

# VILLAGE OF MERRILLAN NEWSLETTER

101 S. Main Street  
P.O. Box 70  
Merrillan, WI 54754



Spring 2023

Phone: 715-333-2332  
E-mail: [clerk@merrillanwi.gov](mailto:clerk@merrillanwi.gov)  
Website: [www.merrillanwi.gov](http://www.merrillanwi.gov)



## Merrillan Village Hall Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Closed for lunch 12p.m. - 1p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Are you interested in a Village wide yard sale? We are looking at a few different options. If you are interested in participating in the sale, please contact the Village Hall with which weekend works best for you. The weekend with the most people signed up will be the date chosen. Friday times would be 3pm-7pm. Saturday and Sunday times would be 8am-???

### Dates

May 5th-7th

May 12th-14th

May 19th-21st



## Lawns and Grass Mowing

Ordinance Sec. 8-1-6: Lawns, grasses, and noxious weeds to exceed 10 inches in length is considered to be a public nuisance. Lawns should be kept mowed, trees and shrubs pruned, and any other landscaping should be kept maintained in good order. The village may cut all grass and weeds from the property and the owner will be charged the expenses at an established rate by the Village Board.

\*\* Unoccupied, vacant lots must be mowed at a minimum of 3 times during the summer



The weather is getting warmer, time for some outdoor fun! Head to Gile Park and do a little camping. Great family fun! Campsites **\$20 per night**. Electric, Potable Water, Shelters, Grill, Playground, Volleyball net and more.

# VILLAGE OF MERRILLAN NEWSLETTER



## Gile Park Fundraiser July 22, 2023

The Village will be putting on a fundraiser in hopes to raise money to build new bathrooms with flushable toilets. We are looking for individuals that would be interested in participating in our flea market. There will be a vendor fee of \$20. You may set up Friday night, campsites will be available if needed or you can set up Saturday morning. Camping fees are \$20/night. There will be kid games, face painting, flea market, raffle baskets, 50/50 raffle, food and more. If you are interested in a vendor spot please stop in the Village Hall. Come and have some fun!



The Merrilan Lions are pleased to announce our 2023 event schedule.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** we will have a Friday night car show on Main Street from 5pm until 8pm. There will be music, door prizes and a 50/50, **but we will not have burn outs.**

**July 21<sup>st</sup>** will be our first Friday night drive-in movie of the year. We are starting the movie nights a little later in the season this year to keep the ball field in good condition for little league baseball. Since sunset occurs late in the day in July, we will show an adult content movie in July and play family oriented movies later in the year.

**August 25<sup>th</sup>** is our second Friday night drive-in movie.

**August 26<sup>th</sup>** is our annual picnic and car show at the park. There will also be a drive-in movie on Saturday night.

**September 8<sup>th</sup>** will be our final Friday night drive-in movie of the season.

Movie announcements and event information will be posted to the Merrilan Lions Facebook page. Please consider volunteering to help at these community events. Contact Lion's club President Bill Laurent (715) 896-3340 to find out how you can get involved.

Last year the Lions Club paid for a new well at Gile Park. After the well was installed the club submitted for a grant from the county to cover part of the costs. The grant was approved so the club has in turn committed those additional funds towards perk testing for a septic system for park bathrooms.



Just a  
friendly  
reminder...

### Sec. 10-4-8 Junked Vehicles and Appliances on Private Property.

#### Storage of Automobiles Restricted.

No disassembled, inoperable, unlicensed, unregistered, junked or wrecked motor vehicles, truck bodies, tractors, trailers, construction equipment, farm machinery, appliances or construction debris shall be stored unenclosed upon private residential property within the Village of Merrilan for a period exceeding ten (10) days unless it is in connection with an authorized business enterprise maintained in such a manner as to not constitute a public nuisance and in compliance with Village zoning regulations and permits.

# VILLAGE OF MERRILLAN NEWSLETTER

## Countryside Church

Countryside Church is celebrating 40 years, and is inviting the community to join in the festivities throughout the year.

**June 25th**, the church celebrates their birthday with a breakfast at 9:30 am, and worship service at 10:30 am. On July 30, Alma Center Assemblies joins Countryside for a night of worship at 6:00 pm.

**September 23**, Countryside will celebrate their 40th anniversary with a party. There will be a dinner followed by a special tribute to what God has done in and through attenders and pastors throughout their 40-year history, with a look at what is in store for the future.

Weekly activities continue throughout the year. Monday night Karate classes taught by Steve Humphrey. Tuesday prayer at 1:00 pm, and Tai-Bu-Shan classes at 5:45 pm. Wednesday night kids clubs, through April. April 26 is all-you-can-eat pancakes night. May 3 is a special parents night and May 10 is the final night of the year. Vacation Bible School is June 5-9.

There are several happenings each month, with events including a food pantry the second Tuesday of the month, 9:00 am - 10:00 am; and a community dinner, every second and fourth Thursday of the month.

For more information, the Countryside Facebook page can be reached via search or using the QR code. The church can be reached at [countrysidemerrillan@gmail.com](mailto:countrysidemerrillan@gmail.com). Contact Brian Pearson, pastor, directly at 612.558.4733 or [countysidepastor@outlook.com](mailto:countysidepastor@outlook.com)



## Brush cleanup

May 1st through May 6th the Village will open the dump for brush drop off by appointment **ONLY!** Please contact the shop at 715-333-7702 or the hall at 715-333-2332 to set up a time for drop off.



## **PLEASE DO NOT FLUSH**

- Baby wipes
- Cleaning wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Trash of any kind



SmartSign.com • 800-952-1457 • 52-1694

## *Welcome to* **THE VILLAGE**

Please help us welcome Deputy Thorson to the Village. Deputy Thorson is the new officer for Merrillan, Alma Center and Hixton. Welcome Deputy Thorson!



Just a reminder to not flush anything other than toilet paper. "Flushable" wipes are **NOT** flushable. This is becoming a very big issue in the village causing very big problems. Flushing anything other than toilet paper can cause issues with your sewer system, in which the homeowner will be responsible for. If you need to use anything other than toilet paper please dispose of it in the garbage.





# VILLAGE OF MERRILLAN NEWSLETTER

## **County Board Report – Bill Laurent**

I have just completed my first year as your Merrilan and Town of Alma representative on the Jackson County Board of Supervisors. I serve on Committees for Law Enforcement, Large Assemblies, Industrial Development, and the Chamber of Commerce. Here are some of the more significant items I worked on that affect our community.

On the Law Enforcement Committee, I was able to oversee contract negotiations between Merrilan and the County Board for police services in Merrilan. There are many benefits to having a dedicated County deputing as the village officer. The primary benefit is stability and consistency in law enforcement. The contract enables us to employ a full-time officer to cover Merrilan, Alma-Center, and Hixton, thereby eliminating the revolving door caused by employing part-time officers, who often move on to better paying positions or to retirement. The contract also saves the Village money associated with the cost of equipment, administration, and training. We will review the contract after one year, so please share any feedback you have with me and the village board.

The County Board opened all county highways for ATV/UTV usage. I supported this action. ATV/UTVs must follow all vehicle traffic laws. In addition, the new county ATV/UTV ordinance states *"All ATVs shall operate only on the roadway. Operation on the gravel shoulders, grassy in slope, ditches, or other highway right-of-way is prohibited and illegal."*

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) awarded funds to state and local governments to offset the economic impact of the pandemic. Jackson County received approximately \$2M. This \$2M was in addition to the ARPA funds that were allocated directly to each municipality. The county funds were used for a wide range of improvements and services, the largest of which was \$1M towards a matching grant for the installation of rural broadband. \$100K of the broadband funds were allocated to the town of Alma. The Alma broadband installation is scheduled to occur this summer. Merrilan will benefit from the installation because Tri-County County Communications will also upgrade the main fiber network in the village.

Supervisor Max Hart and I moved to use \$400K of ARPA funds to improve fire-fighting capabilities throughout Jackson County. The funds were proportioned to each fire department based upon the number of department calls. Merrilan received \$24.7K and Alma Center received \$30.5K. Each department has the discretion to use the funds for any equipment purchases.

The high inflation environment made it challenging for the county to maintain budgets last year. For the 2023 budget, the county reduced the county portion of your property taxes by a slight amount. The County was able to do this because \$384K of ARPA funds were used to offset the cost-of-living increases for county employee wages and benefits. You may think this action just kicks the can of a property tax rate increase to 2024, but that may not be the case. Property tax revenue should increase once the inflation is reflected in annual property assessments. In addition, the county board recently entered into an agreement to sell carbon credits associated with some of the standing timber in the Jackson County Forest. This agreement will not change our forest management plan but could bring in an additional \$1M in revenue to the county in future years. So, using some ARPA funds in the near-term to keep the county tax levy from rising year over year made sense.

The 2020 Presidential brought to light some election finance issues in Wisconsin. Corporations such as the Center for Tech and Civic Life, funded in part by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, provided funding to five Wisconsin cities to affect the administration of our elections. Election officials must not be under the influence of private resources that might impact how an election is administered, so one of the first things I did as your county board supervisor was to work with our County Clerk to draft resolution 38-10-2022: PROHIBITION OF PRIVATE FUNDING OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION. The resolution prohibits the use of private donations from special interest groups, people or other private entities by government, for the purpose of election administration in Jackson County. The resolution was passed by the County Board in October of 2022.

You may have seen the news of the tragic railroad accident that occurred in East Palestine, Ohio, and wondered if Jackson County would be prepared to handle a similar problem here. In July 2022, the Jackson County Emergency Planning, Ho-Chunk Emergency Planning, and Wisconsin Emergency Management conducted a table-top simulation of a fire at the chemical storage facility operated by Canadian National Railroad in Hixton. The simulation was the pre-cursor to a functional exercise of this emergency scenario that is planned for the summer of 2023. The exercise will involve many emergency response resources from Jackson and surrounding areas. Hixton is a challenging location for responders because fire plumes could impact I-94 as well as the downwind communities of Alma Center and Merrilan. I have already committed myself to participate in this exercise.

The County is still working through some of the advance planning activities for the new county jail proposal. I expect the planning committee will be ready to share plans with the public this summer.

I look forward to serving you another year,