

from the
Town Clerk's Office...

My updates from the January monthly board meeting.

- Alva Fuller's attorney has recently let our attorney know they approve the KO Storage Restrictive Covenant Declaration, and it is being sent to the KO Storage attorneys for their approval.
- We will be getting a new outdoor bulletin board that will be mounted on the exterior at Northside Auto Repair. This will make it possible for anyone wanting to view postings to have the ability to do it 24 hours of day. Special thanks to Doug for allowing us to mount our new bulletin board onto his building.
- Our County Supervisor, Josiah Wynn reported that the county board passed the budget, implemented a county wage study to make sure county wages were in order and will begin rebuilding the Recycling Center in the spring.
- I provided a website tour to those attending.
- I reported that we had many Open Records Requests fulfilled in the past month.
 - Kristine Conway - 3 records
 - Jonathan Conway - 15 records
 - Dawn Vick - 12 records

Garbage/Recycling Service

Everyone should now have your containers. There is good information on the new website, under Community Resources, then Garbage and Recycling. Great job Kelly in building this page. This provides a great deal of information for your review. Please have the containers at the end of your driveway before 7am on your pickup days. The calendar on this website shows what gets picked up each Monday. If you have any questions and can't find the information on the website under <https://fortwinn.gov/garbage-and-recycling/>, please reach out to the Columbia County Solid Waste Dept at 608-742-6651.

NEW WEBSITE!!

Yes, the new website is LIVE! You can visit either www.fortwinn.com or www.fortwinn.gov, they both go to the new website location at www.fortwinn.gov. Kelly Schaller and I have worked hard on this new website. We hope you enjoy it. Here are some key changes.

- Under the Government tab at the top, you will find Agendas & Minutes. You can look back at the last couple of years of agendas and minutes for our meetings. You will also find the reports for the Annual Meeting.
- Our town budget is available for your viewing, under the Government, then Budget tabs.
- There are many added items under Community Resources for your review.
- Under the About tab, you'll find a History tab. Special thanks to Chairman Schroeder for finding some great information here. Thanks to Kelly Schaller for the awesome picture!
- If you have anything to add to History, please let us know, we welcome all information.
- If you have other ideas you'd like us to consider, please let me know.

Lastly, regarding the new website, you will find an area where you can "Subscribe to Receive Updates". There are a few places on the website where you can register for updates. You register by entering your name, email address and mobile telephone number. Once you subscribe, you will receive a confirmation email. By subscribing, whenever either Kelly or I post items on the websites that you subscribe to receive, you will get an email or text notifying you of this, so you can quickly check it out. This will give you the ability to quickly receive notifications when we post items such as road closures, minute/agenda updates, health emergencies, weather emergencies, etc. I encourage you to subscribe. Right now, there are 262 of you receiving these town email updates. It is my plan to take the same information in this email and create a Clerk Update document and put it on the website. I've had many requests for these to be put on the website for everyone to see. Once these are on the website, and you subscribe to the website updates, you may not want to get duplicates and decide to have me remove you from getting my town update emails. Please just email me that you would like to be removed from the town update emails, and I'll remove you from the list.

Safety Corner

Do you have an elderly or disabled neighbor that may need help? I would encourage you to check on them all year long, but especially during these winter months. They might need some help plowing snow, salting their sidewalks/driveways, etc. They might just need someone to talk to. Look out for your neighbors!

Meet Your Fort Neighbor

This month I'm excited to introduce you to Carole LaVigne. Carole and her husband Jim have lived in Fort Winnebago for twenty-six [26] years. Carole was born in Anaheim, CA. Carole's dad is Patrick Nagel, his mom is Louise Ness and her stepdad is Chuck Ness. Carole has two stepbrothers and two stepsisters. Carole and Jim have three [3] children, Ian (Portage), Isaac (Lodi) and Emma (Miami). She also has one [1] grandson (Antonio) and another grandchild scheduled to arrive in March! Congrats - how exciting! Carole graduated from Portage High School in 1985. Carole went to Floral Design School. She has worked at Edgewater Greenhouse, as her parents bought it in 1977. Carole and Jim purchased Edgewater Greenhouse in 2016. Carole has worked there since she was sixteen [16] years old. Carole is in good health and feels her accomplishments include owning and running a business with her husband. That's no easy task, but she is super thankful that they just seem to "compliment" each other and have a great work/life balance. Owning a business doesn't allow her much time for hobbies, but she does enjoy making rugs and watching comedy movies! She enjoys and supports Jim's interest in Astronomy!

Carole has accomplished so much despite losing her father due to a heart attack when he was only 38 years old (Carole was 17) and losing her mother when she was only 45 years old (Carole was 23). Carole attended six different elementary schools growing up, including Lewiston Elementary School. Constantly moving around growing up, motivated her to make sure her kids had stability. She is proud to say that her kids were all able to attend the same schools growing up, including our own Fort Winnebago Elementary School, Portage Middle School and Portage High School. Both her sons are working full time at Edgewater Greenhouse. I asked Carole how she felt she was able to get through losing her parents at such a young age, to the point of running a business and doing such a great job raising her family, she gave all the credit to her faith and trust in God. Carole is fully aware who is in control and knows God is with her.

Carole has done a great deal of volunteering in her lifetime, despite her busy life. She has worked as a Sunday School teacher and Awana teacher at Grace Bible Church in Portage. She was also a co-leader of a Women's Bible Study. Carole has also worked as a poll worker for the Town of Fort Winnebago.

Despite losing her dad early in life, she continues to be proud of him and his accomplishments. Her dad was a famous artist. Here is a fun fact that not many people know. Carole and her dad had dinner with David Copperfield. She vividly remembers his loud, goofy laugh!! Her dad painted the album cover for Duran Duran - Rio Album. It is on the left for your viewing pleasure!



Upcoming Events

Tuesday @ 6:30 pm - January 21,
2025 - Town Caucus

Wednesday @ 6:30 pm - January
22, 2025 - Plan Commission
Meeting

Monday @ 6:30 pm - February 3,
2025 - Monthly Town Board
Meeting