

Village of Lena News

Small Community—Great Opportunity



March 2024 Issue 41

Welcome Spring! There has been much excitement in our Village in the past few weeks. The Lena High School girls' basketball team advanced to the state tournament! The Lena ladies played their hearts out and came home with the Division 5 State Champion Runner-up trophy after a tough fought overtime battle. What an exciting moment for these girls, our school and community. The support, backing, pride and love that was shown by our community during their playoff run was nothing more than amazing. Congratulations are also in order to the 2 State wrestling tournament qualifiers who fought hard to represent Lena, coming home with one gold medal. Both participants had very impressive runs. We also applaud the Solo and Ensemble and Forensic participants for their accomplishments as well! Great examples of why our Village is a great place to live. Congratulations to all. You have made us very proud!

One of my personal beliefs is that in order to have a vibrant community you must have a vibrant school system. I have mentioned this concept in several planning meetings. Our school is actually the 2nd largest employer in our Village and brings countless numbers of visitors in to our community every year when they attend sporting, music, and other events held at the school. These visitors then help support our local businesses. A successful school system also captures the attention of families outside of our district and makes them want to be a part of it. This is a great situation for both the school system and our Village as this leads to more involvement in our community and possible relocation into the district.

The concept of a strong school system and a village that can offer a safe living environment with amenities that parents want for their families are very important and intertwined. All aspects of Village government and services are also intertwined. In order to be successful, we need all of our systems functioning, improving and working together as one overall unit as each individual system must function on its own but come together as one- our Village. Residents in our Village may have different views on what is most important to them in the village which is to be expected. However, it is the responsibility of your elected government officials to ensure that all voices and resident's priorities are addressed for the betterment of our Village as a whole.

An example is our current Park & Recreation plan. It was noted in a survey of residents several years ago that there was a need for recreational amenities in the Village. The P&R Committee has a plan that also involves financial considerations, public works commitments and other committee involvement in order to be successful. The plan being implemented relies heavily on monetary donations, grants, fundraisers and in-kind donations with very minimal local taxpayer dollars. The Village Board authorized initial start-up funding that came from the government ARPA program initiated during the Covid crisis. A huge thank you to several local businesses and volunteers who have donated their time and equipment use to start Phase 1 of the plan, construction of two youth baseball diamonds. Holtger Bros. Inc, Ken Duhm Lena Sod Farm, Paul Shallow Surveying, St. Louis Trucking and TEDCOR (formally known as Oconto County Economic Development Corp). Volunteers have easily donated over 120 hours of their time operating earth moving equipment to prepare the site for the diamonds. Planning and design work is ongoing with the other phases of the overall plan which will address improvements at several pocket parks in our community. More to come on these phases. By having well thought out executional plans we can accomplish community growth with minimal impact to tax increases by leveraging and utilizing all services and programs available through all levels of government.

Lastly, you may have noticed a new face on our Public Works team. Tyler Schmit has joined our Village of Lena Team. Please make him feel welcome in our community. We look forward to his extensive knowledge of municipal public works systems and contributions to our village. Have a great Spring-Steve Marquardt, President

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.



Village Board

President

Steve Marquardt 920-373-2217

Trustees:

Terry Hinds 920-373-3810

Linda Hinds 920-829-5639

Craig LeFebre 920-829-6146

Nick Heise 920-309-1965

Bob Borchert 906-250-3160

Judy Patenaude 920-373-1426

Brush Chipping Policy

The Village of Lena chips brush every Monday, weather permitting. The Village will chip brush free of charge for the first ½ hour. After the first ½ hour there will be a charge of \$75.00 per ½ hour per resident.

- All brush must be piled in an orderly fashion with all cut ends facing the street or alley.
- Branches may not be any larger than 5" in diameter and the brush piles may not be any higher than 4 ft. or wider than 5 ft.
- If a contractor trims branches or removes trees on your property it is the contractor's responsibility to dispose of such branches and trees.
- Branches may not be brought to the compost pile. Branches must be placed at the street or alley for the village to chip. If any resident does not follow the above stated policy the village will not chip the brush at that residence.

Ordinance 134-3. Regulation of length of lawn and grasses.

(B) The Village Board finds that lawns, grasses and noxious weeds on lots or parcels of land which **exceed eight (8) inches** in length adversely affect the health and safety of the public in that they tend to emit pollen and other discomforting bits of plants, constitute a fire hazard and a safety hazard in that debris can be hidden in the grass, interfere with the public convenience and adversely affect property values of other land within the Village..... (G) (2) Failure to comply: the Village shall cut or cause to cut all grass and weeds from the property and shall charge the expense of so doing at a rate established by resolution by the Village Board.

Please do NOT blow your grass cuttings into the street. It plugs the storm sewers!

No letters will be sent. Possible citations for offenders.



Dog License are Due!!

Please bring in your pet's vaccination records and register your dog. Cost: \$3 for spayed/neutered, \$8 for intact. Annual license is from Jan.-Dec. Per Village Ordinance 120.3 (2). Licenses are due by April 1st. \$5 late fee may be imposed.

Spring Election Tues. April 2

Polls open: 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Vote for:

- Village Trustees (3)
- Municipal Judge (1)
- County Supervisor (1)
- School Board (2)
- Presidential Preference
- Referendum (2)

If you are new to the Village be sure to stop in and register to vote.



Village of Lena Board of Review

Taxpayers may appear at the below listed meetings and examine the assessment roll, sworn statements, valuations, and be heard in relation thereto.

Open Book

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 8-10 am

Residents may pick up objection forms at this time. If objecting, you must turn in a filled-out objection form no later than 48 hours before the Board of Review Meeting.

Board of Review Meeting

Monday April 22, 2024 4-6 p.m.

Village Quarterly Schedule

April

April 2—Spring Election
April 3—Open Book 8 to 10 am
April 8—Municipal Court 4 pm
April 8—Public Safety 6 pm
April 9—Finance 8:30 am
April 9—Public Works 10:30 am
April 16— Village Board 6:30pm
April 22-Board of Review 4 to 6 pm

May

May 13—Municipal Court 4 pm
May 13—Public Safety 6 pm
May 14—Finance 8:30 am
May 14—Public Works 10:30 am
May 20—Village Board 6:30 pm

June

June 10—Municipal Court 4 pm
June 10—Public Safety 6 pm
June 11—Finance 8:30 am
June 11—Public Works 10:30 am
June 17—Village Board 6:30 pm

Village of Lena Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Immediately following the 9am Lena Schools PTO Easter Egg Hunt, stop at the Lena Village Hall to pick up a scavenger hunt card. Participate in Easter activities and sign up for a chance to win an Easter Basket!
Fun for the whole family!



Lena Fire Department Meat & Cheese Raffle Saturday, April 27 3-6pm Wooden Shoe Bar & Grill

Meat and cheese, 50/50 and bucket raffles! Come join in the fun!
All proceeds will go to the Lena Volunteer Fire Department.

Free Spring Clean-up Event

Village of Lena Residents Only

May 8th—Wednesday 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

May 11th—Saturday 8 a.m.—Noon.

It's time to do some *Spring Cleaning!*

Drop off items at the Lena Recycling Center during event hours only.

NO CONSTRUCTION ITEMS OR PAINT
(FURNITURE NOT ALLOWED AT DROP OFF, BUT PICK UP MAY BE SCHEDULED AND PAID FOR AT THE VILLAGE HALL)

The Village of Lena understands the importance of community growth and dedication to green space and areas that will allow recreational opportunities. The Park and Recreation Department has been working diligently to upgrade and create our community parks. Our current park system includes Fireman's Park, Veteran's Park, the Ice Rink, the Lena Museum and Ball Diamonds. It's been exciting to watch the development of 2 new ball diamonds ready for the youth baseball program, and identify important qualities to grow each of the other areas. Watch for opportunities in the near future for you to be involved in and support the growth of these parks along with the Village.



WUMPA Truck Pulls
Saturday, May 18
Held at Dairyfest Grounds
6pm-11 pm

Lena Lion's Annual FISH FRY
Saturday, March 23 4:30 –7:30 p.m.
St. Anne's Church Hall



Dirt City Motorplex
Mayhem at the Motorplex-May 18 & 19th
Thunder on Main, Friday, July 26
Dirt City Duel-July 27 & 28th
Dirt City Truck Pull August 2



Lena Area Rummage Sales
Thursday-Saturday
July 18-20, 2024

Register at Lena Village Hall. Deadline to be on the map is July 11th. Cost is \$5 to offset advertising costs.

Lena Fire Department Picnic
Saturday, August 3, 2024
Beef/Pork Sandwiches/Raffles/Music

Lena Volunteer Fire Department is looking for additional members to join the department.
If interested, stop at the Village Hall.

Dear Lena Public School District Community,

The Girls Basketball Team's magical run to the State Finals was something that I will never forget. The support from the entire Lena Community and so many proud alumni was heartfelt and inspiring. We were truly **THE STORY** of the tournament selling more tickets than ANY of the 20 teams represented at the state tournament at the Resch Center in Green Bay. I even had several WIAA representatives come up to me to congratulate us on our run and told me that even though they were supposed to remain impartial to the results, they were pulling for Lena to win.

We are very proud of the growth of our extra-curricular programs in Lena. From athletics, to the arts and music programs, to trap shooting teams. We will be hosting our own Softball Team this spring for the first time and we have invested money from grant awards and our strong fund balance into our facilities to give our students more and more opportunities. These facilities will be used for generations of Lena students.

The more students we get into our buildings, the more successful our programs will continue to be. We have been a net positive Open-Enrollment school for the past two school years. We are extremely proud of this. This means that more students are choosing to enroll in Lena than students from Lena choosing to enroll elsewhere. The biggest part of our state-funding formula is our student count and we have been holding steady around 400 students the past few years.

We certainly have room to grow. Our plan to move our 5th grade students to the Middle School next year has put us in a great position for growth at both buildings. We average right around 30 students per grade-level in Lena, but we are certainly built for, and have the space for many more.

Unfortunately, the biggest reason that we have lost students in the past 10 years has been the lack of housing. We are hopeful that the Highway 141 corridor between Lena and Green Bay, which has become such a short drive as the Green Bay/Howard-Suamico area has continued to sprawl to the north, will continue to attract families to the Lena area and join our schools. The potential for additional new sub-divisions for new homes and the potential for new apartment complexes in our area will be great resources for new families to our community.

I thank you for your continued support of the Lena Public School District and all that you do to support our great community. It is truly a GREAT DAY to be a WILDCAT! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Ben J. Pytleski
Superintendent
Lena Public School District



Welcome Tyler Schmit!

Tyler started working in the Village of Lena's Street Superintendent and Public Works position in January. He joins us with years of highway and street experience and is a great asset to our team! Tyler and his wife have 2 young sons. He is involved in the Lena community with coaching baseball and basketball and enjoys hunting in his free time.



Congratulations to Larry L-Bear Shallow.

Larry was presented with the 2023 WDNR Operator of the Year Award for his many years of service and dedication at the Village of Lena Wastewater Treatment plant. Laura Gerold, WDNR presented Larry with this prestigious honor at our recent Public Works Meeting.

Congrats and we hope you are enjoying retirement!