

Village of Lena News



Small community—Great Opportunity

December 2018 Issue 20

Village Board

President

Steve Marquardt 920-373-2217

Trustees:

Terry Hinds 920-373-3810

Nick Heise 920-309-1965

Craig LeFebre 920-829-6146

Judy Patenaude 920-829-5935

Larry Belongia 920-373-3100

Linda Hinds 920-604-2810

Property Taxes

Hours: 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thurs. 7:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Friday.

Office will be closed: Christmas Eve Day, Christmas, New Year's Eve Day at noon & New Year's.

Please pay taxes with check or money order if possible.

Contact Information

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Hours: M-Thurs 7:30-4 p.m.

Friday 7:30—11:30 a.m.



**Happy
Holidays!**

Message from President Marquardt:

The lighting up of Main Street with the Christmas decorations and the Village of Lights event is always my signal that we will soon be ringing in another new year. It seems like just yesterday we were enjoying the Taste of Fall event. Both events are sponsored and organized by the Village Promotions Committee and were well organized and attended this year. Thank you to all who helped organize and lead these events. Your time and commitment is appreciated. In the year end newsletter I like to try to give a quick rundown on some of the items that were accomplished in the Village during the past year. Following are reports from a few of the committees:

Public Works:

The Public Works Department has had a busy year. We welcomed a new employee, Terry Earley whom many of you already know as he has been getting familiar with our Village. One of the biggest changes that we are working against is our current work process. We will be implementing changes in our structure to be a flow to the work environment which will enable our employees to better serve our residents. A health assessment of our Village equipment was performed, and a corrective action plan was established to address the repairs on a prioritized basis. Several cost reduction ideas were implemented at the water treatment facility to reduce chemical usage and cost. The Committee worked on getting new easements and boundaries established for the sewer main that extends from Main street North to Pelkey in the back lots on private property. This section is one of the oldest in the Village and is scheduled to be repaired this spring. We are also in the preliminary design stages with our Engineering firm to clarify the needed sewer plant upgrades. The sewer plant is in need of upgrades, they will be done in multiple stages with some of the work starting in the spring of 2019. These updates will have a payback in 10 years due to energy reduction savings. The Water Dept. has taken delivery on several of the new style smart meters that we will be upgrading our system to. The plan is to install on our larger water user services first. These meters will eventually be installed on all user water services. This style meter will give instantaneous data that will help the water utility identify service leaks almost immediately.

Terry Hinds, Chair

Public Safety:

It has been a busy year for the Lena Police Department. Police Chief Herald has been training the new part time officer. Chief Herald along with the part time officers participated in or led many events this year at Lena Schools. These events included Active Shooter Training at the high school, Every 15 Minute Program, Drunk and Drugged Driving Program, Distracted Driving Program, Women's Self Defense, Career Day, Movie Night and a Day at the Day Care. Community events were National Night Out, Bike Rodeo and Safety event, Walk to School and Shop with a Cop Program. Chief Herald along with the Public Safety Committee also proposed the ATV/UTV Ordinance which was passed by the Lena Village Board. An application for a grant for a new squad was applied for from USDA Rural Development. We have been notified that we were awarded this grant.

The Fire Department has been busy this year also. The number of calls that were responded to has increased over last few years. They continue to work on fund raising with their biggest event being the dinner in August and several others including a meat and cheese raffle, bucket raffles, and booyah sales. Money raised from these events goes toward equipment such as protective gear, batteries, etc. The Public Safety Committee also applied for the grant for a new Fire Tender and tornado siren from USDA. We are still working on this grant and hope to hear soon on their decision.

The Public Safety Committee also governs the weed committee. Progress has been made in the Village regarding grass cutting, abandoned vehicles, debris in yards, unlicensed dogs and garbage removal. As winter approaches remember snow and ice removal from sidewalks needs to be completed within 24 hours after the snow end.

Winter Reminders

If your property has a sidewalk along it, you are required to have the **snow & ice 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)



Judy Patenaude, Chair

Promotions:

We have had a great year. The July rummage sales went well. Taste of Fall was a huge success. It helped moving the event to Main Street. We received many compliments and are working on next year already. Even though the weather could have been a little better, Village of Lights went great. Approximately seventy children visited with Santa and everyone enjoyed the wagon rides through the Village. Snowflake Village was beautiful and hopefully it will continue to grow. Everyone is welcome to join the Promotions Committee. If you have any questions, please stop in at the Village Hall.

Linda Hinds, Chair

Recycling:

Recycling in the Village has gone well this year. We want to thank all our residents for doing a great job with the single stream recycling. It seems to be easier and faster for everyone. Our hours at the recycle center are Monday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Wednesday 5-7 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – Noon. Special thanks to Wayne Shallow (Ferd) and Charlie Smaney for a great job, the Lena facility is one of the nicest and best kept centers in the County!

Larry Belongia, Chair

Planning:

This group worked on revising the 20-year Comprehensive Plan as mandated by state law. There were also numerous hours devoted to trying to secure a potential development in the Rosera Business Park. Unfortunately, due to other circumstances the business prospect has chosen to locate their new venture in Marinette County. The Planning Commission is currently working on a proposal that will be submitted to The New North Economic Development Organization to make our Village Business Park a Gold Shovel Ready Site. The Gold Shovel Ready designation will identify our property to developers, site selectors and companies looking for suitable expansion locations. Knowing this information up front helps brokers, site selectors, developers and companies expedite their search, allowing our site to stand out against the competition. In March the Business Park will be showcased by the Oconto County Economic Development Committee down in Appleton at the In-Development Program. This venue allows us to connect with commercial developers in Northeast Wisconsin.

Steve Marquardt, Chair

Finance:

The Committee continued to work with other respective committees to help deliver and drive cost reductions in their respective areas. Overall spending for 2018 was kept in check, showing a small decrease as compared to 2017. Please take a few moments to review the graphs Terry Hinds prepared for this month's newsletter to help explain the 2017/2018 mill rate differences. The Village also made a switch in our Primary Financial Institution vendor to Fortifi to maximize our interest returns, reduce banking fees and improve customer support. Fortifi

was selected after hearing several proposals from other banking institutions. They are highly regarded and are known for their expertise in working with municipalities. Work continued on streamlining our budget and capital improvement processes by reorganizing and creating new accounts which will allow us to drill down in more detail to get a better view of our spending practices and enable us to make necessary changes if needed.

Steve Marquardt, Chair

Business Spot Light

All Trade Remodeling & Brandt Travel Agency

Joseph & Tanya Brandt have moved into the Village after purchasing the old bakery at 110 E. Main Street. With over 20 years in business management Joseph, Tanya and their four children reside in the Lena area. Joseph is a licensed and insured contractor and Tanya has a Masters Degree in Art with minor in Business and Education. They founded their business "All Trade Remodeling" in 2003. The business phone number is 920-829-5044. Be sure to stop in and welcome them to our Village.



Thank You from Lena Village of Lights/Lena Promotions Committee

The Lena Promotions Committee wishes to thank everyone who participated in the Lena Village of Lights. A beautiful night to enjoy the horse drawn wagon rides, music, and Santa plus the business specials. The Village looked amazing with all the lights on display. Each year it keeps growing. Plans are in the works for next year. If you would like to join in everyone is welcome. Call the Lena Village Hall for more information. Happy Holidays!



ELECTIONS AHEAD

2019 Elections

The following positions are open for the April 2019 election: Village President and three (3) trustee positions. Incumbents who are up include Village President Steve Marquardt, and Trustees Terry Hinds, Judy Patenaude and Nicholas Heise (filled in the remaining term for Ken Linzmeyer.) If you are interested in running, please stop in at the Village Hall for your Declaration of Candidacy, nomination papers and Campaign Finance Registration Statement. Deadline for filing is January 2, 2019 5 p.m. Spring Primary election is February 19, 2019 and Spring Election is April 2, 2019.

Village Quarterly Schedule

January

Jan 14 Court 4 p.m.
Jan 8 Public Works 2:45 p.m.
Jan 8 Finance 5 p.m.
Jan. 21 Village Board 6:30 p.m.

February

Feb. 11-Court 4 p.m.
Feb. 12 Public Works 2:45 p.m.
Feb. 12 Finance 5 p.m.
Feb. 18 Village Board 6:30 p.m.

March

Mar. 11 Court 4 p.m.
Mar.12 Public Works 2:45 p.m.
Mar. 12 Finance 5 p.m.
Mar. 18-Village Board 6:30 p.m.