



Village of Port Edwards

Fall 2010 Newsletter



Notes from the Engineer-Administrator

Yard Waste

As the fall season begins and the leaves start to fall, please remember that leaves may be placed in the street along the curb for pickup. All other yard waste (grass, branches, garden materials, etc.) must remain behind the curb and along your property.

Pickup will continue for any yard waste placed out for pickup through Sunday, November 21st, or until the first major snow storm in which the snow stays. At that time the yard waste equipment is removed from the trucks and the trucks are prepared for snow and ice control.



Holiday Lights

For decades, the Village has been decorated during the holiday season with lights and decorations. The lights for the downtown trees are at the end of their safe service life. Some of the strings have already been retired, so the growing trees have been sparsely lit the past few years. Replacement lighting has been proposed in previous budgets, but due to other priorities and

budget shortfalls, it has not been possible for replacement lighting to be funded through the Village.

Recently, Kathy Cronkrite and a team of Village residents (see below) have proposed a method to replace the lighting. A grant through the Port Edwards Community Progress Endowment Fund has been submitted and if approved will help pay for a portion of the replacement lights. However, we need your help:

For every dollar donated by the public, the Village will match that dollar and the grant will match with two more to the grant maximum. What that means is that a \$25 donation from you will be worth \$100 towards replacing the lights.

The lights proposed are 6, 500 ft. strings of LED lights using a standard C9 light base. While the up front cost is slightly higher than with incandescent lights the energy required to operate the lights is dramatically reduced and because standard light fixtures are being used, future replacement bulbs will not need to be special ordered.

"Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? In the lane snow is glistening."

It's true, this is only September, but we want to call your attention to a winter plight in our Village. We are in dire need of new lights for the evergreen trees that adorn our downtown boulevard.

Last year the Village was only able to light one tree and the other two felt very naked we are told! We would like to replace the lights with new LED lights which would be more cost efficient and last a long time. The cost of the new LED lights will be \$8,000 and a grant has been written to the Port Edwards Community Progress Endowment Fund for half the cost. We are asking Village residents for help in financing this cheery holiday endeavor and there will be collection sites around the Village for your donations. Please remember that any check made payable to the Village of Port Edwards-Tree Lights Fund is tax deductible (and we'll take cash as well).

In the past you have been so helpful in replacing the American flags, and now we are asking for your help in decorating our Village for the holidays. Thank you.

Kathy Cronkrite - Karen Thiel - Jeanette Bieschke - Joan Palen

ERCO Worldwide Membrane Cell Project **helps our Water and Wastewater Rates**

When water and wastewater bills arrive in the mail, most residents do not jump for joy. The costs associated with water and wastewater treatment are significant, and can be especially difficult to have competitive rates from small water and wastewater utilities, yet the rates for Port Edwards are very comparable with Nekoosa and Wisconsin Rapids.

The water and wastewater rates are calculated by dividing the cost of treating the water by the amount of water metered. While the cost of producing and treating water and wastewater does depend on how much water is pumped and treated, the majority of the costs are associated with paying for the plant itself, utility bills, chemical costs, etc.

The presence of a large water user, such as ERCO Worldwide and previously, Domtar, help keep the rates in check. With the closure of Domtar, the water and wastewater utilities have struggled with rates resulting from the loss of a major water customer.

The ERCO membrane cell conversion project completion has many environmental benefits over the previous processes, but for the water and wastewater utilities, the investment in the Port Edwards plant is reassuring that we still have a large and dependable customer. ERCO has always been a large water customer and in 2009 was responsible for 25% of the total income of the water and wastewater utilities.

Not only does ERCO Worldwide help provide a solid tax base and good paying jobs, their presence keeps water rates much, much lower than what would have to be paid if ERCO was not a Port Edwards utility customer.

To ERCO, congratulations on your membrane cell conversion project and thank you for the major investment in the Port Edwards community.



Police Department News

A few fall and winter reminders:

- Winter parking restrictions start November 1st 2010 and end April 1st 2011, No Parking on Village Streets from 2:00 am until 6:00 am. Violators will be ticketed and fines are \$10.00 and up.
- School is back in session. Please be aware of children on bikes and an increase of pedestrians within the Village. Be cautious and drive safely in school zones.
- To all pet owners, please pick up your pet waste during the fall and winter seasons. Be courteous to everyone utilizing the recreation trail.
- The Police Dept. is working with Wood County Crime Stoppers and information is available on the Village website (www.portedwardswi.com). As always, please do not hesitate to call the Police Dept. to report a crime. With your help we will work together to continue to make Port Edwards a safe place to live.
- The Police Department has received numerous complaints of motor vehicles parked on lawns as well as debris in lawns. Please remove these items from your yard before winter arrives. During the year letters are sent to residents in violation and the normal fine for a first offense is \$50.00, and when court costs are added in, the fine will total \$114.00. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Police Department. We will be glad to answer any questions you may have.



Hello from the Port Edwards Fire Department



Fall is here and so is fire prevention week. Please take the time to practice fire prevention activities with your family. Change your smoke alarm batteries. Practice fire drills at home. Make a plan for emergencies (fires, storms, natural disasters and national emergencies). It is also important for everyone to have an emergency kit at home. For further information go to www.ready.gov or www.nfpa.org/disaster . The following smoke alarm information is from NFPA.

“Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!” is the theme for this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 3-9

Smoke alarms

- Smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported fire in half.
- Each year, nearly 3,000 people die in U.S. home fires.
- In 2003-2006, roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from home fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
 - No smoke alarms were present in 40% of the home fire deaths.
 - In 23% of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.
- In more than half of the reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate even though the fire was large enough, batteries were missing or disconnected. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected alarms.
- In a 2008 telephone survey, only 12% knew that smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- In fires considered large enough to activate a smoke alarm, hard-wired alarms operated 91% of the time; battery-powered smoke alarms operated 75% of the time.
- Interconnected smoke alarms on all floors increase safety.
 - In a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) survey of households with any fires, interconnected smoke alarms were more likely to operate and alert occupants to a fire. (This includes fires in which the fire department was not called.)



Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.

Fire

- Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and injuries.
- Smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths.
- Heating is the second leading cause of home fires, fire deaths and fire injuries.
- Electrical failures or malfunctions are factors in roughly 50,000 reported fires each year.
- Roughly 30, 000 intentionally set home structure fires are reported each year.

In 2008

- U.S. fire departments responded to 386,500 home fires.
- Home fires killed 2,755 people and injured 13,160.
- Someone was injured in a reported home fire every 40 minutes.
- Roughly eight people died in home fires every day.
- A fire department responded to a home fire every 82 seconds.
- 83% of all fire deaths and 79% of fire injuries resulted from home fires.

Please take care and don't become a statistic. *Tom Bartlett, Chief Port Edwards Fire Department*



The Village graciously thanks
“Bev Schraeder”
 for her help in maintaining the Village flower beds
 in front of the Municipal Building.



Leaf Pick-up

It is again that time of year for leaves. Due to the tremendous quantity of leaves put out in just a short time, please remember to **place leaves in the gutter** section of the street in a long row along your property. ***Only leaves may be placed along the gutter and please note that this is the only time of the year that anything can be placed in the gutter.***

Separated piles of brush and grass must be placed on the boulevard area behind the curb and the brush must be stacked neatly with the cut ends facing the street. Also, roots must be removed from the brush and placed separately from the branches.



If you follow these rules, your leaves and other yard waste will be picked up in a timely manner.

Water & Sewer Billings

Water and sewer billings are quarterly, the 1st of January, April, July, and October with the bills due 20 days later. After late notices are sent out you have ten days to pay or your water will be shut off. If your water has been shut off, there is a \$20.00 reconnect charge. Water bills can be paid at the Municipal Building from 8:00 a.m. - noon and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., dropped in the silver payment box in front of the Municipal Building, or mailed in.

Please pay promptly.

Sprinkling Restrictions

The sprinkling restrictions ended on September 15th and will again take effect next summer.

Village of Port Edwards

Municipal Building
 201 Market Avenue
 PO Box 10

Port Edwards, WI 54469
 715-887-3512

On the web at PortEdwardsWI.com, click Municipal Services

Village Board

- President: Ed Saylor
- Trustees: Gary Allworden
- Tim Jensen
- Scott Machotka
- Gail Ruesch-Pixler
- Glenn Saeger
- Jonathan Smith

Village Staff

- Engineer-Administrator-Joe Terry
- Clerk-Treasurer-Julie Bodette
- Cashier-Secretary-Kim Holcomb

Meeting notices, agendas and all other legal notices are posted at the Municipal Building, Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank, and Elsie’s Kitchen at least 24 hours before a meeting.



***Village of Port Edwards
 Trick or Treating – October 31, 2010
 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.***



RECYCLING NEWS



Veolia Environmental Services, the recycling and solid waste removal providers for the Village, are now able to accept plastics numbered from 1 through 7 as well as aseptic packaging. As with the items that you have been recycling there is no need to sort them. They can all be placed into the recycling bin together.

Plastic items #3-#7 may include food & beverage containers, cat litter containers, ice cream pails, empty medicine/pill bottles, bakery containers, flower pots or trays, yogurt or cottage cheese containers, cups & tubs, and clear and rigid clam shell packaging.

Aseptic containers include cartons or boxes used for juice, milk, soy milk, ice cream and broths.

There has also been a change in the procedure for recycling electronic items. Televisions will no longer be picked up with trash. Televisions must be recycled along with computer components, DVD players, VCR's, DVR's, copiers, FAX machines and cell phones (no batteries) at a location that does E-Waste recycling.

Additional information is available in the municipal office or by calling Kim at 715-887-3512.

Community Calendar Items



- Oct 5 **Edgewater Haven Auxiliary** sponsored night of games, 16 games of bingo with prizes and light lunch, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- Oct. 6 **Port Business Council**, Alexander House, 7:00 a.m.
- Oct. 12 **Village Board Meeting**, Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 31 **Village "Trick or Treating"**, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 2 **Fall Election**, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Fire Station
- Nov. 2 **Edgewater Haven Auxiliary** sponsored night of games, 16 games of bingo with prizes and light lunch, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- Nov. 3 **Port Business Council**, Alexander House, 7:00 a.m.
- Nov. 9 **Village Board Meeting**, Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 30 **Village Board Meeting**, Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 1 **Port Business Council**, Alexander House, 7:00 a.m.
- Dec. 7 **Edgewater Haven Auxiliary** sponsored night of games, 16 games of bingo with prizes and light lunch, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Does your organization or church have an event you would like publicized?

Submit it for the next Village newsletter by stopping at the Municipal Building or calling 887-3512 for more information.

