

Changes to City Services for 2010

Due to the termination of the Shared Services Agreement by the Town of Cedarburg, residents will unfortunately see increased fees and cuts in services in the Library, Recreation Department, and Senior Center.

The **Cedarburg Library** will suffer the most by the Town's decision not to renew a shared services agreement. Since the Town has pulled out of the Cedarburg Joint Library, the Town funds will be distributed to several libraries. The Village of Grafton Library will receive over \$37,000. **A Bookmobile that does not serve the Town or City of Cedarburg will receive over \$24,000.** Town of Cedarburg money will go as far north as Sheboygan, while our local library will face decreased hours, including the discontinuation of Sunday hours. In addition, there will be decreases in staffing and the availability of online and shelved materials.

The **Cedarburg Recreation Department** staff hours will be cut. Non-resident fees will be doubled for all programs. Resident fees will also increase, including a significant fee increase for the popular Summer Playground and Tennis programs. Priority for participation in these programs will go to City residents. Those who live in the Town will not be given priority for participation, and will pay non-resident fees. This means that, depending on the availability of openings, Town and School District children might not be able to participate in the same program.

The **Cedarburg Senior Center** will continue to serve the City of Cedarburg and surrounding areas. Because the Town has chosen to eliminate financial support, Town of Cedarburg seniors and other non-residents will pay higher fees for programs and classes provided by the Center. It is possible there will be fewer programs for our active senior population.

The City is still willing to work with Town Officials, provided they are willing to negotiate in good faith. Please know that the City made every effort to continue shared services that benefit both City and Town residents. We agreed to many of the Town's demands, then the demands changed:

- We agreed, as the Town insisted, on a permanent border resolution.
- We accepted, as the Town proposed, a Shared Service Agreement based on usage. The Town changed its mind and proposed a completely "pay as you go" model, with no consideration of capital, maintenance, and staffing costs.
- The Town wanted the option of terminating the Shared Service Agreement with a one-year notice; the City offered a one-year agreement.
- Then, in an effort to keep the Joint Library, the City proposed a one-year agreement for the library alone, with the Town paying the minimum amount necessary to exempt the Town from the County tax payment, again a formula suggested by the Town. Instead, the Town Board opted out of the Joint Library and this decision resulted in a loss of 1/7th, or \$101,503, to the Library budget. The Town Board voted to pay a library tax to the County.
- The City offered to work together with the Town to develop athletic fields and facilities for the entire Cedarburg Community, but the Town declined.

It makes financial sense for the Town and City to work together with all the sports groups, library patrons, seniors, and recreation program participants rather than duplicating services. The City already has the facilities and staffing. It is our hope that we will be able to resurrect our partnership with the Town in the future. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact: Christy Mertes, City Administrator/Treasurer at 375-7606 or visit our website at www.ci.cedarburg.wi.us.