



Rochester News

300 W. Spring St., Rochester, WI 53167 • (262) 534-2431 • rochesterwi.gov

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

VILLAGE BOARD

Nick Ahlers, President

Gary Beck, Gary Beck Jr., Russ Kumbier, Adam Schaefer, Jeff Sterling, Doug Webb

STAFF

Chris Bennett, ext. 185

Administrator
cbennett@rochesterwi.gov

Daniel Colwell, ext. 181

Clerk-Treasurer
dcolwell@rochesterwi.gov

Amber Jensen, ext. 180

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
ajensen@rochesterwi.gov

Adam Davis, ext. 182

Public Works Manager
262-332-1017
adavis@rochesterwi.gov

Matt Rademacher

Zoning Administrator/
Prosecuting Attorney
262-399-3346
mrademacher@rochesterwi.gov

Lee Greivell, Building Inspector

262-424-6957
lgreivell@gmail.com

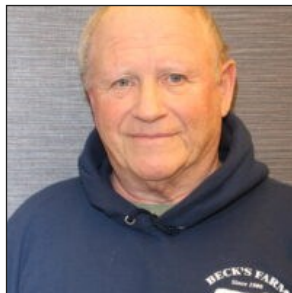
Sam Monroe, Assessor

812-483-0653
Sam.monroe@tylertech.com

Spring 2025, Volume 19 Issue 1

Beck resigns after 50 years

Trustee Gary Beck filed papers of non-candidacy and is not on the ballot for the 2025 Spring Election.



This marks the first time in 50 years Beck did not seek office in Rochester when eligible to do so.

Beck first earned election to the Town of Rochester board in 1975. He later served multiple terms as the Town President.

Beck earned election to a seat as Trustee on the Board of Trustees for the new Village when the Village and Town consolidated in 2009.

Beck's final meetings will be on April 14. The Finance Committee meets at 6:30 and the Village Board meets immediately following the Finance Committee.

Following those two meetings the Village Board will celebrate Beck's tenure in local government.

The public, especially those who worked with Beck on either the Town or Village boards, is welcome to attend.

NEW MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS NEEDED

The Memorial Day Committee hangs nearly 90 flags on an annual basis every Memorial Day. Those flags decorate the Village until sometime following the Fourth of July.

Many of the flags become tattered and worn due to being continuously outside. New flags are needed, and the Committee wants to upgrade to a stronger flag to ensure better longevity.

Anyone interested in donating a flag can scan this QR code and have the flag delivered to Chances at 205 W. Main St.

Questions can be directed to the Memorial Day Committee at rochestermemorialday@gmail.com.

SCAN THE QR CODE



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**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE***Rochester Memorial Day Committee*

In continuation of Rochester's historical tradition, we would like to extend to you an invitation to join us at the 159th Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 27th.

Line Up Time: 1:00pm

Location: Rochester Fire Dept — 31020 Academy Rd

Parade Start Time: 1:30pm

Parade Route: Fire Dept, State St, Main St, Hwy W (0.5 miles)

Ceremony: Pioneer Park—Immediately Following Parade

Our goal is to provide an opportunity where we can come together as a community to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Please help us to preserve the intended meaning of Memorial Day and refrain from any action that would be considered disrespectful. **NO POLITICKING.**

Please email RochesterMemorialDay@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering or participating in the tradition of Rochester's Memorial Day Parade.



2025

ELECTION

**2025 SPRING ELECTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held in the Village of Rochester on **Tuesday, April 1, 2025**. The following offices are to be elected to succeed the incumbents listed. The terms for the Village Trustees will begin on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. All terms are for two years.

Office

Village President
Village Trustee
Village Trustee

Incumbent

Nick Ahlers
Jeff Sterling
Doug Webb

Newcomer Pat Nanneman is running for the Trustee seat vacated by Gary Beck. The Spring ballot will also include referendums for the Waterford Graded and Burlington Area school districts.

Voters will also decide on a Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice and Superintendent of Public Instruction, among other races. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The theme for the Rochester Public Library's 2025 Summer Program is "Color Your World."

Library staff is currently planning its summer reading program, and is soliciting ideas for events and programming.

Contact the library at (262) 534-3533 or check its Facebook page for more information.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Village is working with the UW-Extension on a strategic planning initiative. The goal is to work with residents and determine how the Village views itself, the priorities of citizens and how best to reach those ends.

A pre-planning team recently completed questions for a community survey that will be randomly distributed by mail. Please complete the survey and follow the instructions to return your answers. Robust participation will help

ensure the most complete look of community opinion.

UW-Extension will use the data collected to hold listening and feedback sessions open to the public later this spring. The information gathered in those sessions will be used to formulate the final strategic plan. The final plan will be released later this summer. Public participation is important to the success of the planning initiative. Dates for the feedback session will be made public as soon as possible.

The Village Hall is closed —

April 18—Good Friday

May 26—Memorial Day

July 4—Independence Day

Sept. 1—Labor Day

**Nov. 27 & 28—Observance of
Thanksgiving**

**Dec. 24 & 25—Observance of
Christmas**

**Dec. 31 & Jan. 1, 2026—
Observance of New Year's**

BOARD OF REVIEW

Property owners are reminded that the **Board of Review** meets only once a year to hear appeals on property assessment values. The 2024 meeting will be scheduled for **the last week of May**—please consult our website in April for the final date. Objection forms and instructions to be heard by the Board of Review will be available at the Village Clerk's office, however it is highly recommended that you discuss your assessment with the assessor before filing an official objection. The Board of Review is greatly limited on what evidence it can accept in order to adjust values. The Assessor has much more flexibility.

The Assessor will be available for an **Assessment Roll Open Book Session** on a date yet to be determined in late April or early May at the Village Hall - watch our website for the final date. This is an opportunity for property owners to review their assessment with the assessor and discuss any concerns. Anyone seeking information on property assessment or the or the appeals process can contact the Village Clerk (262-534-1181) or the Village Assessor, Sam Monroe at (812) 483-0653 at any time.

REMINDER: DOG LICENSES

Dog licenses must be renewed every year. Wisconsin State Statute §174.05 requires that all dogs five (5) months of age or older be licensed. Dog licenses are very important for helping us reconnect you with your dog if your dog is ever lost. Licenses also ensure that dogs in the community have been properly vaccinated.

Dog licenses were due by January 31st, 2025. With an added late charge of \$5, fees are now as follows:

Spayed/neutered dogs: \$15
Unaltered dogs: \$20

Dog owners may renew or purchase licenses in person at the Village Hall or by mail or drop box. If you are licensing your pet for the first time or you have vaccinated your pet within the past year, a rabies immunization certificate must be presented at the time of licensing. To renew your license by mail or drop box, please provide rabies certificate (if needed), correct payment, and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

ROCHESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY SAFETY TIPS

Steve Denman, RVFC

Let's talk about fire and smoke detection. There are three types of smoke detectors: ionization, photoelectric, and a combination of both called a dual.

Studies have shown that the ionization unit detects fire earlier than the photoelectric unit. But remember, smoke is the early byproduct of fire that is smoldering and moves throughout a dwelling, so the photoelectric is a good option. That said, the dual sensor combination detector offers the best overall protection. All three units, when fully functional, are the early warnings that we all need. Smoke and fire detectors should be tested monthly and replaced when eight years old.

The tag on the back of the unit indicates the manufacturer date. There are detectors now offered that are sealed with a ten-year battery.

The rules on detector replacement apply to all units, battery or hard-wired in your home. In a fire situation, we hear too often that detectors were present but not operating.

Let's check our detectors and replace if needed. Stay safe and practice your home fire drills.



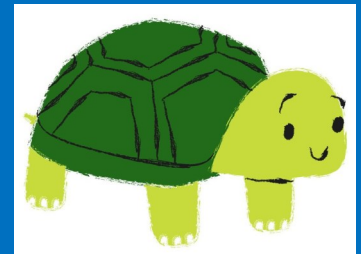
TURTLE CROSSING

Nan Shephard

Greetings, Rochester friends—

Spring is upon us!

It's that time of year again. Turtles will soon be crossing Front Street to travel from river to pond to find a mate and lay their eggs.



Please slow down and let them cross safely.



MyVote Wisconsin is a statewide website where you can register to vote, find your polling place, request an absentee ballot, see who your representatives are, view sample ballots, and see your voting history. Visit myvote.wi.gov



Got some old not in use electronics collecting dust?
Why not give them a new life!



**VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER
and
COM2 RECYCLING SOLUTIONS**

FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Village of Rochester and COM2 Recycling Solutions are hosting a **FREE** Electronic recycling event on **Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, from 9AM to 1PM at the Village Hall - 300 W. Spring St.**

COM2 will be accepting computers, laptops, printers, keyboards, mice, fax machine, phones, T.V.s, tablets, gaming consoles, DVD players, VCRs, microwaves and much more!

Any Hazardous materials (batteries, paint or medical waste) Freon containing items (refrigerators, air conditions) or, radioactive materials will not be accepted.



Save the date

9AM- 1PM

3

May 2025

The Village is hosting a free electronics recycling event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 3 at the Village Hall. Those dropping off electronics will enter the Village Hall parking lot from the north on Wade Street and exit the municipal campus to the south on either Spring or North State streets. More information will be available closer to the event. **The event is only open to residents of the Village of Rochester.**

REVALUATION UPDATE

The Village is working with Tyler Technologies to complete a full revaluation of all parcels in the Village for assessment year 2025.

WHY REVALUATION?

The last revaluation was completed in 2008. Property values have changed significantly in the time since. In these 17 years individual properties have been reassessed when they have been sold or when other significant changes were made.

Residents who purchased their homes in recent years tend to have higher assessed values than their neighbors, who might have lived in a similar home for longer. The goal of the revaluation is to re-balance the tax burden to ensure that it is equitably distributed.

The revaluation is state-mandated. In 2023 the Village's assessment ratio dropped to 77.73 percent, triggering a five-year window to get back in compliance with the permissible range of 90 percent. Rising property values in recent years are the cause.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Residents should have received a letter to schedule interior inspections. Interior inspections are encouraged but not required. Interior inspections will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes per property followed by a quick walk around the exterior.

Residents should be prepared to discuss any physical concerns with the property, such as settling foundations, mechanical issues, and any issues they feel affect their property's market value at the time of the inspection so that staff can properly record their concerns.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT YOUR TAXES?

It's important to understand that the total assessed value of Village property does not change the amount of taxes that the Village can levy. When the tax levy remains the same, only those properties which are presently not paying their share of the tax burden will pay higher taxes than before the revaluation. Property owners currently paying more might pay less after the revaluation. Others may not see much change at all.

The new assessed values will take effect for tax bills that will be mailed in December 2025 and payable by January 31, 2026.

LATER STEPS

Residents will be notified of changes in the assessed value of their property in the spring of 2025. The Annual Board of Review will provide an opportunity to appeal these changes. More information will be provided closer to that time.

THE VILLAGE'S NEWEST PARK

You might have noticed activity on the site of Coral Reef Restaurant at 705 S. Front St. Late last year the Village took over the roughly four-acre parcel as a donation from previous owner Jack Shaffer.

Shaffer donated the parcel to the Village for use as a park. The land will be known as Kate Shaffer Riverside Park, in honor of Jack's late wife.

The Village is working on cleaning up the site and preparing for its public opening later this spring. The park will remain closed until that time and is marked as such.

In the future the Village might look to form a Parks Committee and identify potential uses for the space. Ideas floated in meetings and from residents stopping in at the Village Hall include a beer garden, music series, craft/farmer's market, children's playground and more.



Signage and other amenities will appear on the site this spring, and the park's formal opening will be on the Village website and Facebook page.

For the near future residents are asked to avoid the space while Village staff and contractors work to start making the space safe and usable. This includes clearing brush, unwanted trees and debris.

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Standing meetings at the Village Hall include:

Village Board: second and fourth Monday of the month

Plan Commission: first Wednesday of the month

Honey Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District: third Tuesday of the month

Ordinance Committee: third Monday of the month

Meeting dates are sometimes changed for holidays or other conflicts. Please check the calendar on our website for the most accurate schedule.

AUTO-PAY FOR SEWER

A reminder for residents with sewer: you can pay quarterly bills through ACH bank withdrawals. When you sign up for autopay, payments are automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account on each bill's due date.

It's the most convenient way to make sure that you're up to date on utility payments.

You will continue to receive notice of your quarterly bill. "Direct Payment of \$(Amount Due)" will print on the bottom portion of your bill along with the date the payment will be withdrawn from the checking or savings account (the due date.)



PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
ROCHESTER, WI
PERMIT NO. 2

300 W. Spring St
P.O. Box 65
Rochester, WI 53167

Return Service Requested

Additional Resources

**Garbage & Recycling
Collection Day = Every Friday**
Have your garbage out by 6 a.m.
Fridays. For information, contact
ASDA at (262) 539-2086

Deputy Zachary Watson
Racine County Sherriff's Department
Non-Emergency line: (262) 534-5166

**Rochester Volunteer Fire &
Rescue**
Non-Emergency: (262) 534-3444
-Volunteers Welcome-

Rochester Cemetery
Gary Schrader: (262) 534-5544

Honey Creek Cemetery
Debbi Perman: (262) 534-2954

**Racine County Public Health
Division**
(262) 898-4460
Crchd.com

Rochester Historical Society
History and genealogy questions
answered.
Joni Beck (262) 534-2071

Rochester Post Office
(262) 534-6100

Rochester Public Library
Mary Stapleton, Director
(262) 534-3533

Winter Hours
Monday-Thursday: 9:30am – 7:30pm
Friday: Closed
Saturday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
Sunday: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Agendas and minutes for all
meetings of the Village Board,
Committees, and Plan Com-
mission can be found on the
Village website:
<https://rochesterwi.gov>