



Points of Light

Volume 2, Issue 8

August 2010

VILLAGE INFORMATION

215 E. Four Mile Rd.

Racine, WI 53402 www.windpointwi.us

Administration Office 639-3524

Open weekdays 8-12 noon; 1-5 pm

Police Office 639-3022

Open weekdays 8-12 or 911

Lighthouse Phone 639-3777

Public Works/Water Utility Office 639-3560

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

Veolia – special garbage pick-up 800-232-0860

Lee Grievell, Building Inspector 262-424-6957

STAFF NAMES

BARBARA GRANT,
ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK/TREASURER

DAVID ROSSMAN, POLICE CHIEF

BARBARA MICELI, COURT CLERK

AALAN BARRETT, BOOKKEEPER/CLERICAL

KATHY TREACY, CLERICAL

MIKE ARTS, LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

RANDY MILLER, MAINTENANCE MANAGER
(PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES)

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

John Knuteson

VILLAGE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Bill Bensman 681-7531

TRUSTEES

Ann Brodek 681-2176

Pete Christensen 672-5150

Dave Durment 681-8414

Jay Hammes 681-2073

Casey (Richard) Jones 639-1422

Jerry Wishau 639-2007

President's Remarks

I'm actually glad this month's newsletter is going to the printer's a few days later than planned. There are a couple of recently breaking items for your information.

We've put back our Open Book sessions with the assessor and Board of Review meetings a few days in order to allow the Village Assessor and Racine County officials to coordinate some loose ends before mailing property assessments. Open Book will now be held from 1 pm until 8 pm on Wednesday, August 18th. The Board of Review will convene at 6 pm Wednesday, August 25th. Both meetings will be held at the Village Clerk's office, 215 E. 4-Mile Road.

You might have noticed the new parking area at the lighthouse has been roped off. Village officials have become concerned that the new paving blocks are not holding up well. Additionally, there has been some erosion of the grass/sod fill that complements the paving blocks, thus making walking through the area difficult. I have directed the Village Engineer to work with the paving contractor until we are assured the appropriate materials have been properly installed.

Our Board has given the final OK to move forward with the road maintenance program discussed here over the past several months. While we had hoped to begin the program this year, we have been advised by engineers and contractors it is best to defer the first project until next summer. The materials' application to the roads is most effectively done when ample warm days remain in the season. We do not want to rush the bid process or risk running out of warm days. We will actively patch bad spots and continue application of crack sealing tar this summer and fall.

Bill Bensman

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REMEMBER THE VILLAGE PICNIC AUGUST 1st!

Board Action Highlights

After listening to a presentation by Ryan Richards, race director of Ironman 70.3 – Racine, the Board approved of the use of village rights-of-way for runners running out to Shoop Park and back twice on the final leg of the triathlon July 18th contingent upon satisfactory planning for traffic interruptions.

The Board approved the request for a conditional use permit to install two wind spires at 641 Tower Circle as approval contingencies passed by the Plan Commission had been resolved.

Brodek introduced amendments to village ordinance Chapter 11.02 that would prohibit scavenging of recyclables as well as bringing extra recyclables into the village for disposal; the amendments were passed.

The compensation committee recommended and the Board approved extending vacation accrual benefits to long-term employees working less than sixteen hours/week. Engineer Mark Madsen presented an asphalt maintenance plan for 2010 that was passed after discussion about costs, bid options, public information, traffic management, and other implementation issues.

I reported that 50% of past-due water charges had been paid and plans made for collection of 15% more. 15 accounts remain past due with property owners unresponsive to the mailing. The Board asked that I continue with efforts to collect all past due balances following procedures predetermined by the Public Service Commission.

Barbara Grant

Keeping the Village Green

Some of you may have noticed the presence of many small, hairy, caterpillars in the Village lately, especially if you've had occasion to visit the tennis courts. After a little detective work, we've identified them as gypsy moth caterpillars. Unfortunately, many of you are all too familiar with these critters. According to our friends at the DNR, there's not much more we can do at this time of year than to spray them with soapy water and try to kill them when they fall to the ground, or manually pick them off the trees and squish them (yuk!).

The phase of their life cycle when we have the greatest opportunity to decrease their population is in the fall, when we can look for and destroy their egg masses. During mid to late September, the DNR will be conducting a survey of specific areas in the Village where we have seen these caterpillars. They will look for egg masses so that we can destroy them this year and maybe even next summer. It seems to be a never-ending battle against the infestation of these pests, but let's all do our best to monitor their presence and curb the growth of their population. You can call the DNR gypsy moth info hotline at 1-800-642-6684 or visit <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>.

On a completely different note, as painful as it may be, we are almost at that dreaded "back-to-school" time of year. Yikes! So, just in case some of you very organized people are planning to start your school supply shopping early, I'd like to share a couple of money and earth saving tips with you.

- Pack lunches in re-usable bags, preferably with a cooler pack. Not only will you save money on brown paper bags, but you will save worrying about whether your children's sandwiches have become spoiled, being unrefrigerated all morning.
- Also, pack cloth napkins instead of paper. It'll save on paper and when the kids pick out their own fun napkins, it makes lunchtime a little more special.

In the meantime, enjoy our beautiful summer!

Ann Brodek

Public Safety Tips



The Wind Point Police Department wants to once again remind residents to lock their vehicles and close/lock garage doors at night!

The village is a wonderfully safe place, but leaving doors open and even keys in cars makes it much too easy for someone living in or visiting the village to get in trouble with the law. A village vehicle was stolen this year and found abandoned and gutted by fire. Make sure this does not happen to your vehicle!

If you see or hear something that strikes you as suspicious, call the police! We don't have formal Neighborhood Watch programs in Wind Point because we are small enough to all watch out for each other.

So what might be worth a call? How about hearing a barking dog at night? Whether it's kids getting in trouble, burglars, wildlife, or a loose dog, you can't tell which in the dark, so call the police.



Always call 911 in an emergency or if you need an immediate response. Call Wind Point police (639-3022) or the Sheriff's Department (636-3213) to report issues and concerns.

Lake Michigan Water Study

Julie Kinzelman, microbiologist for Racine's Health Department, reports that Racine is participating in a three-year study of the Lighthouse and Shoop Park beaches as part of a larger study of unmonitored public bathing beaches along Lake Michigan, an impaired water basin. This federal grant-funded study will allow the city to monitor pollutants and investigate their potential sources.

Two health department employees, Cody and Sarah, will be taking samples four days a week during 2010 to develop base data; in 2011-12, they will sample our beaches once a week. The Health Department will send us the reports and help us interpret the results.

As part of this program, the Village will be able to post beach advisories and closures at the Lighthouse if the E. coli counts rise too high.

Although we won't post advisories at the fairly inaccessible Shoop Park beach, a sample taken near the south end of Shoop Park's sandy beach on July 7 showed high E. coli bacteria levels as well as high algae levels in water near the shore. Testers reported more than 100 ducks and gulls were also visiting that morning, a probable contributor to the high bacteria level, so don't feed the birds!

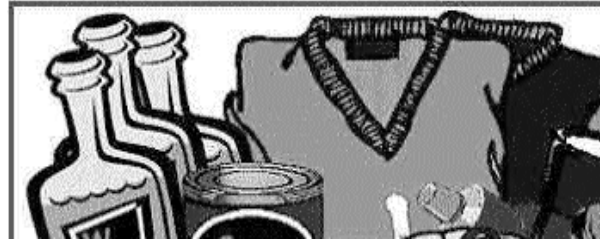


Samplers also reported seeing an oil-type pollutant just north of the creek. The Village is responsible for investigating these as illicit discharges to our stormwater system.

So what can you do to help keep our lake clean and sweet-smelling?

- We cannot do much about the gulls and ducks at Shoop Park, but we can all pick up after our dogs.
- Call the Village if you see evidence of illegal dumping. We will investigate dumping of oil and other pollutants into street drainage ditches or pipe grates. Call 639-3524 during office hours or 939-1378 after hours.
- Reduce the use of lawn care chemicals. Be sure to use only phosphorous-free lawn fertilizer [15-0-10, for example]. It is estimated that just one pound of phosphorus that gets into water will produce 500 pounds of blue-green algae! Yuck!!!!

KEEP OUR LAKE CLEAN AND SWEET-SMELLING!



Is your family ready?

It's a good idea to have a basic disaster kit ready for any kind of emergency situation. Imagine being without water or electricity for three days and think of what you might need to stay alive & comfortable.

Water/Food: a three-day supply of bottled water and non-perishable food

First aid supplies: Purchase or make your own
See www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/supplykit.shtm

Clothing and Bedding to stay warm/dry

- One complete change of clothing and footwear
- Blankets or sleeping bags

Sanitation

- Toilet paper, paper tissues, personal hygiene items
- Soap, liquid detergent, & disinfectant like bleach
- Plastic garbage bags; plastic bucket with tight lid

Tools and supplies

- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Fire extinguisher, signal flare, whistle
- Tent, plastic sheeting, compass
- Pliers, tape, utility knife
- Matches, aluminum foil, storage containers
- Paper and pencil
- Needle and thread

Special Items

- For Baby: formula, diapers, bottles, pacifiers, medicine
- For Adults: prescription drugs; denture needs, hearing aid batteries, contact lens supplies, glasses
- Important family documents in a waterproof container
- Cash

Source: www.fema.gov


Call the Racine County Office of Emergency Management at (262) 636-3515 for more information on being prepared.

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

AUGUST 1 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2010						
	M	T	W	T	F	S
August 1 Village Picnic 4-dusk	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Tower Tours	Plan Commission 6 pm	Building Board 5:00 pm	11	Board of Trustees 5:30 pm	13	14
15	16	17	18 Open Book 1-8 pm at Clerk's Office	19	20	21 HHW Day
22	23	24	25 Board of Review 6 pm at Clerk's office	26	27	28
29	30	31	September 1	2	3	4
5	6 Office Closed	Plan Commission	8	Board of Trustees 5:30 pm	10	11

Village loose branch pick-up is second Tuesday of the month, August 10
Veolia garbage, recycling, and yard waste will be on September 7 due to the Labor Day holiday