

Village of Waunakee, Wisconsin

Known as the Village of Leicester in 1870, the present Village of Waunakee was started the fall of that year, and formally incorporated in 1893. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was extending its line to St. Paul at that time and officials of the railroad wished to locate a station in the area. A spot near the mill (located at Woodland Drive/Bong Road, intersection of Sixmile Creek) had been chosen. Located just two miles from the center of the present Waunakee, the railroad saw it as an excellent location.

Two early settlers, Mr. Lewis Baker and Mr. George Fish, owned land along the new railroad line and plotted a village on their property. In exchange for \$1,500 and two miles of right of way, railroad officials changed their original plans and trains roared to a stop in what is now known as Waunakee.

The nearest post office at this time was located north of Waunakee and known as Lester (the intersection of Cuba Valley Road, Highway 113 and McChesney Road). Some felt the new community should take that name. Mr. Fish and Mr. Baker, not wanting to give or take credit for the founding of the community, requested Mr. Simeon Mills and Mr. Hill of Madison to supply a list of names. Waunakee was chosen and is Indian in origin, meaning, among other things "the fair and pleasant valley."

The original plat of the village was dated January 30, 1871. The post office was moved from Lester to Waunakee sometime in 1872. The first building erected in town was a house on Second Street, built in 1870. The first business place was a general store built on Main Street by Mr. Fred Buhlman in the summer of 1871.

Village Presidents – Listed By Date

Dates Served	Name of Village President
1893—1899	Henry Heller
1900—April, 1901	Jacob Buhlman
April, 1901—December, 1904	L. Freney
December, 1904—November, 1906	Henry Heller
November, 1906—April, 1908	Thomas P. O'Malley
April, 1908—April, 1909	George E. Lester
April, 1909—April, 1914	Almon W. Cameron
April, 1914—April, 1924	Herman J. Doll
April, 1924—April, 1927	J. H. Koltjes
April, 1927—April 1931	Roy W. Cameron
April, 1931—April 1934	Julius Diederich
April, 1934—April, 1941	Herman J. Doll
April, 1941—April, 1947	Julius Diederich
April, 1947—April, 1951	Roy Cameron
April, 1951—April, 1953	Harvey Solveson
April, 1953—April, 1955	Francis Bowles
April, 1955—April, 1957	Roy Cameron
April, 1957—April, 1965	Joseph Hellenbrand
April, 1965—April, 1967	Peter Barbian
April, 1967—April, 1973	Edward Hellenbrand
April, 1973—April, 1975	Allan Dittman
April, 1975—April, 1981	Ann Helt
April, 1981—April, 1987	Math Laufenberg
April, 1987—June, 1990	Tom Marx
June, 1990—April, 1995	Maureen O'Malley
April, 1995—April, 1997	Tom Marx
April, 1997—June, 2001	Tim Nixon
June, 2001—April, 2003	Rich Murphy
April, 2003—April, 2015	John Laubmeier
April, 2015—Present	Chris Zellner