

Summer
2025



Sevastopol Town Newsletter

News You Can Use

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Information & Technology Committee News

Broadband Update

Earlier this year, on June 5, AT&T held an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at The Kress Pavilion in Egg Harbor, officially announcing that it will be providing internet service to the Towns of Sevastopol, Egg Harbor and Sturgeon Bay and to the Village of Egg Harbor.

Eileen Mitchel, President of AT&T Midwest States, and Robyn Gruner, Director of External Affairs AT&T WI, spoke enthusiastically about the public-private partnerships with our communities. Special guest, Governor Tony Evers, spoke about the importance of funding for broadband in Wisconsin and the impact connectivity plays in every aspect of our lives.

In addition, a representative from each of the municipalities was invited to speak at the ceremony. As Chair of the Sevastopol Communications & Technology Committee, Jeanne Vogel offered these comments. "Along with members Darrick DeMeuse, Paul Wickmann, Paul Kasreil and special advisor County Supervisor Hugh Zettel, we set a goal to bring reliable high-speed internet to the entire Sevastopol community. Little did we know that this charge would take well over two years to complete! As part of the process, we read reports and studies, mailed out surveys, crafted Requests for Information (RFI) and Requests for Proposals (RFP), and reviewed grant proposals. After receiving responses from five

Internet Service Providers (ISP) and conducting interviews, AT&T was ultimately chosen as our partner.

Upon negotiation, AT&T supported our efforts by agreeing to cover a substantial amount of the cost and was awarded over \$800,000 with a Capitol Projects Fund Grant. The remaining cost was supported by the Town.

A sincere thank you to the Town Board for their support and foresight to bring this needed and necessary technology to the Sevastopol community. We extend our appreciation to the County of Door for their contribution and to Door County Broadband Coordinator Jessica Hatch for providing information, guidance and support on this long journey. Governor Evers, thank you so much for strongly supporting the Broadband effort for the entire state of Wisconsin and being with us. Robyn, thank you for working closely with us. We look forward to our continuing collaboration with AT&T and more frequent updates as the fiber project progresses in Sevastopol." Photos from the June 5th event are available on the Town website.

EXCITING NEWS UPDATE! AT&T anticipates full connectivity for the Town by the second quarter of 2026! Watch for updates on our website as the project moves forward.



Chairman's Chatter

Thinking about running for a local office? Do you feel inspired by the general desire to contribute to your community? Whatever the reason, here are a few thoughts on how you might prepare yourself for the transition to public life.

Know the expectations of the job; yes, it is a job. Although it is parttime, depending on various projects and times of the year, it will require various amounts of personal time on your part.

- ◆ Have a knowledge and understanding of how the Town operates. Attending meetings will help to understand the issues, concerns, budgets and priorities; the better informed you are, the more your contributions will impact and be of value to the Town.
- ◆ What are Robert's Rules of Order? It provides a framework for parliamentary procedure in conducting meetings and making decisions. You can get a copy at any bookstore and it will help guide you.
- ◆ Add yourself to the public meeting notices so you can stay abreast of topics under discussion—you will receive an email copy of every agenda.
- ◆ Attend committee meetings which are open to the public. We have a number of standing committees and commissions. Perhaps you are interested in serving on a committee. The Plan Commission is one that can be complex and deserves a good understanding of the issues.
- ◆ Have a broad perspective; be open to ideas; don't approach the job as a one-issue candidate.
- ◆ Be prepared to work through issues with the Town Board as a team.
- ◆ Enjoy resolving issues and accomplishing goals. Hearing from Town residents that you did a great job or you made a difference will give you a great feeling.

Welcome New Videographer

The Town is pleased to welcome Ryan Hoffmann as its new videographer! Ryan is the owner of FTS Technology, a small business based in Algoma that provides IT (Information & Technology) support and services to local businesses and individuals.

While his professional background is in technology, Ryan has a long-standing interest in DJing and video editing--both of which naturally tie into his passion for technology. His experience with video began back in 2000, when he assisted the Wrightstown School District in launching their digital video editing classroom and student-produced video announcements. Although video remains a hobby rather than a full-time pursuit, Ryan is looking forward to using his skills to help make Town meetings more accessible to residents.

Supervisor Vogel says, "We are pleased to have him involved and appreciate his willingness to support our community in this way."

Time for Road Work

As the saying goes, Wisconsin has two seasons: Winter and Road Construction. These are the projects happening in our Town this season:

- Walker Road from State Hwy 42, westerly to the intersection with Peterson Road
- Erdman Drive from West Shore Road to Town Line Road
- West Whitefish Bay Road from County HH easterly toward State Hwy 42

If you are traveling throughout the State, the Department of Transportation's "511 Wisconsin Construction Projects" provides a full overview of projects with planned start and finish times. Check it out at 511Wi.gov.



Thanks to the Man Behind the Camera!

For the past 20 years, Laddie Chapman has been the Town's "videographer extraordinaire." With the advent of YouTube and the popularity of live broadcast, a Sevastopol Cable Committee was formed in 2002 to investigate the possibility of our own public access station through Charter Communications. We secured a channel and our station was initially housed at Sevastopol School.

When the town hall was built in 2009, the station was moved into a room dedicated to the cable channel. We could now broadcast live recordings and meetings from the town hall and broadcast recordings supplied by other small Public Access TV stations (PEG) and producers from across the state, the nation, and even around the world such as Germany and Australia. When Charter became Spectrum and went all-digital, we became Channel 986. Our TV feed was discontinued in December 2024, but our YouTube channel (Sevastopol-tv@townofsevastopol.com) now hosts our broadcasts. Many of our past events are archived at youtubecom@townofsevastopol.com.

As an independent contractor, Laddie brought his recording talents not only to the Town, but also to a number of annual events and programs throughout our community, preserving our history and making those recordings available not only on the cable channel but also posting them to YouTube. Supervisor Wait recalls, "the Town's Sesquicentennial celebration and parade in June of 2009 remains one of my own most memorable events ever! And, if you have enjoyed the Dairy Breakfast on the Farm, the Valmy Thresheree or the Turkey Trot at the Town park, there is a good chance that you have been on camera." Laddie plans to continue recording community events and these video productions will be available on the Town's YouTube channel.

When asked, "what led you to work in this field?", Laddie responded, "I felt that Door County was deficient in technical expertise that I had or could learn, and behind other small towns and counties in Wisconsin in creating local-access TV. When I found out that the

Town already had an agreement with the cable company and received franchise fees that were designed to support communications, I saw an opportunity to help out our neighbors and keep them informed using modern technology.

And, when asked to "describe one of your favorite recording memories?", his response was "making videos of the Jacksonport Polar Bears, our Sesquicentennial celebration, the Thresheree, and many concerts were memorable, but my favorite was the tour we took inside Cherney Maribel Caves, just south of Door County. Former Sevastopol teacher Mike Madden assisted and Sturgeon Bay caver Gary Soule gave us the tour."

Laddie is also an accomplished musician, adding his piano and musical talents to our annual Christmas party and other occasions.

Laddie, we hope you look back with pride on your recording accomplishments, and we thank you for your important contributions to the Town and our community over the years.



Laddie in his "natural habitat." Clockwise, from left: At the town hall; during a christmas parade, filming the parade from Chuck Tice's truck; Gary Soule takes Mike Madden on a tour of the Mirabel caves; Laddie lifted to get a better vantage point for the Thresheree pig wrestling.





Take a Hike!

Sevastopol has a number of hiking and walking trails, right in our own back yard. Most are in the easy-to-moderate range, but there are a few with uphill and downhill challenges. With so many health benefits, year-round availability and no need for special equipment, check out these rustic trails and groomed paths to clear and calm your mind:

- **Shivering Sands Natural Area** – there are two access points from mid-point Glidden Drive, just west of Lake Michigan; level hike along lakes, streams, wetlands and forests.
- **Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve** – 5454 Bay Shore Drive with stunning views overlooking Green Bay waters; lower and upper trails, with steep incline along the bluff.
- **Pioneer Ecological Reserve** – Dunn Road just east of Institute; with a mission to get kids engaged with the outdoors; pond, creek and bridges on level trails.
- **Whitefish Dunes State Park** – at the end of Clark Lake Road/WD; hiking through the woods, stroll along the white sand beach or climb the staircase to Old Baldy sand dunes.
- **Cave Point Park** – follow Schauer Road past the State park entrance or hike in from connecting trail; rustic path along spectacular Lake Michigan shoreline and other maintained trails throughout.



The Shivering Sands Natural Area is accessed mid-Glidden Drive. The butterfly image is from the Blufflands Preserve on Bay Shore Drive.



Clerk's Corner

Referendums and How They Work

During last fall's election, Clerk Amy Flok was asked by a number of residents about referendums on the ballot and how they work, so "I thought it would be great if everyone knew!"

There are binding referendums, which take effect if approved by the majority of voters. Local school district referendums are binding, often over the span of several years. You can think of that referendum like getting a mortgage for your home and then making the monthly payments to pay it back. If the referendum question passes, the entity can then take out the loan for the amount of the referendum. Every year, taxpayers pay installments of principal plus interest on the loan, based on the term of the loan.

There are other statewide binding referendum questions, such as the request to amend the Wisconsin constitution which passed last fall clarifying voter qualifications. Placing questions on the ballot for statewide referendums requires legislative approval.

There are also advisory referendums used to get the public's opinion on a certain issue but not legally binding. Wisconsin has seen referendum questions on the death penalty, gambling and marijuana legalization.

Sample ballots are published in advance of elections and voters can review referendum language and explanations before going to the polls. In Wisconsin, voters can go to My Vote Wisconsin to see "What's on My Ballot" and find any and all information on voting (<https://myvote.wi.gov>)

Here are the Election dates for 2026. Polling hours are 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

- Primary (if needed) – February 17
- Spring Election – April 7
- Partisan Primary – August 11
- Fall General Election – November 3



Sevastopol Town Park

Every time Supervisor Mark Haen drives past our Town Park ballfields in Institute, he reflects on how fortunate we are to have such an amazing facility. “I think back to the late 1980s and early 1990s and those Board and committee members and volunteers who got this park up and running. The foresight they had back then is keeping us ahead of the rest still to this day! There aren’t many, if any, that can compare to what we have now—all three ballfields lit and with irrigated infields, a pavilion for parties and get-togethers, a concession stand (sometimes open seven days a week), like-new basketball/tennis/pickleball courts, a playground and now brand new restrooms (more on those below). I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone that was involved to make this park what it is today.”

Once again, literally hundreds of kids, adults, families and visitors played games or utilized our Park this summer. As this newsletter hits the press, there are still Institute Cubbies and the perennial Sevastopol Alumni Class Tournaments to be played. The ol’ park has been busy since the snow melted this spring!

Haen also thanks our Park employees, Andrew Flok, Andyn Bruhl and Jack Haen—three young men who keep all our parks and grounds attractive and in good working order for all to enjoy. “Thanks, fellas, for all you do for us.” The Town also maintains the Clark Lake Beach and the Whitefish Bay Boat Launch areas.

You have probably noticed the new structure that was under construction this winter and finished this spring. These are the brand new stand-alone bathrooms! With the help of grants and budgeted funds, this is quite an upgrade from the old original bathrooms that were housed in the concession stand.

Next on the agenda for improvements is exterior siding and a remodel of the block concession stand. Now that it does not have to be shared for bathrooms, the stand can expand internally and make it more “comfortable” for volunteers working there and serving concessions. Haen comments, “we are always trying to improve and maintain the Park and all it offers, and make our forefathers, who first initiated the efforts, and for those generations to come, proud!”



Our new restroom facility at the town park



A night game in the park



The Rooty-Toots pause for a group portrait during a practice session



What Happens at the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station (PARS)?

It all started in 1922 with the University of Wisconsin-Madison's purchase of 100 acres and dairying research carried out on just three cows! Over the years, programs were added, including fruits and grains research. PARS is most notable for the world's largest collection of potato species. The U.S. Potato Genebank collects, classifies, preserves, distributes and evaluates nearly 6,000 samples from about 90 *Solanum* (potato) species that make tubers. Superintendent Becky Wiepz says they are currently supporting projects in cherries, grapes, apples, hazelnuts and a variety of grain and forage crops.

With Door County's abundance of cherry and apple trees, plus the ever-expanding grapevine industry, PARS offers guidance to commercial growers on all aspects of fruit production. There are a variety of free educational programs and publications available for download on the PARS website, how-to's on growing just about anything in Wisconsin, trellising, cold storage of produce, micro-irrigation and much more.

PARS is the official reporter to the National Weather Service/NOAA and offers a pretty reliable 7-day forecast, along with historical weather data.

PARS is also home to the "Garden Door" designed and maintained by the Door County Master Gardeners group. Open seasonally and free to the public, visitors will be amazed at the beauty of roses, perennials, pond aquatics, the fairy garden, kaleidoscope and meditation tunnel.

PARS is located at 4312 Highway 42. Check out the PARS ("USDA/Agricultural Research Service") website at <https://peninsular.ars.wisc.edu>. You can find information on the Garden Door at <https://www.dcmga.org/the-garden-door>.



PENINSULAR RESEARCH STATION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



The view from Highway 42



The garden behind the research station



Dick Weidman leads a tour of the grounds



Sevastopol Historical Society

Submitted by member Linda Wait

Our motto says it all, "There's no time like the present to preserve the past." Starting with just a small group of like-minded history enthusiasts in 2011, the Sevastopol Historical Society (SHS) continues to gather up community stories, family memories and historic photos to present those entertaining and educational stories to the public. There have been a variety of presentations, very well attended, all bringing about an appreciation for the past. Whether it is storytelling by a farm family, a display of logging tools from the 1800s, salutes to our Veterans, recognizing "Cherryland USA" or our most recent production of wedding dresses and stories, they give us a glimpse back on our neighbors, friends and community.

SHS is currently gathering information and photos to present "Sevastopol Barns." Farming continues in our community and we will be telling those barn stories as we go from section to section in the Town. Even though those old barns may be dilapidated or perhaps have disappeared, we will bring them back to life in story and photo.

Our "Salute to Veterans" will return on Sunday afternoon, November 16th. Jean Coogle of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin's director of the nonprofit organization, Stories Behind the Stars, will present her research and writing on fallen WWII servicemen from Door County. Jean's father was in WWII and this is her tribute to honor him and remember the sacrifices made by all who served.

Do you have a story to tell about life in Sevastopol? Do you have old photos that you would like preserved and incorporated into our community's history? Maybe you are interested in membership? You can contact SHS by email at: sevastopolhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or call our Chairman Don Rudolph at (920) 493-5358.

All programs are free, open to the public and held at the Sevastopol town hall in Institute. And, all programs are recorded by Laddie Chapman, with past presentations available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@Shermanbay>.

From the SHS Archives



Shirley Geisel is interviewed by Linda Wait for a recent SHS presentation about Door County Farmer's Wives



Lily Bay log piles



A fruit stand ca. 1940s-1950s



Glidden Drive Public Access Lanes

On behalf of the Town, Supervisor Trent Olsen provides some details about little known ways to enjoy the natural beauty of our area. Many Town residents are unaware of access to some of the nicest, small public beaches on Lake Michigan. Along Glidden Drive, there are six public access lanes, which allow access to beautiful beach areas. Each lane has spots for public parking, and there are clear paths to walk down to the beach. Parking is limited to only a few cars per access lane, which gives you a quiet and near private beach to enjoy.

These lanes are clearly marked as "Public Access", show the size and width of the lane and include Deerpath, Hemlock, Bittersweet, Arrowhead, Goldenrod and White Pine. At each beach, the end of public access is clearly marked showing that areas beyond the signs are private property. Visitors are encouraged to be a good neighbor by respecting the rules.

When visiting these public areas, do not block off the lanes as they are used as driveways for people who live along the public access lanes. Make sure you park off to the side of the lanes to keep driveway access open. Camping and fires are not allowed on the public access lanes, and the lanes close each night at 10:00 pm.

These public access lanes along Glidden Drive are available to all Sevastopol residents, so bring your families and friends and enjoy these beautiful beaches!



Editor's Note: Not all lanes on Glidden are public, only the southern ones from Lily Bay Boat Ramp north to White Pine. The northern half are owned by the Glidden Drive Assn, and some are only 6 feet wide. For more detail on all the lanes, go to the town's web site and select *Community*. On that page you will see a link to an extract from the 2009 Sesquicentennial book.



At the left is a map from the County's files showing the portion of Glidden Drive around Shivering Sand Creek bridge. The Town Park is outlined in yellow; note that it doesn't continue to the shore. Bittersweet Lane is shown from Glidden Drive to the beach. Also shown is Schmock Drive, platted in 1937, but never built.



Neighborhood Feature: Glidden Drive Association

We have incorporated a new section into our newsletter and hope to feature our Sevastopol neighborhoods. We will kick this off with some history and information from Glidden Drive Association (GDA).

In the early 1920s, Orrin Glidden, a banker from Indiana, vacationed in Egg Harbor and became a founding father in the development of the Alpine Resort and golf course. When he came upon the sand beaches and heavily wooded lands along Lake Michigan, the entrepreneur in Mr. Glidden foresaw a perfect location for vacation homes, whereupon he hired his acquaintance Ewald Schmock to construct a winding road through the woodlands and along the shore and, as one would say, "the rest is history."

GDA President Jean Elste tells us that the neighborhood association was formed in the summer of 1962, when residents decided earlier in the year to form an organization to maintain the use and development of the area, while

protecting the environment. One of the missions of the GDA is to preserve Glidden Drive's "Rustic Road" status with the State of Wisconsin, a designation which offers hikers, bicyclists and motorists an opportunity to leisurely travel through scenic countrysides.

The GDA website, www.gliddendriveassoc.com, contains the history of the Association, along with the current by-laws and guidelines, meeting minutes, a calendar of sponsored events and other membership information. Yearly events include a Glidden Drive rummage sale, 4th of July food drive, annual meeting and picnic. Lastly, GDA hosts a Holiday celebration at the Sevastopol town hall in December where we are led in song by two members of The Gliddits, a local band.

Membership is voluntary with current annual dues at \$35. By being a member, you can also participate in the group propane program to lock in rates. If you are a resident of The Drive and interested in membership, just go to the website and hit the membership tab.



A Fall scene on one of many Glidden Drive curves.



For a fascinating story about Glidden Drive and Door County history told by one of the Glidden Drive Estates developers, John Brogan, go to the YouTube site youtube.com/@shermanbay. If the video is not on top, search that site for "Brogan Moss Glidden."



2025 Sevastopol Dairy Breakfast



Thanks to the Wilke Family for hosting this year's Sevastopol FFA Alumni "Breakfast on the Farm" on July 6th. Here are some scenes from the event.



Denise Plasmeyer interviews Miss Dairyland, Haley Heinzl.



Above: Making scrambled eggs with ham, to be served with pancakes and real Wisconsin butter. Below: Abby and Ellie are miniature donkeys.



Kids enjoy the farm's petting zoo.





Role of the Plan Commission

The Sevastopol Plan Commission exists to help the Town in current and future planning and development based on our Comprehensive Plan. Our Plan Commission consists of seven members, at least three of which are “citizen” members who are not municipal officials. The Commission provides recommendations to the Town Board when it comes to land use and requests for conditional use permits and zoning matters

For many years, the Town has been and remains under the jurisdiction of the Door County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and other County ordinances regulating land use. The Door County Resource Planning Committee (RPC), the County’s Board of Adjustment (BOA) and in some instances, the County Board of Supervisors, preside over various land use requests and make the ultimate decision to grant or deny. However, the Town is encouraged to weigh in on matters and provide its reasoning or basis as to recommending support of or denial of requests when it comes to land use in Sevastopol.

Some examples of those requests (in petition or application form) are:

- Request from variance as to setbacks (from road, from side lot, from shore, etc.). For example, request to remove an existing cottage and build a new home with a reduced setback from shore less than the required 75 feet – would be heard by the BOA.

- Request for conditional use permit (CUP). In this case, the activity is allowed in that zoning district, but conditions can be set, such as operating hours, screening from view, outdoor lighting, signage and require that new structures fit with the existing neighborhood – would come before the RPC.

- Zoning text amendments / request for zoning change. For example, a petition to rezone from Countryside to Commercial Center to allow for commercial storage or some other commercial use – would come before the RPC.

Under Wisconsin’s open meeting laws, all meetings of the Plan Commission must be open to the public and preceded by proper notice. In addition, owners of neighboring properties of the subject parcel are also notified and encouraged to attend meetings.



Photo by Matt Orthober



Town Meeting Schedule

All board and town meetings are held at 7 PM at the
Town Hall in Institute unless otherwise specified

August 18
September 15
October 20
November 17
December 15

2026 Budget Work Session
Tuesday, October 14, 5:30PM

Special Town & 2026 Budget Meeting
Monday, November 17, 6PM

Christmas Party
Friday, December 5, 5PM

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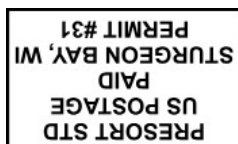
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