



# Village of Chenequa

## NEWS

March 2014

[www.chenequa.org](http://www.chenequa.org)

### VILLAGE NEWS

#### Spring Election

The Spring Election will be held on April 1, 2014. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and voting will take place at the Chenequa Village Hall. Absentee Ballots are available for in-house voting through Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Spring Ballot contains the Offices for Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Court Judge, County Nonpartisan Offices, Municipal Offices and School District Offices. Ballot Samples for each school district are available on our website.

**REMINDER**--Political signs are not permitted on public property, right-of-ways or within one hundred (100) feet from a polling place entrance. Political signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet in size and shall be limited to the "election campaign period" as defined in Wisconsin Statutes §12.04 and any amendments thereto.

There are **three** Village Trustee seats open.

The following individuals are running for office in the Village of Chenequa:

- For office of Village Trustee – Incumbent Carol O Manegold
- For office of Village Trustee – Helmut Keidl
- For office of Village Trustee – Robert W Bellin



#### Waukesha County Drug Collection & Awareness

On Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Waukesha County will hold a county-wide drug collection in an effort to reduce prescription drug abuse and accidental poisonings in Waukesha County as well as help protect local waterways. Please bring prescription medication, over the counter medication, ointments, sprays, inhalers, creams, vials, herbals and pet medications to one of Waukesha County's appointed drop off locations. The closest locations are in Oconomowoc at the Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital, Pewaukee at WCTC (800 Main St, main parking lot), and in Waukesha at the Waukesha State Bank Downtown Office (St. Paul Ave. at Madison St.). Please do not bring any biohazardous material (including needles), mercury, household hazardous waste, or personal hygiene products. For more information, please visit [www.waukeshacounty.gov/drugcollection](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/drugcollection).

#### Dog Licenses



Many dog owners have not yet licensed their dogs for 2014. As a reminder, all dogs over 5 months of age **MUST** be licensed. Every year a new application must be submitted along with a copy of the rabies vaccination information and the proper fee. Please be sure your dog is properly licensed as it is a state law and local ordinance. The application is available in our office and online at [www.chenequa.org](http://www.chenequa.org) under the tab of eServices.

### **New Assessor: Mark Link**

Our new assessor, Mark Link with Tyler Technologies, began field work on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The Notices of Assessment will be sent out to residents on May 20<sup>th</sup>.



Prior to Open Book, Tyler Technologies will have assessment roll data available on our website. Please check the Village's website for updates throughout Spring on the Assessment and Board of Review. The website already has details on the Board of Review process as well as information on the steps to take before the Board of Review.

### **Open Book**

The Village of Chenequa's Open Book is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. To schedule an appointment, contact Mark Link at 800-959-6876, Ext 1 or via email at [mark.link@tylertech.com](mailto:mark.link@tylertech.com).

### **Board of Review – Thursday, June 26, 2014 from 9-11 a.m.**

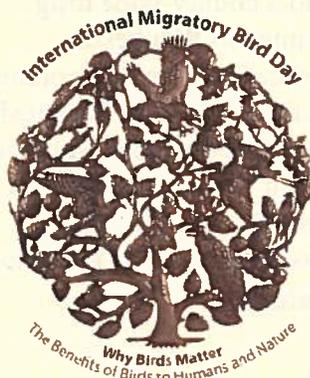
#### *What is the Board of Review?*

The Board of Review has the duty of correcting any errors in assessment that have been made, inadvertently or otherwise. It is the duty of the Board of Review to carefully examine the roll and correct all apparent errors in descriptions or computations, and to add any property to the roll that the assessor may have omitted.

### **Appointments for the 2014 Board of Review are Necessary**

An objection form must be filed with Pamela Little, Village Clerk, 48 hours prior to the Board of Review meeting. Information on the 2014 Property Assessment Appeal Guide is available at the Clerk's office during normal business hours and on our website on the Assessor page. Should you have any questions, contact Pam at 262-367-2239 or via email at [clerk-treasurer@chenequa.org](mailto:clerk-treasurer@chenequa.org).

### **International Migratory Bird Day Celebration**



As a recognized Bird City, Chenequa is proud to announce the upcoming International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This year's international theme is Why Birds Matter. Birds are an important part of our ecosystem as insect and rodent control, and they help spread seeds and aid in the pollination process. Birds are also powerful inspirations for music and art- did you know Mozart's pet starling inspired the opening theme of the Third Movement of his Piano Concerto No. 17 in G? For more information on IMBD and how you can help conserve our birds, please visit [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org).

### **Village Hall Closed Dates**

The Village Hall will be closed on Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. We will also be closed Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Officer Scott Swan Retires

After 33 years of service to the Village of Chenequa, Scott Swan retired in February from the Chenequa Police Department. Scott has worked all times of the day and night over the years and has responded to many calls for service in the village assisting citizens. Scott plans to stay in the area and enjoy the nearby lakes, as fishing is one of his favorite hobbies. A replacement officer will be hired in the next few months to bring us back to full staff.



### Winter Update

This past winter (and we hope it is past!) was one of the harshest we have seen in quite some time. With the repeated snowfalls and the long, cold temperatures, it was a busy year for the village snow plow crew. We think they did a very good job this past winter in keeping the drives open and accessible to residents and public safety responses. Please remember in most cases sanding and salting of drives is the property owner's responsibility. The Village primarily will salt hills, curves and intersections. Walks and flat surfaces are the responsibility of the homeowner. Your Chenequa Police Officers also did their best to check those residences on the vacation house check list. The extreme cold and heavy snow made it difficult, but they did their best to get around and check the properties for any potential problems.

### Bow Hunting Now Permitted in the Village of Chenequa

The Wisconsin State Legislature recently passed a new law that prohibits any municipality from restricting bow hunting within the community. This means all communities- even cities such as Waukesha, Brookfield and Milwaukee- cannot prohibit bow hunting in their communities, regardless of any local ordinances that may have prohibited such practices on the books for many years prior.

The Village has revised its hunting ordinance to reflect this change in response to the law. It is important to note that anyone wishing to hunt in the village will need to have permission (preferably in writing) of that property owner to do so. Any deer that may wander onto another neighboring property after being shot with a bow cannot be retrieved unless they have permission of that neighbor to enter that land. If you as a property owner are open to allowing bow and arrow deer hunting, it would be helpful to also talk to your neighboring property owners in advance about permission on each other's property in the event a deer needs to be tracked. Enclosed in this newsletter is the revised hunting ordinance as well as a revision to the trespass ordinance. Please review them before bow hunting or giving anyone permission to bow hunt on your property.

### Spring Checks

Spring is a great time to make sure all your information is current and your property is accessible. Please make sure your Knox Box keys are up to date, and the surrounding area is accessible and clear of any obstructions. If you are interested in purchasing a Knox Box, they are available at the Police Department. Make sure your address signs are also unearthed from any snow or debris and are easily visible. Officers are still visiting residences to collect Resident Contact information so we have the best methods of contacting you.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS CONTINUED

### Boating Safety Classes

The Chenequa Police Department's Water Safety Patrol will again conduct the Department of Natural Resources' certified boating safety class on April 29<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m. Classes will be held at the Chenequa Village Hall. The class is open to anyone 12 years of age or older. The cost of the class is \$10 per student, and the class size is limited to 20 students. For reservations and/or additional information, please contact the Chenequa Police Department at 367-2145. Pursuant to Wisconsin law, **ALL INDIVIDUALS BORN ON OR AFTER 01-01-89 MUST** take a DNR Certified Boating Safety Class prior to operating a boat. If these dates do not work in your schedule, the class may also be taken online at [www.boat-ed.com/wisconsin](http://www.boat-ed.com/wisconsin).

### Boating Reminders

- Personal Flotation Device (PFD): Wear your PFD. If you boat on federal waterways, children 13 years of age and younger **MUST** wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD. Boats over 16ft in length must have a throwable PFD on board. All boats must have one PFD per person on board.
- If your boat has a lanyard, please attach to PFD.
- Boats with built-in fuel tanks must have a fire extinguisher on board.
- Personal watercraft must operate at slow-no-wake when within 200 ft of the shore.
- Make sure boat registration is current and certificate of number is carried on board.
- Registration decals should reflect a **2014 - 2016** date on your boat.

Village Hall	367-2239
Fax	367-3341
Fire & Police	9-1-1
Emergency	
Non-Emergency	
during office hours only	367-2145
After hours	
Weekends and Holidays	367-2600
Office Hours	
Monday - Thursday	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.





## HIGHWAY / FORESTRY NEWS

### **Goose Control**

Our annual effort to control the Canada Goose population on Pine Lake will begin soon after the ice is off the lake. USDA - Wildlife Services will patrol the shore looking for nests. A release is needed to allow USDA personnel access to private property. Once a nest is located, the goose eggs are sprayed with soy bean oil. These eggs are then collected on a second visit. Anyone wishing to add their name to the list should contact the village forester.

### **Another Invasive Plant**



Keep an eye out for this invasive plant, known as Common Teasel. The plant can quickly spread in open areas displacing native vegetation. Control can be difficult and usually involves chemical treatments. A small population can be dug out but if allowed to spread, the costs and removal effort expands exponentially. An example of Common Teasel can be found along roadsides south of Hwy 16 along Hwy 83 for comparison. The only means of spreading this invasive species is by mowing, so dig them up while you can- imagine if there was only a handful of garlic mustard plants to pull!

### **Pine Lake Management Update**

The yearend report from the Wisconsin DNR shows continued improvement in the water quality based on the 2013 water samples collected by the village forestry department. Pine Lake was again classified as Oligotrophic. This is the best of the three general lake classifications based on water clarity and nutrient levels. However, last year's algae problem is a reminder that there are still nutrients entering the lake through various sources. In a report which will soon be completed, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) has estimated 145 tons of sediment enters Pine Lake annually under current land use conditions. Residents are reminded to reduce the use of fertilizers. Phosphorous has been banned from fertilizers for the most part, but excess nitrogen can still enter the lake effecting lake nutrient levels. Remember, the same nutrients which make your lawn green can make the lake water green with weed growth or algae. Many lake residents have converted their shore area from lawn to a natural landscape or perennial plants which act as a filter. More commonly known as a buffer strip, they trap sediments and nutrients before entering the lake. If you don't have a buffer strip along the shore please consider adding one, and if you already have one, consider widening it.

### **Weight Restrictions on Roads**

As the snow and ice melt, the soil will be saturated with water. This is the time of year when the roads (public and private) become vulnerable to damage from heavy loads. Many public roads will be posted with weight restrictions (10 tons) during this period, limiting heavy truck traffic. Residents may want to consider restricting heavy loads from trucks to the private drives and plan ahead for the delivery of building supplies, fuel oil, and septic tank service.

## Ordinance Changes

### **8.04 PROHIBITING HUNTING.** (amended 3/10/14)

#### (1) Definitions

In this section:

(a) "Firearm" has the meaning given in Wis. Stat. § 167.31(1)(c).

(b) "Building" has the meaning given in Wis. Stat. § 29.038(3)(a)1.a.

(2) Hunting within the Village limits of the Village of Chenequa on property owned or leased by the Village of Chenequa is hereby prohibited, except the Chief of Police of the Village of Chenequa is hereby authorized to permit hunting for the sole purpose of deer control, as outlined in the Deer Management Plan, to qualified marksmen at specified locations pursuant to recommendations of the Deer Management Committee.

(3) Hunting with a firearm within the Village limits of the Village of Chenequa is hereby prohibited, except the Chief of Police of the Village of Chenequa is hereby authorized to permit hunting with a firearm for the sole purpose of deer control, as outlined in the Deer Management Plan, to qualified marksmen at specified locations pursuant to recommendations of the Deer Management Committee.

(4) Hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow within the Village limits of the Village of Chenequa is hereby prohibited unless:

(a) the hunter is at least 100 yards from a building located on another person's land, or, if less than 100 yards from a building located on another person's land, if the hunter has permission from the building's owner to hunt within 100 yards of the building; and

(b) the hunter discharges the arrow or bolt from the respective weapon toward the ground.

(5) Any person violating the provisions of this section 8.04 shall upon conviction thereof forfeit not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) in addition to the costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such forfeiture and costs, by imprisonment in the County Jail of Waukesha County for a term of not less than ten (10) days, nor more than thirty (30) days.

### **8.10 TRESPASS TO LAND.** (amended 2/10/14)

(1) Any person who, within the limits of this village, does any of the following, shall upon conviction thereof forfeit an amount up to the maximum allowed for a Class B forfeiture under § 939.52(3)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes (2011-12) and the costs of prosecution; and in default of payment of such forfeiture and the costs of prosecution shall be imprisoned in the County Jail of Waukesha County for a term not exceeding twenty (20) days.

(a) Enters any enclosed, cultivated or undeveloped land of another, other than undeveloped land specified in paragraph (d) or (e), without the express or implied consent of the owner or occupant.

(b) Enters any land of another that is occupied by a structure used for agricultural purposes without the express or implied consent of the owner or occupant.

(c) Enters or remains on any land of another after having been notified by the owner or occupant not to enter or remain on the premises.

(d) Enters or remains on undeveloped land that is an inholding of another after having been notified by the owner or occupant not to enter or remain on the land.

(e) Enters undeveloped private land from an abutting parcel of land that is owned by the United States, this state or a local governmental unit, or remains on such land, after having been notified by the owner or occupant not to enter or remain on the land.

(2) In determining whether a person has implied consent to enter the land of another a trier of fact shall consider all of the circumstances existing at the time the person entered the land, including all of the following:

(a) Whether the owner or occupant acquiesced to previous entries by the person or by other persons under similar circumstances.

(b) The customary use, if any, of the land by other persons.

(c) Whether the owner or occupant represented to the public that the land may be entered for particular purposes.

(d) The general arrangement or design of any improvements or structures on the land.

(3) A person has received notice from the owner or occupant within the meaning of this section if he or she has been notified personally, either orally or in writing, or if the land is posted as set forth in §943.13(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes (2001-02).

(4) Whoever erects on the land of another signs which are the same as or similar to those described in subparagraph (2) without obtaining the express consent of the lawful occupant of or holder of legal title to such land shall upon conviction thereof forfeit not less than Twenty five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) and the costs of prosecution; and in default of payment of such forfeiture and the costs of prosecution shall be imprisoned in the County Jail of Waukesha County for a term not exceeding twenty (20) days.

(5) The definitions set forth in §943.13(1e) of the Wisconsin Statutes (2001-02) shall apply to this section.

(6) This section shall be subject to the limitations set forth in §943.13(4m) of the Wisconsin Statutes (2001-02).

## **UNDERSTANDING THE VILLAGE OF CHENEQUA REVALUATION AND YOUR ASSESSMENT**

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### **What is a revaluation?**

A revaluation is a complete and thorough review of all assessments. During a revaluation, all assessments are examined and adjustments are made where necessary to guarantee that each property is assessed at market value. This is done to assure that taxes are distributed equitably and uniformly. The last revaluation for the Village was conducted in 2010.

### **How does the assessor value property?**

Assessed value is the dollar amount assigned to taxable property by the Village assessor for the purpose of taxation. Wisconsin law requires that property assessments be based on fair market value. However, "assessed value" and a private appraiser's "fair market value" are different in that they are for different purposes - a private appraiser is completing a site specific, single property appraisal (usually for a mortgage lender) as an estimate of the property's value on that specific date while the Village assessor is completing appraisals for hundreds of properties at once in order to value all properties in the Village for tax equity purposes as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of any given year. Thus, the value identified by the Village assessor and the value identified by a private appraiser may be different values. To determine your property's value, the assessor maintains a database containing detailed information regarding each structure and parcel. It tracks the number of rooms, square footages, and many other pieces of information commonly available from building permits, interior inspections, or from a street-side view. The assessor also maintains a record of all property sales in the Village. By using a detailed statistical computer model the assessor can, on an annual basis, identify properties similar to yours that have sold and use that sales data to estimate the fair market value of your property.

### **Can the assessment on my property be changed even if the assessor has not been inside my property?**

Yes. Wisconsin law allows the assessor to base the assessment on actual view, or the best information possible. The current assessments are based on the interior inspections conducted to date, existing records regarding the interior, exterior view, and open market sales of similar properties.

### **How can my assessment change when I haven't done anything to my property?**

General economic conditions such as interest rates, inflation rates, supply and demand, and changes in the tax laws will influence the value of real estate. As property values change in the market place, those changes must be reflected on the assessment roll.

### **Do all assessments change at the same rate?**

There are differences between individual properties and between neighborhoods. In one area the sales may indicate a substantial increase in value in a given year. In another neighborhood there may be a smaller increase in value, no change in value, or even a decrease in property values. Different types of properties within the same neighborhood may also show different value changes.

### **How do I know if my assessment is correct?**

You should first attempt to decide for yourself what your property is worth. This can be done by looking at area sales, contacting appraisers, and comparing assessments of similar homes.

### **Am I required to meet with the assessor?**

You are not required to meet with the assessor before appealing to the Board of Review, although it is highly recommended. Minor errors and misunderstandings can often be corrected by meeting with the assessor without initiating a formal appeal.

**(OVER)**

**What should I expect if I meet with the assessor during the open book period?**

You should ask questions that will help you understand the assessment process and how your assessment was determined. A meeting with the assessor during open book can often resolve a problem prior to a formal hearing before the Board of Review. Ask the assessor to show you the records for your property and to explain how your assessment was determined. Ask any questions that will help you understand the assessment process.

**What is the Board of Review?**

The Board of Review is a quasi-judicial (court-like) board composed of Village residents who volunteer to serve as members. Its function is not one of valuation but of deciding the validity of the facts presented orally before it. You or your representative must provide testimony to the Board in objection of your assessment and prove that your property is inequitably assessed when compared to the general level of assessment within the Village.

**What evidence do I need to present to the Board of Review?**

State law places 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. Only relevant testimony given at the hearing will be considered by the Board. The best evidence for this would be a recent sale or asking price for your property, sales or asking prices for properties similar to yours, or a recent appraisal of your property. The closer in proximity and similarity of characteristics of comparable sales to the subject property, the better the evidence.

**Does everybody's property tax go up because of revaluations?**

No. Revaluation redistributes the existing property tax burden so that all property owners pay their fair share based on the market value of their property. The total amount of taxes levied is completely independent of the overall assessment.

**Can I determine what impact this revaluation will have on my property taxes?**

The exact amount of your property tax bill will not be known until December and will be based upon the tax levy established by the Village, as well as the other taxing (School Districts, Technical College, Waukesha County and State of WI).