

The Villager

Village of Wolverine Lake

www.wolverinelake.com

Fall 2017 Edition



425 Glengary Rd.
Wolverine Lake, MI 48390
Ph: 248-624-1710
Fx: 248-624-3536



Communications, Communications, Communications

By John Magee
Village President

As many of you know, we had a good deal of hubbub around the proposed Clara Miller Master Plan and soccer fields this summer. The initial proposal included two soccer fields for a local youth league. A lot of folks opposed the idea and what it would entail. They came down to the Council meeting and told us so in no uncertain terms. The Council listened to their concerns and agreed with many of them. We removed the soccer fields from the plan. That was all good.

But something troubling also emerged during that process as concerns about the proposal took on a life of their own on social media. I kept reading phrases like, "Council is ramming this down our throats," or "The Council decided in secret to..." or "The Council never listens to..." cropping up in the discussion. That bothers me because it means many of my fellow residents don't believe that their Village government is open to their opinion. It bothers me because in the eleven years I have served as our Village President one of my core beliefs has always been that we need to listen to everybody before we make a decision.

We live in an age of great cynicism about government. When I look at Washington and Lansing, I understand why. But I worry that the cynicism that infects public life at the State and Federal level has overtaken our Village government, too, and created a gap between our residents and our Council.

During the soccer-field controversy I heard a lot of folks talking about the Council as if we were an outside entity that had come to the Village. We are not. We are a group of your fellow residents doing our best to make decisions on everybody's behalf. We don't get everything right, but we have a much better chance to get it right if we hear from you. And if we get it wrong we have a much better chance to fix it if we hear from you.

Government in this country – especially local government -- is a participatory process. We need you all to be aware of what we're doing. We need to hear from you – what you like, what you don't like and what you hope to see for our Village.

On the Council's part we'll keep working to improve our communications with all of you. Discussing concerns and issues directly with residents is the most basic form of communication. We all do a good deal of it on a daily basis and we'll keep at it. This newsletter and my regular columns have been around quite a while. (I'm glad you've read this one this far!) Occasional surveys help. In recent years we've added more tools. Recording and broadcasting Council sessions on YouTube has been a part of that effort. The Village's official Facebook page and our email list help.

If you have other ideas for improving communications in the Village, please send them along. We may not be able to implement them all, but I can guarantee that we'll listen.

Shake your mail box As the sports saying goes "the best offense is a good defense". Snow and ice coming off the plow at 25 MPH in mass quantities pack a much bigger punch than any snowball ever could! Before the ground freezes is a good time to check your mailbox installation to be sure it can weather the upcoming winter season by answering the following questions:
Is the wood board your mailbox is setting upon in good condition? Are the nails to the board loose? How about the wood post in the ground; is it split or starting to deteriorate? A simple check: If you can physically jiggle your mailbox and it 'gives' a little, it will give out when the snow removal season is here. If your mailbox has been in place for any length of time, weather can compromise a good installation.

29th Village Festival & Corn Roast It was beautiful weather for Village residents who were at the park on September 9th enjoying the bands, inflatables and great food. Many thanks go out to the sponsors, wonderful raffle donations and of course our faithful volunteers; none of these events would be possible without you!!



18th Annual Fishing Contest Bright and early on August 26th the fishing contestants began their quest to catch the big one! Winners were awarded their prizes at the Village Festival and the results are available on our website. Congrats to all of the participants and many thanks go out to the sponsors and volunteers!

Support Our Troops: Donations now being accepted



Residents from Wolverine Lake, in conjunction with Military Families United of Michigan and K-9 Defender Fund, are hosting a packing party to send items to the military troops and working dogs serving on the battlefields. They welcome these packages from home to let them know WE CARE and APPRECIATE what they are doing. Visit their Facebook page "Wolverine Lake Community Packing Party for the Troops", the Village website "www.wolverinelake.com" or Village Hall for a list of items to donate. Box packing will take place Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to Noon at the Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2905 S., Commerce Rd. in Wolverine Lake.



Village of Wolverine Lake is on Facebook. Stay up to date on news and events in the Village. Check us out and like our page.

Sewer Connection – Informational Meeting

Village Staff has been collecting signatures of residents interested in joining a Special Assessment District to pay most of the costs of connecting to the sanitary sewer system over a 10 year period on their Village tax bill. We have the necessary signatures needed to start the process; therefore there will be an informational meeting October 30, 2017, 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be open to residents who have already signed the petition to be part of a SAD or residents who may be interested, but have not signed a petition. Stay tuned for further information on the location of the meeting. If you have questions, contact Village Hall at 248-624-1710.

Village Offices Closed

Thanksgiving – November 23 & 24, 2017
Christmas – December 22 & 25, 2017
New Year's – December 29 & January 1, 2018



The Historical Team Needs You

The Historical Team desperately needs help with ledgering and sorting old photos and information. They meet the second Monday of every month. If you are interested please call Village Hall at 248-624-1710.

Vacation Time?

Getting away from the cold Michigan weather for a little while? Help protect your home and add extra security from your Wolverine Lake Police Department. Simply fill out a Vacation Request Form at Village Hall. This information will give our officers the details needed so they can monitor your home efficiently. Request forms also available on the Village web-site.



Keeping Informed

The Village of Wolverine Lake has an email information line available. To join, simply visit www.wolverinelake.com click on the envelope icon and follow the prompts.

Winter Parking

is **prohibited** on Village Streets November 1st through March 1st between 2 am and 6 am

Halloween

Trick or Treating 6:00 to 8:30 pm Oct. 31st.



Fall Reminders

Yard Waste: The last day for yard waste pick up by GFL is Tuesday, November 27th.

Lake Draw Down: The lake draw down will begin sometime in October. By December 1st we expect to reach our winter level of 916.75. Time to start thinking about removing your docks/boats and making the necessary repairs to your shorelines and seawalls. Remember that any work done at the shoreline/in the water requires a permit from the DEQ and a Soil Erosion permit from the Village.

Septic Tank Maintenance: If you haven't had your septic tank pumped out recently (every 2 to 3 years for a typical family system) do it now and avoid backups and looking for your tank in the frozen, snow covered ground.

Community Wells: Last day to schedule a purge so that you avoid decreased water pressure levels through the winter is Tuesday, October 31st. Call today 248-624-1710.

Tink Claw—Leaf Collection: Please remember this is a bulk pick up service. Small piles should be placed into recycle bags or cans no larger than 32 gallons, marked 'compost'. The first round of leaf collection will begin when the leaves throughout the Village have fallen approximately 50%. Watch for the orange and white signs posted at the entrances of your subdivision. The Claw will visit a second time once most of the leaves are down. **NOTE***** Leaves should be raked, in one large pile, next to the street on a flat area, devoid of hazards, ONLY after your subdivision has been posted with signs. Do not mix grass, mulched leaves, debris, branches, etc. with the leaves. Please remember to do your part to help keep up with the residual debris following each pick up.