



Village of Chenequa

March 2026 Newsletter

Save the Date - Spring Election – April 7

Welcome to the Chenequa Family!

Officer Vincent “Vinny” Busateri was sworn in as our latest full-time officer in January and he will be primarily be working second shift.

A word from Vinny:

“Hello! I’m Officer Vincent Busateri, recent hire for the Chenequa Police Department. I come with experience from the Waukesha County Sheriff’s Office. A little about me, I grew up in the Oconomowoc area and I recently got married in January. In my free time I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I like being outdoors and enjoying the warm weather. I can’t wait to meet everyone, so if you see me, don’t be shy and say hello. I’m excited to be here and look forward to a long career.”



Building Inspector Information

Remember if you are doing any improvements to your home, you may need a permit. You can find information on building code, permissible time for construction activities and permits on our website.

<https://chenequa.org/departments/building-inspector>

Spring Election In-Person Absentee Voting Starts

In Person Absentee Voting in the Clerk’s Office:

March 24th – March 26th

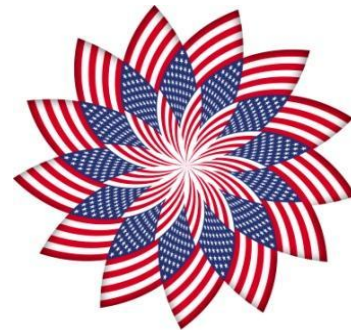
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March 27th, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

March 30th – April 2nd

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

April 3rd (Last Day) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Election Day is April 7th, 2026, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

IF YOU ARE REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, please see the attached notice. I recently received a piece of mail that I mailed in December, and it took 2 months for it to be returned to me. (I forgot the zip code) oops. Ballots will be delivered by March 20th; SO the earlier you request your absentee ballot, the sooner you can get it back to us. IF it is not returned by 8pm on Election Day, it will not count. If possible, vote by absentee ballot in-person beginning March 24th.

Congratulations to Officer Bronner!

In February, Officer Bronner was promoted to 2nd shift Sergeant. Sergeant Bronner is a seasoned law enforcement professional with over 20 years of experience in patrol operations, investigations, crisis response, and community policing, supported by military leadership service in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Proven leader with experience as a Detective, Patrol Specialist, Motor Officer, and School Resource Officer, recognized for sound-decision making in high-stress situations and a strong commitment to public safety. Demonstrates exceptional skills in investigation, conflict resolution, and team leadership while fostering positive relationships with the community and fellow officers. Dedicated to upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and service within law enforcement. Congratulations, we are in good hands.

2026 Dog licenses – don’t forget to renew your dog license for 2026. If the license is not renewed by March 31, 2026, there will be an additional \$5.00 charged per dog for a late fee. You may mail in your license application and fee or stop by the Village Hall during normal business hours.



VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may submit a request to vote an absentee ballot to their Municipal Clerk. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and who has resided in the ward or municipality where they wish to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered to vote in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

TO OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may make written application to your Municipal Clerk for an absentee ballot by mail, by fax, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov. Or you may apply in person at the Clerk's Office during the In-Person Absentee Voting period listed below.

Your written request must include:

1. your voting address within the Municipality where you wish to vote;
2. the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different from the address above;
3. your signature; and
4. a copy of your photo identification.

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is 5:00 p.m. on the fifth day before the election: April 2, 2026.

Voters who are indefinitely confined due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability may not be required to provide photo ID. If this applies to you, contact the Municipal Clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the Municipal Clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

VOTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the Clerk's Office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

PAMELA ANN LITTLE
31275 W County Road K
Chenequa, Wisconsin
(262) 367-2239

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm
Friday 8 am to 3 pm

The deadline for making application to vote absentee by mail is:
5 pm on the fifth day before the election, Thursday, April 2, 2026.

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is:
Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is:
5 pm on the Friday before the election, Friday, April 3, 2026.

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the Election. The Municipal Clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on April 7, 2026. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

Type E Notice – Posted March 10, 2026

March 2026 – Spring Tree Care

As the days get longer, temperatures rise, and the soil thaws, your trees will slowly start a season of transition out of dormancy and into bud-break before they really kick off their growing season. This can be an important time of year to perform specific tree care tasks, but a dangerous time of year to perform others. Our hope is that this article can help inform you about what is, and what is not recommended for tree care in the coming months.

Pruning

When it comes to tree pruning, many people may be surprised to find out that spring is not a great time to prune trees. While *most* tree species can be pruned almost year-round, it is generally recommended to avoid pruning virtually all tree species during “bud-break” in the spring. During bud break, trees are using stored energy and nutrient reserves to put out new growth, and pruning during this time can cause unnecessary stress during this period of rapid growth. Spring is also a time when tree pests (insects and diseases) begin activity, and some trees can be especially vulnerable if pruned during this season.

In addition to the above recommendations, it is *absolutely critical to never prune oak and elm trees in the spring and summer months*. The WI DNR recommends avoiding oak and elm cutting, pruning, and trimming from April 1 to October 1 as a guideline. Pruning during these months will likely suscept these trees to Oak Wilt and Dutch Elm Disease respectively, both of which are almost always fatal and can devastate a landscape if the disease is not effectively managed. If you must prune oaks or elms during spring or summer months (such as emergency storm-damage, etc.), always minimize the amount of pruning cuts that are made and immediately seal any pruning wound with a prune-seal type of product.

Tree Health Care

As mentioned above, the spring warm-up months are a busy time of year for trees as well as insect and disease pests that have been dormant all winter. During this time, some trees may need a little extra care depending on many factors such as weather, tree age, tree health, and the surrounding landscape.

Watering

As long as we have typical spring rains, moist soil, and cool temperatures, most trees will not need any supplemental watering in the spring months. If we go through a lengthy dryer and warmer stretch of weather in the spring, some watering may be needed, especially on newly planted trees that are not yet fully established. Young trees especially need at least 1” of water per week to get established and thrive. When watering trees, it is better to do infrequent, deeper soakings (once per week) instead of lighter frequent waterings. This encourages deeper root growth and will help the trees be less sensitive to drought in the future.

Fertilizer and Mulch

Spring is often a time of year when fertilizing is recommended for certain trees. Most trees, especially those growing in natural areas, *do not* need any fertilizer to be healthy. They get all of

the nutrients they need from the organic matter breaking down in the soil and show no signs of nutrient deficiency.

However, some trees, especially certain species growing in lawn areas or locations that have small root zones surrounded by impervious surface, may benefit from fertilizer to supplement the natural nutrients that are lacking in the soil in those harsher environments. Signs that a tree might be nutrient deficient include yellowing leaves in the summer, reduced growth rate, and branch tip dieback. This can also make a tree more susceptible to pests, as many pests target trees that are already stressed. If you suspect a tree is nutrient deficient, you can always contact the Highway/Forestry Department to get our opinion, or work with a reputable arborist for specific treatment, dosage, and timing recommendations.

As an alternative to fertilizer, you may be able to minimize the risk of nutrient deficiency in lawn-grown trees by installing a mulch ring around each tree. Installing a mulch ring around a tree that is surrounded by turf grass reduces competition for the tree (turf grass often absorbs nutrients before they even make it down to the tree roots), and as the mulch decays, the nutrients from it will break down into the soil and become available for the tree. When mulching, apply mulch 2-4" thick, but never mound mulch against the trunk of the tree - make sure you leave the root flare exposed. If mulch is mounded against the trunk, it creates conditions ripe for pests and often causes girdling roots, which will eventually choke off the stem of the tree. Mulch rings should cover at least a 3' radius around the tree, but extending it out further can provide even more benefit for the tree. See picture to the right of a newly planted, properly mulched tree.



Pest Control

As many of us are unfortunately aware, there are a vast array of tree pests in our region today. They can range from fungi (Root-rot, Needlecast), to insects (Emerald Ash Borer, Leaf Miners), to bacteria (Bacterial Leaf Scorch, Fire Blight), and more. Sometimes diseases can even be a combination of pests, such as Oak Wilt and Dutch Elm Disease, where it is actually a fungus that kills the tree, but that fungus is often spread by beetles.

Regardless of the type of pest, these pests are usually most active in the spring and summer, which can make the coming months a critical time of year to manage them. Pest management can be much more efficient and effective if it is done in a targeted fashion (the right treatment, targeting the right pest, applied at the right time), while also reducing collateral damage to non-target species. If you have questions or concerns regarding any pest threats to your trees, feel free to reach out to the Highway/Forestry Department for direction on how they may be able to be managed. For specific treatment recommendations, please work with your preferred arborist to have a plan to protect your most valuable and most vulnerable trees.

Invasive Plant Management

Spring can be a great time for certain techniques of invasive plant management, but it is not the best time for others. Many invasive plants (buckthorn and honeysuckle) are some of the first to leaf out in the spring. Shortly after these plants leaf out is a great time to *mow or cut them down*. During this time, the plant just expended large amounts of stored energy from their stems and put it out to the new growth. Cutting/mowing the plants at this vulnerable time removes all of that new growth, leaving the stumps somewhat energy-depleted and less able to resprout so aggressively. Cutting/mowing at this time over several years can be an effective method of controlling woody invasives, though it can be fairly labor intensive.

Hand-pulling invasives during spring while the ground is soft is often the easiest time to do it. This type of control is highly effective for many invasives but is also very labor intensive.

Herbicide treatment is generally *not* most effective when done in the spring, especially for woody invasive plants. If you choose to use herbicides, they are often most effective in late summer or fall when woody plants are actively retracting nutrients from their leaves back into their stem and roots. This allows the chemical to be translocated into the woody part of the plant, effectively killing the entire plant down to the root, which may not happen as readily if done in the spring or early summer.

Tree/Shrub Planting Species Recommendations

Spring is a fantastic time to plant trees. Cooler temps and moist soils provide an optimal environment for a new tree to take root before the stress of the heat and (potentially) dry summer months. If you are planning to plant any trees or shrubs this spring, consider choosing trees from the following recommended species list(s).

The Highway/Forestry Department has compiled these lists to recommend species that do particularly well in our area. Most of the species on these lists are native, however we have also included some non-native options that fit nicely in our landscape and have proven to do well over the past several decades.

Remember, not every tree is suitable for every planting location. Some trees need full sun, while others need more shade. Many trees need well-drained soil, but other species thrive in perpetually wet areas. Some sites may call for a large “statement tree”, and other areas have more confined spaces that are only suitable for small-stature trees. Make sure you are planting the right tree for the right site. For site-specific planting recommendations, feel free to contact the Highway/Forestry Department and we would be happy to assist.

Coniferous Trees			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Mature Height (ft)	Mature Spread (ft)
Balsam fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	40-60'	15-25'
Red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	30-40'	8-20'
Tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>	30-50'	10-15'
Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	50-70'	25-30'
Black Hills spruce	<i>Picea glauca var. densata</i>	20-40'	10-15'
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	50-80'	20-40'
Baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	40-60'	15-20'
White cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	20-30'	10-15'
Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	25-45'	15-25'

Deciduous Trees			
<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Mature Height (ft)</u>	<u>Mature Spread (ft)</u>
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	40-60'	35-45'
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	50-75'	40-50'
Serviceberry spp.	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	20-25'	20-25'
River birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	30-50'	20-40'
Paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	40-60'	20-40'
Musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	20-30'	20-30'
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	60-80'	30-50'
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	40-60'	40-50'
Eastern redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	25-35'	20-30'
Pagoda dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	15-25'	20-30'
Beech spp.	<i>Fagus spp.</i>	50-70'	40-60'
Kentucky coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	50-60'	40-50'
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	25-40'	15-30'
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	60-80'	50-70'
London planetree	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	60-80'	40-65'
Bigtooth aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	40-60'	15-25'
Quaking aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	40-60'	15-25'
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	40-60'	20-35'
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	50-80'	50-80'
Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	50-80'	50-70'
Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	60-80'	60-90'
Willow spp.	<i>Salix spp.</i>	50-80'	50-80'
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	50-80'	30-60'
Resistant elms	<i>Ulmus spp.</i>	50-80'	40-60'

Woody Shrubs			
<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Mature Height (ft)</u>	<u>Mature Spread (ft)</u>
Speckled alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>	15-25'	6-15'
Serviceberry spp.	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	15-25'	15-25'
Black chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	5-7'	4-6'
Musclewood shrub	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	15-25'	15-25'
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	5-8'	5-8'
Silky dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	5-8'	5-8'
Gray dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	8-12'	8-12'
Redosier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	6-10'	6-10'
American hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	6-10'	6-10'
Beaked hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	6-10'	6-10'
Dwarf bush honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	3-4'	4-5'
Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	10-16'	10-16'
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	3-8'	3-8'
Ironwood shrub	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	20-30'	10-20'
Ninebark spp.	<i>Physocarpus spp.</i>	8-10'	8-10'
Willow spp.	<i>Salix spp.</i>	6-20'	6-20'
Red elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	6-12'	6-12'
Bottlebrush Buckeye	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	6-12'	6-12'
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	3-5'	3-5'
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	10-20'	10-20'
Downy arrowwood	<i>Viburnum rafinesqueanum</i>	8-10'	6-8'
American cranberry-bush	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	6-12'	6-12'