

City of Lancaster Newsletter

First Quarter 2015

Mayor's Message



Hello Everyone,

Wow, how fast the 2014 year has gone! The 2015 year has gotten off to a great start already.

We had several new businesses open in our city in 2014 and we will have more completed in 2015.

Now that the 2015 city budget is approved, other projects are to be done this year include:

- New library facilities to be completed and opened this summer
- Street widening and street renaming in Memorial Park to honor the Veterans Memorial site
- East Linden Street update and bridge rebuild near the high school with underground piping reworked
- The updating of South Adams Street from Lincoln Street to Georgia Lane
- Continued follow-up study on water quality issues with Well #3 on the west side of the city
- Working with the new businesses in the business parks
 - Arrow Ridge Business Park is adding Hurst Logistics and Elite Fitness
 - Ihm Business Park is expecting Radio Shack to be up and running this year

The City also has other projects to be done in 2015, so the employees will be quite busy.

Having had a lot of personnel changes in the city this past year, I would like to welcome all of them to their new positions.

Also, I would like to thank all the people that moved on to other jobs or retired. Their contributions were greatly appreciated by the City of Lancaster.

This year we will be working on updating some of the city goals and strategy planning items. These plans will help to strengthen and expand the city's economy. We have been asked to develop an improved image and marketing plan for the City of Lancaster.

I hope everyone has had a great and safe Holiday Season.
God bless you all!

Mayor Jerry Wehrle



Happy New Year from the Lancaster City Council

From Left to Right: Robert Schmidt, Kate Reuter, Dennis Morgan, David Varnam, Jerry Wehrle, Pete Hoffman, Chad Olmstead, LeRoy Ihm and Shayne LaBudda.

Administrator's Notes



As the new year begins it's a good time to reflect on the past while looking to the future. The City Council and Administration have worked hard to keep property taxes low while maintaining a high level of service that residents have come to expect. To maintain this level of service a slight increase in the city levy was required for 2015.

However, the overall or consolidated tax rate actually decreased which will mean less property taxes for most residents in 2015.

The City completed street improvements on Hickory Street that included new pavement, storm water and sidewalks. The City installed hanging flower baskets around the square with much appreciation from the community.

We brought back the skating rink on Cherry Street and with cold weather the Streets Department will fill it again in 2015. The City Council recently completed the long process of recodification. This process brings our laws up-to-date and reflects the rules and regulations that are most relevant today. The Code Book will be available on our website soon. The City also completed an Economic Development Strategic Plan and became a member of the Wisconsin Connect Communities program. These programs will help strengthen our business community through planning and programming. 2015 is going to be just as exciting as 2014. The City is updating our website with a new and improved site to be launched in January. The new website will not only look better but provide better communication and encourage citizen participation. Please check back often at www.lancasterwisconsin.com.

There will be some exciting changes to our recreation & pool programs in 2015. *(continued on page 2)*

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Administrator's Notes *(continued)*

Abby Fotzler is already getting things prepared for the summer recreation programs. We hope to offer more programming opportunities this summer in addition to what has been offered in the past. The pool will have a couple of new managers in Ryan and Nicholas. They bring a lot of experience and enthusiasm to the pool program.

South Adams Street is scheduled to be repaved and improved with new curb, gutter and sidewalks. Linden Street, near the High School, will also get some much needed work to improve the street and sidewalks.

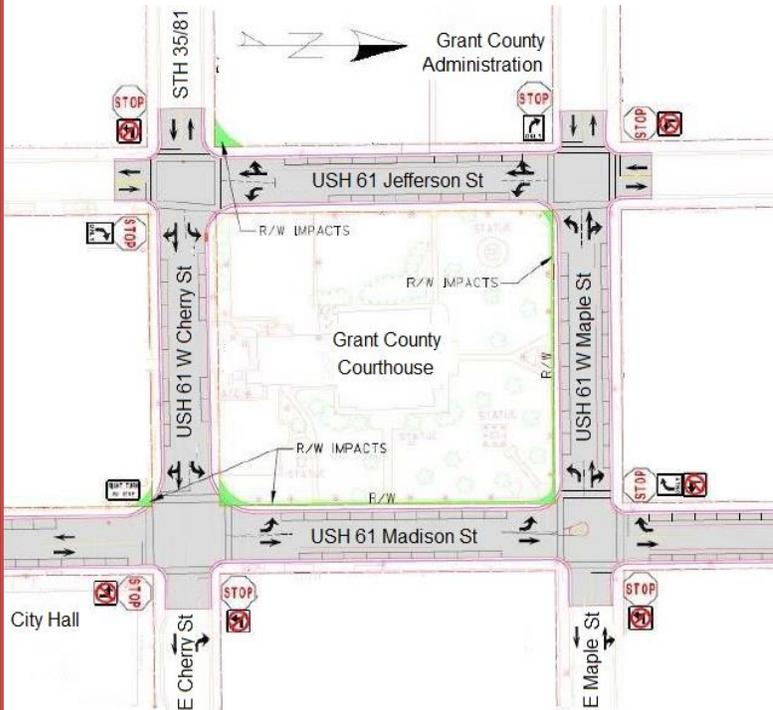
If you have ever been interested in giving back to your community through volunteering you now have an opportunity to join Keep Lancaster Beautiful. The Keep Lancaster Beautiful program works by matching volunteers up with city projects. Volunteers can give back by painting, raking, gardening, coaching and much more.

Additional goals the Administration and Council have identified include; Community Branding, Revitalizing the Square, adding more businesses to Arrow Ridge and Highway 61 improvement plans. In addition, the Library Expansion Project will be an enormous asset to our community. Fundraising continues so please consider giving to this exceptional community project.

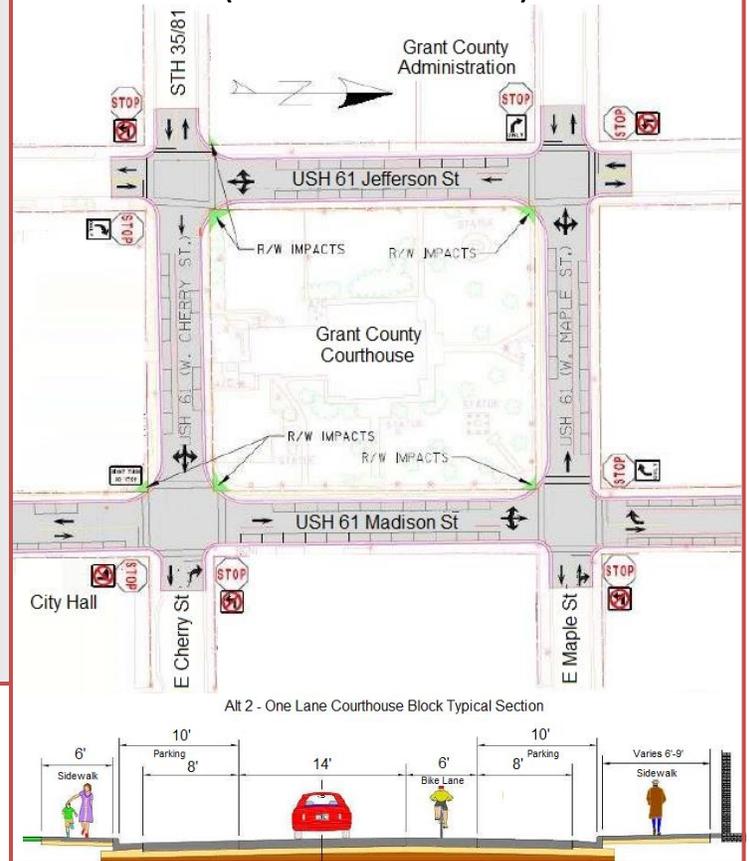
It's going to be an eventful year and as always we encourage you to attend meetings and get involved with your community.

Have a Happy New Year!

Alternative 1- Existing One Way with 2 Lanes (Council Recommended)



Alternative 2- Existing One Way with 1 Lane (WisDOT Recommended)



Improvements to US 61/ Madison Street, Cherry Street to City Limits

The purpose of the project is to replace existing concrete pavement that is cracking and showing signs of wear. The Lancaster Council prefers Alternative 1 which maintains two lanes of traffic.

WisDot recommends Alternative 2 which has one lane of traffic, as well as, a stop sign on the corner of Madison St and Cherry St in front of City Hall. It would eliminate the current stop sign for eastbound traffic on Cherry Street at Madison St, creating a roundabout traffic pattern. They state that it would be safer for pedestrians and it eliminates issues with left turns from the outside lane.

The next local officials and public involvement meetings have not been scheduled. The latest drafts presented to the council are shown; the DOT is still in the designing process and will not be holding another meeting until the second half of 2015.

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Breakdown of Taxes Paid on \$100,000 Home

To demonstrate where your taxes go, an estimate of the disbursement of taxes on a house with an assessed value of \$100,000 is presented as **Charts 1, 2, & 3**. Using a home assessed at \$100,000, total property taxes for all jurisdictions in 2015, including an estimated \$168 school tax credit, will be \$2,103. For comparison, 2015 is shown on **Chart 1** and 2014 is shown on **Chart 2**.

Chart 1
2015 All Taxing Jurisdictions Property Taxes (\$2,103) on \$100,000 home in Lancaster

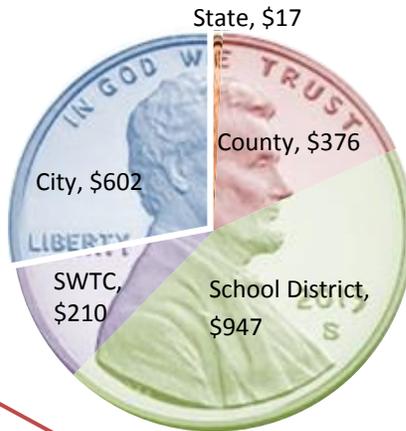
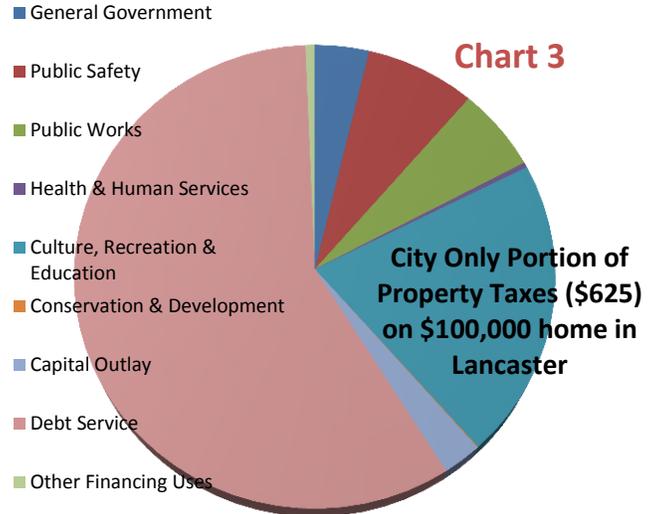
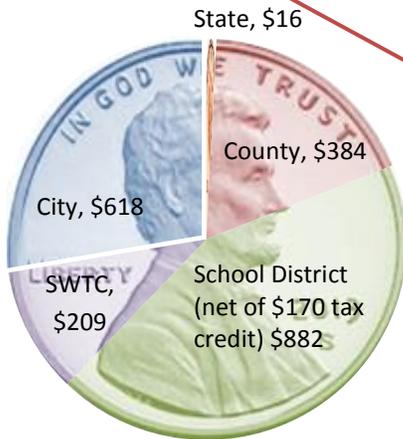


Chart 2
2014 All Taxing Jurisdictions Property Taxes (\$2,109) on \$100,000 home in Lancaster



Well #3 Update

Public Works Director Hauth met with Strand Associates and Peerless Pump Service and decided the best plan of action will be to fill the bottom 500 feet of the well; install a temporary gravel pack and temporary pump. Water will be pumped to waste for approximately two months with weekly samples taken to see if Radium levels drop to a consistent level. If the desired rates are achieved, cement will be poured to fill to bottom 500 feet of the 1700 foot well.

2015 Fee Schedule Ordinance

Council approved a **1.5% sewer rate increase** effective 1/1/15. The last sewer rate increase was 1/1/12 with an increase of 10%. The Finance Review Committee recommended a Simplified Rate Case (SRC) for the Water Utility in 2015. The SRC **water rate increase is 3%** and the last water rate increase was 8/1/12 with a 3.2% increase. A **stormwater increase of 5%** or 10 cents per equivalent runoff unit has also been approved.

The impact of the water, sewer and stormwater rate increases for a sampling of Utility customers, whose bill includes water, sewer, garbage and stormwater is shown below.

SAMPLE
Water, Sewer & Stormwater Rate Increase Impact Chart

Customer Type	Gallons (1,000)	Current Total/Month	Proposed Total/Month	Difference/ Month	Difference/ Year
Large residential	10	\$149.74	\$152.62	\$2.88	\$34.55
Average residential	6	\$104.66	\$106.68	\$2.02	\$24.21
Low residential	2	\$59.58	\$60.74	\$1.16	\$13.87



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Water Meter Replacement Program

The Water Department is in the process of installing new water meters to replace outdated meters greater than 10 years old. To accomplish this, we will need access to the current meter in your home. We will notify you by phone or door hanger that your meter is due for change-out. Personnel will set up a time to complete the change-out and to perform a cross connection inspection of your home's plumbing system to ensure it is in compliance with current state plumbing codes. The change-out process and inspection takes approximately 45 minutes. Your cooperation in getting these meters changed will be greatly appreciated. For your safety, and in case you have any concerns, employees will always be in clearly marked red pickups and be able to produce identification.

Did you know? City utility staff responded to 488 Diggers hotline requests in 2014

It is important to call Digger's Hotline at least 3 days prior to excavation work. Digger's Hotline is a 24/7 service staffed with live operators to take your call 1-800-242-8511 or 811. It's never safe to assume the location of a buried line without verifying the location.



Fishnick: Dedicated public employee

On Nov. 28th long time city employee Dennis Fishnick passed away after a brief illness. Dennis was a dedicated employee at the Street Department for over 38 years. Dennis was involved in all areas of the street dept. operations over the years. Most notably Dennis was a skilled equipment operator having many hours at the controls of the backhoe, front-end loader and street sweeper. During the early years of his career the city installed its own water, sewer and storm sewer piping for street replacement projects and Dennis was part of the crews doing this work. His experience and dedication are greatly appreciated and will be missed by all of us.

Congratulations to GRHC on the Festival of Trees event success! The City was proud to participate with our "Holiday Helpers" Tree



Play Ball! New Dugouts

Lancaster Sluggers raised money through various fundraisers to build new dugouts. City crews provided demolition for 2 of the dugouts and 2 were used as shelters for the skating pond. The City also preformed grading and installation of the concrete pads. The Lancaster Sluggers designed and built the new dugouts. Thank you for your partnership in bettering our public facilities.

Ice Rink: See you on the Ice!

When winter settles in, lace up your skates or grab a hockey stick to take advantage of our outdoor ice rink. The city maintains an outdoor ice rink on East Cherry Street north of the city ball diamonds as weather permits. This year we have the old baseball dugouts that can be used for shelter.



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Our Community is Powered by Volunteers!

City of Lancaster Spearheads Volunteer Program: Keep Lancaster Beautiful

Development of a new citywide volunteer program is beginning. The mission is to assist in the support of city services to enhance the quality of life for Lancaster residents. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities will be available, such as coaching youth in sports, cleaning and maintaining city outdoor spaces, and assisting the elderly. This is just a small list of numerous opportunities where your strengths could help enhance this program! Watch our website and Facebook for more information on our volunteer program, Keep Lancaster Beautiful.

How the program works



Participants interested in being a volunteer can visit our website to learn more about the program, or contact Aja Taylor at 723-4246 Ext 7. If you have an idea where you think volunteers could expand a program, please share it with us!

Bringing volunteers and city staff together creates a positive impact for our community!

Recreation Director



The new Recreation Director, Abby Fotzler, has already begun planning summer activities. Her goal is to provide the best possible experience for families participating in summer recreation. She is a great fit for the position, having worked with the program as an assistant for many years. She is currently teaching in Seneca and coaching basketball. She has a passion for sports and is excited to take on the role of Director. The city is fortunate to have the opportunity to have Abby's talents reflected in the recreation programs we offer.

Recreation Guide Coming Soon

Watch for the summer Recreation Guide coming soon, covering the months May through July. Plan to keep the kids busy this summer! We're looking forward to keeping your family inspired by play all summer long!

Spring Election: Tuesday, April 7th, 2015

On the Ballot

State offices elected include Justice of the Supreme Court and Circuit Court Judge. Local offices include Alderperson District II, District IV and 2 At-Large Alderperson seats available. The school has 3 positions for the City, At-Large and Area 2.

Am I registered to Vote?

Make your wait at the polls quick and easy. Find out if you're a registered voter by visiting myvote.wi.gov.



Pool Managers

Ryan Murray and Nicholas Volkman are excited to be co-managing the Lancaster Municipal Pool this year. They have both served as lifeguards at the pool for 4 years and are enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve the community.

From their experience lifeguarding and acting as Swim Team Coordinators and Swim Lesson Instructors; they have gained expertise that will assist them in their new roles.



Open Boards and Commissions- Ways to Serve in Your Community

The City is looking for interested citizens to serve as members on the following committees:

Zoning Board of Appeals is looking to fill the 2nd Alternate seat with term expiration at April 2015. Regular terms are served for 3 years. The purpose of the Board is for hearing appeals and application and granting variances.

Historic Preservation Commission has 2 vacant seats to fill with the terms expiring in April of 2016. The commission is comprised of 7 members. One alderperson, at least 2 building owners in the City's historic district and the remaining members are persons who reside, own property or have a clear interest or stake in the City.

Members provide a great service to the community. If you are interested in being a committee member, please submit a letter of interest with your contact information, including email, a short bio and explain why you would like to be on the committee.

Attn: City Administrator, 206 S Madison Street

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Rescue Squad

Janice Kipper was recently recognized for 30 years of service to the community as an EMT. Janice continues to be an active member of our service, responding to many emergency calls each month.

Make sure to tell her thanks if you bump in to her at Shopko or elsewhere around the community!



Lancaster Police Department

Year End Police Incident Report *(not a complete list)*

Alarm	11	Probation/Parole Violation	9
Animal Bite	7	Property Damage	3
Assist Citizen/Motorist	20	Salvation Army Request	6
Assist Grant County Sheriff	43	Suspicious –Person/Activity	16
Disorderly Conduct	14	Theft	15
Drug Possession	2	Traffic- Seatbelt Violation	10
Emergency Detention/ Detox	7	Traffic Accident- Hit & Run	6
EMS Calls	26	Traffic Accident- Property Damage	19
Fire Calls	1	Truancy	26
Fraud- Scam	3	Warrant- Pickup	10
Harassment- Phone Calls	8	Welfare Check	15

Lancaster Welcomes Two New Officers

Our newest officers joining the Police Department are Lindsey Stapleton and Dalton Maier.

Lindsey has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology/ Criminal Justice from UW-Whitewater. In 2009, she played for a national rugby team, the Midwest Thunderbirds, who won the National Championship in Fort Lauderdale, FL. She enjoys outdoor activities like hunting, fishing and horseback riding. Since the start of her service in April, Lindsey has noticed what a friendly community Lancaster is which has made her transition from Spring Green easier.



Dalton graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from UW-Platteville, completed Police Academy at SWTC and has been working Part-time with the Lancaster Police Department. He enjoys working with his colleagues and focusing on his career. In his spare time he likes to hunt, fish, ride motorcycles and bow hunt.



National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day was January 9th and we would like to thank all our law enforcement officers!

COFFEE WITH Chief Reukauf

9:30 AM every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at Blue Boy Bakery

Join Debra for a coffee & discuss what's on your mind

Coffee with the Chief

Please come out and meet your new Chief of Police.

This is a great time to tell her what concerns you have or what things you think are going great. She will be at Blue Boy Bakery for one hour the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month starting January 21st, 2015.

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Library Update

2015 is going to be a very exciting year for Lancaster's public library! Construction is continuing on the expansion and renovation project, and we look forward to moving in to our new, updated, and accessible library sometime this year. As our contractors continue working on the facility, we are starting to put together a furniture plan for the interior. Come see what we have planned - stop by our temporary location at 144 South Madison Street on the square. We are still encouraging donations to the Lancaster Public Library Foundation in order to successfully complete this project for our community!

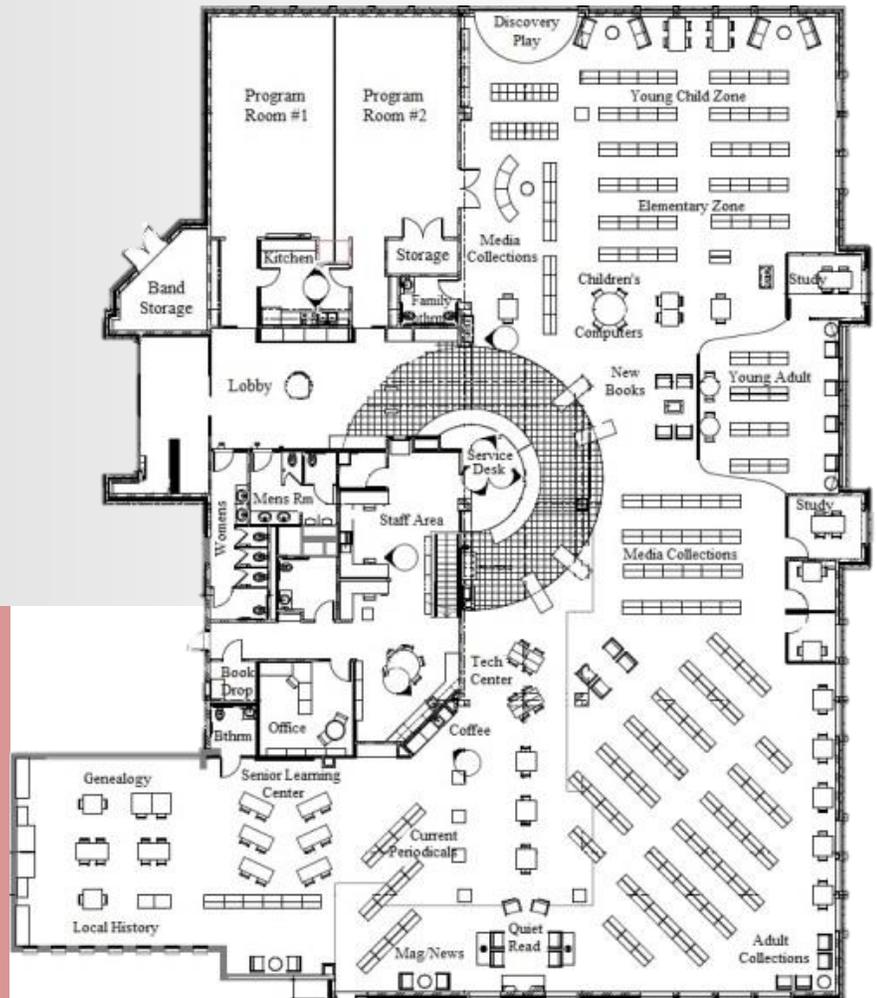
The beginning of the New Year means that tax season is coming up, and even though we will not be in our regular location we will still have paper copies of most basic tax forms as soon as the government ships them out to us. In addition, we are happy to look up and print specific tax forms and instructions from the IRS or state websites for only 10 cents per page.

We have new books coming in every week; our list would be pretty long and very quickly out of date. We usually have most of the New York Times Bestsellers in fiction if that helps at all, or you can direct people to visit the "New Materials" tab on our catalog for a book river of items recently added to our collection. (Go to schreinermemoriallibrary.wordpress.com and click on "Online Catalog.")

Lego Club starts on Mondays after school on January 12th. Toddler Tales, which is geared toward ages 6 months and 36 months (and their parent or another adult), starts up in February and takes place on Wednesdays at 9:30 AM.

Check our website or like us on Facebook to stay up to date on programs, resources, and construction updates from the library. As always, if you have any questions or would like to hear more about what we do, call the library at 608-723-7304.

Jennifer Bernetzke, Library Director



Did you know?

Carbon Monoxide Safety Tip

If your carbon monoxide detector alarms, the fire department can assist you in determining whether it is a legitimate problem or a false alarm. The department conducts free air monitoring/carbon monoxide investigations for Lancaster Fire District residents. To request assistance, contact the Grant County Sheriff's Office non-emergency number 723-2157 and they will contact us to respond.

2015 Golf Rates

Annual Membership Rates	Before 4/1/15	On or after 4/1/15
Corporate	\$2680	\$2680
Family	\$870	\$895
Couples	\$760	\$785
Couples Senior	\$740	\$760
Single	\$610	\$635
Single Senior	\$590	\$615
Single Executive Jr	\$495	\$525
Family Executive Jr	\$675	\$700
Under 25~Non-Student	\$395	\$425
Student	\$185	\$210
League Day Pass	\$450	\$475

- Senior ≥ 65 years old
- Executive Jr ≤ 35 years old
- Corporate includes 4 memberships & 4 cart passes (for employees only) & 12 Guest passes included

City of Lancaster
206 South Madison
Lancaster, WI 53813

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CITY OF LANCASTER STAFF & ALDERPERSONS

Mayor
Jerry Wehrle
City Administrator
Steve Winger
Clerk/Treasurer
David Kurihara
City Attorney
David Helmke
Library Director
Jennifer Bernetzke
Public Works Director
John Hauth

Building Inspector
Zoning Administrator
Dennis Hampton
Police Chief
Debra Reukauf
Fire Chief
Steve Braun
Aldersperson, Wards 1 & 5
Chad Olmstead
Aldersperson, Wards 2 & 3
Bob Schmidt

Aldersperson, Ward 4
LeRoy Ihm
Aldersperson, Ward 6
David Varnam
Aldersperson At-large
Dennis Morgan
Aldersperson At-large
Pete Hoffman
Aldersperson At-large
Shayne LaBudda
Aldersperson At-large
Kate Reuter

CITY OF LANCASTER CONTACTS

Assessment Questions
Accurate Appraisals, LLC
1-800-770-3927

Garbage & Recycling
Town & Country Sanitation
1-800-626-1915

Taxes-Delinquent /2nd Installment
Grant County Treasurer
723-2604

Building & Zoning
Dennis Hampton
778-7162
Office: Tues 9 AM to Noon

City Clerk's Office 8 AM to 4:30 PM
General Inquiries/Licenses
723-4246

Water Billing Department
723-6225

Schreiner Memorial Library
723-7304
Mon-Thurs 9am- 8pm
Fri 9am-5pm
Sat 9am- 1pm
Sun 1 pm- 4pm