

THE VILLAGER

Fall 2005

From the President and Administrator

This late summer brought us the unexpected resignation of Village Clerk/Treasurer Jodie Goebel. Her seventeen and a half years with the Village will be missed. Any time an employee leaves with that kind of tenure, the Village loses some historical perspective that is hard to replace. If you see her around, thank her for her hard work over the years and wish her luck in her new endeavors.

As we look ahead to the 2006 budget, we felt this was an opportunity to make a change in the way the Administrative office does business and in the process save some money. The duties of the former Clerk/Treasurer were spread among the remaining employees of the Administrative office. Administrator Mell Smigielski was appointed Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer. Kris Ruch was appointed as the Deputy Treasurer, Claire Lotto and Ellen Rodenkirch were both appointed as Deputy Clerks. Even though each of the four employees were given a slight increase in compensation, the Village will be saving significant money of about \$40,000.00 annually. If the arrangement becomes too much of a burden or the work is not completed in an acceptable manner, a new Clerk/Treasurer will be hired and the extra compensation for the four current Administrative office employees will be forfeited.

The State of Wisconsin has made it more difficult for local government to operate. A levy limit was placed on municipalities that gives a municipality the ability to increase taxes the greater of 2 % or their growth rate of net new construction. North Fond du Lac had an increase of net new construction of only 1.248 %, so we are allowed to increase taxes 2%, or \$24,000. Property tax accounts for over 40% of the general fund budget. Increasing the property tax is not always the answer to our problems. As we go forward, we have to work smarter and attempt to do more with less.

With the cost of fuel and heating increasing at an alarming rate and the cost of insurance and wages going up, you can see the budget challenges North Fond du Lac has to face.

The state shared revenue, which is 44% of our general fund revenue, is not going down (good news). But the bad news is that it is not going up either. The ability to increase our revenue to cover normal operating expense increases is severely limited. If the state shared revenue is added to the property tax, which comes to over 80% of our budget that has limits. Again, a major challenge for the Board as they slide into considering the budget for 2006.

Voter Registration

The Village of North Fond du Lac because it is under 5,000 in population did not require voter registration. However, the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) signed in 2002 and the Wisconsin state statutes requires all voters in Wisconsin to be registered in order to vote after January 1, 2006.

If you would like to avoid long registration lines in the next election, please consider bringing your Wisconsin Department of Transportation issued driver's license or identification card number to the Municipal Offices located at 16 Garfield Street. By bringing your driver's license or identification card number it will make it easier to complete the form.

You may have already completed the voter registration information at one of the previous elections held on November 6, 2004, February 15, 2005 or April 5, 2005. If you are not sure, you may call the village offices at 929-3765 to find out. The state elections board had previously informed municipalities that those were the only dates that voters could be registered. That decision has since changed and we encourage you to take the time and register now.

VOTER REGISTRATION



LIBRARY NEWS

www.northfonddulaclibrary.org

The Open House celebrating the library's 100th anniversary was held on October 15th. Winnie the Fox, the Winnefox Library System mascot, made an appearance to help commemorate this historic event. Many former library board members and former library staff as well as library users in the community took advantage of this opportunity to see the changes that have taken place at their library over the years. A number of story posters depicted the buildings, staff, materials and services during that 100 year history. Thanks to Sandy Joseph, a former children's librarian here, for this exhibit. These will be on display for awhile in the library.

A delightful scrapbook of pictures and news articles of children's programs offered over the years was perused by many guests. Erin Andrews, a present library staff member was responsible for this work.

Amy Leemon, a library board member, offered a variety of background music on a keyboard during the festivities. Other library board members volunteered to make cookies to help make this a really special event. A wall hanging quilt was made by Inez Koechel, another former children's librarian. It was fabricated from a dozen different Summer Reading Program t-shirts that had a different theme every year and were stamped gratis by Mark Hopper every summer.

The members of the community who served on the library board over this 100 year span are to be congratulated for their volunteer work in helping offer public library service. A sincere thank you also goes to the trustees of the village board who have supported the library for all these years.

There are still some canvas book bags with a 100th anniversary logo available for purchase at \$5.00. Stop in at the library to obtain your book bag.

Story times continue through the fall and winter with many interesting and exciting stories and craft activities. Preschoolers have enjoyed themes of bears and honey, apples, peanut butter and jelly, trees, and homes. You're invited to bring your child to join in the fun.

School age children looking for something to do on a Friday when there is no school can come and enjoy a story and craft hour. There will be a program from 1-2 PM on Friday, October 28th.

The theme is Creative Costumes from the Craft Cupboard in which they will be creating simple masks and costumes such as wizards, pirates and various animals using items from the library's art supplies. Bring your imagination! Other possible program dates are November 18th and March 10th.

The library will soon be adding audio books on CD to its collection. Until now only a rotating collection of these have been supplied by the Winnefox Library System. So if you "listen" to books rather than "read" them, watch for these new CD books. Another new offering at your local library is access to the OVERDRIVE Digital Audiobook collection. Library users can now download audiobooks to their PC and are then able to listen to them on their PC, transfer them to a digital audio player, PDA or other portable device, or burn them to CD. Just go to our library's website: www.northfonddulaclibrary.org Then click on the link for Digital Audiobooks, choose one of the titles available, download and listen.

A reminder to write the library's Annual Used Book (and other materials) Sale on your calendar. This is always held during National Library Week which this year is from April 2nd-8th.

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Elected Officials

J.A. Moon, President - 921-9695
Jim Moore, Trustee 922-7212
Jim Scharf, Trustee - 921-6625
Mike Streetar, Trustee - 926-0223
Chuck Hornung, Trustee - 923-5440

Village Departments

Administrator 929-3765
Clerk-Treasurer 929-3765
EMS 929-3760
Fire 929-3760
Inspections/Zoning 929-3765
Library 929-3771
Municipal Court 924-2479
Police 929-3760

publicsafety@nfdl.org

Non-Emergency
Calls for Services 906-5555
Public Works 929-3765

publicworks@nfdl.org
Community Center 929-6811
nfdlseniorcntr.@charter.net

Water & Sewer
Utilities 929-3765

For Emergencies-Call 911

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

Visit us on the web at www.nfdl.org



**TRICK
OR
TREAT HOURS**

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 30**

3:30 - 5:30 P.M.

Snow and Ice Removal

It is the responsibility of all property owners to remove snow and ice from their property. The following is an excerpt from the Village's ordinance regarding snow removal:

(1) Responsibility of Owner, Occupant, Etc. It shall be the responsibility of every property owner within the Village of North Fond du Lac who has sidewalks abutting their property, to remove or cause to be removed, snow or ice to the full width of said sidewalk within 24 hours after the snow ceases to fall. If ice has formed and cannot be removed, it shall be sprinkled with salt, sand, ashes or de-icer to create non-skid surface.

(2) Removal by Village. If the provisions of paragraph (1) are not met, the Director of Public Works or his agent, shall cause said walks to be cleaned or sprinkled with an abrasive or de-icer as outlined in paragraph (1). All expenses involved shall be assessed as a special tax against the parcel at the current rate as outlined in the Village policy manual.

(3) Putting Snow in Streets. It shall be unlawful to place, shovel or blow snow into any street within the village.

(4) Penalty. The penalty for violation of any provision of this section shall be as provided in Section 18.04 of this code. Each day the violation exists constitutes a separate violation. Fine could range from \$1-\$500.

THE VILLAGER, is published quarterly by the Village of North Fond du Lac and is available on the website or at the village offices. Please direct questions or comments to:

**Mell Smigielski, Administrator
Village of North Fond du Lac
16 Garfield Street
North Fond du Lac, WI 54937-1399
(920)929-3765**

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

Date	Event
October 30	Trick or Treat 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
November 21	Residential Water Bills Due.
November 24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday. Offices Closed
December 23 and 26	Christmas Holiday. Offices Closed.
January 2	New Year Holiday. Offices Closed.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the municipal building board room. These meetings are televised live on cable channel 25. The board also meets as a Committee of the Whole for workshop discussions of village issues on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. and following the regular board meeting as needed.

Snow Shoveling Aid

The Village of North Fond du Lac will once again be offering winter snow shoveling aid to the elderly and individuals with serious health problems. This is the seventh year that the village has made this service available to residents. The number of residents that can be served is limited, so residents are encouraged to get their applications in early. Applications are available at the Municipal Offices or by calling 929-3765 and will be accepted through November 12.

Because of the limited number of residents that can be served by the work force, the final selection of applicants will be at the discretion of the Director of Public Works. **This service will be available on weekdays only.** Any applicant found falsifying an application will be disqualified from this program for up to three years. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance or denial into the program.

Leaf/Brush Pick-up

The Public Works Department will pick up leaves and other lawn and garden waste on October 24 and October 31, November 7 and 14. Leaves and waste must be bagged and placed on the terrace for pick-up in such a manner that it does not block access to refuse containers. Residents may also take their leaves and waste to the drop-off site located next to the Municipal Garage at 55 Indiana Avenue.

The last brush/branch pick-up of the year will be November 14. There will be a special Christmas tree pick-up that will run every Monday from January 9 through January 30, 2006.



Police Receive Crime Prevention Award

The Police Department received the 2005 Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioner's Association (WCPPA) Crime Prevention Project of the Year Category 1 Award for its "Meth Lab Prevention Initiative". The Department also received this award in 2000. Chief William Lamb said, "This is the 2nd time in only 5 years that our department has won this award. Additionally, this is the 3rd state wide award that we've won in that short period of time. I am very proud of the members of this department. It takes a great deal of hard work, dedication, and a commitment to excellence to achieve what we have in the past 5 years. I am also very proud of the residents of this community who have teamed with us time and again to combat problems in the community. We are fortunate to enjoy some very strong community partnerships, and this is a great example of residents mobilizing and working together with us to make a real difference."

Sergeant Colette Jaeger submitted the nomination, detailing the department's response to growing concerns about methamphetamine production in North Fond du Lac after the fourth meth lab bust in just 2 ½ years in May of 2003. At that time, the department and residents of the neighborhoods where labs had been found "drew a line in the sand" to proactively address the issue.

The nomination specifically highlighted Chief Lamb's and Sergeant Jaeger's efforts in spearheading a three-part meth lab prevention initiative that reached out to the community and all of Fond du Lac County. Prior to the launch of that initiative, Chief Lamb and Jaeger met with a group of residents who lived near the labs which were seized and cleaned up. Those community members provided a unique perspective regarding living with the hazardous presence, cleanup, and aftermath of the production of

methamphetamines. The issues and concerns they felt were important for themselves and others to consider in the detection of the presence of meth production were utilized throughout the prevention initiative.

The department is grateful that the preventative action and stand against meth production seem to have made a remarkable impact on the quality of life fears that many held in May of 2003. In April of 2005, the police and the community revisited this initiative. Neighborhood residents report that things have changed dramatically since then. One resident said, "It's made the neighborhoods much more aware of what's going on around them. People are watching now, and they know what to look for. There's going to be phone calls made [to the police] if things look suspicious." According to Chief Lamb and Jaeger, methamphetamine education remains a priority for the department. They hope that the combined efforts of their agency and residents will continue to keep meth labs out of North Fond du Lac.

This is the third award in 5 years the North Fond du Lac Police Department has received for its initiatives in community and problem solving efforts. In addition to the two WCPPA awards, the Wisconsin Association of Community Oriented Police (WACOP) selected the "Neighborhood Oriented Policing – A Community-Wide Response" program as the winner of the 2001 Sir Robert Peel Award.

Tricks & Treats and Common Sense Safety

*Leaves are falling...
Ghosts shout, "BOO!"
Halloween is coming...
Just for you.*

Halloween and trick-or-treat should be a time of fun and enjoyment. By following these tips and guidelines, parents and youngsters can avoid unpleasant and dangerous surprises.

- Young children should always be accompanied by a responsible adult.
 - Children should stop only at houses where the porch light is lit and they should **NEVER** enter a stranger's home or car to receive a treat.
 - Children should stay on sidewalks and they should walk, not run.
 - Costumes should be short enough so they do not present a tripping hazard, and masks, which can obstruct vision, should be removed before crossing streets or driveways.
 - Parents should discuss with children the importance of trick-or-treating only in familiar neighborhoods and along an established route.
 - Parents should establish a return time for older children.
 - Children should stay away from and should not pet animals unfamiliar to them.
 - Children should not eat anything before returning home, and parents should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped, or suspicious items.
 - Homeowners should eliminate tripping hazards on porches and walkways, and jack o'lanterns with candles should be placed well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing.
- Motorists should **slow down** and watch for children darting out from between parked cars and walking on roadways and curbs. Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.



Surf the Police Department on the Web

The Police Department website has been updated in 2005, and there are some significant changes in both the appearance and the usability of the site.

Our website has been prepared to allow users to familiarize themselves with the Department, our programs, and some of the laws and regulations in the Village of North Fond du Lac. Additionally, we offer resources and links for obtaining crime prevention, safety, and other helpful and important information.

From the Police Main Page, visitors can use the section headings for one-click access to any section of the website. Options include departmental information such as our Mission Statement, Department Structure and Contact information, Neighborhood Oriented Policing program, Identity Theft, Press Releases, Ride Alongs, and Monthly Reports. Visitors can also use the Feedback Survey to share thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

Also, from the Main Page, visitors can access links to resources for Wanted Persons, Missing Persons, Sex Offenders, and Homeland Security. These links will allow visitors to assist law enforcement in locating wanted or missing persons, and they will allow visitors to access information that can help safeguard themselves and their families. The Missing Persons page includes a link to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website, which contains nationwide missing persons information. The Sex Offender Information page includes links to the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry website and the National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR). The NSOPR is a searchable website that links state and US territory sex offender public registries and allows users access to public information about sex offenders throughout the country. A single query allows NSOPR to deliver instant matches on sex offenders, including detailed information and often photographs, from

state public registries.

In the near future, we will be adding additional resources to our website including Department Policies, Frequently Asked Questions, Annual Reports, and other links. Visit us at www.nfdl.org often. Simply click on the "Police Department" heading on the left side of the page to access our Main Page. Once inside, visitors can navigate throughout the website using the one-click navigation bar on the left side of every page. It's a user-friendly site full of valuable information and resources. After your visit, feel free to share with us any feedback you might have; particularly recommendations for improvement.

Spring Election 2006

A spring election will be held April 4, 2006. The village has two trustee positions up for election in 2006. Nomination papers for these offices may be obtained from the clerk's office located at 16 Garfield Street. Nomination papers may be circulated no earlier than December 1, 2005 and must be returned by 4:30 pm on Tuesday, January 3, 2006. The current salary in 2006 will be \$3,750 annually for a trustee position. If you are interested in running for a village office and would like more information, please call 929-3765.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant

As winter time rolls around the corner, and the snow begins to fall, North Fond du Lac Fire & EMS wants to remind you and your family to 'Adopt a Hydrant'. Take a look in your front yard to see where the nearest fire hydrant is located. After a snowfall, please take a couple of extra minutes to make sure that snow and ice is removed from around the hydrant. In the event of a fire, we would then have direct access to water, without having to waste any time removing snow and ice from the hydrant. By performing this small task, you are helping North Fond du Lac Fire & EMS, your

neighbors, and yourself. If you notice any other problems with the hydrant, please contact the Fire Department or the Department of Public Works immediately.

Sump Pumps

Village residents who run their sump pumps into the street should be aware that from November 1 through April 1 it is illegal to pump water onto the street surface, because of the icing problems it creates. Residents are asked to disconnect the piping that runs into the street and to redirect the water into their backyard. Sump pumps **may not** be diverted into the interior plumbing of the home.

Village Pet License

All cats and dogs in the Village of North Fond du Lac must be licensed annually. Tags and licenses will be issued upon proof of rabies vaccination. A male or female dog license is \$15 per year, the fee for a neutered or spayed dog license is \$10 per year. A cat license is \$10 per year for a male or female cat and \$5 for a spayed or neutered cat. Dog tags for 2006 will be available at the clerk's office around mid-December.

Village Newsletter Locations

The Villager is available via e-mail, on line at www.nfdl.org and at the following locations:

Municipal Offices
Community Center
Spillman Library
Steenberg Communities
The Classic Cut
PDQ
NFDL Mighty Mart

If you are unable to obtain the Villager from one of the locations listed in the newsletter or from the website, please call the village offices if you wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive the newsletter.

Santa Claus is Coming to the Village



- Watch for Santa atop the fire truck during his neighborhood parade.
- Visit with him at the NFDL Community Center in person afterwards.
- Enjoy a large display of lights, decorated trees and eat lots of cookies and cocoa!

FRIDAY
DECEMBER
9TH
PARADE 3:30-5:30

SANTA'S ROUTE: (Starts at NFDL Fire Dept. Bay, 16 Garfield, and ends at NFDL Community Center, 280 Garfield)

Illinois Avenue to Lakeshore Drive, Lakeshore Drive to Prospect Avenue, Prospect Avenue to Swan Drive, Swan Drive to Robin Drive, Robin Drive to N. Pioneer Road, N. Pioneer Road to Lighthouse Lane, Lighthouse Lane to Twin Lakes Drive, Twin Lakes Drive to Winnebago Street, Winnebago Street to Wisconsin Avenue, Wisconsin Avenue to Center Street, Center Street to Minnesota Avenue, Minnesota Avenue to Chapleau Street, Chapleau Street to Westwood Avenue, Westwood Avenue to Southview Drive, Southview Drive to Thurke Avenue, Thurke Avenue to Marcoe Street, Marcoe Street to Minnesota Avenue, Minnesota Avenue to Harrison Street, Harrison Street to Washington Avenue, Washington Avenue to Garfield Street and the Community Center.

This event is presented by: The NFDL Community Center, Fire & EMS Departments and the Police Department.

Fire Prevention Week

As in past years, the Fire Service continues to promote using smoke detectors—testing them each month and replacing batteries every six months. Smoke detectors warn your family, and give you valuable minutes in order to escape from a fire in your house. The Fire Service has also encouraged the public to practice ‘EDITH’ (Exit Drills In The Home) with their family members. You should have and practice an escape plan with your family—always knowing two ways out of a structure.

The theme for Fire Prevention Week this year is “Use Candles with Care: When you Go Out, Blow Out!” Unattended candles cause many needless fires each year. North Fond du Lac Fire & EMS is encouraging you to check for candles before you leave a room, and if you see one that is lit, be sure to blow the candle out. Our campaign by the Fire Service against fire fatalities is working: Lives are being saved due to Fire Prevention, smoke detector warnings, and escaping from house fires using EDITH.

If you or your group would like to visit North Fond du Lac Fire & EMS, and see some of our equipment—including the new Fire Engine 504 and Rescue Unit 510—please contact Fire Chief Dana Sechler at (920) 929-3765 or dsechler@nfdl.org to set up a time to tour the facility, and see the vehicles and equipment.

Home Maintenance

Maintaining the exterior of your home is required under Section 9.07 of the Village of North Fond du Lac Municipal Ordinance. The siding, painting, roofing, and maintenance of your home and garage are required by Village Ordinance. Building permits are required for work done to your home, garage, or business that has a retail cost of \$300 or

\$150 in materials. The following are the only items which do not require a building permit: painting, wall papering, floor covering, and kitchen cabinets. Building permits are valid for six months and may only be extended by the building inspector under special circumstances or a new permit with fees must be attained for the additional work to be completed. Any questions or comments may be directed to the Building Inspector Peter Fetters at (920) 929-3765 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m..

Water Facts

1. A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math, and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or on a printed page.
2. Drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79%, and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer.

Water Myths

Myth: Bottled water is safer than tap water.

Reality: Not necessarily. Unlike tap water, the quality of finished bottled water is not government-monitored. Studies have shown that microbes may grow in the bottles while on grocers' shelves. You don't need to buy bottled water for safety reasons if your tap water meets all federal, state, or provincial drinking water standards. If you want water with a different taste, you can buy bottled water, but it costs up to 1,000 times more than tap water. Of course, in emergencies bottled water can be a vital source of drinking water for people without water.

Myth: Using a home treatment device will make tap water safer or healthier to drink.

Reality: Some people use home water filters to improve the taste, smell, or

appearance of their tap water, but it does not necessarily make the water safer or healthier to drink. Additionally, all home treatment devices require regular maintenance. If the maintenance is not performed properly, water quality problems may result.

Identity Theft

Warning Signs:

Often, there are no warning signs that identity theft has occurred. However, some reasons for concern are:


- Your monthly credit card and bank statements suddenly stop arriving.
- You are denied credit for no apparent reason.
- You start getting bills from companies you do not recognize.
- Credit collection agencies try to collect on debts that do not belong to you.

Protect Yourself:

Personal Information

- Ask your bank, doctor's office, other businesses and your employer how they use and protect your personal information.
- Never carry your Social Security card, Social Security number, birth certificate or passport, unless necessary.
- Do not put your address, telephone number or driver's license number on a credit card sales receipt.
- Social Security numbers or phone numbers should not be put on checks.
- Identifying information should not be given over the phone or the Internet to someone you do not know or on a cellular or cordless phone.
- Shred all personal documents before placing them in the trash.
- If your state uses your Social Security number as your driver's license number, ask for another number.

Businesses, Organizations, & Upcoming Events



**ENTREES...
ON TRAYS**

550 Prospect Avenue
N. Fond du Lac, WI 54937

920-602-1600
or
920-922-0387

Meals "To Go"
Deli Trays
Catering

Nathan and Lori Zoch

Looking to join a club where you
can give back to the community?



We see it as our duty as a service
and civil-minded organization to help improve the
quality for the youth of our community. With this
as our intention, we hope to help nurture the youth
of today into future productive and civic-minded
participants in our democratic society.

Contact Sandra about joining the club.
920-375-0786

Place your business or organization ad in

The Villager

for \$25.00 a year

**For information contact Ellen Rodenkirch
at 920-929-3765.**

Present this coupon
for
\$5.00 off
a Spa Pedicure

(920) 922-3325



432 Prospect Ave www.theclassiccut.com