

Ephraim Update

Fall-Winter 2008

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Letter from the Village President...



Hello friends and neighbors,

In a recent village newsletter, I wrote about past village boards and committees and the people who were members of those groups. If one thinks back years or even decades, we can see how our village evolved the way it did. Careful consideration and discussion of the issues by those participants still proves invaluable to the Village Board and its standing committees today.

Today in Ephraim, we have several active committees in addition to the Village Board. The standing committees meet on a regular basis to advise and make recommendations to the Village Board to help manage the village, protect our heritage, and possibly the most important responsibility, shape the future direction of our special community. Our committee members represent most subgroups of Ephraim property owners. The dedicated friends and neighbors that make up our diverse committee membership lists include residents, non-residents, people who live in Ephraim but work elsewhere, seasonal homeowners, retirees, and Ephraim business owners. The personal backgrounds and opinions of committee members make for well-rounded discussion on many issues that are important to all Ephraim taxpayers. At many committee and Village Board meetings throughout the course of the year, members and trustees tend to see eye to eye, but other times an issue may arise that provokes healthy debate resulting in well thought out decisions. The debate along with public participation and correspondence assures that taxpayers are being well represented on those very important decisions that will shape our future. Most if not all of your village committee members do not wish any notoriety for the time they put in and they do not receive compensation for their efforts. There is a list of all your village committee members on another page in this newsletter and on the village web page. All of our committee members deserve our gratitude for the many hours they put forth for our community. Please make an effort to thank them.

Shortly after the first of the year, Ephraim will begin a new chapter. After more than twenty years, the village will be hiring a new administrator to replace Diane Kirkland who most of you know by now has decided to retire. At the time of the printing of this newsletter, the Village Board is in the process of reviewing several applications to fill the position. The Village Board has contracted with a consulting firm to help guide us through the process, assuring that we hire the best-qualified candidate. It is anticipated that the new administrator will arrive and take over the day-to-day management of our

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village shortly after the January 1, 2009. Please avoid comparing the new administrator to our retiring administrator. It is inevitable that when the new administrator takes the helm, there will likely be a few management changes. The Village Board will work closely with the new administrator during the transition and into the future.

In my nearly twenty years working for the Gibraltar School District, I have known many school employees who have retired after a long, fulfilling career. After they leave the job they have held for such a long time, you tend to see them in a different light, at different places, doing different things, etc. One of my neighbors once told me that after he retired, he found that he didn't have enough time in a day to accomplish all the things that was on he wanted to. He said it with a little smile on his face. You know the kind of smile I am talking about. I was pretty sure I knew what he was driving at. He seems pretty happy to me even though there is not enough time in the day. Diane, if we see that little smile, we can only assume retirement is agreeing with you. Please wish Diane well. Thank you and congratulations!

Seasons Greetings,
John Cox



From The Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dave Alberts, Brad Rasmussen, Russell Salfi



Doesn't it seem like winter comes sooner every year? It is a time of year when residences and businesses are closed and winterized. Just a reminder, our Village ordinance prohibits the use of ethylene glycol (automotive antifreeze) for winterizing. It can have adverse affects on a small wastewater plant like ours. The collection system and wastewater plant gets winterized too – the UV system is shutdown, sewer is flushed and the aeration basin is cleaned, just to name a few of the things we've been working on.

The major project this year was replacing the leaking roof on the wastewater plant. The WW Committee accepted the low bid from Northern Metal & Roofing of Green Bay to do the installation. Various other projects were done to keep an aging plant in good working order.

Wellwater testing looks to be on record pace again this year. The focus for 2009 will be to keep making the public aware of "Ephraim Wellwater Testing" by advertising and word of mouth. Make sure to have your water tested next year and tell a friend or neighbor.

Septic and holding tank pumping had another good year providing excellent service at a reasonable price. Call us for your pumping needs at (920) 854-4991. The Wastewater Committee and staff approved our budget for 2009 with an objective not to increase sewer rates.

Happy Holidays from the staff & Wastewater Committee!

David L. Alberts – Manager
Ephraim Wastewater
Ephraim Wellwater Testing
Operator in charge of Septage hauling



From Brent at the Zoning/Inspection Desk

Brent B. Bristol

Beginning **December 15, 2008** I will be taking over Ephraim's residential building inspection services from IIL. This change marks a new and higher level of service and convenience for the residence of Ephraim, as now both zoning and state building permits can be written "in house."

This change only applies to RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION; the Village of Ephraim will retain the services of IIL on the commercial side. Inspections for current permits that have been written by IIL will be completed by IIL. I will be doing inspections for any and all permits that I write as of December 15, 2008.

Dealing with this transition over the next few months is likely to get a little confusing for some. It is of great importance that we keep a good line of communication open between property owners, contractors, IIL, and the Village Office to ensure that everyone is on the same page. The inspectors at IIL and I will be doing our best to make sure this transition occurs as smoothly as possible.

As I have said in the past, almost any land disturbance or building related activity within the Village of Ephraim requires a permit, and it is my job to work with you throughout the permitting process. This statement rings even truer now that building inspection will be included. I encourage you, and or, your contractor to contact me as early in the planning process as you can.

Brent Bristol, Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector
920-854-5501 - bbristol@ephrain-wisconsin.com

Administrator/Clerk Corner

Three weeks after I moved to Ephraim in 1983, I was appointed Ephraim's very part-time Clerk. I became full-time in 1989 with the addition of Administrator/Zoning Administrator to my title. After 12 years in zoning, I passed that work along to Nancy Goss and now Brent Bristol.

After almost 26 years, I will be retiring, and our new Administrator/Clerk will settle into the position. I hope you will welcome her into the community. She will be arriving in the office sometime in mid-January, and I will be staying on a month or so to familiarize her with Ephraim and her tasks ahead. Please allow time for the adjustment.

In 1983, the Village owned one building: the Village Hall. We had no employees, no office, no sewer system, and a total budget of \$80,000. Times have certainly changed, and I feel privileged to have participated in the growth and progress of the Village and its governance. I will miss the daily contact with our dedicated employees and being in the "thick of things" but am looking forward to a different chapter of my life. A big *Thank You* to all of you who have supported me through the years and made my time here so rewarding.

--Diane Kirkland

From the Harbormaster, Keith Lindstrand

Another successful season of marina operations has come to a close. The water level was UP and so far is holding. Our new budget has been completed, and the Coastal Management Committee has decided to forego any capital improvements for 2009 and help pay down our debt. The one increase in rates was slip fees – from \$62 to \$65 per foot.

Our transient rentals were very good this year. We had 85 boats for a total stay of 618 days (average stay 6.5 days). A recent study concluded that boaters in our boat-size range spent an average of \$163 per day. The marina received \$15,000 of that \$100,000+. How much did our other businesses then benefit?

See you again in spring! Have a great off-season and Holiday.

Q

From Sue's Desk

We have closed another season of Hall Rentals--we saw a marathon event, a couple of weddings, theatre productions, dance events and various meetings take place in the Hall in 2008. The 2009 season appears to just as exciting; currently on the docket in May is an Isadoora Theatre production, in early May the Moravian Women's Attic Treasures, and the second annual Half-Marathon. The Scott Sailing Regatta chose Ephraim for their 2009 event, and it is being hosted by the Ephraim Yacht Club in August; this national week-long event promises to be exciting and will allow Ephraim to shine.



We continue to work on the Village website to keep it up to date and relevant to meet our residents' need for information. In 2008, pages were added for our Zoning Administrator, and Ephraim Tidbits--a collection of website photos we have accumulated since its inception. Added also, pages for our Wastewater Department, Fire Department, and I developed an easier way for you to peruse the Ephraim Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 17. If you have any suggestions regarding what you would like to see on the site, complete a contact page and send it to our office.

Q Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport News Q

With some citizen concern in the community, Ephraim and Gibraltar hired Green Bay Lead to test around the fueling truck at the Airport. They set up the equipment and tested all day for lead particulates in the air as the truck was being used. You will be happy to hear that the results showed absolutely no contamination. We will also hire them to re-test the air once the self-fuel tank is installed next spring.

The Friends of the Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport, currently 86-members strong, accomplished some remarkable things in their first year. They provided 200 volunteer hours, replaced the aviation radio and wind sock, installed patio block and new window in the office building, donated a computer/printer and provided wireless internet service for pilots, designed and installed a pilot-friendly website, painted the repaired the office building, repaired the fuel truck, and ran an EAA Young Eagles Program that introduced 43 youngsters to flying. It's a wonderful organization that has been of great benefit to our Airport.

Physical Facilities and Utilities

Mike Mittermann, Mike Skippon, Jim Janda

The 2008 summer season has come and gone. I am amazed at how quickly time flies while meeting the needs of the thousands of visitors to the Village each year. Was Jim Janda, the Village's newest employee, be challenged by being thrown into the summer without benefit of training or indoctrination? My fears were put to rest—Jim is an extremely quick learner and cool weather delayed the usual early summer demands. The Village lawns, gardens and building facilities all benefited from the attention and planning Jim was able to provide throughout the summer. Please join with me in thanking Jim for helping us keep Ephraim the shining jewel of Door County.

The cool start to summer lulled us into thinking Cladophora would not be a problem on our beach. Then came August! Raking the thick, heavy Cladophora mats became an almost daily shore for Mike Skippon, Jim and I. Judging from beachgoer comments, the Ephraim Beach remains one of the most popular in the County. The Village was part of a University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh experiment to see if there is any benefits to composting Cladophora. The experimental data is now being analyzed. Since we end up removing mountains of this stuff, I am hoping to hear that the Village can benefit from its control.









One 2009 project I am excited about is the Ephraim Community Garden. Although the idea came about late in the past growing season, we were able to show that small garden plots can be successful. Located near the Recycling Center, we plan to have approximately twenty 100-square-foot plots ready to go as soon as the growing season begins. If Cladophora makes good compost, our garden plots could end up having some of the best soil in Northern Door. Contact me or the Village Office if you would like to reserve a plot for next year. Space is limited, so call early to sign up!

As I write this, snow flurries are falling and winter project plans are still being discussed. Stay tuned to the Spring Newsletter to see how they turn out.

--Mike Mittermann, Supervisor, Buildings & Grounds Department

Ephraim Fire Department – Chief Niles Weborg

The Ephraim Fire Department welcomes new members Mike McCutcheon, Tad Dukehart, Jim Janda and Russ Salfi! As we head into the winter season, I'd like to take this time to remind you of a few safety facts:

-  Turn off all holiday lights when not attended.
-  Check the water level on your holiday tree twice per day.
-  Clean-out your chimney prior to first use.
-  A Burning Permit may be obtained only when there is snow on the ground.
-  Watch for plows when entering or exiting a street.
-  If the weather is bad, don't hit the roads if you don't have to.
-  Never ever use your oven to heat your house.
-  Change the batteries in your smoke detector twice a year and install a carbon monoxide detector.

Our grant program through Homeland Security for compatible radios throughout the County is winding down, and the Firefighters Association is looking forward to the opening of our Fire Museum next season. The restoration of the firehouse was all done through donations, and we are in the process of looking for funds for an endowment account that will sustain the Museum for years to come.



Attention All Condo Owners

In March of 2008 the State of Wisconsin revised its Fire Code to adopt the 2006 edition of the Uniform Fire Code (NFPA). “NFPA 1(2006 ed.) 10.11.7 For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, gas-fired grill, charcoal grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose, shall be used or kindled on any balcony or under any overhanging portion or within 10ft (3 m) of any structure.” Apart from your living in a single family home or duplex, there are no exemptions. There is no grandfathering either. e.g. if you had a grill already in use prior to the new fire code taking affect, you still would have to abide by the new rule and remove your grill from any balconies. And if you have a grill out on the ground, it must be 10’ away from your buildings for safety.

Your Ephraim Library

As a result of a Martha Cherry Grant award, in August, 2008, a library survey was distributed to all Ephraim box holders. In an era of limited resources, librarian Linda Malmgren and the Ephraim Library Committee want to ensure resources meet as many patron needs as possible. A few highlights are presented here - full results will be published in 2009.

- 188 patrons responded - 38% year-round; 40% seasonal; 13% business
- 49% use the library at least weekly
- 74% reported the library as very important to life in Ephraim
- 82% were satisfied with current hours; others would like longer hours, more days.
- Book reviews, Door County authors, and regional history were among top-rated program preferences.

Thanks to all who responded! If you haven’t completed a survey, and would like to, please contact Linda Malmgren, Librarian, at 920-854-2014.

Ephraim Men’s Club

The year 2008 was one of the better years in recent times for the Ephraim Men’s Club, one of Wisconsin’s oldest non-profit organizations, having been founded in 1912. Membership grew. Our annual Pancake Breakfast Scholarship fundraiser held August 2 was one of our more successful. We were again able to grant scholarship awards to several Gibraltar High School seniors, recognizing their academic performance, extra-curricular activities, community service, leadership and family need.

In January, we celebrated a mid-winter holiday gathering and a year-end outing at Schultzes’ meadow home. The annual Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday, August 1, 2009. Please join us then!

--Doug Schultz and Dick Van de Ven

Ephraim Historical Foundation Winter Happenings

We at the Ephraim Historical Foundation stayed very busy throughout the fall and don’t see that busy-ness slowing up in the least for the winter!

The EHF signed a building contract with Van’s Lumber & Custom Builders, Inc. for the building of

\$\$\$\$\$ Treasurer's Corner \$\$\$\$\$

It's that time of year again, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and wedged neatly in between: your tax bills. It seems the "powers that be" could have mandated a better timeline for the conclusion of budgetary deliberations and the commencement of the mailings. But then, as much as folks look forward to receiving this news, would there ever be a better time?

Here are some important points to remember regarding payment of your taxes:

- Your check(s) should be **made out and mailed to Jay Zahn** at the printed address on your tax bill. This is the protocol for payments made by January 31, 2009 as well as those "second half" payments made by July 31, 2009.
- At the risk of sounding redundant...**ALL tax payment checks should be made out and mailed to**

**Jay Zahn, Treasurer
Door County Government Center
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235**

- You can always access your tax information at the Door County Website at <http://pubinfo.co.door.wi.us/RERV100/RER501>

You can search by parcel number, parcel address or owner's name. It's really easy and available 24/7! You can print a tax bill out at this location, too, if you misplace yours.

You will also find, inserted with your tax bill, a sheet with dog licensing information. If you have a beloved canine fur baby, be sure to protect him/her by purchasing a dog license for 2009. Not only does it verify that your pooch has been vaccinated for rabies, it helps reunite your lost pet with you in the event of an accidental walkabout. An added benefit for your pet is the trendy-colored, jangly-jewelry tag that can be proudly and audibly worn on the collar!

Here are some important points to remember regarding purchasing a dog license:

- Dog license payments should be **made out and sent directly to the Village of Ephraim along with proof of rabies vaccination.** Legally, I can only issue a dog license upon receiving this proof.
- At the risk of sounding redundant...**ALL dog license purchase checks should be made out and mailed to**

**Village of Ephraim
P.O. Box 138
Ephraim, WI 54211**

Thank you so much, in advance, for your cooperation! **Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a peaceful and prosperous 2009!**

--Nancy Goss

What's happening at the Ephraim Library this winter?

The library has made use of Martha Cherry funds to sponsor the Story Tellers Guild program on December 6 as part of "Christmas in the Village." We hope to plan more programs in 2009 using input from our recent survey. Our winter book discussion group will meet on Tuesday, Jan 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the library to discuss *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*, short stories by Chinese author Yiyun Li. Everyone is welcome.

Speaking of book discussions, The National Endowment for the Arts *Big Read* program is back for 2009! From January 12 through February 13, Door County Library will host 10 book discussions on *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. Watch the newspapers for specific details. And finally, you can warm up with a cup of coffee at the library on Saturdays during the winter months of January through March. We'll be happy to help you learn more about our online catalog, Infosoup, so you will be able to use it at home or in the library to find books, CDs, DVDs, audio books and magazines.

–Linda Malmgren

Some Principles of Citizen Participation *

1. At the heart of citizen participation is a conversation about values. Some of these values are known: reasonableness, fairness, responsiveness. Unfortunately, most values are not known...and the key to an effective citizen participation process is tapping into, and using, these values to create an informed public that engages in informed public debate that, in turn, creates an informed political debate that leads to informed political decisions.
2. Even though a project or decision may be considered "good," citizens may not accept it if they believe the decision making process was inappropriate or illegitimate.
3. The public expects the process to be fair, even if the results impact different groups or interests unequally. It is virtually impossible to solve a big problem without adversely affecting someone or some interest. Because of this, selecting a "best" course of action is a political process.
4. Gaining participation requires overcoming the inertia of apathy. This happens when citizens see tangible and significant issues, where they believe their participation may make a difference. Citizens want to have a say in those things that affect them, but some are better able (have more skills) to do that than others.
5. Citizens are neither more nor less wise than public officials and professionals. That said, they often are the first to identify flaws in basic assumptions underlying project proposals. Those who participate in a process generally do not take extremist or irresponsible positions.
6. An effective citizen participation planning process takes time and money... but it's cheaper (in the long run) than planning without a process. Citizen participation is *not* a substitute for decision-making by agencies that have the legitimate responsibility for it.

* (from *Citizen Participation Handbook for Public Officials and Other Professionals Serving the Public*, 2000)

Committee Members

Board of Trustees

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President**
Jane Olson
Sue Sherman
Kathy Kirkland
Tim Nelson

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Jane Olson
Sue Sherman
Kathy Kirkland
Tim Nelson

Planning

John Cox- Chair
Jim Stollenwerk
Paul Flottman
Walt Fisher
Roy Elquist
Kathy Kirkland
Fred Bridenhagen

Historic Preservation

**Carla Paulson,
Chair**
Kathy Kirkland
Marc Paulson
Norma Hager
Ad Hoc-N Weborg

Physical Facilities/Utilities

Sue Sherman – Chair
Jane Olson
Eric Kordon
Diane Kirkland
Ad Hoc - Mike
Mittermann

Community Protection

Jane Olson – Chair
Tad Dukehart
Keith Krist
George Reynolds
Ad Hoc – Niles Weborg

Wastewater

Karen McMurtry – Chair
Tim Nelson
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Gary Kiracofe
Marc Paulson
Ad-Hoc – Dave Alberts

Library

Diane Fardig- Chair
Jane Olson
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Anne Van De Ven
Ad Hoc – Linda Malmgren

Coastal Management

John Cox –Chair
Steve Chomeau
Tim Nelson
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Steve Sauter

Airport

George Reynolds
Mike McCutcheon
Arvid Munson
From Gibraltar:
**Myrv
Somerhalder,
Chair**
George Hardiman
Don Freix

Board of Appeals

**Carla Paulson-
Chair**
Karen McMurtry
Dave Verhage
Kate Houston
Sue Sherman
Alternates:
Jon Kordon
Doug Schultz



Fireworks in Ephraim

Many of you have been accustomed to setting off your own fireworks displays in the Village, and Fire Chief Niles Weborg reports the State has gotten much stricter. If you are setting off any fireworks that leave the ground, you will now need some additional licenses and/or training as well as a permit from the Village signed by Niles. Check with the Department of Commerce or directly with Niles Weborg for particulars.

How to Reach the Trustees and Staff

jcox@ephraim-wisconsin.com
kkirkland@ephraim-wisconsin.com
tnelson@ephraim-wisconsin.com

jolson@ephraim-wisconsin.com
ssherman@ephraim-wisconsin.com

TAXES WITH ALL ENTITIES

	for 2008	for 2009	Increases
Village of Ephraim	932,929.92	979,687.19	4.77%
Village Sewer			
Gibraltar School	860,626.17	932,955.90	7.75%
NWTC	503,376.45	537,294.08	6.31%
State	58,370.93	61,592.59	5.23%
COUNTY after sales tax credit	1,115,126.91	1,128,505.20	1.19%
	3,470,430.38	3,640,034.96	4.66%
	140,193.21		
	11.44	11.66	
	Sewer debt on tax roll:		
	+ 30.21 non-sewered	+31.92 non-sewered	
	+ \$176.76 sewered	+151.98 sewered	

The Village Board and
the Village employees
wish you and yours a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy, Prosperous New
Year!



The Village of Ephraim
P O Box 138
Ephraim, WI 54211

To: