

# Village of Port Edwards

## Summer 2025 Newsletter



*As required by Chapter 985 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, the Village hereby notifies all property owners and residents in the Village of Port Edwards that every person is required by law to destroy all noxious weeds and other rank growth of vegetation on land in the Village which he owns, occupies or controls.*

*Betsy A. Mancl – Village President*

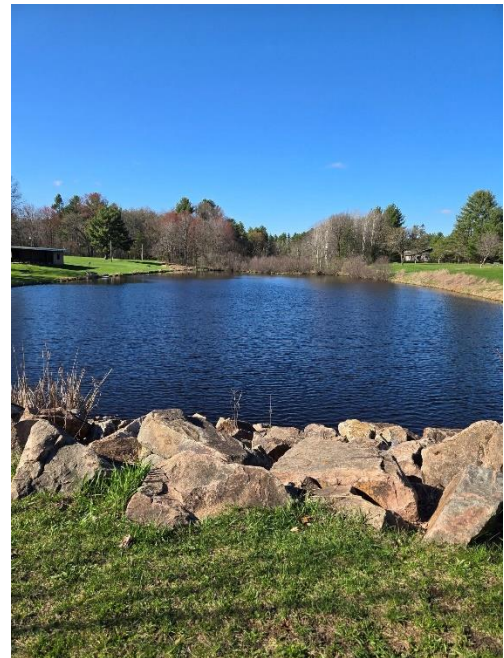
As we welcome summer, I want to thank you for the opportunity to be able to again serve as your Village President. The spring election reminded me that our community is full of diverse voices, and while the results were close, the goal of improving Port Edwards unites us all. With much work ahead, I'm committed to continuing to lead with transparency, facts and keeping communication open as we move forward together.

Congratulations to the three trustees elected this spring — Nick Flugaur, Eric Hummel, and Joe Zurfluh. Each brings valuable insight, and I look forward to working with them to address the issues that matter most to our village.

One key issue is the future of the DMI site. I've established an ad hoc committee to explore responsible options for cleanup and redevelopment, with input from residents and experts. While this will take time, we are committed to moving forward thoughtfully and transparently.

As we tackle important projects, I want to reassure residents that we are carefully managing your tax dollars. Working closely with department heads, we build targeted budgets that prioritize services, public safety, and long-term sustainability. Our goal is to deliver high-quality services while being responsible stewards of public funds. At the same time, trying to be mindful and planful for our future

I also want to express my appreciation for our village staff. Their hard work, often behind the scenes, is essential to keeping our community running smoothly. From maintaining infrastructure to supporting operations, their efforts are deeply valued. Make



sure to say thank you when you see our village staff, and say “Welcome!” to our new police officer Mason Czech!

I encourage everyone to stay engaged in local government. Your voice matters. Whether you attend Village Board meetings, follow our Facebook page, or watch meetings on YouTube, there are many ways to stay informed and make your voice heard!

As summer unfolds, I encourage everyone to support our local businesses — both the long-standing favorites and the exciting new ones! Grab a bite at El Café, treat yourself to a fresh summer look at Mia Bella or AuraLux Nails, and don’t forget to get your car road-trip ready with a quick stop at Port Auto — it might just save you from a surprise pit stop on the way to your next adventure. Make sure to grab a beautiful arrangement to brighten someone’s day from the newly opened Dragonfly Blooms! Every time you dine, or schedule a service locally, you are helping support the small businesses that are the heart of our community.

Finally, as we enjoy summer, I invite you to participate in the wonderful events happening in our village — from the garage sale weekend and brat frys to the Firefighter Association Street Dance and the Lion’s Club Summer Picnic. These events bring us together, helping strengthen our community.

Let’s work together to build a future for Port Edwards that reflects our shared values and celebrates all that makes this village special.

Enjoy your summer!

*Betsy Mancl*

Village President

### *From the Desk of The Village Administrator*



Welcome to Summer, Village of Port Edwards Residents. I hope your Spring went well (as quick as it went) and you took advantage of the great weather we had here in central Wisconsin. Before we all start scattering to our summer adventures, I want to take a few moments of your time.

The year is half over and time is flying. 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 the Memorial Day Service at the cemetery, Firefighters’ Athletic Association Annual Street Dance, PEBA Baseball/Softball Tournament, Nepco Lake 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Lions Picnic. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

We will be conducting some major infrastructure projects this summer, which include finishing up Port Road Legacy funded bike trail, resurfacing Ver Bunker Avenue from Brentwood to 5<sup>th</sup> Street, lining of Ripple Creek culvert pipe, yearly wheel tax chip seal projects and starting a three-year road reconstruction of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Edwards Avenue to Market Avenue alleyway. We will also be replacing over 500' of sidewalk. We plan to spend some time improving our bike trails and other small improvements in the Park network.

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

Ben Martinson



## ***Friends of the Monarchs***

The milkweed is growing, and we will be seeing monarchs any time now. I know many of the village residents have planted milkweed and nectar flowers. I, along with the bees and butterflies, thank you. Milkweed is so very important for giving the monarchs a place to lay their eggs, and the blossom of the milkweed attracts both butterflies and bees of all kinds.

The Village Monarch Park needed lots of attention earlier in the spring. If the gardens are going to remain, we need more people to help out. As any gardener knows, keeping up with the weeds and grass that invades the raised beds is an ongoing job. Again, I am asking for volunteers to help. If you are not sure what to do, just reach out and you can work alongside someone to get to know what needs to be done.

Pat and I will be at the Port Edwards Community Picnic on Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hopefully, we will be able to show live parts of the monarch life cycle. We will be doing a monarch presentation that day at 6:00 p.m.

Depending on how monarch season goes, we may also be doing other presentations throughout the summer. Check my Facebook page or reach out to me by phone or email if you want to know about possible presentations.



Come to one of our presentations to learn how you can get involved in monarch preservation. Please contact me if you are willing to help at the Village Monarch Park. I'm sure hoping I get some calls!

**Kathy McGrath ~ 715-887-3448 ~ [kathym369@gmail.com](mailto:kathym369@gmail.com)**

# Port Edwards Fire Department

## Summer Safety, Service, and Strength in Numbers

As summer heats up, so does activity within the Port Edwards Fire Department. With our department now 20 members strong—a milestone we proudly reached earlier this year—we continue to train, respond, and serve with renewed energy and focus. The dedication of our firefighters and EMS providers has made this one of our most productive and connected seasons yet.



Our team has been actively involved in local events, providing standby support, safety education, and fire prevention outreach at community gatherings. From Fourth of July preparations to summer recreation programs, we remain visible and engaged—committed not just to emergency response but to proactive public service.

We're excited to announce that we'll be hosting a **brat fry and open house** at the fire station during the **Village-Wide Garage Sale on May 17th**. This is a great opportunity for residents to meet our members, tour the station, check out the apparatus, and enjoy some great food while supporting the department. We hope to see many of you there!

Additionally, this summer we'll begin offering **community CPR classes at the fire station**, open to the general public. These classes are a vital way to empower residents with lifesaving skills and strengthen our village's ability to respond in an emergency.

In response to the challenges that come with hotter weather, our department has also been focusing on heat-related illness awareness, grilling safety, and fire risk prevention during dry spells. We encourage residents to stay hydrated, practice safe outdoor habits, and reach out with any concerns.

I would once again like to thank Village President Betsy Mancl for her ongoing support and dedication to public safety, along with the Village Board, Administrator, and the Police & Fire Commission. Their backing allows us to continually improve and expand our services. And, as always, I am incredibly proud of the members of our department—your commitment makes all the difference.

We look forward to a safe and successful summer, serving the people of Port Edwards with pride.

Stay safe, stay cool, and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

***Fire Chief Dustin Lease***

## *Hello from the Port Edwards Police Department*

I would like to introduce myself if we have not had the chance to meet in the past 5.5 years. I started my employment here in the Village of Port Edwards, Sept of 2019 as a Patrolman/SRO. I was recently hired as the Chief of Police in Feb 2025 after the retirement of Chief Scott Drew. I am a lifelong resident of the Wisconsin Rapids area and have been in law enforcement in the greater Wisconsin Rapids area since 1999. My wife Cori and I have 4 children, and we were both born and raised here. I would like to invite anyone who wants to meet me or just chat to stop in the office. I have an open-door policy and would like to hear what you have to say.



I would like to share some of my thoughts regarding being kind as we move into the summer of 2025.

Be Kind:

When someone is in the crosswalk  
When your dog is habitually barking  
When you are leaving unsightly items in your yard  
When you are speeding through that school zone  
When maintaining your lawn/trees  
When you place all your trash inside your bins and then remove them from the curb after pickup  
When you are leaving junk/unregistered vehicle on your property  
When you are having guests at home and having outside gatherings

Please be kind and think about how your actions/inactions are affecting the community and your neighbors. It is always easier and more enjoyable when we get along with our neighbors.

Thank you and have a great summer,  
***Chief of Police – Brandon Abbott***

### ***Thank you for Flag Donations***

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

*Our recent contributors are:*

***Ron & Karla Leverance***  
***Ron & Sara Nelson***  
***Dan & Mary Armatoski***



The flag project is funded entirely from private donations and the flags require replacement every one to two years. **Donations are always welcomed and encouraged so we can keep our flags flying bright and proud. Thank you!!**



## The Port Edwards Firefighters Athletic Association

**Street Dance is Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.** Enjoy good food, drinks and music. There is no admission charge. Please come join the fun!!



### Village Transportation Survey

The Village is conducting a Transportation Survey to gather valuable feedback from residents about our local transportation needs and safety. This survey will help us improve the transportation infrastructure, making our village safer and more accessible for everyone.

A key focus of the survey is the Safe Routes to School initiative that we are starting with the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC). We're asking families and caregivers to share their thoughts on the safety of routes children take to school. Your responses will directly impact improvements to walking and biking paths, crosswalks, and traffic patterns near schools, ensuring that our kids can travel safely to and from school.

Whether you're a parent, pedestrian, cyclist, or driver, we want to hear from you! The survey will take about 5 minutes and is **open until June 8, 2025**.

Take the survey today at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/port-edwards>

### **Leaf, Grass and Brush Pickup**

On a weekly basis, the crew will pick up grass that is properly placed. Typically grass pickup is on Mondays and Tuesdays. Brush will be picked up on the same week as recycling.

**All brush and grass must be placed on the boulevard area behind the curb making sure that there are no rocks or foreign objects in the piles. PLEASE NO BAGGING OF YARD WASTE!!**

- 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.



If you need compost or wood chips, please contact the Municipal Building to arrange delivery of the material. Delivery is free to Village residents.

### **Sprinkling Restrictions**

Lawn sprinkling restrictions begin on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Odd-numbered addresses will sprinkle on odd-numbered days and even-numbered addresses on even-numbered days. Likewise, sprinkling is only allowed from 6:00 P.M. until 10:00 A.M. Please help conserve water by sprinkling during the early morning or evening hours.

Sprinkling restrictions end on September 15<sup>th</sup>.



### **Water & Sewer Billings**

Water and sewer billings are quarterly, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, April, July, and October with the bills

due 20 days later. If not paid on time, a 3% late fee will be added. 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 payment box in front of the Municipal Building, or mailed in. You can also go to the Village website at [www.vi.portedwards.wi.gov](http://www.vi.portedwards.wi.gov) to make credit or debit card payments.

***PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY!***

### **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.**

### **Cemetery Maintenance & Allowable Decorations**

The Village of Port Edwards takes great pride in the appearance and upkeep of the cemetery. The rules of the cemetery limit what can be placed for decorations. Only traditional flower plantings are allowed at the cemetery. Please be aware that if you have items that are not flowers (such as lights or other objects) they may be removed and disposed of. The Village asks that all people enjoying the cemetery abide by the rules established to keep the Port Edwards cemetery one of the nicest maintained in the region.

## **19th Annual Blackhawk Scramble**

Monday, June 16, 2025, at Bullseye Golf Club, 2800 Ridgewood Trail,  
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

9:30 a.m. Registration & Driving Range - 11:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Cost: \$85 each/\$340 per foursome

**All** proceeds go to student enrichment projects!



Both a bag lunch and dinner included!! Consider honoring a family member, classmate or friend by sponsoring a hole in their name.

For more information on this event hosted by the Port Edwards Education Foundation, please contact Sharon Morell (715-340-0155) email [scmorell@charter.net](mailto:scmorell@charter.net) or Sue Mitchell (715-213-0156) email [mitchell5@charter.net](mailto:mitchell5@charter.net).

## **Community Calendar Items**

<b>May</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Village-Wide Garage Sales</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Village Offices Closed for Holiday</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Bulk Pickup</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 pm</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Port Edwards Firefighters Athletic Association Street Dance</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Sprinkling Restrictions go into effect</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Annual Blackhawk Scramble, Bullseye Golf Club</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>3&amp;4</b>	<b>Village Offices Closed for Holiday</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 pm</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Bulk Pickup</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Port Edwards Lions Community Picnic</b>
<b>Aug.</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Bulk Pickup</b>
<b>Aug.</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Sept.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Village Offices Closed for Labor Day Holiday</b>
<b>Sept.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Bulk Pickup</b>
<b>Sept.</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Village Board Meeting, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 pm</b>



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.