

TOWN OF NEENAH TODAY

www.townofneenah.com

Vol. 11, Issue 3 • July-September, 2008

Commission invites public to Comprehensive Plan workshop

On July 17 at 7 p.m., the Town of Neenah Plan Commission will hold a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) workshop at the Town Hall. The public is urged to come to this public hearing to share their thoughts and ideas regarding land use issues in the Town of Neenah.

This meeting will kick-off the Town's update of its land use plan to make it compliant with the "Smart Growth" legislation that requires all communities to have a comprehensive plan by January 1, 2010. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting to participate in the SWOT workshop and gain a better understanding of the comprehensive planning process the Town will be working on in the next 12 months.

The Town seeks your input on the following land use questions:

- What do you consider are the *Strengths* of the Town?
- What are the *Weaknesses* that the Town needs to address?
- What kind of *Opportunities* should the Town strive to capitalize on?
- What *Threats* may jeopardize the quality of life in the Town of Neenah?

If you cannot attend the meeting, we urge you to send your comments to Town Clerk Carita Williams at 1600 Breezewood Lane, Neenah, WI 54956.

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TOWN OF NEENAH MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the Town Hall beginning at 7 p.m.

Town Board of Supervisors
2nd & 4th Mondays

Town Plan Commission
3rd Monday

Town Park Board
1st Monday (April – Nov.)

Town Trails Committee
3rd Wednesday (March-Nov.)

Sanitary District #2
2nd Tuesday

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

by Steven J. Spanbauer



**Town Chairman
Steve Spanbauer**

It is now summer. Hopefully our weather will now change to more normal patterns. You might recall that we had record-breaking snowfall in January and February. This put a severe dent in our "Roads" budget. In the spring we had significant amounts of rain. Combining the snow melt with the rain brought about some drainage problems where there had not been problems before. Apparently, over the years, some road ditches have been filled.

These road ditches are part of the Town road right-of-way. Rights-of-way are generally 66 feet in the Town of Neenah. By locating the center of the road in front of your house and measuring 33 feet toward your house you will get a pretty good idea where your land actually starts.

All of us on the Town Board receive calls saying "There's

water in my ditch." The caller's tone of voice is usually saying that the water doesn't belong there. There are two problems with that caller's thoughts: First, it is the *Town's* ditch; and second, the water belongs there. The common "ditch," in environmental circles, is known as a "grassy swale." Its job is to carry water away slowly, allowing impurities to settle out and the remaining water to soak into the ground slowly.

Depending on the priorities that the Town Board sets for what is left of the 2008 road budget, you might see people digging in "your" ditch. Please remember that it is the Town's ditch, and that we are attempting to improve drainage in the Town.

We have two open positions in the Town of Neenah. The Town Board will soon fill these positions. The first vacancy is on the Land Committee. This seven-member committee makes recommendations to the Town Board and the townspeople relating to the Town's land holdings. Tom Brown, a charter member of the Land Committee, recently retired

Chairman's Notes

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from his position with Associated Bank and, like Brett Favre, is taking a break from public service work.

The second opening is on the Sanitary District #2 Board ("San 2"). This three-member commission controls all the operations and finances of the Town of Neenah Sanitary District #2. Currently, San 2 serves approximately 800 patrons. George Cowling, a commissioner since 1991, recently moved from the district and, therefore, is no longer eligible to serve.

If you would like to be considered for either of these two positions, please contact me at 722-6205.

The Town Board continues to meet to discuss filling the position of Town Clerk/Treasurer, which will be vacated with the upcoming retirement of Carita Williams. The Board has been looking at qualifications, requirements, timing, and formulating a job description.

The Board of Review met, as required by law, on June 9. The clerk announced that there were no scheduled appointments.

The controversy surrounding the possible sale of some parts of the Herziger land between Adella Beach Road and County Highway A continues. There had been some concern regarding certified survey maps and a possible rezoning. The rights of private road owners have also been discussed at length. Parliamentary maneuvering seems to be the newest area of controversy.

The 2008 road survey was accepted by the Town Board.

Jim Pawlowski was appointed to another three-year term on the Trails Committee. Among other things, Jim maintains the beautiful gardens at the Town's Oakridge rest area along the CB Trail.

The Town of Neenah has created a Plan Commission. (We used to have a Plan Committee. A committee and a commission are different under the law.) The Commission members include Robert Schmeichel (chairman), Julie Seifert (vice chairman), David Dexter, Anton Kranner, Phil Langohr, Tom Stolla, and Tom Wilde. They will be working on a Town master plan, plus their regular business.

You will recall that about a year ago the Town of Neenah Today informed you of County Highway Commissioner John Haese's proposal to allow only right turns onto CB from Oakridge Road. The Post Crescent picked up on this story and conducted a readers' survey. Following this, the Winnebago County Highway Committee, and then the Winnebago County Board, authorized a study of this intersection by Mead & Hunt.

Commissioner Haese summarized the study at the June 16 meeting of the County Highway Committee:

- The big problem is with "failure to yield – driver error."
- Traffic signals at a cost of \$85,000 to \$100,000 are not warranted.
- A four-way stop has minimal cost but is also not warranted.

Furthermore, it detracts from the purpose of Hwy. CB as a

Chairman's Notes *continued on page 6*

Town of Neenah

1600 Breezewood Lane • Neenah, WI 54956
www.townofneenah.com
Email: tnneenah@tds.net

Town population
2,875

CHAIRMAN

Steven J. Spanbauer – 722-6205

SUPERVISORS

Glenn Armstrong – 722-3355
Jan DeKeyser – 725-3284
Dave Dexter – 858-6096
Glenn Winkler – 722-2289

CLERK/TREASURER

Carita Williams – 725-0916
Kris Groell (deputy) – 729-9619

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Gary Klinka – 727-9200

FIRE CHIEF

Ed King – 725-8261
(pager – 586-1227)

ROAD LIAISON

Steven J. Spanbauer – 722-6205

PARK BOARD CHAIRMAN

Jan DeKeyser – 725-3284

PLAN COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Robert Schmeichel – 729-5995

LAND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Don Verbrick – 722-4651

TRAIL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Glenn Winkler – 722-2289

WEED COMMISSIONERS

Glenn Armstrong – 722-3355
Glenn Winkler – 722-2289

NEWSLETTER

Dave Dexter – 858-6096

WEBMASTER

Gary Klinka – 727-9200

SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONS

#2 – President – Don Verbrick – 722-4651
#3 – President – Bryan Von Deylen – 751-8791

COUNTY BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

District 10 – Tim Hamblin – 722-4593
District 28 – Jerry Finch – 725-6170
District 29 – Joanne Sievert – 836-2007

Town of Neenah Today

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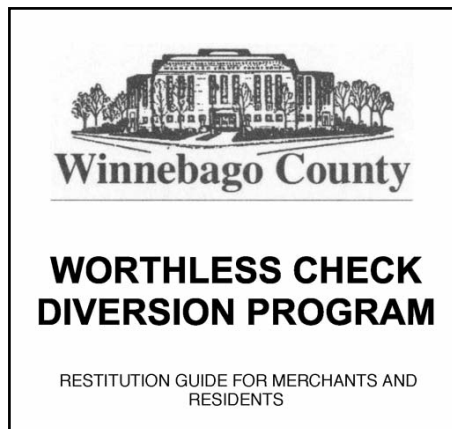
Worthless check diversion program

As consumers and taxpayers, we all pay higher prices because of the losses associated with people issuing worthless checks. Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors spend significant resources investigating and prosecuting people who issue worthless checks each year.

In response to these concerns regarding worthless checks, Winnebago County law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's office, in conjunction with Financial Crimes Services (FCS) have implemented a worthless check diversion program.

The worthless check diversion program has four main goals. They are:

- Increase the amount of restitution returned to victims of bad checks.
- Increase the accountability of all worthless check



writers, regardless of the amount of the check.

- Promote to local merchants more effective check acceptance and protection procedures.
- Reduce the risk of repeat worthless check activity through proper training.

Checks that are eligible for this program are those that are marked insufficient funds or account closed. Checks more than 120 days old will not be

accepted. All other fraudulent checks need to be reported to your local law enforcement agency.

This program is at no cost to the taxpayer or area merchants. It is solely supported by the people who issue the worthless checks.

For further information on this program, please contact your local crime prevention officer or visit Financial Crimes Services on the web at <www.financialcrimes.net>.

County offers free well water testing

If your well has been properly located, constructed, installed, and maintained, it should provide safe water continuously without the need for treatment. However, well water quality can be degraded due to improper construction or maintenance, because of industrial or agricultural activities, or sometimes simply due to natural causes. As a result, the Winnebago County Health Department recommends you test your well water every 12 to 18 months.

The most common contaminants found in well water are bacteria, other disease-producing microorganisms, and nitrate. In addition, the Town of Neenah is located in an area where the bedrock contains naturally high levels of arsenic. Arsenic can get into your well water and is harmful at high concentrations. Our water table is dropping by two feet per year, and this allows oxygen to get into the aquifer, creating chemical reactions that release arsenic into the water.

The County Health Department will test your water at no charge. You have to bring a sample to their office at 725 Butler Ave., Winnebago (in the Parkview Health Center complex). The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you have questions about your water, you can contact Jeff Phillips, Environmental Health Supervisor, at (920) 232-3014, or <jjphillips@co.winnebago.us>.

Town seeks additional paid-on-call firefighters

Are you interested in serving your community and helping your neighbors? The Town of Neenah Fire Department may be able to help you do just that.

The department is taking applications at this time to fill several paid-on-call firefighter positions. Basic requirements for the position are that you are in good health, have completed high school, and are at least 18 years of age. The Fire Department, with the help of Fox Valley Technical College, will provide all training and certification at no cost to the applicants.

The department pays firefighters for each call, training, and various work details throughout the year. On average, our firefighters can earn \$1,500-\$2,000 per year. Members of the department also receive a contribution each year to the Length of Service/Award Program, with a matching contribution from the State of Wisconsin.

If this sounds like the challenge you have been looking for and are interested in pursuing service to your community as a firefighter, please contact Fire Chief Ed King at 920 725-8261 for an application. Applications are also available from Clerk Carita Williams at the Town Hall, 1600 Breezewood Lane.

Summertime is crime time!

With the warm weather approaching us, it also brings an increase in property crimes committed throughout the Fox Valley. Property crimes have been the most reported incidents that have been victimizing our residents over the summer months. Of those property crimes, thefts, burglaries, and damage to property have been the most common.

Over the summer of 2007, there were 1,293 thefts and burglaries, with reported dollar losses of \$832,741, that were reported to law enforcement agencies throughout Winnebago County!

Some interesting facts from the property crimes reported last summer:

- A majority of the theft complaints were vehicles being entered either in parking lots or driveways.
- In the burglaries and thefts, almost half reported no force being used to gain entry.
- Most of the items taken from these incidents are those that can be easily removed, i.e. CD's, cell phones, money, electronics, etc.

A few simple precautions such as locking our doors to vehicles and homes, closing the garage door overnight and when away, and removing any of those easy to grab items from our vehicles can prevent anyone of these crimes from occurring.

Although the Fox Valley is frequently ranked as a safer place to live compared to other areas across the United States, these statistics should be alarming to all of us and reinforce the principles of crime prevention



BUILDING PERMITS

March, 2008

NAME	ADDRESS	JOB	COST
Al Delikowski Bldrs	1535 Hidden Acres	Remodel	\$3,504
J. Paulsen - CR Str.	816 Terra Cotta Dr	New Home	\$245,000
Tom Foth - Treeo's	104 Cty Rd CB	Storage Shed	\$20,000
Wollersheim - Trio	602 Plummers Hrbr	Furnace	\$2,925
Tim Arendt - Berhoff	1362 Radcliff Rd	Remodel	\$20,000
Aaron Zemlock	1234 Radcliff Rd	New Home	185,000
Bierworth-Mueller	1620 S Park Ave	Remodel	\$7,000
Cellcom-Edge Cons.	668 Tullar Rd	Shelter	\$125,000



April, 2008

NAME	ADDRESS	JOB	COST
Checker Logistics	1725 Dixie Ln	HVAC	\$34,484
Thompson Homes	862 Sundial Ln	New Home	\$155,000
Brian Gorges Const	1282 Radcliff Rd	New Home	\$160,000
Rand Schublin	444 Maple Ln	Remodel	\$7,000
Alexander Homes	757 Terra Cotta	New Home	\$280,000
Wm. Harness	1605 Breezewood	Garage	\$17,250
Kim Winkel	6780 Woodenshoe	Addtn to Shed	\$25,000
Mark Winter Homes	1357 Eagle Feather	New Home	\$170,000

All building permits are issued by Building Inspector Gary Klinka (727-9200). Permits are needed to construct a fence or build a deck. If you aren't sure you need a permit, check with Gary.

May, 2008

NAME	ADDRESS	JOB	COST
Glenn Armstrong	1300 Cty Rd G	Garage	\$15,000
Mark O'Connell	1601 Oakridge Rd	Remodel	\$3,000
Mark Michel	1615 Oakridge Rd	Shed	\$3,500

Town recycling schedule

Refrigerator magnets showing the entire year's recycling dates are available free of charge from the town clerk. Pick one up at the Town Hall during normal business hours, or call 725-0916 to have one mailed to you.

If you live WEST of Highway 41, your recycling will be collected on the following TUESDAYS:

- July 8
- July 22
- Aug. 5
- Aug. 19
- Sept. 3 (WEDNESDAY)
- Sept. 16
- Sept. 30
- Oct. 14
- Oct. 28

If you live EAST of Highway 41, your collection dates are on these TUESDAYS:

- July 1
- July 15
- July 29
- Aug. 12
- Aug. 26
- Sept. 9
- Sept. 23
- Oct. 7
- Oct. 21

REMINDER:

All recyclables must be placed at the street in the open blue recycling containers. The acceptance of recyclables in blue plastic bags is being phased out.

County offers weather radios

Winnebago County is selling NOAA weather radios to county residents for \$24.90 plus tax.

The NOAA All-Hazards radio receives broadcasts exclusively from the National Weather Service. The radio can provide rapid warning direct from the source when hazardous weather poses a threat to life and property. It is also an "all-hazards" warning system, warning of hazardous material releases or other localized hazards.

In addition, the radios are programmable, allowing the user to set it up to alert for only the event types and locations they are concerned about. Older weather radios did not have this feature and could be annoying, waking people in the middle of the night for alerts in distant counties. The programmable feature eliminates this problem.

The radios are available for purchase at the Sheriff's Office, 4311 Jackson Street, Oshkosh. The supply is limited.

Advertising rates for this newsletter:

full page – \$240 1/2 page – \$125 1/4 page – \$60 1/8 page – \$30

This newsletter is circulated to all Town of Neenah residents and businesses.

Call Dave Dexter at 858-6096 for information

Chairman's Notes

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through-road.

- A roundabout – costing \$600,000 plus right-of-way acquisition costs – also is not warranted. Allowing right turns only – at a cost of \$150,000 – would create new problems.
- Stricter enforcement of speed limits could help – but, as our own county supervisor Joanne Sievert said, “A deputy just can’t live there.”
- Lower the speed limit (see above).
- Removing obstructions to the south would be very expensive and, furthermore, most of the intersection’s accidents have involved traffic coming from the north.

Mead & Hunt’s conclusion suggests three options:

- Install stop signs on all approaches to the intersection.
- Reduce the speed limit on County Hwy. CB to 35 miles per hour.
- Adjust the vertical profile of Hwy. CB so that the intersection conforms to current standards.

Supervisor Armstrong explained the monthly checklist for the Municipal Building (Town Hall) operations and maintenance.

The Town of Clayton and the Town of Neenah are neck-and-neck with recyclables gathered (pounds per person). We are both well ahead of all the other towns, cities, and villages in Winnebago County. LET’S GET OUT THERE AND RECYCLE!!

We will not be posting meeting notices at Lakeview Elementary School until the road construction on County Highway A (Commercial Street) is completed.

The Town Board met in emergency session June 13 to discuss the disaster declarations for Winnebago County because of the recent storms. The Board divided the Town into sections to be surveyed for damage by members of the Town Board, the Fire Department, and the Town Clerk. Supervisor DeKeyser completed all the paperwork and delivered it to the County Emergency Management Office in Oshkosh.

The Town Board met with the Town of Vinland to discuss stormwater “MS4” permit requirements with Nick Vande Hey, a consultant with McMahon Engineering. This saved consultant costs for both towns.

Planner Warren Utecht, of Martensen and Eisele, made a presentation to our new Plan Commission regarding their duties. He also outlined the public participation requirements of the comprehensive planning process. The Plan Commission set the first public meeting for July 17 at 7 p.m. (see story on page 1).

The Town Board passed Ordinance #204, establishing a “no-parking” zone on both sides of South Park Avenue from South Commercial Street to Bell Street/Maple Lane. With South Commercial Street under construction, increased traffic is expected.

The Town Board members participated in the Claytonfest parade on June 7. Steve Spanbauer represented the Town of Neenah in his 42-year-old Buick convertible; Supervisors Glenn Armstrong and Glenn Winkler each drove antique tractors. Chairman Spanbauer and Supervisor Winkler (and the Buick) also represented the Town in Neenah’s Memorial Day parade.

Have a great summer!

– Steve Spanbauer

Protect yourself from tick bites this summer

With warm weather finally here, it is time to remind everyone to protect themselves from ticks and Lyme Disease. The disease is caused by bites from the female or nymph deer tick. Nymphs are no bigger than a pinhead; adults are the size of an apple seed.

The best way to avoid a tick bite is to take precautions:

- Avoid areas that could have ticks, such as wooded areas and areas with tall grass and leaf litter.
- Use repellants on exposed skin and clothing.
- Wear protective clothing, long pants and sleeves, and tuck your pants into socks or boots so ticks cannot crawl under clothing.
- Clear tall brush and grass to create tick-free areas

around your home.

- Check for ticks on yourself, children, and pets after being outdoors. If you find one, remove it immediately by grasping it with tweezers as closely as possible to the skin, and pull up and out with a firm but steady motion.

If you develop symptoms, seek treatment.

Symptoms may start as a circular reddish rash around or near the site of the bite, which expands in size over a period of days or weeks. You may also experience other symptoms, such as fever, headaches, fatigue, stiffness, and muscle and joint pain. These symptoms may last several weeks.

Lyme Disease can be treated with antibiotics. The treatment is very effective *if treated early*.

Disaster relief available to affected residents

Did you suffer losses due to the storms of June 7-12? If so, you may be eligible for aid through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Winnebago County was one of 22 Wisconsin counties recently declared a federal disaster area.

The first step to receiving assistance is to register. You can register either by calling the toll-free FEMA hotline at (800) 621-3362 or you can register online at <www.fema.gov>. Both registration services are available 24 hours a day.

A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) has been set up in Oshkosh to serve the residents of Winnebago County. The office will help individuals and business owners *who have registered for disaster assistance* by answering questions and providing information on FEMA disaster programs. The office is located at South Park School, 1551 Delaware Street, Oshkosh. It is open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., seven days a week until further notice.

Do I qualify for 'Housing Needs' assistance?

Money can be available for temporary housing or to repair damage to your home that is not covered by insurance.

To receive money or help for "Housing Needs" that are the result of a disaster, all of the following must be true:

- You have filed for insurance benefits and the damage to your property is not covered by your insurance or your insurance settlement is insufficient to meet your losses.
- You or someone who lives with you is a citizen of the United States, a non-citizen national, or a qualified alien.
- The home in the disaster area is where you usually live and where you were living at the time of the disaster.
- You are not able to live in your home now, you cannot get to your home due to the disaster, or your home requires repairs because of damage from the disaster.

You may not be eligible for "Housing Needs" assistance if:

- You have other, adequate rent-free housing that you can use (for example, rental property that is not occupied).
- Your home that was damaged is your secondary or vacation residence.
- Your expenses resulted only from leaving your home as a precaution and you were able to return to your home immediately after the incident.
- You have refused assistance from your insurance provider(s).
- Your only losses are business losses (including farm business other than the farmhouse and self-employ-

ment) or items not covered by this program.

- The damaged home where you live is located in a designated flood hazard area and your community is not participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. In this case, the flood damage to your home would not be covered, but you may qualify for rental assistance or items not covered by flood insurance, such as water wells, septic systems, medical, dental, or funeral expenses.

Do I qualify for 'Other Than Housing Needs' assistance?

Money is available for necessary expenses and serious needs caused by the disaster. This includes:

- Disaster-related medical and dental costs.
- Clothing; household items (room furnishings, appliances); tools (specialized or protective clothing and equipment) required for your job; necessary educational materials (computers, school books, supplies).
- Clean-up items (wet/dry vacuum, dehumidifier).
- Disaster damaged vehicle.
- Moving and storage expenses related to the disaster (moving and storing property to avoid additional disaster damage while disaster-related repairs are being made to the home).
- Other necessary expenses or serious needs as determined by FEMA.
- Other expenses that are authorized by law.

To receive money for "Other than Housing Needs" that are the result of a disaster, all the following must be true:

- You have filed for insurance benefits and the damage to your property is not covered by your insurance or your insurance settlement is insufficient to meet your losses.
- You or someone who lives with you is a citizen of the United States, a non-citizen national, or a qualified alien.
- You have necessary expenses or serious needs because of the disaster.
- You have accepted assistance from all other sources for which you are eligible, such as insurance proceeds or Small Business Administration disaster loans.

Additional services may be available, such as:

- Crisis counseling
- Disaster unemployment assistance
- Legal services
- Special tax considerations

TOWN OF NEENAH REMINDERS

OBSTRUCTING RIGHTS-OF-WAY and DRAINAGE DITCHES. You cannot place a fence or greenery in the town's road right-of-way. No part of a mailbox should extend over the paved portion of the road. In addition, culverts and drainage ditches must be kept clear of obstructions and must not be filled in. If you have a question about water drainage issues or the right-of-way, call Town Chairman Spanbauer.

DOGS. All Town of Neenah dogs must be licensed. The license is issued by the clerk/treasurer. The cost for neutered/spayed dogs is \$3; all others are \$8. Dogs cannot run at large. They must be confined to your property or on a leash if off the property. It is illegal for dogs to be in any town park. You cannot walk them in a town park even if you carry a waste bag.

BUILDING PERMITS. All building permits are issued by Building Inspector Gary Klinka (727-9200). Permits are needed to construct a fence or build a deck. If you aren't sure you need a permit, check with Gary.

BURNING. Burning is permitted in the Town of Neenah, but the fire department requests that you use common sense (dryness and wind are always factors to watch), and that you call the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office non-emergency number (236-7300, #8) before and after burning to avoid false alarms. Please be considerate of your neighbors when burning, making sure the smoke isn't blowing in their direction. Burning garbage is prohibited.

DEER/WILDLIFE PROBLEMS. The Town has no authority to handle wildlife problems. If you need to speak to someone, call the County Sheriff's office at 920 236-7300, ext. 8, or APHS-ADC Nuisance Wildlife at (800) 433-0688.

GYPSY MOTHS. If you suspect a gypsy moth infestation on your property or see it elsewhere, call the Oshkosh DNR office at 424-3050 for instructions on how to destroy them before they destroy the trees.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Town Hall, 1600 Breezewood Lane

Monday	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Tues.	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Weds.-Thurs.	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Fri.-Sat.-Sun.	Closed

RECYCLING. All town recycling is picked up every-other week, depending on what side of Highway 41 you live on. Recycling containers are obtained from Town Clerk Carita Williams at 1600 Breezewood Lane, Neenah. Since the merger of recycling services in Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties, we can now put all our junk mail in with newspapers. They will also collect box board (pop and cereal boxes, etc.) as well as telephone books. Pizza boxes are not recyclable.

IMPORTANT RECYCLING NOTE:

You should not place recyclable materials in plastic bags. All recyclables should be in open containers. Plastic bags are not recyclable and take extra time to open, and their acceptance is being phased out this year.

*Disaster relief available.
See page 7*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1600 Breezewood Lane
Neenah, Wisconsin 54956



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
NEENAH WI
PERMIT NO. 226