

CITY OF WASHBURN

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER



Fall 2020

NICE KIOSK!

Thanks to everyone who worked on the kiosk project. It looks beautiful and is a great way to both highlight the history of Washburn and share current information.

This is a great example of partnership and collaboration. I look forward to seeing more examples of this type of effort to help us showcase our community.



Pictured are Sharon Stewart, Ginny Pederson, Patra Holter and Lynn Adams who worked on the planning and design of the kiosk.

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Facebook Page!**

FROM THE MAYOR’S DESK

Goodbye, Summer – It’s Been...?

It’s been a busy and challenging summer. The good news is that campground revenue was strong and the City’s budget didn’t take as hard of a hit as anticipated. Local businesses also had a busy summer and we saw relatively few cases of COVID-19 in our community; however, we’ve recently seen a spike in cases in the region. Please continue to support our local businesses as much as possible in a safe manner during this challenging time. Also, thank you to our Ambulance Service members who have stepped up to meet the challenge of responding to a record number of calls this year!

Staffing and Office Hours

Congratulations to Kay Bratley on her retirement after nearly 13 years working for the City of Washburn! We appreciate her hard work and dedication and wish her all the best.

We are excited to welcome our new Public Works Director, Gerald Schuette. His first day will be November 2 – just in time to get ready for winter. When Gerald starts his new job, Tony Janisch will be able to refocus from “Interim Public Works Director” back to “Assistant City Administrator.” A big THANK YOU to Tony for taking on that additional responsibility.

In the meanwhile, due to reduced staffing levels, City Hall does have shortened office hours until October 20 when early voting begins. The hours for early voting will be Tuesday – Friday, 10:30AM – 4:30PM and Monday 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Be sure to make use of the dropbox next to the Washington Ave. entrance to City Hall and remember that you can always call or email staff as needed. Contact information and lots of other helpful information can be found at www.cityofwashburn.org and also on the City of Washburn Facebook page.

Since I currently don’t have regular, in-person office hours, I will begin a weekly Zoom meeting for some “virtual” office hours. The first one will be Wed., October 7th at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in participating in these socially distant office hours, please contact me for the login information at washburnmayor@gmail.com by Noon on the 7th.

- Mayor Mary Motiff



Work in progress at West End boat launch and shoreline.

Contact Us

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PROJECT UPDATES

West End Boat Launch Project– What is left is the placement of concrete and asphalt, and other finishing work. The Council did approve additional dollars to extend the sheeting down to the “Fish” in order to help prevent further erosion along Lake Drive. The majority of the work should be completed in the coming weeks. We are, however, experiencing a delay with the new docks themselves. Due to Covid, the manufacturer has been delayed with their orders. It is not anticipated that the docks will be placed this year. These will be removable docks that will be taken out at the end of each season. We certainly expect everything to be ready to go when ice lets out in the spring!

Comprehensive Plan Update – The City has entered into a contract with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission to assist with the update of its comprehensive plan and creating an outdoor recreation plan. We are hopeful that public participation portions of this project can occur in the spring.

Water Meter Replacement Project – Utility customers have started to receive notices from Hydrocorp, the company the City has contracted with to replace all of the water meters in the City. This notice provides instructions on how to schedule an appointment for your meter replacement. In addition, a cross-connection control inspection, which is mandated by the State of Wisconsin, will be conducted to make sure your plumbing would not potentially lead to contamination of the public water supply. It is important

that all utility customers schedule their appointments as soon as possible to avoid delays with this project. All Hydrocorp staff will be following Covid protocols which are also included in the letter you will receive. The City of Washburn thanks you for your cooperation with this project. When completed, the new meters will assist in conserving dollars for the utilities, assist in the detection of water leaks, and provide us information to help prevent frozen pipes.

Bayfield Street Reconstruction Project - Over the summer, the City hired Ayres Associates Inc. to assist with the engineering work on the water and sewer portions of the Bayfield Street Reconstruction Project that will occur in 2024 and 2026. They have begun to work on the water and sewer plans for that area and are coordinating with the engineering efforts being undertaken by WisDOT for the highway portion of the project. In addition, Ayres will be assisting the City with some features of the project such as street lighting. In the future, we will hope to be meeting with businesses and property owners along the route to discuss how the project will work and what to expect. This will help in plans and preparations for access to businesses during construction. There is a lot of work to be done here in the coming years!

NOVEMBER 3RD ELECTION

October 14th is the last day to register to vote on-line at myvote.wi.gov , or by mail. After that, individuals will need to register in person at City Hall during regular office hours. Individuals that are registered can now request an absentee ballot at myvote.wi.gov . It is recommended that if you choose to vote absentee that you do this now to allow for plenty of time for the ballot to get to you and for you to return it by election day. In person voting will begin on October 20th during regular City Hall hours. Please contact City Hall if you have questions on proof of residence or photo id requirements. City Hall will be closed on November 2nd for election preparations and no voting or registration can take place that day. The drop box at City Hall is available to return absentee ballots as opposed to sending it through the mail. All completed ballots must be received by election staff by 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3rd.