

• VILLAGE OF • ROCHESTER • WISCONSIN •

**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 Jr., Russ Kumbier, Pat
Nannemann, 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

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 19 ISSUE 2



BECK RETIRES AFTER 50 YEARS

At the April 14 Village Board meeting Trustee Gary Beck participated in his final meeting as an elected official in our community. Beck's career in public service came to a close this past spring when he did not file election papers and retired. Beck is pictured here (from left) with Trustees Russ Kumbier, Doug Webb,

Gary Beck, Jr., Adam Schaefer, Jeff Sterling and Village President Nick Ahlers. Beck served the Village as a Trustee from 2009-2025. Beck served as a Town of Rochester Supervisor from 1975-1995 and as the Town Chairman from 1995 until the town and village consolidated in 2009.

LAWN CARE REMINDERS

It's mowing season, and like most municipalities, the Village of Rochester has ordinances that regulate yard care for public health and safety.

Here are the highlights:

GRASS LENGTH

On parcels under five acres, grass must not exceed **8 inches** in length. Grass and non-noxious weeds longer than this tends to emit pollen, pose a fire hazard, and hide debris, causing safety problems.

If the person in charge of a property fails to cut their lawn, the Village will provide notice of a violation.

If the violation is not addressed, the Village is authorized to cut the lawn, and the cost will be charged to the property owner.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

In accordance with Wisconsin Statute 66.0407, property owners must cut or destroy all noxious

weeds (such as Canada thistle, ragweed, poison ivy, leafy spurge, and field bindweed) before they bear seed or spread to adjoining properties.

GRASS CLIPPINGS

Please keep grass clippings on your own property. **Grass clippings may not be blown into the streets, sidewalks, or river or on another person's property.**

Clippings in the streets or sidewalks pose safety hazards and can clog the stormwater system.

If your mower leaves grass clippings on the street or sidewalk, use a broom or leaf blower to blow them back into the lawn. Do not use a hose to wash them into the street.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Public Works Manager Adam Davis at 262-534-1182. Find more details, including procedures for natural lawns, in Section 7-12 of the Municipal Code: rochesterwi.gov/ordinances

OVERNIGHT PARKING

Overnight parking is prohibited on all streets throughout the Village.

Overnight parking permits are available for three-month periods for some areas. Contact the village at (262) 534-2431 for more information.

For temporary on-street overnight parking, you must notify the Racine County Sheriff's office at (262) 534-5166 ahead of time and for every day that the exception is needed.



VILLAGE MEETINGS

Standing meetings at the Village Hall include:

- Historic Preservation Committee:** First Monday of the month
- Plan Commission:** First Wednesday of the month
- Village Board:** Second and fourth Monday of the month
- Finance Committee:** Second Monday of the month
- Ordinance Committee:** third Monday of the month
- Honey Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District:** Third Tuesday of the month
- Public Works:** Fourth Monday of the month
- Zoning Board of Appeals** (when needed): Fourth Thursday of the month

Meeting dates are sometimes changed for holidays or other conflicts. Please check the village website at rochesterwi.gov for the most current and accurate schedule.

Holidays

Fourth of July: Friday, July 4—Village Hall closed

Labor Day: Monday, September 1—Village Hall closed

Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28—Village Hall closed

Christmas Observance: Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25—Village Hall closed

New Year's Observance: Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 2026 —Village Hall closed


The Village is working to recruit new election poll workers. Poll workers play a vital role to help ensure the Village can conduct elections.

Please contact Deputy Clerk/
Treasurer Amber Jensen at (262) 534-1180 or
ajensen@rochesterwi.gov
if interested.

Poll workers are paid \$15/hour.
Two elections are currently scheduled for 2026— in April and November.



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ROCHESTER MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

159TH OBSERVANCE

On Monday, May 26 villagers and visitors alike gathered and observed Memorial Day in the Village of Rochester. Rochester's observance is said to be the longest running in the country. The parade and ceremonies in the park, along with other events throughout the day, are organized and executed by a committee of citizens. These two pages include a sampling of pictures from the Memorial Day Committee's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RochesterMemorialDay>.





FIREWORKS

The Village Board passed an ordinance in 2016 requiring a permit to discharge fireworks in the Village of Rochester.

Permits can be obtained at the Village Clerk-Treasurer's office for a fee of \$15.00. This year, fireworks can only be discharged on **Thursday, July 3rd – Saturday, July 5** **between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.**

A separate permit is required for each day fireworks are to be discharged, and permits must be acquired by **June 30th**.

HONORING THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

In early June Racine County placed two markers in the village at locations verified as part of the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad helped runaway slaves reach freedom in the northern United States and Canada before and during the Civil War. The marker at the Rochester Public Library memorializes the Stetson Farm. The farm is located on Maple Road, but the site is unsuitable for a marker due to safety concerns. Another marker commemorates the Ela House on the east side of the Fox River along S. Water Street. The markers are part of the Racine County Underground Railroad Heritage Trail, which consists of 29 different sites. Information about the Heritage Trail is available at the website of Greater Racine County—<https://greaterracinecounty.com/>

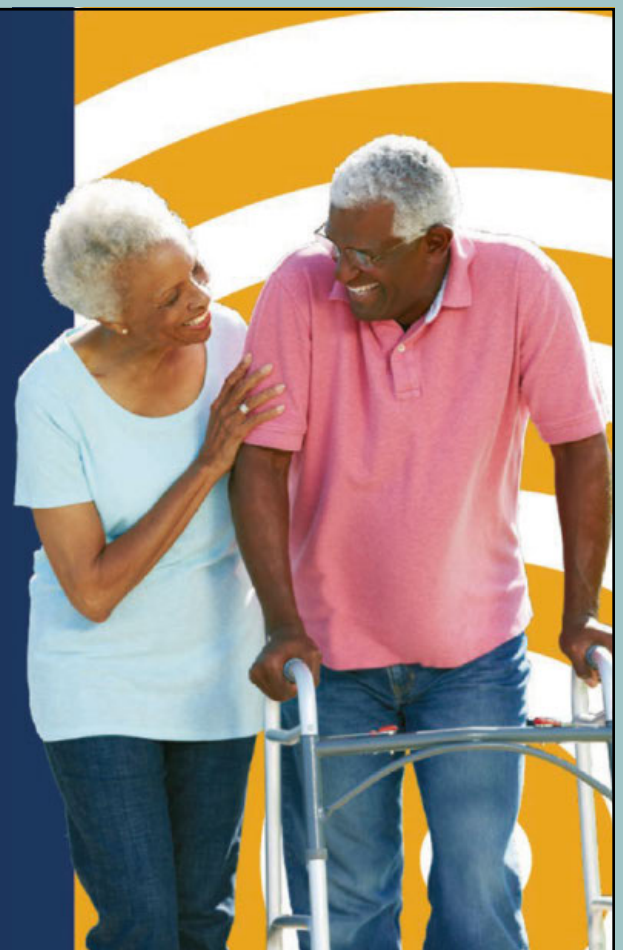


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Village of Rochester, Rochester, WI

B 4C 01-1377

RULES FOR RECREATIONAL BURNING

Summer means campfire and bonfire season is back, and the village and your Rochester Volunteer Fire Company want to remind you of our ordinances for burning.

Outdoor campfires and small bonfires for cooking, ceremonies or recreation are allowed provided that the fire is confined by a control device or structure such as a barrel, fire ring or fire pit.

Bonfires are allowed only if approved by and in accordance with provisions established by the Fire Chief.

Except for campfires and permitted bonfires, open burning shall only be conducted between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. No one can kindle or start an open fire or a fire in a container between the hours of 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. The fire must be extinguished by 8:00 p.m.

Campfires and permitted bonfires that are strictly for recreational purposes may be kindled or started between 7-11 p.m. and must be extinguished by 1 a.m.

Fire Chief Mike Vos will not allow any burning when the Department of Natural Resources says the fire danger level is "High" or better, or there are sustained winds of 7-10 miles per hour.

Chief Vos also recommends that anyone having a bonfire call the Racine County Sheriff Department's non-emergency dispatch number at (262) 534-5166 and make them aware. Please call the Village Hall at (262) 534-2431 or Rochester Volunteer Fire Company at (262) 534-3444 with any questions.



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Garbage & Recycling

Collection Day = Every Friday

Please have your garbage out by 6 a.m. every Friday, unless different due to a holiday.
Contact ASDA at (262) 539-2086 for more information.

Deputy Zach Watson

Racine County Sheriff'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

(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

Library Summer Hours

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

Agendas and minutes for all meetings of the Village Board, Committees, and Plan Commission can be found on the Village website:

<https://rochesterwi.gov>

Sign up for our E-Newsletter at: <https://mycommunityonline.com/organization/village-of-rochester>