

VILLAGE OF WHITING

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

3600 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

(715) 341-2742

www.villageofwhiting.org

Office Hours M-F 9:00-3:30

Winter 2025



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS HEADING INTO THE NEW YEAR:

- **Dog and Cat licenses for 2025** can be purchased at the Village Hall or the Humane Society. You have until March 31 to avoid a \$5.00 late fee. Neutered/spayed animals \$14.00. If not neutered or spayed, \$24.00. **Cash or check needed for payment.** Thank you!
- **First Installment of Property taxes are due Jan 31.** Please refer to information sent with your tax bill for payment options. All payments are made through Portage County. Website: <https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/431/Treasurers-Office>
- The best source for **updated recycling information** can be found at: <https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/396/Solid-Waste>
- **We are recycling Christmas lights and still accepting candles and their containers all year. Boxes are in entryway of the Village Hall. Please remove all "extra" items from the lights. String with lights attached are the only acceptable items.**

WINTERTIME REMINDERS

- Property owners and occupants are responsible for removing snow and ice from sidewalks within 24 hours after the snowfall ceases. There is no minimum snowfall amount rule. All snow needs to be cleared. (Village ordinance 12.07)
- Removing snow from private property and depositing on sidewalks, streets or other public places is prohibited.
- Do you live near a fire hydrant? Please help us to keep it clear of snow. This will allow the fire department quicker access during emergencies. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.
- When ice has formed and cannot be immediately removed, residents should use salt, sawdust or sand to cover the area.
- Sand barrels are available on corner of Verrill and School St., behind the Village Hall and on the corner of Cherry and West Cedar.

The Village of Whiting is not responsible for any damage that may occur within the Village's right-of-way as a result of the snow and ice removal operations. This includes damage to snow sticks, gravel/sand, gouged or torn sod, landscapes, irrigation equipment or driveway aprons. Snow sticks should be set back a minimum of 1 foot from the paved part of the road.

To our Village of Whiting Residents – From your elected Village President, and your elected Village Board

It was great to see the nice turnout by residents for the December 3rd Public Hearing on the 2025 Village Budget. Those that stayed for the whole meeting heard about the challenges of managing the financial aspects of a village in these times when base levies are capped by the State, and the Village lost a major source of revenue when the mill closed down. Since that double whammy hit, inflation has not waned, and if anything, elevated somewhat. In addition, the State transferred ownership for Post Road to the Village, and several Village roads received needed repairs, along with the Whiting Avenue Bridge. Most of this maintenance was done before things got so bad that expensive restorations were required – which makes good fiscal sense. Residents in attendance also heard about the many ways which the elected representatives and the Village Employees are frugal with your tax dollars.

In addition, they were able to again hear about how the Public Fire Protection (PFP) costs were transferred to the quarterly Water bills (this was detailed in the summer/fall newsletter), the amount of which is set by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. It pays for the infrastructure needed (beyond what would be required of simple residential service) to fight fires within the Village.

Finally, it was pointed out that last year, the property taxes in the Village actually went down 18%, so if you look at the trend over 2 years, it paints a different picture. REMEMBER – the Village of Whiting is responsible ONLY for the Village line on your Property Tax bill, not the whole bill (Schools, Portage County, etc.)! See the chart below.

Property Assessed Value	Property Tax Dec-22	Property Tax Dec-23	Property Tax Plus PFP Dec-24	Decrease 22-23	Increase 23-24	Inc/Dec 22-24
\$ 100,000	\$ 506	\$ 414	\$ 656	\$ (92)	\$ 242	\$ 150
\$ 200,000	\$ 1,012	\$ 829	\$ 1,132	\$ (184)	\$ 303	\$ 120
\$ 300,000	\$ 1,518	\$ 1,243	\$ 1,608	\$ (275)	\$ 365	\$ 90
\$ 400,000	\$ 2,024	\$ 1,657	\$ 2,084	\$ (367)	\$ 427	\$ 59
\$ 500,000	\$ 2,531	\$ 2,072	\$ 2,560	\$ (459)	\$ 488	\$ 29
\$ 600,000	\$ 3,037	\$ 2,486	\$ 3,036	\$ (551)	\$ 550	\$ (1)
\$ 700,000	\$ 3,543	\$ 2,900	\$ 3,512	\$ (643)	\$ 612	\$ (31)
\$ 800,000	\$ 4,049	\$ 3,314	\$ 3,988	\$ (734)	\$ 673	\$ (61)
\$ 900,000	\$ 4,555	\$ 3,729	\$ 4,464	\$ (826)	\$ 735	\$ (91)

Looking forward, our Village Auditor pointed out to the attendees that the Village is moving to a stronger financial footing, which should help even out the annual taxes (smooth out the bumps). We also showed (again, trying to be frugal with your tax dollars) that we obtained an over \$400,000 grant for the Polk Street project, planned to take place after many years of delay, in 2025. Besides fixing a bad road, this will help make the area safer for the students of Ben Franklin Junior High. We will also repair Sherman Avenue while a needed sewer utility project occurs (again doing it when it is most cost effective to do so) making a better road down to the care facilities which unfortunately see frequent ambulance runs, not to mention needed bus service.

So yes, it is recognized that the bill you just received, along with the PFP which will be on the water bills, is higher than last year, and that hurts in the pocketbook, but when you look at the comparison to 2 years ago, the story is different.

It was rewarding to hear from at least a dozen residents at the meeting that now they understood, and while nobody likes tax increases, they knew why. Many expressed they felt misled on this issue by postings on Social Media, particularly Facebook. Don't believe the spin you often get there. If you have questions, I recommend that you contact a Village Trustee or the President at any time. Most people don't realize this, but the Public Comment period of Village Board meetings are not structured as a question-and-answer period, but as a time for the Board to hear Comments from the Public, so waiting for a Village Board meeting is not best.

REAL CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP JANUARY 8

Christmas (real only) Tree pick up will begin Wednesday January 8. Please place tree on curb by 9:00 a.m. with all lights, decorations, tinsel etc. off. Please keep in mind that the tree must be visible, so if we actually get a nice snowfall, please remove snow. We will pick up your tree on that day or by Friday of that week. Thank you for your cooperation!