

CROSS PLAINS POST

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Cross Plains



Photo credit: Derrick Look

THE VILLAGE POLLING PLACE IS RELOCATING

The Clerk's office has relocated the Village of Cross Plains' polling place from the Fire Station to the Rosemary Garfoot Public Library indefinitely. This is due to concerns related to the conflicting impact of having a large number of people within a public safety building. We understand that this may be an inconvenience and are taking the steps necessary to mitigate any hardships.

Due to the pandemic and current changes, we strongly encourage you to vote absentee by mail. Any qualified elector may request and receive an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is a United State citizen, 18 years of age or older, who has resided in the district in which he or she intends to vote for at least 10 consecutive days. The elector must be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. You may register to vote and request an absentee ballot through the following methods:

1. Electors may register online or request an absentee ballot through the MyVote Website: (www.myvote.wi.gov)
2. Registered electors may request for an absentee ballot by making the request to the municipal clerk in writing or electronically using the Application for Absentee Ballot (EL-121), or a letter requesting an absentee ballot which provides the information required on the application form.

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3. Returned absentee envelopes must be completed properly. Please make sure to properly sign/date the envelope and make sure to have a witness signature and address.
4. Electors may register and absentee vote in person at Village Hall during early voting. A voter cannot take the absentee ballot out of the clerk's office.
5. Military and Overseas voters may request for absentee ballots through the Federal Voting Assistance Program. (www.fvap.gov)

Further information regarding elections may be relayed through postings in the Middleton-Times Tribune, the Village's website (www.cross-plains.wi.us), the Village Newsletter, Village Facebook page or by other forms of communication.

The upcoming elections for 2020 are:

August 11, 2020: Partisan Primary

November 3, 2020: General Election

Please note that there are special instructions for voting in the Partisan Primary. Keep in mind the following tips:

1. You may vote in only ONE party's primary.
2. If you choose a party, votes cast in that party will be counted. Votes cast in any other party will not be counted.
3. If you do not choose a party and you vote in more than one party, no votes will be counted.
4. You must vote for individual candidates.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your patience and please stay healthy!

-Bill Chang, Village Administrator/Clerk



From the Village President

Let us talk about water. Not flooding, but the Cross Plains Water Utility. There is a lot of talk around the Village on water rates, the new well and loss of water. I am going to use this space to update you on these issues.

Water rate: Water rates are set by the Public Service Commission, who is a third-party agency that oversees all utilities in Wisconsin. They increased our water rate by 40%, which for me was about \$9 per month. While the Village does not have input on the rate increase, we will take it into consideration when we discuss the Village budget.

Well #3: Why do we need another well? Right now, and for about the last ten years, we have known that if well #2 goes down for mechanical or contamination reasons for any length of time, the Village would not be able to supply residents with water 24/7 after 2-4 days. Our current wells are aging (well #1 was built in 1954 and well #2 was built in the 1970's, neither meet today's standards) and there is a higher risk of wells being contaminated. The Village had a study done about 21 years ago on our water system and it recommended the area for well #3 which is off Gil's Way. The Village secured the land when the area was developed. Here is a rough timeline for the project:

2020- Preliminary engineering of the well and site, test well operating 3-7 days, meeting with the neighborhood to go over exterior look of well house and landscaping.

2021- Final engineering of the well and well house and apply for a loan through the Clean Water Loan program.

2022- Construction of the well and well house.

2023- Well #3 is operational.

Water System Study: This year we will have a study completed that looks at our current and future needs. It is important that we plan, so this important service is not at risk.

Water Loss: This is still an issue. We hired a company to look for leaks and they found three small ones that will be fixed, but does not account for all the water loss. We have tested several residential meters and they tested well. We continue to investigate this mystery.

2020 Census Update: As of July 6th, 79% of residents have filled out the 2020 survey. That is good, but there are still 700-800 residents that have not. If you are one of those residents, please fill out the survey! Thank you!

Stay safe and healthy!

-Jay Lengfeld, Village President

From the Chief

Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall

The past few weeks have been overcome with concern, fear, anger and unrest. Our nation has sparked a movement of change and no matter on what side of the issues you stand, we can all do better. As the Chief of Police and a person of color, I believe it is my responsibility to assist in any possible way I can. I decided to use my article in this newsletter to generate conversation and be part of my community's voice.

Those who work or live around people from other cultures and races should understand the importance of learning about the differences surrounding them. However, what is often neglected is the equal importance of knowing one's own culture, values and beliefs to relate more effectively across cultural and racial lines.

Awareness of our own culture is important because it can keep us from projecting our values and beliefs onto others. By projecting, I mean the universal tendency to think other people are doing something for the same reasons we would. This can happen when we are unaware of the values that drive us and unable to distinguish them from those held by other cultures and races.

We are like a fish in a fishbowl. The fish swim inside the bowl surrounded by water and glass, but unaware of their presence. Most importantly, the fish does not realize these substances alter its view of the outside world. Our culture is like that water and glass. We see the world through a distorting screen created by our deeply held, often subconscious, values and beliefs.

The first step toward solving this problem is obvious: Learn as much about other cultures and races as you can. The second step is too often forgotten: Understand your own assumptions about body language, communication style or other cultural characteristics that impact your impression of the outside world. This may seem easy, but it is not. Our own culture is such a part of us that like the water surrounding the fish, we are unaware of its existence. Some of us go so far as to think of our own culture as human nature and, to make matters worse, as one to which all should conform.

So, if knowing one's own culture is not automatic, how can we achieve this knowledge? The answer lies in exposure, observation and history. First, be around other cultures and races, read about other cultures and learn about the history about other cultures as it relates or is intertwined with your own. The next step is impossible without the opportunity to interact with those who are different from you. Second, when around people from different cultures and races, watch for three things: moments of tension, misunderstanding and anger.

When one of these happens, do not panic. Observe yourself and your culture. What did you do just before the tension, misunderstanding or anger arose? That act is part of your culture and was probably a factor in the moment's dynamic. What you did was not necessarily wrong but be aware it grew out of your culturally conditioned values, beliefs and behaviors. Also, ask yourself: 'What assumption was I making about the situation before the negativity started?'. Those assumptions, like your behavior, grew out of your culture. Examining them will help awaken the cultural self-awareness that is so important in making cross-cultural relationships work. Yes, knowledge of other cultures is important, but looking at ourselves can teach us as much about cross-cultural understanding as all the anthropology books in the world.

Chief Tony Ruesga Jr.



Parks and Rec Department

Coming Fall 2020

The NEW Glacial Valley Park

Glacial Valley Park #3
Cross Plains, WI CD225341



The Village of Cross Plains Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce that the Glacial Valley Park playground equipment has been ordered! Due to COVID19, we estimate the arrival of the equipment the week of September 21, 2020. Be on the lookout as we plan and schedule a GRAND OPENING sometime there after.

The total project cost was \$141,199.00, all of which was funded without tax money. Thank you to the members of our community, Parks/Recreation/Conservancy Committee Members and the Village Board who helped make this project a reality.

Michael Axon
Parks and Recreation Director
Village of Cross Plains

Did you know??



Did you know that you are able to keep chickens and/or honeybees in the Village? You can apply for a chicken or honeybee license at the Village office. There is an application fee of \$50, and the license needs to be renewed yearly. For more information on the limitations (no roosters, no more than 4 chickens, only honeybees) please visit the Village Website and search for Ordinance 21. (21.11 for chickens and 21.15 for honeybees.)



- ➔ Many of us at the Village Office are Notaries Public. We are available 7:30 am-4:00 pm to help with this service.
- ➔ If you notice there is a street light out in town, you can call MG&E and report the outage, or report the outage on their website. The number to call is 252-7333.
- ➔ Have an old couch or other piece of furniture you want to get rid of? Call Town and Country Sanitation at 800-626-1915 and let them know! You can then put it on your curb at the next trash pick up.

The Village is in the process of updating water meters and automatic readers in the Village. The last time this was done on a massive scale was 1994! Meter change outs typically take less than an hour and do require access to your meter (which is usually in the basement utility room). You may be getting a letter in the mail letting you know that you should call the Village Office to set up an appointment to have this service done. The service is FREE to you as a Village resident. Appointments are usually set up on Wednesdays. If this day does not work for your schedule, we will work with you to find a time that does. We appreciate your help with this project!



Did you know that there are restrictions on sandwich boards and temporary signs in the Village? You can find these restrictions easily by going to our website (www.cross-plains.wi.us), choosing the 'Government' drop down and then Village Ordinances. The restrictions for sandwich boards can be found in ordinance 87.08 and temporary sign restrictions are ordinance 87.07. If you have questions about these restrictions, please call the Village Office and speak with Bill Chang, Village Administrator. 798-3241 ext 105.

We have noticed more Village families out at the creek lately! We love to hear the stories from our younger residents about all of the crawfish they are catching, the snakes they are seeing and how much fun tubing is. While playing in the creek is one of the amazing things about growing up in Cross Plains, we want to make sure that residents are doing so safely and with respect to the creek and the wildlife that lives there.

Please be aware of the new signs that have been posted on the bridges in Zander Park. There can be **no jumping or diving off of the bridge** for safety reasons. When the creek floods and recedes, it can change the depth of the water along the creek and makes jumping in from the bridge unsafe. Also, please **do not rearrange the rocks to form dams**. This changes the flow of the water and can cause erosion along the banks. We want to make sure to take care of the creek so that it will be around for generations of kids to be able to splash and play in!





Rosemary Garfoot Public Library

608-798-3881 - www.rgpl.org

Also be sure to check us out on Facebook! 



COVID-19 and the Library

The Rosemary Garfoot Public Library continues observing Dane County recommendations regarding COVID-19. We are committed to providing as safe an environment as possible for our staff and for you when you visit the library.

We continue to offer curbside pickup by appointment and are also allowing people to come into the library by appointment. We are limiting the number of patrons in the building at any given time. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment to pick up and check out materials, browse

magazines and newspapers, access collections, make copies and send faxes. One appointment per person per day is recommended. Our current library hours are Monday through Thursday 9-6, Friday 9-5 and Saturday 10-1.

Patrons should be prepared for a brief wait before gaining entry into the building. Please observe 6-feet of social distancing while you wait. Inside the library, patrons and staff must maintain 6 feet of social distancing at all times.

Return of materials should be made at the outside book drop to the left of the front doors and around the corner. Returned materials will be quarantined for 72 hours before being checked in.

We are 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, then for your friends, family, the community and the economy.**

Watch our Facebook page, our website (www.rgpl.org) and the Times Tribune for updates as we work together to get back to full service. You can also call us at 608-798-3881 for information or to make an appointment.

Something NEW at the Library!

The library staff would like to thank members of the Public Facilities Department for building a custom 'sneeze shield' for the circulation desk. It looks great and serves both patrons and the staff by adding a layer of protection while we work through the pandemic!



Late Summer and Early Fall Library Programming

Due to the pandemic, we took our summer programming online, offering virtual performances and storytimes. Unfortunately COVID-19 is not under control, so to maintain safety for our staff and the public, the Library will continue to offer programming online. Watch our website for information about storytimes, book clubs and other special programs!



Library Forms New Partnership

The Library has created a partnership with Aspiring Anti-Racists of Cross Plains, a community group formed to provide a supportive space to encourage Villagers to seek self-exploration, knowledge, understanding and reflection on race and racial identity. This group actively engages in the journey of coming to terms with and understanding race, its impact and racial identity as an individual, community and country in order to participate in meaningful change to achieve racial parity in society. The group currently meets via Zoom, on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome, so if you would like to join or have questions, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3iJJqC2> and fill out the form provided.

Rosemary Garfoot Public Library



It's Not Too Late to 'Imagine Your Story'!

The Summer Library Program Runs Through July 31st!

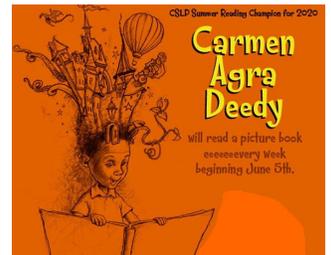
"Imagine Your Story" is this summer's theme, and we've been using a fun-filled online record-keeping app called Beanstack. Kids are able to track their reading and earn badges along the way and then be entered for a grand prize Lego set! There are even Activity Badges with fun challenges like building a fairy house in your yard, building a cardboard castle, dressing up like a favorite character and reading to your pet. We have started a photo gallery of what our summer readers are making at home. Check it out on our website or Facebook page! Each student that registers gets a book bag with surprises and a new book at the end of the program. There are a couple online special guest performances still to come- magician Nickey Fynn and a drum circle with Elmore Lawson! See our website and Facebook page for more information, find ways to stretch your imagination muscles and have some fun!

Adult Summer Library Drawing - Read & Win!

There's still time to become eligible for our weekly giveaways and the summer Grand Prize Drawing! Simply checkout adult or young adult books, audiobooks or magazines and you will automatically be entered into weekly drawings for \$25 gift cards and a chance to win the Grand Prize, a \$200 Amazon gift card! Program ends July 31st. **You must be 18 or older.** No registration. No entry forms.

Lunch Bunch with Author Carmen Agra Deedy - Fridays at 11 AM

If you are the sort that starts getting a little hungry around 11:00 (just like a hobbit!) join CSLP (Consortium of Summer Library Programs) National 2020 Summer Reading Champion, author Carmen Agra Deedy, every Friday all summer for lunch and a picture book reading. And if you're not hungry yet, just listen to the story and have lunch later! You'll find this wonderful storyteller on her Facebook page every Friday: www.facebook.com/carmentagradeedy/



Online Storytimes - Thursdays at 10 AM

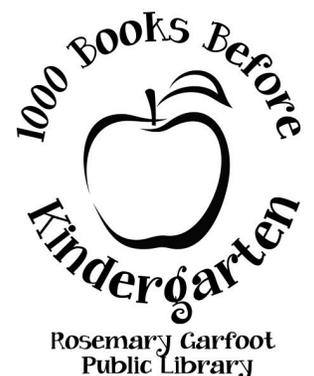
This summer we have had several special guests join us via Zoom for our storytime programs, and there is still time to get in on the fun! Just register for Summer Storytimes on our website. For questions, please contact Catherine at 798-3881.

Bedtime Stories - Tuesday Nights in August

Put on your jammies and cuddle up with your stuffy to watch a series of bedtime stories each week. Get to know your library friends as a different staff member will read a favorite picture book each Tuesday night. Find us on the Rosemary Garfoot Facebook page at 7:00pm every Tuesday in August.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

One of the best things you can do for your children is to start reading to them on a regular basis from birth, and we're here to help! 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. Send a request to Catherine, cabaer@rgpl.org to sign your child up.





Middleton–Cross Plains Area School District

inclusive. innovative. inspiring.

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District will rename its indoor pool after longtime Athletic Director, Bob Joers, who passed away on May 15th after a battle with cancer.

"There are so many people in the community who do so much and I'm humbled and honored by this recognition" Joers said.

Joers was the MCPA Indoor Pool's first director when it opened in 1990. He has served as the Middleton High School Athletic Director since 2011. He was also the school's Athletic Director from 1995-2004 before he and his wife, Cindy, purchased the Little Gym.

Joers was named the Big Eight Conference Athletic Director of the Year in 2019 along with the Wisconsin Athletic Directors District 5 Athletic Director of the Year. He was also the MHS boys and girls swimming and diving team coach for more than a decade starting in 1988.

The Big Eight Conference Athletic Director of the Year Award will also be renamed the Bob Joers Award.



Annette Ashley was elected the Board of Education president for 2020-21 at the regular meeting on May 11.

Ashley was re-elected to the School Board in April. It is her fourth three-year term. She has previously served as vice president.

Bob Green was elected vice president, while Todd Smith was elected clerk and Bob Hesselbein was elected treasurer. Smith and Hesselbein each held the same roles this past year.



Deputy Superintendent Sherri Cyra provided her monthly update on enrollment for the next school year at the Board of Education regular meeting on June 22 and noted the District is 96 students above where it was a year ago at this time.

As of June 22, the District has a building enrollment of 7,223 students for the 2020-21 school year and 7,476 students when 4K is factored in. Pope Farm is 16 students over projections, while Elm Lawn, Sauk Trail and West Middleton are each about 15 students under projections.

Cyra said 4K enrollment is nearly 70 students below projections, which she suspects is due to the pandemic and families waiting to see what might happen in the fall before deciding what to do.

The elementary level is currently 35 students below projections, while MHS and CSCS are a combined 28 students below projections. The middle schools are a combined 56 students below projections, but with Glacier Creek and Kromrey already over capacity, smaller numbers may be a benefit, she said.



Nearly 90 District seniors received awards as part of the annual Scholarship Night program.

The event had been scheduled to take place on Wednesday, May 20 at the Performing Arts Center but was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. A video, along with a list of every scholarship recipient is available on the District website.

In all, nearly 60 sponsors handed out about \$69,000 worth of scholarships. All MHS, CSCS and 21st Century eSchool seniors are eligible for scholarships.

More than 2,800 individuals with children in District schools participated in a recent survey asking families to answer a handful of questions to better understand their willingness and concerns regarding having children return to school buildings for the 2020-21 school year.

The District has fall instructional planning teams developing possible models - including all in-person, all-virtual and hybrid versions that would include some in-person and some virtual learning - and they will present what they believe are the best options based on metrics that were developed to the Board of Education at its meeting on July 13th.

The planning teams are also reviewing the results of the recent survey, which was available from June 20-30. More information about the survey results is available on the District website.



The addition to Park School is going great! Park Principal, Mrs. Schommer was nice enough to share some updates with us:



Our new staff conference room!

Mr. Peanuts old office/old staff bathroom/Mr. Phillips old room



New playground equipment!



New ramp and a few stairs leading to the new cafeteria!

The new cafeteria!! This is the view looking to the north. The plastic on that far wall will all be windows with a beautiful view of the school forest.





From the Chamber of Commerce

Website: www.crossplainschamber.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CrossPlainsAreaChamberofCommerce

Cross Plains Area Chamber of Commerce and Northwest Dane Senior Services present the

2020

"Yet To Be Named" Cup

Friday September 18, 2020

9:30 am Registration
10:00 am Shotgun Start
Includes: Lunch, Golf, & Cart

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

4 Person Scramble	Prizes	Inclusive Wristbands
Hole Challenges	Raffles	Hole in One*
Mulligans	Giveaways	Silent Auction

<i>Play & Win!</i> REGISTER NOW! Lake Wisconsin Country Club N1076 Golf Road Prairie du Sac, WI 53578	Early Bird Pricing \$75 PER PERSON \$85 per person August 22-September 11, 2020	Wristband \$20 EACH Included Game Play at Holes
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Visit us online to register!
<http://www.crossplainschamber.net/golf-tournament-.html>

Made with PosterMyWagon.com *still working on securing a Hole in One opportunity

Due to COVID-19 neither the Cross Plains Area Chamber of Commerce nor Northwest Dane Senior Services have been able to host their annual fundraisers! This year's **JOINT** golf outing is a **MAJOR** fundraiser! This is a great opportunity for you to support two Cross Plains organizations at one time! There are lots of ways to participate in this year's event at all different price points.

EARLY BIRD GOLF REGISTRATION IS HAPPENING NOW!!

Please visit the Chamber website for more details on registration as well as sponsorship opportunities. We hope to see you there!!



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 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.



MEET THE VILLAGE PEOPLE



Name: Matt Couey

Title: Public Facilities

When did you start at the Village?: July 2019

What did you do prior to working at the Village?: CNC operator at Nonns

Do you live in the Village? For how long?: Yes, for 7 years

What do you like to do in your free time?: Spend time with my family, hunt and play sports like softball and basketball.

What is a typical day in your position?: I change out water meter equipment, do final reads when people move out, plow the sidewalks after it snows, help with water main breaks and other odds and ends to keep the Village looking good.

What is your favorite part of the job?: Taking care of the Village I live in.

What is your favorite part of Cross Plains?: It has that small town feel, with still being close to Madison.

Favorite sports teams?: Green Bay Packers

If you could have one super power, what would it be and why?: Super intelligence. There are always problems that need to be figured out.





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

Upcoming Garbage Dates:

July: 16, 23, 30

August: 6, 13, 20, 27

Sept: 3, 11, 17, 24



Just because we are in the middle of a pandemic, doesn't mean we can't still celebrate our 100th year anniversary of becoming the Village of Cross Plains! What better way to do that, then learn about the history of this amazing Village?! Please join us on our Village Facebook page as we post pictures of buildings that still stand as well as some that have been taken down for one reason or another. We provide the history of these buildings as they were told to us and love to read the comments from Village residents who have lived here longer who might know more in depth stories about these buildings. There is definitely a lot of history to be told.

If you want to learn more on your own about this amazing Village, I implore you to check out the Cross Plains-Berry Historical Society. You can do so on Facebook, as well as the Rosemary Garfoot Public Library. They will also open the Historical Museum by appointment only. Please contact Doc Esser at 798-2147 for an appointment or for more information about the Historical Society.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village is waiving all late fees and penalties for the second installment of property tax payments that were to be due July 31st. You now have until October 1st to make that second payment without fear of late fees and penalties. Second installment payments need to be made directly to the Dane County Treasurer. We cannot accept payments at the Village Hall.

If you have questions about your second installment, please call Village Treasurer, Bobbi Zauner at 798-3241 ext 106.

Visit us:

www.cross-plains.wi.us

Connect with us:

www.facebook.com/crossplainswi