



CITY OF APPLETON

Date: November 5, 2025

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Mayor Jacob A. Woodford

Subject: Confirmation of Appointment

It is with pleasure that I present the following appointments for your confirmation at the November 5th, 2025, Common Council meeting.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee— Appointment

Lori Marie Smestad

3 Year Term

Term Ends December 2028

Lori Smestad is a longtime Appleton resident who has proudly called the city home for nearly 30 years. She and her husband, Doug, have been married for almost three decades and are the proud parents of two young men, Will (21) and Ben (18).

With over 20 years of experience as a school counselor in the Appleton Area School District, Lori has spent 19 of those years at McKinley Elementary and three at Jefferson Elementary, where she continues to support and guide students and families with care and dedication.

Outside of her professional life, Lori is an avid outdoors enthusiast. She finds peace and joy hiking at High Cliff and exploring nature trails with her dogs. Her love of the outdoors also takes her west to the mountains whenever possible. With her sons now living in Ohio and Arizona, those locations have become cherished travel and “vacation” destinations.

Lori looks forward to learning more about the Fox Valley’s traffic infrastructure and exploring ways to promote safe, healthy, and sustainable commuting options throughout the community.

Karen Bachhuber

3 Year Term

Term Ends December 2028

Born in Chicago and raised in Long Beach, California, Karen came to Appleton in 1964 to attend Lawrence University, where she majored in Mathematics. During her time at Lawrence, she also pursued her interests in philosophy and music, playing viola in both the Lawrence University Orchestra and the Fox Valley Symphony.

She married John Bachhuber, who worked at the Institute of Paper Chemistry, and together they raised four children—graduates of Appleton West High School—who now reside outside of Wisconsin.

A lifelong educator, Karen dedicated her career to teaching mathematics at St. Thomas More School, Appleton East, and Appleton West High Schools, retiring in 2006. After the passing of her husband, she continued her passion for education by teaching for two additional years in Stockbridge.

In recent years, she spent three and a half years in Cincinnati, living close to one of her sons and his family. When they relocated to Santa Barbara, California, she returned to Appleton and now resides in the Historic Mills Apartments. Her time in Cincinnati, which involved minimal driving, inspired her to maintain a walkable, community-oriented lifestyle.

Today, she enjoys volunteering at the library and engaging with local initiatives, particularly those that promote a bike- and pedestrian-friendly environment in Appleton.