

NEPEUSKUN NEWS

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Town Website Address:
www.townofnepeuskun.gov The website has zoning ordinances, permits, Town Board & Plan Commission meeting minutes & agendas, land use ordinances, history, and much more. Check it out!

The history of Nepeuskun's predominant "Nepeuskun Cemetery" or "Koro Cemetery" goes back to its first known burial in 1845 with many of the Town's first American settlers buried here. Some of those buried in the Cemetery were an integral part of Nepeuskun's modern development and leaders in the community, other small cemeteries exist within the Town of which most are family plots. Not forgetting to mention that Native Indians, who were believed to have inhabited the area for some 3000 years prior up to European settlement, are buried in graves with locations unknown. Archeologist believe that these first people were buried in a mass type graves.

Nestled atop a hill near the intersection of Koro and Kaufman roads, the Nepeuskun Cemetery's beautiful location is shaded by mature trees scattered amongst its granite and marble headstones. As it has been added onto from the original footprint to create more capacity and it now encompasses 4.5 acres. These grounds are currently managed by the Nepeuskun Cemetery Association, a non-profit organization. The Cemetery and grave sites are maintained by the families of its occupants, but most notably it's Sexton, Greg Bellmer.

The Association is comprised of 7 Board members: Tom Stubbe - President, George Stollfuss - Vice President, Keith Yedinak - Treasurer, Greg Bellmer - Secretary and three Trustees: Burton Werch, Jeff Lind and Shawn Kaufman. An annual meeting is held by the Association in December at the Nepeuskun Town Hall, anyone whom possess ownership of a plot is a voting member. You can learn more about the Cemetery, purchasing plots and its operations by attending its meeting or contacting Gerg Bellmer (920-290-4182) and as always monetary donations or donated services are welcome.

THANK YOU!

Beckie Pinnow and Missy Gravunder for your combined years of service to the Township as our Clerk and Treasurer. We appreciate all that you do and all that you've done in your positions!

VOTE-VOTE-VOTE! 2026 Election Dates and Information

Mark Your Calendars!

Spring Election - April 7, 2026

Ballot will include: Justice of Supreme Court, Court of Appeals Judge: District 2, County Supervisor, local school boards.

Partisan Primary - August 11, 2026

General Election - November 3, 2026

Polls are open 7am to 8pm

Voter registration is required for anyone not previously registered within the Town of Nepeuskun. Please bring the required documentation. For information on voter-registration or absentee ballots, please visit myvote.wi.gov.

REMEMBER TO BRING A VALID PHOTO ID!

Right-of-Ways

Town road right-of-ways are maintained by their respective Townships, which most people are aware. What some may not know is that State Statutes require that the Town must maintain these areas so as not to cause impeded sight, create hazardous conditions or obstruct drainage. The Town Board is responsible for making decisions regarding who and how service is provided in these areas. Public service companies such as utility providers have their own set of rules and guidelines to follow that the Town does not regulate. Furthermore, all county roads and right-of-ways are maintained by the county highway department and not the Town Board.

When maintaining these right-of-ways the State Statutes indicate that a 66 foot width or 33 feet from the center of a road shall be the responsibility of the Town. All roads are under the presumption of this rule unless landowners can provide deeds or plats that indicate otherwise. Also note that roads that have been maintained for 10 years or more without written record of its layout are presuming the 66 foot rule applies.

Towns have the legal authority to maintain these areas by excavating ditches or clearing for drainage and removing, cutting, trimming, mowing vegetation in order to provide safety for road users. Wood that is cut from the right-of-way shall be offered to the landowner as described in Wis Stat 86.03(2). If a storm damages a tree and it falls into the road way, the Town is ultimately responsible for the clean up of said tree. However, since the tree may have originated from outside the right-of-way, the landowner has right to clean the obstruction as well. In either case a prompt removal of the debris to ensure safe road travel should be the goal of all parties.

Lastly, resident should be aware that anyone whom constructs, erects, plants or cultivates anything within the right-of-way is prohibited to do so. If you are uncertain of the location of objects in these areas, it would be advisable to contact the Town Board or use the 66 foot rule. Any object determined to be a hazard or a potential drainage issue may result in the Town requesting you remove it. If you feel that you do not need to abide by these laws or requests, the Town may take legal action to get the object removed. We understand that everyone has a different opinion on aesthetics, but ultimately the Town Board is responsible for making sure it's right-of-ways are safe and properly maintained.

Town History Thoughts

My connection with the township began in the early 1970s. I lived on 37th Avenue and voted in the old township hall and Minor Harris was the town chairman. Neighbor Alton Meyer rescued me with a long cable and a big ag tractor many times when I was stuck on a ponding project with a 14 ton backhoe. Memories include Lindy Luker at the fair competing in a tractor pull, doing chicken chores for Henry Heilke while he was on vacation in Hawaii, Buddy Klingbeil stopping on his Goldwing and telling stories about mating dances of sandhill cranes, memories of the Prellwitz farm on Cty E as one of the larger, most orderly and shiny dairy farms in the area, stops at Arnie's Bar and then Peggy's Rush Inn.

Remembering trips to visit my Aunt Marion and her husband Oscar at their farm at gravel point on the Southeast corner of Rush Lake. Trips with Oscar to service farm combines and other equipment on farms in the township as a youngster and then discussing the Indian artifacts found around the big lake. Personally knowing Frank Farvour and now learning about his contribution to collection of information about the Native American culture in our township.

I was born a city slicker in the City of Ripon but enjoyed schoolmates from Rush Lake area in the Prellwitz, Gehrke, Malzahn and Neitzke families. I enjoy the many great assets which are part of the township benefits for residents and visitors. Rush Lake, our township section of the Mascoutin trail, the many roads that would easily qualify as rustic and beautiful, and the many farms, barns and homes that grace the landscape are among the assets of the township.

I enjoy memories of the transitions and evolutions of family enterprises such as from dairy to strawberries to winery, from Arnie's to Peggy's to the Log Cabin has enhanced my township learning. My journey in the history of the Town of Nepeuskun is ongoing and I am thankful for "Roots and Rushes" by Myrtle Tew Mitchell and "Tales of Mascoutin Trail...." by Marjorie Lind are interesting reads even the second time.

Suggestions for history information, potential interviews and subjects, and questions are encouraged.

Tom Krueger

Fire District Protection

Last year the Town Board started looking at potential options regarding its Fire Districts. This was initiated by contact from the Utica Fire Department as they looked to be a potential fire coverage provider as they already provided First Responders to the Township. As the Berlin Fire Dept and the Ripon Area Fire District (RAFD) had been our long time fire responders, there also had been some changes asked for by the City of Ripon that initiated some concerns for the Town of Nepeuskun. The City had offered to run the now shared governmental body of the RAFD along with encompassing the Ripon Gaurdian Ambulance Services. Ultimately with that potential change the Town would no longer be a voting member in the district and instead pay for its services without equal representation. These changes were not moved upon due to the lack of cooperation needed from the Town of Nepeuskun and the Town of Ripon members on the RAFD Board.

Since then the City's position was looking to open discussions on a potential change to the bylaws for the RAFD in regards to detachment from the District. In the fall of 2025 An ad hoc committee was discussed to look at these potential changes to the detachment portion. Those bylaws currently state that any member wishing to detach forfeits all interests and assets within the district. This ad hoc committee never materialized, with some blame put on the two involved Townships by some City Council members.

In recent evens it was brought forth that the City would not pay for their portion of the contracted new Fire Engine that was to be completed in the spring of 2026. The cause for this opinion and abrupt lack of funding was due to the RAFD not properly utilizing appropriate resolutions for its budgeting processes although RAFD entered into contract for the Engine. The two respective Townships had made it known that they were prepared to pay their portions since the RAFD had entered into contract with Pierce Manufacturing three years prior and it was deemed a necessity by the RAFD Board at the time. City Council also wished to reopen the discussion regarding bylaw changes by making their potential payment contingent of those discussions. It was further decided by the RAFD attorney that those two requests could not be hinged to one another.

As we move forward, an Ad Hoc committee has been formed to discuss attachment and detachment from the district. There have also been other indicators that the bylaws may need further revision as times move on. Only time itself will determine whether these member municipalities can stay together. The Town hopes that the RAFD and it's members can achieve a reasonable conclusion to what has seemed to be a year of ups and downs. As a member of the district from its conception, we have always valued the ability to work alongside our neighboring communities to achieve a sustainable and practical Fire District for our residents.

Lakeshore 4-H

The 2026 Lakeshore 4-H meeting schedule; March-08, April-12, May-10, June-14, July-12, August-No Meeting (Fair), September-13, October-11, November-8 and December-13. Meetings start at 2pm in the Nepeuskun Town Hall. If you are interested in joining, please attend a one of the above meetings. For more information, please contact Kathy Wunrow 920-290-2664 or Tanya Weis 920-229-6782.

Anti-Horse Thieves Association

The Nepeuskun Anti-Horse Thieves Association met January 15th at Vines and Rushes Winery, Ripon. Twelve people were added as new members. This event is a historic meeting dating back to 1889 and continues today as a reminder of simpler times and true community interest. If you would like more information or to be included on the annual mailing list, please contact Les Achterberg 920-410-4142.

Dates to Remember

Spring Election – April 7, 2026

Partisan Primary – August 11, 2026

General Election – November 3, 2026

Polls are open 7am to 8pm

Regular Town Board Meeting – Every 3rd Monday at 7pm in The Town Hall

Plan Commission Meeting – Held 2nd Monday at 7pm in The Town Hall (If applicable)

Town of Nepeuskun

c/o Melissa Gravunder, Treasurer

2301 Wall Street

Berlin, WI 54923

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RECYCLING – Recycling is held the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 7am until noon at the town hall. Remember, recycling only and no plastic bags can be recycled. For a list of accepted items, check out the sign at the town hall collection site.

GARBAGE PICKUP – Private garbage pickup is available in the Town. You may contact Jon Schure for more info at 920-361-2970.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS? The Town of Nepeuskun is continuing to compile a list of residents, landowners and any other interested parties who would desire to be contacted by email with public information. Please visit the Town of Nepeuskun website to register. Look for the Email Sign Up Tab. Your information will not be shared.