

Town of Neenah

# Today

**2018 Budget Public Hearing and  
Meeting of Town Electors**  
**Monday, Nov. 13, 2017**  
**7 p.m.**

Vol. 20, Issue 3, Fall 2017 1600 Breezewood Lane, Neenah - 920-725-0916

Website: [www.townofneenah.com](http://www.townofneenah.com), email: [ellen@townofneenah.com](mailto:ellen@townofneenah.com)

## **CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER:**



**Town Chairman  
Bob Schmeichel**

Hello and welcome to your "Chairman's Chatter" newsletter Fall addition. As I write this, today is September 11<sup>th</sup>, what many refer to as Patriots' Day. I remember where I was and what I was doing at that very moment in time. It is and will be forever emblazoned in my mind. I will talk more about this in my end of article "Facts".

Ah yes, it is that time of year when your town board deliberates on how we are going to spend your tax dollars for the coming year. The

town board, park board, stormwater utility, and sanitary district utility, all have open budget meetings and budget meeting workshops. Should you have a question or a concern about issues in any of these meeting, please contact the town clerk, myself, or one of the town board supervisors. Your issue of concern can then be brought to the attention of those in their respective budget meeting.

Also at this writing, (as per our Wisconsin Towns Executive Director) "town road transportation aid is still a sticking point. Funding for town roads is critical and there is not an acceptable option that includes a long-term fix with significant revenue increases for town roads". The Wisconsin State Governor last fall stated that aid would be coming for town roads however he opposed any form of new taxes. It appears that there may be an increase in state road aids to \$2,389 per mile which is approximately an 8.5% raise over last year. Does this help? Certainly. Is it a fix with a significant revenue increase for our town roads? We still need a lot of revenue to help to curb the rate that our town roads are deteriorating. As I have stated numerous times, although there are many town budget issues to be dealt

with, the town budget for maintaining our roads is the most challenging of any.

Please refer to the article in this newsletter about "Roads".

As we move the calendar year into my favorite season, fall, I would ask each and every one of us to take time to be proud of our surroundings here in our Town. While still maintaining many areas of "green space", our town has been evolving to an urban-town setting. With that comes the actuality of more neighborhoods and close-by neighbors. Let's all respect these settings and help one another clean up unsightly junk items, unkept landscape areas (aside from naturally wooded sites) and recognize the hazards of burning fall leaf litter.

Our annual Firemen's picnic was a very successful one. Thanks to the many residents that showed up in support of our fine men and women who make up our volunteer fire department. I applaud their dedication.

### **Now for the "Facts":**

Patriot's Day commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord, which were fought near Boston Massachusetts, in 1775. These were two of the earliest battles in the American Revolutionary War. The American Revolutionary War, also known as the American War of Independence, was a major step in the independence of the United States. The first battles in this war were fought in the areas of Lexington and Concord, on April 19th, 1775. For this reason, the third Monday in April is symbolic for the emerging independence of the new country. Paul Revere is among the patriots who are remembered on Patriot's Day.

*This should not be confused with Patriot Day, which is held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, to mark the anniversary of terrorist attacks in the USA in 2001.*

*Chairman's Chatter continued on page 6*

# Common sense guidelines to keep in mind when performing outdoor burning this fall

By Fire Chief Ed King

As the days of summer slowly fade away and the temperatures slide in the wrong direction, many of us may be doing a number of clean-up chores around the yard this fall. Many of those chores may involve the burning of yard debris.

***Here are some common sense guidelines that you may want to keep in mind.***

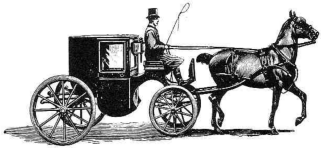
1. Never burn garbage, plastic, roofing materials, vinyl siding, tires or other products that may contain petroleum products. All of these items are prohibited by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and violate Clean Air Regulations. Fines can be very costly when the DNR is involved in a burning complaint.
2. Avoid burning grass clippings. The smoke from grass clippings is normally very thick and will more than likely upset those living nearby. Leaf burning is also something that should be avoided if possible, as leaves smolder for long periods of time and the smoke can also cause concerns for your neighbors.
3. Avoid creating large piles of materials to be burned and avoid burning after dark. Large fires can cause concerns to those residents that may see a fire in the distance and during nighttime hours, fires are obviously visible from greater distances. Keeping this in mind will avoid calls to 911 and having the Fire



Fire Chief Ed King

Department dispatched to investigate. If the fire is large enough and viewed as unsafe the fire will be extinguished.

4. Burn only when there is little or no wind. Any breeze can carry burning embers from a fire a significant distance and cause issues for other residents. Our guideline is there should not be any burning when winds are greater than seven (7) miles per hour.
5. Keep all fires, including recreational fires, away from all buildings, automobiles, boats or camping equipment. Each year the Fire Department responds to larger fires caused when a small fire involves other materials that are close by.
6. When you are burning, the fire must be attended at all times. Failure to attend to a fire is a violation of the Town's Burning Ordinance and will cause the fire to be extinguished by the Fire Department.
7. **Never use an accelerant to start a fire.** Using a flammable liquid like gasoline can cause a fire to actually explode into flames and can cause serious injury to anyone starting a fire or those nearby.
8. Be sure to contact the non-emergency number (920-236-7300 say "officer") for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and provide your name and address and let them know you are performing a "controlled burn". Please be sure to let them know when you are finished with your burning as well.



## The Good Ol' Days

By Supervisor Glenn Armstrong

### September 27, 1916 - Special Town Board Meeting

Meeting held at clerk's office. Full board present, to accept donation from the City of Neenah of \$600.00, and sign two notes of \$600.00 each, to advance the county and states portion, in order to do work scheduled for 1917, and complete the work in 1916. No further business addressed, meeting adjourned.

### April 10, 1920 – Meeting of the New Town Board

The new board met at Neenah State Bank, City of Neenah. Anton Miller the duly elected chairman, refused to serve. Frank Merrill, the former chairman agreed to continue to serve.

Chris Mortensen and J.W. Armstrong took the Oath of Office as Supervisors. W.H. Wilms took the Oath of Office as Assessor, George Weinman took the Oath of Office as Constable, Chris Christensen took the Oath of Office as Treasurer, Ed Muttart took the Oath of Office as Clerk.

A Board of Health was appointed with three members, J.W. Armstrong as Chairman, Chris Christensen as Health Officer, and Ed Muttart as Clerk.

### May 10, 1920 – Special Meeting of Town Board

Full Board present; Frank Merrill took the Oath of Office as Chairman, in place of Anton Miller, who refused to serve.

Motion made and seconded to pay \$6.00 per day for a man, his horse team, and wagon for work on the highways. Motion carried. Motion made and seconded to pay men \$3.00 per day for working on the highway, motion carried. Motion made and seconded to raise tax of three mills on the assessed valuation of Town, as a highway tax, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

### September 7, 1920 – Town Board Meeting

Resolution appointing Harold Wrendbrelar, as police officer of the Town of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, and authorizing and empowering him to make arrests for the violation of State Law, and ordinances of Winnebago County relative to speed regulations of motor vehicles.



Supervisor Glenn Armstrong

## Town of Neenah

1600 Breezewood Ln  
Neenah, WI 54956  
Email: [ellen@townofneenah.com](mailto:ellen@townofneenah.com)  
Town Population: 3,435

### Chairman

Robert Schmeichel - 729-5995

### Supervisors

Glenn Armstrong - 722-3355

Brooke Cardoza – 727-1750

Jan DeKeyser - 725-3284

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 Wilde - 725-0014

### Parks and Trails Committee Chairman

Dave Bluma – 428-4595

### Weed Commissioner

Dave Bluma - 428-4595

### Newsletter

Pam Winek - 428-0768

### Sanitary District Commissions

#2-President - Dan Osero - 740-5757

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

### County Board Supervisors

District 7-Bill Roh – 725-5999

District 9-Alvin Long –722-7795

District 30-Chuck Farrey – 582-7733

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Advertising rates for the Town of Neenah newsletter are:  
full page-\$240, ½ page-\$120, ¼ page-\$60, and 1/8 page-\$30.

Call the Town Hall at (920)725-0916 for information.



# Mailbox Safety

The winter season of snow plowing is approaching. Now is a good time to make sure your mailbox is properly installed and in the correct location to avoid problems during snow removal.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has guidelines for mailbox safety and the Winnebago County Highway Commission has a policy on mailboxes which states "when a mailbox is damaged during snow removal activities, Winnebago County Highway Commission will repair or replace the mailbox if and only if it was actually hit by Winnebago County equipment".

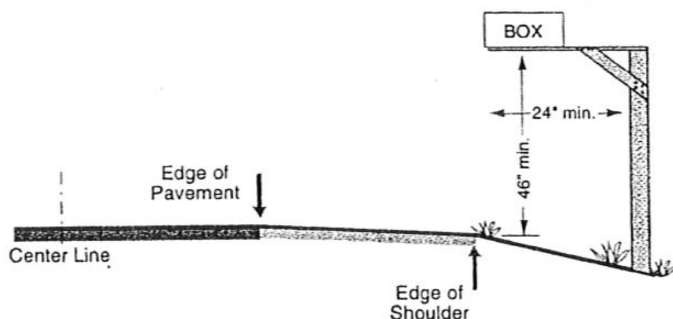
You can find the full guideline and Winnebago County Highway Commission Policy on Mailboxes on the Town of Neenah website under Community. [www.townofneenah.com](http://www.townofneenah.com)

If your mailbox is damaged during winter operations and you believe that Winnebago County Highway Department equipment hit it, please contact the Town of Neenah at 920-725-0916. A Town official will make the necessary arrangement for repairs if warranted.

## NOTICE

### Recommended Mailbox Installations

To avoid damage to your mailbox and also allow the snowplows to remove the snow from under your mailbox, the following dimensions are recommended.



Placing mailboxes a short distance away from drive-ways and intersections helps to avoid vision-restricting snowbanks and also damage to your mailbox. The box and base should be strong enough to withstand flying snow and slush from traffic and snowplows.



## Town of Neenah parks busy all year-round

Mahler Park has been home to children and adults of all ages with hours of soccer practice and many games organized by the Neenah Soccer Club and Hispanic Soccer Club. Franzoi Park, Mahler Park and Keating Park were used by the Suburban Athletics Club for their baseball games and you may have seen end of season parties in the parks where families and friends gathered to celebrate their sports season. Several activities were held in the various parks including weddings, neighborhood block parties, the Town of Neenah Firemen's Picnic with Car Show and Farm to Table Brunch and Dinner.

Conservancy Park has provided an ever-changing landscape to look at as you walk through the park. From spring to fall there is always something new blooming with interesting wildlife moving about. There are wonderful spots along the trail in Conservancy Park to stop and have a picnic or sit for a while to watch nature. The Park has been used by youth groups such as Brownies, Girls Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts for various activities and school children as an educational opportunity. You will find walkers, joggers and bicyclists on the CB Trail on a daily basis.

The Town of Neenah Parks and Trails Committee meet once a month from April – October to oversee the maintenance of our Parks and Trails. If you have any suggestions, comments or recommendations please contact one of the Parks and Trails Committee members or the Town Clerk. You will find contact information on the Town of Neenah website. [www.townofneenah.com](http://www.townofneenah.com)



Conservancy Park



## **Building Permits**

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

### **May 2017**

Ogden Development	1645 Oakridge Rd.	Storage Bldg.	\$470,975
Schwandt	1359 Harvest Moon Dr.	Shed	\$2,500
Bernard Bos	140 Woodside Ct.	Sunroom	\$6,750
Skeets Sommerfeldt	814 Sundial Ln.	Finish Basement	\$15,000
Nobbe-Drucks Plumbing	1785 Cty. Rd. A	Elec. Service Change	\$2,600
Heritage Heating & Cooling	2060 Nee-Vin Rd.	HVAC	\$8,800
Zilisch-Hometown Bldg & Remodeling	2060 Nee-Vin Rd.	Remodeling	\$23,000
Schultz-Modern Sheet Metal	128 Rickers Bay Rd.	HVAC	\$5,598

### **June 2017**

MineralsTech.-CR Meyer	901 Acco Ave.	Coal Building	\$460,000
Jaclyn Mabry	712 Milkweed Ct.	Shed	\$4,000
Nagle-Portside Builders	104 Rickers Bay Rd.	Deck	\$12,000
Zipperer-Silvertree Homes	1533 Woods Edge Ln.	New Home	\$272,000
Lionel Lloyd	172 Kuettel Ct.	Shed	\$3,000

### **July 2017**

Steve Christian	182 Plummer Ct.	Foundation Repair	\$14,000
Troy Anhalt	136 Kuettel Ct.	Shed	\$1,000
Haley Christian	107 Hedgeview Dr.	Plumbing	\$1,700
Harris-Modern Sheet Metal	513 Maple Ln.	HVAC	\$3,549

## **Road Maintenance and the 2018 Budget**

### ***How do we make it work?***

It is budget time at the Town of Neenah, and that is always a difficult time of year. The Town Board faces many difficult decisions in an effort to balance the budget. One of the biggest challenges is the roads budget. Repairs and maintenance of 27 miles of road in the Town account for about 50% of the entire budget.

As reported in the summer newsletter, over 80% of Town roads are in good to excellent condition. However, it is crucial that we maintain our budget for roads since for every dollar spent on pavement preservation, six to ten dollars in capital reconstruction costs can be saved.

Budget workshops are currently underway and the Town Board is dealing with the same questions they have for the past several years, How do we make it work? How do we balance the budget? How do we keep up with costly road repairs and maintenance? There are several options to consider:

One option is to borrow funds and increase Town debt, which is exempt from State levy limits and does not require a referendum, however borrowing money costs money, interest payments over a 10- year life of a loan can be quite costly.

A second option which is commonly used by other municipalities is to special assess road maintenance costs directly to adjacent property owners. The Town has not used this option for road maintenance as it can be a significant financial burden to a property owner.

A third option is to hold a special referendum to ask for the tax payers to exceed the State levy limit and increase taxes for road funding.

A fourth option is to reduce expenditures on road work by postponing repairs and maintenance, putting our good condition roads at risk of failure at a faster rate costing the Town more money in the long run.

A fifth option is to reduce expenditures for other services to allow for additional funding for road work. Significant cuts would be required to generate enough dollars to have an impact on road work and there simply is not room in the budget to make those types of reductions.

The Town Board has been considering these options the past several years and to date have been successful at managing the budget through reductions in spending on roads and taking funds from reserves to balance the budget.

The 2018 proposed budget will be posted on October 27<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the Public Hearing and Meeting of the Town Electors on November 13<sup>th</sup>.



Town Clerk  
Ellen Skerke

## **Clerk's Corner:**

Town Board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of the month, 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Agendas are posted on the Town of Neenah website, on the posting boards located at Town Hall, at Conservancy Park and Oakridge Place. Minutes of each meeting can be found on the website. This is a brief summary of recent Town business.

### **May 2017**

- Reappointed Phil Langohr to the Plan Commission for a three-year term.
- Reappointed Brooke Cardoza, Bill Devine and Tom Jankowski to the Parks and Trails Committee for three-year terms.
- Reappointed Dave Bluma as Weed Commissioner for a one-year term.
- Reappointed Tom Wilde to the Fox Cites Room Tax Commission for a one-year term.
- Recommended approval of a variance request at 432 Rainbow Beach Road

### **June 2017**

- Approved Fire Fighter applications for Kim Dorsey, Dale Harrison, Tyler Linehan, Joshua Luebke and Nathan Simington.
- Approved Liquor License for Green Valley Investment.
- Approved agreement with Gary Klinka for Building Inspection Services and Building Inspection Fee.
- Approved amended Ordinance Chapter 12 of the Town of Neenah Municipal Code: Town Building Code.
- Approved Intergovernmental Agreement to satisfy Eligibility for Recycling Consolidation Grant for Calendar Year 2018.
- Approved Liquor License / Cigarette and Tobacco license for Johal Food and Mart LLC.
- Approved renewal of Casualty Insurance Policy with Glatfelter Public Practice.

### **July 2017**

- Approved budget amendment to increase highway expenditures by \$16,000 for Dartmouth Drive / Stanford Drive intersection improvements.

*Chairman's Chatter continued from page 1:*

*The April 19<sup>th</sup> Patriot's Day is taught to all school kids however I would offer a guess that most of us do not remember that date, unless you would be from the states of Massachusetts and Maine, where the third Monday of April is a welcome day off work or school for some peoples. In the state of Wisconsin, April 19th is a special observance day for schools. On this date schools are required to educate students about the events and people centered on Patriots' Day. Such are the "Facts". Have a Fantastic Fall. And Go "Brewers, Badgers, and Packers"*

Bob Schmeichel  
Town Chairman

## ***Security Cameras in Our Parks***

Town of Neenah has experienced numerous acts of vandalism in our parks that have costed tax payer dollars to clean up and repair. In an effort to deter and potentially identify the vandals, several trail cams have been installed at Mahler, Franzoi and Keating Parks with a focus on the areas where the vandalism has been taking place. Since installation, vandalism has been reduced. All cameras have recently had an identification label added to them to identify them as Town of Neenah property. Winnebago County Sheriff's Department is aware of the trail cams in our Parks and the footage from the cameras will be used only in an instance of vandalism with the intent of identifying time and person(s) involved.

THE

# HONEY DO LIST MAN

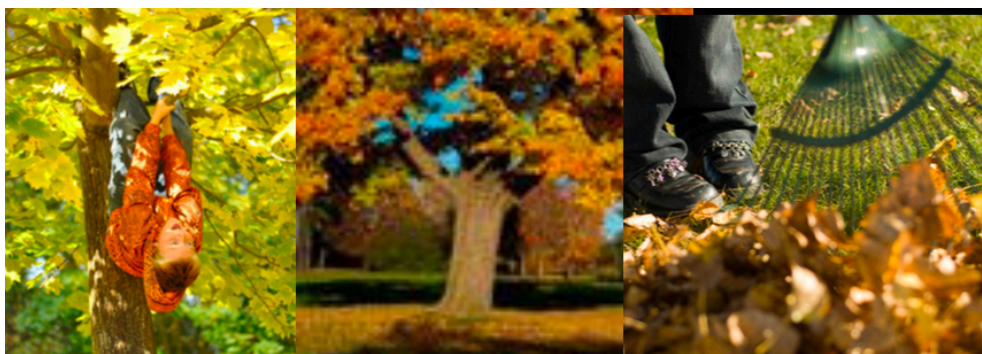


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**On Facebook and Neenahhandyman.com**

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



# Renew Our Waters

*Every choice counts.*

## Leave your Leaves on Land

Fall leaves provide beautiful color on trees, but in local waters they contribute to green algae blooms - not so pretty.

Cleaning up your yard in the fall properly will help keep our local waters clean too! Read these tips. Post this sheet in your garage near your rakes. Working together to keep leaves out of the storm drain and out of local waters will help keep green on the land and out of the water.

### KEEP YOUR LEAVES ON YOUR PROPERTY

A great way to make sure leaves do not end up in local waters is to keep them on your property!

Mulch leaves in place by making several passes over the leaves with a mulching mower. This will keep leaves on your lawn and provide it with nutrients it needs for healthy grass next spring.

### Composting is recycling your lawn trimmings and turning them into a valuable resource for your garden or houseplants!

Collect leaves and spread them in garden beds or under shrubs. Here leaves provide valuable protection for plants through the winter.

#### COMPOSTING

Composting is recycling your lawn trimmings and turning them into a rich soil, known as compost - a valuable resource for your garden or houseplants.

Cold composting requires little maintenance but can take up to 2 years to complete. To create a cold

compost pile, mix non-woody yard wastes and let them sit.

Hot composting requires regular maintenance such as turning and watering. Typically, compost can be reached in 1-3 months. To create a hot compost pile, layer or mix roughly equal amount of high nitrogen "Greens" (wet and soft materials, like grass clippings) and high-carbon "Browns" (dry and woody, like dead leaves) with 10% bulky materials (wood chips) to keep the pile loose.

All materials in the pile must stay moist, but not soaking wet. Add water to maintain conditions conducive to the composting process. Turn the pile often.

#### RAKING & COLLECTION

If you decide to collect your leaves for removal from your yard, follow your community leaf collection policies and schedules. Put a tarp over leaf piles between pick-up times to prevent them from blowing away. Remove leaves and debris from the gutters and storm sewer outlets.

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!

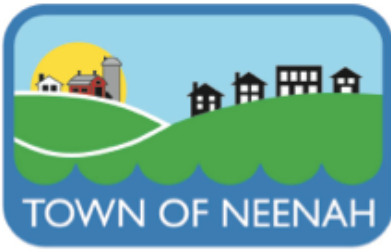
## Realize

What touches the ground enters the water

Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium  
P.O. Box 1861 Appleton, WI 54912 | 920.858.4246

[RenewOurWaters.org](http://RenewOurWaters.org)





1600 Breezewood Lane  
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  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays

Town Plan Commission  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

Town Parks & Trails Committee  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday April through October

- **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 say "officer") before and after burning to avoid false alarms. Please be considerate of your neighbors when burning, making sure that smoke isn't blowing in their direction. Burning garbage is prohibited as well as any petroleum-based products.
- **MINUTES AND AGENDAS:** Town minutes and agendas are posted on the Town website, three posting locations 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.
- **BUILDING PERMITS:** All building permits are issued by Building Inspector Gary Klinka (920-727-9200). Information about permits can be found on the website [www.townofneenah.com/building-permits/](http://www.townofneenah.com/building-permits/).
- **DEER/WILDLIFE:** The Town has no authority to handle wildlife problems. If you have wildlife problems, call a pest/wildlife service.
- **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 not be filled in. If you have a question about water drainage issues or the right-of-way, contact Town Chairman Robert Schmeichel.
- **HOLIDAY CHANGES:** Trash and Recycling collection will be delayed until Friday on the following Holiday weeks: Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.