

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS** 

September 2020



## Welcome \$\mathref{S}\$

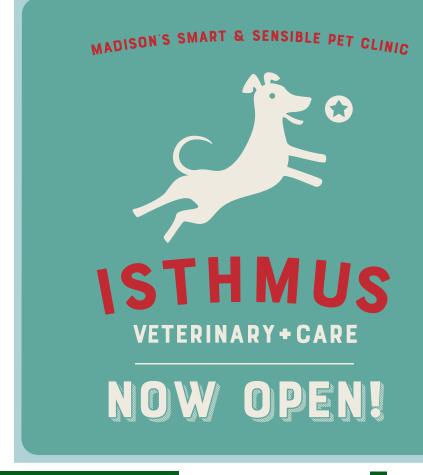
Calendar of	Events
September	
7	Labor Day
8	Village/Building Board Meeting
October	
13	Village/Building Board Meeting
31	Halloween
November	
1	Daylight Savings
3	General Election
10	Village/Building Board Meeting
26	Thanksgiving
December	
8	Village/Building Board Meeting
11	Hanukkah
25	Christmas

### Trash/Recycling

Trash pick up is shaded, recycling dates are circled

September								October								November							
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20	21	22	23)	24	25	26	18	19	20	(21)	22	23	24		22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30							

Village Board
President Timothy O'Brien444-7564
Trustee Kevin O'Driscoll298-7102
Trustee Patrick Grant217-1815
<b>Trustee</b> Kristine Jaeger217-1919
Trustee Eric McLeod244-1371
<b>Trustee</b> Jim Schuler249-1696
<b>Trustee</b> Carl Vieth
Village Departments
Administrator/Police Chief Tanner Nystrom244-3048
Clerk/Treasurer Sarah Danz244-3048
Deputy Clerk/Clerk of Court Rene Dopkins244-3069
Rec. Dir./Deputy Treasurer Curt Erickson230-7655
<b>Police</b> 244-1430
Public Works244-3048
Fire & Rescue244-3390





## 农 Village Administrator

## I Couldn't be Prouder of Our Team!

September is upon us and it has certainly been a busy summer for our team! Our Recreation Department remained persistent in providing programming and access to our facilities despite the ever-changing environment of public health expectations. Our Public Works crew repeatedly responded to new protocols and staffing limitations while maintaining the highest standards of service they are known for. Our Administrative team demonstrated exceptional flexibility and positivity by willingly assuming new work routines and processes to ensure our residents maintain access to local government. Our Fire Department consistently adapted to dramatic fluctuations in service needs while simultaneously addressing the public health challenges of our facility, staff, and residents. And our Police Officers showed grit and perseverance while working extended hours, training new team members, and assisting partner agencies during a time of significant social challenges. I couldn't be prouder of how our team responded to the numerous challenges and continue to help maintain our community!

I would also like to publicly thank our elected officials and citizen committee members for their service. Just as our staff have responded with grace to the complex environment this summer, our elected officials have been selfless with their time to help plan, coordinate, and lead the community towards improvement. In addition to our Village Board and Building Board, which meet monthly, this summer has required activity from our Plan Commission, Finance Committee, Fire & EMS Committee, Police Commission, Country Club Joint Committee, and Parks & Recreation & Harbor Commissioners. Residents have also assisted a number of our internal working groups, which help focus our efforts on exemplary public services and responsible governance. We sincerely appreciate all of the time and energy our residents contribute to improve the experience and value of Maple Bluff. The teamwork between our staff, elected officials, and citizens is foundational for us to pursue our vision: We will honor our identity by remaining an independent and distinguished lakeside community that continuously enhances the lives of our residents through unparalleled service, exceptional care, ubiquitous protection, and consistent engagement.

I think it is important for me to address the growing number of resident concerns I receive about our police department staffing levels and community safety. I want you to know that we are taking steps to mitigate the staffing issue, but the bottom line is that our department needs more full-time officers. There has been an undeniable increase in serious crime and notable tragic incidents in surrounding neighborhoods. The increase



in crime and violence leaves me concerned about the potential impact to our residents, not to mention our officer's safety as they patrol our community alone. We continue to hire and train part-time officers to assist our small full-time cadre, but financial realities will continue to limit our abilities in 2020. I hope we are able to make a meaningful change to this situation for next year. Until then, our team will continue to do everything within our authority and ability to keep the community safe, deter criminal activity, and enforce violations. We remain focused and truly appreciate the overwhelming support we have received this summer.

Thank you once again for your patience and support! Please continue to engage me with your questions and comments – your feedback is essential for our team's success and we value your contributions.

Sincerely,

Tanner A. Nystrom



## Time to Invest in Maple Bluff By: Tim O'Brien, Village President



The Village of Maple Bluff Board is asking residents to consider an incremental investment in our community on the November 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot that would raise the village's taxing authority. Historically, Maple Bluff has provided high quality public services while being fiscally responsible. Today, the

village is faced with rising costs, restrictive levy limits, and depleted capital reserves. Without an increase in funding, Maple Bluff will be forced to make severe cuts to critical public services that you, as residents of our community, need to be aware of as you prepare to vote.

As background information, 70% of your property tax goes to fund the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), Madison Area Technical College (MATC), and Dane County while only 30% goes directly to support the Village of Maple Bluff. Presently, the Village of Maple Bluff provides higher quality public services at tax rates that are below, or near, those of our surrounding communities, including Madison.

However, Wisconsin state tax levy limits have severely restricted our revenues which haven't kept up with the rising cost of providing these services. Maple Bluff can't increase our revenues through growth like many communities because our village doesn't have undeveloped land to improve, which could raise the tax base. The village must rely on tax levy increases for any revenue additions to help keep up with rising costs, but revenues have fallen below inflation since 2004. Over the last decade, the Village Board has used all the fiscal tools at our disposal to meet our obligations while maintaining service levels. This year, the village board realized we can no longer meet current service needs with expected revenues and had to make some tough decisions.

To meet next year's budget and future budgets, the Village Board identified three options: 1) increase our tax levy through a referendum and maintain service levels; 2) raise debt and kick the financial consequences down the road; or 3) severely cut services to match our current revenues. The Village Board chose to seek a levy increase instead of elevating debt levels or severely reducing services.

We're asking to increase Maple Bluff's taxing authority so the village can provide our staff with the tools they need to meet today's challenges. Benefits to the village include fully staffed protective services (police, fire, and EMS) especially during high activity times, filling operational funding shortfalls, along with remaining competitive on staff wages and benefits. We have an outstanding team and they deserve to be compensated at market rates. These changes will help Maple Bluff maintain quality public services while being fiscally responsible.



We didn't come to this levy increase request lightly. The village staff and board has laid out a detailed plan on the proposed use of funds. Important parts of this plan were approved separately and unanimously by the Police Committee, Fire and EMS Committee, and Finance Committee. Finally, the entire Village Board voted unanimously in favor of the entire referendum.

If approved, the village tax levy would increase revenues by \$862,409. After factoring in the impact of lower village debt payments the increase would be \$695,517 for the 2021 budget. As a reference, a home valued at \$500,000 would see an annual tax increase of \$740, beginning with the tax bill issued in December 2020.

Between now and the November ballot we will have numerous communications about the details behind the referendum including two village town hall meetings. Also, several informational documents including a detailed outline of the proposed uses of the new funds are available on the village website <a href="www.villageofma-plebluff.com">www.villageofma-plebluff.com</a>. I encourage you to learn more about referendum and its importance to the future of our village.



## When is it too much! By: Tom Schroeder, Public Works Director

The year of 2020 is full of extremes...a global pandemic the likes never seen before in our lifetime. A worldwide race for a cure.... a new normal that will likely retain social distancing and masks. Definitely too much, yet this journey has a long way to go.

The civil unrest our state and country are experiencing is beyond my platform here...these are serious and dangerous times; stay healthy and be safe.

Your Public Works Department endeavors to provide an effective yet efficient array of services that are equitable and sustainable. We provide weekly curbside collections for the entire village throughout the year. We also maintain streets/parks/storm/sanitary/water systems. We have great equipment to perform our maintenance quests that we also take care of. This is a physically demanding job. We take pride in what we accomplish. We try to find a way to say yes rather than no when requests are voiced. As much as we do and as much as we try, there are times when it is beyond our service parameters. We have guidelines that we provide from time to time that are simply practical in nature. Then there are guidelines that are written in the Maple Bluff Code. We are looking for voluntary compliance from all of our residents so that you get the services provided to you in a timely fashion. An example of a requested guideline is to place yard waste away from poles/hydrants/mailbox/trees/parked cars or equipment. This allows us to have access and safely handle the materials. Failure to follow this guideline may delay or prevent the collection. An example of guidelines that are found in the village code:

### 186-2. Recycling required.

A. Except as provided in 186-3B hereafter, all recycle material shall be separated from other solid waste, grouped together and placed in a separate container provided by the collector for collection.

186-4. Preparation of solid waste for collection.

A. No container or bag placed for collection shall exceed 30 gallons in capacity or 50 pounds in weight.

B. All rubbish placed for collection shall be placed in suitable containers of not more than 30 gallons in capacity or 50 pounds in weight.

For recycling, the code is telling us that recycling is mandatory and that the material needs to fit in the container. It cannot be hanging or dangling out of the top of the container and then be an issue during the collection of the material. It also cannot be on the ground unless there is a prior arrangement between the resident and the collector for a hand collection.



As for the waste container it is telling us that the size of the trash can is not to be larger than 30 gallons and that it is not to be heavier than 50 pounds when loaded. There are several residents that do not comply with this code due to having too large of trash container that then lends itself to having too much weight once loaded. For instance, the 96-gallon cart weighs 40 pounds empty and the capacity to hold 200 pounds; the 64-gallon cart weighs 28 pounds and the capacity to hold 130 lbs.

We tip trash cans with manual labor.

If the job is large you should consider a dumpster. The village has 50-pound limits on project materials. Are you remodeling? Consider a dumpster. Are you landscaping? Consider a dumpster.

The village is a small community and does not have the capacity to have drop off for trash/recycle/yard waste.

Call with your questions and concerns.







## Only 15 Golf Memberships Remaining!

Maple Bluff Country Club is second to none, and the safety of our members and staff is our top priority.

With only 15 golf memberships remaining, don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the splendor of the Club's beautiful golf course, newly-renovated clubhouse, pool complex and tennis courts, and stay active in the fall and winter with our golf simulator, paddle tennis and workout facilities. Please contact Membership Director, Jennifer Malloy, by emailing jenniferp@mbcc1899.com for more information on our exciting membership offer!











# The Only Place In Dane County Where You Can Play Paddle Tennis!

We are excited to offer you this unique opportunity to play Paddle Tennis on the only courts in Dane County. Enjoy two state-of-the-art paddle tennis courts as well as a newly-constructed warming hut. Please contact Membership Director. Jennifer Malloy, by emailing jenniferp@mbcc1899.com to learn more!





## It Has Been a Busy Month

By: Patrick Grant, Parks & Recreation Chair

Public works has cleared the old structures on Firemen's and McBride park. The new play structures are ordered and we are on track for a community build in early October. More information will be emailed out mid-September. Hopefully the good weather will continue and families will be able to use it well into the fall.

Johnson park concept plan is currently under development. We are working with our Park Architect to best utilize the park and provide new facilities for all to enjoy. We expect the plans to be ready for the November parks meeting and at that meeting we will be discussing options for a public feedback session, similar to sessions held for Firemen's and Beach park.

A number of new after school programs have been added this fall, from robotics to fencing to goofy sports... As options for in-person activities remain minimal, I am thankful that the village has found a way to safely hold activities and boost social connections. Contact Curt Erickson for more information.

Thanks for your continued support of the Parks and Rec programs.

## Firemen's & McBride Park Playground

Firemen's Park and McBride Park playgrounds coming soon...

The Village's Parks and Recreation Committee, Building Board and Village Board unanimously approved new playgrounds be added to Firemen's Park and McBride Park this fall. Removal of existing playgrounds and site prep began in August. Installation for both playgrounds will be Monday, October 7 – Wednesday October 9. Volunteers will be needed to make these projects successful. Volunteer duties may include the following: unloading the semi, unwrapping equipment, assembly of the equipment, setting decks, slides and other pieces of heavy equipment, installing borders and spreading the wood chip surfacing.

## **Parks**

The annual Beach Bash and Bocce tournament was unfortunately canceled due to COVID-19, however, a progressive Bocce tournament was held throughout the month of August. Thirteen couples competed for a chance to stake their claim as the 2020 Bocce Champion. A new champion will be crowned around Labor Day Weekend.

#### Marina

The summer lease term will end on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Please line up your winter storage options to remove your boat/trailer from its assigned space. If you are in need of winter storage, please contact Curt Erickson for more information.

## Programs Session 1-Register by September 8th

\*\*Please note time change from Village-wide email to accommodate those kids who are attending in-person classes

#### Music Together Madtown

What? A ten week Music Together® class, including ten, weekly pre-recorded 15 minute classes and ten 30 minute Zoom classes with Krystal.

When? Pre-recorded classes will be sent to you via email, weekly. Krystal's Zoom class will be Fridays at 10:30am.

**Who?** Parents, nannies, grandparents and their beautiful children! Music Together is designed to engage children birth through Kindergarten. We welcome older siblings to participate as well!

**Dates?** The first Zoom class will be held September 11th and the semester will end November 13th.

What comes with my class? Families who register and pay will be sent a picture and music book that corresponds with the music of the semester. Each family will also be sent a CD and a download code to access your music via your phone/computer. In addition, each family will receive a beautiful ombre scarf to enjoy while music making or in everyday play!

**Price?** \$145 per family, regardless of the number of children in the family.

**Who?** Krystal is a passionate young child educator... see more about her here: <a href="https://www.musictogether-madtown.com/teachers.aspx">https://www.musictogether-madtown.com/teachers.aspx</a>

How? Register here: <a href="https://www.musictogethermadtown.com">https://www.musictogethermadtown.com</a> (Yes, we changed our name...now Music Together Madtown!) Your music materials will be sent to you as soon as we receive a paid registration.

#### Want to try it out first?

Try a free Zoom demo class with Krystal September 4th @ 10:30am...register by emailing: MusicTogetherMadtown@gmail.com

Happy music making! Catherine, Krystal & Julie www.MusicTogetherMadtown.com

## Parks & Recreation &

## **Programs Cont.**

Soccer

Dates: 9/15 – 10/20 Days: Tuesdays

\*\*Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm Location: Beach Park

Fee: \$65.00 Ages: 5 – 9



Get outside and get kickin! We teach the fundamentals of dribbling, passing, receiving and scoring. Emphasis is on teamwork, fundamentals, safety and fast-paced action. Get your pulse pounding today. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be postponed or relocated.

Coding

Dates: 9/15 – 10/20 Days: Tuesdays

Time: 4:45pm – 5:45pm Location: Beach House

Fee: \$71.00 Ages: 7 – 12

STEM Coding Enrichment for the 21st Century learner. Each Coding class follows four basic components: Teach It – students learn different story-telling and coding techniques, Code It – students use Scratch to code their own animated story lines, Explore It – students can write their own code, experiment with it and test new options. We foster a collaborative environment where students learn from each other's creativity, Keep It – students can keep their code online with Scratch and can access it and expand upon it at anytime.

Brick Builders
Dates: 9/14 – 10/19
Days: Mondays

\*\*Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm Location: Beach House

Fee: \$71.00 Ages: 6 – 12

Build a catapult, dragster and balancing beam using LEGO bricks. Use these brick models to explore STEM concepts. The Teach It, Practice It...Play It method engages students to create and innovate.

Robotics 2.0 Dates: 9/18 – 10/23 Days: Fridays

\*\*Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm Location: Beach House

Fee: \$71.00 Ages: 6 – 12

The next evolution in youth robotics is here! Build a seeing-sensing robot using LEGO bricks, then program it to complete unique tasks and challenges. Next, design and build an alarm sensor that warns people of upcoming earthquakes! Students learn basic engineering and computer coding concepts; build multiple LEGO brick projects; explore how the projects and programming complement each other; and play with different building and programming options.

Goofy Sports
Dates: 9/16 – 10/21
Days: Wednesdays
\*\*Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Location: Beach House

Fee: \$65.00 Ages: 6 – 10

Stay active and get silly this Fall in the {YEL!} Goofy Sports Camp. What's so goofy about it? Day One: Goofy Golf - students play "golf" using tennis racquets and balls, a soccer ball, a hula hoop, etc. Day Two: Goofy Trick Shots - students try trick shots using frisbees, trick footballs, and more. Day Three: Goofy Soccer - Students play soccer, but with a hula hoop, bean bags, etc. Day Four: Goofy Olympic Decathlon - An Olympic type decathlon, but wackier.

Fencing

Dates: 10/27 - 12/8 (no class 11/24)

Days: Tuesdays

\*\*Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm Location: Beach House

Fee: \$80.00 Ages: 7 – 12



Each fencing class follows four basic components: Teach It – hall of fame Olympic fencing coach Ro Sobalvarro creates lessons and curriculum, Practice It – students pair up and practice fencing move or concept, rotate partners and repeat, Move It – students then participate in fencing matches using only the moves taught so far and Play It – 10 - 15 minutes each class students fence with multiple fencers at their skill level. All equipment is provided.

## **Programs Cont.**

Cycling September
Time: Anytime that works

in your schedule Fee: \$15.00

Dates: Month of September

Ages: Any



In conjunction with the nationwide cycle September event, Maple Bluff is challenging everyone to cycle at least 100 miles. Entry into the program is \$15.00 and will include a Maple Bluff water bottle for your bike. Once registered, you'll receive an invitation to join "Love to Ride" which can be linked to Facebook, Strava and other apps.

- 1. Before participating in a physical fitness program, you should consult your health care provider for guidance if you have not previously done so.
- 2. By participating in the challenge program, you should not over exert your physical capabilities.
- 3. Immediately cease exercise in the event that you feel lightheaded, shortness of breath, nauseous, etc. and you should seek medical attention if necessary.
- 4. Participation in the challenge is done at your own risk.

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## Programs Session 2-Register by October 20th

Magic

Dates: 10/28 – 12/9 (no class 11/25)

Days: Wednesdays

\*\*Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm Location: Beach House

Fee: \$71.00 Ages: 6 – 9



Amaze your family and friends with prestidigitation and legerdemain (magic tricks...that is). Students will learn how to master and perform multiple magic tricks each day and take home items to showcase tricks to family and friends. The YEL! Magic class is crafted for fun, inclusion and applause for all magicians.

**Beginner Guitar Lessons** 

Dates: 10/29 - 12/10 (No class on 11/26)

Days: Thursdays

\*\*Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm Location: Beach House

Fee: \$75.00 Ages: 8 – 12



Join this dynamic course to learn a dynamite instrument! All YEL guitar classes follow our basic components of Teach It – learn the basics of music including reading music, rhythm, melody and meter, Practice It – students will be provided musical exercises to reinforce basic concepts, Play It – players will learn basic songs in various styles and there will be a mini-recital at the end of the session (Parents are invited to attend). Participants will be required to provide their own 6-string guitar.

Spanish Lessons Dates: 10/1 – 11/19 Days: Thursdays

Time: 3:30pm – 4:00pm Location: Dailey Cabin

Fee: \$105.00 Ages: 5 – 7

Your child will learn through games, music, dancing and play acting that will lead to understanding and speaking basic words, sentences and ideas in Spanish. We will use the same tools we had when we learned our own native language: meaningful, agerelevance experiences and interactions.

Numbers, colors, introductions, letters, basic ideas, conversations and sentences are learned and understood while having a very focused simi-immersion and fun environment. This approach to Spanish aims to have kids learn Spanish while also learning to love learning and communicating in Spanish.













willy street co op



SEPTEMBER IS

## Eat Local Month

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## Introducing our newest Police Officer! By: Sgt. Kyle Dabbs

I am excited to introduce the newest member of the Maple Bluff Police Department, Officer Yee Thao. Officer Thao was hired as a police officer in April, which started his in-depth field training program. Any police officer starting their career with the village is required to successfully complete this program, before they are allowed to patrol without a senior field training officer with them. As the supervisor of the field training program, I require our officers to demonstrate they can perform the essential duties of the position and are incorporating our core values of integrity, compassion, trust, and dedication. It is of the utmost importance that our agency continues to recruit individuals who can meet our required standards and help propel our entire team towards constant improvement. Officer Thao has demonstrated through his on-the-job performance that he is not only capable of performing these tasks, but has exceeded our expectations on several occasions.

During the last week of his field training, Officer Thao experienced a number of contacts that I would like to share for your awareness. On one night, Officer Thao was among the first officers on scene to a victim who suffered a gunshot wound to his upper torso on Sheridan Drive near Woodward Drive. Officer Thao handled himself with composure and professionalism throughout the event. The victim survived but Officer Thao's experience reaffirms how important our training is. The unfortunate result of gun violence often ends with serious and sometimes life threating wounds. In July, an individual suffering from a gunshot wound was brought by vehicle into Maple Bluff when they observed the Maple Bluff Police and Fire Department in the 400 block of N. Sherman Avenue. The victim in that case succumbed to his injuries, despite the life-saving efforts of the first responders on scene.

On the same night that he responded to the gunshot wound victim, Officer Thao also responded to an active disturbance on Roth Street where a suspect used a hatchet to attack and injure a victim. Officer Thao,



along with the other officers, quickly arrived on-scene and were able to confront the suspect. They took him into custody without injury to the suspect or any of the officers on scene. Again, Officer Thao's ability to remain calm and address the dynamic challenges of this situation instills confidence.

That same week, Officer Thao was the primary officer involved in a short vehicle pursuit with a stolen automobile. We have seen a significant rise in stolen vehicles during the past few years and our department continues to deter vehicle theft to the best of our ability through presence, proactive contacts, and responsible pursuit behaviors. Officer Thao showed appropriate assertiveness when confronting a stolen vehicle, while also demonstrating necessary restraint by terminating the pursuit.

These situations along with many others have given us the opportunity to make sure Officer Thao can properly handle the varying degree of patrol contacts that he will be expected to deal with in the future. I am proud of his hard work and dedication as a police officer and look forward to him being a valued member of our agency for many years to come. If you see Officer Thao on patrol, please do not hesitate to introduce yourself and welcome him as our newest addition to the Maple Bluff Police Department.

## Voting – Flyers, Postcards and Text Messages



Several private organizations are sending flyers, postcards and even text messages to encourage voters to register and request absentee ballots. These requests can cause confusion for voters who have already registered and/or requested an absentee ballot. There is also an assumption that these are coming from your local or state government, which is not true in most cases. These organizations do not know if you are registered or have already requested a ballot. You can verify your registration and absentee ballot status at Myvote.wi.gov. If you have questions regarding anything election related, please call the Village Center at 608-244-3048.





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