

# CROSS PLAINS POST

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Cross Plains



Photo credit: Village of Cross Plains Staff

## NEW ONLINE BILL PAY COMING SOON...



The Village of Cross Plains is partnering with Payment Service Network Inc (PSN) to bring more convenience to accessing and paying your water/sewer bill.

The PSN service, will allow residents to **receive their bills via email, pay their bill online either immediately or by scheduling a payment, setup and manage auto-pay, view your balance due and view past payments.** This can be done on a computer or by using the PSN app on your mobile device.

For those not wishing to sign up, we will still send postcard bills each month in the mail and will accept payments at the Village Office.

For those using the new PSN service to pay their bills, payment convenience fees apply: \$1.00 fee for checking and savings payments; 2.75% (+\$0.50 for payments under \$100) for credit and debit payments.

Make sure to check our Facebook page for updates: [www.bit.ly/VillageofCrossPlains](http://www.bit.ly/VillageofCrossPlains) as well as our website: [www.cross-plains.wi.us](http://www.cross-plains.wi.us)

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

[From the Village President - 2](#)

[From the Administrator - 2](#)

[Meet the New Chief - 3](#)

[Parks and Rec - 4 & 5](#)

[Library - 6 & 7](#)

[School District - 8 & 9](#)

[Snow Reminders - 9](#)

[Meet the Village People - 10](#)

[Election Information - 11](#)

[Important Reminders - 12](#)

## From the Village President

I hope everyone had a safe and joyful Holiday season! Many fun activities have occurred since the last newsletter. The wine walk was held on November 30th and had over 250 participants, many who lived outside of Cross Plains. They were able to see all the good businesses and outdoor activities Cross Plains has to offer. It was a beautiful night for the Winter Solstice walk along the boardwalk or Ice Age Trail on December 20th. It was great to see so many residents participating in this great outdoor event. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped with these two events! The Middle School also hosted an event in the Village. A Cross Country meet! I have only heard positive comments on the race and the Village. We could be seeing more meets in the future.

Cross Plains continues to be a popular place to live. Homes are selling in days and we have three developments at different places in the process. Scenic Valley, located on the far west side of the Village could be selling lots early this year. The other two will continue to move through the process this year. We are also looking at hiring a firm to give us some engineering ideas to help with flood mitigation. Flooding continues to be a concern for the Village and we need to work on ways to reduce this threat.

I would like to welcome our new Police Chief, Tony Ruesga to Cross Plains. I look forward to working with him this year. I want to thank Chief Tom Janssen for his 14 years of service to the residents of Cross Plains and wish him the best in retirement.

The 2020 Census starts in March. Make sure you are counted! You can do it by email, over the phone or by regular mail. It is important that you are counted.

Jay Lengfeld  
Village President



## From the Village Administrator

The Village recently renewed its garbage and recycling contract with Town and Country Sanitation to ensure that waste and recycling services are provided through 2024. Monthly rates for residential waste and recycling pickup will remain the same. This amount is billed to, and paid directly by the Village. For the most part, services will remain the same. Residents are expected to set out garbage at the curb or near the street edge, in bags or containers by 6:00 AM on Thursdays (with the exception of Holidays).

The recyclables below may be co-mingled in a recycling bin or clear bags and set out at the curb. More information can be found on Town and Country's website: [www.townandcountysanitation.com/recycling](http://www.townandcountysanitation.com/recycling). Additional recycling bins may be purchased from Village Hall.

- Aluminum cans
- Corrugated cardboard and paperboard
- Glass containers
- Newspaper
- Steel, tin and bi-metal cans
- Plastic containers; Types #1-7
- Magazines
- Junk mail, mail advertisement and office paper

Residents may contact Town and Country Sanitation for large item recycling and/or hauling (lead acid batteries, appliances, E-waste, tires, etc.). Pick up availability and rates are set by and paid directly to Town and Country. Please feel free to contact the Village or Town and Country Sanitation if you have any questions.

Village of Cross Plains- 608-798-3241

Town and Country Sanitation- 608-375-5856 or 1-800-626-1915

Bill Chang  
Village Administrator/Clerk

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## Meet the New Chief



On Monday, December 2, 2019, Tony Ruesga Jr. was sworn in as the Chief of Police for the Village of Cross Plains. He began his tenure on January 6, 2020, after the current chief, Tom Janssen, retired. Chief Ruesga started his career in 1999 as a part-time police officer for the Elk Mound Police Department. He continued his career working for the Benton Police Department, Layfayette County Sheriff's Office and Darlington Police Department.

Chief Ruesga has held multiple positions through the years and values his extensive law enforcement experience, training and education. Chief Ruesga holds an Associate's Degree in Police Science, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Multiculturalism and Social Diversity.

In 2010, Chief Ruesga received the Police Officer of the Year award from the Third District of the American Legion for his work in the community. He helped to build compassion and cooperation with the growing Hispanic population in Southwest Wisconsin. Chief Ruesga has received multiple awards and recognitions from several community organizations and the State of Wisconsin for his efforts in community police relations.

When asked about his philosophy in law enforcement, Chief Ruesga said, "I have immense pride in being a member of the law enforcement profession and especially being part of the Cross Plains Police Department. I consider it a tremendous privilege to have been appointed as the Chief of Police. As the leader of a professional and progressive department it is my primary objective to have an organization whose skills and abilities are second to none. Our team will work hard to maintain a high level of excellence, initiative and integrity."

Chief Ruesga also said, "I am a firm believer in surrounding oneself with exemplary people and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to watch, listen and learn from the many dedicated community members, Village Board members, Village Administrator, Village Department Heads, Village Employees and members of the Cross Plains Police Department. Each day I will work hard to follow their good examples and lead your police department in a professional, responsible and progressive direction".

When Chief Ruesga is not leading the Cross Plains Police Department, he can be found spending time with his family and friends. He said that his wife, Shari, of nearly 30 years, keeps him grounded and is the foundation of their strong relationship. They have raised three children and have a grandson and another on the way. He enjoys watching movies and sporting events. During the summer months, Chief Ruesga and Shari spend time traveling, playing golf and taking walks.

Chief Ruesga's words to live by, "Humble service to others, in the absence of an audience, is the greatest personal gift you can give anyone. Remember kindness is free."

# WELCOME!

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## Parks and Rec Department



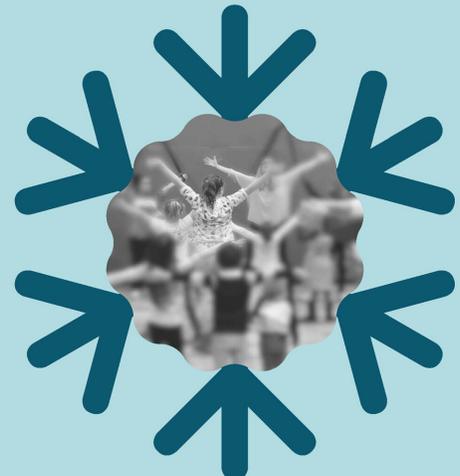
MCPASD WELLNESS & CROSS PLAINS PARK & REC PROUDLY PRESENT

# WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY IN MEMORY OF CANDLELIGHT HIKE

Join us at H.M. Zander Community Nature Park

FEBRUARY 8, 2020 • 2-7 PM

**2-4PM @ Northwest Dane**  
1841 Bourbon Road, Cross Plains  
**Family Fun Adventure Race**  
Games, Cards, Crafts & more  
Family Yoga (3:30-4PM)



**4:30-7PM @ Zander Park**  
**Candlelight Hike & Bonfire**

**6PM @ Zander Park**  
**Lantern Send Off**



**CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP**

### QUESTIONS?

Michael Axon, Parks & Recreation Director, 608-798-3241 ext 107  
Kalise Horst, Wellness Coordinator, Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District, 608-829-9030

# Parks and Rec Department

The Village of Cross Plains Parks and Public Facilities Departments worked to remove playground equipment at Glacial Valley Park in December. A community build, adding new equipment to the site will be completed in the Spring 2020; date to be determined.

The Village worked with "Kids Around the World", a non-profit organization from Rockford Illinois, who take an innovative "green" approach, refurbishing old equipment and opening the door for play internationally. On Tuesday, January 7th, Playground Director Tim Clauson, communicated that the equipment from Glacial Valley Park, would be leaving Friday, June 10th, for the Dominican Republic!



## Winter Activities in Cross Plains!

**BEGINS:** Weather Pending  
**HOURS:** Dawn to Dusk  
**LOCATION:** Pool Parking Lot  
**HOCKEY NOT PERMITTED**

*Ice Skating*



2106 Lewis Street

**BEGINS:** Anytime there's snow!  
**HOURS:** Dawn to Dusk  
**LOCATION:** East of Baer Park

*Sledding*



3000 Evergreen Parkway

Village conservancy trails are groomed throughout the winter starting December 15 as weather permits!

*Cross Country Skiing*



Hickory Hill, Glacial Valley



Cross Plains offers a variety of winter activities! Be sure to check them out, weather permitting!





# Rosemary Garfoot Public Library

608-798-3881 - [www.rgpl.org](http://www.rgpl.org)

Also be sure to check us out on Facebook! 



## School's Out Movie- TOY STORY 4, January 17, 1:00PM

Join us for our first School's Out Movie of 2020 with a screening of the latest in the beloved Toy Story series! Join Bonnie and her family as they set out on an adventure with Woody, Bo Peep, Buzz Lightyear and the rest of the gang!



## Tween/Teen Book Club, ages 9 and up

Join the Tween-Teen Book Group for a fun and lively after-school discussion once a month. Current information is on our website. Stop by to sign up and pick up the latest book. Snacks are provided!

## We're Not Barking Up a Tree - Read to a Dog!

You don't have to pontificate in "poochese" to read to a dog. Our fabulous four-legged reading buddy, Chase, loves hearing stories read by kids. Fifteen-minute slots are available between 4:30-5:30 PM on Mondays- January 27, February 24 and March 30. Call the Library to sign up!



## Lovin' the Lego Club - Mondays, February 10 and March 16, 4:00PM

The ever-popular Lego Club is going strong! Sign-up and bring your creative mojo to the next get together! This program is for school-aged kids 5 and up. Snacks are provided.

## A Very Special Valentine Storytime - Donuts with Dad (or another special person!)

Saturday, February 15 at 10:30 AM

Love donuts? Love Dad (or another special person)? Then this very special storytime is your ticket. Kids and dads or other special family members or friends of your choice, are invited to a morning of great stories, special songs and creative crafts. Oh, and don't forget about the donuts!!



## Winter Storytimes at the Library - "Be Yourself"

The Library has wonderful ongoing storytimes for Big Kids, babies and toddlers. Check for days and times on our website or pick-up a brochure at the Library!

## 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

If you haven't signed up yet for our *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* program, now is the time! Once you have reached the 1000 book goal, your child will receive a new picture book to keep.

**The Library will be closed on Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will also be closed 12:30-2:30 PM on Wednesday, January 29, for staff training.**

## Register to Vote at the Library!

Volunteers trained by the League of Women Voters, will be joining us at the Library in February and March, to assist people in registering to vote. The League is a non-profit, non-partisan, national organization. Their purpose is to promote informed and active participation of citizens in government at all levels. Please call the Library or check out our website for details. For complete information about how to register or to confirm that you are still registered, go to [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov). Hurry because deadlines are approaching for the primaries!



# Rosemary Garfoot Public Library



A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter® network

## Free Career Assistance from the WI Department of Workforce Development

A Job Service Employment Specialist is at the Library the first and third Tuesdays of the month, to provide free assistance with a variety of job-seeker tools and skills. More information is on our website or call the Library. Service is by appointment, but walk-ins are welcome.

## Resilience - Mixed-media Art by Dawn Wians

Area artist, Dawn Wians, works in oil paint, wax and graphite. She often mixes layers of media and asemic writing over her paintings. Recently, she has given reflective meaning to her work through poetry to express the healing power of making and viewing art. Dawn's intriguing exhibit runs through March 20th.



An Illustrated Historical Catalogue containing an alternate history of our beloved state.



## On Ouisconsin: An Illustrated Historical Catalogue - Art Exhibit by Philip Heckman

Heckman's curious and amusing exhibit contains highlights of an alternate history of our beloved state. Heckman's hope for this fond but irreverent "re-imagining" is to stimulate a search for more accurate depictions of historical truth. This clever and thought provoking exhibit will be at the Library until March 31st.

## Friends of the Library Used Book Donations

The fantastic Spring Used Book Sale is scheduled for the first weekend in May and the Friends could use your donation of gently used books, DVDs, CDs and puzzles to make it a great one. Please take a look at the list of materials the Friends can and cannot accept before you bring your donation to the Library. This information can be found on our website. Proceeds from the sale support Library programming and special projects.

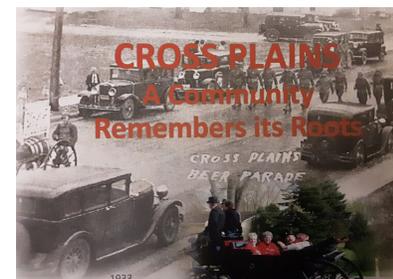


## The Cross Plains-Berry Historical Society Research Center and Exhibit

Located in the Library, the Historical Society Research Center is open by appointment. Contact Pauline Brunner at 798-2217 to make an appointment. The Historical Society is currently sponsoring an exhibit from the **American Legion Auxiliary**. Along with memorabilia, the display features a silver tea set that serves as a "traveling trophy" honoring the Auxiliary unit that reaches the highest membership goals.

## Read All About It!

Local author, Jane Busch, in partnership with the Cross Plains LIFE Foundation, has released the book *Cross Plains: A Community Remembers its Roots*. Filled with photos both old and new, along with interesting and fun stories about the Village and the people who have and do live here. The book is a 'must read' for anyone interested in getting to know Cross Plains! The book is currently for sale at the Library with all proceeds from books sold at the Library, being donated back to the Library! Recommended donation for the book is \$15.



## Open Music Jam, Thursdays 6-8:00PM

Stop by the Library on Thursday nights and join other area musicians in a weekly music jam. All abilities welcome!

## Computer Assistance

The Library staff is happy to help patrons, using Library computers, with questions. People can also get one-on-one basic instruction by calling 798-3881 for an appointment.

## Space For Your Next Event

The Community Room and kitchen are available to rent for private events. Please call 798-3881 for details.



# Middleton–Cross Plains Area School District

inclusive. innovative. inspiring.

The Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt Option D3.7.2a for the elementary boundaries, starting with the 2020-21 school year and voted 7-1 to adopt the Pope Farm scenario for the middle school boundaries at its meeting on Monday, December 16th.

The only neighborhood currently attending Glacier Creek that will shift to Kromrey is No. 24, which is the eastern part of Blackhawk. In the elementary option approved, Neighborhood 38, which currently attends Park, will shift to Sunset Ridge.

The Internal Attendance Boundary Committee, which was made up of 25 residents, met 14 times since March and also held two community forums to get feedback. The committee considered more than 20 elementary options and six middle school options before forwarding two elementary options and one middle school option to the Board for consideration.



More than 30 District residents addressed the Board regarding the internal attendance boundaries at Monday's meeting. After residents spoke, Board president Bob Green read a statement from member Minza Karim, who was out of the country and unable to attend the meeting. She said she supported keeping Neighborhood 37E at Sunset Ridge and Neighborhood 38 at Park. She supported Option D3.7.2. She also supported moving Neighborhood 70 to Kromrey and Neighborhoods 24-25 to Glacier Creek.

Park and Glacier Creek were two of the nine Middleton-Cross Plains Area District schools that were recognized as Healthy Kids, Healthy School winners on Thursday, December 5th.

In all, 33 Dane County schools were recognized. The nine MCPASD schools were the most of any District in the county. The other districts to have schools recognized were Madison Metropolitan (8), Oregon (7), Sun Prairie (7), Stoughton (1) and Verona (1). This is the first year the Healthy Kids Collaborative of Dane County has announced award winners. Each participating school will receive a window cling. Each school will also receive their results and a customized action plan.

There were three levels -- gold, silver and bronze -- of recognition. Northside, Park, Sauk Trail, West Middleton, Glacier Creek and Kromrey received gold recognition, which is the highest honor available. Elm Lawn, Sunset Ridge and Clark Street Community School received silver recognition.



Eppstein Uhen Architects representatives Robin Savola, Rovertto Jaimes, Suzanne Miller, Jackie Michels and Kim Frerichs shared updates on each project at the Board of Education regular meeting on November 18th.

Savola noted schematic design is ongoing at Park. She expects the design will be completed by February, with construction to being in March. The project should be completed by the start of the 2020-21 school year. When the project is completed, the school will have a new cafeteria and some additional spaces on the north end of the school.

Savola said there are plans to be able to lock off the addition from the rest of the school during the evening, when community members might access it. EUA representatives have also worked with the Fire Department officials on access to the west side of the school due to the addition.

## More from the MCPASD

For the fifth time since 2012, at least half of all the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District schools significantly exceeded expectations on the School Report Cards, which were issued on November 12th by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Five MCPASD schools - Elm Lawn, Northside, Sunset Ridge, West Middleton and MHS - significantly exceeded expectations, which is the highest category. Glacier Creek, Kromrey, Park and Sauk Trail exceeded expectations, which is the second-highest category.

There were 318 schools out of more than 2,100 rated in the state, that significantly exceeded expectations. Another 807 exceeded expectations.



The Board of Education approved the 2019-20 budget and certified the tax levy in the amount of \$72,941,637 at its regular meeting on October 28th.

All school boards in Wisconsin must adopt the 2019-20 budget and certify the associated tax levy on or before November 1st. The Board approved a preliminary budget in July.

Due to additional state aid and property values increasing more than the District conservatively projected, the mill rate only increased 50 cents to \$10.09 per \$1,000 of property value, Assistant Superintendent for Operations Lori Ames said. The District had projected a year ago, before the 2018 referendum, that the mill rate would increase by \$1.65 per \$1,000 of property value if the two questions were successful, which they were.



### Snow Reminders

- No vehicles can be parked on the street if we get 2" of snow or more, until the street is plowed curb to curb.
- If you have a sidewalk in front of your home, you have 24 hours after the snow has stopped, to get the sidewalk cleared.
- You may NOT shovel or snowblow snow into the streets.

For more information about these ordinances, please check our website!

[www.cross-plains.wi.us](http://www.cross-plains.wi.us)



## Meet the Village People



**Name:** Becky Ward (people in town might have also known me as Becky Diebold before I married my awesome hubby Derek!)

**Title:** Administrative Assistant

**When did you start at the Village?:** July 2018

**What did you do prior to working at the Village?:** I worked at the Pig for 9 years after I had my first kiddo. Before that, I did payroll. I also currently work at KidSAFE when I am done with my day at the Village (it is the after school program at Park School my family runs).

**Do you live in the Village? For how long?:** Yes! I've lived here for all but two years of my life.

**What do you like to do in your free time?:** Free time? What's that?!? I enjoy watching my two boys (Liam 10, Lucas 8) play sports. In the winter you can find me living at the ice rink, in the summer I live at the pool or the ball diamond. I also enjoy reading, cooking, hiking, camping and spending time with my family and friends.



**What is a typical day in your position?:** My position really changes day by day and also depending on what time of the month it is. Every day I receipt the water bills and run to the bank and post office. I do the newsletter every other month, which I love to do! I do the updating of the Facebook page daily and I do building permits as they come in. Then once a month I drive around the Village and read the water meters and I check to make sure nothing is out of the ordinary. I call those that I can to let them know something is going on with their meter. Then I print the bills. I do lots of odd jobs around the office too.

**What is your favorite part of the job?:** Talking to residents and helping them with questions or issues they might have. I'm a problem solver.

**What is your favorite part of Cross Plains?:** The people! I love the small town feeling, knowing people when you go places, and still being a short drive from Madison.

**Favorite sports teams?:** Brewers and the Colorado Avalanche.

**Favorite part of growing up in Cross Plains?:** Playing in the creek with my sister and neighbors! We used to catch turtles and crawfish and get stung by too many stinging nettles. I also loved walking or riding my bike to the bowling alley when they had their soft serve ice cream machine. So good on a hot summer day!



## ADOPT YOUR FIRE HYDRANT!

WHEN YOU ARE OUT SHOVELING  
YOUR DRIVEWAY, DON'T FORGET  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIRE  
HYDRANT!

HYDRANTS SHOULD BE CLEAR OF  
SNOW AND ACCESSIBLE FOR  
EMERGENCY PERSONNEL.

REMEMBER - IF THEY CAN'T SEE IT,  
THEY CAN'T USE IT!



## Election Information

There are four election dates for the 2020 Election Year. Upcoming elections include:

- **Spring Primary:** Tuesday, February 18th, 2020
- **Spring Election & Presidential Preference Primary:** Tuesday, April 7th, 2020
- **Partisan Primary:** Tuesday, August 11th, 2020
- **General Election:** Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020



All elections are held at the Cross Plains-Berry Fire Station (1501 Bourbon Road) with polls open from **7:00am - 8:00pm**.

### **Important Voter Information:**

**Photo ID:** A photo ID is required to vote in Wisconsin. A Wisconsin driver's license, Wisconsin DOT issued ID, Military ID card or passport are some of the acceptable forms of identification.

**Registration:** If you're unsure that you are registered to vote in the Village of Cross Plains, please check the website: **[www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov)** or contact the Village Clerk's office at 608-798-3241. You can register on the MyVote website or in person at Village Hall with acceptable proof of residency. You may also register on election day at the Fire Station with acceptable proof of residency.

**Absentee Voting:** Registered voters may vote absentee by mail (you can request a ballot in writing with a copy of your photo ID) or in person at Village Hall as soon as ballots are available. Absentee voting in person at Village Hall will be available weekdays from 7:30am to 4:00pm. In-person absentee voting ends at 5:00pm on the Friday before each election.

If you have questions regarding the upcoming elections, voting or other Village questions or concerns, please contact Bill Chang, Village Administrator/Clerk, directly by phone (608-798-3241) or email ([bchang@cross-plains.wi.us](mailto:bchang@cross-plains.wi.us))

### **Deadlines for the February 18th, 2020 Spring Primary:**

**January 29, 2020-** Deadline to Register by Mail - Your voter registration form, along with proof of residence must be postmarked to the Village Hall no later than January 29, 2020.

**January 29, 2020-** Deadline to Register to vote Online - Voters who are able to match their name, date of birth, Wisconsin Drivers License or State ID number and address with the Wisconsin DMV can register to vote online through January 29, 2020.

**February 14, 2020 at 5:00pm-** Deadline to Register to vote at Village Hall.





2417 Brewery Rd.  
PO Box 97  
Cross Plains, WI 53528

Village Hall Phone: (608) 798-3241

Village Hall Fax: (608) 798-3817

**EMERGENCY- Police, Fire & EMS: 911**

Police Department: (608) 798-4100

Public Library: (608) 798-3881

School District: (608) 829-9000

Email: info@cross-plains.wi.us

Visit us:

[www.cross-plains.wi.us](http://www.cross-plains.wi.us)

Connect with us:

 [www.facebook.com/crossplainswi](https://www.facebook.com/crossplainswi)



**Reminder that property tax first installments are due by January 31st. After that date, payments will need to be mailed to the Dane County Treasurer:  
PO Box 1299  
Madison, WI 53701**



Dane County is increasing the Dog License fees by \$5.00 in 2020. This means that the new rates are:

- \$15.00** for a spayed or neutered dog
- \$20.00** for a dog that is not.

Please make sure to register your pet at the Village Office!



Upcoming Garbage Dates:

January: 16, 23, 30

February: 6, 13, 20, 27

March: 5, 12, 19, 26