



CITY ALDERMEN

Mayor

David Nold (262) 719-5760

First District

Derek Zwart (414) 940-8462

Jeff Schmidt (262) 567-7371

Second District

Ken Herro (262) 853-0246

Tom Strey (262) 490-0416

Third District

Matt Rosek (262) 370-0773

Michael Miller (262) 567-3465

Fourth District

Charlie Shaw (262) 719-8430

John Gross (262) 567-0238

CITY DEPARTMENTS

City Clerk (262) 569-2175

Economic Dev. (262) 569-2185

Finance (262) 569-2170

Fire Department (262) 569-6428

Human Resources (262) 569-3225

Library (262) 569-2193

Parks, Rec. & Forestry (262) 569-2199

Planning & Zoning (262) 569-2166

Police Department (262) 567-4401

Electric & Water Utility (262) 569-2196

Wastewater (262) 569-2192

Public Works (262) 569-2189

From Our Staff to Your Home

Slowing down is not in our repertoire here in the great City of Oconomowoc. This issue of the newsletter is a perfect example of just how busy we like to stay to be constantly improving life here.

We are excited to share news on new developments including an update on the Fowler Lake Shoreline Project as well as other commercial and residential developments in the city.

We also revisited current objectives including the downtown design guidelines, loan program and the city's free street tree program.

Our Library, Public Works, Utilities and Police Departments have also shared information that we hope you find useful and hold onto as we celebrate warmer months and continued positive activity in our community.



- David Nold, Mayor

We said Goodbye to Familiar Faces and Welcomed New Ones

We saw some changing faces in 2016 and will bid adieu to some dedicated employees who have retired including **City Administrator Diane Gard, Fire Department Lt. Mike LaVenture and Police Chief Dave Beguhn.**



City Finance Director Sarah Kitsemel has been named the new City

Administrator. We also welcomed a



new Utility Manager, **Joe Pickart** who joined our team after serving another utility in northern



Wisconsin and Capt. **Ron Buerger** has been promoted to Police Chief while Lt. **Jim Pfister** has been

promoted to Captain and officer **Steven Lesniewski** has been promoted to lieutenant.

Here's who else has joined our amazing team:

Nathan Austin - Parks/Arborist

Jennifer Fidler - Library

Jacob Hottinger - DPW

Brian Dorn - Fire/Paramedic

Scott Sauer - Mechanic/Electrician

Jeremy Durst - Lineman Apprentice

Ryan Schmitz - Fire/EMT/Paramedic

Brian Genz - Utility Technician

Debra Tarnow - Asst. Dir. Pub. Works

Dhruv Thakkar - Utility Engineer

Molly Nitka - Police Officer

Andrew Preisler - Police Officer

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

(262) 569-2192 • www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/utilities

Wastewater and Radishes?



A Natural Resource Conservation Service member shows the increased growth rate of radishes in noncompacted soils.

What does wastewater treatment have to do with radishes? We're glad you asked.

By now we hope you are aware that the City has jumped in to a holistic watershed program entitled the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program (OWPP) and in October we spent some time "down on the farm."

Farmers for Lake Country

Our first watershed agriculture demonstration day featured Bill Ingersoll's farm where smart cropping practices and new equipment were demonstrated to a group of farmers and land owners in the area. Radishes almost two feet long were on display. The radishes are grown in fields as a cover crop to enhance soil health and preserve nutrients for the long-term benefit of the field.

The benefit to the watershed is through the reduction or elimination of runoff and erosion when nutrients are washed into the ditches and eventually into the Oconomowoc River.

This event was organized by a new proactive group of farmers from up and down the watershed who call themselves "Farmers for Lake Country."

OWPP Turns 2, Not Slowing Down

OWPP is now two years old and we have accomplished a lot. Multiple successes are unfolding evidenced by the many ag-related projects already in progress, the urban storm water initiatives being taken by the City and surrounding areas, and the participation of local groups and volunteers.

Related events are planned during the next several months and we hope you will participate. On June 2, we will hold our second Healthy Lakes Conference at the Community Center. This will be an educational and fun event geared toward lake water quality and smart shoreline practices. Bus tours and pontoon rides will again be part of this year's program.

On Saturday, July 22, we will hold our 3rd annual Paddle event. This year we will start at Riverside Park on Cherry Street and take a leisurely paddle up river to learn about the watershed and enjoy the scenery. Stay tuned for more details on these events either through the local newspapers or Facebook, or via our new website at oconomowocwatershed.com. If you're interested in helping with this program we encourage you to join the effort as a partner or volunteer.

Do your part for the watershed!

- Apply fertilizers only when necessary and as directed, to make the most out of your money and effort. Do not apply within 10' of the waters edge.
- Clean up pet waste regularly.
- Consider starting a compost pile or bin for your leaves in fall.
- Never dispose of leaves in waterways or allow them to collect in the gutters. They contain a lot of phosphorus.
- Always clean the weeds off of your boat when removing it from any lake or river.
- Be a good steward of our lakes and rivers by removing trash when you see it.
- Do not dispose of live bait minnows in the lake or river.
- Wash your car on the grass or in an area where the water will not run to the storm sewer.



Tours Anyone?

We invite individuals, school groups, civic groups, etc to take a tour of the wastewater facility to see our high tech processes working 24/7 to protect our environment by producing sparkling clean effluent.

To arrange a tour, contact Tom Steinbach at (262) 569-2192.

Fowler Lake Shoreline Project Gaining Momentum

Construction for the Fowler Lake Shoreline project will begin this spring and carry through fall.

City staff is working with the contractor to plan phases for the project to ensure public and business access remains during construction.

“We hope people understand that to do a project of this nature certain areas will have to be closed from time to time,” in the project corridor, explained Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director John Kelliher. “We encourage you to remain patient as we look forward to this beautiful project.

The project includes shoreline improvements to eliminate erosion, replacement of the boardwalk, reconstruction and reconfiguration of the parking lot, inclusion of clear pedestrian pathways and expansion of Village Green.

Design for increased seating areas and park amenities to enjoy the area are planned.

The boat launch will be renovated and updated as well and replacement of the existing playground, Kelliher said.

Kelliher added that during the project he encourages residents to patronize downtown businesses more than ever.

You can learn more about the project and check for construction updates on the Fowler Lake Shoreline Project section of the Parks Department webpage.

DID YOU KNOW? #DYK

The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is launching a fun initiative to share our story.

Did You Know? will share fun facts about our department throughout the year. You will see our staff and instructors wearing #DYK shirts. So follow us online and via social media and you never know, there could be a sweet prize in store for you if you remember one of our Did You Know fun facts!

Are You In Need of a Tree?

We have revamped our tree planting process. Visit our website to learn more about Tree Planting and Requests. You now have options to get a street tree sooner than the average two-year waitlist time. Here's what you'll find online.



Donate a tree to a city park in honor of Arbor Day, in recognition of someone or for your organization or business. It's a lasting gift that remains in our parks year after year for all to enjoy.



Want a tree planted in front of your home? You have options.

1. Get on the waitlist for a free street tree.
2. Pay 50% of the cost to be moved to the top of the waitlist.
3. Pay full cost of the tree to be planted as soon as possible.



You are welcome to plant your own tree. But you must fill out our tree planting form and schedule an appointment with Parks and Forestry Superintendent Bryan Spencer, (262) 569-2180.

We have created a single form you can fill out to select any of the above options for planting trees.

You can pick up a form at the Community Center. Or you can download a form online at www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/parks under "Tree Planting and Requests"

1,000 Books With Your Baby It's Easy and It's Free

Start a life-long love of reading and learning with 1000 Books Before Kindergarten!

1000 Books Before Kindergarten is our early literacy reading initiative. This free program encourages you to read 1,000 books with your child before he or she enters school. Reading together helps develop important pre-reading skills that provide a solid foundation that is key to school and learning success.

Here's how the program works:

1. Register at the library circulation desk.
2. Read with your child.
3. Record the titles on your log OR download the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten free app.
4. When you finish 100 books, bring your log to the library and receive a small prize.
5. Repeat steps 1-3 for each 100 books.

After finishing 1,000 books, your child receives a book and a certificate, and gets an awesome jumpstart on success in school.



Tech @ 10

A variety of adult technology classes are offered every month.

Feeling behind on your technology skills?
The library can help!

Call 262-569-2193 ext. 212 for details.

Book a Librarian Appointments Available!

Need help with a mobile device or e-reader? Want to learn how to create an email address or apply for jobs online?

Come with your technology questions and book an appointment with a librarian for assistance!

Appointments are available on a limited month-by-month basis. Call Hope at extension 211 to book a one-on-one half hour appointment.



It's great to get out and walk and bike in our great city. But do you remember follow these rules and guidelines?

Pedestrian Safety

- Use the sidewalk whenever possible
- If it's necessary to walk on the shoulder of the road, walk facing traffic
- Share the sidewalk with children riding their bikes
- When walking at night, wear something reflective
- While crosswalks are the safest place to cross a street, they do not guarantee your safety. Always watch traffic while in a crosswalk.
- Don't walk or run into the road from between parked cars.

Bike safety

- Always wear a bike helmet.
- Bikes are required to follow the rules of the road.
- If riding on the sidewalk, remember to share with people walking.
- Keep both hands on the handlebars when driving.
- Don't talk or text on your phone while riding.
- When riding in the road, watch parked cars for doors opening or suddenly pulling out into traffic.
- Have a light on your bike at night.



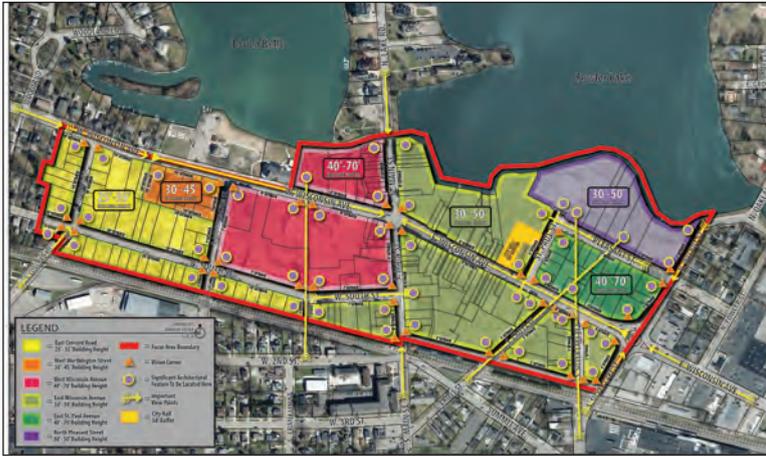
Reminder

Riding your bike on the sidewalk in the downtown is prohibited. For the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians bike should be walked.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

(262) 569-2166 • www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/planning

The Proposed Downtown Design Overlay District



Downtown Oconomowoc Design Overlay District

The Downtown Design Overlay District is created to inform and guide new development and redevelopment within the downtown area. The existing historical architectural character includes diverse styles, a rich variety of materials in buildings ranging from one and two story low-rise to mid-rise buildings. The area is a mixed-use district, largely focused on restaurant and commercial services, with second floor residential uses and several residential apartment buildings.

Architectural design of projects within the District should fit comfortably within the existing fabric of the City and stand the test of time by remaining functional and ageless over a period of many years. Design standards shall address the quality of architecture, urban design, and public space to ensure the success of the project and for the benefit of the community.

This plan is intended to provide context and guidance for the Architectural Commission in their consideration of discussing and recommending conditions to ensure an attractive, vibrant and sustainable downtown area on a project by project basis.

More information: www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/planning

Recently Approved Businesses

The City continues to fill vacant buildings with new businesses. Here is a sample of recently approved businesses.

- **Silver Circle Sports** – 411 W. Wisconsin Avenue
- **Chiropractic Company** – 1300 N. Summit Avenue
- **V.I.P. Sushi** – 1288 N. Summit Avenue
- **Safeway Pest Management** – 24 S. Main Street



Lexington Square Apartments, Under Construction, 01.27.17



Brennan's Marketplace Lot #2, Multi-Tenant Building, Rendering



Shorehaven, Under Construction, 01.27.17

Firewood

We all love to burn it, but where do you store it? Per Section 17.109(6)(a) Outdoor Storage:

- Not allowed in Front Yard or Street Yard
- Stored a minimum of five (5) feet from all property lines



UTILITY DEPARTMENT

(262) 569-2196 • www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/utilities

Noticing a Change in Street Lights?

That amber glow is getting clear and bright as Oconomowoc Utilities is in the process of removing less-efficient High Pressure Sodium bulbs and installing more cost-effective LED lamps in the City owned streetlights.

Not only is there a savings in energy and the related costs, but the light itself is creating a more well-lit environment by moving away from the amber tinted bulbs.

A New Home for Oconomowoc Bats

Late in 2016, Oconomowoc Water Utility lent a hand to the Community Gardens and Mother Nature by installing a bat house on the grounds near the gardens.

As bats are somewhat choosy about their locations, careful planning went into the height and placement of the house in hopes that it would be populated by spring of 2017, helping to keep insects at bay in the surrounding areas.

Don't Throw Them Out!

You can recycle fluorescent light bulbs

Oconomowoc Utilities will recycle your old fluorescent lightbulbs free of charge.

Fluorescent bulbs contain mercury which can be released in the trash and landfills.

Recycling CFLs and other fluorescent bulbs allows the reuse of glass, metals and other materials. Virtually all of the bulb can be recycled.

Give us a call during business hours and we can give you the details.

(262) 569-2196.



Available Utility Billing Programs

Utility Budget Billing

You can't predict the future. However, you can predict the exact amount of your monthly utility bill. Oconomowoc Utilities offers a service called "Budget Billing".

At your request, we will look at your specific utility usage history and determine an average monthly payment. If you sign up, your monthly utility invoice will be the same predictable amount every month. We will periodically monitor your usage to make sure it's reasonably close to the year before. Once each year, we will reconcile the difference between actual usage and payments made.

If you are interested in this free service to help you budget your monthly expenses, call (262) 569-2198 or send an e-mail to UtilityBill@oconomowoc-wi.gov.

In addition to budget billing, you can also sign up for our free automatic payment service. You can have your monthly payment withdrawn from your bank account on the due date each month.

Air Conditioner Tune-Up Rebates

Warm weather will eventually return! Is your air conditioner ready?

Air conditioners use a significant amount of residential electricity. A qualified tune-up of your equipment will help you keep cool while using less energy. That saves you money!

To encourage you to get a tune-up, Oconomowoc Utilities offers a \$25 rebate that will be credited to your utility invoice. You can get the rebate once every three years. Have your service technician fill out the quick paperwork and return it to us.

Many local HVAC services are aware of our program. If not, you can print the form from our website or call (262) 569-2198 or e-mail UtilityBill@oconomowoc-wi.gov.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

(262) 569-2189 • www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/dpw

Know What's Below!

The City of Oconomowoc is about five miles long and five



miles across. However, Oconomowoc Utilities maintains almost 600 miles of underground equipment!

Electric cables, water pipes and sewer mains are everywhere quietly and continuously providing service.

Our trained staff brings this service to you at rates that save the average household over \$400 per year. In total, that's about an additional \$2.5 million.

Do you plan to dig? In addition to our equipment, there are also natural gas lines and lots of other cables for phones, television and Internet service.

Even if it's for minor landscaping around your house, you need to know what's below! You could be putting yourself at great risk beyond simply interrupting your service.

For FREE, Diggers Hotline will decorate your yard with colorful lines and flags to keep you safe. They only need three working days notice before you dig.

You can reach them at www.diggershotline.com or simply call them at 811.

Don't Let Your Retention Pond Go To Ruin

Homeowners that live in a subdivision with a pond or other stormwater control practice can take action to prolong the life of that practice.

Restoring worn out ponds or outlets can be extremely expensive. Learn what you can do to keep your stormwater practice working longer at www.waukeshacounty.gov/cleanwater.

Read about Bioretention Maintenance, Infiltration Maintenance and Stormwater Pond Maintenance under "News and Events."

Please, Only Rain Down the Drain

A common misconception is that water running off streets goes into a sewage treatment plant. It does not.

Storm sewers are simply pipes laid underground, often below streets. Inlets or drains located along curbs and in parking areas collect the runoff, which then flows to nearby streams or lakes.

Each of us contributes to storm water pollution and each of us can help stop it. Here are some ways you can help:

- Keep pesticides, oil, leaves and other pollutants off streets and out of storm drains.
- Divert roof water to lawns or gardens where it can safely soak in.
- Clean up pet waste – Dispose of it with your refuse pickup.

Did You Know?

- The City will repair snow plow damage to lawns and mailboxes, just call the department or email kbuss@oconomowoc-wi.gov.
- It is illegal to cut or blow grass into the streets.
- Building permits are now available on the City website.

Spring Cleaning Tips

- Property owners must make sure that lawns don't grow beyond 8 inches in height. The yard waste schedule is on the Public Works webpage under Refuse & Recycling.
- Make sure that roofs, fences, doors, windows, decks, stairs, sheds and retaining walls are in good condition - remove peeling paint and repaint surfaces.
- Clean up pet waste from your yard - especially after the long winter.

By keeping your property clean and safe you maintain property values and keep neighbors happy!



Where Do My City Tax Dollars Go?

About 32% of your total property tax payment is used to pay for City-provided services.

Costs shown are based on a \$221,000 home, which was the approximate median assessed value of an Oconomowoc home for 2016. Taxes for this home would be \$1,202 for 2017 City services.

City Services Received	Cost Per Year
Police Protection	\$278
Public Works This includes street and bridge maintenance, dam and lake maintenance, storm sewer facilities and maintenance, maintenance of city buildings and property, street signs and marking, street lighting, street cleaning, snow removal, building inspection and engineering.	\$257
Fire and Ambulance Protection	\$207
Debt Service Majority used for Street Improvements and Community Center Construction Bonds.	\$143
Parks, Recreation & Forestry	\$127
General Government/Administration Includes Mayor, City Council, Administration, Legal services, Assessor, Clerk, Finance, Human Resources.	\$92
Oconomowoc Public Library	\$67
Community Development Includes Planning, Economic Development and Tourism and Code Enforcement.	\$31

Total City of Oconomowoc Property Tax Bill for a \$221,000 assessed home = \$1,202

• The total city tax rate (including other jurisdictions) historically ranks in the lowest 6% of all Wisconsin Cities.

Business Development Loan Program Expands for More Business Opportunities

By offering business owners loans with a very low interest rate, the Oconomowoc Business Development Loan Program has helped attract 24 new businesses to downtown over the last decade.

The program’s momentum hasn’t slowed as the bank currently has 21 loans outstanding. And its success is evident as today downtown has a 99 percent occupancy rate.

The program was created by the City in cooperation with First Bank Financial Centre to help downtown attract new business. The bank created a fund for the loans and handles all the administrative aspects of the loan with approval and processing from the city’s Community Development Authority.

“It’s about economic development and we are a community bank so it comes down to a community pride aspect,” explained First Bank Financial Centre Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nate Zastrow.

Recently, plans were announced to expand the loan pool’s boundaries beyond the downtown area to include the business corridor along East Wisconsin Avenue and an area along Summit Avenue from Armour Road to Regent Road.

The intent is the expansion will increase business attraction in these areas.



The Oil Well, 31 S. Main St., is a recent participant in the loan program. Owner Kathy Larson said she found out about the program from her building’s landlord. “The City’s loan program is something that I’m very grateful for. Granted without this loan I still would have pursued building Oil Well downtown Oconomowoc, but a loan like this with only 1% interest is extremely helpful as a nice cushion, for all the unexpected and added expenses, products and programs you incur as a new business retail owner.”