
❖ The Town of Rhine Newsletter ❖

Volume 31 Issue 1

June 2018

We're going GREEN!

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

Meet Rhine's Building Inspector by Tony "Doc" Leonard



Greetings from your local building inspector, Tony "Doc" Leonard. At the request of the Town officials, I am providing this brief profile to better acquaint Town residents with their building inspector. The Town of Rhine contracts with my employer, Safebuilt, a building inspection agency, to perform building inspections and enforce zoning requirements, which has been my responsibility over the last three plus years.

I have been a Wisconsin certified and licensed residential building, electrical, plumbing and HVAC inspector, and also a commercial building and HVAC inspector for 13 years. In addition to serving the Town of Rhine, I am also assigned to the Towns of Mitchell, Kewaskum, Herman (Dodge County), Villages of Campbellsport, Eden, Brownsville and Theresa. Working on a part-time basis in various construction trades over the years, I developed an interest in learning more, and many years later, pursued obtaining building inspector credentials.

On a more personal note, I began my working career at an early age on the

family farm. I was employed by Giddings and Lewis as a machinist for 24 years while concurrently serving as a USPS Rural Carrier substitute for several of those years, eventually becoming a full-time Rural Carrier. An auto accident with resulting injuries ended my career with the Postal Service. During the years of recovery, I studied for and wrote the state examinations required for the necessary building inspector credentials.

I welcome and encourage any questions or concerns that anyone may have pertaining to building or zoning. My phone number is (262) 364-9597. I am fortunate, thankful and grateful for the working relationship, support, and cooperation offered by the Town of Rhine officials and residents.

Fireman's Park and Beach on Elkhart Lake



411 S Lake Street, Elkhart Lake
Jun 29 - Jul 1, 2018. A family event with music, children's games, food and fun. Friday evening music at 8PM and fireworks at 9:30PM. Saturday evening music 8PM-Midnight. The Sunday parade is at 11:30AM followed by live music 1 - 4PM.

From the Road Committee by Frank Zimmermann



In the past months we have addressed a few questions about "right of way." The purpose of right of way is for maintenance and safety. It is 33' from the center of the road to each side. However, the road may not be in the middle of the right of way. The centerline is not always reliable. It is important there are no obstructions in this area because if we need to do any maintenance to the shoulder, ditches or back slopes near the roads, we need this area clear. If you ever have any questions on how to determine this, please contact me at (920) 565-3599.

On another note, we will be crack filling again this year. We will also be doing our annual grass mowing as we have in the past.

Lastly, due to the conditions of some of our roads, we are unable to repair them without the need to reconstruct which will incur higher costs. We have been gathering information for the cost of this project.

Notes by Chairman Ron Platz

Town Board Changes

I would like to begin my column this time by saying thank you to Supervisor Todd Purkey for his years of service on the Town Board. Todd recently decided not to run for reelection for his position as 3rd Supervisor for the Town Of Rhine. Todd served on the Town Board for 3 years and was very involved, serving as Chairman of both the Ordinance Committee and also the Town Planning Commission. He has agreed to stay on for a period of time in both those positions and we are very thankful for his commitment to do that.

In light of Todd's decision not to seek reelection we were fortunate to have William Jacob step up and seek election to that post. Bill was elected to the position of 3rd Supervisor at our recent Spring 2018 elections and has spent the last several months attending various meetings and studying the Town Ordinances to get himself up to speed on his duties as a Town Rhine Supervisor. We welcome Bill and look forward to working with him in the future.

I would be remiss if I did not mention 4th Supervisor Frank Zimmermann who was also reelected at the Spring Election. Frank has been a very dedicated member of our Board and does an excellent job on several of our committees and serves as Chairman of our Roads Committee.

Thanks to all three of these individuals for volunteering to serve out Township. I would also like to say Thank you to the poll workers and our Town Clerks who do a very good job conducting the elections. We had a voter turnout of over 38% which is really outstanding.

Welcome Catherine

As we announced in our Fall newsletter our Deputy Clerk Kay Pauly retired in November of 2017. After posting the position and screening several applicants, the Town Board made the decision to hire Catherine Loeffler. With the help of Kay and Lexann Hoogstra, Catherine has "hit the ground running" and is doing an excellent job as our new Deputy Clerk. Along with learning the

duties of her new job, Catherine has taken the lead on purging old files that we no longer need to keep, archiving others that we do and displaying pieces of Rhine's history in the Town Hall.

Fire Station Loan

As you are probably aware, the Town of Rhine and the Village of Elkhart Lake entered into a joint loan agreement when we built the new firehouse several years ago. Last Fall, the Village was able to renegotiate a new reduced loan rate for this mortgage that will save the Township over \$7,000.00 per year and a total of almost \$66,000.00 over the remainder of the loan schedule. Thanks should go to the Village Clerk, Jessica Reilly, for her efforts on this.

Tax Payment Issues

Every year when the tax bills are sent out in December it is a very busy time at the Town Hall for our Clerks. For two months the majority of their time is spent receiving in-person payments at the Town Hall or opening mail and posting the payments to the proper accounts.

One of the problems that we encounter is when taxpayers have a mortgage lender who places money from their mortgage payments into an escrow account. Some of these financial institutions will then send a check to the Township for payment of that person's taxes. The problem that arises is that they do not know the tax amount and just send us whatever is in the account. Our Clerk then has to reconcile the account and issue a check back to the taxpayer for the overpayment. This past year we had to issue 98 checks for these overpayments. This is very time consuming and is not necessary. This would be more efficient if the taxpayer would simply have the lender send them the check and then pay the proper amount to the Township. Or they could inform the lender of the amount of taxes due and they could then pay the proper amount and avoid the overpayment. It would be greatly appreciated, if you are one of these taxpayers, if you would

communicate with your mortgage lender and work with them to see that we get paid the proper amount so we do not have to issue reimbursement checks.

Long Range Planning Committee

A number of volunteer residents of the Township have been working on revisions to the Town of Rhine's Long Range Plan which was drafted and approved in 2009. Since the State of Wisconsin requires an update on these plans every 10 years, we are hopeful that by year's end they will have an amended plan ready for review and approval by Town residents. Thanks to those volunteers for all of their time and efforts.

Burning Regulations

Section 11 of the Town of Rhine Ordinances deals with Fire Protection and Public Safety. Since Spring is the time of year when many residents take to burning yard waste and weed growth on their properties, we would ask that before you burn you look at this section of the Ordinances. These can be viewed on our website. If you are unclear about what can and cannot be burned on your property please contact one of your Supervisors or call the Elkhart Lake Town of Rhine Fire Department before proceeding.

Land Use or Rezoning or Ordinance Issues

Once again, I would like to remind everyone that the Staff and Officers of the Town of Rhine are here to help the taxpayers. If you have any questions relating to what can or cannot be done in the Township please ask the Clerks or Supervisors, or come to a Town Board meeting on the first Tuesday of every month. Our contact information is available on the Town of Rhine's website.

Elections
by
Lexann Hoogstra,
Clerk/Treasurer

We'd like to say "thank you" to all of our poll workers who help with the election day process. The Town experienced a great voter turnout in the first two elections this year. Our Spring Election, held on April 3rd, had 1,477 registered voters and 588 of those voted in a snow storm. This is a 38.5% turnout. The Wisconsin state average for the Spring Election is 22.2%. Way to go!



We encourage all of our voters to continue to come out and vote at the August 14th and November 6th 2108 elections.

New Boating Laws
by
Elkhart Lake Chief of Police
Mike Meeusen

Wisconsin has a new boating law relating to an operator of a motorboat no longer being required to have an observer on board while towing a person on water skis or similar devices. On March 28th, 2018, Governor Walker signed into law, Senate Bill 69, which authorizes the operation of a motorboat towing a person on water skis, aquaplane, or similar device, without having a second person in the boat to observe the person being towed, if the motorboat is equipped with a mirror that provides the operator with a wide field of vision to the rear.

With the new law in place, we would like to remind everyone of a few safety tips to help keep our waters safe this boating season.

While towing a skier:

- Start the engine after making sure that no one in the water is near the propeller.
- Start the boat slowly until the ski rope is tight. When the skier is ready and there is no traffic ahead, take off in a straight line with enough power to raise the skier out of the water. Once the skier

is up, adjust the speed according to the signals given by the skier.

- Keep the skier at a safe distance-at least twice the length of the tow rope-from the shoreline, docks, hazards, and people in the water.
- Avoid congested areas, beaches, docks, and swimming areas. Water-skiing takes a lot of room. Some areas may have designated traffic patterns.
- Maintain a sharp look-out for other vessels and obstructions in the water.
- Always respond to the skier's signals. If you need to turn the boat, signal the skier of your intentions.
- Once the skier has dropped or fallen, circle the skier slowly either to return the tow line to the skier or to pick up the skier. Always keep the skier in view and on the operator's side of the boat.
- To avoid propeller injuries, always shut off the engine before allowing the skier to board the boat. After the skier is aboard, retrieve the tow line, unless you are pulling another skier.

When in the water the skier should:

- Wear a PFD.
- Learn to use and be on the same page with the operator on hand signals.
- Never ski under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Never spray swimmers, vessels, or other skiers. Such activity is illegal and dangerous.
- Never wrap any part of the tow rope around your body.
- Always hold a ski up out of the water after falling or after dropping the rope so that the boat operator and other vessels can see you.
- Never approach the back of the boat, unless the engine has been shut off. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer out on the water. If you have any questions regarding the new law, or anything boating safety related, you can contact Officer Bramstedt at the Elkhart Lake Police Department, 920-876-2244.

Michael Meeusen
Chief of Police
Elkhart Lake Police Department
40 Pine Street
Elkhart Lake WI 53020

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 a qualified voter can be a poll worker.

Many of our poll workers have been helping with the election process for decades. Several of them have expressed their wishes to step down. We have relied heavily on the same group of poll workers 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 simple and easy process for in-home Webinar training. You will be compensated at the current rate of \$8.50/hour for training and for a working shift during the elections. More importantly, you will be helping your municipality in this vital process.

Town Hall Rental

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

To rent either building costs \$65.00 with a \$10.00 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 at www.townrhine.com.

Town Hall Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:30 AM-4:30 PM
W5250 CTH FF
PO Box 117

Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
Email: clerk@townrhine.com
Telephone: 920-876-3413
Fax: 920-876-4264

Did you know?

The Town of Rhine has a little nature trail located behind the Town Hall. It is mowed during the summer months and there's a pond and a bench for resting. Come take a stroll!

Collection and Recycling Site
by
Al Feld

Hello folks. I would again like to ask those of you who use the Recycling Center to break down your boxes and other large



trash items ie. dressers, cabinets, entertainment centers, as much as possible. This will help keep the cost of disposal down. The more we get in the dumpster the less hauling we have to pay for. Hauling is a large portion of the cost of running the site.

On another note, the brush pile we have is just for that, BRUSH. There should not be any stumps, logs, or any other types of wood. Per the DNR, we are only allowed to burn brush. If you would like to keep the privilege of having a place to dispose of your brush, please abide by these rules. Only deposit brush less than 6" in diameter and leaves or small plants on the pile. For everyone's safety, it would be appre-

ciated if, when entering and driving in the site, you slow down to 5-10 MPH. Please pull up to the compactor as far as possible and be patient. Try not to block the lane for others. This would be greatly appreciated by the site workers and myself.

Thanks for your attention to these requests.

New Deputy Clerk
by
Catherine Loeffler

Guten Tag! If we haven't met yet, my name is Catherine Loeffler, and I'm the new Deputy Clerk for the Town of Rhine as of October 2017. My family and I moved to Elkhart Lake in July of 2015 from Munich, Germany, and love it! I was born and raised in Sheboygan County, but moved to Salt Lake City, Utah to attend the University of Utah. After graduating, I remained there for a couple of years and then moved to Munich, Germany. I lived there for 12 years. After so many years overseas, my husband and I agreed that it was time for our

children to have an American childhood too. So we chose Elkhart Lake as our new home. My husband is a Senior Staff Engineer for Kohler Generators. Both children attend Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah Elementary and Middle School. The first year in an American public school was a big adjustment for both of them, but I believe that Elkhart Lake was a wise choice. We love the student, teacher ratio, and the students, parents, and faculty have been wonderful.

I enjoy cooking, baking, gardening, speaking German and travelling. I have been to Thailand, Cambodia, Russia, Tunisia, Egypt, Denmark, Hungary, Czech Republic and several other European Countries. My favorite will always be Italy.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve the Town of Rhine. I've really enjoyed it so far and love being back in such a fine town and serving its people.

«name1»
«name2»
«GLER»
«OwnersFullStreet»
«city», «state», «zip»

The Town of Rhine
W5250 County Road FF
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The Town of Rhine Newsletter

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