



# Acorn

## What's New in Oak Creek ?



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

### Oak Creek Fire Station #3



Fire Chief Gerard Hammernik

Oak Creek's Fire Station #3, located at 7000 S. 6th Street, was officially dedicated on January 19, 2001. This facility was designed to improve our overall response time.

(see article on page 15)

Fire Station # 3



### INSIDE:

The Mayor's Desk .....	2	Police Dept .....	10,11
Parks & Recreation .....	3,4	Voting\Bridge Repair .....	12
Health Dept .....	5	City Forestry .....	13,14
Water Utility .....	6,7	Fire Dept .....	15
Library .....	8	City Calendar .....	16
Misc .....	9		



Dale Richards

# FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

## DAMPER DOWN!

Let's hope we don't see any more snow this year. December's snowfall and January's cold streak have really put a damper on everybody's resources and utility bills. February's heavy rain didn't help matters either. Our first major rain event of the year and Ryan Road flooded out again. I was terribly disappointed until I found out that it was not a design problem. My understanding was that it was an electrical malfunction, tied to the lightning during the storm. According to Kevin Schaefer from Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, after the system was reset and the pumps were turned on, the water on Ryan receded in just 80 seconds. Not bad!

Weather is not the only thing that put a damper on things. Residential single-family development ended last year with only 9 new building permits issued in both November and December, and 191 total for the year. Now I am sure that this slowdown is market driven, but it certainly comes as a welcome relief compared to the 206 in 1999, and is the lowest yearly total since we hit 313 back in 1994. January started this year with 11 permits. On the other hand, commercial development was fairly strong last year with a total of 18 new building permits with an estimated value of approximately \$14,700,000. I would suspect that this year's economics would see some pull back in this area as well.

Our firefighters are all walking around with pretty big smiles these days, as they opened up a new fire station just north of 6th and Rawson Avenue. Stop in and take a look around. While this new facility cost \$2,100,000, I think you will see that we got a pretty good bang for our buck on this one! By the way, we didn't borrow any money to pay for this either!

The police station siting committee is in the process of finalizing an architect. Staff is working on the details of some land swaps with Milwaukee County for putting the new station on County property in the vicinity of about the 400 block of W. Ryan Road. The

expectation is to be moving dirt by fall. The cost for this facility won't be as cheap. The sticker price on this one will be in the range of \$12,000,000, depending on options such as a court room, shooting range and repair area. Unfortunately, we will definitely have to borrow for this one.

Our comprehensive plan and our stormwater master plan are going back to committee for one last kick at the cat since we held a number of public hearings and meetings on these issues. My hope is that they are both resolved by summer.

Our Community Development Authority has initiated a Redevelopment Committee that has been approved by Council for the Carrollville area. This committee is made up of residents and businesses from the area to investigate action plans for the redevelopment of this area adjacent to Lake Michigan and Bender Park. More to come about this group in the future, as we take a hard look at what needs to be done in this very important area.

My personal thanks and best wishes go out to our retiring Water & Sewer Utility Manager, Donnie Ashbaugh. He leaves after 40 years of dedication and management excellence. He walked on water in my eyes. While Donnie retired on February 1, he wasn't gone 2 weeks and I was notified that he pulled another hat trick! This time our Utility is getting national recognition and has been nominated for some Engineering Excellence Awards in Washington DC. It is for their research and development of "Aquifer Storage Recovery". I mentioned this to you at the end of last year. The process utilizes underground storage, via one of our own backup wells, to store processed Lake Michigan water for meeting peak customer demand. This could save millions of dollars in the elimination of future above ground storage towers. The implications of this process reach beyond our local and state boundaries. Great Job Donnie, Steve Yttri, Dan Duchniak, Bob Kuehn & Pat Francis!

*Dale*

### Home Improvement Loans are Available

Low or no interest loans are available to income eligible households for various improvements to their homes. Based on the numbers in the table on the right, a household would be eligible if its total annual income is less than the maximum amount shown per family size.

If you feel your household is eligible, please contact [Paul Milewski](#) with the Department of Community Development at [768-6527](tel:768-6527), or stop in at the City Hall for an application.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Total Annual Family Income</u>
1 .....	\$33,250
2 .....	\$38,000
3 .....	\$42,750
4 .....	\$47,500
5 .....	\$51,300
6 .....	\$55,100
7 .....	\$58,900
8+ .....	\$62,750



# Parks and Recreation

Our 2001 summer program guide will be delivered beginning approximately May 3rd. Booklets will be available in the office, Library and Community Center beginning May 8th if you don't have yours. Call us at [768-6515](tel:768-6515) for information on classes, etc.

visite swim skills test. The cost is \$60 for residents, \$90 for non-residents. Persons seeking employment by the department as Lifeguards should contact the office to learn how they can take this course for free!

## Youth Baseball/Softball Programs:

## Senior Citizens Club:

Members of the Oak Creek Parks & Recreation Senior Citizens Club look forward to the arrival of spring.

Travel opportunities include: Potawatomi Bingo & Casino, Trimborn Farm tour and luncheon, and The Fireside Restaurant/Theatre in Fort Atkinson.

Mayfest luncheon, weekly card socials and numerous other activities are available for your enjoyment.



Program Coordinator, Georgene Gabelbauer, invites newcomers to attend any Monday meeting. Visit her at the Oak Creek Community Center Tuesday through Thursday,

or call [768-5850](tel:768-5850) for additional information.



Registration flyers for all youth baseball and softball will be distributed in April through the school offices. The programs offer instructional clinics followed by summer practices and league games.

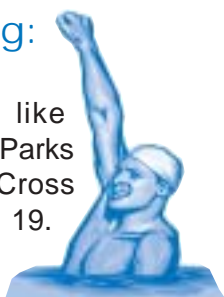
- [Tee Ball:](#) for boys & girls ages 4-1/2 (when registration opens) thru Grade 1 (youth in grade 2 may participate)
- [Rookie Ball:](#) for youth in grades 1, 2 & 3
- [Girl's Elementary Softball:](#) for girls in grades 3, 4, 5 & 6
- [Elementary Baseball:](#) for boys & girls in grades 3, 4, 5 & 6
- [7th & 8th Grade:](#) Students who are interested in playing baseball or softball should call the Recreation Department. We will organize a league as soon as we have enough names.

## Other Activities:

Don't forget Golf lessons available for youth (11-16) and adults, and tennis instruction for youth (8 & up) and adults this spring and summer. We also offer summer golf and tennis leagues, swim instruction, and drama. Be sure to see our summer program booklet that will be available in May for all of this summer's program offerings. There is still room available in our new Tree Care Workshop scheduled for May 3rd & 5th.

## Lifeguard Training:

Do you like to swim? Do you like people? Do you need a job? Oak Creek Parks & Recreation is offering the Red Cross Lifeguarding class April 21 through May 19. Participants must be 15 by the first day of class and able to complete the prereq-



## Softball Leagues:

Adult Softball Leagues - both inseam and outseam - are being offered on weekday evenings. Co-rec, Men's, Women's, Men's 35 & Over and Men's 45 & Over leagues are scheduled to begin the week of April 23rd. Team entry fee is \$160 for inseam and \$140 for outseam leagues, plus a \$19 non-resident player fee and \$8 resident player fee.

Senior High Softball Leagues are scheduled to begin the second week in June. Team entry fee is \$80 with a \$7 non-resident fee for those students attending the Oak Creek High School, but living outside the City of Oak Creek.

## Playground Program:

A summer playground program will be offered for youth in Grades K-6. Playgrounds are tentatively scheduled to start Monday, June 11th, at West Middle School and various elementary schools. Please see the playground flyer and our summer program book available in May for the schedule of dates, times and locations.

For more information, contact the Recreation office at 768-6515.



## Employment:

The Oak Creek Parks & Recreation Department is accepting applications for part-time personnel for the following programs:

Playground Leaders/Specialists  
Youth baseball/softball coaches & umpires  
Golf Instructor  
Adult Softball League Umpires/Field Supervisors  
Youth Dance instructor (summer)  
Aerobics/fitness instructors  
Tennis instructor  
Swim instructors  
Lifeguards

*If interested stop in the office (east wing of City Hall) Monday through Friday and fill out an application.*

## Miller Park Pavilion Rental:

Residents may obtain a use-permit for Miller Park & pavilion for family picnics, small weddings, meetings, etc., from the Parks & Recreation office. The current facility rental fee is \$60 in addition to a \$25 security deposit (refundable after inspection of facility and surrounding area).

# Explore Wisconsin



## W.P.R.A. DISCOUNT TICKET PROGRAM

The Oak Creek Parks and Recreation Department will be selling **discount tickets** starting the **FIRST WEEK OF MAY THROUGH AUGUST 31st.** for the following:

### Familyland:

\$15.50 *-(2 & under free)* Save \$9.89

### Great America:

\$31.50 *(adult 48" & taller)* Save \$8.50  
July 8-14 only! \$24.25 *adult* Save \$15.75  
(We do not sell children's tickets)

### House on the Rock:

\$16.00 *(adult)* Save \$3.50  
\$ 9.50 *(7-12)* Save \$2.00  
\$ 4.50 *(4-6)* Save \$1.00 *(3 & under Free)*

### Milw. County Zoo:

\$ 6.50 *(adult)* Save \$2.50  
\$ 4.50 *(3-12)* Save \$1.50 *(2 & under Free)*

### Noah's Ark:

\$21.50 - *(2 & under free)* Save \$6.05

### Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf (18 holes):

\$4.75 - *(5 & under free)* Save \$1.74

### Tommy Bartlett Thrill Show:

\$11.50 *(youth & adult)* Save \$3.80  
*(5 & under free if held on adult's lap)*

### Tommy Bartlett Robot World:

\$6.50 - *(5 & under free)* Save \$3.50

### Upper Dells Boats:

\$11.00 *(adult)* Save \$5.75  
\$7.00 *(6-11)* Save \$2.00 *(5 & under free)*

### Wisconsin Ducks:

\$14.00 *(adult)* Save \$2.00  
\$8.25 *(6-11)* Save \$0.50 *(5 & under free)*

### Riverview Park & Waterworld:

\$10.75 - *(5 & under free)* Save \$7.50

### Shipwreck Lagoon:

\$4.25 - *(2 & under free)* Save \$2.50

Cash only - **No Credit Cards or Checks Accepted.**



# Health Department

## NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND SAFETY FAIR

Our Maternal/Child Health grant focus this year will be on children 2½ - 3½ years of age. It will include a developmental screening. Based on the response we received from the survey in the last issue of the Acorn, our topics will include Child Development, Nutrition, Home Safety, and education classes on preventing child abuse and domestic violence.

Our first Neighborhood Development and Safety Fair will be held April 18 from 9-11 a.m. at the Oak Creek City Hall. A gift will be given to each child that participates. Call 768-6525 to reserve your child's participation in this program.

## IMMUNIZATION UPDATES

Hepatitis B Reminder - All students except grades 5 and 12, will be required to have the Hepatitis B series. Those entering Kindergarten and grade 7 in the fall need to start the three dose series if it has not already been received. Waivers are available for religious, health, and personal conviction reasons, if you choose not to immunize your child. However in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, students with waivers may be excluded from school until the outbreak subsides.



PREVNAR - is the pneumonia vaccine now recommended for all children under age 5. Contact your Health Care Provider, or the Oak Creek Health Department at 768-6525, for further information. Web Resources - Do you need more information about immunizations? Try these websites approved by the Centers for Disease Control:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nip>
- <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/immunization/childimmunity.htm>
- <http://www.immunizeseniors.org>

## KINDERGARTEN HEALTH SCREENING

Is your child starting Kindergarten this fall? The Health Department is offering kindergarten screening at the Oak Creek City Hall. The screening includes a hearing test, a vision test, colorblind test, health consultations, and immunizations if needed. All children who will begin Kindergarten, are requested to complete this screening which lasts 30-45 minutes!



Call 768-6525 to set up your child's appointment.

- Thursday, **April 26** 9:00 am - 5:30 pm
- Friday, **April 27** 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
- Monday, **May 21** 9:00 am - 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, **May 22** 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW SECRETARY

On January 18th we welcomed a new secretary, Janet Hansen, to the Oak Creek Health Department. Janet has been a resident of Oak Creek for almost 22 years. Her variety of experiences in government and business, including a stint with the Racine Health Department, will be an asset to our department.

## MAMMOGRAMS

As a community service, mammograms will again be offered at the Salvation Army in April.

If you do not have health insurance or have a high deductible, you may be eligible for a free mammogram provided by the WI Well Women's Program. Income limits will apply.



Contact Nancy Alfery at 762-3993 for your appointment.



# Water and Sewer Utility

## Don Ashbaugh Retires After Nearly 40 Years of Service to Oak Creek

Dedicating nearly 40 years of his life to improving drinking water quality- both locally and around the world- Don Ashbaugh, General Manager of the Oak Creek Water and Sewer Utility and lifelong city resident retired February 2, 2001.

A crowd of more than 300 gathered at the Oak Creek Community Center to bid him a fond, at times tearful, farewell. Politicians, industry leaders, friends and family all shared their Ashbaugh experiences during the gathering, using words such as humble, visionary, cutting-edge, and dedicated, to describe the former utility head.

State Senator Richard Grobschmidt and State Representative Jeff Plale told of Ashbaugh's insightful representation of the water utility with the state legislature. Milwaukee County Supervisor LeAnn Launstein echoed their sentiment referring to his workings with the county.

Oak Creek Mayor Dale Richards, Fire Chief Jerry Hammernik and Police Chief Thomas Bauer described Ashbaugh as the prototype for city department heads. The mayor even said he never worried about the water utility, knowing Ashbaugh was at the helm.

Over the course of his career, Ashbaugh's list of accomplishments is long and distinguished.

He was elected chairman of the Wisconsin Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA)- the city's first to chair the 1,000- member organization. As chairman, he worked to educate people on the importance and value of continuous water quality improvement.

"It's important that people realize the importance of investing in our most vital resources needed for human survival- water and air," Ashbaugh often said.

Since 1961 when he joined the utility, Ashbaugh personally has witnessed the lack of clean, safe drinking water in several other countries. Through his travels as a representative of the AWWA, he brought a vast understanding of water quality issues from around the world to Wisconsin.

Ashbaugh held numerous positions within the AWWA Wisconsin Section, but none as far reaching as his involvement with the Water For People Committee. This humanitarian committee helps developing countries improve the quality of life by providing financial and technical support to sustain drinking water and sanitation.

On one occasion, Ashbaugh was part of the driving force behind fundraising, purchasing and installing a generator used to pump well water in Guatemala. Several Wisconsin

teams were sent to the Central American country to evaluate the situation.

During an unrelated trip, six weeks before the destruction of the Berlin Wall, Ashbaugh trekked to Russia to educate water operators about water treatment techniques in four cities.



Don Ashbaugh retired after nearly 40 years of ensuring Oak Creek residents received clean, safe drinking water. Renowned for his vision and drive, he leaves the Oak Creek Water and Sewer Utility as one of the best facilities in the country.

"Don Ashbaugh has his hand on the pulse of the water treatment world," exclaimed Don Voigt, a past chairman of the AWWA Wisconsin Section.

Voigt described Ashbaugh as quiet, but powerful in his ability to see the big picture and focus the attention of large groups on achieving long-term results in a quickly changing business.

"The Oak Creek Water Utility is a pioneer in new treatment technology research, including efforts to re-charge the groundwater system with lake water and using ultraviolet light as a disinfectant," Voigt added. "Utilities everywhere, including Oak Creek, have benefited from Don's active approach to research."

For his efforts, Ashbaugh has received many awards including the AWWA's highest honor, the Fuller Award. This award usually is reserved for past Wisconsin Section chairs. Remarkably, Ashbaugh received the Fuller Award in 1994, five years prior to his election as AWWA Wisconsin Section chair. This distinguished service award is presented to those who possess sound engineering skill, brilliant diplomatic talent and constructive leadership ability.

Ashbaugh took over as utility general manager in 1987. During his tenure, he has created one of the best utilities in the country through progressive strides to improve the quality of drinking water.



In 1997, the Oak Creek utility was the first in Wisconsin and one of 11 nationally to complete phase three of the Partnership for Safe Water, a water quality improvement program that targets optimized treatment plant operation beyond what is required by regulations. The Partnership for Safe Water is a cooperative effort of six organizations including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and AWWA.

Impressed program coordinators requested the Oak Creek utility serve as one of three prototypes for developing phase four. The utility currently is in contention to achieve

phase four- the highest honor- in the Partnership for Safe Water.

Under Ashbaugh's guiding hand, the utility became a pioneer in new technology research, including efforts to re-charge the groundwater system with lake water. Known as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), the process uses underground wells to store potable water. If approved by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), ASR would cost roughly half of current overhead storage methods.

The utility also became one of the first water utilities in Wisconsin to fully implement satellite technology to read its meters. This new technology provides extremely accurate, cost-effective meter reading and eliminates meter readers entering private property.

The list goes on and on, as will Ashbaugh if his words to live by are any indication of what the future holds for him, and the lives he undoubtedly will touch along the way as he has during his years in Oak Creek.

"There are 86,400 seconds in each day. Every one wasted is gone forever!"

*The following poem was read at Don Ashbaugh's retirement celebration at the Oak Creek Community Center February 2, 2001, by its author and resident poet, Rosie Czarnecki.*

### Ashbaugh Bows Out

What can we say that hasn't been said  
'Bout the Water and Sewer Utility head  
Quite a long time is 39 years  
To serve in one job, be respected by peers.

Don's won so many honors  
Too many to list or mention  
So many worthwhile causes  
Have been given his attention.

Way back in his early twenties  
He worked as a part-time aide  
And wallowed around in sewage  
We wonder what he was paid.

Don's quiet, calm demeanor  
Has brought him a long way  
His boyish smile beguiles his age  
But, his hair is turning gray.

Don played sax in the Lenotes Band  
And they played for free and pay  
They entertained at nursing homes  
To brighten the patients' day.

The Water and Sewer Utility  
Has grown by leaps and bounds  
And Don has grown right with it  
Adding only a very few pounds.

Even the nasty Crypto scare  
Didn't cause Don any fear  
He reassured the City  
That our water was safe and clear.

To prove that he's an alright guy  
He likes to socialize  
Don enjoys a beer or two  
And golfing with the guys.

They joke about his golf score  
Be his tee shots near or far  
But when it comes to job performance  
Don was always up to par.

It's not likely we'll forget Don  
And think of him with pride  
All the things that he's accomplished  
All with Karen by his side.

For it takes support of family  
When a job demands your time  
Especially when the family's young  
And you are in your prime.

Proud father of his brood  
Amy, Loni and Lyle  
He's also a grandfather  
And that fits right in his style.

And now that he's retiring  
We know he won't tread water  
But go on to enjoy his life  
And do the things he "oughter."

He's done so many things  
We could go on and on  
But most of all he's liked  
For being "just plain Don."

So what can we say to soften the blow  
Now, that Don is going  
We hope that in the future  
We can keep the water flowing.

All kidding aside, to break the tie  
Must be very hard for Don  
We wish him health and happiness  
In the retirement that he's won.

You may leave your spot on the Utility's team  
Both with sadness and with joy  
But to the people who live in Oak Creek  
You'll always be our "Water Boy."

- Rosie Czarnecki



# Oak Creek Public Library



## From the City Librarian:

### E-Mail Notification



Library patrons have been receiving recorded telephone messages for the past year or so, letting them know requested library materials are in and ready for pickup. Now, as a complement to the telephone notification system, we have added e-mail notification.

Any library patron with an e-mail address can have notices of reserve materials and overdue notices sent directly to their e-mail account. Just let library staff at the check-out desk know what your e-mail address is the next time you visit.

### "Millennium" Circulation

Oak Creek Public Library is one of two libraries in Milwaukee County currently testing the newly implemented Millennium circulation software. Library staff members enjoy the ease of this new web-based "point and click" check-in, check-out and user registration system. Nine other suburban libraries and all Milwaukee branch libraries plan to convert to the new software later this year.

### Our Busiest Year Ever

The final tally of materials checked out from the Oak Creek Public Library for 2000 is 226,917. This is an increase of 5,536 items from 1999 and is a record breaker as our busiest year ever! Together with 235,029 items checked in, 5,307 renewals and 6,973 reserves, library staff handled a staggering 474,226 transactions!



## Reciprocal Borrowing Reduced

Oak Creek residents checked out 5,530 fewer items from other libraries in 2000 than in 1999, which resulted in a savings to our city of nearly \$11,500. Anytime an Oak Creek resident borrows materials from another library, a fee is charged. By using Oak Creek Public Library materials first, patrons will continue to save their city money.

### Let's Go! Join the Reading Road Trip USA

from Jenny Wegener,  
Children's/Young Adult Librarian



Join us at the Oak Creek Public Library this summer as we take off on an exploration of all the great places you can visit through books! The 2001 Summer Library Program, "Reading Road Trip U.S.A.," is open to adventurous children age three through grade nine.

Activity programs offered include Story Time for ages 3 to 5, fun and educational programs for grade-school children, the Volunteer Club for students entering grades seven through nine, and Family Book Bingo for the entire family!

Reading clubs will include the Read-To-Me Club for pre-readers, Road Trip Readers for school age children, and Tourist Class, an exciting reading program for teens entering grades 7 to 9. All of the reading clubs reward at-home reading and listening with prizes. Studies have shown that children who read during the summer months maintain or increase their reading skills, ensuring more success in the following school year.

Summer Reading Road Trip programs for school age children will include great entertainment by Magician Joel Breen, campfire stories from wonderful Storyteller Kathy Luck, an educational and entertaining presentation from the neat people



at the Betty Brinn Children's Museum and much more. Of course, no Summer Library Program would be complete without the fabulous Ice Cream Social - this year we will feature the very funny stories and songs of Stuart Stotts. All of these great programs plus fun crafts, new books, and our terrific reading clubs are on the itinerary for this summer. Don't get left behind, take part in Reading Road Trip U.S.A. at the Oak Creek Public Library!

Program times:

Story Time (ages 3 - 5 )

*Wednesday:* 10:30 - 11:15, 1:30 - 2:15, 6:00 - 6:45

Reading Road Trip (grades 1 - 3)

*Tuesday:* 10:30 - 11:30, 12:30 - 1:30

Reading Road Trip (grades 3 - 6)

*Thursday:* 10:30 - 11:30, 12:30 - 1:30

*For more information about any of these programs, call the Library at 764-4400!*

Dates To Remember:

Summer Story Time Sign Up Begins:

Saturday, June 9

Reading Road Trip Program Sign Up Begins:

Monday, June 11

Reading Club Sign Up Begins:

Monday, June 18

Teen Reading Club Begins:

Monday, June 25



HOLIDAY  
RUBBISH/RECYCLING  
COLLECTION DAYS

DATE OF HOLIDAY

DAY OF PICK UP

Friday before Easter -

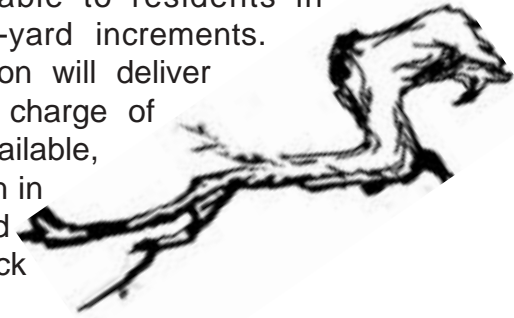
*April 13, 2001. . . . . Thursday-April 12, 2001*

Memorial Day -

*Monday - May 28, 2001. . . Friday - May 25, 2001*

BRANCH PICK-UP

Monthly branch pick-up will start April 1, 2001. Residents must have their branches placed at the curb, stacked in an orderly manner with the cut ends facing the road, prior to the first week of the month. During the first week of the month, or shortly thereafter, the City will remove the branches and process them. Resulting chips and/or mulch are available to residents in approximately 5-yard increments. The Street Division will deliver chip/mulch for a charge of \$10.00. When available, there will be mulch in the recycling yard for residents to pick up free of charge.



TOBACCO CONTROL BOARD

State law established the WI Tobacco Control Board as a result of the tobacco companies settlement. The Board's vision is "Wisconsin Residents Living Tobacco Free." Ultimately, the goal of tobacco control is to reduce the human burden of premature illness, death, and disability caused by tobacco products. Wisconsin will be focusing on the following priorities: preventing youth initiation, promoting tobacco cessation, and eliminating secondhand smoke exposure. Watch your papers and listen to the media for up-coming tobacco control events.



Now Available...



Oak Creek Logo items for sale!!!!

Show your Oak Creek spirit with t-shirts, pens, baseball caps, mugs, portfolios, polos and turtlenecks - all with the Oak Creek logo on them. Prices and sizes vary.

*Call (414) 768-6500 for more information or stop in the City Clerk's Office to view the display.*



# Police Department

## POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING PROJECT



As you may or may not know, our staff has been working hard with the Mayoral appointed "Police Station Future Needs Committee" over the past 18 months. It is our intention to keep our citizens updated on the timeline and important milestones (goals) of the building project through the Acorn and the local paper.

### Goals for March, 2001:

\**Future Needs Committee* to seek Council approval on architect recommendation.

### Goals for April, 2001:

\*Begin process on selection of a Construction Manager.

\*Begin preliminary design meetings between architect and City Building Committee.

*Any questions regarding this tentative timeline, please feel free to contact [Chief Bauer](mailto:Chief Bauer) at [768-7443](tel:768-7443).*

### Recap on progress of goals since Jan. 2001:

- \**Future Needs Committee* interviewed and recommended an Owner's Representative, Hurtado Consulting of Milwaukee.
- \**Future Needs Committee* formalized the overall vision for a new facility (document available upon request).
- \**Future Needs Committee* received Council approval to advertise for an architectural firm.
- \**Future Needs Committee* seeks Council approval of the Owner's Representative contract.
- \**Future Needs Committee* short-lists the architectural firms from those that applied.
- \**Future Needs Committee* interviews architectural firms and selects a firm for recommendation to the Common Council.

## OAK CREEK CRIMESTOPPERS

The City of Oak Creek can look forward to its own chapter of CrimeStoppers in 2001. According to Deputy Jack Mrozinski of the Portage County Sheriff's Department, "The City has grown to the point of being able to support its own chapter." Deputy Mrozinski is a member of the State of Wisconsin CrimeStoppers Board of Directors.

Previously, Oak Creek was part of Southern Milwaukee County CrimeStoppers.



Crime Prevention Officer Ron Piojda has been working closely with Deputy Mrozinski to develop and

organize a local chapter for Oak Creek. It is hoped to have everything in place and become fully operational by August of 2001.

Officer Piojda has assembled a group of concerned citizens to become the first Board of Directors for Oak Creek CrimeStoppers. This group has met on three occasions so far this year and has just recently elected its officers. The Board consists of the following members:

Scott Koenig	President
Al Foeckler	Vice President
JoAnn Stencil	Secretary
Judy Gebhard	Treasurer
Ron Piojda	Law Enforcement Coordinator
Heather Clark	Board Member
Amy Ducach	Board Member
Tom Hren	Board Member
Tina Koenig	Board Member
Ed Mittag	Board Member
Kathy Schmadl	Board Member
Steve Wilding	Board Member

If you have any questions regarding this program or would like more seatbelt information, please contact [Officer Winegarden at 762-8200](#) between 7am and 3pm.

## CITIZENS' ACADEMY

The 2001 Citizens' Academy is scheduled to begin in September. Citizens who participate are able to experience first-hand what is involved in enforcing the law and find many of their questions about the Police Department addressed. Participants meet once a week for nine weeks and are able to take part in various scenarios including traffic stops, domestic abuse intervention, officer safety, K-9 demonstrations, drug investigations and more. They also get the opportunity to ride along with an officer during their shift. *Those interested in participating in this year's academy should contact [Lt. George Artka at 762-8200](#).*

## HELP PREVENT CRIME

With the warm weather fast approaching, many people will begin to work on the exterior of their home and in their yard/garden. The Police Department would like to remind everyone to close and lock your garages and utility sheds at the end of the day and after putting away yard equipment. A little bit of extra effort can help prevent the theft of your valuables.

## NEW EMPLOYEES

The Police Department would like to welcome the following new employees and wish them good luck and a long career with us:

Officer James D. Dooley was hired on January 3, 2001. Jim, a graduate of the University of Eau Claire, came to our Department from the West Allis Police Department where he was an Emergency Services Dispatcher.



Officer Brian L. Bell was also hired on January 3, 2001. Brian came to our department from the Wisc. Army National Guard where he was temporarily assigned to the U.S. Marshal's Service as an Intelligence Analyst.



He recently completed the Recruit Training Program with the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department.

## SEATBELT ENFORCEMENT

For the second year in a row, the Oak Creek Police Department has received a grant from the National Highway Traffic Administration to enforce seatbelt laws.



The Department will be joining several other Milwaukee County jurisdictions in a cooperative effort to reduce traffic injuries and deaths by increasing safety belt and child seat usage. This special enforcement will be held at various times of the day and will target any traffic violations. Safety belt and child restraint laws will be enforced on all traffic stops. Fines for violation of the seatbelt laws range from \$10 for adults upwards to \$127.90 for children.

A \$10 fine may not cause enough incentive to buckle up, but injuries sustained during an accident without a seatbelt will change your mind. Please remember to buckle up!

## From the City Assessor:

Watch for the next issue of the Acorn for details on the City-Wide Revaluation Assessments.

# The Spring General Election will be held Tuesday, April 3, 2001.

Local offices up for election are:



Alderman, 1st District  
Alderman, 3rd District  
Alderman, 5th District  
Board of Education (2)  
(along with other State and  
County offices)

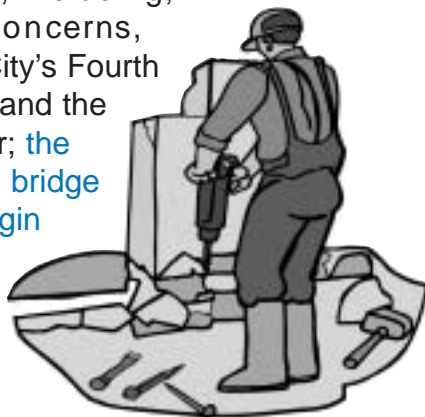
Please call the City Clerk's Office at (414) 768-6500 with questions about your correct voting location, absentee ballot information, registration information or obtaining sample ballots.

## Bridge Replacements

In a joint effort with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the City will be replacing two bridges over the Oak Creek in the summer of 2001. The bridges to be replaced are located in the 7600 block of S. Pennsylvania Avenue and the 9300 block of S. Shepard Avenue. The City of South Milwaukee is also involved in the S. Pennsylvania Avenue Project.

While the existing bridges are being removed and the new structures completed, the road will be closed to through traffic. Designated detour routes will be marked with appropriate traffic signing. Local traffic will be allowed for access to homes in the vicinity of the bridges.

The contractor is Zenith Tech. Inc. To avoid conflicts, including; environmental concerns, conflicts with the City's Fourth of July Celebration and the fall school semester; the S. Shepard Avenue bridge replacement will begin no sooner than July 5th and end no later than August 31st.



The S. Pennsylvania bridge replacement will be constructed concurrently with the S. Shepard Avenue bridge with a contract requirement that it will be completed to the extent that through vehicular traffic will be allowed by September 21st.

Department of Transportation personnel will handle the daily construction coordination and inspection of the two bridge replacement projects. Throughout the duration of the projects, there will be a construction hotline at City Hall where updated construction activities and schedules will be available to any interested parties at (414) 768-5862.

## SPRING CLEAN-UP Begins May 15, 2001

The Street Department will conduct a Spring clean-up starting on May 15, 2001.

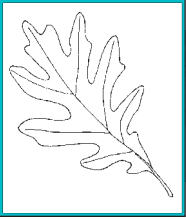
Residents are required to have their items at the curb or roadside prior to May 15th in order to be guaranteed a pick-up.

Items that will be picked up are as follows:

- Yard Waste; excluding leaves and grass-
- Furniture
- Wood
- Appliances
- Construction Materials; not resulting from a contractor
- Metal
- Mattresses
- Televisions
- Carpeting/Rugs

Items that will not be picked up are as follows:

- Paints
- Tires
- Batteries
- Hazardous Materials
- Grass Clippings
- Leaves



# City Forestry

## Tree Planting - Part II

If the ground has thawed, now is a great time to plant a tree! If you want your tree to establish well and prosper, it must be planted correctly. Most urban sites do not provide an excellent growth medium for trees because soils are usually undesirable. This article is tailored toward achieving better results in urban planting. However, each tree species and site is unique. Remember that planting too deep is a sure way to decrease the life span of your tree.

### Before Planting

Call Digger's Hotline (259-1181)  
to ensure utility location and safety.

Be careful when transporting and handling trees prior to planting. If possible, transport in an enclosed vehicle or secure with a tarp. The idea is to keep the plant from drying out from excessive wind. Store in a cool place, out of the drying sun and wind. Keep roots/soil cool and moist. Handle a balled and burlapped (B&B) tree by the heavy ball to protect intact roots.

Assuming the purchase of a well-selected tree and a good site, use the diagrams on the reverse side of this page to guide you through the planting process.

**1. Locate the root collar or flare.** It is sometimes necessary to open a balled and burlapped tree to find the area where the base of the tree flares above the roots. Excess soil above the root flare should be *gently* removed. (It is easy to scrape young roots with a sharp-edged tool.) Occasionally it is difficult to identify the root flare either because it is not noticeably wider than the trunk, or there is confusion between the bud/graft union and the root flare (see Diagram 2). *It would be an excellent idea to consult with the grower at time of selection for help identifying key features.*

**2. Site preparation** – Dig a wide, shallow planting hole (see Table 1. Planting Hole Width). Adjust the depth of the planting hole to allow the tree to set firmly with the root collar at about 2 inches above the landscape grade. Thoroughly scuff sides of planting hole. *A shovel will work for the entire site preparation process.*

**3. Backfill / Soil** - Break up soil as fine as possible because the best backfill for healthy water movement is the soil derived from the hole. A B&B tree should be adequately filled in around the ball. Topsoil is often applied over broken up clay in harsh sites. Do not add

gravel or stones to the bottom of a planting hole. It will disrupt the water flow dynamics. Water thoroughly during planting to fill in soil air pockets.

**4. Wire Baskets, Burlap & Twine** – At planting, remove or cut back wire basket completely or as far down as possible—if this process can be done without disturbing the root ball. Another option would be to monitor and remove after six months or a year. Wire baskets decompose slowly in oxygen deficient soils and sometimes get entangled in root systems just when you are really starting to enjoy your tree! UNTREATED burlap will decompose over time. You may opt to remove the upper portion of burlap at planting (especially if you intend to stake tree) or leave in place and monitor. Sometimes the upper layers take some time to break down and can be cut away. Topsoil and a good supply of woodchip mulch will accelerate the decay process.

Synthetic twine should be cut at planting because it will not degrade. Biodegradable twine will decompose overtime but it should be checked occasionally to be sure tree growth does not exceed rate of twine decay!

**5. Stake or guy only if necessary and then for just one year.** Some B&B trees will stand firmly without staking. But if basket and burlap removal question stability, go ahead and stake. Drive poles perpendicular to the ground. Use synthetic straps that have enough surface area and/or elasticity to minimize trunk injury. One can use wire to attach straps to stakes, but never loop a wire through a hose around a tree.

**6. Mulch** is the best tree fertilizer. Skip the nitrogen pack until tree is established. Keep mulch at least three inches from the base of the tree. A loose plastic tree protector can help keep mulch away from bark while shading bud/graft and keeping the weed eater at bay.

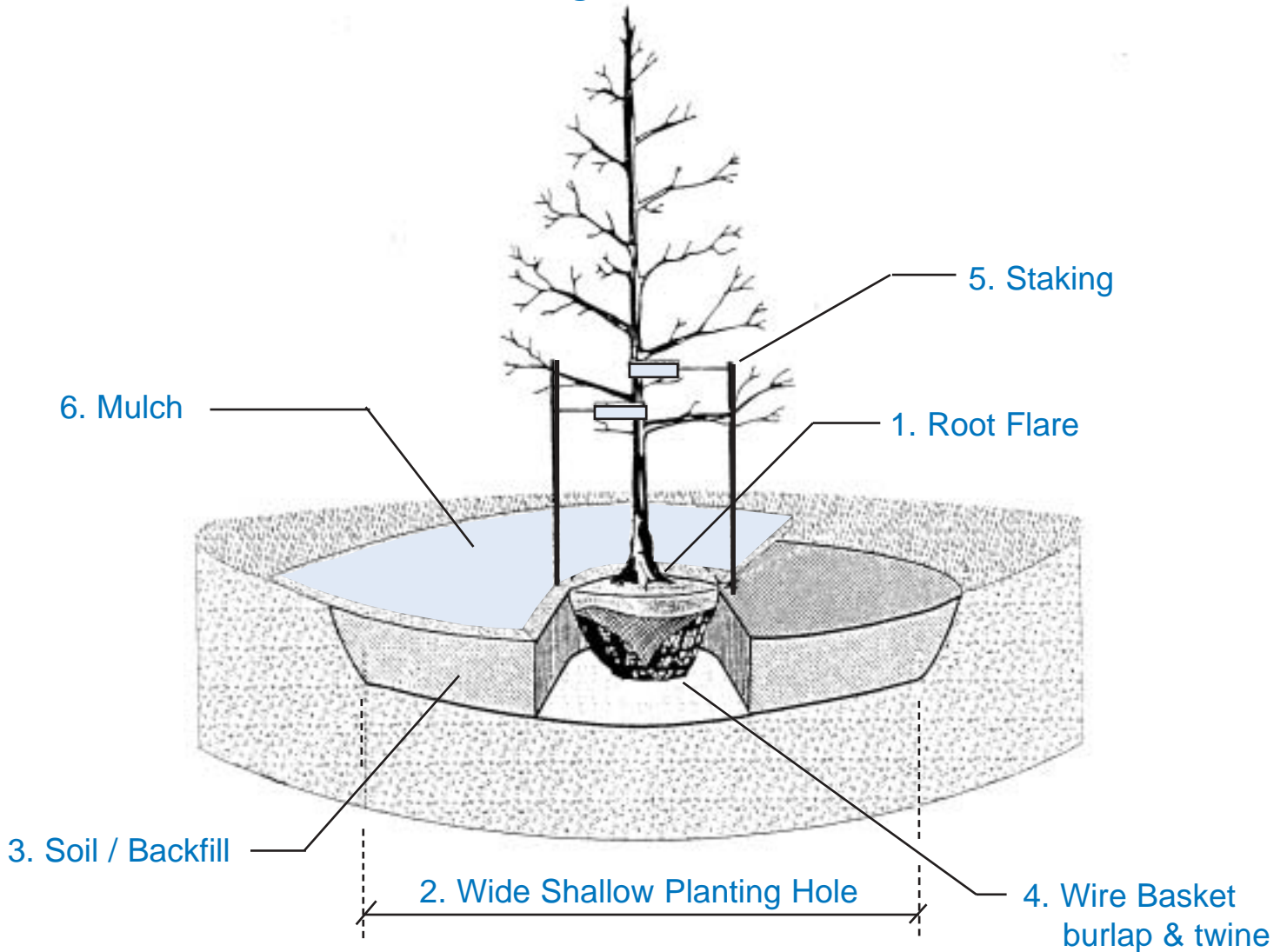
Prune only broken branches and possibly codominant leader at time of planting. Any wound is stress to a tree, especially during acclimation to a new site. Temporary branches promote strong trunk development and shade juvenile bark. Even more importantly, they provide leaf area for photosynthesizing which will greatly aid in tree establishment. Begin to train by pruning two years after planting.

Questions on planting? Contact [Rebecca Lane](mailto:rlane@oakcreekwi.org)  
at [768-5861](tel:768-5861) or Email: [rlane@oakcreekwi.org](mailto:rlane@oakcreekwi.org)

# Tree Planting Diagrams

(Numbers correspond to text on Page 13)

## Diagram # 1

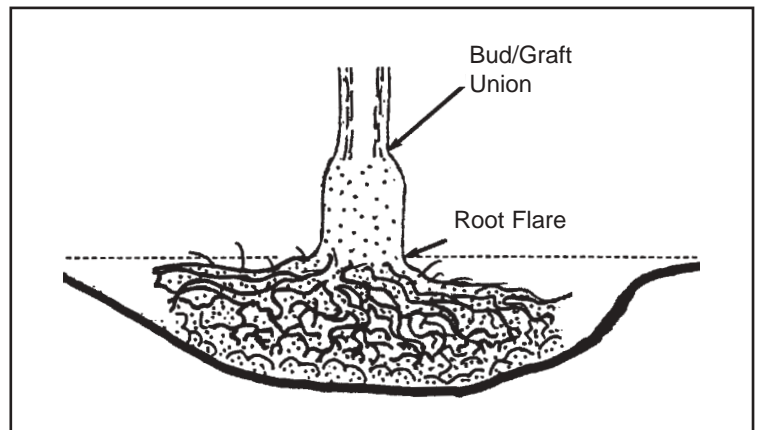


## Table #1 Planting Hole Width

Tree Caliper*	Ball Diameter	Hole Diameter
1"	16"	48"
1.5"	20"	60"
2"	24"	72"
2.5"	28"	84"
3"	32"	96"

\*Caliper is the diameter measurement of a young tree at 6" above the ground. Young tree refers to trees less than 4" diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground (diameter at breast height.)

## Diagram # 2





# Fire Department

## FIRE STATION #3 Lt. Joe Pulvermacher

As long ago as 1961, the City of Oak Creek was discussing plans for locating additional fire stations. In 1990, an ad hoc committee was formed to study department staffing and the need for a third fire station; that committee recommended the construction of Station #3.

In 1998, the members of the Oak Creek Fire Department were directed to complete the planning process so construction could begin.

After selecting an architect (Angus Young Associates) and a general contractor (Riley Construction), ground was broken on March 2nd, 2000.

Emergency vehicles first responded out of Station #3 on December 20th, 2000, official grand opening/ dedication ceremonies were conducted on January 19th & 20th, 2001, and administration moved to the third station on February 16th, 2001.

At the time of the study, we found that emergency response times to the northwest corner of the city were longer than desired due to the location of existing stations. The optimal approach to correcting this situation was to position a third station at 6th and Rawson. Alternative sites were examined, but the site chosen proved to be the most beneficial... the best investment for immediate needs and future considerations.

The Station #3 building committee consisted of Fire Chief Hammernik, Assistant Chief Rosandich, Lt. Giesenschlag, FF/EMT Rehn, FF/Paramedic Wargolet, FF/Paramedic Buchholz. Additional assistance was provided by Wayne St. John, Director of Public Works, and Richard Kulka, Facilities Manager.

Endless hours of planning and logistics went into anticipating operational necessities. Their goal was to build a station that would address the demands and concerns of a developing city.

As the role of the fire service expands, space requirements for

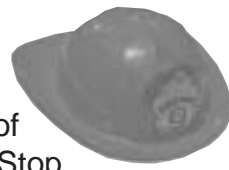
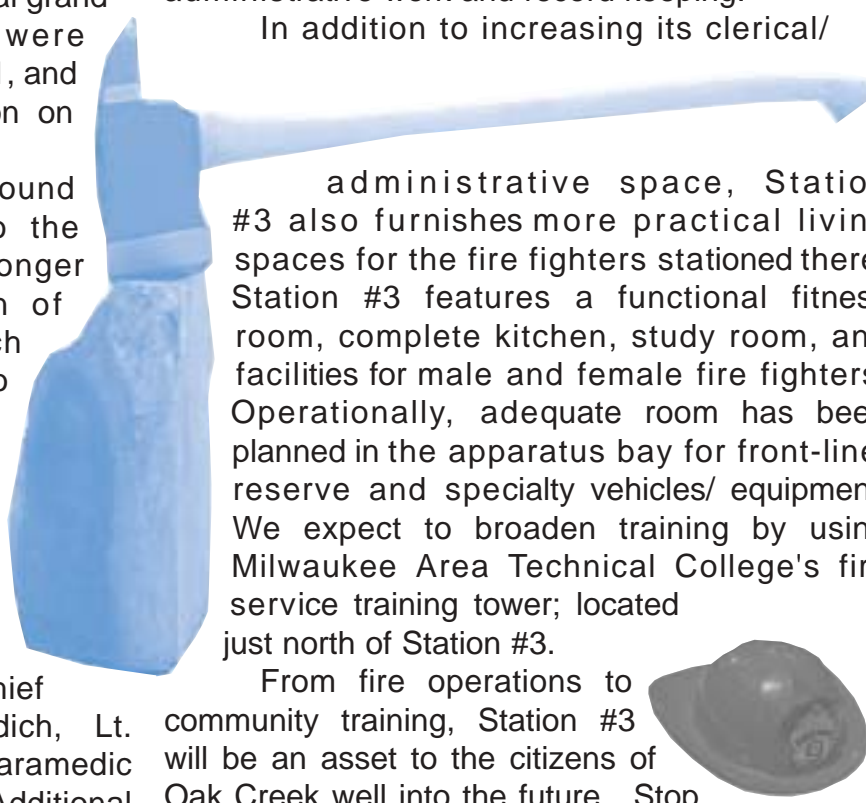


administration expands. It was determined that fire department administration (chief, officers and secretarial staff) would move their offices to the new station. The accommodations provide more room for training, meetings, administrative work and record keeping.

In addition to increasing its clerical/

administrative space, Station #3 also furnishes more practical living spaces for the fire fighters stationed there. Station #3 features a functional fitness room, complete kitchen, study room, and facilities for male and female fire fighters. Operationally, adequate room has been planned in the apparatus bay for front-line, reserve and specialty vehicles/ equipment. We expect to broaden training by using Milwaukee Area Technical College's fire service training tower; located just north of Station #3.

From fire operations to community training, Station #3 will be an asset to the citizens of Oak Creek well into the future. Stop by Station #3, 7000 S. 6th Street, to see your firehouse in operation or call [570-5630](tel:570-5630) to schedule a group tour.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Spring 2001

### April

2	7:00pm	Common Council Mtg. (Mon.)
3	7am-8pm	SPRING GENERAL ELECTION
4	6:00pm	Municipal Court
5	2:30-5:30pm	Immunization Clinic
	7:30pm	County Supervisor LeAnn Launstein District Meeting
10	4:45 pm	Library Board
	7:00 pm	Plan Commission
11	5:00 pm	Municipal Court
	7:00 pm	Traffic & Safety Commission
	7:30 pm	Board of Waterworks & Sewer Commissioners
12	6:30 pm	Parks & Recreation Commission
13	CLOSED	FRIDAY BEFORE EASTER
17	7:00 pm	Common Council Meeting
18	6:00 pm	Municipal Court
19	9-11:00 am	Immunization Clinic
24	7:00 pm	Plan Commission
25	5:00 pm	Municipal Court

### May

1	7:00pm	Common Council Meeting
2	6:00pm	Municipal Court
3	11:30am	Board of Health
	2:30-5:30pm	Immunization Clinic
8	4:45pm	Library Board
	7:00pm	Plan Commission
9	5:00pm	Municipal Court
	7:00pm	Traffic & Safety Commission
	7:30pm	Board of Waterworks & Sewer Commissioners
10	6:30pm	Parks & Recreation Commission
15	7:00pm	Common Council Meeting
16	6:00pm	Municipal Court
17	9-11:00am	Immunization Clinic
22	7:00pm	Plan Commission
23	5:00pm	Municipal Court
28	CLOSED	MEMORIAL DAY

### June

5	7:00pm	Common Council Meeting
6	6:00pm	Municipal Court
7	2:30-5:30pm	Immunization Clinic
	7:30pm	County Supervisor LeAnn Launstein District Meeting
12	4:45pm	Library Board
	7:00pm	Plan Commission
13	5:00pm	Municipal Court
	7:00pm	Traffic & Safety Commission
	7:30pm	Board of Waterworks & Sewer Commissioners
14	6:30pm	Parks & Recreation Commission
19	7:00pm	Common Council Meeting
20	6:00pm	Municipal Court
21	9-11:00am	Immunization Clinic
26	7:00pm	Plan Commission