

# Aewsletter

# **INSIDE** This Issue

Clerk's Cornerl
Town Chairmanl
Emergency Mgmt2
Erin Park3
Public Hearing4
Erin School5
Storage Units9
Schauer Center10
Staffing11
Parade12
Erin Hills12
Energy Asst12
St. Patrick's CH13
Holy Hill14
St. Paul's15

# REPORTS

Clerk's Corner by Julie Kriewaldt, Town Clerk

#### Elections

The April 7, 2020 election was unprecedented. Of the 1,665 Erin residents casting votes a record 79 percent were absentee ballots. There were some bumps in the road as the myvote.wi.gov wasn't built for that many absentee requests. The state is bolstering its website to handle the anticipated continued increase. The deputy clerk, Patti Lowe, and I worked full time to keep up with the demand of absentee ballots that needed to be mailed out each day, including weekends. Kudos to the Hartford Post Office for isolating the 53027 ballots to make sure they were delivered the following day.

With the increased number of absentee ballots, this is a good time to explain how they are counted. Absentee ballots are run through the election machine on election day between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. as if that voter was casting the vote in person. The ballot is given a voter number, recorded in the poll books, opened and run through the machine.

There were some problems with some of the absentee ballots we hope to avoid in future elections. Please DO NOT use Sharpies to mark your ballot. They bleed through the ballot, so those ballots had to be duplicated by two election workers and then run through the machine. A black ball point pen or number 2 pencil work best.

The next election is Aug. 11, 2020. This is the partisan primary, meaning you must vote straight party. If you don't choose one party and vote for candidates from more than one party, the election machine will reject the ballot.

#### <u>Drop box</u>

The town now has a secured overnight drop box. This can be used for tax payments in December, absentee ballots, permits or anything else you want delivered to the town hall. The box is to the right of the door entering the town hall.

### Chairman Report by Dennis Kenealy

#### Why issue an Emergency Declaration?

The town of Erin is required by federal, state and county governments to follow certain procedures to contain the COVID-19 virus. Unfortunately, these requirements will cost

(Continued on page 2)

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#### (Continued from page 1)

the town money. I want the town to be reimbursed for these costs. We are more likely to be eligible for reimbursement if the town issues an Emergency Declaration. To make sure we follow all necessary procedures for reimbursement, I am issuing the Emergency Declaration.

This Declaration will help buy emergency goods and services, if necessary, and authorize emergency costs, such as election workers. The Declaration should remove any potential obstacles from obtaining reimbursement. Our town supervisors are aware of this Declaration and reimbursement requests. I have instructed our Emergency Manager to make the reimbursement requests and our clerk to tabulate and segregate all additional expenses.

Thanks for your cooperation as we work through this difficult time.

Dennis Kenealy Erin Town Chair

### Emergency

#### Management by Brad Bautz,

Director and Enforcement Officer

Never in my nearly 22 years in public safety would I have



thought I would have to write an article in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. Shortly after Washington County declared a State of Emergency, the town did as well. I crafted ours to expire at the end of the state's, which was May 11. We are actively monitoring the situation and consulting with the health department. Unfortunately, we decided to cancel the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Town staff also needed to make many adjustments with the spring election. Julie Kriewaldt and Patti Lowe did an excellent job meeting the challenge of extra absentee ballots and finding enough poll workers to ensure a smooth and safe election.

There was the newness of COVID-19, and a lack of information in the beginning. I was at the Governor's Conference on Emergency Management the week before the State of Emergency was declared, and there was little to nothing presented by state officials of what was to come. We have had to navigate numerous orders issued by the state. When they are issued, there is no advance notice to municipalities, and there are no clarifications. We are left to try and navigate the sometimes contradictory orders and do the best we can. I am in contact with the Washington County Emergency Management Coordinator and the county's Health Department Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for their guidance. There have been Corona virus cases reported in the town. Along with the deaths and illnesses, the human cost has been staggering. Most people seemed to go along with the lockdowns early on, but when the lockdown continued, and the weather got better, a lot of people went out in violation of the order. I have never seen more usage of Loew's Lake area than I have now. The vast majority of users don't live in the town, or even Washington County.

We will be monitoring things to ensure the town operations can continue to meet the residents' needs and ensure a safe election this fall.

I've created a new Facebook page to communicate information with residents in a more timely manner. Just search for Town of Erin, Wisconsin - Emergency Management: <u>https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Erin-</u> <u>Wisconsin-Emergency-Management-110492250590131/</u></u>

With more severe weather a possibility, a reminder about severe weather watches and warnings is in order. A Severe Thunderstorm Watch means conditions are favorable for the formation of severe storms, with damaging winds, dangerous lightening, and large hail. A Severe Thunderstorm Warning means these conditions are occurring. A Tornado Watch means conditions are favorable for the formation of tornados. A Tornado Warning means a funnel cloud was sighted or a tornado has touched down: TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY. Go to the lowest level of your home or building, and stay away from windows. A weather alert radio is an excellent way to help protect yourself and your family. They can be purchased at many electronic stores or on Amazon. You can also receive weather warnings on your smartphone. There is no need to sign up; as long as your phone is WEA (Wireless Emergency Alerts) capable, you will receive them, and they are free.

#### <u>Reminder</u>

Please be cognizant of conditions before you burn. We had several grass fires this spring, and they were preventable. Your fire **must be attended at all times**. You must be near the fire. You cannot burn during a burning ban. Do not burn if the wind speed is greater than nine miles per hour. Violations can likely result in a citation from the town. The rules for burning:

• No burning permits are required

(EM, Continued on page 3)



#### (EM, Continued from page 2)

• When fire danger is high, very high, or severe all outdoor burning will be banned (this includes fireworks, which are already restricted by county ordinance) by order of the emergency management director or town chairman. Cooking on outdoor grills is an exemption. For such a ban, I will notify the sheriff's department and local radio stations. Notices will also be on the town posting boards and on the website.

At any time of year:

- Open fires must be attended at all times
- The jurisdictional fire department or preferably the Washington County Sheriff's Office must be notified of any bonfire in excess of 10 feet in diameter or if a large area of grass is burned (more than one-quarter acre).
- Fires can't be started on the roadway surface, and only leaves and grass can be burned in the right-of-way.
- The burning of garbage, plastics, rubber, treated wood, petroleum products or anything that emits noxious or toxic odors is PROHIBITED. The DNR already bans the burning of these items as they pose a health hazard to residents if burned.

• The DNR also prohibits the burning of solid waste by businesses.

Please make sure your address sign is visible for our emergency responders. Do not move or otherwise modify them. It is a violation of town ordinances to do so. If they get damaged or need to be replaced, please contact the town clerk for a replacement.

Our local fire departments ask that your driveways stay clear for emergency vehicles. This is particularly important on very long driveways or driveways that have brush, trees, or low-hanging branches that get in the way. Fire apparatus keeps getting taller and taller, and fire trucks and ambulances need the space to avoid damaging your trees and their equipment.

Have a safe and happy summer.

#### $Erin \ Park$ by Maureen Fitzsimmons-Vanden Heuvel

Hopefully, by the time you read this article, the great State of Wisconsin will be open for business once again. I would (*Park*, *Continued on page 4*)



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Town of Erin, Hartford, WI

# **REPORTS/COMMUNITY NEWS**

#### (Park, Continued from page 3)

like to take this opportunity to thank our Town Chairman, Dennis Kenealy, for allowing Erin Go Bragh Park to remain open during Governor Evers Safer at Home Order. It was so wonderful to see folks walking, using our disc golf course and playing basketball. Sadly, Erin Youth Soccer's spring season was cancelled, and as I write this no decision has been made on Erin Youth Baseball.

Even without these wonderful activities, our Park Manager, Todd Kozlencer, has many projects underway: Crab and weed control took place in mid-May, fence repair throughout the park has been completed, 15 ash trees will be removed during the summer season and construction of three new holes to the Disc Golf Course has begun and should be completed by fall. Hole 1, which was removed due to the construction of the town's new salt shed, has been reconfigured and is now back in use. The Disc Golf pad extension project is also underway for all 12 holes. The reinstallation of the slide and swings from the north end of the park is also in the planning stages.

Please keep in mind that the majority of the Park's budget is spent on grass mowing and general maintenance of buildings, so donations especially for tree replacement are always appreciated. On March 27, the Corona virus CARES Act was signed into law and increases tax deductions for charitable donations for both individuals and corporations for tax year 2020. If you would like to make a charitable donation for a tree or other park project, in the name of a loved one, please contact our Erin Town Clerk for the necessary tax deduction letter.

### Town Provides Public Hearing Responses

On March 2, the town board and plan commission met jointly for a public hearing on proposed changes to the town zoning ordinances. The well-attended meeting drew questions from a handful of residents and plan commissioners. As it was a public hearing, the questions were noted and researched for responses, noted here. The town has not set a date to discuss and act upon the proposed changes.

Q: (Nancy Landon) There is a difference between lot and parcel (Black's Law Dictionary). She believes that by removing parcel, we are allowing individuals to increase the net density of development. Use of terms should be consistent with the county, which uses the

#### term parcel.

A: The current ordinance defines Parcel as "PARCEL — See LOT," which means that although both terms are used in the ordinance, they have the same definition. Therefore, changing the term parcel to lot in the net density provisions of the ordinance does not change those calculations. In state statute and administrative code, there is no definition of "lot" or "parcel" regarding planning, zoning, or municipal zoning law, but they are used interchangeably.

Q: (Nancy Landon) The in-law suites language is unsafe.

A: The Conditional Use Permit standards for In-law suites are the same standards the Plan Commission has applied to these requests.

### Q: (Nancy Landon) Vision Triangle and tree removal concerns.

A: The vision triangle standards were not modified from the existing ordinance. The existing ordinance under Section 360-12 A.(1) regulates the planting of trees or shrubs that may obscure the vision area. The term "alley" was removed from this and should be removed from the ordinance because there are no alleys in the town.

### Q: (Nancy Landon) Did not like the changes to building vs. structure.

A: This concern is unclear. The definition of building and structure has not been changed in the ordinance.

### Q: (Pat Landon) Should not delete bus shelter provisions.

A: The current ordinance does not require accessory structures under 120 square feet to obtain a permit. The current ordinance allows bus shelters under 36 square feet as a permitted use in each district. A bus shelter is an accessory structure and any accessory structure under 120 square feet is not regulated, so it is not necessary to make bus shelters permitted uses because they are already exempt.

### Q: (Pat Landon) Remodeling and renovations should be handled by building inspection not zoning code.

A: There is no definition of remodeling proposed in the ordinance. The proposed definition of renovate only applies to new provisions added to nonconforming structures, which allows renovations, maintenance and repair without the need for a zoning permit. A building permit may still be required depending on the project.

(Responses, continued on page 8)



# SCHOOL NEWS

### Erin School District



A Glimpse of What Learning Looked Like at Erin School from March-June!

#### Student Insight -

"I think virtual school is going well because I get to see my teacher every day on the computer. She is so nice and I love her. She is teaching me how to find doubles in math and doing it in fun ways like scavenger hunts around my house sometimes. I like seesaw because I get to add my thinking in videos to my teacher. I am writing lots of stories about characters named Kara and Madelyn. They have lots of feelings and they sometimes have a problem that needs to be solved. Oh, oh, one more thing, I like seeing my friends on Google Meet with my teachers! I miss Erin School, but my mom and dad say I am safer from home right now."

From, Izabella A., 1st Grade



Brayden G., in 4K enjoys doing his school work outside when the weather

agrees. He enjoys the fresh air and watching what is going on around him.

Sophie B., 5K, says, "I love and miss school very much! I can't wait to see my friends and teachers again!" Meanwhile she is completing



an outdoor scavenger hunt with her new teacher bitmoji Flat Stanley. She takes pictures of

what she finds and uploads the pictures to share with her classmates.

In 3rd grade, our students have been publishing their work using a platform called VYBE. Joshua G's., Vybe is Sustainability. This is because he wants to keep the planet healthy and clean so many generations after us



will live a healthy and clean life. Josh states, "We can help by not consuming plastics and other unsustainable items that hurt the environment. It is not just for humans, but for animals and all living things."





Many of the students adapted their learning using technology or as we call it, "Teachnology".

#### Parent/Guardian Insight -

"She enjoys the virtual programs and loves to work independently at her pace. As parents, we believe Erin School and the staff have really stepped up with the circumstances of this pandemic. The weekly video updates from both administrators have helped to keep things in perspective that we are all in this together. Appreciate all you do! "

-Parent of 5th and 8th grader

"Our at-home experience with Erin Elementary honestly couldn't be better. Everything has gone off without a hitch. This tells me that the staff members here really actually care about the students. As parents, we are so grateful for this; especially during this time."

-Parent of 4K and 4th grade students.

#### Staff Insight -

"Prior to March 13<sup>th</sup>, I considered myself pretty tech savvy, but COVID-19 has taught me that I still have a lot to learn. I've been utilizing SeeSaw which has been an amazing resource. To keep my kindergarten students



(School, continued on page 6)



# SCHOOL NEWS

#### (School, Continued from page 5)

motivated, I have been: sending them snail mail (postcards, letters, flat Mrs. Karbassi), making a video that resembles our morning meeting every day, meeting with a majority of students on Google Meet weekly and making phone calls home. Additionally, I offer a whole class Google Meet option with a fun activity such as a read aloud, scavenger hunt and sight word bingo."



What a classroom from home looked like using Google Meet



All grade levels meet every week on Google for an interactive physical education class. With the lower grades, I do dances, imaginary jump rope, catching and throwing skills (with stuffed animals, socks and boxes), read books that integrate movement with each page, and many more creative

movement activities. The upper grades focus on dance and a variety of fitness activities. The best part is getting to see the smiles on the students' faces as we interact with each other. I am very proud of the way our Erin students are staying active and fit while at home. Tim Mueller, Erin School Physical Education

Moving to online learning for students has been a learning curve for all those involved. I meet with students virtually to work on academics, but we also have personal interaction. These kids haven't been able to see much of the outside world in almost two months, so after we do our learning, we talk about the things they have been doing while staying home. We all need others to talk to and share our stories with, and it makes me happy that I can be part of these student's lives.

Jodi Bath, Paraprofessional

Lunches continued while school was closed - Lunch service during this time is totally different from our usual routine. While food is still supplied from Hartford High



School, it now consists of breakfast and lunch. These complete meals come in bags & are ready to "Grab 'n Go" for Erin students and all children in the Erin community. **60-90 meals were served daily**! Typically, the meal is a cold Lunch in 1 bag and a Breakfast in another for each child. Some days there is a hot lunch item which needs to be cooked at home. I'm glad I can serve the Erin families and

others who live nearby in this way Cathy Conway, Erin School Food Service

Teacher's dropped off learning packets, keeping a safe distance. Our young students were thrilled!

Ever wonder what the business office and school in general looked like during the Safer at Home order? It was actually business as usual with-



out the hustle and bustle of students, teachers and other staff in the building. We continued to operate... just a little differently. When the closure began, for the health and well-being of essential staff, office and maintenance staff rotated hours between on-site and working from home.

In early June items loaned to students were returned to the school and we finalized the 19/20 school year, and began preparing for the 20/21 school year. This pandemic has enabled us to overcome our obstacles. Our hope is that the summer months bring you good health with few obstacles. Cheryl Johrendt, District Bookkeeper

While these brief statements represent only a sample of what parents, students, and staff have been doing to ensure that education, instruction, and building operations were continued during this pandemic, we are thankful to everyone who assisted in helping complete our learning mission this year. I am sure if you talk to anyone involved, they would be happy to tell you about their role in this adventure.

As we enter into the summer months, we know how school business is conducted has changed. While we do not have all the answers what next year will look like, I know the Erin Community and school family will figure it out and provide our students with the best possible education.

On a side note, if you notice a dumpster in front of the school, this is because we are updating the 1957 classrooms. These would be grades 4-K, 5-K, and 1st grade. The rooms are being completely remodeled with new floor, cabinets, and furniture. Our completion target date is August 1st. This is part of our continuous maintenance plan. Kieth A. Kriewaldt District Administrator

### SCHOOL NEWS

### 2020 ERIN SCHOOL 8TH GRADE GRADUATES

Amiah

Brakob

Kenneth

Kaiser

Matthew

Pepin

Maxwell

Brockhaus

Lucas

Kandler

Cole

Waters



Nicholas Anton

Tanner

Anton

Kaylyn

Hellmuth

Jesse

Mesker



McKenzie



Sydney Maier





St. Antoine



Isabella St Antoine

Savannah

Aulen-

bacher

Baylee

Hoft

Willem

Mohr

Cicely

Azoff

Porter

Jackson

Gavin

Neuburg

Jackson St. Antoine

Paetyn Steinke



Richard Thomae

Blake

Bell

Kiley

Jelen

Uma

Oswald

Tomes

Abby

Mason







Ziman

Brayden

Butler

Calvin

Kenney







Jeremy

Conley

Brady

Kuepper

Schulz

Mariah Senfleben

Lindsey

Curtis

Jaden

Langlois

Skylar Smith



Lexina

Flena

Espinosa













# ERIN HILLS THANKS THE TOWN AND THE RESIDENTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

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#### (Responses, Continued from page 4)

### Q: (Pat Landon) 50% rule is still in the code, isn't that illegal?

A: The legislature did not prohibit municipalities from limiting or prohibiting the repairs or alterations of

structures utilized for a nonconforming use. Therefore, this provision remains. See definitions of a nonconforming use to distinguish between nonconforming uses and non-conforming structures. (s. 62.23(7)(h), Wis. Stats.)

#### Q: (Pat Landon) Should not have eliminated boathouses in Druid Lake zoning district.

A: Boat houses are eliminated because the ordinance merely says they are allowed as an accessory use (per Washington County regulations), but 2015 WI Act 41 created 60.61 (3r)(c) states a town zoning ordinance may not impose restrictions or requirements in shorelands with respect to matters regulated by a county shoreland zoning ordinance. Therefore, it was eliminated to try to clarify that it is not regulated by the town. If boat houses are added back in, it must be clarified that it is not regulated by the town.

Q: (Pat Landon) Accessory uses within the Druid Lake zoning district now require a conditional use permit approval.

A: This was a typo and will be corrected.

Q: (Darnell Wagner) Do not like that SEH rewrote the code to have everything go through SEH.

A: The approval process has not changed.

Q: (Mike Stapleton) Ruined cluster development zoning with provisions relating to trail access and lot development. Doesn't see it being used.

A: Other than changing the term "parcel" to "lot," there are no proposed changes to cluster development zoning.

Q: (Dean Schober) Why do accessory structures in the front yard require a conditional use permit?

A: While the ordinance requires a conditional use permit for accessory structures in the front yard, the town is considering modifying this requirement.

Q: (Maureen Fitzsimmons VandenHeuval) With 72 pages of changes, hard to believe the state is requiring all of this. I talked to a state rep and she didn't know about any of these changes. This will have a huge impact on the town, now a building permit is needed for putting on a new roof.

A: 2005 WI Act 112 and 2011 WI Act 170 preceded Rep. Janel Brandtjen's election, so were already in the statutes when she was elected. 2017 Act 67 passed through the Assembly while Rep. Brandtjen was in office. A building permit is not required for a new roof.

#### Q: (Daniel Worman) Conflicts with the square footage of accessory structures allowed between the accessory structure section vs. the conditional use permit section.

A: The square footage allowed for accessory structures has not been modified and reflects the existing ordinance.

#### Q: (Daniel Worman) I have an existing private road. How does this ordinance amendment affect my road and what is or is not allowed?

A: The proposed changes do not impact existing roads. If an existing private road does not meet the dimensional standards set by the town, it is a nonconforming structure and the road may be maintained and repaired without a permit. There are no proposed changes to the dimensional standards for private roads.

#### Q: (Daniel Worman) The conditional use permit section does not contain any CUPs for all residential zoning districts, just the R-1 residential district.

A: The only conditional use permits allowed in the current ordinance for R-3, R-5, R-10, and R-20 zoning are manmade ponds, accessory structures in the front yard, and private roads. These remain conditional use permits for all districts under the proposed section 360-64.

### Q: (Elizabeth Schober) Will people be forced to remove existing structures?

A: No. Dimensional standards are not being modified for structures. In fact, these proposed changes would create more flexibility for nonconforming structures.

# Q: (Plan Commissioner Dave Millen) Why was 360-7 removed? Is there no vesting anymore? How does that impact people?

A: There is no need for the vesting provision in 360-7. A conceptual plan that wasn't presented or approved under previous ordinances does not qualify as a non-conforming use as it technically does not exist.

### Q: (Plan Commissioner Tammy Kennedy) Why were the satellite dish provisions removed?

A: The satellite dish provisions were removed because companies are relying on fiberoptic or digital receivers for TV and internet. Existing dishes may remain, but these provisions are no longer needed.

#### Q: (Plan Commissioner Tammy Kennedy) Should livestock be allowed in R-1?

A: Livestock are not allowed in an R-1 zoning.



### Storage Units Approved on Hwy. 83

If you're wondering what happened to the house, barn and silo at 1782 Hwy. 83 – just north of Hwy. 167 and south of the Erin Town Hall – they've been razed to make way for a storage unit complex.

Erin Mini Storage, owned and operated by Brian Greenman, will have eight buildings at the site that will contain 187 individual storage units. The site will include a pond just north of the buildings as well as extensive landscaping. The plan was approved by the Erin Plan Commission in December.

Construction on the roughly three-acre site will begin soon with the four outer buildings built this year. The remaining four buildings are slated for construction next spring.

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### Schauer Arts Center

Schauer Center 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season and Classes

What hasn't been cancelled, rescheduled or postponed?

Hope. Love. Laughter. Music. Kindness. Gratitude. Family. Charitable acts. Virtual hugs. Friends. Smiles. Art.



We hope everyone is continuing to stay safe and stay healthy as Safer at Home continues. We will continue to update the status of Schauer events on our website and Facebook page.

**Rescheduled shows:** If you have tickets for a rescheduled show or class, your ticket or registration will automatically be good for the new date. If you cannot make the new date, you have the option to donate the value back to the Schauer Center, receive credit toward a future show or class, or request a refund.

**Cancelled shows and classes:** If you have tickets to a cancelled show or class, you may donate the value back to the Schauer Center, receive credit for a show in the 2020-21 season or request a refund.

Schauer Center staff are currently working from home. Credits and refunds will be processed when we are allowed to reopen and have staff back in the office.

Without ticket sales, concessions, class registrations or rentals, it is a challenging time for the Schauer Center. If you are in position to do so, please consider the many ways you can help sustain us through these uncertain times - keep your tickets for a rescheduled show, donate tickets back, purchase a gift certificate or make a donation. **Help us raise the curtain again!** We will survive this together and look forward to being able to resume our daily activities and our shared experiences of the arts again.

We are continuing to plan for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season and look forward to announcing our 2020-21 Performing Arts Series in June, featuring the theme "The Beat Goes On," a new and diverse season of entertainment from a wide variety of artists. Please check our website at <u>www.schauercenter.org</u> for all up-to-date information and season announcements. Upcoming Performances/Rescheduled Performances include:

- New (Fiscal) Year's Eve Fundraiser Featuring Bill Zeffiro and Marissa Mulder on Saturday, June 27, at 6:30 pm
- Dallas String Quartet DS2 Electric on Friday, Aug. 7, at 7:30 pm
- Songs & Stories of Neil Diamond Starring Jack Wright on Saturday, Aug. 22, at 3 pm and 7:30 pm

Email us at <u>info@schauercenter.org</u> to be placed on the email list for new season announcements.

The Schauer School of the Arts is now accepting registrations for its summer session. These dates are subject to change and may be adjusted based on Safer at Home restrictions. Classes are offered for ages 2+ in Music, Theater, Circus Arts, Visual Arts and Dance (Irish, Tap, Contemporary, Ballet). Adult Wine and Art classes, Tap Dance, and monthly Watercolor Workshops are also offered.

One-time Adult Class Offerings include (please check our website for latest updates):

- Art of Mixology, on Thursday, June 11, from 6 8 pm
- Mandala Painting, on Thursday, June 25, from 5:30 8:30 pm
- String Art, on Thursday, July 30, from 5:30 8:30 pm

To purchase tickets or register for classes, order by phone at 262-670-0560, ext. 3 or online at Schauer-Center.org.

Stay positive, stay strong, and stay safe. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Schauer Arts Center soon.



### Staffing News

#### Daniel Zignego

We lost a dear friend and colleague, Dan Zignego, on Feb. 19. Dan was appointed to the town board in 2018 to complete a term vacated by his brother, Tim, and elected to the board in 2019. His wisdom, guidance and humor are missed by the town board, staff and all who knew him.

#### Nicole Lipski

Town Treasurer Nicole Lipski is leaving her town of Erin position. She joined the town in 2011, providing budgeting, accounting and treasury work critical to the town's operation. We thank Nicole for her years of service to Erin. Pending board approval, her replacement will be appointed effective June 1.

#### Millikin elected to double duty

Erin Town Supervisor Jeff Millikin doubled his public service responsibilities this spring. The long-time Erin official was re-elected to a seventh term on the town board and elected to his first term on the Washington County Board of Supervisors. Millikin replaces Mark McCune, also of Erin, who didn't run for reelection.

"The 12 years I spent as a town supervisor gave me the qualifications to serve on the county board," said Millikin, who defeated Ryan Lippert in the District 20 race. In addition to his years of municipal service, Millikin, 67, brings more than 50 years as a Washington County resident.

Millikin moved to Erin in 1968 when his dad, Earl, a successful general contractor, bought a farm on Waterford and Powder Hill Roads, later acquiring land along Hwy. 83 and Cork Drive. At one time, Earl Millikin was the largest single land owner in Erin "in one chunk," Millikin said of his dad. A 1970 Hartford Union High School grad, Millikin opened



Church Road Station August 1993 on the corner of Hwys. 83 and 167, which he owned and operated until July 2015. He and his wife, Mary, have six children.



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### 40<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

by Derek Wilcox, St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Chairman

We weren't able to have the Erin St. Patrick's Day Parade due to the virus. This year marked our 40th Anniversary of the celebration. We had three couples running for king and queen. Nick Solveson and Emma Saul won the vote by narrow margin. The Erin Inn also hosted a 40th Anniversary reunion earlier in March for all prior parade kings and queens. We had planned to have these prior monarchs on a float in the parade.



Nick Solveson & Emma Saul

The parade committee has not given up the possibility of rescheduling the parade if restrictions can be met and we can host safely.

As we battle these uncharted times, we wish for everyone to be safe and healthy. Cheers!



### Erin Hills by John Morrrissett

The 2020 season at Erin Hills opens May 18 and will run through October 18. We were sorry to have three high school competitions canceled in May but look forward to the Marquette Intercollegiate with earlier dates this year (September 6-8).



### ENERGY ASSISTANCE



### WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

### PROGRAM DATE EXTENDED!

Energy Assistance applications accepted through Sept. 30

### Get Help Paying your Heating and Electric Bill

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), Energy Assistance, is available to help during COVID-19.

Eligibility is based on each household's previous month of income (instead of the three month income test), household size, and the home's heating/electric costs.

WHEAP pays benefits directly to fuel and electric suppliers to offset the cost of home heating and electricity. Crisis assistance, emergency fuel assistance, and emergency heating system repair and replacement for eligible homeowners may also be available based on household need.

Customer Service representatives are available by phone to assist you.

Call for more information on program guidelines or to schedule a phone appointment today! 262-335-4677

### St. Patrick Preservation by Maureen Fitzsimmons-Vanden Heuvel

Due to the Governor's Safer at Home Order, our last St. Patrick Preservation Meeting was held on March 10. A few days later, the 40th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade was cancelled. We were blessed to have Father Don Brick, O.C.D, Rector and Prior of Holy Hill-Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians concelebrate a St. Patrick's Day Mass on March 17 with Father Robert McDermott. For many of us, it was the last time we were physically at Mass and that day will always hold a very special memory for those of us in attendance. We thank Charlie Van Hecke for reading, Steve Tennies and the Urlakis sisters for their beautiful singing and organ accompaniment, and Michael Tennies for assisting our beloved priests at Mass.

We welcome the new Pastor of St. Kilian-Hartford and St. John-Rubicon Parishes, Father Britto Suresh Vedam and look forward to connecting with him. We also thank Father David LaPlante for the years that he allowed an annual Mass on St. Patrick's Day at St. Pat-



Steve Tennies and the Urlakis Sisters on St. Patrick's Day

rick's Church in Erin.

In April, I received an interesting email from our local historian, Mary Hasslinger, regarding Joseph Walter

(St. Patrick, Continued on page 14)



#### (St. Patrick Continued from page 13)

Mountin— also known as the "Father of the CDC." He was born October 13, 1891, and raised on a farm in the Town of Erin. Mountin received his medical degree from Marquette, and he spent his life working in the field of health, scientific research and epidemiologic investigations. He was instrumental in malaria control and prevention around military bases and industrial complexes during World War II. Mountin was named Chief of the Bureau of the CDC in 1951, six months before his death at age 61.

I am sure many of you are aware from the daily presidential press briefings held for several weeks during the height of the Coronavirus that the CDC played a major role in disseminating information. Mountin and his wife are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. His parents David W. Mountin and Margaret Garvey and brother, Ed, are all buried at Old St. Patrick's Cemetery. You can read his fascinating life's story at: https:// en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\_Walter\_Mountin

Our Annual Report Filing with the Department of Financial Institutions was done on May 11. The Board of Directors and Officers remain the same as voted on in 2019. We are hopeful that we will be able to meet once again as a group on June 9. Our annual membership drive begins July 1. Memberships are reasonably priced at \$5/Single and \$10/Family. If interested, please contact Maureen Fitzsimmons-Vanden Heuvel at 262-670-0975 or E-mail her at SaveStPats@aol.com. Remember all donations to the St. Patrick Preservation Fund are tax deductible and the CARES Act signed into law on March 27, 2020 allows for increased tax deductions for charitable donations.

### St. Mary of the Hill Parish

1515 Carmel Rd. Hubertus Located at the foothills of Holy Hill

#### All Life is Precious by Vicki Dubnicka

In the midst of this pandemic, we are

reminded how precious life truly is. The goal of various ministries and functions at St. Mary of the Hill is to uphold the sanctity of life from conception to death. Two recent installations at St. Mary of the Hill Cemetery honor the lives of those who have gone before us. Located on the north- and southeast corners of Holy Hill (167) and St. Augustine (CC) Roads, the former St. Augustine



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Cemetery recently welcomed the addition of a beautiful Pre-Born Memorial Garden and a Civil War Veterans Monument.

The Pre-Born Memorial Garden is at the northeast entrance and is dedicated to babies lost through miscarriage or stillbirth. Visitors are greeted by a



heavenly angel keeping vigil atop a podium that reads, "In Memory of Our Preborn," and scripture verses, Isaiah 49: 15-16, "I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands..." On one of the memorial's two benches visitors may find comfort from Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." Members of St. Mary of the Hill believe that God's eternal love offsets these precious ones' lack of earthly viability and that a human is loved and cherished for being, not for doing; for simply existing, not for the number of days alive. Shortness of life and weakness of body mean nothing to God who transcends these limitations. The Pre-Born Memorial Garden ministry is open to all who are in need. All services are free & confidential.

St. Mary of the Hill Cemetery was established in 1850. Throughout its 170-year history, it has also become the final resting place of many veterans. Some of the earliest buried here served at a pivotal moment in our country's history. Walk up the grass path off Holy Hill Road, and you will find the names Casimere Goetz and Jacob Kramer prominently displayed.



Above their names there is an engraved wreath draped by a scroll that reads, "In honor of the veterans buried here who served in the Civil War," flanked by the years 1861 and 1865.

The memorial was dedicated last November on the weekend before Veterans Day. Washington County Historical Society researcher Gene Wendelborn, who has since passed, hoped to locate and recognize Civil War veterans buried in Washington County. The monument (St. Mary, Continued on page 15)

#### (St. Mary, Continued from page 14)

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at St. Mary of the Hill Cemetery is one of the first to be erected in the county. Several more monument projects are in progress. Mark Baldwin, a member of the Civil War Monument committee, explains that a great deal of research goes into each monument, including the verification of military service, specific burial location, and the most accurate spelling of veterans' names. Baldwin reports sponsorship for this monument came from American Legion Post 522 in Hubertus and the 25 Sportsmens Club. It is clear Baldwin and the committee want these veterans' service and lives to be remembered. St. Mary of the Hill welcomes the addition.

St. Mary of the Hill hopes memorials for the Pre-Born and Civil War veterans give people pause to reflect on the tremendous impact one life has on this world. For more information about the Pre-Born Memorial Garden, please contact Pastoral Associate Wendy Newburg at (262) 628-3606 ext. 2. To contribute to the Civil War Monument committee's upcoming projects, call the Washington County Veterans Service Office at (262) 335-4457 and ask for Kurt.

### St. Paul's United Church of Christ

495 St. Augustine Rd., Colgate, WI

www.stpaulserin.org 262-628-2319



(See website for Zoom service link while in-church services are not being held, for updates on when in-church services will resume, and for possible schedule changes to upcoming events because of COVID -19)

#### Upcoming Events

- Homemade Bread & Soup Lunch and Bake Sale Saturday, Sept. 19 – 11 am to 3 pm
- Soup Lunch four kinds to choose from—served with
- homemade breads and a beverage. Adults \$6 Kids \$3
- Our talented bakers offer tables filled with delicious baked items to purchase.





Town of Erin, Hartford, WI



1846 State Hwy. 83 Hartford, WI 53027



### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police Emergency	
Washington County Sheriff	262-335-4378
Fire Emergency	
Ashippun Fire	920-474-4223
Hartford Fire	262-673-8290
Richfield Fire	262-628-1601

### **ERIN TOWNSHIP**

Phone: 262-673-3682 Email: erintown@netwurx.net www.erintownship.com

Scheduled Meetings: Town Board - third Monday of each month Plan Commission - first Monday of each month

Meetings held unless holidays or other conflicts arise

For complete listing, see the website

# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Kenealy, Chair: 262-673-3682 Jeff Millikin: 262-966-7204 Dan Coffey: 262-673-5840 Maripat Blankenheim: 262-673-2505

TOWN CLERK Julie Kriewaldt: 262-673-3682 Mondays-Thursdays 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. TOWN TREASURER

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Road Contact: 262-673-3702 Tree Emergencies: 414-750-9529

ASSESSOR Michael Grota Office: 262-253-1142 **ZONING OFFICE** Patti Weix: 262-673-3682 Tuesdays 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Thursdays 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

BUILDING INSPECTOR Rob Froh: 920-382-6202 Tuesdays/Thursdays 2:00-3:00 p.m.