

# Cross Plains Newsletter

Village of Cross  
Plains

December 2013

Volume 1, Issue 4

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## Special points of interest:

- ◆ First Installment of Property Taxes due Jan. 31
- ◆ Spring Local Primary Election - Feb. 18
- ◆ Spring Local Election - Apr. 1
- ◆ Village Hall Closed - Apr. 18
- ◆ Plan Commission meets on the 1st Monday of each month at 7 pm.
- ◆ Committee of the Whole meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm.
- ◆ Village Board meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7 pm.

## A message from the Village President

Greetings from the Village of Cross Plains! I hope you and your family had an enjoyable holiday season along with a welcoming new year. The end of 2013 marks a very busy year in Cross Plains and will usher in much more activity in 2014.

The 2014 Budget has been adopted and you have no doubt received your tax bill payable in the coming year. I would like to thank the Village Board, Staff, and all participants in the budget process as we were successful in keeping the annual Village tax rate unchanged from the prior year. While other taxing jurisdictions increased, the Village was able to provide an expanded level of service and properly fund its capital needs for the coming year. This is the third year of at least no increase in the annual Village tax rate.

Several buildings along Highway 14 have been removed in recent months. Three buildings west of the County Highway P intersection were removed to make way for the reconstruction of Highway 14 that will occur in 2015. The buildings removed east of the County

Highway P intersection are to make room for a brand new Kwik Trip. As you can see, they are hard at work to open the new facility as soon as they can. I hope you will join me in welcoming this new facility sometime this Spring.

The reconstruction of Lagoon Street is entering its final stages of preparation after many years of work. The property acquisition for the new portion of the road connecting to Wilson Street is now complete and we continue to work with property owners for the existing areas. We look forward to completing this project along with the new and improved look/use that it will bring.

The end of 2013 will also mark the retirement of Village Assessor Hallie Wendorff. Hallie has worked for the Village since 1992, and we wish her luck in the future.

Finally, anyone interested in serving on a Committee or Commission for the Village can contact me directly. We will work to find a vacancy to meet each individual's skill as spots are available.

Pat Andreoni, Village President

# 2014 Capital Improvement Projects

The coming year will increase our capital activity with the beginning of some very large projects. Please note the Capital Projects approved for 2014:

- **Lagoon Street** - The reconstruction of Lagoon Street will begin sometime around May of 2014. This project will rebuild the areas of existing roadway surface with new curb, gutter, pavement, and sidewalk as well as construct this same infrastructure in order to make an official connection with Wilson Street. The property acquisition needed for the area to build the new roadway is complete while the Village continues to work with property owners in existing roadway areas on the remaining property needed for the new road. The project is expected to be bid sometime around February leaving plenty of time for final preparations. The construction itself is expected to last 8-10 weeks due to the fact that no other Village utilities need to be replaced or installed. Once complete, this road will continue to support the local commercial interests, Zander Park, and Main Street.
- **County Highway P Bridge and Approaches** - As part of the reconstruction of US Highway 14 (Main Street) in 2015, the "P" Bridge and Approaches need to be replaced next year. This work is expected to begin in July and be completed within 8-12 weeks. The project is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and under the jurisdiction of Dane County with some assistance from the Village. A detour route will be in place as the bridge will not be accessible during construction. The detour will remain local using Bourbon Road as the main thoroughfare to reroute traffic. With this bridge replaced in 2014, this allows for this detour route to be reused in 2015 for the highway's reconstruction.
- **Other Capital Projects:**
  - ⇒ *Facility Maintenance* - General maintenance on for Public Facility buildings located on Bourbon Road and concession stand located near Military Road including siding and roof repair/replacement.
  - ⇒ *Annual Street Maintenance Program* - Funding has again been provided to repave, repair, and maintain various streets throughout the Village.
  - ⇒ *Bourbon Road Sidewalk* - Zander Park will be connected via a paved path to County Highway P to make a connection to the new sidewalk being installed on the bridge.
  - ⇒ *Recreational Equipment* - New playground equipment will be installed at Cedar Glen park and additional structures will be added to the skate park.
  - ⇒ *Phosphorous Treatment* - The Sewer Treatment plant will begin a multi-year study to review data in order to determine treatment options to meet new phosphorous requirements.

## Cross Plains Police Department

Winter is upon us and with the snow season starting the Cross Plains Police Department would like to remind everyone of a few Village Ordinances which are specific to winter.

- The act of throwing or depositing snow into the road, public parks, or property of the Village.
- Accumulated snow or ice on any public sidewalk not removed within 24 hours of the cessation of the event, or a public sidewalk not kept clean of snow and ice between snow events will be considered a Public Nuisance Affecting Peace and Safety.
- ***After the accumulation of TWO (2) inches or more of snow, no person may park, or leave parked, any vehicle on any street or highway until after the street or highway has been completely plowed, from curb to curb.***
- No person may park any vehicle on any street or Village owned parking lot for a period exceeding 48 hours. Additionally no overnight vehicles over 10,000 pounds are permitted.
- No person may operate any motor vehicle on any public sidewalk within a public highway.

## Northwest Dane Senior Services

We are grateful and honored this holiday season to be given the opportunity to serve you each day. It warms our hearts to see your smiling faces each time we connect.

Are you taking advantage of all the services Northwest Dane Senior Services has to offer? Come join us for lunch at The Connection or have a hot meal delivered by one of our dedicated volunteer drivers. Our Case Manager, Vicki, can provide support services, opportunities and resources seniors require to stay independent. Support Home Chore assists older adults with indoor light housekeeping and grocery shopping. Kick off 2014 by joining us for one of our wellness activities and or a game of cards or BINGO. Our travelling "Wii" bowling chicks are always up for some new competition on the lane at the center.

For more information, please call 608-767-3757, or go to our website [www.nwdss.org](http://www.nwdss.org).



# Parks and Recreation Department

## NFL Flag Football

The Parks and Recreation Departments of Cross Plains, Monona and Fitchburg were pleased to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dane County NFL Flag Football Tournament Saturday, October 26 at Ahuska Park in the City of Monona. The term “fun and games”, was had by all with twenty-four 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teams competing for the 2013 tournament championship. The Village of Cross Plains had 12 teams competing in this years tournament, all who played hard and had a great day of competition. Congratulations to all of the Cross Plains teams that participated with a special thank you to all of the volunteer coaches that made this program successful.



# Parks and Recreation Department

## Adult Drop In Basketball

Men's: Wednesday Nights at Glacier Creek Middle School

Women's: Wednesday Nights at Park School

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Cost: \$5.00 per night

Ages: 18 and older

## Cross Plains Fitness Pass

Do you like to exercise but have trouble committing due to a hectic schedule? You may now purchase a punch card that is good for multiple programs on multiple nights! This card may be used for the following programs:

Mondays ~ Yoga 9:00 am-10:15 am,

Mondays ~ Zumba 5:30 pm-6:30 pm,

Tuesdays ~ Yoga 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

Thursdays ~ Yoga 9:00 am-10:15 am

The zumba program is located at the American Legion Hall; Yoga is located in the upstairs of the Cross Plains-Berry Fire Station. Participants may sign up at the Village Office or with the instructor prior to class.

Cost: 4 punches ~ \$40.00,

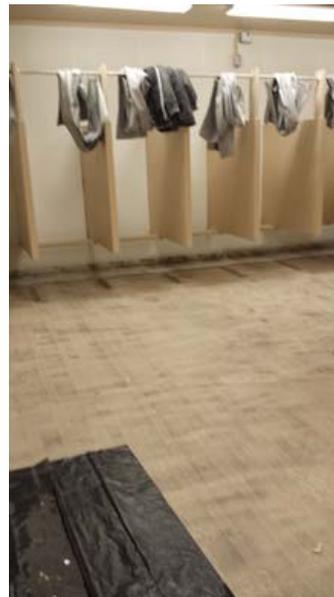
8 punches ~ \$64.00,

10 punches ~ \$70.00

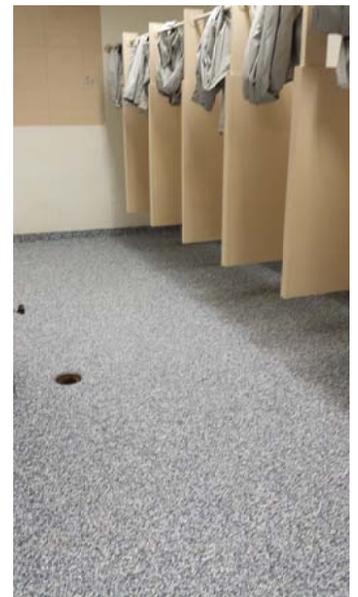
## Aquatics

A renovation to the Cross Plains pool has been completed during the off season. A picture below shows off the new floors for the upcoming season. Upgrades will continue prior to the 2014 start -up including: new partitions for the men's/women's restroom, shelving and cubbies for patrons and life-guards and new paint for all of the walls.

BEFORE



AFTER



# Rosemary Garfoot Public Library

Wisconsin's First Green Library



## Celebrating 50 Years!

The Rosemary Garfoot Public Library will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014 with various programs and events throughout the year. Watch the library website at [www.rgpl.org](http://www.rgpl.org), and the library Facebook page for announcements.

## Green Tuesdays Environmental Films and Discussion

If you're interested in environmental issues and how they impact the world around you, join us for Green Tuesdays, a free series of films, presentations, and conversations about sustainability issues. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM from September through May.

## Databases

The library provides access to several terrific databases, including Ancestry.com, Consumer Reports, Chilton Auto Repair, and many more! Check it out by going into LinkCat and clicking on the *Databases* button on the home page!

## Additional Services:

- Art exhibits featuring local artists
- Access to databases, including Ancestry.com, Consumer Reports, Chilton Auto Repair, and many more
- Free meeting space for non-profit groups
- Food pick-up site for the Mazomanie Food Pantry
- Laser Color Computer Printing
- Black & White Photocopying
- Fax Service
- Exam Proctoring

## The Cross Plains-Berry Historical Society Research Center

Located in the library, the center is open by appointment.



## Friends of the Library

Find out about becoming a member of the Friends of the Library! Membership forms can be found at the circulation desk

*Library hours: Mon, Wed, and Thur: 9am-8pm, Tues & Fri: 9am-5pm, Sat: 10am-2pm*

*Rosemary Garfoot Public Library, 2107 Julius St., Cross Plains, WI. 53528 – 608-798-3881-[www.rgpl.org](http://www.rgpl.org)*

## Rosemary Garfoot Public Library Children's Programs

### Morning Movie

This series of contemporary adult films meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM. Coffee is hot at 9:00 AM, so come early for some conversation and a bite to eat before the film!

### Story Time News

#### Wigglers and Giggles - Tuesdays @ 10

For babies and toddlers. We will learn fingerplays, sing songs, read very simple books and socialize. Join the fun and learn how to grow a reader!

Mark the following Tuesdays on your calendar: 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4 and 3/11

#### Big Kids' Booktime - Wednesdays @ 10

Designed for preschoolers (3-6 year olds). At Storytime we sing, read stories and occasionally have a craft project, snack or a special activity based on our theme. These programs are designed for children who are ready to sit and listen to stories. Please bring younger siblings out of the room during the storytelling portion of the program.

Mark these dates on your calendar: 1/8, 1/15,

### School's Out Movies

#### Friday, January 24 @ 1:00 – Pinocchio

Enjoy this Disney classic as we get ready for the Missoula Children's Theater performance at the Middleton Performing Arts Center on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Monday, February 17 @ 1:00 – Movie to be announced

### Teen Book Club

Meets the second Thursday of the month at 4:15. Check our website for current reads, all readers ages 12-18 are welcome.

### Carpe Librum Book Discussion Group

Join the Carpe Librum Book Discussion Group on the last Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. No meeting in December. January selection is *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad.

### Computer Assistance

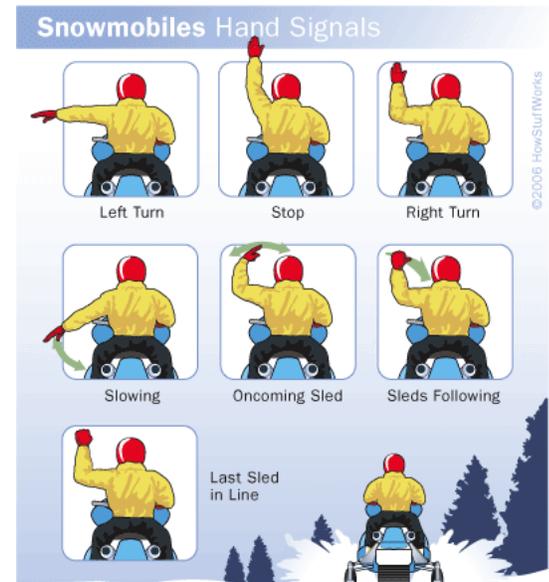
The library staff is happy to help patrons using library computers with their questions. People can also get one-on-one basic instruction by calling the library for an appointment.

# Snowmobile Regulations

The following regulations are outlined in the Village Code - Chapter 52. The entire ordinance can be read by visiting the Village website.

**Permitted Use of Snowmobiles.** Snowmobiles may be operated in the Village on public right-of-ways only as follows:

- (1) Snowmobiles may be operated on public streets for the purpose of residential access only, such traveling the shortest distance between the snowmobile operator's residence and the Village or County snowmobile route or trail that is closest to that residence.
- (2) Snowmobiles may be operated in the Village on the marked snowmobile route.
- (3) Snowmobiles may be operated in public parks and on other municipal property where their use is approved by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Conservancy.
- (4) The Chief of Police or Director of Parks, Recreation and Conservancy may declare any snowmobile route in the Village closed at any time, and may prohibit the use of snowmobiles for the purpose of residential access in the Village, or any part of the Village at any time.
- (5) No person may operate a snowmobile within the Village limits at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour.
- (6) No person may operate a snowmobile between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. except on an open, approved trail or on a Village-approved route for the purpose of gaining access to or from an open, approved trail.
- (7) No person who is under sixteen (16) years of age may operate an ATV or UTV for purposes of snow removal under any circumstances.
- (8) Any person operating an ATV or UTV with a snow removal device attached is required to display at least one or more flashing or rotating amber or yellow lights, and at least one of the lights shall be visible from every direction.



# Middleton - Cross Plains Area School District

## School District Budget Passed

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District Board of Education unanimously approved its 2013-14 annual budget and certified the tax levy on Monday, Nov. 4. The budget includes a 1.92% increase in the tax mill rate from a year ago, which is less than the 7.7% increase that was projected in the preliminary budget in July. The 1.92% increase works out to a mill rate of \$11.12 per \$1,000 of residential assessed value. The owner of a \$300,000 home is projected to pay \$3,335 in school taxes, which is \$61 more than in 2012. There were a number of factors that helped reduce the projected mill rate.

The District conservatively estimated a 0% increase in equalized valuation, while the actual number came in at a 1.5% increase overall. In the Village of Cross Plains, the increase was 0.82% for 2013-14. In addition, the District received \$2.3 million more in state general aid than projected. "This is great news for District taxpayers," Hibner said. "In a year when we passed a sorely needed \$60 million referendum to address overcrowding in our elementary schools, and facility issues at Kromrey Middle School, to keep the tax impact this low is phenomenal."

## Middle School Building Project Update

Superintendent Don Johnson reported that both middle school building projects remain on or ahead of schedule, and on budget. Work on Glacier Creek Middle School has progressed so well that the extra commons space will be available to use for the second semester. The work on the outside of all of the editions is effectively done, and work will mainly be inside the building over the next few months. Glacier Creek's additions will be completed by August 2014. In addition to extra cafeteria space, a fifth-grade wing is being added on the southeast corner. There will also be three additional classrooms added on the north side of the building, along with a gymnasium with two courts and a fitness center on the east side of the school.

District K-12 enrollment grew by 1.57 percent over the past year. There are now 6,347 K-12 students in the District's 10 schools, an increase of 98 students from a year ago. Based on the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Applied Population Lab report for MCPASD, the District is budgeting for an increase of 30 students for the 2014-15 school year.

Finally, the District has hired an independent company to analyze all of its bell times and bus routes. Possible changes to bell times and bus routes for 2014-15 will be presented to the Board of Education in January and the District plans to announce any changes by February.

# Chamber of Commerce



## Hwy 14 and Lagoon Street Reconstruction

**Please consider being part of a task force to help survive the next few years of construction. Teams are being formed for Signage, Advertising/Promotions, Events, Parking/Maps & Safe Routes to School.**

**Please let us know if you are willing to help. We are all in this together and will be most successful if many of us get involved.**

**A special section has been created on the Chamber website that has information about the project and will have regular updates as we move forward.**

**Construction on Lagoon Street is scheduled to start in May 2014.**

**Railroad crossing, bridge & pavement approaches will be done July - October 2014**

**Detour signing and marking, temporary signals will be done in October 2014**

**Main Street from construction will start at Market Street in February 2015 and will go through October 2015.**

## Chamber of Commerce Membership

The Cross Plains Area Chamber of Commerce members and our community benefit directly from your involvement!

**OUR MISSION:** To promote a strong economy and high quality of life for our Chamber members and the Cross Plains area communities.

The Chamber needs volunteers to help build awareness of our community, promote business members, and hold events in our community. Please consider being a part of this great organization in whatever capacity you are able. If you are interested in a particular area we welcome your involvement.

**GET INVOLVED TODAY!**

*Community Involvement ~ Business Development ~ Communication ~ Networking*

For more information check out our website [www.crossplainschamber.net](http://www.crossplainschamber.net) or contact Executive Director Amy Hansen at [amy.cpchamber@yahoo.com](mailto:amy.cpchamber@yahoo.com).

## 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 13 – Chamber Annual Dinner	April 19 – Easter Egg Hunt
May 1-3 – Trout Days, City Wide Garage Sales	May 26 – Memorial Day Chicken BBQ
June 27-29 – Cross Plains World’s Fair	July 19-20 – St. Francis Church Picnic
July 23 – Chamber Golf Outing	August 1-2 – Spike Rett’s Syndrome Fundraiser
August 5 – Family Fun & Safety-National Night Out	September 7 – <i>Ironman Wisconsin</i>
September 20 – Hill & Valley Antique Auto/Americana Show	September 20 - Taste of Cross Plains
November 13 – Business Fair	December 6 – Santa’s Visit

## Village Assessor Changes

There were a lot of assessment changes during 2013. It's not every community that just moves their creek and demos a significant portion of their commercial properties in 1 year. I look forward to seeing the big improvements along Main Street in the next year or 2. However, I will not be looking at them through the eyes of an assessor, as I will be retiring from Cross Plains at the end of December.

Believe it or not I have been assessing property in Cross Plains since February 1992. The first 2 years I assisted Al Schwab and then in 1995 he retired and I became the only assessor.

Bill & I are in the process of moving back to the City of Manitowoc, where we lived for 20 years before coming down to Dane County. We purchased a couple of fixer up houses, one for living and the other one for an office. Bill still does some special projects for the university and I will still be assessing 4 smaller villages in Dane and Sauk Counties.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the residents of Cross Plains, for their good cooperation in letting me into your homes and business as part of the assessment process during the last 20 plus years.

I have met your new assessor, Jeremie Klass, of Associated Appraisal Consultants. I hope you will extend your cooperation to him as he starts to do his assessment of Cross Plains for 2014.

Best Wishes,

Hallie Wendorff

## Village of Cross Plains

2417 Brewery Road  
PO Box 97  
Cross Plains, WI 53528

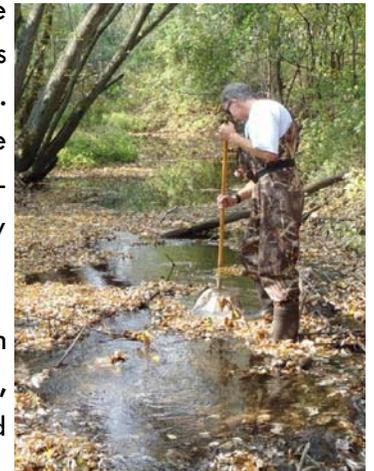
Village Hall Phone (608) 798-3241  
Village Hall Fax (608) 798-3817  
EMERGENCY - Police, Fire, EMS 911  
Police Department (608) 798-4100  
Public Library (608) 798-3881  
School District (608) 829-9000  
Email [matt@cross-plains.wi.us](mailto:matt@cross-plains.wi.us)

We're on the Web!!!  
[www.cross-plains.wi.us](http://www.cross-plains.wi.us)

# New Zealand Mudsnail in Black Earth Creek

On December 12th, a meeting was held to discuss the increasing threat of the new Zealand mudsnail (NZM). The NZM are invasive brown or black snails about 1/8 inch long. They were first detected in the United States in 1987. They live in streams, lakes and ditches and have no natural predators. In the United States, nearly all NZM are females, which reproduce asexually, releasing up to 230 clones a year.. They have a negative effect on the ecosystem by depriving fish of food sources.

**Presence in Black Earth Creek:** In October 2013, NZM were discovered in benthic samples collected from Black Earth Creek at South Valley Road. In 2012, and additional samples collected in December of 2011 from Town Road and Highway 14 in Black Earth are also suspected to contain NZM.



**How you can help:** NZM are very easily spread by heavy equipment and recreational equipment of those who work and recreate along the streams. This is due to their very small size and their ability to cling to surfaces. Before leaving the water make sure to inspect equipment and remove plants and animals, as well as drain all water from equipment. Scrub equipment with a stiff brush, including crevices, to remove all mud and snails. Be informed, stay the course and lead by example. Spread the word, not the mudsnail through media and networks. You can find a Wisconsin DNR Factsheet at the following web address: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/newzmsnail2012.html>