



# **VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS**

## **FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER**

### **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.

***Village of Port Edwards  
Trick or Treating –  
October 31, 2020  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.***



### **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:*

***Dan & Mary Armatoski***

***Kathleen Moran***

***Port Edwards Lions Club***

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. The cost of one flag is approximately \$30.00.

### **Hydrant Flushing**

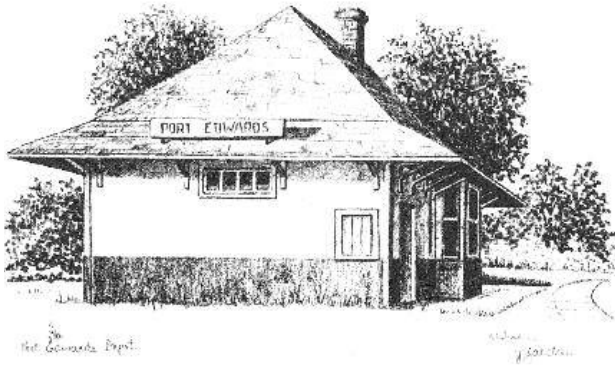
Fall hydrant flushing will take place on **Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please be aware that there may be some dirty water during this time.

**The Village graciously thanks**

***Bev Schraeder* for her help in maintaining  
the Village flower beds in front of the  
Municipal Building**



## FROM THE DESK OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR



Howdee residents of The Village of Port Edwards. I am your new Village Administrator, Raymond “Boz” Bossert. I have been on the job since early July 2020 and look forward to working together to make Port Edwards the best it can be.

I just retired after 35 years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a Colonel and enjoyed serving my country in that capacity. I was

deployed 14 times to overseas combat theaters and have travelled the US and the World in the service of our country. I have led small and large organizations, commanded and lead troops in combat, trained numerous soldiers and foreign armies, was responsible for large scale construction projects and supervised budgets and infrastructure in the US and abroad. Overall, it was the relationships I made over those years and not the accolades, promotions or awards that were bestowed on me that made my time in the Army rewarding. Hence my use of the Port Edwards train station photo. This is a stop on a life journey and I look forward to working together as a team with the Village staff, the Board of Trustees and the Residents of Port Edwards to continue to serve and make this a great place to work, live and enjoy!

I can only do this with the support and love from my great family, Kristi (a Wisconsin Girl) who keeps me centered, my Boy Gavin Grant (3<sup>rd</sup> grader) who is a ball of energy and my sweet Ava Elaine ( a Kindergartener) who is the joy of my heart. They will be part of the Port Edwards school system and we look forward to being part of this great community. They have been by my side for a great part of my military career and we can’t wait to set roots in one place and enjoy our time together with family and friends and take advantage of all the great things in Port and central Wisconsin. About me, I love the outdoors, am a history buff and enjoy travelling so drop by anytime to chat and have a cup of coffee. I will bring leadership, a calm demeanor, experience, and a passion to complete any mission/task assigned or needed to be done. I like to be transparent in my actions and communicate often so we all understand what’s going on in our community.

About the Village. It is my goal to make this a very **Professional, Ready and Relevant** Village staff. We have numerous challenges ongoing and ahead that we all need to work together to overcome. Our infrastructure, streets and parks all need work to remain the best in the region. Our services need the right investment to service all our residents and businesses in Port Edwards. We must be good stewards of our tax funds and choose wisely on investments and budgets. I see success as a partnership between residents and our Village staff. The best use of tax funds and service fees are only amplified when we have resident “buy in” on our initiatives and projects. Our parks, bike trails, street projects, business district, the old Mill, NEPCO lake properties and water front all provide great opportunities’ in the future where Port Edwards can be a leader in innovation, concepts and cost saving initiatives that other municipalities want to copy. I look forward to working on these issues together moving forward.

I am excited to be here, look forward to the challenges and am ready to work. Let’s stay “PORT PROUD!”

## FALL/WINTER NEWS THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESK

The seasons are changing again. Fall and winter are around the corner so here are a few thoughts. With fall coming these are some things you should be thinking: Fire prevention week is October 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a real good time to change your batteries in your smoke detectors and make sure they are operating properly. The Law is one smoke detector minimum per floor and this also goes for carbon monoxide detectors. These two things have been proven to save lives. This is also a great time to go over your escape plan with your children if you have them; if not, still go over your plan with two routes out of your home.

If you burn wood in your home, please have your chimney cleaned and inspected yearly. We really don't want to come to your home and make a mess.

With winter coming the snow and cold weather will be here soon so please remember to keep all your furnace vents on your home clear of snow. This is a big reason why fire departments are called to homes - Carbon monoxide detectors going off or people feeling sick. It only takes a minute to check.

At this time, I would like to ask everyone a big favor - please help us out during the winter and the snow season. If you have a fire hydrant by your home or even close, could you please keep it cleaned out for us? This saves a lot of time if we need to use it; for every minute a fire burns it doubles in size. It is recommended a 3foot by 3foot area around the hydrant to be cleared. This gives us the area we need to do our job if needed.

At the station we are moving forward. We had 10 firefighters complete their Officer 1 class and I am very proud of them. The amount of time that it takes to be a volunteer is unbelievable. The requirements are the same as full time departments, and they are doing this part time. We also just had three of our firefighters start their EMR (first responder) classes and one who has started his EMT basic class.

Things are moving forward at the Station and we are looking for new members, Membership doesn't have be everything. If you are interested in say, just the EMS side of it, come down and let's talk. We now have a fillable application online at the Village of Port Edwards web site under the tab employment. Please print it off and drop it off at the Municipal Building or email it to me at [PEFD.Chief@port-edwards.org](mailto:PEFD.Chief@port-edwards.org) This is a commitment that is well worth it. Serve and get to know your community.

2020 has really thrown all of us a curve ball. We have been dealing with COVID and everyone is on edge. We are working thru all of the trying times and still taking care of the business at hand.

Remember to watch out for everyone in this community and BE KIND to each other!

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday season from all of us at the Port Edwards Fire Department!!

*Chief Patrick Arendt*

# *Hello from the Port Edwards Police Department!*

## **SLOW DOWN FOR KIDS SAKE**

We would like to remind everyone that school is back in session, so please SLOW DOWN and watch for children. We will be out watching and making sure that the kids are getting to and from school safely.



## **WELCOME OFFICER JOSIAH MERTES**

I would also like to introduce Josiah Mertes as our newest full-time Police Officer. Officer Mertes first started with the department back in 2018 and has worked part-time since then. In June, he was appointed to full-time to replace Lt. Lamb.

Officer Mertes was raised in Wisconsin Rapids, where he attended Lincoln High School. He is also a graduate of Mid-State Technical College, where he earned his Associate Degree in Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement.

Prior to joining us, Officer Mertes worked as Correctional Officer for the Portage County Sheriff's Department, where he served as a Field Training Officer.

In his spare time, Officer Mertes enjoys spending time with his family and friends, drumming, and hunting and fishing.

Please join me in welcoming Officer Josiah Mertes!

## **BEWARE OF THE CORONA SCAMS**

Scammers are individuals who commit fraud or participate in a dishonest scheme. They prey on the weak, desperate, and vulnerable and use times of crisis for their advantage. Since the Coronavirus Pandemic there has been more than 170,000 reported complaints for scams. The reports indicate that the scammers have been using the topics of masks, face shields, cures for the coronavirus, COVID-19 test results, antibody test results, stimulus payments, and unemployment via telephone or email to obtain personal and financial information for identity theft or health insurance scams. So far, there has been more than \$114 million dollars lost to coronavirus fraud according to the Federal Trade Commission.

## **TIPS TO AVOIS CORONAVIRUS SCAMS**

- Avoid online offers for coronavirus-related vaccines or cures; they are not legitimate.
- Be wary of emails, calls and social media posts advertising "free" or government-ordered COVID-19 tests. Check the FDA website for a list of approved tests and testing companies.
- Do not click on links or download files from unexpected emails, even if the email address looks like a company or person you recognize. Ditto for text messages and unfamiliar websites.
- Do not share personal information such as Social Security, Medicare and credit card numbers in response to an unsolicited call, text or email.
- Be skeptical of fundraising calls or emails for COVID-19 victims or virus research, especially if they pressure you to act fast and request payment by prepaid debit cards or gift cards.
- Ignore phone calls or emails from strangers urging you to invest in a hot new coronavirus stock.

- **MOST IMPORTANTLY, NEVER GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION SUCH AS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBERS TO STRANGERS!!!! YOU HAVE WORKED LONG AND HARD FOR YOUR IDENTITY AND MONEY, DO NOT GIVE IT ALL AWAY IN A PHONE CALL OR EMAIL!**

Sources: FTC, FCC, FBI, SEC, WASHINGTON POST, AARP

If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call or stop down to the Police Department.

*Scott Drew*  
Chief of Police

---

### **Winter Parking Restrictions!**

Winter parking restrictions start November 1, 2020 and end April 1, 2021. **No parking on Village streets from 12:00 a.m. (midnight) until 6:00 a.m.** The fine for violation of this ordinance is \$25.00.

**Animals Running At Large** – The Village has received complaints about cats running at large and dogs in the Village parks. Please keep your pets on a leash when they are outside. Thank you!!

## *Monarch News*

The Village Monarch Park looked wonderful this summer. The underground sprinkling system that the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank put in last summer really made the flowers and plants flourish this year. We are so thankful!



Many things were added to the park this summer including the Memory Board, a solar fountain donated by Mert Scheffler in memory of her mother and some cute decorations made by Ron & Karla Leverance. Thanks to people that just stepped up and helped with weeding in the gardens and adding plants. Thanks to Jane Draper and Kevin Haase for repairing and staining the Little Library. It takes many people to keep the park looking great.

The monarchs were not as plentiful this summer as they were last summer but we did have quite a few monarchs, other butterflies and bees that enjoyed the park.

Kathy McGrath ~ 715-887-3448 ~ mcgfam@charter.net

## ***MONARCH NEWS FROM MERT SCHEFFLER***

As monarch season is coming to a close, I want to thank everyone who worked at the Monarch Garden planting or weeding. Without your help our gardens would not be as beautiful, and I hear so many wonderful compliments from our community that all of the hard work has definitely paid off. The flowers were amazing and the milkweed abundant.

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a picnic table that has been so generously donated by the Berryman family in memory of their father, Lewis (Jim) Berryman. Thank you so very much! We also have been adding memory plaques on the memory sign. If you would like to commemorate the life of a friend, loved one or special pet, please consider ordering a plaque. Orders can be placed by using the memory plaque order sheet available at the Municipal Building or on the Village website under Resources/Notices, Village Information, or by stopping into the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank – Port branch. The cost of each plaque is \$30.00, and proceeds are used for upkeep of the park.

Our next project is to erect a gazebo in the park near the alley. We have had some generous donors in support of this gazebo, and we are still accepting donations at the Bank or through Friends of the Monarch-Kathy McGrath c/o NPESB, 240 Market Avenue, Port Edwards, WI 54469. This gazebo will serve as a shelter for visitors or for future monarch demonstrations.

Thanks so much for your support!



### **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:**

##### **Meter**

5/8" meter - \$ 15.22	3" meter - \$205.62
1" meter - \$ 38.10	4" meter - \$338.87
1 ½" 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 ½" 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.

## Community Calendar Items

Sept. 22	Hydrant Flushing, Beware of Dirty Water
Sept. 23	Hydrant Flushing, Beware of Dirty Water
Oct. 13	Village Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Marshall Buehler Center
Oct. 31	Village "Trick or Treating", 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Nov. 1	Parking Restrictions Begin
Nov. 10	Village Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Marshall Buehler Center
Nov. 20	Fall Leaf Collection Ends
Nov. 26	Village Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 27	Village Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 1	Village Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Marshall Buehler Center
Dec. 24	Village Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday
Dec. 25	Village Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday



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.

### VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

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

#### Village Board

President: Joseph Zurfluh

Trustees: John Bingham  
Dana Duncan  
Tiara Grunden  
Betsy Mancl  
Sue Mitchell  
Erik Saylor

#### Village Staff

Administrator: Raymond Bossert  
Clerk-Treasurer: Diane Tremmel  
Cashier-Secretary: Kim Holcomb



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