

Winter Newsletter



Village President

John Neumeier

Village Trustees

Tim Stutzman

Brad Schinke

RJ Talbot

Al Leicht

Justin Krueger

Laura Lindberg

*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

*** **NEW OFFICE HOURS MONDAY – THURSDAY: 7:30am to 4:30pm** ***

*** **FRIDAY: 7:30am to 11:00am** ***

Municipal Budget Adopted

The Combined Locks Village Board has adopted a \$3.795 million budget for 2026 municipal operations, capital projects and purchases, and debt payments. It includes a tax levy of \$1,863,203. This levy is a 4.0% increase from the previous year. A property owner whose home is assessed at \$250,000 will pay \$20.00 more for municipal services. A summary of the 2026 budget is available to review in the Clerk's Office or on the homepage of the Village website: www.combinedlocks.wi.gov

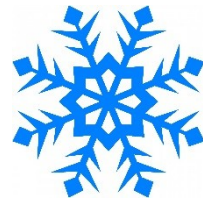
Your property tax bill also includes a number of other governmental agencies with the authority to levy a tax in order to support their activities and services. Those agencies include the County, the State, the School District, and the Technical College. A comparison of each jurisdiction's net tax from 2024 to 2025 is printed on your tax bill.

Tax Credits and Special Charges

Lottery Credit: Check your 2025 real estate tax bill to see if you received a lottery credit. Properties in the Kaukauna School District receive a \$186.03 credit, and properties in the Kimberly School District receive a \$138.62 credit. Residents who owned their homes as of 01/01/25 and use it as their primary residence also as of 01/01/25 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 to pay for storm water management as required by the Wisconsin DNR. The Storm Water Charge for the 2025 tax bill is \$145 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 \$140, and each 96-gallon cart is \$200 for the 2025 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, 2026.
- ❖ If you intend to pay your property taxes by installments, the first installment must be made (or postmarked) by January 31, 2026, payable to Village of Combined Locks. The second installment must be paid to the Outagamie County Treasurer by July 31, 2026.
- ❖ First installment or full property tax payments can be made in person by January 31, 2026, 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.

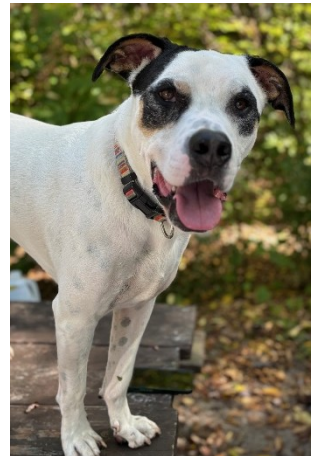


Village Offices are CLOSED
December 24th, December 25th & January 1st



2026 Dog Licenses Available

The 2026 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 04/01/2026 is required to purchase a license. Proof that your pet is spayed or neutered is also required.



2026 Yard Waste Permits Available

Residents who use the Yard Waste Site to drop off grass clippings, brush, garden debris, or waste oil are **required** to have a 2026 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.



Trash & Recycling Reminders

Trash carts need to be curbside by 6:00am on collection days. During winter months, do not place your carts in the street or on top of snowbanks; 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.

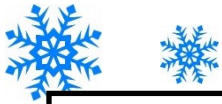


RECYCLING COLLECTION

Outagamie County manages the recycling collection contract for all its municipalities. This past year, GFL became the new recycling collection contractor. We have been notified that recycling collection may begin as early as 5:00am. Please be sure to have your recycling curbside by 5:00am on your collection days. The folks at Outagamie County recommend placing recycling carts curbside the night before collection.



Always place your carts 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.



Holiday Collection Schedule

Christmas Week

Tuesday garbage: No change. Thursday garbage: Collected Friday, December 26th
No change for recycling (*not a recycling week*).

New Year's Week

Tuesday garbage: No change. Thursday garbage: Collected Wednesday, December 31st
Tuesday recycling: No change. Thursday recycling: Collected Friday, January 2nd



Christmas tree pickup: Two options: Wednesday, January 7th or Wednesday, January 28th.



Snow Removal Practices

[Chapter 460-27](#) 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 [\(Chapter 460-29\)](#)

-  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.



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Combined Locks



Advancement Association

Mailbox 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
1ST MONDAY EACH
MONTH 6:00 PM
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CENTER



Winter Parking (Chapter 510-19)

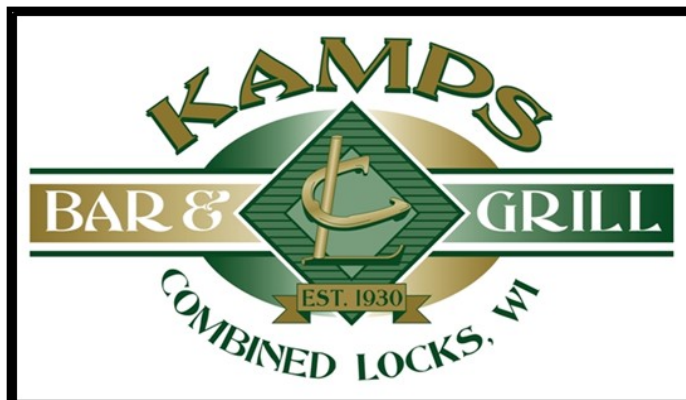
Parking on Village streets is prohibited from 2:00am to 6:00am from December 1 through April 1. For the occasional guest parking, please contact the Outagamie County Sheriff's Office at 920-832-5000 for a temporary exception. Vehicles must not be parked in such a manner so as to obstruct the public sidewalk.

Order it today...
Pick it up **tomorrow!**
Ask us how.

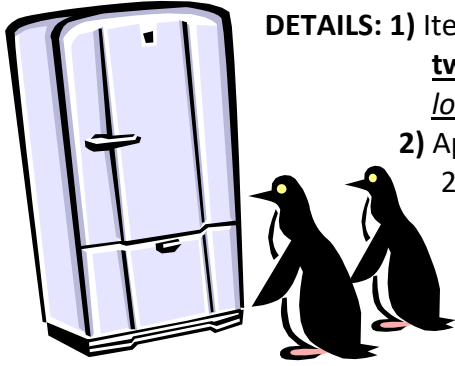
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- ❖ December 2025 pickup is still the 2nd Friday (December 12th)
- ❖ **Starting in 2026, the NEW collection day is the third Monday of each month**
- ❖ **WHAT:** Residents MUST request large rubbish collection at least 24-hours in advance
- ❖ **HOW:** Call 920-788-7740 ext. 3 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 6:00am 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.recyclemoreoutagamie.org/>



2026 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Utilities on Marcella Avenue will be replaced in 2026. The project includes: sanitary sewer main & laterals replacement, reconnection of water laterals, some storm sewer work, and sump pump installation.

2027 *Utility replacement on CTH N

*Pavement replacement on Marcella Avenue, Fairway Street, Lamine Lane, and Vosters Vista

*Road reconstruction on Debruin Road and Block Road

2028 *No projects

2029 *Pavement replacement in Greenway Village Subdivision



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2026 PARK RENTAL

Lindberg Park: Rental fee is \$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 11/03/25.
Non-residents may reserve parks as of 04/01/26.



2026 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 2026 reservations as of 11/03/25.

Non-residents may request 2026 reservations as of 01/02/26.



2026 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 2026 reservations as of 11/03/25.

Non-residents may request 2026 reservations as of 01/02/26.



FIREWOOD CUTTING

As wood becomes available, it will be placed across from the DPW building at 300 Park Street. You must register at the Clerk's office prior to wood cutting.
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.**
Any questions, please call ahead at the Clerk's Office, 920-788-7740 ext. 202.



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COMBINED LOCKS RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2026 Baseball/Softball/Teeball Registration



* Registration for all the 2026 Recreation programs is ONLINE! *

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis due to space limitations

Registration for **all returning** players (resident & non-resident) from the 2025 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/recreation

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 to view and print an application. The completed application can be mailed, dropped off in person or emailed back.





Wendy Diedrich, CIC, CISR

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Community Food Pantry

(located next to the Post Office on Wallace Street)

Cold Weather Sharing Restrictions:

November → April

DRY GOODS ONLY, PLEASE

During the winter months please donate dry goods only, as the following items could shatter or rupture:
canned goods and glass jars.



NEW! Community Hygiene Pantry

(located in the main entrance at the civic center, 405 Wallace Street)

toothpaste
soap

hair products
feminine products

lotion
deodorant



Take What You Need – Give What You Can



Report a Street Light Outage

If you see a street light out, you may contact the utility directly.

- We Energies for locations west of Jeffrey Street (<https://www.we-energies.com/services/streetlight>)
- Kaukauna Utilities for properties east of Jeffrey Street (<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, please contact the Village at 920-788-7740.



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 Thursday from 7:30am to 4:30pm & Friday from 7:30am – 11:00am. 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.



2026 Election Schedule

February 17, 2026	Spring Primary – <i>If needed</i>
April 7, 2026	Spring Election
August 11, 2026	Partisan Primary
November 3, 2026	General Election

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION Village of Combined Locks - 04/07/2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election is to be held in the Village of Combined Locks on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. The following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term for Village Trustee begins on April 14, 2026. All terms are for two years unless otherwise indicated.

Office
Village Trustee
Village Trustee
Village Trustee

Incumbent
Tim Stutzman
Allan Leicht
Laura Lindberg

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2025, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00pm on January 6, 2026, in the office of the Village Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

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 FOR WINTER DRIVING

Expect the unexpected to drive safely in Wisconsin winters


- **Keep Your Distance**
 - Stay 200 feet behind snowplows
 - Leave room to brake
- **Monitor Local Forecasts**
 - Winter weather events can develop and change rapidly
- **Be Prepared**
 - Have a fully charged phone and an emergency kit in your vehicle
- **Clear It Before You Go**
 - Remove ice and snow from windows, lights and mirrors
- **Go Slow In Ice and Snow**
 - Drive for conditions
- **Stay Focused**
 - Buckle Up, Phone Down
- **You Cruise, You Lose**
 - Avoid cruise control in winter conditions




full tank of gas


flashlight


water/snacks


ice scraper/
snow brush


jumper
cables


sand/shovel


cell phone charger


first aid kit
don't forget your
medications


boots, gloves, blankets,
warm clothes



511wi.gov



School Zone Driving Reminders

- Obey Speed Limits
- Watch for School Buses
- Maintain a Safe Following Distance
- Use Extra Caution During Drop-Off and Pick-Up Times
- Avoid Distractions
- Follow Crossing Guard's Signals
- Look for and Obey Traffic Signs
- Be mindful of Bicycles and School Hours and

The issues we see are people completing U-turns/Y-turns in posted areas restricting their use, and people parking in areas which are marked for no parking during school drop-off and pick-up.

Sgt. Nicole Hambly



Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you!

Did Someone Say Retirement??!!

Ryan Swick did! Ryan has worked for the Combined Locks Public Works Department for 31 years and will retire in January.

What commitment! What dedication! What loyalty!

In his early years, Ryan was one of the guys hanging on the back of the trash truck, the one in the water break hole with a shovel, and the guy on the mower in the parks. Ryan became the Public Works Director in 2010. He has seen a lot of changes and growth in this community over his three decades: 10 subdivisions, 1 business park, a traffic light, a roundabout, a few tornados, windstorms and ice storms, and the Village's first concrete streets!

Thank you, Ryan for your years of service to our community. We hope you fully enjoy your well-earned retirement!



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.

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

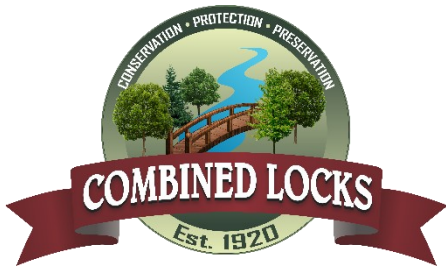
down more salt will not speed up the melting process. Use only enough deicer to break the bond between the ice and the pavement, then remove the remaining slush by shoveling.



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's occasionally 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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920-788-7740

www.combinedlocks.wi.gov

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MONDAY – THURSDAY
FRIDAY

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7:30AM to 11:00AM

Combined Locks Civic Center

Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
Office 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 & Utilities

300 Park Street

Keith Weyenberg

920-788-7744

weyenbergk@combinedlocks.wi.gov

Police Service with

Outagamie County Sheriff's Office

405 Wallace Street

Sgt. Nicole Hambly
Emergency 911

920-832-5000

nicole.hambly@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.