

# VILLAGE NEWS

Village of Benton Newsletter

March 2025



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### Brush Pick-up — April 7<sup>th</sup>

Place brush to the curb no later than 7 Am , April 7<sup>th</sup>  
No branches greater than 4" in diameter or longer than 8'. Place larger end of branches toward the street. Bundle or box small twigs. Do not pile leaves and brush together, this can make pick-up difficult. **No whole trees; pick-up is for seasonal pruning and yard clean up.**

### Supervised Burn Days — April 6<sup>th</sup> — April 20<sup>th</sup>

Fires should not be started before 7 AM Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and must be completely extinguished by 5 PM Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Burning of materials other than brush, leaves, and garden waster, or burning outside of these specified times may result in a fine of up to \$100.

### Leaf & Garden Pick-up — April 21<sup>st</sup> - April 25<sup>th</sup>

Place to the curb no later than 7 AM Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Separate leaves and garden waste. Place in area between the sidewalk and curb. Do not rake leaves into the street. **BAG YOUR LEAVES.**

### Hydrant Flushing — May 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

### Hydrant Fire Flow testing—May 19<sup>th</sup>-May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Flushing of the water distribution system helps remove the accumulation of mineral deposits (usually iron and manganese) from water mains. This may cause discolored water, which may be drawn into homes and business if water is used during or immediately following flushing operations in the neighborhood. If customers experience discolored water during this time, it can be cleared by opening the cold, hard water taps nearest to the water meter to full flow until the water runs clear. If discoloration persists, contact the Village Office. Washing clothes in discolored water may cause laundry stains. Customers should not use discolored water for drinking or cooking.

**PLEASE REFRAIN FROM DOING LAUNDRY DURING THESE TIMES DUE TO RISK OF RUST.**

## PARK SHELTER HOUSE RENTAL

The shelter houses at Village Park on Main Street and Swift Park near the football field are available for rent during regular park hours, 6 AM to 10 PM. Both facilities have restrooms, along with other amenities. Please feel free to come by the Village Office or call (608) 759-3721 to inquire about availability!

## **From the President,**

Spring has arrived, ushering in a period of unprecedented activity within our village. The village staff and members of the community have been diligently engaged in various projects, with the community center, sewer plant, and fiber optic cable being the primary areas of focus.

The Community Center project is currently in the final approval phase. We are awaiting the USDA's approval of the architectural plan before initiating the bidding process. This 6,200 square foot building will serve as the home of our library and museum, which will include a 100-person community meeting room and office co-working space for our residents. The museum will be integrated with the library, providing a distinctive resource for exploring Benton's historical heritage. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to incorporate all of our museum artifacts into the newly constructed space. In the interim, while the new building undergoes construction, Lawrence's Pub has graciously accommodated our artifacts across the street from the new center.

We had hoped to include the village police and village offices in the new building. However, funding limitations prevented us from doing so. Fortunately, the Benton State Bank stepped up to help. The bank agreed to donate the rent we pay for the current library space back to the village for the next five years. This support will allow us to move the village offices and police into the current library space. The new Community Center and the return of the village offices and police to downtown will greatly contribute to the revitalization of the village center.

While these projects are underway, we also have an aging sewer plant with structural issues that demand attention. The Village Board has contracted with Town and Country Engineering to complete a facility plan. This comprehensive plan will provide us with a detailed assessment of our sewer infrastructure, offering a roadmap for the necessary repairs and replacements over the next several years.

It's worth noting that Benton isn't the only community facing these challenges. Almost every community in southwest Wisconsin is grappling with similar issues. Although some of the work might not begin until 2027 or later, we are committed to starting the repair of the sewer line from State Highway 11 between the old drive-in and Riverside Drive to the sewer plant this summer.

The most noticeable project in Benton over the past few months has been the installation of fiber optic cable throughout the village. Every household will have the opportunity to connect their home to the fiber optic cable. While the crew's work can be messy, except for the need for raking and grass seed, the installation crew has been leaving each yard in good condition. The entire installation is expected to be completed by summer.

I hope this brief overview has been helpful. Please contact the village office if you have questions.

**Scott Cruse**