

Neenah News

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City nets clean audit, sees growth in funds

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah received a clean audit opinion for its 2024 statements, citing strong gains and robust development activity, according to the annual financial report presented at the June 18 Common Council meeting.

John Rader of Baker Tilly audit management said the city's general fund ended 2024 with a \$1.2 million surplus, which he

attributed to stronger-than-expected investment income and permit revenue.

Expenditures were about \$360,000 under budget, with savings in departments including police, parks, and snow and ice control.

The unassigned fund balance increased by \$1.1 million and now sits at approximately 20% of annual general fund expenditures. That's just above the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) minimum guideline of 17%.

The city's total outstanding general obligation debt at the end of 2024 was approximately \$86 million, up about \$1.3 million from the prior year. In 2024, Neenah was using 52% of its state-imposed debt limit, down from 55% in 2023. When utility-related debt is excluded, that figure drops to 44%.

According to the report, development activity in 2024 included more than \$109

SEE **City audit** ON PAGE 7

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On stage

Jubricosa highlights area talent

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New facility

Consolidated Construction opens site in Clayton

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Photo by David Hall

Magical morning

Families were invited downtown to Shattuck Park on Saturday for a morning full of kid-friendly fun and local shopping during the Future Neenah Farmers Market. Activities included face painting, balloon twisting, a craft station, games and a bounce house. While the kids played, visitors browsed fresh produce, homemade goods and sweet treats from local vendors.

County launches new low-level offender program

Homeless issues aired during program briefing

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Members of Winnebago County's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee were recently briefed on a new targeted intervention program aimed at reducing repeat, low-level offenses among individuals with frequent arrests.

The High Frequency Low Severity (HFLS) program was introduced during a June 2 meeting outlining its goals and eligibility criteria. While centered on frequent low-level offenders, the presentation also included commentary and data

related to the county's homeless population – prompting concern from a county housing official about how unhoused individuals were being portrayed.

The HFLS program focuses on individuals who commit multiple crimes but do not qualify for serious prison sentences. Participants are typically 25 years or older, allowing younger individuals an opportunity to correct their behavior before intensive intervention.

County partners in the program include the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department,

District Attorney's Office, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and United Way.



Gossett



Scheer

According to Deputy District Attorney Christian Gossett, who gave the presentation, low-level repeat offenders present a challenge to community resources, accounting for 11% of crime in Winnebago County.

Gossett said 17% of the county's criminal population qualifies as habitual offenders, which is too large a group to address effectively through this type of program. Instead, the county set

specific criteria for identifying high-frequency offenders: nine criminal referrals to the DA's office within three years, 12 within four years, or 15 within five years.

"That's where this program is designed to try to address those issues, and also, to put this in perspective, for most of us, we will have zero criminal referrals in our lifetime to the DA's office (and) we'll have zero criminal charges," he said.

Gossett shared three examples to illustrate persistent criminal behavior: a woman with six prior convictions, 12 criminal referrals and 31 police contacts over the past five years; a man with 13 convictions, nine referrals and 36 police contacts over

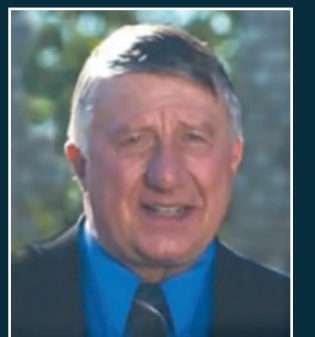
SEE **New program** ON PAGE 9

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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.

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Meeting set for proposed Highway 114 construction

Neenah News

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Northeast Region will be hosting an online meeting about proposed improvements on Wisconsin Highway 114.

The live, online meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. Wednesday to discuss the project on 1.7 miles of Highway 114 within the

city of Menasha and village of Fox Crossing. The project would begin at Manitowoc Street and end at the intersection of U.S. Highway 10 and Oneida Street.

WisDOT said this is a reconstruction-level project with significant construction operations involving the full replacement of existing pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalk and storm sewer. Some in-

tersection improvements and the replacement of the at-grade railroad crossing are also included. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2028 with a full highway closure and detour, WisDOT said.

More information about attending the meeting is available on the project website wisconsindot.gov//Pages/projects/by-region/ne/114winnebago/default.aspx. For audio only, call 608-571-2209, phone conference ID: 961 384 891.

According to WisDOT, the purpose of this meeting is to review proposed project scope, schedule, and anticipated traffic impacts, and solicit comments and feedback on the proposed improvements.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Venetian Parade

Crowds gather along the waterfront in Riverside Park awaiting the annual Venetian Parade and fireworks in this undated image.

Calendar of events

Friday, July 4

CommunityFest, 11:30 a.m., Riverside Park

Neenah Community Band Independence Day concert, 7:45 p.m., Riverside Park

Fireworks, 9:45 p.m., Riverside Park

Saturday, July 5

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

Wednesday, July 9

Future Neenah Summer Concert Series featuring Star Six Nine, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

Thursday, July 10

Out to Lunch Concert featuring Mr. Billy & Friends, 11:30 a.m., The Plaza in Gateway Park

Saturday, July 12

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

Filthy Kids Fun Run, 8:30 a.m., O'Hauser Park

Long Hot Summer Fight wrestling, 4 p.m., Wrestle Dome, 1338 S. Commercial St.

Sunday, July 13

Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

Tuesday, July 15

Campfire with Cops, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

Neenah Community Band "Oldies but Goodies," 7 p.m., Riverside Park

Wednesday, July 16

Future Neenah Summer Concert Series featuring Jet Pack Stereo, Shattuck Park

Thursday, July 17

Out to Lunch Concert featuring Jacob Fannin, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Saturday, July 19

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

Art Mercantile, 9 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

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Jubricosa's theatrical productions showcase cast talents

Tribute to group's late founder among plays

By Zachary Bellin
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Jubricosa Academy will showcase the talents of its students and community cast members this summer across three productions at Winneconne High School.

The season opens with *Mary Poppins*, followed by *The SpongeBob Musical* and concludes with *Fiddler on the Roof* — a heartfelt tribute to the late Jim Hart, Jubricosa's co-founder, director and teacher to many.

Jubricosa kicks off its season with *Mary Poppins*, performed by its community cast at 7 p.m. on July 11, with two additional shows at 2 and 7 p.m. July 12. The family-friendly production marks the academy's return to community theater after several years, according to Jim's wife, Pamela Hart, who

is directing the show and now leads the academy following Jim's passing in 2023.

The summer continues with *The SpongeBob Musical*, performed by the Neenah and Oshkosh youth classes. Featuring students ages 7 to 13, the show blends humor, heart and music in a vibrant underwater setting. Performances will run July 17 through 19, with evening shows at 7 p.m. on July 17 and 18, and two performances at 2 and 7 p.m. on July 19.

Closing out the season is *Fiddler on the Roof*, a production that holds deep meaning for the Jubricosa community. Not only was it the first show Jim Hart ever directed, but the lead role of Tevye was a dream part he never got to play. Now, the production serves as a fitting farewell from the large graduating class he helped shape.

"We have these 10 seniors graduating this summer who have been students of his since they were eight years old," said Pamela. "So it just made perfect sense to honor him with those students — they're going to be gone, and we'll only have a handful of students left who knew him as their teacher."

Pamela and her daughter Samantha



Hart



Submitted photo

Jubricosa Academy's 10 graduating seniors are among the last students who had the group's late founder Jim Hart as a teacher.



Submitted photo

Jubricosa Academy students rehearse to prepare for three shows during the group's summer season.

have taken the reins at Jubricosa, continuing the vision Jim built. Samantha, now a teacher with the academy, embodies his spirit, carrying forward the values he instilled: "Tell that story better than it's ever been told before," and "It's amazing what young people can do when given the opportunity."

Fiddler on the Roof will run July 31 through Aug. 2, with evening shows at 7

p.m. on July 31 and Aug. 1, and two final performances at 2 and 7 p.m. on Aug. 2.

Founded in 2006 by Jim and Pamela Hart, Jubricosa was named after their four children, Justin, Brittany, Courtney and Samantha — and grew from a shared love of theater that spanned more than 30 years. Pamela said that legacy lives on, not just in the performances, but in every young artist who takes the stage.

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Brigade campers set sail aboard new pontoon boat



Photo from Boys & Girls Brigade

The Boys & Girls Brigade is ready to begin using a new pontoon boat at Camp Onaway on the Chain O' Lakes in Waupaca.

Registration open for Fox Valley Team Hope Walk

Neenah News

The Wisconsin chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) will host the 2025 Fox Valley Team Hope Walk Aug. 10 at Memorial Park in Neenah.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the event starting at 10 a.m.

All proceeds support HDSA's mission to improve the lives of people affected by Huntington's disease and their families.

Team Hope is HDSA's largest national grassroots fundraising event, which takes place in over 100 cities across the country.

For more information about the event, contact Shana Versteegen at shana@shana-versteegen.com.

Online registration and donation information can be found at wisconsin.hdsa.org/events/2025-team-hope-walk-run-fox-valley-wi.

Neenah News

The Boys & Girls Brigade has begun using a new pontoon boat at Camp Onaway on the Chain O' Lakes in Waupaca.

The Neenah-based organization plans to use the boat to transport over 1,000 children and adult volunteer leaders to and from the camp every summer, said interim executive director Janie Anderson. The old boat served for 37 years, but Anderson said it was getting too costly to continue to make repairs to it.

Anderson said the Brigade raised over \$120,000 for the boat, including an anon-

ymous donation of \$50,000. An additional \$50,000 was raised from individual donations. The Brigade also partnered this spring with Valley Management and the Neenah McDonald's for the Poultry for Pontoons fundraiser, which raised \$20,000, Anderson said.

"The boat is ... ready to start transporting our campers for hopefully many summer camps to come," Anderson said. "We appreciate all of the support we received for this boat. We can't wait to set sail and make memories on the new pontoon."



Photo from Oshkosh Area Community Foundation

The Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation recently awarded \$70,000 in grants to seven local organizations.

Grants awarded to local groups supporting women, girls

Neenah News

Local nonprofit organizations serving women, girls and their families in Winnebago County will receive \$70,000 in grant support from the Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

"There's always going to be needs we can't quite meet, but I'm grateful to our donors who make it possible for us to fulfill as many requests as we can," said Karlene Grabner, Women's Fund director. "We're excited to partner with a few new organizations and programs this year. Our nonprofit partners are making beautiful things happen in the community."

One of the new programs is Safe Families for Children, which will expand into Winnebago County due in part to the Women's Fund grant support. Founded in 2003, Safe Families for Children (SFFC)

surrounds families in crisis with a caring, compassionate community through partnerships with hundreds of churches, volunteer families, community agencies and government organizations.

"We're honored to expand our services into Oshkosh with the generous support of the Women's Fund," said Betsy Borns, director of Safe Families in Northeast Wisconsin. "This opportunity allows us to reach more isolated families, provide vital services and continue building a community where every family feels supported, valued, and empowered."

SFFC has over 100 chapters nationwide and globally.

Other organizations receiving grant awards include HeadsUp Fox Cities, Reach Counseling, Solutions Recovery, Salvation Army Oshkosh, Tri-County Community Dental and Apricity.

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Construction firm opens new facility in town of Clayton

Neenah News

Consolidated Construction has expanded its in-house millwork division by opening a dedicated cabinetry and carpentry facility at 2923 American Drive in the town of Clayton.

The company said the new facility, formerly home to Tuttle Lake Woodworking and located near the intersection of U.S. Highway 10 and Wisconsin Highway 76, significantly increases its production capacity. Consolidated has acquired not only the building and specialized equipment but also welcomed several skilled professionals from Tuttle Lake to join its carpentry team.

Consolidated, a commercial design build contractor headquartered in Appleton, said this expansion continues a deliberate strategy to build out the company's in-house carpentry capabilities. It follows the company's 2016 partnership with Vincent Wood Works and the 2022 acquisition of the former James J. Calmes Construction.

Jobless rate increases slightly across county

Neenah News

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area (MSA) and Winnebago County saw their unemployment rates increase from 2.8% to 3.0% between April and May, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

The May 2024 jobless rate in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA and Winnebago County was at 2.6%.

Preliminary May unemployment decreased in two metropolitan areas over the month: Eau Claire and Racine. Jobless rates increased in the remaining 11 metropolitan areas over the month, while rates increased in all 13 metropolitan areas over the year.

Jobless rates decreased in three of Wisconsin's 35 largest cities over the month, increased in 30 cities and stayed the same in two cities, Janesville and Kenosha. Rates increased in all 35 cities over the year.

Preliminary May 2025 jobless rates decreased in 37 counties over the month, increased in 28 counties and stayed the same in seven counties. Unemployment rates decreased in two counties over the year and increased in the remaining 70 counties.

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



Photo by David Hall

Fixing it together

At the Neenah Public Library Repair Cafe on Saturday, community members bring broken items — from clothing and toys to bikes and small appliances — and work side by side with skilled volunteers to give them new life. The free event offers tools, materials and hands-on help in a collaborative, educational setting. The next Repair Cafe is scheduled for 11 a.m. Oct. 11 at the library.

Business news roundup

Total Tan & Boutique LLC, 794 W Winnebago Ave., announced plans to close at the end of August after 23 years in business. The company encourages customers to use any remaining packages and gift certificates before that time.

Salon Midi, 1395 W. American Drive, will be closing July 18 due to the expansion of a neighboring business. Gift cards should be used prior to the closing date. Staff will be moving to different locations.



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Preparations underway for Filthy Fun Run

Neenah News

The 11th annual Filthy Fun Run is set for July 12 at O’Hauser Park. The Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department along with the Neenah Parks and Recreation Department are organizing the event, which is to begin at 8:15 a.m.

The Filthy Fun Run is open to all ages who are looking for a fun and challenging adventure run or walk. If openings remain from Saturday through next week, the registration fee is \$40. Proceeds from the event go toward youth recreation programs.

The schedule includes an 8:15 a.m. start for participants 18 or older on a 1.6 mile

course with obstacles, followed by an 8:30 a.m. start for ages 11 to 17 and 8:45 a.m. start for ages 9 and 10. Ages 7 and 8 will start at 9 a.m. on a 1.2 mile course with obstacles, followed by ages 4 to 6 at 9:30 a.m. on a .65 mile course with obstacles. The Filthy Fun Family Run created for family members to run the course with children ages 4 and older starts at 10 a.m. on the .65 course with obstacles

Registration packet pickup is 3 to 5:30 p.m. July 11 the O’Hauser Park South Pavilion. Packets will also be available starting at 8 a.m. the day of the event.

More information is available at foxcrossingwi.gov and neenahgov.org.



Photo from Neenah Public Library

Looking for photo opps

The Neenah Public Library hosted Appleton’s Photo Opp on June 24 for a strolling photo workshop, allowing participants to walk around the area looking for photos, including in Shattuck Park. The workshop was designed to provide a bit of instruction and offer photography tips from experts. The next workshop is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sept. 30.

Neenah News
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KICKS FOR KIDS

NEENAH COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR CAMPAIGN 2025

We need your help to provide backpacks, school supplies and school appropriate clothing for the coming school year.

NMES members collaborate with both the Neenah and Menasha school districts to reach out to children in need. Children are identified by schools, social service agencies and other sources.

The Fair is held in August of each year. Each child receives a backpack containing supplies for them to start the school year prepared to achieve academic success and a certificate for a pair of shoes redeemable at Rogan’s.

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Neenah-Menasha Meals on Wheels is a community collaboration of Valley VNA Senior Care, the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society, and ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.

City approves \$12.6 million municipal borrowing plan

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council approved a \$12.6 million general obligation borrowing plan at a meeting last month, which could impact local property tax rates.

Brad Viegut, managing director at Baird financial services, spoke on the details of the borrowing plan at the June 18 meeting, which breaks down to include \$11.6 million in levy-supported projects, \$555,000

for storm projects and \$430,000 for sanitary sewer projects.

Borrowing in the levy-supported projects category includes \$3 million for remodeling Fire Station 31 on Tullar Road, including a new roof, exterior walls and a complete gut-to-framing rebuild of the fire station quarters. An additional \$3 million in borrowing is planned for next year to complete the project.

Viegut said the fire station borrowing is using the additional property tax revenue generated by new development.

The city launched TIF district 13 in 2024, covering 70 acres for industrial development on Neenah's south side. Seven TIF districts are now active.

Neenah issued \$10.7 million in general obligation notes last year, of which \$6.5 million was used for public capital improvements and the remainder for utility projects and TIF districts.

City departments such as the water utility, which earned a 6.8% return, generated \$3.9 million in net income, while the stormwater utility added more than \$1 million to its net position. Water and stormwater utilities charge customers for services, generating revenue that covers operating costs and funds maintenance, improvements and future projects.

The city has submitted the 2024 report to the Government Finance Officers Association in hopes of securing its 42nd consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Finance Director Vicky Rasmussen credited the Finance Department staff, the Baker Tilly audit team and city leadership for their contributions to the report and the city's sound financial operations.

structured with \$3 million financed over 10 years starting this year, and the remaining \$3 million to be financed over 15 years beginning next year, resulting in level payments of about \$500,000 annually through 2040.

With the total \$12.6 million the city is issuing in general obligation promissory notes, the 10-year repayment plan is structured with an estimated interest rate of 4.06%. The first interest payment will be made next March, with interest paid each September and March thereafter.

Financial projections indicate the borrowing will have a potential tax impact. With the \$12.6 million in borrowing this year, along with projected borrowing over the next three years, the debt service portion of the city's combined net mill rate is expected to rise from \$1.45 to \$3.71 per \$1,000 of

a property's assessed value by 2029. That would mean an increase of about \$452 in annual property taxes for a \$200,000 home, if current projections hold.

Alderman Bill Pollnow Jr. commented on the sizable property tax increase anticipated if the city stays on its current course.

"I think that's good for our council to know, because it really is real impact on people, if we're on this current projection," he said at the meeting.

The Common Council unanimously approved the resolution last month, establishing parameters for the debt issuance and authorizing city officials to proceed with the borrowing. Signatures of the mayor, council president and city clerk are required to award the notes at the time of issuance. Closing is expected to take place Sept. 2.

City audit

FROM PAGE 1

million in project valuation from building permits issued in the city. Among the major projects were an expansion of the Bridgwood Hotel on Cameron Way, construction of a 300,000-square-foot RGL Logistics facility on Dixie Road which is the site of Checker Logistics, and 81 new single-family home permits, which is twice the 10-year average.

"Neenah's future and economic development outlook remains strong and well positioned as the economy rebounds," the report states. "Opportunities for major commercial and industrial projects are available in planned business centers and at prime development sites."

The city continued to expand housing through the Homes at Freedom Meadows and Freedom Acres subdivisions, adding 73 lots with plans for up to 250 homes.

According to the report, much of the city's ongoing development success is due to the "active, aggressive and prudent" use of Tax Incremental Financing Districts (TIF) – an economic development tool that allows communities to reinvest in specific areas



Photo from Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue

Fire camp

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue partnered with Fox Valley Technical College last week to hold a Basic Fire Camp for ages 13-18. Part of the camp involved learning about how to perform water rescues at the Neenah-Menasha YMCA pool. The camp is meant to provide an overview of what it is like to work for a fire department to young people interested in the profession.

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Public library calendar

July 4

Library closed all day

July 5

Library closed all day

July 6

Library closed all day

July 7

FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Stitching Group 1 p.m.

July 8

Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.
Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Family Program: Marble Mazes 1:30 p.m.
Legal Assistance Clinic 4:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

July 9

Baby Time Storytime 9:15 a.m.
Bibliocycle at the Neenah Pool 9:30 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Tween Create Lab- Mini Tin Habitats, ages 9 and up 1:30 p.m.

July 10

Fox Tales Storytime (all ages) 9:15 a.m.
Wee Read Storytime 10 a.m.
FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

July 11

FREE Summer Lunches 11:30am

July 12

Tween Craft: Fabulous Fleece 10 a.m.

July 14

FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.

July 15

Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.
Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Family Program: Mask-erade: DIY Edition 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
Cookbook Book Club 6:30pm

July 16

Baby Time Storytime 9:15 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
Bibliocycle @ the Neenah Pool 10:30 a.m.
FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Tween Create Lab- Mini Canvas Art, ages 9 and up 1:30 p.m.

July 17

Fox Tales Storytime (all ages) 9:15 a.m.
Wee Read Storytime 10 a.m.

FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

July 18

Sunrise Yoga 6:30 a.m.
FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.

July 21

FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Memory Cafe 1:30 p.m.
Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club 6:30 p.m.

July 22

Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.
Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Family Program: Christmas in July 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

July 23

Baby Time Storytime 9:15 a.m.
Bibliocycle @ the Neenah Pool 9:30 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Tween Create Lab- Mini Munchables, ages 9 and up 1:30 p.m.

July 24

Fox Tales Storytime (all ages) 9:15 a.m.
Wee Read Storytime 10 a.m.
FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

July 25

Sunrise Yoga 6:30 a.m.
FREE Summer Lunches 11:30 a.m.

July 28

Monday Morning Book Klatch 10 a.m.

July 29

Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.
Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
Family Program: BINGO 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
Movie Talks: Conclave 6:30 p.m.

July 30

Baby Time Storytime 9:15 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
Bibliocycle @ the Neenah Pool 10:30 a.m.
Tween Create Lab- Mini Clay Creations, ages 9 and up 1:30 p.m.

July 31

Fox Tales Storytime (all ages) 9:15 a.m.
Wee Read Storytime 10 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.



Photo from Miron Construction

Miron Construction welcomed nearly 30 female students June 26 to its Neenah headquarters for the ninth annual Build Like a Girl event.

Miron Construction showcases opportunities to female students

Neenah News

Miron Construction hosted a day-long program June 26 to highlight opportunities for women in the construction industry.

The company said it welcomed nearly 30 female students to its Neenah headquarters for the ninth annual Build Like a Girl event. The program was open to seventh to 10th grade girls interested in learning about careers in construction.

According to Miron Construction, the day included conversations with women in the industry, a tour of an active project site and discussions surrounding topics

Fox Cities Chamber recognizes young professionals

Neenah News

The Fox Cities Chamber and its Pulse Young Professionals Network is seeking nominations for its 15th annual class of Fox Cities Future 15 Young Professionals.

Nominations are open through July 10. The awards recognize young professionals age 40 and under who live or work in the Fox Cities region, including Outagamie, Calumet and northern Winnebago counties and excel professionally while also giving back to the community. Those nominated will be asked to submit an application. Completed applications will be advanced for award consideration to a selection committee made up of past Future 15 award recipients and area business leaders.

To nominate a Future 15 YP visit form.jotform.com/250765628477167.

such as typical wages in the industry, apprenticeship opportunities and safety.

The program also encompassed Miron craftspeople walking participants through multiple hands-on activity stations at a temporary project site. The stations included masonry, where they constructed a brick wall; carpentry, where they assembled bird feeders; equipment operation, where they experienced what it's like to operate heavy machinery, such as a crane and boom lift; virtual construction, where they virtually viewed the project's plans; and concrete, where they experienced what it's like to place a large concrete slab.

In addition to the Future 15, a Young Entrepreneur of the Year will be named again this year. An entrepreneur is defined as a person who organizes and operates a business or businesses, taking on greater than normal financial risks in order to do so.

Criteria for this award includes being 40 years of age or younger, active in community service, living or working in the Fox Cities region with their business currently operating in or service the Fox Cities region and must be the majority owner of the business.

To nominate a Young Entrepreneur of the Year, visit form.jotform.com/250765902803155. The nomination deadline is July 10.

The 2025 winners will be honored at a ceremony on Oct. 23 at Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel, Neenah.

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New program

FROM PAGE 1

17 years; and another man with 44 convictions, 25 referrals and 92 police contacts over 21 years.

Of the county's total population, about 0.7% – approximately 112 people – meet the program criteria to qualify as high-frequency offenders.

"This is a significant use of community resources by this very small portion of the population, because in every one of these incidents it elicits a police response (and) it elicits some sort of community response," he said. "This is draining a lot of resources."

The program combines support services with mandatory treatment. Participants receive housing and employment support, substance use treatment, mental health care and medication assistance. Those who successfully complete the program will have their charges dismissed, while those who do not face nine to 12 months in jail.

The program kicked off in January and is still in its early stages, with about 27 incarcerated individuals currently enrolled. Gossett said it's too soon to gauge results.

"We're throwing everything we can at this population to help them," he said. "They have to reciprocate and accept the help."

While the presentation began with a focus on the HFLS program, it quickly shifted toward broader challenges the county faces in dealing with homeless people and the overlap between frequent offenders and the unhoused population.

Gossett said about 7% – or 30 of the 448 people identified as homeless in Winnebago County during the most recent biannual Point-in-Time count – met the criteria for high-frequency offenders. By comparison, about 0.05% of housed individuals – or 82 people – met the same criteria, he said.

During an interview earlier this week, however, Winnebago County Housing Grant Specialist Lu Scheer said the current homeless count underrepresents the true scale of the issue.

"It's estimated that twice as many people are, in fact, on the streets than we count," she said.

She attributed the reasons for the undercount to unhoused people intentionally avoiding being counted, and difficulty tracking those living "off the grid."

In addition, Scheer said there are challenges in conducting the summer count, which takes place during the annual Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) convention in Oshkosh in late July. She said during EAA week, homeless individ-



Photos from Winnebago County

Above: A photo from last month's committee meeting presentation shows personal belongings left outside the Orrin King building after unhoused individuals were asked to move along that morning.

At right: A hazardous materials team removes waste and debris from a ventilation grate outside the Orrin King building.



uals lose their temporary housing. Those staying at Town Motel, a downtown Oshkosh motel with 40 units that rents to vulnerable populations, are particularly impacted.

"In about three weeks, we're going to have about 100 more people on the street, because they will be turned out of the Town Motel and some of the other short-term rentals we have, so that they can rent it to people for EAA, and we really don't have a place for people to go," she said.

Gossett said that a disproportionate number of habitual criminals, or high-frequency offenders, are found among the unhoused. Scheer countered that by stating that the focus on a small number of visible homeless individuals, rather than the 93% in the county who aren't committing crimes, creates a skewed perception.

While housing is often discussed as a solution for high-frequency offenders, Gossett said it's a separate issue, claiming – without providing evidence – that the south end of the county has 100 more emergency shelter beds than needed.

Scheer refuted that statement, noting that all of the programs in Winnebago County that offer housing are at capacity.

"No one is disagreeing that a small per-

centage of the people that are reoccurring these crimes are, in fact, homeless," she said. "But to suggest that they have someplace to be, or that we have more than enough stable or emergency housing beds, just isn't true."

Housing challenges are widespread, with one in four people in the county considered housing burdened, meaning they're paying more than 30% of their income towards housing, and one in eight considered very housing burdened, meaning they pay more than 50% of their income for housing.

"We have a housing crisis in our community," she said.

Gossett said addressing patterns of criminal behavior requires confronting the underlying factors driving them.

"We should not give anyone a pass because they're unhoused," he said. "That's not an excuse to engage in criminal activity."

Scheer said that being homeless does not exempt someone from legal consequences, but the approach should consider the broader context of their circumstances.

Gossett pointed to the Orrin King building in Oshkosh as an example of behavior among what he calls the antiso-

cial segment of the unhoused population. People have been camping on the west side of the building, which houses the district attorney's office and other county justice departments and using the building's metal ventilation grates for warmth.

The presentation included photos showing unsanitary conditions at the building, such as fecal matter on the exterior walls, bottles of urine, and 87 syringes found in the grates.

Gossett said the county has spent \$8,448 on cleanup and repair at the building and another \$3,000-\$5,000 is estimated for current work. He also showed screenshots of text messages between county employees who work in the building to illustrate safety and security concerns.

Scheer was critical about the use of the images from the Orrin King building in the presentation about the HFLS program, stating it impacts how the program and homeless population is perceived.

"I think they were intended to do that, and I think there's an intent in the programming to say 'this is wrong, this is bad, this is costing you money,'" she said.

She acknowledged that the behaviors of those staying outside the Orrin King building are problematic, but said they are symptoms of a larger systemic problem of inadequate support and facilities for homeless individuals, rather than inherent criminality.

Scheer said one of her concerns with the HFLS program is ensuring participants receive continued support after completing it.

"If I don't have a place to stay, if I don't have anything to eat ... I don't know how successful I will be," she said.

She added that at the core of the issue is whether the county wants to address the root causes of homelessness – or simply remove visible signs of it.

"We don't go out and catch them with nets and say, 'Here, we're going to fix you,'" Scheer said.

She said real solutions will require community-wide support and a clear understanding of where service gaps actually exist.

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Photo from Neenah Police Department

Speedy rescue

Firefighters with Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue extricated a trapped driver involved in a crash on the morning of June 26 along North Green Bay Road. According to the Neenah Police Department, Gold Cross Ambulance paramedics assessed the motorist, who was not transported to a hospital. The police department reminds all motorists to always yield the right of way while merging, entering a roadway or making U-turns.

Neenah graduate among two firefighters killed in Idaho

Neenah News

A 2001 Neenah High School graduate and veteran firefighter was killed Sunday in a targeted ambush in northern Idaho, officials said.

Frank Harwood, 42, a battalion chief with Kootenai County Fire and Rescue, was shot and killed while responding to a wildfire on Canfield Mountain, outside Coeur d'Alene. John Morrison, 52, battalion chief with Coeur d'Alene Fire Department, was also killed. A third firefighter, David Tysdal, re-



Harwood

mained hospitalized in critical condition as of Tuesday.

Authorities believe 20-year-old Wess Roley intentionally set the fire to lure firefighters to the scene, where he then ambushed them. He was later found dead on the mountain from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The Neenah Joint School District confirmed Tuesday that Harwood was an alumnus.

He served with Kootenai County for 17 years and was a member of the U.S. Army National Guard. He is survived by a wife and two children.

A procession was held Tuesday in Coeur d'Alene to honor the fallen firefighters.

Man charged in drug trafficking case

Neenah News

A Neenah man has been charged in connection with a large-scale methamphetamine trafficking operation following his girlfriend's arrest in April.

Scott Dennis, 53, is facing four felony charges, including manufacture or delivery of three to 10 grams of amphetamine, manufacture or delivery of more than 50 grams of amphetamine, possession with intent to deliver amphetamine or methamphetamine over 50 grams, and maintaining a drug trafficking place, all as a party to a crime. The charges were filed June 2 in Winnebago County Circuit Court.

The case stems from a months-long investigation by the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG Unit) that began in December, when a confidential informant reported purchasing meth from Dennis's girlfriend, Markie Donnellan, 38, at a residence on Darrow Road in Neenah. Over the following weeks, investigators conducted multiple undercover meth purchases at the home, with drug quantities increasing over time.

Dennis is identified in the criminal complaint as living at the residence and allegedly accepted a \$400 payment via Cash

App connected to one of the drug transactions. During an earlier search of the home in January, Donnellan told officers her boyfriend would be coming home and would be upset to find them there. She then ended the search and later stopped cooperating with law enforcement.

A second search warrant was executed at the property on April 16, where officers seized more than 500 grams of meth, along with small amounts of cocaine and fentanyl, drug paraphernalia, and firearms including a loaded revolver, seven rifles, and three shotguns.

Donnellan was arrested after the April search and remains in the Winnebago County Jail on a \$10,000 cash bond. Conditions initially included no contact with Dennis. A judge later modified the bond at a June 11 hearing to lift the no contact order while she remains in custody. If she posts bond, the restriction would be reinstated.

Donnellan faces four felony and eight misdemeanor charges. She's due back in court July 28 for a plea and sentencing hearing.

Dennis is free on a \$1,000 signature bond. He's due back in court Thursday for an adjourned initial appearance.

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Neenah Legion can't hold early lead in loss to Oshkosh

Neenah News

The Neenah Legion used a three-run rally to take the lead but couldn't hold off the Oshkosh Legion in a 9-4 loss at EJ Schneider Field in Oshkosh.

The Legion played the game on the road but were the home team as the game was originally scheduled to be played in Neenah.

Neenah trailed 2-0 entering the bottom

of the third inning but Max Miller singled to start the frame and then took second on an Oshkosh error and moved to third on a passed ball. Owen Pire followed with a single to score Miller.

Three Oshkosh errors allowed Neenah to score its second run while a two-out single by Zachary Waite plated Sam Printz to give the Legion a 3-2 lead.

Neenah's lead didn't last long as Osh-

kosh answered with six runs in the top of the fourth and were able to keep the Legion at bay the rest of the way.

Printz picked up an RBI-single that scored Braden Wendt in the fourth inning for Neenah's final run.

Miller finished 3-for-4 with a walk to pace Neenah's 13-hit attack. Printz, Waite, Wendt and Ayden Bartz each chipped in two hits in the game.

Ty McNeely took the loss on the mound for Neenah.

Vogel participates in all-star game

Neenah News

Former St. Mary Catholic standout Emily Vogel wrapped up her high school career at the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association all-star games last weekend at Just A Game Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells.

Vogel started for the Division 4 North squad and finished with five points, but Vogel's squad fell to the South team, 77-51.

Vogel, a UW-La Crosse recruit, was the Player of the Year in the Big East North this past season, earning first-team all-conference honors for the second straight season. She earned second-team honors as a sophomore.

Vogel averaged a team-leading 17.5 points per game in her senior season, helping the Zephyrs make a run to the WIAA Division 4 state title game.

Rockets' Wasco garners all-state recognition

Neenah News

Neenah High School senior Mia Wasco was honored by the Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association, earning honorable mention all-state honors.

Wasco joins Bella Jones as Neenah players who have earned all-state mention in the last three seasons. Jones earned honorable mention honors following the 2023 season.

Wasco was one of two players from the Fox Valley Association to be recognized by

the WSCA. Kimberly junior Emily Urban was named to the all-state second team.

Wasco was named Player of the Year in the talent-rich FVA following this season to cap off an outstanding career with the Rockets. Wasco earned first-team all-FVA honors following her sophomore and senior seasons, while earning second-team honors as a junior.

Muskego senior forward Jess Fernau was named the state's Player of the Year by the WSCA.

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Real Estate/Rental

UPCOMING AUCTION - AUGUST 2nd @ 11AM - N3827 Shorewood Lane, Clintonville, WI - 40 Acre Farmette, personal property. NOLAN SALES LLC, Marion, WI - 715-754-5221 or 800-472-0290. Lic. WI Auctioneers #142 & #165 www.nolansales.com

Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF Petitioner Richard Ambrose McCarthy and Respondent Rosemary Anne Marie McCarthy

Publication Summons Divorce - 40101 Case No. 2025FA000218

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO THE PERSON NAMED AS RESPONDENT:

You are notified that the petitioner named above has filed a **Petition** for divorce or legal separation against you.

You must respond with a written demand for a copy of the **Petition** within 40 days from the day after the first date of publication.

The demand must be sent or delivered to the court at: Clerk of Court, Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, P.O. Box 2808, Oshkosh WI 54903-2808 and to Petitioner Name/Attorney Name: Attorney Nicholas J.B. Pasquale Stillings, Pasquale & Swardenski, LLC 251 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah WI 54956

It is recommended, but not required, that you have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the **Petition** within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the **Petition**, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the **Petition**.

A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You are further notified that if the parties to this action have minor children, violation of §948.31, Wis. Stats., (interference with custody by parent or others) is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment:

If you and the petitioner have minor children, documents setting forth the percentage standard for child support established by the department under §49.22(9), Wis. Stats., and the factors that a court may consider for modification of that standard under §767.511 (1m), Wis. Stats., are available upon your request from the Clerk of Court.

You are notified of the availability of information from the Circuit Court Commissioner as set forth in §767.105, Wis. Stats.

§7 67.105 Information from Circuit Court Commissioner.

(2) Upon the request of a party to an action affecting the family,

including a revision of judgment or order under sec. 767.59 or 767.451:

(a) The Circuit Court Commissioner shall, with or without charge, provide the party with written information on the following, as appropriate to the action commenced:

1. The procedure for obtaining a judgment or order in the action.
2. The major issues usually addressed in such an action.
3. Community resources and family court counseling services available to assist the parties.
4. The procedure for setting, modifying, and enforcing child support awards, or modifying and enforcing legal custody or physical placement judgments or orders.

(b) The Circuit Court Commissioner shall provide a party, for inspection or purchase, with a copy of the statutory provisions in this chapter generally pertinent to the action.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4848 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

/s/ Electronically signed by Nicholas J.B. Pasquale Attorney Nicholas J.B. Pasquale 251 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956 Nicholas@spslawyers.net (920) 727-9432 Dated: 06/10/2025 State Bar No.: 1066266

Runs: June 20, 2025, June 27, 2025 and July 4, 2025.

WNAXLP

SMALL CLAIMS SUMMONS Case No. 25-SC-1309

STATE OF WISCONSIN - CIRCUIT COURT, CIVIL DIVISION - SMALL CLAIMS WINNEBAGO COUNTY.

SURE ELECTRIC, LLC 809 7th Street Menasha, WI 54952

You are being sued by Crescent Electric Supply Company in Small Claims Court for Winnebago County, Wisconsin, at the Winnebago County Courthouse 415 Jackson Street, Room 150, Oshkosh, WI 54901 A hearing will be held at 3:30 o'clock P.M. on July 30, 2025. If you do not appear, a judgment may be given to the person suing you. (A copy of the claim has been mailed to you at the address above.) Dated this 30th day of June, 2025.

RINEHART, SCAFFIDI & RINEHART, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff By: William A. Rinehart II State Bar No. 1055477 Milwaukee, WI 53217 Phone: (262) 302-4060

Runs: July 4, 2025

WNAXLP

Everyone deserves to have their story told.

Sharing someone's life story in a newspaper obituary is one of the most important ways we find meaning in their passing.

Publish your loved one's obituary in our community newspapers and it will be included in the online obituary network, www.Legacy.com, at no charge for you to share with loved ones near and far.

To place an obituary submit through Your Funeral Director Or obits@oshkoshherald.com, obits@neenahnews.com or customerservice@winneconne.com or call 920-385-4512



