



Town of Neenah Today

Vol. 17, issue 2 - April-June 2014, 1600 Breezewood Lane, Neenah - 920 725 0916

website: www.townofneenah.com, email: tnneenah@tds.net

Chairman's Chatter:

Wow...the winter of 2013-2014 has been the coldest on record here in northeast Wisconsin...it's been CRAZY!

Speaking of crazy, I've had a flock of very "confused" robins hanging around my yard the entire winter. Given this past winter, that's really CRAZY!

Now that we've finally got through that, April 22 is Earth Day. I'm sure you'd agree that any weekend in April would be a great time to have an Earth Day event of your own in your neighborhood. Whether it's a "you and me let's do it" thing or an organized group event, a general clean-up day or two would be beneficial to the environment and show our town pride.

Speaking of "town pride", the Town of Neenah has always tried to maintain a nice neighborhood blend of rural setting and planned community development. However, we all know that over time our town has been evolving. Our roadways have multiple uses



**Town Chairman
Bob Schmeichel**

not only by vehicles but also by bicyclists, joggers, walkers and walkers with dogs. Motorists: because of the walkers and bicyclists of all ages, we need to take extra care when traveling down our town roads so

PLEASE SLOW DOWN! You do not have to drive the posted speed limit just because you can. I personally would like to post all residential town roads as 25 mph, but that's another WisDOT challenge.

And to you walkers and bicyclists; you also need to take precautions. Please wear brightly colored and/or reflective clothing for all of us to safely see you.

Carrying a flashlight at dusk and nighttime hours is an excellent safety idea. However, do not assume that we can see you. Reflective clothing is the best, day or night.

With the advent of nice weather, it again brings me back to my reference of that age old golden rule of "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". I mentioned above that the town maintains a nice neighborhood blend. However, as time marches on, this blend has brought with it occasional concerns for not only the peaceful neighborhood settings, but also various

neighborhood nuisance issues. These voiced concerns that I, the Town Board, and our Town Clerk receive vary.

Chairman's Chatter cont. on pg. 2

**Save the Date:
Town of Neenah
Annual Meeting
April 15, 7 PM
Refreshments
Available**

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April 1 Town of Neenah Election Results

186 people voted in the Town of Neenah during the April 1 election. Below are the Town's vote totals:

Town Board Supervisor

Weiss 138
Armstrong 144

NJSD School Board

Van Meter 74
Kaul 92
Thompson 114
Hanby 78
Swardenski 123
Murphy 82

Court of Appeals District 2

Neubauer 163

County Supervisor District 7

Roh 55

County Supervisor District 9

Widener 77

County Supervisor District 30

Farrey 34

The Town of Neenah has
2246 eligible voters.

Chairman's Chatter cont. from pg. 1

Here are a few of the recurring concerns:

- *Frequent and untimely noise occurrences such as, but not limited to, the use of ATVs and fireworks.
- *Junked motor vehicles
- *Noxious weed control
- *Speed on our town roads
- *Stray animal controls

Your town board is presently reviewing our Municipal Code of Ordinances on several of these issues. Unfortunately, at times, tempers flare, citations can and may be issued, and the principle of the "golden rule" is broken.

Finally, my fun fact: Spring is the time for many flowers to bloom. The daffodil is most often associated with the first spring bloom. However, we all can relate to the fact more often than not, the first perennial bloom seen is the dandelion. So here's the fun

fact: the dandelion first came from Asia and now calls the entire world home. Interestingly, it can and has been used as food, medicine, and health and beauty product. The seeds provide an important food to many small birds, the flowers make very tasty wine, and the root is currently valued by the producers of the above products at \$9 per pound. Hmmm, so why are we all trying to eradicate these tenacious, beneficial, perennial plants? We know they are easy to grow! Maybe we should be harvesting them rather than using herbicides to kill them.

See you at the annual meeting!

Bob Schmeichel
Town Chairman



Town of Neenah

1600 Breezewood Lane, Neenah, WI 54956

www.townofneenah.com

Email: tnneenah@tds.net

Town Population: 3,371

Chairman

Robert Schmeichel- 729-5995

Supervisors

Glenn Armstrong - 722-3355

Jan DeKeyser - 725-3284

Geoff Hibner - 729-4780

Jim Weiss - 727-1952

Clerk/Treasurer

Ellen Skerke - 725-0916

Building Inspector

Gary Klinka - 727-9200

Fire Chief

Ed King - 725-8261

Animal Control

Glenn Armstrong - 722-3355

Plan Commission Chairman

Tom Stolla - 967-3364

Parks and Trails Committee Chairman

Jan DeKeyser - 725-3284

Weed Commissioner

Geoff Hibner - 729-4780

Newsletter

Pam Winek - 428-0768

Sanitary District Commissions

#2-President - Dan Osero - 740-5757

#3-President-Bryan Von Deylen-751-8791

County Board Representatives

District 7-Bill Roh - 725-5999

District 9-Bill Widener - 725-1156

District 30-Chuck Farrey - 582-7733

Town of Neenah Today

Volume 17, Issue 2 April-June 2014

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The Good Ol' Days



By Supervisor Glenn Armstrong

March 10, 1869

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Neenah, Wisconsin, that the sum of five dollars be, and the sum is hereby fined, and established as the penalty for each and every person or persons riding or driving faster than a walk across or on the bridge across the south channel of the Fox River in said town.

February 17, 1876

Chattel Mortgage Releases
State of Wisconsin
Town of Neenah

To Whom it May Concern: In a certain chattel mortgage given by Alfred and John Millard to Albert Huxley about the first of last November, to secure a note given by them, to him, one colt named Charlie. Now we the undersigned desire to release the mortgage on said colt, and to place it, in his stead, on three cows owned by the said Alfred and John Millard, known as the Fenton cow, the Danby cow, and the Red Haylet cow. (signed in duplicate)

Alfred Millard

John Millard

Albert Huxley (attested)

C.A. Tullar - Town Clerk Whereas the office of Supervisors of the

May 6th

Town of Neenah has become vacant by the officer elected, Matthias Meritz, of said town having failed to qualify, we the undersigned supervisors and clerk of said town, discharge the duties of said office of supervisor until the same is filled by election. (signed in duplicate)

G.P. Vinnity – Supervisor
George H. Mansur – Supervisor
(attest)

C.A. Tullar – Town Clerk

November 1881

To Geo Haslow – Chairman of the Town of Neenah

I hereby resign the Office of Town Clerk for the following reason. I intend to move out of the town and request the acceptance of my resignation.
Dated this 12th day of November 1881.

C.A. Tullar

Whereas the office of clerk of the Town of Neenah has become vacant by the resignation of C.A. Tullar, we the undersigned town board do hereby appoint J.C. Enos of said town to discharge the duties of said office until the same is filled by election. (signed)

Geo Haslow

George Zenkar

Geo Haniel



Glenn Armstrong is a town of Neenah Supervisor and a long-time member and former Chief of the Town Fire Department.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

full page-\$240

half page-\$120

1/4 page-\$60

1/8 page-\$30

This newsletter is circulated quarterly to all Town of Neenah property owners. Call the Town Hall at (920) 725-0916 for information.

Wisconsin Fireworks Laws and Regulations

As we look forward to the warmer days of summer and the many outdoor activities that come with it, many of us may be already looking forward to the long 4th of July weekend and planning activities or family get-togethers. Included below are excerpts from the State of Wisconsin laws regarding the use of fireworks and what is legal and what is illegal,



What Fireworks are legal? State law allows the sale, possession and use, without a permit, of sparklers not exceeding 36 inches in length, stationary cones and fountains, toy snakes, smoke bombs, caps, noisemakers, confetti poppers with less than ¼ grain of explosive mixture, and novelty devices that spin or move on the ground. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(1)*. There is no age restriction on sale, possession or use of these devices and the statute does not classify them as fireworks. **These are the only kinds of “fireworks,” as that word is commonly used, that a person may use or possess without a permit or that may be sold to a person who does not have a permit.**

What Fireworks are illegal? Possessing or using any other fireworks, including, for example, firecrackers, roman candles, bottle rockets and mortars, in Wisconsin without a valid permit is illegal. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(3)*. A commonly used rule of thumb is that a permit is required if the device explodes or leaves the ground. The sale of these restricted fireworks to a resident of this state without a valid permit is also illegal. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(2)*. **Only the jurisdiction, where the fireworks are to be used can issue a permit for use. The Town of Neenah has not and does not intend to issue permits for fireworks use**

by individuals or groups. With this in mind, fireworks use in the Town of Neenah is illegal.

What are the penalties for using fireworks without a permit? A person who possesses or uses fireworks without a valid permit, or who sells fireworks to a person who does not have a valid permit, is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(9)(b)*. Each firework illegally possessed, used or sold may be a separate violation. A parent or guardian who allows a minor to possess or use fireworks (not including those for which no permits are required) is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(9)(c)*. A city, village or town may obtain an injunction prohibiting a person from violating *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(8)(a)*. Violations of such an injunction are criminal misdemeanors, subject to up to 9 months in jail and a \$10,000 fine. *Wis. Stat. § 167.10(9)(a)*.

What should I do if I see or hear fireworks being used near my home? Hopefully, if it is a neighbor, you can have a reasonable conversation with them and ask them to stop. If that is not effective, you may want to call the Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department. Obviously calling law enforcement on a neighbor may not be the best option for long term relations with an individual and hopefully the initial conversation will help you get your point across so that they understand your concerns.

The use of fireworks is dangerous and each year there are many emergency room visits that may have been avoided had better judgment been used. In addition, across the state there have been several serious fires from smoldering debris falling onto roofs and vehicles. Several years ago in the city of Madison, a large apartment building was destroyed by fire as the result of illegal fireworks use.

In closing, the best and safest option to view fireworks is to attend one of the many municipal displays in the area, which are put on by professionals and supervised by local police and fire agencies.

Building Permits

(Projects valued at \$1,000 or more)

January 2014

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>JOB</u>	<u>COST</u>
Bowers/Delikowski	1710 Oakridge Ln.	Remodel	\$17,000
Charles Electric	1710 Oakridge Ln.	Electric	\$2,000
Behnke/Sure Dry	153 Plummer Ct.	Foundation Repair	\$13,811
Waite	492 Maple Ln.	HVAC	\$3,138
Hoffman-Strobel	1642 S. Park Ave.	New House	\$400,000
Behring	715 Terra Cotta Dr.	Remodel	\$8,000

February 2014

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>JOB</u>	<u>COST</u>
Catlin/Modern			
Sheet Metal	1535 S. Park Ave.	HVAC	\$2,295
Boardwalk Builders	1307 Birch Bark Ln. Lot 35	New Home	\$200,000
Toepper/Anderson			
Heating	786 Harvard Dr.	HVAC	\$2,200
Olson	1351 Harvest Moon Dr.	Remodel	\$10,000

March 2014

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>JOB</u>	<u>COST</u>
Schaefer	787 Milkweed Ct.	Remodel	\$3,000
Broyer Prop. LLC	916 Bayview Rd.	Remodel	\$30,000
Hoffman/Strobel	1638 S. Park Ave.	New House	\$375,000

Those poor little brown signs

We don't need to be reminded what a long, cold, and snowy winter we had. Can you imagine being your little brown 911 sign, all alone at the end of your drive? First he gets battered by the wind, then the road plow, and then you push snow against him when cleaning your own drive! Maybe you could consider adopting him and giving him a little tender loving care. Make sure he is straight, the post isn't bent, and the view of him isn't blocked by trees, brush, or anything else. Maybe you even have an elderly neighbor whose sign you could adopt! If you take care of him yourself, it won't cost you anything. It may even help the ambulance find your home if you have a medical emergency. If you have a fire it will help our volunteer firemen find your home. Your little brown 911 sign thanks you for the TLC.

THE
**HONEY DO LIST
MAN**



CALL MARK

920-202-1284

honeydolistmanbuzz@hotmail.com

Licensed & Insured

Competent-Local

***Bathroom remodeling *Home Improvement *Handyman
Services *Free Estimates *Door Installation**

On Facebook and Neenahhandyman.com

**"Give me a buzzzz.....but please don't call me
honey."**



Renew Our Waters

Every choice counts.

The Perfect Lawn

You can create a beautiful outdoor space and protect our waters

A gorgeous home landscape doesn't need to come at the price of clean lakes and streams. We can have both. But to make it happen, we all need to think a little differently. Read these tips. Post this sheet in your garage near the lawnmower and garden tools. This will help us change one habit at a time, so we have good fishing, swimming, paddling and waterskiing when the work is done.

MOWING

Mow often, when the grass is 3.5 inches or shorter. Set your mower blade at 2.5 inches and let cuttings fall. Cuttings keep the soil moist and restore nutrients over time. Any mower works, but a mulching mower shreds grass finely, so you don't have to be as careful about grass height.

A healthy, mulched lawn outcompetes weeds for light, nutrients, and water. In areas where it's hot, consider prairie grasses or wild flowers instead of turf grass.

Make an effort not to blow cuttings onto pavement. If you do, sweep them up, then lay them around the roots of shrubs or vegetable plants where they help retain moisture.

If grass gets long and you decide to collect clippings, put them in a pile with other yard waste and let them decompose. Turn the pile now and then, and in 3-6 months you'll have rich organic matter that will make almost anything in your yard grow better.

FERTILIZING & WEED CONTROL

Chemicals and weed killers are not needed for a healthy lawn, and they're one of the main reasons we have green algae in our lakes and streams.

Think before you buy. Get a soil test so you know if your lawn needs more nutrients. Mulch to keep the lawn healthy, so it can outcompete weeds for light, nutrients and water. If you must fertilize, do it in the fall. Sweep up fertilizer that falls in the street and dispose of it properly—water and fertilizer that go into the street go directly to the river or lake.

WATERING

When watering is needed, use a sprinkler that shoots low to the ground. Sprinkle soil, not the street. Shape soil so water will sink in, rather than run off. When you mow, mulch cuttings to retain moisture.

Stormwater is rain or snowmelt and water from things people do, like overwatering the lawn or letting fertilizer fall into the street drain. We can choose products carefully and shape our lawns and pavement so water sinks in. When we do, runoff is reduced, pollutants filter out and streams and groundwater are protected.

Untreated runoff is the biggest threat to our nation's water quality, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Let's make the small, important changes that will reduce that threat and improve water quality and our lives!

Realize

What touches the ground enters the water

Open Book and Board of Review coming in May



Questions regarding your property assessment can be made at the Open Book session at the Town Hall between 1:00-3:00 p.m. on May 15th to meet with Bowmar Appraisals. Open Book is a walk-in, informal discussion with our Town Assessor who will explain your property assessment and make possible adjustments.

What is Open Book?

It is a period of time that the records and assessor must be available to the people. Property owners can ask questions regarding how assessment was determined and to check that characteristics of the property are correct. Minor errors and misunderstandings can often be easily corrected at the Open Book session.

What if I don't agree with my assessment?

It is highly recommended to first meet with the assessor at the Open Book session before appealing to the Board of Review. If you still think the assessment is incorrect, first provide notice of intent to file an objection. Call the Town Clerk (729-0916) to get the form that MUST be completed at least 48 hours before the Board of Review. The Clerk will schedule a time for you to meet with the Board of Review. The Board of Review will meet on May 29th from 1:00-3:00

2014 Construction Season

Street and storm sewer construction on South Park Avenue from Secretariat Lane south to Adella Beach Road is budgeted for 2014. Construction of the remaining portion is planned for 2015.

The Town is also planning for storm water work on Limekiln Road during the 2014 construction season. Road improvements which will be necessary following this work are budgeted for 2015.

Spring Time is Crime Time!

By Winnebago County Sheriff's Office

The warmer weather also brings an increase in property crimes committed throughout Winnebago County. Property crimes have been the most reported incidents that have been victimizing our residents over the summer months. Of those property crimes, thefts, burglaries, and damage to property have been the most common.

Some interesting facts from the property crimes that were reported:

- A majority of the theft complaints were vehicles being entered either in parking lots or driveways.
- In the burglaries and thefts, almost half reported no force being used to gain entry.
- Most of the items taken from these incidents are those that can be easily removed, i.e., i-pods, cell phones, money, electronics, etc...

Common sense is our best defense and by following a few simple precautions it can help prevent any one of these crimes from occurring. Remember to always:

- Lock the doors and roll up the window tightly, even when running a quick errand
- Keep your purse, cell phone, and other valuables out of sight. Lock them in the trunk or take them with you.
- Do NOT leave personal identification or credit cards in your vehicle
- Mark expensive accessories with your driver's license number
- Never leave your keys in an unattended vehicle
- Park in a well lit area with pedestrian traffic
- If you have a garage, use it. Lock both the vehicles and the garage
- Be sure to remove automatic garage door openers from the car



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Neenah, Wisconsin 54956

REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Town Hall beginning at 7PM. Special meetings may be held on other days and times.

Town Board of Supervisors
2nd & 4th Mondays

Town Plan Commission
3rd Monday

Town Parks & Trails Committee
1st Monday (April thru October)

~TOWN OF NEENAH REMINDERS~

***BURNING:** Burning is permitted in the Town of Neenah, but the Fire Department requests that you use common sense (dryness and wind are always factors to consider), and that you call the Winnebago County Sheriff's office non-emergency number (236-7300#0) before and after burning to avoid false alarms. Please be considerate of your neighbors when burning, making sure the smoke isn't blowing in their direction. Burning garbage is prohibited.

***MINUTES AND AGENDAS:** Town minutes and agendas are posted on the Town website www.townofneenah.com and are also available at the Town Hall during regular business hours.

***ADDRESS SIGNS:** Homeowners are responsible for maintaining the emergency address signs placed in front of their homes by the Town. Assure that the sign remains visible by keeping brush and snow away from the sign. Also, do not remove or relocate the sign.

***OBSTRUCTING RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND DRAINAGE DITCHES:** You cannot place a fence or greenery in the Town's road right-of-way. No part of a mailbox should extend over the paved portion of the road. In addition, culverts and drainage ditches must be kept clear of obstructions and must not be filled in. If you have a question about water drainage issues or the right-of-way, call Town Chairman Robert Schmeichel.

***BUILDING PERMITS:** All building permits are issued by Building Inspector Gary Klinka (727-9200). Permits are needed to construct a fence or build a deck. If you aren't sure you need a permit, check with Gary.

***RECYCLING:** All town recycling is picked up every-other-week, depending on where you live. All recyclables to be picked up must fit inside the container provided by Advanced Disposal. They will not pick up bagged or boxed items, or recyclables in other containers. Please do not wrap items with string

or place anything inside plastic bags. Electronics, waste oil, and other materials may not be placed with your recyclable or in the trash.

***DOG REMINDER:** All Town of Neenah dogs must be licensed. The license is issued by the clerk/treasurer. The cost for neutered/spayed dogs is \$5, all others are \$10. Dogs cannot run at large. They must be confined to your property or on a leash and under your control if off the property. NOTE: Leashed dogs are allowed in the Town parks provided you immediately pick up any waste.

***Deer/Wildlife Problems:** The Town has no authority to handle wildlife problems. If you see a dead animal on the road call the County sheriff at 236-7300, ext. 8. If you have other wildlife problems, call a pest/wildlife control service.



