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Property tax hike replaces street fee

Council approves increase to offset TARF removal

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council voted last week to raise property taxes to cover the cost of street reconstruction, resurfacing and sidewalk projects that would have been funded by a transportation assessment replacement fee (TARF), which the Common Council suspended.

The average homeowner with a home valued at \$275,000 will see an overall sav-

ings of \$40 on their utility bill due to the removal of the TARF, while their tax bill will increase by \$124.

The increase includes \$44 to fund the budget, \$40 to replace fees generated by the TARF and \$40 to cover the shift of burden for businesses and tax-exempt organizations such as schools, hospitals and churches, that will no longer be required to pay a TARF.

The new tax plan comes after Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC), the state's chamber of commerce and manufacturers' association, served a notice of claim to the city, arguing the TARF

is an illegal tax and threatening a lawsuit unless it was repealed.

WMC recently prevailed in two lawsuits that struck down transportation utility fees (TUFs) imposed by the Town of Buchanan and Village of Pewaukee. WMC asserts that Neenah's TARF "is substantively identical to both of those recently invalidated TUFs."

Neenah implemented a TARF in 2018 under former mayor Dean Kaufert, considering it a more equitable and effective process to manage the high cost of road

SEE **Street costs** ON PAGE 10

INSIDE



Visual views

Last Light Neenah
dazzles downtown
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Hoops preview

Rockets, Zephyrs
launch new lineups
Page 8



Photo by David Hall

Ice opening

Skating season downtown opened last weekend at The Plaza with skating for the public along with figure skating exhibitions. General rink hours will be 4-7 p.m. Monday, 4-8 p.m. Thursday, 4-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, with private rental events Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Mobile clinic brings free dental care to regional schools

Tri-County Dental served five schools in 2023-24

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When the Tri-County Dental mobile clinic pulls up outside Coolidge Elementary School in Neenah, students get excited.

"Students ask if it's their turn. The staff on the bus make the children feel comfortable so I never have a problem with getting them to go," said Nicole Volkman, an administrative assistant with Coolidge Elementary.

The mobile dental clinic provides children with Medicaid or no dental insurance with free oral health care at area schools, including five in the Neenah Area School District during the 2023-24 school year. A total of 107 students were helped.

"Cavities are preventable but 1 in 3 children in Wisconsin have untreated tooth decay," said Lisa Hintz, community outreach director with Tri-County Dental. "By providing children with the dental care they need at school, we can improve their overall health. Oral health has such a strong impact on overall health."

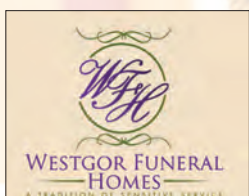
SEE **Dental care** ON PAGE 10



Submitted photo

The Tri-County Dental Clinic's mobile unit is shown outside of Menominee Elementary School in Oshkosh recently.

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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

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Amcor, Kraft donate mac & cheese to pantries

Neenah News

One of every three Winnebago County residents will face food insecurity this year, which can lead to them skipping meals. As the holiday season approaches, one company's charitable donation will go to thousands of residents.

Amcor in Oshkosh donated 78,000 boxes of macaroni and cheese to two local food pantries, who will spread the food across the Fox Valley to ensure the donation has an impact this time of year.

The mac and cheese filled 28 pallets, 14 for St. Joseph's Food Program in Menasha for distribution in Neenah, Menasha, Kimberly and Appleton pantries, and Oshkosh Area Community Pantry getting the remaining 14 pallets. Oshkosh pantry executive director Ryan Rasmussen said the mac and cheese will be distributed to pantries in Oshkosh, Omro and Winneconne.

"It's a phenomenal donation," he said. "It's especially important during the holiday season."

Chair of Amcor Cares Ethan Haas said the company has a great relationship with Kraft Heinz Co. as it makes the packaging for its food products.

Along with donations to the Fox Valley, Amcor will be sending thousands of boxes to Asheville, N.C., where there is an Amcor plant, and will help the area after a re-



Neenah News

A pallet of Kraft Mac & Cheese is loaded up to head to area food pantries thanks to a donation from Amcor, who gave away 78,000 boxes nationwide ahead of the holiday season. Fourteen pallets were going to northern Winnebago County food donation sites.

cent hurricane.

The Oshkosh Area Food Pantry serves 2,300 families a month and is on pace to provide 2.5 million pounds of food to area residents this year. Rasmussen said more than 30% of county residents will face food insecurity this year and 54% of students in the school district regularly face food insecurity.

"It's a real issue facing our community,"

he said.

Rasmussen said the most requested items this time of year are turkeys, stuffing, cranberry sauce and soups. Then in December the pantry looks for more holiday baking items.

"Anything you like to bake with is a great donation in December," he said. "These donations help everyone to enjoy the holiday season."

Man found dead outside Doty Ave. residence

Neenah News

Neenah police are investigating the death of a man Sunday morning in the 200 block of East Doty Avenue after responding to a welfare check of a male behind a residence.

Officers arrived at about 8:40 a.m. and the man was transported to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead. Police

had not identified the man as of Tuesday.

Police are seeking assistance with any information regarding activity either at Shattuck Park or the 200 block of E. Doty from about 6 p.m. Saturday until 9 a.m. Sunday. The public can either call 920-886-6012 or Winnebago County Crime Stoppers at 920-231-8477.

Calendar of events

Friday, Nov. 29

Janet Planet, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 West American Drive, Fox Crossing

Saturday, Nov. 30

Small Business Saturday, downtown Neenah

Author Meet & Greet: Kelly Nelson and Tammy Borden, 10 a.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Monday, Dec. 2

VolunteerFest, 3 p.m., Jewelers Mutual Group Headquarters, 24 Jewelers Park Drive

Tuesday, Dec. 3

Gift Gallery St. Nick Sale, 9 a.m., The daCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah (through Thursday)

Thursday, Dec. 5

Author Meet & Greet: Lori Jones, 4 p.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Friday, Dec. 6

First Friday Concert Series, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

A Very Neenah Christmas, 5 p.m., downtown locations

Saturday, Dec. 7

Timeless Treasures Christmas Bazaar, 8 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 S. Park Ave.

Art Activity Day and Holiday Open House, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Driftless Revelers, 9 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

Sunday, Dec. 8

Sunday Concert Series: Christo's Novelty Combo, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Neenah Community Band Holiday Concert, 3 p.m., Neenah High School PAC

Monday, Dec. 9

Monday Matinees, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewing Co.

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New tennis courts coming to Southview Park

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Residents may have noticed some racket in Southview Park as the city removes the aging tennis courts in preparation for replacing them with new courts next spring.

The six lighted tennis courts in Southview Park are more than 25 years old and in poor condition, with cracks in the asphalt causing unsafe playing conditions.

Neenah budgeted \$400,000 in 2025 to replace the courts, which includes underdrain and storm sewer connection, stone placement, trail restoration, and new asphalt, fencing, posts, nets, anchors and color coating.

Park staff is currently demolishing the courts and will be installing erosion control, new concrete for the west approach and restoration work.

The 27-acre park at 200 W. Bell St. has four ballfields, a basketball court, soccer field, outdoor shelter, restrooms, playground equipment and forest with asphalt trails, in addition to the tennis courts.

Director of parks and recreation Michael Kading said the courts are heavily used by the public. From June through July, the city's summer tennis program uses them daily from 8 a.m. to noon.

Though the racket sport pickleball has



Neenah News

City staff demolish the tennis courts in Southview Park last week in preparation for six new courts that will be constructed next spring.

been getting popular, Kading said the Southview Park courts will only be for tennis.

"We have other intentions of more pickleball courts throughout the city so we'll continue to work on that," he said.

Kading said Neenah is a tennis-friendly community, with the Parks Department maintaining a total of 10 tennis and four pickleball courts at four parks. In both Washington and Doty parks, there are two tennis courts with marked overlays for pickleball and two dedicated pickleball

courts. Green Park has two tennis courts with marked overlays for pickleball.

Bids for construction of the Southview Park courts went to the Parks & Recreation Commission last week and will go to the Common Council this Wednesday, "with the idea that we'll be able to have a contractor hired and in motion to begin the work as soon as the weather avails itself in spring," he said.

The courts are expected to be finished and ready for use sometime next summer.

Neenah man gets life term for killing trans woman

Neenah News

A 35-year-old Neenah man convicted of killing a Black Milwaukee transgender woman and starting her apartment on fire was sentenced Monday to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Cordell Howze's sentencing hearing came about three months after a jury convicted him of first-degree intentional homicide, arson and being a felon in possession of a firearm in the killing of 31-year-old Cashay Henderson in February 2023.

Henderson's death was one of a string of Black trans women killed in Milwaukee after the death of Brazil Johnson in June 2022, Regina "Mya" Allen in September 2022 and Chyna Long in October 2023.

Howze had been released from the Winnebago County Jail two days before the killing for violating his extended supervision in a Winnebago County felony case.

Milwaukee Assistant District Attorney Grant Huber said Howze traveled from Neenah to Henderson's Milwaukee apartment where he shot and robbed her and started a fire to cover it up.

"The horror of what that victim went through and what the defendant did to her afterwards is beyond the ability to even articulate," Huber told the judge at sentencing. "He didn't just kill her. He tried to erase her dignity and humanity."

Howze denied killing Henderson but admitted to recording cellphone video of her body inside the apartment immediately after she was killed. Documents say he gave his mother a Gucci purse and a Rolex

watch, both of which were stolen from Henderson.

Henderson's sister spoke during the sentencing hearing, describing her as kind and funny.

"Her life meant something to us," she said. "As we see justice for my sister, I hope

you remember that her life was cut short because of someone's hatred. This wasn't just an attack on her, it was an attack on everyone who believes in acceptance and kindness. We need justice not just for our family, but for everyone who lives in fear because of who they are."

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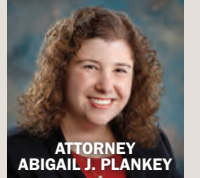
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Permanent outdoor light show coming to downtown

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Dynamic visuals and imaginative animations will soon illuminate select locations in the downtown as the city prepares for Last Light: Neenah, an outdoor video projection experience kicking off this holiday season.

The alley next to the Future Neenah office on West Wisconsin Avenue, back of the office building and side of Greene's Pour House on South Church Street will come to life with myriad images and videos, transforming regular surfaces into three-dimensional, interactive canvases.



Dunning

Projection mapping involves using technology to map animation, videos and images onto surfaces such as buildings and monuments. Inspired by the largest video projection installation in the world, Cite Memoire in Montreal, Last Light is the first permanent outdoor projection mapping display in the Midwest.

The project has been in the works for more than two years. Spearheaded by the nonprofit Future Neenah, staff initially considered renting the projection mapping equipment, but the cost was prohibitive.

Michelle Dunning, outreach and development coordinator for Future Neenah, said staff began working with Optical Productions of Appleton to come up with a plan to purchase the equipment and install it permanently.

"It's going to be one of the bigger things



Neenah News

During a soft launch Monday, Future Neenah gave attendees a preview of an outdoor projection mapping display coming to the downtown.

that Neenah has seen, but we think it's going to be one of the coolest things that Neenah has seen," she said.

Optical Productions was co-founded by professional projection mappers Jeremy Scholz and Brian Beyer who got their start in the music scene, doing production for music festivals that requires quick projection mapping.

With the help of Loren Breckenridge of Cody Stone Jewelers, Optical Productions created weather-protective pods for the

projectors so they can continue operating through the cold and snow of winter.

"These projectors, nobody makes boxes for them, so we had no choice," Scholz said. "No one has even attempted this – a permanent installation, especially in all seasons."

Artists from Optical Productions map out the area and create the content. The artists will remotely access and operate the equipment each evening.

As an example of the interactivity of

the equipment, artists can map out the bricks and if someone touches a brick, it could change colors. If there are images of snowflakes falling, they could touch a snowflake and it may disappear. If a viewer raises their hand, the cameras can follow them and display an artistic rendering of the person.

Scholz described the video installation as a digital playground that will constantly be changing.

"As you see this here for a number of years, it's going to evolve incredibly, especially when we start involving different artists," he said, adding there will also be opportunities for people to watch the art being composed instead of just seeing it displayed.

Though the final video displays will be a surprise, this holiday season the videos will be decked out with Christmas flair.

"That's why I love projectors, because every time I look at other lights all you can do is turn them on and off and maybe change the color, but this is like completely immersive," he said.

The public video installations will remain a permanent fixture, featuring refreshed visuals once or twice per month. Though final details are still being worked out, it's expected that the artistic displays will operate from 5 to 9 p.m. nightly.

Looking forward, Dunning said Future Neenah is considering using the projectors for collaborative art projects with schools, organizations and businesses and may add more in other areas of the city.

"We think it's really going to bring the community together, as well as making it a destination and bringing people to Neenah to see the video projection, because it's going to be changing," she said.

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Driving deaths bring 37-year term

Neenah News

A 48-year-old Neenah man was sentenced to more than 37 years in prison last week in Waupaca County Court in the deaths of four siblings by intoxicated use of a vehicle Dec. 16 in the Town of Weyauwega.



Farmer

Scott Farmer pleaded no contest in August to four counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle and one charge of operating while intoxicated.

Other charges that included several traffic violations were dropped but read into the record. Farmer was sentenced to 37 and a half years and credited for 342 days served.

He had four previous OWI convictions and his driver's license was revoked for life.

Farmer was driving the wrong way on County X at U.S. 10 on that Saturday night when he crashed head-on into a vehicle, killing Daniel Gonzalez, 25; Fabian Gonzalez, 23; Lilian Gonzalez, 14; and Danie-

la Gonzalez, 9.

Last week's sentencing hearing included several statements from the victims' family, including their mother, Paulina, and stepfather, Kurt Schilling. All talked about how the crash has impacted the family and their memories of the four siblings.

"I ask you to consider the infinite pain that consumes me every day and give this man the maximum sentence," Paulina Gonzalez told the judge through an interpreter.

All requested the maximum sentence, noting this was Farmer's fifth drunken driving offense. Waupaca County District Attorney Kat Turn said Farmer had been through rehab services for alcoholism multiple times.

Authorities found an open bottle of vodka in Farmer's vehicle and he had a blood-alcohol level 17 times Farmer's legal limit of 0.02% due to previous convictions.

"My criminal actions were inexcusable and I'm so sorry for that for the rest of my life," Farmer told the court. "So many lives have been torn apart by my negligence and selfish behavior and I'm so sorry for that."



Neenah Historical Society photo

Wreath team

Leaders from the Boys and Girls Brigade work on the Christmas wreath fundraiser in 1996.

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Business news roundup

Kundinger Service and Repair Solutions, an affiliate of Kundinger Inc., providers of fluid power, automation and process control solutions in Wisconsin and Michigan, has acquired Astro Hydraulics based in Green Bay. The acquisition continues a period of growth for Kundinger, based in Neenah, which recently announced the acquisition of CCT Enterprises in Schofield. Kundinger Service and Repair Solutions was founded in 2014 while Kundinger Inc. has more than 60 years of experience as a family-owned and operated business for three generations employing more than 60 people.

An **Ollie's Bargain Outlet** warehouse store is coming into the former Big Lots site at 699 S. Green Bay Road that closed in August after less than a year at that location. The national chain has Wisconsin locations in Rothschild and Kenosha with plans for a Fond du Lac store in the former Big Lots location there.

Menasha Corp. was among 22 Wisconsin employers recognized by the Department of Workforce Development for exceptional commitment to hiring and supporting veterans. Menasha Corp. received a Gold Certification in the large employer category as part of the 2024 Vets Ready Employer Initiative, which recognizes organizations that excel in

veteran recruitment and retention. Menasha Corp. advanced from silver to gold status and attributed it to the use of advanced software to monitor metrics that support veteran recruitment and hiring goals, and collaboration with specialized services to match veterans with open positions. "We continually look for ways to be a supportive workplace community for our veterans and the M-VETS employee resource group is helping our 250 veterans thrive in their careers," stated chief human resources officer Tina Seashore.

McMahon engineering, architectural and consulting firm has hired **Harold Barker** as a water resource and municipal engineer, **Ricky Gifford** as a senior engineering technician, **Alex Gohlke** as a municipal and civil engineering technician and **Ray Maurer** as a public management specialist. Barker has professional experience in on-site municipal construction inspection and extensive knowledge in water resources. Gifford brings expertise in drafting and designing using Autodesk Land Development Desktop (LDD) and Civil 3D products. Gohlke has worked in road construction and the trucking industry. Maurer has been a public management specialist with almost 30 years of experience serving municipal governments in the parks and recreation field, mostly recently in Oshkosh.

Isolated shooting incident under investigation

Neenah News

A man suffered a gunshot wound to the neck in an incident Monday night in the 2300 block of Imperial Lane, according to Fox Crossing police.

Police responded to the weapons complaint at 6:23 p.m. and said the situation

appears to be isolated and said no further details were available as the investigation is active.

The Fox Crossing Police Department encourages anyone with information related to this incident to contact them at 920-720-7109 or by private message on Facebook.



Fox Cities Chamber photo

Aaron and Nicole Barrett are growing their assisted living and memory care business with a 75-unit project in Fox Crossing.

CopperStone Assisted Living expanding in Fox Crossing

Neenah News

A groundbreaking ceremony earlier this month in Fox Crossing begins an expansion project for a Winnebago County assisted living facility.

CopperStone Assisted Living & Memory Care is opening a 75-unit, 72,000-square-foot assisted living community a few miles away from its 61-unit development at 751 Deerwood Ave. in Neenah.

Owners Aaron and Nicole Barrett noted the growing demand for assisted-living housing with the number of Wisconsin residents ages 75 and older expected to increase by 75% by 2040.

"CopperStone was created to provide our residents complete access to the care they need for activities of daily living, without the care becoming the focal point of their life. Our mission is to allow families to enjoy the time with their elderly

family members, rather than becoming the care entity," said Nicole Barrett. "We are excited for the opportunity to serve the aging population within the community with this expansion."

The new assisted living community will feature one-bedroom and studio apartments and designed to meet the needs of seniors requiring various levels of care. The facility will also have 20 units for specialized memory care. Personalized caregiving will be available and expected to create more than 50 jobs.

Amenities will include dining, a coffee bar, library and outdoor spaces with walking trails.

Consolidated Construction Co. is the development's construction partner with Grunwaldt & Halverson as architect. Construction is scheduled to begin in December and is projected to be completed in fall 2025.



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Fox Cities Chamber gives Lifetime Achievement Awards

Neenah News

The Fox Cities Chamber has announced recipients of its Lifetime Achievement Awards given to individuals who embrace principled leadership, strategic thinking, balanced workplace values and a pursuit of excellence.

Recipients include:

- John Hogerty, Bergstrom Corp. executive vice president, general counsel, secretary and treasurer, was given the Gus A. Zuehlke Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contributions through leadership in business and service as a chamber member.
- Richard Parks, financial representative for Modern Woodmen of America, the



Hogerty



Parks



Dicus-Johnson



Schmidt



Shrode

Joyce Bytof Exceptional Mentor Award for being proactive in the advancement of others by sharing time, talent and business experience to promote growth and opportunity in the community.

- Coreen Dicus-Johnson, president and chief executive for Network

Health, was given the Athena Leadership Award, which goes to a woman who has achieved the highest level of professional excellence.

- John Schmidt, U.S. Venture board chairman, received the Business Hall of Fame Award presented to a retired indi-

vidual or individuals who have demonstrated personal and business success and are role models for future generations.

- Paul Shrode, retired educator and college administrator, was given the Legacy Award

presented to a member whose enduring dedication and visionary contributions have significantly shaped the success of the Fox Cities Chamber.

The individuals will be honored Jan. 21 at the Celebrate event at Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel in Neenah.

Lung cancer awareness increases knowledge and advocacy

ThedaCare Communications

While most nonsmokers might think they are not at risk for lung cancer, that is not always accurate. While it's true that most cases of the disease are linked to smoking, an estimated 10% to 20% of people with lung cancer have never picked up a cigarette.

This is Lung Cancer Awareness Month and calls for increasing knowledge and advocacy around the disease. Nearly 250,000 Americans receive a lung cancer diagnosis each year. Lung cancer is the third-most common cancer in the United States, and it remains the leading cause of cancer death.

It's especially important for people with a history of smoking to get screened for lung cancer. At the same time, everyone should know the signs and symptoms of lung cancer.

"If something feels amiss or you're experiencing a new symptom such as cough, shortness of breath, or fatigue for a sustained period of time, it's always a good idea to check in with your primary care provider," said Dr. Shanelli Fernando, a radiation oncologist with ThedaCare Cancer Care.

Each year, about 20,000 to 40,000

non-smokers throughout the United States are diagnosed with lung cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A non-smoker is defined as people who have never smoked or smoked fewer than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.

While some non-smokers develop lung cancer for no clear reason, researchers attribute many cases to two main culprits: secondhand smoke and radon.

Secondhand smoke is defined as exposure to tobacco products. It can cause disease and premature death among people who do not smoke. There's no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Even brief exposure can cause immediate harm, the CDC states.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that can leak into your home and is common in Wisconsin. An estimated one in 10 homes in Wisconsin has high radon levels, according to the state Department of Health Services.

The agency recommends people have their home's radon level tested. If the result comes back high, homeowners can consider installing a radon mitigation system.

Factors including air pollution and a

family history of lung cancer also can contribute to an increased risk for developing the disease.

"Lung cancer symptoms are the same regardless of whether you're a smoker or not," Fernando said. "While the disease often doesn't have symptoms in its early stages, some people will develop signs."

Watch for these symptoms:

- Coughing: Lung cancer can cause a cough that doesn't go away or gets worse. It also may lead to coughing up bloody or rust-colored phlegm.

- Wheezing and shortness of breath: You may develop wheezing — a high-pitched whistle when you breathe, or difficulty drawing a breath.

- Infections that don't resolve: This could be a case of bronchitis or pneumonia that doesn't go away or keeps coming back, despite treatment.

- Chest pain: The discomfort often worsens with deep breathing, coughing or laughing.

- Hoarseness: Your voice may become quiet or raspy.

- Poor appetite and weight loss: You may experience loss of appetite or lose weight without trying.

- Feeling tired or weak: You may feel fatigued, even with adequate rest.

It can be tricky to pinpoint lung cancer symptoms because many can occur with common illnesses and ailments such as colds, viruses, and allergies, Fernando explained.

"We hope everyone will be aware of their bodies, and get medical care for symptoms that are concerning," she said. "Seeing your doctor will help you get the treatment you need."

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Neenah aims for more success despite roster overhaul

Neenah News

The Neenah boys basketball team has had nearly unparalleled success over the past three seasons.

The Rockets are one of two teams to advance to three straight state tournaments in any division – Division 2 Pewaukee is the other – and have collected one gold basketball in that span, winning the state title in 2022.

Each state-qualifying squad has had a different leading scorer, which shows the strength of the Neenah program. No matter the caliber of players lost to graduation, there is always another talented group waiting in the wings.

“We provide an environment that allows every kid opportunities for growth and development,” commented head coach Lee Rabas. “The kids work hard (and) our coaching staff does a great job with development.”

Neenah returns only one of its top four scorers from last season and have only a quartet of players who were part of the regular varsity rotation. But that doesn't mean the Rockets won't be among the leaders in the Fox Valley Association when all is said and done this season.

Rabas hopes this year's squad can be stingier on the defensive end and then find a way to spread the offense around as it looks to surprise teams that may overlook the overhauled roster and once again contend in a talent-rich conference.

“We will have to figure out things offensively as we lost two of the most dynamic scorers in the program's history in Brady Corso and Charlie Wunderlich,” Rabas commented. “We are going to have to be a much better defensive team than we were



Neenah News

Neenah senior Luke Jung (5) was one of the top defenders on the Rockets last season while also being the team's top returning scorer from a year ago.

last year and a much better rebounding team.

“We just have to play better on the court than what they will be ranked on paper.”

Leading the list of returning players for the Rockets will be senior Luke Jung, who is committed to play football next season at NCAA Division II Minnesota-Duluth. Jung was the team's top returning scorer at 10.2 points per game as well as the team's top returning rebounder. He also played a

key role defensively in the team's march to the state tournament.

Juniors Nick Schultz and Cal Juckem each played in 28 of the team's 29 games last season, while senior Joey Daun also saw regular varsity minutes. Combined, that trio chipped in about eight points per game – with Schultz's 3.8 points per game average leading the group – but the Rockets will be looking for increased production from each as their

minutes are expected to increase this season.

Senior Mason Flees is the only other player to see substantial varsity action last season, while fellow seniors Benjy Bell, Drew Dunning, Aviv Pradhananga and Armani Meyer, along with junior Roan Koeper return after seeing limited varsity action last season.

Rabas is also looking toward varsity newcomers James Weiland, Cole Schaefer, Trey White, Carter Burns and Nyok Ryak to contribute this season.

Last season, Neenah struggled a bit at the start of the season with an overhauled roster and that could be the case again for the Rockets.

Neenah was just 2-4 in the FVA and 4-6 overall to start the season as the team found its footing but then rattled off wins in 17 of their next 18 games before falling to Arrowhead 99-95 in four overtimes in a WIAA Division 1 state semifinal.

The Rockets ended up finishing in second place in the FVA, behind only Oshkosh North.


St. Mary Catholic

The Zephyrs will feature a deeper roster this year as they look to once again contend in the Big East North.

St. Mary Catholic lost its top two scorers – and its two tallest players – from last season in Braeden Brenn and Fisher Mackenzie, but head coach Paul Bradshaw believes this year's group will be successful with a bit of a different approach.

“This year's team will be younger and smaller (than last year), but we will also be quicker and deeper,” Bradshaw com-


SEE **Boys basketball** ON PAGE 9





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Boys Varsity Basketball

Winter 2024-2025 Schedule



 ST. MARY CATHOLIC			 NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL		
Nov. 26	Wautoma	7:15pm	Nov. 27	@Brookfield East	3:30pm
Dec. 3	Bonduel	7:15pm	Dec. 6	Kimberly	6:00pm
Dec. 6	Wittenberg-Birnamwood	7:15pm	Dec. 13	@Fond du Lac	7:30pm
Dec. 10	Howards Grove	7:15pm	Dec. 17	Kaukauna	7:30pm
Dec. 13	@Michicot	7:15pm	Dec. 20	@Appleton East	7:30pm
Dec. 17	Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	7:15pm	Dec. 21	Indian Trail & Academy	5:30pm
Dec. 20	Sheboygan Area Lutheran	5:50pm	Dec. 28	@Hudson	3:00pm
Jan. 2	@Sturgeon Bay	7:00pm	Jan. 3	Oshkosh North	7:30pm
Jan. 4	@The Prairie	4:00pm	Jan. 7	Hortonville	7:30pm
Jan. 7	@Winneconne	7:00pm	Jan. 10	@Appleton West	7:30pm
Jan. 10	@Reedsville	7:15pm	Jan. 14	Oshkosh West	7:30pm
Jan. 13	Hilbert	7:15pm	Jan. 17	@Appleton North	7:30pm
Jan. 16	Manitowoc Lutheran	7:15pm	Jan. 21	Marshfield	7:30pm
Jan. 20	@Howards Grove	7:15pm	Jan. 24	@Kimberly	7:45pm
Jan. 23	Michicot	7:15pm	Jan. 28	Fond du Lac	7:30pm
Jan. 28	@Kohler	7:15pm	Jan. 31	@Kaukauna	7:30pm
Jan. 31	@Elkart Lake-Glenbeulah	7:15pm	Feb. 4	Appleton East	7:30pm
Feb. 7	Reedsville	7:15pm	Feb. 7	@Oshkosh North	7:30pm
Feb. 11	@Hilbert	7:15pm	Feb. 8	Wisconsin Lutheran	6:00pm
Feb. 14	@Manitowoc Lutheran	7:15pm	Feb. 14	@Hortonville	7:30pm
Feb. 18	@Menasha	7:00pm	Feb. 15	Wisconsin Rapids Lutheran	6:00pm
Feb. 20	TBD (Senior Night)	7:15pm	Feb. 18	Appleton West	7:30pm
			Feb. 21	@Oshkosh West	7:30pm
			Feb. 27	Appleton North	7:30pm

Home games played at St. Mary Catholic High School McClone Gymnasium

Home games played at Neenah High School 211 Competition Gym

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– Schedules subject to change



Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Boys basketball

FROM PAGE 8

mented. "This team can play fast, defend better and move the ball well. We have a nice balance of players that can attack the basket and shoot from 3 very well."

St. Mary Catholic will be led by one of the top all-around players in the conference in senior Preston Fields.

Fields was a second-team all-conference selection a year ago averaging 10.3 points, 7.7 rebounds and a league-best 7.5 assists per game last season. The four-year varsity player had four triple-doubles last year for the Zephyrs, with St. Mary Catholic winning all four games.

The Zephyrs also return starters in junior Mason Uhlenbrauck and sophomore Luke Fairweather. Uhlenbrauck averaged 9.8 points per game last season and finished second on the team with 46 3-pointers, while Fairweather chipped in 6.2 points per contest.

Senior Kieran Barrientos was a key reserve last season for the Zephyrs and returns after averaging 6.1 points per game, while fellow senior Myles Torville is expected to make a big leap in playing time this season and will be counted on to contribute.

Another key player off the bench last year, Sean Ortscheid, will miss his senior season due to an injury suffered this summer.

Juniors Mason Wagner, Isaiah Hennessy and Maddox Dwyer along with sophomore Tarver Trinkner also return after seeing limited varsity minutes last season, while sophomore Max Vosters and freshmen Dylan Brenn and Gavin Breck will be newcomers to the varsity roster and expected to contribute.

The Zephyrs finished tied for second with Reedsville – a team they beat twice – last season and have finished in the top three in the conference in each of the last five years.

Bradshaw believes that this group should be right there again.

"I'm excited about our ability to defend this year. We have more players that are willing defenders and we will be a physical team," Bradshaw commented. "This team will use those strengths, along with great teamwork and ball movement to score at the rate needed to compete at the top of the Big East North."

Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Neenah improves to 2-0 with easy win

The Rockets hit 12 3-pointers and had three players finish in double figures as they rolled to an 81-33 nonconference win over Wausau West last Friday.

Rowan Klesmit knocked down four 3-pointers and finished with 29 points to lead Neenah in scoring for the second straight game. Ellie Buss added 20 points, also hitting four 3-pointers. The duo combined to go 8-of-15 from beyond the arc.

Ava Kreger also reached double figures with 10 points for the Rockets, while Alex Guden finished with eight points.

Klesmit and Alissa Ebel led Neenah with five rebounds apiece.

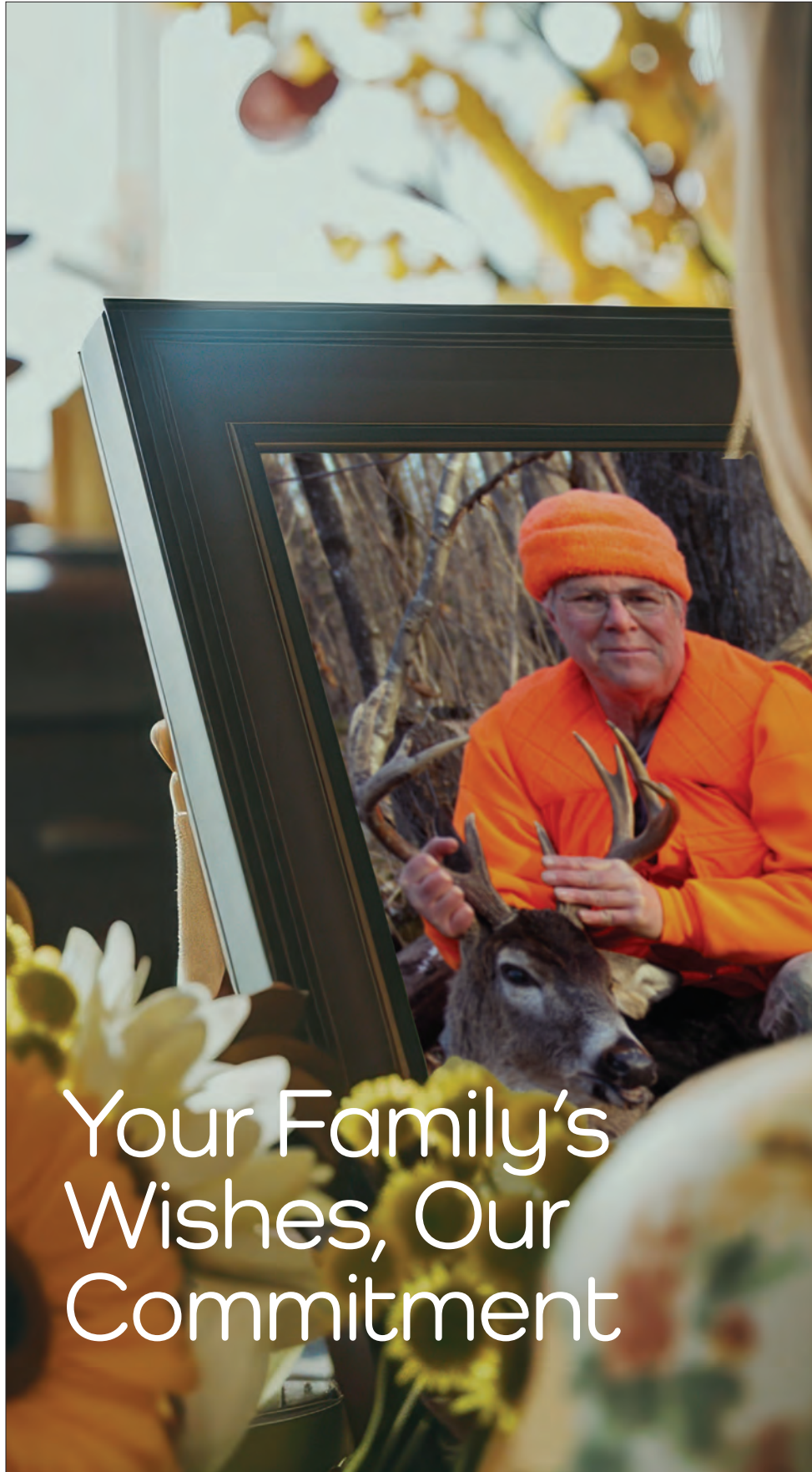
The Rockets, who also went an impressive 13-of-17 from the free-throw line, led 42-20 at halftime and then held Wausau West to just 13 points in the second half.

Balanced attack leads Zephyrs to victory

Three players reached double figures as St. Mary Catholic opened the season with a convincing 50-37 win at Bonduel.

Autumn Crowe scored 10 of her team-high 14 points in the first half as the Zephyrs built a 24-16 lead.

Nolie Anderson and Eliana Brenn each added 10 points, while Emily Vogel chipped in nine points in the win.



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Dental care

FROM PAGE 1

Hintz said poor oral health can lead to painful teeth, which keeps some kids home from school. By catching problems before they become painful, students miss less school.

The mobile clinic is one aspect of Tri-County Dental, which was created in 2002 when dentists in Outagamie, Calumet and Winnebago counties came together to provide free dental care to area residents in need. A clinic was built on land donated by Jeff and Marissa Keesler in Grand Chute.

In addition to volunteer dentists, who work at the clinic, Tri-County Dental has partnerships with Marquette University School of Dentistry, which supplies students and fellows, along with hygiene students and dental assistant students from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and Fox Valley Technical College.

In 2012, Tri-County Dental launched a mobile clinic as part of its Robert Glass Focus on the Children school-based program. The clinic provides care to children at local schools. The mobile clinic provides three types of visits — hygiene appointments, dental exams, and fluoride varnish and restorative care. The mobile clinic was created since many parents struggled to get their children to the Grand Chute clinic due to

work schedules or lack of transportation.

“A lot of kids don’t have the transportation to get to their clinic so it’s very helpful that the clinic comes here,” Volkman said. “They also miss less time from school since they don’t have to travel to and from the clinic.”

The mobile clinic made nine visits to schools to provide hygiene appointments, four visits for dental exams and fluoride varnish and one visit to provide restorative care. The clinic has three dental hygiene chairs.

Hintz said children who qualify for free school lunch are eligible for the Robert Glass Focus on Children program. Treatment includes dental screenings, exams, X-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, preventive sealants and fluoride applications.

To reach more students this year, Hintz said parents could sign up their children during online school registration.

“We received a lot of interest but there are still challenges since we still need paperwork back from the parents to get the children seen,” she said.

Tri-County Dental also offers the Wetherbee Orthodontics Program, where local orthodontists provide free care to a limited number of children each year.

“Many of the kids we see have orthodontic issues too and we try to help them when we can,” Hintz said.



Submitted photo

The mobile dental clinic provides children with free oral health care at area schools.

Street costs

FROM PAGE 1

repair. The initial fee was \$23 annually, which the council voted to increase to \$40 in 2023 due to rising costs and inflation.

The fee is levied based on the size of the impervious area units (IAUs) of a property’s hard surfaces such as roof tops, driveways and parking lots. Single-family residences were charged one IAU, while other properties were charged up to a maximum of 90 IAUs or \$3,600.

Mayor Jane Lang said the TARF spread a portion of the cost of street repair to all residents and eliminated the special assessment process that had been in place for years.

“For instance, if a homeowner were to be assessed for their street work as occurred prior to 2018, that homeowner would be faced with an assessment in the

thousands,” she said. “With the TARF, all residents were now sharing in the cost ...”

Director of finance Vicky Rasmussen said suspending the TARF shifts the burden of street construction costs to residential property owners, adding \$825,000 to the city’s debt levy, which covers about 37% of road construction costs. Residents will see the impact on tax bills issued this December.

“The school district and hospitals aren’t paying anything. Businesses are paying less. Who’s going to have to pay the difference? It’s picked up by taxpayers,” she said.

Last Friday, WMC executive vice president of government relations Scott Manley issued a statement that the organization was glad the TARF was suspended.

“This illegal tax hurt all property taxpayers – especially businesses – and we hope the city will pursue lawful means to meet its budget priorities in the future,” he said.

Some communities use a fee added to the regular annual registration of vehicles called a wheel tax to generate revenue to cover the cost of road projects. According to the state Department of Transportation, a wheel tax is legal as long as all revenue from the tax goes for transportation-related purposes. Thirteen counties and 42 municipalities in the state impose a wheel tax ranging from \$10 to \$40.

Lang noted that vehicles weighing 8,000 pounds or more are exempt from the tax, and those vehicles are doing the most damage to roads.

“If we enacted a wheel tax, that doesn’t impact businesses in the same way,” she said. “It impacts residents. Residents are again bearing the brunt of street repair with a wheel tax.”

In separate litigation, WMC recently prevailed in a lawsuit challenging Neenah’s sign ordinance, which resulted in the city expending about \$50,000 defending

itself and was court ordered to pay WMC \$101,807 in attorney fees. The four Neenah residents who were plaintiffs in the lawsuit were each awarded \$1 in nominal damages.

Following that lawsuit, Lang said the decision to suspend the TARF after receiving a notice of claim from WMC was fiscally responsible.

“I don’t want to risk burdening our residents,” she said. “They’re the ones who are paying with additional legal costs.”

The city will spend the next few months investigating options for funding road construction in the future to replace revenue lost with removal of the TARF.

“The fact that now the businesses won’t be paying as much as they had previously with the TARF now goes back to a less equitable approach, and that’s the result of it, so that \$40 (fee) then is shifted primarily to our residents,” Lang said.

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Public library calendar

- Dec. 1**
LEGOs in the Library 1 p.m.
- Dec. 2**
Adult Afternoon Program: Chasing the Stars: From Astronomy to Astrophysics at Washburn Observatory 2 p.m.
- Dec. 3**
Powered by Yarn 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 4**
Community Living Room Pop-Up 5 p.m.
- Dec. 5**
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
- Dec. 6**
Fitness Friday: Boot Camp 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.
First Friday Concert: Mike Malone Trio 2 p.m.
- Dec. 7**
DIY Cards & Wrapping Paper 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 8**
Sunday Concert Series: Christo's Novelty Combo 2 p.m.
- Dec. 9**
Monday Matinee: "Thelma" 1 p.m.
Short Story Night 7 p.m.
- Dec. 10**
Tech Talk Tuesday: A Guide to Google Drive 1:30 p.m.
Legal Assistance Clinic 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 11**
Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
Discovering the Wisdom of Rocks 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12**
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam: On the Road 6 p.m.
- Dec. 14**
Hank Williams Ukulele Festival 1 p.m.
- Dec. 15**
LEGOs in the Library 1 p.m.
- Dec. 16**
Monday Morning Book Klatch 10 a.m.
Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club 6:30 p.m.
Coffee Workshop with Bedrock Coffee 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17**
Storytime for Everyone, 10 a.m.
Cookbook Book Club 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18**
Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19**
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
DIY Design Workshop: Winter Mason Jar Luminaries 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20**
Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.
Memory Cafe: Holiday Party 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21**
Amanda Lauer Author Talk 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 24-25**
Library closed
- Dec. 30**
Glow Party 6 p.m.
- Dec. 31**
Library closed

City seeks grant for downtown park

Neenah News

The city of Neenah plans to apply for a grant to fund the development of a small park in the heart of downtown.

The city is proposing creation of "Pocket Park" in the unused drive-thru area at 101 W. Wisconsin Ave., which was formerly the Mutual Savings Bank drive-thru. The property is owned by Alta Resources who agreed to allow the city to use the space.

The Common Council will vote Wednesday to apply for a Vibrant Spaces grant administered by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. that "provides funding to support projects that trans-

form underutilized or vacant spaces into dynamic and engaging community environments with a focus on downtowns," according to a memo.

The matching grant awards \$25,000-\$50,000, with Future Neenah making plans to secure the necessary matching funds and partner with the city in developing the grant application and project.

Executive director of community development Chris Haese wrote in a memo that Pocket Park will enhance downtown Neenah and provide recreational and aesthetic value in a previously underutilized space.

Jobless rate holds at 2.3% in Winnebago County

Neenah News

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw its unemployment rate stay unchanged at 2.3% between September and October, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

The city of Neenah's jobless rate dipped from 2.2% to 2.1% in October, while Oshkosh's also went down from 2.6% to 2.5%.

Last October's jobless rate in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA and Winnebago County overall was at 2.5%.

The non-seasonally adjusted data shows jobless rates in Metropolitan Statistical Areas decreased or stayed the same in 10 state metro areas over the month and decreased in all 12 metro areas over the year.

Unemployment rates decreased or stayed the same in 23 of the state's 35 largest cities over the month; rates decreased or stayed the same in 33 cities compared with the previous year.

Estimates of unemployment and employment statistics are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Obituaries

Robert J. Misky Jr.

Robert "Robin" J. Misky Jr., age 75, passed away unexpectedly on October 10, 2024, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He was born to parents Robert and Genieve (Brown) Misky on February 6, 1949, in Wisconsin.

At the age of 14, Robin started playing the drums at his Uncle Roy Misky's supper club "The Roxy." The band was called The Roxy Trio. After that he played with other bands including The Ravons & The Syndicate of Sound. For over 40 years, he was able to travel in and out of the state performing and recording albums with Skip Arnie & The Dukes and "Big City Bob and the Ballroom Gliders."

Robin was married in 1967 to Pamela Reynolds. He is survived by Pamela, his son Jeff Misky; many cousins, including but not limited to Jeff Horn and Barb Weininger; good friends, Steve Lenz, Bob Rice and Dick Stark; and many others.

Preceding him in death was his parents; Robert and Genieve (Brown) Misky; significant other, Carrie; cousin, Mark Horn; and other relatives.

A Celebration of Life featuring food, drink and conversation is from 6-7:30 pm on Wed., Dec. 4, 2024 followed by a memorial concert featuring Alligator Recording Artist Billy Branch starting at 7:30 pm. These events will take place at LaSure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn, Oshkosh.

The Misky family invites all friends, acquaintances and fans of Big City Bob to this event and thank all of his supporters through the years.



Worship Directory

Discover a place of worship for you.

To include your services call (920) 385-4512

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 920.725.2828

ELCA <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksneenah.org>
office@stmarksneenah.org
140 S. Green Bay Rd. Neenah, WI 54956

Join us on Sundays at 10 am. All are Welcome!

St. Paul Lutheran Church [ELCA]

200 North Commercial Street, Neenah
920-725-3961
www.stpaulneenah.org

Worship with us
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Worship Times: Saturday 5PM, Sunday 9AM
809 S Commercial St. Neenah 920-725-3956 www.our-saviors.org

Come worship with us. All are welcome here!
We have Sunday school, confirmation, youth groups, and mission trips.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship Services

10:00 AM & 6:00 PM
1750 Olde Buggy Drive, Neenah, WI

www.applevalleypres.org
A confessionally Reformed church where the Bible is sincerely believed and faithfully preached.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship Times: Saturday 6PM, Sunday 9am & Monday 6pm
407 Oak St., Neenah
www.trinityneenah.net • facebook.com/TLCNeenah

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church-ELCA

Come worship with us!

Sundays at 8 & 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School at 9:10 a.m.
Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m.

1140 Tullar Rd., Neenah | 920-725-6822
www.gloriadelc.org

www.foxvalleychurch.net
The Brigade in Downtown Neenah

Fox Valley Church of Christ

109 W Columbian Ave Neenah, WI

Growing Together in Christ | Serving in Faith | Sharing God's Love

First Presbyterian Church

200 Church St., Neenah, WI 920-725-4391 www.firstpresneenah.org

Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
ALL ARE WELCOME

To advertise in the Worship Directory, call 920-385-4512.

Classifieds

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Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m.
Tuesday. \$15 for first 20 words

<p>For Sale</p> <p>AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS. Shots Vet ck'd. Wormed. \$600-\$700 Can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)</p> <p>ALL NAT. GRASS FED BEEF. Butchered Jan 14th Vac. Pak. Incl. Processing \$6.50lb. 715-250-2793</p> <p>AUSSIE DOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$600 715-255-2661 (#269146)11/26</p> <p>BOSTON/RAT TERRIER PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$500 715-255-2661 (#269146)11/18</p> <p>CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL. Born 10/4. Registered shots, DEW, vet ck'd \$800 715-644-5726 (12/2)</p> <p>CAVAPOO PUPS. Vaccinated dew \$250 715-223-0782 (12/2)</p> <p>For Sale: Hay, Good grass mix, no rain. Rounds and small squares. Best time to call 6-8am 920-878-0005 or</p>	<p>9208780288 Free delivery within 100 miles of Appleton, WI</p> <p>FOR SALE CAVALIER PUPS. Ruby & Blenheim 3-M 2-F cute and friendly Ready 11-18 \$500. OBO 715-223-7440 (11/26)</p> <p>FRITZ BARN PAINTING rusty Roofs, Metal Buildings Free Est. 608-221-3510 920-821-6311</p> <p>HAVAPOO & YORKI PUPS!! Shots, DEW & Vet Ck'd. Very cute nice colors Ready To Go NOW! 715-937-4425 (11/26)</p> <p>HOLIDAY GIFT, CRAFT COLLECTABLE SALE!! Sat. Nov. 30th at the fabulous RESCH EXPO CENTER, GREEN BAY. 500+ Vendors (8am-4pm) Meet and Greet, The Grave Digger... GILBERT BROWN. Free parking for info www.zurkopromotions.com or 715-302-0932 (11/26)</p> <p>HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES ROCKING W STABLES. Dec 16-Jan 1 Beautiful trails Great Family Fun. Can handle all size groups & private parties! Info 715-617-6779 or www.rockingwstables-kartway.com (12/16)</p>	<p>REGISTERD CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS. Shots, Dew, Vet Ready Dec. 16 Can deliver \$950 715-470-0458 Call (#509642) 11/26</p> <p>SHIBA/SHELTIE AND COLLIE'S HELTIE PUPPIES. They like people \$120 each 715-223-1119 (11/18)</p> <p>WHOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$700 715-255-2661 (#269146)11/18)</p> <p>WOW!!! ZURKOS MASSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT & CRAFT SHOW. Sat Dec. 21 at the Fabulous Appleton Expo (Downtown Appleton 150+ Holiday Vendors. Info. www.zurkopromotions.com or 715-302-0932 (12/2)</p> <p>WOW!!! ZURKOS MASSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT & CRAFT SHOW. Sat Dec. 7th at the Fabulous Central Wis. Expo in Rothschild. 150+ Holiday Vendors. Info. www.zurkopromotions.com or 715-302-0932 (12/2)</p>
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Garage/Estate Sales

Rummage and Collectables Sale: Every Saturday 10am-6pm, Every Sunday 11am - 6pm. 1930 West College Avenue, Appleton.

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