

The Current

Winter 2024 - 2025



VILLAGE OF
Menomonee
Falls

Centennial Plaza



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- p 2 Celebrate the Season! Winter Events & Activities
- p 3 Winter Operations & Snowy Season Reminders
- p 5 Construction & Development Updates & a Noteworthy 2024 Year in Review
- p 7 2025 Village Operating Budget Overview
- p 8 A Winter Update from Falls Area Food Pantry
- p 17 Updates from the Friends of Old Falls Village Park and the Menomonee Falls Historical Society
- p 21 MFPD Reminders for Safe Driving on Wintry Roads

A New Look for the New Year

Updates for Centennial Plaza, a redesigned Village website, and a very active year for single family home construction in the Falls

page 1

Community Ed & Rec Winter Programs

page 9

Library Corner

page 11

VILLAGE HALL

W156 N8480 Pilgrim Road
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-3140

262-532-4200

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Offices Closed

Christmas
12/24/24 & 12/25/24
New Years Day
1/1/2025

VILLAGE BOARD

President Jeremy Walz
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QUICK CONTACTS

Village Manager.....532-4240
Public Works.....532-4700
Police Business Office.....532-8700
Fire & EMS Business Office.....532-8800
Non-Emergency Dispatch.....446-5070
Clerk Services.....532-4201
Engineering & Development.....532-4400
Building Inspector.....532-4282



A New Look for the New Year

The Village of Menomonee Falls is ringing in the new year with some exciting updates! Here are a few recent developments that are noticeably changing the look and feel of our community:

1. A Website Design Update for www.menomonee-falls.org

Our redesigned website maintains its user-friendly layout, but it has a brighter look, and we've added photo links (tiles) to the most popular topics and services. The home page banner also includes video clips of recognizable features and destinations.

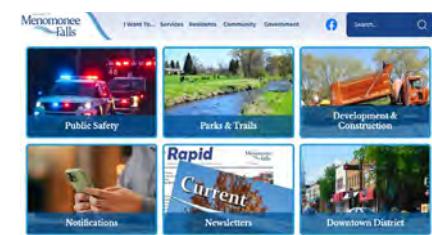
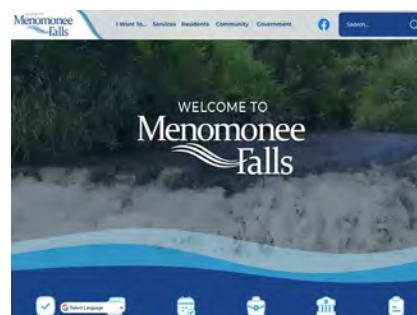
2. Centennial Plaza Project

This public plaza at the corner of Main Street and Appleton Avenue has been re-imagined to better accommodate downtown events with shade structures, a food truck/trailer area, lighting installations, electrical service updates, a raised platform for small performances, lots of new seating, and a new flag pole (courtesy of American Legion Post #382). Centennial Plaza officially re-opened at the November 30th Christmas Tree lighting, and it will be activated again by the Falls Christkindl Market on December 14th. See photos of the new space on [page 22](#).

3. New Residential Neighborhoods

More building permits (132) were issued for new single family homes in 2024 than in any other year in the last two decades. The Village has also issued building permits for 80 new duplex units and nearly 1,000 total building permits across all project types. This means our community is welcoming lots of new residents and families! Learn more about 2024 development trends on [page 5](#).

As we head into 2025, this edition of *The Current* newsletter provides important information about Village winter operations, an overview of our Operating Budget, construction updates, and seasonal safety reminders from the Police Department and Fire Department. It also highlights winter events and programs, partner organizations, and volunteer opportunities for you to consider during the coldest time of the year. Thank you for taking time to read about some of the many things happening in Menomonee Falls. Stay warm and be well!



Screen shots from the Village's new home page

Celebrate the Season! Winter Events & Activities

Keep active and engaged this winter season by participating in some of these local events and activities!

- **Christmas in the Falls**

Shop the Falls first this winter while you check out Saturday events in Menomonee Falls Downtown District through December 21st! Learn about the 2024 Christkindl Market and other holiday season happenings at www.christmasinthefalls.com

- **Winter Falls Family Movie Night**

Join us at 6 pm at Village Park on Friday the 13th of December for our first winter outdoor movie night - *The Nightmare Before Christmas* by Tim Burton - presented by Menomonee Falls Cable Access Channel 14! "Previews" start at 5 pm with hot beverages, food trucks, and beer/wine available. Learn more at the [Menomonee Falls Events Facebook page](#)

- **Chocolate Walk**

Indulge your sweet tooth and support downtown businesses with the third annual Chocolate Walk event on February 7th and 8th! Each participating business will delight you with a scrumptious chocolate item for your box. Treat yourself or surprise your special someone with these heavenly chocolates on Valentine's Day! For more information visit menomoneefallsdowntown.com/events

- **Explore Parks & Trails Across Menomonee Falls**

As the snow falls, local parks are transformed into winter playgrounds! Winter is a great time to check out some of the dozens of [public parks and trails in Menomonee Falls](#). Get around by hiking, biking (fat tires help), and sledding. An ice skating rink will be available at Riverside Park as conditions allow. Need a race to jump start your 2025 fitness routine? The [Flannel 5k / 10k](#) will be held on February 15th in Menomonee Park.

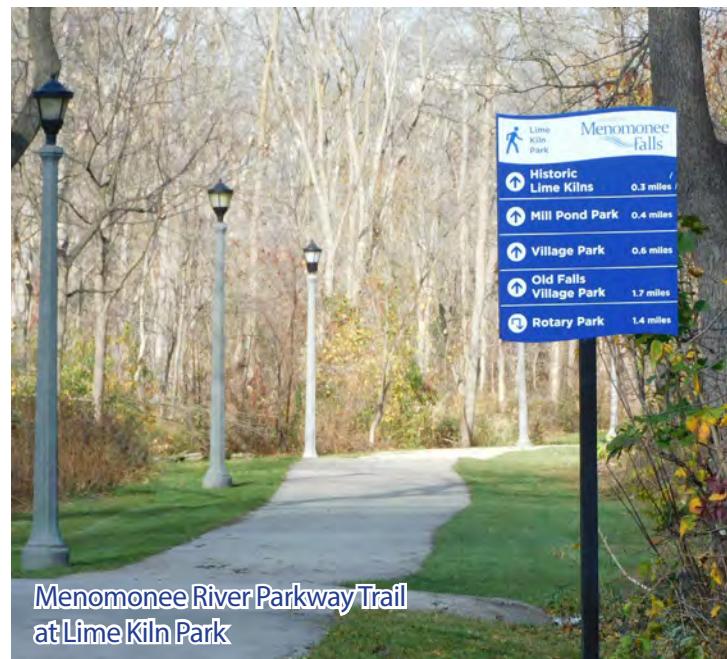
- **Volunteer for Neighbors in Need**

Winter weather creates extra challenges for seniors and people with disabilities. Consider signing up with [Eras Senior Network](#) to help reduce social isolation and provide transportation for medical appointments, food pantries, and other essential services. The Village also encourages all residents to support older neighbors this winter by checking in and shoveling snow following storm events.



Take in the Christmas Spirit in Downtown

Main Street and Appleton Avenue are adorned with wreaths, lights, garland, and tons of holiday decor. Stroll the sidewalks, window shop, and stop by the Centennial Plaza Christmas tree! Visit local businesses to buy gifts and warm up with food, drinks, and hospitality.



Menomonee River Parkway Trail
at Lime Kiln Park

As winter approaches, we know residents might have some questions about how the Village responds to snow and ice events. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to our Public Works Department at pw@menomonee-falls.org or 262-532-4700.



Report a missed snow removal or damage at menomonee-falls.org/report

Winter Operations - Reminders for the Snowy Season

When does Public Works come out to plow?

We have over 30 Public Works and Utilities operators that work long hours throughout the winter to ensure that our streets are plowed and treated as efficiently as possible.

Snow and ice operations begin when any of the following conditions are met:

- Snow accumulation of 2" and more snow is expected
- Drifting snow is causing hazardous travel conditions
- Icy conditions are adversely affecting travel
- Time of snowfall is affecting peak travel times

What is the goal of snow and ice operations?

The immediate objective of snow and ice control operations is to maintain reasonably safe driving conditions during and following storm events. This does not, however, mean that bare pavement should be expected by motorists, nor does this mean that all streets will be free of snow and ice. Motorists and pedestrians are expected to take necessary precautions and to observe safe winter driving habits. Keep in mind that our snow and ice operations focus on the heavily-traveled roadways in Menomonee Falls, such as Main Street, Appleton Avenue, and Menomonee Avenue. All subdivisions will be plowed, but will only be salted on hills, curves, and intersections due to lower speed limits and less travel on these streets. The Village is responsible for plowing 501 lane miles of streets, so we appreciate your patience while we respond to all storm events.

Will winter weather affect waste and recycling collection?

Please be aware that snow or ice storms and freezing temperatures may delay waste and recycling pickup services from Waste Management. Severe winter weather or temperatures can cause equipment issues which can lead to delays. Please note that waste and recycling receptacles should be placed at least 3 feet away from each other and other objects. During the winter, please use your driveway or clear an area along the side of your driveway to place your carts. Do not place any containers in the roadway.

Do I have to clear the sidewalk in front of my house?

It is the owner's responsibility to clear the concrete sidewalk in front of the property and treat with salt or sand if ice has formed. The Village clears sidewalks in front of Village property, as well as some parts of the downtown area. Asphalt trails are not considered sidewalks, so snow clearance is not required.

What else do I need to know about Winter Operations?

- Snow should not be shoveled or blown into the street
- Do not pull up behind snow plows when they are equipped and engaged for snow removal.
- Snow plows may cause damage to turf adjacent to streets and sidewalks. Turf that has been damaged and reported will be repaired in the spring. The Village will not be responsible for damage as a result of the use of sand or de-icing chemicals or for damage to landscaping, sprinkler systems, or any other private items located in the public right-of-way.
- The Village encourages residents to clear the snow from any fire hydrants near your house.
- Residents are asked to check the condition of their mailbox and post – in most cases, a strong post and secure mailbox will withstand the impact of snow coming off of the snowplow.
- Refer to our [As the Snow Falls flyer](#) for more information about snow events.

Seasonal Information & Service Reminders for 2025

Winter Park System Updates

- Park bathrooms are closed for the season due to freezing conditions.
- All tennis/pickleball/volleyball nets have been removed from the parks until next spring.
- **Park shelter reservations** for 2025 can be made after January 1st at Village Hall. As a reminder, reservations are only available to Menomonee Falls residents. Reservable dates are between April 15th and October 31st.

The Village of Menomonee Falls will be increasing the park shelter and athletic field rental rates for the 2025 season. We are also adding security deposits for park rentals in 2025 to ensure proper trash and park cleanup following the rental event. Security deposits will be refunded if the park area is returned to its original clean and safe condition. The new rates will be as follows:

Park Permits	Permit Fee
Athletic field/court (<4 hours)	\$100.00/day for each field or court. \$100.00 Lighting Fee
Athletic field/court (>4 hours)	\$200.00/day for each field or court. \$100.00 Lighting Fee
Park Permit (<50 people)	\$150.00/day for each park area. (Security Deposit: \$150)
Park Permit (50-149 people)	\$250.00/day for each park area. (Security Deposit: \$250).
Park Permit (>150 people)	\$375.00/day for each park area. (Security Deposit: \$350)

Waste Management 2024-2025 Holiday Schedule

Waste Management staff work all holidays except: Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving Day. When one of these holidays falls on a weekday, residential collection will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week. If a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, there will be no scheduled delays. Delays due to freezing conditions or poor winter weather will be noted on [the Village's website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Christmas Tree Disposal

The deadline for all natural Christmas trees to be set out by the road is Sunday, January 12th. Trees will automatically be picked up as time permits – no appointments are necessary. Discarded natural Christmas trees must be clean of all decorations, lights, stands, tinsel, garland, wire, plastic bags, flock (powdered color), etc. Discarded Christmas wreaths must be disposed of in the garbage along with regular trash.



Public Works Resident Guide

View our Public Works Resident Guide online at www.menomonee-falls.org/residentguide for helpful information regarding garbage & recycling services, disposal of various household items and bulk items, yard waste, parks, winter operations, and more. Our Resident Guide is a great resource for both new residents and current residents of the Village.

Construction & Development Projects

Bella Vista Estates Planned Residential Development



Public Projects

Capital projects which improved public spaces, streets, and infrastructure in 2024 included the Menomonee Avenue water main replacement, the Centennial Plaza update, County Line Road street reconstruction, and several utility projects.



Menomonee Avenue

The Village replaced the water main on Menomonee Avenue in 2024 between Town Hall Road and Appleton Avenue. This work was the first phase of a larger project to reconstruct the street, replace the storm sewer, and improve pedestrian and bicycle safety along the street. The second phase of construction is planned for summer and fall of 2025.



This section of County Line Road was reconstructed in 2024



Overview of 2024 Infrastructure Projects

- Centennial Plaza renovation
- 2.7 miles of new streets in six residential subdivisions
- 1.2 miles of reconstructed streets and 4.4 miles of asphalt repaving
- 5.3 miles of water main and 2.8 miles of sanitary sewer
- 1.1 miles of asphalt trails installed near new residential subdivisions

Kiwanis Park

An off-street parking area is being constructed at Kiwanis Park to ensure safe and ADA compliant access to the park. The parking area has been sized to accommodate a future picnic shelter.

Private Sector Projects

Both the residential and commercial development sectors remained strong in Menomonee Falls in 2024 with hundreds of major projects adding homes, value, and new jobs to the Village.

Wacker Neuson product distribution building



2024 Year in Review



Menomonee Falls was the regional leader for single family home construction in 2024. Through October, the Village had issued permits for 14 percent of the new housing units constructed in the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area.

Alto-Shaam addition



Luther Group industrial building



Jilly's Car Wash



Highlands at Aero Park addition



Some of the 80 duplex units approved for construction in 2024



- **9 new commercial buildings** and 7 building additions are under construction in Menomonee Falls
- Projects by Alto-Shaam, Wacker Neuson, Callenor Company, Boucher Ford, and Jilly's Car Wash will add dozens of jobs to the Village
- **132 single family homes**, 80 duplex units, and 53 market rate apartment units have been approved through November of 2024
- **New construction value will exceed \$190 million** which is the highest total in Village history

Wanaki Golf Course Clubhouse addition



For more information on these and other development projects, see menomonee-falls.org/development



2025 General Operating Budget Overview

Key Budget Details

- 0.4% General Operating Budget increase
- Village tax levy increased 1%
- Mill rate increased to \$3.87 per \$1,000 assessed value
- Health insurance decrease of 6%, savings of \$300k
- Garbage & Recycling fee increase of \$5.04
- No change in Sewer, Water, or Storm Water rate in 2025
- SAFER Grant revenue and assoc. expenditures included

Revenue Sources

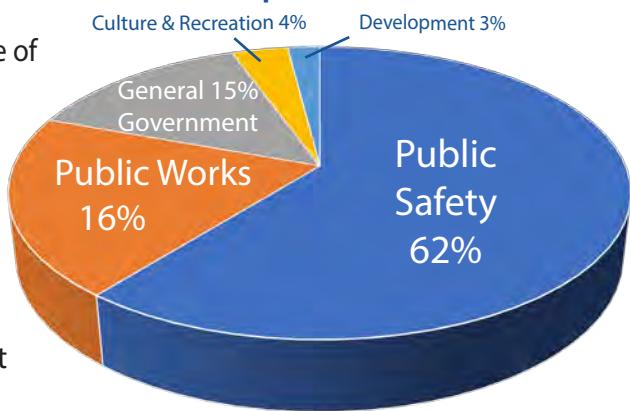


Summary

The 2025 General Operating Budget was adopted on November 18th, 2024 with total revenues and expenditures of \$38,016,600, which is a 0.4% increase from 2024. The budget reflects the Village's mission to provide the highest quality municipal services consistent with the changing needs and desires of the community and a realistic assessment of resources

available. The primary source of financing for the General Operating Budget (57.4%) comes from property taxes. Village spending for operations includes general government, police, fire, public works, development and parks operations.

Expenditures



2025 Village Tax Levy

The Village Board adopted a mill rate of \$3.87 and a tax levy of \$27,383,900. The mill rate increased by \$0.07, and the levy increased by one (1) percent. For a typical Menomonee Falls home valued at \$400,000, the owner will pay \$1,548 in Village property taxes in 2025. At a monthly cost of around \$129 for Village services, a typical property owner receives a good value compared to other common household monthly costs.



How is My Property Tax Dollar Spent?





Winter Update from



Falls Area FOOD PANTRY

Established in 1983

The Falls Area Food Pantry relies on the donations and the time and talents of volunteers from the community to keep their operation running. Learn more at fallsfoodpantry.org/give-help

Did you know that the Falls Area Food Pantry serves the residents from eight surrounding communities? They are Brookfield, Butler, Colgate, Hubertus, Germantown, Lannon, Menomonee Falls, and Richfield. We are continually surprised when we learn from new clients how they did not know the Pantry existed even though they have lived in the area for years and years!

You also might not be aware that the Pantry does more than just gather and distribute food. We also gather and distribute important information and referrals to all who visit us about medical, dental, educational, employment and many other resources that can help support their efforts to become more self-sufficient. Perhaps even more importantly, the people we serve who are often experiencing difficulties in their lives feel welcomed, cared for, and encouraged by our devoted and caring volunteers. Here is what one of our clients recently shared in a letter they wrote to us:

To the Falls Food Pantry,

I want to sincerely thank the Food Pantry for all the help they have given and for their sincere love and kindness and sincere caring and support every time I come here to help me all the time. Thank you all so very much. It is greatly, sincerely appreciated very much. - LM

As we approach a new year, the Pantry's goal is to redouble our efforts to make the public aware of our presence and enlist their support to help make others aware of the Pantry's service.

The Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Noon until 2 pm and 5 pm until 7 pm. On Tuesdays there is a drive through service when some of the food is pre-packed, supplemented by additional options for fresh produce, dairy, and assorted shelf-stable items. On Thursdays people can choose which specific items they want as they shop in person.

Clients may visit the Pantry twice per month. If you or anyone you know may be in need of food or help, please call the Pantry at 262-251-6848 or email info@fallsfoodpantry.org. The Pantry's Facebook page can be found at facebook.com/FallsAreaFoodPantry

Most recently, the Pantry was the beneficiary of an Eagle Scout project. Inspired by volunteer Sam MacLeod of Elm Haven Design and led by Eagle Scout candidate, Gavin Wozniak, Troop 109 and their parents transformed four client spaces from a typical, nondescript area into absolutely beautiful rooms complete with a charming children's area! Additionally, Gavin raised all the needed funds so not one penny of Pantry money was used. If you would like to see these refurbished spaces (see rendering below), please contact the Pantry.



The Pantry is completely supported by private donations. Gifts of any size are sincerely appreciated. Anyone wishing to support the Pantry may do so either by donating online through our website: www.fallsfoodpantry.org or mailing a tax-deductible gift to: Falls Area Food Pantry N85 W15382 Menomonee River Pkwy., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.

Winter 2024-2025 Programs

CE&Rec

Community Education & Recreation

The Winter 2024 Activity Guide is Here

Our gift to you this holiday season is the [Winter 2025 Activity Guide](#). You should have received a copy in the mail but if you haven't, additional copies are available at the CE & Rec Office, Village Hall, Menomonee Falls Public Library, and Chamber of Commerce. Resident online registration for winter programs begins on Sunday, December 8th at 9 pm. For additional information, visit fallsrec.org.

Community Center and Riverside Elementary School Project

In May of 2024, the Board of Education approved the Community Center and Riverside Elementary School Project. After months of planning, we are excited to announce **the project will break ground this spring!** Project highlights include:

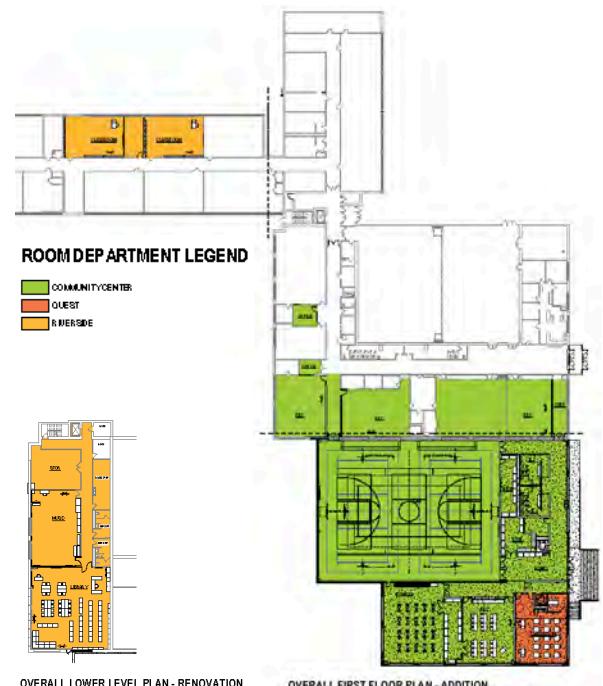
- Adding a gymnasium will increase community accessibility, reduce scheduling conflicts, and increase safety for Riverside and Quest students.
- The gym will be striped for basketball, volleyball, and pickleball.
- Community Center will soon be a one level facility, with the lower level becoming part of Riverside Elementary.
- A new group exercise room will be created on the first floor for easy community access, replacing the one in the lower level.
- A multipurpose room will allow for additional programming.
- Additional restrooms will be created.
- A new classroom for Quest with their own secure entrance will provide greater safety for students. On evenings and weekends this space will be available for community programming.
- A sliding door entrance will create a safer, "hands-free" entrance for the community.
- Updates will be made to existing Community Center rooms and select office areas.
- The Riverside Library will be relocated to the lower level of the current Community Center and the current Riverside Library will be converted into two additional classrooms.
- Security enhancements will be added to create two separate safe and secure buildings that will significantly reduce student and community space-overlap.
- The project will be funded through the MFSD's tax levy while maintaining the District's historically consistent levy, all without creating any new debt.



Bucks Holiday Basketball Camp 2023



Community Center Project Rendering



OVERALL LOWER LEVEL PLAN - RENOVATION

OVERALL FIRST FLOOR PLAN - ADDITION

More Community Ed & Recreation Programs & Updates

Winter Falls Family Movie Night

The Nightmare Before Christmas

Menomonee Falls Events is hosting its first outdoor movie night on Friday the 13th of December at Village Park. Presented by Menomonee Falls Cable Access Channel 14, Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* will be shown on the big screen! "Previews" start at 5 pm with Beer & Wine Garden, Hot Beverages & Food Trucks. The FREE movie will start at 6 pm.



Stay Active This Winter – Swim Year-Round

at the North Middle School Pool

CE & Rec offers Open Swim and Adult Lap Swim/Water Walking at the North Middle School Pool. The fees are \$3 for children and \$4 for adults. Swim passes and punch cards are also available. Generally, Open Swim is held on Fridays from 5:15 – 6:45 pm and Saturdays from 12 – 2:45 pm. Adult Lap Swim / Water Walking is generally held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4 – 6:45 pm and Saturdays from 8 am – 12 pm. Note: Additional programs may take place in the pool during these times. Visit our [Aquatics Page](#) for additional information.

Milwaukee Bucks Holiday Basketball Camp

Deck the halls with basketballs, and stay active during the holidays with Milwaukee Bucks Holiday Camps. Camp runs December 26th & 27th from 1 – 4 pm and is designed for youth ages 7 – 14. [Register today!](#)

Menomonee Falls EGG-CELLENT Egg Hunt

Take part in this year's EGG-CELLENT Egg Hunt! You will be emailed a list of all the participating Falls businesses that will display a colorful egg in their front window with a letter on it. These eggs will be displayed from March 28th - April 13th. Drive around and collect the letters, then use these letters to create a phrase. Once you think you know the phrase, submit your family name and answer to win a prize basket. [Register](#) starting December 8th at 9 pm.

Donate Blood – Save a Life

CE & Rec is proud to partner with Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin to hold a blood drive on January 20th. Giving blood is a quick, simple way to give back to your community, and possibly save a life. The donation process from the time you arrive to the time you leave is only about an hour. [Schedule your appointment now.](#)



Trips, Travel and More

Registration starts December 8th. Click on the titles below for additional information, or visit www.fallsrec.org.

[Travel Show with Collette](#)

Ages 21+

January 22, 2025

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Free, but registration is required

[Travel Show with Premier](#)

Ages 18+

February 11, 2025

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Free, but registration is required

Eric Diamond in 2023



[Winter Bash with Eric Diamond](#)

Ages 55+

February 21, 2025

1 – 2 pm

Free, but registration is required

Library Corner

Seasonal Updates & Initiatives of Menomonee Falls Public Library



Winter Program Highlights

New Year's Trivia!

That year went quickly... do you remember what happened? Take a look back at some of the big (and not so big) events of 2024 during a night of team trivia!

Thursday, January 2nd, 6 pm – Community Room

Have the Talk of a Lifetime

Funerals, death, dying, and grief are hard topics to discuss. Learn about the importance of Having the Talk of a Lifetime, a discussion with family, friends, and your funeral director about making sure your final wishes are known to plan a unique celebration of your life. Presented by Amanda King, licensed funeral director and life insurance intermediary with Schramka Funeral Home.

Monday, February 3rd, 2 pm – Community Room

Museum to Go!: Discovering Waukesha County

Ever wonder how Waukesha County got its name and began? Take a trip down memory lane and discover your community's history through people, places, and industries who shaped Waukesha County into what it is today. Presented by Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum.

Thursday, February 6th, 2 pm – Community Room

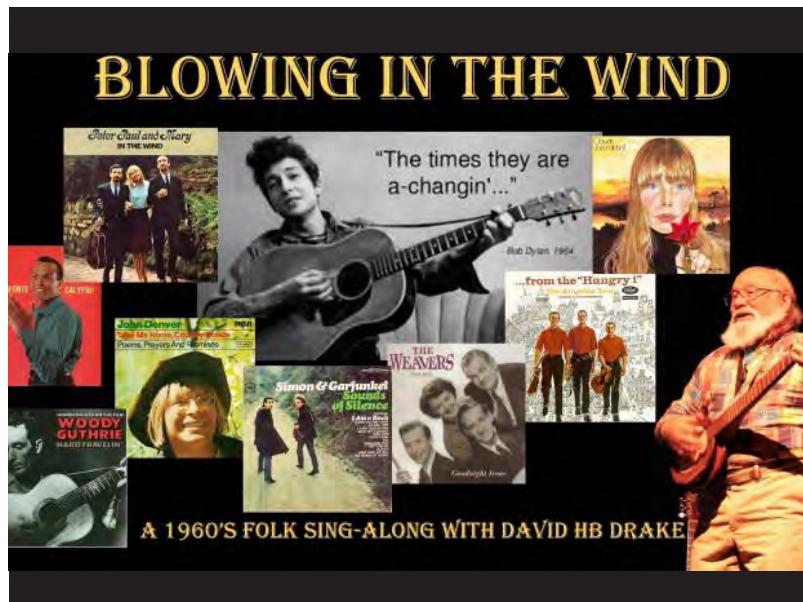
David HB Drake: Blowing in the Wind

Hear the songs and learn about David's mentors – Peter, Paul and Mary, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, the Kingston Trio and many more, as they echo down the years by someone who lived it, who honors the "dream", and who never stopped singing the songs! Performed by David HB Drake, who played at the very first Earth Day in 1970 and sung alongside Pete Seeger on the Clearwater.

Saturday, February 22nd 2:30 pm – Community Room



Check out the Winter 2024-2025 Storyteller for the latest Library news and event information at www.menomoneefallslibrary.org/



For more information on the many programs and services offered by the Library, visit www.menomoneefallslibrary.org/



**MENOMONEE FALLS
PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Explore • Learn • Grow • Connect

Election Information & New Year Reminders

Voting Information

2024 Election Schedule

- February 18, 2025 - Spring Primary Election (if required)
- April 1, 2025 - Spring Election

For all of your voting needs, visit myvote.wi.gov, which allows you to:



- Register to vote
- Request an absentee ballot
- Track your ballot
- Find your polling location
- See what is on your ballot & much more!

Become a Poll Worker

We are always looking for dependable individuals to serve at the polls! Call 262-532-4201 or email vote@menomonee-falls.org for more information.

For more voting information, follow the links below.

- Wisconsin Election Commission: elections.wi.gov
- Menomonee Falls elections and voting page: menomonee-falls.org/1140/elections-voting

Tax Information

To view, print, pay, or verify payment of a tax bill, please visit tax.waukeshacounty.gov

For additional tax bill information, [view the 2025 tax bill insert](#)

2025 Dog Licenses

2024 dog licenses expire December 31, 2024. To license your dog, submit a completed [application for dog license](#) and a \$12 fee per dog (\$17 for unneutered/unspayed dogs) to the Clerk Services Department. After March 31, fees increase to \$17 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$22 for unneutered/ unspayed dogs.

Park Shelter Reservations

Park reservations resume on January 2, 2025 and must be made in-person at Village Hall. Please note that some Village Park reservations are made through [Menomonee Falls Downtown](#) and Old Falls Village Park reservations are made through the [Menomonee Falls Historical Society](#).

For further information, please call 262-532-4201 or visit menomonee-falls.org/parkreservations





MENOMONEE FALLS
DOWNTOWN DISTRICT
where main & appleton meet



Christmas in the Falls

christmasinthefalls.com



December 14th • 10am-5pm

bank **five nine** presents



All Things German & Christmas Await!

- Horse Drawn Carriage Rides
- LIVE Reindeer
- Pictures Inside Santa's Workshop
- Indoor and Outdoor Holiday Vendors
- Best German Bands In Wisconsin
- German Cuisine ~ Brats, Stollen and Much More
- Gluhwein in a 2024 Commemorative Mug
- Beer Stein Lift Contest
- Shop and Dine Menomonee Falls Downtown Businesses

December 21st • 10am-5pm

Holiday Makers
SATURDAY

Join us for this fun JUST FOR KIDS event!

Join us to play "Where's Elfie"? Find the names for our sneaky little elves hidden all around Menomonee Falls Downtown. Once completed, kids can enter their playing card to win a make and take with local businesses.

**** Children ages 5-12 are eligible to win and must be accompanied by an adult.**

Bring non perishable food items or donation for Falls Area Food Pantry to play!



FALLS PATIO PLAYERS PRESENTS

Charles Dickens' **CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Adaptation and Original Music by Jack Strawbridge and Carol Klose
Revision by Melissa I. Bloch-Meier and Karen McKinney

DECEMBER
6 - 8

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY	7:00PM 3:00PM & 7:00PM 1:00PM & 4:00PM	ADMISSION ADULTS / SENIORS STUDENTS	\$15 \$10
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North Middle School Auditorium
N88W16750 Garfield Dr. Menomonee Falls, WI

fallspatioplayers.com
Information: 262-437-7336

The **Falls Patio Players** have been preparing for this year's rendition of Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol* for many weeks. Visit www.fallspatioplayers.com for tickets today.



YOU'RE INVITED TO
THE MENOMONEE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Starry Night *Silver Tea* & Cookie Sale

Sunday December 8th
12:00-4:00

**Come enjoy a cup of tea at
the beautifully decorated
Miller Davidson House**

Preview the Depot Museum

Featuring the “Four Corners” Display

★ Santa and Mrs. Claus visiting from 12-2:30

★ A Trio from the MFSO playing from 12-2

**Free Admission and Refreshments! Plates of
Delicious Homemade cookies \$6 each**



**OLD FALLS VILLAGE HISTORICAL PARK
N96W15791 COUNTY LINE ROAD
MENOMONEE FALLS**

Bakers Wanted
If you are
interested in
baking please call:
(262) 250-3901



About Eras Senior Network



Eras Senior Network is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage and support seniors, adults with disabilities, and family caregivers in leading meaningful lives. Our clients are supported by volunteers of all ages to help them maintain their independence. Eras helps individuals 55 and older stay engaged in their community through a variety of meaningful volunteer opportunities. One of the biggest ways we engage older adult volunteers is through a variety of programs in the School District of Menomonee Falls and Waukesha.

School Volunteer Programs

Eras' older adult volunteers engage with and support local students in reading, writing, math, social skills, and more through a variety of programming. Here are our most popular programs:

Classroom Tutors: Older adult volunteers are matched up with a classroom to work one-on-one or in small groups with students who need extra help. Volunteers are typically scheduled for at least one day a week for about one hour, some choose to do much more!

Readers Cafe: This is an unique opportunity for students to read with older adult volunteers during their lunch and recess time for an 8 week session. It is designed to encourage an interest in reading, while developing an intergenerational connection and strengthening the students' skills.

Pen Pals: This program is a wonderful way to bring generations together through exchanging letters. Older adult volunteers and students are able to learn from another generation; while helping students practice their reading and writing skills.



Interested?

Waukesha School District
Jon Shelenske: (262) 201-0093
Jon.Shelenske@Eras.org

Menomonee Falls School District
Dawn Hinton: (262) 617-8061
Dawn.Hinton@Eras.org



AmeriCorps
Seniors

Visit Eras.org for more information about our services, volunteering, or to make a donation.

A Year-End Update from the Friends of Old Falls Village Park

Learn more at www.oldfallsvillagepark.com or contact us at events@oldfallsvillagepark.com or 262-239-1489

2024 Eagle Scout Projects Leave a Lasting Impact

Roger Miller did an amazing job removing the invasive buckthorn vegetation and completed a trail enhancement in the south part of the park this October. You can now enjoy a 250-foot loop trail through the woods. The buckthorn had slowly overtaken the woods over the past few years, and this project was a great start toward its removal from the park and woods!

Ryan, from Troop 109 replaced the rusty old flag pole near the Miller Davidson House in mid-October with a shiny new pole that looks quite impressive.

Earlier in the season, in August, new benches were built by Nicholas Petrie of Troop 67 for around the fire pit at the park to replace the log seating, a welcomed sight. The fire pit was also created by an Eagle Scout and was a project by Andrew Schuman in 2019.

We want to thank these three outstanding Eagle Scouts and all the past Eagle Scout projects at the park. We appreciate all you have done to make Old Falls Village Park a more enjoyable place to visit!

Reflecting on a Busy Event Season

As Friends of Old Falls Village Park wraps up the fall events at Old Falls Village Park, it is time to recognize the incredible array of new events that brought in so many new visitors to the park this year. The **WWI Reenactment** during the first weekend of October offered a historical experience unlike any other in the area with reenactors, battles, and entertainment. The first WWI School Day enlightened students with a living history educational experience sprung right out of the history books. Students, parents and teachers learned first-hand how soldiers cooked in the field, heard about their military uniforms and even found out about the American Red Cross. The next school day will be on the Revolutionary War happening next May.

The **Oktoberfest** celebration on the second weekend in October, featuring the Die Freistadt Alte Kameraden Band, drew an amazing crowd all enjoying Friend's first Oktoberfest event. The adorable

Updated fire pit area and benches



Troop 109 installing the new flag pole



Reflecting on Fall Events Continued...

inaugural **Corgi Races** saw Dudley crowned the first-ever champion. Unfortunately, the **Dachshund Races** were canceled due to thunderstorms. However, watch for them again on the schedule for next year.

At the end of October, the **Little Park of Horrors Halloween Spooky Walk** through the park's woods was a standout success, attracting many new visitors and allowing them to experience the park in a unique, spooky way in a section of the park never before used. Thank you to all the volunteers and visitors who came out to experience the park in a most "Spooktacular" way!

What's Next?

As the Friends of Old Falls Village look ahead to the 2025 season, excitement is already building for what promises to be a memorable year. To kick off the fundraising year, a newly announced 1940s Ball will be held to support both the park and the Oconomowoc Community Choir. Following that, we will host our much-anticipated Titanic Fundraiser, which offers an elegant and immersive experience. Announcements will be posted soon.

As spring arrives, the event season will begin with a bang (of cannons), starting with the **Revolutionary War Reenactment** and culminating with the Halloween Spooky Walk. Each event is designed to celebrate the history, community, and charm of Old Falls Village. We look forward to seeing you again at Old Falls Village Park next spring for an amazing lineup of great events for visitors far and near to enjoy.



Planning is underway for Falls Renaissance Faire 2025 at Old Falls Village Park



Little Park of Horrors Spooky Walk decor in October



World War I School Day 2024



Revolutionary War Days



The Menomonee Falls Historical Society Commemorates 57 years of Silver Tea

The Menomonee Falls Historical Society is pleased to announce that the 57th annual Silver Tea, scheduled for Sunday, December 8, 2024, from 12 – 4 pm, will also serve as the preview opening for the **Local History Museum**. As the longest-running social event in Menomonee Falls, it is fitting that this celebration coincides with the debut of the new Local History Museum.

This year's theme, **"A Starry Night,"** will highlight the beautiful Miller-Davidson House, which will be decorated for the holiday season. Guests will enjoy tea, coffee, punch, and cookies served in the dining room of the Miller-Davidson House. From 12 – 2 pm, musical quartets from the **Menomonee Falls Symphony Orchestra** will perform in the parlor, providing delightful entertainment as guests explore the house.

The Public House will feature the annual **homemade cookie sale**, along with raffles and a variety of small items for purchase. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make a special visit to the Public House from 12 – 2:30 pm.

The preview opening of the new local history museum, located in the Depot building, will present its inaugural exhibit, which focuses on the history of the **"Four Corners"**. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the historical buildings, pioneer families, businesses, events, and disasters from the Village's early days to the present. The "Four Corners" exhibit will encompass all of this rich history.

The event will take place at Old Falls Village Historical Park and Museum, located at N96W15791 County Line Rd, Menomonee Falls, WI. Admission is FREE.

If you would like to contribute cookies for the sale, please contact us at 262-250-3901 or send an email to mfhistory@yahoo.com. Additionally, you may visit our website at www.oldfallsvillage.com for further details.



The Menomonee Falls Historical Society is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3), dedicated to the collection, preservation, and dissemination of information regarding the history of the Village of Menomonee Falls and the State of Wisconsin.

**Menomonee Falls Historical Society
Presents
Miller Davidson Christmas House Tours**

• Dec. 11th, Noon to 3pm • Dec. 13th, 4pm to 7pm • Dec. 15th, 3pm to 6pm • Dec. 19th, 1pm to 4pm • Dec. 21st, 3pm to 6pm

Tour this historic home,
Decorated for Christmas,
Free admission, no
reservation needed,
Hot coco and treats!

Seasonal Safety Reminders from Fire & Emergency Medical Services



Station #97 on Silver Spring Drive

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Now that fall is over, we need to be ready for the cold weather of winter. One of the tools you need to use is a carbon monoxide detector. You should have replaced your batteries on your detectors in October during Fire Prevention Month, but did you know there is a lifespan to the detector itself in addition to the battery? New detectors have a lifespan of 10 years, whether they are powered by your home's wiring, replaceable batteries, or a 10-year battery. This applies to combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as well. A detector has a date on the back that will give you a guide as to when it will need to be replaced. The circuitry in many detectors will alert you when the detector is at the end of its lifespan.

Common signals indicating the need for detector replacement include "low battery", "end of life", and alarm beeps. It is important to keep the instructions that illustrate what the different beeps a detector can make mean to you. If you don't have the instruction manual that came with the detector, you can look to the manufacturer's website. And as always, you can call 911 in the event of an alarm and we will respond to check for hazards.



Back of a detector with the date of manufacture. A detector should be replaced after 10 years to ensure proper operation.

What to do when an Emergency Vehicle Approaches

The Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles uses State Statute 346.19 as a guide for instructing drivers what to do when approached by an emergency vehicle. The primary guidance is that a driver should pull to the right and stop moving until the emergency vehicle passes. This is true whether the emergency vehicle overtakes you or comes from the opposite direction. It is important to follow these rules so the operators of emergency vehicles know what to expect and can predict what a driver will do and can react appropriately.

A driver should come to a stop so a vehicle doesn't get lost in a blind spot when the emergency response vehicle is going to make a right turn or the path is clear to allow a left turn across oncoming traffic. With winter coming, a driver moving to the left means an emergency vehicle would have to go right and possibly have a conflict with a snowbank or curb.

Drivers are also expected to take action when approaching emergency vehicles already on scene for a call. If possible, a driver should change lanes to leave an empty lane between them and the emergency scene. If traffic or the roadway does not allow this, a driver should decrease their speed as they pass the emergency scene. The following links can give you more information regarding these laws.

docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/346/iii/19
wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/education/move-over/default.aspx



Tips for Safe Travel in Wintry Conditions

In December 2013, the Menomonee Falls Police Department responded to the largest local multi-vehicle crash in recent memory. The massive pileup on Interstate 41 involved dozens of vehicles sliding into each other due to the slippery conditions. The interstate was shut down for hours and motorists were stranded.

Driving on wintry roadways can be challenging and stressful. While we cannot control Mother Nature, this article provides some preventative safety tips to help you reach your destination safely as we encounter the sometimes harsh Wisconsin weather.

First and foremost, if you encounter severe snow storms, consider delaying your travels until roadway conditions become safer. Stranded motorists create extra hazards for plow operators, law enforcement, and other emergency responders.

When travel is necessary, take the extra time to properly clean the snow and ice off your vehicle windows. We often observe vehicles with only a small area scraped clear on the windshield just in front of the driver's seat. This is dangerous and greatly limits your visibility of other vehicles and pedestrians. It's important to know that drivers can be cited for failing to clean their windows reasonably.

You should also be aware that posted speed limits apply to "ideal travel conditions." State law requires drivers to travel at speeds that are reasonable and prudent for current conditions. Speed limits are set for when roads are clear and dry, so it may be too dangerous to drive at the posted speed limit in slippery conditions.

Remember that bridges & overpasses can be especially slippery. Cruise control should not be used in wet, snowy, or icy conditions. Be sure to keep a safe distance behind large trucks. Along with obscuring your view of the road ahead, pieces of snow or ice can sometimes blow off the top of commercial trucks as they travel down the highway. Likewise, watch for snowplows, and stay at least 200 feet behind one that is working. Plow drivers have a limited field of vision, and their vehicles often create a cloud of snow that can obscure visibility for all.

During adverse weather, you should turn on your vehicle's low-beam headlights. This helps you see what's ahead and helps other drivers see you. State law requires drivers to turn on their vehicle's low-beam headlights whenever weather or other conditions make it difficult to see objects 500 feet ahead.

Although you may be operating that new Ford F-250 or Cadillac Escalade, don't be overconfident in your four-wheel or all-wheel-drive vehicle. All vehicles require additional time and distance to stop in adverse conditions.

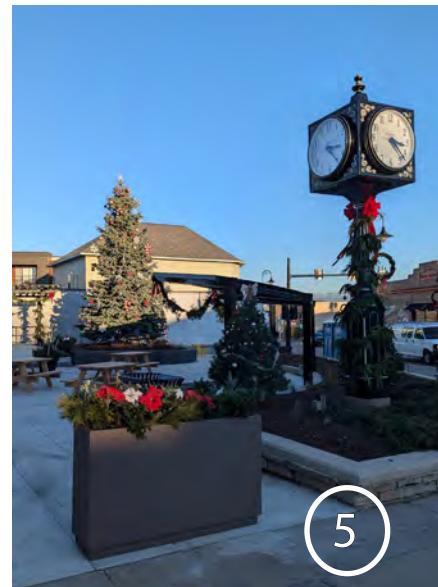
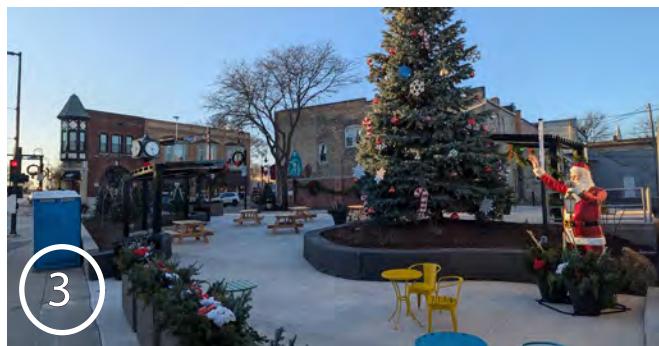
Finally, be sure to have a fully charged phone and emergency kit stored in your vehicle. If you become stranded or slide off the road, stay buckled up in your vehicle and call for help. Getting out of your vehicle is very dangerous, especially in winter weather.



Be safe out there!

Out and About in the Falls: **Signs of the Season**

Centennial Plaza Christmas Tree Lighting



- 1 New picnic tables and flag pole at Centennial Plaza
- 2 Crowd at the 2024 Christmas tree lighting ceremony
- 3 Refreshed hard scape, seat walls, shade structures, and Christmas decorations at Centennial Plaza
- 4 Let there be light! This photo shows the moment the tree was illuminated on November 30th
- 5 The Centennial Plaza clock and planters in their full holiday decor at the corner of Main Street and Appleton Avenue
- 6 Members of American Legion Post #382 raise the American flag on the flag pole that they donated for Centennial Plaza



Dolphin Drive Trail November 2024

Opportunities to Give Back

The Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County (CCC) coordinates giving to thousands of families in need through the collection and distribution of donations. Drop off new unwrapped toys at Village Hall and other CCC toy donation locations throughout the county by December 17, 2024. Learn more at christmasclearingcouncil.org

Falls Area Food Pantry relies solely on donations and the time and talents of volunteers from the community. Consider getting involved this winter by donating food and/or money, hosting a food drive, adopting a shelf or utility (to cover operating expenses), or volunteering at the pantry. Learn more at fallsfoodpantry.org/volunteer

Points of Pride

Menomonee Falls has been recognized as a [Bird City Wisconsin community](#) for the 13th consecutive year in 2024!

The Village is recognized by the UW Population Health Institute as a Silver level Wisconsin Healthy Community. Learn more about this designation at www.wihealthycommunities.org/

Stay Active in 2025!



Back for 2025



Indoor winter markets will be held from 10 am to 2 pm two Saturdays per month at North Middle School



Saturday, December 14th from 10 am - 5 pm

Winter Calendar



SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 @ 10 am

Christkindl Market

German food & drink, music, dancing, and indoor / outdoor vendor markets
Menomonee Falls Downtown

MONDAY JANUARY 20 @ 2 pm

CE & Rec. Versiti Blood Drive
Mobile blood drive
Community Center

FRIDAY & SAT. FEBRUARY 7 & 8

Chocolate Walk
Chocolate related specials & activities at local shops & restaurants
Menomonee Falls Downtown

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18

Spring Primary Election (if needed)
For the location of your polling place visit myvote.wi.gov or menomonee-falls.org/1140



VILLAGE OF
Menomonee
Falls

Village of Menomonee Falls
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