

COMPASS POINTS

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER FALL 2015

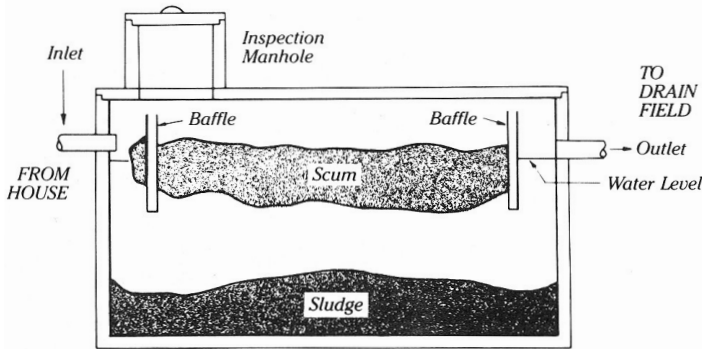
WHY DO YOU NEED TO SERVICE YOUR SEPTIC TANK?

Aside from the fact that servicing your septic tank every three years is a legal requirement for all septic tanks in Wisconsin, there are some very good reasons to have your septic tank serviced on a regular basis.

Septic tanks are nothing more than settling chambers that utilize the anaerobic bacteria found in human waste to decompose the solids that enter the tank. These solids consist of human waste, bathroom paper products, fats, oils and grease from cooking, some raw food waste, detergents, fabric softeners and cleaning products. A septic tank has baffles at the inlet and outlet of the tank that prevent solids from leaving the tank and flowing to the absorption field. Newer systems have a specialized filter that prevents the flow of any suspended particle greater than an eighth of an inch from leaving the septic tank.

It is very important for a healthy septic tank to maintain its bacterial action and its ability to maintain its settling capabilities. However, over time the settling layers that exist in a tank thicken and begin to cause performance problems in the form of increased suspended solids in the tanks' clarification zone, which is the middle layer found between the upper scum and the lower sludge layers.

The scum layer, found on the liquid surface of the tank, consists of floating fats, oils and grease from cooking and some paper products that eventually break up and are partially digested in the tank. Paper and synthetic fibers often contribute to the amount of suspended solids in the clarification zone.



SCHEMATIC OF A TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD SEPTIC TANK

It is from this area that the semi-clarified waste-water (referred to as effluent or graywater) flows from the tank, out the baffle or filter and to either an absorption field as found with a conventional septic system or to a dose chamber that is connected to a mound system. The effluent consists of mostly water which contains levels of suspended solids that do not break down in the tank, as well as significant levels of fecal coliform bacteria, pathogens and organic chemicals in this wastewater.

The bottom layer, or sludge zone, consists of settled out solids that have gone through further digestion by anaerobic bacteria. This material is high in organic matter, nitrogen, trace minerals and carbon.

The eventual build-up of sludge and scum in a septic tank results in a diminished performance of the septic tank. A homeowner who stays on a consistent maintenance schedule—that is, having the septic tank pumped and inspected by a licensed wastehauler every three years—will ensure good performance and long life of their septic system.

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR 2015	
OCTOBER	
1	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
14	Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee Public Hearing Room, 6 pm
15	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
NOVEMBER	
5	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
11	Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee Public Hearing Room, 6 pm
19	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
DECEMBER	
3	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
9	Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee Public Hearing Room, 6 pm
17	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
Unless otherwise indicated, all events are at the Kenosha County Center (19600 75th Street, Bristol)	

CABARET & SPECIAL EVENT LICENSES

The Kenosha County Judiciary and Law Committee is comprised of seven County Board members and has the responsibility of reviewing cabaret licenses within the unincorporated areas of Kenosha County.

Cabaret Licenses

Cabaret licenses permit establishments that sell alcohol to also provide patrons live entertainment such as musicians and dancing. Through a public hearing process and with the cooperation of the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department the Judiciary and Law Committee reviews applications to ensure safety, good order and noise control.

Pursuant to section 8.02 of the Kenosha County Licenses and Permits Ordinance, no holder of a Class "B" liquor or beer license within the unincorporated areas of the County shall afford the following to their patrons unless they first shall have obtained a Cabaret License from the County Clerk:

- (a) The music of one or more musicians and dancing privileges.
- (b) Specifically feature or advertise dancing in his premises using mechanical devices to produce music.
- (c) Furnish entertainment by, or performance of, any act, stunt, Karaoke or dance by performers under his auspices, whether such performers or dancers are paid or not.
- (d) This section shall not apply to holders of temporary Class "B" licenses.
- (e) A probationary or regular cabaret license, as defined in section 8.02(2) and 8.02(3) of these ordinances, and upon approval of the County Board for the issuance thereof, shall be issued such license for one or more of the following specific uses, subject to compliance with further conditions set forth by the County Board:
 - 1. A disc jockey utilizing mechanical devices to reproduce music.
 - 2. Up to two musicians, not electronically amplified.
 - 3. Two or more musicians electronically amplified.
 - 4. Non-musical entertainers, including, but not limited to dancers, actors, comedians, models or modeling, and magicians.

In cases where the initial applicant did not hold a 1981 license issued under the then-existing county cabaret ordinance for the location specified, then only a probationary cabaret license may be issued. Probationary cabaret licenses are valid for a period of six months while regular cabaret licenses expire on August 1 of each year. Licenses are non-transferrable and revocable.

The Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee shall either adopt, modify or reject the application prior to sending the application to the County Board for final action. If such recommendation is adopted by the County Board by majority vote, then the County Clerk is directed to issue the license.

Special Event Licenses

In lieu of obtaining a regular cabaret license an establishment can apply for a Special Event License. Special Event Licenses are valid only for a 24-hour period. Special Event Licenses are reviewed and issued by the County Clerk within three days. Special Event Licenses are limited to one license per month per establishment, except for the month of December when up to two licenses can be permitted.

Application forms for a Probationary Cabaret License, Cabaret License or Special Event License can be obtained from and submitted to the Kenosha County Clerk's office for placement on the Kenosha County Judiciary and Law Committee's meeting agenda.

The full Kenosha County Licenses and Permits Ordinance can be found online at <http://www.kenoshacounty.org/index.aspx?NID=133>.



WHAT IS A FLOOD?

Anywhere it rains, it can flood. A flood is a general and temporary condition where two or more acres of normally dry land or two or more properties are inundated by water.

Many conditions can result in a flood: fast melting snow; severe storms with a rapid accumulation of rainfall; outdated or clogged drainage systems, result in cresting rivers, backed-up storm drains or saturated ground with significant widespread flooding.

Just because you haven't experienced a flood in the past, doesn't mean you won't in the future. Flood risk isn't just based on history, it's also based on a number of factors: changing weather patterns, erosion, river-flow data, topography, flood-control measures, and changes due to building and development.

Flood Hazard Maps have been created to show different degrees of risk for Kenosha County, which helps determine the cost of flood insurance. The lower the degree of risk, the lower the flood insurance premium. Flooding can happen anywhere, but certain areas are especially prone to serious flooding.

To help Kenosha County residents understand their risk, flood maps (Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or FIRMs) have been created to show the locations of high-risk, moderate-to-low risk and undetermined-risk areas. Here are the definitions for each :

High-Risk Areas (Special Flood Hazard Area, or SFHA)

In high-risk areas, there is at least a 1 in 4 chance of flooding during a 30-year mortgage. All home and business owners in these areas with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are required to buy flood insurance. On flood maps, SFHAs are labeled with the letters A or AE.

Moderate-to-Low Risk Areas (Non-Special Flood Hazard Area, or NFHA)

In moderate-to-low risk areas, the risk of being flooded is reduced but not completely removed. These areas submit over 20% of insurance claims and receive one-third of disaster assistance for flooding. Flood insurance isn't federally required, but it is recommended for property owners and renters in these areas. On flood maps, NFHAs are labeled with the letter X or with a shaded X.

Undetermined Risk Areas

No flood-hazard analysis has been conducted in these areas, but a flood risk still exists. Flood insurance rates reflect the uncertainty of the flood risk.



Know Your Flood Hazard

To view the Special Flood Hazard Maps for your property or to discuss Kenosha County floodplain regulations, please contact the Division of Planning Operations or visit Kenosha County interactive mapping at: <http://www.kenoshacounty.org/index.aspx?NID=673>.

FEMA has also developed the Flood Map Service Center for flood hazard information. To find your official flood map, access a range of other flood hazard products, and take advantage of tools for better understanding flood risk, please visit: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.

FAQ: SETBACKS

What is a setback?

A setback is defined as the distance between a street line and the front building line of a principal building or structure, projected to the side line of the lot, and including driveways and parking areas, except where otherwise restricted by this ordinance.

A common misconception is that setback distances and setback requirements are taken from the centerline of the road or the edge of pavement. This is false. All setbacks are taken from the actual property line, located between your front property pins (pipes). If this line cannot be accurately located in the field, we suggest contacting a professional land surveyor to complete a boundary survey and accurately locate the property lines for you

What are the setbacks on my property?

Setbacks vary depending on where your property is located in what zoning district it is located. Setbacks are

established by taking a number of factors into account, including the type of road your property is located on (town road, county highway, etc.), whether your property is platted or metes-and-bounds, and in some cases what the surrounding land uses are.

Please contact the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development at (262) 857-1895 to find out what the specific setbacks are for your property.

What is a setback distance requirement measured from?

All street-, side- and rear-yard setback distances are typically measured from the property line. The location of this line can only be determined by a professional land surveyor. Shore-yard setback distance is measured from the ordinary high water mark as determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



A wireless (Wi-Fi) network is now being implemented in Kenosha County Parks. Currently operational at Silver Lake Beach Pavilion, this free open-air Wi-Fi network is available to all residents and visitors. Activities are underway to add coverage at pavilions in Petrifying Springs County Park in early 2016.



Kenosha County Parks Open Air WIFI (kcparksWiFi) is a high speed outdoor wireless Internet connection. Any device with a wireless adapter can connect to this service, including cell phones, tablets, laptops, and Wi-Fi enabled cameras.

kcparksWiFi is designed for free public use and the signal is not encrypted, so it is strongly recommended that you not conduct personal business across this network.

While there is no limit to the number of users that may connect to the kcparksWiFi access point, the connection speed and signal strength will decrease as the number of users increases. Users are encouraged to be mindful of others when accessing this free service.

In addition to web filtering for inappropriate sites, kcparksWiFi has some restrictions to limit the period of time or amount of data that can be downloaded during a specific session. These restrictions are intended to

dissuade people from streaming large amounts of data for movies or similar activities, as that could result in slower connection speeds for everyone using the service.

All kcparksWiFi connections are terminated after two hours. At that time, users must reconnect and re-acknowledge the kcparksWiFi User Agreement to continue.

kcparksWiFi is funded through financial contributions from the County of Kenosha, Carthage College, Gateway Technical College, Kenosha Area Business Alliance, *Kenosha News* and the City of Kenosha.

The goal of the free, open air Wi-Fi service is to support economic development, education, and public safety.

For more information about kcparksWiFi, including instructions on how you can connect to the service, please visit: <http://parks.kenoshacounty.org>.

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

FALL WHEEL RIDE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 10 AM - NOON

Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser invites bike riders of all ability levels to participate in the Sixth Annual Fall Wheel Ride to Petrifying Springs Park. Riders are encouraged to select one of two starting points to the park's Pavilion 1, located near the Highway JR entrance. The starting points are:

- 9 a.m. at Simmons Island Park, 44th Street and Kennedy Drive – 6 miles (one way) to Pavilion 1 at Petrifying Springs Park;
- 9:30 a.m. at Bose Elementary School, 1900 15th St. – 2.3 miles to Pavilion 1 at Petrifying Springs Park.

Apple cider, popcorn and water will be provided for riders by Kenosha County Parks. There will also be bike activities at the Pavilion.

PRINGLE NATURE CENTER 5K PRAIRIE AND WOODS RUN/HIKE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 10 AM

Lace up your running shoes to help raise money for Pringle Nature Center's environmental education programs. This 5K run/hike goes through Bristol Woods and is hailed as one of the best trails in the area. Register online or by downloading the form and mailing it in at the center (same day registration starts at 8 a.m.) Unique awards to the top participants in each age group. Medals to first place overall male and female. Entry fee is \$15. For more information, visit: www.pringlenc.org



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<http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/index.aspx?nid=656>

It is the mission of the Kenosha County Planning and Development Division to provide professional, customer-centered services to residents and organizations pursuing individual and community development goals while ensuring the balance of our community's economic advancement with protection of the natural environment. The Division provides services that; encourage the use of natural resources in a planned and orderly manner, utilize technology to ensure the efficient/accurate communication of technical land-use information, improve our local economy and advance the common good of the citizens of Kenosha County.