

# Village of Port Edwards

## *Spring 2011 Newsletter*



### Spring Election – April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

On Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the residents of the Village of Port Edwards will be selecting a Village President and three Village Trustees.

Voting will take place at the **Fire Station** from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ed Saylor is running for re-election as the Village President and Gary Allworden, Tim Jensen & Glenn Saeger are running for re-election as Village Trustees. All of these gentlemen have resided in the Village for many years and bring years of experience to the board. Please get out and vote on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.



*Ed Saylor*  
*Village President*



*Gary Allworden*  
*Village Trustee*



*Tim Jensen*  
*Village Trustee*



*Glenn Saeger*  
*Village Trustee*

### **Best Wishes – Steve Vechinski**

Steve Vechinski, Assistant Fire Chief, was recently honored upon his retirement for 33 years of service to the Port Edwards Fire Department. Steve was accompanied at the dinner by his wife Laura and daughter Valerie (who is a fourth generation firefighter). Steve joined the department in 1977 and in reality Steve has given many more years. He can tell you stories about helping his dad work on the fire trucks and about when he would come out from under the trucks covered in dirt and grease. His dad had a major part in building the departments first brush truck (a 1961 Ford). Steve had a major role in building the current 2000 Dodge brush truck and this truck replaced the one his dad built. Steve has set up all our current apparatus.

Steve was the Department mechanic for years and did an exceptional job of maintaining the apparatus and equipment. Steve has set the bar high for us going forward. Just a look at the condition of our apparatus and you can see the pride taken in caring for our equipment.

Steve was a member of our rescue squad and also trained numerous groups how to perform vehicle rescues as a member of Specialist Code 3. As a member of Specialist Code 3 he was involved in bringing a worker down off a smoke stack in Weston.

Steve led the department in attendance at drills, fire calls and rescue calls. He was active in fire prevention activities, bike rodeo's and fundraisers. His leadership and can do attitude will be missed.

In the late 90's Steve went out west to fight wild land fires with a local group of fire fighters and DNR personnel.

Steve was honored with a plaque from the Wisconsin Legislature (presented by Marlin Schneider), a plaque from the Village of Port Edwards Board (presented by President Ed Saylor) and a plaque/gift certificate from the Port Edwards's Fire Fighter's Association (presented by Assistant Chief Del Stewart).



## ***UPDATE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

Spring is just around the corner, please remember to be careful with outdoor burning. If a fire gets away you may be held responsible for suppression cost and damages.

Be safe, get a burning permit and use common sense.

A recent fire call resulted from an overloaded extension cord (a power strip plugged into a light duty extension cord). Luckily someone was home and awake when the fire started so the damage was minimal, otherwise the situation could have been far different.

Please inspect your cords and outlets and if necessary have an electrician evaluate your needs.

We would also like to remind everyone to prepare for emergencies today. Last fall's flooding was a reminder that our area is susceptible to disasters. It shows the need to be prepared to take care of ourselves until help arrives. In the event of a natural disaster it may be necessary for you to take care of yourself and family for days before enough help arrives. A place to start is with an emergency supply kit. For information on these kits go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or [www.nfpa.org/disaster](http://www.nfpa.org/disaster) or contact us.

### ***Fire Dept. Open House***

The Fire Department will have an open house from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, during the Village Wide Rummage Sale.

### ***Firefighters Street Dance***

The Firefighters Street Dance will be held on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Food, raffle tickets and refreshment sales will start at 5:00 p.m. Bring your family and friends for supper and stay for the music. "Southbound" will be playing from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Come on down and join us. There is no admission charge.



### ***Carbon Monoxide Alarms***

Wisconsin's new carbon monoxide (CO) law will help ensure safe homes with the presence of CO alarms that are required to be installed in every home, on every level near sleeping areas.

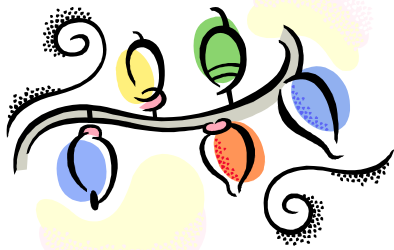
#### ***WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW***

- All single family and two-unit homes – new and existing – must install a CO alarm on every floor level, near sleeping areas.
- New construction must be hard-wired with a battery back-up.
- Existing homes may install any type of CO alarms; battery, plug-in, or combination smoke/CO devices.
- A carbon monoxide detector required under this section shall bear an Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., listing mark.
- The law took effect February 1, 2011.
- Alarms should be installed in accordance with directions from manufacturer.

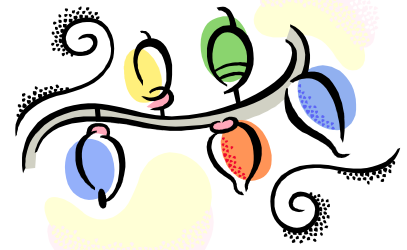
#### ***EXCEPTIONS***

- CO alarms are only required in new and existing homes that have any fuel burning appliance, which includes: stoves, ovens, grills, clothes dryers, furnaces, boilers, water heaters, fireplaces and heaters OR an attached garage.
- Alarms do not need to be installed in the attic, garage or storage area of homes.

***Be safe and enjoy spring. Chief Tom Bartlett***



## *Holiday Decorations*



A tremendous thank you to all the Village Residents who graciously donated to the Village Holiday Light Fund and the Wonderful Committee who led this project. The fund drive was a huge success collecting \$8,200.

The Village was able to light the two large trees downtown, place holiday cut-outs on the point near Edgewater and has recently purchased lighted displays for the downtown area which will be on display during this year's upcoming holiday season.

### *Hat's off to our Committee:*

Kathy Cronkrite, Joan Palen, Karen Thiel & Jeanette Bieschke

### *And also our Residents & Local Organizations:*

Port Edwards Lions Club  
Community Foundation/Port Progress  
Deb's Hairport/Deb Krings  
Clem & Jeannette Santoski  
Robert & Lois Ferguson  
Roberta Morell  
Juris & Nancy Repsa  
Mary Ann Ulrich  
William & Joanne Karberg  
Dorothy Karberg  
Glady Boinski  
Kathleen Dimka  
Jane Jackson  
Randy & Karen Kraemer  
L.J. & Carol Berryman  
Erc Worldwide  
Richard & Carol Kuehl  
Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank  
Pat Tyler  
Gerry Wallace  
Joan Buehler Palen  
Dr. Robert & Ruth Johnson  
Violet Schott  
Bruce & Jennie Bretrick  
Julie & Christopher Bodette  
Ed & Mary Heuer  
Pat & Kathy McGrath  
Port Edwards Business Council  
Helen Graf/Memory of Jeanne Wolfe  
Patricia Berklund  
Arthur & Harriet Bernhardt



Anonymous/Memory of Jeanne Wolfe  
Jerry & Betty Hutkowski  
J. Marshall & Patricia Buehler  
David & Karen Thiel  
Dan & Mary Armatoski  
Don & Jean Kluender  
Jamie Wojnowski  
Robert & Elva Johnson  
Robert & Barbara Kroll  
Carol A. Hanneman  
Charles Lester  
Clara Melsen  
Jeffery & Mary Wirtz  
Rita Schneider  
Thomas & Ruth Vetrone  
R. J. Mollen  
Kathy & Jeff Vavrina  
Richard & Betty Greenwood  
Scott & Lisa Machotka  
St. Alexander Parish  
Jacqueline Miller  
Gaylord & Mable Johnson  
Arnold & Beverly Schraeder  
Linda Drew  
Violet Zimmerman  
Jeanette Bieschke  
Roger & Georgia Schulz  
Ken & Elaine Kostelic  
R&R Construction/Quality Concrete LLC  
Diane Blanchard  
Leslie Arendt/Alexander Charitable Foundation

And to the people who contributed at the collection sites and those of you we turned away at the end of the fundraising campaign

## **Village Thank You's**

***A gracious thank you is extended to the following volunteers for helping with mailing the Village Newsletters and December Tax Statements during 2010:***

***Judy Grutzik, Libby Densch, Carol Kuehl, Sharon Seebruck, Joan Palen, Gary Allworden and Karen Thiel.***



## **Municipal Court**

Due to changes in regulations pertaining to municipal courts, the Port Edwards Municipal Court now has a phone number dedicated to court issues. You can reach the court clerk at 715-887-3531.

## **Hydrant Flushing**

Spring hydrant flushing will take place on April 12<sup>th</sup> & April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please be aware that there may be some dirty water during this time.

## **Wood County Recreation Maps**

Wood County Recreation Maps are available at the Municipal Building for anyone that would like to pick one up. Wood County provided these maps for distribution.

## **Seasonal Construction and Emergency Road Closures**

As spring approaches, so does the road maintenance season. As you travel throughout Wisconsin, you can call 511 to find out what state highways are under construction or closed to avoid delays. This information is also available online at: [www.511wi.gov](http://www.511wi.gov).

During emergency situations, Wood County's website provides lists of county road closures. [www.co.wood.wi.us](http://www.co.wood.wi.us).

## **NOTICE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Spring is here, please be a good neighbor and remove any trash or inoperable vehicles that may have accumulated in your yard over the winter.

The Police Department will be making personal contact in regard to any violations and if we cannot make contact, a letter will be sent.

The normal first offense fine for this violation is \$10, plus \$53.60 in court costs, for a total of \$63.60.

***Chief Joseph Zurfluh***

## **Village Garage Sale**

Mark your calendar for the **Annual Village-Wide Garage Sale on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** It is a great time to find bargains and visit with friends and neighbors. The restrooms at the Village parks will be open all day and portable toilets will also be available. Please direct shoppers to these facilities if they inquire about restrooms. *As there will be increased traffic in our community during the garage sales, please drive carefully.*

### **Important Garage Sale Notice:**

The Village-Wide Garage Sale is sponsored by the Port Edwards Business Council, consisting of local business' and community leaders in cooperation with the Village and other non-profit organizations. In recent years, a significant number of sales have started Thursday or Friday prior to the official event on Saturday. This early start negatively impacts the event by limiting items remaining on Saturday, decreasing Saturday food sales, limiting other non-profit fundraising efforts that take place on Saturday, and ultimately can result in lower attendance because of frustrated Saturday shoppers. While no one can control when any individual has a garage sale, the Business Council in cooperation with the Village may stop organizing the event if the trend of starting early continues.



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## ***NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE ENGINEER***

Recently the topic front and center in the news is how the proposed State budget and State budget bills will be affecting state, county, schools, and local government services. Some of the proposed cuts toward municipal services include State shared revenues (state income tax), transportation aid (fuel tax and registration fees), and the recycling program (landfill tipping tax). These programs were put into place using funds generated locally, collected by the State, and distributed back to local governments to avoid placing the entire cost of operating municipal government on the property tax payers. Losses of these revenues and the resulting cuts in services place a greater burden on the property tax payer. Currently, about 52% of the Port Edwards's budget is funded by property taxes, 20% from state revenue, and about 28% from fees, assessments, contracts, loans, permits, etc.

At this time I can estimate the losses at the local level and based on those estimates those losses appear to be about \$50,000. To help put that in perspective, the following examples include wages and material costs from our 2011 budget:

Snow and ice control: \$29,500  
Curbside recycling \$21,000  
Summer pool operations: \$41,000  
Street maintenance (not including full reconstruction): \$60,600  
Parks maintenance: \$30,200

While these cuts will result in significant budget challenges, the Board and staff are working to be as efficient as possible. Throughout the year, we'll be making an additional effort to evaluate existing services, find ways to cut costs, and if necessary, determine compromises that will still allow us to maintain the quality of services that make Port Edwards a great place to live.

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### ***Village Engineer/Administrator - Joseph Terry***

#### **Annual Youth Bike Rodeo**

The Bike Rodeo will be held on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Village Fire Station from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All kids ages 5 and up are welcome. Bikes helmets will again be donated by Habush, Habush & Rottier S.C. Please remember that this business supports safety in our community.

#### **Milwaukee Brewer Baseball Cards**

This year the Port Edwards Police Department will be participating in the Milwaukee Brewer Baseball Card give away and will be giving away the cards to the youth in our community.

Comfort Aire Heating, Cooling & Plumbing sponsored the card give away with a donation. We would like to thank them for their sponsorship and taking a special interest in the youth of our community.



# PLEASE NOTE

## Spring Cleanup

The Village takes pride in being a very clean community. Residents expect the Village government to enforce the rules when it comes to garbage, clutter, and vehicles.

Please remember:

- Garbage, appliances, clutter, etc. is not permitted to be left in public view.
- Campers, boats, etc. must be parked and stored **BEHIND** or **ALONG SIDE** of houses. They are not allowed to be parked in front of the house or on the street other than for actual loading or unloading.
- **DOG FECES IS NOT YARD WASTE.** Raking dog feces into grass piles for the village crew to pick up will not be tolerated. Residents doing so will be referred to the Police Department.

## Leaf, Grass and Brush Pickup



As the winter ends and we start to get outside again, please remember the following:

On a weekly basis, the crew will pick up grass that is **properly** placed. Typically grass pickup is on Mondays and Tuesdays.

**PLEASE NOTE: Brush will be picked up on the same week as recycling.**

Please be conscientious when placing waste at the curb. Be sure no foreign objects, such as stones, metal, etc. are mixed in with the waste. One piece of metal can completely ruin a \$300 set of chipper blades. Repairing equipment takes time and money and results in delays in picking up waste so **PLEASE BE CAREFUL.**

- **All brush and grass must be placed on the boulevard area behind the curb.**
- Grass and leaves must be placed separate from brush.
- Brush must be stacked neatly with the cut end facing the street.
- Roots must be removed and placed separately from the branches.

The Village generates many tons of compostable material each year. If you need compost or wood chips, please contact the Municipal Building to arrange delivery of the material. Delivery is free to Village residents.

## Shelter Reservations

Reservations for the Ripple Creek Park outside shelter and Edwards-Alexander Memorial Park enclosed and outside shelters can be made by calling the Municipal Building at 715-887-3512.

Current prices for using the Enclosed Shelter are:

- Resident fee without kitchen \$100.00
- Resident fee with kitchen \$125.00
- Non-resident fee without kitchen \$125.00
- Non-resident fee with kitchen \$150.00

A \$25.00 refund will be issued if the building is left clean.

Residents can reserve the outside shelters free of charge while non-residents are charged \$35.00 to use them.

## Garbage and Recycling

Please remember to place your weekly garbage and bi-weekly recyclables out for curbside pickup by **7:00 AM** each day of pickup. Garbage must be bagged or in cans. Recycle pickup is every other week on your regular garbage day. If you experience less than satisfactory service, please give us a call at the Municipal Building, 715-887-3512.



Appliances will not be picked up by the crew or garbage collection. You may take them to Veolia Cranberry Creek Landfill, Badger Iron & Metal, Nekoosa Auto Iron & Metal or Express Recycling. Or you may call D & K Recycling at 608-564-7387 to arrange a pick-up. There is a fee for these services.

## Street Lights

The Village makes every effort to ensure that all the streetlights in town are working but we need your help. Please let us know anytime that you notice a streetlight that is not working or not working properly. If you have internet access, you can also report streetlight outages directly to Alliant Energy. Go to [alliantenergy.com](http://alliantenergy.com) and at the top of the page select *Utility Services*. Then at the bottom of the page select *Storm and Outage Center*. On the right side of the page select *Report a Street Light Outage* and then just fill in the required information. Its quick and easy, but if you prefer, don't hesitate to give Kim a call at 715-887-3512 and she'll make sure to get it reported.



**THINK SPRING**

# Port Edwards Water Utility Rates

The Public Service Commission requires that water rates be published semi-annually. The following rates took effect on March 9, 2009:

## Quarterly Service Charge:

5/8" meter - \$ 12.75	3" meter - \$172.20
1" meter - \$ 31.89	4" meter - \$283.81
1 1/2" meter - \$ 63.78	6" meter - \$538.92
2" meter - \$ 89.29	

## Quarterly Service Charge for Sprinkling Meter:

5/8" meter - \$ 5.40
1" meter - \$ 10.50
1 1/2" meter - \$ 21.00
2" meter - \$ 28.00

## Plus Volume Charge:

First 25,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.10 per 100 cubic feet
Next 375,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$0.99 per 100 cubic feet
Over 400,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$0.74 per 100 cubic feet

Billing: Bills for water service are rendered quarterly and become due upon issuance following the period for which service is rendered. A late payment charge of 3 percent but not less than 50 cents will be added to bills not paid within 20 days of issuance. This one time 3 percent late payment charge will be applied to any unpaid balance for the current billing period's usage. This late payment charge is applicable to all customers. The utility customer may be given a written notice that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued, and, unless payment or satisfactory arrangement for payment is made within the next ten days, service may be disconnected pursuant to Chapter PSC 185, WI Admin. Code.

## 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](http://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.

## Thank you for Flag Donations

**The flags will be flying brightly in the Village this year thanks to donations from our wonderful residents.**

**Our recent contributors are:**

**Patti & Dave Kumm**

**Dr. Robert & Ruth Johnson**

**Lawrence & Cornelia Flugaur**

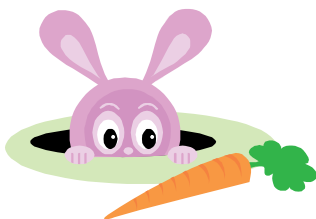
**Philip & Ginnie Oliver**

**Bill & Bette Kohnen**

**The flag project is funded entirely from private donations and the flags require replacement every one to two years, so donations are always welcomed and encouraged so we can keep our flags flying bright and proud.**

## Sump Pumps

Residents with sump pumps please take note: Your sump pumps **MUST NOT** discharge into the Village sanitary sewer system. Every gallon of clear water pumped into the wastewater system reduces the capacity of the plant. Due to potential costs and the Village's sewer ordinance, anyone caught pumping into their floor drain will receive a citation and possible fines of over \$200 so please direct your sump pump water out onto a well drained yard or the street. Inspections can be requested without prior notice.



## Community Calendar Items



- April 1** **Parking Restrictions**, no longer in effect and parking on the streets is allowed
- April 5** **Election Day, Vote** at the Fire Station, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- April 5** **Edgewater Haven Auxiliary** sponsored night of games, 16 games of bingo with prizes and light lunch, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- April 6** **Port Business Council**, Alexander House, 7:00 a.m.
- April 12** **Village Board Meeting**, Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
- May 3** **Edgewater Haven Auxiliary** sponsored night of games, 16 games of bingo with prizes and light lunch, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- May 4** **Port Business Council**, Alexander House, 7:00 a.m.
- May 10** **Village Board Meeting**, Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
- May 18** **Bike Rodeo** at Fire Station, All kids ages 5 and older are welcome, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- May 21** **Village Garage Sale**, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- May 21** **Fire Station Open House**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- June 1** **Port Business Council**, Alexander House, 7:00 a.m.
- June 7** **Edgewater Haven Auxiliary** sponsored night of games, 16 games of bingo with prizes and light lunch, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- June 14** **Village Board Meeting**, Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
- June 15** **Sprinkling Restrictions** go into effect
- June 17** **Port Edwards Fire Department Street Dance**, food will be served starting at 5:00 p.m. and music by "*Southbound*" will be from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- Aug 12** **Port Edwards Community Fun Fest – Car Cruise – Edwards Alexander Park**  
This year the car cruise will support the Food Pantry. Staging will begin at 3:00 p.m. with the cruise at 6:00 p.m. An ice cream social at the Methodist Church will follow the cruise.
- Aug 13** **Port Edwards Community Fun Fest, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Edwards Alexander Park**  
Activities throughout the day will include a craft show, car show, children's games, tractor show, car cruise, swim-o-ree, and music. Refreshments will be available throughout the day. The event celebrates the community and will help raise money for the Food Pantry and Port Edwards Lions Club.

**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 715-887-3512 for more information.