



# **VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS**

## **FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER**

### **Leaf Pick-up**

It is again that time of year for leaves. Due to the tremendous quantity of leaves put out in just a short time, please remember to place leaves in the gutter section of the street in a long row along your property.

***ONLY leaves may be placed along the gutter and please note that this is the only time of the year that anything can be placed in the gutter.***

Separated piles of brush and grass must be placed on the boulevard area behind the curb and the brush must be stacked neatly with the cut ends facing the street. Also, roots must be removed from the brush and placed separately from the branches.

If you follow these rules, your leaves and other yard waste will be picked up in a timely manner.

***Village of Port Edwards  
Trick or Treat Hours  
October 31, 2026  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.***



### **Thank you for Flag Donations**

The flags flew brightly in the Village this year thanks to donations from our wonderful residents.

*Our recent contributors are:*

***Larry & Judy Miller***

***Jeanette Hoffman***

***William Karberg***

***Joyce Durrant***

***Kathy Moran***

The flag project is funded entirely from private donations and the flags require replacement every one to two years, so donations are always welcomed and encouraged so we can keep our flags flying bright and proud.

### **Hydrant Flushing**

Fall hydrant flushing will take place on **October 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**. Please be aware that there may be some dirty water during this time.

### **Winter Parking Restrictions**

Winter parking restrictions start November 1, 2026, and end April 1, 2027. No parking on Village streets from 12:00 a.m. (midnight) until 6:00 a.m. The fine for violation of this ordinance is \$50.00.

### **Holiday Bazaar**

Everyone is invited to the Port Edwards United Methodist Church Annual Holiday Bazaar and Luncheon on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch and pie served starting at 10 a.m. Local vendors selling merchandise – *Everyone welcome!!*





Fall is here, Village of Port Edwards Residents. I hope your summer went well (as quickly as it went) and you took advantage of the great weather we had here in central Wisconsin. Before we all start settling into our fall and winter routines, I want to take a few moments of your time.

The year is three-quarters over and time is flying. The weather change is very inviting, and I hope everyone takes advantage of the outdoor activities we have regionally. We had some very successful events this summer with the Garage Sales, Firefighter's Athletic Association Dance, Lions Picnic, PEBA Baseball Softball Tournament, Bike Rodeo and Port Palooza. We look forward to planning the Trunk or Treat event and Christmas Tree Lighting event

We completed yearly chip seal, crack filling and road painting this summer - Resurfacing of alleyways will be completed later this month. We also finished up the Legacy grant playground project. We plan to have the two-year rebuild project of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Edwards

Ave to the downtown shopping center alleyway completed by November.

We continued to improve our parks this past summer. The Village received a \$250,000 Legacy grant for continued improvements, including to pave 7<sup>th</sup> Street from Ver Bunker to the turnaround area, repave the bike trail from Ver Bunker Avenue to Letendre Avenue and repave the walking path through Ripple Creek Park.

In the past year, the Village staff and Village board have been working on funding for a 3 million dollar complete rebuild of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Market Avenue to Ver Bunker Avenue. The Village has received a 1 million dollar CDBG grant and \$400,000 in state road grants.

Budget season is upon us, and your Village team will do our best to mitigate the major cost increases we all are seeing. Our Village is fiscally sound, and we hope to continue that into the years ahead.

I would like to compliment all the Village staff for the continuing job they do every day to keep this village running so smoothly.

If you ever have a question or issue, please give me a call at 715-451-0287.

Ben Martinson

Help shape health in Wood County. Take the 10-minute Community Health Survey and enter for a chance to win one of three **\$50 VISA gift cards**. Your feedback helps guide community health priorities. This survey is for people who live and/or work in Wood County, WI, and takes about 10 minutes. All answers are anonymous.

Thanks so much!

**Help shape health in Wood County**

Live and/or work in Wood County, WI?

Take the 10-minute Community Health Survey!

Enter to win a **\$50 gift card!**

**SCAN ME!**

[bit.ly/WoodCHA](https://bit.ly/WoodCHA)

**Healthy People**  
Wood County

### 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 Fall Safety Message from the Port Edwards Fire Chief

As fall arrives in the Village of Port Edwards, the Port Edwards Fire Department would like to remind everyone to take a few simple steps to help keep our community safe as we head into another busy time of year.



With school back in session, we ask everyone to please slow down and pay extra attention while driving throughout the Village. Children will once again be walking and riding their bikes to and from school, especially during the morning and afternoon hours. Please watch for children at intersections and crosswalks, obey school-zone speed limits, and give yourself a little extra time. A few extra seconds of patience can make a big difference in keeping our kids safe.

October is also Fire Prevention Month, and Fire Prevention Week is always an important time for our department. Each year, members of the Port Edwards Fire Department visit both the elementary and middle schools to spend time with our students and talk about fire safety. We also bring our fire safety trailer to the elementary school, giving our younger students an opportunity to learn and practice what to do in the event of a fire. We enjoy being able to spend this time with the kids and teach them lessons that we hope they will take home and share with their families.

We encourage families to continue those conversations at home. Make sure everyone knows two ways out of the house, establish a meeting place outside, and practice your home fire escape plan. This is also a great time to test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure they are working properly.

As temperatures begin to drop, many of us will soon be turning on our furnaces, fireplaces, and other heating equipment. Before doing so, make sure everything is in good working condition and keep anything that can burn a safe distance from heating equipment. Carbon monoxide safety becomes especially important during the heating season, so please make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors in your home.

We would also like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Port Edwards Firefighters Association. The Association will once again be holding its Gun Raffle and Chili Feed in November. We invite everyone to come out, enjoy some chili, spend some time with our members and neighbors, and support the Association. Events like this are a great opportunity to bring our community together, and the support we receive allows the Association to continue supporting our department and the community we serve. Please watch for additional information as we get closer to the event.

As we move through fall and toward another Wisconsin winter, please take a few minutes to make safety a priority around your home. Whether it is slowing down for kids on their way to school, checking your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, or making sure your heating equipment is ready for the season, the little things can make a big difference.

On behalf of the Port Edwards Fire Department, I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable fall. We are proud to serve this community and truly appreciate the continued support you show our department and our members.

**Dustin Lease**

Fire Chief

Port Edwards Fire Department

## Friends of the Monarchs

The Village Monarch Park received some very much needed updates this summer. Thanks to my husband, Pat, Mert Sheffler and Candy Prah-Tell. Pat redid five of the raised beds by digging out with a shovel lots of quack grass and other invasive plants that had taken over those beds. The village brought in yards of black dirt which Pat, with the help of Ron Nelson, wheelbarrowed and shoveled into the beds. Then he planted some perennials and other pollinator plants that would not take over the beds. Mert did a lot of weeding and put down lots of new mulch and she also put a new coat of stain on the boards of the raised beds. Candy did weeding also. Many volunteer hours were spent by these individuals and they are whole heartedly thanked for all of the hard work they put forth.

We tried something new in the enclosure at the park where we used to put the caterpillars to let them form their chrysalises and hopefully make it to butterflies. What we found happened the last few years was that it got too hot in that enclosure and the chrysalises usually didn't make it to butterflies. Dr. Tim Huebner donated a Monarch Mansion to us and we tried that in the enclosure after cutting down the screen in the inside of the enclosure so there would be better air flow and it wouldn't get so hot inside. We did have some success with butterflies eclosing (coming out of the chrysalis) but we still lost quite a few. This normally happens nearing the end of summer but it seemed like more than usual didn't make it in the Monarch Mansion.

I would like to thank everyone that has dropped money into the donation container at the bank to help support the park. Mulch is expensive and other projects that have had to be done all come at a cost. Your monetary donations have certainly helped. Some people also took home a chrysalis in a jar from El Café or the bank for whatever donation they wanted to give.

It has been a good summer for the monarchs. At this time, September 1<sup>st</sup>, we have raised and released 795 monarchs and have already tagged 180 of them for their migration to Mexico. Many people in the village and surrounding areas have brought me eggs or caterpillars of various sizes throughout the summer because they have milkweed but do not care to raise the caterpillars. A huge thanks to all of those people for helping by bringing me eggs or caterpillars to raise. It has been an extremely busy summer with our monarch project.

You still have the opportunity to purchase a memory plaque for the memory sign. If you would like to commemorate the life of a friend, loved one or special pet, forms are available at the Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank – Port branch.

After the Port Palooza event, I received many compliments about the beauty of the park. If you would like to help at the park yet this fall or in the future, contact me. More help is always needed!



**Kathy McGrath ~ 715-887-3448 ~ [kathym369@gmail.com](mailto:kathym369@gmail.com)**

## **Port Edwards Water Utility Rates**

The Public Service Commission requires that water rates be published semi-annually. The following rates took effect on September 17, 2026.

### **Quarterly Service Charge for Meter:**

|                     |          |            |          |
|---------------------|----------|------------|----------|
| 5/8 or 3/4" meter - | \$ 16.93 | 3" meter - | \$228.73 |
| 1" meter -          | \$ 42.38 | 4" meter - | \$376.96 |
| 1 ½" meter -        | \$ 84.71 | 6" meter - | \$715.83 |
| 2" meter -          | \$118.61 |            |          |

### **Quarterly Service Charge for Sprinkling Meter:**

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| 5/8" meter - | \$ 5.40  |
| 1" meter -   | \$ 10.50 |
| 1 ½" meter - | \$ 21.00 |
| 2" meter -   | \$ 28.00 |

### **Plus Volume Charge:**

First 25,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.45 per 100 cubic feet  
Next 375,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.30 per 100 cubic feet  
Over 400,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$0.97 per 100 cubic feet



**Billing:** Bills for water service are rendered quarterly and become due upon issuance following the period for which service is rendered. A late payment charge of 3 percent but not less than 50 cents will be added to bills not paid within 20 days of issuance. This one-time 3 percent late payment charge will be applied to any unpaid balance for the current billing period's usage. This late payment charge is applicable to all customers. The utility customer may be given a written notice that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued, and unless payment or satisfactory arrangement for payment is made within the next ten days, service may be disconnected pursuant to Chapter PSC 185, WI Admin. Code.

Water bills can be paid at the Municipal Building, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., dropped in the silver payment box in front of the Municipal Building, mailed, or paid online with a credit or debit card. There is a fee for paying with credit or debit card. ***Your prompt payment is greatly appreciated!!***

**Due to increasing costs, Port Edwards Water Utility will no longer be hanging the courtesy shut-off tags. The ten-day notices will be sent out, and if the balance is not paid or a payment arrangement has not been made, the water will be shut off on the date indicated on the notice. A \$20.00 reconnect charge, along with the outstanding balance will need to be paid in full before the water is turned back on.**

## **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 on your regular garbage day. **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.**

## A NOTE FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Fall is here, and with the changing seasons comes a new school year, new projects, and plenty happening around Port Edwards. I wanted to take a moment to share a few updates with our residents and celebrate some of the great things happening in our community.

### A \$1 Million Investment in Port Edwards

We are incredibly excited to share that the Village of Port Edwards was awarded a \$1,000,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

This funding will allow us to make important improvements to 2nd Street and update aging infrastructure that dates back to the 1960s. This is a significant investment in our community and an opportunity to address infrastructure needs that have been building for decades.

A very special thank you to our Village staff and MSA Professional Services for all of the time, effort, and expertise that went into making this grant possible. There is a tremendous amount of work that happens behind the scenes to put together a successful grant application, and this award is a reflection of that hard work.

This grant is more than just a number—it is an investment in Port Edwards and in the future of our community. We look forward to sharing more information as planning and work progress.

### Looking Ahead: The 2027 Budget

While we celebrate the opportunities ahead, the Village Board and department heads are already beginning the 2027 budget process.

Just like families and businesses across our area, the Village is facing increasing costs and tighter budgets. We are working hard to balance those challenges while continuing to provide the services our residents know and value.

Every budget decision matters, and our goal is to be thoughtful and responsible with Village resources while maintaining the quality of services our community depends on. We appreciate the work of our department heads, staff, and Village Board as we begin this process.

### School Is Back in Session!

The halls are busy again and our students are back in school!

Please remember to slow down and watch carefully for our students as they walk, bike, ride the bus, and travel to and from school. As the days get shorter and fall weather arrives, taking a few extra seconds to watch for our kids can make a big difference.

And, of course, let's support our Port Edwards Blackhawks! ❤️💙

Our students work hard both in and out of the classroom. Whether it's football, volleyball, cross country, or another activity, I encourage everyone to get out and support our students and coaches. Having the community behind them means so much.

🏡 Thank You for a Great First Port Palooza!

A huge thank you goes out to the area businesses and everyone who helped make our first annual Port Palooza a success!

Port Palooza was created as a family-friendly opportunity for our Village residents to come together and enjoy some time in our community before the craziness of another school year began.

Seeing families, friends, and neighbors gathered together was exactly what we hoped for. I am so grateful to the businesses and individuals who donated their time, resources, and energy to make the event possible.

I am already looking forward to next year's Port Palooza!

🍁 Looking Forward to Fall

There is a lot happening in Port Edwards, and I am excited about where our community is headed. From investing in our infrastructure to supporting our schools and creating opportunities for our residents to come together, there is a lot to be proud of.

Thank you to our residents for your continued support, patience, and involvement in our community. And thank you to all of the staff, volunteers, businesses, and community members who continue to make Port Edwards such a great place to call home.

Have a safe, happy, and beautiful fall, Port Edwards!

— Betsy Mancl  
Village President



### *Greetings from the Port Edwards Police Department!*

The Village Police Department had a great summer. We were able to continue protection of our community and meet more people while doing this. We were also able to work side by side with other village departments and continue to clean up in our community.

#### Reminders

-School is now in session. Please watch for children walking and biking to and from school, as well as our crossing guards helping them safely do so. The speed limit drops to 15 MPH in school zones, which will be monitored by Officers. The parking areas around the Middle/High School has changed. Please familiarize yourself with this.



-November 1st will be here before we know it, and with that date begins the enforcement of the parking ordinance for winter parking. Per Municipal Ordinance 7.06(3), you cannot park vehicles on Village streets between the hours of Midnight and 6:00 am. The intent of this ordinance is to provide an obstacle free environment for the DPW as they plow the Village streets. This provides more safety for them and less chance of damaging your vehicles.

#### Help us Help You

Did you see someone snooping around a car parked on the street? 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 mind set. 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.

*Chief Abbott*

## **Community Calendar Items**

|                |                                                                                         |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Oct. 5</b>  | <b>Hydrant Flushing</b> , Beware of Dirty Water                                         |
| <b>Oct. 6</b>  | <b>Hydrant Flushing</b> , Beware of Dirty Water                                         |
| <b>Oct. 7</b>  | <b>Hydrant Flushing</b> , Beware of Dirty Water                                         |
| <b>Oct. 14</b> | <b>Village Board Meeting</b> , 7:00 pm                                                  |
| <b>Oct. 25</b> | <b>Trunk-or-Treat</b> , 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm                                              |
| <b>Oct. 31</b> | <b>Village "Trick or Treating"</b> , 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm                                 |
| <b>Nov. 1</b>  | <b>Parking Restrictions Begin</b>                                                       |
| <b>Nov. 7</b>  | <b>Port Edwards United Methodist Church Bazaar &amp; Luncheon</b> , 10:00 am to 2:00 pm |
| <b>Nov. 11</b> | <b>Village Board Meeting</b> , 7:00 pm                                                  |
| <b>Nov. 20</b> | <b>Fall Leaf Collection Ends</b>                                                        |
| <b>Nov. 26</b> | <b>Village Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</b>                                  |
| <b>Nov. 27</b> | <b>Village Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</b>                                  |
| <b>Dec. 2</b>  | <b>Village Board Meeting</b> , 7:00 pm                                                  |
| <b>Dec. 13</b> | <b>Tree Lighting Ceremony</b> , 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm                                      |
| <b>Dec. 24</b> | <b>Village Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday</b>                                     |
| <b>Dec. 25</b> | <b>Village Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday</b>                                     |



Does your organization or church have an event you would like publicized? Submit it for the next Village newsletter by stopping at the Municipal Building or calling 715-887-3512 for more information.

## **VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS**

Municipal Building  
201 Market Avenue  
PO Box 10  
Port Edwards, WI 54469  
715-887-3512

### **Village Board**

President: Betsy Mancl

Trustees: Nick Flugaur

Rick Hess

Eric Hummel

Rob O'Connor

Lonn Radtke

Joseph Zurfluh

### **Village Office Staff**

Administrator: Ben Martinson

Clerk-Treasurer: Diane Tremmel

Cashier-Secretary: Kim Holcomb

