



VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE NEWSLETTER



Fall/Winter 2014



CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

OCTOBER

4TH OCTOBER IN THE PARK (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
Application for vendors can be found on SABA tab on Village website at www.villageofstockbridge.org

5TH OCTOBER "FAST" - STOCKBRIDGE PTO SPONSORED 5K RUN/WALK
Interested in participating? Get the registration form on the Stockbridge PTO Facebook page or pick one up at school. \$10/child 12 or under & \$20/person over 12.

31ST TRICK OR TREATING, BRAT FRY AT PARK AND COSTUME CONTEST AT FIRE STATION
Stockbridge's tradition is to always hold trick or treating on Halloween! Participating homes should put on porch lights. Ghosts & goblins will be out from 5 – 7, with costume contest at Fire Station to follow.

NOVEMBER

4TH GENERAL ELECTION
Polling place for the Town & Village of Stockbridge's registered voters is at the Community Hall (attached to the Fire Station) at 175 S. Military Rd. All pertinent election information can be found on the Village website at www.villageofstockbridge.org.

8TH ANNUAL STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOLS CRAFT FAIRE
Located in the Middle & High School gyms from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Great variety of 80+ arts & crafts vendors! If you are interested in being a vendor, contact Joanne at 439-1487.

FEBRUARY

14TH – 1ST OF MARCH STURGEON SPEARING SEASON
Participate in this time honored tradition by obtaining your license from the DNR by October 31st.

FEBRUARY

17TH PRIMARY ELECTION
Polling place for the Town & Village of Stockbridge's registered voters is at the Community Hall (attached to the Fire Station) at 175 S. Military Rd. All pertinent election information can be found on the Village website at www.villageofstockbridge.org.

MARCH

7TH STURGEON BANQUET
Join the camaraderie that only the Sturgeon Spearing season can bring to the Lake Winnebago area! Share stories of the season and celebrate with the honorees that speared the largest fish! Great raffle prizes, award ceremony, food & beverages! Tickets will be available at the State Bank of Chilton – Stockbridge location.

APRIL

7TH SPRING ELECTION
Polling place for the Town & Village of Stockbridge's registered voters is at the Community Hall (attached to the Fire Station) at 175 S. Military Rd. All pertinent election information can be found on the Village website at www.villageofstockbridge.org.




OVERNIGHT PARKING

Quick reminder that the overnight parking restrictions will be enforced starting:

November 15th through March 31st.



TAX BILL BASICS

The responsibility of the Village’s appointed Assessor, Grota Appraisal, is to discover, list, and value uniformly all taxable property in the Village. This work is done to ensure the equitable distribution of the total tax burden within the community. It does not determine the total amount of revenues to be raised.

The tax levy is established by the State, County, local municipality, and school districts, to cover their expenses. The total tax levy is then divided among all owners in proportion to the amount of property they own. These breakdowns are shown on your tax bill.

The local treasurer collects your full payment (if made by January 31st) or your first installment payment. All local municipal treasurers are then responsible for paying out to the other taxing entities (ie...County, State, FVTC & local schools) their proportionate share of the taxes collected by January 31st.

All second installment payments are to be paid directly to the Calumet County Treasurer, as indicated on your tax bill.

VILLAGE BUDGETING & TAX LEVY BASICS



As mentioned above, your property tax bill consists of money needed by the State of WI, Calumet County, FVTC, local public school and the Village (no, the Village does not keep all the money collected by taxes).

The typical breakout of a tax bill for Village residents will look like this:

- LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT: 51% of total tax bill
- CALUMET COUNTY: 24% of total tax bill
- VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE: 16% of total tax bill
- FOX VALLEY TECH: 8% of total tax bill
- STATE OF WI: 1% of total tax bill

So, how does your Village elected officials set the tax levy for the Village? This process starts in September with a budget work session meeting. The current year’s expenses and revenues are reviewed during this meeting. There is also a large spreadsheet that the Village Board members review with approximately (90) different budget line items. These line items are broken down by expenses and receipts. The Board carefully reviews all projects or needs in all areas of budget expenses, including streets, parks, Fire Department, insurance, snow removal, public safety, planning/engineering, community development and more.

These budgetary numbers are also weighed against any changes in expected revenue (keep in mind that the State has cut shared revenue to local municipalities in the past years). Not only have there been cuts in revenue, the State has also imposed levy limits!

What is a levy limit? Well, let’s clarify what a levy is first. The tax levy is the amount of money needed, from tax payers, for a municipality to operate. As a simple example, let’s look at it this way:

Example: The Village anticipates receiving revenue from the State Shared Revenue program, State road aids, licenses, permits and fees in the amount of \$200,000 but the expenses to run the Village are anticipated to be \$450,000, the difference of \$250,000 if the amount of money (or levy) that the Village will need to ask the tax payers to cover.

The levy limit imposed by the State of Wisconsin is calculated by a worksheet and the Village cannot exceed the levy that the State imposes without a referendum.

At the time this newsletter was printed, the Board was still in their budget process. Updated tax breakouts can be found on the Village’s website at www.villageofstockbridge.org on the Tax & Assessment tab or can be viewed in person at the Village office or a request for information can be emailed to the Clerk at villageofstockbridge@tds.net.

Watch for postings on the public posting board, Mud Creek Coffee bulletin board, Post Office bulletin board or on the Village website for all budget work session and budget adoption meeting dates. All meetings are open to the public.

Tax Collection Hours: The Village office is open for in-person tax collection Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (closed during the lunch hour) from the day the tax bills are mailed until January 31st. Any exceptions to these hours due to an outside meeting or illness are always posted on the front door.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Eve (12/24): Closed
Christmas (12/25): Closed
Friday (12/26): 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Monday – Wednesday (12/29 - 12/31): 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
New Year's (1/1): Closed

The secure drop box located near the front door of the Village office is always available: 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Any payment deposited in the drop box on or before December 31st is entered as a payment made & applied in 2014. Any payments dropped off by January 31st are considered a timely payment.

Payments can also be mailed to Village of Stockbridge, PO Box 292, Stockbridge WI 53088. Mailed payments postmarked by December 31st will be entered as a payment in 2014. Payments postmarked by January 31st are entered as a timely first installment payment. If you require a receipt to reflect your payment date for your accountant or tax preparer, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your payment.

If your bank, mortgage or escrow company forwards your tax payment to the Village, but you'd also like confirmation that the payment has been received, please call to inquire at 439-1700 or email your inquiry to villageofstockbridge@tds.net.

If you've received an escrow check that is for more than the tax amount, refund checks will be cut & mailed on a bi-monthly schedule.

Check out the FAQ tab on the Village website at www.villageofstockbridge.org. Great spot to find quick answers to your questions!

SIDEWALK SAFETY AFTER SNOW EVENTS



I'm sure that most of us do not even want to think about snow, but the reality is...it's just around the corner.

With that in mind, the Village would like to remind all residents that there is a Village ordinance (4.06) that states that ***all sidewalks must be shoveled and clear of ice within (14) hours of each snow event.***

If the Village has to have it removed, then a special charge will be assessed to the property owner's tax bill.



SUMP PUMP DISCHARGE

Disconnect sump pump discharges that flow to the street and redirect the flow onto your own property between **November 1st and April 1st.**

This is done to prevent ice buildup on the sidewalks and into the streets which could create a hazard to both motorists and pedestrians.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PILING BRANCHES AND BRUSH RIGHT NEXT TO THE SIGNS AT THE YARD WASTE SITE.

PLEASE KEEP THE PILE AT LEAST 15 FEET AWAY FROM THE DUMPSTER OR SIGNS

Notice of Sewer Utility Rate Increase for 2015

Effective January 1, 2015 the Village of Stockbridge Sewer Utility rates will change. The current sewer utility rates are:

Service Charge – Flat \$22.00 per month

Volume Charge – \$0.70 per 1,000 gallons of water usage

Small Business – Flat \$4.53 additional per month

Large Business – Flat \$10.19 additional per month

The New Rates are as follows:

Service Charge – Flat \$25.00 per month

Volume Charge - \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons of water usage

Small Business – Flat \$5.15 additional per month

Large Business – Flat \$11.58 additional per month

When will the increase go into effect? These New Rates will be charged to customers on the bill they will receive in the beginning of February 2015. The bill customers receive in January is for the previous month which would be December 2014 and February would be for January 2015.

When were the Sewer Utility Rates raised last? The Sewer Utility Rates were increased in 2000 from base rate of \$15.00 up to \$17.00 and volume to 50 cents per 1,000 gallons water sold. In 2010 the base rate was set at \$17.00 and increased to \$22.00 and the volume increased to 70 cent per 1,000 gallons water sold.

Why the need to increase rates? Unfortunately due to the aging of the system and increase operation costs, the Sewer Utility has to undergo this increase in rates. The Sewer Utility is governed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Sewer Utility whereas the Water Utility is governed by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC). The Sewer Utility was advised to increase its assets in our Depreciation Fund. The Depreciation Fund is for the replacement and repair of aging equipment. The Sewer Utility has exhausted this fund during a recent five year manhole rehabilitation project which was around \$120,000.

Why the large change in volume rates? The biggest difference in our rate structure is the large increase in our volume billing. After comparing our rates to other surrounding communities, the Sewer Utility Commissioners realized our billing structure is different than others. Most other communities have large volume charges with smaller base rates. Our base rates were comparable to other municipalities but our volume billings was extremely low. The Utility Commissioners had deliberated several months on how to set our billing structure.

Why increase both base rates and volume charges? The decision to raise both service and volume rates was made for several reasons. The biggest was that the Village of Stockbridge Water Utility as well as all other water municipalities are selling less water each year due to the efficiency of water devices and consumer conservation. What that means is if the Sewer Utility raises only volume rates, the annual income would decrease each year due to less water usage. The decision to raise service base rates would then give the utility a guaranteed budgeting income number rather than the varying one of a volume usage income. The other big issue is the Village of Stockbridge does not have enough new customers to cover the general increased in operations costs therefore those increases will be the burden of current customers.

If there are questions or comments regarding any information provided, do not hesitate to contact the Utility Clerk, Cindy Strebe or any of the Sewer Utility Commissioners, Roman Kappus Jr. (Chairman), Dean Bornemann, James Ecker , Bruce Rubin, Chuck Schumacher, and Amy Zahringer.



IT WILL BE SNOWMOBILE SEASON SOON! REMINDERS FOR ALL OF OUR SNOW ENTHUSIASTS



The Calumet Sno Trails club obtains permission from the Village to properly mark trails leading into the Village limits - primarily to gain access for fueling at the gas station and allowing riders an access point and area to park snowmobiles, if they wish to patronize Village businesses.

For as much as we like to promote this winter sport and accommodate a connection for the rider and our businesses, we need to remind all riders that they must also be mindful of all the rules set forth by the trail club, our Village Ordinances 5.01 and Calumet County law enforcement.

Please also keep in mind that the Village contracts with the Calumet County Sheriff's Department for its law enforcement and protection. Contact them at 849-2335 if you wish to report any law enforcement concerns.

PLEASE STAY ON ALL MARKED TRAILS AND REFRAIN FROM RIDING THE PLOWED SNOW HILL THAT ACCUMULATES ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE GAS STATION!



FALL REMINDERS FOR YOUR PROPERTY

As you plan your Fall yard clean up, please be mindful that no resident is permitted to store or accumulate on their property, unsightly items such as unlicensed or inoperable vehicles, junk, or salvage.



YARD WASTE

When clearing leaves and garden debris from your property, refrain from raking or blowing anything into the Village streets or storm sewers.



Yard waste is to be disposed of at the Yard Waste Site on West Lake Street, by the Sewer Treatment Plant.



COMMUNITY HALL IS AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Many residents are not aware that our Community Hall (room attached to the Fire Station) is available for rent. With its kitchenette, bathrooms and ample seating, it would be a great venue for your shower, family gathering or large group meeting.

To view the rental application and the outline of stipulations, go to the FAQ tab on the village website or contact the Clerk at 439-1700.



NOVEMBER 11TH



ELECTION INFORMATION

VOTER RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Wisconsin voter, you have rights, but also responsibilities to ensure that your vote is counted in all Wisconsin elections.

The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the elections in the State of Wisconsin. To view all of the up to date voter information, go to their website at gab.wi.gov or call their toll free voter help line at **1-866-VOTE-WIS**.

Municipal Clerks are trained by and follow the directives of the G.A.B. when administering elections.

A great deal of information can and has changed from year to year and even between elections, so it is imperative that voters take responsibility to make sure they are registered to vote under their proper name & address.

If you have not voted in the municipality that you were registered to vote in for four (4) years, the State of WI processes what is called a four-year voter maintenance to clean up the poll books.

A post card is mailed, by the State, to your registered address to confirm if you would like to remain active on the voter listing for that municipality. The postcard is titled "Notice of Suspension," and asks voters if they wish to remain active in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS). Voters have one month to contact their municipal clerk with a return postcard to maintain their active status on the voter

list. Voters who do not respond to the postcard, or whose postcard is returned as undeliverable by the Post Office, will be marked as inactive on the voter list by the State of WI. You will then need to re-register to vote at the next election if your registration has become inactive.

"This mailing is not designed to keep any active voter's name off the poll list," says the G.A.B. "Rather, its purpose is to help Wisconsin maintain accurate and quality voter data, and make sure every voter's name and address is correct and current, and to remove names of voters that no longer wish to vote from that municipality's poll lists."

Voters who have changed their names or addresses should not return the card, but instead re-register under their new name or at their new address. Voters can start the registration process online at the MyVote Wisconsin website at <http://myvote.wi.gov>, as well as check their registration status and voting history.

NOVEMBER 4, 2014

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. is the General Election

There are links on the Village website that will take you directly to the pages on the G.A.B. website that deal with Registering to Vote and Absentee Voting. The Village web address is www.villageofstockbridge.org.



PLEASE ADOPT A HYDRANT



Please refrain from blowing snow on top of the hydrant near your home or business and keep it free from snow during the winter months.



HOW DOES ONE GET ONTO THE VILLAGE BOARD?

The answer is...to be nominated by another resident at the **Village Caucus** and then complete the necessary paperwork to be placed on the April Election ballot.

Any person who is a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older, who has resided within the municipality for at least 28 days before the caucus is a qualified elector.

To further clarify what a Caucus is: A Caucus is a gathering of the people of the community to make a nomination. If more than two candidates are nominated for one trustee position, the number of candidates is cut to two by an elimination ballot held at the Caucus.

It is always best to confirm that an individual will accept the nomination before nominating them at the Caucus. Without this they may refuse the

position, with the person who would have run for the position having been eliminated. The ballot then has an open position and is left to a write-in-candidate. If no one runs as a write-in, the position is filled by Village Board appointment.

There is no spring primary for village offices when the caucus system is used. However, there may still be a February primary conducted within the Village for state, county or school district candidates.

Watch for the public postings or on the Village website as to the date & time of the Village Caucus held in January 2015.

Positions open for nomination are three Village Trustees and one Village President. Incumbents for the Trustees are Dean Bornemann, Tim Lemke & Greg Zickuhr. Incumbent for the Village President is Roman Kappus Jr.



CROSSWALK SAFETY

Did you know that both drivers and pedestrians have significant responsibilities when it comes to crossing at a crosswalk? Wisconsin State Statute 346.24 describes a driver's responsibility as follows:

At an intersection or crosswalk where traffic is not controlled by traffic control signals or by a traffic officer, the driver shall yield to a pedestrian, bicyclist or person riding an electric mobility device. Whenever a vehicle is stopped at an intersection or crosswalk to permit a pedestrian, bicyclist or rider of a mobility device to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

The pedestrian's responsibilities are as follows:

No pedestrian, bicyclist or rider of a mobility device shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk, run or ride into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is difficult for the operator to yield.

FRIENDLY REMINDER:

ALL DOGS (5 months or older)
MUST BE
LICENSED



IT'S A WISCONSIN STATE LAW

All dog licenses expire each December 31st & must be renewed on an annual basis

When licensing your dog for the first time, a current rabies vaccination is required, along with the \$3 (spayed/neutered) or \$8 (non-spayed/neutered) fee. This can be left in the secure drop box, if the office is closed, or mailed to PO Box 292 Stockbridge WI 53088 and the paperwork and tag will be mailed to you.



OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Water & Sewer Related Questions: 439-1220 Calumet County Sheriff Dept: 849-2335
 Advanced Disposal: 849-9544 ext. 104 Grota Appraisals (Assessor): 262-253-1442
 Building Inspector: 849-9274 or 378-2857

2015 GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>EXCEPTIONS</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>EXCEPTIONS</u>
JANUARY	2, 8, 15, 22, 29	PICK-UP MOVED TO 2 ND	JULY	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	
FEBRUARY	5, 12, 19, 26		AUGUST	6, 13, 20, 27	
MARCH	5, 12, 19, 26		SEPTEMBER	3, 11, 17, 24	PICK-UP MOVED TO 11TH
APRIL	2, 9, 16, 23, 30		OCTOBER	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	
MAY	7, 14, 21, 29	PICK-UP MOVED TO 29 TH	NOVEMBER	5, 12, 19, 27	PICK-UP MOVED TO 27TH
JUNE	4, 11, 18, 25		DECEMBER	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	

VILLAGE GARBAGE & RECYCLING COLLECTION IS ON THURSDAYS, WITH EXCEPTIONS DUE TO HOLIDAYS

VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE
“Sturgeon Center of the World”
POST OFFICE BOX 292
STOCKBRIDGE WI 53088-0292

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our newsletter is published two times a year and mailed to all Village of Stockbridge property owners. It is also available on our website at www.villageofstockbridge.org
