



# VILLAGE OF MAPLE BLUFF

## NEWSLETTER





The end of another year quickly approaches and we now prepare for 2016! In my article, I will be writing about a variety of topics. But the proposed development at the corner of Roxbury and Sherman Avenue will get us started.

A meeting of the Plan Commission was held on Wednesday November 18th to consider newly submitted information from the Developer, Joe McCormick. The result of that meeting was that the Plan Commission made a motion to recommend to the Village Board that the proposal be approved as submitted. That motion passed.

There were about 36 people in attendance at the meeting. 19 people registered to speak or submitted a comment at the meeting. 12 of those were opposed to the proposal, 5 were in favor, and 2 spoke for informational purposes. The meeting included a presentation by the developer and his team. After residents made comments, the Plan Commission went into deliberations. There was a motion made as indicated above and the final vote was 5 members in favor of the motion and 1 opposed.

The Plan Commission recommendation now goes to the Village Board for their consideration. As of this writing, I don't know if that proposal will be presented at the December 8th meeting or at the meeting at the January 12th meeting. There may also be a procedural challenge made regarding the need for an advisory referendum but if that happens, I will be sure to let you know.

There continues to be good progress in the construction of the site at 601 N Sherman Avenue. I am not aware of a primary tenant being signed yet for the restaurant site, although an interested group did stop at the Village Center and talked about their interest. In a recent discussion with the Owner/Developer/Contractor, there is some optimism

that tenants will be able to take occupancy in a completed building by May or June.

The Budget was approved at the Village Board meeting in November. There was a considerable positive change to report. First, the amount of property taxes that the Village will need to assess for 2016 is REDUCED by \$14,000!! The news gets even better. There will be an overall reduction in expenses for the Village of almost \$118,000.

The Village is looking at three projects for 2016 including a reconstruction of the Village Tennis Courts at Beach Park. The other projects include safety enhancements with crossing lights at the MBCC Lakewood entrance and, a new safety crossing at the Roxbury/N Sherman intersection. That last project is intended to provide a safe crossing for those walking to the business district.

Finally, the Maple Bluff Country Club construction project is making good progress. The Village continues to work with Club officials to make sure everything is working together well. We are also working with the MBCC on their intention to host the All-City Swim meet in 2017. Joint Committee work has already begun to make sure we are ready for that event!

If you have any questions or comments about any projects taking place around the Village, please be sure to give me a call. Have a great Holiday Season and we will see you in 2016!!

## TIM KRUEGER

*Village Administrator/Police Chief*  
tjkrueger@villageofmaplebluff.org  
244-3048 ext. 111

## OPEN HOUSE

We would like to Congratulate Public Works Crew Foreman Mike Frazier who is set to retire on Friday December 18th. Mike has completed almost 26 years of service to the Village!

If you would like to wish him well, there will be an Open House held at the Maple Bluff Country Club on Friday December 18th from 4p-6p. All are welcome!



## PROPERTY TAX BILL INFORMATION

December 18th, 2015 is the statutory deadline for property tax bills to be mailed. If you have not received your property tax bill by December 20th, please call the Village Center.

Payments can be mailed or dropped off at the Village Center, 18 Oxford Place, Madison, WI 53704. Office hours are 7:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. The office will be closed on December 24th & 25th and January 1st. There is a payment box located in the vestibule of the Village Center if you are dropping off a payment after hours.

First installment payments are due by January 31, 2016 to the Village of Maple Bluff to avoid interest and penalties. Second installments are due to Dane County by July 31, 2016. If you want to include your property tax payment on your 2015 income taxes, that payment needs to be made on or before December 31, 2015. Please include the bottom portion of your tax bill when making payment.

## DOG AND CAT LICENSING

The Village of Maple Bluff requires licensing of all dogs and cats kept within the village. Licenses will be available for purchase beginning December 18th and are valid for the 2016 calendar year. The cost is \$12.50 for spayed or neutered pets and \$18.50 for un-spayed or un-neutered pets. You will also need to provide a copy of your pet's current rabies vaccination, with expiration date, when obtaining a license.

## EMPLOYEE GIFT GIVING POLICY

The Village of Maple Bluff has an established policy regarding the acceptance of gifts by village employees. Over the years, village residents have been generous over the holidays in expressing their thanks for the hard work of our employees throughout the year. In light of potential liabilities stemming from the acceptance of certain types of gifts, restrictions are placed on what gifts employees may accept. The policy directly prohibits any village employee from directly accepting alcoholic beverages and or receiving monetary gifts from village residents.

After the holiday season, a party is held for all village employees in appreciation of their hard work. Residents who wish to contribute to the village employee holiday party are asked to direct their gifts to the Clerk/Treasurer to ensure that the gifts can be shared equally by all employees. All gift money collected will be used to pay for the holiday party. A sincere Thank You to those who have contributed to date. The employees of the Village of Maple Bluff take pride in their work and thank residents for their cooperation and support throughout the year.

I'm writing this the week before Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday. I like the simplicity of it, the spirit of hope and sharing epitomized by the original event it commemorates—and, of course, the turkey dinner and all the trappings. I even like the sometimes heated political or sports debate I inevitably get in with a sibling, in-law or friend. Those always happen before dinner, and are ultimately subdued by tryptophan, good cheer and the often unsaid understanding that we agree on more things than not.

Though we could have used some food and drink at last Wednesday's almost four-hour Plan Commission meeting, I did leave it feeling more positive about our community than not. Not everyone—not even those of us on the Plan Commission—agreed on the proposal we were considering. But the overall process was inclusive and respectful. That's not true in all communities or governments, so I think it's just one more thing that needs to be acknowledged and celebrated about Maple Bluff.

As I mentioned in the meeting and in personal conversations before and after, if people want more influence on Village government, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Volunteer for a committee, run for the Village board or even have more conversations with trustees and staff about issues that concern you. Let's just remember to say thanks to each other for caring enough to speak up.

**JIM SCHULER**  
*Village President*

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It looks and feels like the middle of November as I work the keyboard in my office cubical for this newsletter article. Maybe it's time to turn the heater on...the unseasonably warm fall will require a quick acclimation to what winter can and likely will provide. The signature gusty winds on the back side of a large low pressure system provides for a classic start to the season ahead.

Speaking of the changing season, or more appropriately the changing of the guard, Mike Frazier will be retiring from Maple Bluff's Department of Public Works at the end of the year. It was May of 1990 that Mike started his 25+ years of dedicated service to the Village. His strong work ethic and easy going mannerism, along with the talent and skillsets he possesses, has served the Village well. I feel fortunate in having worked with Mike the past 24 years and having his friendship since we were kids. We will be hiring to fill the vacancy, but there will be no way that we can replace Mike. He will be missed by us all. Keep an eye out for an open house invitation on Mikes last day of "work" to wish him well on his future endeavors.

Yard waste and leaf collection should be at an end for this year. I would like to thank all of you who embraced the proper procedure for placement of brush and yard waste for collection by utilizing your terrace and not the street. I will continue providing encouragement to village residents to be good stewards of our lake systems and not place yard waste in the street where rain flow directs organic nutrients directly into Lake

Mendota. For those who ignore or choose not to comply...turn a new leaf and be a little greener.

Winter weather is here or on its way, be prepared for the unexpected. The weather forecasts are better than ever, but just a few degrees can make for treacherous roadway conditions. Keep in mind that there are enough drivers that forget, or cannot drive in snowy or icy conditions; especially the first one. If you can avoid driving in bad conditions, do so. Maybe leave work early and beat the rush/slush hour. Please give snowplow operators plenty of room, and slow down when conditions warrant!

The snow from your driveway and sidewalks should remain on your property; not in the road or across the street on your neighbor's terrace or parkway. This is often done by contractors that do not take the time to do a clean and courteous job. I still say that a snow blower does the best on driveways, because of the control you have to get the snow away from the driveway edge. Please allow us the time to clear the entire roadway from edge to edge before clearing out aprons and mailboxes. We are an equal opportunity snow plow operation...everybody gets some. Hopefully we have enough winter to satisfy you and yours; I vote for light and mild.

Warm wishes to all of you this Holiday Season!  
Call us with your questions and concerns.

## 2016-Maple Bluff Recycle

(Trash pick-up is in yellow, Recycle dates are circled)

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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31						

February						
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29	30	31				

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July						
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30	31					

November						
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27	28	29	30			

December						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Nourishing the soul for  
the past 10 years**

*Thank  
you!*



**The next 10 starts now,  
come celebrate!**



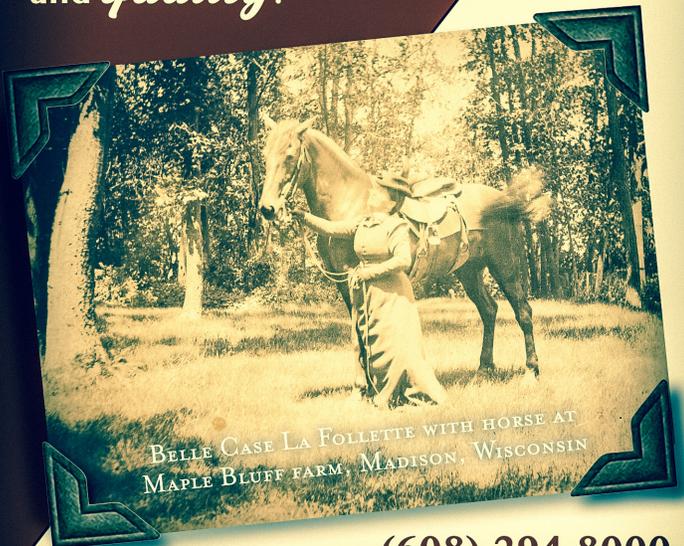
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**PROGRAMS**

**EFK: MINECRAFT**

Dates: 12/28-12/30 | Time: 9:00am-12:00pm  
Location: Warren Dailey Cabin  
Age: 7-12 | Fee: \$110.00

Join us in an apocalyptic future, one where the earth has been ravaged by a series of natural disasters. Each day, students rely on the engineering design process to solve a series of challenges such as building a city on a series of islands, escaping from a bunker on Mt. Everest, and even building a rocket to land on the moon! Through application of engineering principles, students solve numerous challenges as they make their virtual world of Minecraft a safe place for humanity once again.

**EFK: ROBOTICS**

Dates: 12/28-12/30 | Time: 1:00pm-3:30pm  
Location: Warren Dailey Cabin  
Age: 7-12 | Fee: \$95.00

During the LEGO® Robotics Olympics classes, students design and program robots to compete in simulated Olympic events such as a sprinting in a race, throwing a basketball, and shooting a puck into a hockey goal. Students use LEGO® Robotics and computers to learn principles of robotics, computer programming, and teamwork.

**CANDLELIGHT YOGA**

Dates: Wednesdays 1/6-2/24 | Time: 7:00pm-7:45pm  
Location: Village Center 2nd Floor  
Age: 12+ | Fee: \$56.00

Escape from your day and enjoy the tranquility of Candlelight Yoga with a blend of stretching, gentle flow and restorative poses with a focus on relaxing and melting the stress away. All levels welcome. Wear something comfortable and enjoy the benefits of letting go.

**WINTER ARCHERY**

Dates: Wednesdays 12/2-2/3 | Time: 4:20pm-5:20pm  
Location: Gym  
Ages: 8-15 | Fee: \$43.00

Learn how to shoot crossbows and compound bows while playing fun, competitive games. The last two weeks will be competition based using the skills learned for prizes. This program will skip 12/23 & 12/30.

**TRIP: CASCADE MOUNTAIN SKI/SNOWBOARD**

Date: Monday, January 18 | Time: 8:30am-5:30pm  
Location: Pick up at Village Center  
Ages: 8-15 | Fee: \$55.00

Hey kids, join the Monona, Cottage Grove & Maple Bluff Recreation Departments for an awesome day or night of shredding down the slopes of Cascade Mountain. Enjoy the mountain on your skis or snowboard. There will be a separate waiver form that all parents must sign before their child can get on the bus.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Maple Bluff Fire Rescue Association will be hosting their 10th Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 13, 2015 from 8:00am-11:30 at the Village Center Gymnasium. Visit us and enjoy all you can eat pancakes, bacon, sausage, and eggs for a suggested donation of only \$7.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you there.



**Pancake Breakfast**  
**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Maple Bluff Firehouse ~ 18 Oxford Place

- All you can eat pancakes, bacon, sausage, and eggs-
- Coffee, Orange Juice, Milk-
- Suggested Donation of \$7.00

- Meet your local firefighters & EMTs-
- Firehouse Tours ~ Fire Safety Information-

[www.mapleblufffire.com](http://www.mapleblufffire.com)

## FURNACES/CHIMNEYS

If you haven't already done so, now is an excellent time to schedule an inspection of your furnace and fireplace/chimney. Inspections are important to ensure these items are operating properly. A fireplace inspection is important to make sure the chimney doesn't have blockage, creosote buildup, or cracks. Creosote buildup could cause a chimney fire, and cracks in the lining could allow heat or smoke/dangerous gases to find their way into your home.

**KRISTOPHER LOY, Fire Chief**

(608) 244-3390 or [kloy@villageofmaplebluff.com](mailto:kloy@villageofmaplebluff.com)

## KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR

Winter is here! Please lend a hand to the Maple Bluff Fire Rescue Department by clearing the snow from the fire hydrant(s) near your home after each snowstorm. You could be helping your family and your neighbors at the same time. Seconds count when we respond to a fire, so having the snow cleared from around fire hydrants drastically reduces the amount of time it takes for one of our firefighters to hook up equipment to a hydrant when responding to a fire in your neighborhood.

There's an incentive again this year. E-mail the MBFD a photo of you and/or your little helpers clearing the snow from a hydrant and you'll be entered to win fire safety items throughout the winter months. Spread the word. Send an email with the Subject "Keeping Hydrants Clear" to Chief Kristopher Loy at [kloy@villageofmaplebluff.com](mailto:kloy@villageofmaplebluff.com) with a photo of you clearing the snow from a hydrant and you'll be automatically entered to win. You can also "Like" us on Facebook and tag us in your photo(s) to enter.



**KEEP THEM CLEAR**

If there's a fire hydrant near your house, do your part to keep it accessible this winter:

3 ft. 3 ft.

**CLEAR-AWAY ZONE**

- Remove any snow and ice
- Clear a wide enough perimeter around the hydrant for firefighters to work (about 3 feet)
- Clear a path from hydrant to street



### NEED HELP? CONTACT US :)

My name is Z'varian, I'm 12 years old and my brother Jazierre (10) and I, would like to do things for the community such as dog walking, leaf raking, yard work and snow shoveling. Prices are negotiable. You can contact us through e-mail or phone.

Zvarian11@icloud.com | (779)-770-0021



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### RSVP of Dane County

*...where volunteers make a difference*

Dear Friends of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program:

Driver Services is celebrating 40 years of volunteer drivers providing transportation to Dane County seniors and veterans free of charge! Volunteers are the reason this program succeeds. Every year, there are more requests from passengers, and we need to find more drivers to match that need.

Will you help us spread the word by printing off a few copies of the enclosed poster (link below) and asking businesses or professional offices you frequent to post it? Many hands make light work and, hopefully, will translate into more drivers behind the wheel for RSVP passengers!

<http://files.ctctcdn.com/b655b334201/bf8aa2f0-cd48-4a9a-ac39-3525721e4122.pdf>

Your help means the world to people without transportation.



Sincerely,

Mary Schmelzer | Driver Services Volunteer Recruiter

We had 16 real estate sales from \$300K to \$2M in Maple Bluff this year. Don't get left out in the cold, call us when it's time to move.

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