



VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

FALL 2024 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 Treat Hours
October 31, 2024
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:

Joyce Durrant

Bill & Bette Kohnen

Ron & Karla Leverance

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 **October 1st & 2nd**. Please be aware that there may be some dirty water during this time.

THANK YOU!!

The Village thanks Bev Schraeder for her help in maintaining the Village flower beds in front of the Municipal Building. It is truly appreciated!!



A NOTE FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Hello Fall!

School is officially underway! Please remember to keep an eye out for our students who will be walking and biking around the village on their way to and from school. Make sure to stop down to support our Blackhawk fall sports teams! Check out the Port Edwards School District website to get schedules for games and to stay up to date with what is going on in our schools!

We have had a change on the village board since writing to you last. Jen Moore resigned in her position as trustee due to moving out of the village limits. I want to thank Jen for her time spent on the board. She was always prepared for meetings and ready to ask appropriate questions. I nominated Mr. Eric Hummel to take her seat for the duration of her term. Trustee Hummel has been an avid village board and committee meeting viewer and participant. He is a resident of the NEPCO lake area. He has the skill set and temperament to be a fantastic addition to our board! He was an integral part of starting the NEPCO Lake District and continues to be the chairman of that board. Welcome, Eric!

There has also been a resignation on our PFC due to a move. I want to thank Commissioner Corey Shaffer for serving our village. I wish nothing but the best for him and his family as their adventure continues elsewhere! I will be appointing someone to fill that vacancy shortly. I am sure that the existing members of the PFC will be instrumental in getting this person on board and getting them ready to go! Chief Drew has given the village board his notice of retirement that will be early next year. The board is working on getting the job description and pay window finalized so that the PFC can take their next steps on working to appoint the next Chief of Police.

There are new faces on our Port Edwards Volunteer Fire Department, including Chief Dustin Lease! He is an experienced and professional firefighter & paramedic and also served our country in the Marines. He is already making great strides in moving our fire department forward. Thank you to the new members for stepping up and wanting to serve our village. I also want to thank the existing members of our department for stepping in and helping the new members learn the ropes and for being excellent leaders. Make sure to look for Chief Lease's article for more exciting information coming from the fire department!

The budget process for the 2025 year will be starting shortly. We have some challenges ongoing and ahead that we need to work together to address and overcome. All our village departments need the right investment to serve all our residents and businesses in Port Edwards. We must be good stewards of our tax funds and choose wisely on investments and our budget.

Make sure to look at agendas, come to the meetings, utilize our zoom link, or go to our YouTube channel to watch recorded meetings. If you have any questions, please contact our knowledgeable staff or a board member!

I hope that you all have a wonderful fall and holiday season!
Sincerely,

Betsy A. Mancl

Port Edwards Village Board President

FROM THE DESK OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR



Residents of The Village of Port Edwards. I have been your Interim Administrator for a year now and many issues have been resolved. I am usually in Port on Tuesday or Thursday and try to schedule my days in Port Edwards when Committees meet. I usually have lunch at El Café and have been meeting some residents to chat.

Interim Administrator just means that, I am now working with the Village Board in departure of Port as your Interim Administrator.

We have a new Fire Chief Dustin Lease (resident of Port). Chief Lease has been working with the Police & Fire Commission (PFC) and has successfully recruited a full force of new firefighters to serve Port. The Village is in the process of recruiting a new Police Chief and Police & Fire Commission (PFC) will be busy in attracting new candidates. We all wish Chief Drew happy retirement starting spring 2025.

In the next two months I will be limiting my time in Port due to family health matters and personally will be having cancer surgery in December.

As for the Administrator, the Village Board will be conducting a Pilot Program in 2025 with the Public Works Director Ben Martinson serving as DPW/Administrative Coordinator. In the last month Ben has been taking over several matters that have been under the Administrator responsibilities and has been doing an excellent job along with the office staff.

Besides the duties of day-to-day operations, the Village will be undertaking the following projects:

- Several sections of 2nd Street reconstruction projects for next 4 years utilizing the remaining TIF funds. TIF will close 2028.
- DMI (Domtar old mill site) has been issued a demolition permit with several conditions and intends to commence demolition spring 2025.
- The old Domtar Administration building (owner Wood County & DMI) is in the process of receiving a County economic development grant in 2025 to review funding avenues for demolition and search for potential developers (This is an excellent site along mill pond for waterfront development).
- Assist in any way with ERCO new development of rail yard at their existing facility in 2025.

I want to thank the Village Board, Port School Administration, Village staff and good citizens of Port Edwards for welcoming me as your Interim Administrator, and it has been a pleasure to serve. Port Edwards is a community that will be part of me personally, and I have made excellent relationships with folks in Port.

I fully request the Village Board, Staff, School Administration and Citizens of Port to give full support to Ben Martinson as your DPW/Administrative Coordinator to be successful in leading the Village in the future.

If you have any questions or want to give any input on the above, please contact me at villageadmin@portedwardswi.gov

Stay "PORT PROUD!"

Holiday Bazaar

Everyone is invited to the Port Edwards United Methodist Church Annual Holiday Bazaar and Luncheon on Saturday, November 2nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lunch served all day – Welcome Everyone!!



Winter Parking Restrictions

Winter parking restrictions start November 1, 2024 and end April 1, 2025. No parking on Village streets from 12:00 a.m. (midnight) until 6:00 a.m. A fine for violation of this ordinance will be issued.

GREETINGS FROM THE PORT EDWARDS FIRE DEPARTMENT!

As we transition from summer into fall, I am thrilled to introduce myself as your new Fire Chief. My name is Dustin Lease, and I am both honored and excited to take on this role. As a husband and father of six, as well as a United States Marine Corps veteran, I bring over 20 years of active involvement in the fire service. My experience includes serving as a community, critical care, and TEMS paramedic, along with roles as an instructor and fire officer. This extensive background has instilled in me a deep commitment to serving our community with integrity and excellence.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the warm welcome I have already received from the community. Your support has been overwhelming and deeply appreciated. We've also seen a remarkable influx of volunteer interest, and I am proud to share that we have welcomed 9 new members to our department since I took on the role of Chief. This growth is a testament to the strength and dedication of our community, and I am excited to work with such a passionate team.

I am eager to advance our department and collaborate with our dedicated team to provide exceptional service to the Village of Port Edwards. I look forward to working closely with you and hearing your ideas on how we can continue to improve and support our community.

1. Upcoming Community Events:

- **Fire Prevention Week:** We're excited to celebrate Fire Prevention Week on **October 15th and 16th** with school visits focused on promoting fire safety. On the evening of **October 15th**, please join us for an **Open House** at the Fire Station from 4-6 pm. We will have the fire safety trailer on display, along with a variety of family-friendly activities and demonstrations. This event is a great opportunity for families to learn about fire safety and for me to connect with the community. I hope to see many of you there!
- **Gun Raffle:** We are thrilled to announce an upcoming Gun Raffle organized by the Firefighters Athletic Association. The drawing is scheduled for **December 14th**. More details on how to participate and support this event will be available soon, so please mark your calendars.

2. Fire Safety Reminders:

With cooler weather approaching, it's a good time to check or change the batteries in your smoke alarms and ensure they are functioning properly. Additionally, please remember to keep your smoke alarms up-to-date and replace them every 10 years.

As the snow begins to fall, it's also important to keep fire hydrants clear of snow and easily accessible. This ensures that our firefighters can quickly reach and use the hydrants in case of an emergency.

For those using outdoor fire pits, please remember to:

- Always monitor fires.
- Avoid burning on windy days.
- Keep fires at least 30 feet away from structures.
- Use only clean, dry wood, no plastic or garbage.

3. Burning Permits:

Permits are required for burning brush in nonresidential areas. You can obtain a permit from me, a local Emergency Fire Warden, or by calling 1-888-WIS-BURN. For residential burning, permits must be approved by the Village Board.

4. Join Our Team:

We are always seeking dedicated individuals to join our team as firefighters or first responders. If you're interested in serving our community, please reach out to us. We value teamwork, dedication, and service, and we would love to welcome you to our team.

Let's continue to support one another and work together to keep our village thriving. I'm excited for what lies ahead and the opportunities to connect with you all. Please check out our Facebook page for updates and happenings around the fire department.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Dustin Lease

Fire Chief, Port Edwards Fire Department



GREETINGS FROM THE PORT EDWARDS POLICE DEPARTMENT!

Traffic Safety / School Zone Crossings:

School is back in session, so we will see an increase in kids walking and biking to and from school. Please take care and SLOW DOWN in the school zones at 5th Street and Letendre Avenue and 5th Street and Ver Bunker Avenue. When the turtles are out in the roadway and the lights are flashing, the speed limit is 15 MPH throughout the zone.

Veronica Mertes has joined us as the new Crossing Guard on the corner of 5th Street and Letendre Avenue, so make sure you give her a warm welcome when you drive by.

Animal Ownership and Responsibilities:

The Police Department has been receiving an increased number of complaints about pets that are not properly under control, licensed, and not being cleaned up after.

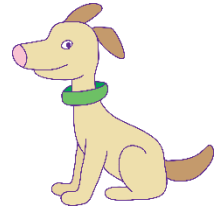
Some general rules are:

No person, except a kennel licensee, shall own, harbor or keep more than 3 dogs that are over the age of 5 months old.

It is a dog owner's responsibility to make sure that their pet is properly vaccinated and licensed with the Village Clerk.

An animal is considered to be running at large if it is off the premises of its owner and not under the control of the owner or some other person.

Please be courteous to your neighbors and respect their property. If you choose to own animals keep them on your own property, keep them quiet, licensed, and clean.



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

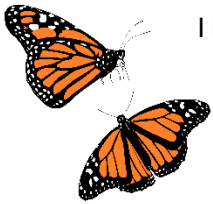
Thank you,

Scott Drew

Chief of Police

Friends of the Monarchs

As the monarch season is coming to a close, I want to thank some individuals that really stepped up this summer helping with the weeding, planting and other projects at the Village Monarch Park. A huge thanks to Sarah Roberson, Candy Prah-Tell, Linda Weeg and Mert Scheffler for all they did. They worked hard getting the park looking good for the Master Gardeners Garden Walk that was held on July 20th. If you have volunteered at the park but I didn't know that you did, I also want to thank you. We will continually need people to volunteer at the park each spring and summer, so if this is something you would like to help with, just reach out to me. 715-887-3448



I hope you noticed the new poster and signs that were put up in the showcase at the park this summer. Educating people about monarchs and pollinators in general is another reason for having the park. Butterflies of all kinds and many bees appreciated all the nectar flowers in the garden.

Although the monarch numbers were down this summer, we did manage to raise and release over 300 of them. We just began tagging the monarchs we were releasing a few weeks ago. Hopefully many of them will make their migration journey to Mexico. I gave over 15 monarch presentations this spring and summer and have a few more on my calendar for September. I still find many people that do not know many facts about the monarchs.

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

Port Edwards Water Utility Rates

The Public Service Commission requires that water rates be published semi-annually. The following rates took effect on September 18, 2023.

Quarterly Service Charge for Meter:

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

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 - \$1.41 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



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.

Water & Sewer Billings

Water and sewer billings are quarterly, the 1st of January, April, July, and October with the bills due 20 days later. After late notices are sent out you have ten days to pay or your water will be shut off. If your water has been shut off, there is a \$20.00 reconnect charge. Water bills can be paid at the Municipal Building from 8:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., dropped in the silver payment box in front of the Municipal Building, or mailed in. *Your prompt payment is greatly appreciated as it costs taxpayers money for the late notices to be prepared and mailed out each quarter.*

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 on your regular garbage day.

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.



Community Calendar Items

Oct.	1	Hydrant Flushing, Beware of Dirty Water
Oct.	2	Hydrant Flushing, Beware of Dirty Water
Oct.	9	Village Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Oct.	31	Village "Trick or Treating", 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Nov.	1	Parking Restrictions Begin
Nov.	2	Port Edwards United Methodist Church Bazaar & Luncheon, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Nov.	13	Village Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Nov.	22	Fall Leaf Collection Ends
Nov.	28	Village Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov.	29	Village Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec.	4	Village Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
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.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE: VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS ARE NOW HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.

VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

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

Village Board

President: Betsy Mancl

Trustees: Vacant

Rick Hess

Eric Hummel

Lonn Radtke

Erik Saylor

Joseph Zurfluh

Village Office Staff

Administrator: Duane Gau (Interim)

Clerk-Treasurer: Diane Tremmel

Cashier-Secretary: Kim Holcomb

