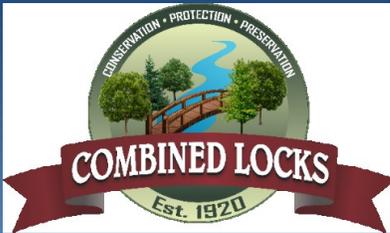


Winter Newsletter



Village President

John Neumeier

Village Trustees

Cathy Vander Zanden

Tim Stutzman

Brad Schinke

Mike Rietveld

Jim Ponto

Ken Heckner

Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:30pm. Agendas are posted at

www.combinedlocks.wi.gov

Find agendas and minutes under Resources.

Village Administrator

Racquel Shampo-Giese

gieser@combinedlocks.wi.gov

Contact Us

405 Wallace Street

Combined Locks WI 54113

Phone: (920) 788-7740

www.combinedlocks.wi.gov

Municipal Budget Adopted

The Combined Locks Village Board has adopted a \$3.476 million budget for 2024 municipal operations, capital projects and purchases, and debt payments. It includes a tax levy of \$1,930,578. This levy is a 5.73% increase over the previous year and equates to a tax rate of \$5.34 per \$1000 of assessed value. This is a \$0.25 increase over the 2022 tax rate. A property owner whose home is assessed at \$200,000 will pay \$50.00 more for municipal services than in the previous year. A summary of the 2024 budget is available to review in the Clerk's Office or on the homepage of the Village website: www.combinedlocks.wi.gov

Your property tax bill also includes a number of other governmental agencies with the authority to levy a tax in order to support their activities and services. Those agencies include the County, the State, the School District, and the Technical College. A comparison of each jurisdiction's tax rate from 2023 to 2024 is printed on your tax bill.

Tax Credits and Special Charges

Lottery Credit: Check your 2023 real estate tax bill to see if you received a lottery credit. Properties in the Kaukauna School District receive a \$205.52 credit, and properties in the Kimberly School District receive a \$189.60 credit. Residents who owned their homes as of 01/01/23 and use it as their primary residence also as of 01/01/23 are eligible for the credit. If the credit is not on your tax bill already, it is not too late to claim it. Claim forms are available at the Municipal Clerk's Office. Please call or stop in for details.

Storm Water Charge: Storm water charges are added to all parcels in the Village in order to pay for storm water management as required by the Wisconsin DNR. The Storm Water Charge for the 2023 tax bill is \$140 per ERU. The value of duplex, unimproved and non-residential properties is based on a percentage of the value of one ERU. These charges are necessary to fund the DNR requirements to reduce sediment and phosphorous in the Fox River and in Garners Creek.

Garbage Charge: Garbage charges are added to each parcel in the Village according to the size and number of garbage carts at the property. Each 64-gallon cart is \$125, and each 96-gallon cart is \$179 for the 2023 tax bills. These charges cover the landfill and recycling expenses, replacement carts, maintenance on the trash truck and allows for a reserve fund to replace the trash trucks when it becomes necessary.



Important Tax Payment Dates

- ❖ If you intend to pay your property taxes in full, payment must be made (or postmarked) by January 31, 2024.
- ❖ If you intend to pay your property taxes by installments, the first installment must be made (or postmarked) by January 31, 2024, payable to Village of Combined Locks. The second installment must be paid to the Outagamie County Treasurer by July 31, 2024.
- ❖ First installment or full property tax payments can be made in person by January 31, 2024 at either of these locations:
 - Combined Locks Civic Center, 405 Wallace Street, Combined Locks
 - Community First Credit Union, 600 W Kimberly Avenue, Kimberly
- ❖ You may also use the Night Deposit Box located west of the Civic Center's main doors.



Village Offices are CLOSED
 December 22nd, December 25th & January 1st



2024 Dog Licenses Available

The 2024 dog licenses are available for purchase. The cost is \$7 for spayed or neutered pets or \$12 for unaltered pets. A current rabies vaccine showing an expiration date of later than 04/01/2024 is required to purchase a license. Proof that your pet is spayed or neutered is also required.



2024 Yard Waste Permits Available

Residents who use the Yard Waste Site to drop off grass clippings, SMALL amounts of SMALL brush, garden debris, or waste oil are **required** to have a 2024 permit. The permits are available to purchase at the Clerk's Office. The fee is \$10. The permit is needed to help the Village keep costs down and prevent non-residents from using this taxpayer funded service.





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Trash & Recycling Reminders

Trash and recycling needs to be curbside by 6:00am on collection days. During winter months, do not place your carts in the street or on top of snow banks; instead place them in your driveway apron. One cart on each side of the apron works best for automated collection. Placing the carts in the street interferes with snow plowing and snow removal.



Always place your cart at least 4 feet away from any other object - including mailboxes. Carts must be placed with the arrows pointing toward the road. Your cooperation helps us to deliver this essential service in an efficient manner. Thank you for your cooperation.



Holiday Schedule



Christmas Week

NO changes to regular Recycling and Solid Waste pickup on Tuesday or Thursday.

New Year's Week

Tuesday Recycling collected Wednesday. Thursday Recycling collected Friday.

Christmas tree pickup: Two options: Wednesday January 3rd or Wednesday, January 31st



Snow Removal Practices

Section 6-2-7 of the municipal code explains that it is the responsibility of the owner, occupant, or person in charge of any parcel or lot which fronts upon or abuts any sidewalk, to keep the sidewalk clear of snow and ice: and to remove snow and ice from the sidewalk within 48 hours after a snowfall. In the event that ice forms on the sidewalk in such a manner that it cannot be removed, the owner, occupant, or person in charge is to sprinkle salt, sand, and or other melting substance to permit safe travel by pedestrians.

The Village no longer sends out warning letters to those property owners or residents who do not have their sidewalks cleared in a timely manner. The Village will act to have snow removed from the sidewalks that are not shoveled in a timely manner and bill the costs as a special assessment to the property.

Prohibited Snow Removal Practices

- ❄ Using a private vehicle or snow blower to push snow/ice onto a public street or sidewalk or manually shoveling snow/ice onto a public street or sidewalk
- ❄ Shoveling or blowing snow on top of a fire hydrant

If you contract for snow removal, make sure your contractor is aware of these rules.



Mail Box Damage

No matter how careful our snow plow operators are, mailboxes might get damaged during the snow season. If a mailbox is damaged due to operator error, the operator will notify the Director of Public Works. He will report the location of the incident and the amount of damage. The Department of Public Works may choose to replace the damaged mailbox with a standard mailbox approved by the US Postal Service. The Department of Public Works may, upon request of the property owner, provide not more than \$75 towards the replacement cost of said mailbox. A property owner who installs a decorative mailbox or decorative material within the road right of way does so at his or her own risk, and the Department of Public Works shall not be responsible for damages.

Fire Hydrants

A few minutes of your time after each snowfall to clear the hydrant of snow means that the Firefighters can more effectively fight a fire in your neighborhood. Thank you for your help.



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MEETING HELD
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CENTER



Winter Parking

Parking on Village streets is prohibited from 2:00am to 6:00am from December 1 through April 1. For the occasional guest parking, please contact the Outagamie County Sheriff's Office at 920-832-5000 for a temporary exception. Vehicles must not be parked in such a manner so as to obstruct the public sidewalk.



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Large Rubbish Collection Reminders

- ❖ **WHAT:** Residents MUST request large rubbish collection at least 24-hours in advance
- ❖ **HOW:** Call 920-788-7740 ext. 1 and leave a message with your address and a request for large rubbish collection or make the request online:
www.combinedlocks.wi.gov/large-rubbish/



- DETAILS:**
- 1) Items must be curbside by 6:30am on the day of collection and **no earlier than two days before collection.** *Fines may be issued for items at the curb for longer than 48 hours before the collection date.*
 - 2) Appliances require a pre-paid fee payable at the Clerk's Office at least 24-hours in advance.
 - 3) Electronics are no longer collected curbside as they must be recycled. Please visit Outagamie County Solid Waste web site for electronics disposal information:

<http://www.recyclomoreoutagamie.org/>



Village-Wide Property Assessment Scheduled for 2024

The Village's fair market value to assessed value ratio has been below the 90% threshold for both 2022 and 2023. 2022 = 87.77% and 2023 = 80.32%. Municipalities are required to complete a community-wide reassessment within 5 years of assessed values being under 90% of fair market value.

Accurate Appraisal will be conducting the market revaluation for Combined Locks. You will see Accurate Appraisal vehicles in your neighborhood, and Accurate's employees may take photos of the exterior of your home or ask for permission to enter your home.

Notices of Assessment will then be mailed to all property owners in April or later. Property owners will be given the opportunity to speak with the assessors about the value placed on their property during the Open Book Session, which is held every year. The date of the Open Book Session and Board of Review will be printed on your Notice of Assessment, published in the Times Villager, published in the Spring Newsletter, posted on the Village's website, and posted on the main entrance door at the Combined Locks Civic Center, 405 Wallace Street. You can also call the Clerk's Office at 920-788-7740 with questions about the dates of the Open Book Session and Board of Review.



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Phone: 920-788-5244
Website: <http://robinsonflorists.com/>

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2024 PARK RENTAL

Lindberg Park: Rental fee \$50 for residents; \$100 for non-residents

Memorial Park: Rental fee \$100 for residents; \$200 for non-residents

Van Zeeland Park: Rental fee \$100 for residents; \$200 for non-residents



A separate security deposit is also required for all park rentals. Residents of Combined Locks may reserve parks as of 11/01/23. Non-residents may reserve parks as of 04/01/24.



2024 MARK VAN THIEL ROOM RENTAL

The Mark Van Thiel Room is available for family parties, bridal and baby showers, birthday parties, etc. It has a capacity for 75 people and includes a small kitchen with refrigerator, sink and stove. The rental fee for residents is \$100. The rental fee for non-residents is \$150. A separate security deposit is also required for all rentals.

Residents of Combined Locks may request 2024 reservations as of 11/01/23.

Non-residents may request 2024 reservations as of 01/02/24.

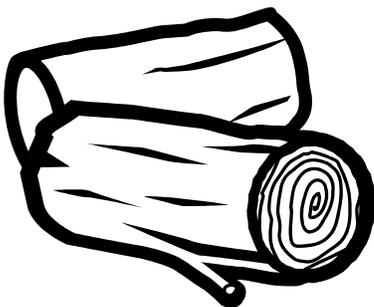


2024 GOLDEN AGERS ROOM RENTAL

The Golden Agers Room is available for smaller (maximum 30 people) family parties, bridal and baby showers, birthday parties, etc. It includes a refrigerator, counter space and a sink. The rental fee for residents is \$75. The rental fee for non-residents is \$150. A separate security deposit is also required for all rentals.

Residents of Combined Locks may request 2024 reservations as of 11/01/23.

Non-residents may request 2024 reservations as of 01/02/24.



FIREWOOD CUTTING

During the course of this winter, we will be cutting down numerous Ash trees in the Combined Locks parks. Once the main cutting is complete, the wood will be placed at the east parking lot of the Don Fries Recreational Area (bottom of the sledding hill). After registering at the Clerk's Office and signing a waiver, residents will be able to cut and take the wood they need. **The signed waiver is required.** *The date for when the firewood will be available is not determined yet. Please call ahead at the Clerk's Office, 920-788-7740 ext. 201.*



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COMBINED LOCKS RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2024 Baseball/Softball/Teeball Registration



* Registration for all the 2024 Recreation programs will be ONLINE! *
Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis due to space limitations

Registration for **all returning** players (resident & non-resident) from the 2023 season **and** any **NEW PLAYERS** who live in COMBINED LOCKS will be in January. Registration for non-resident, new players will be in February.

More information about registration will be posted on the Combined Locks Village website www.combinedlocks.wi.gov under the Recreation page.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

Combined Locks Fire & Rescue is currently accepting applications for the position of Volunteer Firefighter. Individuals with daytime availability (shift workers, those who work from home, etc.) are highly encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to village residents. Experience is great, but not required, as we will sponsor training at one of the area Technical Colleges if needed. If accepted, new hires must be able to complete State Certified Firefighter 1 within one year of hire.

To obtain an application packet, stop by Village Hall or visit our web page at <https://combinedlocks.wi.gov/fire/>, navigate to 'Firefighter Application' in the Related Links section and print one off. The completed application can be mailed, dropped off in person or emailed back.

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Community Food Pantry

Combined Locks Community Food Pantry

Cold Weather Sharing Restrictions:
November → April

DRY GOODS ONLY PLEASE

During the winter months please donate
dry goods only.

The following items could shatter or rupture:

Canned goods
Glass jars



Report a Street Light Outage

If you see a street light out, you may contact the utility directly. This would be either

- We Energies
(<https://www.we-energies.com/services/streetlight>)
- Kaukauna Utilities
(<https://www.kaukaunautilities.com/contact/report-a-street-light-outage/>).

You may use the links shown to navigate to the page where you can report the outage.

For non-street lights, such as the trail lights in Coonen park, you may contact the village office at 920-788-7740.



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Election & Voter Information

Not registered in Combined Locks yet or have a name or address change? Get registered or update your information now and save time on election day. You can complete a voter registration form at: <https://myvote.wi.gov/> or at the Clerk's Office.

The Clerk's Office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm. If you have a driver's license or Wisconsin identification card, you will need it to complete the registration form. You will also need to provide proof of residence.

All registered voters in Combined Locks vote at the Combined Locks Civic Center, 405 Wallace Street. The polls are open from 7:00am to 8:00pm on every election day. ALL voters must show picture identification before a ballot can be issued to him/her. Contact the Clerk's Office if you are interested in voting by absentee ballot. The telephone number is 920-788-7740 ext. 202.



2024 Election Schedule

February 20, 2024	Spring Primary – <i>If needed</i>
April 2, 2024	Spring Election & Presidential Preference Primary
August 13, 2024	Partisan Primary
November 5, 2024	General Election

Please be reminded that political signs, banners, flags must be removed within 10 days after an election per Village Ordinance Section 13-1-143(k).

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION Village of Combined Locks - 04/02/2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election is to be held in the Village of Combined Locks, on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term for Village Trustee begins on April 16, 2024. All terms are for two years unless otherwise indicated.

Office
Village Trustee
Village Trustee
Village Trustee

Incumbent
Tim Stutzman
Mike Rietveld
Jim Ponto

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2023, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00pm on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, in the office of the Village Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is needed, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

Not interested in running for election? How about being appointed to a committee? Terms for Plan Commission, Zoning Board and Sex Offender Residence Board expire each year, and the Village President considers reappointment of current members or appointment of new members. Contact the Village Administrator for more information. gieser@combinedlocks.wi.gov or 920-788-7740 ext. 203

Winter Driving...Be Safe!

BE PREPARED



full tank of gas



ice scraper/snow brush



sand/shovel



jumper cables



flashlight



first aid kit
don't forget your medications



cellphone charger



boots, gloves
blankets, warm clothes



water/snacks

FOR WINTER DRIVING

Because you never know when you will encounter winter weather or emergency road closures

- **Safety First** – Avoid driving when roads are treacherous!
- **Clear it Before You Go**
 - Remove ice and snow from windows, lights and mirrors
- **Go Slow in Ice and Snow**
 - Relax and take it easy
- **Stay Focused**
 - Distractions can wait
- **You Cruise, You Lose**
 - Avoid cruise control in winter conditions
- **Keep Your Distance**
 - Stay 200 feet behind snowplows
 - Stop safely



Call 511 or visit 511wi.gov for real-time traveler information, including winter road conditions



DRIVE SAFELY

Welcome to our community, Sergeant Justin Ross!

Sergeant Justin Ross is our new Law Enforcement Specialist. He joined our community in October. Sgt. Ross has been with the Outagamie County Sheriff's Office for 5 years and has worked as a patrol deputy within the Buchanan/Combined Locks Law Enforcement Contract. He then took a role dealing in serious and complex investigations. Sgt. Ross has also worked in Hortonville as a patrol officer and School Resource Officer. With all his experience, he will serve our community well!

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Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you!



Ice and Snow Control

We can have safe walkways in the winter and cleaner water all year round.

Winter in Northeast Wisconsin is a great time for outdoor fun, like ice fishing, ice skating, sledding and skiing. Here, winter also means mountains of snow to shovel and layers of ice to remove from driveways and sidewalks. We often try to make ice removal easier by using products like salt and sand to melt the snow and ice. Many people do not realize that these products are harming local waters and the animals that rely on them. When the ice and snow melt, the salt and chemicals flow into street drains that lead directly to rivers and lakes.

Shovel Often and Early

Shoveling often during and immediately following the storm removes the snow from walkway and driveways before it gets packed down by tires and feet. The most important part of deicing is removing as much snow as possible before applying salt or sand – it's also great exercise!



Use only the recommended amount.

Throwing down more salt will not speed up the melting process.

Make the most of the salt you use.

It is not always necessary to see bare pavement to have a safe winter surface. Ask yourself if it is necessary that the snow or ice be removed. For salt to be effective, air temperature needs to be warmer than the surface temperature of the area you want to treat. A little goes a

long way. Use only the recommended amount. Throwing down more salt will not speed up the melting process. Use only enough deicer to break the bond between the ice and the pavement, then remove the remaining slush by shoveling.

McMahon partners with local communities, but more importantly, we live here and carry a sense of social responsibility to help them *thrive*.

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Limit the amount of sand you use

Sand provides traction. It does not melt ice. Sand, although not chemical, contributes to polluting our local waters. It adds to the excess sediment that is entering waterways, eliminating important habitat for aquatic plants and animals. Sand does play a role in winter road management. It often used by municipalities on roads to help maintain traction. Since ice removal is typically the concern of homeowners, sand may not be necessary.



We hope you continue to patronize the local businesses that choose to advertise with the Village of Combined Locks. Their business cards are printed throughout the newsletter. The Village is grateful for their support.



VILLAGE OF COMBINED LOCKS
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www.combinedlocks.org

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Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Administrative Assistant

Fire/EMS Chief

Baseball/Softball/Teeball Program Director

405 Wallace Street

Racquel Shampo-Giese

Sarah Lesnick

Jim Reese

Ken Wiedenbauer

Todd Riesterer

920-788-7740

gieser@combinedlocks.wi.gov

lesnicks@combinedlocks.wi.gov

reesej@combinedlocks.wi.gov

wiedenbauerk@combinedlocks.wi.gov

riesterert@combinedlocks.wi.gov

Public Works Department

Director of Public Works

300 Park Street

Ryan Swick

920-788-7744

swickr@combinedlocks.wi.gov

Police Service with

Outagamie County Sheriff's Office

405 Wallace Street

Sgt. Justin Ross

****Emergency** 911**

920-832-5000

justin.ross@outagamie.org

Village Board Meetings

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6:30pm

Combined Locks Civic Center Council Chambers

All Village Board meetings are open to the public, and there is an opportunity for anyone in attendance to ask any question of the Village Board. The Village President will ask for Public Comment for matters not on the agenda. This is your opportunity to ask questions about things happening in our community.