

LIBERTY GROVE ROCKS

FROM THE FRONT LINES

Be a storm chaser from the comfort of your own home. Go to www.weather.com to track storms. Enter the zip code of the area you are interested in, scroll to mid-screen and there will be a radar map available. If you select Weather in Motion it will show you the direction of any oncoming storms.

**Featured organization: Ellison Bay Service Club.
Follow them on Facebook**

WiFi available at the Town Hall along with computer work stations for public use.

In an effort to make the internet available to any person in Northern Door County the Tech Committee of Liberty Grove purchased work stations for the public to use. This was in conjunction with the already existing free WiFi, both inside and outside, of the Town Hall building. The internet provider was contacted and had the signal strengthened for this use.

The work stations are available any time the hall is open which is 8:30am to 4:00pm Monday thru Friday. 3 popular search engines have been loaded as well as a version of Microsoft Word and Excel. Printing is limited to documents that would be sent to a town email address and printed in the office. There is a small fee for this service. At the end of your session completely turning the computer off erases any information regarding your use. At this time appointments are not necessary and time use restrictions would only occur if there is a wait.

Town Board and Finance Committee working on 2016 budget

Starting on August 25th the Board and Finance Committee began the time consuming task of preparing a budget for 2016. Committees have turned in their budget requests and non-profits have asked for help in holding community events during the year. The group then looks at all requests and decides what can stay and what has to be eliminated. Public works continues to be the largest part of the overall budget. This includes roads and major equipment purchases. In the past this was the area that was always cut to keep the mil rate down. Last year it was decided that it had been neglected long enough. This year we are seeing that our town parks have also gone by the wayside and need significant improvement if we are to draw visitors to our area. The Ellison Bay marina has damage from a year ago that will get some attention but the rest of the park needs sprucing up. Just like your home, your assets need to be maintained.

Beach Road roadwork update.....

The trees to be removed along Beach Road have been marked with a small orange dot. Public Service has marked trees that are within 10 feet of wires with ribbons and clear around those wires. Then a private contractor will remove the rest with the town crew clearing and hauling. As we have stated before, if there is anyone living along Beach Rd. that would like the wood from the trees in front of their homes left for their use, please let the office know. If you chose to do this we will leave the wood on the property off of the right of way. It is then the owner's responsibility to move it to the location of their choice. We suggest that this wood not be left too long without attention.

Building a home or addition

The office gets many calls from residents wanting to know how to go about getting the proper permits to add on to an existing home or build new. The town is under County zoning. That is where you need to start. The County looks at the project in general and where you would like to place buildings on the property. Once a zoning permit has been issued a copy of that along with a copy of the plans for the project need to come to the town's building inspector. The company that the town has hired, Independent Inspections, has office hours on Thursdays from 8:30am until 10:00am or longer if arrangements have been made.

To reach the County call 920-746-2323.
The town building inspector's number is 920-421-1926.

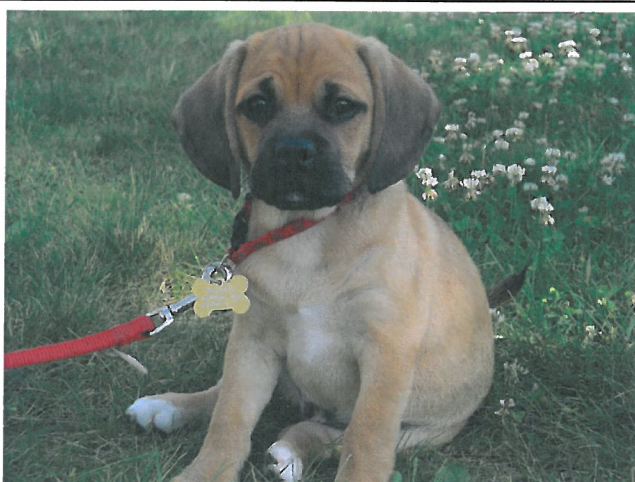
Let's Talk Snow.....

If the Farmer's Almanac is correct, and quite often it is, this promises to be a cold and snowy winter. Let's hope they are wrong! But in the event they are right there are a few things to remember.

- When plowing snow, do not plow across town roads. This leaves a snow row that when it hardens can cause problems to other drivers.
- The Town Hall has a small supply of sand/salt mix. The charge is \$3.00 for a 5 gallon pail which you must supply. This is meant for household use only.
- Please give the plow drivers plenty of room to do their job. That is a very large truck to stay in control of.

Remember your dog tags

Every year your dog should be registered in Liberty Grove. A reminder is sent in your tax bill. Tags should be purchased by April 1st each year to avoid late charges. You will need to present a copy of your rabies certificate that shows the manufacturer of the vaccine and the serial number of the shot given. If you have registered your dog the previous year you still are required to present the rabies certificate to receive the tag. A neutered/spayed dog is \$3.00 and regular dogs are \$8.00. Tags can be purchased for 2016 after Dec. 15th of this year by stopping by the office or mailing the information along with the proper fee to 11161 Old Stage Rd, Sister Bay.



PREPAIRING FOR THE BUDGET HEARING

The work that the Board and Finance committees are doing now is in preparation for the budget hearing to be held on October 13, 2015 starting at 7:00pm. Each year the budget is presented to the qualified voting members of the Town. To be a qualified voting member you need to have been at your residence for at least 28 days before the hearing and be at least 18 years of age. Unfortunately you need to have a livable structure on the property. Vacant land owners do not qualify. On October 13th we will begin with a hearing where the town residents will listen to comments about the proposed budget made by both the residents and elected officials. This is not the time to go over line items. After the hearing a vote is cast to approve not only the full budget but to also approve the amount of money being spent in the category of public works. If the vote passes on both items then the Board will vote to adopt the budget for 2016.

Some of you may wonder how the Village of Sister Bay or the Village of Ephraim can move forward with so many of their projects. When it comes to spending tax dollars towns are allowed to spend only what their residents will allow. Villages are not held to these limits. It is the tax payer in a town that decides what they will authorize the board to spend. In villages it is the board of trustees that makes this determination. That is why it is important to understand each line item of the budget and what the money is being used for, not just the bottom line number.

On September 22, 2015 there will be two informational meetings to understand the items on the budget. One meeting will be at 1:00pm and the other at 7:00pm. You are encouraged to come to those meetings, ask questions of the board and committee members so that when you vote for the budget on October 13th you will be as informed as you possibly can.

Occasionally the Town of Liberty Grove is mistakenly referred to as a Township. The term Township in Wisconsin refers to a geographical unit which was created under the provisions of the Northwest Ordinance. A township is not a governmental unit and has no duties or powers. Townships were mapped in the Public Land Survey System and consisted of 36 sections of one square mile each. Civil Townships in other states are similar to Towns, which are unincorporated, in Wisconsin. Thus all areas in Wisconsin that have not been incorporated as a Village or City are part of a Town. According to the Wisconsin Towns Association approximately 30.1% of Wisconsinites live in one of the 1259 Towns in Wisconsin. In addition 95% of Wisconsin land area is within a town and about half of public highways are maintained by Towns. Liberty Grove maintains over 100 miles of roads.

Wisconsin has 72 counties, 402 Villages, 190 cities and the 1259 Towns. Counties have a Board of Supervisors, Cities a Common Council and Towns a Board of Supervisors. Each may employ an administrator in addition to their elected officials. Liberty Grove recently combined the position of clerk with that of treasurer. Liberty Grove has adopted "village powers" which allows it to exercise additional powers. While towns may operate like cities and villages they are governed differently. Towns operate as a direct democracy in that State law requires "town meetings" where all qualified voters can discuss and vote on town matters giving them more control than electors in cities and villages.

Unincorporated communities, such as Ellison Bay, Gills Rock etc, are administered by the town or municipality within which they exist. Though having no governmental function they serve as common reference points and often will be marked with the official green informational highway signs. For historical information about Liberty Grove visit the Town web site.