

January February March 2001

Acorn

Volume 25

**Winter
2001**

- **Winter Activities**
- **Winter Fire Safety**
- **Cold Weather Tips**



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

A YEAR TO REMEMBER!

This first year of the new millennium has certainly been marked with some major milestones for our community. Let's review some of these historic, if not special events:

The Oak Creek Water & Sewer Utility had several things to celebrate. Early in the year it christened its new \$8,000,000 plant expansion that will service us well out into the future. Other notable events included the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources granting us permission, as the first in the state, to further the development of "Aquifer Storage Recovery". This process utilizes underground storage, via one of our own backup wells, to store processed Lake Michigan water for meeting peak demand. This could save millions of dollars in the elimination of future above ground storage towers. The Utility also plowed new ground as the first licensed and regulated water utility in the state, and one of only a select few in the country, when it started test marketing the production of its own "Claire Baie" bottled water this fall.

In March, eight of our firefighters graduated as paramedics to start our own paramedic first responder unit. In December, we will open our new 3rd fire station on 6th and Rawson.

The Police Department received national recognition for our own "National Night Out" which was held at the Community Center on August 1. Common Council agreed to start the process of building a new (its first "real") police station.

Who can forget the tornado and 100-year rain storm that blew through our city on July 2?

Our biggest safety issue and most chronic flooding problem has been on W. Ryan Road just under the railroad tracks. I still have my fingers crossed because this issue was supposed to have been resolved by this past summer. I have just recently been informed by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District that they have just now got the electrical power hooked up to a newly

installed \$1.1 million lift station, designed to remedy this. MMSD was expecting to be testing it any day now, so maybe we have finally corked up the biggest leak in our infrastructure.

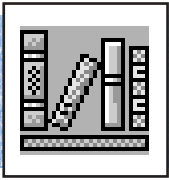
While the bulk of the work has been completed on the city's Comprehensive Plan and the Stormwater Master Plan, Council is still gathering some additional information before they try to reach a consensus on the adoption of a policy for these very important issues. Unfortunately, these policy decisions will generate some winners and some losers, but the bottom line is we must make a decision and move forward in the best interests of the entire community. Council has decided to proceed with the formulation of a redevelopment plan for the Carrollville (Bender Park) area.

From a financial standpoint, the city is probably in the strongest financial shape in its history. In 1990 we were a city with one of the highest debt per capita in the state, owing nearly \$40 million. In December we made our last general obligation debt payment. Earlier in the year we were informed by our financial advisor that we were one of maybe only three communities in the entire state to boast of a Moody's Investor's bond rating of "Aa3" for both the City and water utility. Our budget performance for 2000 appears to be coming in with a \$1.1 million positive variance to budget for its general fund. Common Council has just recently approved a 2001 tax rate that is just under last year's rate. This is the 4th consecutive year we have decreased the city's tax rate.

Happy Holidays *Dale*

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City Assessor's Office

What In The World Is Business Personal Property?

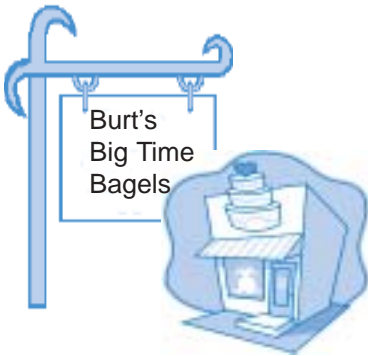
In addition to assessing all real estate, Wisconsin law directs assessors to assess all taxable BUSINESS personal property. **Personal property includes machinery and equipment, furniture, fixtures, supplies, signage and other equipment specifically used in business establishments.**

A layman's definition of what personal property is can be determined by the following example. Suppose you are going shopping at Store X. As you drive down the street, you first notice the building. (The building and land underneath is considered real estate.) Then you notice the sign saying Store X.

(The sign is personal property.) You then drive into the parking lot, which happens to be asphalt. (The asphalt is part of real estate.)

As you walk into the building, you grab a shopping cart (personal property). You next put items of inventory (exempt) from the shelves or racks (both personal property) into your cart (once again personal property). As you check out, you notice the new cash registers (personal property) and accidentally trip over the wet mop (personal property) breaking your leg. The ambulance comes (exempt due to vehicle licensing) and carries you away on a stretcher (personal property) to the hospital (exempt). You recover in your own bed (exempt), in your own house (real estate) and decide that you would like to become an assessor (make believe).

Using this example, it is important to note that assessors literally must look at everything to determine whether or not things are taxable and then if they should be assessed as real estate or personal property.



The laws for the assessment of personal property are approximately the same as those for real estate. Personal property, like real estate, must be assessed at fair market value as the property exists on January 1. Personal property is assessed to whoever owns it on January 1 for the entire year. Also, if you change the location of your personal property during the year, you still have to pay taxes to the municipality where it was on January 1 for the entire year.



Personal property forms are mailed to each business at the beginning of January. The deadline for the return is March 1. If a completed form is not received by March 1, the assessor will levy an assessment based on the best available information. An assessment made on personal property when no return is filed is known as a Doomage Assessment.

It is the goal and duty of the City Assessor's Office to generate fair and equitable personal property assessments. Hopefully this information provides a better understanding of business personal property assessments.



If you have questions please contact the Assessor's Office at 768-6506.

**Happy New Year
2001**





Oak Creek Public Library

Public Library 2000 Income Tax Form Distribution

Once again, the library is providing the most frequently requested federal and state tax forms and instructions as a service to our patrons.

In addition to the basic forms, reproducible forms and publications will be available for reading or photocopying in the library. Federal forms are available after January 1. State forms are usually received by the last week of January. This is a "serve yourself" service. Library staff is not permitted to provide assistance with tax preparation or advice. For telephone assistance with your taxes, call the following numbers.



State Tax Information

General Information

227-4000

State Tax Forms

227-4440

State Tax Assistance

227-3883

State Tax Refunds

227-4907

TTY

227-4147

Local Wisc. Dept. of Revenue
819 N. Sixth Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Federal Tax Information

Federal Tax Forms

1-800-829-3676

Automated Tax/Refund Information

1-800-829-4477

Federal Tax Assistance

1-800-829-1040

Local I.R.S. Office:
310 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

State Forms

- 1 and Instructions
- 1A and Instructions
- WI-Z and Instructions
- 1 NPR and Instructions
- 1 ES Estimated Tax
- Homestead
- Schedule WD and Instructions



Free forms available at the library will include:

Federal Forms

- 1040 and Instructions
- 1040 Schedule A&B
- 1040 Schedule D
- 1040 Schedule EIC
- 1040 A and Instructions
- 1040 A Schedule 1 & 2
- 1040 EZ and Instructions



Tax forms and publications on the world wide web:
http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/forms_pubs/
<http://www.dor.state.wi.us>

Evening Book Club

The Library's Evening Book Club meets [the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00 - 7:30pm](#) in the library's meeting room.

There are still a few openings. So come join us for a lively discussion and meet new friends who love to read!

Call Sue Kaczmarek at 764-4400 to register and reserve your copy of next month's book.

Property Tax Payment Due Dates For 2001

[The first installment \(or paid-in-full payment\) is due on Wednesday, January 31, 2001.](#) We are unable to accept payments as being on time if received on February 1, 2001 in person or postmarked that date.

The second installment is due on Monday, April 2, 2001, as the 31st of March falls on a Saturday and City Hall is not open. WE CAN ACCEPT payment in person or postmarked on April 2, 2001.

The third installment is due on Thursday, May 31, 2001.

Ways to Pay Your Tax Bill

There is a 24-hour drop depository located near the south doors at City Hall for your convenience. If you wish to MAIL your tax bill, there is an envelope enclosed with your tax bill. You will receive a receipt of payment for your taxes from our office.



You may use any of the following Tri City Bank locations to pay your tax bills:

- [Tri City Bank on 27th and College](#)
- [Tri City Bank on Ryan Road near 27th Street](#)
- [Tri City Bank in the Mega Mall Pick n Save on the corner of Puetz and Howell](#)
- [Tri City Bank in the Pick n Save on 27th Street near College](#)

You will receive a receipt from the bank.

Please, if at all possible, take advantage of the 24-hour depository, the postal service, or any of the four Tri City Bank locations. Using any one of these other conveniences, YOU WILL AVOID WAITING IN A LONG LINE AT CITY HALL.

[PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR](#), so you do not miss the important due dates for tax payments. Your tax bill is your reminder, if you pay in installments. Interest and penalty charges accumulate at 1-1/2% per month on the unpaid principal balance from February 1st.

Surfing in The City of Oak Creek

www.oakcreekwi.org

[The City has created a web site](#) to easily provide information to residents and other interested parties. The site is still in the process of being developed, however it does provide basic information about City services. In the future additional information and features will be added to the site.



The City web page contains information on Elected

Officials, City directory, Calendar of events, City ordinances and resolutions, various informational maps (i.e. street, aldermanic districts, voting sites, zoning and garbage pickup days), resident information and City job postings. Each department has information on the web site that may be of interest to the citizens of Oak Creek. The site also provides email addresses for many City Officials, departments and staff.

Future items planned for the web site are City history and photographs, property tax information, additional mapping and further development of department information. This site is planned to be useful and provide information to the citizens of Oak Creek. I would encourage you to visit the site and email comments to the Webmaster for site improvements that you would find useful.



Health Department

Promoting Health and Preventing Disease

The Oak Creek Health Department existed even before we incorporated as a city. Ms. Evelyn Braun was our first "town nurse" in 1952. Our department now has three full-time employees: Community Public Health Administrator (CPHA), Public Health Nurse (PHN) Supervisor, and Secretary. The department has 16 part-time employees: an immunization clinic nurse, an immunization clerk, and 14 PHN's.

Our office is located in the Oak Creek City Hall at the south end of the building and next to the Council Chambers. Our staff periodically revises our mission statement. Our current one is "To promote health and prevent disease and injury through assessing community needs, developing policies, and assuring that public health services are provided. Services are offered in clinic, home, school, and work settings through collaborative relationships with other providers." We are available by phone (768-6525) or on a "walk-in" basis on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. We will monitor your blood pressure, check your child's rash, receive reports of contagion (including chicken pox), and answer your health related questions to the best of our abilities.

Nursing Services to Schools

We provide nursing services to the public schools in the Oak Creek/Franklin School District. Each school receives a minimum of two hours per day. The PHN's provide first aid, administer medications, and serve as a health resource to staff, students, and families.

Services to New Babies



We visit all families with new babies and provide a packet of information about child development and safety information. Beginning in Spring, we will be hosting neighborhood development and safety fairs for families with children ages 3-4 years.

Immunization Services

We routinely provide immunization clinics twice monthly, the 1st Thursday from 2:30-5:30 pm and the 3rd Thursday from 9:00-11:00 am. We offer most childhood vaccines and selective immunizations (Pneumonia, Td, Flu, etc.) to adults. Residents should call 768-6525 about one week prior to a clinic day to pre-register; this allows us to complete some paperwork and to reserve your vaccine for you. We are also auditing preschool immunization records on an on-going basis. This is at the request of the state so that we can assure that all our resident children are current on their vaccines. In addition, we are entering the dates we receive from parents into a statewide immunization registry.



Health Department Services to the Elderly

We work closely with the Interfaith Program for the Elderly. The local office is located in the Methodist Church in South Milwaukee, 762-1998. This program assists the elderly to remain in their homes. Volunteers are always welcome to provide rides, do minor household repairs, shop for groceries, or be a "friendly visitor". The CPHA is the secretary of the South Milwaukee/Oak Creek board of directors.

The CPHA also serves on the board at the Salvation Army Centennial Corps; she is currently the board chair. The Corps offers child care (before/after school and seasonal day camps), sporting events, and other community celebrations. It also serves as a food pantry for the area; donations are always welcomed!

Health Expo

The annual Chamber of Commerce Health Expo will be on Saturday, March 17, 2001 at the Oak Creek Community Center. Visit the Expo between 10 am - 3 pm and learn about your health and the health providers in the area. Free screenings and demonstrations will be available throughout the day.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Dawn Rae (Gradl) Wetzel, our Health Department secretary of 36 years. She had obtained the status of the city employee with the most seniority. We will miss her knowledge of the city, her sense of humor, and her listening ears. Our sympathy to her husband Gary, her family, friends, and co-workers.



Snow Removal

Please be advised that the practice of blowing and/or shoveling snow into the street is prohibited per Municipal Code Sec. 8.06 which states:

"No person shall use the public streets or any other public ground as a place for disposal or dumping of snow from private property".

No Branch Pick Up

There will be no branch pick up during the months of December, January, and February. Branch pick up will resume starting March 1, 2001.

Rubbish Collection for Upcoming 2001 Holidays



Holiday

Date of Collection

New Years Day

January 1, 2001

Fri. Dec. 29, 2000

Day After New Years Day

January 2, 2001

Wed. Jan. 3, 2001



Fire Department

WINTER FIRE SAFETY

Lt. Joe Pulvermacher

December, January and February are the leading months for home fires and home fire deaths in the United States. On average, more than one-third of home fire deaths in the U.S. occur during the winter months.

HEATING HOMES SAFELY



Heating equipment fires are the second leading cause of fire deaths in American homes throughout the year and the primary cause December through January. In 1994, the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) estimated

73,800 home heating fires killed 487 people and injured another 2,000. Sadly, most of these fires were preventable by taking simple safety precautions.

According to one NFPA report, [the major causes of U.S. home heating fires are:](#)

- E Lack of regular cleaning of chimneys** in fireplaces and wood stoves.
- E Placing things that can burn too close** to space and portable heaters.
- E Flaws in design, installation or use.**
- E Fueling errors** involving liquid (or gas) fueled heaters.
- E Leaving** portable or space heaters **unattended.**

HOW DO YOU PREVENT HEATING EQUIPMENT FIRES?

If faced with a home improvement or repair, know your limits. Do-it-yourselfers should keep these following points in mind:

- E** When purchasing new equipment, look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label.
- E** Install and maintain heating equipment according to the manufacturer's guidelines.
- E** Comply with applicable codes and, when possible, have a local inspector check the installation to insure the installation is correct and safe.
- E** Utilize the skills of qualified professionals when the job exceeds your capabilities.

SPACE HEATERS



When using space heaters, keep the following in mind:

- E Keep the heater at least 36 inches from anything that can burn** (furniture, bedding, clothing, pets and people).
- E** Space heaters must **not be left operating when you are asleep or not in the room.**
- E Children and pets should be supervised** at all times when space heaters are in use.
- E** Space heaters **should not be used to dry clothing (i.e. gloves and socks).** Nothing should be placed over heaters.
- E Check electric heaters for frayed cords.**

E **Have repairs made by a professional** before operating the space heater.

If using portable kerosene heaters, use only the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. **The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment's design limits and cause a serious fire.** When refueling, turn the heater off and allow it to cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe up spills immediately and store kerosene away from heat and open flame in an approved and labeled container.

Portable LP Gas (Propane) Heaters with self-contained fuel supplies (cabinet heaters) are prohibited for home use by Wisconsin State Statutes.

FIREPLACE SAFETY



Before sitting down to the warmth of a relaxing fire, take the time to insure your fireplace is safe with the following tips:

E **Inspect your chimney prior to the start of every heating season,** make sure it is creosote free. Creosote is a chemical substance that forms when wood burns; it can build up in the chimney and cause a chimney fire. Clean it out periodically.

E **Use a sturdy fireplace screen** when burning to shield your living areas from flying embers.

E **Only burn dry wood.** Never burn paper or pine boughs- flying embers can float out of the chimney and create a fire hazard for neighboring structures.

E **Never let your children light the fire.** It promotes the idea that "playing" with fire is O.K... even if you're not home.

E **Keep matches out of children's reach.** Matches on the mantle are too accessible.

E **If you decorate your fireplace with holiday decorations, don't burn fires in it.**

WOOD STOVE SAFETY

Wood stoves come in a variety of different sizes and styles, so it is important to check the manufacturer's guide for installation, use and maintenance. **Chimney connections and flues should be inspected at the beginning of each heating season and cleaned when necessary.**



Wood stoves should be treated like space heaters - be sure to provide enough space in between the stove and combustible materials. Before you install a wood stove, contact the City of Oak Creek Inspection Department (768-6545) for specific code requirements.

We spend a lot of time indoors during the winter months and we want our living spaces to be warm, comfortable, and relaxing. Take the time to research all of your options and don't hesitate to call a qualified professional. Shortcuts taken today may have disastrous results in the future.

COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, CONCERNS...

Your comments are important to us. The Oak Creek Fire Department prides itself on addressing the concerns of the greater community.

Our efforts to provide emergency services and educational programs are influenced by the input we receive. Information is then shared by department personnel at monthly staff meetings.

We are working with the City's Web Committee to put together a web page that answers the questions of the general public. But until our web page is a reality, there are a number of other ways that you can contact us with your interests:

-Our business line is 762-3036 fax 768-5858

-E-mail Chief Hammernik at chiefgrh@ocfd.org.

-Send a letter to Oak Creek Fire Department Headquarters (7000 S. 6th Street, Oak Creek, WI 53154)

Our doors are open for a casual visit.

Police Department



COLD WEATHER TIPS



With winter upon us, it's time to prepare for the cold Wisconsin weather. The following are a few tips to make the season more enjoyable:

During the cold winter months, many people like to start their vehicles and leave them unattended while they warm up. It is important to realize that, although it is nice to get into a warm vehicle, one must be aware of the dangers of doing so. **Unattended, running vehicles can be a target for auto theft as well as an inherent danger to juveniles or children who may become curious, enter the vehicle and attempt to operate the vehicle. So please remain with your vehicle while warming it up.**

Keep some cold weather gear (blanket, mittens/gloves, hats, etc.) in your car in case you experience car trouble while traveling.

Remember to drive at the appropriate speeds in bad weather and allow sufficient distances between yourself and the vehicle in front of you in case you have to stop suddenly.

Check on elderly and/or disabled relatives and neighbors to ensure they are o.k. and to see if they need assistance with snow removal or a ride to the grocery store.

Keep blanket, mittens/gloves, hats, etc. in your car



Winter Parking Restrictions

The Police Department would like to remind all citizens of the following City Ordinances:

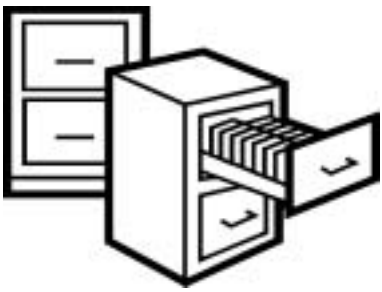
Winter Parking Restrictions - From December 1st to April 1st, there is no on-street parking Sunday through Thursday from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. During weekends (Friday and Saturday), there is no on-street parking permitted between 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Permission may be granted by the Police Department (on a day-to-day basis) for exceptions to this during emergencies, if a vehicle becomes disabled or if there is an overnight guest.

Snow and Ice Removal

The owner, occupant or person in charge of any property abutting or fronting a paved public sidewalk is responsible for the removal of all snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall. If the ice can't be removed and still presents a hazard to those who use the walkway, salt or other similar substance must be spread to eliminate the hazard. Remember, directing sump pump, watershed or rain gutter spouts onto the sidewalk or roadway is against City Ordinance. The sidewalks were created to provide a safe passage for pedestrians. So please show some consideration to those who use the sidewalks of our community.



Also, for those of you who plow your driveway or use a snow blower, remember it's illegal to push or blow snow into the street or dump it onto any public ground. Pushing snow into the roadway creates a very hazardous situation for everyone using the roads.



OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS

A request for open records can be made at the Oak Creek Police Department, 7625 S. Howell Avenue, during normal business hours. The process involves completing a form with all pertinent information. The clerical department will then research the request and contact you when the records are ready for pickup. As a convenience, faxed requests are accepted as long as the request indicates the date of the incident, type of incident, a name of an involved party and the requestor's name. Requests can be faxed to 768-7445-Attention Open Records. There is a fee of 25¢ per page.

Requests for copies of traffic accident reports do not follow this process. Simply stop in during normal business hours-Mon-Fri from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or Sat. from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon-to pick up a copy. Generally, accident reports are complete within 72 hours of the time of the accident; therefore, keep this in mind prior to coming down to make the request. The same fees apply.

NEW EMPLOYEES

The Police Department would like to welcome our new employee and wish him good luck and a long career with us:



Officer Kevin Kaminski was hired on October 9, 2000. Kevin earned his Associate Degree from M.A.T.C. and previously worked part-time for the State Fair Park Police Department.

PAYMENT OF FINES

Payments for fines can be made at the Oak Creek Police Department during the following hours:

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Payments are also accepted during Municipal Court sessions, which are held at Oak Creek City Hall, 8640 S. Howell Avenue, on Wednesdays evenings after 5:00 p.m.



DO YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT POLICE SERVICES?

The Oak Creek Police Department is oriented to serving our community. Not all recipients of services are going to be satisfied.

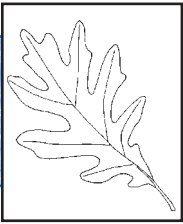


This is a foregone conclusion considering the volume of contacts and the diversity of our community. If you have a problem with police services, the

best method for action is to contact the department at 762-8200 and speak with a supervisor. If you are reporting an allegation of employee misconduct, you may be required to put the complaint in writing on a form that will be provided to you. All complaints will be acted on.

Have a Safe and Happy Winter!





City Forestry

Planting Trees - Part I

Deep Planting - The Preventable Epidemic

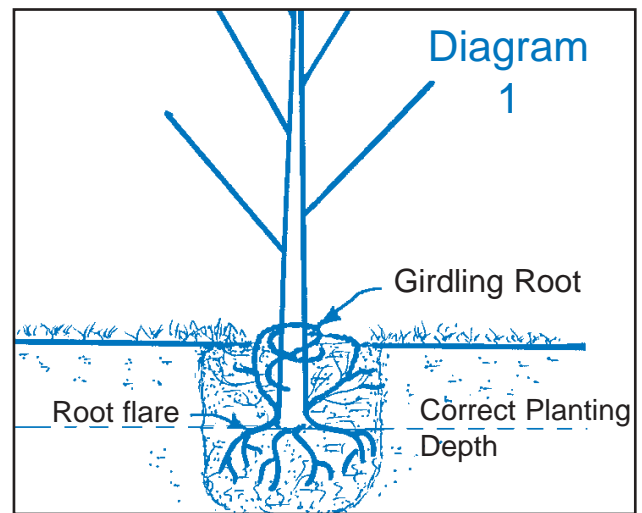
What do Dutch Elm Disease and planting trees too deep have in common? They have both contributed to epidemic losses in urban trees. Unlike the continuing saga of the spread of Dutch Elm Disease, deep planting is an entirely preventable tale of woe. Here are a few pointers that will help you better understand some problems associated with deep planting.

It is worth taking the time and effort to install a tree properly. There is no question-what is done in the twenty minutes at installation can make or break your tree's health and longevity.

The modern world has actually gotten used to the look of a tree that is planted far too deep, now often mistaking the trees planted correctly for the ones planted wrongly! How did this happen? It goes back to a time when people worked the land and dug trees with shovels; they could see how trees grew naturally. The industrial revolution changed the tree care industry. We began raising trees with agricultural equipment and digging them with excavation equipment. At the same time, people gravitated toward urban living and lost touch with the natural landscape. Many trees suffered. We are now painfully re-learning information through tree care research.

Urban landscape versus naturally established trees: dare to compare. Check out the bases of trees in an area where they are naturally established, where the soil grade remains unchanged (in Oak Creek, try Falk Park). You will see root flares—the gradual widening of the trunk near the base of a tree. These broad structural roots are the mechanical support for the tree. It makes sense that a large tree will need the physical support of a flared base. If buried under the soil, that flared base may develop poorly and then deteriorate for a variety of reasons. The tree will often die young and never reach its potential. I have often thought that in planting too deep, we rob our trees of something more: the architectural beauty of that flare.

Something else may happen underground when we plant trees too deep: girdling roots. So what exactly are girdling roots and what kind of problems do they lead to? To explain this, I need to reference woody growth rings. Yes. The kind we have seen and counted at one time on the wood of a tree. Large, underground roots have annual growth rings just as the wood of the trunk does. The oldest growth rings on all tree parts are in the middle. Each consecutive year, a new layer of growth develops on the outside surface of the past years'. This is how tree parts become thicker. With this in mind, let's take a look at how girdling roots are formed.

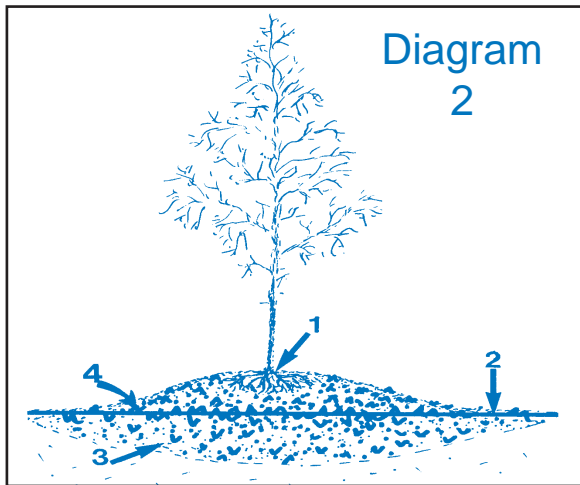


From Modern Arboriculture, Alex L. Shigo, 1991

New, little roots are like strings that will go where it is easiest to travel; growing through loose soil toward available nutrients and water. When we plant too deep, little roots grow up into the fill soil that is easy to penetrate. Frequently, these little roots will find the place where soil is up against the base of the tree and simply follow the surface of the trunk. (See Diagram 1 above .) At first this is no more serious than a string around the base of the tree. However, the next year the string gets a little thicker and the trunk gets a little thicker. Soon the root is like a wooden belt, snugly around the trunk.

This is a serious, killer condition. The root cannot stretch. In fact, as it tries to get thicker and stronger, it begins to "choke" the tree. Often this girdling results in injury, infection and pressure which leads to partial or complete death of the tree.

Trees with girdling roots often show symptoms of decline because of stress. Some trees are more prone to girdling roots than others, but all trees suffer from deep planting.



From Modern Arboriculture, Alex L. Shigo, 1991

PLANTING ON A MOUND

Planting on a mound is an old English method that has great merit, especially where there are heavy clay soils, or wet soils [1]. The mound should be a diameter that will accommodate the growing roots [2], for small trees. The height at center should be about one half meter. The parent soil should be incorporated into the mound [3 & 4]. Never make a mound of loam or topsoil on top of solid unbroken soil! The tree should be planted at the correct depth [1]. Planting on a mound will reduce sidewalk cracking. The mounds should be larger, of course, if larger trees are to be planted.

In clayey soils, such as those in Oak Creek, it is the recommendation to plant an inch or two higher than the root flare/soil line (See Diagram 2 above). Plant high or on a mound in a wide, shallow planting hole, three times the diameter of the root ball. The planting hole should be back-filled with the broken up soil you dug from the hole. You may add topsoil over the clay but don't forget the soil-building, nutrient-recycling, brushcutter-protecting woodchip mulch!

Can deep planting be corrected? Yes and no. If your tree has been in more than two years, correction is risky. However, if you have planted a tree too deeply in the past year, it may not be too late to replant it. It can be lifted in place or moved to a new site. In either case, carefully dig a wide root ball. The fewer roots disturbed or exposed the better the outcome. It will not be easy. When moving a tree, support its base with a tarp or use the tarp to slide it

short distances. Spring and fall are good times to transplant. Some trees are sensitive to digging at certain times of the year. Before transplanting, check recommendations for specific species.

Correct planting has its rewards. Your trees will live longer and be healthier. You will have the satisfaction of a job well done and a better hope for the future. Please use this knowledge to ensure that future planting is done correctly.

For more information tune into the spring Acorn issue for a continued planting discussion. Or, feel free to contact Rebecca Lane at 768-5861 email: rlane@oakcreekwi.org.

Home Improvement Loans

Low or no-interest loans are available to income eligible households for various improvements to their homes.

Based on the numbers in the following table, a household would be eligible if its total annual income is less than the maximum amount shown for that family size.

If you feel your household is eligible, please contact Paul Milewski with the Department of Community Development at 768-6527, or stop in at City Hall for more information and 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

Advertise Your Business

The City of Oak Creek has three City Hall Display cases available to Oak Creek businesses free of charge. They are available on a quarterly basis for advertising your products or services. Reservations are taken in the order in which they are received. If you are interested, send a letter to Paul Milewski, Department of Community Development at 8640 S. Howell Ave., Oak Creek, WI 53154 or FAX at 768-9587

Parks and Recreation



RECREATION NEWS

2001 Winter Recreation Programs booklets are available in the Recreation Office in City Hall, the Library, and the Oak Creek Community Center. For best results, mail-in, fax-in or drop off registration as soon as you get your book. Registrations will be processed beginning January 3rd; or take your chances during walk in registration beginning January 9th. Non-residents may register beginning January 15th. Winter programs include the following:



Basketball Free Throw Contest:

The Youth Free Throw Contest (boys and girls divisions in each grade level) will be held during February 2001. The winners will receive trophies and advance to the Southeast Park & Recreation Council Free Throw Tournament (March 10, 2001). THERE IS NO FEE. A flyer will be sent to all school offices in February.

Senior Citizens Club:

The Oak Creek Senior Citizens Club meets each week on Mondays at the Oak Creek Community Center from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The club participates in a hot meal program, conducts special events, goes on trips, plays cards and bingo, etc. Seniors interested in becoming members are invited to stop in at the Community Center on Mondays to talk with Georgene Gabelbauer, Program Specialist. Membership is open to those 55 years of age and over. Spouses (who are not yet 55) are eligible to join with their spouse who is eligible.



Oak Creek Day at Crystal Ridge

Oak Creek Day at Crystal Ridge will be held in mid-January. Oak Creek residents with I.D. can ski on these days at the low group rate. Call for information.



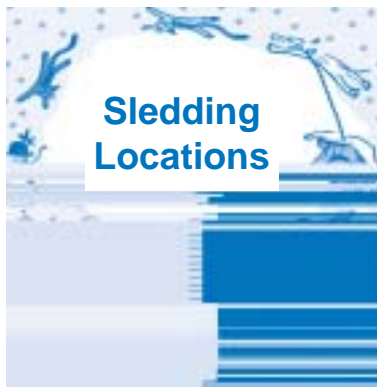
Open Basketball

The Parks and Recreation Department will offer Adult Open Basketball beginning in January. Call our office at 768-6515 for dates and times. Fee is \$2 for residents and \$3 for non-residents (payable at the door).

Ice Rinks

The Miller Park Pond ice rink will be supervised with the warming shelter open, Monday through Thursday from 4-8 p.m., Fridays from 4-9 p.m., Saturdays from 1-9 p.m. and Sundays from 1-5 p.m. (weather and ice conditions permitting). Please call the Activity Tape at 299-9721 for daily opening/closing information.

Unsupervised ice-skating is available at Miller Park, Chapel Hills, Manor Marquette and Haas Parks during daylight hours when the weather and ice conditions permit. There is NO supervision at these areas. Skate at your own risk.



Tobogganing/sledding is offered at Chapel Hills, Manor Marquette, Riverton Meadows and Willow Heights Parks during daylight hours and only when weather conditions are good. There is no supervision at any of these areas.

Fitness Walking:

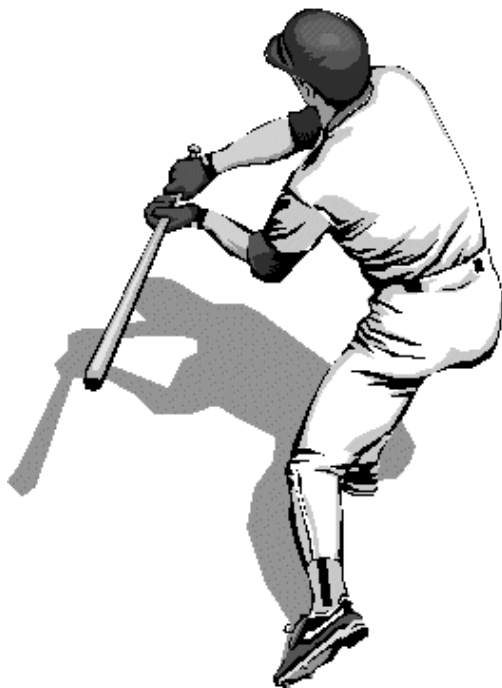
Fitness Walking for adults will resume in the Oak Creek Senior High School. Please call for our winter schedule. Participants are asked to sign in before walking and to please stay on the designated path. Walking only please, no jogging.

Registration for Summer Activities !

Adult Softball Leagues, both in-seam and out-seam, are again being offered for the summer of 2001. Registration begins in mid-February for resident teams from last year who wish to re-enter the same league of participation. New team entries will be accepted starting in late February, followed by non-resident team registration. Leagues are scheduled to begin the last week in April. Call for specific league information, entry and player fees.



Registration for T-Ball, Rookie Ball, Youth baseball and softball begins in April. Flyers will be available in the Elementary schools and Parks and Recreation office early in the month.



Senior High Softball Leagues are being offered on Tuesday evenings, and 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 of Oak Creek.



Golf and Tennis Lessons



Spring Preview:

Don't miss spring golf and tennis classes beginning April/May. Register now, classes fill quickly.

Registration for T-Ball, Rookie Ball, Youth baseball and softball begins in April. Flyers will be available in the Elementary schools and Parks and Recreation office early in the month.

Middle School Volleyball league begins play in March. Announcements will be made and flyers available at the schools in early February.



Winter 2001 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2001

1	CLOSED	NEW YEAR
2	CLOSED	HOLIDAY
3	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
4	2:30-5:30pm	Immunization Clinic
	7:00 p.m.	Common Council Meeting (Thursday) (tentative)
9	4:45 p.m.	Library Board
	7:00 p.m.	Plan Commission
10	5:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
	7:00 p.m.	Traffic & Safety Commission
	7:30 p.m.	Board of Waterworks & Sewer Commissioners
11	6:30 p.m.	Parks & Recreation Commission
16	7:00 p.m.	Common Council Meeting
17	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
18	9-11:00 a.m.	Immunization Clinic
23	7:00 p.m.	Plan Commission
24	5:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
31	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court

FEBRUARY 2001

1	11:30 a.m.	Board of Health
	2:30-5:30pm	Immunization Clinic
6	7:00 p.m.	Common Council Meeting
7	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
8	6:30 p.m.	Parks & Recreation Commission
13	4:45 p.m.	Library Board
	7:00 p.m.	Plan Commission
14	5:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
	7:00 p.m.	Traffic & Safety Commission
	7:30 p.m.	Board of Waterworks & Sewer Commissioners
15	9-11:00 a.m.	Immunization Clinic
19	7:00 p.m.	Common Council Meeting (Monday)
20	7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Spring Primary Election (if required)
21	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
27	7:00 p.m.	Plan Commission
28	5:00 p.m.	Municipal Court

MARCH 2001

1	2:30-5:30pm	Immunization Clinic
6	7:00 p.m.	Common Council Meeting
7	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
8	6:30 p.m.	Parks & Recreation Commission
13	4:45 p.m.	Library Board
	7:00 p.m.	Plan Commission
14	5:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
	7:00 p.m.	Traffic & Safety Commission
	7:30 p.m.	Board of Waterworks & Sewer Commissioners
15	9-11:00 a.m.	Immunization Clinic
20	7:00 p.m.	Common Council Meeting
21	6:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
27	7:00 p.m.	Plan Commission
28	5:00 p.m.	Municipal Court