



Newsletter

CITY ALDERMEN

Mayor

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Jeff Schmidt (262) 567-7371

Second District

Ken Herro (262) 853-0246

Tom Strey (262) 490-0416

Third District

Matt Rosek (262) 370-0773

Michael Miller (262) 567-3465

Fourth District

Charlie Shaw (262) 719-8430

John Gross (262) 567-0238

CITY DEPARTMENTS

City Clerk (262) 569-2175

Economic Dev. (262) 569-2185

Finance (262) 569-2170

Fire Department (262) 569-6428

Human Resources (262) 569-3225

Library (262) 569-2193

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

Planning & Zoning (262) 569-2166

Police Department (262) 567-4401

Electric & Water Utility (262) 569-2196

Wastewater (262) 569-2192

Public Works (262) 569-2189

From Our Staff to Your Home

Spring is upon us in our great city! As we welcome the change of season and the warming temperatures outside, we'd like to share some timely information with you.

Did you know that you can alter when you use utilities in your home to save on your bill?

The city is abuzz with development activity. Check out what new businesses are in the works.

We've now had our new recycling and refuse service a year, but are you recycling right?

We aim to have new, useful information in each bi-annual newsletter. If you have suggestions, please let us know.



- David Nold, Mayor

Stay Informed



Sign-up for email and text messages from our Events Calendar and News and Announcements directly from our website through 'Notify Me:' <http://www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/list.aspx>



Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Oconomowoc.WI>



Follow us on Twitter @ WI_Oconomowoc



Watch us on YouTube ~ Oconomowoc, WI

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

Seasonal Reminders for Residents

Damaged lawn, call the city for repairs

For lawn repairs from snow plow damage please contact the city at (262) 569-2189 or kbuss@economowoc-wi.gov.

Cut your grass and keep it clean to avoid fines

The maximum height of grass and weeds per city ordinance is 8 inches; and maintenance is required to the edge of the road.

If the owner or occupant fails to maintain their yard, a notice will be mailed. If they do not respond within the required time, the work will be completed by the city and both expenses and fines will be billed to the property owner. Also, any resident mowing or raking grass or debris onto city streets will incur a fine.

Pick up after your pet

Many of us will be looking forward to walking more in the nice weather, so please be aware of picking up your pet's waste. There are trash receptacles in the city stocked with plastic bags for this purpose.

New city street sign project nears completion

The city will finish installation of new street signs on the south side this year.

Required changes from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) require new signs include lower case letters, and reflective blue background.



To purchase an old sign call (262) 569-2189 or email kbuss@economowoc-wi.gov.

You can recycle your old electronics

The next City electronics recycling event is 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 at 630 S. Worthington St. Drop off: Air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, microwaves, washer/dryers, stoves, dishwashers, computer monitors, keyboards, laptops, cell phones, telephones, DVD and VCRs and more for no fee. Television sets and CRT computer monitors can be dropped off for a fee. There are other municipal electronic recycling events before Dec. 10, visit waukeshacounty.gov/recycling for more information.

Please Recycle Right

The city's new cooperative contract for recycling and refuse collection continues to be a success saving taxpayers millions of dollars each year with the new single-sort system. As we continue with this new system, we ask residents to remember to "Recycle Right."

WRONG

These cans are placed backwards and sideways. The driver has to stop on their route and get out and correct them so the truck arm can grab them.



WRONG

These cans are placed too close and the truck arm cannot grab them.



JUST RIGHT!

These cans are placed 3 to 6 feet apart. They are away from other objects and facing the correct way.



JUST ONE!

Johns Disposal would like to remind residents that only ONE bulk item will be picked up per week.



A Perfect Setting for the Perfect Day



The Oconomowoc Community Center provides the most picturesque setting for weddings and any other celebration or gathering.

Hold your wedding ceremony on the lawn at the Community Center with Lac La Belle as your backdrop. After the ceremony, entertain guests with a cocktail reception on the lawn and entertain with lawn games like bocce ball or bean bag toss. Later, move upstairs for dinner and dancing overlooking Lac La Belle in the upper hall.

Events can be booked Friday through Sunday.
Call (262) 569-2190 for more information on reserving space at the Community Center.

Host your next gathering in a city park

Plan your summer graduation party, family picnic, birthday celebration and more in a beautiful City of Oconomowoc park.

Shelters with amenities are available at:

Fowler Park Shelter

Holds 125 guests
\$100/day

Roosevelt

Volleyball Shelter
Holds 40 guests
\$100/day

Riverside Park Shelter

Holds up to 40 guests
\$75/day

Roosevelt Park Shelter

Holds up to 200 guests
\$100-\$200/day

Roosevelt Picnic Areas (3)

Hold up to 150 guests
\$25/day

*Price doesn't include tax.
Amenities vary at each location to include electric, water, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, trash cans*

Fowler Shoreline Project Planning Begins

The City of Oconomowoc has teamed with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) for the revitalization of the Fowler Lake shoreline. The highlights of this revitalization include the creation of Concept Plan Sections 1, 2, and 3 seen in the exhibit shown below.



The City and Stantec believe public input is a key part of the design process as we strive to revitalize the shoreline with the community in mind. A Public Input Open House was held on Monday, February 15th from 5-7pm at the Community Center. The community's comments from the Open House will be used to develop the final Concept and Plans.

After the Park and Rec Board and Common Council approve the Concepts, the project team will move forward with the design of the new boardwalk area in Section 2.

If you have questions about the revitalization project or would like to provide input, please contact John Kelliher, Director of Parks and Recreation.



One of the proposed Fowler Lake Shoreline revitalization concepts for public input.

Facade Program is Good-Looking Partnership

Since 2008, the City has leveraged funds to encourage aesthetic improvements downtown. The result of the program has been a win-win for all.

For every public dollar provided, there has been a \$5 return in private investment. To date, approximately \$127,500 in public and \$690,000 in private funds have been invested in improving downtown infrastructure and building facades. Businesses that have made recent improvements include Vino Etcetera, Jim O'Conner Auto, Avenue Square Mall, Roots, La Belle Legacy, Stapleton Realty, The Pub and Bella Gusto.

Through implementing facade improvements businesses are not only improving their image, but also communicating to all that pass through downtown, that Oconomowoc is a vital and growing community where people take pride in their surroundings and are committed to continued business and community improvement.



Sherper's transformed between 2007 and 2008 with the help of the city's facade program.

Savvy Lending Helps Build Businesses

Another tool created for downtown Oconomowoc businesses is a low-interest loan program. This program is a coordinated through the city and First Bank Financial Centre.

The program has helped spur growth and improve the look of downtown. Since its inception in 2010, more than \$1 million has been lent to local businesses. When the loan program was introduced in 2010, downtown had a 50% occupancy rate.

Through this program with the assistance of First Bank, downtown now celebrates a 100% occupancy rate.



Sign-up for our Events Calendar Notifications:
<http://www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/list.aspx>

New Career Portal for Job Seekers

The City of Oconomowoc seeks ambitious, energetic and talented employees for positions when open and available.

The City recently implemented a new Career Portal which lists all open positions within the City. The City now accepts all applications online, eliminating the need to stop at City Hall for a paper application.

If interested in working for the City sign up for job alerts through the Career Portal's Notify Me tool. You will receive an email when a new position is posted!

Find the Career Portal under "Our Community" on the city's website.



City Awarded for Sharing Financial Reports in Easier to Understand Format

The city was awarded for its work making financial reports more accessible and easier for residents to understand.

Annually, the city prepares a comprehensive financial report which is audited and published as required by regulators. This report is an extensive accounting of the government's financial resources and how they are used. For many, it is a difficult document to understand.

To encourage citizen participation and involvement, the city also publishes a Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) through the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

These reports are reviewed by GFOA professional staff and by outside reviewers with experience in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Oconomowoc began participating in this program for the fiscal year 2013, and was one of three Wisconsin municipalities to receive the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award from the GFOA for 2013 submissions.

The 2013 and 2014 Popular Annual Financial Reports are available at:
oconomowoc-wi.gov/169/Budget-Financial-Information.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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

Planning A Backyard Project?

Can't wait to relax and soak up some sun in your pool or plan on installing a fence this summer? Well... know your City's regulations before "jumping into" your next project:

Swimming Pools (Municipal Code § 17.111(8))

Swimming pools shall be in rear or side yards only and only on a lot occupied by a principal building. All swimming pools shall be at least ten (10) feet from any lot line or building. All pool filters (including pumps) shall be at least twenty (20) feet from any lot line or buildings on the adjacent property. Seasonal pools (that go up and down each year) that meet the standards above, do not require a permit or review from the City. Permanent pools require City approval.



Residential Fences (Municipal Code § 17.214)

Fences, landscape walls, and decorative posts exceeding 30" in height shall obtain a building permit from the Building Inspector before starting construction.

No fence/wall shall be located closer than one (1) foot to the front yard or street yard property line or no closer than one (1) inch from any property line abutting a side or rear yard. Fences shall not be located in drainage or utility easements. Fences within a street yard, shall be a maximum of 50% opaque.

The maximum height of a fence/wall shall be: four (4) feet when located within a required front or street yard. Six (6) feet when located in the rear yard. Orientation: the good side of the fence must face the neighboring property.

Recently Approved Businesses

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

- **Dollar Tree** – K-Mart Shopping Center
- **Planet Fitness** – K-Mart Shopping Center
- **Anytime Fitness** – Summit Center Marketplace
- **AJ's Pub** – 125 N. Main Street
- **The Purple Giraffe** – 175 E. Wisconsin Ave./Avenue Square
- **Bella Gusto** – 29 S. Main Street



Qdoba: Under Construction 10.15



Azura Memory Care: Under Construction 01.16

Have You Seen Me?

The Planning Department wants the public to be aware of any land use change. Planning Staff places signs on ALL properties requesting a zoning change. In addition, notices are sent by mail to all adjacent landowners as well as a notice in the paper and on the City's website.



UTILITY DEPARTMENT

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

What do Those Colors in Your Yard Mean?

As the days grow longer and temperatures warm, you may begin to see bursts of color pop up on your lawns. Early spring flowers? Probably – but they could also be construction flags.

Each year specific projects for infrastructure upgrades are planned. If one is scheduled to occur in your neighborhood, Oconomowoc Utilities will send an letter to your home or business with details on the project.

Shortly before the construction begins, colored flags may be placed in your yard. Please do not remove or move the flags as they are marking important underground utilities that will be worked with or around during the construction period.

At right is a “color key” noting what each of the flag colors indicate. If you have any questions regarding construction in your area, please call the Utility Office at (262) 569-2196.

	WATER
	SEWER
	GAS - OIL
	ELECTRIC
	PROPOSED EXCAVATION
	COMMUNICATION CATV
	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS

Save with Incentive Programs

Being a part of a Public Power community has many benefits including seasonal incentive programs, such as the **Central Air Tune-Up Program**, the **Appliance Recycling Program** (with Focus on Energy), the **Focus on Energy Residential Programs** and the **Tree Power Incentive Program**.

Incentive programs provide discounts to qualifying applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until allocated funds are spent.

Check the Utilities page on the city website for links to these programs. Or stop in at City Hall during normal business hours and request an application.

Call Before You Dig!

Any time you're going to be digging, call Digger's Hotline first. It's easy and it's FREE! Diggers Hotline helps identify costly and dangerous utilities that can be buried just inches beneath your yard's surface.



Call 811 or go to www.diggershotline.com three working days before digging and have your lines marked.

May means spring hydrant flushing



In spring and fall you will see Oconomowoc Water Utility personnel releasing water from hydrants.

Hydrant flushing is necessary to test the hydrants to make sure adequate flow and pressure is available. Flushing is also done to remove sediment from the pipes in order to maintain water clarity and quality in the distribution pipes.

Your water is safe to drink during and after hydrant flushing. Occasionally, water becomes discolored after hydrant flushing. If this happens, run your cold water tap for a few minutes until the water clears. If it doesn't clear the first time, wait a few minutes and run the water again. You should avoid washing clothes until the water clears.

As May nears, check our website for flushing maps by week. If you have any questions, call Utilities at (262) 569-2196.

UTILITY DEPARTMENT

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

When do you use Electricity?

Our municipal electric utility helps our customers save money every month. There might be a way for you to save even more. Just like everything else, the electricity we purchase and distribute to our customers follows the laws of supply and demand. The greatest amounts of electricity are consumed during the daytime, Monday through Friday. Because more customers want power at these times, it costs us more to supply it. The cost of power during other times of the week is lower. If you use most of your electricity during these "off-peak" times, we may be able to pass along more of those extra savings down to you.

Our residential customers pay a flat rate of about \$0.12 per kilowatt (kWh). We offer an optional "time of use" rate plan. Customers can choose to pay a higher amount for energy during the daytime on weekdays (about \$0.21 per kWh), but then you also pay a lower rate the rest of the time (about \$0.06 per kWh). This option isn't for everyone, but if you use more than 60 percent of your electricity during off-peak times, you'll come out ahead. The more you can shift your usage, the more you will save.

The technology we've invested in our advanced meter reading system not only keeps track of how much energy you use, but when you use it. If you think this option may be for you, give us a call at (262) 569-2198. We can run a profile of your own usage over the past year to check if you would save money with a time of use plan. Our operating rules set by the state say that if you do change rates, you commit to the change for at least a year, savings or not. However, we can help you make the best decision for the way you use energy in your home.

Stamps No Longer Necessary!

Avoid the chore of mailing in your utility payment every month by signing up for the automatic payment program.

The amount of your utility bill can be deducted from your bank account on the invoice due date every month. Through this free service you will still receive an invoice every month to monitor your usage and you can cancel at any time.

To sign up, download the enrollment form under payment methods on the utilities page of the city website or call at (262) 569-2198, to have an enrollment form mailed to you.

Is your electricity green?

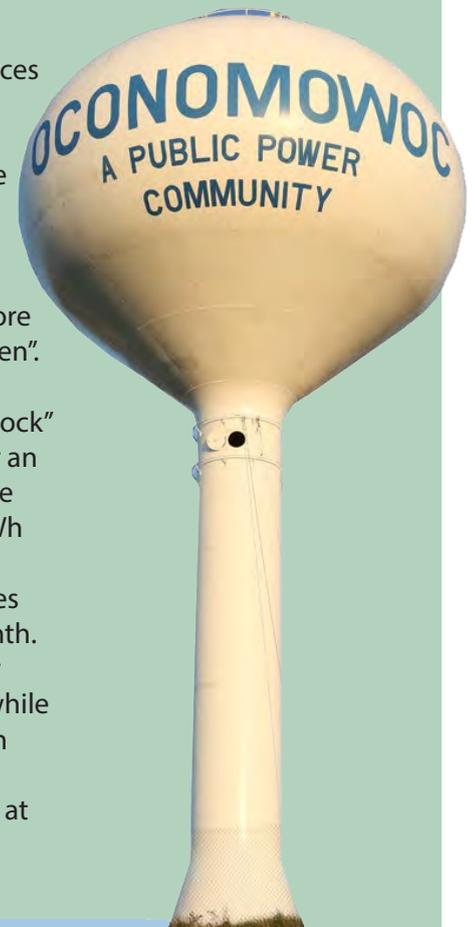
Oconomowoc Utilities is the only municipal electric utility in Waukesha County.

Because we don't have a power plant in our city, Oconomowoc, along with 50 other municipalities are partial owners of WPPI Energy. This cooperative helps us efficiently purchase power and provide services that we would not be able to do alone. The shared strength of its members helps us keep our costs down, saving the average residential customer almost \$300 per year compared to the surrounding utility. We enjoy being able to share this kind of "green" with our customer owners!

Today, more than 35% of our power supply portfolio consists of carbon-free resources. This includes the nuclear energy we purchase from the Point Beach Nuclear Plant. We exceed state mandates by relying upon wind, biogas, hydro and solar for about 14% of our overall power supply.

These renewable resources do cost more than the coal generation used to economically supply the majority of our energy needs.

You can help us save more of the other kind of "green". We offer customers the option to purchase a "block" of renewable energy for an extra \$3 per month. One block represents 300 kWh of usage. The average residential customer uses about 725 kWh per month. You can help make your energy entirely green, while still keeping some green for yourself! If you are interested, give us a call at (262) 569-2198.



CITY CLERK

(262) 569-2175 • www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/elections

YOUR ID.YOUR VOTE.

Now you need to show an acceptable photo ID - like a Wisconsin driver license, U.S. passport, military ID, or free Wisconsin state ID card - before casting a ballot in the next election. There are other forms of ID you can use. Pick yours, and remember to bring it when you vote.

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

BRING IT TO THE BALLOT

BRINGIT.WISCONSIN.GOV | 1.866.VOTE.WIS | Text "IDINFO" to 24587

Photo ID - What to expect at the Polls

Now that you must show Photo ID to vote, your experience at the poll will be different. Just remember to be patient and prepared!

STATE your full name and address to the election official at the poll book table

SHOW your Photo ID to the election worker

SIGN the poll book

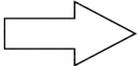
If you have questions about the Wisconsin Voter Photo ID law you may contact the City Clerk's office or go online to bringit.wisconsin.gov/news.

The Wisconsin DMV has a process in place for people who need to obtain an ID.

Also, if you are a U.S. citizen, will be at least 18 years of age by the next election, and would like a Wisconsin ID card to vote, please check the "ID for FREE" box when completing the Wisconsin Identification Card (ID) application or when applying online.



New Voting Equipment in 2016

The City of Oconomowoc will have new voting machines. The DS200 uses paper ballots & records votes cast thru a scanner. The Express Vote is an ADA Compliant machine which allows voters to cast a ballot by touch screen or thru audio/visual devices. Also you will select your choices on the ballot by filling an oval  instead of connecting an arrow 

Bartenders, don't let your License Expire

If you are a licensed bartender working in the City of Oconomowoc, your current license will expire on June 30. Renewal paperwork for your license is due at City Hall in May.

If you are not currently licensed but plan to work at a business selling/serving alcohol in the City, come to City Hall to apply or download the application available on the Clerk's web page.

When you apply, proof must be provided of either completion in the past 2 years of a State of Wisconsin approved Responsible Beverage Servers Course, or a copy of your operator's license from another Wisconsin community.

The cost of an operator's license is \$50, and your driver's license must be current when you apply or recently changed on the DMV's website.

Door-to-Door Salesmen must Carry a License

All persons going door-to-door soliciting **MUST** be licensed by the City of Oconomowoc.

They must wear a Photo ID Badge and can solicit between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

Non-profit and charitable organizations are not required to be licensed, but must be registered with the City.

If you are aware of someone soliciting without proper identification, please contact the Police Department at (262) 567-4401.



Stay Informed

Sign-up for email and text alerts from our Events Calendar and News and Announcements directly from our website through 'Notify Me:' <http://www.oconomowoc-wi.gov/list.aspx>

OCONOMOWOC PUBLIC LIBRARY

(262) 569-2193 • <http://www.oconomowoc.lib.wi.us/>

New Hours!

The library is now open an hour earlier. The library opens at 9 a.m. Monday through Saturday!

New hours are:

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the school year. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Sunday: 1-4 pm (October through May)

Expanding Library System!

In 2016, you can use your Oconomowoc Public Library card at any public library in Waukesha County or Jefferson County!

Bridges Library System is our new, two-county library system, which includes all 24 public libraries in Jefferson County and Waukesha County. This means you can use all 24 of those libraries with the library card you already have, and you can access over 500,000 additional items through our online catalog!

Did You Know:

- Getting a library card and checking out library materials is free! Just bring in identification and proof of address to the checkout desk to get your library card. Children are welcome to sign up for a library card too! Kids signing up for their first library card receive a complimentary wallet, courtesy of the Friends of the Oconomowoc Public Library!
- Is the library's copy of the book you want checked out to someone else? No problem! Simply place a hold on your book, and we'll have it delivered to the Oconomowoc Public Library for you to pick up. You can place your holds via the library's online catalog, or by visiting or calling the library's reference desk.
- The library offers free programs for all ages from birth to adult — everything from storytime to workshops on learning to use your e-reader! Stop by the library for a monthly listing of events, or sign up for our e-newsletter at www.oconomowoc.lib.wi.us.



- Read your favorite magazines on your tablet or electronic device with Flipster! Just click the "Flipster" link on the library's homepage and read current issues of magazines from Sports Illustrated to People — free for all library cardholders!
- Gale Courses: These free, online, 6-week instructor-led courses are a fun way to learn something new for business or pleasure! Computer programming, business management, personal finance, resume writing, cooking — the choices abound!
- Access Consumer Reports, Morningstar (investment research tool), genealogy, and other research and homework resources online using your library card! Visit the library's website to get started.
- Reading to your child matters: Research shows that reading is the single most important activity to support language development, and helps build a strong foundation for future success in school. Our librarians are happy to help you find great books for your child! Please check out our storytimes for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, which are research-based and a whole lot of fun!
- The non-profit Friends of the Oconomowoc Public Library group raises funds to support library efforts like the summer reading program and many special projects. The Friends currently have openings for officers on their board. If you are interested in a leadership position with the Friends, please call Library Director Betsy Bleck at (262) 569-2193, extension 207, or email bbleck@cooney.lib.wi.us.