

Village of Lena News



Small Community—Great Opportunity

September 2018 Issue 19

Lena's Taste of Fall

Sat. October 6th

9 a.m.—?



Craft/Vendor Market, Hit & Miss Engines, Antique Tractor Display, Pumpkin Cookie Decorating, Ghost Rock Scavenger Hunt, North Country Kicker Dance demo/lesson, Mad Dog and Merrill, Food & Music. Wooden Shoe sponsoring Barbecue Cook-off, Potato Salad Contest, Salsa Contest, and Pie Eating Contest. *Come and join the fun!*

President's Message

Welcome Fall! It's my favorite time of year! School has started, football is back on TV, leaves will be turning from green to orange, yellow and red and it is time for the 3rd Annual Lena Taste of Fall Event scheduled for Saturday Oct 6. Stop by to check out crafters/vendors, baked goods, Fire Dept booyah, music, barbeque cook-offs, family bike ride and much more. The location this year is on Main Street between the Wooden Shoe and the railroad tracks. Hope to see you there!

Recently you received a notice of a user rate increase regarding your utility service. It is never easy to decide to raise user rates. The Village Board understands that this may create hardships for some who are struggling financially, but I can assure you that the rate increases were necessary to change the financial shortfalls that the Village is experiencing year after year. Implementing the rate increases now will prove to be a vital part in restructuring our utility finances and will pay positive dividends for years to come. We will also be investing in upgrades to our existing sewer related infrastructure to improve efficiencies and reduce energy consumptions. The improvements will offer payback on investments starting within 5 years along with modernizing our plant from the original design of almost 40 years ago.

Another critical component of managing costs can be directly tied to user consumption. Below are some ideas on how to conserve water as well as some items to look at that can be huge water guzzlers if left unattended or unnoticed.

- **Fix your leaks.** Whether you go DIY or hire a plumber, fixing leaky faucets can mean big water savings.
- **Turn off the tap while washing your hands.** Do you need the water to run while you're scrubbing your hands? Save a few gallons of water and turn the faucet off after you wet your hands until you need to rinse.
- **Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.** Water comes out of the average faucet at [2.5 gallons per minute](#). Don't let all that water go down the drain while you brush! Turn off the faucet after you wet your brush, and leave it off until it's time to rinse
- **Head to the car wash.** If you feel compelled to wash your car, take it to a car wash that recycles the water, rather than washing at home with the hose.

- **Cut your showers short.** Older shower heads can use as much as [5 gallons of water per minute](#). Speed things up in the shower for some serious water savings.
- **Don't run the dishwasher or washing machine until it's full.** Those half-loads add up to gallons and gallons of wasted water.
- **Choose efficient fixtures.** Aerating your faucets, investing in a low-flow toilet, choosing efficient shower heads, and opting for a Water Sense rated dishwasher and washing machine can add up to big water savings.
- **Keep an eye on your bill to spot leaks.** If your water bill spikes suddenly, there's a good chance that a leak is the culprit. Call in a plumber to check your lines to save water and money!

Since the water flows down the sewer, leaking toilets don't necessarily leave any signs of a leak, until you get the bill. The average leaky toilet can waste about **200 gallons** of water per day. That's over 6,000 gallons a month for just one leaking toilet! A **simple and quick way to determine if your toilet is leaking** is to insert a couple drops of food coloring into the tank and don't flush your toilet for 20-30 minutes. Then, check to see if there is color in the toilet bowl. If there is, then you have a running toilet leak.

The Public Works Committee continues to evaluate our systems. We have had a few issues recently where homeowners have experienced excessively high-water usage. After our Water Department Personnel inspected these properties, they found that the causes for the extra usage were related to either bad plumbing fixtures or piping. Our current system has us manually reading meters quarterly. This is a long period of time to go before a leaking situation could be noticed by our staff when comparing usage numbers from the previous quarter. The Village water dept will be making a transition to new style water meters where usage will be able to be monitored on an instantaneous basis if needed. The change out to the new style meter will allow for leaks to be noticed sooner and help homeowners make the necessary repairs before accruing large amounts of wasted water. Hopefully you will find some of this information valuable. Small changes can add up to big savings. Enjoy the Fall weather. Before long, it will change again and Old Man Winter will be on the way.

As always please feel free to reach out to myself or any other Board Member with any questions that you may have.

Election Day Tuesday November 6th. Polls are open from 7 a.m.—8 p.m.

Lena Village of Lights

Saturday Dec. 1st

- Santa at Village Hall 5 p.m.
 - Holiday Movie at Lena Public Library 3:30 P.M.
 - Poinsettia & Wreath Sale—FFA
 - Horse Drawn wagon rides
 - Christmas tree sale—Kugel Cheese
 - Caroling and business specials
- Please help our Village “Shine”. We are asking businesses and residents to decorate for the holidays. If you have any questions, please call the Village at 920-829-5226.



Identity Theft

Protect & Prevent— Oct. 4th
4– 5 p.m. Lena Village Hall
Everyone Welcome!

Identity theft continues to be the fastest growing crime in the United States. The more you learn, the less vulnerable you are. The Wisconsin Bureau of Consumer Protection will explain the different types of identity theft, how to recognize it and how to prevent it, including information about Fraud Alerts and Security Freezes. Learn how to safeguard personal information and how to spot the red flags of a scam. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to the Village Hall at 920.829.5226 if you plan to attend. Jeff Kersten from the Bureau of Consumer Protection handling the presentation.

Lena Library Scavenger Hunt

The Lena Library is having a scavenger hunt to search for the Ghost rocks on Saturday October 6th as part of the "Taste of Fall." The children can try their detective skills and search for the hidden rocks throughout the village. If they find a "Ghost rock" they need to return it to the library for a prize. This is for children only and one rock per child.



Welcome New Employee

Please welcome new Public Works employee Terry Earley to our Village. Terry, who was raised in the Lena area and attended Lena Schools joined the Village staff in May. Terry will be handling the Water and Street Departments. You probably have seen he already running the street sweeper. Be sure to stop and introduce yourself and welcome him.



Remodeling or construction work: If you plan to do remodeling or any construction work please get a dumpster for your construction waste. The Village garbage bags are not strong enough for drywall, wood, etc. There is a 40 lb. limit per garbage bag!!! Thank you for your cooperation!

Utility Notice—Please do not pour grease down the sewer. This causes sewer backups in the lines. Thank you for your cooperation.

LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.

Be aware.
Fire can happen anywhere.™

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: OCTOBER 7-13, 2018
firepreventionweek.org



© 2018 NFPA
Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA.

In honor of Fire Prevention week the Lena Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting their annual Fire Prevention event on Monday October 8, 2018 at the Fire Station located at 220 Second Street.

Village Board

President
Steve Marquardt 920-373-2217
Trustees:
Terry Hinds 920-373-3810
Nick Heise 920-373-7770
Craig LeFebre 920-829-6146
Judy Patenaude 920-829-5935
Larry Belongia 920-373-3100
Linda Hinds 920-829-5639

Contact Information

117 E. Main Street
Lena, WI 54139
920-829-5226
Charlene.meier@villageoflena.net
www.villageoflena.net
Hours: M-Thurs 7:30-4 p.m.
Friday 7:30—11:30 a.m.

Property Tax

Payments!

If possible, please use a check or money order when paying taxes.

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)



Past Due Water/Sewer Bills

Any past due amounts that are not paid in full by October 19, 2018 will be added to your tax roll!

TRICK OR TREAT!

October 31st!

Hours: 4 p.m.—6 p.m.

Be sure to stop at the Village Hall for treats.



Dog Licenses Due

January 1st—April 1st, 2019

As a dog owner it is your responsibility to license your dog at the Village Hall from January 1st-April 1st. Please bring your dog's vaccination papers with you.

License costs: \$3 for spayed/neutered; \$8 in tact.

Village Quarterly Schedule

October

Oct. 6—Taste of Fall
Oct. 8—Municipal Court 4 p.m.
Oct. 9—Finance 5 p.m.
Oct. 10—Walk to School
Oct. 15—Village Board 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 31—Trick or Treat

November

Nov. 6—Election Day
Nov. 12—Municipal Court 4 p.m.
Nov. 13—Finance
Nov. 19—Village Board 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 22—Thanksgiving
-closed

December

Dec. 1—Village of Lights
Dec. 10- Municipal Court 4 p.m.
Dec. 11—Finance
Dec. 17-Village Board 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 24—Closed
Dec. 25—Christmas—closed
Dec. 31— normal hours