November 2024

City of Port Washington Newsletter







Governor Evers Visits Port Washington

On October 9th, Governor Tony Evers visited WJ Niederkorn Library and the historic North Breakwater Lighthouse, both of which recently received large grants for renovations totaling over \$3.3 million.

November 5, 2024 General Election

City of Port Washington residents turned out in historic numbers to cast their ballots during the November 5, 2024 General Election. 8,082 total ballots were casted on Election Day, which was a 94% voter turnout. 4,809 Absentee Ballots were issued, which was 56%. During the nine days of In-Person Early Voting by Absentee Ballot at City Hall, 3,209 residents voted.

Many thanks to all of our dedicated election workers. It takes many individuals and countless hours to prepare for the elections, run the polls on Election Day, finalize the results, and so forth.

Congratulations, Chief Mitchell!

Fire Chief Mark Mitchell retired on October 31st after more than 20 years of dedicated service to the community. Thank you, Chief Mitchell, for your many years of dedicated service. Enjoy your well deserved retirement!

RECENT HAPPENINGS:

The Port Washington Marina closed for the season on November 1st. Thank you for enjoying the water with us! Fishing was fantastic this season, launches were up considerably, and the beautiful weather allowed for steady transient boat traffic all season long.

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The Parks Team has been making great progress on the municipal ballfield concession stand renovations. The technical education students from the middle school came by to learn about the building process.





On the recreation side of things, the "Huntin For Pumpkins" event Friday, October 25th was a big success! There were about 65 participants, and the weather was perfect. Two lucky participants found golden pumpkins and took home a prize. A special thank you to the Kiwanis Club and Port Pride for helping make this event happen.



INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:



FALL LEAF COLLECTION:

October 1 - November 24, 2024. Rake leaves (only) to the curb by Monday at 7AM. One trip will be made city-wide each week for pick up. Leaves are also accepted at the Street Yard (TU/TH 3-6PM, SAT 10AM-4PM).

Coloring Contest! Enter for a chance to become the City's "Official Tree Lighter" on December 7th! The winning design will also be featured on the Mayor's official holiday card. For children 12 years old and younger. View the rules/entry sheet.



WINTER PARKING: No parking on any street within the city limits between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., December 1st - April 1st.

PROPERTY TAX BILLS: Property tax bills are required to be processed and mailed to taxpayers by December 15th each year.

Please sign up at this link in order to receive automatic notifications from the Ozaukee County tax system when tax bills are available online, and/or when any payments have been posted to you account. Receipts can be printed directly from the tax system using this link.

WATER METER REPLACEMENT AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

If you received a Water Utility Water meter "change-out" letter and have not scheduled the appointment, please contact Water Utility to do so.

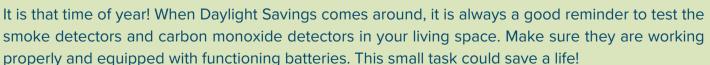
- >> 262-284-2172 OR
- >> EMAIL

A typical water meter "change-out" takes approximately 15-30 minutes to complete. There is NO COST to the homeowner.



CLOSED: All City of Port Washington offices will be closed on November 28th and 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

SAFETY REMINDER:



Did you know? It is recommended that smoke alarms are replaced every ten years while carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced every five years.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Cookie Decorating Classes

Port Washington Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, will be hosting two cookie decorating classes for those 16 years and older. Learn more and register.

December 8th and January 11th



Port Teen Theatre - Mean Girls Jr.

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Performances of Mean Girls Jr. by Port Teen Theatre will be on January 31st and February 1st, 2025 at the Port Washington-Saukville Performing Arts Center. More details to come!





Preventing stormwater pollution does not stop during the winter. Green infrastructure is a great tool for both private residents and commercial developers to prevent flooding and build resilience. Green infrastructure options such as green roofs, pervious pavement, and native planting are becoming increasingly popular in the Milwaukee area.

For more information please visit respectourwaters.org.



It has been a great month for the City of Port Washington, and I want to share a few highlights:

1.) Our city was the recipient of a Wisconsin grant for over \$2 million, which will allow us to refurbish the lighthouse. Many years ago, the city made the decision to acquire the lighthouse from the federal government but did so without a maintenance plan or strategy for the future. At the time, the city found itself backed into a corner competing with a private entity for the lighthouse, and the concluding agreement ultimately committed us to fund repairs and maintenance of the lighthouse. After becoming mayor, I asked for an estimate to address the necessary repairs

and upkeep of the lighthouse. The estimate was staggering, and it was very clear this was something we could not tackle alone. Fortunately, our city staff excels at grant writing and was able to secure significant funding to repair and restore this long serving symbol of our community.

- 2.) WJ Niederkorn Library also received over \$1 million in state funding to assist with remodeling and modernizing different areas of the library. This grant was the result of exceptional initiative and drive by our library staff. As a central part of our community for learning, connection, and more, these funds will help transform our library into an even more vital community hub better serving and supporting all residents.
- 3.) City council approved the building of a safety center on the west side of Port Washington to help us prepare for the future and address two buildings that have been used beyond their useful life. While this will have a tax impact, there are no grants or outside forces that can fund a local responsibility (we have looked). I am proud of us for addressing immediate and future needs at the same time. Our current facilities are outdated, too small and will not allow for the city to be prepared for the future. This facility meets a strategic need of our community and will allow our safety services to be able to grow alongside the city, increase efficiencies between police and fire and, most importantly, remove aging buildings from our inventory.

For too long, Port Washington has not been strategic about our growth and our liabilities. In the last four years, we have addressed significant infrastructural needs. Needs, not wants. Modernizing the water filtration plant as well as the wastewater plant, and now addressing the lighthouse, library, and the safety facility needs. As we move forward, I will work hard and collaborate with the council and city staff to increase the valuation of the city while working to be fiscally frugal and managing the tax impact on property owners.

My next task is to work to find a private/public solution to create a world class community center that can support our seniors and city and engage our citizens in new ways. While we have a very long list of needs, we will be strategic about them whether that is the pool, Upper Lake Park, the marina, our streets, our parks, or supporting development. Port Washington is changing, and we are managing that change with an eye on the future, our minds on the financial impact, and our hearts on doing what is best for our city.

We have resources and beauty like no other city in the Midwest, and with that we have the responsibility to ensure we are intentional about our city's infrastructure. I am very proud Port Washington is my hometown, I am proud of how we are getting better, and I am excited about our future.



FALL CLEAN-UP INFORMATION

Who To Contact For The Disposal Of_



Appliances & Furniture -

Ozaukee Iron & Metal



Auto & Truck Tires -

Ozaukee Iron & Metal or Tires Unlimited



Building Materials -

Ozaukee Iron & Metal



Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs & Thermostats -

Veolia Environmental Services



Household Electronic Items -

Veolia Environmental Services



Household Hazardous Waste -

Veolia Environmental Services



Paint & Related Products -

Veolia Environmental Services



Propane & Gas Containers -

Ozaukee Iron & Metal



Vehicle Batteries -

Veolia Environmental Services or Ozaukee Iron & Metal



Waste Motor Oil -

Ozaukee Co. Highway Department

Disposal Company Phone Numbers

Please call or contact the disposal company below prior to drop-off at their facility to confirm times, exact locations, fees, and staff availability.



Ozaukee Iron & Metal

728 Schmitz Dr 262-284-4060 ozaukeeironmetal.com



Veolia Environmental Services **Technical Solutions LLC**

1275 Mineral Springs Dr 262-243-8900 veolianorthamerica.com/contact-us



> Ozaukee County **Highway Department**

410 S Spring St 262-284-8331 www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/240/Highway-<u>Department</u>



>> Tires Unlimited

1557 N Wisconsin St 262-284-4414 tiresunlimitedautomotive.com

Elected Officials

DISTRICT 1. WARD 1

Deborah Postl 414-550-0034

DISTRICT 2, WARD 2 **Paul Neumyer** 262-689-2668

DISTRICT 3. WARD 3 Michael Gasper 262-235-2824

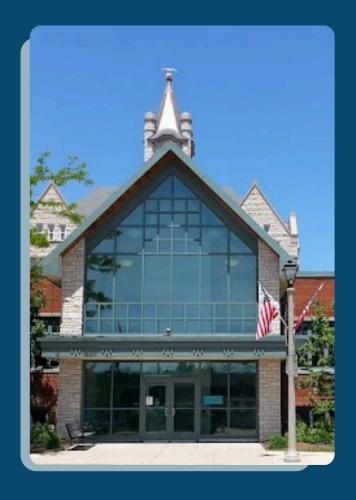
DISTRICT 4, WARDS 4 & 8 **Dan Benning** 414-207-3487

DISTRICT 5, WARD 5 Jonathan Pleitner 219-793-2260

DISTRICT 6, WARD 6 **Patrick Tearney** 262-388-6697

DISTRICT 7. WARD 7 **John Sigwart** 920-946-0215





City Hall 100 W. Grand Ave. P.O. Box 307 Port Washington, WI 53074

Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:00AM to 4:00PM

Phone:

262-284-5585

Website:

<u>cityofportwashingtonwi.gov</u>







