



LIBERTY GROVE ROCKS

Featured Business
Silver Poplar Studios
1519 E. Door Bluff Road
Ellison Bay, WI 54210
Phone: 920.854.2106
Fax: 920.854.7160
www.silverpoplar.com



Important Dates

April 11 – Parks Committee-9:00 am
April 14 – Town Hall Closed
April 15 – 1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt
April 18 – Annual Town Meeting-7 pm
April 19 – Board Meeting – 7 pm
April 20-Ellison Bay Service Club-7pm
April 26 – Plan Commission – 7 pm
May 3- Board meeting-7 pm
May 10-Plan Commission-7 pm

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
THE LIBERTY GROVE
ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 18 AT 7 PM**

FROM YOUR TOWN CHAIRMAN:

I would like to thank all the citizens who took the time and interest to sign the various petitions or made contact with the Department of Transportation regarding the proposed removal of stone piles and fences along Highway 57 from Baileys Harbor to Sister Bay as part of the highway project scheduled for fall. It is heartening to note that the DOT listened to our concerns and were willing to change those plans to keep the fences and rock piles in place. I am also aware the Representative Joel Kitchens made contact on several occasions with DOT representatives supporting the position of the Town and its residents.

The Town Board has, on several occasions this winter and early spring, has not held one of the two regular monthly meetings due to a sparse agenda. The decision not to meet is made after consulting with administrative staff and the results of the various committees actions sent on to the board. Final decisions and/or actions of the Town Board are based upon recommendations coming from the various committees.

David Studebaker, chair of the IT Committee, has been working with DC Broadband regarding additional towers to provide broadband service to areas within the Town considered under served at this time with broadband service. The tower located at the Town gravel pit has proven very effective in serving the adjacent area. The IT Committee previously designated five under served areas within the Town. High speed internet service has been recognized as very important to our local businesses and citizens of the town.

David also noted that the call sign for WHND which utilizes one of the towers located at the Ellison Bay Hill had dropped mentioning Ellison Bay. He has contacted WPR and has been assured the error will be corrected. Thank you David.

From your Town Board and Committees:

Administrator - After meeting with Bud Kalms and a Menasha geologist, WI DOT has announced that it will not be removing the rock piles on Hwy 57!

Door Kewaunee Legislative Days - Mulliken said he has participated in the past and feels it is worthwhile. The Town has participated at the Bronze level in the past. Lowry moved, Goss second to be a Bronze sponsor of Door Kewaunee Legislative days for \$500.00. Passed 4-0.

Stone Fences - Lowry moved, Mulliken second to request that removal of stone fences and stone piles in Door County be discussed at Legislative Days. Passed 4-0. Johnson will contact Rob Burke at the Extension office with this request.

Signs for parks and cemeteries - the Parks Committee would like uniform signs throughout the Town for the parks and cemeteries. Lowry and Covotsos feel all signs should be similar and this would help with branding. The Board looked at signs suggestions from Hartmann Signs and Pat Creed. Lowry moved, Covotsos second to proceed with the design from Pat Creed that has Liberty Grove in the lower left hand corner. Passed 4-0. Lowry moved, Covotsos second to authorize Pat Creed to look for bids to do all the signs for the parks and cemeteries. Passed 4-0. Mulliken said that we should work on directional signs to the various parks next.

Bids for Ellison Bay Harbor - Baudhuin Engineering gave the Town suggested wording for advertising for bids for repairs at the Ellison Bay harbor. The wording did not include a start date, ending date or penalties for not completing the work on time. Mulliken – be careful as a contractor can sue for money if he completes the project early. Covotsos – include in the documents that a contractor cannot sue for money if the project finishes early. Mulliken moved, Covotsos second to advertise for Ellison Bay marina improvements using Baudhuin's document and adding a completion date and a penalty clause. Lowry moved, Goss second to amend the motion to include a penalty of \$500 per day penalty of non-completion, time is of the essence, a start date of the week after Labor Day 2017, and the town not liable for early completion. The amendment passed 4-0. The amended motion will be to advertise for Ellison Bay marina improvements using Baudhuin's document with the addition of adding a completion date, a penalty of \$500 per day if not completed on time, a start date of the week after Labor Day, 2017, and the town not liable for early completion. Passed 4-0.

Parks and Properties – Gary Farber Chairman Ellison Bluff Park has been plowed during the winter of 2016-2017 facilitating year round use of the park. There is Discussion on the possibility of new signage for Town Cemeteries.

1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**Sponsored by
Fitzgerald Construction and the Ellison Bay Service Club
April 15, 2017 @ Fitzgerald Park**

**Start time is 12:00
Ages 2 to 12
(Young people over 12 are encouraged to help hide the eggs)**

**Call with questions
Fawn Fitzgerald @ 920-421-1477
Or
Faith Murray @ 920-421-1477**





The **Door County Environmental Council** has published their quarterly newsletter outlining their position on CAFO (**Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations**) in the State of Wisconsin, particularly in Door County.

In the current newsletter they outline the difficulties and costs for both the owners and the residents around the operation, as well costs of subsidies and the laws governing large operations.

For information on their positions and research you can go to www.dcec-wi.org or to their **Facebook page (The Door county Environmental Council)**.

There you will find a host of information on such topics as: Dark Skies Drinking Water Pollution

- Invasive Species – From Asian Carp in the water to Phragmites on the land
- CAFO's in Door County and the State of Wisconsin

This group states its **mission** in their newsletter, which is published quarterly. It reads as follows:

“The mission of the Door County Environmental Council is to advocate for the protection and preservation of Earth's natural resources for all its inhabitants and future generations.”



The Nature Conservancy

Protecting nature.
Preserving life.

242 Michigan Street, Suite B103
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
920-743-8695

In their latest newsletter the Nature Conservancy gave a report reviewing 2016 and their work on the Mink River preserve.

- Many hikers enjoyed hikes put on by the Clearing and Door County Festival of Nature.
- The Nature Conservancy was recently awarded a “Sustain Our Great Lakes” grant, which will allow them to expand the effort against invasive species.
- More than 100-acres were added to the preserve and an additional 70 acres are now under conservation easement, encompassing

- During Arbor Day weekend, the Nature Conservancy, local students and volunteers planted a total of 8,000 trees at the Mink River and Kangaroo Lake preserves.
- They continued efforts to combat and control invasive plants in the preserve. Invasive plants continue to be one of the greatest threats to our native habitats, spreading aggressively to compete against native plants and altering wetland hydrology.

For more information on The Nature Conservancy and their efforts, both locally and nationally, you can go online to www.nature.org. On their website you can get more information on the organization, future activities they have planned and information on how you can get involved.

From the Wisconsin Towns Association

Legislative Update - Final Summary - The 2015-16 Legislative Session concluded with over 1800 bills that were proposed. The WTA actively followed 225 of them. They took a primary lead on 10 bills and one budget related initiative that were adopted into law. Furthermore, along with you, they were successful on a vast majority of our defensive efforts. Overall, thanks to the Towns of Wisconsin's support for local innovation and leadership, WTA worked with legislators on a very successful session.

Annual meeting notes:

Any "qualified" elector of the town may vote at their town's annual meeting. The person must be at least 18 years old and be a town resident. The person must also be eligible to vote in regular elections pursuant to Chapter 6 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Note:

1. An elector does not have to be a registered voter in order to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting.
2. While an elector must be a town resident, he or she is not required to own property in the town. In other words, renters may vote.
3. Non-residents that own property only in the town are NOT permitted to vote. However the chair may allow non-residents to speak during the meeting.
4. Remember, proxy voting and absentee voting are NOT allowed at the town elector meetings.

To get more information about how the Wisconsin Town Association is working for the Town of Liberty Grove as well as all the Towns of Wisconsin go to www.wisctowns.com

From Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance (WISTAX.ORG) (a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization)

A full list of senators and representatives is printed in the new 2017-18 Legislative and Congressional Directory now available from the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. The directory is the only one with district maps, and also includes the name, address, party affiliation, telephone number, and election results for each legislator. It also lists senate and assembly committee chairs, legislative leaders, constitutional officers and legislative service agencies.

A free copy of The Wisconsin Taxpayer magazine, "New Legislature, Same Issues?" is available by :

Visiting online:	www.wistax.org ;
Emailing	wistax@wistax.org
Calling	608-241-9789;
Writing	Wistax 401 North Lawn Ave., Madison, WI 53704-5033

Reminder

Open burning in Liberty Grove

A permit is required from the
Sister Bay/Liberty Grove Fire Dept.
Obtain a burn permit from
Jungwirth's Ace Hardware
Hwy 42 and Maple Drive
Across from the Sister Bay Bowl.

Having an outdoor fire in the evening is always a fun family event. A portable fire pit with a mesh enclosure to capture hot embers is obviously the safest to use.

If you have an open fire pit please remember that your fires should be no larger than a fire that you would cook over and should never be left unattended. Grass fires can start easily and get out of hand very quickly. Have a hose or a fire extinguisher nearby for safety.



Safe Summer Driving Trips:

As we move into the warmer months that bring more traffic to our area, it's time to think about what we can each do to increase safety on our roads for ourselves and our visitors. Those of us who have been driving for years have heard all of these before; it's just good to remind ourselves periodically.

Here's a handy checklist:

- **Drive defensively.**
 - Assume the other driver is not watching you and you need to watch him/her.
 - Don't hesitate to let someone go on their way instead of pulling out in front of them, requiring them to "use their brakes" unexpectedly.
 - Leave home early enough that you won't have to rush through unexpected obstacles.
- **Obey the speed limit** - Speed limits are formulated according to road conditions, visibility, safety of the residents and safety of the traffic. Please observe them.
- **Use your turn signal** - If the drivers around you don't know where you're going, they don't know how to stay out of your way. And use it well before you're turning rather than after you're actually into the turn.
- **Pay attention**
 - Wait to use your cell phone when you're stopped instead of while driving. Voicemail and caller ID both insure that you will know who called and you can call them back when it's safe to do so. Cell phones are a great safety feature in our lives when used properly.
 - Be sure that glances to the side of the road are timed well. We live in a beautiful area and it's easy to get distracted when we come to a breathtaking view of the water.
 - Use caution when paying attention to your passenger. Time your glances toward them when it's safe to do so.
 - Park the car in order to show your guests the "Goats on the Roof" or that beautiful sunset rather than holding up traffic or getting in the way of someone else who might not be paying attention.
 - Watch out for pedestrians. Most of them are on vacation or have someone visiting them and might not be watching as carefully as they should. We caution them to look both ways and cross in safe areas but if they don't do that drivers need to do their part to be aware of where they are.
 - Please don't stop your car in the street to call out to someone on the sidewalk. Park the car and go back to meet with them.
 - Pull over for rescue vehicles. This is a bigger problem than some people think.
 - Do your best to get road rage under control. Your health will benefit as well as your safety.

Most of all enjoy your summer in this beautiful area that so many describe as being "like nowhere else"!



There is a wealth of information in brochures on display at the Town Hall.

**Liberty Grove Town Hall
11161 Old Stage Road
Sister Bay, WI 54212**



There is information on many programs offered all over Liberty Grove as well as all of Door County. Stop in and have a look at what's available.

Office hours are 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Monday through Friday.

Frequently Asked Question: Why does the Town need to charge for private use of town buildings?

1. Costs involved in maintenance of the buildings must be covered.
2. If there is no charge, taxes would need to be raised to cover the costs.
3. Formula for determining cost:
Cost – Revenue = 0 or minimal cost to taxpayers