

VILLAGE OF FALL CREEK

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Village of Fall Creek Newsletter

Winter 2021



BOARD MEMBER CORNER

2021 Highlights From Village President Tim Raap

VILLAGE STAFF

This year was the first full year with the Village's hybrid position of Village Administrator/Public Works Director. The Village is lucky to have Jared McKee as the first employee to fill this position. He is a great pioneer for the position and its continuing development. The Village also welcomed Colin Mumford as the new Village Police Chief. Colin is off to a great start making changes and improvements he feels are needed for his department to provide quality police services for the Village. Colin is also doing a great job of getting out

and getting to know the Village community. If you get a chance, please stop in to greet and give thanks to Jared, Colin and all of the other fantastic Village Staff.

VILLAGE BOARD

One of the big changes for the Village Board was restructuring the Board's standing committees by reducing them to three. The desire was to further leverage committees to discuss Board business in more detail and reduce the number of meetings to allow a tighter focus on those discussions. Below are some of the year-end highlights for the Board appropriately grouped under these new committees.

Community Relations, Recreation & Health Committee

Communication - A point of emphasis for this committee and the entire Board was improved and effective communication. As a part of that emphasis a new survey tool was used to gather feedback on two key topics. Thanks to all who participated in the surveys as this provides us valuable feedback.

Outdoor Recreation Plan - We used your responses from one such survey to tailor and prioritize elements of the Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan is instrumental in the decision making process for the Village's parks and other recreational amenities. The plan also broadens the Village's eligibility for grants that can be used on future improvements for the parks and amenities.

Youth Ball Field - The Village Board has been approached by the Fall Creek Youth Sports Association about the possibility of an additional youth ballfield. This continues to be researched and hopefully progress can be made to meet the needs of our community.

Pond Restoration - A pond management plan has been completed and the first major initiative of the plan has begun — dredging a sediment trap. Thanks to the Pond Restoration Citizen Advisory Group and other citizens for all your contributions to put the pond management plan into action. The Village is dedicated to actively improving the pond now and in the future.

Finance, Personnel & Economic Development Committee

Bequeath Money Received – The Village was the generous recipient of approximately \$90,000 in bequeath money from the estates of Amandus Ziemann and Robert Ziemann. Per their instructions, this money will be used for capital improvements. The committee has been working on ideas and the possibility of grant money to add to these funds to enable a more impactful project.

TID - The Village's Tax Increment District saw a new business this past year. The Village welcomes H&S Fence to the industrial park!

Economic Development - The Village Board continues to make it a priority to pursue economic growth for both commercial and residential. A balanced portfolio of commercial and residential properties is essential to keeping our community strong and in supporting economies of scale for Village utilities. Zoning ordinance updates are being researched to align with current development trends. The Village purchased 80 acres off Randall Road in the hopes of advancing residential development per the Village's Comprehensive Plan and continues to pursue the next steps for this appealing property.

Public Works, Public Safety & Property Committee

This committee has been working on providing more clarity in the Village ordinances regarding such things as parking, public nuisances and disorderly property. Another very huge topic has been analyzing the possibility of accepting septage at the wastewater treatment plant as another source of revenue. Several experts were brought in to help assess the pros and cons. A decision will be made by the Village Board in the near future.



Join in the fun with the first annual Light Up Fall Creek contest. Visit the library's website: fallcreekpubliclibrary.org for info. Vote for the best in both residential & business categories.

Winners will be announced on Dec 22nd.

Proceeds go toward holiday lights in Memorial Park. Also, Randall Park is hosting the FC Public Library Story Walk featuring the story "Pick a Pine Tree" by Patricia Toht. Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who worked together to help "Light Up Fall Creek!"

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN



Saturday,
December
4th from
10AM-1PM
at the Fall
Creek Fire
Hall

Free prizes, candy & fruit bags, hot cocoa & cookies!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday, December 4th from
9AM-2PM

Fall Creek Fire Hall

Coffee & Sweets 9AM

Lunch served 10:30AM-1:30PM

Sale items include baked goods, cookies, lefse, crafts, jewelry, rugs, books, and more!

For information call 715-563-0043

Masks are preferred





UPCOMING EVENTS

- DEC 4 Christmas Fair 9AM-2PM @ Fire Station
 6 FC Public Library Board Meeting 6PM
 7 Play 'N Learn 9:30-10:45AM
 13 FC Village Board Meeting 6:30PM
 21 Play 'N Learn 9:30-10:45AM
 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
 28 Home School Club-1PM FC Public Library
- JAN 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
 3 FC Public Library Board Meeting 6PM
 10 Village Board Meeting 6:30PM
 18 Play 'N Learn 9:30-10:45AM
 25 Play 'N Learn 9:30-10:45AM
 Home School Club-1PM FC Public Library
- FEB 1 Play 'N Learn 9:30-10:45AM
 7 FC Public Library Board Meeting 6PM
 14 FC Village Board Meeting 6:30PM
 15 ELECTION: Spring Primary (if needed)
 17 Author Visit: Michael Perry 7PM
 @ FC Public Library (registration required)
 22 Home School Club-1PM FC Public Library
- MAR 7 FC Public Library Board Meeting 6PM
 14 FC Village Board Meeting 6:30PM
 29 Home School Club-1PM FC Public Library

Storytime every Wednesday
 @ 10AM - FC Public Library

HOW DO WE COMPARE?

From Administrator/Public Works Director Jared McKee

Each of us knows our individual reasons for calling Fall Creek home: the great school system, the picturesque farming community, the close proximity to services provided in a larger metropolitan area, the good hard-working values, the churches and organizations that exemplify the heart of Fall Creek, etc. The list can go on and on. We are Fall Creek! And we love Fall Creek!

With the many advantages of living in a small community, there also comes challenges, such as the elevated cost of providing services on a small scale. To determine how we compared to other communities, we conducted a survey of 21 like-sized municipalities*, population 1000-3000 in Eau Claire County and the adjoining counties. We compared the average utility bill and the municipal share of property taxes for an average home.

Fall Creek ranks 6 out of 21 as the most affordable place to live. As you may be aware, the cost of **providing water and sewer services to a smaller community is higher than that of a large community.** This is because there are less households to fund high fixed costs such as: wells, water tower and a wastewater treatment plant. Of the 21 municipalities surveyed, 8 other municipalities had an average yearly utility bill within \$100 of Fall Creek. Our water/sewer bill is higher than a large municipality like Eau Claire but falls right in line with municipalities our size. Fall Creek has done a great job of keeping the municipal share of the property taxes down; this offsets the utility costs. State and Federal funding agencies look at median household income when considering the award of financial packages. Their theory is communities that have higher incomes can afford higher utility rates. Of the 21 municipalities surveyed, **Fall Creek has the highest median household income making us least likely to receive state or federal grants** to assist paying for necessary capital costs. **We've done really well to manage ever-increasing costs, while keeping the cost of living down.** FALL CREEK IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!! #wearefallcreek

* Municipalities included in the survey (not listed in order of rank): Abbotsford, Augusta, Blair, Boyceville, Cadott, Colby, Colfax, Cornell, Durand, Fall Creek, Galesville, Greenwood, Independence, Loyal, Mondovi, Neillsville, Osseo, Strum, Thorp, Trempealeau (village), Whitehall.

HIT THE ICE!

Weather permitting, the skating rink at Keller Park will be open in late December. Come down and



FUN FEST

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

FC COMMUNITY CUPBOARD
 704 Kennedy Avenue Fall Creek, WI

The Fall Creek Community Cupboard is a free choice pantry available to anyone living in the Fall Creek School District. It is located at Faith Evangelical Free Church, 704 Kennedy Ave, and is open the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month from 10-1:30AM and 5:30-7PM. The Weekend Backpack Program is also available to all elementary and middle school students. Students receive a bag with breakfast, lunch and snack items to take home on Fridays. Contact the child's classroom teacher to participate.



LET IT SNOW

Winter Parking: There is NO parking on Village streets between midnight and 6AM when there is any measurable snowfall from November 1 through March 31.

Snow Removal: Snow must be removed from all sidewalks within 24 hours of the end of snowfall. Snow must not be blown in the street as it is unsafe, creating difficult driving conditions. Snow should also be cleared from hydrants to ensure quick access in emergency situations.