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Preserving Quality Of Life

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ad Hoc Port Washington Road Design Committee: February 7 – 1:00 P.M.

Joint Bike & Pedestrian Way Commission: February 9 – 9:00 A.M.

SOFD Commission: February 9 – 4:00 P.M.

Architectural Board: February 13 – 6:00 P.M.

Public Safety Committee: February 14 – 5:00 P.M.

Public Welfare Committee: February 14 – 5:15 P.M.

Public Works Committee: February 14 – 6:00 P.M.

Finance-Personnel Committee: February 14 – 6:15 P.M.

Committee of the Whole: February 14 – 6:45 P.M.

Water Utility Commission: February 14 – 7:15 P.M.

Sewer Utility Commission: February 14 – 7:15 P.M.

Common Council: February 14 – 7:30 P.M.

Library Board of Trustees: February 15 – 6:00 P.M.

Festivals Committee: February 15 – 6:30 P.M.

Park & Open Space Board: February 15 – 6:30 P.M.



Absentee Voting to Begin on February 7 for Spring Election

In-person absentee voting for the February 21 Spring Primary begins for Mequon residents on Tuesday, February 7 at City Hall. Voting hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office. Voting runs through Friday, February 17, on which day voting takes place from 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Real Estate Taxes No Longer Payable at City Hall

Tuesday, January 31, marked the end of the tax collection season for paying current real estate taxes at City Hall. Any taxpayers still needing to make **real estate** property tax payments should contact the [Ozaukee County Treasurer's Office](#) in Port Washington. The City will continue to collect all **personal** property taxes in perpetuity.

Mailbox Damage During a Snow Event

With the recent snow, some residents experienced the unfortunate side effect of mailbox damage. On City, County and State roads throughout the City, snowplows move through the streets to clear snow from the pavement. All three have similar policies related to mailbox damage, in that only damage caused by an agency snowplow hitting mailboxes are the responsibility of the agency to repair. Damage sustained by snow thrown from a snowplow or damage from another contracted snow removal service are the responsibility of the homeowner.



The City's policy for mailbox damage is established in Section 70-11 of the Mequon Municipal Code. If a resident living on a local City street sustains mailbox damage from a City snowplow, the [City's website](#) has instructions for reporting, which includes either calling 262-236-2913 or emailing kschlereth@ci.mequon.wi.us. Residents are asked to provide their name, address, telephone number, and a brief description of the damage. If a photo is available, that should be included as well.

If mailbox and/or support structures are physically struck by a City-owned and operated plow, the City of Mequon may, at its option, replace the damaged mailbox and/or support with a standard USPS approved steel mailbox and/or 4"x4" wood post and support. The maximum amount of compensation in lieu of replacement is \$50.

On County and State roads (Wauwatosa Road and Cedarburg Road south of Mequon Road, Port Washington Road and Mequon Road), residents should contact the Ozaukee County Highway Department at 262-284-9411. Similar to the City, mailbox damage due to direct contact from a snowplow is the responsibility of the Ozaukee County Highway Department. If replacement of the mailbox is required, the County supplies a standard size, black metal mailbox. If residents want a non-standard mailbox, they may supply one for the County to install, but the County will not pay for the mailbox. If permanent repairs are unable to be made during winter, the County will maintain the mailbox temporarily until spring, when a permanent fix can be completed.

Road Salt Affecting Wisconsin Waterways



Salt is relied upon to keep roads safe in the winter, but using more salt than needed can have heavy consequences for the environment. A recent [article](#) in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* explored the problem of how chloride is infiltrating lakes, streams, and groundwater in Wisconsin, as well as throughout the United States. It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater ecosystems. Over the past 15 years, the Mequon Department of Public Works (DPW) has taken steps to reduce road salt used throughout the City. The effort started by adding salt brine tanks to several snowplow trucks to enable wetting the rock salt with a salt brine solution (22.5% salt in water) as it was being spread on Mequon roadways. This method, called pre-wetting, activates the salt as its

being spread, reducing the amount of salt needed and preventing dry salt crystals from bouncing off the pavement into roadside ditches. For those trucks with pre-wetting capability, salt application can be reduced by approximately 25% to 33% while achieving the same level of service on City roadways. Along with pre-wetting, the DPW incorporated the strategic use of beet juice coated rock salt for use in temperatures below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Beet juice treated rock salt is effective at these lower temperatures when ordinary rock salt doesn't otherwise work.

When the DPW Combined Facility was constructed in 2017, it included a new salt storage facility and salt brine making equipment. At that point, the DPW added anti-icing to its salt reduction efforts. Anti-icing is applying salt brine directly to the roadway prior to a snow event. Anti-icing prior to a storm starts to melt the snow on contact and is typically most effective during the first inch of snow, allowing crews more time to respond and reducing the amount of salt needed during the early part of a snow event. Anti-icing also helps to break the bond between ice or snow and the pavement, which prevents hard-packed snow from forming on roadways. ***Over the last 5 years, the City has been able to reduce winter road salt usage by approximately 25%.***

As the City replaces snowplow trucks (currently a goal of 1 truck per year), the new trucks will all have pre-wetting capability. The DPW would also like to add another anti-icing rig with a larger brine tank to the operation. A larger tank capable of carrying 2,000 to 2,500 gallons of brine could be used on the City's main roads, allowing smaller trucks to do more anti-icing in subdivisions and cul-de-sacs where hard-pack snow can be an issue. Education can also be applied on a personal level when treating one's own driveways and sidewalks. Only one coffee mug worth of salt is needed for an average 20-foot driveway.

Save the Date for Candlelight Walk-In-The-Woods on Feb. 18

The Mequon-Thiensville Sunrise Rotary Club and the City of Mequon are excited to again partner for the third year offering a Luminary "Walk-In-The-Woods" at Pukaite Woods in Rotary Park. The event will take place on Saturday, February 18, from 5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. The event is free and open to the public. The public restrooms will be open, and volunteers from the Rotary Club will be serving hot cocoa, cider, and coffee with bonfire stations positioned throughout the park. Dogs are allowed but must be leashed.





Expanded Video Game Collection at the Library

The Frank L. Weyenberg Library is proud to announce its expanded video game collection. Whether one prefers to play Nintendo Switch, Xbox or PS4, more games than ever are now displayed adjacent to the Virtual Reality station and the jigsaw puzzles. The Library's **2023 Adult Reading Challenge** is also underway. Read six fiction and six non-fiction books and track your progress to earn Book Bucks to spend in the Library's Book Store.



City of Mequon

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