

NEKOOSA PUBLIC RECORD

A WORD FROM THE MAYOR

Hello and welcome to 2013. After getting feedback and talking with the rest of the Council it was decided to do another City newsletter. We will continue to have these as long as there is a need. That being said let me tell you what has been happening over the last few months. In October, the City started on its budget for 2013. We are limited by the State on how much our budget can increase. The State informed us that we could only raise our budget roughly \$1800.00. That doesn't go real far nowadays. The departments' heads and the Council met to review each department's budget requests. After getting our numbers from the State we had to cut over \$250,000.00 from next year. That meant no major equipment purchases or large projects. After meeting with our accountant and financial advisor, the Council voted to refinance a loan and add to the principal to do some road projects. By doing the refinancing we will be saving on interest. This process will have little effect on the annual payment for the loan. That loan will be paid off in 10 years. Which roads will actually be done will be set within the next few months. Another thing that the Council has been doing is reviewing the contracts that the City has with its suppliers. We were able to get a fairly nice savings by bidding out our fuel purchases. Terry's BP was awarded the contract for 2013. We were also advised that the City can recoup the State and Federal fuel tax that has been paid on our diesel purchases for the last 3 years. Baltus Oil will be helping get that information to us. The City will also be consolidating the contracts for janitorial supplies and rugs into 1 vendor. Also within the next few months the City will have an updated website. This will provide

more information about the City and also having links to various other resources.

And now the bad news, I am sure you have heard by now that the water and sewer rates will be going up in the near future. The sewer rate increase is set by the City. That was set to go up 15%. The water rate is set by the Public Service Commission. The water department has been operating in the red for the last couple of years. This can be attributed to a few reasons. First were unexpected repairs to some of the water mains in the City. Secondly, water loss is due to other leaks in the system. That affects the bottom line by paying for pumping the water but not recovering that cost by not being able to charge anyone for the water. We will look at possibly doing leak tests on the system. Thirdly is the depreciation of the system itself. That is something that the City also has no control over. The biggest increase will come from the Public Fire Protection charge. Currently the City budgets \$205,000.00 on the tax roll for this purpose.

The PSC has said we need to raise that amount an additional \$168,000.00. The Council voted to place the increase on the bills this year. This should increase the quarterly bills by about \$35.00. The remaining amount will be placed on the bills over the next 2 years. The Council is very aware of the hardship this will place on our citizens. If you are having problems paying your bill, please stop and talk to the City Treasurer. She is more than willing to work you. Please do not let your bill get to the point that the City has no choice but to shut off your water. The City has also started using a new electronic payment system that can be used for all your

payment needs. There is more information on this later in this newsletter.

In closing I would like to say thank you to the City Council. They have been very busy lately trying to find ways to save money without cutting services. Some of those decisions have been difficult and sometimes not very popular but in these times everything needs to be looked at. With the proposed surplus in the State fund for the next budget there may be an increase in the aid we receive from Madison. We can hope. Remember, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please attend one of our meetings or at least contact your Alderman or myself.

Thank You,

Al Marcoux, Mayor

Future newsletters will be on our web site.

nekoosawi.com

From the desk of Chief, Donald J Harnisch, NREMT-P

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. I would like to give an update on some of the changes within the ambulance department. I am pleased to announce that we are now licensed as a Critical Care paramedic service. This is the highest pre hospital licensure available. We currently have 18 Critical Care Paramedics. This licensure level mainly provides added skills and interventions for Interfacility transports.

I would like to take some time and discuss the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and some eye opening statistics.

- About **600,000 people** die of heart disease in the United States every year—that's **1 in every 4 deaths**.
- Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. **More than half** of the deaths due to heart disease in 2009 were in men.
- Coronary heart disease is the most common type of heart disease, killing more than **385,000 people** annually.

- Every year about **935,000 Americans** have a heart attack. Of these, 610,000 are a first heart attack. 325,000 happen in people who have already had a heart attack.
- Coronary heart disease alone costs the United States **\$108.9 billion** each year. This total includes the cost of health care services, medications, and lost productivity

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for people of most ethnicities in the United States, including African Americans, Hispanics, and whites. For American Indians or Alaska Natives and Asians or Pacific Islanders, heart disease is second only to cancer.

Below are the percentages of all deaths caused by heart disease in 2008, listed by ethnicity.

Race of Ethnic Group	% of Deaths
African Americans	24.5
American Indians or Alaska Natives	18.0
Asians or Pacific Islanders	23.2
Hispanics	20.8
Whites	25.1
All	25.0



Ambulance Article cont.

Knowing the warning signs and symptoms of a heart attack is key to preventing death, but many people don't know the signs.

- In a 2005 survey, most respondents—92%—recognized chest pain as a symptom of a heart attack. **Only 27%** were aware of all major symptoms and knew to call 9-1-1 when someone was having a heart attack.
- **About 47%** of sudden cardiac deaths occur outside a hospital. This suggests that many people with heart disease don't act on early warning signs.

Heart attacks have several **major warning signs** and symptoms:

- Chest pain or discomfort.
- Upper body pain or discomfort in the arms, back, neck, jaw, or upper stomach.
- Shortness of breath.
- Nausea, lightheadedness, or cold sweats.

As you can see these are some eye opening statistics, especially the statistic that 47% of sudden cardiac deaths occur outside a hospital. That's why it is so important to call 911 when you recognize you, a family member, coworker, friend or anyone exhibit the signs and symptoms above.

What can Nekoosa Ambulance provide for care?

We can provide oxygen, aspirin, Nitroglycerin to dilate blood vessels to get more oxygen to the heart, medications to slow the heart down to decrease the oxygen demand to the heart, blood thinners, medications to treat arrhythmias, and most important a defibrillator to treat cardiac arrest.

We will also provide immediate transport to a catheterization facility, Marshfield, St Josephs, or Wausau, Aspirus, depending on patient choice or which is closest. Our goal is to get you to one of these facilities within 90 minutes of time of onset. We also have the ability to send an EKG of your heart from the field to any of these facilities.

“So please don't wait, call if symptomatic.”

Respectfully
Don Harnisch, Chief

NEKOOSA FIRE DEPT.

Adopt-a-Hydrant

In the event of a fire emergency, could firefighters find the hydrant near your home? Does it get buried under a snow pile during the winter? Or obscured by overgrown bushes during the summer? The City of Nekoosa and

The Nekoosa Fire Department is encouraging residents to **"Adopt a Fire Hydrant"** near their home and keep snow shoveled away in the winter and vegetation trimmed back in the spring, summer and fall. This would ensure hydrants are visible and

will greatly speed the response time in case of an emergency. ***There is no need to notify the city about a hydrant you have adopted, as this is an informal volunteer program. Your help is greatly appreciated!!***

NEKOOSA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Winter parking and snow emergency regulations.

1. *Winter Parking.* No person shall park on any public street, alley or highway of the City for a period of more than 30 minutes between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. from November 1 to April 1.
2. *Declaration of snow emergency and parking regulations.* No person shall park, stop or leave standing any vehicle upon the streets or any portion of the streets whenever snow falls during any period of 24 hours or less and reaches a depth or condition that constitutes a serious public hazard impairing transportation and public health, safety and welfare. Such emergency is declared to continue for a period of 48 hours or until such earlier time as snowplowing operations have been declared completed by the Public Works Director.

Snow tow-away zones. The Chief of Police or his designated representative is hereby authorized to cause the towing away of vehicles parking in violation of this subsection, and the cost of moving said vehicles shall be added as a cost to the penalty assessed for the

illegal parking of the vehicles.

Snow and Ice Removal

1. *Required.* The owner or lessee of every lot or parcel of land in the City abutting upon a sidewalk shall clear such sidewalk, including crosswalks, of all snow or ice within 24 hours after the end of the snowfall or icing condition, subject to the following exception: Sidewalks upon which the parcels abut that are not connected to a sidewalk on adjoining parcels are not subject to this requirement. When ice is formed on the sidewalk so that it cannot be removed, it shall be kept sprinkled with ashes, salt, sand or like material.
2. *Deposit of Snow & Ice.* No person shall deposit or cause to be deposited any snow or ice upon any sidewalk, alley, street terrace, public place or street in the City; provided, however, that snow or ice removed from the sidewalk in front of or abutting any premises or the premises which abut such sidewalk may be deposited on the street terrace and, in the event there is no street terrace, on the street fronting such premises prior to snow or ice being plowed, windrowed and removed from the street by the City. Notwithstanding

the above, snow plowed from parking lots shall be deposited in locations designated by the Director of Public Works.

3. *Removal by City.* If snow or ice is not removed from sidewalks, as required by Subsection (1) above, or if snow or ice is deposited on any sidewalk, alley, street terrace, public place or street in the City in violation of Subsection (2) above, the City may remove or cause to be removed all such snow or ice, and the person in charge of the premises from which the snow or ice was removed and so deposited shall be charged for the City cost of such removal. If not paid within 30 days, such charge shall be placed on the tax roll, pursuant to § 66.0627, Wis. Stats.

Your assistance with proper winter time snow removal and parking will not only help the Public Works Department work more efficiently, it will increase safety for residents and others who traverse our streets and sidewalks. Thank you for your cooperation!

Police Personnel

The police department has had a number of personnel changes over the past few years. Many residents may not have become acquainted with some of the newer officers. Here's our full-time staff:



Shawn Woods, Police Chief - Hired April 2001

Jason Dhein, Patrolman – Hired February 2001

Josh Kolo, School Resource Officer
Hired January 2005

Brian Machon, Patrolman
Hired June 2010

Chris Meyer, Patrolman – Hired December 2011

Jason Wilson, Patrolman – April 2012

Residents can be assured that officers of the Nekoosa Police Department are some of the best trained and professional police officers around. In addition to annual recertification training, officers are trained in various law enforcement disciplines and stay current on law and procedure.

All officers are community minded – involved in local groups and schools. Officers coach local sports teams and participate in community events.

Nekoosa officers are dispatched through the Wood County Communications Center, located in the Wood County Courthouse. If there is a law enforcement or assistance need, please contact the officer on duty at (715) 421-8700. Of course, emergency needs should be handled through **911**. Administrative needs can be conducted during regular business hours at the Safety Center, calling Chief Woods at **(715) 886-7891**, or by email – policechief@nekoosawi.com

From the Office of Public Works Director Bill Kaberle

Greetings:

The following information can be a quick reference for the city garbage pickup, recycle information and items that cannot be picked up by the garbage or recycle truck and have to be taken to a business that deals with these items. This information is asked of me a lot of times throughout the year and will be helpful to everyone. I also have an article about water meter replacement and cross connection inspection information.

Items that will not be accepted in the City garbage pickup:

Antifreeze, vehicle batteries, shingles, painted or stained wood, tires, demolition and construction rubbish. Veolia Environmental will accept these items at the Wisconsin Rapids location for a cost.

Recycling is Mandatory

The following is a list of items that will be picked up curbside bi weekly:

Newspapers, magazines, soft cover books, junk mail, envelopes, phone books, catalogs, office paper, corrugated cardboard, paper grocery bags, non-corrugated cardboard such as cereal boxes, glass containers that are clear, brown, or green, plastic, and cans that are aluminum or tin.

Items that will not be picked up for recycle and should be placed in the garbage are:

Tissue products, paper toweling, frozen food boxes, dairy carton boxes, paper contaminated with food residue, pizza boxes or carryout food wrappers, beer or soda non-corrugated materials, and plastic bags.

The following is a list of items you will have to recycle through a business like ODC, Veolia Environmental, or Staples:

Televisions, computers, printers, monitors, mouse, speakers, keyboards, DVD players, VHS players, DVR units, fax machines & cell phones.



There is now an online option for paying your water utility bill. You can logon to www.GOVPAYNOW.com to pay your current water/sewer bill or even police fines. Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Discover credit, debit, and prepaid debit cards are accepted. Payments can be made 24/7; however there is a small fee for using this service. Simply logon to the site, go to the search box, type the word Nekoosa and follow the instructions.

Water Meter Replacement and Cross Connection Inspection

Water meters are being replaced on a 20 year rotation. The life expectancy of a water meter is 20 years so if has been a while since your meter has been replaced expect to be contacted.

The protection of the public water supply is a concern of both the City of Nekoosa and our customers. The City is also concerned with clear water entering into the sanitary sewer collection system. Our service person needs to obtain access to your residence to perform a cross connection control and a clear water survey.

The cross connection control survey is required by the Wisconsin Administration Code NR 810.15 and the Nekoosa Municipal Ordinance 13.08. We are required to perform surveys on all residential buildings once every ten years. During the survey we will be verifying State approved cross connection protection on plumbing items such as, but not limited to, outside hose bibs, utility sinks, hot water heaters, toilets, handheld showers and lawn irrigation systems.

Private Wells

Inspectors will also be checking for Private Well Permits.

Thanks

Bill Kaberle