

The Town of Rhine Newsletter

Volume 32 Issue 1

April 2019



Hello from the Town Chair, Ron Platz

Memorials

Last year, we lost three special individuals who had spent many years working for and/or serving in different capacities for the Town of Rhine.

In September of 2018, Fourth Supervisor, Frank Zimmermann, passed away. Frank was a longtime elected member of the Town Board. He was active on many of our committees and at the time of his passing was Chairman of our Roads Committee. Frank never missed a meeting and was always more than willing to share his ideas and opinions. Frank was a strong advocate for the preservation of agricultural lands in the township. His extensive knowledge on Town of Rhine issues and especially his sense of humor will be sorely missed.

After Frank's passing, the Town Board selected former Supervisor, Larry Eberle, to fill out the remainder of Frank's term until Spring 2020. Many thanks to Larry and the three other individuals who offered to fill this open position.

In October of last year, our yard maintenance person, Donald Ruh, passed away. Don could always be counted on to keep the outside area of our Town Hall looking neat and clean and was a valued employee.

Lastly, on December 31st, we received word that our former Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer, Bonnie Stoelting, had died. After her retirement she still continued to serve in different capacities and as recently as 2018 served on our Long Range Planning Committee. Her professional demeanor and commitment to the Town and its citizens will always be remembered.

We offer our sincere condolences to the loved ones of these three families and our appreciation for their service to the Town of Rhine.

Pipeline



On January 30, 2019 the Wisconsin Public Service Commission issued a Certificate of Authority approving a natural gas main replacement project for a pipeline that runs from Plymouth to Chilton. Portions of this pipeline run through the township just Southeast of Kiel towards Plymouth. Landowners in the Town of Rhine impacted by this project will be contacted shortly by a land agent from WPS to discuss the next steps in the process and the necessary easements.

Construction is scheduled to start in Spring of 2020 and be completed by 2022.

Fee Increases

The Town Board took action on 8/7/2018 to increase some of the fees that we charge for different services. They are listed below.

- Public Records Request are free for the first hour of research, then \$30 per additional hour, excluding postage.
- Collection Site/ Recycling Center/ Dump Tags will now be \$20 to replace if lost, stolen, or misplaced.
- Special Assessment Letters are

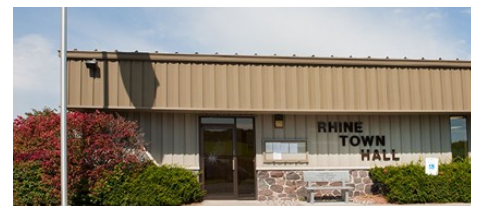
now \$35. If it is a RUSH order it will be \$60 if completed on same business day.

- There has always been a \$5 late fee for late registrations of dogs. It will now be enforced.
- Town Hall Rental \$90 plus \$90 refundable cleaning fee.
- Town Shelter Rental \$90 plus \$90 refundable cleaning fee.
- If both Town Hall and Shelter are rented together \$160 plus \$160 refundable cleaning fee.

Town Hall Hours of Operation

The Town of Rhine hall has office hours every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30am until 4:30pm. Our two clerks, Lexann and Catherine, have a heavy workload and we would appreciate your cooperation with honoring these office hours. During tax collection season, passerby's will see a vehicle parked in the lot and come and knock on the door to ask questions or conduct their business outside of regular business hours. This makes it difficult for the clerks to perform their duties because of the interruptions. If you need to conduct business outside of the posted office hours, please call ahead to make special arrangements. This is also a problem during elections when we offer early voting. The early voting hours are quite liberal and are posted well in advance of the elections.

While we are all here to serve the residents of the Town of Rhine we do need to have some structure to our work hours to get our jobs completed. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.





**Greetings from Al Feld,
Chairman
of
Lakes and Sanitation, Proper-
ties and Roads Committee**

**Lakes and Sanitation
Committee**

The drop off site is running well with the help of our attendants. I would like to remind you to break down all of your cardboard boxes and any other large debris that you bring. For example, old dressers or cabinets. The most expensive aspect of running the Collection Site is the cost of trucking and transporting of refuse. This means, the more we can fill the dumpsters, the less we have to pay for hauling. Also, please remember to drive slowly when entering the site for everyone's safety.



Properties Committee

The Properties Committee has recently voted to purchase and install an automatic door assist for the front entrance door of the Town Hall. This will allow for easier access to the hall for those with physical limitations. We are also researching a security system upgrade with the possible addition of cameras. Lastly, we will be running an advertisement in the Plymouth Review for a building and grounds person to care for minor maintenance issues and grass cutting around the Town Hall property. This is to replace Donald Ruh, who unfortunately passed away last Fall.

Roads Committee

We are considering resurfacing Golf Course Road between Hamman Road and the village limits this year. We are also looking at chip sealing portions of Garton Road. This past Fall we made improvements to the shoulders of Snake Road between Holzman Road and County Road MM to prepare it for resurfacing next year. In addition, we

added several inches of black top to a section of Snake Road between Plateau Road and the south end of the water area. This was to preserve the road from erosion.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or comments on the above committees.

Al Feld
920-980-3827
Thank You!

Who are We?

Town Officials and Contacts
Town Board Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month (unless otherwise stated) at the Town Hall at 6:30pm. These are open to the public.

Town Board Chair

- Ron Platz 920-390-0332

Supervisors

- Allen Feld 920-980-3827
- Jon Rost 920-980-4800
- Bill Jacob 920-627-2612
- Larry Eberle 920-889-5551

Clerk/Treasurer

- Lexann Hoogstra 920-876-3413

Deputy Clerk

- Catherine Loeffler 920-876-3413

Building Inspector

- Tony Leonard 262-364-9597

For Inspections Only 262-346-4577
The building inspector's hours are by Appointment only.

**Village of Elkhart Lake/Town of
Rhine Fire Department**

- Pat Zorn 920-876-3333

**Village of Elkhart Lake/Town of
Rhine First Responders**

- Darren Lindstrom 920-876-3333

**Greetings from your newest
Town Supervisor, Bill Jacob**



Over the past several months, I have enjoyed getting to know my fellow supervisors, committee members, and town clerks — great people, I have found, who diligently manage the affairs of our town while working to preserve its legacy. I have been a property owner in the Town of Rhine for over 35 years and a full time resident since 2005. Although I was born and raised in upstate New York, my wife's family goes back three generations in our area, and we have a deep appreciation for the many things that make the Town of Rhine a special place to live. Because of this, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a Town Supervisor. As chairperson of the Planning Commission, I work with a group of experienced committee members to assist in such things as property zoning and the issuance of conditional use permits. As chairperson of the Ordinance Committee, I am part of a knowledgeable group which is responsible to review, clarify and make recommendations for changes to town ordinances. We are currently reviewing Chapter IV of the Town of Rhine Municipal Code which addresses everything from highway setbacks and fences to ordinances governing conservancy and residential districts. All of our meetings are open to the public, and I value the input that results from this. Thanks for the opportunity to represent your interests in the Town of Rhine. I look forward to hearing from you with any comments, questions, or concerns. You can email me at bjacob@townrhine.com.



New Feature Article- Get to Know Your Neighbor

Every Newsletter from now on, we will be featuring a resident. If you have a friend or family member you would like featured please contact the Town Hall. We are looking for all types - young and old, newcomers to fifth generation families. We would love to hear your story!

Christa Bertram Johanson



My name is Christa Bertram Johanson. I officially became a resident of the Town of Rhine in the Fall of 2014 a full year after I married into the Johanson family in September of 2013. In between, I commuted from Milwaukee to see my husband Ian on the weekends. This arrangement seemed odd to most people until they learned the reason why.

You see, I am the third generation of attorneys in my family and Ian is the third generation of newspaper men in his family. The Johansons publish the Plymouth Review, the Sheboygan Falls News, and the Sheboygan Beacon. My family law firm, Bertram & Bertram, was located in Brookfield, WI until my father retired in 2015 and I moved the office to downtown Sheboygan. The commute is much better these days!

I love getting to know the Town of Rhine. For a while I volunteered at the Amazing Grace Equine Sanctuary and I now sit on two Town Board Subcommittees: Planning Commission and Board of Appeals. Participating this way

makes it easy to meet new people and to be a part of the community.

When I am not doing lawyer stuff (drafting wills or helping families figure out how to pay for nursing home care), I like to spend time outside, hanging out with our three cats, and growing the list of birds and animals that we spot and identify on our property.

The Town of Rhine is certainly different from Milwaukee, but I am loving it here as much as I loved the city.

Elections by Lexann Hoogstra, Clerk/Treasurer

Our Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. Among other items, there are positions for Town Chairman, 2 Town Supervisors, Sanitary Commissioner District #1, and School Board Members in all of our 4 School Districts- Kiel, Howards Grove, Plymouth, Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah.

All Elections are held at the Town Hall. Polls are open 7:00am to 8:00pm on Election Day. Hope to see you there!



Working the Polls by Catherine Loeffler

Anyone in Rhine who is an adult citizen of the US and has lived in the election district for 10 consecutive days and is a qualified voter may be a poll worker.

Many of our poll workers have been helping with the election process for decades. We have relied heavily on the same amazing group for years and we need new, eligible participants to become involved.

If this is something you would consider, please call the Deputy Clerk at 920-876-3413 and we can explain the training process. You will be compen-

sated \$10/hour for training and as a poll worker. Chief Inspectors will receive \$13/hour. More importantly, you will be helping your municipality in this vital process.

Rhine History Facts

On February, November 6, 1860 at the School House District, Town of Rhine, Sheboygan County, a total of 256 gentlemen voted in the General Election.

New Town Hall Rental Information

Having a graduation party or family reunion? The Town Hall and Shelter may be the place for you.

To rent either building costs \$90.00 with an additional \$90.00 refundable fee if the Hall is left in a good, clean condition.

Simply come in during our office hours or download a rental agreement form from our website www.townrhine.com.

2019 Dog Licensing Information

Dog licenses for 2019 have been available at the Town Hall beginning in mid-December. All 2018 licenses expired on 12/31/18. By State Statute, the owner of any dog in the Town of Rhine must license their beloved pet by March 31st. This also pertains to renters. Please pass this information on.

- Neutered/Spayed \$7
- Unaltered \$14
- Kennel License \$55

*A late fee of \$5 per dog will be charged after April 1st of every year.





Rhine - Rich in History



The above photo was taken from page 171 of *A History of the Schools in the Towns of Russell and Rhine*, Sheboygan County, WI. Compiled by Helen Schulz. Including the Elkhart Lake Village School compiled by Neva Hodge Lemorande, Norma Koene, and Ronald Mauk. Originally published 1997. Edited and Reformatted and Reprinted 2014. Published by Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, Inc. Sheboygan Falls, WI

WE ARE GREEN!

The Town of Rhine is proud to announce that our newsletter is now paperless. All future newsletters will also be available on our website, you may pick up a copy at our Town Hall or we can email you one. If you prefer to receive a copy by email, contact the Deputy Clerk at assistant@townrhine.com