



Village of Highland

Fall 2008 Newsletter

VILLAGE BOARD Meets 1st Monday at 6 p.m.

President Neil Michek	929-4686
Trustee George Wallenkamp Park Committee Chair	929-7676
Trustee Dennis Richgels Industrial Development Committee Chair	929-7665
Trustee Teresa Bomkamp Law Enforcement Committee Chair	929-4823
Trustee Doug Oleson Water/Sewer Committee Chair	929-7580
Trustee Deb Wolfe Public Property Committee Chair	929-7680
Trustee John Kreul Streets/Sidewalk Committee Chair	929-7719

VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

Tom Hebgen Director of Public Works DPW	929-4848
Steve McGuire Maintenance	929-4848
Lloyd Schwingle, Darrell Kreul Part-time maintenance	929-4848
Daniel Swinehart Police Officer-in-Charge	929-7999
Theresa Michek Clerk-Treasurer	929-7781
Becky Fredericks Deputy Clerk-Treasurer/CDBG Admin.	929-7781

VILLAGE PLAN COMMISSION

Neil Michek, Chair	929-4686
Dennis Richgels	929-7665
Pat Hying	929-7615
Tom Benish	929-4589
Terry Bomkamp	929-4823
Scott Mensch	929-4534
Mark Fitchett	929-7550

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Patrick McGuire, Chair	929-7700
Joe Richgels	929-7408
Mary Benish	929-7647
Cheryl Bosch	929-7460
Mark Laufenberg	929-7468
George Wallenkamp, Alternate	929-7676
Tony Kaster, Alternate	929-4548

OFFICE HOURS

Maintenance 782 Main Street	M-F 7 am- noon; 12:30-3:30 pm Sat 7 am –11 am
Clerk-Treasurer 530 Main Street	M-F 8 a.m. – noon; 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Law Enforcement 530 Main Street	Unstructured

STORM SEWER INFILTRATION.

With the excessive rains this past June, the Village Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) has experienced excessive storm water infiltration into the sanitary sewer system. The Village is still treating approximately 100% more clear water than used water in the sanitary sewer system. The sanitary sewer system is running beyond its designed capacity.

All storm water and other clear water from sump pumps, roof drains, cistern overflows, and building foundation drains are not allowed to be connected directly or indirectly to the sanitary sewer system as per the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Administrative Code, Section NR 110. A majority of the clear water is generated from basement sump pumps hooked into the sanitary sewer system. The Village has the authority to inspect premises for inappropriate connections. The Village Board encourages people to notify/work with Tom Hebgen (929-4848) if they have a sump pump, roof drain or foundation drain that are tied to the sanitary sewer system. Compliance with the building code for sump pumps, roof drains, cistern overflows and foundation drains is not optional.

Some of the clear water may infiltrate in thru manholes. The Village is working to resolve this matter.

The excessive infiltration of clear/illegal water in the sanitary sewer system causes abnormal wear and tear on the pumps, leading to early retirement/replacement of equipment. There are additional costs for electricity and chemicals to treat the clear water. The sewer utility is barely covering the normal operation and maintenance cost now. Village residents can not afford to pay for treatment of clear water. Compliance with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Administrative Code, Section NR 110 is imperative. For everyone's benefit please, please redirect all storm water and other clear water from sump pumps, roof drains, cistern overflows, and building foundation drains from the sanitary sewer system.

Thank You

WOW! What a fantastic Our Town celebration the Village of Highland had this year. The chicken barbeque lived up to all the expectations that Highland is noted for. People from all over enjoyed the delicious meal – even people from Illinois, Iowa and Colorado. There were groups from 1 to 20 that devoured the finger-licking-chicken. The comment was heard that Highland’s cookers really take pride in cooking the chicken with its lightly-browned crispy skin and succulent moist meat. Over 800 chicken halves were grilled and served with cole-slaw, chips, beans and a roll.

Kastner Pyrotechnics’ fireworks display was absolutely magnificent – the ground displays, the sky-lighters and especially the finale when the earth trembled. We were told to expect the unexpected - and the unexpected was delivered. After the powered parachute flyover Village President, Neil Michek, presented an appreciation plaque to Ted Kastner for the years of wonderful displays. Ted Kastner added extra fireworks to this years display as Kastner Pyrotechnics was celebrating its 20th anniversary and the Village of Highland was celebrating its 135th anniversary as an incorporated village. This was Ted’s last display as the owner of Kastner Pyrotechnics. Ted & Jeri will still be "part of the package" with the new owners, at least for the coming year.

We realized our key objective of having fun, acknowledging that Highland is a great community to live in and paying tribute to people active in Military Service. It takes hundreds of people to put on an event like this --- people from the Village of Highland, people from the Township of Highland, people that live in neither the Village nor the Township. All join together to make this a community event and have fun. Although many people were involved in making this celebration happen, it could not be a success without all the people who came to celebrate and enjoy some part of this fantastic day. The comment that “this was like the celebrations we used to have” was heard many times. Many people made cash donations or gave us their precious time in helping with all the activities. The Village of Highland is very appreciative of all donations and is still accepting donations towards this year’s festivities.

The proceeds from this year’s Our Town celebration will be applied to park improvements. Currently the Village Board is looking for the best option to construct a new chicken pit shelter so the chicken cookers have a roof overhead. The Village has some funds on hand from the Allen and Alice Halverson Estate that will be applied to the new shelter also.

Please mark your calendars for next year’s Our Town celebration, July 25, 2009 – always the fourth Saturday of July.

WELCOME TO HIGHLAND

The Village of Highland welcomes new people and businesses to Highland. We apologize if we miss someone in the listing but hope that they know they are welcome in the Highland Community. We welcome Jacob & Kelly Riley, Brian & Waneta Kutzke Family, Tom Fries, Kim Nobel, Jake & Lynn Tarrell Family, Brad Wilson & Samantha Strait, Marianne Peterson (Dennis & Gail Richgels’ exchange student).

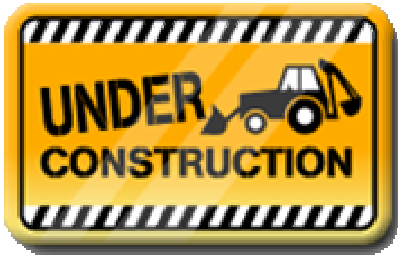
UTILITY BILL CONFUSION

Many residents have asked about their utility bills – why do I get monthly bills – why does my bill show “0” usage – why is one month’s bill larger than the previous month? Hopefully by this time everyone understands the utility billing process. Residents should have been aware that there would be a substantial water rate increase in 2008. The Village Board intended that monthly billing would be beneficial for consumers’ budgeting, especially those on fixed incomes. The bills aren’t the same every month. Those with higher water usages see significant differences. The Board recognizes that some disagree with the monthly billing process. The first and second month of every quarter the Village sends out a base charge bill for water, public fire protection, sewer, garbage and recycling. This amounts to \$35.15 for single family users. The third month of the quarter includes the monthly base charge plus the usage for the quarter. The base charge covers the water and sewer debt service. Please read your monthly bill carefully – some people inadvertently make double payments when bills and payments cross in the mail.

Private fire protection fees show up on the utility bills. Previously residents paid this WI PSC required fee through the general tax levy. The fire protection fee included on the utility bill is associated with the overall water rate increase. The tax levy still covers almost the same amount as it did before the water rate increase. An advantage of putting fire protection fee on the utility bill is that now tax-exempt entities (including the Village of Highland) share in that cost.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 20	Highland School Homecoming
Oct. 5	SSAP Oktoberfest
Oct. 6	Regular Village Board Meeting
Oct. 11/12	Highland Harvest Festival – Spurgeon’s
Oct. 26	Trick or Treating in Village (1 – 4 p.m.)
Nov. 2	First Presbyterian Church Fall Dinner
Nov. 3	Regular Village Board Meeting (adopt budget)
Nov. 4	Presidential Election Day
Nov. 27	Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Dec. 1	Regular Village Board Meeting
Dec. 1	Alternate side parking begins
Dec. 6	Holidays in Highland
Dec. 6/7	Christmas Open House – Spurgeon’s
Feb. 26-28, 09	Community Dinner Theatre (play only 2/26)



S.T.H. '80' CONSTRUCTION

The S.T.H. '80' construction project encompasses two projects -- a Village of Highland project and a Wisconsin Department of Transportation project -- and several phases. On Monday, September 22, 2008 Iowa Grant Trucking plans to start Phase I of the S.T.H. '80' construction project. Phase I contains three items 1) replacing the 4" water main along Spring Street with 8" water main. 2) spot repairs to the sanitary sewer along Spring St and 3) storm sewer construction along Diagonal Street and Stone Street. Phase I construction deadline is November 15, 2008. Iowa Grant Trucking estimated work schedule is from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. five days a week. By the end of every Friday the street is to be ready for acceptable traffic and pedestrian access.

As soon as weather permits, Phase II of the S.T.H. '80' project begins in 2009. Phase II of the S.T.H. '80' is comprised of Main Street water main and sanitary sewer construction. In addition to spot repairs, the sanitary sewer portion in 2009 includes main replacement from the Village shop to the north end of the project. Phase II construction deadline is June 30, 2009.

Phase III of the S.T.H. '80' project involves a section of storm sewer along Dodgeville Street/C.T.H. 'Q'. This phase coordinates with the Wisconsin DOT street reconstruction and should occur in August 2009.

Road reconstruction is still planned for 2009. The rural portion of S.T.H. '80' has been awarded; construction will begin in the spring of 2009. With that in mind, the Village engineer and Board is confident that WISDOT Project ID #5135-03-04 in the Village will be awarded and will commence July 1, 2009 as planned. The project should be done by year end 2009.

During the course of construction Charter Communications, Alliant Energy, Century Telephone will be on site as needed.

S.T.H. '80' PROJECT COST

The Village of Highland is incurring very significant expenditures for S.T.H. '80'. Water system costs exceed \$500,000. The Village is extremely fortunate to have been awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) not to exceed \$220,000. The State of Wisconsin Safe Drinking Water Loan Program approved

the Village of Highland for a loan. On September 10, 2008, the Village Board will consider/approve a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of up to \$322,322 water system revenue bonds bearing an interest rate of 2.365% per annum. Water utility construction costs are recovered through the 2008 water rate increase and will not affect the tax levy.

On September 10, 2008, the Village Board will consider/approve a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of up to \$505,000 general obligation corporate purpose bonds for street improvement projects (\$305,000), sewer system projects (\$100,000), and general obligation refunding bonds (\$100,000). The Village Board is working with Ehlers and Associates on the general obligation bond. The interest rate will be determined when the bonds are sold.

For the WISDOT project the Village of Highland pays for street light construction, parking lanes, utilities and new sidewalk construction cost. WISDOT pays for traffic lanes and sidewalk replacement where the sidewalk abuts the curb (no grass median). The Village's share of the WISDOT street related project will be reflected in the general budget and tax levy. Costs associated with sanitary sewer spot repairs will be collected through sewer rates, which will likely necessitate an increase for the associated debt costs.

WISDOT also allocates \$44,000 toward a Community Sensitive Design (CSD) project beautifying the project area. The Village's CSD project includes work on the Main Street "park" --replace retaining wall, steps and railings, concrete, and landscaping. CSD money will also pay for new benches, planters and trash receptacles on Main Street. The CSD money cannot be used to offset other costs.

S.T.H. '80' CONSTRUCTION MEETINGS

Construction meetings are scheduled every two weeks on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. at the Village Hall. The first construction meeting is on September 25, 2008. Residents with a construction concern or question are encouraged to share their issue at these meetings. Construction updates will be posted to the Village of Highland web page www.villageofhighland.net. The Village Clerk is also creating an email distribution list for anyone wanting direct notice from meetings or emergency notices. Please notify highlandclerk@charter.net to be put on this list. The Village will do its best to keep you informed of the construction progress.

S.T.H. '80' TRAFFIC CONTROL

Traffic control during 2008 S.T.H. '80' construction will be less constricting than in 2009. Traffic will be routed to/from County I to U.S. Highway 18 (Montfort to Cobb). The official WISDOT detour route will be more complex in 2009. There will be signs indicating available access to local businesses.

PROGRESSIVE WAY SUBDIVISION

Infrastructure construction will soon be complete in Progressive Way Subdivision. The lots have been marked out and are ready for purchase. Residential lots ranging from .4+ acre to .5+ acre are \$20,000 and \$25,000 respectively. There is also a special assessment charge of \$600 as a water lateral installation charge and \$900 as a sewer lateral installation charge per lot. There is no deed restriction specifying the time frame for construction to begin. The Village has contracted with realtors to manage the sale of the lots --- Bobbi Jo Bomkamp, Century 21, 608-574-1716 -- -Greg (Buck) Holmes, ERA Arthur Real Estate, 929-4806. Please contact either realtor if you or someone you know is interested in purchasing a residential or industrial lot.



HIGHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

All tree limbs which project over and are less than 14 feet above the surface of a public sidewalk or street are considered a public nuisance. There are places where walkers have to duck around or under tree branches or shrubs. Low branches also damage the street sweeper and snow plow. Residents are asked to check their property and trim trees according to the above mentioned specifications.

Happy Halloween  **Trick or Treating** for this year in Highland will be Sunday, October 26 from 1pm to 4pm. If you are driving your vehicles around at this time, please be very alert for trick or treaters. Parents please check all candy and remind your little goblins not to talk to strangers or go into houses that they don't know. Let's make this Halloween fun and spooky, but above all safe!

Alternate side of street parking is required within the village from December 1 through March 31 between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM. Vehicles shall be parked on the even numbered side of street with those nights preceding an even numbered calendar day and odd numbered side of street with those nights preceding an odd numbered calendar day. Alternate side parking will be strictly enforced. Please be considerate to the street crews and have your vehicle parked on the correct side for snow plowing.

Snow and ice removal from sidewalks is essential for everyone's safety. Property owners (or occupants) are primarily responsible for their snow removal. Village ordinance requires sidewalks to be cleared within 24 hours after a snow fall or ice accumulation. Last year's early and heavy accumulation made it difficult to comply with the ordinance and the

Village was lenient with enforcing the ordinance. Many people complained about the poor compliance with snow and ice removal. The Public Works Ordinance provides for the Village to remove the snow or ice and assess the charges to the property owner. With the forecast for heavier snow again this year, it is important to stay on top of snow removal from the start.

SNOW PLOWING GUIDELINES

Many residents are to be commended on their snow removal practices. Some remove all the snow in the street fronting their property or hire a contractor to do so. Some plow the snow or contract someone to plow the snow to the backyard. This looks very nice, is a safety factor, and gives adequate parking for their use.

When there's a lot of snow, people tend to get frustrated when the Village plows past their driveway. The street department is mindful of this and does their best to lessen this burden.

Plowing or piling snow on neighbor's land without permission is inappropriate.

The Village Board is asking business owners and residents to avoid stock piling snow from sidewalks, driveways or parking lots onto Village streets, expecting that the Village will haul the snow away. The Village piles and hauls snow from the main business section of Main Street including snow from the sidewalk. Lack of voluntary compliance with snow removal suggestions could lead to creating an ordinance prohibiting piling snow on Village streets or neighbor's property. The bottom line is that property owners are responsible for their snow removal

BUDGET TIME APPROACHES

The Village Board will hold a special budget work meeting on September 10. WI Department of Revenue has not set the levy limit yet. Last year DOR set the levy limit 3.86% but the Village Board only took 2% levy increase. The budget freeze law allows for an increase in the levy for debt service. The Village Board is seriously considering an increase in the tax levy to cover the costs associated with S.T.H. '80' reconstruction in 2008 and 2009. A portion of that debt cost may occur with the 2009 budget but the majority would be associated with the 2010 budget. Absent an increase in the levy for debt costs, very significant cuts in services would be required. The Village Board typically adopts the budget at the November Board meeting.

HATS OFF TO CENTERVILLE

Community members have begun practicing for the next Community Dinner Theatre production. Richard Mensch has written "Hats Off to Centerville" which will be performed February 26, 27, and 28, 2009. Friday and Saturday will be dinner-theatre performances. Please mark your 2009 calendars to enjoy this entertaining experience.

CURRENT WATER AND SEWER RATES

MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGE

Meter Size	Water	Fire Protection	Sewer	Meter Size	Water	Fire Protection	Sewer	Meter Size	Water	Fire Protection	Sewer
5/8" meter	\$8.50	\$2.95	\$15.40	3/4" meter	\$15.40	\$2.95	\$42.00	1" meter	\$15.00	\$7.10	\$19.44
1 1/2" meter	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$35.57	2" meter	\$46.00	\$24.00	\$54.64	3" meter	\$80.00	\$44.00	\$90.57

Plus **QUARTERLY** volume charge for water: First 25,000 gallons @ \$2.47/1,000 gallons; next 75,000 gallons @ \$1.70/1,000 gallons; over 100,000 gallons @ \$1.40/1,000 gallons. Plus volume charge for sewer @ \$3.30/1,000 gallons.

CURRENT GARBAGE/RECYCLING RATES

MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGE

TYPE	GARBAGE	RECYCLING
Residential	\$5.25	\$3.05
2 Apartment	\$10.20	\$5.80
3 Apartment	\$15.30	\$8.70

Note: Commercial user rates vary. The Recycling driver only stops where there is a recycling bin set out. Additional or replacement recycling bins may be purchased from the Village Office for \$8.00

Check out the web --- www.villageofhighland.net

**VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND
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PO BOX 284
HIGHLAND WI 53543-0284**

**VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND
BOXHOLDER**