

# MERRILLAN SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010



Dear Village of Merrillan Residents! Spring at last!

This has been a wonderful spring, but just as we suspected, as the snow disappeared, it becomes apparent that spring clean up time is here as well! I know many of you are anxious for it to dry up so you can get out and rake and pick up items that were "lost in the snow". Let me know if you have items you want removed from your yard, and are not sure how to get rid of them. (Cars, car body parts, appliances, junk in general.)

As I mentioned in the winter letter the Census 2010 forms should be arriving shortly and most of you will get a short 10 questions version to answer. If you have a PO Box only for your address, you may not get the questionnaire in the mail. If you haven't already received your Census form there is a Census worker available here at the village hall, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm now thru April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to help you. Just stop in and see her and she will ensure you get counted! I strongly encourage all of you to complete the form and return this information to the Census Bureau so please feel free to stop by the Village Hall and pick up a packet to complete. This is valuable information helps the Village when applying for grants. All your information is confidential and we are not told "who" only "what" we need to know in order to acquire funds for various needs in this community. If you do not respond to the questionnaire, you will be personally contacted by a census bureau worker and interviewed. We need everyone counted! Thanks!

Utility Clerk Sarah Zilk's last day with us is April 1, 2010. She is leaving us to just work full-time for a store in Neillsville. We wish her well. Shauna Spaulding has been hired as your new part-time utility clerk. Shauna lives in Black River Falls, is married and has two sons. She is eager to meet our citizens. Please join us in welcoming her. The Village Board thanks all the utility clerk candidates for taking the time to check out this opportunity to work for our Village in this capacity.

Electric rates in the Village of Merrillan are very competitive. Our rates are 40% less than Wisconsin's rural electric cooperatives, 25% less than Wisconsin's privately owned utilities, (e.g., Alliant, Xcel), and 15% less than fellow members of the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW). The MEUW is made up of 82 communities, like Merrillan, who own and operate a municipal electric system. So you see we are a pretty treasured community. We can be very proud to have the rates we do have. On an annual basis, Merrillan residents and businesses have saved anywhere between \$100,000 and \$200,000! If we take a 10-year net present value of the savings and we hit the \$1 million savings level – and that savings stays in Merrillan. Isn't that wonderful!

There is a great website you may want to view called [www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com). You can check it out. It brings up wonderful answers to questions regarding energy efficiency in your homes or businesses. You will find some great pointers and how to gain assistance with energy saving and green environment tips and solutions.

Also be sure to check out the Village website at: [www.merrillan.net](http://www.merrillan.net). The minutes of our meetings are posted there as well as many other interesting facts.

Soon the ice will all be out on our lakes and streams. Then you can try out our handicap accessible fishing dock on upper Oakwood Lake as well as the fishing on the Lower Trow Lake.

The beautiful weather made the ice fishing contest sponsored by the Merrillan Lion's Club and the Merrillan Fire Department and Rescue a HUGE success. It was great fun for all that participated.

The new police vehicle will be here soon if not by the end of the month. It was originally due in the 19<sup>th</sup> of March but has been delayed. The sealed bids on the old squad truck will be opened just before the April 6<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting. That information can be obtained at the Village Hall or at the village website as well.

Again please feel free to call or contact me with any concerns. You can leave me a voicemail along with a number so I can return your call.

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