



Village of Port Edwards

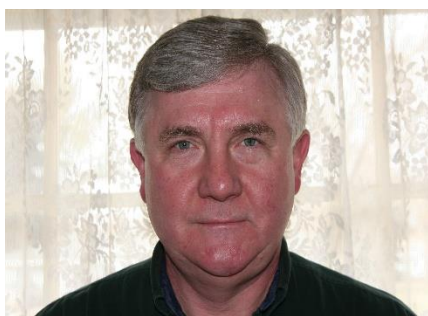
Spring 2024 Newsletter



Spring Election/Presidential Preference Primary – April 2, 2024

On Tuesday, April 2, 2024 the residents of the Village of Port Edwards will be selecting three Village Trustees and a Municipal Judge. 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!**

MUNICIPAL JUDGE CANDIDATE



Patrick J. McGrath

VILLAGE TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

Rick Hess

Hello Village residents. My name is Rick Hess and I would like to introduce myself. I am a longtime Port Edwards resident, having graduated from John Edwards High School in the late 70's. After attending and graduating UW Stevens Point with a degree in Paper Science, I worked throughout the state in the paper industry, spending over 20 years working at the Port Edwards and Nekoosa Paper mills in operational management. During my career in the paper industry, I was able to develop and provide leadership and budgetary management experience within each of these paper mills. In 2021, I retired from the paper industry and moved back to Port Edwards from Wisconsin Rapids. My history and appreciation of Port Edwards began when we moved here in 1970. My parents have been residents of Port Edwards since this time and have always been an advocate of the Village. This loyalty to, and appreciation of the Village has shaped my desire to live in and help our Village prosper. My motivation to join the board is to help the Village continue to grow and develop, with emphasis on building the tax base, while maintaining the close-knit community spirit that has always been one of the most important aspects of our village. With the loss of the Port Edwards Paper mill and the downsizing of the YMCA, the opportunity for the Village to work to develop these areas is right in front of us. I am approaching this Village board opportunity with open eyes, a willing spirit and strong desire to do what is the best for the Village. I do not have any preconceived ideas, biases or special interests, but rather a willingness to listen, and offer support and ideas from over 35 years in industry management. I look forward to meeting and hearing from more Village residents with their thoughts on the future and direction of the Village. Thank you in advance for your support.



Lonn Radtke

Hello, my name is Lonn Radtke, and I am running for Village Board trustee on April 2nd. During my 20+ years working for the Village of Port Edwards, it has been my main focus to serve and protect the residents of Port Edwards with a fiscally conservative accountable and commonsense approach.

I have enjoyed working for the residents of Port Edwards in the past and hope to continue as a trustee. I believe the Village is a safe and friendly place to live, and I hope as a trustee we can bring more families into the Village. Please feel free to contact me at 715/697-0470 with any questions or comments that you have regarding the Village. I would appreciate your vote on April 2nd.

Thank you.



Erik Saylor

Hello again Port Edwards, my name is [Erik Saylor](#) and I am asking for your vote to represent you as a Village Trustee in the upcoming April 2024 election. I have been an elected trustee on the Village Board since 2015. Unlike some, I do not hold any personal agendas and my intentions are solely to represent the residents and be a good steward of public tax dollars because of my commitment to our Village.



My family moved to Port Edwards in 1979 and I have lived the majority of my life, except for my time away for the service, in the Village. After graduating from John Edwards High School, I enlisted in the US Navy working in the Information Technology field where I spent over 20 years on Active and Reserve Duties. Also spending 12 months on a deployment in the Middle East supporting the Global War on Terrorism in 2007-2008.

As far as my education, I have a Bachelor's of Science degree in Computer Science from Lakeland University. Currently, I am the Director of Technology for the Nekoosa School District supporting all technology needs for 1500 students and staff across the entire, five building campus. The district

technology department's annual budget is over one million dollars which I manage by myself and make the proper decisions on what to spend the taxpayers' money on for the students and staff to be successful.

Dedication to the Village and giving back has always been important to me which is why I was a member of the Port Edwards Fire Department for over 21 years. I also enjoy and have been coaching my boys in youth baseball, basketball and football for the last six years.

Since getting on the Village Board in 2015, I say every year, it has been my priority to not spend our tax dollars to just spend money. Port Edwards cannot continue to take loans out to support a budget, which was the case during this last budget cycle that I voted NO on. Departments should not be punished by being fiscally responsible only to have their accounts zeroed out to fund the latest and greatest idea. I want to continue to make Port Edwards a place for families to grow and afford to live but it is getting harder and harder to do that, just look at your property tax bill.

With your vote, I am looking forward to the future because the work does not stop. I hope to carry on, your trust in me, as your Village Trustee, as we look to the bright future of this great community.

Thanks.

Eric Hummel – No article submitted.

MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Hello Springtime?! This weather has been crazy! I never really know which of the seasons I like best, but I think it is Spring! Spring brings warmer weather and being able to be outside more. We also will see the grass turn green again, spring flowers pop up into beautiful blooms, birds coming back to our area for the warmer weather...and baseball/softball. Which is a favorite in our house!

Spring also brings elections. I hope you join me in exercising your right to vote on Tuesday, April 2nd! Our polls are at the Port Edwards Fire Department from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM. Caleb McGregor has decided not to run for reelection this term. Thank you, Caleb, for your time and commitment to our village.

This is the first official newsletter that I am able to welcome our residents from the NEPCO lake area to the village! We have had a smooth transition with the boundary agreement. I also want to acknowledge the work that the NEPCO Lake District has done in efforts to maintain the lake to be a beautiful body of water. Not only for the residents who live on the lake to enjoy, but also for its recreation purposes and to make sure that wild and water life species flourish.

The village board continues to work on making our village a beautiful and safe place to live. We continue to strive to give our village the best possible services, while being cognizant of how we are utilizing tax dollars. Our village crew have been taking care of our streets to make sure they are safe to drive on when we do get ice or snow. They also have been able to get some more "spring like" projects done because of the unusually warm weather. We have entered into a contract with the City of Wisconsin Rapids for ambulance service to provide a quick response and exceptional care to village residents. We also have contracts with surrounding communities for our fire department to respond to them in their times of need. We are working towards adding a Community Resource Officer, subject to a grant. The village and the Port Edwards School district have collaborated in this effort. The officer would work and support our schools during the school year and of course with the rest of the community throughout the year.

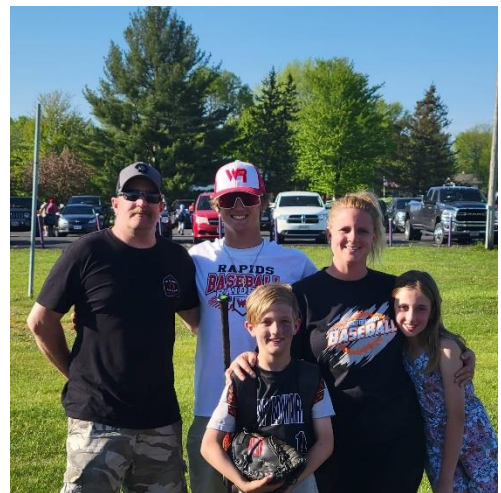
If you have not noticed yet, El Cafe added on to their restaurant! They have purchased the space right next to their existing property and opened a bigger room where you can have larger groups or even hold meetings! The other, bigger parcel, next to El Cafe was also purchased and is in the renovating phase! We are continuing to work on the sale of the parcel to Mission Coffee and hope to have that finished up soon. Let's make sure to continue to support all our local businesses! My hope is we keep moving in this direction because growth is what we need!

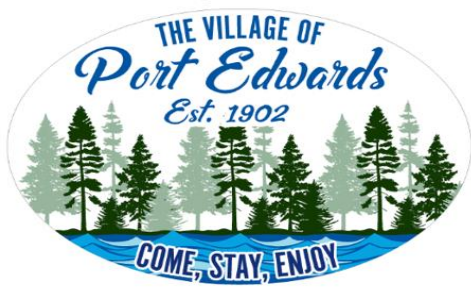
Check out the Community Calendar for all the spring events! We have our garage sale weekend on May 18th! I encourage everyone to come down and be a part of the Memorial Day ceremony that is held at the Port Edwards Cemetery.

We could not have managed to get through the budget season without the hard work of our village clerk/treasurer, Diane Tremmel, our department heads and of course Duane. Thank you!

I wish you all the very best,

Betsy Mancl





Welcome to spring, Village of Port Edwards residents. I want to take a few moments of your time to inform you of events and projects planned for this year.

The weather change is very inviting, and I hope everyone takes advantage of the outdoor activities we have regionally. We plan to conduct some local events in the Village with Rummage Sales, Music Fests at Ripple Creek, Firefighter's Street Dance, Lions Picnic, Trunk-or-Treat and Christmas Tree Lighting, and look forward to seeing many of you there.

We will be conducting one major infrastructure project this summer- 2nd Street from Ver Bunker to Monroe, with new sewer line, water line, storm sewer line, sidewalks, curb and gutter, and pavement. The project is to start in June and be completed by September. We will also be replacing over 1000 feet of sidewalk repairs, chip sealing of subdivision streets and resurfacing of two alleys.

We continue to improve our parks with new facilities. Our dog park is fully functional, and working with a citizen group, we plan to improve our disc frisbee park at Ripple Creek. The Village was awarded a Legacy grant that is being used for a bike trail on Port Road from Ver Bunker Avenue to a safe crossing at Hwy 54/73 to connect to the existing bike trail on Hwy 54/73. Construction is set to begin in 2024 and be completed during the summer of 2025.

This spring and summer the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will be working on resurfacing Hwy 54/73 through the Village from Port Road to Seneca Road. Work will consist of removing the top 3.5 inches of pavement and replacing with 3.5 inches of new asphalt pavement. The project will also upgrade crosswalks, curb ramps, complete curb and gutter replacement in spot locations, and complete utility upgrades. Parking lanes within the project will be removed and the roadway template along Wisconsin River Drive will be narrowed to eliminate the on-street parking and the auxiliary lane.

If you ever have any questions or issues, please give me a call at 715-451-0287.

Ben Martinson, Public Works Supervisor

Hello from the Police Department!

As we embrace the arrival of spring, it's essential to remain vigilant in safeguarding both our belongings and finances. Recently, the Port Edwards Police Department has observed an uptick in thefts from vehicles in our community. Many of these incidents could have been prevented by simply locking car doors.

Taking a moment to ensure your vehicle is securely locked can deter opportunistic thieves and protect your valuables. Remember to remove any items of value from plain sight within your car, and park in well-lit or visible areas whenever possible.

In addition to securing physical property, it's crucial to be wary of scams that target unsuspecting individuals. Scammers often exploit vulnerabilities through various means, including phone calls, emails, and online messages. Remain cautious and never give out personal or financial information to unknown entities.



By staying informed and practicing good security habits, we can collectively reduce the risk of falling victim to both theft and scams. Let's work together to create a safer and more resilient community this spring. For further assistance or information on crime prevention strategies, don't hesitate to reach out to the Port Edwards Police Department. Your safety and security are our top priorities.

Stay safe,
Scott Drew, Chief of Police
Port Edwards Police Department



From the Desk of the Interim Village Administrator



Residents of The Village of Port Edwards. Well, I am back as your Interim Administrator and started September 2023. I served here before Ray “Boz” became your Administrator from September 2019 to July 2022. I am retired (look older than my photo) and only here for two days a week. Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and try to schedule my days in Port Edwards when Committee’s meet. When I am here, I have lunch at El Café and will meet with anyone who wants to talk to me and chat (just ask Sandy). My profession has been in private and public sector. I have been a Public Works Director, Highway Commission and Village Administrator. I have worked in the private sector in Engineering and General Contractor. Since my retirement I have been providing consultative services for many communities as Interim Administrator, Interim Economic Development & Zoning Director, Interim Director of Public Works and conducting organizational studies for Cities and Villages.

With my return it is nice to see the old Market Avenue come alive with new clean look, restaurant and new businesses forthcoming. With all the activities within the community at the schools, parks and now the small downtown center it is nice to see the vitality.

My passion throughout my career has been economic & community development. The saga of the old mill site is heart breaking for Port Edwards. We hear promises from the landowner, but they seem to not deliver. My goal with the Village Board is to see if we can get some movement with this property.

As of January 1, 2024, the properties that are in Port Edwards east of the Wisconsin River associated with NEPCO lake that were development under a boundary agreement with the Town of Saratoga over the last 10 years are now under Port Edwards responsibility and receiving the same service other residents of Port Edwards that live east of the Wisconsin River.

The Village Board has approved and are executing our 2024 Budget. It was a hard time in making the 2024 budget. Over the years expenses have gone up, with no change in services. However, the Village has seen no growth whereby capping the Village levy limits. With no growth over the years the Village tax revenues stay stagnant.

However, the Village Tax Increment District (TID) is healthy and will be funding some major street & utility projects over the next few years.

Our Fire Department is and will be losing some long-time firefighters and wish them well, they will be missed for their excellent service. The Department is in the need for new recruits and if you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Chief Worden jasonw@hastreiter.industries or myself at villageadmin@portedwardswi.gov

I am excited and look forward to meeting you any time when I am in PORT. Stay “PORT PROUD!”

Duane Gau, Interim Administrator

SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING

Spring hydrant flushing will take place **May 7th & 8th**.

Please be aware that there may be some dirty water.



Friends of the Monarchs

As we look forward to spring and all of the plants that will hopefully be popping up in our Village Monarch Garden, I want to again put out the plea for people that would like to help maintain the gardens. Keeping the gardens looking nice and free of weeds is a big and ongoing project and it takes more than just one or two people to keep up with the work. If you would like to help out this spring and into the summer, please contact me and let me know.

With the addition of the gazebo and a nice picnic table under it (thanks again to everyone who donated funds for this), many people have been able to enjoy the park for a picnic or just to sit and relax. Please make use of the park whenever you can. A nice possibility, this spring and summer, would be to pick up a lunch at El Café and take it over to the gazebo to eat it!

The Master Gardeners Garden Walk will be featuring two homes in Port Edwards this summer. Roberta Bingham and her Wedding Garden LLC will be on the walk along with our home and gardens for what we do to help the monarchs. Please put Saturday, July 20th from 9:00 – 4:00 on your calendars and plan to support the Master Gardeners and attend the Garden Walk. We will be doing monarch presentations in our driveway at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for anyone that would like to hear more about raising monarchs and what you can do to help them. We are also hoping that people attending the Garden Walk will stop by the Village Monarch Park so we want the park looking especially spiffy this summer!

Please think about remembering your loved ones by purchasing a plaque for the Memorial Wall. Plaques are \$30.00/each and the forms can be obtained at the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank – Port branch.

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

It's Back!

The Wood County Master Gardeners are excited to announce the return of their popular “Garden Walk” in 2024 – and this is an event you don't want to miss. Six beautiful gardens will be featured, all located in the Wisconsin Rapids area – 2 of them are located right here in Port Edwards.



Participants will enjoy touring each of these unique showcase gardens which feature lush floral design, vegetable plantings, unique pathways, water features and artistic displays. Landscape designs that blend trees, shrubs, grasses and native plants are also sure to please. In addition, the Master Gardeners have invited artists, musicians, and a baker to share their talents and goods with participants. Finally, a basket raffle and silent auction are planned, offering items you will enjoy.

The Garden Walk takes place rain or shine on Saturday, July 20th, from 9 am – 4 pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 the day of the event. All proceeds are returned to the community for beautification projects and applied toward student scholarships.

For more information on Garden Walk: <https://wood-county-master-gardeners.org>

Tickets available at **El Cafe**, Daly Drugs, Wiggins Greenhouse, Reeves Greenhouse, and Wunrow's Greenhouse.

Judy Miller



Thank You Donald and Bonnie Derezinski

for providing the electricity for the Village Christmas decorations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Ordinance Violations

Spring is a good time to clean up our yards and keep the Village looking like a great place to live or run a business. There are several violations of the Village ordinances which will be enforced. To name a couple:

Parking vehicles on the grass is in violation of Village ordinances. Section 17.23(2)(d) states in part:

“Surfacing. All off-street parking areas shall be graded and surfaced so as to be dust-free and properly drained . . .”

Several violations of the building codes also exist. If you receive a letter to this effect, please make arrangements to correct the violation(s) as soon as possible to avoid being assessed a fine.

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** 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 with 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 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. It is 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:

Jeanette Hoffman

Pat & Kathy McGrath

Dave & Karen Thiel

Kathy Moran



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!!

Village Wide Garage Sale

Mark your calendar for the **Annual Village-Wide Garage Sale on May 18th**. It is a great time to find bargains and visit with friends and neighbors.



St. Alexander's PCCW brat fry will be held during the garage sales at 1251 4th Street.

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 18, 2023:

Quarterly Service Charge:

5/8" meter - \$ 16.44	3" meter - \$222.07
1" meter - \$ 41.15	4" meter - \$365.98
1 ½" meter - \$ 82.24	6" meter - \$694.98
2" meter - \$115.16	

Plus Volume Charge:

First 25,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.41 per 100 cubic feet
 Next 375,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.26 per 100 cubic feet
 Over 400,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$0.94 per 100 cubic feet

Quarterly Service Charge for Sprinkling Meter:

5/8" meter - \$ 5.40
1" meter - \$ 10.50
1 ½" meter - \$ 21.00
2" meter - \$ 28.00



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

March 12 Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.

March 29 Village Offices Closed for Good Friday

March 31 Happy Easter!!

April 1 Parking Restrictions, no longer in effect and parking on the streets is allowed

April 2 Spring Election & Presidential Preference, Vote at the Fire Station, 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

April 9 Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.

May 7 Hydrant Flushing (Be aware there may be some dirty water)

May 8 Hydrant Flushing (Be aware there may be some dirty water)

May 14 Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.

May 18 Village Garage Sales

May 18 Brat Fry (St. Alexander's PCCW), 1251 4th Street

May 27 Village Offices Closed for Memorial Day

May 27 Memorial Day Services, Village cemetery

May 30 Music in the Park, Ripple Creek Park

June 11 Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.

June 14 Port Edwards Firefighters Street Dance, Fire Station

June 15 Sprinkling Restrictions go into effect

June 24 Port Edwards Education Foundation Blackhawk Scramble

July 4 Village Offices Closed for 4th of July Holiday

July 5 Village Offices Closed for 4th of July Holiday

July 9 Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.

July 23 Lions Community Picnic



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 715-887-3513 for more information.