

Village Voice

VOLUME 30 NO. 4

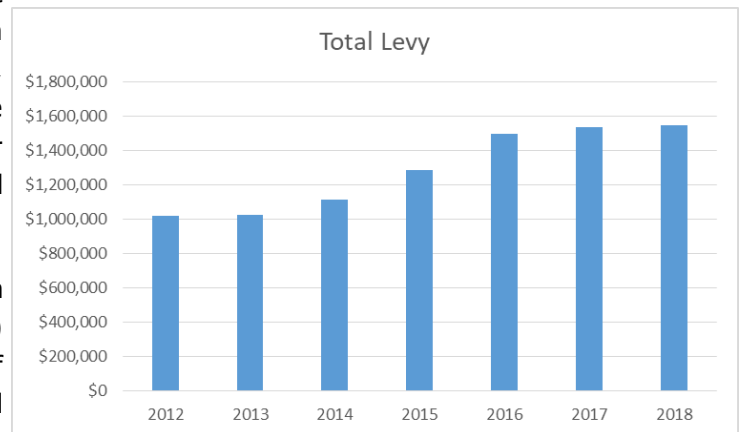
Quarterly Newsletter from the Village of Hortonville

Winter 2017-2018

2018 BUDGET CHALLENGES

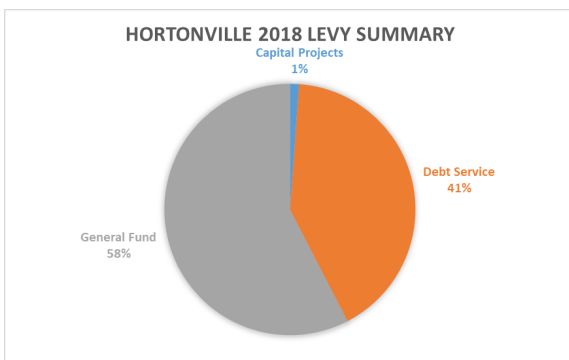
The 2018 budget presented significant challenges. Tax levy cap combined with increased operational costs resulted in a baseline below 2017 levels for programs and projects that the Village is not required by law to provide such as brush pickup, park improvements, marketing, etc. In 2017, the Village enjoyed the highest net new construction in Outagamie County, at 3.67%. Net new construction for 2018 is 1.47%. Net new construction is used to determine levy cap, so the available increase in levy cap for the 2018 budget is considerably lower than it was in 2017. This means that the amount of the Village's portion of property taxes is allowed to increase from what was collected in 2017 by \$14,032. In comparison, in 2017 the allowable increase was just over \$34,000. Nearly the entire allowable increase in tax levy is consumed by the projected cost for the four 2018 elections (election machine programming, ballots, staffing). This leaves no funds to cover other increased costs such as employee insurance premium increases, increased printing costs, and utilities. The Village had to make the difficult decision to suspend programs and projects for 2018 such as brush pickup, Otto Miller Athletic Field improvements, printed newsletters, and community promotion. The Village also chose to increase fees for the summer recreation program so that the program is self-funded and therefore not supplemented by tax levy.

Levy: The total levy increase of the 2018 budget results in a tax increase of 0.00234 cents (2 thousandths of a penny) per thousand dollars of value. This means an increase of \$3.51 for a home valued at \$150,000. Levy includes capital projects, debt service, and general fund.



Capital projects include road repair, planning projects, and village facilities projects above general maintenance. Capital projects accounts for \$17,979 in the 2018 budget. This is the lowest investment in capital projects since 2009. While there are grants available for capital projects, most have requirements that the village cannot meet such as job creation and low to moderate income residents. Because of levy caps and decreased transportation funding statewide, local governments look to other funding sources such as special assessment and tax increment financing (TIF).

Debt service includes municipal center construction, Black Otter Lake dam, road improvement, and vehicle and equipment loans. Debt service accounts for \$636,745 in the 2018 budget, which is an increase of 0.14% from 2017. Some of the debt (such as Industrial Park Road paving) will be paid by property owners within the industrial park through assessment.



General fund includes operating expenses such as payroll, utilities, fuel, street maintenance, elections, etc. The 2018 budget increases the general fund by 4.12% from 2017, or \$35,300. The 2018 budget includes a 2% increase in employee wages combined with decreased employee benefits (health insurance plan structure and higher employee contribution to deductible), and increases to elections, street maintenance, public notices, and employee insurance premiums.

What is a "senior"?

Our Senior Services Committee has been pondering this word for quite some time! If you are 50 or over, or looking for new friends and things to do, you qualify! The best way to find out how much fun our events are, is to join us.

Every first Monday of the month, we have a potluck lunch. The food is plentiful and delicious, followed by games of your choice and good conversation. The December lunch is a celebration of the holidays, and a catered lunch is provided through our donations. The third Monday of the month we celebrate birthdays of that month. Come and celebrate, every month!

The past three years, we have held our "Senior Autumn Fest". This brings a variety of agencies and services to share information, a guest speaker, and this year we added a FREE picnic lunch.

With our library providing more programs, we are partnering in our planning process in order to reach more people and collaborate our efforts. "Tourist in Your Own Town" events have been a great opportunity to gather, meet new people, and learn about our Village.

Our committee wants to plan more local trips and gatherings. We would love to hear your ideas! We are also looking for two more Village residents to join our committee. Meetings are held several times a year, and we do have fun! Feel free to contact any of the committee members, or the Village office at 779-6011, with your ideas or if you'd like to be a part of our committee.

Watch for notices of activities on the Village website, Facebook, in the library, newspapers and flyers around town. Better yet, come to the municipal building for lunch or birthday parties and get all the information firsthand on a printed calendar of events!



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Weather permitting, Christmas trees will be collected at curbside on:

Tuesday, January 9th

Tuesday, January 16th

Residents should **place their trees on the curb by 8:00 a.m.** on these dates so the trees do not get buried in the snow banks during plowing activities. Also, if these dates do not work out for residents remember the Village does have a drop off area at the compost site near the Wastewater Treatment Plant, 521 W. Cedar Street **(for VILLAGE RESIDENTS ONLY)**.

JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

NEW MEALSITE LOCATION!

HORTONVILLE OPERA HOUSE
312 W. MAIN STREET
MONDAY-FRIDAY 11:30 AM

Join us! Anyone 60 yrs and older
is invited on a donation basis!



ENJOY A HOT LUNCH AND
CAMARADERIE!



❖ **Reserve your Meal! Call 920-740-4648**

❖ **Volunteer Opportunities! Call 920-968-2414**

*(Must call Monday-Friday 24 hours in advance to reserve meal.
Home Delivered Meals Eligibility Questions? Call 920-832-5178)*



SPECIAL ASSESSMENT IN PARK R HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION FOR COMPLETION OF MICHAEL RITGER STREET

A special assessment is a charge assessed to real estate parcels for specific public improvements, usually roads, sidewalks, sewer, and water. The 2017 repaving of Industrial Park Road was paid for through special assessment charged to property owners within the industrial park rather than with the general tax levy, which is all taxpayers.

Park R Heights Subdivision was approved in 2001. The developer's agreement included an agreement that all property owners of the original plat would be equally responsible for future municipal improvements including construction of all street segments, curb and gutter, sidewalks, street lighting, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water mains as a special assessment. The agreement was recorded with the Outagamie County Register of Deeds and included a requirement that the developer and subsequent sellers are obligated to inform purchasers of the potential future assessment.

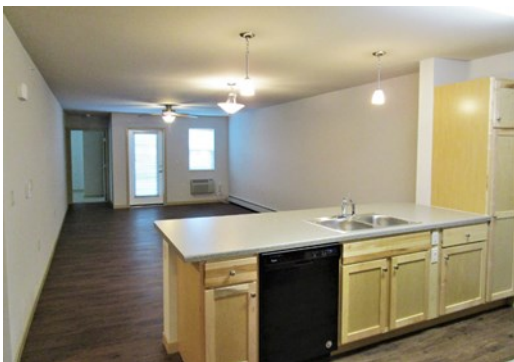
The Village of Hortonville plans to complete the segment of Michael Ritger Street connecting Gabriel Lane to Emily Way in 2018. The cost of the project will be special assessed in accordance with the agreement. The properties to be assessed are all those in the Park R Heights subdivision including Gabriel Lane, Herbert Drive, Howard Drive, Florence Court, Emily Way, and the 800 blocks of Michael Ritger Street and Hickory Street.

The Village will hold a hearing regarding the special assessment in early 2018.

COTTAGES ON MAIN

Plans are moving forward for 20 cottages (single level) and 20 townhomes (2-level) on Main Street next to Charlie's Drive In. The development will include 4 buildings, each with 10 units. One building will also house the clubhouse and fitness center. The units will be a mix of 2 and 3 bedrooms. Each unit will have a private entrance.

To see what they will look like check out the Beacon Avenue Cottages in New London: www.beaconcottages.com. For more information call 800-278-8634.



AEDs SAVE LIVES!

Each minute that passes without a shock results in a 7-10% decrease in survival rate for a sudden cardiac arrest patient.

AEDs in the Village:

- 521 N Nash, Hortonville Municipal Center near the police department entrance. 24/7/365 access.
- Downtown: currently Hardtails Saloon. Summertime: clock tower area kiosk.
- Plans for AEDs in Otto Miller Athletic Field (grant applied for).
- Trying to acquire an AED at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

If you know of other AEDs in the area, let us know!

Thank you for a wonderful Halloween!

The success of our Halloween program is due to the generosity of many of our friends and neighbors.

To fund this annual event, monetary donations were received from:

**Hortonville Lions Club
Hortonville Commercial Club
American Legion Post 55
American Legion Auxiliary
Polar Bear Riders Snowmobile Club
The Village of Hortonville**

Karate America-Greenville. Shawn Fargen and his Karate America Team gave a very exciting karate demonstration again this year. Thank you!

Hortonville Youth Sports: Our local youth sports organization donated candy. We thank you!

Hortonville Police Department. Officers diligently work to protect the Village and all the trick-or-treaters. Thank you!

Hortonville-Hortonia Fire Department. The costume parade had an exciting escort through the streets with the help of our volunteer firemen. Thank you!

Village Voice

Village of Hortonville
P.O. Box 99
Hortonville, WI 54944-0099

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Julie Arendt Vanden Heuvel 779-6749

Dawn Vollbrecht 779-0425

Administrator 779-6011

Clerk-Treasurer

Public Works

Hours: M-F 7:00 am—3:30 pm

Police Department (Non-emergency) 779-6165

Fire Department (Dave Dorn, Chief) 419-7872

Building Inspector 878-0024

Municipal Court 779-9542

Library 779-4279

VILLAGE VOICE WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED

Due to budget constraints, we will no longer print and mail the newsletter. Printing and postage cost \$6,000 annually. The Village could not sustain this cost in the 2018 budget. We will instead post all newsletters on the Village website at hortonvillewi.org and on our Facebook page. We will also email the newsletter.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, send an email to office@vohortonville.com with "Newsletter email list" as the subject.

