

Village of Port Edwards

Newsletter - September 2007



Service To Village Acknowledged



Sandy Allworden with her husband Larry

Sandy Allworden retired after 19 years of service as the Ver Bunker Avenue crossing guard. We will miss her concern and care for the students and friendly smile and wave to all who passed by. Sandy was presented with a plaque acknowledging her service by the Village Board. **Many thanks, Sandy!**

Leaf Pick-up

Leaf Pick up time will soon be here. Because of 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. **Please note that this is the only time of the year that anything can be placed in the gutter.**

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



An Important Message from Your Fire Chief

The enclosed **Shelter In Place** brochure has important information for all residents to follow in the unlikely event of a chemical or biological agent release. Please take the time to review this material.

Graff Flag Pole Dedication



Dan and Helen Graff at the dedication ceremony

The Port Edwards Volunteer Fire Department recently dedicated a new flag pole in memory of Gerald "Jid" Graff, a retired volunteer firefighter. The flag pole was donated by his son, Dan Graff to thank the department for their service to the community and to remember past members.

Associate Firefighters Program

The Village Board recently approved an associate firefighter program to provide an opportunity for interested citizens to be trained and experience what the job entails. They are not paid for their services and are on probation for the first year. An associate may move to regular firefighter status when an opening becomes available following the required approvals. Presently four volunteers are serving as associate members.

4th Street from Ver Bunker Ave to Harrison Ave Repaving to Begin

The bids have been approved and the street reconstruction for 4th Street will begin very soon. The contract paperwork and project scheduling is currently in progress and a public information meeting will be held prior to major reconstruction. Residents along 4th Street in the project area will be receiving an invitation for the public

information meeting in the mail. There will be some times access may be limited, so please be sure to attend the meeting.



Village of Port Edwards

Municipal Building
201 Market Avenue
PO Box 10
Port Edwards, WI 54469
715-887-3512

Village Board

President: Ed Saylor
Trustees: Patrick T. Arendt
Tim Jensen
Scott Machotka
LuAnn Martinson
Rita Schneider
Jonathan Smith

Village Staff

Joe Terry, Engineer
Administrator
Karen Thiel, Treasurer, Clerk
Kim Holcomb, Secretary

Meeting notices, agendas and all other legal notices are posted at the Municipal Building, Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank, Port Credit Union and Port Service at least 24 hours before a meeting.

Fall News from the Police Department

The rains have returned and the landscape is certainly turning a bright green again. The nights are getting cooler and the Blackhawk's football and volleyball seasons have begun. Surely, the leaves will be turning colors soon. Fall is just around the corner.

I would like to take this occasion to bring a couple of items to your attention.

The first of which is the use of pit fires in the Village. Remember, the only reason you may have a pit fire is for the purpose of cooking. We have gotten complaints this summer from Village residents of people burning debris of various kinds in their pit fires. This is a violation of the Municipal Code. The burning code came into existence years ago, because people were burning leaves, wood and other items outdoors. This created first of all a safety hazard and secondly a public nuisance from the smoke odor. If a person is burning illegally in the Village, you could face a fine of \$108.50 for a first violation of the burning code. Also, you will be reported to the Village Fire Department, for violation of the burning permit code. Please use your outdoor burning pit for its sole purpose and that is to prepare a good hearty meal.

The second item I would like to update you on is the recent changes that were approved by the Village Board to the Municipal Code Curfew section. The old curfew code stated that all persons 17 years of age and under had to be off of the streets between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00AM. The Municipal Code Curfew section has now been changed to read as follows:

...Those 17 years of age shall be off the streets between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM....Those 16 years of age and younger shall be off the streets between the hours of 9:30 PM and 6:00 AM...

These changes to the curfew code were brought about due to a rash of vehicle burglaries that occurred in the Village this past summer. The police department's School Resource Officer, Chuck Lamb suggested these changes and I whole-heartedly supported his suggestion. The Planning and Legislative Committee then made a motion to the Village Board to approve the above changes and did so at their July 10, 2007 meeting.

There are exemptions for our young people to the curfew code, such as work, out with parental supervision, etc. All of the exemptions are listed in the Municipal Code, a copy of which can be picked up from the Village Secretary.

I would like to give our Village residents an early reminder of the Seasonal Parking Restrictions in place for snow removal from our streets. The restriction goes into effect at midnight November 1, 2007 through midnight March 31, 2007. This restriction prohibits the parking of vehicles on our streets from 2:00 AM until 6:00 AM. Also, the fine for the first violation of the restriction has increased for this coming year from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

Have a great Fall season! I hope to see you at a Blackhawk's volleyball or football event. Go Blackhawks.

Be safe!

Joseph H. Zurfluh, Chief of Police

Ad Hoc Bridge Committee

A transportation feasibility study for the South Wood County area, including a possible bridge into Port Edwards is nearly complete. The following is a news release for a public information input meeting:

News Release

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (Wis DOT) Wisconsin Rapids Office, in cooperation with the City of Wisconsin Rapids, the Village of Port Edwards, the Town of Grand Rapids, and Wood County is studying the feasibility of extending an arterial from the intersection of State Trunk Highway (STH) 54/73 (Letendre Avenue) in Port Edwards to the intersection of STH 54 and County Trunk Highway (CTH) W in Wisconsin Rapids. The proposed corridor, which would require a new crossing of the Wisconsin River, would follow the CTH Z corridor, cross STH 13 and proceed northeast along the 20th Street corridor.

All persons interested in the Wisconsin Rapids East Arterial Study are encouraged to attend the first **Public Information Meeting on September 26, 2007. This meeting will be conducted between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the McMillan Memorial Library** (All Purpose Room), 490 East Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, and will be conducted as an informal open house. Attendees may stop in at any time between those hours to visit with the project study team, learn more about the study, review the displays and share ideas and concerns.

Maps and other materials describing the study and preliminary alternatives will be on display. Wis DOT and consultant staff will be available to explain the study, review the displays and respond to questions.

For more information regarding the September 26th Public Involvement Meeting, please contact:

Kristin McHugh, Wis DOT Regional Communications Manager
(715) 421-8380 or via email: kristin.mchugh@dot.state.wi.us

Mike O'Meara, Wis DOT
(715) 421-8313 or via email: michael.omeara@dot.state.wi.us

The Village Board would like to be proactive and get resident, business, and industry opinions about the different options the study will offer for consideration. In order to proceed in an efficient and effective manner, the Board has decided to form an ad-hoc committee of Village representatives. This committee will report discussions, concerns, recommendations, etc. to the Public Works Committee and ultimately to the Village Board.

Specifically, the Board is looking for three to four resident representatives that can represent the residential population of the Village, one or two industrial representatives, and one or two business representatives. The Board is looking for people with good communication skills who are willing to talk to their friends, neighbors, and constituents about the potential project in effort to narrow down the planning scope and, if possible, help define public support or opposition for the project.

If you interested in serving on the ad-hoc committee, please contact Village Engineer-Administrator, Joe Terry at 887-3511 to be put on a list for consideration.

Credit Card and E-Check Payments

The Village now accepts credit card and e-check payment for taxes, water bills and court fines. These transactions are processed through Official Payments Co. and any fees charged are the responsibility of the payer. The transaction can be done online or by calling the toll free number. Detailed instructions are available at the Municipal Building.

Port Fun Fest

The third annual Port Fun Fest was a great event. New events added to the celebration this year included a Friday evening outdoor movie, Saturday car and motorcycle cruise and street dance and Sunday tractor and antique engine show. Many visitors enjoyed these events along with the Sunday craft sale and car show.

Many thanks to the sponsors, volunteer workers and participants for making this the best one yet.

Mark your calendars for August 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 2008. You don't want to miss the fun!



Pet Limitations Within the Village

Due to concerns regarding the potential number of pets in residential areas, the Village Board has updated the pet ordinance to limit pets to four maximum, three of which can be dogs. In this ordinance, pets do not include small animals such as fish or birds, but larger animals such as dogs and/or cats. Licensing requirements have not changed.

