

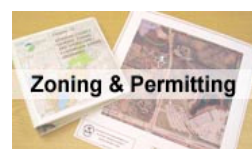


# COMPASS POINTS

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER: VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 DECEMBER 2010

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE

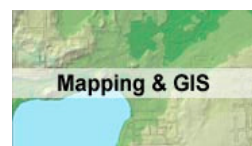
Over the last year, the Kenosha County Department of Planning & Development has been working to improve our website at: <http://kenoshacounty.org/plandev>. Our goal is to provide Kenosha County residents—current and prospective—with an overview of all the programs and services the department has to offer. If you have an internet connection, here is a small sample of the information available through our site:



**Zoning & Permitting**  
Learn about Kenosha County's zoning districts; the permits and procedures needed before making changes to residential or commercial structures; and when and how to obtain a variance or temporary use permit.



**Land Development**  
Get information about the processes of rezoning, conditional use permits, and site plan review. You can also see what the County has planned for the future through the comprehensive plan, and keep up with bike trails planning and projects (*see page 2*).



**Mapping & GIS**  
Through the interactive mapping application, you can search for parcels by address; view property tax information; find your zoning, school and voting districts; and see floodplain and shoreland boundaries. You can also create, print and save custom maps.



**Conservation**  
Land and Water Conservation offers information about farmland preservation programs, stormwater management, wetlands, and gypsy moth suppression. It also provides the annual Kenosha County Tree Program (*see page 3*).



**Septic Systems**  
Sanitation has information about the permits and procedures for the installation or replacement of Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS), as well as POWTS maintenance (*see page 2*). It has descriptions of types of septic systems and well regulations.



**Housing Programs**  
The Housing Authority provides loan programs for rehabilitation and for homeownership for income-eligible residents. It also manages the floodplain buyout program intended to reduce flood damage and the potential for injury by acquiring and demolishing houses in the Fox River 100-year floodplain (*see page 3*).

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### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR 2011

#### JANUARY

6	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
12	Land Use Committee, Public Hearing Room, 7 pm
20	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

#### FEBRUARY

2	Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance Short Course starts ( <i>see page 2</i> )
3	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
9	Land Use Committee Public Hearing Room, 7 pm
17	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

#### MARCH

3	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
9	Land Use Committee, Public Hearing Room, 7 pm
17	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

*All meetings are held at the Kenosha County Center (19600 75th Street, Bristol)*

## COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE FACILITIES PLANNING

Kenosha County has been awarded grants from Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to assist in developing bike-related projects within the county, including:

- **Development of a comprehensive bicycle plan for Kenosha County:** This plan will act as a guide over the next 15 years to improve bicycling conditions by developing a safe, accessible bicycle network throughout the County, as well as links to bicycle trails in neighboring counties in Wisconsin and Illinois.
- **Development of Petrifying Springs Park shared-use trail:** This will create a 1.1-mile, off-street shared-use trail (biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing) running roughly parallel to the Pike River. This is an extension of the existing Kenosha County shared-use trail along County Highway JR to County Highway A.

- **Development of bike lanes on County Highway H:** The asphalt shoulders will be widened along about 5 miles of Highway H, from Highway 50 to the State line in Pleasant Prairie in order to create on-road bicycle lanes. The proposed shoulder will be approximately 5-6 feet wide on each side of the road.
- **Paving the Kenosha County Bicycle Trail:** The existing crushed limestone surfaced trail will be replaced with a 10-foot wide asphalt surface on the existing Kenosha County Bicycle Trail northern and southern segments. The paving of the trail will add to the trail's durability and sustainability while providing access for a wider range of users who are currently unable to travel on the rugged crushed limestone surface.

Work on the comprehensive bicycle plan and bike infrastructure will begin in early 2011.



### Fall Wheel Ride

On October 2, 2010, Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser sponsored the inaugural Fall Wheel Ride. This community bike ride brought participants from various start points in Kenosha to Petrifying Springs Park for hot apple cider, popcorn, and other treats. Despite the less-than-friendly weather, the event was a success, drawing approximately 100 riders of all ages.

***More community bicycling events are planned for Spring 2011—stay tuned!***

## NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

In 2007, Wisconsin State legislature passed a bill that requires all existing septic systems be evaluated and maintained. The bill also requires maintenance reporting and county government tracking be implemented in the next couple of years. The purpose of this program is to improve septic system longevity and to replace existing failing septic systems with code-compliant state-approved septic systems.

This new initiative applies to septic systems installed prior to April 1981. Septic systems installed on or after April

1981 are already included in an ongoing septic system maintenance, reporting and tracking program.

When applicable, property owners will be sent a requirement notification for this program. Upon notification the affected property owner will be required to locate all existing treatment tanks to be serviced and contact a licensed waste hauler (pumper) to schedule a service date.

Kenosha County Planning and Development staff members will issue a sanitary permit for the proposed

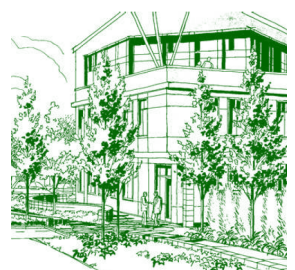
replacement septic systems and perform construction inspections at the time of septic system installation. According to state law, installation must be performed by a State of Wisconsin licensed master or master restricted service plumber.

If you have any questions regarding this program, you may contact the program sanitarians, Alex Priesgen or Marcus Meyer, at 262-857-1895, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Please note the office closed from noon to 1:00 p.m. daily.)

## LANDSCAPING & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SHORT COURSE

Offered by UW-Extension, this four-session program is designed for professional landscapers, grounds maintenance workers, arborists, and others who care for commercial and public landscapes, parks, cemeteries and other outdoor spaces. It will provide up-to-date science-based information to increase the economic and environmental sustainability of landscapes and landscaping businesses.

The course will be held on Wednesdays in February 2011 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Kenosha County Center, and costs \$50 for the entire course or \$15 per session. If three or more individuals attend from the same company, the cost is reduced to \$45 per participant. For more information, including session descriptions, visit the Kenosha County UW-Extension website: <http://kenosha.uwex.edu/>





## KENOSHA COUNTY TREE PROGRAM

The Kenosha County Tree Program has been offered for over 25 years and in that time, we have sold nearly one million trees. The purpose of this program is to encourage area residents to plant native trees and shrubs for conservation and wildlife enhancement.

The County Tree Program offers transplants and seedlings of a variety of pines, hardwoods, and shrubs. The variety of species is dependent upon availability, weather conditions, past sales success, tree performance, and general demand trends.

This year, our stock includes White Pine, Frasier Fir, Black Walnut, River Birch, Lilacs, and White Flowering

Dogwood. This sale is open to all interested parties in our area. Trees and shrubs are sold on a first-come, first-served basis, and are picked up at the Kenosha County Center by the customer.

Order forms can be obtained at the Department of Planning and Development or online at: <http://www.kenoshacounty.org/plandev/conservation/>.

Please return your order, with payment, to the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development Office no later than **March 1, 2011**. Tree pickup day is typically in mid- to late April. Purchasers will be contacted by mail when the pick-up date is finalized. Supply is limited so don't hesitate!



## WHAT IS A 100-YEAR FLOOD?

It seems like every day we hear about them on the television or read about them in the newspaper, so why does an event that sounds like it should happen only once in a lifetime occur with so much more frequency?

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), "The term '100-year flood' is misleading. It is not the flood that will occur once every 100 years. Rather, it is the flood elevation that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded each year."

In reality, a big flood can happen any year. The term "100-year flood" is based on statistics and probability: there is a 1-in-100 chance that a flood this size will happen in any given year. Large floods happen irregularly because the climate naturally varies over time. We sometimes get big floods in successive or nearly successive years. It is impossible to predict when the next 100-year flood will occur.

The Federal Government has established the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to protect homeowners and businesses against the risk of floods that cause billions of dollars of damage every year. FEMA makes subsidized flood insurance available in communities, like Kenosha County, that agree to adopt corrective and preventative floodplain management regulations that will reduce future flood damage.

The 100-year flood is used by the NFIP as the basis for mapping, insurance rating, and regulating new construction. Flood maps have been developed for communities throughout the nation, including Kenosha County, indicating where the 100-year flood elevation is located.

The goal of the NFIP is to significantly reduce the risk of flooding by removing damaged homes and elevating or flood-proofing new and existing homes located within the 100-year flood boundary (also called the Special Flood Hazard Area). If you have a home located within the adopted Special Flood Hazard Area and have a mortgage loan backed by a federal agency, you are required to obtain flood insurance.

FEMA recently tried to clarify the probability of a 100-year flood by saying that it has about a 26 percent chance of occurring during the life of a 30-year home mortgage. That is about triple the risk of a fire during that same period.



To view the 100-year flood maps or to discuss County floodplain regulations, please contact the Department of Planning and Development or visit the Kenosha County interactive mapping: [http://www.kenoshacounty.org/plandev/mapping/interactive\\_map.html](http://www.kenoshacounty.org/plandev/mapping/interactive_map.html)

## COUNTY SPOTLIGHT: HIGHWAYS DIVISION SNOW PLOW SAFETY



The State of Wisconsin's Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day may have already passed (November 22, if you were wondering), but winter is only beginning. Keeping safe on the roads in wintry conditions is a responsibility that all residents must take on in the coming months.

There are 40 snow plows in the Kenosha County fleet, and all have been prepared for action since the start of November. The County Highways Division is responsible for clearing all county highways, state highways, the county's stretch of Interstate-94, and some roads in the Towns of Brighton, Paris, and Randall. All other roads in the county are cleared by their respective municipality.

Knowing that Kenosha County is a commuting community, the Highways Division tries to ensure that major roads are navigable during peak travel times in the morning and evening, and the I-94 is always the top priority. In cases of overnight snow storms, the crew is called in at 3 am so that roads can be treated at least once by 5 am, when people are starting to leave for work.

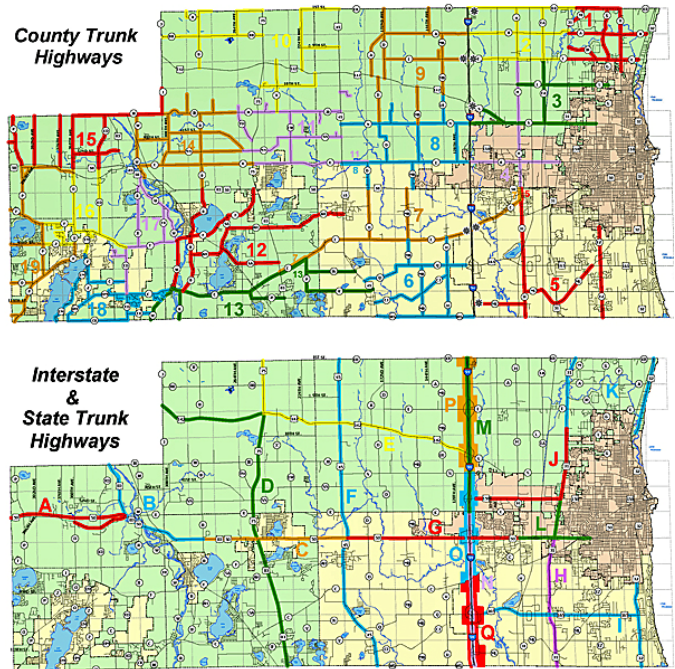
When it stops snowing, the Highways Division can clear the main roads within a few hours. However, while the snow is actively falling, there will be snow on the road, and drivers must adjust to the conditions. Here are a few tips for sharing the road with snow plows this winter.

**Stay at least 200 feet back from snow plows.** Plow drivers have a limited field of vision and cannot see vehicles directly behind them, so it is imperative not to crowd the plows. Also, snowplows often have to slow, stop, reverse, and maneuver around obstacles, so make sure you give them as much space as possible, even if they appear to be stopped.

**Do not pass snow plows unless absolutely necessary.** When at work, snow plows often produce blinding snow clouds which may disorient you as you try to pass.

**Always drive according to safety conditions.** Choose control over speed: drive slower, accelerate slower, brake slower. Decelerate when you approach intersections, off-ramps, bridges, and shady areas. Leave extra room between your car and the car before you. In short: plan ahead and give yourself plenty of travel time.

### KENOSHA COUNTY PLOWING PLAN: 2010-2011



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ZONING

### What is zoning?

Zoning is one of the primary tools of planning. It is the process by which land is divided into districts, each having a different set of uses, densities, size requirements, and other development standards.

Zoning helps to promote orderly growth and development, the quality of the environment, and the conservation of its resources.

### What areas are in Kenosha County's zoning jurisdiction?

The County's jurisdictional area includes all of the Towns of Brighton, Paris, Randall, Salem, Somers and Wheatland.

The County's zoning jurisdiction does not include the City of Kenosha and the Villages of Bristol, Paddock Lake, Pleasant Prairie, Silver Lake or Twin Lakes.

### How do I find out the zoning of my property?

You can find out how your property is zoned by contacting a land use specialist with the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development, visiting the department office to view a neighborhood map, or using the county's interactive mapping application (see page 1).



### Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development

19600 75th Street, PO Box 520, Bristol, Wisconsin, 53104-0520

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<http://kenoshacounty.org/plandev>

*The mission of the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development is to encourage the use of land, water resources and structures in a planned and orderly manner through technology, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and its base mapping and various ordinances, which promotes sound planning and land use management, environmental awareness and public participation to protect the overall public health, safety, morals, prosperity, aesthetics, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the citizens of Kenosha County as well as providing professional planning assistance to other departments within Kenosha County government.*