

June 2009

VILLAGE NEWS

2010 Census

Census workers have been out canvassing the village residents over the past few weeks. They are collecting information for the 2010 census. They are wearing IDs and should be notifying the Village Hall whenever they will be in the village. If you ever question if a visit from a census worker is legitimate or not, please call the Chenequa Police Department for verification. The Village encourages your participation in this survey as the Village's and Waukesha County's state revenue sharing levels are based on this data for the next several years. There are several other important factors that this census data may have on area communities such as other state and federal aid, legislative districts in county, state and federal districts etc.

Hwy 83 Update

The Highway 83 repaving project is set to begin sometime in mid June and will take approximately 30 days to complete. The road will remain open and there will be flagmen keeping traffic moving while the work is being performed. This is a simple grind off of the top 1-2" of pavement and an overlay of new pavement, not a reconstruction or major change to the roadway.

Public Hearing/Informational Meeting

On June 8th at 7:30 p.m. at the Chenequa Village Hall, the Village Board will be holding a public hearing on Establishing a Road Policy for local public roadway improvements and an information meeting on the Lake Country Fire Consolidation.

Local Road Maintenance Policy

The Village Board will consider establishing a policy for cost sharing of maintenance and planned improvements to the local public roadways of Morris Drive, Muscovy Road and a portion of Pine Meadows Lane. Those residents directly affected by this policy will receive a separate mailing detailing the policy as it is being considered for approval.

Lake Country Fire Department Consolidation

A year ago, in May 2008, the three communities of Chenequa, Delafield and Nashotah formed a committee to examine the feasibility of merging resources to create a single fire department serving their citizens. In addition to their elected leaders (village presidents and mayor) two other citizens from each municipality were appointed. Since then, open meetings have been held on a monthly basis to cover the full range of topics.

Goals - A merger was thought to be reasonable for a number of reasons including recognition of mutual aid dependence, future challenges faced by all volunteer fire departments, improved response times across service areas, operational efficiencies and shared capital equipment costs.

Community representatives agreed that the result of any combined department would be to deliver to their citizens the following:

- Superior emergency response at the Paramedic level
- Improved property protection
- Savings on future capital equipment purchases
- Uniformity in service levels using standardized operations
- Stations staffed 24/7 for improved response times
- Modernized/upgraded stations (Nashotah is finishing second floor and Delafield is building a new station)
- Jointly governed Fire Board and Fire Commission
- Equitable cost-sharing model
- Reasonable expansion and dissolution strategy
- Utilization of existing personnel and equipment

Recommendation - Keeping in mind that our communities currently operate under a mutual aid agreement when additional resources are required at a given event, it is the conclusion of the committee that a formal merging of the three fire and emergency medical services is in order and recommended. In addition to a more dependable and higher level of service we expect an overall savings in new capital equipment expenditures and efficiencies with respect to staffing and operation.

Open Book/Board of Review

The revaluation is expected to be completed sometime by mid to late August of this year. After that time a date will be set for Open Book and Board of Review. Residents will be notified of these sessions through a notice placed in the Lake Country Reporter, and postings at the legal notice board at the Village Hall and an e-mail notification to all those we have e-mail addresses for. If you want to be sure to receive the e-mail notification and aren't sure if we have your e-mail address, please send it to lynng@chenequa.org. Details on the procedure for Board of Review will be found on the notices.

Pine Lake Weed Treatment

The annual treatment of Pine Lake for Eurasian Water Milfoil is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2009 with a rain date of Wednesday, June 10, 2009. More information on the scheduled weed treatment will be forthcoming.

HIGHWAY/FORESTRY NEWS

Emerald Ash Borer Update

The Emerald ash borer has not been found in the Village of Chenequa...yet. Here are some things you need to know concerning its spread and possible treatments: The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is responsible for the death of millions of ash trees. Native to eastern Asia, the insect was first discovered in eastern Michigan in 2002 and is now found in 10 states. Most experts say EAB will continue to spread and we should prepare ourselves now. To date the closest known infestation is in the Ozaukee county community of Newburg (7 miles east of West Bend). The Newburg infestation is thought to be at least 5 years old and since its discovery last summer, an extensive search is being done to determine how far the infestation has spread.



How is it spread?

Although the adult form of this insect is capable of flying several miles, it normally moves less than ½ mile. Human activity is considered to be the greatest cause of its spread.

The movement of infested nursery stock, logs, pallets, wood chips, and especially firewood is considered to be the most likely cause of new infestations. The transportation of these materials is now regulated under quarantine restrictions listed for Washington, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Fond du Lac counties because of the Newburg site.

What can be done?

Monitor your ash trees and watch for these signs. Keep in mind it is very difficult to determine if a tree is infested, especially in the early stages. Look for:

1. D shaped holes in the trunk and branches-1/8” diameter.
2. Vertical splits in the bark and “zig- zag” lines under the bark caused by the larva.
3. Yellowing leaves and a thinning crown.
4. Suckering along the trunk.
5. Increased woodpecker activity.

*Many of our local ash trees have been declining in recent years due to several other factors not related the Emerald Ash Borer.

Landscape Trees

The ash tree has been commonly used as a landscape and street tree. This has set the stage for a devastating loss of trees due to a disease or insect attack when a single tree species is planted so heavily. There is no silver bullet to combat the Emerald ash borer. Pesticides applied by arborists or homeowners are at present the best way to protect or prolong the life of an ash. Insecticidal treatments are ineffective after a tree is infested. However, preventative insecticide treatments are effective in most cases. Some treatments are inexpensive and can be done by the homeowner but require annual applications. It is recommended to treat only healthy high valued or specimen ash trees and consider replacing lower quality trees with an alternative variety of tree. The University of Wisconsin - Department of Entomology has recommended using insecticides only in areas within 10-12 miles from a known infestation. Some tree care firms have already begun treating ash trees even though they are outside the recommended zone. If you decide to have a treatment, discuss it with a tree care professional.

Forest Trees

The cost of treating each tree in a forest is prohibitive. Fortunately our natural forests here in the Village consist of a number of species and ash trees make up a minor portion. The suggested forest management practice is to reduce the percentage of ash trees in a stand to less than 10%--saving the best and healthiest ash trees.

Conclusion

This is a relatively new problem and very little was known about EAB five years ago. Management and control techniques have been updated as we gain more experience and knowledge. Be aware that is a serious problem in other areas and could be here in the near future. For more information contact the Village Forester or visit the following web site, <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

A Green Lawn and a Clean Lake

Just a reminder that the Village of Chenequa adopted a phosphorous free fertilizer ordinance. Please notify your lawn care service to make them aware of this change.

Excessive amounts of phosphorous in lake water can create algae blooms and reduce both water clarity and water quality. Most of our soils already have more than enough phosphorus for healthy plant growth and with a few exceptions no more is needed.

Gypsy Moth Watch



Gypsy Moth Caterpillar

The population of Gypsy Moth is again increasing. Many of the counties in SE Wisconsin will be conducting aerial spraying this spring. However Waukesha County will not be sprayed. We are hopeful the biological control elements which were so helpful in causing the population crash several years ago will keep the moth numbers at bay. Please report any large concentration of the egg masses (thumb size, tan patch attached to tree trunks) or gypsy moth caterpillars (dark hairy caterpillar with a series of blue and red markings along the back).

Driveway Clearance

Please trim the brush from the drives to allow the passage of vehicles. It is recommended to trim to a height of 10 feet and side clearance of two feet.

Pine Lake Quality Reports

Beginning this May, village forestry staff will be taking water samples from Pine Lake to determine the levels of phosphorous and chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen and water temperature. Last year was the first year of water clarity recordings as part of a Village of Chenequa/ WI-DNR sponsored Lake Monitoring Program.