



# Points of Light

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2010

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

215 E. Four Mile Rd.  
Racine, WI 53402  
[www.windpointwi.us](http://www.windpointwi.us)

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Administration Office 639-3524

Open weekdays 8-12 noon; 1-5 pm

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Police Office 639-3022

Open weekdays 8-12

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Lighthouse Phone 639-3777

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Public Works/Water Utility Office 639-3560

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Public Works/Water Utility –  
After 5:00 pm emergency 939-1378

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Lee Grievell, Building Inspector 262-424-6957

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## STAFF NAMES

BARBARA GRANT,  
ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK/TREASURER

DAVID ROSSMAN, POLICE CHIEF

FRANK VIDIAN, DEPUTY TREASURER

BARBARA MICELI, COURT CLERK

AALAN BARRETT, BOOKKEEPER/CLERICAL

MIKE ARTS, LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

RANDY MILLER, MAINTENANCE MANAGER  
(PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES)

## MUNICIPAL JUDGE

John Knuteson

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## VILLAGE BOARD

### PRESIDENT

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Bill Bensman 681-7531

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### TRUSTEES

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Ann Brodek 681-2176

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Pete Christensen 672-5150

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Dave Durment 681-8414

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Jay Hammes 681-2073

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Casey (Richard) Jones 639-1422

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Gerry Wishau 639-2007

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## President's Remarks

I am pleased the Board has chosen to move forward with the facilities study I mentioned in last month's newsletter. Funds for the study were set aside in the 2010 budget passed in December. We have retained a highly qualified architectural design firm, and asked them to provide the Village with the following:

- 1) Evaluation of current land and space utilization of the clerk's office, public works garage and village hall.
- 2) Assessment of the current condition of our buildings.
- 3) Recommendations regarding storing public works equipment in outdoor as well as indoor cold or heated storage.
- 4) Identification of ADA accessibility, safety and security deficiencies.

We have asked for objective analysis with comparisons of benefits and costs of several alternative strategies. It will then be up to the Board, with community input, to decide which strategy or combination of strategies (including doing nothing) would be best for Wind Point. It is not prudent to proceed with any major expenditure before evaluating short-term and long-term needs and how any decision affects our community as a whole.

It's probably not useful to speculate on what the final report may look like. It's also not useful to have any lingering uncertainty about what we can or cannot accomplish, and at what cost. That's why we've targeted a speedy completion date. It is our intent to have preliminary findings by April and a final report to present to the public in May.

Those of us who drive in other communities around Southeast Wisconsin know we maintain high standards for snow removal in Wind Point. Unfortunately on the evening of February 9th we experienced an

Continued on page 2

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Remarks
- 2 Board Action Highlights & Keeping the Village Green
- 3 Scam Alert, Water Shut-off & H1N1 Vaccinations
- 3 Dog License Application – LAST CHANCE!!!!
- 4 March calendar

equipment breakdown on one of our two plows. Because the breakdown was at night, a new part was not available until the next morning, and for safety concerns, that plow was off the road for several hours. Repairs were done first thing the next morning. It's disappointing we fell behind on some streets, but plowing was completed by noon of the 10th. Thanks to Randy and Scott Miller whose efforts have kept our streets safe and open, and special thanks to those affected residents for their patient and level-headed understanding of the delay.

*Bill Bensman*

## **Board Action Highlights**

The Board listened to two architectural firms who proposed to evaluate the clerk's office, public works garage, and village hall, and to provide information on their structural condition, accessibility, and both space capabilities and deficiencies.

After discussion and comparison of firm qualifications including experience, projects completed, team members' experience, and proposal costs, Barrientos Design was chosen to do the work and present information in two phases:

- Information gathering and documentation
- Report on options including sketches and narrative discussing the short and long term pros and cons of multiple alternatives.

The Board made it clear that although this project had started with a request for an additional, low cost public works building, it needed to address the short and long term needs of the village in an integrated manner, including the cost of doing nothing and simply maintaining the current buildings as well as doing "too much or too little."

Bill Bensman reported on attending the Racine County Heads of Government meeting regarding the Wisconsin Department of Revenue county-wide assessment proposal. As the cost of assessments per parcel varied widely, the group will go on record opposing this proposal.

Jay Hammes expressed his concern about door and mailbox drops that are not only an annoyance but might, if not removed, indicate an out-of-town owner. After discussion, the Board directed the administrator to monitor the problem.

The Board approved specific Tower Tour requests in May and September. The National Parks' required Lighthouse Biennial Report is on the administrator's desk for copying and submittal.

The Board approved revisions to ordinance Chapter II

regarding bonding of officials so that the Treasurer is not required to sign a personal bond to assure the county and the state that the village will pay them their share of locally collected taxes.

The administrator reported that several water bills in arrears for a full year that had been placed on the tax bills were still unpaid as of January 31st. The Board approved the motion by Dave Durment to begin PSC procedures for turning off water to any accounts in arrears for more than two quarters (six months, or two billing cycles).

*By Barbara Grant, Administrator*



## **Keeping the Village Green**

At this time of year, many of us are impatiently looking forward to spring. As you plan for taking care of your yard, don't forget how important it is to try to conserve water. If you fit your garden hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle, you could save up to 6.5 gallons per minute. If just 10 percent of U.S. households attached shut-off nozzles to their hoses and the average reduction in hose usage was just 30 seconds per week, the water saved would fill over 128,000 bathtubs every day.

Also, cut your grass so it's two inches high and leave the clippings on the lawn. You'll spend less time mowing and raking, and you won't have to water as often.

Water is so important for so many things. I was shocked to learn that it takes 1,500 gallons of water just to make a single drive-through order: hamburger, French fries, and a soda! This includes the water to grow potatoes, the grain for the bun and the cattle, and everything for the soda. Gulp!

The more information we have, the easier it will be for us to make well-informed, conscious decisions about our water use. Hope these tips help!

*Ann Brodek*

## **FIX A LEAK WEEK - March 15-21**

The EPA estimates that 1 trillion gallons of water are wasted from residential leaks in the US every year. Yes, that is a trillion gallons wasted!!!

Fix your faucets. Put red food coloring in your toilet tank to see if there's a silent leak into your toilet bowl; if it's tight, you will see no color after 30 minutes.

Once you are fairly certain there are no indoor

leaks, you can detect a leak in your irrigation system. Turn off all faucets and other water using equipment inside your home. Find the water meter in your basement and watch the numbers to see if any water continues to flow into your system. Write the numbers down. Don't use any water and then check an hour or so later. If the numbers change, you may have a leak!

### TELEMARKETING SCAM ALERT

We recently received several calls from a Florida company who the Better Business Bureau rates as "F." AARP's January-February bulletin reported on another telemarketing firm who pled guilty to fraud/tax evasion with telemarketing calls resulting in charges fraudulently placed on phone bills.

The scheme seems to be that telemarketers get you to say "yes" to a question that is used to authorize a charge in the third-party charges section of your phone bill. If you don't notice an opt-out mailing and/or don't protest the charge, they keep the money. Our telemarketer said it was \$39.95 for the service we said we did not want.

AARP's recommendations (Sid Kirchheimer, author):

- **"Watch what you say.** Assume that telemarketers are recording your calls and can manipulate your "yes" to their advantage. Hanging up on unsolicited callers is always less costly in time and money."
- **"Open all mail.** Important disclosures by legitimate companies, such as changes in your credit card interest rate, may also be mistaken for junk mail."
- **"Examine your phone bill** for third party charges, which typically will be on a separate page. Dispute any that are unauthorized."

We contacted the company, are watching the mail, and keep checking our phone bills every month. We are moving to a "just hang up" policy!

### DELINQUENT WATER BILLS

As reported in last month's newsletter, non-payment of utility bills is a bit of a problem in the office. This year, some past due accounts placed on the tax bills as assessments are still not paid and the County is stuck with collecting \$7,464.

The Village bills for water and stormwater services just four times a year: March, June, September, and December. Bills that go out in mid-month are due by the 20th of the following month.

To make sure that you are not among those facing shut-off, please pay your bills by mail or in person at the Clerk's Office. You can also drop an envelope with your check and payment stub in the silver lock box mounted near the Clerk's Office mailbox at 215 E. Four Mile Road.

### H1N1 VACCINATIONS

Racine Public Health is still encouraging residents to get their H1N1 vaccinations at Racine City Hall, 730 Washington Ave. Immunization clinic weekly walk-in hours are:

- Tuesdays 4 - 6 pm
- Wednesdays: 1:15 - 4 pm.

If these times don't work for you, the Health Department also gives H1N1 shots thru the Nurse of the Day service from 8 am to 11:55 am and from 1 pm to 4:55 pm. Although the Nurse of the Day takes walk-ins when time permits, the department encourages appointments by phone at 636-9431.



### DOG LICENSE APPLICATION – DUE BY APRIL 1

\*\*\*\*\* NOTE: New Fee Schedule Below \*\*\*\*\*



All dogs over 5 months old owned by Wind Point residents must be licensed each year on or before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Per State Statute 174.05-5, a \$5.00 late fee will be applied for dogs not registered by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please complete and return this form with payment in person or by mail to:

Village of Wind Point, 215 E. Four Mile Rd., Racine, WI 53402

Please include copy of rabies vaccination record for a new dog or when rabies shots are updated.

Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Dog \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Dog Color \_\_\_\_\_

Date of rabies inoculation: \_\_\_\_\_ Rabies expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ [vaccination records must be current in the office]

License Fee Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

- Altered Female: \$15.00
- Altered Male: \$15.00

- Female [unaltered]: \$35.00
- Male [unaltered]: \$35.00

***If applying by mail, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope so that we can send the license to you.***

Village of Wind Point  
 215 E. Four Mile Road  
 Racine, WI 54302

PRESORTED  
 STANDARD  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 RACINE, WI  
 PERMIT NO. 76

Resident

Racine, WI 53402



<b>MARCH 2010</b>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	<b>Plan Commission 6:00 pm</b>	9	10	<b>Board of Health &amp; Village Board 5:30 pm</b>	12	13
14	15	16	<b>Ad Hoc Zoning 3:30 pm</b>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Veolia recycling and garbage pick-up at 7 am on Mondays		

**Remember the Community Club Private Dinner at Totero's on March 6th.**



**Owners of dogs not licensed by April 1 can be fined. Make sure it's not you!**

**Remember to Vote on April 6th!**