

NEWSLETTER

VILLAGE OF GILMAN NEWS

Newsletter #103

July 2009

THANK YOU

The Village Board would like to extend a Huge THANK-YOU to Tom Hand of Drangles for donating the sidewalk on the East side of the Municipal Building and to Doug Alexander for all of his hard work on the Main Street Lights.

SUMMER REC

The Summer Recreation Program started on June 15, 2009 and will end on July 31, 2009. The end of the year trip is planned for Friday, July 31, 2009 at Valley Fair. Please register for the end of the year trip with the Summer Recreation Director early or by calling the Village Clerk at 447-8650. The deadline for sign up is Friday, July 24, 2009.

YARD WASTE SITE

The yard waste site will be open on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 8:00a.m. to 12:00 NOON. This yard waste site is for the convenience of Village residents. THERE IS NO DUMPING OF BURN BARRELS AT THE SITE. This is for brush and twigs. Misuse of the site may result in its permanent closure. The site will remain open on these Saturdays until October 17th, 2009. Please call the Public Works Building if you have questions on this matter.

MOWING

Residents are to mow their lots on a regular basis. If a lot is not mowed the Chief of Police will be contacting that owner to mow it otherwise it will be mowed by the Village and charged back to the owner.

BUSINESS EXPO

The Gilman CBA is working on doing a Business expo for the Gilman Fall Festival on Saturday, September 12, 2009. Please consider having a stand or volunteering your time to assist with this. Please call Butch Podolak or Carol Sorapau for more information.

SEWER RATES

The Village Sewer Rates will be increased in a 3-part increment to pay the cost of the updated treatment facility. The first increase took place already and the second increase will be on March 2009, which you will see on the 2nd quarter billing, and the third on September 2009 on the 3rd quarter billing of 2009.

SEWER/WATER DISCONNECTIONS AND RECONNECTIONS CHARGES

The Village Board would like to remind all Utility Customers that there is a \$30.00 reconnection charge for turning back on your water once shut off during business hours and a \$40.00 reconnection charge if after Normal Business hours. This is in our Public Service Commission Rate File and will be enforced for 2009.

WOULD LIKE ALL VILLAGE RESIDENTS TO HAVE THEIR STREET NUMBERS POSTED ON THEIR HOUSE OR BY THEIR DRIVEWAYS FOR EMERGENCY PERSONNEL TO RECOGNIZE.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

The Village Clerk's Office administers many applications for the Village Board. Some Applications that you can procure through the Village Clerk's Office are as follows:

Park Applications – This is to reserve the park for Private Parties, family reunions, ball games, etc. There are park applications in the clerk's office- \$50 deposit per day.

Building Permits – This is for any new buildings and remodeling done over \$2000 in value. Roofing does not require a building permit if the structure of the roof is unchanged. These permits are \$25.00 for the permit and \$1.00 for each \$10,000 worth of work.

Voter Registration - This application is required for all new electors who move into the Village or have changed their name or their address since the last election. A change in residency form will be sent to the former municipality.

Absentee Ballot Requests – This would be requested if an elector was unable to come to the Municipal Building on Election Day but still wanted to vote.

Fireworks Permits – These are required if you plan to have a fireworks display.

CDBG Loan Application – Come into the Clerk's office for more information.

NEED FOR EMTS~ The Gilman Ambulance is looking for EMTS and First Responders for Western Taylor County. Please give consideration to this great cause and contact Karen Chaplinski at 447-5712 and get more information.

WEBSITE

The Village website address is *gilman.wi.com*. There will be changes on the website in the coming months. Please check out the site and you can read the minutes and the newsletters on this. If you have any questions, contact the clerk's office.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS – 2nd Wednesday of Every Month at 7p.m. unless otherwise posted. Posted at the Municipal Building, Gilman Market, and Romig's Hardware Store.

CLERK OFFICE HOURS

The Clerk's office will be open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8a.m. to 4p.m. unless otherwise noted.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Clerk's Office	447-8650	Public Works	447-8520
Library	447-5486	Police (non-emergency)	447-5700

This is my first letter as your village president, and I am finding out that it isn't that easy to write.

Some things that I would like to inform you of:

1. Sewer project

- a. Bids were opened in May for the project. The low bid for the Sand Filtration plant was submitted by Olynick's of Jump River. Low bid for the updating and remodeling of the liftstation (by the park entrance) was submitted by KBK of Ashland.
- b. Contracts were signed on June 26th, and construction actually started on Monday, June 29th. Clearing and ground movement has already been completed, and by Tuesday, July 7th, pouring of concrete will be in process. This project must be completed within 120 days of the contracts being signed.
- c. Grant: Rural Development. Julie Giese - USDA Loan Specialist for Rural Development, has worked hard on our behalf and has obtained an approximate grant amount of \$437,500 for the project. This is somewhere around 1/3 of the cost of the total project. When the Village Board started this project years ago, there wasn't any grant funds committed to the project.
- d. Rural Development Grant vs. Stimulus Funds. A lot of research and debate went into comparing the Rural Development Grant to the Stimulus Funds. It came down to the guaranteed amount of the Rural Development Grant (approx. \$437,000) to the gamble of the Stimulus Funds (which have been rumored to be up to 50% of a project). Some of the considerations were:
 1. Timing: We are under the gun to get this project done, and if we delay any more (already have had extended dates) we could face penalties. Changing our grant source may have delayed this project for up to another year and placed us in jeopardy of facing fines.
 2. Stimulus funds are supposed to create new jobs. We were told that with this project, we were not creating new jobs?
 3. Release of funds; we could not be assured of when the stimulus money would be made available to us if at all. The Village Board considered the options and opted to go with the grant from Rural Development.

2. New Village Equipment

You may have noticed some new equipment that the Village is using. A grant through Rural Development of the USDA provided \$30,805 towards the purchase of a tractor, disc mower, back blade, pallet forks, switchblade bucket (especially helpful for snow removal), a zero turn riding mower, and a used (2000) plow truck. The Village share after the USDA grant was \$33,000;

however, the sale of the old truck and disc mower brought in \$6,500 more than we anticipated. All of that equipment was obtained at a cost to the Village of \$26,500. The value of the equipment was \$88,000, so we did very well with this grant in particular.

3. Trouble with Street Lights

We ran into some problems with streetlights on the north side of Main Street between 2nd Ave and 4th Ave. Doug Alexander volunteered a lot of time working with the Public Works employees to track down the problem. In the end, it was found that the old wiring was bad in several places and had to be replaced. Sam Howard of Jump River Electric recommended a company that they have worked with that augers under the sidewalks and street to place a conduit underground, then pulls the wiring back through the conduit. The only other way to make this repair was to dig up the entire stretch. We used this service to make the repairs, and the streetlights are working again. Special thanks to Doug Alexander for all of his help with this repair.

4. Gilman EXPO: Sept. 12, the Saturday of the Gilman Fall Festival, has been set for the Gilman Expo. Applications have been sent out to many vendors inviting them to set up booths, displays and seminars in Gilman that day. These activities will be set up along Main Street. A discussion was had and a decision was made to keep Main Street open but to slow traffic to 15 mph. Invitations have been sent to have presenters give seminars on health, agriculture, gardening, and other interesting subjects. Some of our local organizations may be serving food. The idea is to bring people into Gilman and show them what a wonderful community it is. The executive committee of the Gilman EXPO consists of Butch Podolak, Pamm Spooner, and Carol Soraparau. Gail Robaczewski, President of the CBA is among any others helping with the planning. Call any of them if you have questions, ideas, or would like to be involved in the expo. The next planning meeting is July 13th at 8:00pm at the Village Hall. Call your families, friends and neighbors and invite them to the Gilman Fall Festival and to the Gilman Expo.

5. CBA= The Community Betterment Association has spent many years promoting the Gilman Community. They have contributed time, energy, and money to activities and projects which have benefited our area. They have the lead role in many of the annual activities such as the June Dairy Days and the Fall Festival. The Community Betterment Association needs more members, and needs the support of the Gilman Community as they continue their service. You can join CBA by calling Gail Robaczewski at 447-5734. The CBA is looking for help at the Gilman Fall Festival and at the Gilman expo. Please help when you can.

6. Village Board meetings: the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm. You are invited and welcome to attend the meetings. If you

have any questions, call one of your Village Board members. We are happy to share the facts of any matter because facts stop rumors.

Bill Breneman, Village President