to significant reductions in waste and emissions and improved air and water quality. The more renewable energy we use, the less we need to rely on traditional sources of electricity such as coal, oil and natural gas. Your support will go towards the generation of electricity from clean, green energy sources such as wind, water and organic materials. Customers can sign up for the Renewable Energy Program on our web site at [www.menashautilities.com](http://www.menashautilities.com) or by calling our Customer Service Department at 967-3402 or 967-3403.



### Project Share Fund Helps Local Community

For more than 20 years people in our community have given generously to the **PROJECT SHARE FUND** in order to help other people in the Menasha who are experiencing financial difficulties and have no other alternative available for meeting their energy bills. Thanks to your help, in past years this program has provided energy assistance to nearly 600 customers in Menasha. The money donated helps real people; a neighbor, a friend or another family in our community.

**PROJECT SHARE FUND** contributions **are tax deductible** and all disbursements from the fund are authorized from LEAVEN, a non-profit agency based in Menasha.



Please consider helping your neighbor by completing the contribution form that will be included with utility bills this Fall, or by dropping off or mailing a contribution with your next utility bill.

## Walk to Win – As Easy as 1-2-3

By Cheryl Laabs, RN

Begin a lifelong habit that will improve your health, help you maintain or lose weight, enhance your mental sharpness and add energy to your day - Walk to Win!

You can reach your goal of 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity at least 5 days a week in more than one way. It's as easy as 1-2-3:

- 1) Walk for 30 consecutive minutes at a brisk pace daily.
- 2) Walk for 15 consecutive minutes at a brisk pace twice per day.
- 3) Walk for 10 consecutive minutes at a brisk pace three times per day.



The program is 3 months long and runs until December 1, 2008. We are pulling for all participants to reach the goal so they can improve their health and fitness and also be eligible to win great prizes in our drawing at the end of December! If you and your family are ready to kick start being physically active, join Walk to Win! Register online at [www.walktowin.org](http://www.walktowin.org) beginning August 2008 or pick-up a registration form at any of the four YMCA of the Fox Cities locations, Oshkosh Community YMCA or at area public health departments.

Walk to Win partners are the Public Health Departments from the cities of Appleton, Menasha, Neenah and counties of Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago as well as the YMCA of the Fox Cities, Oshkosh Community YMCA and the Neenah Joint School District. Walk to Win 2008 is sponsored by Activate Fox Cities, YMCA of the Fox Cities, Affinity Health System, and Kimberly-Clark.

## WAYS TO PREVENT BACKUPS IN YOUR LATERAL AND IN THE CITY MAIN

The property owner can do many things to prevent their lateral from backing up. Remember too, that the very same things can help to prevent backups in the City main as well. If everyone would be careful about how they dispose of certain products, our system would be a great deal more efficient, cause fewer backups, cost us all less money and prevent a lot of misery.

- **Grease:** Cooking oil should be poured into a heat-resistant container and disposed of, after it cools off, in the garbage, not the drain. Some people assume that washing grease down the drain with hot water is satisfactory. This grease goes down the drain, cools off and solidifies either in the drain, the property owner's line, or in the main sewer. When this happens, the line constricts, and eventually clogs.
- **Paper Products:** Paper towels, tissue, disposable (and cloth) diapers, feminine products, etc. cause a great deal of problems in the property owner's lateral as well as in the city main. These products do not deteriorate quickly. They become lodged in portions of the lateral/main, causing a sewer backup. These products should also be disposed of in the garbage.
- **Roots:** Shrubs and trees, seeking moisture, will make their way into sewer line cracks. These roots can cause extensive damage. They may start out small, getting into a small crack in the pipe, but as the tree or shrub continues to grow, so does the root. After time, this causes your sewer line to break which in turn allows debris to hang up in the line, thus causing a back-up. One way to prevent roots from entering your line is to replace your line and tap with new plastic pipe. Another alternative is to be careful about planting greenery around your sewer line. If you have continuing problems with tree roots in your lateral, you may have to have them cut periodically.
- **Sewer Odor:** Another concern that property owner's have is that they can smell sewer odors inside their house or building. There are many ways to prevent this from occurring. Under each drain in your plumbing system, there is a "P-Trap". If there is water in this fitting, odors or gasses from the sewer cannot enter through the drain from either the property owner's lateral or the City main. Periodically check to make sure that unused floor drains, sinks, etc. have water in the "P-Trap". Another way to prevent sewer odor is to ensure that the vents, which are located on your roof, are free from bird nests, leaves, etc. When these vents are clear, the sewer odors will escape through the vent.



**City of Menasha**  
140 Main Street  
Menasha, WI 54952

PRSRT STD  
Carrier Route Sort  
US Postage Paid  
Menasha, WI 54952  
Permit No. 39

**CAR-RT-SORT**  
Postal Customer  
Menasha, WI 54952

***Important RECYCLING INFORMATION ENCLOSED... save for future reference!!***