

Village of Lena News

Small community—Great Opportunity



December 2015 Issue 8

Village President Message:

Wow! Have you seen the Lights? Hats off once again to the Promotions Committee for a job well done! It takes a lot of time planning, organizing and coordinating to make a successful event and by all of the feedback I have received from Business Owners, Residents and the Attendees, the Village of Lights festivities were even better than last year. I also have heard many great ideas being discussed for next year's event. Once again, thank you to the Businesses and People involved with this great event!

While preparing this Newsletter, I looked back and reviewed suggestions I had made to our Village of Lena residents moving into the year 2015. I am proud to say that there have been numerous People and Businesses that have stepped up to the plate in the past year to become more involved in our Community. I am extremely confident and encouraged that trend will continue into 2016.

What's ahead for 2016?

There are always things that we can improve on in our Village but there are a couple of key issues that Village residents remind the Board of on a regular basis.

As Village President, the #1 priority on my list is for our residents to be provided with the best possible governmental services at an economical and affordable rate and with great customer service. How do we intend to make this happen?

First, we need new business & job creation to strengthen the tax base which will allow us to improve our infrastructures and become more efficient. The Planning Commission will continue down the path of exploring all of avenues of Economic Development. A very comprehensive strategic plan is already in place for the development of the Rosera Business Park. The Planning Commission has been very busy over the past several months and all indications show that we are getting closer to being able to implement our plan.

Also, we have implemented changes in our Village Board work system. This requires more involvement by our committees to make them more accountable and build a greater understanding of the processes that they are in charge of. This will eliminate the redundancy of committees by aligning issues, tasks and improvements with the appropriate committee. The Committees work with each other in an orderly manner holding the other accountable, sharing the work load and making things happen.

A good example of this is the Finance Committee reviewing and tracking the utility bills. The Finance Committee was able to determine where the majority of the energy costs were coming from. This information was shared with the Public Works Committee who proceeded to look at ways to

President's message continued:

cut our utility bills. Several improvements have been identified that will lead to lower utility bills and have the potential of paying for themselves by the energy savings. More to come on this in future newsletters.

Next, we need to continue to work on the overall appearance of our Village. One of the changes we will be recommending is renaming and updating the responsibilities of one of our existing Committees. The Police and Fire Committee as we currently know it will be becoming the Public Safety Committee. This revised Committee will be tasked with reviewing our current ordinances to ensure that they are up to date with our current standards. They will also be overseeing the Village Building Inspector and working very closely with him and the Police Department to enforce our ordinances in regards to our Village appearance standards.

You may ask why there is such a big push on our appearance. The appearance of our Village has a direct impact on new business, job creation and growth in housing. Like anything else, over time we need to spruce things up and give them a new appearance. Getting the building inspector involved when needed, will also reinforce the direction we are going. We welcome your thoughts, concerns and ideas on this subject.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone in our Community a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year. As always, feel free to reach out to me or any other Board Member. Together we can do GREAT THINGS!



Board positions for April 2016 Election

There are three position on the Village Board up for election in April. Judy Patenaude (I), Larry Belongia (i) and Craig LeFebre (I). Also Municipal Judge will be on the ballot. Currently this position is held by Russel Buhr. Each of the following forms must be completed and filed on time by candidates for municipal office in order for the candidate's name to be placed on the ballot at the February 16, 2016 Spring Primary and the April 5, 2016 Spring Election: GAB-1 Campaign Registration Statement; GAB-169 Nomination Paper for Nonpartisan Office and GAB-162 Declaration of Candidacy in the clerk's office **by January 5, 2016.**



Dog License Renewal—Due January 1-April 30th

All Village residents keeping a dog MUST pay the dog license fee. All dogs MUST be vaccinated against rabies to be licensed. Be sure to bring in the dog's vaccination papers as vet clinics will not release the information to the Village (only the owner). Neutered or spayed dog is \$3; Intact \$8. Per WI State Statute 179.5 after April 30th a \$5 late fee will be charged. Please do NOT combine your dog license fee with your property tax payments!

Winter Reminders

If your property has a sidewalk along it, you are required to have the snow cleared within 24 hours (Village Ordinance 277-10.)

Winter parking rules are now in effect. No vehicle is to be parked on the street between 2:30 a.m.—7 a.m., December 1-April 1. If you have tenants that do not receive this notice please inform them. Parking citations will be issued for non-compliance. (Village Ordinance 302-16)

Recycling Changes for 2016

Effective January 1, 2016 there will be a recycling charge for used oil, filters absorbents and antifreeze! \$1 fee per each 3 gallons of used oil, filters, absorbent materials and/or antifreeze. These materials can be a single item or combination of items for a total 3 gallons. 4-5 small filters equal one gallon.

Example: 2 gallons of used oil, 5 oil filters and 1 gallon of antifreeze = 4 gallons (\$2 collected for disposal.)

Unfortunately the costs for recycling these items can no longer be supported by the Oconto County Recycling program. In order to maintain a convenient location to recycle, the costs need to be placed onto the users of these items.



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Lena Village of Lights

Special thanks to all our participating businesses and residents who help make the 2nd annual Village of Lights a success. The decorations were awesome. Over 50 children visited with Santa!

Child gift winners: McKenzie Vorphal and Max Peterson

\$Gift card/Certificate winners: Beth Earley, Melody Meck, Lynette Dionne, Pam Pashouwer, Marilyn Marquardt, Jordon Wenzel, Susan Peterson, Janice Cook, Amanda Gannigan, Cheryl Jagiello, Mark Umentum, Cheryl McDonald, Kathryn Telford and Jessica Deering.

Village Board

President

Steve Marquardt 920-373-2217

Trustees:

Terry Hinds 920-373-3810

Ken Linzmeyer 920-829-6125

Craig LeFebre 920-829-6146

Judy Patenaude 920-829-5935

Linda Hinds 920-829-5639

Larry Belongia 920-829-6375

Reminder: Garbage bags must be tied. Maximum weight is 50 lbs. per bag.

Property Tax Payments

When paying in cash please bring the exact amount. Do NOT include your pet license renewal with your property tax payment.

Chili Cook-off

Saturday January 10th

\$10 entry fee—100% payout

Categories: Mild & hot

Wooden Shoe

100 W. Main St., Lena, WI



Special Holiday greetings to our men and women in the military. Wishing all a safe Holiday and a healthy New Year.



Street Signs get a “New” Look

The street signs on Main Street will get a new and improved look for 2016. The new signs will be in blue and white lettering to improve the visibility. Harley Street will be the next street scheduled for the new signs.

Customer Appreciation Party

Saturday January 23, 2015—Live band—18 Days.—Free giveaways throughout the evening.

Wooden Shoe - 100 W. Main Street, Lena