

The Villager



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

Village of Wolverine Lake

www.wolverinelake.com

Winter 2018 Edition

2018 State of the Village Welcome to 2018! There's always lots to talk about in the Village but today I'd like to focus on financial matters and some of the work the Village Council is planning for 2018. I'm happy to report that Wolverine Lake is in solid financial shape. Our fund balance is strong and we continue to work towards improvements that were deferred during the financial hardships that followed the Great Recession.

State shared revenues and millage revenues are still well below the levels of the early 2000s. But their return to growth in recent years has helped to stabilize our finances. We are focusing on improving service to our residents and investing in the Village's infrastructure. Our overall staffing levels are still down from their peak but we recently converted both a seasonal DPW position and a part-time police position to full-time positions. Making these positions full-time will help us to recruit great employees. Look soon for new employees in these positions out on the streets helping you.

We continue to invest in the Village's infrastructure. State road funding falls woefully short of what is needed to maintain and repair our roads. Failing to maintain roads costs us all more money in the long run. So the Village is funding additional maintenance out of our general fund. That keeps our long-term road costs as low as possible.

Also on the roads, we continue upgrading signs and markers to meet current State and Federal standards. Many of you have noticed the new blue street signs around the perimeter of the Village. They're more visible than the old signs and the Village logo lets folks know that they're in Wolverine Lake. Look for more high-visibility blue signs coming to our interior street corners in 2018. The old Village sign at the corner of Glengary and South Commerce will also see a new replacement in Spring 2018.

We continue to invest in our parks. Landscaping for Amenia Park should be completed this spring. For the Oak Island Park we expect to approve a plan and make improvements this year. We also expect to approve a Master Plan for Clara Miller Park this spring. This has been a long time coming but we absolutely want to make sure we get this right for all of us. We've listened to what folks had to say about what we got wrong and what we got right in the initial draft of that plan. We look forward to hearing from you all about the revised plan. Once adopted the plan will give us a timeline for specific improvements and a platform for grant applications for badly needed items like updated playground equipment.

Our proposed Veterans' Memorial for Clara Miller Park is an especially important improvement that's come out of the discussions and revisions to the plan. If you would like to be involved in the creation of our Veterans' Memorial, please contact the Village office for more information.

We will also continue to work on improving and expanding our pathway system in 2018. We hope to build out several connecting pieces this year. We've also authorized the Traffic Improvement Association to conduct a study of pedestrian and bicycle traffic on South Commerce Rd. Progress on that corridor has been difficult because so many entities are involved, including us, Commerce Township, Walled Lake and the Oakland County Road Commission. We expect the results of the study to help guide us to a safer corridor for all of us on that very busy road.

There's plenty more to talk about but I'm out of room. If you'd like to hear more please come down to a Village Council meeting or watch the meetings on YouTube.

Thanks for reading! *John Magee, Village President*

Snow Removal Strategies for Driveways One of the clear advantages of living in the Village of Wolverine Lake is the excellent job our DPW does in clearing our local streets following a snowstorm. However, this attention to the village roadways can prove frustrating for some residents who have cleared their driveways, only to have the entrance buried by a passing Village DPW snow plowing truck. Please do not blame the truck driver for doing his job. If he raised the blade every time he passed a driveway the street would become a nightmare of snow moguls for motorists. Instead, residents should minimize the inconvenience by avoiding piling snow at the end of the driveway (left side as you face the street) where the DPW plow will likely push it back into the driveway as it passes. Instead, shovel the bulk of the snow to the right side of the driveway entrance and push snow at the left side of the entrance back away from the street leaving as little as possible at the street edge for the DPW plow to move. This won't totally eliminate the problem but it will minimize it considerably. Please remember that it is ILLEGAL for residents or any unauthorized personal to shovel and/or plow snow, ice or slush onto or across roadways. If a resident, or a snow removal company contracted by a resident, engages in such actions the RESIDENT may be issued a citation.



Upcoming Park & Recreation Events

St. Patrick's Day Bus Trip – Saturday, March 17, 2018 to Greentown for pub crawl and scavenger hunt. Must be over 21. \$20 registration in advance, includes box dinner. Register at Village Hall or on the Village website.

Bunny Lunch – Saturday, March 24, 2018, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. 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.

Other Upcoming Events that the Park & Recreation Board are working on include a Bus Trip to the Eastern Market, the 19th Annual Fishing Tournament and the **30th Annual Village Corn Roast Festival**.

Protect the Huron River Watershed

The Village of Wolverine Lake is part of the Huron River Watershed. Water runoff that flows into storm drains and roadside ditches all goes to the nearest lake, stream, river or wetland without any kind of treatment. To protect water quality, make sure you do your part to keep pollutants off the land. Pollutants that can impact our waterways includes sediment, nutrients, bacteria, pesticides and hazardous chemicals such as grease and oil. **1. Never dump anything down a storm drain. 2. Minimize soil erosion and sedimentation. 3. Bag it! Pick up pet waste. 4. Get Pumped! Have your septic tank pumped every 3 to 5 years, at a minimum. 5. Wash Right! Use environmentally safe car wash soaps. 6. Properly take care of your lawn.** For more environmental information, please visit our website at www.wolverinelake.com and click on the Local Environmental Information page.



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.

Veterans Memorial Project Launched

Village resident Deborah Malbin recently approached Village officials with an idea to create a Veterans Memorial inside Clara Miller Park, specifically in the Vita Trail area along Glengary Road. Village Council has approved the formation of a committee to explore the topic and space for a Veterans Memorial will be included in the Clara Miller Park Master Plan. We are excited about the possibilities for creating a public space to honor the men and women who make freedom possible! To learn more, including how to support this project and how to share your ideas, please visit www.wolverinelake.com.

Dog Licenses Effective January 1, 2018, Oakland County increased the price of a dog license. A one (1) year license was increased by \$3 and a three (3) year license was increased by \$6. Dog licenses are available at Village Hall at the new regular prices through June 1, 2018. There is a delinquent fee effective on June 2, 2018. Proof of current rabies vaccination must be provided. Michigan State law requires all dogs to be licensed.



Scholarship Opportunity!

The Onwards & Upwards Community Enrichment Fund annually provides two \$500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors who live in the Village of Wolverine Lake and have demonstrated outstanding volunteer community involvement in Village over the past two years. For specific eligibility criteria and an application form, please visit www.wolverinelake.com. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2018.

Update from the Water Management Board

2017 was a good year for the quality of the Lake. Weed management was at its best in years and most of the feedback we received was favorable. For 2018, the herbicide and harvesting program will remain mostly the same, with additional emphasis on the starry stonewort weed. This is an aggressive weed that carpets the lake bottom and negatively impacts the small creatures the bluegill eat, causing our bluegill to be undersized vs. other area lakes. Also, we will continue to monitor the performance of the aeration systems that have been installed in the "Penny Lake" arm for possible adjustments. As always, we welcome your suggestions to make our Lake the best it can be for all us to enjoy.



Get Email Notifications

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

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

Winter Reminders

- 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.