

The Town of Rhine Newsletter

Volume 34 Issue 2

July 2021



Hello from the Town Chair, Red Platz

Collection Site

We recently had two issues related to the Collection Site. The first one involved two younger individuals who dumped several bags of trash in a ditch near the Collection Site. Fortunately, we were able to identify them and they were very cooperative when we talked to them. They helped us retrieve several large recliners, [they did not dump them], from a ditch in the area, wrote letters of apology to the landowner where they dumped their trash and then worked for a day at the Collection Site. We felt this was an appropriate punishment and, hopefully, a lesson was learned. The second case was someone who brought recyclable electronics to the site and was told that we cannot accept them at this time because our recycler was out of business. This person then proceeded to place these items in the metal bin when he thought no one was watching. This person has been issued a citation and will be fined and have to make restitution for our fees to recycle his junk.

Once again, I will repeat that this Collection Site is a benefit for the citizens of the Town of Rhine. The costs of running this site continue to rise every year and we need everyone's cooperation to make sure it is only used by Township residents and that they work with us on sorting their garbage and helping to break down cardboard and other large furniture items to save us space and money.

Zoning and Building Question

We encourage anyone who has questions about zoning, building permits, home based businesses or any other issues that you contact someone on the Town Board or our Building Inspector. We have had several cases lately where people went

ahead and either started building projects or did other things on their property without first checking on whether they could so without some sort of Township input or approval. You can save us all a lot of time and headaches if you take the time to check with us first.

Departures

In the last few months, we received news that our longtime Village of Elkhart Lake/Town of Rhine Fire Chief Pat Zorn and our First Responder Lead Person Darren Lindstrom were retiring from their respective positions. We cannot thank them enough for their time and dedication to their volunteer positions. Both were a pleasure to work with and they will be missed.

The Fire Department and the First Responders are always looking for new members. If you think you would be interested in either one of these volunteer positions, please contact the Town Hall and we can put you in touch with the proper people.

By the time you get to read this newsletter, our Deputy Clerk, Catherine Loeffler, will no longer be working at our Town Hall. Catherine has decided to leave her position with the Township after four (4) years of dedicated service to our residents. She too will be missed. Catherine was an excellent employee and helped us out in many ways during her tenure with the Town. She was instrumental in cleaning out old records and upgrading the overall appearance of the Town Hall. She also did a superb job of helping to coordinate our election processes. Especially during the 2020 pandemic election cycle. We thank her for her service and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Who are We?

Town Officials and Contacts

Town Board Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month (unless otherwise stated) at the Town Hall at 6:30pm. These are open to the public (under normal circumstances).

Town Board Chair

- Red Platz 920-390-0332

Supervisors

- Allen Feld 920-980-3827
- Jon Rost 920-980-4800
- Bill Jacob 920-627-2612
- Larry Eberle 920-889-5551

Clerk/Treasurer

- Lexann Hoogstra 920-876-3413

Office Assistant

- Amy Weber 920-876-3413

Building Inspector

- Tony Leonard 262-364-9597

For Inspections Only 262-346-4577
The building inspector's hours are by Appointment only.

Lakes and Sanitation Committee Highway and Roads Committee By Al Feld

Hello, Al Feld here, head of the above committees. There is a new ordinance on Crystal Lake prohibiting the use of wake enhancing equipment and boat loading to create a large wake. This ordinance is also being considered for Little Elkhart Lake at the request of the Little Elkhart Lake Rehabilitation District Board. As of June 21st, 2021 the water level on Crystal Lake is at the established high water mark of 932.1' above sea level. This is about 13.5" below the high point of last year.

The drop off site is running well with the help of our great attendants. We no longer have a company to recycle our E-waste. We are currently looking for a replace-



ment company, but do not have one at this time. In the meantime, please take your E-waste to establishments like Best Buy. They recycle for a small fee. Please do not bring construction waste or trailer loads to the collection site. You will need to order your own dumpster. It is not fair to the other people in the Town if you do this. The only trailer loads that are acceptable are brush and branches less than 6" in diameter and yard waste.

We are busy with many road projects. We are not doing any full-mile replacement projects this year, but have decided on several smaller projects. Many sections of Snake Road have been repaved already. We are going to repave .5 miles of Highland Road from Sexton Road to the north due to severe winter damage and heavy farm traffic. We are also repaving Badger Road from the bridge east to Little Elkhart Lake Road. We are replacing several culverts on Willow Road. We are also chip sealing two (2) miles of Gerber Lake Road from Willow Road to County Trunk E. We have also placed several stop signs on East Shoreland Road in an effort to increase safety. We are also looking at other measures to help with traffic and safety on this road.

Thanks and be pleasant to everyone!

**Jon Rost,
Second Supervisor,
Rhine Broadband Committee
Chair**

Bertram Communications Vision is to connect all Town Rhine and Sheboygan County residents to fiber optic Broadband service

At a meeting of the Sheboygan County Heads of Local Government meeting on June 23rd, Bertram Communications revealed a comprehensive vision of providing Broadband to ALL COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WANT IT and are willing to pay up to \$100/month* for direct fiber optic cable service. There are still many unanswered questions, but the idea is to assess needs and market demand and then partner with local governments to apply for grant monies. They have already mapped out how this can be accomplished. Bertram is applying for a major Federal

Recovery Act grant which is due 7/27/21 and is including the Town of Rhine as one of two or three priorities in the grant application. I have offered whatever help we can to be included in this first round of grant applications.

Beyond this, and in conjunction with Sheboygan County and the Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation, Bertram is looking to partner with any/all Sheboygan County Communities that have a need to improve broadband availability.

Both Sheboygan County and the Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation have made Broadband accessibility a top priority in attracting and retaining businesses and for employee recruiting and retention. We hope to help keep this "front of mind" issue for the County and especially the Town of Rhine.

* There are current programs and grants available to help reduce monthly costs for qualifying low income families.

**Property Committee
By Larry Eberle**

The Property Committee would like to thank St. Peter Evangelical Church for their fine Memorial Day program on May 31, 2021. Thank you also for the great care you showed for the town property as well.

The Town of Rhine Collection Site will now be posted with a "No Trespassing" sign. The gate will only be open for the public to enter on Saturdays from 8:00AM-4:00PM. Rhine has approximately 44.6 miles of road. The township has jurisdiction of these roads and road right-of-ways. Roads are used for travel. Township right-of-ways are sixty (60) feet and are used for public services such as electrical utilities, internet cables, mailboxes, gas lines, telephone lines, road signs, driveway culverts for access to property, and political signs. Political signs must be removed three (3) days after the election as per our ordinances. Any other personal signage, fences, etc., which are constructed in the right-of-way, are illegal. It is the

responsibility of the citizens of Rhine to determine other town, county, state and/or federal regulations. For example, building codes, shore land zoning, county sanitary or subdivision requirements might apply to a proposed use in a right-of-way and obtaining any necessary approval or permits.

**Get to Know Your Neighbor
Feature Article
Ralph Christianson**



My name is Ralph Christianson and I have been a poll worker and an election inspector for the Town of Rhine for a number of years. My wife and I built our home on Snake Road about 35 or more years ago. We always found the area to be ideal. Country living but close enough to the village to allow for friendly and interesting walks through town. A quiet area with very friendly people, and race weekends provide all kinds of entertainment throughout the area.

I was a farm boy from the Valders area and entered the Air Force after high school. Those four years in the military probably helped me shape my views about showing picture ID's during the voting process. I graduated from Lakeland College and started my teaching career in Racine. The first year that the Racine School District was integrated! I then moved to Kiel where I taught math and science in the high school for over 30 years. I have always enjoyed gardening and managing a few beehives. My



wife and I liked to travel and looked forward to taking the grandchildren along.

I always found working at the polls to be a rewarding experience. My fellow poll workers were always friendly and helpful and the Town of Rhine voters made it clear that they took the voting process seriously and were very appreciative of any assistance the poll workers could provide.

Looking back at the various training sessions I attended, especially seeing how the schools and students had to function during their past year. I can certainly appreciate how important group classroom learning is compared to virtual situations. We would all be seeing and hearing the same information presented to us, and yet, the questions from those in the audience indicated that the information being understood by the individuals was quite different. So much of what I learned at these training sessions was because of the questions asked by others in attendance. Thinking back on my classrooms, my students were probably learning as much or more from their classmates during their discussions about the material than they did from my presentations!

Blast from the Past - Do you remember the name of this local Band?



Lexann Hoogstra Clerk/Treasurer

It saddens us to announce the resignation of our Deputy Clerk, Catherine Loeffler. Catherine has been an integral part of our town for the last 4 years. Her contributions will be valued and remembered, and she will be missed. We would like to wish her the best of everything in the next chapter of her future adventures!

Farewell from Deputy Clerk, Catherine Loeffler

It has been an honor to work with the Board of Supervisors, the Clerk/Treasurer, and all of the staff for the Town of Rhine. It has been especially wonderful to work with the residents and poll workers throughout the last four years of elections. Being able to assist in the last Presidential Election will always be remembered as an exciting time. I am so grateful for the opportunities that I have been given to me and would like to express my gratitude for your support. I love the community I worked for and all of the down-to-earth residents I encountered daily. Thank you again for the wonderful memories and I wish you all the best!

A Walk Around Fischer Homestead By Judy Neu



After generations of being good stewards of the land, the descendants and current owners, Mark Meeusen and Noelle Jonas, have decided to pass their beloved farm on to a new generation of stewards. The Fischer Homestead was originally homesteaded by Henry and Minnie Fischer and is located on the Southeast side of Elkhart Lake and at the base of Grasshopper Hill. Henry and Minnie's passion for the land and its fruits, is laid bare to be seen by all who pass by the humble farmhouse, built in 1865 with cream city brick. The farmhouse was built by the calloused hardworking hands of Henry Fisher. The outbuildings were later added and built by the skillful carpentry of Philip Fischer. Both Henry and Minnie Fischer were laid to rest at Walnut Grove Cemetery in Glenbeulah, Wisconsin, just a few short miles from the land they loved and the house they built and called their home.

Grasshopper Hill

After the passing of their mother (LaVerne Meeusen), her children, Mark Meeusen and Noelle Jonas knew that their mother and grandmother (Grandma Kuhn), wishes were to preserve Grasshopper Hill so that it would never be developed. To maintain and preserve this unique piece of land, in 2011 Glacial Lakes Conservancy obtained possession of Grasshopper Hill where it will remain in conservancy in perpetuity for all to enjoy its natural beauty, breathtaking views, and all the little critters who make their home there.



Town of Rhine Word Search

T A R K S N G G J X W S B W X H M E S N O W M O B I L I N G
 H D Q S V V W P J Q C N Y Z Q X F B M V K W F N W E M O S J
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| PHILIP KASPER | CONSERVATION | SNOWMOBILING | WAR MEMORIAL |
| OTTO LA BUDDE | GEORGE WOLFF | COUNTRYSIDE | CORN FIELDS |
| BICYCLING | TRACTORS | BIRDSONG | BARN CAT |
| GARDENS | LIME KILN | NATURE | LAKES |
| RHINE | | | |