

# VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

## SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

### Spring Election – April 6, 2021

On Tuesday, April 6, 2021 the residents of the Village of Port Edwards will be selecting a Village President and three Village Trustees. Also on the ballot will be the offices of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Wood County Circuit Court Judge Branch 3, and a Port Edwards School Board Member. The County also has a referendum question on the ballot.

Voting will take place at the **Fire Station** from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ***Please remember to bring your photo ID.***

Joseph H. Zurfluh will be running for re-election as Village President. Betsy Mancl, Sue Mitchell and Tiara Grunden will be running for re-election as Village Trustees.



*Joseph H Zurfluh*



*Betsy Mancl*



*Sue Mitchell*



*Tiara Grunden*

### SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING

Spring hydrant flushing will take place **June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>**.

Please be aware that there may be some dirty water.



### *FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT*

I am sitting at home writing this article for the Spring Newsletter, and with the current temperature of 'something' awful below zero wind chill, it seems I should be writing for the Winter Newsletter.

The beauty of a Wisconsin winter! The winter does have a very bright spot, as our Blackhawks have won their regional final in boys' basketball, and now it is on to the Sectional round. Go Blackhawks!

Best of luck to the players and coaching staff.

I just want to mention that the Spring Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 6th, and include the election for our Village Trustees. Our three board members that are up for reelection are Sue Mitchell, Tiara Grunden and Betsy Mancl. No one else has filed papers to run for Village Trustee. I will be up for Village President and am also running unopposed. This will be my final term as your Village President. Why mention that now? Well, this will give Village residents some

time to ponder running for the position, or for the position of Village Trustee. I would be very happy to speak with anyone that may have an interest in running for the Village Board. Always exercise your right to vote!

I hope you have had a chance to meet our new Administrator, who began his duties with the Village in July 2020. If you have not, I encourage you to stop on down to the Municipal Building and get to know him. Raymond "Boz" Bossert has served as a Colonel in the Army Corp of Engineers and has a wealth of training that suits the duties of Village Administrator. The Village Board did a fantastic job in their search for a new administrator. Welcome aboard Colonel "Boz".

Also, my hat is off to our Village Crew for the fine job of keeping our streets clear of ice and snow this winter. Ben Martinson serves as our Director of Public Works and if you have any questions on our public works activities, please give Ben a call. Our staff at public works is second to none, and we have the benefit of a dedicated, professional and highly trained crew! We are fortunate to have them.

During the next two years, there are two major issues that the board will be busy working on. The first one deals with the DMI property (Old Port Mill site). The second major work of the Village Board and the Administration deals with the detached area of the Village on the east side of the river. This is due to return to the Village at the end of 2023. Our Planning and Legislative Committee is directly involved in these two matters. Stay tuned for updates as they come from the Planning and Legislative Committee led by Chairman Dana Duncan.

I wish you all a fun-filled spring, with good weather so we can finally get out and do our walking, bike riding, and watching our Blackhawk softball and baseball teams in action. One more time I want to encourage all to cheer on our boys' basketball team during the WIAA tournament. Good luck players, Coach Gibbs and coaching staff.

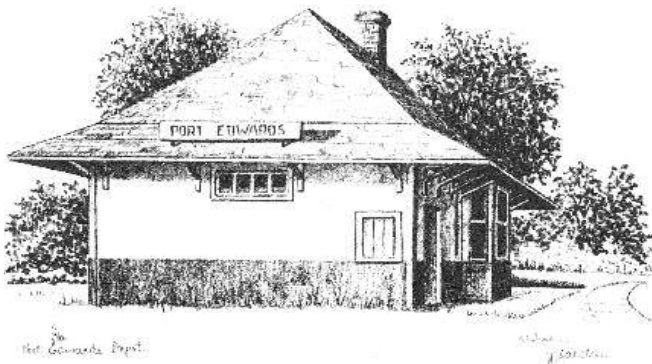
Have a safe and enjoyable spring!

Joe Zurfluh, President

Port Edwards Village Board

## FROM THE DESK OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Howdee residents of The Village of Port Edwards. I am your Village Administrator, Raymond "Boz" Bossert. I have been on the job since early July 2020 and my family and I are enjoying every day here in Port Edwards. Personally, I start each day by citing, "what can we do today to make Port Edwards the best it can be". Trust me we are making progress. We have all weathered thru another Winter season and it has been very interesting. Not as much snow as expected, some very cold days and of course all with the overshadowing of the COVID pandemic. The end is in sight. The Vaccine is flowing out and by the time of this newsletter over 30% of our Village will have received the vaccine. We hope by the end of the year we will be 100% vaccinated. We still don't know for sure how COVID will endure in our bodies, will it be an annual shot we get or once we reach immunity levels will it go away? The experts are working on these questions and others and we all hope for the best. In the end, like I mentioned in my State of the Village report in December, we have come thru this better and stronger as a community and I thank each and every one of you for your support to make that happen.



Now onto Village Business.... We have approved and are executing our 2021 Budget. All looks good. We bring in about \$4.5 Million dollars annually in revenue and this year's budget we planned to expend about \$3.5 million. The difference is kept in our Reserves. We will begin the 2021 Budget process in July and will keep you informed on our progress towards continued Fiscal stability in our Village.

We will be taking on some major infrastructure projects this year. We plan to complete a total rebuild of our 3<sup>rd</sup> street from Edwards Ave to Le tendre Ave. We also plan to resurface our 1<sup>st</sup> street from Le tendre to Ver Bunker Ave. There will be some minor alley repairs, and this will be the first year we

improve our Bike trails working on the northern section from Ver Bunker to Seneca Road. We will as usual repair about 1000' feet of curb and gutter as well as sidewalks throughout the spring and summer. We continue to improve our parks and we hopefully will have a ribbon cutting on our New Dog park in late Spring, more to follow. We continue to make progress with DMI and the Old Mill property and hope to unveil some development plans for the site. We will also start our dialogue with the NEPCO lake residents planning for the Boundary agreement to end in a few years. Those 200+ residents will return back to the Village and we hope to make that a seamless and positive transition. It continues to be 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 Village services need the right investment to support all our residents and businesses in Port Edwards. We must be good stewards of our tax funds and choose wisely on investments and budgets. The best use of tax funds and service fees are only amplified when we have resident "buy in" on our initiatives and projects. I look forward to working on these issues together moving forward. I am excited to be here and look forward to the challenges. Let's get to work and stay "PORT PROUD!"

## Greetings from the Port Edwards Police Department!

With spring right around the corner, we want to remind everyone that our streets, sidewalks, and parks will soon be filled with everyone enjoying the warm weather. Please make sure that you are courteous and watch for pedestrians while driving.

Also, with the warmer weather approaching, we would like to remind everyone to make sure that you are following the village ordinances. The Police Department will be working with the Public Works Department to try to "clean up" our community and will be issuing warnings and citations if compliance is not gained. If you have questions about the ordinances, you can find them on the village website, or you may call or stop by the police department to discuss.



We continue to have problems with junk, animal feces, vehicles, and other unsightly items in yards, please do your part to make our community beautiful.

### **10.06 JUNK, CERTAIN VEHICLES AND FIREWOOD.**

**(1) PUBLIC NUISANCES DECLARED.** The following are hereby declared to be public nuisances wherever they may be found within the Village.

- (a) Any motor vehicle, truck body, tractor or trailer as enumerated in subs. (3) and (4) below and defined in sub. (2)(a) and (b) below.
- (b) Any junk stored contrary to sub. (5) below.
- (c) Any firewood used or stored contrary to sub. (6) below.

**(2) DEFINITIONS.** The words, phrases and terms used in this section shall be interpreted as follows:

- (a) Disassembled, Inoperable, Junked or Wrecked Motor Vehicles, Truck Bodies, Tractors, Trailers. Motor vehicles, truck bodies, tractors, or trailers in such state of physical or mechanical ruin as to be incapable of propulsion or being operated upon the public streets or highways.
  - (b) Unlicensed Motor Vehicles, Truck Bodies, Tractors or Trailers. Motor vehicles, truck bodies, tractors or trailers which do not bear lawful current license plates.
  - (c) Motor Vehicle. As defined in §340.01(35), Wis. Stats.
  - (d) Junk. Worn out or discarded material of little or no value including, but not limited to, household appliances or parts thereof, machinery and equipment or parts thereof, vehicles or parts thereof, tools, discarded building materials or any other unsightly debris, the accumulation of which has an adverse effect upon the neighborhood or Village property values, health, safety, or general welfare.
  - (e) In the Open. Land which may be viewed from public streets or adjoining property.
- Continued on the Village of Port Edwards Website...

With tax time upon us, please watch for tax related scams. Use only reputable tax preparers and keep your private information private. Never share your information over the phone especially if you receive an unsolicited call. If you believe you have been victimized by a scam, you can visit [IdentityTheft.gov](http://IdentityTheft.gov) for guidance, or contact the police department and we can assist you with the situation.

Thank you,  
Scott Drew – Chief of Police

**Thank You Donald and Bonnie Derezinski**  
for providing the electricity for the Village  
Christmas decorations. Your generosity is greatly  
appreciated!

### **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.

### **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. Recycle pickup is every other week. **LOOSE GARBAGE MUST BE PUT IN BAGS BEFORE PLACING IN CONTAINER!!** Please note that pizza boxes are not recyclable. If you experience less than satisfactory service, please give us a call at the Municipal Building, 715-887-3512.



**After collection, containers shall be removed from the curb or roadside (including alleys) within 12 hours.**

### **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.

### **Street Lights**

The Village makes every effort to ensure that all the street lights in town are working but we need your help. Please let us know anytime you notice a street light that is not working or not working properly. If you have internet access, you can also report street light outages directly to Alliant Energy. Go to [alliantenergy.com](http://alliantenergy.com) and at the top of the page select *Customer Service*; then *Storm and Outage Center*. Then select *Report an Electric Outage* and fill in the required information. Its quick and easy, but if you prefer, don't hesitate to call the office 715-887-3512.

### **THANK YOU FOR FLAG DONATIONS**

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

Our recent contributors are:

*Don Weis*  
*Pat & Kathy McGrath*  
*Dave & Karen Thiel*  
*Rose McMahon*



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 again this year to keep our flags flying bright and proud.

**Your donations are greatly appreciated!!**

## Friends of the Monarchs

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Bill Karberg for the beautiful butterfly sculpture that he made and donated to our Village Monarch Park last fall. It is a wonderful addition to the park and we appreciate Bill's creative donation. Thanks to Ben Martinson from the village crew for digging the hole and putting in the cement for Bill's sculpture.

As spring gets closer and we anticipate the return of the monarchs we turn our attention to the Village Monarch Park that had a rest over the winter months. It takes many people to keep the park looking great and we appreciate anyone that wants to help out at the park. Many people that have worked there over the last few years just go down and weed when they have time. Many hands make light work. If you would like to help when the summer months get here, just let me know.

We are hoping that we will be able to get up a gazebo this summer. We are still raising funds for the project. If you would like to donate to the fund you may do so at the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank in Port. Contributions of any size are appreciated.

More and more village residents are planting milkweed and nectar flowers for the monarchs. If you would like to know more about raising monarchs during the summer months, feel free to contact me. I would be happy to get you started!

**Kathy McGrath ~ 715-887-3448 ~ [mcgfam@charter.net](mailto:mcgfam@charter.net)**



## MONARCH GARDEN UPDATE FROM MERT.....

I am certainly looking forward to spring and the flowers springing forth in the Monarch Garden. We are continuing our quest to put up a gazebo in the park this year. Last year, due to COVID, lumber supplies were sparse, so we opted to wait a year.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our construction projects for the park. Bill Karberg has been very generous with his time and artistic abilities and has constructed and donated his creation of a new monarch spinner. Thank you very much Bill! Also, thank you to Ron and Karla Leverance for the concrete caterpillars. Seeing them puts a smile on my face every day!

Please think about remembering your loved one by purchasing a plaque for the memorial wall. Plaques are \$30.00/each and the forms can be obtained from the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank – Port branch. The next round of plaques will be going up as soon as weather permits. This is a wonderful way to honor family and friends who are no longer with us.

Please come down and enjoy the park. If you are lucky, you may find our local experts of Pat, Kathy, Ron, or Karla there to answer any questions. The monarch population took a huge hit this year, so we hope in 2021 more people will join our efforts to help sustain them. Thank you.

**Mert Scheffler**



## NEWS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!!

With spring just around the corner, it is important to remember to control your campfires 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.

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.

Chief Patrick Arendt

## **Port Edwards Water Utility Rates**

The Public Service Commission requires that water rates be published semi-annually. The following rates have been in effect since September 5, 2018:

### **Quarterly Service Charge:**

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.

## **Wastewater Rate Increase**

Rates increased 3.5% on January 1, 2021. Please note that you will see this increase on the April 1, 2021 billing.

Sewer charges per quarter are:

Flat Rate \$24.64

\$9.43 per 100 cubic feet

## Community Calendar Items

- April 1**   **Parking Restrictions**, no longer in effect and parking on the streets is allowed  
**April 2**   **Village Offices Closed for Good Friday**  
**April 6**   **Election Day, VOTE** at the Fire Station, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
**April 13**   **Village Board Meeting**, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.
- May 11**   **Village Board Meeting**, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.  
**May 31**   **Village Offices Closed for Memorial Day**
- June 8**   **Village Board Meeting**, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.  
**June 8**   **Hydrant Flushing** (Be aware there may be some dirty water)  
**June 9**   **Hydrant Flushing** (Be aware there may be some dirty water)  
**June 15**   **Sprinkling Restrictions** go into effect  
**June 21**   **Port Edwards Education Foundation Blackhawk Scramble**



**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.