



The Villager

Village of Wolverine Lake

www.wolverinelake.com



Winter 2017 Edition

2017 State of the Village

John Magee, Village President

Welcome to 2017, everybody! Hard though it is to believe, I am now entering my second decade as your Village President. It's been quite a decade. When I was first elected as Village President we were beset with deep budget problems. A once-healthy fund balance had been nearly exhausted. We were on pace to run out of money altogether in another 18 months.

Turning our finances around despite the continued cuts in State revenue sharing and the real estate collapse didn't come easily. We made painful staff cuts in the Police Department, the DPW and our front office. We deferred many needed improvements in our Village's infrastructure. And we asked all of you to pay for your trash pickup because even with those cuts we could no longer cover the cost of trash pickup within the general budget.

I am happy to say that as we enter my 11th budget cycle as your President the Village is in its strongest financial shape ever. We have a strong fund balance and an especially strong bond rating for a municipality of our small size. I would like to take a moment to especially thank our Village Treasurer Mike Kondek, who came on board during those dark times. His vision, guidance and long-term planning keeps our financial course clear.

We've faced many other challenges, successes and setbacks together over the last ten years. What I've found most amazing on that path has been the commitment of all of my fellow residents to make Wolverine Lake the best place it can be. When I first ran for Council my motto was, "This is a great place to live and I aim to keep it that way." The only thing I would change ten years later is to say, "This is a great place to live and we all aim to make it even better."

What now as we enter 2017? We expect to continue making Wolverine Lake a better place to live.

Our new Village Administrator Nathan Burd is on a very successful first year in office. Nathan has proven himself to be a strong leader and administrator and I want to thank him for choosing to join us.

Our Police Department is working to become one of the first departments in the area to be a fully certified department through the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. This certification will assure all of us who live here that our department meets the highest professional standards. This certification should also help us to reduce our insurance costs. Our DPW continues to work around the Village to improve our streets, pathways and parks. Our Water Management Board continues to improve its public outreach efforts and to improve our plans for lake maintenance this summer.

There's much afoot for our parks this year. We expect to build out Amenia Park on the south side of the Village this Spring, making it a true neighborhood asset. We are working on a new master plan for Clara Miller Park. As part of that plan we are working with local soccer and baseball organizations to improve our playing fields. We also expect to improve our playground equipment and to make improvements that will make our park more accessible for all of our Village's children. And we continue to look for ways to keep improving our pathway system. Safer pathways for walkers and bikers makes for a safer Village.

I've used the words "we" and "our" a lot in this message. This is because it is our Village and it takes all of us to make it work. If you've ever thought about getting involved – whether it's through serving on a Board or a Commission or simply volunteering for a park event – this is the time. Please contact the Village office to see how you can be a part of it.

And finally, thank you. I want to thank all of you – residents, employees, volunteers, consultants and everybody who has attended even one Tiki Night celebration or Tuesdays in the Park event – who have made serving as your president for the last ten years such a pleasure. Few people are lucky enough to get such an opportunity and I've tried my best for the last ten years to live up to the standard that all of you set.

Thank you for that.

Upcoming Events

Daddy Daughter Dance –Saturday, February 11, 2017, 2:00-4:00pm at the New Commerce Library. \$15.00 per couple and \$5.00 for additional girl. Includes DJ, Dance, Photographer, Corsage, Pizza, dessert and punch. Pre-register at Village Hall. Space Limited.

St. Patrick's Day Bus Trip Pub Crawl – Leave Clara Miller Park at 6:00pm and return from Corktown at 11:30 pm. Box dinner from Glengary Inn then head to Corktown for the Pub Crawl and Leprechaun Hunt. \$20.00 pre-registration is required in advance. Space Limited. Register at Village Hall. **Must be 21 years of age.**

Bunny Lunch – Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the New Commerce Library. Eat lunch and visit with the Easter Bunny. Includes pizza, dessert, crafts and an Egg Hunt at 2:00pm! Register at Village Hall or on the Village website.

Dog Licenses Dog Licenses are available at Village Hall at regular prices through June 1, 2017. There is a delinquent fee effective on June 2, 2017. Proof of current rabies vaccination must be provided. Michigan State law requires all dogs to be licensed.



Waterfront Wisdom

Warm weather is right around the corner and now is a perfect time to consider and plan the expansion of your lake front gardens in early spring. Excess nutrients from fertilizers, yard waste and pesticides from home lawn and garden activities can enter waterways in storm water runoff. Creating a garden buffer along the lake shore is not only beautiful but easy to do! It slows runoff, prevents erosion and provides added filtration to the lake. Utilize natural materials, such as wildflowers, grasses and shrubs, to stabilize shorelines. Native Michigan plants have extensive root systems that cut down watering needs, help infiltrate water back into the ground, minimize shoreline erosion and filter pollutants before entering the lake. ***Seawalls greatly reduce or eliminate riparian habitat. If you have an existing seawall, try supplementing the area in front of the structure with native aquatic vegetation to help restore lost aquatic habitat. They hold bottom sediments in place and protect the shoreline from the erosive forces of wind and ice action along with restoring aquatic habitat.

Get Email Notifications The Village of Wolverine Lake has an email information line available. This hot line keeps everyone up to date on news and events in the Village. To join, simply visit the website www.wolverinelake.com, click on the envelope icon and follow the prompts.



Winter Reminders

- Remember it is **illegal** to push snow from your driveway onto the roadway.
- Place trash cans and recycle bins off the road. Plows are required to push snow back to the mailboxes.
- When following a salt truck be aware the driver may stop and back up at any time. Remember, if you cannot see the driver's face in the side mirror they cannot see you. Please give the salt trucks room to work. When in doubt, stay back 100 feet.
- Be extra cautious about ice thickness. Always check to make certain the ice is thick enough to support your weight; 5" inches is needed for general use (fisherman, ice skaters, etc.) 8" inches is needed for travel by snowmobile. Ice thickness varies from place to place. Never go on the lake alone. Taking vehicles on the lake is never recommended. Should one fall through the ice, the owner is responsible for its prompt removal and related costs.

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.



Sewer Connection

Village Staff is 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. Please note that if the current septic system fails or needs repair, connection to sewer is mandatory. For more information contact Village Hall 248-624-1710.

Parking is **prohibited** on Village Streets from November 1st through March 31st between 2 am and 6 am

Oakland County Home Improvement Program

100% Deferred and Interest free loans are available to income qualifying residents. Only the principal is to be repaid when you sell or lease your home. Call: 248-858-5401