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## Sports center set at Shattuck site

### Youth complex planned for former middle school

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

After two years of controversy, its sale to a developer and a year of sitting vacant, the first floor of the former Shattuck Middle School building will be turned into a youth sports complex, barring further issues.

Spiketown USA, a volleyball club founded in 2019 with multiple locations throughout the state, announced last week that the center of the vacant Shattuck school will be transformed into office space, classrooms and volleyball courts for leagues, lessons and tournaments.

"We have worked closely with the ownership group to help define spaces and policies so that we can have an amazing



Neenah News

Plans have been announced for a youth sports complex on the first floor of the former Shattuck Middle School.

new home," Spiketown wrote on its website.

Spiketown plans to occupy two gyms, the cafeteria, two classrooms, an office

and mezzanine. Staff, players and families will have access to those areas using a card to enter the main entrance, according to Spiketown.

A sports complex coming to the residential neighborhood on Elm Street was news to Community Development Director Chris Haese, who was unaware of the latest plans for Shattuck. He said that at a minimum a sports complex would require a special use permit to operate out of the building.

A previous attempt to rezone the property from its R-1 single family residence designation to a Traditional Neighborhood Development District so that Northpointe Development of Oshkosh could construct apartments inside Shattuck and homes on the surrounding 27 acres failed in 2022 after community backlash.

SEE **Shattuck site** ON PAGE 7

## INSIDE



**Historic home**  
Johnson House placed  
in national register  
Page 4

## Gas station beer sales in Neenah up for approval

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is one step closer to changing a 50-year-old prohibition on alcohol sales at gas stations after the Common Council voted 7 to 1 with one member absent last week in favor of a council directive to draft a change to its ordinance.

Though the council voted to modify the ordinance, it will still need to be voted on by the Public Services and Safety Committee and go back to council for a final vote of approval in August or September.

Under the proposal, gas stations would be required to obtain a special-use permit and a Class A license to sell malt beverages and would only be able to sell it from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., with the alcohol displayed in a lockable area.

Neenah is one of only a handful of Wisconsin communities that prohibit alcohol sales at gas stations, with the current ordinance adopted in the 1980s.

SEE **Beer sales** ON PAGE 3



Neenah News

Staff members are shown sorting recyclables and removing non-recyclable items during a tour of Tri-County Recycling's Material Recovery Facility.

## Center focuses on beyond-the-bin recycling

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A 6-foot-tall teddy bear, underwear, open-back chaps and a mannequin head are not recyclable but are some of the peculiar and unexpected items that have passed through the doors of Tri-County Recycling's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) recently.

Curbside recycling that is collected by Winnebago, Outagamie and Brown counties is transported to the MRF in Appleton where each day 800,000 pounds of materials are sorted, processed and prepared to be made into new products.

Attendees of Tri-County's Recycle Right Master class were given a tour of the MRF

last week, aimed at educating residents on what can be recycled beyond the conventional bin and highlighting the challenges of disposing of items banned from landfills and non-recyclable.

Jordan Hiller, program coordinator for Outagamie County Recycling & Solid Waste, said it's a running joke that every time he gives a tour of the MRF he spots a shoe mixed in with the recyclables. A few minutes later, an old shoe slid by on a conveyor belt.

It's so common for items that are non-recyclable to end up in recycling bins that there's a term coined for it: wishcycling.

SEE **Recycling** ON PAGE 6



Neenah News

Jordan Hiller with Outagamie County Recycling is shown holding a large stuffed bear that was placed in a curbside recycling bin and transported to a Material Recovery Facility.



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### Corrections

It is the policy of Neenah News to correct all errors of fact. For correction information call 920-385-4512.

### About the newspaper

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Thursdays for Friday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 21,000 homes and businesses in the Neenah and Fox Crossing areas. An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.neenahnewsnow.com.

Neenah News is owned by Oshkosh Herald LLC, 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh, WI, 54901. 920-385-4512.

# Fox Cities Chamber named tops in nation

The Fox Cities Chamber was named 2024-2025 Chamber of the Year (Category 3) by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) at its recent annual conference awards show in Dallas.

The award is considered the most prestigious and competitive recognition presented by ACCE, which has more than 1,600 chambers and related organizations worldwide. Those honored with the Chamber of the Year designation have demonstrated organizational strength and impacted key community priorities.

“To say we are excited and honored to be named Chamber of the Year by ACCE is an understatement,” said Becky Bartoszek, president and chief executive. “This recognition affirms the strength of our chamber and members, as we partner together to drive economic growth and prosperity for the region. To win this award, especially during our 150th anniversary year, is very special.”

Qualifying chambers enter the competition with a written application addressing all organizational operation and program aspects. Applications are scored by peer chamber executives to determine finalists.



Photo from Fox Cities Chamber

The Fox Cities Chamber staff accepts the Chamber of the Year Award at the recent Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives Annual Conference Awards Show in Dallas.

Highlighted in the Fox Cities Chamber’s application were the chamber’s Connect Free membership model and community impact of Appleton’s Octoberfest.

In addition to the award, the Fox Cities Chamber was also named one of 12 ACCE Award for Communications Excellence winners, a program designed to showcase top com-

munications and marketing work of chambers of commerce and similar organizations.

The Chamber’s winning submission was the Fox Cities Chamber Sponsorship Booklet in the category of Print & Electronic Publications. The booklet outlines marquis events and programs, and includes a matrix of sponsorship benefits for each.

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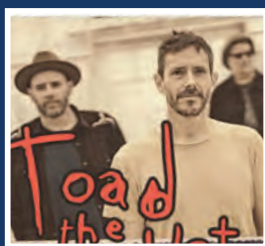


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# Calendar of events

### Friday, July 26

Riverside Players: “Lend Me a Soprano,” 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park pavilion

### Saturday, July 27

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Christmas in July Carnival and Craft Fair, noon, Beaming Ranch, 2692 County GG

Riverside Players: “Lend Me a Soprano,” 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park pavilion

### Sunday, July 28

Riverside Players: “Lend Me a Soprano,” 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park pavilion

### Tuesday, July 30

Neenah Community Band, 7 p.m., Riverside Park pavilion

Movie Talks: “The Straight Story,” 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

### Wednesday, July 31

Evening Concert Series: That '90s Band, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

### Thursday, Aug. 1

Out to Lunch Concert Series: Murphy Boys, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Live Music Series: Winch & Koepke, 5 p.m., Batley’s Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way

### Saturday, Aug. 3

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Kids’ Triathlon, 8 a.m., Neenah Pool  
Bonfire in concert, 9 p.m., Willie Beamon’s, 2590 County II

### Sunday, Aug. 4

St. Margaret Mary parish picnic, 10:30 a.m., 620 Division St., Neenah

### Wednesday, Aug. 7

Evening Concert Series: Karen’s Hit List, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

### Thursday, Aug. 8

Out to Lunch Concert Series: Randy Peterson, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Live Music Series: Amelia Ford, 5 p.m., Batley’s Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way

### Saturday, Aug. 10

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park



Neenah News

Amritpal Gill, who owns Gill Liquor, is shown speaking to the Common Council in opposition of a change to city ordinance to allow gas stations to sell beer.

## Beer sales

FROM PAGE 1

The code change deals exclusively with beer, though Community Development Director Chris Haese noted the council could include wine sales as part of the ordinance.

The ban on gas station alcohol sales closely mirrors the city's former ban on grocery store alcohol sales. A 1981 News-Record newspaper article noted that owners of Neenah gas stations and grocery stores were being told that beer and gas or beer and food don't mix when it comes to merchandising. The prohibition on grocery store alcohol sales was eliminated in the 1990s.

Neenah Police Chief Aaron Olson told Neenah News last year that police see gas station beer sales as no different than Walgreens and Dollar General stores that sell alcohol.

The city received pushback on the proposal last week including from Amritpal Gill, who owns Gill Liquor on South Commercial Street.

Gill said that liquor stores and gas stations are two different businesses that shouldn't be put together. He argued that allowing alcohol sales at gas stations will cause many issues for the city, including more crime and will push small businesses out.

"All three gas stations on Main Street, they will not be here, they will not compete with them," he said.

Resident Robert Lace said he's been lobbying against a change in Neenah's ordinance for years.

"My problem is that you're considering OKing the perception of it's OK to drink and drive because when you put alcohol into a gas station you're putting both of them together," he said.

Alderman Lee Hillstrom voted against the council directive and said he will vote against the ordinance change, citing statistics linking an increase in alcohol to an increase in crime.

On the other side, resident Scott Becher told the council that the ordinance would allow the city to review any gas station that applies to sell alcohol.

"This is for economic development," he said. "There's parts of this city that need economic development such as Doty Island, such as South Commercial, such as North Commercial, so this is only an opportunity for us to look at."

Alderman Mark Ellis, who introduced the directive to change the ordinance, said not allowing gas stations to sell beer gives other communities an unfair advantage over Neenah businesses.

"My last point of support for this, quite honestly from an economic standpoint, is the fact that today's convenience stores are yesterday's neighborhood grocery stores and this is a part of that, and this brings us into sync with our neighbors," he said.

## Business news roundup

**Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Specialists**, a doctor-owned orthopedic, sports medicine, rheumatology, and pain management practice, has added spine surgeon **Dr. Jack Leschke** to its team in Neenah and Oshkosh. Board certified in neurosurgery and neurology, Leschke received his medical degree and completed his residency in neurology at the Medical College of Wisconsin followed by a residency in neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota. Leschke treats neurological conditions of the spine including neck and back pain, spinal fractures, spinal tumors, spinal stenosis, spondylolisthesis, degenerative spine disease, spinal arthritis, pinched nerves and sciatica.



Leschke

**McMahon**, a Neenah-based engineering and architectural firm, has hired

**Kaylene Doss** as a water resource engineer, **Hannah Insko** as a water/wastewater specialist, **Ben Jones** as a municipal and civil engineer, **Rich Lewandowski** as a construction services project manager, **Josh Rieck** as a structural engineer and Wally Sedlar as an environmental project manager. Doss graduated from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh with a degree in environmental engineering technology. She brings analytical lab and water monitoring experience to her new role as a water resource engineer. Insko is joining McMahon's Illinois office as a water/wastewater specialist. She holds a degree in biological research from Loras College in Iowa. Insko has experience as an environmental health and safety specialist and spent time as an intern with IPR, a former affiliate of McMahon. Jones recently earned a degree in civil engineering from the University of Mount Union in Ohio. A Neenah High School alum, he interned as a municipal and civil engineer for McMahon while in college. Lewandowski holds a degree in

architecture from the University of Illinois at Chicago and will manage projects for the Structures and Building Systems division. Rieck is a graduate of the University of Wyoming and brings experience designing structural systems. Sedlar holds a master's degree in education from Marian College and a bachelor's degree in resource management from UW-Stevens Point. He has worked in land and water conservation, taught natural resources and agriculture and served as a senior planner for townships.

Two new programs introduced by the California Air Resources Board — Clean Truck Check and Advanced Clean Fleet — require carriers to register most commercial vehicles operating in California and pay an annual fee. **J.J. Keller & Associates** is simplifying this process by introducing its Clean Fleet State Compliance Reporting Service. The programs apply to carriers operating certain diesel, alternative fuel and hybrid powered vehicles in California.

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**Promotions or expansion at your business?**  
 Community or school program to highlight?

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# GILASSS ARTS FESTIVAL



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Photo from Wisconsin Historical Society

The Isabel and Orrin Johnson House in Neenah is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Johnson House listed on historic register

Neenah News

The Isabel and Orrin Johnson House, a single-family residence in Neenah, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Wisconsin Historical Society has announced.

The home at 1002 E. Forest Ave. was designed in the Arts and Crafts style not commonly found in Neenah or Winnebago County and is further distinguished by a Georgian Revival interior, the society noted in its announcement. The surrounding neighborhood is composed of the East Forest Avenue National Register Historic District established in 2005, a grouping of grand houses constructed at the turn of the century.

The house has a pitched roof line with flared eaves and vergeboards, exposed rafters and triangular knee braces. Stucco clads the house with molded belt courses punctuated by wood-frame windows and doors, some of which are highlighted with leaded glass, flower boxes and original storm windows. The residence features an original three-car garage, the earliest known in the city.

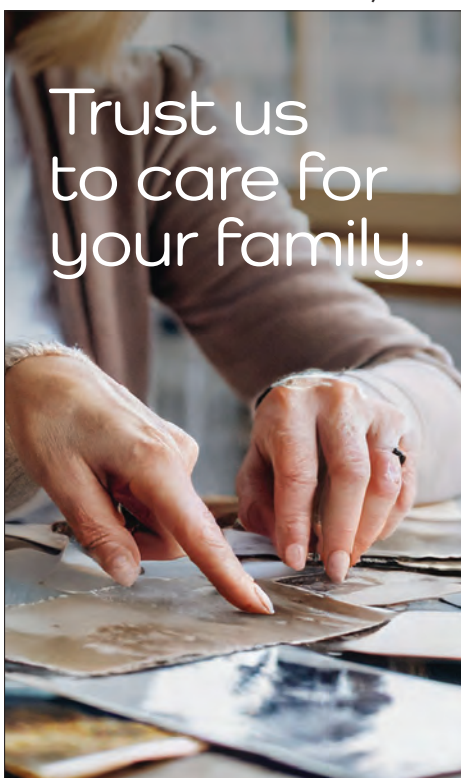
The interior features pronounced fireplaces, a decorative skylight, open floor plan with a solarium, original wood floors, doors with original hardware and ornamental panels.

Isabel Johnson came to Neenah from

Michigan after a divorce from her first husband, then married Charles Smith, president of the Menasha Wooden Ware Co. and one of the wealthiest men in Wisconsin at the time. In 1901, she built a house for her mother at the current site of the Johnson House.

In 1916, Charles passed away and Isabel married Broadway matinee idol Orrin Johnson in 1918. The same year Isabel constructed a larger house for her mother and family in the Arts and Crafts style. The three-car garage was connected to her sitting room.

Orrin died in 1943 and Isabel followed in 1950, when the high-end furnishings and house were sold.



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# Neenah charter school receives \$900,000 federal grant

Alliance Charter Elementary School in Neenah has been awarded a \$900,000 federal subgrant from the U.S. Department of Education for expanding its offerings to students.

The grants are administered through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and will be distributed over the next five years. Alliance was one of 12 schools in the state to receive a portion of the \$11.4 million federal awards to charter schools.

“We are so excited to receive this grant and to be recognized as a high-quality

charter school,” Alliance Principal Garrett Zimmerman said. “This funding will allow us to expand and continue our process of creating a destination school for students and staff.”

Specific areas where the grant will be used include teacher professional development, curriculum development, Montessori materials and equipment, VEX Robotics kits, a robotics club and outdoor Montessori and hands-on equipment.

To be eligible, schools must show evidence of strong academic results, op-

erate in a fiscally appropriate manner and demonstrate success in significantly increasing student academic achievement.

The school features a Montessori-based curriculum and was based out of Roosevelt Elementary School since its inception in 2004 before moving to the former Wilson Elementary School building last

fall.

The school served students in kindergarten through third grades at its opening and eventually added fourth and fifth grade classes. Last year’s move and the grant has allowed Alliance to add four-year-old kindergarten and sixth grade offerings as well as additional classes at each grade level.

## Carnival, craft fair coming to Beaming

Beaming, a Neenah-based nonprofit organization that provides equine-assisted services, is hosting its first Christmas in July Carnival & Craft Fair from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Beaming Ranch, 2692 County GG.

Proceeds will support Special Spaces, a nonprofit that creates dream bedrooms for children with cancer.

The event will feature interaction with horses, carnival games, face painting and balloon art, food trucks, raffle baskets and local crafters. Attendees will have the chance to see Vinland Fire Department’s truck and equipment, the Winnebago

County Sheriff’s Department emotional support dog, and meet Santa for photos.

Admission is \$10 per car and tickets can be purchased in advance at [givebutter.com/7HLs1N](http://givebutter.com/7HLs1N) or at the event. Organizers said closed-toed shoes are required.

Participating nonprofits include Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Family Services Counseling Clinic, J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue, NAMI – Oshkosh, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, SOAR, Rawhide Youth Services, Wild & Free Animal Rescue, and 4-H Youth and Development.



Neenah Historical Society photo

## Mini-sailboat races

In July 1952, Splash Day was held at the Neenah Pool. The event featured a sailboat race in which children raced their home-made boats in the pool.

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- JULY 31** T&C Rodeo & Fireworks 7pm
- AUG 1** County Tractor Pull 7pm
- AUG 2** Badger State Truck & Tractor Pull 6:30pm
- AUG 3** Demo Derby Hollywood Motorsports 6pm

**MUSIC VILLAGE**

- JULY 31** The WhiskeyBelles 8pm
- AUG 1** Eight Second Ride 8pm
- AUG 2** Brent Bel & The Boys 4pm  
Grand Union 8pm
- AUG 3** Rising Phoenix 2pm  
American Platinum 8pm *Guitar Giveaway!*

**MR. ED'S MAGICAL MIDWAY RIDE HOURS**

- JULY 31, AUG 1** 4pm-10:30pm
- AUG 2** 1pm-4pm & 5pm-10:30 pm
- AUG 3** 12pm-4pm & 5pm-10:30pm
- AUG 4** 12pm-4pm *Fair Closes at 4pm*

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

- AUG 2** Seniors Day-9am-4pm \$5 Admission *No Rides*  
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Claire Coats Memorial Horse Pull 11am  
Polka Music 2/5s Party Band 12pm  
Cornhole Tournament Time TBD
- AUG 3** Wood Carving Auction 5pm • Public Welcome

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- Nick's Kids Shows & Barn Yard Adventure 10:30am-5pm
- Mischief & Magic Stage Show 10:30am-5pm **NEW!**
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# Recycling

FROM PAGE 1

Well-intentioned individuals who "wish-cycle" may want to avoid sending items to the landfill without realizing that by putting them in a recycling bin they end up in a landfill anyway, while also increasing recycling program costs and reducing efficiency.

Some of the items are also dangerous. Last July, fireworks came through Winnebago County recycling and one of them went off, starting multiple small fires inside the building.

Hiller said that earlier this month an industrial battery placed in a curbside recycling bin in Outagamie County cracked and caught fire.

"We're very thankful that it was just surrounded by metal so it didn't burn, you know, catch fire inside the facility, and that it was able to be pulled out and extinguished," he said.

The tour showcased the inner workings of the recycling facility and emphasized recycling items that cannot be placed in curbside bins due to size, material or safety concerns, yet are crucial to divert from landfills.

Various materials are recyclable but must be brought to a local recycling center for disposal, with some requiring a fee. Those include freon appliances, tires, rigid plastics, bulbs and styrofoam.

Electronics such as cellphones, computers, printers, DVD players and televisions may also be dropped off in person at recycling centers, with some accepted for free.

Winnebago County education and outreach professional Kelly Reyer said that handling the substantial volume of electronic waste (e-waste) remains an ongoing challenge, citing a UN report that only 22.3% of the e-waste generated in 2022 was recycled and the growth in e-waste is outpacing recycling rates.



Neenah News

Curbside recycling from three counties is transported to a facility in Appleton where it's sorted, processed and prepared to be reused.

cling rates.

The tour also addressed the challenges posed by items that are difficult to dispose of including fireworks, neon lights, vapes and e-cigarettes, ammunition and smoke detectors.

Reyer said fireworks are a hazard whether used or unused.

"So the only thing that we can offer is to advise residents to soak their spent fireworks overnight in a bucket of water – at least overnight if not longer – before putting it in a garbage bag and then into their (garbage) bin," she said.

Reyer said there are no regulations on disposing of neon lights, some of which contain chemicals. Though Tri-County Recycling has a vendor that will accept the lights, it's at a cost of \$65 each.

"It's not convenient for regular customers, it's not cost-effective," she said. "So what happens when things are inconvenient and

expensive? They end up going in the garbage. They're disposed of in a way that's not great."

She added that neon lights are an example of an item "that you want to think of the end of life of this product before purchasing one."

Though vapes and e-cigarettes are marketed as disposable, they contain rechargeable batteries that are not. Reyer said the only local facility accepting them at this time is in Brown County.

"So how many people do you think that use these on a regular basis are going to drive up to Brown County and properly dispose of their vapes?" she asked. "Very few. Maybe one if I'm being positive about that."

When it comes to disposing of ammunition, Reyer said some sheriff's departments will accept it but Winnebago County does not.

"We don't have a great answer for residents," she said. "When somebody asks us about it recently, our best response is to take it to a local gun shop and see if they would accept it and take it off their hands."

Smoke detectors are also difficult to dispose of due to containing small amounts of radioactive material.

"Because of that we don't prefer them to be disposed of in the garbage or the landfill, the best option is not a great option, which is to try to return it to the manufacturer," she said.

Tri-County Recycling partners with specialized vendors who use innovative technologies to reuse items. Each year, Tri-County diverts about 5,480 semitrailer loads of materials from the landfill.

Feedback from tour participants was positive, with many taking photos, asking questions and gaining a deeper appreciation for the importance of a circular economy aimed at eliminating waste and promoting reuse by recycling.

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# Shattuck site

FROM PAGE 1

With its aging infrastructure and outdated amenities, the Neenah Joint School District estimated in 2022 that it would cost in excess of \$2 million to tear down the nearly 100-year-old building, an amount that's likely increased with inflation.

Northpointe estimated Shattuck needed about \$1 million in asbestos abatement and planned to spend \$30 million renovating the building while following national historic preservation requirements. Haese estimated at the time that the Shattuck development would bring about \$19 million in taxable value to Neenah.

The district later sold the school and land to developer Umer Sheikh of Investment Creations following its closure with the district restructuring. Sheikh, of Neenah, has purchased and remodeled several local buildings including The Marketplace on West Wisconsin Avenue and the Equitable Reserve building on South Commercial Street.

Last August, Sheikh told the school board he would construct up to 48 apartments inside Shattuck while keeping the theater, gymnasium, cafeteria and auditorium for community use. On the surrounding land, he said he would sell plots to build between 50 and 60 single-family homes.

Sheikh also agreed to allow the district's Health and Wellness Center to continue operating from the site, a sticking point in the sale that the district estimated would save more than \$600,000 in relocation expenses.

The pivot from constructing apartments inside Shattuck to a sports complex ap-

# Shattuck site timeline

Here's a timeline of the recent developments at Shattuck:

**2019-2020:** The district holds several referendum discussions during which it commits to closing Shattuck Middle School after the 2022-2023 school year and selling the building and surrounding land, excluding the tennis courts and associated parking lots.

**Early 2021:** Neenah Joint School District lists Shattuck Middle School for sale.

**July 2022:** The district receives one offer to purchase Shattuck that came from Northpointe, who offered \$500,000, with the sale contingent on the city rezoning the site so that the developer can construct 89 apartments and 49 single-family homes.

**November 2022:** Northpointe Development applies to rezone the Shattuck property so that it can begin construction. That rezoning request was approved by the Plan Commission by a vote of 6-1, advancing it to the Common Council for a final vote.

**November-December 2022:** Hundreds of residents attend city meetings, sign petitions and contact council members to vocalize their opposition to rezoning Shattuck for a housing development. Residents' concerns included that the property was not properly marketed for sale, that the sale was taking place too quickly and that the proposed apartments would attract crime.

**December 2022:** The Common Council fails to approve rezoning the Shattuck property by a vote of 4-5. The district receives a different offer to purchase Shattuck from Neenah resident Tamara Hasz, with the same terms as the Northpointe offer, without a rezoning contingency. The district took no action on Hasz's offer and requested specific details about her development plans.

**January 2023:** The city sends letters to 65 homes notifying them that signs in their yards stating, "Don't Rezone Shattuck Middle School Leave R-1

Alone" violate city ordinance and gives them a deadline for removal.

**February 2023:** The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty files a federal lawsuit against the city on behalf of residents Tim and Megan Florek arguing that the city's sign ordinance is unconstitutional after the Floreks received notice to remove a sign protesting the Shattuck rezoning. The city spent \$24,525 defending itself, later amended its ordinance and a judge dismissed the lawsuit in March 2024.

**April 2023:** Mequon-based Lakeside Development offers to purchase the Shattuck property for \$30,000 more than Northpointe's offer, with the sale including portions of the property not included in the agreement with Northpointe. Lakeside proposed demolishing the Shattuck building and constructing duplexes, townhomes and single-family homes. The district rejected the Lakeside offer.

**May-June 2023:** The Northpointe purchase offer expires and the district re-lists the Shattuck property for sale.

**July 2023:** The district has a meeting to review four purchase offers ranging from \$500,000 to \$1.3 million including a resubmitted offer from Northpointe with the same terms as the previously failed offer. All the developers planned to construct a housing development. The district votes to sell the property to Investment Creations for \$1 more than Northpointe's offer and no rezoning contingency.

**August 2023 to present:** The district's Wellness Center continues operating out of the Shattuck building but the parcel appears to be vacant without any new construction. Sheikh hasn't responded to calls about the status of the property.

**July 2024:** Spiketown USA announces it will be opening a new sports complex inside the Shattuck building. The company does not list a timeline on when the complex will open.

pears to be a new development and comes amid a severe shortage of available hous-

ing and escalating home sale and rental costs locally and statewide.

Neither Sheikh nor Spiketown USA responded to requests for comment.

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# Repair Cafe Fox Cities set at library

The Neenah Public Library and Repair Cafe Fox Cities will host a repair cafe from noon to 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Shattuck Room of the Neenah Public Library.

The event is an opportunity to bring in broken items for a volunteer fixer to attempt to repair for free. Fixers will specialize in computers, phones, small appliances, electronics, sewing and mending, jewelry and watches.

Fixing used items helps reduce the amount of stuff that goes into the landfill, organizers note, and saves money by restoring older items along with their sentimental value.

Those interested in volunteering, either as a fixer or in some other capacity, can contact [repaircafefoxcities@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafefoxcities@gmail.com).

For more information, contact the Adult Services desk at the Neenah Public Library at 920-886-6315 or at [library@neenahlibrary.org](mailto:library@neenahlibrary.org).

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Neenah Joint School District photo

## Fishing outing

Members of Neenah High School's fishing team and the Neenah Middle School Finatics fishing club hosted students from the YMCA's summer camp program recently at Riverside Park, where about 30 kids participated daily. The defending state champion high school fishing team has participated in several open water tournaments this summer, an Alzheimer's Memory Cafe event with the Neenah Public Library and an ongoing Master Angler program. The Finatics club is expanding this year for students in grades 5-8. Both programs officially begin in September.

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# Public library calendar

- Aug. 1**  
Wee Read Storytime (ages 2 and up): 10 a.m.  
Open Chess: 5:30 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam: 6 p.m.
- Aug. 2**  
Bibliocycle at Fritse Park: 10:30 a.m.
- Aug. 4**  
LEGOs in the Library: 1 p.m.
- Aug. 6**  
Toddler Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months): 9:15 a.m.  
Storytime for Everyone: 10 a.m.  
Mah Jongg Meetup: 5:30 p.m.  
Powered by Yarn: 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 7**  
Baby Time Storytime (birth-12 months): 9:15 a.m.  
Musical Movers Storytime (all ages): 10 a.m.
- Bingo: 1 p.m.  
Strolling Photo Workshop with Photo Opp: 6 p.m.
- Aug. 8**  
Wee Read Storytime (ages 2 and up): 10 a.m.  
"What is the Community Living Room?" Listening Session: 11 a.m.  
Open Chess: 5:30 p.m.
- Aug. 9**  
Sunrise Yoga: 6:30 a.m.
- Aug. 10**  
Tween Craft: Paper Spinners: 10 a.m.
- Aug. 12**  
Short Story Night: 7 p.m.
- Aug. 13**  
Mah Jongg Meetup: 5:30 p.m.
- Aug. 14**  
Strolling Photo Workshop with Photo

- Opp: 6 p.m.
- Aug. 15**  
Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale: 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.  
Open Chess: 5:30 p.m.  
Ukulele Open J a.m.: 6 p.m.
- Aug. 16**  
Sunrise Yoga: 6:30 a.m.  
Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Aug. 17**  
Volunteens!: 10:30 a.m.  
Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale: Bag Day: 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 18**  
Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale: Free Day: Noon- 4 p.m.  
LEGOs in the Library: 1 p.m.
- Aug. 19**  
Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale: Free Day: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Memory Cafe: Virtual visit with Mote Marine: 1:30 p.m.  
Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club:

- 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 20**  
Mah Jongg Meetup: 5:30 p.m.  
Cookbook Book Club: 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 22**  
DIY School Supplies: 4 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Open Chess: 5:30 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam: 6 p.m.
- Aug. 26**  
Monday Morning Book Klatch: 10 a.m.
- Aug. 27**  
Mah Jongg Meetup: 5:30  
Movie Talks: "When Harry Met Sally": 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 29**  
Open Chess: 5:30 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam: 6 p.m.  
Introduction to Home Canning: 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 31**  
Library closed

## Congregational United Church of Christ chooses new pastor from Fond du Lac

Congregational United Church of Christ has selected the Rev. Robert Van Ess as its new pastor and teacher, who will begin working at the church at 1511 Nicolet Blvd. Thursday and lead his first service Aug. 4.



Van Ess

Van Ess recently served Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Fond du Lac and was the vice moderator of the Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference of

the United Church of Christ. He is a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary.

Van Ess collaborated with two other churches to form Cafe Q, an LGBTQ+ youth group, and led one of the four leadership groups to create and support the Holy Family Warming Shelter in Fond du Lac.

United Churches of Christ search for and call their pastors with some assistance from the larger denomination. The search for Van Ess took more than one year and he was chosen from among other qualified applicants. Van Ess will be formally installed at the church in the fall.

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# Blue spaces highlight the special places where we live

By Rob Zimmer  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

American white pelicans sailing over the cobalt blue. Whitecaps lapping at the rocky shore. Bald eagles and mighty osprey sweeping through the sky over the inland sea. Fishermen, kayakers, canoeists and sailboaters voyaging over the tranquil waters.

Our blue spaces are something we can never take for granted.

You've probably heard of green spaces, important and necessary areas of trees and wilderness, even within our urban setting. But have you ever heard of blue space? Here in Neenah, blue spaces are at a prime and something we should celebrate every single day of the year.

Neenah is home to some spectacular blue spaces. From Lake Winnebago and the Fox River to Little Lake Butte des Morts, there are many ways to escape, even temporarily, and be soothed and swept away by the magic of our precious waterways.

I am often asked by new residents to our area what some of my favorite places are to enjoy the water and the wildlife. Here are a few:

## Rydell Conservancy

Situated along the western shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts at the west end of the Trestle Trail, now part of Loop the Lake, this amazing restored wild area is a



great place to enjoy the quiet shore, inland sloughs and abundant wildlife.

## Kimberly Point Park

With its beautiful lighthouse and serene shoreline, enjoying the soothing blue spaces of Kimberly Point is one of my favorite relaxing activities. Watch sailboats drift over the open waters, while pelicans, osprey and eagles feed before you. In any season, this is a wonderful place to enjoy

Wildlife such as the American white pelican (right) make their home in our many regional waterways.

the open water.

## Fresh Air Park

This quiet gem of a park located along the shoreline in a quiet bay of Lake Winnebago is the perfect location to enjoy a sunset along the lake.

## Conservancy Park

One of the newest areas to explore in Neenah, the vast prairie plantings, retention ponds with fountains, woodland trails and more make this a relaxing and peaceful destination to saunter and stroll with nature.

## Riverside Park

Enjoy a few hours sitting on a quiet bench watching boats traverse down the river, as well as waterbirds such as heron, osprey, pelicans, terns, kingfishers and others fishing and feeding along the banks.



Photos by Rob Zimmer

## Doty Island

Multiple small parks and scenic views from the island are magical and serene examples of our rich blue spaces right here in an urban setting.

## Loop the Lake

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# Big first inning helps boost Neenah Legion to win

Neenah News

A three-run first inning proved to be the difference in the Neenah Legion's 4-1 win over Waupaca last Thursday night.

The first five batters reached base for Neenah in the bottom of the first with a walk to Trevor Stichman and singles by Isaac Verbruggen and Adam Lorrig loading the bases with no outs. Wilson Baltus was then hit by a pitch to plate the first run with Jackson Crowder following with a single to right field to plate another run.

Lorrig later dashed home on a passed ball to account for the final run of the inning.

Waupaca scored its lone run in the top of the third before Neenah answered in the bottom of the inning, rallying for a run with two outs despite not getting a hit.

Hunter Hilgers reached on a two-out error by the Waupaca shortstop, while walks to Joshua Waite and Dustin Dorton-Clohesy loaded the bases. Stichman was then hit by an 0-2 pitch to plate Hilgers.

Verbruggen finished 2-for-4 to lead the offense, which totaled just five hits in the game. Stichman did reach base three times in four plate appearances, drawing a pair of walks while also getting hit by a pitch.

Blake Griesbach earned the win on the mound with a complete-game effort.

Griesbach struck out nine without walking a batter and allowed five hits. The run he surrendered was unearned.

The night before, Neenah lost a 6-0 decision to the Appleton Doubledays, despite a strong start from Verbruggen.

Verbruggen struck out six in five innings while allowing six hits and three runs – only two of which were earned. The Doubledays tacked on three unearned runs in the bottom of the sixth to extend the final margin.

Verbruggen and Griesbach had the only hits in the game for Neenah.

Neenah then wrapped up the regular season on Friday, falling to Kaukauna, 11-1 in five innings.

The Legion took the lead in the top of the first when Ty McNeely drilled a one-out double and scored when Baltus followed with a single.

Those were the only two hits in the game for Neenah.

Kaukauna tied the score in the bottom of the second before breaking the game open with six runs in the third inning and four runs in the fourth.

Corban Ducommon took the loss for Neenah.

Neenah was slated to compete in the Class AAA Regional Tournament in Appleton, a double-elimination tournament that began Wednesday.

Neenah was scheduled to open the tournament against Manitowoc, while the Appleton Legion, Appleton Doubledays, Kaukauna and Sheboygan were also in the bracket.

The winner of the regional tournament advances to the Class AAA State Tournament beginning Tuesday in Wisconsin Rapids.



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## International Day of Friendship July 30

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship can make the world a more peaceful place.

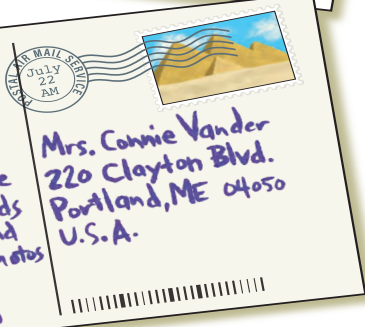
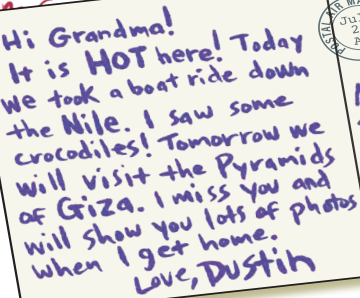
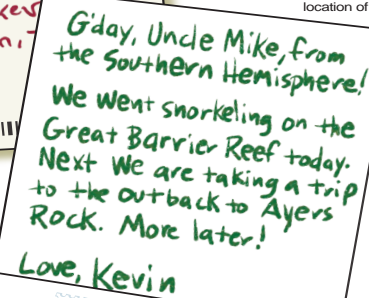
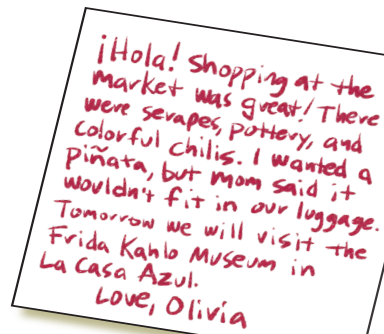
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### Mystery Postcards

Some young travelers have sent postcards home to family in the United States, but the senders forgot to say which country they were visiting. Can you use the geography clues to determine which country each postcard was sent from?

Standards Link: Social Science: Use map and globe skills to find the absolute location of places; use the internet or encyclopedia to research.



### Border Clues

The names of the four countries where these postcards came from are hidden in the letters that form the border at left and right. To find out the names, circle every third letter—starting with the starred one in each row of letters.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand simple written directions.

EGBGRTYMPVPOSTREAQWUMCSPLTEWRWDANKLFRITZA

### Extra! Extra! Cities Search

Look through the newspaper for names of 10 different cities. Arrange these words in alphabetical order.

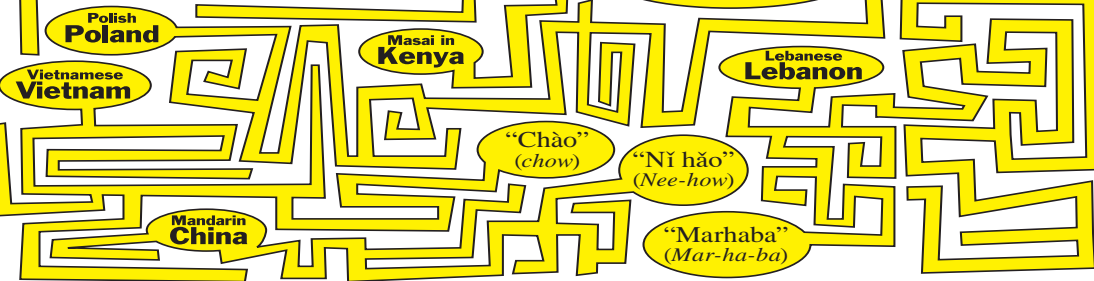
Standards Link: Spelling: Arrange letters in alphabetical order.

Activities on today's page were adapted from the National Geographic Society's educational materials.

### How to Say "Hello!"

Follow the maze to find out how to say hello in each country.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions; Physical Education: Develop eye-hand coordination.



### Fido Phrases

What do dogs "say"? In English we imitate them by saying, "Bow wow!" People in other countries have their own ways to copy the sound a dog makes. Can you find each of the dog sounds in the word puzzle?



HINT: One of them is spelled around a corner.

- English: Bow wow!
- Chinese: Wang wang!
- Russian: Gav gav!
- German: Vow vow!
- Swahili: Wow wow!
- Hebrew: How how!
- Japanese: Wan wan!
- Swedish: Voff voff!
- Spanish: Gwov gwov!

F G A V G A V O  
O W A N W A N O  
V O F F V O F F  
O W O W W O W W  
W G H O W B N A  
G W O V W O V N  
W O V G N A W G  
O W O H W O H O  
B O W W O W O B

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

- REEF
- CHINA
- POLAND
- VIETNAM
- KENYA
- LEBANON
- METRO
- SALSA
- HELLO
- WORLD
- NILE
- LEFT
- CHAO
- GOT
- LINKS
- TRIP

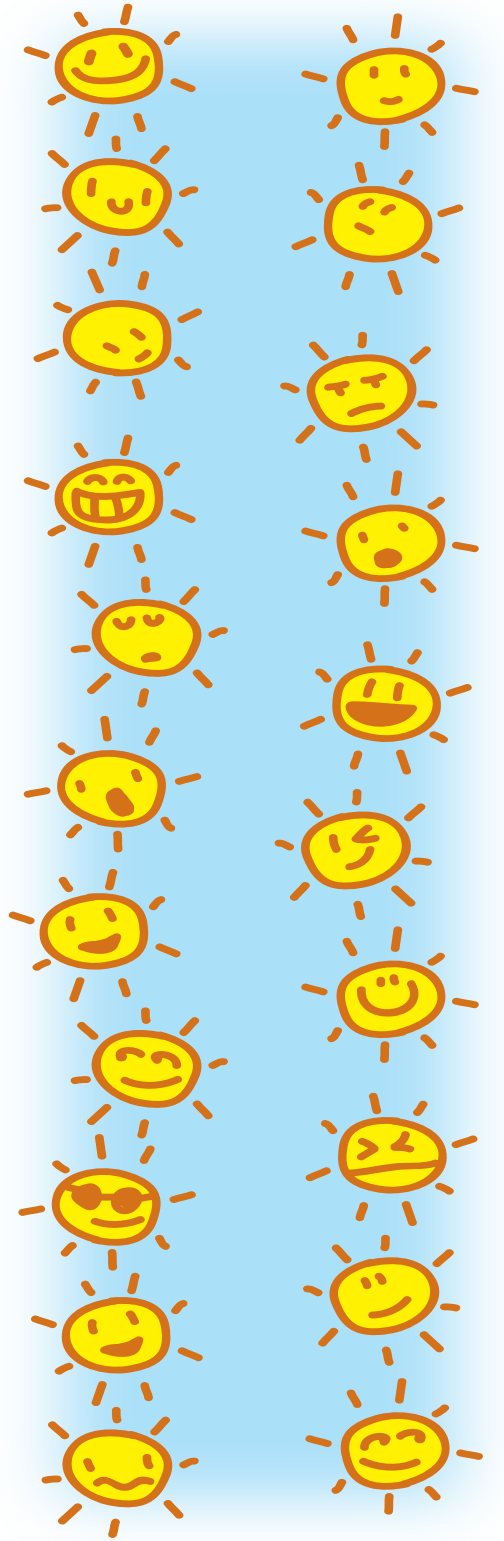
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

H E L L O J R Y V A  
W O I R C S L I E S  
Q U T A H F E E R K  
J E B D I T B J C N  
M S K N N O A H C I  
T P A A A Y N E K L  
F I M L T W O R L D  
E R E O S L N I L E  
L T G P T A W H T M

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

### Fun in the Sun

Look closely. Only two of these suns are exactly alike. How quickly can you find them? Have a friend try.



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### Write On! Friends

## Friends

What makes a good friend?

Standards Link: Write descriptively using main idea and supporting details.

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