

EPHRAIM NEWS



Village of Ephraim Newsletter

Winter 2025-2026

President's Notes.... Ken Nelson

Our Committees and Village Board have much to be proud of in 2025. As you read the Newsletter, you will see all that has been accomplished by our Volunteers. A big "Thank You!" to all our Chairs and Committee members. After developing several alternatives over the past few years, a contract has been awarded to build the North Ephraim Pedestrian Path. The path will be completed by June of this year. And if you haven't had a chance, visit our new Maintenance Building on Townline Rd. If you find Justin in, I'm sure he will be happy to give you a tour.

We have now begun the planning phase of the rehabilitation of our Administration Building on Norway St. We are working with Keller, who is the firm that designed and managed the construction of our Maintenance Building. The Village has decided to renovate the existing stone building (built in 1948 as a school) based on its historic and architectural value. Except for the small addition to the west that now provides offices for our staff, the building sits today as it was originally constructed. Watch for updates as we proceed with this project.

I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Ken Nelson, Village President



Photo Credit: Tad Dukehart

Planning a Building or Remodeling Project?

Please remember that Ephraim requires a permit to build anything "over six inches" in height. If you're uncertain about permit requirements, please consult with Brent Bristol, Zoning Administrator **BEFORE** you start your project.

Phone: 920-854-5501

Email: bbristol@ephraim.wi.gov

Projects built without a permit will be subject to a 5x the normal permitting fee per day, and must be removed before the Plan Committee or Brent will consider the project. No retroactive permits will be issued

Many of the forms required can be found on the website: <https://ephraim.wi.gov/zoning-department/>

YEAR IN REVIEW—Accomplishments and Looking Ahead!

Green Tier Committee

It was a busy year for Green Tier! We secured funding through a private donor, grant funding and Village Board support, for new signage and wayfinding at the Wetlands. The project is planned for Spring of 2026. Another project fully funded by a Community Investment Foundation grant is three water filling stations; to be installed this Spring at the beach, Firehouse Marina and Visitor's Center. Through the work of many, and our support, a native plants garden was installed in front of our beautiful Village Hall (see other section of newsletter for more info). In 2026 we will be researching recyclable and compostable products for Ephraim Village events and businesses. Join us on May 9th, 2026 for the next annual community clean up day and tree giveaway!

Carly Mulliken, Chair



Marinas and Moorings Committee

The Marinas and Moorings Committee is happy to report a successful 2025 season, with very good customer feedback on the Dock Staff and facility use. Many thanks to Stephan Reynolds and his leadership in day-to-day operations, all under the steady hand of Harbormaster Brent Bristol. We are working to make the upcoming season at least as good as the last, and it will include a new face or two among the Dock Hands in 2026. And everything happens within our continued Clean Marina Certification! Lower lake levels are certainly apparent at the Marinas, and we will be watching projections for the 2026 season. We have already planned on maintenance dredging at the Firehouse Marina, and how extensive that project becomes will depend on how water levels progress. The current low level provides an opportunity to make repairs to dock structure which has been underwater, and we are planning on that work, as well.

The Committee is also looking into improved transient slip use during this low level period. We will continue long-term maintenance work on our existing floating piers, and will combine that maintenance with improvement of use and durability.

Tim Nelson, Chair

Ephraim Wetlands Volunteers! Thank you to Brenden Arch, Andrea Polander, Sophie Nelson, Bruce and Cindy Nelson, and Andria and Josh Hails for spreading mulch during the volunteer work day.

**Save the Date for the 3rd Annual
Community Clean-Up & Tree Seedling Giveaway!
Saturday, May 9, 2026**

Join your neighbors for a tree seedling giveaway and help clean up your Ephraim neighborhood from 9 AM to noon. More details to come closer to the event.

YEAR IN REVIEW—Accomplishments and Looking Ahead!

Plan Committee & Historic Preservation Committee

The major accomplishment of the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) in 2025 was a line by line review of §17.26 Historic District Ordinance. In collaboration with the Plan Committee in their overall review of Chapter 17, the HPC recommended changes to be incorporated into the Historic District Ordinance.

Going into 2026, when any building permit application involves new construction, reconstruction, exterior remodeling, and/or demolition within the Historic District, HPC will convene and make recommendations in an advisory capacity to the Plan Committee to maintain the look, character, and historical integrity of the Village.

The Plan Committee meets at noon on the Plan Committee regularly scheduled meeting date for a Workshop. The purpose is to discuss and clarify ordinances contained in Chapter 17: Ephraim Zoning Code. These are open meetings and minutes are provided on the Village Website.

Ken Nelson, Chair - Plan Committee

BD Thorp, Chair - Historic Preservation Committee

Ephraim Library Committee

The Ephraim Library continues to enhance services and programming for our dedicated patrons. The dedication was rewarded at a Fall meeting of the County Admin Committee which was to discuss library services and branches throughout the County. At the meeting, Ephraim was well represented with many supporting the branch and asking to keep it as is. It was shared that no changes will be made at least until 2027; the Library Committee will be staying on top of the conversation as much as possible.

In other news, we had our best Fyr Bal Book Sale to date. It was due in no small part to the great selection of donated books and volunteer support. If you are wondering what to do with used books, please drop them off to the library. Opportunities to volunteer will be posted closer to the date (June 20, 2026). In the next year, we will continue to improve the accessibility of the library, to support Door to Summer Adventures and other programs, to improve our collection, and more!

Carly Mulliken, Chair

Community Protection Committee

An update from Community Protection Committee must start with thanking our amazing volunteer fire and rescue department, made up of 23 dedicated men and women. One of our bigger accomplishments in 2025 was working with the County to ensure Ephraim's concerns were successfully addressed about the cost and coverage with the upcoming County-wide Emergency Radio upgrade. We are happy to report that the County will be covering the initial cost of the project and the projected coverage of Ephraim is close to 100%.

Thank you to the amazing response by our maintenance and emergency staff to the massive storm on August 9th. In 2026, CPC will be codifying an Emergency Management Plan for future use based on the response. As always, our main priority is providing for our residents and guests through service improvement and equipment acquisition. 2026 will not be any different and we look forward to another safe and productive year!

Carly Mulliken, Chair

YEAR IN REVIEW—Accomplishments and Looking Ahead!

Village Hall Native Garden

16 native perennial plant species and over 400 plants were planted in front of the Village Hall at the end of September. We look forward to watching the garden fill-in and mature. The bees already enjoyed the garden as soon as it was planted. Special thanks to Ann Hutchins for the garden design, technical advice and support. Additional thanks to Cindy Nelson for championing the project and Village Staff and volunteers for planting.



Anderson Dock Capital Project

The Village continues to work with AECOM who is contracted to complete final design plans for Anderson Dock. The Village Board came to a consensus in August to delay the Anderson Dock project to allow time for fundraising of project costs and future maintenance costs, as well as to determine the appropriate time to bid the project to facilitate the most bids.

North Ephraim Path

The North Ephraim Path Project bid was awarded at the November 18, 2025, Village Board meeting to Relyco Plus LLC. The contractor will construct the 6' wide asphalt pedestrian path. A separate contractor will install solar bollards after project completion.

The project will begin at just slightly north of the Waterbury Inn entrance and terminate just beyond the Summer Kitchen at the first driveway. It will not extend to Town Line Road as originally planned. For the first 5 properties from the south, the new path will be built on the back of the shoulder, as agreements could not be reached with some landowners to place it on private property.

Grants Awarded to the Village of Ephraim in 2025 that benefit residents and visitors

- August 2025: Destination Door County Community Investment Fund Grant Award for the restoration, preservation and protection of Anderson Dock. Grant Award: \$100,000
- November 2025: Destination Door County Community Investment Fund Grant Award for Water Bottle Filling Stations at the Beach, Marina, and Visitor's Center. Grant Award: \$16,000
- November 2025: Through private donations and a grant award from the Railbrook Foundation the Trailside Exhibits Project for the Ephraim Wetlands Preserve will begin work with installation in Spring 2026.

Anderson Dock Fundraising Campaign

The Board of Directors of the Door County Community Foundation has approved the Foundation providing administrative and campaign support to the Village of Ephraim Anderson Dock Capital Campaign.

Stay tuned for more information on this partnership and how you can join the efforts to ensure that Anderson Dock is restored, preserved, and protected for the next 50 years.

Wastewater Collection and Treatment System Facility Plan Amendment

The original construction of the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) collection system, lift stations, and treatment plant was completed in 1986. At the time, it was a state-of-the-art plant and the quality of the effluent was such that it could be discharged directly into the Bay. The Wastewater Outfall System, engineered by McMahon Associates, Inc., was awarded the American Consulting Engineers Council of Wisconsin Engineering Excellence Award in 1988.

In 1995, the original chlorination system was removed and a Fischer & Porter UV Light disinfection system was installed. In 2005, a sanitary sewer replacement of the force main to collection gravity was completed, along with a new on-site influent pump station. Much of the existing process equipment and electrical system is original and approaching 40 years old.

The existing collection system consists of 36,500 ft. of gravity sewer and 160 manholes. There are 2 lift stations: Lift #1 is located at the Public Beach and Lift #2 is located at the corner of Water Street and Spruce Street. The WWTF also receives hauled-in waste and raw wastewater pumping. The plant completes preliminary treatment, secondary treatment, UV disinfection, effluent pumping, and aerated sludge holding and loadout.

The Facilities Planning by McMahon in 2024 assessed the condition and capacity of the WWTF, identified needs, estimated growth over the 20-year planning period, and recommended cost-effective improvements. Specifically, the facilities were assessed with respect to age, condition, capacity, performance, and code compliance. The purpose was to establish a basis for the need for improvements and prioritization.

The proposed project is needed to extend the service life of the collection system and treatment facility, address current needs associated with the existing facilities, improve operator safety, operability, and maintainability, and ensure compliance with permit effluent limits. Final cost estimates are now being prepared and are expected to be in the range of \$9 million to \$11 million. The DNR will hopefully provide a 20-year, low-interest loan to finance the improvements. The goal is to start construction in mid-2026, with a projected completion time of approximately 2 years. The Village will be working with McMahon on a rate study to determine the best way to generate the funds to pay for the loan.

Improvements

Collection System:

- Lift Station #1.
- Lift Station #2.
- Sewer Lining to reduce infiltration.

Preliminary Treatment:

- Influent Pump Station improvements.
- Headworks improvements.
- Hauled in waste receiving improvements.

Secondary Treatment:

- Blowers, aeration, & mixing improvements.
- Secondary Clarifier improvements.
- Chemical Feed improvements.

Tertiary Treatment & Effluent Discharge:

- Improvements are needed to the effluent discharge pumps.

Solids Handling:

- Replacement of sludge transfer pumps and associated discharge piping and valves.
- Replacement of the emergency backup generator.

Electrical, Controls, & SCADA

- Replacement of the main MCC, plant controls, and SCADA system, including integration of the two lift stations.

Main Treatment Building & Site Improvements

- New doors and windows.
- Tuckpointing and painting of the building.

YEAR IN REVIEW—Accomplishments and Looking Ahead!

Physical Facilities & Utilities Committee

- In early 2025, the Maintenance Department completed much-needed repairs to the Village Hall, including relocation of the audio speakers, repair of cracks, hole patching, scraping of loose paint, preparation for new painting, and repainting.
- Over the course of the summer, the Road Repair Program continued with the paving of Shannon Square, the public portion of North Shore Road, and Maple Lane. Larson Lane was also crack-sealed.
- The Village tennis courts were resurfaced with plans to stripe the westernmost court for Pickleball, with set times for open play.
- Handrails at the Village Beach were installed on all four staircases to assist with accessibility.
- Graffiti abatement was undertaken at Anderson Dock by the Maintenance Department to remove existing graffiti. Surfaces covered in graffiti were repainted and coatings were tested for graffiti prevention.
- A new Brush /Yard Waste Site and Boat Trailer Parking space were established at the Village German Road Site.
- Brushing of North Shore Road, South Coral Road, and Meadow Lane was completed as part of ongoing, annual street maintenance.
- Clean up after the August 9 storm. Thank you to Justin MacDonald, Jake Bastian, and Matt Bader for their hard work to get the Village cleaned up in the days that followed the storm.

Matt Meacham, Chair



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If you are unable to subscribe to receive Village news and updates, please contact the Deputy Clerk for assistance at 920-854-5501.

Committee Meetings

All committee meetings are held at the Village Hall (9996 Water St.) unless otherwise specified and via teleconference. All meetings are open to the public with exception of Closed Session meetings.

Monthly Meeting Schedule:

- Ephraim Board of Trustees meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.
- Wastewater Committee meets on the 1st Monday of each month at 9:00 AM.
- Physical Facilities & Utilities Committee meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:00 AM.
- Marinas and Moorings Committee meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 8:00 AM.
- Green Tier Committee meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 8:00 AM.
- Community Protection Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 2:30 PM.
- Historic Preservation Committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.
- Plan Committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.



Sewer Rate Increase

The 2026 Village Budget included a 10% increase to sewer rates. Increased sewer rates allow the Village to plan for upgrades to the existing aging system as well as meet the rising inflationary costs of current operations.

Residential Equivalent Units (REU) will go from \$136/REU to \$150/REU per quarter in 2026.

A large scale Facility Plan Amendment has been prepared by McMahon & Associates. McMahon is working on final engineering design for the upgrades and plans to have the design portion of the project completed in early 2026.

Polling Location

Village of Ephraim residents vote at the Village Administrative Office located at 10005 Norway Street, Ephraim WI 54211. Wisconsin municipalities have uniform polling hours beginning at 7:00 AM and ending at 8:00 PM.

2026 Election Dates

- April 7, 2026—Spring Election
- August 11, 2026—Partisan Primary
- November 3, 2026—General Election



Contacts for Emergencies

For emergencies in the Village which include power lines down, vehicles leaking fluids, fluid spills, car accidents, or smoke in an area from an unknown source, **dial 911**. This is the fastest way to have the correct emergency personnel respond to an incident.

For trees across roads, contact the Village Office Monday thru Friday, 8 AM - 4 PM at 920-854-5501. For instances outside business hours, please contact the Door County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency number at 920-746-2400 and press 0 to speak with an On-Duty Dispatcher. They will gather your information and then contact the appropriate Village representative.

If you observe a tree or tree limb in contact with a power line please contact WPS directly: 1-800-450-7260

Water Testing

The Village of Ephraim offers water testing that meets all State requirements and is available to anyone. Fees are determined at the time of scheduling and is based on what tests you request. Water testing kits are available at the Ephraim Treatment Plant 24/7 located at 10285 Town Line Drive. Instructions and forms can be found on the Village website:

<https://ephraim.wi.gov/wellwater-testing/>



- Check your registration status
- Register to vote (or update your address)
- Request an absentee ballot
- Track your absentee ballot
- Find your polling place
- See what's on your ballot

<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

CONTACT US:

Ephraim Administrative Office

Phone (920) 854-5501



Fax (920) 854-2072

Or visit us on the web at ephraim.wi.gov

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Administrator/Zoning Administrator– Brent Bristol

bbristol@ephraim.wi.gov

Clerk/Treasurer – Andrea Collak

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Deputy Clerk/Utility Clerk – Kim Roberts

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Marina Harbormaster - Brent Bristol

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Fire Department–Non Emergency/ Maintenance Manager - Justin MacDonald

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Wastewater Manager OIC – Brad Rasmusson

brasmusson@ephraim.wi.gov

Village Board of Trustees - Ken Nelson, Rick Hoyerman, Matt Meacham, Carly Mulliken, and Tim Nelson

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Village of Ephraim

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