

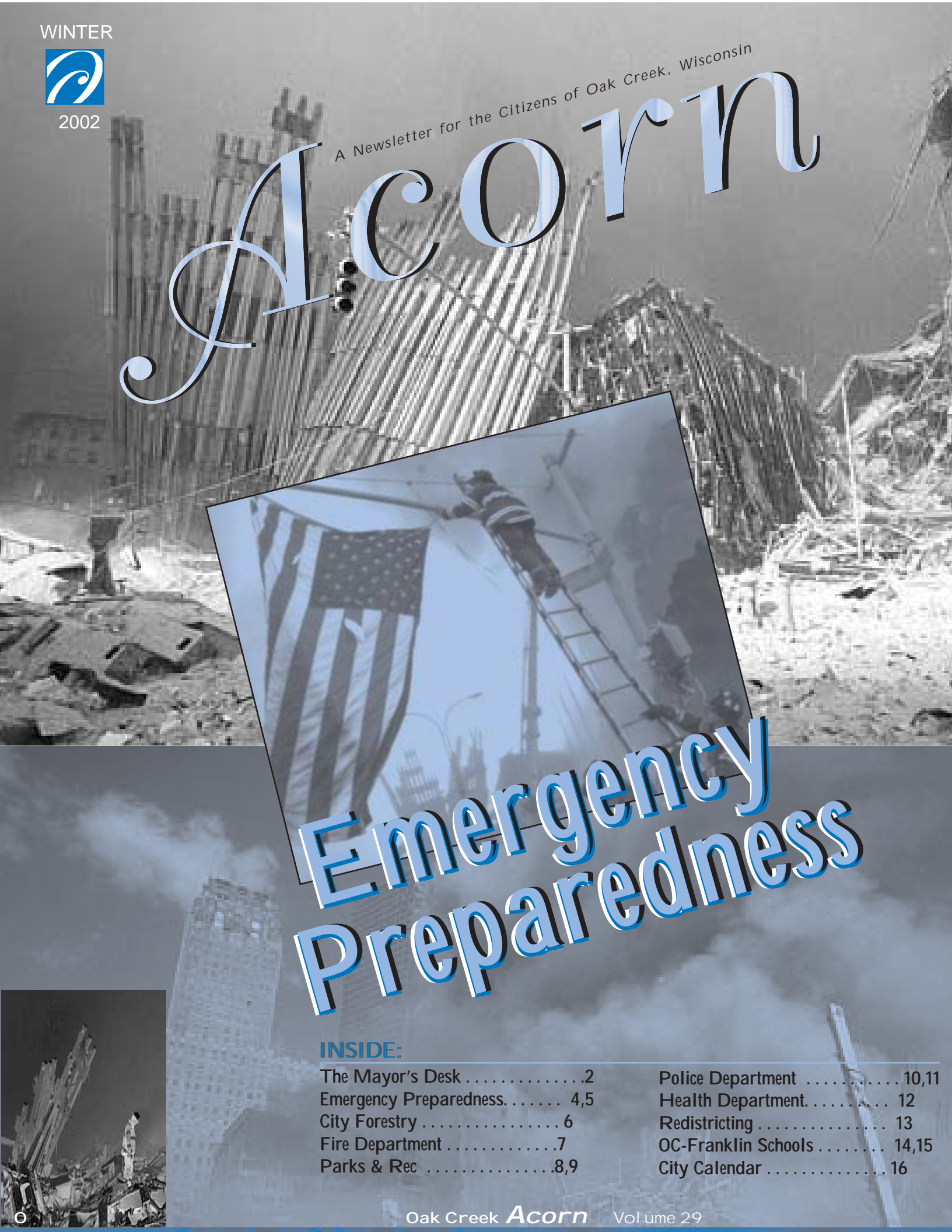
WINTER



2002

A Newsletter for the Citizens of Oak Creek, Wisconsin

# Acorn



## Emergency Preparedness

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Dale Richards

# FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

## A Test of Faith!

Certainly the events of September 11th have created a reality check on Americans' beliefs and values. The word "freedom" has taken on a resurgence in our solidarity as a nation. The importance of having good government and good leaders has been a solid test of our true grit and determination to live in a free and open society without fear of terrorism. The importance of having a strong and well-trained military, police and fire presence has, more often than not, been taken for granted. We should offer our support to any of our neighbors who might be called upon to serve with the 128<sup>th</sup> or the 440<sup>th</sup> stationed at General Mitchell International Airport since September 11th.

The City has held several Emergency Operations meetings to address ongoing concerns. Some of those meetings were strictly internal; others with our school district, local businesses, county, state, FBI, Coast Guard, utility companies and other municipal and federal agencies. I must admit that communications between government agencies was probably somewhat strained the first month, but I am extremely pleased with the amount, quality and content of information that has been shared since then. Our faith will undoubtedly continue to be tested again and again in the new year. We will continue to review any safety or security concerns as time goes on or as conditions change.

Let me quickly summarize some other important events. Council's agenda over December and January will be full of major policy decisions that have been, quite frankly, dragging on too long. Our Master Stormwater plan is up for adoption, now that some recently adopted rules by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) have been incorporated. I am hopeful that this will be adopted by the time you read this. One of the goals from our Comprehensive Plan update and Master Stormwater plan is to preserve some of our open space that is environmentally sensitive and prone to flooding. Council has approved entering into negotiations with some property owners whose land fits into this category. This program is strictly voluntary and I am happy to report that MMSD has announced that they will participate with us as a financial partner under their own land conservation plan.

If you recall, MMSD helped us resolve our flooding problem under the railroad bridge on West Ryan Road. Remember those days! Our Comprehensive Plan should follow adoption of the Stormwater Plan. Our budget certainly climbs to the top of the list at the beginning of December. An apple-to-apple comparison of the City's portion

of your tax rate will not be obvious because of the overall City-wide property revaluation this past year. My expectation is that the average homeowner will pay about the same total dollar amount as last year for the City's portion of your real estate tax bill. That should be good news as many people felt that the increase in their property valuation automatically implied much higher taxes.

On another front, Wisconsin Energy Corp. (the powerplant on the lakefront) has proposed a major expansion of their generation facilities in our community. My understanding is that this single site would become one of the largest generation facilities in the country. Conceptually, I believe everyone wants to ensure adequate power for the future. I certainly do. They have been an excellent neighbor, BUT until we know exactly what the impacts are and how they might be mitigated, I will reserve judgment.

I will not be silent on the issue of the community not benefiting from tax revenue. Back in the seventies, the State of Wisconsin, in its infinite wisdom, felt that the tax revenue from an electric power company was too much money for any one municipality. Accordingly, the law was changed such that those tax dollars went directly into the state's piggy bank.

Yes, the state collects millions of dollars in revenue each and every year from the Oak Creek facility and yes, we receive back a few pennies on the dollar, but their legislation limits how many pennies come back. Currently, we would not see another nickel in tax revenue from a \$2 billion investment in Oak Creek! I know that Senator Grobschmidt and Representative Plale are pulling for us, but this concept that all other businesses and homeowners should pay their fair share to the community and that an electric power company should pay to Madison is arbitrary and capricious.

If the Governor and the other Madison legislators think that they can continue this rip-off, then maybe we need to seek some other means of compensation, or maybe they should make room for these new coal-powered generating plants on Lake Mendota!

The new police station and courthouse facility is currently out for bid. The economy and interest rates make this the most opportune time to build. We are expecting some extremely competitive bids and expect construction to start this spring and be completed in the spring of 2003.

Have a wonderful holiday, hug & kiss your children and grandchildren, and tell them about the price of our freedom. God Bless America! **Dale**

## The Oak Creek Public Library Has a New DVD Collection



Over the past several months, many of our patrons have requested that we start a DVD (Digital Video Disc) collection. For those of you unfamiliar with DVDs, they look like compact discs, but contain high-quality digital videos. With the drop in price of DVD players, the DVD is fast becoming the standard choice for video.

Recently, the Library Board approved the purchase of a starter DVD collection using funds from the library's memorial account. Over 100 DVDs have been purchased and are now available for checkout. Most titles in our new DVD collection are classic movies, along with some newer titles. We will continue to add new titles to the collection on a monthly basis, just as we do with all our library materials.

There will be a seven-day loan period on all DVDs. Because of the limited number of titles on our shelves, we are limiting the checkouts to three DVDs per person, per visit.

Jonathan Bloy, Assistant City Librarian

## Inspection Department Hires New Street Light Maintenance Electrician



The Inspection Department recently hired Jim DeGueme as a Street Light Maintenance Electrician.

He comes to us from the VA Medical Center, where he was responsible for electrical maintenance.

Jim is married and has two daughters, ages 20 and 12. He is an avid gardener and enjoys outdoor work.

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## Holiday Rubbish/Recycling Collection Days (Jan - March 2002)

<u>Date of Holiday</u>	<u>Date of Pickup</u>
New Year's Day - Tuesday <i>January 1, 2002</i>	Wednesday <i>January 2, 2002</i>
Friday before Easter <i>March 29, 2002</i>	Thursday <i>March 28, 2002</i>

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The Spring General Election will be held Tuesday, April 2, 2002.

If required, a Spring Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2002.

Local offices up for election are:

### Office

Alderman, 2nd District  
Alderman, 4th District  
Alderman, 6th District  
City Clerk  
City Treasurer  
Municipal Judge

### Incumbent

Ald. Allan M. Foeckler  
Ald. Merlyn J. Warner  
Ald. Alice A. Rudebusch  
Beverly A. Buretta  
Barbara R. Davison  
John Grahovac



(along with other state, county and school board offices and referenda, if required)

Those registered voters whose voting location has changed (due to redistricting, after the 2000 Census) received a postcard stating their new district, ward and voting location. If you have any questions regarding your voting location, absentee ballot information or registration by mail, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 768-6500. You can also check out the redistricting map on page 13 of this publication.



# Emergency Preparedness

## Develop a Disaster Plan

The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have alarmed us and concerned us about possibility of future incidents in our area. Be assured, the City of Oak Creek's emergency government operations has been preparing for a variety of disasters for years. The Mayor and Council have committed the necessary resources to having the best emergency preparedness operation in the county. Still, there are things you can do to prepare for the unexpected.

The advice we offer can be used for a variety of disasters, not just the terrorist activities currently in the headlines. (The City plans for tornadoes, power outages, snow and ice storms, building fires and other events that put the community at risk.) Taking preparatory action can reassure you and your family that you can exert a measure of control during potentially stressful times.

Children need to know their family members' phone numbers and e-mail addresses. It is also important to discuss possible emergencies with your family or household and develop a disaster plan together. Here are a few points to help you in developing a plan:

**1. CREATE AN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.** Choose an out-of-town contact your family or household will call or e-mail to check on each other should a disaster occur. Make sure every household member has that contact's, and each other's email addresses and telephone numbers (home, work, pager and cell). Leave these contact numbers at your children's schools, if you have children, and at your workplace. Your family should know that if telephones are not working, they need to be patient and try again later or try email. Many people flood the telephone lines when emergencies happen, but email can sometimes get through when calls can't.

**2. ESTABLISH A MEETING PLACE.** Having a predetermined meeting place away from your home will save time and minimize confusion should your home be affected or the area evacuated. You may even want to make arrangements to stay with a family member or friend in case of an emergency. Be sure to include any pets in these plans, since pets are not permitted in shelters and some hotels will not accept them.

**3. ASSEMBLE A DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT.** If you need to evacuate your home or are asked to "shelter in place," having some essential supplies on hand will make

you and your family more comfortable. Prepare a disaster supplies kit in an easy to carry container such as a duffel bag or small plastic trash can. Include "special needs" items for any household member (infant formula or items for people with disabilities or older people), first aid supplies (including prescription medications), a change of clothing for each person, a sleeping bag or bedroll for each, a battery powered radio or television and extra batteries, food, bottled water, tools, duct tape and pet supplies. It is also a good idea to include some cash and copies of important family documents (birth certificates, passports and licenses) in your kit as well as a manual can opener. Remember to rotate food supplies, so they don't become outdated. The City's Health Department and Fire Department have more information available on how to prepare a disaster supply kit.



### IF DISASTER STRIKES

- Remain calm and be patient.
- Follow the advice of local emergency officials. Listen to your radio or television for news and instructions.
  - If the disaster occurs near you, check for injuries. Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.
  - If the disaster occurs near your home while you are there, check for damage using a flashlight. Do not light matches or candles or turn on electrical switches. Check for fires, fire hazards and other household hazards. Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get everyone outside quickly.
  - Shut off any other damaged utilities. Confine or secure your pets.
  - Call your family contact, but do not use the telephone again unless it is a life threatening emergency.
  - Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.



## A WORD ON WHAT COULD HAPPEN

As we learn from the events of September 11, 2001, the following things can happen after a terrorist attack:

- There can be significant numbers of casualties and/or damage to buildings and property.
- Heavy law enforcement involvement at local, state and federal levels follows a terrorist attack due to the event's criminal nature.
- Health and mental health resources in the affected communities can be strained to their limits, maybe even overwhelmed.
- Extensive media coverage, strong public fear and international implications and consequences can continue for a prolonged period.
- Workplaces and schools may be closed, and there may be restrictions on domestic and international travel.
- You and your family or household may have to evacuate an area, avoiding roads blocked for your safety.
- Clean up may take many months.

## EVACUATION

If the City officials ask you to leave your home, they have good reason to make this request. You should heed the advice immediately. Listen to your radio or TV, follow the instructions of local emergency officials, and keep these simple tips in mind.



- Take your disaster supplies kit.
- Take your pets with you; do not leave them behind. Because pets are not permitted in public shelters, follow your plan to go to a relative or friend's home, or find a "pet friendly" hotel. Lock your home.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities. Don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- If you're sure you have time. Call your family contact to tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive.

## SHELTER IN PLACE

If you are advised by City officials to "shelter in place," you are to remain inside your home or office and protect yourself there. Close all windows and exterior doors. Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems. Close the fireplace damper. Get your disaster supplies kit, make sure the radio is working, and go to an interior above-ground room, without windows. In case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air, and may seep into basement even if the windows are closed. Seal all cracks around the door and vents into the room using duct tape. Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. City officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk.



The City has made every effort to plan and train for natural and man-made disasters. We have made numerous plans on how to respond, but to be successful, we need the cooperation of our residents. If a disaster occurs, remember that the City employees will be working to address the problems at greatest risk so please be patient.

The Health Department and Fire Department have more information available on what you can do to be prepared. If you have further questions concerning emergency related issues, please contact the O. C. Fire Department at 570-5630.



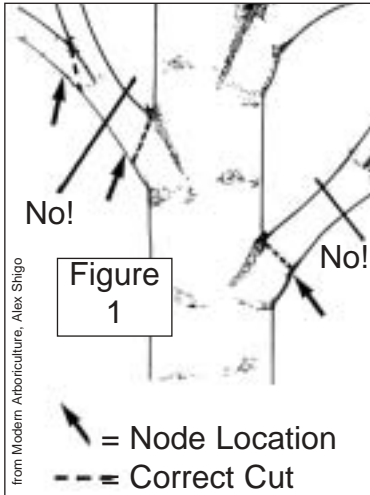


# City Forestry

## STOP - DON'T TOP !

### What is tree topping?

Topping is an incorrect method of reducing the size of a tree. Technically, topping is cutting large branches between nodes or cutting all branches off leaving only a trunk. Nodes are where branches attach to trunks or other branches. Internodes are those stretches of stem between branch or leaf attachments. (Figure 1)



### Why do people top trees?

Trees are unwisely topped to reduce their size or remove dangerous branches. The irony is that topping often creates dangerous, fast-growing branches that can soon make trees taller and more hazardous than they were before!

### Topping by any other name is still a crime.

Topping is also known as "tipping," "hat-racking," "heading," "rounding over," "de-horning," "stag-heading" or just plain "ugly."

### How does a tree respond to topping?

Topping cuts activate buds concealed under a tree's bark. These buds will often produce vigorous, upright shoots that are typically very leafy. Many sprouts may arise from a topping cut leaving an unnatural appearance to a tree's form-like an unsightly, fluffy hairdo.

### How does topping hurt trees (and sometimes people)?

To begin with, vigorous sprout growth robs a tree of underground reserves. At the same time, a tree loses the ability to photosynthesize. In this state of shock and depletion, a tree is vulnerable to attack by insects and fungi; it is also open to sunscald.

Unlike natural branches, topping sprouts are weakly attached to the branch or trunk they arise from. Because topping sprouts often grow vigorously and close to each other, they can become squeezed together as they grow. Topping sprouts often decay rapidly and break out easily as they gain size.

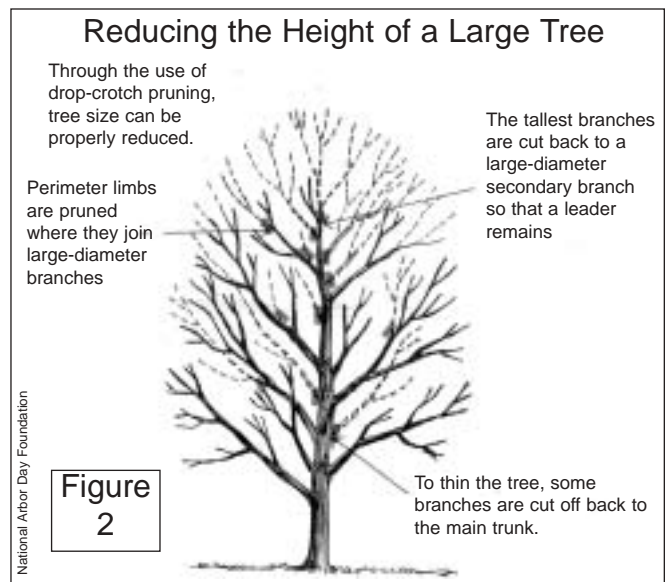
Frequently, the stem that was topped begins to decay (or had structural defects before topping). A dangerous combination exists when weakly attached sprouts, heavy with vigorous growth, sit on top of a decaying branch or trunk!

### When is topping particularly dangerous?

When a tree is located under utility lines, near homes, neighbors' property, roadways or other highly-trafficked areas – any place that presents as a target from branch or tree failure.

### What can you do to prevent topping?

1. Hire an arborist who can provide a professional opinion or do correct crown reduction pruning (also called drop-crotch pruning). Be aware that crown reduction is a last resort measure on large trees. Large pruning wounds become a race between wound closure and wound rot. Figure 2 illustrates correct crown reduction pruning.
2. Consider removal and replacement with a lower-growing species.
3. At tree selection, consider the mature size of a tree and the site objectives.
4. Learn to make correct pruning cuts yourself. Your City Forester is happy to provide proper pruning information.



For internet information on topping, just type in "tree topping" or check out one of these websites:

- [www2.champaign.isa-arbor.com/consumer/topping.html](http://www2.champaign.isa-arbor.com/consumer/topping.html)
- [www.steamboat.com/treetopping.html](http://www.steamboat.com/treetopping.html)

Questions or comments? Email [rlane@oakcreekwi.org](mailto:rlane@oakcreekwi.org) or call (414) 768-5861.



# Fire Department

## Cooking Safety

Cooking equipment continues to be the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries. Over 94,000 cooking fires were reported in the United States last year, injuring nearly 4,700 people. Sadly, 396 deaths were also attributed to these fires, an increase of 45% from the previous year.

Unattended cooking was, by far, the leading cause of home cooking equipment fires and associated losses. Other human errors, such as falling asleep, inadequate control of open flame, failing to turn off equipment and placing flammable material too close to a heat source, also played a role in these fires.



### Cooking safety tips:

- Supervise cooking closely.
- Clean cooking equipment so that food items like grease don't start fires.
- Make sure flammable material, like potholders and rags, are kept away from cooking surfaces.
- Avoid wearing loose-fitting clothing that might catch fire easily.
- Keep pot handles turned in to avoid spills and possible scalds, and keep children and pets away from cooking areas.
- Use cooking equipment for cooking only.

**DO NOT HEAT YOUR HOME WITH EQUIPMENT DESIGNED FOR COOKING.**

## Adopt a Fire Hydrant

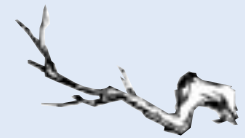
During the winter season, the need for fire hydrants increases as fire risk increases. Unfortunately, heavy snowfall may make immediate access to the hydrant impossible and plowed snow often covers hydrants completely. During an emergency, fire fighters must locate a reliable water source. If the hydrant is buried, the time spent finding the hydrant and clearing the snow away may have an impact on property loss or even worse result in the loss of life.



The Oak Creek Fire Department is asking for your help. Adopt the hydrant in front of your home or the one that services your street. Shovel the snow away from all its sides and make sure it is visible from the street.

We may not know when or where a fire will start, but with your help we can be prepared in the event that it happens in your neighborhood

## Branch Pickup



Branch pickup begins March 1<sup>st</sup> and continues on the first of each month through November.

To guarantee that your branches are picked up by the Street Division, you must have your branches to the curb or roadside by the first of the month. If you do not have your branches placed for pickup by the 1<sup>st</sup>, **your branches will not be picked up until the following month.**

Remember, branches are to be stacked neatly with the cut-off ends facing the road.

## Home Improvement Loans are Still Available

Low or no interest loans are available to income eligible households for various improvements to their homes. Based on the numbers in the table on the right, a household would be eligible if its total annual income is less than the maximum amount shown per family size.

If you feel your household is eligible, please contact [Paul Milewski](#) with the Department of Community Development at [768-6527](#) or stop in at the City Hall for an application.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Total Annual Family Income</u>
1 .....	\$35,550
2 .....	\$40,650
3 .....	\$45,700
4 .....	\$50,800
5 .....	\$54,850
6 .....	\$58,950
7 .....	\$63,000
8+ .....	\$67,050



# Parks and Recreation

## Recreation Program Booklets

2002 Winter Recreation Program booklets are now available in the Recreation Office at City Hall, the Library, and the Oak Creek Community Center. Registrations will be processed beginning January 2nd. For best results, mail, fax or drop off registrations as soon as you get your book. Or take your chances during walk-in registration beginning January 3rd. Non-residents may register beginning January 14th.



Winter programs include the following:

### Forever Young Club

The Parks & Recreation Forever Young Club is open to anyone age 55+. They meet weekly at the Oak Creek Community Center from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm on Mondays.

The Club participates in a hot meal program, conducts special events, goes on trips, plays cards and bingo, etc. Seniors interested in becoming members are invited to stop in at the Community Center on Mondays to meet with Georgene Gabelbauer, Coordinator, and current members. Spouses, who are not yet 55, are eligible to join with their eligible spouse.

### Basketball Free Throw Contest



The Youth Free Throw Contest (boys and girls divisions in each grade level) will be held during February 2002. The winners will receive trophies and advance to the Southeast Park & Recreation Council Free Throw Tournament (March 2002). **THERE IS NO FEE.** A flyer will be sent to all school offices in February.

## Open Basketball

The Parks and Recreation Department will offer Adult Open Basketball beginning in January. Call our office at 768-6515 for dates and times. Fee is \$2 for residents and \$3 for non-residents, which is payable at the door.

### Swim Activities NEW THIS WINTER!

*Noodle Nights:* Will be held on Thursdays 1/10, 2/14, 3/7, & 4/18 from 6:00-7:30 pm for residents. Children ages 8 & up are welcome. Bring your noodles, beach balls, rings & water wings. No large inflatables or rafts please. FREE



*Family Swim:* Will be held on Thursdays 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, & 5/2. from 6:00-7:30 pm for residents. Open to children ages 2 & up. Parent or guardian must accompany those under 18 in the water. Inflatables are permitted. Please call office for restrictions. FREE

*Don't forget Open Swim Tuesday and Friday nights 7:00-8:30 pm, ages 2 & up. No spectators. Swimsuits required. No substitutes permitted.*

## Ice Rinks

The Miller Park Pond ice rink will be supervised, with the warming shelter open, Monday through Thursday from 4:00-8:00 pm, Fridays from 4:00-9:00 pm, Saturdays from 1:00-9:00 pm and Sundays from 1:00-5:00 pm (weather and ice conditions permitting). Please call the Activity Tape at 299-9721 for daily opening/closing information.





Unsupervised ice-skating is available at Miller Park, Chapel Hills, Manor Marquette and Haas Parks during daylight hours when the weather and ice conditions permit.

## Sledding Locations

Tobogganing/sledding is offered at Chapel Hills, Manor Marquette, Riverton Meadows and Willow Heights Parks during daylight hours and only when weather conditions are good. There is no supervision at any of these areas.



## Oak Creek Day at Crystal Ridge

Oak Creek Day at Crystal Ridge will be held January 18 from 4:00-10:00 pm. Oak Creek residents and School District students with I.D. can ski on these days at the low group rate. Call for information.



## Bucks Basketball Tickets

Join us for Oak Creek Community Day at the Bucks on February 15 when the Bucks host the Miami Heat. Regularly priced \$20-\$25 tickets will be available in the Parks & Recreation Office beginning December 10 for \$13 each! Cash and Charge only, Checks will not be accepted. Eight youths aged 8 to 15 will be chosen by random drawing to be in the Bucks starting lineup. Call for details.



## 2002 Softball Leagues

Registration begins in mid-February for resident teams from last year who wish to re-enter the same league of participation. New resident team entries will be accepted starting in late February, followed by non-resident team registration. Full season leagues are scheduled to begin the last week in April. Call for specific league information, entry and player fees.

### NEW THIS YEAR!

We will be having Women's, Men's, and Men's 40+ short season softball leagues this year. Starting in May till mid-July (a seven-week schedule).



Plenty of time to get home from school, play softball, vacation, etc. Reduced fees.

Senior High Softball Leagues are being offered on Tuesday evenings, and are scheduled to begin the second week in June. Team entry fee is \$80 with a \$7 non-resident fee for those students attending Oak Creek High School, but living outside of Oak Creek.



## Spring Preview

Don't miss spring golf and tennis classes beginning April/May. Register now, classes fill quickly.

Registration for T-Ball, Rookieball, Youth baseball and softball begins in April. Flyers will be available in the elementary schools and the Parks and Recreation office early in the month.

Middle School Volleyball league begins play in March. Announcements will be made and flyers available at the schools in early February.

# Police Department



## POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING PROJECT



Groundbreaking for the new police station/municipal court took place on Monday, October 1, 2001. Plans to start moving ground are tentatively scheduled for early spring of 2002.

## WINTER RESTRICTIONS

The Police Department would like to remind all citizens of the following city ordinances:

*Winter Parking Restrictions* From December 1st to April 1st, there is no on-street parking Sunday through Thursday from 2:00 am to 6:00 am. On weekends (Friday and Saturday), there is no on-street parking permitted between 2:30 am and 6:00 am. Permission may be granted by the Police Department (on a day-to-day basis) for exceptions to this during emergencies, if a vehicle becomes disabled or if there is an overnight guest.

*Snow and Ice Removal* The owner, occupant or person in charge of any property abutting or fronting a paved public sidewalk is responsible for the removal of all snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall. If the ice can't be removed and still presents a hazard to those who use the walkway, salt or other similar substance must be spread to eliminate the hazard. Remember, directing your sump pump and rain gutter downspouts onto the sidewalk or roadway is against city ordinance. The sidewalks were created to provide a safe passage for pedestrians. Please show consideration to those who use the sidewalks in our community.

Also, for those who plow your driveway or use a snow blower, remember it's illegal to push or blow snow into the street or dump it onto any public ground. Pushing snow into the roadway creates a very hazardous situation for everyone using the roads.

## COLD WEATHER TIPS

With winter upon us, it's time to prepare for cold Wisconsin weather. Here are a few tips to make the season more enjoyable:

- During the cold winter months, many people like to start their vehicles and leave them unattended while they warm up. It is important to realize that, although it is nice to get into a warm vehicle, one must be aware of the dangers of doing so. Unattended, running vehicles can be a target for auto theft as well as an inherent danger to juveniles or children who may become curious, enter the vehicle and attempt to operate the vehicle. So please remain with your vehicle while warming it up.
- Keep some cold weather gear (blanket, mittens/gloves, hats, etc.) in your car in case you experience car trouble while traveling.
- Remember to drive at the appropriate speeds in bad weather and allow sufficient distances between yourself and the vehicle in front of you in case you have to stop suddenly.
- Check on elderly and/or disabled relatives and neighbors to ensure they are o.k. and to see if they need assistance with snow removal or a ride to the grocery store.





The Oak Creek Police Department is always looking for your help solving crimes. You can remain 100% anonymous and receive a reward for your tip. Call the CrimeStoppers hotline at 570-2499 and help keep our community a safer place to live.

## NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK WATCH

Are there safety issues in your neighborhood that you would like to see addressed? Would you like to meet more of your neighbors and share ideas with each other on how to keep your children safe? Would you like to learn how to keep your home and possessions more secure?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be interested in starting a Neighborhood Block Watch Group in your neighborhood. Starting a Neighborhood Block Watch Group is easy and takes very little of your time. Simply call Oak Creek Crime Prevention Officer Ron Piojda at 768-7435 to receive all the start-up materials you'll need. Officer Piojda can set up an initial neighborhood meeting for your group and explain how the program works.

Please do not hesitate to contact Officer Piojda with any questions you may have regarding Crime Prevention in your community.

**HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY A SAFE PLACE!  
START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP TODAY!**

## NEW EMPLOYEES

The Police Department would like to welcome the following new employee and wish him good luck and a long career with us:



Officer Scott W. Metz was hired on September 17, 2001, to fill an existing vacancy. Scott earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was previously employed as a security guard for Potawatomi Casino.

## BICYCLIST ALERT

Late in 2001, a project began that will provide additional opportunities for those interested in moving around the City on two unmotorized wheels. It is the North Shore Bike Trail, a Milwaukee County project that will install a bike trail from just north of East Drexel Avenue to the Milwaukee County Line. The first phase of this County project, started in 2001, will install a 10 foot wide paved bike path along the former North Shore right-of-way from Marshall Avenue to Puetz Road and then pave the existing segment from Pennsylvania Avenue to Elm Road. Subsequent phases, which may start in 2002, will complete the route. The middle segment from Ryan Road to Pennsylvania Avenue will include a tunnel under STH 100 as a part of its ultimate construction.



In the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation, the City of Oak Creek is joining with County construction projects to have two segments of the City's planned bike trail installed on County land as

part of a County project. The City will be adding a short segment to the County's North Shore trail extending from Marshall Avenue north to Greenlawn Park. The City will also be adding another short segment from an existing bike/pedestrian path that connects Shepard Avenue to Parkway Estates Drive. It will be extended from this path north, in the County's parkway land, to the parkway drive and existing parking lot north of the Oak Creek Parkway Estates Subdivision. It will be part of the County's project to pave the parkway drive and the parking lot. This segment should be completed sometime in 2002.

The costs associated with both of these City projects will be covered by a State Stewardship grant and a bikeway fee that has been collected on each new lot, house or residential unit that is developed. Additional Stewardship funds are also available to assist in the next phase of the bike trail that will extend west from Howell Avenue where the parkway drive intersects with Howell Avenue.



# Health Department

## DEVELOPMENT AND SAFETY FAIRS

The focus of our department's Maternal/Child Health grant is hosting development and safety fairs for children 2 years 9 months through age 4 years. The fairs include developmental screening, nutrition information and safety issues.



Our winter Development and Safety Fair will be held at the Oak Creek City Hall on Thursday, February 14th from 8:30-10:30 am.

Plan on spending an hour with your child. A GIFT WILL BE GIVEN TO EACH CHILD WHO PARTICIPATES. Call 768-6525 to reserve your child's participation in this program.



## HEALTH EXPO 2002

Plan to attend the Health Expo 2002 at the Oak Creek Community Center on Saturday, March 16th from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. There will be something for everyone from infants to senior citizens.

Meet health care and wellness providers from the area. Participate in free screenings, register for door prizes, and attend health-related presentations. A donation of a non-perishable food item for the Salvation Army, or used hearing aids or eyeglasses for the Lions Club gains your admittance to the fair.

## THINK AHEAD PREVENT FROSTBITE

Body tissues freeze when exposed to cold; this is "frostbite". It affects the body like a burn. The most commonly affected areas are hands, feet, ears, cheeks, and nose. Signs of mild frostbite include yellow or gray patches on the skin. The areas become flaky and red after the skin is warmed.



Treatment involves coming in from the cold, removing wet clothing and gently drying the affected area. DO NOT RUB the area, as this may cause more damage. Warm the affected area by immersing it in warm water (104 to 108 degrees Fahrenheit) for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the color returns. A trip to the emergency room is advised if there is pain, blistering, or swelling. Cold, waxy, and pale skin is a sign of severe frostbite and needs to be treated by a doctor immediately.

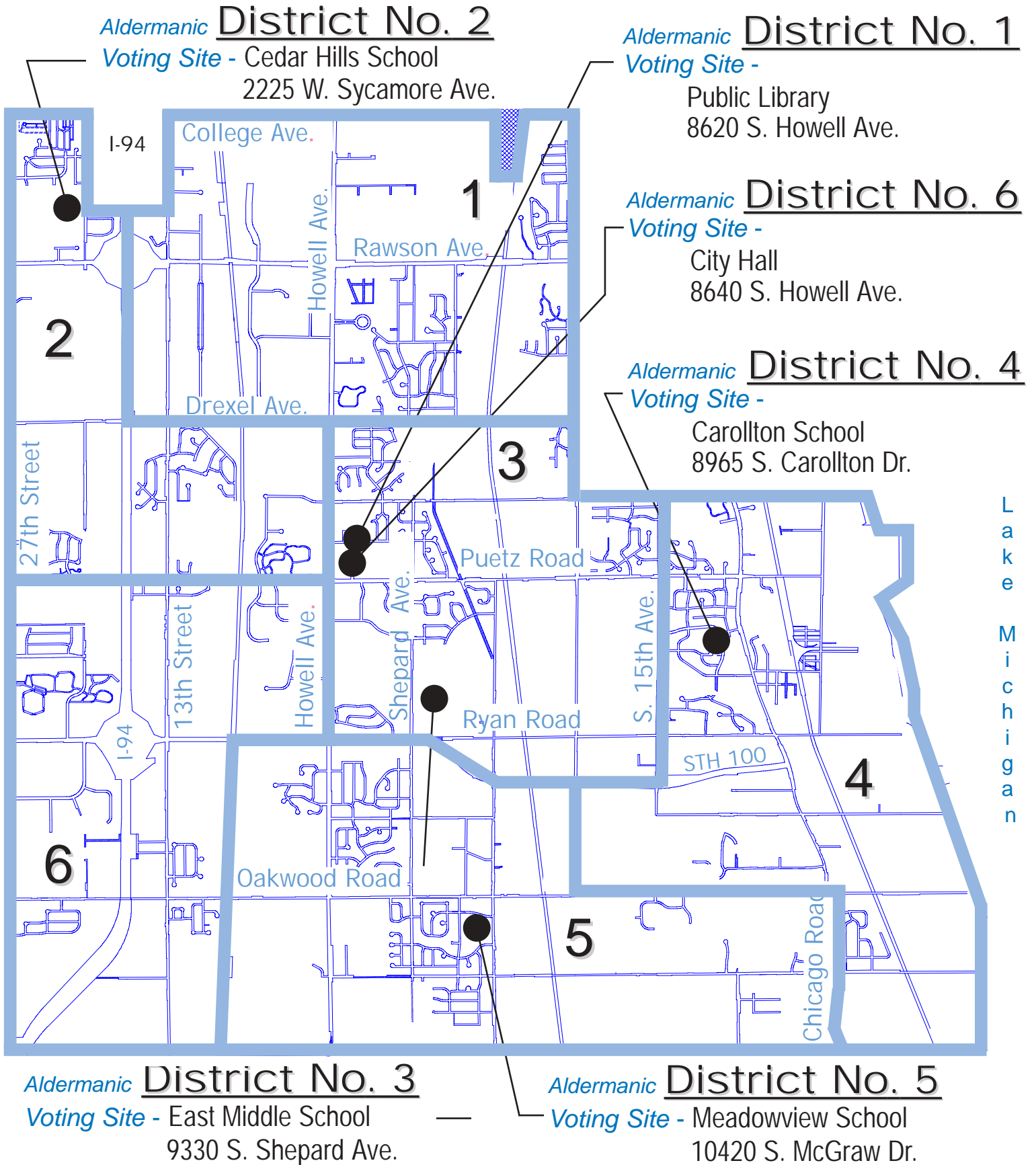
Ways to prevent frostbite include:

- Avoid exposure to severe cold weather.
- Dress in several layers of protective, waterproof clothing.
- Be sure that your head and neck are covered; they lose heat more quickly than other body parts.
- Cover your hands; mittens provide more warmth than gloves.
- Drinking alcohol can reduce body temperature, leading to hypothermia and frostbite.



# Final Aldermanic Redistricting

2002



# Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District

## From the Desk of ... Dr. John Voorhees Superintendent of Schools



Do we really believe in learning? This is a very important question that brings up other equally important concerns. For instance, are we convinced that the things we teach are making a difference in the lives of our students?

If we answer yes, how do we feel about what is happening in environments other than our own? Do our attitudes and behavior reflect to young people, colleagues, and friends alike that we cherish learning? If you were to ask someone these questions, how would they respond?

How we demonstrate our belief in learning is vitally important. We must make sure our youth know, from our words and actions, that we do indeed cherish learning. If they don't believe we do, then they probably will not cherish learning either.

## Staff Profile



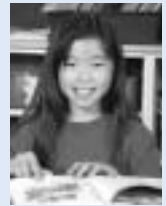
Mrs. Linda Weber, K-12 science department chairperson, came to Oak Creek High School in 1973. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a Bachelors degree and subsequently received a Master's Degree in science education.

Mrs. Weber has served as a teacher mentor and is a key member of the High School Improvement Committee. She has taught biology, physical science, ecology, and her favorite, advance placement biology. Mrs. Weber also was the girls' track coach for ten years. She is elated about the renovation of the high school that will allow students to have a better science education experience.

After her first few years of teaching, Mrs. Weber returned to her hometown of Hartland to marry Mike, a library and media specialist at Hartland Common School District. They have two children: Jessica, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Tim, a sophomore at Arrowhead High School. The Weber family continues to enjoy family travel and tent camping.

## How Can Parents Help Their Children Think More Actively?

By Jennifer Wimmer,  
LD Teacher—East Middle School



As a parent, there are steps you can take to encourage active thinking:

- Encourage your children to ask questions about the world around them.
- When reading to or with young children, ask them to imagine what will happen next in the story.
- Actively listen to your children's conversation, responding seriously and non-judgmentally to the questions they raise.
- When your children express feelings, ask why they feel that way.
- Suggest that your children find facts to support their opinions, and then encourage them to locate information relevant to their opinions.
- Use entertainment—a TV program or a movie—as the basis of family discussions.
- Use daily activities as occasions for learning. For example, instead of sending a child to the store with a simple list of items to purchase, talk with the child first about how much each item might cost, and estimate how much change he or she should receive.
- Reward your children for inquisitive and/or creative activity that is productive.
- Ask your children what questions their teachers are raising in class. For example, a history teacher might be "asking" how American westward expansion began.

Remember, if your children are active participants in a home where there is talk about the why and the how of things, they are more likely to be active thinkers both in and out of school.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Thomas Robe, President  
Mr. James Eaton, Vice President  
Mrs. Linda Hauerwas, Clerk  
Mr. Brian Kaminski, Treasurer  
Mr. LaMar Buchholz, Member





## School Districts

### *School Start Date*

The school start date will be after September 1 of a given school year. Though school districts may request a waiver of this requirement, it is extremely unlikely that a waiver will be given. Therefore, it is with a reasonable degree of certainty that the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District will have a start date for students after September 1.

### *Veterans Day*

Legislators followed the lead of our school district and now require that all public schools recognize Veterans' Day as a special day. Your school district, under the leadership of Board of Education President Robe, implemented this requirement last school year. At that time, we were the only school district in the United States to do such recognition.

### *Pledge of Allegiance*

A recent law taking effect September 1 of this school year requires the Pledge of Allegiance be said or the National Anthem be sung or played daily in each public school. However, individual students may be excused if they wish.

## Appreciate Your Building Custodians



Smart teachers know that the first friend to make in any school setting is the custodian. Few people can make life easier through the work they do behind the scenes than the custodian. Although the work is done quietly and often after hours, it directly affects students' learning environment.

As parents you can:

- Visit with the custodian if you are in the building. They can have a lonely job, moving from room to room. Give them a few friendly words to show you appreciate their work.
- Remember the custodian at holiday time. Leave a card of thanks.
- Teach your child to appreciate the custodian. Suggest they tidy up the school room in the final minutes of the day. Let them know that keeping it clean is not just the custodian's job.
- Have your child write a thank-you note to the custodian at the end of the year, acknowledging the importance of the work that they do.

## A Look at Schiller's .com

Dean Schiller, a 1977 Oak Creek High School graduate, is now the owner and C.E.O. of CEIVA Logic located in Los Angeles, California. After graduation he attended UW-Parkside and graduated with a degree in physics. He then became a digital animator at Disney, Inc., where he played a major role in the development of such movies as Beauty and the Beast, Dinosaur, and The Lion King.

In 1998, Dean married Leanne (Januszewski), a 1987 Oak Creek High School graduate and a UCLA graduate in economics. They reside in Glendale, California, with their two children, Andrew age 3 and Cameron age 2.



Dean's company deals with the transmittal of pictures from person to person and business to business. It can be accessed at CEIVA.com on the Internet.

Dean and Leanne wanted to acknowledge a few teachers who provided the educational foundation for their careers: Dean recognized Jeff Trendel, Judy Schmidt and Gail Ankersen, while Leanne gives special thanks to Mike Richmond and, now deceased, Dave Dess.

Dean is the son of William and Ilene, now of Mesa, Arizona. Leanne is the daughter of Clayton of Oak Creek and Corrine of Muskego, and the granddaughter of Teckla of Milwaukee.

## Death Notice



Within the last few months our school district lost two loyal, dedicated, and respected employees.

Betty Devereaux served the needs of disabled students with supreme devotion. Her untimely death left a void in our educational program for special children.

Doug Wierman was a devoted man to our building and grounds department. There was nothing Doug would not do for anyone. His smile and great attitude toward life will be missed by all.

*"Those dearest to us never really leave; they live on in the way they cared, shared and made us happy."*

# CITY OF OAK CREEK - WINTER CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2002

- 1 . . . CLOSED - NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 2 . . . 6:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*
- 3 . . . 2:30-5:30pm . . Immunization Clinic  
7:00 pm . . . . . COMMON COUNCIL MEETING -  
(tentative)
- 8 . . . 4:45 pm . . . . . Library Board (b)  
7:00 pm . . . . . PLAN COMMISSION
- 9 . . . 5:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*  
7:00 pm . . . . . Traffic & Safety Commission  
7:30 pm . . . . . Water/Sewer Utility Commission (a)
- 10 . . 6:30 pm . . . . . Parks & Recreation Commission
- 15 . . 7:00 pm . . . . . COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
- 16 . . 6:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*
- 17 . . 9-11:00 am . . Immunization Clinic
- 22 . . 7:00 pm . . . . . PLAN COMMISSION
- 23 . . 5:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*

## FEBRUARY 2002

- 5 . . . 7:00 pm . . . . . COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
- 6 . . . 6:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*
- 7 . . . 11:30 am . . . . . Board of Health  
2:30-5:30pm . . Immunization Clinic
- 12 . . 4:45 pm . . . . . Library Board (b)  
7:00 pm . . . . . PLAN COMMISSION
- 13 . . 5:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*  
7:00 pm . . . . . Traffic & Safety Commission  
7:30 pm . . . . . Water/Sewer Utility Commission (a)
- 14 . . 6:30 pm . . . . . Parks & Recreation Commission
- 18 . . 7:00 pm . . . . . COMMON COUNCIL MEETING -  
(Monday)
- 19 . . 7:00 am to . . . . . SPRING PRIMARY  
8:00 pm . . . . . ELECTION, IF REQUIRED
- 20 . . 6:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*
- 21 . . 9-11:00 am . . Immunization Clinic
- 26 . . 7:00 pm . . . . . PLAN COMMISSION
- 27 . . 5:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*
- 28 . . 7:30 pm . . . . . County Supervisor Launstein  
Town Hall Meeting

## MARCH 2002

- 5 . . . 7:00 pm . . . . . COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
- 6 . . . 6:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*
- 7 . . . 2:30-5:30pm . . Immunization Clinic
- 12 . . 4:45 pm . . . . . Library Board (b)  
7:00 pm . . . . . PLAN COMMISSION
- 13 . . 5:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*  
7:00 pm . . . . . Traffic & Safety Commission  
7:30 pm . . . . . Water/Sewer Utility Commission (a)
- 14 . . 6:30 pm . . . . . Parks & Recreation Commission
- 19 . . 7:00 pm . . . . . COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
- 20 . . 6:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*
- 21 . . 9-11:00 am . . Immunization Clinic
- 26 . . 7:00 pm . . . . . PLAN COMMISSION
- 27 . . 5:00 pm . . . . . *Municipal Court*
- 29 . . CLOSED . . . . . FRIDAY BEFORE EASTER