Village of Stockbridge

Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2011

If we had no winter, the spring and summer would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. ~Anne Bradstreet

REVISED VILLAGE OFFICE HOURS FOR THE SUMMER

Hopefully most of you have had a chance to meet me - Lisa Averkamp, the new Village Clerk/Treasurer, over the last few months.

I will continue to maintain my presence in the Village Office four days a week, but the day that the office is closed will change from Friday to Thursday.

So the Village Office hours from June 6th until September 1st will be as follows:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Lunch from 12:00 – 1:00

CLOSED ON THURSDAYS

If you ever need to drop something off for any Village representative, outside regular office hours, there is a secure drop box near the front door.

PET REMINDERS!

Village pet ownership ordinance details the following:

- Dogs are not allowed in public areas including the Village parks, school grounds or Firemans/Legion Park.
- License your dog on an annual basis & proof of vaccination is required. **THIS IS PURSUANT TO SECTION 174.052 OF THE WISCONSIN STATUTES. IF YOU HAVE NOT LICENSED YOUR DOG BY JULY 1ST, YOUR NAME WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE CALUMET COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AS REQUIRED UNDER STATE STATUTE 174.12(4).**
- Keep it from chasing vehicles on public streets.
- Prevent it from assaulting any person/animal.
- Keep it on a leash, when not in your yard.
- Curtail barking or howling.
- Provide immediate attention to any danger of rabies.
- Clean up any waste your animal may leave behind. **NO PROPERTY OWNER SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING UP AFTER YOUR DOG, IN THEIR YARD.**
- Abide by maximum ownership numbers.

The Village contracts with Critter Sitters to pick up any stray dogs. Before return to the owner they are authorized to see that the dog has been properly licensed and vaccinated. There is an established reclaim fee structure for return of dogs that are picked up more than once.

VILLAGE WATER UTILITY UPDATES

On April 18, 2011, the Village of Stockbridge Water Utility filed a rate increase application with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC).

Please note, the Village of Stockbridge Water Utility has never raised rates since the inception of the Water Utility in May of 1996. After (15) years, the Water Utility Commission has determined that the Utility needs to raise its rates in order to stay financially stable.

As a customer, you may question – ***another*** rate increase? To clarify, in January of 2010, the Village of Stockbridge Sewer Utility raised the sewer utility rates. The Water & Sewer Utilities share the cost of printing and mailing only one billing card and, as a customer, you have the ability to pay one sum for both services. Although, it's important to clarify that all funds billed & received are completely separate. The Water Utility and the Sewer Utility are two separate entities. They are not only separated financially, but they are also managed by two different government agencies, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (Water) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Sewer).

There are two main reasons for the rate increase. The first is that the expenses to operate the Water Utility have continued to rise over the past (15) years. The Water Utility splits what is collected monthly – three different ways. The Water Utility deposits about 50% of collections towards the Water Utility Bond Redemption Fund, which is used to make loan payments. Five percent is applied toward the Depreciation Fund which is used for repairs or replacement of equipment within the water system. The remainder is put into the Operations Fund which pays the monthly expenses of the utility.

There are rising monthly expenses, such as, power utility charges, chlorine used to treat the water, and expenses associated with the operation & maintenance. Ultimately, as the Water Utility continues to age, overall maintenance expenses continue to rise.

The second reason for an increase is because we are selling less water. The reality is, the Water Utility is in the business of selling water. As consumers become more conscientious of their water usage and the appliances in our homes become more energy-efficient, the overall water usage declines. The Village does whole-heartedly promote water conservation, but this ultimately does affect the funds in which the Utility needs to operate.

The method of billing for water may also change due to PSC regulations and policies.

As of right now, the Village of Stockbridge <u>does not</u> know the amount or percentage of the increase. The application process is as follows:

- Water Utility submits the application
- PSC reviews the Utilities' financial data and operation expenses
- PSC determines exactly what the new rates will be for Public Fire Protection Services, General Metered Service & Volume Charges
- Public hearing scheduled to review the new rate structure, as set forth by the PSC.

Please note that the Village Water Utility does not have the ability to raise or lower the rates set by the PSC.

We will continue to keep our residents informed of this progress. Please watch for updates on the Village website or for the posting of the public hearing posted at the Village Office, Post Office and Mud Creek bulletin board.

VILLAGE WEBSITE

We again wanted to make all the residents aware of the Village website. The URL address is www.villageofstockbridge.org.

There is so much information available on the site – check it out!

There is a great "Frequently Asked Questions" tab near the top of the home page. This tab is designed to offer quick guidance to your questions. If you have a suggestion for any additional questions on this tab – let us know!
Remember, this site was designed as a service to our residents. We welcome your feedback on the usefulness of the site or any suggestions for improvement. Please email comments to villageofstockbridge@tds.net.

YARD WASTE DUMPSTER

The yard waste dumpster is delivered in early spring to the parking lot just south of the Community Hall. It is provided as a **service** to our local **Village residents** to dispose of their yard waste. The dumpster remains at this site through the end of November. It is dumped on a weekly basis (typically Tuesdays), but during times of extensive usage, a second dump may be called in. The Village asks that you keep the area surrounding the dumpster clear of debris. If the dumpster is full during your drop-off, please take your material back with you and inform the Village Office that the dumpster is full. This information can be relayed by stopping into the office, calling 439-1700 or emailing the Clerk at villageofstockbridge@tds.net.

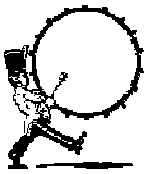
NOTICE: The Village recently had to pay an additional $175.00 to have a separate dumpster delivered so that the large amount of junk/garbage that was put into our yard waste dumpster could be removed. Situations like this will be monitored and, if they continue, the Village will be forced to remove the yard waste dumpster all together.

GENERAL REMINDERS

Just as we all do a little "spring cleaning" on our homes, we are asking that all participate in a little housekeeping of the Village. Please abide by our local ordinances and see that your sidewalks are kept free of encumbrances and are safe. Along with this, we all need to remember **not** to blow our grass clippings out onto the curb or street. Eventually they end up in the storm sewer and we all pay to have it cleaned out. ***Please***, if you must blow into the roadway, sweep and clean it up after you cut. This is required by Village Ordinance. If the storm sewer inlet in front of your property is clogged with debris, take the time to remove it. It protects **your** property.

A NOTE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF!

Please know that effective February 1, 2011 Wisconsin Act 158 requires carbon monoxide (CO) alarm devices in all single-family and duplex dwellings. The new law specifies that CO alarms must be installed on each floor level including the basement. Attics and garages are exempt, as are storage areas.



FIREMEN'S
PICNIC & PARADE

MARK YOU CALENDARS!

JULY 16TH & 17TH

PARADE AT 11 A.M. ON JULY 17TH

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

THE UW-MADISON MARCHING BAND SPONSORED BY

STOCKBRIDGE ENGINEERING

REMINDER ABOUT 2nd INSTALLMENT PROPERTY TAXES

If you chose to pay your property taxes in installments, your second payment is due by July 31, 2011. Checks should be made payable to the **CALUMET COUNTY TREASURER** and mailed to: **Calumet County Treasurer**, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014-1198.

The Village Clerk/Treasurer does not collect these second installment taxes at the Village office.

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS

The Village would like to say thank you to those that work so hard on the Community Enhancements committee. As always, the Village planters look great and we all enjoy the extra things that you do to make our Village a beautiful and welcoming community.

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