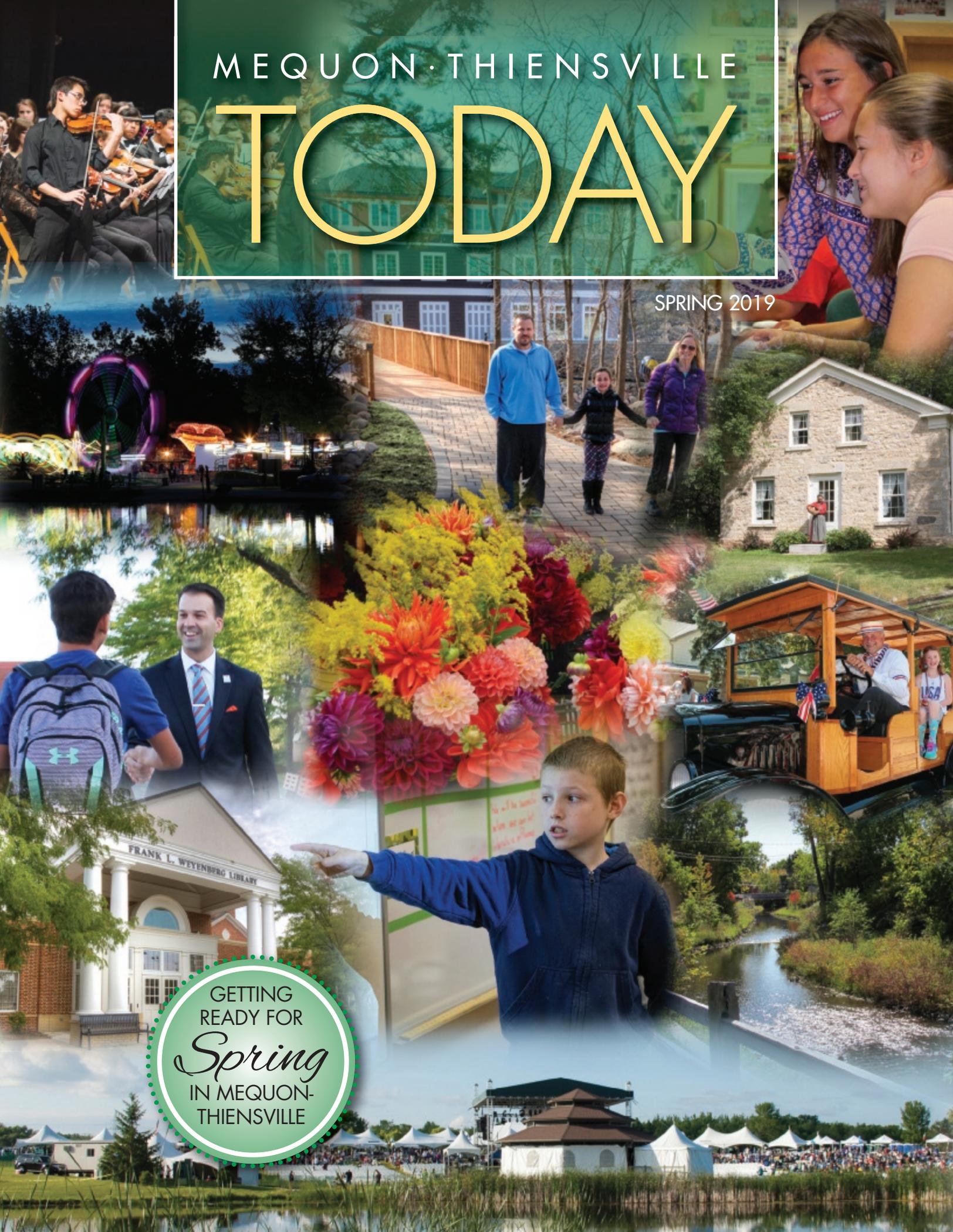


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## ON THE COVER

The City of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville are more than great places to live, to work and enjoy the many special events and activities held throughout the year. Our communities are also popular destinations for our residents, visitors and guests who appreciate the diverse selection of specialty shops and award-winning restaurants – as well as our beautiful landscapes and parks.



*Mequon-Thiensville Today* is a community magazine providing useful information about the City of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville with news and feature stories about the people, businesses, places and events that make our communities very special places to live, work and do business.

*Mequon-Thiensville Today* is jointly published three times per year by the City of Mequon, the Village of Thiensville and the Mequon-Thiensville School District. The magazine receives additional support from Concordia University Wisconsin, Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and local advertisers.

*Mequon-Thiensville Today* welcomes story ideas, content suggestions and advertising inquiries that are compatible with our editorial mission, advertisement criteria and other publication standards. Paid articles are not accepted for publishing. Please email all inquiries and suggestions to [info@M-Tmagazine.com](mailto:info@M-Tmagazine.com).

*Mequon-Thiensville Today* is guided by a professional advisory committee comprised of representatives from the City of Mequon, the Village of Thiensville, the Mequon-Thiensville School District and residents from our respective communities.

**Contributing writers:** Jennifer Flierl and Molly Loucks (M-T School District), Andy LaFond (Village of Thiensville), Justin Schoenemann (City of Mequon), Kelly Winkler (Mequon Nature Preserve), and Barb Caprile (Caprile Marketing/Design).

**Design/Production:** Caprile Marketing/Design

## CITY OF MEQUON

[ci.mequon.wi.us](http://ci.mequon.wi.us)

**Mayor:** Dan Abendroth

**City Administrator:** William Jones

11333 N. Cedarburg Rd. • Mequon, WI 53092 • (262) 242-3100

## VILLAGE OF THIENSVILLE

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**Village President:** Van Mobley

**Village Administrator:** Dianne Robertson

250 Elm St. • Thiensville, WI 53092 • (262) 242-3720

## MEQUON-THIENSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

[mtsd.k12.wi.us](http://mtsd.k12.wi.us)

**Superintendent of Schools:** Matthew Joynt

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The deadline for advertising in the June (summer) 2019 issue of **Mequon-Thiensville Today** is April 29 on a space-available basis. For advertising information, email [info@M-Tmagazine.com](mailto:info@M-Tmagazine.com) or call (414) 215-7999.

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a faint image of a stadium filled with fans. The text "Preferred MBA of the GREEN BAY PACKERS" is written in large, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are three logos: the Green Bay Packers 'G' logo, the Concordia University Wisconsin logo, and the website address "cuw.edu/Packers".

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## CITY TAKES ON TREES INFECTED WITH EMERALD ASH BORER



During winter months each year, you may have noticed pink or green paint dots on trees around the community. The pink dots signify trees marked for removal by City of Mequon staff and green dots signify trees to be removed by a City subcontractor. The trees that receive these colored spots are specimens that fall within the City-owned property, such as right-of-ways and parks. Following the marking of the trees, crews from the City's Public Works Department typically remove the selected trees between December and April each year.

In particular, observers may notice that a significant portion of the trees receiving a pink or green marking are Ash trees as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), also known as *Agrilus planipennis*. EAB is an invasive species that kills ash trees. The beetle is native to Asia, and was first detected in Michigan in 2002. Evidence suggests that the beetle was established in Michigan for years prior to its discovery. EAB has since been detected in many states, including Wisconsin. In addition to spreading by natural means, EAB can be transported to new areas in infested firewood, timber, and nursery stock. This beetle has been responsible for the loss of ash trees all across North America.

Some of the primary signs that are most apparent are:

- Overall dwarfing of the leaves accompanied by a thinning canopy.
- Woodpecker damage to the bark layer throughout the tree.
- Shoots growing along the trunk, often with larger-than-normal leaves.

The City has seen an escalation in the number of Ash trees that are showing signs of the EAB, and in response, crews from the Public Works Department have been hard at work removing infected trees. In 2018, crews removed approximately 3,000 public Ash trees around the City. Over the last three years, the City has removed an estimated 7,000 trees within public right-of-ways.

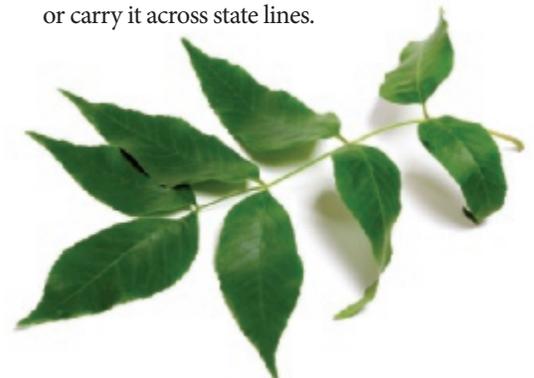
With so many trees being removed due to Emerald Ash Borer, the City has also put a strong emphasis on working with residents to replant the public trees. The City offers residents a chance to take part in a replanting program the fall following the tree removal. Letters prompting a potential replanting are sent out in August for a mid-September start on the planting process. Residents are offered 4-5 choices of tree types varying in mature size and shape. The trees are all standard 2" nursery stock with efforts taken to give residents their top choice of tree/s. The program has a

cost of \$125/tree associated with the replacements, that acts as an offset to the tree cost.

With an estimated 27,000 Ash trees located on public property throughout the City, there is still much work to be done. Similar efforts exerted in the past by the City are taking place in 2019, and further strategies will be implemented going forward.

What to do if you have infected Ash trees? EAB can infect all types of ash trees. If you notice signs of EAB in your ash trees, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommends the following to help manage this pest:

- Call the USDA Emerald Ash Borer Hotline at 1 (866) 322-4512 to learn more about EAB and options you have to address infected trees.
- Record the area where you found the insect and take photos of the insect along with any damage.
- Don't move firewood from your property or carry it across state lines.



## FOR MEQUON RESIDENTS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### • *How did Mequon get its name?*

Mequon's name is derived from an Indian word for ladle, that describes the shape of the Milwaukee River around Mequon. The Potawatomi and Menominee tribes lived here before French fur traders set up posts on the Milwaukee River. The spelling was probably influenced by the French in the area at the time.

### • *How do I find my Alderman?*

Please go to the Common Council's page to find out which of the City's eight Alderman represents you ([ci.mequon.wi.us/commoncouncil](http://ci.mequon.wi.us/commoncouncil)).

### • *Can I get a document notarized?*

The City Clerk's Office at Mequon City Hall has notaries on staff who can notarize signatures only. There is no charge for this service.

### • *Can I reserve a meeting room at City Hall?*

Review the Calendar on the City website to see if the date you are interested in is available. Then complete a meeting room reservation form (found on the Clerk webpage) and submit it to the Clerk's Office. If you have any questions, contact the Clerk's Office at (262) 236-2911 or (262) 236-2914.

### • *Do I need a dog/cat license? What are the rules?*

According to City Ordinances, all dogs in the City must be licensed annually. The dog license fee must be paid each year at City Hall in the Finance Department. Cats do not require a license.

### • *I think my mailbox may have been damaged by City plows.*

#### *What is the City policy on repair of my mailbox?*

If a mailbox and/or support structures are physically struck by a City-owned and operated plow, the City of Mequon may replace the damaged mailbox and/or support with a standard USPS-approved steel mailbox and/or 4" x 4" wood post and support. The maximum amount of compensation in lieu of replacement is \$50. To report mailbox damage, call the Highway Division at (262) 236-2913.

### • *How do my garbage/recycle goods get picked up?*

Residents are required to contract privately with a licensed hauler for refuse and recycle pickup. The licensed haulers are:

– Advance Disposal Midwest, LLC: (262) 679-0860

– Ozaukee Disposal: (262) 377-4640

– Waste Management: (262) 251-4000

Periodic City recycling events are usually staged several times a year.

### • *I heard the City gives away wood chips and mulch. Where and how do I get some?*

Wood chips and mulch, when available, can be picked up by any Mequon resident at the City's brush-recycling site at 600 W. Bonniwell Rd. All you need is a driver's license to prove residency. The site is self-service and open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from April to November.

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**Mequon Health Center**



*The Streich Family Wetlands during the summer.*



*Dredging the Streich Family Wetlands.*

## THE HARDWORKING STREICH FAMILY WETLANDS OF MEQUON NATURE PRESERVE

By Kelly Winkler, MNP Staff

For many, a new year means a fresh start. And a fresh start is exactly what was in order for the Streich Family Wetlands in January at Mequon Nature Preserve.

Located in the southeast corner of the Preserve's 444 acres, this pair of ponds feeds into Trinity Creek which, ultimately, lands in the Milwaukee River. Every few years, these particular wetlands need a little help to get their work done.

What's the work of wetlands? They serve the obvious functions of providing habitat for wildlife or a source of recreation. In terms of environmental impact, though, wetlands are rock stars at flood reduction and sediment removal for cleaner water. Unlike gray infrastructure such as culverts, pipes or ditches, wetlands can slow down and even absorb rain and runoff from a storm while filtering out toxins, excess nutrients and other pollutants. They are like natural sponges for the land.

The Streich Family Wetlands are situated at an especially crucial spot in terms of the work required of them. They are the low point between former and active agricultural fields on either side of County Line Road, essentially at the bottom of a funnel receiving runoff and sediment from multiple directions. The adjacent land on the Preserve's side of the road, while dramatically improved through the restorative planting of native plants and almost no application of chemicals, continues to be a work in progress. Land to the southwest, however, is a major source of runoff as farm fields there do not employ basic conservation techniques such as no-till farming, buffer strips or grass waterways to slow water flow.

The result is a high level of sediment in the Streich Family Wetlands, preventing them from doing their job with any efficiency. This buildup is a recurring event, and this time, more than 2½ feet

of silt accumulated in some spots. The wetlands became overwhelmed, and their ability to filter water leading to Trinity Creek was considerably compromised.

The prescription? Significant dredging was done at the wetlands the first week of the year, with more than 300 cubic yards of sediment removed. The process was last performed in 2012, with the expectation that dredging would not be done again for another 7-10 years. The health of the ponds, however, presented the need sooner than that.

Dredging was scheduled this time around during the winter months because it is less disruptive for resident turtles, frogs and insect larvae who burrow close to shore. For this reason as well, a 2-foot buffer at the shoreline was left relatively untouched around each pond. The procedure also presented the opportunity to evaluate fish populations, with hundreds of individual fish representing 11 species pulled out in preparation – these fish have since been returned to the wetlands. Come spring, there will be less evidence of the work done over winter, with the land healing itself and the Streich Family Wetlands once again poised to get back to work.

The Streich Family Wetlands are named after a family who are great supporters of MNP – such great supporters, in fact, that several wooded areas on the Preserve bear the names of individual family members in addition to the wetlands. Sponsorships like these are an important and integral part of MNP's fundraising efforts.

MNP has more than five miles of hiking trails and is open to the public at no charge. It is a non-profit agency that receives no tax dollars to support its programming or operations, being funded fully through private donations and grants.

For more information about Mequon Nature Preserve, please visit [mequonnaturepreserve.org](http://mequonnaturepreserve.org).

# CITY OF MEQUON CONTACT INFORMATION

**ci.mequon.wi.us**

- EMERGENCY .....911
- Administration/Mayor .....(262) 236-2941
- Ambulance (non-emergency) .....(262) 242-0205
- Building Inspections .....(262) 236-2924
- City Assessor .....(262)236-2952
- City Clerk .....(262) 236-2914
- Community Development .....(262)236-2902
- Engineering .....(262) 236-2934
- Fax (City Hall).....(262) 242-9655
- Fax (Police Department) .....(262) 242-7655
- Finance .....(262) 236-2947
- Fire (non-emergency) .....(262) 242-2530
- Human Resources .....(262) 236-2915
- Parks Information and Reservations .....(262) 236-2945
- Police (non-emergency) .....(262) 242-3500
- Public Works .....(262) 236-2913



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## SAVE A LIFE: COME TO THE MEQUON COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Lie down, roll up your sleeve and do something heroic. Every two seconds, someone needs blood in the United States. Your pint-size donation can help up to three people. At the last Mequon Community Blood Drive held at City Hall on December 28, 2018, there were more than 70 potential donors. The Blood Center of Wisconsin collected 66 units of blood, possibly helping to extend or save the lives of up to 198 patients! There were also five first-time blood donors in attendance.

If you're a first-time donor, now is the perfect time to give and help save a life. There's no substitute for human blood, which creates a constant need to replenish donated blood supplies at hospitals, cancer centers and clinics.

**The Mequon Community Blood Drive will be holding five events in 2019 from 7 a.m.-12 p.m. on February 22, July 12, September 6, November 1 and December 27.** The events will take place at Mequon City Hall, 11333 North Cedarburg Road. Watch the City's website ([ci.mequon.wi.us](http://ci.mequon.wi.us)) and the City's Weekly Bulletin for further information as the event dates draw closer.

### Recognize Some Familiar Faces

You may recognize some familiar faces at the blood drives. Steve Graff, the recently retired Mequon Police Chief, continues to coordinate the blood drives as he has done for several years.

"In 2009, I helped coordinate a blood drive for my wife Jill, who was diagnosed with Lymphoma and had several procedures that required blood transfusions," Graff says. "Many people, myself included, don't realize just how important blood donations are until a loved one is in critical need of blood."

Since that initial drive, Graff has coordinated 27 additional drives, collecting more than 1,200 units of blood. Graff said he enjoys coordinating the drives and has begun to see many of the same donors returning at each drive. Graff encourages people to come and donate, especially if they have never tried. "For giving about one hour of your time, you really can save someone's life," he explains.

### What To Expect During Blood Donation

To be sure that it's safe for you to donate, and for others to receive your blood, you'll first be asked to provide basic information about your medical history and lifestyle. All information is strictly confidential. A simple finger prick will test for iron levels, and your temperature, heart rate and other vitals will be taken. You'll also be asked to review some educational material.

Donating usually takes 45 minutes to an hour. But your actual time spent giving is just about 10 minutes. During the last 15 minutes, you'll relax with a well-deserved snack. The process is safe, sterile and involves little to no discomfort.

### Tips for All Donors

- Wear loose and comfortable clothing; your sleeves should be easy to raise above the elbow.
- Eat a healthy meal high in iron, like lean red meat, raisins, and spinach before donating.
- Drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids like water or juice the night before and the day of donating.
- Get a good night's sleep the night before giving blood.

- Put on your earbuds and relax with your favorite mix, kick back with a book, or get a friend to donate with you and enjoy the conversation!
- Avoid exercising or strenuous physical activity for the rest of the day.



### INTERESTING FACTS

- Type O (universal donor) is the most frequently requested type of blood by hospitals.
- There are more than 9 million donors each year in the U.S.
- One victim of a car accident can require as many as 100 pints of blood.
- A healthy blood donor can give every 56 days, or six times a year.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVICES

On top of keeping the City safe, the Mequon Police Department provides a wide number of services to the community. Below are some of the great free or low cost services available to the members of the community.

### Emergency Alert System

As part of National Preparedness, the Police Department provides a free emergency telephone notification system called Hyper-Reach. The Police Supervisory Staff can use the system to send a recorded message to telephones, home and cellular phones, in specific areas and alert residents to any emergencies that may require immediate action. Residents and people who work in Mequon are encouraged to enroll now either by calling 262-292-4856 or visiting the Police Department's page on the City's website ([ci.mequon.wi.us/police](http://ci.mequon.wi.us/police)) or by downloading the free Hyper-Reach Anywhere app on your smartphone.

### Online Crash/Accident Reports

All reportable crash/accident reports for the Mequon Police Department are available via CARFAX at [crashdocs.org/wi-mequonpd](http://crashdocs.org/wi-mequonpd) for a \$3 service fee. Online crash and accident reports eliminate the waiting time to receive automobile accident reports from the Police Department. With this tool, those in accidents, insurers and other interested parties can quickly order the reports they need and eliminate the need to make a trip to the Mequon Police Department.

### Mequon Cares Program

This program is designed to assist the many Mequon residents who live alone and are not in daily contact with relatives or friends, and may have an accident or become ill. The program allows participants to call the Mequon Police Department at (262) 242-3500 every day before noon to check in. If they forget to call, a dispatcher will attempt to reach them by telephone. If they get no answer, the dispatcher will send a police officer to the home to check on their well-being.

To enroll, visit the Police Department's website at [ci.mequon.wi.us/police](http://ci.mequon.wi.us/police) or call the Department at (262) 242-3500 and ask to speak to a clerk to sign you up over the phone.

### Public Fingerprinting

The Mequon Police Department also provides fingerprinting services. Fingerprints can be obtained for things like security licenses, foster care/adoptions, citizenship and record expungement. The days and times of service are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 8-10 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. The service fee is \$15 and the Department will provide your fingerprints to you on a standard fingerprint card or any other card you provide.

### Police Department Training Programs

The Mequon Police Department provides a number of training courses annually. In the spring, the Police Department facilitates a boater safety course and in the fall the Department provides hunter safety courses.

Active shooter training is also provided by the Department throughout the year for businesses, groups or organizations where participants will learn what to do in violent emergencies. To take advantage of these training opportunities, visit the Police Department's webpage at [ci.mequon.wi.us/police](http://ci.mequon.wi.us/police).



### Citizens Police Academy

The Department runs a 6-week-long Citizens Police Academy where participants receive an inside look into the Mequon Police Department. Course attendees receive hands-on training and class demonstrations on a wide variety of police topics, that include use of force, defense and arrest tactics, use of a Taser,



operating while intoxicated detection, mock traffic stops, drug recognition, firearms training and

K-9 unit presentation showcasing Mequon's K-9 officer Iron and his abilities.

To learn more about this great program, visit the Police Department page on the City's website at [ci.mequon.wi.us/police](http://ci.mequon.wi.us/police).



## MEQUON BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: GENMET Lean Manufacturing Principles and Investment in Community a Solid Formula for Success

The City of Mequon is home to many manufacturing businesses that serve a broad range of specialized industries. One of the most successful is GenMet, a full-service custom metal fabricator that provides quality fabrications and expertise to OEMs, point-of-purchase display manufacturers and a wide variety of other vital industries.

This innovative company, located at 10245 N. Enterprise Drive, is co-owned by Mary and Eric Isbister, who settled here from the East Coast in the late '90s. Through a unique set of circumstances, the couple decided to recreate themselves as business owners after careers working for others – Mary, who held a senior R & D position at Pfizer, Inc., and Eric, who spent 21 years building nuclear submarines for the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics. They moved to Milwaukee in 1997, and in 1999 they purchased GenMet.

“I jokingly asked my wife, ‘Where’s Milwaukee?’,” Eric says. “But on our first visit here we loved the area. The City is a beautiful place in a convenient location – close to good roads critical to our fabrication shipments.”

Things fell into place, and this year the Isbisters will celebrate their 20th year of GenMet ownership.

GenMet’s roots actually date back to the 1800s when it was founded as the Biersach & Niedermeyer Company in Chicago. After the great Chicago fire in 1871, this family-owned business moved to Milwaukee where it cultivated its reputation as a quality metal fabricator. Years later, in 1972, the Biersachs opened a new manufacturing plant in Mequon, and when the 4th generation of the family eventually sold the business in 1993, the name was changed to GenMet Corp. When the Isbisters took over in 1999, they technically became only the third owners of the company.

“We both are owners,” explains Eric. “Mary is the president and I am the CEO. Mary owns one more share in the company than I do, so GenMet is officially woman-owned,” he says with a smile.

Today, GenMet has two facilities a mile apart in Mequon. “Almost 2 years ago, we purchased Pawlak Tool and Manufacturing, allowing us to add machining to our capabilities and become more of a one-stop shop for our customers,” says Eric. Still often called a “job shop,” GenMet provides dozens of customers with its custom truck parts, industrial fabrications, store displays, shelving units,

computer enclosures, etc. But the company’s “sweet spot” is its value-added fabrications – those that have many components and are complex in design.

GenMet’s expertise, experience and commitment to lean manufacturing practices have made it a recognized leader in the metal fabrication industry in the Midwest. The Isbisters are proud of, and live by, their company policy: Superior safety, quality and on-time delivery, supported by employee-led continuous improvement and state-of-the-art technology – all of which lead to profitable, long-term relationships.

In general, today’s manufacturing jobs offer countless employment and advancement opportunities for both men and women. Yet, manufacturers (including GenMet) find it hard to fill jobs in fabrication and other skilled trades. As a wave of older workers retires, younger people aren’t stepping up to take their place.

“One of our missions is to address this employee shortage,” says Mary. “We are proud of being ‘the place that trains,’” she says. “We can teach people who want to learn what they need to know to become metal fabricators.” And by involving college

students, and even younger students still in high school, they are able to demonstrate the variety and excitement the work offers. “Students can readily see that manufacturing jobs are worthwhile and in demand,” Mary says.

That’s why the Isbisters place particular importance on their student program called, “Making Stuff Is Cool.” In recent years they have hosted more than 2,500 students to GenMet tours, including students from Homestead High School. “Before these visits, many do not have a concept that ‘making stuff is cool.’ But on the tours, they see that our employees work on many different parts, and that it is truly a fascinating job,” Eric says. Not surprisingly, GenMet has donated thousands of dollars, machines and material to many local schools. The company is also actively involved with several high school robotics teams, and has a college summer internship program for students majoring in engineering.



*Eric Isbister discusses manufacturing jobs with students.*

GenMet also works closely with the Mequon campus of MATC to train and certify its employees. And GenMet’s community involvement supports educating as many people as possible – of all ages and disciplines – about the merits of family-supporting careers in manufacturing. “It’s

surprising how few people know anything about manufacturing careers, what’s involved and how beneficial they can be,” Eric says. “That’s why mentoring is something all employees at GenMet feel passionately about. They discuss, organize, plan for and effectively execute ways to impart knowledge and skills to the next generation.”

The Isbisters also serve on many high school and technical college advisory boards. Eric is on the advisory boards of MATC, MSOE, WCTC, Associated Industries of the Blind and Beyond Vision. Mary serves on Milwaukee’s Next Generation Manufacturing Council, MMAC’s Council of Small Business Executives, plus the boards of MMAC and the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership. She was also formerly an MATC board director.

But Eric attributes much of GenMet’s success to its people. “We hire good people at GenMet and our growth is spurred by ongoing improvement ideas generated by our employees,” he says proudly. “Because GenMet is considered an expert in the field, we are hired for our brains, not only our machines,” he adds. “The bar is high here, and our team members want to be the best they can be!”

Mary agrees. “This is not a company where employees are only extensions of foot pedals,” she says. “We need people’s brains, and not just their backs. There is nothing gender specific about any of our jobs.” The Isbisters believe that the ratios should be the same on their shop floor as they are in the community. “The male to female ratio is 50-50 in the community, and should be the same on our manufacturing floor. The same concept applies to different ethnicities. The most



diverse company is the best company,” Mary explains.

Yet, keeping a balanced workforce poses a challenge. According to a survey from Women in Manufacturing (WiM), and the consulting firm Plante Moran Inc., although women represent manufacturing’s largest pool of untapped talent, less than 10% of young women place manufacturing in the top-five occupations they feel offers them the greatest opportunities. “Nonetheless, we will continue to educate and mentor our youth about future manufacturing careers,” shares Eric. “We will also keep trying to attract female team members to work here in fabrication.”

With all these efforts in place, GenMet’s future is bright. “We plan to grow at the rate we can continue to acquire good people – adding them at the rate we can train and mentor them,” explains Eric. And because the Isbisters are strong partners in the Mequon community, many are cheering for this couple and their outstanding company.

Congratulations to the Isbisters as they celebrate their 20th year with GenMet. Something big will be in store this year to commemorate the occasion, and we thank them for being such great community partners!

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## SPRING PROGRAMS AT THE FRANK L. WEYENBERG LIBRARY

The Frank L. Weyenberg Library of Mequon-Thiensville offers a variety of fun and free programs for all ages throughout the year. Check out the events below that are happening this season at the Library.

For more information, visit [flwlib.org](http://flwlib.org).

### ADULT EVENTS

#### After-Hours Book Club

February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13

End your busy day at the Library, lounging on comfortable couches and “talking books.” Each month, we’ll read and discuss a different book selected by our members. Meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

#### Mequon-Thiensville Community Book Club

February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21

The Frank L. Weyenberg Library and the Mequon-Thiensville Rec. Department offer a free monthly community book discussion on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday 1-0-1

February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15

Is your device or laptop doing something strange? Are you having trouble with a program or app? Drop by our Wednesday 1-0-1 for up to 15 minutes of one-on-one help from a librarian. We can troubleshoot issues, explain features and more. Timeslots are first-come, first-served on the third Wednesday of the month from 2-4 p.m.

#### Plant & Gardening Series

February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28

All year long, the Library will be hosting monthly plant and gardening programs! Whether you like houseplants, outdoors plants, or vegetable gardening, there is sure to be a program for you! Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. For the full program line-up, please visit the Library’s website or pick up our brochures.

#### Genealogy Interest Group

February 28, March 28, March 30, April 25, May 30, June 27, June 29

When you’re up to your eyeballs in census records, birth certificates, and obituaries, genealogy can feel like a very lonely pastime. But it doesn’t have to be! Join your fellow genealogists for an hour of sharing stories, celebrating successes, brainstorming solutions, and dismantling roadblocks. Open to beginning and experienced researchers alike. Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. and select Saturdays throughout the year.

#### Blacksmithing in Ozaukee County

March 5 at 6 p.m.

From the earliest settlers to the working smiths of today, Ozaukee County boasts a rich history of this ancient craft and those who practiced it. Join us as we look back at those who helped shape a community and at one who continues the tradition today.

### TEEN EVENTS

#### Teen Game Day

For grades 6-12

February 24, 12-3 p.m. • April 17, 5 p.m.

Come to the Library for a fun-filled experience in the Tolzman Community Room with giant board games for your entertainment. This is a drop-in program – registration is not required. Participants are welcome to come and go, so grab a friend and come on in!

#### TGIF Monthly Book Club

For grades 6-8

March 8, April 12, May 10

Enjoy snacks and discuss the book of the month. Bring a friend! All books will be available to check-out or request through the Monarch Library System. Meets the second Friday of the month at 4 p.m.

*Children were delighted to participate in their very own New Year's Eve celebration, or as we call it, our "Noon Year's Eve Party."*

### **Teen Craft Night: Salt Painting**

**For grades 6-12**

**March 19 at 6 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of salt painting with all craft supplies provided. Registration is required as supplies are limited.

### **Teen Craft Night: Printmaking**

**For grades 6-12**

**May 2 at 6 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of printmaking with all craft supplies provided. Registration is required as supplies are limited.

## **CHILDREN'S EVENTS**

### **Family Storytimes**

Family storytimes are every Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Storytimes include stories, finger plays, and songs. A responsible adult should be present. No registration is required.

### **Discovery LAB**

**For children in grades K-5**

**February 16 and March 16**

Participate in a variety of activities that promote science, tech, engineering, art and math skills. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate. Drop in anytime the third Saturday of the month between 1:30-2:30 p.m.

### **Parachute Play**

**For children ages 2-4 with a parent/caregiver**

**February 22, March 29, April 26, May 31**

Join us for interactive and play-filled programs featuring songs, rhymes and activities with the Library's parachute! Meets the last Friday of every month at 11 a.m. Registration is required as space is limited.

### **Children's Craft Hour**

**For ages 5-12**

**February 22, March 29, April 26, May 31**

Calling all creative crafters – let your imagination run wild with our big box of craft supplies. Make something cool and crafty to take home. Drop-in anytime the last Friday of every month between 4:30-5:30 p.m.

### **LEGO Club**

**For ages 5 and up**

**February 25, March 25, April 29, May 20 at 4 p.m.**

**March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8 at 1:30 p.m.**

Build up your creativity and LEGO skills at the Library! Share ideas, work together and make new friends as we focus on a new theme each month. Meets the second Saturday and the last Monday of every month. No registration required!

### **Messy Monday**

**For children ages 2 and older**

**April 15 at 1 p.m.**

Join us at the Library for a morning of sensory art exploration and creation. This process-oriented art program is intended as an open-ended exploration of the various materials provided. We can't wait to see what you create!

### **Unlock-the-Box**

**For grades 2-5**

**April 18 at 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.**

Do you love to follow clues and solve puzzles? Work as a team to beat the clock and open the box before it's too late! This program uses BreakoutEDU to provide a fun, educational experience for all involved. Registration required.



## **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM!**

All ages are welcome to participate. This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories" and runs June 1-July 31!

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# A BATTLE OF EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS

## CONCORDIA PROFESSOR PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN NATIONAL OPIOID CRISIS

Photos: Andrea Adams



Dr. Chris Cunningham of Thiensville, Wisconsin, was sick of hearing about his favorite musicians dying. As a self-described child of the '80s, Cunningham was raised in a suburb of Washington, D.C., on MTV, and came of age as the Seattle music scene was exploding in his living room. A budding musician himself, Cunningham was drawn to the heavy guitar riffs with a punk flare and the raw, personal lyrics distinctive of the bands coming out of the Pacific Coast at the time. The "grunge" music style and subculture had captivated America's youth and compelled teenagers everywhere to wear flannel shirts and army boots, grow out their hair, and take music lessons so that they could be a part of the movement.

As the grunge subculture was making its way through mainstream young America, so, too, was heroin. Heroin, also known as diacetylmorphine, is an illegal opioid derived from the opium poppy plant that's mainly used as a recreational drug for its known euphoric effects. It's a Schedule 1 substance, which means that it's highly likely to be abused.

While heroin has been in the United States since the late 19th century (see sidebar on facing page), three main factors contributed to its resurgence in the early 1990s: the drug had become cheaper, purer and available in powder form (as opposed to injections), so it was more accessible and acceptable in middle-class America. Influencers in art, music and fashion became early adopters of the re-established drug, and were so effective in their advocacy that American culture redefined beauty to replicate the look of a user – emaciated, pale and tired – the look that became known as "heroin chic."

This phenomenon played out in rural and urban America, in the streets of Seattle, and on the television in the Cunninghams' living room and every other living room across the country.

One by one, Cunningham's music heroes were struggling with, and dying of, heroin-related causes. First it was Andrew Wood from

the band Mother Love Bone, then Kurt Cobain from Nirvana, and then Shannon Hoon from Blind Melon. And the deaths would keep coming.

Cunningham, the son of a chemist father and educator mother, gave up his instruments and channeled his fascination for grunge music and culture into a life mission to find answers and create solutions to the heroin epidemic that was taking so many artists so soon – a quest that continues today, with a promising research breakthrough under his belt.

He followed in his parents' footsteps and enrolled at the University of Maryland in College Park to study chemistry with a desire to teach. Upon graduation, Cunningham enrolled at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, and, fortuitously, under the tutelage of Dr. Andy Coop, professor and associate dean for academic affairs, would make a discovery as a graduate student that would be an effective first step in his quest.

"It just so happened that Dr. Coop was at that school asking the same questions that I was," says Cunningham. Questions like: Could we develop opioids with less-addictive qualities? Why does the effectiveness of opioids drop over time when used to treat severe pain? What can we do to prevent more people from dying from these drugs that help people?

The student and his mentor honed in on the question of consistent effectiveness, and focused their research on the concept of tolerance. According to Cunningham, "When a patient becomes tolerant to the analgesic effects of a painkiller, the physician must increase the dose to compensate." This increase is likely to cause the patient to experience other consequences, like severe constipation, addiction and possibly even overdose.

Cunningham and Coop were the first to propose that this

tolerance was due to a protein in the brain called P-gp (P-glycoprotein or multidrug resistance Protein 1). P-gp is an important drug flusher that significantly impacts the patient's ability to absorb, distribute, metabolize and excrete toxic substances.

In other words, "The job of this protein is to throw drugs out of the brain like a bouncer would throw rude customers out of a nightclub," explains Cunningham.

Hundreds of compounds, hundreds of failures and one lab fire later, the chemists eventually developed the compound that could prove their theory correct. This compound was more potent than morphine at killing pain, but was able to avoid detection by P-gp (avoid getting "bounced" out of the brain). "This is a pretty big deal, because P-gp plays such an important role in how so many drugs work. If we can avoid P-gp, we might be able to get significant pain relief without the devastating side effects," explains Cunningham.

Their collaboration led to a significant finding that's still being tested today. At Concordia, Cunningham attacks the opioid crisis from three different angles: He teaches, mentors and advocates. As a teacher, his primary focus is teaching medicinal chemistry to Pharm.D. candidate students. He teaches students to understand how drug structure affects its function. In other words, individuals respond to medicines and dosages differently, so pharmacists not only need to know the medicine, but they also have to know the patient.



As a mentor, he works in the lab alongside students at the undergraduate, Pharm.D. and MS levels on team-based projects related to drug design and discovery. One team is working on developing non-addictive painkillers that are showing significant progress in early testing. Cunningham shares that they aim to tackle the "Holy Grail" of painkillers: developing an agent that treats pain but is non-addictive, doesn't cause constipation and avoids overdose. A second team is developing treatments for amphetamine and synthetic cannabinoid abuse.

As a community advocate, Cunningham is a popular speaker who openly and candidly fields science questions about the brain's biology, painful questions about addiction and recovery, and lighthearted questions about his taste in music. As the crisis in America grows, so, too, do the crowds at his talks.

While it was the tragic loss of famous people that lured him into pharmacy, Cunningham finds his greatest motivation in his conversations with everyday people. "It doesn't matter who they are or where they come from," he says. "People are struggling with very heavy things and desperately want to understand addiction. I want to learn more about the brain so that I can help more people, more families, in need."

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF HEROIN

While opium has been in the United States since the early 1800s, the heroin compound was created in the late 19th century. It was thought to be a more powerful, non-addictive pain reliever, and its usage was widely embraced by the military to manage the pain from war-related injuries.

Upon discovery of the devastating effects, heroin use was banned in the United States under the Anti-Heroin Act of 1924. That set the black market in motion, and the drug has been making its way illegally into the country ever since. Between 1965 and 1970, there were an estimated 750,000 heroin addicts in the country, prompting President Nixon to create the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 1973 to consolidate resources to fight the heroin problem.

Though initially effective in slowing heroin and opium abuse, other recreational drugs began to emerge, including powder and "crack" cocaine in the 1980s. When heroin and prescription opioid abuse roared back in the 1990s, it infiltrated all forms of culture, and its usage has been on the rise ever since.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opioids killed a record 42,000 people in 2016. In 2017, President Donald Trump declared that our national opioid crisis is a public health emergency. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services unveiled the Five-Point Opioid Strategy that focuses on improved access to prevention, treatment and recovery support services, as well as improving data and research.



# VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR DEDICATES 30+ YEARS TO PUBLIC SERVICE

## DIANNE ROBERTSON TO RETIRE MARCH 10



Public service has run through the veins of Dianne Robertson her entire life. Although Robertson has been the Village Administrator in Thiensville for nearly 21 years, before that she served the Village of West Milwaukee for 19 years and the Village of Greendale for 6 years. This lifelong public servant has played an integral role in Village government for decades, and her contributions have been many. And now we sadly announce her retirement on March 10.

Early on, Robertson's family influenced her choice of career, and it is obvious public service runs in the family. Her mother was a grade school teacher and her father a firefighter. Plus, her niece and nephew are Milwaukee Police officers. After serving in almost every role in local government for her past three employers, Robertson bids farewell to Thiensville with a great sense of accomplishment for the many progressive improvements made during her watch.

According to Robertson, she is "particularly proud of the storm water work that has been completed in the Village. The projects included lining of the detention pond on the north side of the Village, construction of four storm water detention areas at MATC (that controls the rate of water release into Thiensville), storm sewer infrastructure in the Laurel Drive and Rosedale Drive neighborhoods, improving the ditching on Green Bay Road, removal of the millrace to convert to a fish ladder in Village Park, and the widening and improving of Pigeon Creek."

The redevelopment of Main Street properties would not have been possible without the completion of the storm water work. In recognition of these storm water projects, the pedestrian bridge constructed over Pigeon Creek connecting to Main Street was dedicated in 2014, and appropriately named "Dianne's Bridge" (see ribbon-cutting photo above).

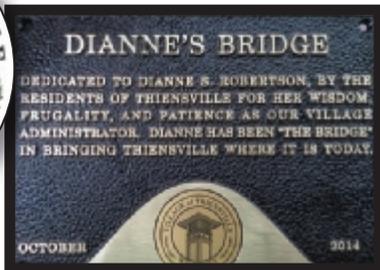
During her Thiensville tenure, Robertson also received other prestigious awards, including the 2005 Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award. In addition, she was named the recipient of a 45-Year Local Government Service Award from the International City Management Association (ICMA), and received the 2018 Meritorious Service Award from the Wisconsin City/County Management Association (WCMA). "What an honor to be recognized by your peers," Robertson exclaims in her usual humble fashion.

Robertson has also been a wise steward of the Thiensville budget. When she was appointed Village Administrator, the Village's outstanding debt obligation for the General Fund was \$3,178,193 and there was \$1,100,000 in the Sewer Utility Fund, for a total debt obligation of \$4,278,193. Under her watch, the Village became debt free in 2007, a status that remains to this day. What an accomplishment!

In true public service fashion, Robertson says the most meaningful part of her Thiensville career has been serving Thiensville's citizens. She points out how enjoyable it has been meeting and helping its many wonderful residents. "I will also sincerely miss all of our board and committee members, and the great team of employees of the Village that will continue to serve," she adds.

"I never thought I would be able to retire," offers Robertson, "but believe me when I say you will know when the time is right. You also know when the time is right to give opportunities to other staff members." On that note, Robertson is quick to acknowledge her talented, hard-working staff.

"I have worked long and hard to let them grow, and they in turn, have worked long and hard to achieve the goal of being ready to lead



this community forward,” explains Robertson. “I would like to acknowledge my department heads: Clerk Amy Langlois, Assistant Administrator/Finance Director Colleen Landisch-Hansen, Director of Public Works Andy LaFond, Police Chief Scott Nicholson (retired January 2019) and Fire Chief Brian Reiels. I also welcome our new Police Chief Curt Kleppin. In addition, I would like to recognize and thank the remaining Village staff in the Police Department, Fire Department and Department of Public Works. We are all part of a wonderful team and family. The Village will be well-served going forward into the future.”

So what’s in store for Robertson’s retirement? Not surprisingly, she will continue to serve local government, although in a different role. She has been appointed as a senior advisor with the WCMA through its ICMA Program – the only female of four senior advisors statewide. In this volunteer role, she will mentor members of WCMA.

Robertson will also be spending more time with her 90-year-old mother Janet, who lives with her. And, of course, she also has plans to travel and get some enjoyment and stress relief on her “Harley” motorcycle (see photo to the left).

Director of Public Works Andy LaFond notes Robertson’s knowledge and work ethic. “I wish her great joy in retirement,” he says. “When it comes to local government and treating people with integrity and honesty, there is no better mentor than Dianne.”

Village of Thiensville President Van Mobley continues with his own thoughts about Robertson. “Dianne has always been an exemplary civil servant. She is diligent, frugal and efficient. While she is usually cautious, from time to time I have known her to advocate and execute a well-timed, carefully thought-out gamble. Normally her gambles turned out – even when they seemed like long shots, as was the case with the Pigeon Creek Project.”

Mobley adds, “Dianne will be deeply missed, but her legacy will remain. I know I speak for the entire Village when I wish her all the best in retirement – and a fond farewell.”

Our sentiments exactly! Best wishes, Dianne, on a long, satisfying and healthy retirement ahead. Thank you for your years of service to Thiensville. You will be missed by all in the community – and the Village wouldn’t be the same without you!

Village residents are invited to wish Dianne farewell at an open house in her honor on Friday, March 8, from 2-6 p.m. at Shully’s Watermark, 146 Green Bay Rd. An RSVP to Village Hall can be made by calling (262) 242-3720.

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Photos courtesy of Kristie Zach Photography



New Thiensville Police Chief Curt Kleppin gets to know Village Administrator Dianne Robertson before her March retirement.



# THIENSVILLE WELCOMES NEW POLICE CHIEF CURT KLEPPIN JOINS FORCE IN JANUARY

When the Village of Thiensville swore in its new Police Chief, Curt Kleppin, on January 3, he became only the sixth person to hold that position in the Village's 100+ history. Chief Kleppin replaces former Chief Scott Nicholson who retired early this year after more than 34 years of service (see the October 2018 issue of Mequon-Thiensville Today magazine). Fortunately the new chief was able to work side by side with his predecessor for a few weeks before his retirement. This enabled him to familiarize himself with the department's personnel and procedures.

But Chief Kleppin's roots in the field of law enforcement run deep. His educational background includes a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and a master's degree in the science of management from Cardinal Stritch University. He is also a 2012 graduate of the FBI academy.

The Chief's long career began as a patrol officer with the Watertown Police Department in 1994. He went on to hold the ranks of sergeant, detective and captain. During his tenure there, he organized, promoted and delivered alcohol- and drug-abuse prevention speeches throughout Jefferson County for both adults and school-aged children (through an educational program of the Watertown School District and Your Choice to Live Inc., a nonprofit organization). Alcohol- and drug-abuse prevention became one of his many

important causes over the years, and it remains an area of focus he still embraces today.

"I have always enjoyed participating in, and giving back to, my community through volunteer work and by serving on a variety of boards," says Chief Kleppin. He also prides himself on being a member of the Recovery Support Center, helping people recover and sustain their sobriety and hope for the future. Plus, he is committed to making communities safer, and decreasing public costs through reducing

addiction, substance abuse, criminal behavior and incarceration. "All in all, strengthening damaged families is the motivating factor and key to success," he adds.

Chief Kleppin intends to become very involved in community events within Thiensville. "I already have some ideas that I would like to initiate, but need to settle in first. Officer Fischer and I have been discussing a number of new ways the Police Department can be more active with the community," he offers.

Explaining how he came to apply for the Thiensville position, Kleppin shares, "When I started looking for a police chief role, I was very particular as to where I wanted to work. I knew I wanted to work in a smaller community so that I could be 'closer' to the needs of the citizens who live there. I also wanted a community where crime and calls for service were manageable."

*"I have always enjoyed participating in, and giving back to, my community through volunteer work and by serving on a variety of boards."*

When people ask Chief Kleppin what it is about Thiensville that he likes, he immediately responds, "Every time I drive into the Village, I pick up on its quaint surroundings and overall charm. The Village has its own unique character that I find extremely attractive and interesting. Thiensville is clean, its Main Street has a colonial look and feel, and the people are friendly and welcoming."

Chief Kleppin spent many hours researching Thiensville, its government and the Police Department prior to accepting the position. "After only a month and a half on the job, there is no doubt that I made the right choice," he reports. "So far, my greatest satisfaction has been working with all the employees of the Village – each and every one is truly a joy to work with!"

On the personal side, Kleppin enjoys anything involving the outdoors – cycling, running, hiking and fishing. He and his wife, Tonya, have a daughter, Shawna, who is in nursing school, and lives close by with her husband, John, also a police officer. And Kleppin and his wife have an 11-year-old grandson who means the world to them. On his days off, he looks forward to spending time with family and friends.

Welcome, aboard, Chief Kleppin!  
We know you will make a positive mark on Thiensville.



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Photo courtesy of Kristie Zach Photography



The current administrative staff at the Village of Thiensville (from left): Colleen Landisch-Hansen, Dianne Robertson, Amy Langlois and Andy LaFond.

# VILLAGE OF THIENSVILLE STAFF "CHANGING OF THE GUARD"

With the new year comes a fresh start and new opportunities, and in Thiensville the start of 2019 also signals several important staff changes.

The Village welcomes a new police chief (Curt Kleppin: see related article pg. 20) to replace former Chief Scott Nicholson who retired at the beginning of January. At the same time, Thiensville also bids farewell to long-term Village Administrator Dianne Robertson (see related article pg. 18) who retires March 10. With Robertson's retirement, the Thiensville Village Board was prompted to take the following actions to reorganize the administrative staff at Village Hall.

## Colleen Landisch-Hansen, Promoted to Village Administrator

Assistant Village Administrator Colleen Landisch-Hansen has been promoted to Village Administrator, and will assume that role on March 11 upon the retirement of current Village Administrator Dianne Robertson. Colleen was hired in 2014 as Assistant Administrator and Finance Director for Thiensville. She was previously employed by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP (2007-2013) in its state and local government

department that specializes in financial accounting, auditing and consulting services for municipalities, counties, school districts and colleges.

Landisch-Hansen has a bachelor's degree in business administration/accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is actively involved in the community in a variety of roles, participating in the Junior Woman's Club of Mequon-Thiensville, the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals and Ozaukee County Economic Development Practitioners. She is also co-chair of the Thiensville Village Park Reimagined Ad Hoc Committee – and belongs to numerous professional organizations (e.g., MEA-SEW, MTAW, WCMA, WGFOA). Landisch-Hansen has also been recognized with the Next Generation Leadership Award (2017) from the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce.

"I am very excited for this opportunity and new challenge," says Landisch-Hansen, "but it is also a little bittersweet. The three Village Hall front-office staff – Dianne, Amy Langlois and myself – have worked very closely together over the past few years, and have created a strong bond. And over those

years I've had an invaluable experience shadowing Dianne, an individual who is so well

respected with a very successful and long-standing career in municipal government. She leaves very big shoes to fill – and I am very grateful that the Village Board believes that I am the right person to pick up where Dianne leaves off."

"There are so many good people who live and work here that I have had the pleasure of getting to know," Landisch-Hansen continues enthusiastically. "The high level of public services from our fiscally responsible Village, our beautiful Village Park, the wonderful festivals, and so many other things make Thiensville such a special place. I cannot think of a better place to work and raise my family. I am very excited to serve this community in my new role by respecting Thiensville's rich history and helping lead the Village into the future."



Landisch-Hansen resides in Thiensville with her husband Jason and three children. Most of her free time is spent cheering on their very active children at baseball and basketball games, and rooting for the Milwaukee Bucks.



**Andy LaFond, Promoted to Director of Community Services and Public Works**

Andy LaFond was promoted to Director of Community Services and Public Works, and will assume the duties of this position upon the retirement of Village Administrator Dianne Robertson. LaFond started with the Village in 1997 and has been the Public Works Director since 2008. LaFond’s new role will include the added responsibilities of coordinating the Engineering, Planning, Building Inspection and Public Works Departments.

In addition to the Public Works Department, LaFond served the Thiensville Fire Department from 1997 to 2017 as a paramedic, captain and dive team leader. He has also served as the Village Emergency Management Director for the last six years.

LaFond attended the University of Wisconsin River Falls, Lakeshore Technical College and the University of Wisconsin Public Works supervisory academy. He is a board member of the Thiensville Business Association (TBA) and Family Fun Before the Fourth. LaFond also lends his talents to the *Mequon-Thiensville Today* magazine committee and is co-chair of the Thiensville Village Park Reimagined Ad Hoc Committee.

“I am forever grateful for my many years working for the Village,” says LaFond. “And I am excited and honored to be appointed to a position that will bring together the Building Inspection, Engineering, Planning and Public Works Departments. It is a small Village and we rely on consultants for much of the planning, engineering and inspection work. Now there will be a senior level staff member responsible for making sure residents and developers are getting the best services we can provide.”

LaFond is an outdoorsman at heart. He grew up in Thiensville and lives in the area with his wife Judy and two daughters. The family enjoys camping and taking adventurous cross-country road trips together. Plus, LaFond is also the president of the Wisconsin BBQ Posse, a non-for-profit group that supports outdoor cooking competitions and raises funds for philanthropic efforts and culinary student scholarships.

VILLAGE CONTACT INFORMATION

- **EMERGENCY .....911**
- Administration.....(262) 242-3720
- Building Inspections .....(262) 242-3720
- Clerk’s Office.....(262) 242-3720
- Police Department (non-emergency) .....(262) 242-2100
- Fire (non-emergency).....(262) 242-3393
- Public Works .....(262) 242-3720

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# WHEN MINUTES MATTER CAMPAIGN SAVES LIVES

## AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR NOW LOCATED AT THIENSVILLE VILLAGE PARK



When someone suffers a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and the heart stops beating, minutes can mean the difference between life and death. Immediate help is critical. Yet, not everyone can make it to a hospital emergency room right away, and that's when an AED – an automated external defibrillator – can save the day.

Fortunately for area residents, the Village of Thiensville and its Village Park Reimagined project recently acquired an AED through the generosity of the Aurora Foundation. This lightweight, portable device is designed to deliver an electric shock through the chest to the heart following a sudden cardiac arrest. This shock can potentially stop an irregular heart beat (arrhythmia) and allow a normal rhythm to resume, thereby saving the person's life.

As part of Aurora's "When Minutes Matter" campaign, donations were collected to provide emergency medical training and empower more people in Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties with lifesaving tools so they can take quick action in emergency situations, such as an SCA. The Village's new AED will now be available at Thiensville Park to address these types of emergency situations. The AED will be located outside of the park's comfort station, a familiar location that is centrally located to the playground, tennis courts and baseball fields.

"Having a public-access defibrillator in a park that attracts so many visitors, activities and special events, just makes sense," says Director of Community Services and Public Works Andy LaFond.

Exactly how does an AED work? Most SCAs result from ventricular fibrillation (VF). VF is a rapid and unsynchronized heart rhythm that originates in the heart's lower chambers, the ventricles. The heart must be "defibrillated" quickly because a victim's chance of survival drops by seven to 10 percent for every minute a normal heartbeat is not restored.

An AED's built-in computer checks the victim's heart rhythm through adhesive electrodes. The computer calculates if and where defibrillation is needed. If so, a recorded voice prompts the rescuer to press the shock button on the AED. This shock momentarily stuns the heart and stops all activity. It gives the heart the chance to resume beating effectively. Audible prompts guide the user through the process.

Non-medical personnel such as police and fire personnel, flight attendants, security guards, etc. trained in CPR can use the AED. Although formal training in the use of an AED is not mandatory, it is helpful to the rescuer to increase his/her level of confidence and comfort. Most AEDs use audible voice prompts to guide the user through the process.

One of the goals of the "When Minutes Matter" campaign is to increase the number of AEDs located in public places. In addition to the AED, Aurora provided CPR/AED training to Village staff, committee members and park users. Thanks to an additional donation from the Thiensville Fire Corporation, a heated cabinet (with an alarm) will house the AED, which is the first outdoor-accessible public access AED in the area.

"The Thiensville Fire Department has a very impressive response time that rivals many 'big city' fire departments, but minutes – even seconds – can make a difference in a cardiac arrest and the survival of a loved one," explains LaFond.

According to Thiensville Deputy Fire Chief Joel Deutsch, "We are very excited about these generous donations from the Aurora Foundation, "When Minutes Matter" and the Thiensville Fire Corporation. "This AED holds the promise of reaching thousands of visitors to the park, and the possibility of positively impacting someone's life."

Left: Village staff are trained on the use of the new defibrillator located at Village Park.



Deutsch, who is also Deputy Chief of EMS/Operations, adds, "Our job is to help people in their moment of need. This AED will widen our reach by allowing trained civilians in the area to start providing lifesaving care, while we are being dispatched and responding to the call. What a great addition to our park – and a great way to demonstrate the progressive nature of our Village."

The Out-of-Hospital Medical Director and Emergency Physician at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton, Dr. Steven Zils, M.D., NREMT-P, is quick to point to research showing that the survival rate from cardiac arrest quadruples when the use of automated external defibrillators is added to bystander CPR.

"Because nearly 80% of Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties' EMS responders are volunteers, or paid-on-call (and a vast majority of the counties are rural), it may take an average of 5-10 minutes for a first responder to arrive at the emergency location, sometimes double the national average," says Dr. Zils. "Having this lifesaving piece of equipment available at the handsome, newly renovated Thiensville Village Park will greatly enhance the safety of residents and visitors," he adds.

"Aurora Health Care and the Aurora Health Care Foundation are pleased to partner with the Village of Thiensville to improve cardiac arrest survival rates," says Zils. "We are proud to be a part of this important initiative."

Read more at [aurorahealthcarefoundation.org/campaigns/minutes-matter](http://aurorahealthcarefoundation.org/campaigns/minutes-matter).



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## THIENSVILLE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: MY MATERIAL MATTERS QUILT SHOP BONDING OVER NEEDLE AND THREAD IN A HAPPY PLACE

The art of quilting – the stitching together of layers of padding and fabric – has been around for centuries. But for Maureen Laber, owner of My Material Matters quilt shop in Thiensville, the quilting “bug” did not hit her until she was 40. And this enthusiastic advocate for quilting has been spreading the word ever since!

When Laber “found” quilting at mid-life, she readily admits, “Quilting really found ME!” She was hooked from the very first moment she fell in love with the feel of the fabrics and the unending colors and patterns. As she tells it, “My children were teenagers and I decided it was time to focus on me. Finding a hobby like quilting opened up a world I never knew existed. Then, I met other quilters, who are now my customers. Let’s just say I have a lot of friends now. We sew together, we learn together, we create together. It is a friendship like no other. When you have a quilting friend, you have a treasure. Who could resist sharing that love with everyone?”

Laber first started working part-time at Material Matters soon after moving to Mequon from Platteville, Wis., nine years ago. Although the store was originally located in Cedarburg, the previous owner moved it to Thiensville around eight years ago, and Laber purchased the business in 2014. My Material Matters is a one-stop shopping destination for quilting enthusiasts from all walks of life. It’s a place to unwind, get inspired, lose yourself in a world of vibrant color, and enjoy the support and camaraderie of friendly, knowledgeable staff members and fellow quilters.

So how did this unique hobby take hold? Quilting can be traced as far back as ancient Egypt. And in Europe, it’s thought to have been introduced by the Crusaders in the 12th century. In the United States, quilt making had already made inroads by the late 17th and early 18th centuries (although only the wealthy had the leisure time for quilt making, while most women were busy spinning, weaving and sewing clothes for their families).

By the early 19th century, whole cloth quilts had become



Photos courtesy of Kristie Zach Photography

the rage (those made from cloth of the full size as manufactured, as distinguished from pieces cut off for garments or other items). Early “whole cloth” quilts had three layers: a quilt top, a filling and a backing, with the three layers being held together with hand-worked quilting stitches, long before sewing machines were marketed. The earliest whole cloth quilts found in America came from Europe and were owned by the wealthy who had the means to purchase imported quilts.

Then during the abolition, quilts contained beautiful appliques and anti-slavery poems/sayings to illustrate the terrible plight of slaves. And during the Civil War, quilts were made for soldiers. But in the mid-19th century, the industrial revolution brought about the most dramatic change as textiles came to be manufactured on a broad scale. When the textile industry grew to offer commercial fabrics affordable for almost every family, quilt making became widespread. And it remains popular to this day, with an endless assortment of styles, patterns and colors.

Today, there are millions of quilters in the U.S. and around the world. Some started as garment sewers and some have never sewn a stitch until taking beginner’s classes. Interestingly, “There are as many types of quilts as there are quilters!” explains Laber. “My store tends toward the bright, the vibrant and the modern, though I always keep fabrics in stock for more traditional quilters. We keep the latest patterns and books from new designers, as well as tried-and-true designs.”

According to Laber, “In today’s fast-paced world, people find enormous joy in the work of their own hands, and great comfort in the act of sewing. That’s why we often say, ‘We’re cheaper than a psychiatrist.’ We laugh a lot, and the act of creating is soothing and satisfying.” Reflecting on “a day’s work,” Laber says, “You’d be surprised how many customers make our store their first stop on the way home from the hospital. We really are their happy place.”

Perhaps it’s because My Material Matters caters to those making any type of quilt. There are ‘art’ quilts – so called

because both cloth and thread become the tools for creating works of art that sometimes are hung as wall decorations. And there are 'traditional' quilts that are more utilitarian for everyday use.

Laber is happy to point out that quilting knows no limits, and there's no limit to types of quilters who come to her shop, either. "We welcome art quilters, new quilters just learning and those who have been quilting for decades – those who make quilts for charity and those who love the simple or the complex – and everything in-between. Men and women, old and young, fanciful and practical – we always say, 'It's all happening at My Material Matters.'"

For anyone "into quilting," the business features a wide assortment of quilting fabrics, notions, patterns, books, accessories, etc. The latest modern fabric trends are represented, including Kaffe Fassett, Tula Pink, Moda, Grunge, Art Gallery fabrics, and many more. "We also carry luscious wools, including Sue Spargo 100% Merino wools and threads, and Eleganza threads," says Laber. "Our friendly staff is on hand to help you choose the right quilting notions, tools and supplies for your needs, and will happily offer suggestions for our fun, interactive classes for all levels."

In talking with Laber, it becomes obvious that she loves the community and its people. "Thiensville is warm and welcoming and the businesses are always happy to refer interested folks to one another. I feel honored to be among so many friends and colleagues," she says. "Not everyone gets the chance to say they love their job as much as I do. I come to work knowing I'll be seeing my friends – my customers – every day! They lift me up, and I hope we lift them up!"

Her message to newcomers: "Don't be shy – take the plunge! There's always room for another friend at our sewing tables." She invites you to open yourself to a whole new world of fun and friends. There is no age or skill limit to quilting. She promises that "we are here to help with classes and open sew time in the studio. Check our website for dates and times and always feel welcome to stop in, even if you're not a quilter yet. We can get you started and always need more quilter friends!"

Take Maureen Laber up on her offer and find your "happy place" at My Materials Matters. But a warning: once you start, you're hooked!

**My Material Matters Quilt Shop**

221 N. Main St. • Thiensville • (262) 292-8218 • [mymaterialmatters.com](http://mymaterialmatters.com)



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# ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN A SHARED VISION FOR ITS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Mequon-Thiensville School District is in the initial stages of developing a long-range vision for its facilities, a comprehensive process the District is calling “A Framework for Our Future.” The ultimate goal of the project is for the framework to reflect a community vision for its public schools. The process includes establishing common priorities in building capacity, capital maintenance projects, modern learning environment enhancements, and co-curricular and recreational program opportunities.

“While our elementary school capacity issues have been a topic of conversation for a number of years, our approach to developing a framework for our future will allow us to plan strategically for all of our facilities,” says Matthew Joynt, superintendent of schools. “We are engaged in this process to establish common priorities to ensure that we are planning strategically for the future, and allocating resources appropriately to achieve that vision.”

Joynt explains that the strategic framework will go beyond just facility needs – such as building capacity and environments. “We’ll also be working to identify creative funding opportunities, so that interested community

partners can support special projects that will enhance the educational and recreational experience of our students and for the community.”

The School District is partnering with Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA) to help facilitate the development of this all-encompassing 10-year framework that aligns the organization’s current reality, impending forecasts, strategic direction and the community’s priorities. EUA has a proven track record in long-range planning in K-12 education, and a clear focus on authentic public engagement.

“Public engagement is essential in a process such as this,” says Joynt. “Developing a ‘Framework for Our Future’ requires input from the community’s stakeholders, including families, students, School District employees, community members, and area organizations and businesses. We value the community’s perspective and cannot do this work without input and a range of perspectives.”

## Community Workshops Planned

Community members are invited and encouraged to attend a community workshop to learn more and share input on the future of MTSD facilities. Three 90-minute

community workshops have been planned in order to share information with the community about this project, and gather feedback to inform the long-range framework that will guide the District’s facilities work going forward. Each workshop will provide an opportunity to learn more about our facility challenges and offer feedback on the plan going forward. All community members are welcome to attend one of the following workshops.

- **Thursday, April 4 at 10 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, April 9 at 3 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, April 9 at 6 p.m.**

All workshops will be held at Range Line School located at 11040 N. Range Line Road. Community members can help the District plan for the workshop by indicating which session they would like to attend by visiting [mtsd.k12.wi.us/framework](https://mtsd.k12.wi.us/framework) to RSVP. Please note that all are welcome and an RSVP is not required in order to attend.

**MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [mtsd.k12.wi.us/framework](https://mtsd.k12.wi.us/framework)**



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MEQUON-THIENSVILLE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

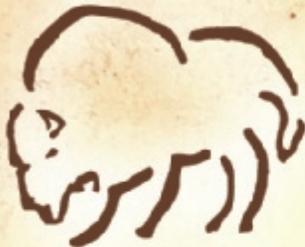
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# PARENTS AND SCHOOLS FOCUS ON STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE COLLABORATES TO TACKLE COMPLEX TOPICS

A child's physical, social, and emotional health and wellness can affect all facets of their life, including their academic growth. Because of the critical importance of wellness, the Mequon-Thiensville School District has prioritized student health and well-being as an area of study and focus.

"Schools are an ideal setting to support healthy habits," says Executive Director of Student Services Rachel Fellenz.

Fellenz explained that as colleagues discussed establishing a vision for wellness, it quickly became apparent that the District would benefit from a committee that provided a variety of perspectives and viewpoints.

"When people collaborate and learn from one another, that's when growth becomes possible," said Fellenz.

Fellenz and her colleagues established a District-wide wellness committee in 2018 with the objective to gather a range of voices and perspectives on topics of health and wellness. The committee was

established to review systems, study practices, and gather stakeholder feedback. The committee is comprised of School District staff members, students, and parent and community specialist volunteers.

In its inaugural year, the committee is focused on topics of nutrition, physical activity, and social and emotional wellness. Sub-committees have been formed to study aspects related to those broad topics.

"The committee and sub-committees will spend some time studying MTSD's current practices and gathering resources and feedback," explains Fellenz. "Then their work will progress to the point of making informed recommendations to District administrators regarding practices across the School District."

Looking forward, the District plans to maintain a wellness committee as an ongoing partnership of stakeholders united in a shared vision to educate and promote students' healthy behaviors and habits.

## 2018-19 WELLNESS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2018

- Form wellness committee and sub-committees in nutrition, physical activity, and social and emotional wellness

### OCTOBER-FEBRUARY 2019

- Study current practices
  - Nutrition
  - Physical activity
  - Social and emotional wellness
- Obtain stakeholder feedback on nutrition in schools

### MARCH-MAY 2019

- Study stakeholder feedback
- Develop recommendations for practices/next steps
- Develop plan for 2019-20 initiatives



### CONTACT INFORMATION MEQUON-THIENSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT [mtsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:mtsd.k12.wi.us)

**School District Offices**  
5000 W. Mequon Rd., Mequon  
262.238.8500

**Donges Bay Elementary School**  
2401 W. Donges Bay Rd., Mequon  
262.238.7920

**Oriole Lane Elementary School**  
12850 N. Oriole Ln., Mequon  
262.238.4220

**Wilson Elementary School**  
11001 N. Buntrock Ave., Mequon  
262.238.4600

**Lake Shore Middle School**  
11036 N. Range Line Rd., Mequon  
262.238.7600

**Steffen Middle School**  
6633 Steffen Dr., Mequon  
262.238.4700

**Homestead High School**  
5000 W. Mequon Rd., Mequon  
262.238.5900

**Department of Recreation**  
11040 Range Line Rd., Mequon  
262.238.7535



*Significantly Exceeds Expectations*

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



The Mequon-Thiensville School District "Significantly Exceeds Expectations" on the 2017-18 School Report Cards issued in November 2018 by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The district has significantly exceeded expectations all five years DPI has produced District Report Cards.

[www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/reportcards](http://www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/reportcards)

## M-T SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

### ACADEMICS

Homestead High School students Julian Camacho, Andrew Wang, Jackson Rusch, Michael Pokorny, Jake Yasonik, Giana Lim, Ethan Wang and Eric Wan took first place at the MSOE Opportunities Conference in November 2018.

The Homestead Computer Programming Club placed first out of 65 competitors in the MSOE computer programming competition in November 2018.

Homestead High School junior Jacob Yasonik earned a perfect 36 on the ACT test taken in December 2018.

### ATHLETICS

In Cross Country, Leanne Willemse was the North Shore Conference Girls' Cross Country Champion and NSC Runner of the Year. Drew Bosley was the North Shore Conference Boys Cross Country Champion, NSC Runner of the Year and WIAA State Champion.

The Homestead High School Varsity Football team was the Undefeated North Shore

Conference Champion. Emory Weeden was named North Shore Conference Football Player of the Year at Offensive Back. Jake Raddatz was named North Shore Conference Football Player of the Year-Defensive Line and the North Shore Conference Football Defensive Player of the Year.

In Girls' Swim, Leah Tunney was the WIAA Sectional Champion in the 500 Freestyle. Also representing Homestead at State were Leah Tunney (200 Freestyle), Jayci Scheff (200 Individual Medley), Leah Tunney, Cat Seberlich, Jacyi Scheff, and Bella Magee (200 Medley Relay Team), and Leah Tunney, Katey VanVooren, Esther Zelenovskiy and Jacyi Scheff (400 Freestyle Relay Team).

The Homestead High School Boys' Soccer team was the WIAA Regional Champion.

### ARTS

Isabella Meyer was awarded the Scholastic Art Award Gold Key. Silver Key awards went to Molly Plamann, Isabella Meyer, Sofie Jensen, James Valentino, and Finn Donahue. Earning Honorable Mention were Isabella Meyer,

James Valentino, Eryn Greuel, and Sofie Jensen.

Homestead High School One Act cast and crew had an outstanding showing at Wisconsin High School Forensic Association competition in November, earning Crew Award and Ensemble Acting Award. Kaet Sisney and Mary Wilkerson earned Acting Awards. One Act's performance was the unanimous selection for the Critics' Choice Award.

### MTSD EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Homestead High School Teacher Angie Cicero was awarded the M-T Optimist Club's "Friend of Youth" award in December. Homestead High School Teacher Tony Navarre was recognized in October as the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce "Next Generation Leader."

These are just some highlights from the Mequon-Thiensville School District as of December 2018. Stay current by following us on Facebook at [facebook.com/Mequon-ThiensvilleSchoolDistrict](https://facebook.com/Mequon-ThiensvilleSchoolDistrict).

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## ORIOLE LANE ARTISTS SHOWCASE TALENTS AT MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

What do Picasso, Monet, Degas and our Oriole Lane Elementary School students all have in common? All are spectacular artists who have had their talents on display at the Milwaukee Art Museum!

On Sunday, December 2, all Oriole Lane families were invited to attend the museum's Family Sunday event. During the event, each Oriole Lane student had one piece of art on display at the museum. The artwork that students created tied into the museum's main exhibition theme, "Serious Play: Design in Midcentury America." All artworks were inspired by the theme of abstraction, toys or themes prevalent in Midcentury American art.

In addition to the display of artistic works, elementary orchestra teacher Megan Aswegan was on hand to facilitate musical performances with 4th- and 5th-grade orchestra students, while choral teacher Laura Dobrowits coordinated student vocal performances.

This event celebrating visual and performing arts was made possible by Oriole Lane fine arts teachers Sarah Lambert and Laura Dobrowits, thanks to networking with fellow educators and nearly a full year of planning in conjunction with the Milwaukee Art Museum.

"MAM holds a Family Sunday event five times a year," explains Sarah Lambert. "During each event, one school is asked to be the main 'host' of the event, which is the school that displays art and puts on musical performances. It is a very limited opportunity!"

Ms. Lambert estimates that 1,000 people from the Oriole Lane community put the event on their calendars, and museum staff commented that this event generated one of the largest turnouts that they'd seen during a school-hosted Family Sunday. According to the museum, many staff members and general public guests commented on the quality of both the artwork and the musical performances while at the event. Bravo, Oriole Lane artists!



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Are you a graduate of Homestead High School? Connect with us!

We recently launched "The Tartan Review," a bi-monthly alumni e-newsletter.

When you sign up to receive "The Tartan Review," you'll be able to learn what fellow alumni are up to, make note of upcoming reunions, and of course, indulge in a regular fix of #throwback photos.

**LET US HEAR FROM YOU –  
SIGN UP TODAY!**

[mtsd.k12.wi.us/alumni](https://mtsd.k12.wi.us/alumni)



**BYRING ENSEMBLE:** Front row — B. Scherer, D. Spranger, M. Masley, L. Skrzynecki, B. Theil, Ullmann, R. Newbury, J. DeWalt. Second row — S. Tiedens, M. Andruschak, R. Murtzagh, E. Theil, Gieseler, T. Kellner, M. Puelker, E. Hahn, M. Diaz, F. Koppeler, T. Touliver, M. Scholz, M.



**CADET BAND:  
A FROSH START**

**CADET BAND:** Front row: M. Scott, P. Goshman, L. Basso, J. Basso, W. Basso, J. Basso, L. Basso, V. Basso, K. Basso, L. Basso, J. Basso, J. Basso, M. Basso, W. Basso, R. Basso, M. Basso, S. Basso, E. Basso, E. Basso, T. Basso, C. Basso, C. Basso, P. Basso, K. Basso, K. Basso, D. Basso, D. Basso, M. Basso, J. Basso, M. Basso, B. Basso.



### GET CONNECTED AND BE MIGHTY!

Homestead H.S. and the Mequon-Thiensville School District welcome alumni partnerships and mentoring opportunities! If you or your organization would like to join us in igniting student potential, learn more at [mtsd.k12.wi.us/partnerships](https://mtsd.k12.wi.us/partnerships).

# ~ OUT AND ABOUT ~



## SPRING IS ON THE WAY . . .

Winter's almost over and we welcome the warmer weather of spring! Check out this sampling of what has been happening in Mequon and Thiensville over the past few months. There is always something exciting taking place in our communities. Soon there will be outdoor concerts and fireworks and Food Truck Tours and fresh produce at the Market. Get ready for all this and more as we welcome spring!



**1.** Thiensville's new police chief, Curt Kleppin, is sworn in at Village Hall, as the Village Board looks on. Chief Kleppin's wife Tanya did the honors of pinning on his badge (see pg. 20). **2.** Former Police Chief Scott Nicholson was honored for his years of service at a retirement party on January 3. Chief Nicholson is seen here with State Representative Jim Ott. **3.** Newlyweds Peter Neuman and Allie Gillis pose at Village Park for a photo. Neuman is a paramedic and Thiensville DPW employee. **4.** The Streich Family Wetlands at Mequon Nature Preserve are seen in this summer photo. The Wetlands recently underwent the process of dredging (see pg. 6) to remove excess sediment in order to improve its ability to filter water moving into Trinity Creek. **5.** Talented Oriole Lane Elementary School students showed off their creative work at the Milwaukee Art Museum during a recent Family Sunday event (see pg. 32). **6.** The Thiensville Dam at Village Park offered an amazing view this winter!



# Community Calendar

DON'T FORGET TO



DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM EVENT DETAILS.  
VISIT [MTSD.K12.WI.US/CALENDAR](http://MTSD.K12.WI.US/CALENDAR) FOR INFORMATION ABOUT M-T SCHOOL DISTRICT EVENTS.

## FEBRUARY

- **Feb 19: Spring Primary Election, Polls Open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.**
- **Wed., February 20: MTSD Band Festival James Barr Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m.** Homestead High School
- **Wed., Feb 20: Executive Director Book Club Hour, 9:30 a.m.** Join this fun group, including MNP's executive director, for some lively discussion each month about the nature-based read of their choice. February's title: "The Quiet Season: Remembering Country Winters" by Wisconsin author Jerry Apps.
- **Thur., February 21: Mequon-Thiensville School District 4K Pre-Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.** For new 4K students and new to MTSD 5K students. Visit [mtsd.k12.wi.us/4K](http://mtsd.k12.wi.us/4K)
- **Fri., Feb. 22: NEW! Lunchtime Theater, 12 noon-1 p.m. every other Friday in February** Join Mequon Nature Preserve staff for a viewing of compelling, nature-based flicks over your lunch hour. We'll supply the popcorn! There is no admission to attend this adult event, but your donation to offset the addition of quality films to the MNP library is appreciated.
- **Sat, Feb. 23: Maple Syrup Tapping, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.** (Date is weather-dependent) Learn the hands-on process of tapping maple trees and how maple syrup is made. Presented by Mequon Nature Preserve. Meet at Elton's Woods to participate.
- **Mon., February 25: MTSD Choral Collage James Barr Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m.** Homestead High School.

## MARCH

- **Sat., Mar. 9: Reception for Mequon-Thiensville Senior Art League Exhibition, 1-3 p.m.** Meet the artists in the upper level of the Frank L. Weyenberg Library. Exhibition on display in March-April during regular Library hours. For those with an interest in fine arts, the M-T Senior Art League meets monthly on the third Monday of the month at 9 a.m. at the Weyenberg Library. Contact membership coordinator Anita Ward at (262) 241-8095.
- **Tue., Mar. 19: Mequon Nature Preserve Honey Bee Club, 6:30 p.m.** at Mequon Nature Preserve. Monthly meetings for beginners to experts, all are welcome. Learn from discussion, presenters and hands-on at the hive. Contact MNP for more information.
- **Wed., Feb 20: Executive Director Book Club Hour, 9:30 a.m.** Join this fun group, including MNP's executive director, for some lively discussion each month about the nature-based read of their choice.

## APRIL

- **Tue., Apr. 2: Spring Election, Polls Open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.**
- **Fri., Sat., Sun., Apr. 12-14: The Concordia University Players present Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" (Fri. 7:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 1:30 p.m.)** Todd Wehr Auditorium, 12800 N. Lake Shore Dr., Mequon. \$10 adults, \$8 for seniors/students 13 and older, \$5 for veterans, \$3 for students 5-12, under 5 free.
- **Mon.-Fri., Apr. 15-19: Spring Break Schools Closed in M-T School District**
- **Tue., Apr. 16: Mequon Nature Preserve Honey Bee Club, 6:30 p.m.** at Mequon Nature Preserve. Monthly meetings for beginners to experts, all are welcome. Learn from discussion, presenters and hands-on at the hive. Contact MNP for more information.

- **Wed., Apr. 17: Executive Director Book Club Hour, 9:30 a.m.** Join this fun group, including MNP's executive director, for some lively discussion each month about the nature-based read of their choice.
- **Fri., Sat., Sun., 26-28: The Concordia University Players present "Steel Magnolias" (Fri. 7:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun., 1:30 p.m.)** Todd Wehr Auditorium, 12800 N. Lake Shore Dr., Mequon. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors/students 13 and older, \$5 for veterans, \$3 for students 5-12, under 5 free.
- **Fri., Apr. 26-Sun., Apr. 28: "Macbeth," Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 1 p.m.** Presented by Homestead High School in the James Barr Performing Arts Center.

## MAY

- **Fri., May 3: Homestead High School Jazz Fest, 7 p.m.** in Homestead High School Band Room.
- **Tue., May 21: Mequon Nature Preserve Honey Bee Club, 6:30 p.m.** at Mequon Nature Preserve. Monthly meetings for beginners to experts, all are welcome. Learn from discussion, presenters and hands-on at the hive.
- **Wed., May 22: Orchestra Spring Benefit Concert, 7 p.m.** James Barr Performing Arts Center, Homestead High School
- **Thur., May 23: Food Truck Tour, 5-9 p.m.** A delicious mix of the area's favorite food trucks at Thiensville Village Park. Visit [thiensvillebusiness.com](http://thiensvillebusiness.com).
- **Mon., May 27: Memorial Day Schools and government offices closed.**

## JUNE

- **Sat., June 1: Bikefest, 9 a.m.-12 noon** in Thiensville Village Park. Educate children about bike safety. Presented by the Thiensville Police Department. Bring your bike – free. Visit [village.thiensville.wi.us](http://village.thiensville.wi.us)
- **Sat., June 1: Village Park Reimagined Fundraiser, "Gala in the Park: A Night on the Riverwalk"** Thiensville Village Park. Visit [village.thiensville.wi.us](http://village.thiensville.wi.us).
- **Wed., June 5: Annual Band Benefit Concert, 7 p.m.** James Barr Performing Arts Center at Homestead High School.
- **Thur., June 6: River Sounds, 7-10 p.m.** Featuring the Five Card Studs at Shully's, 146 Green Bay Rd. in Thiensville. Free admission, bring two nonperishable food items for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County. Food/beverages available for purchase. Rain or shine – visit [shullyscuisine.com](http://shullyscuisine.com).
- **Thur.-Sun., June 6-9: Lions Fest 55th Lionfest** in Thiensville Village Park. Presented by the Mequon-Thiensville Lions Club. Music, carnival rides, bingo, chicken dinners, softball tournament, raffles, and more! Free. Visit [tmlions.org](http://tmlions.org).
- **Sat., June 8: Annual Choir Benefit Concert, 7 p.m.** James Barr Performing Arts Center, Homestead High School.
- **Tue., June 11: Opening Day Thiensville Village Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** in Thiensville Village Park every Tuesday through mid-October. See pg. 25.
- **Thur., June 13: Last Day of School in M-T School District**
- **Thur., June 13: Food Truck Tour, 5-9 p.m.** A delicious mix of the area's favorite food trucks at Thiensville Village Park. Visit [thiensvillebusiness.com](http://thiensvillebusiness.com).
- **Sun., June 16: Homestead High School Graduation, 2 p.m.** Homestead High School Fieldhouse.
- **Sat., June 29: Family Fun Before the Fourth, Parade starting at 10 a.m.** A fun-filled day of food, music and entertainment that culminates with fireworks to celebrate our nation's birthday. Visit [familyfunbeforethefourth.com](http://familyfunbeforethefourth.com).

Mequon-Thiensville School District  
5000 West Mequon Rd.  
Mequon, WI 53092

Welcoming  
Spring  
TO  
**MEQUON and  
THIENSVILLE**

We are honored to have helped 210 Mequon-Thiensville families achieve their real estate goals in 2018.

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