



# NORTH BAY NEWS

**JANUARY 2026 EDITION**

Friday January 23rd, 2026

## Newsletter Index

- **Letter from the President**
- **Executive Board:** Project updates (North Bay Park coastal project; Technology - Domain change & website modernization; improved security at Village Hall)
- **Treasurer:** Wisconsin income tax filing; Property tax payments due by January 31st; US Post mark changes; 2026 Dog license & North Bay leash law
- **Spring Elections:** Village caucus results; No spring primary; Election Facts; 4 ways to register to vote; Absentee voting
- **Public Works:** Public road waste management reminder
- **Constable:** Racine County emergency management; Carbon monoxide safety
- **Village Hall:** Contact info, Village meetings

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear VNB Residents,

*Unfortunately, cold weather is a good educator. It will tell you when your car tires are going flat, when your vehicle battery is dead, and radiator antifreeze must be exactly that. There are household issues being pointed out as well, like frozen water pipes and an exhausted furnace. I hope none of you experience these things and pass through this weather unscathed.*

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns at [vnbpresident@northbay-wi.us](mailto:vnbpresident@northbay-wi.us) or (262) 681-1176.

Stay warm!

Roger Mellem, Village President

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**PROJECT UPDATES** | The Executive Board recognizes the significance of maintaining North Bay's infrastructure and technology for the Village's long-term viability. Below is a list of projects underway. Future projects will be announced in upcoming newsletters as they arise.

- **North Bay Park coastal project:** Progress is being made, though slowly but steadily, on the complex North Bay beach, bluff, and park project. This effort encompasses approximately 600 lineal feet of shoreline.
  - The Village contracted GZA, a firm specializing in geotechnical, environmental, ecological, and water projects, to handle the engineering services for this project. The initial assessment was finished in spring 2025, and the project's next phase is set to begin this spring. Because this is a significant and lengthy effort, the Village will seek grant opportunities to help secure the considerable funding required.
- **Technology:** In November 2025, the Village partnered with VC3, a municipal technology firm, to enhance digital security and modernize systems. VC3 is assisting with grant applications to help cover the cost. This year, we are prioritizing two major system upgrades.
  - **Domain Change:** The Village's domain will transition to a more secure .gov address.
  - **Website Modernization:** The 2012 website will be updated to comply with current state mandated requirements.

The Village will announce the completion of this project, which includes new email and website addresses. In the meantime, please continue utilizing the current email addresses and website.

- **Improved security at Village Hall:** To improve security, commercial keyless entry deadbolt locks have been installed at Village Hall. The Village received a \$600 grant from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities to help cover the expense.

## TREASURER | Robert E. O'Brien

**WISCONSIN INCOME TAX FILING** | When completing your individual Wisconsin Income Tax return, please indicate the Tax District on page 1 as the Village of NORTH BAY, County of RACINE and School District Number 4620 to provide the Village with valuable tax credits.

**PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT DUE BY JANUARY 31ST** | The first installment of your property tax payment is due January 31st. If you fail to pay either your first installment or the full amount of your tax bill by January 31, the full bill becomes due, and interest and penalties accrue on the unpaid amount starting on February 1.

If you plan to pay in installments, any payments made after January 31 **MUST** be made to the Racine County Treasurer at the Racine County Courthouse, 730 Wisconsin Avenue.

Please email Treasurer O'Brien ([vnbtreasurer@northbay-wi.us](mailto:vnbtreasurer@northbay-wi.us)) if you have questions on the tax collection process or details behind the Village Budget.

**REMINDER: US POSTAL SERVICE POSTMARK CHANGE** | Recent changes by the U.S. Postal Service to the postmarking process may impact documents where the date of mailing is critical, such as tax payments and absentee ballots.

**What You Need to Know:**

- Local post offices no longer apply same-day postmarks.
- Mail is now dated when it arrives at a regional processing center, which can take 1–2 days, and often longer over weekends or holidays.

**If you are mailing a document with a deadline, please take these precautions:**

- **Mail early** to allow for processing time.
- **Utilize in-person or online payment/submission options** whenever possible.
- **Do not assume** the postmark date will be the same day you drop the item in the mail.
- Tax payments received after the due date will be considered delinquent if the postmark date is later than the due date.

**2026 DOG LICENSE & LEASH LAW** | Dog owners in Racine County must ensure their pets have up-to-date rabies vaccinations and a current license. 2026 Dog license applications were included with your property tax bill, or you can [download the application here](#). Also, dog owners are asked to abide by North Bay's leash law (**Chapter 12 Section 01**). Please keep your pet(s) leashed when you and your pet are off your property.



## **SPRING ELECTIONS**

**VILLAGE CAUCUS RESULTS** | On January 12th, 2026 at the Village Caucus, nominations were put forth as follows: Rich Schmitt and Paul Schroeder for Trustee #1 Public Works; Rick Cermak for Trustee #2 Water & Wastewater; Robert E. O'Brien for Village Treasurer. Three of the four nominees filed the required documents and will appear on the April 7th, 2026 Spring Election ballot.

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ★ Trustee #1 Public Works:       | Paul C. Schroeder, Incumbent |
| ★ Trustee #2 Water & Wastewater: | Rick Cermak, Incumbent       |
| ★ Village Treasurer:             | Robert E. O'Brien, Incumbent |

**NO SPRING PRIMARY IN NORTH BAY** | As no Village, county, or state elections necessitate a spring primary this year, **there will be no election on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.**

**ELECTION FACTS** | Everything you need to know about voting can be found on the [Wisconsin Elections Commission website](#). The URL is: <https://elections.wi.gov/voters>

**4 WAYS TO REGISTER TO VOTE** | Proof of residence is required to register to vote. Visit <https://elections.wi.gov/Register> for information about voter eligibility and the 28 day residency requirement.

1. **Online**; up to 20 days before the election (Visit [www.myvote.wi.gov/en-us](http://www.myvote.wi.gov/en-us))
2. **By mail**; up to 20 days before the election
3. **In the Municipal Clerk's Office**; during in person Early Voting
4. **At the Polling Place on Election day**

**ABSENTEE VOTING** | To request an absentee ballot, please visit [www.myvote.wi.gov/en-us](http://www.myvote.wi.gov/en-us). Please note that the US Postal Service recommends allowing 7 days for delivery each way.



**CLICK HERE** to:

- Register to Vote (on or before the deadlines set by the WEC - Wisconsin Election Commission)
- Apply to vote absentee & track your absentee ballot
- Verify your Voter Information
- Update your Name or Address
- Find your polling place
- See what's on the Ballot

## **PUBLIC WORKS** | *Trustee Paul Schroeder*

**PUBLIC ROAD WASTE MANAGEMENT REMINDER:** To ensure collection, all waste must be contained **entirely** within your automated trash carts or it will not be collected. Any waste that does not fit inside the automated cart is classified as bulk waste.

Bulk waste collection requires advance scheduling for the designated collection date. Residents are allowed a total of 12 collections per year.

- For a list of accepted bulk items, please visit the [Johns Disposal North Bay](#) page.
- **To schedule your bulk collection or for any questions, please contact Johns Disposal at 262-473-4700 or email [office@johnsdisposal.com](mailto:office@johnsdisposal.com).**
- To print the 2026 calendar, [CLICK HERE](#) or visit <https://vnbwi.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/north-bay-schedule-2026-landscape.pdf>

## **CONSTABLE** | *Rocco Castellano*

**RACINE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** | The Village would like to introduce you to the Racine County Emergency Management Department. Emergency Management is about helping our community prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies—before they happen, during the chaos, and long after the immediate danger has passed.

Much of their work happens behind the scenes: planning, training, coordinating with partners, and identifying ways to reduce risk before disasters strike. We work closely with local departments, nonprofits, utilities, state and federal partners to make sure roles are clear and resources are ready when they're needed most.

Their goal is to reduce the impact of emergencies, protect people and property, and help the community recover stronger and more resilient.

A few key safety initiatives for our County are highlighted below.

- Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings: 4x/year
- Participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill: April
- Distribute preparedness information at the County Fair: July
- Coordinate and oversee County building fire drills: September
- Update the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan: Oct
- Update Tier II (hazardous materials) facility plans: December
- Update the Integrated Preparedness Plan: December

**CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY** | Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, and potentially deadly gas produced by fuel-burning appliances.

Protect your household: Install CO alarms on every level and near sleeping areas, testing them monthly. Never run generators, grills, or vehicles in enclosed spaces like garages. Keep vents and exhausts clear, especially after snow.

If a CO alarm sounds or you have symptoms (dizziness, nausea, extreme tiredness), get outside immediately and call 911.

**VILLAGE HALL** | Clerk Dori A. Panthofer

#### **CONTACT INFO**

Visit <https://northbay-wi.us/contacts/> for the list of Executive Board Members (Elected Officials), Appointed Officials and Service Providers.

**VILLAGE MEETINGS** | Meetings that are scheduled as of this publication appear in the Upcoming Village Meetings table on the next page. Stand Up and Board of Appeals meetings are scheduled as needed and announced with proper notice

Meetings are held at Village Hall located at 3615 Hennepin Place. Meeting notices and agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Village Hall and the Village website under [News and Announcements](#) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting (News & Announcements URL: <https://northbay-wi.us/news-announcements/>). Dates and times of meetings are subject to change with proper notice.

Village meetings are open to the public. Please note: Public Comment may only be given orally and in person. Visit the [Village Meetings](#) page of the Village website for more information.

**UPCOMING VILLAGE MEETINGS** | Village calendar URL: <https://northbay-wi.us/calendar/>

Monday, Feb. 9th, 2026	6:00 PM - Planning Commission Meeting * <i>Tentative</i> 7:00 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, March 9th, 2025	6:00 PM - Planning Commission Meeting * <i>Tentative</i> 7:00 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting