



JULY 2009



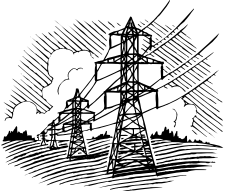
Greetings from your (fairly new) Village President, Margaret Young!

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!!!

THERE IS WATER RUNNING OVER THE DAM AGAIN! AND THE PROJECT IS COMPLETED!!!!!!

We have had many people stopping and taking pictures once again and the comments have all been favorable on the work completed. Thanks to all for your patience. It was a long hard process but it is beautiful and we are happy the ordeal is behind us.

I intended to get this out two months ago. Man this summer is flying by. It has been a nice summer, not too hot and up until July we were getting the rain we needed as well. Guess we can't control the weather so let's talk about what we can control. As Ray (past President) had mentioned in his last newsletter, fixing a dripping faucet could save you 10% of the cost of your water bill. With this still in mind, consider the savings you would find by following a few other steps in reducing your electric bill. Simply not washing clothes, drying clothes, running the dishwasher, and limiting use of your oven during peak electrical hours of 4pm until 8pm Monday thru Friday can significantly lower your cost. With electric rates creeping upward we all need to be very conscious of what ever we CAN do to lower our cost of electricity.



I sit on the Executive board of an agency called Upper Midwest Municipal Power Agency (UMMPA) that was formed from our Western Wisconsin Municipal Power Group (WWMPG) a few years ago. This is made of (16) municipalities throughout Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota that all have the ability to generate electricity. The main thing we constantly try to do is keep the cost of electricity at a level that we all can hopefully all afford. We have been very successful at this over the years. But now we are seeing very high costs in the transportation of coal to our power generating plants. There is a lot of lobbying in Washington DC to try to get those costs adjusted. But now we are anticipating that down the road we may even see a carbon tax that may be placed on these coal-generating plants. That could add to our cost of electricity also. We are investing in renewable energy sources such as wind generation, biomass, which is landfill digestion to generate, manure digesters, even future nuclear plants may be revisited, all these, in the effort to reduce greenhouse gases that have been proven to cause global warming. Yes, the dreaded global warming! The impact on all of us is our constant struggle to keep electricity affordable. We appreciate everyone's effort to pay your utility bills on time. This keeps the burden of paying Dairyland Power Cooperative within the reach of our funds available each month. When someone doesn't pay, we all suffer the consequences. Your support is appreciated.

We are also in the process negotiating with the DNR to acquire an Open Burning Permit that would allow us to continue to pick up branches, limbs, etc. and burn them at a permitted site. Not an easy task either. But we hope to succeed.

We have been keeping up with the necessary requirements for the HWY 12/27 DOT project. Even though it is nearly 4 years out, there are preparations that need to be addressed. We have a timeline created by our engineers to keep us up to date.

The Village Board has received numerous complaints from citizens regarding garbage and recyclables being put out too early for pickup. Please remember that you can only put garbage out 24 hours before pickup.

The village office has been getting calls asking about the Lions Club calendar regarding the recycling date being the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, this is incorrect.

Please note on your calendar the following correct days and times:

Recycling pick-up is the 2nd and 4th TUESDAY of each month.



Dogs and cats should be leashed in the village limits.

Dogs that howl or bark need to be contained in such a manner as to not disturb your neighbors.

When walking your dogs make sure they are on a leash and carry a bag to clean-up after them.

Cats are not allowed to run loose in the village. Dogs and cats need to be licensed in the village.

Proof of rabies is required before a county dog or village cat tag can be issued.



We are applying for a 55% grant with Rural Development to possibly purchase a police vehicle. This item was on our 5 and 10 year future planning but we may have a good chance of getting this grant now. The application process is in the works.

The Fire Department has been working very hard and has applied for a 100% grant through the stimulus program to build a new fire hall. This grant money is for new fire halls throughout the United States. There is 210 million available for approximately 20 or so grants. Slim chance that we would be so lucky but it certainly is worth a try being it is a 100% grant.



You may have seen the ad we have placed to hire a 3rd Maintenance Crew man. This person will train with our Village Superintendent and eventually, when the Village Superintendent retires, will be fully trained to take his place. Superintendent Randy Brown has told us he would like to be able to retire at least from fulltime employment by October of 2010. So we need to be ready to make that a smooth changeover.

We have a wonderful little quiet village even though two state highways intersect it. We have worked hard to create ordinances and strive to enforce them so that all our citizens can comfortably reside in our Village of Merrilan. Cooperation and mutual respect for your neighbor is required by all of us.

Remember the agendas and minutes of all public meetings are posted at A.J.'s Grocery, Jackson County Bank/Merrilan Station and the Village Hall bulletin board. Also you can visit our site online at: www.merrilan.net Please come and join us at one of the regular monthly public meetings. They are held the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 PM at the village hall or call, whenever you need us. We serve you!

