

November 2020

# LIBERTY GROVE ROCKS

## Featured Business

Wickman House  
11976 Mink River Rd  
Ellison Bay, WI 54210  
920-854-3305  
Wickmanhouse.com

## Important Dates

Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> - Budget hearing, Special  
Town Meeting, and Board meeting  
7pm at Town Hall  
Nov. 18- Town Board Meeting  
Nov. 26 and Nov. 27- the Town Hall is  
closed  
Dec. 02 -Town Board Meeting  
**All meetings will be held via Zoom –**

## From your Town Board

*On behalf of the Board, Administration, Committees and Town Crew I  
would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.*

*John Lowry*



### Bell Ringers needed for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle campaign

This year the funds raised through the Salvation Army are needed more than ever. The organization expects to serve many more people in 2020 with Christmas Assistance. The Salvation Army could see up to a 50% decrease in funds raised nationally through the red kettles, which would limit their capability to provide services for the most vulnerable. So volunteer bell ringers are greatly needed. Help is needed in Northern Door locations in Sister Bay (Piggly Wiggly, Al Johnson's Restaurant), Ellison Bay (Pioneer Store), and Baileys Harbor (Baileys 57 BP). You can help by ringing a two-hour shift on a Friday or Saturday from November 27- December 19. Times are 10am-12pm, 12-2pm, or 2-4 pm (Al Johnson's we ring from 9-3). Please sign up at RegisterToRing.com or call Mary Rosecky at 854-5480 to volunteer for an open slot. All locations are indoors except for Pioneer Store. All money collected stays in Door County to fund local Salvation Army projects.



### **REMEMBER**

A delicious and nutritious lunch is provided by  
**The Senior Resource Center**  
**At the**  
**Liberty Grove Town Hall**

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**  
Every week, except on Holidays.  
**Lunch is available for pick up**  
**at noon.**

Call **\*\*920-746-2523\*\***  
24 hours before the  
first time you come for lunch.

### **Shop Local this Holiday season!**

As we approach the end of November and December this might be a good time to remind everyone that shopping locally is the best. It helps to keep people employed and shops open longer than the tourist season. You can find shops located in Liberty Grove by going to our web site, [www.libertygrove.org](http://www.libertygrove.org) and look under the business tab. If you know of a business in Liberty Grove that is not listed on the web, contact Stacy Bell at 920-854-2934 and she can get that business into the directory.

Shopping locally saves time and gas and is safer when the snow is falling. Plan on shopping locally this year.



It takes nothing to join the crowd. It takes everything to stand alone...

## NWTC Community Education Classes upcoming

News from the shared kitchens, Door County Wildwood Market was featured as part of the Pulse's "Know Your Grower" feature. Location: On the corner of Highway 42 and Wildwood Rd, Sister Bay. Acreage: 27 acres  
Meet Your Growers: Mary Pat and Mark Carlson; their daughter, Anna and her fiance', Scott.

Congratulations to Georgina and Carlin of the Jamaican Door on releasing a new product last month! They make this product right in our shared kitchen facility, Their Cherry jerk has been well received and is being sold at the local grocery store as well as being used at several restaurants.

To see all the classes/credit classes offered in Sister Bay go to [www.nwtc.edu](http://www.nwtc.edu) and click on "Find a Class" by location and choose "Learning Innovation Center" in the drop down box. Learn from home via Zoom, a video meeting platform.

A computer, laptop, or tablet with reliable broadband will be required for some of the classes. Instructions for accessing the class via Zoom will be provided. You can also register by calling 1-888-385-NWTC, or you can call 920-746-4970 for assistance, or contact the Learning and Innovation Center at [sisterbay@nwtc.edu](mailto:sisterbay@nwtc.edu)

## Shopping Opportunities that Support our Local Food Vendors

Pop-up at Top Shelf Gourmet

*Tuesdays, 12-4 pm, Country Walk Shops, 10588 Country Walk Dr. in Sister Bay*

Featuring Cultured DC Sourdough bread and bagels, fermented vegetables, Galecktables' rosemary caramel cookies and vegetarian soups.

Nor Door Community Market at Mink River Basin

*Fridays, 10 am – 1 pm, 12010 Hwy 42 in Ellison Bay*

Vendors include Henriksen Fisheries, Cultured DC Sourdough, Door County Wildwood Market, Galecktables, Pat's Patch Produce, Farmhouse Leather and Gemma Lou's Door County.

## From the Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Levels

All the lakes continue in their period of seasonal decline. The October 30<sup>th</sup> predicted levels are all below last month's levels. Additionally, all of Friday's levels are expected to be at or below 2019 levels. Lake Erie's forecasted level is approximately the same as its October 30<sup>th</sup> level of one year ago, while Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, and Ontario forecasted levels are expected to be about 6, 1, 2, and 15 inches below their 2019 level, respectively. All lakes remain above their long-term monthly average October levels, but below their record high October average levels. By November 30<sup>th</sup>, water levels are projected to decline 3 inches on Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron and to decline 4 inches on Lakes St. Clair and Erie. Lake Ontario is projected to decline 2 inches in the next month. See our [Daily Levels](#) web page for more water level information.

## Guilty as Charged: Slow-Walking Mariners Park

Some Town of Liberty Grove residents are frustrated with the town's slow-walking development of recently purchased property into Mariners Park. If fiscal responsibility and simple budgetary constraints are the causes of the slow-walking, then the town is guilty as charged.

In 2018, the Town of Liberty Grove finally unburdened itself from crushing debt. Then came the public demand for the property at the sizable amount of almost \$1.5 million.

First, the town board never even hinted at a timetable for the development of that property. The town suggested developing a five-year plan that lays out the steps that will bring the plans into fruition such that the Finance Committee would ease into funding the project year by year.

Second, the recommendation to the citizens seeking to develop the park was to create a citizens group to raise funds to supplement what the town would be able to scrape together.

The letter to the editor in last week's issue of the Pulse criticized the town board for not providing a vehicle for fundraising for the park's development. The best practice strongly discourages municipally sponsored fundraising vehicles.

Town Board Supervisor Nancy Goss offered her expertise in setting up such a vehicle to the citizens urging expedited development of the park. To date, I have seen little- if nothing at all- from the "private sector" to raise supplemental funds for the project.

The town reluctantly tapped its contingency fund to address the emergent problems with high-water levels eating away at the Mariners Park shoreline.

Please do not construe this letter as diminishing the exemplary work done early on in the project by several interested town residents who spent time and talent putting together a vision for the property.

We would all like to see that diamond in the rough be developed into a recreational jewel, but please: Patience must be exercised as responsible citizens in light of public-sector fiscal responsibility and commonsense budgetary limitations.

Lou Covotsos, Liberty Grown Town Board Supervisor  
Ellison Bay, Wisconsin

Taken from Letters to the editor the Pulse October 23, 2020



## COVID-19 Resources

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE Emergency assistance - Dial 9-1-1

Door County Medical Center COVID Hotline: 920-746-3700

## RESOURCE LIST

- [Door County Assistance Providers and Churches](#)
  - [Door 2 Door Rides](#) 920-743-6948
- [Mental Health Crisis/Suicide Hotline](#) 920-746-2588
- [Door County United Health](#) 2-1-1
- [Door County Meals on Wheels \(ADRC\)](#) 920-746-2372
- [Door County Health & Human Services](#) 920-746-7155
- [Washington Island Community Health Program](#) 920-847-2108
- [Door County Economic Development \(business resources\)](#) 920-743-3113
- [Destination Door County \(open businesses\)](#) 920-746-4456

## Door County Situation Updates

- [County of Door FAQs](#)
  - [Mental Health](#)
  - [Transportation](#)

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS: Follow social distancing, face coverings, and sanitation guidelines when in public settings and consider the following guidelines for planning or attending events and gatherings.

<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>
Staying at Home	Gatherings Under 10 People	Gatherings of 10-50 People	Gatherings of 50 or more People

Failing to wear a mask in public, not practicing social distancing and offering to hold or attend large gatherings puts the physical health, mental health, and financial well-being of our entire community at risk. Please wear your mask!





**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Door County



**Door County**  
**Medical Center**  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

## **Free Drive-Thru Testing Sites**

**8am-4pm No appointment needed**

Monday, November 16, 2020 - Sister Bay Fire Station

Monday, November 23, 2020 - Sturgeon Bay Fire Station

Monday, November 30, 2020 - Sister Bay Fire Station

Monday, December 7, 2020 - Sturgeon Bay Fire Station

## STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY ORDERS

October 7, 2020 - [Press Release - Public Health Emergency Alert](#)  
[Do YOUR part to stop the spread of COVID-19](#)  
[Additional Statistical Data on Door County Cases Provided by](#)  
[The Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

**COVID-19 is still spreading across our Wisconsin communities.**

Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick.

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends Wisconsinites cancel or postpone all travel, including travel within the state.**

**[Scientific evidence](#) shows that masks, partnered with social distancing, play an important role in reducing the spread of COVID-19.**

If you have immediate questions, you may contact Public Health during regular business hours  
(Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm)  
at 920-746-2234


# THE BIG BUNDLE UP & FEED DOOR COUNTY


**Youth Outerwear & Food Drive  
November 2 - December 2**




Destination Door County along with Community Welcome Centers across Door County are coming together to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Travel Wisconsin's Big Bundle Up warm clothing campaign November 2 - December 2 to collect **NEW or very gently used hats, mittens, coats, snowpants, and boots for area youth** along with collecting non perishable items for local pantries.


**No Adult outerwear can be accepted at this time.**

 Accepts **ONLY** non perishable food items


 Accepts **YOUTH** warm outerwear & non perishable food items


 **Destination Door County**  
1015 Green Bay Rd, Sturgeon Bay  
(920) 743-4456  
Hours to drop off: 24/7  
24/7 Hat & Mitten Tree - take what you need


 **Destination Sturgeon Bay**  
36 S. 3rd Ave, Sturgeon Bay  
(920) 743-6246  
Hours to drop off: 24/7


 **Koinonia Kupboard at First Baptist Church**  
2622 S Bayshore Drive, Sister Bay  
Hours to drop off: Tue 9am-3pm & Thu 9am-12pm  
Requests: Canned peaches/pears, personal care products, laundry soap, dish detergent & peanut butter.


 **Door of Life Food Pantry**  
2731 Hwy 42, Sister Bay  
Hours to drop off: 24/7  
Requests: Ensure Nutrition Shake

 **Stella Maris CARE 24/7 Food Pantry**  
4019 State Hwy 42, Fish Creek  
Hours to drop off: 24/7


 **Nicolet National Bank (Downtown)**  
236 N. 4th Ave, Sturgeon Bay  
Hours to drop off: M-F 8:30am-5pm

 **Nicolet National Bank (West Side)**  
34 W. Maple Street, Sturgeon Bay  
Hours to drop off: M-F 8:30am-5pm


 **Nicolet National Bank Sister Bay**  
2477 S. Bay Shore Drive, Sister Bay  
Hours to drop off: M-Th 9am-4pm, Fri 9am-5pm


 **Lakeshore CAP Food Pantry**  
131 S 3rd Ave, Sturgeon Bay  
Hours to drop off: Tue & Thu 11am-4pm

 **Feed and Clothe My People**  
204 North 14th Ave, Sturgeon Bay  
Hours to drop off: M 2pm-6pm, T,TH,F 10am-2pm


 **Holy Name of Mary Food Pantry**  
7491 County Rd H, Sturgeon Bay  
Hours to drop off: call 920.495.5055


 **Main Street Market**  
7770 Hwy 42, Egg Harbor  
Hours to drop off: Daily 8am-6pm

 **Nicolet National Bank Egg Harbor**  
7842 Hwy 42, Egg Harbor  
Hours to drop off: M-Th 9am-4pm, Fri 9am-5pm

 **Nicolet National Bank Washington Island**  
1131 Main Road, Washington  
Hours to drop off: M-Th 9am-3pm, Fri 9am-4:30pm

 **Washington Island CHP Food Pantry**  
1763 Town Line Rd, Washington Island  
Hours to drop off: call 920.535.3035

 **Shepherd of the Bay**  
11836 Hwy 42, Ellison Bay  
Hours to drop off: 7am-9pm

 **Baileys 57**  
7998 Hwy 57, Baileys Harbor  
Hours to drop off: Daily 9am-7pm

**Coordinated by  
your Community  
Welcome Centers**



## FROM THE TOWN CHAIRMAN

The Board is exploring how to regulate STR'S (Short Term Rental units) as this is a growing problem across Door County and the nation. The following information is from public records and was presented to the Board by Hugh Zettels at our first meeting in November. Mr Zettels is on the Nasawaupe Plan Commission and has done extensive research for that group as they address STR'S as well.

### Background

- Potential Framework for a Short-term Rental Ordinance
- Compliance with WI Dept of Agriculture, Tourism and Consumer Protection (DATCP)?
- Proper Operation of STRs with a Personal Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS)
- Accountability of STR Owners to Respond to Complaints that Affect Neighborhood Quality of Life
- Establishing minimum stay requirements
- Existing Ordinance Elements to be Enhanced in an STR Ordinance
  
- Four areas of interest to examine
- How many Residential Dwelling STRs are in Town of Liberty Grove?
- Do these Residential Dwelling STRs have their DATCP Tourist Rooming House license?
- To what extent do STRs adhere to POWTS capacities in their listings?
- How many of the Residential Dwelling STRs are locally owned?

### Town of Liberty Grove STR Analysis Process

04-NOV-2020 | Work Product - H. Zettel 3

- Data Sources
- Door County Tourism Zone Commission Permitted Users Report (May, 20 2020)
- Best Source of STR Listings for Door County for Initial Analysis
- May not be the most accurate listing for an operational ordinance
- WI DATCP Lodging Facilities Report, Oct. 6, 2020
- Annual license period runs July 1 to June 30 the following year
- Updated quarterly
- DATCP allowing STRs to get licensed/renewed thru the end of year and not be considered past due
- Door County Land Records Search Portal
- Source of data for POWTS
- Parcel tax record address is used for owner primary residence
- Public Website Links w/ of STR Listing (airbnb, VRBO, Travelocity, etc.)



- Note: All data shown in the analysis spreadsheet and this presentation is publicly available

#### DCTZC Lists 165\* Residential STRs for Liberty Grove

04-NOV-2020 | Work Product - H. Zettel 6

- The DCTZC Permitted-Properties May, 5 2020 report lists 1272 permit numbers for all lodging facilities in Door County
- DCTZC lists 179 permits for lodging facilities for Town of Liberty Grove as of July 2020
- 165 – Residential Dwelling STRs
- 13 – Other Lodging Facilities (lodging facility)
- 1 – B&B

- 48 (29%) of Town of Liberty Grove Residential Dwelling STR owners list have a Baileys Harbor, Ellison Bay, Ephraim or Sister Bay as a billing zip-code

- Note: For DCTZC Units=1, they are assumed to be a Tourist Rooming House

\* This number excludes STRs listed in the State DATCP report but not listed in DCTZC report, or STRs that exist in the Town of Liberty Grove and not listed in either report

Only 65% of Liberty Grove's Residential Dwelling STRs are licensed by WI DATCP

04-NOV-2020 | Work Product - H. Zettel 7

- WI law requires that owners offering short-term rentals must acquire a license before they can list their property for availability, including passing a pre-license inspection, per s. ATCP 72

- WI DATCP license term runs annually, from July 1 to June 30
- For the 165 Residential Dwellings listed in the DCTZC May, 5 2020 Report:
- 108 (65%) of STRs recognized by DCTZC are licensed to operate as a Tourist Rooming House by WI DATCP

- Note:

- There are 9 DATCP listings not recognized by DCTZC for Ellison Bay. Need to verify Ephraim (4), Sister Bay (13) and Baileys Harbor (14) addresses to determine if they are in the Town of Liberty Grove
- This number excludes STRs not in either the DCTZC or DATCP listings

45% of Liberty Grove Residential STRs advertised listings exceed their POWTS capacity

- 91 Liberty Grove STR website occupant capacity listings were available to compare to the Personal Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) details for the dwelling as provided in the Door Co. Land Records Municipal tab
- Septic Tank & Holding Tank capacities were used as a proxy to determine number of bedrooms and max number of occupants (#occupants = #bedrooms x 2 persons per bedroom per WI statute)
  
- Preliminary Finding: 41 of the 91 (45%) listed Residential Dwelling STRs Exceed POWTS Capacity Compared to Advertised Maximum No. of Occupants
  - 50; 55% of STRs listings have max. occupants  $\leq$  POWTS capacity
  - 34; 37% of STRs listings have max. occupants of 1-4 persons  $>$  POWTS capacity
  - 7; 8% of STRs listings have max. occupants of 5-9 persons  $>$  POWTS capacity
  
- Note: 33 of the 41 (81%) POWTS over-capacity STRs listings have a DATCP license

At the suggestion of Supervisor Covotsos the board will bring to our next regular board meeting a list of what they think are the crucial aspects we need to address in a STR'S ordinance.

The data supports that a substantial health risk exists for the Town citizens, businesses, visitors and STR'S along with possible zoning implications as well