

Ephraim Update

10005 Norway, Ephraim WI 54211

(920) 854-5501



2010

Important Phone Numbers

911

Fire, Police,
Ambulance Emergencies

Non Emergency Numbers

Fire: 920-854-4021

Police: 920-746-2450

Charter: 888-438-2427

Library: 854-2014

Foundation: 854-9688

Post Office: 854-4426

FH Marina: 854-6861

Treatment Plant: 854-4991

Administrator/Clerk: 854-5501

Zoning: 854-5501

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Recently I have noticed that the surrounding municipalities have been making choices that I believe reflect a philosophy of “what can we do to make our communities more inviting to our residents and guests.” Several individuals have said to me or have written correspondence about how they all envy Ephraim’s natural beauty, its peacefulness and perceived quality of life. One particular letter to the Board of Trustees from a lady from Baileys Harbor suggested that when she drove down the Ephraim hill at night, it sometimes brought a tear to her eye as she looked over our village. In a follow up conversation I had with her, she stated that she wished other communities would take as much pride in their community as Ephraim does.

As you may have followed in the local news outlets, it is easy to see our neighboring local governments may also have taken notice. It would be hard not to notice the amount of municipal land acquisitions, waterfront and streetscape projects, opening up of public views, and infrastructure improvements that those communities have taken on. Is there a reason for these land acquisitions and projects? An individual might speculate an answer based on comments we have heard. The municipal boards that manage our neighboring communities probably ask themselves, “what can we do to draw people to our towns?” What is it that Ephraim has that we do not? What can we do to attain it? I believe there is a simple answer to these questions. They are aggressively upgrading their communities to be more like our village. They see the benefits of providing a certain desirable quality of life that I believe we already have.

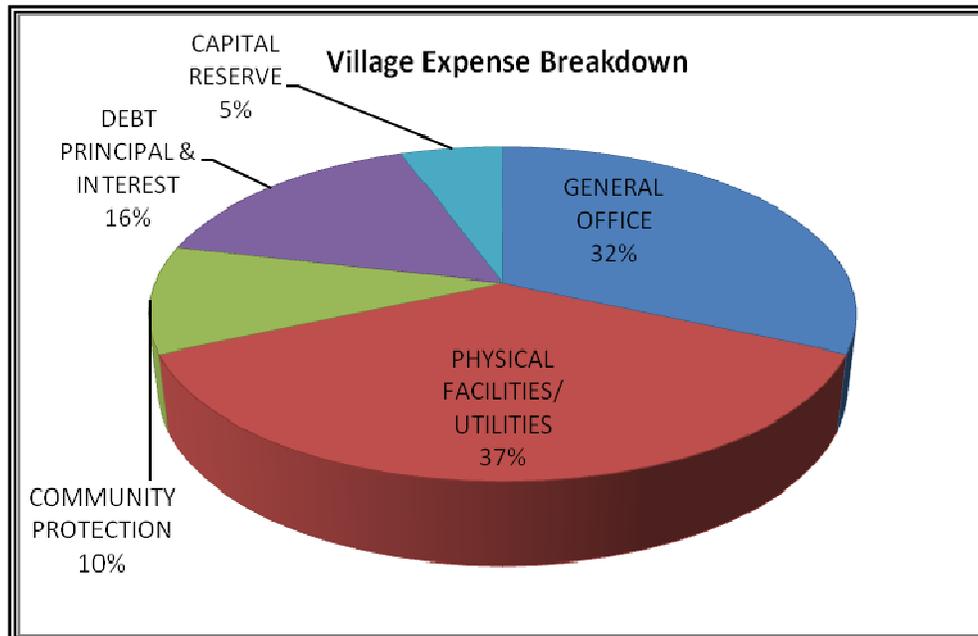
Keeping in mind what our municipal neighbors are doing, it begs the question, are they trying to copy us? The answer is likely yes. Should we be concerned? Will it ever matter? In the future, as a village we will likely need to address issues of village infrastructure, upkeep, services, and at the top of the list, Ephraim’s quality of life. The village board and its committees are putting in countless hours to prioritize and decide what improvements are necessary and affordable based on the needs and desires of the property owners of the village. Our community needs to look forward and keep up with the times by continuing to evaluate and improve infrastructure (whether visible or behind the scenes), and of course doing this while maintaining the quality of life that Ephraimites have become accustomed to.

I am happy to announce that again this year, the village portion of your tax bill will not be going up for the second year in a row. I hope we can continue this trend. “Hats off” to my fellow trustees, the administration, and the village committees for holding the line on village spending. Your hard work really does pay off.

On behalf of the village,
Happy Holidays
John Cox

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Budget 2011

Ephraim Administrator – Charity Buhr

This year has been going great so far, and we're hoping for a wonderful holiday season! I am happy to report that Ephraim has once again been a choice destination for visitors, through August the Village's collection of room taxes is up 10.3% over 2009. This is quite an accomplishment and I think that everyone should give themselves a pat on the back for a job well done. This summer and fall the maintenance staff worked on clearing the right of way of trees and branches throughout the Village. There are a few streets left that need to be completed next season, but it is a vast improvement. If you notice an area that requires attention, please don't hesitate to contact the Village Administration office. I am happy to report that on November 8, 2010 the Village Board passed the 2011 Budget. There will be no increase in the mill rate this year, there is actually a decrease of \$.01. We were able to be cautious with our expenses and ensure that we will be able to provide the same level of service. The mill rate will be \$3.27 per \$1,000. I have included a breakdown of the expenses that make up the budget. I have also included a breakdown of where your tax bill and where the funds are allocated. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give us a call. On a final note, if you are out and about and notice an area that you feel needs attention, please do not hesitate to give me a call at (920) 854-5501. We look forward to comments, whether they are positive or negative.

Have a wonderful winter and we look forward to seeing everyone in the spring.

Another season is coming quickly to an end. Our early fall weather has given us sunny skies with mild temperatures: perfect for viewing some outstanding autumn colors.

We have been very fortunate to have Matt Kalms working with us this fall. Matt was hired as a part-time summer person, to assist with such duties as manning the recycling and collecting the trash from downtown trash containers, the Village Board has allowed Matt to work until the end of the year.

Our main emphasis this summer was Village road shoulder pruning. The Village maintains just over 14 miles of roads. So far this year, we have pruned and thinned nearly 8 of those miles. We hope to have another 2 miles cut before the snow flies. We will begin next year's pruning with the remaining 4 miles. If you prefer to maintain your own road frontage, please use the following minimum guidelines for continued safe travel on our roads. The trunks and branches of all woody vegetation (trees, saplings, and bushes) should be removed from the area 4-feet away from the pavement edge for a height of 12-feet. This allows large trucks (UPS, Fire, Snowplows, etc.) to travel roads without sustaining damage. It also allows vehicles to move off the roadway while parked.

In spring we replaced the Library's carpeting after freshening the walls and ceiling last winter with a new coat of paint. This winter, the bathroom will be remodeled.

Ten more plots were added to the community garden area this year. From the look of things, gardeners had a bountiful harvest.

Please make a note for this year's Holiday Season. The Christmas tree lighting will take place under the gazebo at Harborside Park rather than the Wetlands Preserve. Parking, lighting and access is so much better at Harborside Park making the ever increasingly popular activity much safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

Mike Mittermann, Supervisor
Buildings and Grounds Department



ASSESSORS NOTES...MICHAEL J. WALKER

The Village of Ephraim property assessment revaluation began this year and has been scheduled to take effect in 2011. It was thought that to receive an assessment adjustment any more this year would be viewed with suspicion by most given the nature of these matters.

The property exterior inspections which I began during the latter part of this past summer are almost complete. But now that we're into November there are relatively few homeowners who are still here. There has been (and will be) left at each residence a yellow card advising of my premises visit and whether or not an interior inspection will be necessary. Being that this is the 38th year I have been your Village Municipal Valuer, I have been into almost all residences in Ephraim

However, being that there are more and more instances of deferred maintenance due to the advancing ages of both resident and residence, the subject of interior inspections is a two-edged sword and what follows is how I intend to handle it: If I have been inside the home in the past few years and see no visible evidence of change since that time, then I do not intend to ask for an interior inspection. If, however, the exterior inspection indicates deterioration of any sort **or** in the very few cases of not ever having been inside the residence, **or** the premises inspection indicates improvements with or without permits, I will be asking for an interior inspection. Regardless of the aforementioned, if you wish me to view the inside of the home, you need only call the # on the callback card left at your home.

Overall, given the current market conditions of the present, I am not seeing a great upheaval of valuations. But I will be able to tell you more after I am able to evaluate the 2010 sales in Ephraim and vicinity.

WINTER SAFETY WITH CHIEF WEBORG



The Ephraim Fire Department welcomes new team member Matt Kalms. As we head into the winter season, I'd like to take this time to remind you of a few seasonal safety facts:

- ⇒ Turn off all holiday lights when not attended.
- ⇒ Check the water level on your holiday tree twice per day.
- ⇒ Clean-out your chimney prior to first use.
- ⇒ Watch for plows when entering or exiting a street.
- ⇒ If the weather is bad, don't hit the roads if you don't have to.
- ⇒ Never ever use your oven to heat your house.
- ⇒ Change the batteries in your smoke detector twice a year and install a carbon monoxide detector.
- ⇒ Make sure you have a fully charged Fire extinguisher on hand

IN AN EMERGENCY YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO HAVE TO GUESS OR GO TO THE WRONG ADDRESS...

In a effort to serve our community, the Ephraim Board of Trustees with the full support of the Community Protection Committee and Village Firefighters would like to encourage all property owners to make sure that their fire numbers are placed in a location that makes them very visible. If you have misplaced your fire numbers or they are in ill-repair, please stop up at the Village Administration Office and they will provide you with a new set of numbers. We are all trying to make Ephraim a safe place to live and visit!

COMMUNITY PROTECTION

The Community Protection Committee (CPC) has been charged with three major village projects. First, CPC members have completed work on a Five/Ten Year Plan and Community Needs Assessment, which was presented to the Board on Nov. 8, 2010. Second, a research committee has completed writing specifications for a new fire engine to replace Engine 5, a 750 gallons per minute pumper. These specs. are to be presented to the Board of Trustees in the near future. Engine 5 is a twenty eight-year old pumper scheduled for replacement in 2012. In their wisdom, Ephraim's Boards have been setting aside money for the past ten years to help defray this replacement cost. Finally, a sub-committee is studying the needs of our current fire station. It is now twenty years old and the department has run out of space to house necessary equipment, needs to correct some safety issues, and make a few interior modifications. The committee recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees within the next few months.

All three of these committees have spent many hours of discussion, research, evaluation, and writing to bring these projects forward to the Board. The committee wants to assure you that in all three projects we have kept the needs of the Village and the taxpayers foremost in our minds. The recommendations coming out of these committees are not a "wish list" or an effort to keep up with neighboring fire departments, they are **real needs**. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with any of the committee members. The following people are members of the CPC: Tadd Dukehart, Keith Krist, Mike McCutcheon, Paul Pillat, Michael Smith, Niles Weborg, and Jane Olson, Chairperson & Trustee

CPC would like to remind residents that they should check their fire number. Please make sure that the numbers are placed where they can be easily seen from the road. This is vitally important. EMS and County Sheriff personnel and Firefighters depend on these numbers to locate your home or your neighbors' home when responding to an emergency call.

The Holiday Season will be here before we know it. The members of the CPC and the Ephraim Fire Department wish you a safe holiday.

Jane Olson-Chair
Community Protection Committee

Fall is here and winter is not far behind. The months ahead will be very important for the Wastewater Department. Meetings and public hearings will be the focus as the wastewater treatment facility is considering a change to the disposal of its wastewater sludge. Wastewater sludge is a biosolids mixture of solid waste as a byproduct of the sewage treatment process. Presently the sludge is being hauled to another facility for disposal. Costs are ever increasing and the facility we depend on for disposal cannot always accept our sludge. We are considering the installation of "reed beds" for onsite disposal of the sludge at the wastewater treatment facility. Egg Harbor is currently using this system for disposal of their sludge. Reed beds use common reed plants (phragmites communis) to dewater solids in a controlled confined area that consist of concrete containment tanks layered with sand, gravel and an impervious membrane liner. Sludge is pumped into the reed beds. Reed beds perform three basic functions: (1) dewater the sludge, (2) transform it into mineral and humus like components, and (3) reduction of sludge volumes by up to 95% over time. Many beds have gone eight to ten years without having to be cleaned out.

If there are any questions or concerns look for notices for future meetings and public hearings. Please attend!

Thank you
David Alberts – Manager
Ephraim Wastewater Facility

ZONING

Construction is up a little bit in Ephraim this year. I have issued three permits for new homes with a fourth on the way. From an inspection standpoint I have also seen more activity and am completing inspections from the last two years of permits.

My over the winter project this year will include beginning my required continuing education. In order to stay up on code and directional changes in the building landscape, a great deal of time must be spent in the classroom. Most of my seven licenses require 24 hours of continuing education every four years. I believe that this is a good system that ensures consistency and knowledge across the board for all inspectors. My renewal dates are beginning to approach and I am eager to get out there and see what is changing in the world of building construction.

With winter around the corner and thoughts of next spring's building projects on the mind, please don't forget to give me a call. It is my job to work with you throughout the permitting process, and I strongly encourage anyone planning any building related activities to contact me as early in the process as you can.

Brent Bristol
Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector

TREASURERS COMMENTS...

Please remember that you should mail your tax bill payment to the county treasurer, Jay Zahn 421 Nebraska St Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. Also, when you apply for a dog license you need to include a copy of your dog's rabies vaccination from your veterinarian in order to receive a license. Thank you! Erin Flottman-Treasurer

Why not spend some of your cold winter days at the library?

Ephraim Library hours through Memorial Day are:

Monday 4:00-7:00, Tuesday 10:00-2:00, Thursday 2:00-5:00, Saturday 10:00-2:00



Come and see the art books we've added to our collection through the Phillip and Martha Cherry funds – books that will benefit all readers in our library system. Our most recent addition is the Hardy Gallery's *The Community Mosaic Project: Complete Artworks, 20098-2009*.

Browse our DVDs, books on cd, large print books, children's materials, magazines and more. If something is not available locally, you can request items through Infosoup, a shared online catalog of 50 member libraries at www.infosoup.org and items will be delivered to your local library for pick-up. Once you set up your account online, you can manage your requests, renewals and any fees or fines payment from the privacy of your home computer any time, even when the library building is closed! For your winter classes or research projects, we still offer Interlibrary Loan Service. If the materials you need are not available locally through Infosoup ask your librarian how you may borrow materials from libraries nationwide. Join us for book discussions on the first Tuesday of each month, November - April at 11:30am. The 2010 Pulitzer Prize winner, *Tinkers* by Paul Harding, will be discussed on November 2.

Participate in "Door County Reads" between January 24 and February 18. Book discussions will be held at branch libraries throughout the county about *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Watch for more details to be announced.

I would like to thank all of you for supporting the Ephraim library just by your visits and each item you check out, as well as your use of the computers. Many thanks to the Ephraim Library volunteers for 2010: Marilyn Backer, Brent Bristol, Jo Darken, Diane Färdig, Walt Fisher, Joan Fitzpatrick, Erin Flottman, Betsy Hansen, George Harmon, Bob Johnson, Sara Martin, Windsor & Mike McCutcheon, Andrea Nelson, Jane Olson, Katharine Ostrander, Renee Soto, Alice & Jim Stollenwerk, Anne & Dick Van de Ven, Barbara & Doug Williams, and Rita Wiltgen. And a special thank you to Wilson's Restaurant for providing free ice cream cone incentive coupons for our summer reading program...43 children logged in almost 400 reading hours!

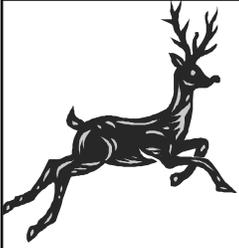
Hope to see you soon at the library. Your Librarian, Linda Malmgren

NEWS FROM THE BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Ephraim Business Council has had a great 2010! This year the EBC is 104 business members strong. May through October Ephraim's waterfront Visitor Information Center welcomed over 13,000 visitors. The EBC continues to serve our visitors, members and the community with a Winter Visitor Information Center at 10329 Water Street (next to fm 106.9 the Lodge), open November through April, Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00am-4:00pm. This summer's Evenings in Ephraim series was a hit! Harborside Park concerts drew crowds of 200 or more, while 28 businesses were open for late-night shopping, dining and activities. Additional advertising dollars made it possible for the EBC to completely redesign our Web site, as well as advertise throughout the Midwest – including our first ever TV commercial on Milwaukee's Time Warner Cable! We're currently working on a new logo and hope to incorporate it on Ephraim merchandise in the future.

The EBC is proud to once again sponsor the Door County Half Marathon, an event that will bring 2,000 participants, their families and friends to our area May 7, 2011. The EBC eagerly anticipates Christmas in the Village on December 4, and is working to make it a fun, family-friendly wintertime event. (See the Christmas in the Village description in this newsletter for more details). Mark your calendars for the 47th Annual Fyr Bal Festival, June 17-19, 2011. Many thanks to the Village of Ephraim Board of Trustees for their continued support of the EBC. Please visit the Ephraim Business Council online at www.Ephraim-DoorCounty.com.

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE NEWS:



The Ephraim Business Council is happy to again partner with the Ephraim Historical Foundation for the planning of Christmas in the Village on Saturday, December 4. Dasher, Dancer and Comet were a hit last year and they're back! Mrs. Claus and her furry friends will be on-hand at the live reindeer display in Olson Park from 1:00pm-4:00pm. Activities in the Village Hall include: Christmas Stories with the Northern Door Storytelling Guild, 1:30pm-2:00pm; Cookie Decorating, Holiday Craft & Heritage Games, 2:00pm-4:00pm; and a Christmas Family Sing-Along, 4:00pm-4:30pm. Hot soup and chili made fresh by Chef's Hat Café will be available for purchase. Cost of admission into the Village Hall is \$3 per child or a donation of a paper good or non-perishable food item. All donations collected will go to the Koinonia Kupboard food shelf at First Baptist Church in Sister Bay. The event also welcomes Mayberry's Wagon rides, giving free hayrides from 1:30pm-3:30pm. Holiday open houses throughout the village include: Anderson House Shop & Gallery, Eagle Harbor Inn, Ephraim Guest House and Village Green Lodge. Have an Adventure at the Ephraim Moravian Church from 11:00am-2:00pm. Enjoy candle-trimming, star-making, going "putzing," treats and more! Also, enjoy their "Sweets for the Holidays Sale" featuring candy and baked goods. Ephraim's 11th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Harborside Park completes the day at 4:30pm. Thank you to Ephraim businesses and community members for your donations to make the live reindeer display possible! Visit the Ephraim Business Council online at www.Ephraim-DoorCounty.com

Rachel Willems



FOUNDATION NEWS

As I drive along Hwy 42 into Ephraim and drink in the beauty of the fall foliage contrasted by the blue water of Eagle Harbor, I am amazed. This time of year, it's nice to have time to stop and enjoy the view.

The slower pace of fall and winter is a perfect time for reflection for the staff and board members of the Ephraim Historical Foundation. In review, we are quite pleased with our 2010 season. More people participated in our walking tours and our special motor coach and Road Scholar tours of Ephraim Village Museums than last year. Our new tram tours were popular enough to encourage us to add Saturdays to next year's calendar. Our new and ongoing programs for adults and children were well attended and our membership increased, despite the economy. We have a lot to be grateful for!

We wish to celebrate our bounty and the community of Ephraim this December by again hosting our **Third Annual Ephraim Holiday Potluck** at Ephraim Village Hall on Thursday, Dec. 2nd. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. Over 80 villagers attended last year and they brought delectable home-made goodies of all sorts. Everyone in Ephraim is welcome. Just call the Foundation office (854-9688) **by December 1** and let us know what you will bring. We look forward to seeing you!

Kelli C. Torpey

Business



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**VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM
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