

# Cross Plains Newsletter

Village of Cross  
Plains

January 2013

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Inside this issue:

Black Earth Creek Project	2
Lagoon Street Project	2
Highway 14	3
Parks/Recreation	4
Library	6
School District	7
Water/Sewer Utility	8

## Special points of interest:

- ◆ Village Hall Closed — January 21, 2013
- ◆ First Payment Installment of Property Tax Bills due January 31, 2013.
- ◆ Spring Local Primary Election — February 19, 2013
- ◆ Spring Local Election — April 2, 2013
- ◆ 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

Welcome to the new Village of Cross Plains newsletter. This new format will be mailed to each home 4 times per year to help residents stay informed as to important information about our community. This first edition newsletter will serve as a review of the positive steps forward this Village has taken in 2012. The hiring of Matt Schuenke as Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer has brought thoughtful, modern, and effective management techniques spanning beyond just the Village Hall. His leadership and direction has been felt throughout the Village helping to improve upon the services provided. We look forward to his continued efforts to advance the Village through the assistance of the Village Board and its residents.

The Village Board has approved two budgets for 2012 and 2013 that reduced the Village taxes by nearly 2%, while maintaining the current level of services, reducing our reliance on debt, and implementing various changes to improve efficiency. With 2012 coming to a close, a surplus is anticipated helping to make the Village more financially viable with respect to planned infrastructure improvements in the coming years.

The Village will be implementing the Black Earth Creek Improvement Project in 2013 in order to preserve the local environment and provide improved access to one of our most treasured resources. The completion of this project will allow for a reconstructed Lagoon Street in 2014 that will provide an economic boost in the heart of our commercial corridor. The largest and most comprehensive of our capital needs will occur in 2015 with the reconstruction of Highway 14. This project will be a massive undertaking by all involved in order to improve our utilities, pedestrian safety, general infrastructure, and aesthetics of the Village. None of this would be accomplished without the work done by the Village Board and Staff to negotiate and work with the County, State, and Federal Governments to successfully bring in

new sources of revenue to help reduce the financial burden on the general tax base of the Village.

Helping to develop a vibrant and diverse local economy is important within the Village. The Village Board and Staff has worked diligently to assist in the creation of three new developments in 2012 that will add millions of assessed value to the Village. Cross Plains Motors moved its location from Main Street to Bourbon Road early in 2012, Milestone Senior Living will be constructing a new 40 unit facility on County Road KP, and Middleton Community Bank will be constructing a new bank on Westview Court. The addition of these new developments will be a benefit to the Tax Increment District which generates a property tax increment that can be used by the Village to improve infrastructure, develop programs, and assist with new development in the district. The Village will be continuing to work towards implementing a plan to redevelop the former Zander's Creamery, create programs to benefit businesses, and continue to work with prospective developers to revitalize the Downtown area.

The Village Board and I have been, and will continue to be very busy. The board has been working on a recodification project that has been in progress for several years. The recodification project is a process to review and update all ordinances of the Village, and is anticipated to be completed early in 2013. This effort combined with the work completed by the board in 2012 to create policies and new efficiencies will provide for efficient government that provides access to the public.

I thank you for your comments and patience as we work together to move in a positive direction.

**Kurt Schlicht**

**Village President**

## Black Earth Creek Improvement Project — 2013

The Village will partner with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Dane County to move the current straight section of the Black Earth Creek adjacent to Lagoon Street back to a more natural configuration. The new creek location is depicted in the red outline in the below map. This project will also include constructing two new pedestrian bridges (black cross-

ings) and a paved path (brown) to help improve access to the creek and use of Zander Park.

New stormwater treatment features will also be planned as part of the reconstruction of Highway 14 in 2015. The planning and design for this project is working towards completion in early 2013 with actual construction scheduled for June of 2013.

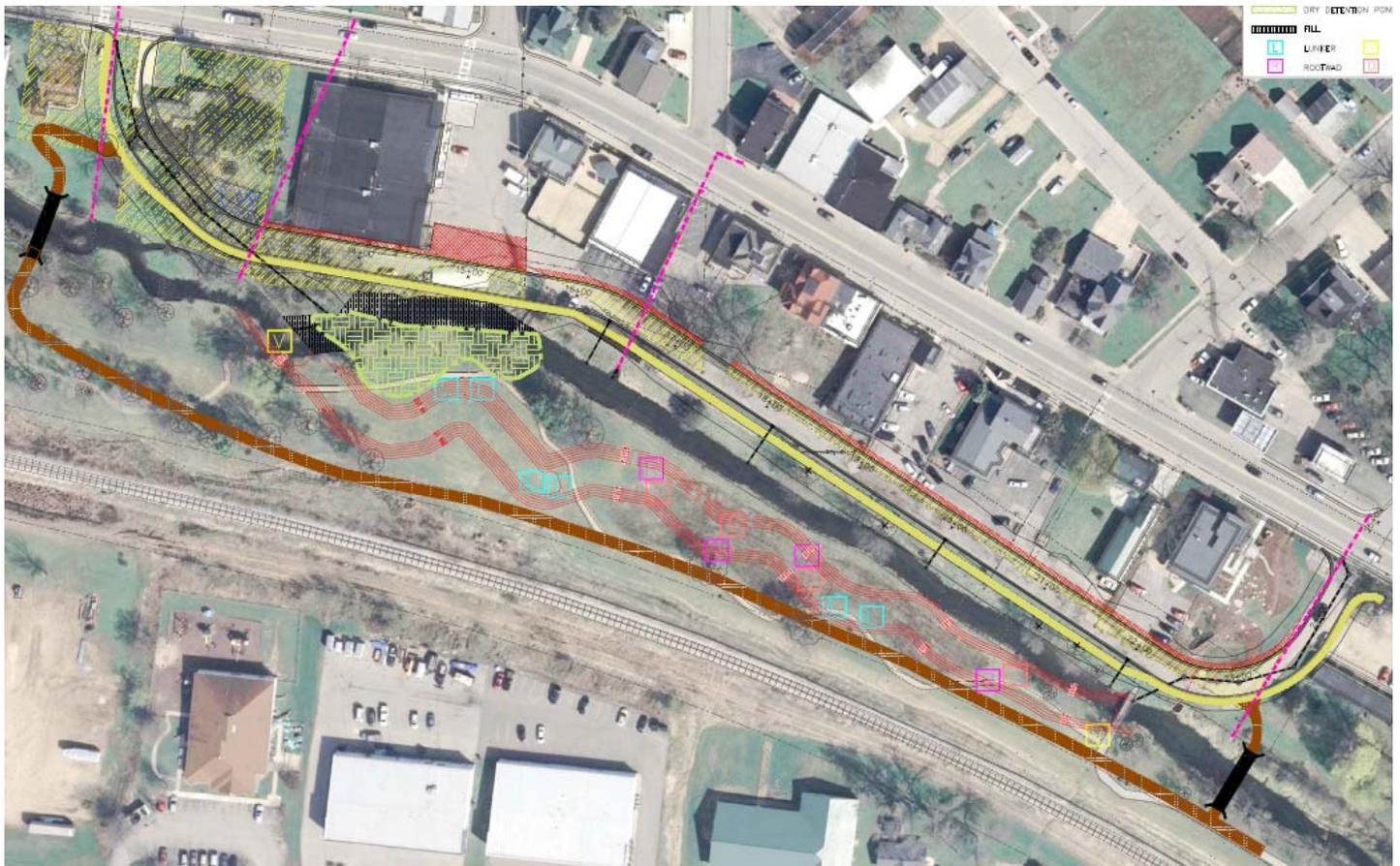
## Lagoon Street Reconstruction Project — 2013

The Village has reached a cost sharing agreement with WisDOT on the establishment and construction of Lagoon Street from Wilson Street to Jovina Street.

The design for the new road is nearly complete and depicted on the attached drawing within the black outline. The new road will have a 6' sidewalk adjacent to the southside of the street from Wilson to

Jovina as well as connectivity to the paved path that will be included within Zander Park.

This project was previously proposed for 2013, but has been re-scheduled for 2014 in order to provide adequate time for property acquisition and optimal conditions for construction with the creek moved in 2013.



# Highway 14 Planning and Design Update

The Village of Cross Plains and Dane County, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are in the process of developing plans for roadway and non-motorized traffic improvements along US 14, “Main Street”, between County KP and Westview Court. This includes the County P bridge over Black Earth Creek in the Village of Cross Plains. The project addresses the geometric deficiencies of the US 14 corridor and future traffic needs by improving the operational efficiency and safety of US 14. The project also improves non-motorized mobility and safety by adding pedestrian and bicycle facilities and crossings. Construction of improvements to US 14 and several local streets will occur between 2013 and 2016. (See bottom right for schedule).

## Planned Improvements

### By WisDOT

- A reconstructed Main Street from County KP to Westview Court.
- Adding a 14-foot two-way left turn lane as the center lane between Center Street and Wilson Street.
- Constructing a four-lane section from Jovina Street to Westview Court.
- New bridges over Brewery Creek and Black Earth Creek.
- Construction of enhanced bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and crosswalks.
- New storm sewers and storm water treatment facilities to improve storm water discharge quality into Black Earth Creek.
- Repaving of County P, County KP, and Bourbon Road.
- Railroad crossing gates on County P and Bourbon Road.
- Minor side street reconstruction.
- Realign County P easterly to provide a more efficient and safer intersection with US 14.
- A new signal will be installed at Brewery Road to facilitate turning movements, and to manage the flow of US 14 traffic.

### By Village

- Replacement and expansion of the Village gravity sanitary sewer system and its water distribution system on US 14, approximately 6,000 lineal feet.
- The Village will reconstruct and extend Lagoon Street between Wilson Street and Jovina Street to enhance the US 14 corridor operations and provide improved access to businesses. (See reverse side for more information)
- Rechanneling Black Earth Creek between Wilson Street and Jovina Street with assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

### Project Schedule

#### *Design*

April 2013—August 2014

#### *Construction*

**2013**—Black Earth Creek Improvement Proj.

**2014**—Lagoon Street & County P Bridge Replacement

**2015**—US 14 “Main Street” & Village Utilities Reconstruction

**2016**—Bourbon Road Paving & Storm Water Features

For more information, please contact:

Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator  
(608) 798-3241 x 105  
matt@cross-plains.wi.us

Bill Strobel, WisDOT Proj Mgr  
(608) 242-8009  
william1.strobel@dot.wi.gov

Scott Hasburgh, Mead & Hunt Proj Mgr  
(608) 443-0436  
scott.hasburgh@meadhunt.com

Additional information is available at the WisDOT project website:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/swregion/14cp/index.htm>

# Parks and Recreation Department

## NFL Flag Football League

Cross Plains, Monona, and Fitchburg were pleased to host the 3rd Annual Dane County NFL Flag Football Tournament Saturday, October 27 at Ahuska Park in the City of Monona. The term "fun and games", was had by all with twenty-one 2nd and 3rd grade teams competing for the 2012 tournament championship. Cross Plains had 12 teams competing in this years tournament, all who played hard and had a great day of competition

with a 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th place finishes. 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 possible. Thank you Mike Roessler, Sherri Sarbacker and the Cross Plains Optimist Club for your work in the concession stand during the duration of the program. Your commitment and generosity to the community is greatly appreciated.



1st Place — Cross Plains Cardinals



3rd Place — Cross Plains Patriots



4th Place — Cross Plains Raiders



5th Place — Cross Plains Packers



6th Place — Cross Plains Broncos

## Drop In Basketball

**Men's:** Wednesday Nights at Glacier Creek Middle School

**Women's:** Wednesday Nights at Park Elementary School

**Time:** 7:00 pm — 9:00 pm

**Cost:** \$5.00 per night

**Ages:** 18 and older



## Cross Plains Fitness Pass

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
- Wednesdays ~ Zumba 5:30 pm-6:30 pm
- Thursdays ~ Yoga 9:00 am-10:15 am

The zumba program is located at the American Legion Hall and the 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 ~ \$60.00, 10 punches ~ \$64.00

# Cross Plains Area Chamber of Commerce



The Cross Plains Area Chamber of Commerce members and our community benefit directly from your involvement! Our mission is to promote a strong economy and a 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. For more information, check out our website at [www.crossplainschamber.net](http://www.crossplainschamber.net) or contact Executive Director Amy Hansen at [am.cpchamber@yahoo.com](mailto:am.cpchamber@yahoo.com).

## Northwest Dane Senior Services

### Need a Ride to Medically Related Appointments?

Many people are not comfortable driving in the winter months. Others are able to drive around town, but reluctant to drive into Madison for medical appointments due to the busy beltline and road construction. If you are over 60, you have a choice. Volunteer driver escorts are available if you need a ride to medically related appointments (doctor visits, simple tests, physical therapy, pharmacy needs to name a few). You simply need to call NWDSS at 767-3757. We will need to know when you are going, the time and location of the appointment, and where you live. We will then contact a volunteer to take you to the appointment. Advance notice of two days is requested. This service is provided by screened and trained volunteers. There is no charge for this service; however, donations are accepted and an envelop for your donation can be requested from your driver.

### CareVan Bus Service — Getting Around to the Center and to Shopping

For a small fee, safe, reliable and friendly transportation service is provided for all activities, events, and local shopping trips sponsored by Northwest Dane Senior Services for persons over age 60 and living in our service area (which includes the Village and Town of Cross Plains). No rider will be denied transportation for inability to pay. Call the center at 767-3757 for more information and to sign up for transportation. CareVan fees for round trips are:

- \$1.00 — To the Senior Center for lunch or activities.
- \$2.00 — Shopping or Trips (in our area, e.g, Grocery, Pharmacy, World of Variety Plaza).
- \$3.00—Shopping or Trips (out of service area, e.g., weekly trips to Madison or Baraboo).

# Rosemary Garfoot Public Library

## Green Tuesdays Films and Lectures

This series of films and speakers focuses on environmental and sustainability issues. Each program is followed by an informal discussion about the evening's topic. The series runs from September through May and meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The schedule for the rest of the current series is:

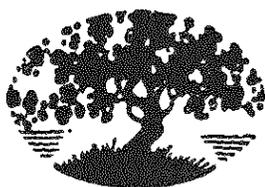
- \*1/3/13 *The Great Squeeze* <http://thegreatsqueeze.com/Trailer.html>  
\*Moved to Thursday due to holiday.
- 2/5/13 *Truck Farm* <http://www.traileraddict.com/trailer/truck-farm/trailer>
- 3/5/13 *A Chemical Reaction* <http://www.safelawns.org/a-chemical-reaction/>  
with a speaker from Madison's Healthy Lawn Team <http://www.healthylawnteam.org/>

## Computer Classes

The library offers basic computer classes by appointment. These sessions are designed to help individuals learn how to navigate the Internet, create basic Word documents, and set-up email, Facebook, and Twitter accounts.

## Cross Plains-Berry Historical Society

The local Historical Society provides office hours at the library upon request. Stop by the Historical Society room from now through December 31 to see the current display, Cross Plains Girl Scout History. Please call the library for contact information.



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

## Book Club

### Carpe Librum Book Discussion Group

Join the Carpe Librum Book Group on the last Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. The group will not meet in December but will resume on 1/31/13. Title to be announced.

### Future Day-time Book Group

Consideration of forming a day-time book discussion group for adults is in the works. Please contact the library if you are interested in seeing this program developed.

### Teen Book Club

All students 12 and older are welcome to join the Teen Book Club. We meet on the third Monday of the month at 4:15 p.m. Join us for great discussions and delicious snacks! There will be no meeting in January when we will join the Family Book Discussion of The Secret Garden (see below).

### Special Family Book Group

*The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett  
Friday, January 25th at 6:00 PM in the Community Rooms

One of the most well-loved classics for children ever written, *The Secret Garden*, will take you back to a time when the healing power of nature and fresh air was only embraced by curious children, driven to explore the wonders of a forbidden garden. Join us as we discuss the book, watch the movie, enjoy a light snack and get ready for The Missoula Children's Theater performance in Middleton on February 2nd. All school-aged children, kindergarten through 12th grade, will be invited to audition for the theater's production of *The Secret Garden*. To sign up for the book club please call 798-3881, or stop by the service desk.

### Mystery Book Club for Tweens

This new book club will be starting up in February. Check our website or Facebook page for more information.

# Middleton-Cross Plains School District

## 4K Registration

Registration for the 4K program in the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District will begin on Jan. 7, 2013. The registration process was moved up 2 months prior than usual due to requests from parents and also so the district knows even earlier how many prospective 4K students they will have in the 2013-14 school year. The 4K program has had more than 300 students in each of its first two years of existence. Please note the following three ways to register your child:

- In-person registration will be held on Jan. 9 from 7 am to 5 pm at the District Administrative Center (DAC), 7106 South Ave., Middleton.
- Drop-in registration is allowed on Fridays starting on Jan. 11 and running until June 7 from 7:30 am to noon and from 1 to 4 pm at the DAC.
- For the first time, the district will accept registration via e-mail. All registration materials, including site selection and transportation forms, may be sent to [4KRegistration@mcpasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:4KRegistration@mcpasd.k12.wi.us). Incomplete registrations will not be processed.

Children who are four years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2013, are eligible and permitted to start 4K the fall of 2013. The district does not have an early entrance policy for 4K. If you are registering in-person or via e-mail, please make sure you provide proof of residency and proof of your child's age. Acceptable documents for proof of residency include a current utility bill, a current lease agreement or documents from a recent home purchase. A birth certificate or current passport are needed to prove your student's age. If possible, please also bring your child's immunization record. Registration materials and requirements for 4K are available on the district's website under the Our Schools section. Forms will also be available on-site during the registration process. If you have any further questions, please call 608-829-9067 or visit the 4K webpage.

## "The Spirit of America"

Park students, teachers, parents and grandparents got into the spirit of Election Day on Nov. 6 with a special music program. Close to 300 people attended "The Spirit of America," a performance by students in third through fifth grade that was coordinated by music teacher Lauri Blakley. The 90-minute performance included 20 patriotic songs, with each grade singing at least five songs and all three grades singing four songs together.

"Lauri does an outstanding job of pulling this program together each year," Park principal Monica Schommer said. "All the parents said what a wonderful job everyone did. Smiles were abundant." Blakley

has been at Park for 25 years and has done a music program for 23 of those years. Each year she picks a different theme. Past themes have included transportation, colors, musical styles, dances, a peace rally and the Olympics. "It is nice when the theme corresponds with an event that is going on during the school year so it has meaning for the children," she said.

It took about six weeks to prepare, she said. Some of the things the students had to learn were the songs, solos and lead parts, harmony parts, percussion and melody instrument parts, she said. Blakley was particularly excited about how the program tied in with other parts of the

school's curriculum. Students read the book, "America Is ..." written by Louise Borden, they drew pictures about what America is to them and in art they even did a Statue of Liberty project. Blakley said her favorite part was during the morning performance for the younger students at Park. She got chills when all of the students sang "Stars and Stripes Forever" and "God Bless America" at the end of the program.

"The emotions that one feels when they hear children singing their hearts out in a large group are priceless," she said. "The students worked really hard and were very proud of their accomplishments. ... I would say it was a huge success."



## 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 Sewer Rates Effective January 1, 2013

The Cross Plains Village Board voted earlier in 2012 to implement a new sewer rate schedule. The new rates take effect on January 1, 2013 and will show up on your 1st quarter water/sewer bill which you will receive in April 2013.

The previous sewer rate schedule was implemented in 2004 in conjunction with the construction of the new Waste Water Treatment Plant. That rate schedule worked up through 2010 when the revenue generated no longer covered the annual expenses.

The new Sewer Rate Schedule approved by the Cross Plains Village Board addresses the operating expense deficiency which is primarily the result of reduced water consumption. The reduction in water usage can be attributed to an increase in requests for water only meters, water conserving fixtures,

and conservation practices in private homes. The rate increase also includes planning expenses related to reconstructing the sewer main line on Main St in conjunction with the Hwy 14/Main St project planned for 2015.

The Sewer portion of the water bill you receive consists of 2 parts –

- 1) Flat Fee – This portion of the sewer bill covers costs to construct and replace the infrastructure needed to convey and treat the wastewater such as the sewer mains under the streets and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This fee is currently \$63.00/quarter and is increasing by \$10.00 to \$73.00/Quarter per residential user.
- 2) Usage Fee – This portion of the sewer bill covers operating costs to collect and treat

the wastewater such as cleaning sewer lines, electricity for pumping and treating wastewater, equipment repairs and sludge disposal. This fee is calculated based on the amount of water used as shown on the water meter in each residence. The current fee is \$8.25/1000 gallons used and will be increasing by \$1.00 to \$9.25/1000 gallons used.

The Village Board has already committed to reviewing this rate in the future as needed to determine if the estimates and projections used to determine the rates are accurate and reasonable. Further review will be needed regarding the Sewer Main Replacement Project and its impact on the utility to complete the project in 2015.