



Village of Lena News

Small community—Great Opportunity



December 2023 Issue 40

President's Message—Steve Marquardt

Season Greetings! Hard to believe it is December and no measurable snow on the ground and temps have been very mild. I hope that doesn't mean a brutal January!

What a busy year it has been. The Village undertook several projects this past year. The most noticeable was the Village Hall facelift and parking lot repavement. Both of these projects were funded by COVID Relief funding through the federal government and the Village building improvement fund. The Village Hall meeting room has been updated and we were able to increase the usable square footage with removal of the old storage cabinets. New rolling tables/chairs and a large monitor were also added to improve meeting presentations. Fluorescent fixtures were upgraded to LED lamps for better lighting taking advantage of rebates from Focus on Energy. New flooring and millwork completed the project. A special thank you to Ed Patenaude for his direction throughout the process.

The Village formed a new Park and Recreation Committee this year that was tasked with evaluating our current park areas and determining needs to improve existing areas and develop a plan for new recreational opportunities. Great progress was made over the past several months on the new park area being created near the water treatment building in the Rosera Business Park. Phase 1 of the plan, 2 new youth baseball diamonds should be ready for play next season. This phase of the project was made possible by the generous heavy equipment donation from Holtger Bros. Inc. and over 300 hours of equipment operation by several volunteers. Ken Duhm and the Lena Sod Farm also contributed to the building of the diamonds by providing the seeding of the outfield and donation of a couple of loads of sod next spring to complete the diamonds. The Youth Baseball program had more than 120 boys and girls play ball this year so the need for ball diamonds was great. The Committee is actively pursuing donations and grant opportunities to cover the expenses of this phase of the park plan. A conceptual layout of this new area is on display at the Village Hall.

The Village also completed the first round of sidewalk restorations along Main Street. This work was long overdue and will continue next year as another round of sidewalk repair will occur in the Spring. The DNR Clean Water Fund leaders notified us this week that the upcoming sewer plant rehabilitation project will be eligible for nearly \$750,000 of grant monies with the remainder of the project expenses through a low interest loan via the same program. This financial assistance was made possible by working with our Engineering firm Ayres Associates who submitted all of the required paperwork on behalf of the Village. This project is scheduled to start next summer early fall.

Our Village of Lights event was a success again this year. We thank all of the local businesses who participated. Businesses and residents went all out this year to dress our village in Christmas lights, decorations and displays. Our lighted village looked fantastic! It doesn't go unnoticed as we hear numerous comments from visitors of our village on how wonderful our town looks for Christmas. If you haven't already done so, take a ride through the village and enjoy!

I would like to thank the Village Board, the Committees and all of the employees for their dedication and work over the past year in trying to make our Village a great place to live. A special thank you to Larry Shallow who retired Dec 1st after 39 years of service. We will miss his knowledge of Village landmarks and Public Works history. Congratulations Larry, enjoy retirement!

In closing, we wish you a very blessed Christmas and healthy and happy New Year!



Village of Lights



On December 2, 2023 Village of Lights kicked off with a tree lighting of the Village tree. Thank you to the Mike Belongia family for your donation of the beautiful tree. As the tree was lit, the Reindeer Dash runners began their running race. It was an exciting event for sure! The Lena Fire Department brought Santa in the fire truck down Main Street to the Village Hall where children and parents were awaiting his arrival. The Promotions Committee hosted a chance to win toys, movie baskets and Night Before Christmas box. The Lena PTA provided books for the kids. The Blizzard Bingo card was an activity for the family to go to participating businesses to get a stamp and treat. Once completed, the card was returned to the village hall for a chance to win a Visa gift card. A favorite by all was the horse carriage ride down Main Street to take in the beautiful lights. This same evening also our Elf on the Shelf started his 16 day journey through out the businesses of the village. We had 34 participants who handed in a completed sheet of his travels.

We were pleased to see so many homes decorated in the village! Every year we see more homes beautifully decorated with so much charm and personality. There was not a street you went down that didn't have some sort of lights or decorations. The home decorating contest was a huge success with all the fantastic participation. Winners included:

- Spirit of Christmas-Best overall light display. Won by Ken Wondrash
- Griswold- Excessive use of lights (breathtaking). Won by Sharon Pennington
- Daytime Visual- Looks as good during the day as nighttime. Won by Gail Pashouwer
- Christmas Themed-Carries the spirit of Christmas. Won by Mark Shallow

It was very difficult for our 2 judges to pick out the winners as there were so many beautiful homes decorated.

A huge Thank You to the following businesses for participating in the Village of Lights, Blizzard Bingo and or Elf on the Shelf. Northern Prefinishing, Lyllu's Café, R&K Auto Parts, Wooden Shoe, McGuire's Restaurant, Lena Fast Stop, The Store, Kugel Cheese Mart, Emil's Barber Shop, Maple Valley Insurance, Emily's Cutting Edge, Revolution Industrial, Hunters and Fisherman's Bar, LeFebre Auto Body, Lena Lanes, State Farm Insurance, Dollar General, Lena Library, Lena FFA, Lena PTA, American Legion, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Lena Fire Department and Chief Herald of the Lena Police Department.

Also, Thank You to Shane Behnke, Larry Shallow and Terry Earley for their hard work in preparing the village decorations. Thank you to Linda Hinds, Promotion Chairman, who spends countless hours organizing and creating this very special event year after year!

2024 Trustee Positions Available

Incumbents Craig LeFebre, Judy Patenaude, Linda Hinds and Judge Russell Buhr are up for re-election for Village positions in April 2024. If you are interested in running, Declaration of Candidacy papers are available at the Clerk's Office from December 1, 2023. Deadline for filing is January 2, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Village Board

President	
Steve Marquardt	920-373-2217
Trustees:	
Terry Hinds	920-373-3810
Nicholas Heise	920-309-1965
Craig LeFebre	920-829-6146
Linda Hinds	920-829-5639
Judy Patenaude	920-373-1426



Contact Information

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

2024 Village Quarterly Schedule

January

Jan 8— Court 4 p.m.
 Jan 8 —Public Safety 5:30 p.m.
 Jan 9—Finance Mtg. 8:30 a.m.
 Jan. 9—Public Works 10:30 a.m.
 Jan 15—Village Board 6:00 p.m.
 Jan. 31—Final tax payments at Village

February

Feb. 12-Court 4 p.m.
 Feb 12 –Public Safety 5:30p.m.
 Feb. 13-Finance 8:30 a.m.
 Feb. 13-Public Works 10:30 a.m.
 Feb. 14th Happy Valentine's Day
 Feb. 19-Village Board 6:00 p.m.

March

Mar. 11-Court 4 p.m.
 Mar 11-Public Safety 5:30 p.m.
 Mar.12-Finance 8:30 a.m.
 Mar 12-Public Works 10:30 a.m.
 Mar. 17-St. Patrick's Day
 Mar. 18-Village Board 6:00 p.m.

Happy Retirement

After 39 years of dedication to the Village of Lena, Larry (L-Bear) Shallow has retired! His last day with the Village of Lena was Friday, December 1. His tenure with Village is very impressive, and his historical knowledge of Village operations will be missed! On behalf of the Village of Lena, THANK YOU for your years of service to our community. Enjoy your well deserved retirement!



Did you know that utility bills can be sent to you via email instead of by mail? If you would like to receive your bills this way, please stop at the Village Hall to sign up.

Don't forget the Dog!

Per Village Ordinance, you must license all dogs living in the Village each year. Paperwork is available at the Village Hall. The cost is \$3 for neutered or spayed and \$8 for intact dogs.



Curbside Garbage Pick-Up

Garbage pickup is at 8am, every Tuesday. Please have your garbage curbside by then. Garbage must be in Village of Lena bag for pickup service. Bags are available at the Village Hall, Recycling Center and at the Lena Library. The cost per bag is \$1.50.

If you have questions, please call the Village Hall @ 920.829.5226.

Garbage bags must be tied. 40 lb limit per bag.



Property Taxes

Please pay with Check/Money Order. Taxes may be paid in person, by mail or use the drop box just outside the front door of the Village Hall until January 31, 2024. After that date you must submit payments to the Oconto County Treasurer.



Sewer Rate Increase effective December 16, 2023

Due to increasing operational costs the Village of Lena Board has approved a 3% rate increase on sewer rates effective December 16, 2023. Please contact the Village Hall at 920-829-5226 with questions.



Winter Reminders

Winter parking rules are now in effect. No vehicle is to be parked on the street between 2:30 a.m. and 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)

The Village of Lena will be implementing a new street snow removal process to protect our sidewalks. If your property has a sidewalk, you are required to have the snow cleared within 24 hours of a snow occurrence (see Village Ordinance 277-10 below). The fee for the Village Public Works Department to remove sidewalk snow is a minimum of \$150 per occurrence. Please make sure when removing snow that you blow the snow toward your property and not onto the street.

§ 277-10. Snow and ice removal.

- A. Removal from sidewalks. The owner, occupant or person in charge of any parcel or lot which fronts upon or abuts any sidewalk shall keep said sidewalk clear of all snow and ice. In the event of snow accumulating on said sidewalk due to natural means and/or by any other means, said sidewalk shall be cleared of all accumulated snow and/or ice within 24 hours from the time the snow ceases to accumulate on said sidewalk. Sidewalks are to be kept clear of snow and ice to a minimum of four feet in width. In the event that ice has formed on any sidewalk in such a manner that it cannot be removed, the owner, occupant or person in charge of the parcel or lot which fronts upon or adjoins said sidewalk shall keep the sidewalk sprinkled with sand and/or salt to permit safe travel by pedestrians. No person shall push, shove or in any way deposit any snow or ice onto any public street, alley, sidewalk or public lands dedicated to public use, except for parcels or lots located where existing buildings are constructed within five feet of the street right-of-way and the sidewalks exist from the Village right-of-way to the curblineline. In such instances, the owners, occupants and/or employees of parcels or lots shall be permitted to deposit snow and ice from their sidewalks onto the public streets.' **[Amended 12-16-1996]**
- B. Enforcement. All sworn police officers and other designated Village officials and employees are hereby authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this section.
- C. Continued violations. Each twenty-four-hour period where a violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense under this section for enforcement purposes. Repeated violations or subsequent additional accumulations of snow and/or ice shall not nullify any pending notice issued under this section.
- D. Abatement after notice. Failure of the owner, occupant or person in charge of any parcel or lot to cause the removal of snow and/or ice within the time established under Subsection A shall result in the Village causing the removal of said snow and/or ice. **[Amended 12-16-1996]**
- E. Expense. An account of the expenses incurred by the Village to abate the snow and/or ice hazard shall be kept, and such expenses shall be charged to and paid by the parcel or lot owner. The minimum charge for manual sidewalk snow removal by Village personnel shall be set by the Village Board. Notice of the bill for the removal of snow and/or ice shall be mailed to the last-known address of the owner of the parcel or lot and shall be payable within 10 calendar days from the receipt thereof. Within 60 days after such costs and expenses are incurred and remain unpaid, the Village Clerk-Treasurer shall enter those charges onto the tax roll as a special tax as provided by § 66.0907(5), Wis. Stats.
- F. Penalty. In addition to the provisions set forth in this section, any person, firm or corporation who or which violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to a penalty as provided in Chapter 1,§1-3 of theCode of Ordinances.