



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Winter 2008 - 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For most of us we have seen our investments take a huge plunge this past couple of months. Parts of the country have had home values fall as well. Thankfully, here in Slinger we have continued to have new building and values have been maintained. For most of us our homes continue to be one of our best investments and the Village government is doing its part to help keep values up.

We are fortunate to have low crime, great schools, super parks and recreation and a fantastic quality of life that even in the stressed economy brings new residents to our area. The Village government will continue to do whatever we can to keep property values up by providing quality services at a reasonable cost to our tax payers.

Thank you to all of our Village employees, commission and committee members and fellow Village Board members for the dedicated service to our citizens this past year. I look forward to working with you again next year as we continue to bring the services needed to keep Slinger going strong.

Russell E. Brandt, Village President

SLINGER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE/EXPANSION

The Village of Slinger has reached another major milestone with the substantial completion of the \$11 million Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and expansion project. The project was needed to address concerns with aging infrastructure and equipment as well as to handle increasing flow. Opened in 1979, the existing plant was the first orbal oxidation ditch treatment process constructed in Wisconsin and served the Village well for nearly 30 years.

The existing facility was designed to handle an average daily flow of 796,000 gallons per day (gpd). The upgrade will increase the capacity of the treatment facility to an ultimate flow of 1,500,000 gpd which should serve the Village for the next 20 to 30 years. Improvements included in the project consist of constructing a new oxidation ditch and clarifiers, installing a new computer monitoring and control system that will automatically increase or decrease the treatment effort depending on the volume of flow at the plant, as well as insulation improvements and remodeling of the existing control building and laboratory. Other upgrades to the treatment system include installing an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system replacing chlorine gas that was previously used for disinfecting water prior to discharge from the site as well as construction of additional sludge storage capacity and facilities for accepting seepage and holding tanks and an area for receiving debris removed from the collection system during routine cleaning.

Alternative energy was utilized as part of this project as the existing and new buildings were fitted with a geothermal heating and cooling system that uses the earth's temperature to regulate building temperatures and entirely heat and cool buildings or assist traditional heating and cooling systems. Other improvements added to the existing control building include improving the insulation of exterior walls, replacing old windows and doors and replacing existing roofs and air conditioning units to ensure operators can control temperature in areas containing sensitive computer control systems and within the laboratory. The control building will also house a meter testing unit that will allow utility operators to test, rebuild and reinstall existing water meters into the water distribution system allowing meters to be recycled instead of having to dispose of the units for a fraction of the initial cost. The remodeled facility will house Slinger's Water and Sewer Utility employees giving the utilities a centrally located base from which to stage its operations.



The existing treatment plant shown looking to the north has operated successfully for nearly 30 years. This is what the existing facility looked like before construction started.



Slinger's Wastewater Treatment Plant during 2008 Upgrade/Expansion

REVALUATION ANSWERS

• What is a revaluation?

A revaluation is an update of all assessments in the Village conducted under the direction of the Village Assessor. The Assessor is a State certified professional whose duties are to determine, list and value all taxable real property in the Village in a uniform and equitable manner. Municipalities are required by State Law to maintain property assessments within 10% of fair market value at least once in a 5-year period.

• Will my property values change?

Most likely, although, some neighborhoods and property types may have increased in value and others may have remained the same. One purpose of a revaluation is to make sure that the assessed values reflect the changes that have occurred in property values. There are differences between individual properties as well as between neighborhoods. In one area, property sales may indicate a substantial increase in value in a given year. In another neighborhood, there may be no change, or even a decrease in property values. In addition, if any changes are made to assessments, State Laws require that all property owners be notified.

• Is it necessary for the assessor to view the inside of my property?

Yes, to make a proper assessment on a building, it is desirable that the Assessor view the inside as well as the outside of the property. To ensure an accurate assessment of your property, it is to your advantage to allow the assessment personnel inside your property when an inspection is requested. By denying an inspection, you lose your right to appeal your assessment to the Board of Review.

• What if I don't agree with my assessment?

You can schedule a meeting with the Assessor. During this informal session, the Assessor will explain how your assessment was made, view the property record for your property, what factors were considered in determining a value for your property and view comparable house values.

• What if, after this informal meeting, I still disagree with the assessment?

You can arrange to appear before the Board of Review. To do so, you will be required to complete an objection form. You will then be scheduled for a hearing where you will present your case regarding the assessed value of your property. Please contact Village Hall after January 1st regarding the schedule for the Board of Review. At the Board of Review, State Law puts the burden of proof on the property owner to show that the assessment is incorrect. Keep in mind that your evidence must be strong enough to prove that the Assessor's value is incorrect. The Board will consider only relevant testimony given at the hearing. Evidence of value would be recent sales prices for properties similar to yours. The closer in proximity and similarity, the better the comparable sales evidence. The best evidence would be sworn oral and written testimony from a qualified witness who has made a recent appraisal of your property. A qualified witness would be a professional property appraiser; and, it is best that this person be in attendance with the appellant so he or she can be cross-examined by the Board of Review. The Board will mail you a notice of its decision. If you do not agree with the Board of Review's determination, the notice will contain information on how you may appeal the Board's decision.

• How will my taxes change as a result of a new assessment?

Though the value of your property affects your share of taxes, the actual amount you pay is determined by the budget needs of the schools, city, county, technical college and state. All of these taxing units decide what services they will provide in the coming year and how much money they will need to provide those services. If the total levy remains the same, only those properties that are not presently paying their fair share will pay more taxes after the revaluation. Properties presently paying more than their fair share will pay less.

WEBSITE

The Village of Slinger's Web site is new and improved as of October 2008. We are proud to use this site to communicate online with our citizens, businesses, and visitors. Please visit our Web site at www.slinger-wi-usa.org for updates on the latest action of our Village Board, News, Community events, and more!

BURNING PERMITS

Campfire/Burn Permits can be obtained at Village Hall for \$5.00. The permit is good for an entire year from the date of issue. Not only are these permits required under Village ordinance, but having one on file with the Village alerts the Fire and Police Departments that you've gotten the authorization to have outdoor fires.

WINTER PARKING RULES

Beginning November 1st, 2008, there is no parking at anytime between the hours of 3:00am and 6:00am on any Village of Slinger Street. Winter parking rules are in effect until April 15th of 2009.

YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS AT A CROSSWALK

State of Wisconsin Motor Vehicle Laws, 346.23 & 346.24 dictate that motorists shall yield to pedestrians, bicyclists and person operating an electric personal assistive mobility device when using a crosswalk whether it is marked or unmarked.

VEHICLES TO STOP AT STOP SIGNS AND SCHOOL CROSSINGS

State of Wisconsin Motor Vehicle Laws, 346.46 dictate that motorists approaching a school crossing shall follow the directions of the school crossing guard. If directed to stop, the motorist must stop and remain stopped until the school crossing guard directs the motorists to proceed.

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Village offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 24th and on Thursday, December 25th for the Christmas Holiday.

The offices will also be closed on Wednesday, December 31st and closed Thursday, January 1st to observe the New Years Holiday.

DOG AND CAT LICENSES

This is just a reminder to those who have dogs and cats in the Village, a license is required. Every dog and cat five (5) months of age or older must be licensed; spayed/neutered licenses cost \$7.00, otherwise the fee is \$12.00. Applications can be picked up at the Village Hall. Proof of rabies vaccination is required at the time of licensing for your cat or dog. The licenses expire on December 31 and must be renewed annually. If you do not obtain a license for your dog or cat by April 1, 2009, a \$5.00 late fee will be assessed. Just a note: you do not need a separate check if obtaining your dog and cat license when paying your tax bill.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL POLICY

There is a silver lining in all things, including last years record breaking snow falls. Back in February 2008, the Village Board and Staff created an official Snow and Ice Control Policy to serve as a guide for all residents in what the snow removal goals and expectation are in the Village. Among the highlights of the policy are clear definitions, areas and roadways identified as priority areas, and where the different responsibilities lie for both the Village and the residents. Some examples of these include the following:

• Passable roadways vs. dry/bare pavement

Due to various economic and environmental issues, the Village tries to maintain Passable Roadways. These are roads kept clear of drifts and as much snow and ice pack as are practical. It should not be confused with dry/bare pavement.

• Curb-to-Curb Snow Cleaning

In order to avoid damage to curbs, mailboxes, and lawns, Village plows will try to remove snow within 3 feet of the curb.

• Hydrants and Sidewalks and Catch Basins

It is the responsibility of property owners immediately adjacent to a fire hydrant to keep access open to them at all times. Sidewalks, which are addressed in Village of Slinger Ordinance 8.06, must be cleared by adjacent property owners within 24 hours after a snow event. Catch basins that become blocked and prevent proper drainage will be kept clear by Village Staff. During times of exceptional snowfall, the policy may allow for exceptions with the approval of the Superintendent.

To review complete policy, residents are encouraged to check out the Village of Slinger's web site.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Pictured from left to right are: Joe Cashin, Brian Hansen, Josh Trame and Tammy Tennies

The Village of Slinger is proud to introduce four new employees as pictured above. Each new addition comes to the Village with a wealth of knowledge and experience and is warmly welcomed to the Village team. Please take a moment to review their backgrounds outlined in the paragraphs that follow.

On September 15, 2008 the Slinger Police Department added Joseph C. Cashin to the staff, the first additional position since 1998. Officer Cashin comes to Slinger with over four years of full-time law enforcement and boat patrol experience with the Silver Lake Police Department.

Brian Hansen is our newest Utility Operator. Brian is a life long resident here in the Village and brings with him 13 years of construction experience that he acquired working for Heartland Construction. His work with Heartland and as a volunteer fireman gives Brian a base knowledge of Slinger's sewer, storm, and water utilities. He is also proving himself a quick study in regards to daily operations at the wastewater treatment plant and at the water wells.

Josh Trame was hired in April of 2008 as a full-time Park Supervisor. Josh comes to Slinger after getting his undergraduate degree in Health, Human Performance and Recreation from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. Josh brings a great deal of park experience to Slinger.

The Village is pleased to have convinced Tammy Tennies to return to human resource management after spending the last five years raising her four children. Prior to taking time to start a family, Tammy was the Employee Benefits Manager for Washington County. She has a Degree in Human Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. For the Village, Tammy's filling a part-time Administrative Assistant spot.

TENNIES REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

After the devastating flooding this summer, the Village Board voted to move forward with a project aimed at significantly reducing the flow of stormwater to the Community Park and downtown Slinger areas. The Tennes regional stormwater management project had been planned since the early 1990's but project funding delayed its implementation. With the creation of the Village's Stormwater Utility, the project has a funding source. The estimated project cost is approximately \$1,500,000.

The project consists of constructing two earthen berms to the north of Scenic Court and the Glen Hill pond area. The berms will be designed with the intent to hold back a 100 year storm and release water at a rate that can be handled by downstream sewers. The existing Glen Hill pond will be enlarged to hold and treat more stormwater prior to discharging water to the downstream storm sewer as well.

The project is important because the contributing drainage area consists of approximately 620 acres and existing flows have been estimated at 175 cubic feet per second (cfs) for a 10 year recurrence interval storm and nearly 430 cfs estimated for a 100 year storm. The storm sewer that carries water through the downtown area and under the railroad tracks has a capacity of less than 50 cfs.

SLINGER PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

Check out the 2008 / 2009 Fall and Winter Activity Guide for new and exciting Recreation Programs!

- **4th & 5th Grade Youth Basketball League**
Registration Deadline December 15th
- **4th, 5th & 6th Grade Youth Volleyball League**
Registration Deadline December 15th
- **Slinger Little League**
Registration will be Saturday, February 14th from 9:30 – Noon

What's New?

The Slinger Little League Program will be making some significant changes for the 2009 season. The first change will be in our Boys Minor League for 3rd and 4th grade boys. In previous years we have used a pitching machine at this level. In 2009 we are planning on going to a live pitch format, which will give our young players the opportunity to hit live pitching and learn the basics of pitching off a rubber. We will have modified rules for this league, which will allow us to limit the number of walks during games.

The Slinger Parks and Recreation Department will also not be running any "Tournament Teams" in 2009. In the past, our department worked to provide an opportunity for kids to play "Select" baseball at a more competitive level. In 2009 I am happy to announce that all "Select" level baseball will be run by a new Booster Club called the "Slinger On-Base Club Ltd." This club will work hard to provide an opportunity for our kids to participate in the Wisconsin Youth State Baseball League.

The Slinger Little League program was extremely pleased with the success of our Girl's Fast Pitch Softball in 2008. We will continue to run Fast Pitch Softball in 2009 and we are looking forward to the continued improvement of this program.

The Slinger Little League is very excited to be working cooperatively with the Girl's High School Fast Pitch coaching staff, the Boy's High School Baseball coaching staff, the Slinger Storm Fastpitch Club and the Slinger On-Base Club. The cooperation with these groups will allow us to provide an extremely high quality of softball and baseball in 2009 and beyond. We are looking forward to these continued relationships and the growth of baseball and softball in our Community.

Residency Information:

A resident for registration purposes, (for all programs held at a school district facility) is anyone who lives within the boundaries of the Slinger School District. A resident (for all programs held at Village owned property) is anyone who lives within the boundaries of the Village of Slinger. To qualify as a resident the individual must pay their property taxes to the Village of Slinger.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

The Village of Slinger will be picking up Christmas trees starting the week of January 5th, 2009. Trees should be left curbside with the cut end of the tree facing towards the roadway. Should you choose to remove the tree yourself it can be dropped off at the Public Works yard and placed along the north fence line near the mulch pile.

Christmas trees should not be placed in the compost dumpster.



Hello from your Village Building / Zoning Department. The village has certainly experienced positive growth in both the commercial and residential sectors. In 2008, 35 new single-family dwellings units have been started.

If you have questions on your building project, please call Terry Frederickson at 644-5265 (Ext. 4)

Monthly Meeting Schedule

1st and 3rd Monday 6 p.m.Village Board
 4th Monday 6 p.m.Library Board
 2nd Wed. after 1st Mon 6 p.m.Planning Commission
 4th Monday 6 p.m.Park Board

(Meetings subject to change)

WHO TO CONTACT??

Village President Russell Brandt 644-8854
 Village Trustees Eugene Mueller 644-6273
 David Malecha 644-0230
 Juergen Foerster 644-8553
 Steve Van Maldegiam 644-9336
 John Dukelow 644-6490
 David Otte 644-6840

ADMINISTRATOR

Maureen Murphy
 644-5265 • mamurphy@wppisys.org

TREASURER-DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK

Margaret Wilber
 644-5265 • mwilber@wppisys.org

ENGINEER/PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

James Haggerty
 644-5265 • jhaggerty@wppisys.org

PARK & RECREATION DIRECTOR

Tony Dobson
 644-5265 • tdobson@wppisys.org

BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Terry Frederickson
 644-5265 • tfrederickson@wppisys.org

POLICE CHIEF

Dean Schmidt
 644-6441 • daschmidt@slingerpd.com

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Jennifer Einwalter
 644-6171 • jeinwalt@hnet.net

VILLAGE WEBSITE:

www.slinger-wi-usa.org

SLINGER POLICE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:

www.slingerpd.com

LIBRARY NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Need help finding materials? Visit the Slinger Community Library everyday at www.slinger.lib.wi.us and log into the SHARE catalog where you have access to 44 public libraries in Dodge, Jefferson, Racine, Walworth and Washington Counties. With a combined collection of over 2.7 million items, your favorite author, music or movie is just a click away! Library staff is available 53 hours per week to happily assist you in person or via phone to find any materials or information you need. The library is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – Noon (Labor Day through Memorial Day).

Upcoming FREE Programs in 2009:

January 2 – March 31 – 8th Annual Adult Winter Reading Program
 January 2 – Free showing of the movie Wall-E at 1:00 p.m.
 February 14 – Valentine Craft Day for Children ages 3 – 12
 February 16 – Free showing of the movie Horton Hears a Who 10:00 a.m.
 February 27 – Reading Buffet with Slinger Middle School 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
 March 14 – No-Sew Fleece Pillow Make and Take for teens ages 12 – 17 10:00 a.m.
 March 16 – Free showing of the movie Fly Me to the Moon 10:00 a.m.
 April 13 – 17 is National Library Week! Stop in for a free bookmark and to register for one of many great prizes courtesy of Friends of the Slinger Library.

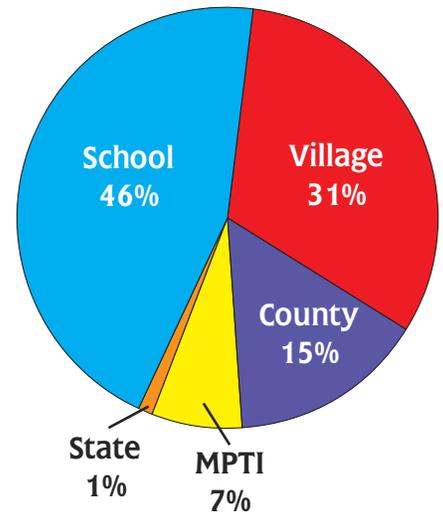
The 2009 six-week summer reading program starts on Monday, June 15, 2009. The theme is "Be Creative @ Your Library".

The library is pleased to announce the availability of free wireless internet for users with a laptop computer during regular library hours.

TOTAL OF ALL TAXES

\$21.79 / m

After Credits on Assessed value



Tax Levy

Tax Rate

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| State | \$79,119.30 | 0.211459158 |
| County | \$1,263,569.51 | 3.377094381 |
| MPTI | \$626,017.54 | 1.673133382 |
| School | \$3,955,185.12 | 10.57087353 |
| Village | \$2,710,519.98 | 7.244304129 |
| TOTALS | \$8,634,411.45 | \$23.07686458 |
| Less School Levy Credit | | \$1.290240 |
| Net Rate | | \$21.79 |
| Assessment Ratio | | 80.27% |



2008 Village Board

Front L-R: David Otte, Juergen Foerster, Russ Brandt, Eugene Mueller
 Back: Steve Van Maldegiam, David Malecha, John Dukelow,

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