

VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

Spring Election – April 7, 2026

On Tuesday, April 7, 2026, the residents of the Village of Port Edwards will be selecting three Village Trustees. Also on the ballot will be the offices of Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice, District 4 Court of Appeals Judge, Wood County Circuit Court Judge Branch 3, County Supervisor and Port Edwards School Board Members.

Voting will take place at the **Fire Station** from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ***Please remember to bring your photo ID.***

Lonn Radtke, Rick Hess and Rob O'Connor will be running for re-election as Village Trustees. Please get out and vote on Tuesday, April 7th.



Lonn Radtke



Rick Hess



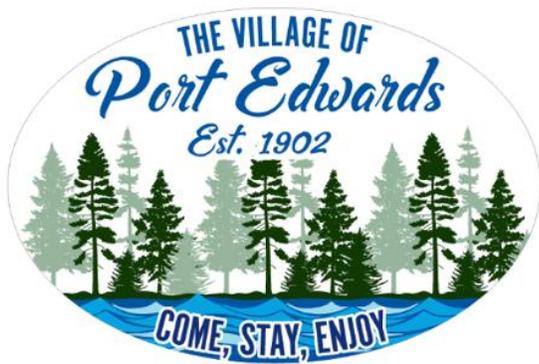
Rob O'Connor

SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING

Spring hydrant flushing will take place **May 5th & 6th**.
Please be aware that there may be some dirty water.



FROM THE DESK OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR/PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR



Welcome to spring, Village of Port Edwards residents. I want to take a few moments of your time to inform you of events and projects planned for this year.

The weather change is very inviting, and I hope everyone takes advantage of the outdoor activities we have regionally. Local events planned in the Village include Rummage Sales, Firefighter's Street Dance, Lions Picnic, Trunk-or-Treat and Christmas Tree Lighting. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

We will be completing one major infrastructure project this summer – 2nd Street from Edwards Avenue to Market Avenue alleyway, with new sewer line, water line, storm sewer line, sidewalks, curb and gutter, and pavement. The project is to start in early spring and be completed by mid-summer. We will also be completing over 500 feet of sidewalk repairs, chip sealing of streets and resurfacing of Island Avenue alleyway and Jefferson Avenue alleyway.

We continue to improve our parks with new facilities. Our dog park is fully functional. The Village was awarded a Legacy grant that is being used for playground equipment at Ripple Creek Park. Completion of the project is scheduled for early summer.

Village staff is working on applying for local and state grants for a complete rebuild of 2nd Street from Market Avenue to Ver Bunker Avenue in 2027.

If you ever have any questions or issues, please give me a call at 715-451-0287.

Ben Martinson, Administrator/Public Works Supervisor

El Café Storytime

On the first Saturday of every month (unless there is a conflict), Kathy McGrath hosts a storytime for children in the Community Room at El Café. The event runs from 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. and children must be accompanied by an adult. Kathy reads a book (usually with a puppet to go with it) and then sings songs and does nursery rhymes and poems with the children. Children of any age are welcome to attend. You may also stay to eat breakfast or brunch after the storytime is finished. There is no registration and you can just show up whenever you want to come. This is open to all families in the area; not just Port Edwards. Always check with the café to make sure the event is happening on the first Saturday of the month.

A NOTE FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

As is typical with a Wisconsin spring, it feels like it's here one day and gone the next. As we transition between seasons, it's also a good time to reflect on the work happening in our village and the people who make it possible.

As Election Day approaches, I want to thank those who have chosen to serve — and those continuing to step forward — in our village. Local government depends on residents who are willing to dedicate their time and energy to their community. I would especially like to thank the three trustees running for re-election: Rob O'Connor, Lon Radtke, and Rick Hess. I also want to express appreciation to all of our Village Board members and committee/commission members. Serving the village in these roles requires time outside of regular work schedules, careful preparation, and often sacrificing personal and family time. Their commitment and diligence do not go unnoticed. Also, a big thank you to everyone who gives their time to help on voting day. These individuals also take time out of their day on election day to make sure our voices are heard!

The Board is preparing to debrief on our budgeting process. We will review what has been done, why decisions were made, and whether improvements can be made moving forward. Any potential changes will be considered carefully, keeping state statutes, deadlines, and local ordinances in mind. Like many small municipalities, we face ongoing financial pressures and rising costs, making thoughtful planning essential.

A public hearing regarding a proposed Wake Boat Ordinance for the Village of Port Edwards will be held on May 2nd at 9:00 AM (location to be determined). This will mark the beginning of what will likely be a longer process, and we encourage residents to stay informed and participate in the discussion.

Our staff are truly the backbone of our village, and their dedication, professionalism, and daily efforts do not go unnoticed. I want to thank our DPW crew for their hard work throughout the winter months, keeping our roads safe and the village running smoothly. A special thank you to Diane, our Clerk/Treasurer, and Kim in the village office for managing daily operations, including billing and tax season. They are often the first point of contact for residents and truly serve as the face of our village. I also recognize Police Chief Abbott and the entire police department for their continued leadership and service. Finally, I am proud of the renewed strength of our Volunteer Fire Department. After facing low membership numbers, our roster has grown to levels not seen in years, reflecting the dedication of community members willing to step up and serve.

While challenges remain, I am confident that through thoughtful planning and continued community involvement, we will move forward together.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Respectfully,

Betsy Mancl, Village President

Monarch News

The monarchs are beginning to leave the mountains of Mexico and head North. It is always exciting to keep track of their migration back to us and guess when we will see our first monarch and find our first eggs. If you would like to track the monarch migration yourself, you can go to Journey North at:

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth>



As spring approaches Pat has been planning some updates at the Village Monarch Park. All of the dry growth needs to be cut back. Then one by one he wants to add soil to the raised beds to bring them up to the level of the side boards. Once this is done and the weather warms, we will see what comes up. His hope is to get rid of the weedy plants by doing this.

This year we want to have many more butterfly friendly annuals planted along with the perennials. Pat will start some plants at home but will also try to plant some seeds directly into the garden beds. Some of the annuals he would like to plant are Zinnias of various types, Cosmos, Mexican Sunflowers, Four O' Clocks, Hollyhocks, Cardinal Flowers and many more. If anyone is willing to also start some of these plants at your house to add to the gardens, your help would be appreciated. Also, any help with getting the raised beds back in shape would be welcomed. Please contact me at 715-887-3448 or by email at:

kathym369@gmail.com and I will establish a list of helpers.

Kathy McGrath

Port Edwards Police Department

Brandon Abbott, Chief of Police



The Port Edwards PD has enjoyed the winter months, but we are all ready for it to warm up and be springtime. We look forward to the Spring Sports season to get started and watch some great, high caliber Port Edwards Blackhawk sporting events. The PD and FD will be going to some joint trainings and will be planning a bike rodeo again for the summer of 2026.

Reminders

As we patiently wait for spring, it's essential to remember that the Wisconsin winter can throw us a curve ball at any time. Please remember to always drive safely and especially in school zone areas. The safety of our students, parents and staff is the utmost priority. We also want to remind everyone that even though there isn't snow on

the roadways all the time, we do ask you not to park vehicles on the village streets at night during the winter months so our DPW can conduct their job safely.

Help us Help You

Are there a lot of cars coming and going from your neighbor's house for a reason you can't seem to understand? You know your neighborhood: Is someone wandering around that doesn't look right? Please contact the dispatch center when you see these things at (715)421-8701. An Officer will be sent to your location to check on the matter and act upon it. This action could range from extra area patrol to further investigation, to possible arrests and charges, or other actions, dependent upon the situation. I've heard all too often throughout my career that calls weren't made because someone "didn't want to waste the Police Department's time." Please don't have this mindset. From our perspective, we don't view it as a waste of time. We'd much rather find out it's nothing now than find out later that it was something and an opportunity to solve a crime was missed. Dispatchers also have the ability to send phone calls to Officers who may be on the road rather than in the office, or to their voice mail.



FOOD TRUCKS

The ladies of AuraLux Salon and Mia Bella Salon are excited for spring, mainly to bring the food trucks back for another season. We had a great season last year thanks to all who came down! The food truck lot will reopen June 1, 2026, and will be open every Monday into October from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot of 140 Market Avenue, downtown Port Edwards. Find us on Facebook to see the weekly lineup of trucks. Come on down and bring some friends!

Sierra & Jenn Lech

THANK YOU FOR FLAG DONATIONS

The flags flew brightly in the Village last year thanks to donations from our wonderful residents. Our recent contributors are:

William & Bette Kohnen
Joanne Jesse
Dave & Karen Thiel
Port Edwards Lions Club



The flag project is funded entirely by private donations, and the flags require replacement every one to two years, so we are in need of donations again this year to keep our flags flying bright and proud.

YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!!

PORT EDWARDS FIRE DEPARTMENT SPRING UPDATE



As we move into the spring season, the Port Edwards Fire Department would like to share a few updates with the community and thank everyone who helps support our mission.

One of the most exciting developments for our department has been the continued growth of our membership. Over the past year we have welcomed several new members to the department and are now only a few members short of reaching our goal of 30 active firefighters and EMS personnel. Recruiting and retaining dedicated volunteers is essential to maintaining a strong and reliable emergency response team for our community. We are proud of the commitment our members show in training, responding to calls, and serving the Village of Port Edwards and surrounding areas.

Another major accomplishment for the department this year was the purchase of a new rescue EMS vehicle. The department recently replaced our aging rescue vehicle with a new Dodge Durango that will be used to support emergency medical and rescue responses. The vehicle was purchased through a combination of grant funding, community donations, and approved capital outlay funds, allowing the department to replace a critical piece of equipment without taking on new debt for the Village. The vehicle is currently being outfitted with the necessary emergency equipment and markings, and we hope to have it placed into service by the end of this month.

The department also continues to focus on strengthening operations and community service. Over the past year we completed all fire inspections within our service area, continued our free smoke detector installation program, and expanded officer training to strengthen incident command capabilities on emergency scenes. The department also experienced its busiest month for calls on record, responding to 41 calls for service in August alone.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the strong support of our community and local leadership. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Village Board, the Public Safety Committee, the Police and Fire Commission, and the many donors who support the department. I would also like to recognize the members of the Port Edwards Fire Department who volunteer countless hours responding to emergencies, attending training, and serving our village.

Your continued support allows us to maintain a strong, capable department dedicated to protecting the residents and businesses of Port Edwards.

If you are interested in serving your community, the Port Edwards Fire Department is always looking for motivated individuals to join our team.

Stay safe,
Chief Dustin Lease
Port Edwards Fire Department

Ordinance Violations

Spring is a good time to clean up our yards and keep the Village looking like a great place to live or run a business. There are several violations of the Village ordinances which will be enforced. To name a couple:

Parking vehicles on the grass is in violation of Village ordinances. Section 17.23(2)(d) states in part: **“Surfacing. All off-street parking areas shall be graded and surfaced so as to be dust-free and properly drained . . .”**

Several violations of the building codes also exist. If you receive a letter to this effect, please make arrangements to correct the violation(s) as soon as possible to avoid being assessed a fine.

Spring Cleanup

The Village takes pride in being a very clean community. Residents expect the Village government to enforce the rules when it comes to garbage, clutter, and vehicles.

Please remember:

- Garbage, appliances, clutter, etc. is not permitted to be left in public view.
- Campers, boats, etc. must be parked and stored BEHIND or ALONGSIDE houses. They are not allowed to be parked in front of the house or on the street other than for actual loading or unloading.
- DOG FECES IS NOT YARD WASTE. Raking dog feces into grass piles for the village crew to pick up will not be tolerated. Residents doing so will be referred to the Police Department.

Garbage and Recycling

Please remember to place your weekly garbage and bi-weekly recyclables out for curbside pickup by **6:00 AM** each day of pickup. Recycle pickup is every other week. **LOOSE GARBAGE MUST BE PUT IN BAGS BEFORE PLACING IN CONTAINER!!** Please note that pizza boxes are not recyclable. If you experience



less than satisfactory service, please give us a call at the Municipal Building, 715-887-3512.

After collection, containers shall be removed from the curb or roadside (including alleys) within 12 hours.

Leaf, Grass and Brush Pickup

As the winter ends and we start to get outside again, please remember the following:

On a weekly basis, the crew will pick up grass that is **properly** placed. Typically grass pickup is on Mondays and Tuesdays.

PLEASE NOTE: Brush will be picked up on the same week as recycling.

Please be conscientious when placing waste at the curb. Be sure no foreign objects, such as stones, metal, etc. are mixed in with the waste. One piece of metal can completely ruin a \$300 set of chipper blades. Repairing equipment takes time and money and results in delays in picking up waste so PLEASE BE CAREFUL.

- **All brush and grass must be placed on the boulevard area behind the curb.**
- Grass and leaves must be placed separate from brush.
- Brush must be stacked neatly with the cut end facing the street.
- Roots must be removed and placed separately from the branches.

The Village generates many tons of compostable material each year. If you need compost or wood chips, please contact the Municipal Building to arrange delivery of the material. Delivery is free to Village residents.

Shelter Reservations

Reservations for the Ripple Creek Park outside shelter and Edwards-Alexander Memorial Park enclosed and outside shelters can be made by calling the Municipal Building at 715-887-3512.

Current prices for using the Enclosed Shelter are:

- Resident fee with kitchen \$125.00
- Non-resident fee with kitchen \$150.00

A \$25.00 refund will be issued if the building is left clean.

Residents can reserve the outside shelters free of charge while non-residents are charged \$35.00.

Community Calendar Items

- March 11 Village Board Meeting**, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.
- April 1 Parking Restrictions**, no longer in effect and parking on the streets is allowed
- April 3 Village Offices Closed for Good Friday**
- April 5 Happy Easter!!**
- April 7 Spring Election**, Vote at Fire Station, 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
- April 8 Village Board Meeting**, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.
- May 5 Hydrant Flushing** (Be aware there may be some dirty water)
- May 6 Hydrant Flushing** (Be aware there may be some dirty water)
- May 13 Village Board Meeting**, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.
- May 16 Village Garage Sales**
- May 16 Brat Fry (St. Alexander's PCCW)**, 1251 4th Street
- May 25 Village Offices Closed for Memorial Day**
- May 25 Memorial Day Services**, Village cemetery
- June 10 Village Board Meeting**, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.
- June 12 Port Edwards Firefighters Athletic Association Street Dance**, Fire Station
- June 15 Sprinkling Restrictions** go into effect
- June 22 Port Edwards Education Foundation Blackhawk Scramble**
- July 2 Village Offices Closed for 4th of July Holiday**
- July 3 Village Offices Closed for 4th of July Holiday**
- July 8 Village Board Meeting**, Marshall Buehler Center, 7:00 p.m.



Does your organization or church have an event you would like to publicize? Submit it for the next Village newsletter by stopping at the Municipal Building or calling 715-887-3513 for more information.