

## ***From the Desk of the President.....***

***April 2022***

*Cloaked in anticipation, these first days of spring herald a busy summer ahead. This newsletter highlights some special items of interest. I encourage you to take note of what's happening in the village, and reach out to our village trustees and staff as needed for more information or discussion.*

**NOTICE FOR VILLAGE VOTERS RETURNING ABSENTEE BALLOTS** - Village residents using an absentee ballot to vote in the April 5, 2022 election need to be alerted to statewide changes regarding their proper return. Absentee ballots obtained from Clerk Jodi Patoka must either be **MAILED** to the Amherst Village Hall or **HANDED** to the Village Clerk during regular office hours. **ABSENTEE BALLOTS CANNOT BE COUNTED IF LEFT IN THE UTILITY DROP BOX AT THE VILLAGE HALL.** If residents have questions, please contact Jodi at 715-824-5613 or [vilamher@wi-net.com](mailto:vilamher@wi-net.com). On Election Day April 5, the polls at the Village Hall open at 7:00 am and close at 8:00 pm.

**VILLAGE WELL MODIFICATION PLANNING CONTINUES** - The Utilities Committee and village staff continue to work with AECOM to explore the options available to address DNR requirements for well #1. Although well #1 continues to meet testing requirements, its shallow depth now requires additional treatment, and the village is seeking to incorporate this process into this well house facility rather than abandon this well. Plans to increase the pumping capacity of well #2 are under consideration, as well as the potential for iron & manganese removal at well #3 to bring that well on line. The June project submittal to the DNR will be followed up by a fall 2022 submittal to the PSC for project approval and funding applications. Plans will then proceed for the bidding and completion of these modifications.

**VILLAGE TREE BOARD PLANS ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CEREMONY** - 2022 marks the 150th Anniversary of Arbor Day and the 50th anniversary of the Arbor Day Foundation. The Village of Amherst will be celebrating Arbor Day on April 29th with the 5th graders from Amherst Middle School. There will be a presentation by the Village Tree Board and Village Staff, a reading of the 2022 Arbor Day Proclamation by the Village President and participation by the 5th grade students. There will then be tree plantings on the school grounds by the students with the help of the Tree Board members.

**FREE TREES OFFERED TO VILLAGE RESIDENTS** - During the TRBA's Swap-A-Rama on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the Village Tree Board will celebrate both of the Arbor Day anniversaries by distributing 50 trees free of charge to residents and businesses within the Village of Amherst. Various species will be available to select from, and the trees can be picked up at the Amherst Opera House. There will be information as to the kind of tree, planting, and care instructions provided. Village residents or businesses selecting a tree for planting should provide some form of proof of residency, and there will be a limit of one tree per resident or business parcel. Participants may pick up a tree for their property only, as requests for multiple trees will not be honored.

**CAMPAIGN SIGNAGE REVIEW** - Addressing some observations and concerns regarding political campaign signage in the village, the members of the Administrative Committee have reviewed Chapter 11 - Sign Ordinance and recommended amending text regarding campaign sign size and display time. Committee members welcome input from residents to gauge support and determine the best way to address these issues. Their recommendations regarding ordinance amendments will come before the Village Board on April 12 for a public hearing. Copies of the proposed ordinance changes are available at the village clerk's office. Please note that campaign signs for the April 5 election need to be removed by April 12, 2022.

**SEEKING OUR NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR** - The Village of Amherst's Lettie Jensen Library is seeking applicants for the Library Director's position. We extend our sincerest thanks to Kelly Bird for her 12 years of outstanding service in this role, and wish her the very best. This opening will be posted, and information regarding this position can be obtained by contacting the Jensen Library at 715-824-5510, Aralda Bell at 715-258-0237, or the Village Hall at 715-824-5613 or [vilamher@wi-net.com](mailto:vilamher@wi-net.com).

**TOMORROW RIVER MILITARY MEMORIAL IN GUYANT PARK** - With some prep work done last fall for the electrical service and cement base, the progress on this beautiful memorial will continue this summer. Spearheaded by a dedicated group of local veterans, this effort continues to seek funding and support from our Tomorrow River community in order to bring it to completion. To obtain more information or to make a donation, please contact Marv Somers at 715-824-3770 or Brion & Aralda Bell at 715-258-0237.

**DOMESTIC CHICKENS, DUCKS, RABBITS, BEES & GOATS** - A discussion on permitting various domestic animals within the Village of Amherst has been initiated by the Public Safety Committee. Their work will involve a review of the procedures of other municipalities, an evaluation of our village ordinances, and recommendations on amending Ordinance Chapter 23 - Animals. Committee members welcome input from residents to gauge support and determine the best way to address these issues. Their recommendations regarding ordinance amendments will come before the Village Board on April 12 for a public hearing. Copies of the proposed ordinance changes are available at the village clerk's office.

**AMHERST TREATMENT FACILITY HONORED WITH NOMINATION** - Wisconsin Rural Water Association's Technical Conference Awards Committee recently announced that the Amherst WWTP has been nominated for Wastewater System of the Year. The WRWA's nomination highlights the noteworthy work of our operators at Amherst. Congratulations to our village staff - Eric, Travis & Nic - for this recognition of your effort and skill in operating and maintaining our collection system and treatment facility.

**WISCONSIN HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS** - Homeowners who have experienced a financial hardship since January 21, 2020 are encouraged to access the new Wisconsin Help for Homeowners Program that is dedicated to provide assistance with mortgage payments, property taxes and utility bills. People who may have lost work or fallen behind on bills due to the pandemic may find this program may be the difference between keeping and losing a home. An online application and more information about the program are available at <https://homeownerhelp.wi.gov> or through the program's call center at 1-855-246-6394.

**FREDDIE'S HOME PLATE AT NELSON PARK** - The new concession area, restrooms, press box and covered pavilion along with the new ballfield lights and parking lot improvements will impact our young athletes, our park patrons and all those visiting Nelson Park for decades to come. Although donations have already come from many community members and businesses, the fundraising efforts must continue through the summer in order to secure the additional financial support needed to start this project's construction. Every individual contribution or business donation is essential for the success of this project. To make a contribution or to access information about the project, please go to <http://www.freddieshomeplate.com/>.

**DECORATIVE SIGNAGE ON MAIN STREET** - Last summer, the Tomorrow River Business Association sponsored the painting of the light poles and the installation of the hanging baskets along Main Street. Following this, they worked with Troy Werachowski to provide ten unique metal signs for these light poles. Village staff recently installed these pieces, and we look forward to the return of the beautiful hanging baskets. On behalf of our residents and our visitors, I want to acknowledge these efforts by the TRBA to enhance the Main Street corridor, and thank Werachowski Metalworks for crafting these signs.

