



Village of Port Edwards

Spring 2019 Newsletter



Spring Election – April 2, 2019

On Tuesday, April 2, 2019 the residents of the Village of Port Edwards will be selecting three Village Trustees and a Village President. Voting will take place at the **Fire Station** from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ***PLEASE REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR PHOTO ID WITH YOU!***

VILLAGE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE

JOSEPH H. ZURFLUH

I have had the honor of serving as Village President for the past two years. It is a position of trust, and not to be taken lightly by the person holding the office. Now, I am asking for your support as I seek a second term as Village President.

It has been a busy two years for the board, as we have overseen changes in various administration positions during the past two years. We have seen Jim Leiser retire as our Fire Chief, and Patrick Arendt replacing him. We also have seen a change in the Village Administrator position.



The board also approved my motion to establish a Police and Fire Commission (PFC). The PFC, whose existence is required by Wisconsin State Statute, was established in 2018. We now are in accordance with the requirements for the police and fire departments governance. The PFC responsibilities are basically in the areas of the hiring of police and fire personnel, including the chiefs of each department. When needed, the PFC approves the dismissal, with cause, of police and fire personnel. They approve all promotions and demotions of the police and fire departments, as brought forward by the respective chiefs.

The Village Board's Public Safety Committee has all Operational Authority of the police and fire departments. The Committee approves all budget issues, including wages, equipment, scheduling and approves all training of personnel as brought forward by the respective chiefs.

Two years ago I said, "We need to make sure we stay a safe and secure community to live in. We have a school district that is second to none. We have Village employees who are our greatest asset, and they ensure we have good streets, infrastructure and beautiful parks for our enjoyment, by their dedicated work." I feel what I said two years ago still remains true today. Needless to say, our fire fighters and police officers are highly trained, dedicated to their respective duties, and have the safety of our residents as their sacred duty.

So, please take the time to exercise your right to vote, on Tuesday, April 2nd. I also stated two years ago, "Our residents have a lot to vote for." I am sure you would agree that we still have a lot to vote for. **YOUR VOTE COUNTS**, and do not let anyone tell you that it does not.

Thank you for your support as your Village President these past two years, and I would appreciate your continued support as I seek another term as Village President. God Bless one and all, and God Bless all those serving in our armed forces.

VILLAGE TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

TIARA GRUNDEN

My name is TIARA GRUNDEN and I am running for re-election as Village Trustee. I have been a resident of Port Edwards for 17 years. During these years my husband, Scott, and I have enjoyed raising our family in this beautiful village. We have grown to love this community and are so thankful for such a great place to raise our children.



I have previous experience as a board member with Path Wisconsin Inc. I served Path as secretary and also Vice President. While serving as a Path Wisconsin Inc. Board member I served on the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Advocacy/Legislative Committee, and the Education Committee. I also served on other Child Welfare committees outside of Path Wisconsin that provided opportunities for collaboration with other organizations.

Serving the Village of Port Edwards has been both a pleasure and at times quite challenging. I am appreciative of the support and feedback that I have received from community members. I enjoy the connections with people and being a part of the process that continues to make Port Edwards a great place to live. If re-elected I will continue to work to make informed decisions based simply on what is going to preserve all the things about our community that make Port Edwards so great.

BETSY MANCL

My name is Betsy Mancl and my family and I have lived in Port Edwards for over 3 years. My husband, Josh, and I chose Port Edwards as the place to raise our children because of the safe, small-town atmosphere, supportive community, and wonderful school district. I'm



proud to work at Wood County WIC where I have the privilege of working firsthand with the broader community supporting the health and well-being of our families. Additionally, I have the privilege of serving as secretary for the Port Edwards Parent Organization (PEPO), which gives me the opportunity to support the needs of our elementary school children and teachers. My husband is also passionate about supporting our community and has served as a volunteer fire fighter for the Village of Port Edwards Fire Department for the past three years, in addition to working full time for Cintas Corp.

I have decided to run as Village Trustee because I have a commitment to this community, and want to contribute to reaching the village's potential. It is wonderful to see our village grow and

school enrollment increase because it means other families see the same value in our community that my family and I do! The voice and representation of younger families is needed to ensure we are serving all in our community, but we cannot do it without the experience and wisdom of those who have been serving our community so well. As a community, we need to get behind this growth and realize our potential to make Port Edwards thrive-not just survive.

SUE MITCHELL

The Port Edwards Village Board, for the past two years, has worked to provide residents with the best services, infrastructure, and administration that your tax dollars make possible. Installation of the new Splash Pad will be an attractive, fun addition to Alexander Park and convenient recreation for young families.



Being both a member and chair of committees has given me insight into the details of how the village functions, the contributions of its hardworking employees, and the responsibilities it has to Port's residents. With one term under my belt I feel I have the knowledge and capabilities to continue for a second term.

JOHN BINGHAM

Hello, my name is John Bingham and I am running for re-election as a village trustee on April 2.

During my two years on the Village Board it has been my focus to serve the residents of Port Edwards with a fiscally conservative and common sense approach.



Please feel free to contact me at 715/459-3943 with any questions or comments that you may have regarding village operation.

I would appreciate your vote on April 2.

Thank you.



Hydrant Flushing

Spring hydrant flushing will take place on **June 11th and 12th**. Please be aware that there may be some dirty water during this time.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS!!

Port Edwards Police Department: There have been some changes that have taken place at the Police Department including the addition of some new faces and the ability to leave voice messages for things that don't necessarily need an immediate response.

The Port Edwards Police Department currently has two Full Time Officers and four Part Time Officers - Asst. Chief Lonn Radtke, Lt. Chuck Lamb, Officer Andrew Merkes, Officer

Josiah Mertes, Officer Mitchel Jazdzewski and Officer Tim Resheske. Officer Merkes has been with the Police Department since 2017. He also works as a Part Time Police Officer for two other police departments. Officer Mertes has been with the Police Department since 2017 as well. He is also a Full Time Correctional Officer. Officer Jazdzewski has been with the Port Edwards Police Department since 2018. He is also a Full Time Correctional Officer.

Officer Resheske is the newest hire as of 2019. He also is a Full Time Police Officer at another police department. Officer Resheske was sworn in at the board meeting on February 19th. Please welcome him to the Village.



Interim Chief Lonn Radtke, Officer Tim Resheske and Bailey Resheske

You are now able to call the Port Edwards Police Department and leave a message if you wish to report something that does not require immediate response. If it is an emergency please call 911. If it is not an emergency but you need to speak with the On-Duty Officer, please call the Wood County Dispatch Center and they can get you through to an Officer.

Traffic Safety / School Zone Crossings: With the weather hopefully warming up, we'll see an increase in kids walking to school for the remainder of the year. Please take care to slow down in school zones at 5th Street and Letendre Avenue and 5th Street and Ver Bunker Avenue. When the cones are out in the roadway and the lights are flashing, the speed limit is 15 MPH through the zone. Please also keep in mind to keep an eye out for increased pedestrian traffic as it gets warmer out.

Traffic Safety Fair/ Bike Rodeo: In conjunction with the Port Edwards Fire Department, the Port Edwards Police Department will be hosting the annual Bike Rodeo/ Safety Fair on Saturday, April 27, 2019. More information can be found on the Village website.

Being Neighborly: Please keep in mind that as a pet owner it is your responsibility to clean up after your pets as you walk them throughout the Village.

The Police Department would like to thank the community for all its support and hopefully we can assist with any of your needs.

Sincerely,
Asst. Chief Lonn Radtke and the Police Department Staff



ANNUAL YOUTH BIKE RODEO/SAFETY FAIR

The Bike Rodeo/Safety Fair will be held on Saturday, **April 27th** at the Village Fire Station from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All are welcome!

NOTES FROM THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESK

It's that time of the year again. I know this has been a long, hard winter and with the amount of snow that we received this year that we all can't wait for spring to arrive. It will not be long though before we will all need to keep our eyes open for the bikes back on the roads, kids walking to school, and everyone else who is out enjoying our beautiful community. We have a few dates that we would like to share with you all. The members of the Fire Department have been putting their heart and soul in making this department one of the best, so please take some time, stop down and visit us during these upcoming events.

Saturday April 27th from 09:00 - 2:30 Kids Safety Fair at the Fire Station- This will be run in conjunction with the Port Edwards Police Department and the Law Enforcement club from the High School. We will be having demonstrations going on during this time. Please stop down and join us.

Saturday May 18th from 9:00 - 3:00 Village wide garage sale, we will be hosting an Open House and Brat Fry fund raiser- Stop down to enjoy some food and say Hello.

Friday June 14th from 5:00 – 11:30 Port Edwards Street Dance featuring the band, Road Trip- This will be held at the station and is our biggest fund raiser. There will be food, drink and door prizes. If you see one of our Firefighters remember to ask them about our raffle tickets. Please stop down and support your local Fire Department.

Remember to control your camp fires and make sure they are out cold before leaving them unattended. If you burn brush make sure to get a permit. In the village you can only burn in nonresidential areas between the hours of 6pm and midnight. No burning is allowed on Sundays or holidays. Below is the portion of the village ordinance pertaining to open burning:

[5.14 OPEN BURNING REGULATED.

- (1) PROHIBITED BURNING. It shall be unlawful to burn leaves and trash of any kind.
- (2) RECREATIONAL BURNING. Open recreational burning is permitted in a fire pit; a minimum 3-sided enclosure; or a gas, electric or charcoal kettle, subject to the following:
 - (a) The fire is monitored by a responsible person until the fire is extinguished or burns out.
 - (b) The fire is not lit on windy days or when atmospheric conditions will endanger the public health or safety.
 - (c) The fire is located off the public right of way and in excess of 30 feet from the residence of another.
 - (d) The fire is not used for the covert burning of plastic, rubber, garbage or other offensive materials.
- (3) BURNING BY PERMIT. Burning permits for burning brush in nonresidential areas may be issued by the Fire Chief. Burning permits for residential areas may be approved by the Village Board.
- (4) LIABILITY. Any person open burning, whether permitted or not, which results in a response by the Village Fire Department shall be billed for the cost of such response.

At this time I and the entire Department membership would like to say "Thank You" to Jim Schuerman for the 32 years of devoted service to this department and this community. He served this Village as Firefighter and Officer and a 2nd Asst. Chief, a First Responder and he also took over as the Director of the First Responders. Jim was a man that you could count on if he was around to have your back; so with that being said, Thank you Jim for your years of service, you will be missed. Enjoy your Retirement and the doors are always open and you are always welcome back. So if you see Jim Schuerman out, please congratulate him and wish him well on his retirement.

We are looking for new members who would like to serve the community as a firefighter or first responder. It is a commitment, but it is well worth it. If you are interested please stop down and let's talk.

Stop in and see the new truck that just replaced our 30 year old truck. We can't wait to see you.

Chief, Patrick Arendt



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 **6:00 AM** each day of pickup. Also remember that the day for pickup is Wednesday. Recycle pickup is every other Wednesday.



Please note that pizza boxes are not recyclable. If you experience less than satisfactory service or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call at the Municipal Building, 715-887-3512.

Thank you for Flag Donations

The flags flew brightly in the Village this year thanks to donations from our wonderful residents.

Our recent contributors are:

*Kathy Dimka
Cathy Guse
Lillian Lindermuth
Larry & Judy Miller
Joseph & Sharon Zurfluh
Dave & Karen Thiel*

The flag project is funded entirely from private donations and the flags require replacement every one to two years, so we are in need of donations to keep our flags flying bright and proud. **Your donations are greatly appreciated!!**

Village Garage Sale

Mark your calendar for the **Annual Village-Wide Garage Sale on May 18th beginning at 8:00 a.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.*

Friends of the Monarchs

Last summer there was a lot of action at our Village Monarch Park. More raised beds were added, the rain gardens got planted, signage was added along with more benches, a bike rack, a cute caterpillar planter and a Little Free Library built by Brian Miller in memory of his friend and classmate, Jessica Draper Haase.

There are many people that deserve thanks for all of the work including Mert Sheffler, Tim Martin and the 4th graders, Karla and Ron Leverance, Judy Miller and of course my husband, Pat.

We have received generous donations from many groups and individuals plus some grants. Robb Sigler from the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank, our own Lions Club, and the Port Fun Fest Committee have been very generous.

There was a lot of weeding and planting that was done and many people worked on that, some for just a few hours and some on a regular basis. All of you were certainly appreciated. Residents just stepped forward and put in plants on their own which was great. The milkweed really took off and monarchs were seen in abundance.

It was a very good monarch season and my nearest guess is that the residents of Port Edwards raised over 4,000 monarchs. Individuals raised anywhere from one to one hundred or over a thousand. Incredible!

Hopefully this summer will turn out to be another good one for the monarchs. If you would like to help in any way at the Village Monarch Park feel free to contact me or just go down in the summer and weed or add extra plants that you may want to transplant from your own gardens.

We still have many plans for things that we would like to add to the park so your monetary donations are always appreciated. You can drop off any donations at the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank for the Friends of the Monarchs account.

If you would like to learn more about raising monarchs, let me know. If I have enough interest, I will plan a little class for those that are interested. Please call me or email me by March 22nd so that I can establish a date. I would love to see even more people raising monarchs in our Monarch Village.

The annual Port Fun Fest/Monarch Festival will be held this year on August 9th and 10th. It takes many volunteers to run the Monarch Tent. If you would like to help on Saturday, August 10th, let me know and I can certainly find you a job.

Kathy McGrath

1030 2nd Street ~ Port Edwards ~ 715-887-3448 ~ mcgfm@charter.net

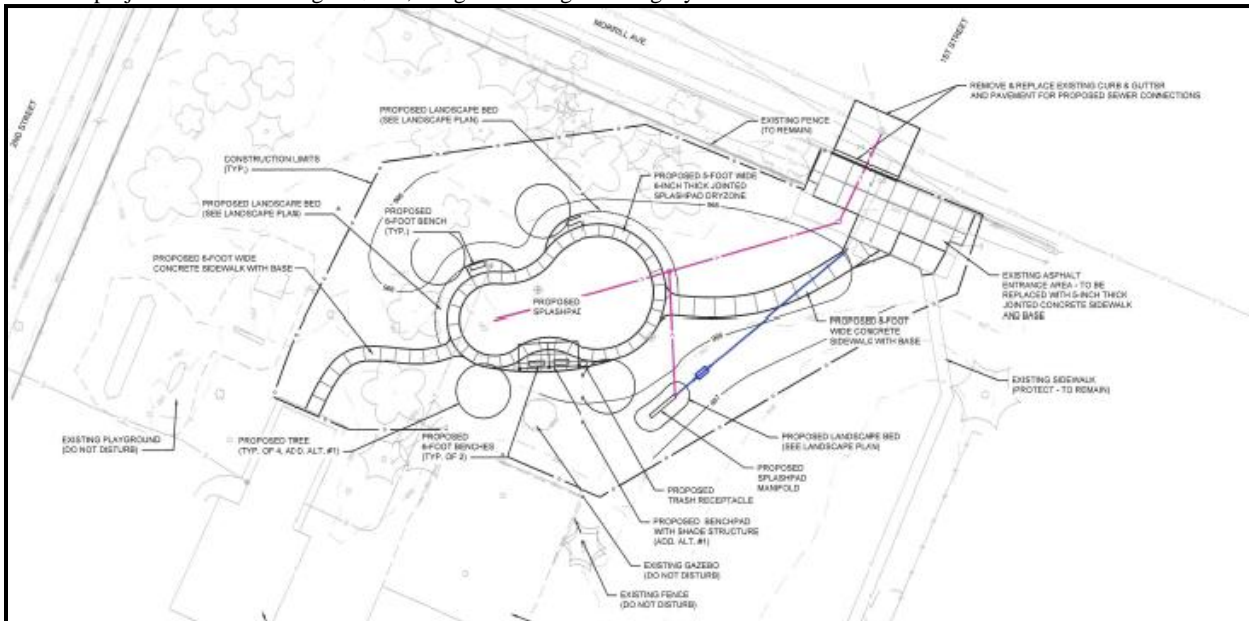


The Friends of the Monarch Park Committee would like to extend a huge "Thank You" to the Port Edwards Lions Club for their generous donation to our Monarch Park. This organization is very instrumental in the success of our Village activities and is greatly appreciated. Their donation to the Monarch Park will help us realize our vision of helping the monarch butterfly population and further educate visitors on the importance of sustaining our pollinator population.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR 2019 SEASON!!

NOTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Splash Pad at Edwards Alexander Park – Believe it or not summer is just around the corner! The Village plans for the splash pad are in progress. The design is completed and we even had our local 5th graders share with us their preference for water features. We are planning to open by August 1st. The project is funded through a \$500,000 grant through the Legacy Foundation.



Note: Some of the features in this concept rendering are being bid as options and may or may not be included in the final construction.

Recycling and Refuse Pick Up – I have received a few questions regarding recycling and garbage pick-up. Bulk items are picked up by contacting Kim Holcomb at 715-887-3512 the Friday before pick up (the second Wednesday of the month). As long as the items are not construction materials or electronics, your bulk items will be picked up if you schedule pick-up with through the Village.

With all the electronics in use in our daily lives, it is no wonder we have lots of electronics to dispose of. Electronics can be disposed of utilizing Wood County Clean Sweep program in the fall (date to be determined). You can learn more about the Wood County Clean Sweep Program at <http://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/Health/Environmental.aspx>. Or you can contact a private facility from the list later in this newsletter.

2019 Village Budget – The Village's levy increased by \$1,252 in 2019, a small increase (see chart). The recycling and refuse fee did go up too. This is because the fees were not raised for several years and the costs of the contract required the Village to recoup the cost. With the new contract, we will not see substantial fee increases in the years ahead. Another reason for an increase on your tax bill is due to a decrease in the Village's assessed value. While the Village has kept its levy flat, a smaller assessed value for the Village increased taxes.

<u>Village Levy by Year</u>	
2017	\$1,089,635.35
2018	\$1,093,036.86
2019	\$1,094,188.47

Port Edwards Water Utility Rates

The Public Service Commission requires that water rates be published semi-annually. The following rates took effect on September 5, 2018:

Quarterly Service Charge:

5/8" meter - \$ 15.22	3" meter - \$205.62
1" meter - \$ 38.10	4" meter - \$338.87
1 1/2" meter - \$ 76.15	6" meter - \$643.50
2" meter - \$106.63	

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 - \$1.31 per 100 cubic feet
Next 375,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.17 per 100 cubic feet
Over 400,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$0.87 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.

Thanks to the *Port Edwards Progress Team Activities Fund through Incourage*, the Village received a \$1,500.00 grant designated for playground equipment last summer. The grant was made possible by proceeds from the 2018 Port Fun Fest. A big "Thank You" also goes to *Tammy Barstow* for her part in recommending the grant. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!

Community Calendar Items

- April 1** **Parking Restrictions**, no longer in effect and parking on the streets is allowed
- April 2** **Election Day, VOTE** at the Fire Station, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- April 9** **Village Board Meeting**, Edwards Alexander Shelter, 7:00 p.m.
- April 19** **Village Offices Closed for Good Friday**
- April 27** **Bike Rodeo/Safety Fair**, Fire Station, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- May 14** **Village Board Meeting**, Edwards Alexander Shelter, 7:00 p.m.
- May 18** **Village Wide Rummage Sale**, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- May 18** **Fire Station Open House & Brat Fry**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- May 27** **Village Offices Closed for Memorial Day**

- June 11** **Village Board Meeting**, Edwards Alexander Shelter, 7:00 p.m.
- June 11** **Hydrant Flushing** (Be aware there may be some dirty water)
- June 12** **Hydrant Flushing** (Be aware there may be some dirty water)
- June 14** **Port Edwards Fire Department Street Dance**, food will be served starting at 5:00 p.m. and music will be from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- June 15** **Sprinkling Restrictions** go into effect
- June 17** **Port Edwards Education Foundation Blackhawk Scramble**

- Aug 9** **Port Edwards Community Fun Fest – Car Cruise – Edwards Alexander Park**
- Aug 10** **Port Edwards Community Fun Fest, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Edwards Alexander Park**



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.

