

# CROSS PLAINS POST

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Cross Plains



Photo credit: Derrick Look

## OPEN BOOK AND BOARD OF REVIEW

The assessor has completed an annual review of all properties in the Village of Cross Plains that have changed for this assessment year. Examples of the types of property changes that the assessor reviews are: new construction, remodeling, land divisions and agricultural use values among others. If your property was assessed due to any of these reasons, you should receive a notice in the mail.

The Village will hold its 2020 Open Book and Board of Review on the following days:

**Open Book: Friday, May 22, 2020, 9:00AM-11:00AM**

**Board of Review: Monday, June 8, 2020, 6:00PM-8:00PM**

Due to COVID-19, Open Book will be held virtually or by telephone appointment. Please contact Associated Appraisal at 1-920-749-1995 or 1-800-721-4157 to set up an appointment. If after the Open Book session, you wish to contest the assessed value, please call the Clerk, Bill Chang, at 608-798-3241 ext 105 at least 48 hours prior to the Board of Review to obtain an objection form and to make an appointment for the Board of Review. This form must be filled out in its entirety. Failure to provide 48 hours advance notice to the Clerk may result in denial of a hearing at the Board of Review.

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

[From the Village President - 2](#)

[From the Administrator - 2](#)

[From the Chief - 3](#)

[Parks and Rec - 4](#)

[A Message of Hope - 5](#)

[Library - 6 & 7](#)

[School District - 8 & 9](#)

[Chamber of Commerce - 10](#)

[Paperless Billing - 11](#)

[Important Reminders - 12](#)

## From the Village President

I hope you and your family have been safe and healthy. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in so many ways and we will have to adjust to this new normal. There are many unknowns currently and things change daily. I am hopeful by the next newsletter there will be more clarity on the future. Below are some points of information I would like to share with you.

- **Lee Sorenson** - I want to thank Lee for all his service to the community as a trustee, member of many committees and a resident of the Village. Enjoy your free Monday nights!
- **Spring Election** - Congratulations to Kevin Thusius, Bill Brosius and Michael Pomykalski for being elected to the Village Board. About 78% of the votes cast in this election were by absentee ballots. Great job and thank you!
- **Fall Election** - There were some issues in the spring election that will be fixed for the fall election. It is highly likely that we will change the location and process for voting in person. The goal is to have the details worked out by July 1st.
- **COVID-19 and Government** - Village government has been adapting to the situation daily. The department with the most uncertainty is Parks and Recreation. As of this writing, no decision has been made on summer programming. We should have more information by the end of this month and first half of June.
- **2020 Census** - Please fill out the 2020 Census survey today. You can do it online, by phone or through the mail. If you have already done it, thank you!
- **May Village Board Meeting** - This meeting has been moved to May 26th due to the Holiday.
- **Public Comment** - All public comments will be at the start of the Village Board meetings. This will include topics not on the agenda and items on the agenda.
- **Dog Waste** - There is way too much of it on our streets, sidewalks, boulevards and public lands. I encourage residents to walk their dogs, but please respect your fellow residents and clean up after your dog. It is easy to do, it's the law and most residents do it.

**Be safe and stay healthy!**

Jay Lengfeld



## From the Village Administrator

COVID-19 has affected our lives in many ways. We have had to make adjustments to new norms, be flexible to continual changes and make personal sacrifices. I would first like to say **THANK YOU** to the community for your continued resilience as we work through these challenges together.

Local government is not immune to the challenges mentioned above. We too, are adjusting to make sure that we continue to maintain a high level of service to our community.

With that being said, I would like to bring your attention to accessing the Village's board, commission and committee meetings during these times. Meetings are currently being held. Physical capacities at Village Board meetings are limited due to spacing requirements but are available to those that need accommodations to be made. Interested parties are encouraged to participate virtually or by teleconference. Other board, committee and commission meetings are being held virtually.

I will continue to include instruction and log in information along with the agenda materials. Comments submitted in writing before the meetings or by phone or online during the meeting will carry the same weight as comments that may be made in person. Comments received by me before the meeting will be read into the minutes at the meeting.

If you have not done so yet, please sign up for notices by setting up an account on our website ([www.cross-plains.wi.us](http://www.cross-plains.wi.us)). You may choose how you would like to get notified and what to be notified of. We will continue to communicate the most recent Village happenings on our website and Facebook page.

Again, thank you for your continued patience. Please stay safe and healthy!

Bill Chang  
Village Administrator

---

## From the Chief

Hello Friends,

As we continue to go through this pandemic together, I want to still encourage everyone to stay home as often as you can. Only leave for the essentials then come right back home. My officers are not going to stop you because you are not covering your nose and mouth in public or driving to the store or going for a walk in your neighborhood. You will not need to provide a letter from your place of work to us at any time. Also, there has not been any type of curfew enacted in our village due to COVID-19. Other than the normal curfew for minors, there is no curfew for adults.

Your police department is still working strong for your public safety needs. It may look a little different right now with handling more calls over the phone or online, or asking you to come outside to us more often after we arrive, but we are still here to keep you safe and protected. We continue to focus our efforts on community service and look forward to all the opportunities to serve.

As in all communities there are issues that arise that must be dealt with by the police department and the community. Recently, we have been receiving complaints about dog feces not being cleaned, dogs running at large and traffic offenses. These issues are a concern in most communities, so we are not alone. I strongly believe in community-oriented policing. This strategy of policing focuses on building ties and working closely with the community. The main idea is to build a strong relationship based on trust, compassion and unity.

These issues are police and community issues that we need to work on as a team. Ordinances and State Laws are in place to deal with dog waste, dogs running at large, speeding, stop sign violations, etc... However, we prefer voluntary compliance. The Cross Plains Police Department would like to partner with you and requests that you pick up the feces your dog leaves behind, make sure your dog is on a leash in parks and under your control everywhere else. We request that you slow down and remember that there are people walking in every neighborhood.

On behalf of the members of the Cross Plains Police Department we would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We alone cannot make a difference in this community. Police officers are not faster than a speeding bullet or more powerful than a locomotive and definitely not able to leap tall buildings at a single bound. We do not wear capes. We bleed and we bruise, and our superpowers are as simple as listening and helping. Police officers are ordinary people who know that even if their own lives are impossibly knotted, they are give opportunities daily to untangle someone else's life. These opportunities to help you give us hope that maybe that one act, could lead someone to rescue us right back.

I want to present you with the new Cross Plains Police Department Mission Statement that hangs proudly on a plaque as you enter the police department.

**The Mission of the Cross Plains Police Department is to advance the highest levels of public safety, trust, and professionalism by strengthening community partnerships through fair and impartial policing while fostering employee wellness and growth.**

To accomplish the Mission of the Cross Plains Police Department we hold these core values at the **HEART** of our service.

**Honor:** We believe in serving our community with honesty, fairness and integrity, while holding ourselves accountable always.

**Excellence:** We believe in personal and professional excellence, dedication to duty and humble service to others.

**Adaptability:** We believe in being flexible, not only to the changing social climate and evolving technologies but to individual situations as they unfold.

**Respect:** We believe in seeing the best in people and focusing on their abilities, qualities and strengths, while having due regard for their feelings, wishes, rights and traditions.

**Teamwork:** We believe in cooperation, collaboration and unity among ourselves, members of the community and all Village departments to achieve common goals.

Chief Tony Ruesga Jr.

---

## Parks and Rec Department

We here at the Parks and Recreation Department hope this message finds your family happy and healthy as we all navigate through this new approach to summer and the effects it has on both our personal and professional lives. As you read this, despite everything becoming increasingly limited, postponed or cancelled, we here at the Parks and Recreation Department encourage you to stay active and engaged throughout our Parks and Open Space system. We hope you've been able to use this time with your family to explore new trails within our 160 acres of conservancy land or take a beautiful stroll along the Black Earth Creek on the newly constructed boardwalk. As we encourage this exploration, we also ask that you observe the 6 feet of social distancing, as we all work together to keep our community both happy and healthy.



Due to COVID-19, the Parks and Recreation Department has postponed the opening and offering of facilities and programs until further notice. The Department is directly following Dane County Health's 'Safer at Home' order and the 'Badger Bounce Back Plan' as guidance in providing safe facilities and services to our community and staff. On April 27, 2020, the Village Board postponed the opening of the Cross Plains swimming pool until July 1, 2020. Discussions on this topic will continue over the next month as more information is provided by Dane County Public Health and other professionals in our field.

If you have signed up for a program, membership or rental, we appreciate your patience as we work to prepare a solid solution and timeline for activities. Our goal for the summer is to provide programming and facilities at some capacity. If we aren't given the green light, we will certainly process refunds for all who have signed up. Again, we know the uncertainty is tough during these times and appreciate your patience.

As guidelines are updated daily, we continue to assess, monitor and plan accordingly. As we move through this unprecedented challenge, we will do our best to communicate such plans as they become available. Staff will be working and discussing options with our Parks, Recreation and Conservancy Committee (3rd Monday each month) and our Village Trustees (4th Monday each month). These meetings are open to the public via Zoom, allowing you to stay engaged and communicate as plans and policy decisions are discussed. For more information, please go to the Village website ([www.cross-plains.wi.us](http://www.cross-plains.wi.us))

As we continue down this path of uncertainty, having been jolted out of our comfort zone in ways most of us have never experienced, our Cross Plains community will prevail and adapt as that's what makes this community special. Continue to stay engaged, observe and explore as we all work together to move our community forward. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [maxon@cross-plains.wi.us](mailto:maxon@cross-plains.wi.us) or 798-3241.

Michael Axon  
Parks and Recreation Director



*We Stand Together, Even Though We Are 6 Feet Apart*



# Rosemary Garfoot Public Library

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

Also be sure to check us out on Facebook! 



## COVID-19 and the Library

COVID-19 has limited or closed many public and private services in Wisconsin and Public Libraries have not been immune. We have transitioned from a brief shut down to curbside delivery of materials owned by our Library, which started on May 4th. **The building is not open to the public at the time of this newsletter**, but as the economy reopens, there will be adjustments made to the kinds of services the Library can provide, how these services will be delivered and when the Library can open its doors to the community again.

We're looking forward to getting back to normal, **so please continue to support the efforts to minimize COVID-19 transmission no matter where you go. Practice social distancing and wear a mask or mouth covering when out in public - if not for yourself, for your friends and community.**

Watch our Facebook page, our website ([www.rgpl.org](http://www.rgpl.org)) and the Times Tribune for updates as we work together to get back into full service. You can also call us at 608-798-3881 for information.



## Storytime at the Rosemary Garfoot Public Library

During the Safer at Home period, we are offering our usual Wiggles and Giggles (baby/toddler) and Big Kids Booktime (preschool) storytimes online, via our Facebook page and group. Please have a look there, to enjoy story programs at home with your kids. Storytimes are generally uploaded on the same days as our regularly scheduled morning programs, Tuesdays for Wiggles and Giggles and Thursdays for Big Kids Booktime.

## Summer Library Program

"Imagine Your Story" is this summer's theme, and we'll be ready June 15th, with an online fun filled record-keeping app called Beanstack. Kids will be able to track their reading and earn badges along the way. There will also be online special guest performances, storytimes, a virtual lunch bunch and much more! Watch our website and Facebook page for more information.

## Virtual Digital Library Card

You can still get a Library card even though the Library is temporarily closed. Click on the Virtual Digital Library Card tab, located toward the top of the Library website homepage. Fill in the form and submit. You will receive your card information via email. Once activated, you will have access to our digital collections, databases and other resources!



## LINKcat Catalog

Until the Library re-opens to the public, we are providing curbside pickup. During this time, patrons can call the Library and request materials **owned by and available at the Rosemary Garfoot Public Library**. Go to LINKcat, search the title you want, click on the **Available on the shelf tab, and select Cross Plains Library in the upper left-hand corner**. Then place a hold on the specific title you are interested in. We'll let you know when your material is ready to pickup!

# Rosemary Garfoot Public Library

## Online Resources and Databases

The Library subscribes to a number of online resources, free and accessible to Library card holders. Click on the **Explore & Find** tab at the top of our homepage ([www.rgpl.org](http://www.rgpl.org)) for access.



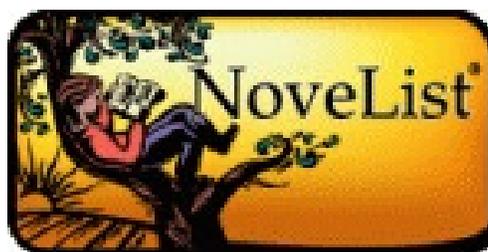
An online language learning system, including over 70 languages!



Product reviews and ratings on cars, appliances, electronics and more!



Automotive repair information for popular and specialty vehicles for the past 30-50 years.



Don't know what to read next? This database is a comprehensive source of information about books that includes expert reviews, articles, lists and read-alike recommendations for kids and adults.

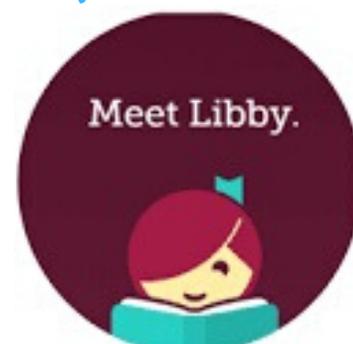
## referenceUSA®

A premier source of information on businesses and people for small business owners, marketing professionals, researchers and job seekers.

## Wisconsin's Digital Library- OverDrive and Libby



Download audiobooks, eBooks and music directly to your computer or devices including iPhones, iPads, Android devices, Nooks, Kindles and more! Just click on the OverDrive button located on our Library homepage to get started, or download the new Libby app, designed by OverDrive for mobile devices.





## Middleton–Cross Plains Area School District

inclusive. innovative. inspiring.

Bob Green, Annette Ashley and Paul Kinne were re-elected to the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District Board of Education on Tuesday, April 7th.

The results of the election weren't released until April 13th, after a Federal court judge ruled days before the election that ballots couldn't be counted until 4PM on Monday.

Green, who currently serves as the Board's president, ran unopposed in Area II, which includes the Village of Cross Plains. He received 10,679 votes out of 10,774 (99.1 percent). Green has served on the School Board since 2003, while Ashley was elected for her fourth term and Kinne to his second term. They will be sworn in at the next regular meeting on Monday, April 27th.

"Now comes the hard work as the Board, administration and our employees help our children and families and each other through these difficult times," Green said.



Free breakfasts and lunches are available for all students ages 18 and under, on a grab-and-go basis from 11AM to Noon on weekdays at nine meal distribution sites, including Park Elementary School in Cross Plains.

There is no registration involved and children don't need to provide their names. Adults can pick up meals for their children. If a child is allergic to peanut butter or other foods, other options are available. District officials strongly encourage practicing social distancing when picking up meals and thorough hand-washing with soap and water before eating the take home meals.

More than 8,000 meals have been served in the first 19 days of the program, Director of Communications Perry Hibner said.

The Weekend Food Program is also continuing. More than 300 bags are distributed on the last day of school each week at the nine distribution sites, Hibner said. Bags of personal hygiene items will also be offered every other Monday, starting April 20th, at the same sites. The Education Foundation has raised more than \$45,000 for the two programs in the last month.



The MCPASD Class of 2019 had a graduation rate of 94.8 percent among those students who completed high school within four years, nearly 5 points above the state average, according to data updated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction on March 10th.

The graduation rate for District students went up by 0.1 percent from a year ago. The state average for the Class of 2019 was 90 percent. The 2018-19 four-year graduation rate for Wisconsin students represents a 1.6 percent increase from five years ago.

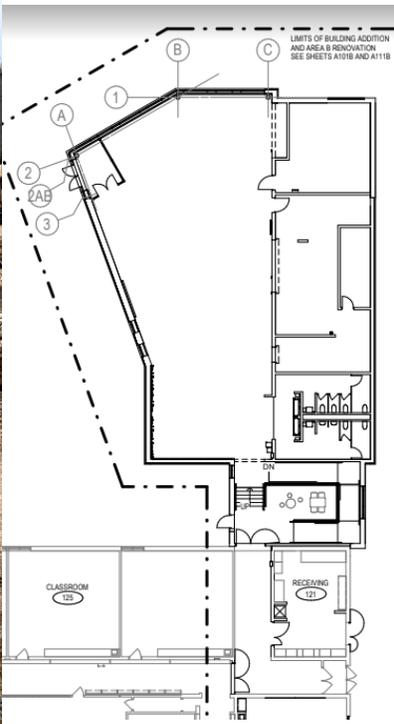
MHS band teacher Doug Brown and Glacier Creek sixth-grade teacher Lyndsey Ebben have been named 2020 Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellowship winners.

Since 2015, six MCPASD staff members --Glacier Creek special education teacher Tim Ashe (2015), MHS and Kromrey German teacher Joelene Wochenske (2015). Kromrey principal Steve Soeteber (2016), MHS orchestra teacher Steve Kurr (2017), Glacier Creek band teacher Jeanne Hammes (2017) and Glacier Creek sixth-grade teacher Rhonda Veroeven (2018) -- have received Kohl Educational Foundation awards. In addition, Elm Lawn and Sunset Ridge art teacher Monica Kmak, was honored in 2018 when she worked in Dodgeville.

Brown and Ebben were two of 100 teachers selected from around the state. There were nine teachers from the CESA 2 region who were recognized. They were scheduled to be recognized along with recipients from CESAs 3 and 5 in a ceremony in Baraboo on May 16th, but the event was canceled due to COVID-19.



## Construction on Park School has Started!



Photos courtesy of Mrs. Schommer- Park School Principal



The picture on the top left is located immediately to the left as you leave the existing building and just before you head up the stairs to the cafeteria!

The center picture is a plan for the remodel to add a dedicated cafeteria on to the school.

The picture on the top right is on the north east corner of the existing building. This area will be the ramp to go up to the new cafeteria.

There was also some work done on the west side of the building. Each spring, this area would become a marsh, not exactly ideal for a playground! It became unusable for a while each spring and fall. Hopefully this face-lift will help the water drain so that this space can be used all school year to PLAY!



## From the Chamber of Commerce

Website: [www.crossplainschamber.net](http://www.crossplainschamber.net)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CrossPlainsAreaChamberofCommerce](https://www.facebook.com/CrossPlainsAreaChamberofCommerce)



# 100 Years of Cross Plains Memories

Celebrate the Village of Cross Plains Centennial by sharing your favorite memories of Cross Plains! We want everyone to submit a memory; the young and the young at heart. Our goal is to get at least 100 memories! Your memories can be turned in via the drive thru at Monona Bank of Cross Plains.

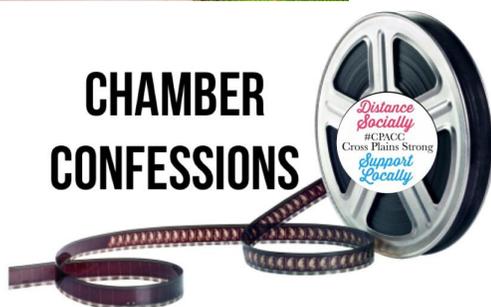
### Guidelines:

- 1 memory per person (exception: you can submit a personal memory and one from your business)
- Must be on 8x11 paper; any color, blank or lined, we just want them all the same size to create a book.
- Can be hand written, typed, drawn, attached newspaper article or photograph (Drawings must include a caption)
- Memories can be about anything related to the Village of Cross Plains (Examples: a baseball game at Baer Park, a business you loved but is no longer here, fishing on the creek, a traditional meal at a local restaurant, an event you enjoyed with your family, a traditional gathering with friends at a local tavern, an influential teacher at a local school, etc.)
- Everyone is encouraged to submit a memory - you can live in the Village, be a frequent visitor of the Village, or a resident that has since moved away. Every one of your family members can submit a memory, from your preschooler to your Great Grandfather.

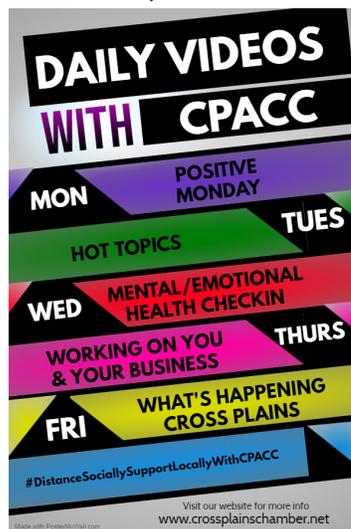
CPACC is going to share the memories online and more importantly, create a book of the memories to commemorate the anniversary. The book will be kept as a unique time capsule.

## Memorial Day

CPACC wants to ensure that our long standing tradition of celebrating Memorial Day continues. We are currently finalizing plans for our community that fall in line with Governor Evers' Safer at Home order. Please watch for updates on the Chamber's Facebook and Instagram pages, the CPACC website and in our weekly emailed newsletters (newsletters are also found on our website).



A new Video Show featuring Cross Plains Area Chamber of Commerce Businesses. This project is being done in collaboration with Melissa Murphy at GITYS Productions. Check out the CPACC YouTube channel today!



The CPACC is doing a daily video series! We will cover different topics each day of the week; Monday-Friday.

They can be found on the CPACC Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Website.

 @crossplainschamber



## Online Bill Pay and Paperless Billing

Great news! We have now implemented new electronic payment and billing services with authorized payment processor PSN (Payment Service Network). **Once you create an account online with PSN**, you will be able to:

- View your bills and balance due
- Sign up for paperless billing
- Pay your bill or schedule a payment (credit card, checking account or savings account)\*
- Set up Auto-Pay from a checking or savings account
- View electronic payment history
- Combine multiple billing accounts



\*Payment convenience fees apply: **\$1.00 for checking and savings payments; 2.75% (+\$.50 for payments under \$100.00) for credit and debit card payments**

### How to sign up:

Visit our website: [www.cross-plains.wi.us](http://www.cross-plains.wi.us) and click on 'Online Payment', choose the PSN logo. Choose to 'Register Now'. Put in your account number and last name (or business name) and click 'Search'. You can then choose to register and make a payment, or make a one-time payment.

### How to sign up for paperless billing (e-billing):

After creating and logging into your new PSN account, click on 'Settings' at the top. Choose 'Billing Options' on the left. Click on 'Yes, I want to go paperless'.

**You do NOT need to pay online to create an account or to use paperless billing.** If you have questions, please call the Village Office at 798-3241.

We are still offering direct withdrawal from your checking account on the due date of the bill. Please fill out a form, located on our website, and attach a voided check. As always, this service is **free** for residents.



## Solar Energy From the Sustainability Committee

Solar energy has definitely become more desirable in the region. You may have even noticed some of your neighbors adding solar panels to their homes. As part of the effort to bring more renewable options to the Village, the Sustainability Committee invites you to learn more about solar power and a Solar Group Buy Program that is going on in western Dane County. Solar power builds resiliency in our neighborhoods and encourages us to be good stewards of our air, water and earth.

For more information about this program, please check out their website:  
[www.legacysolarcoop.org/western-dane-county-solar-group-buy-2020/](http://www.legacysolarcoop.org/western-dane-county-solar-group-buy-2020/)



# SPRING HAS SPRUNG!





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](mailto:info@cross-plains.wi.us)

Upcoming Garbage Dates:

May: 21, 29

June: 4, 11, 18, 25

July: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30



Cross Plains Baseball circa 1949



Peter Berg, Ray Gorman and Ernie Dolfen in their Cross Plains Baseball uniforms (unsure of date)



Herb Hellenbrand crossing home plate, beating Waunakee 6-2 circa 1949



**WE MISS BASEBALL!**

Visit us:

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

Connect with us:

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