



WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM OUR VILLAGE PRESIDENT, MICHAEL VANDEN BERG

There is a Chinese saying: “May you live in interesting times”. It is an expression usually directed at someone you dislike. Era’s or events that make the history books are generally difficult and trying times. Unfortunately, we are living in interesting times.

As Little Chute decided how to deal with the pandemic and what measures to take, there was no playbook, no precedent of similar situations and we were dealing with imperfect information. The problem was we did not know what the experts ‘had right’ and what they were ‘not so right’ about. For the most part we did our best to conduct business as normal as possible. Probably the most difficult decision the Board had to make was whether we would open the pool last summer when no other communities were. Looking back, opening the pool was clearly the right decision; at the time of the decision it weighed heavily upon us.

COVID and the Packers . . . everyone has an opinion and the answers. Opinions about the virus run the gamut from people who rarely leave home and are masked all the time to those

who say it is just the flu. For the longest time I knew

of no one who had the virus, to now, where I know of numerous people who either had the virus or have it. My observation is that the people of Little Chute understand the risk the virus poses. Like most of you, I have very limited interaction with the public. What I see is people understand the risks and are taking reasonable precautions. Unfortunately, the virus has become politicized and how you view it depends upon your political leanings.

The long-term consequences of the Covid period on society remains to be seen. However, I expect some of our behaviors and how we deal with one another will be forever changed. I suspect some societal changes will be for the better and some for the worse. Since this is budget time, I expect that future budgets will be affected by Covid. Income and sales tax revenues are down significantly. Sooner or later we are going to feel the effects of that at the local level.

We are about to have the most unusual Holiday season ever. I sincerely wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Hopefully the Holiday spirit and a vaccine is not far behind, will get us back to more normal times.



NELSON CROSSING UPDATE

Construction began on the David and Rita Nelson Family Heritage Crossing in August of 2020. This multi-modal bike and pedestrian bridge will connect the Village of Little Chute’s trail system with the City of Kaukauna’s trail system. This will create a 13-mile loop through Little Chute, Kaukauna, and Kimberly. Construction is scheduled to be completed in June of 2021.

FROM OUR LEADERS

2021 BUDGET MESSAGE FROM JAMES FENLON, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

The 2021 Village Budget adopted by the Village Board on November 4th, 2020 is a balanced budget with a property tax levy totaling \$5,281,033. This tax levy represents a 3.18 % increase compared to the previous year's tax levy, or an increase of \$162,946. The assessed value tax rate for 2021 for the Village is set at \$7.80, which is an increase of \$0.20, or an increase of 2.63%. The average assessed value for all homes in the Village of Little Chute is approximately \$150,000. The total tax on an average \$150,000 assessed value home, if located within the Little Chute School District, would be as follows:

2020	2021	TAXING AUTHORITY
\$1,140.00	\$1,170.00	Village of Little Chute (increase of \$30)
\$1,787.00	\$1,711.00	Little Chute School District (decrease of \$76)
\$686.00	\$675.00	Outagamie County (decrease of \$11)
\$185.00	\$184.00	Fox Valley Technical College (decrease of \$1)
\$3,798.00	\$3,740.00	Total Tax for a \$150,000 Assessed Value Home Located in the Little Chute School District (decrease of \$58).

As you can see, the tax bill on an average home in the Little Chute School District decreases approximately \$58 from last year. Another important aspect to note is that the **Village of Little Chute's portion is approximately 31% of the total tax rate.** To illustrate where your tax dollars go in the Village of Little Chute in a different format, see insert on right:

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2021 WAGES AND BENEFITS

The budget included a one percent (1%) increase in cost of living adjustment for wages for non-represented Village employees for 2021. Non-represented Village employees will continue to pay approximately 12% of the premium cost for health insurance in 2021. For our sworn officers who are part of the Fox Valley Metro Professional Police Association, we recently agreed to a new multi-year collective bargaining agreement (contract) and the increase for these officers is approximately 2.5% in 2021 (contract schedule for similar increases in 2022).

PERSONNEL CHANGES

There were no new positions authorized within the 2021 budget when compared to 2020. Here were additional resources added to the Community Support Officer position within Fox Valley Metro Police Department in addition to budget authority to create a Sergeant position that will potentially be filled internally from within the department. While not necessarily new staff, the 2021 budget does

change the way we fund the Gerard H. Van Hoof Library as the Kimberly-Little Chute Joint Library will no longer be operated as a joint effort. Starting in early 2021, the Library will open and look to expand on services



VILLAGE OF LITTLE CHUTE LEVY ALLOCATION

An analysis of municipal levy allocation for 2021.

Below we illustrate how the tax levy is allocated to various functions in the Village of Little Chute. Total property tax levy in 2021 is \$5,281,033.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: This accounts for expenditures for all administrative functions. In addition, the departments of finance, public works, parks, recreation and forestry and the Little Chute Fire Department are funded in this account: Total allocation of \$946,551 or 17.9% of total levy.

DEBT SERVICE: This accounts for expenditures for general obligation debt that is covered by the tax levy: Total allocation of \$1,029,067 or 19.5% of total levy.

CAPITAL PROJECTS: (Capital, Parks, Fleet, Facilities, Fire Equip): This accounts for expenditures for maintenance, repair, or upgrade expenses of capital assets such as facility upgrades and equipment purchases: Total allocation of \$564,519 or 10.7% of total levy.

FOX VALLEY METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT: This accounts for expenditures for costs associated with police services: Total allocation of \$2,162,519 or 40.9% of total levy allocation.

AQUATICS: This accounts for expenditures related to operation of the Doyle Park Pool facility: Total allocation of \$115,722 or 2.2% of total levy.

LIBRARY: This accounts for expenditures related to the operation of the Little Chute Library: Total allocation of \$462,655 or 8.8% of total levy allocation

that the Joint Library had provided. We look forward to finalizing these efforts in the weeks ahead.

DEBT

The 2021 total budget for debt service is \$2,985,294. The tax levy is scheduled to account for \$1,029,067 of this debt service payment with the balance being paid by collection of special assessments, TID increment, and utility revenues. During 2020, the Village issued new general obligation debt to fund several larger capital projects in 2020 and 2021 and we refinanced debt that is now general

obligation debt (previously utility revenue debt). By issuing debt for two years versus one, the Village of Little Chute was able to take advantage of low interest rates and only paying the cost of issuance once. The Village's debt ratio at the end of 2020 is anticipated to be slightly more than 50% of the legal limit due to issuance for 2021 and the refinancing. The long-term average debt ratio goal the Village Board strives for is to be at or lower than 50% of the legal limit.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The 2021 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) contains resources to reconstruct Evergreen Drive from County Highway N to Vandebroek Road (TID #6 project), Hartzheim Drive from Randolph to terminus (TID#6 project), installation of signals at County Highway N and Evergreen Drive (TID #6 project), and the reconstruction of the Pine Street Parking lot (TID #8 project). Along with necessary

ANNUAL NET TAX RATE (EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT)

	Little Chute Schools	Kaukauna Schools	Appleton Schools
2017	\$22.88	\$21.24	\$20.80
2018	\$23.56	\$22.20	\$22.17
2019	\$23.60	\$22.22	\$21.70
2020	\$23.25	\$22.33	\$21.68



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2020 BUDGET MESSAGE CONTINUED

equipment related purchases, the Village intends to construct a new stormwater management facility on Vandebroek Road. The complete Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) can be found here: <https://www.littlechutewi.org/DocumentCenter/View/5737/CIP-Master-2021-2025-FINAL>

UTILITY RATES

The utility rates for the Storm, Water, and Sewer utilities will remain the same for 2021. As is the normal process, staff will monitor the utilities from an operational and financial perspective and work with the Utility Commission to ensure the utilities are operating in an efficient and effective manner with rates to maintain that level of effort. To monitor this effectively, the Finance Department creates key metrics monthly for each utility to measure debt coverage, cash on hand, debt to plant, system profit and rate of return. This greatly assists the Utility Commission, Village Board, and staff as we manage the Village's utilities. Of note in 2021, we did include resources in the Sewer Budget to conduct a rate analysis due to key fiscal indicators that signal that the rate may need to be adjusted in the future.

SUMMARY AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

2020 provided challenges like no other due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal was to maintain the health and safety of our staff and all residents during the pandemic. While we did have to alter how we delivered normal services over the course of the year to account for safety measures, by and large we were able to maintain most services in a safe manner to all residents in Little Chute. Our goal for 2021 is to continue that effort and we hope that as the year goes on, we will officially be able to return to normalcy. We want to thank all residents who worked with us through the course of 2020 while we worked through various levels of safety measures or changes to normal levels of effort. Your patience and support have been appreciated.

Longtime Community Development Director, Jim Moes, retired in early 2020. Jim had worked for the Village of Little Chute for more than 25 years and assisted in dramatic economic growth over that time. We thank Mr. Moes for his service and wish him well in retirement. In February, we welcomed Dave Kittel as the new Community Development Director.



Mr. Kittel joins the Village of Little Chute from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue and has already been busy working on several priorities related to development, planning, zoning, and assessing. Welcome to the team Dave!

In 2020, Carol Lynn Drive and Homewood Court were reconstructed as part of our effort to continue providing safe and efficient utility and transportation systems. We were also able to reconstruct watermain on Moasis Drive, make improvements at both Van Lieshout and Heesakker playgrounds, and start the Dave and Rita Nelson Family Heritage Crossing. In addition to those projects, the Parks and Forestry team has been working to eliminate risk by removing Ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer and replanting new terrace trees in their place. Special thanks to our staff for their work on these projects and to the residents for their patience during the reconstruction process. Great work to all involved on these projects!

I would like to thank and recognize all our team members for the tremendous effort exhibited in 2020. On behalf of the Village Board and staff, we are pleased to maintain the high level of Village services you have come to expect and deserve. Should you have any questions on the budget or any matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, the Village is always looking for residents to serve on boards and commissions. If you are interested, we would ask that you visit our website at <http://www.littlechutewi.org/60/Citizen-Commissions-and-Committees> to determine if you have interest. If so, there is an easy application that can be filled out online. If you have any questions or interest, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Merry Christmas!

James P. Fenlon

Village Administrator



BOARD/COMMITTEE SCHEDULE 2021

	REGULAR BOARD	COMM. OF THE WHOLE	PLAN COMM.	UTILITY COMM.	LIBRARY BOARD	JOINT POLICE	FIRE COMM.	PARK PLANNING
JANUARY	6, 20	13, 27	11	19	12			5
FEBRUARY	3, 17	10, 24	8	16	9	9	8	
MARCH	3, 17	10, 24	8	16	9			2
APRIL	7, 21	14, 28	12	20	13			
MAY	5, 19	12, 26	10	18	11	11	10	4
JUNE	2, 16	9, 23	14	15	8			
JULY	7, 21	14, 28	12	20	13			6
AUGUST	4, 18	11, 25	9	17	10	10	9	
SEPTEMBER	1, 15	8, 22	13	21	14			7
OCTOBER	6, 20	13, 27	11	19	12			
NOVEMBER	3, 17	10, 24	8	16	9	9	8	2
DECEMBER	1, 15	8, 22	13	21	14			

All boards and commissions meet at 6:00 PM except Library (4:30 PM) & Fire (5:45 PM)

- Regular Board - 1st & 3rd Wed.
- Comm. of the Whole - 2nd & 4th Wed.
- Plan Commission - 2nd Mon.
- Utility Commission - 3rd Tues.
- Library Board - 2nd Tue.
- Joint Police Commission - 2nd Tues./Quarterly
- Fire Commission - 2nd Mon./Quarterly
- Park Plan Commission - 1st Tues./Bi-Monthly

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FINANCE

TAX COLLECTION

2020 Tax bills were mailed on November 30.

Contactless payments encouraged E-check is now available on the Outagamie County Website at **NO** cost due to Covid-19. Go to www.outagamie.org and click on "Property Taxes". For E-check you will need your bank account and routing number. For a flat fee of \$3.50 you can use your debit card. Like prior years you can also pay by credit card for a fee of 2.2% of the amount you are paying.

Mail payments in full or 1st installment by February 1, 2021 to: Village of Little Chute, 108 W Main, Little Chute, WI 54140

With the exception of our Holiday hours, you may pay your taxes Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at Village Hall.

The last day to pay taxes in person with a 2020 dated receipt is: Thursday, December 31st 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Second installments should be made by August 2, 2021 payable to: Outagamie County Treasurer 320 S. Walnut St., Appleton, WI 54911. The Village of Little Chute cannot accept second installment payments

If paying in person or by mail, be sure to include the 1st installment stub (upper left corner) with your payment. Mailed payments must be postmarked by February 1, 2021 to be considered timely.

A night deposit box is available under the canopy entrance along the Grand Avenue side of Village Hall. Payments can be made at BLC Community Bank and Capital Credit Union North Ave location, please use drive up options as lobbies are closed.

Taxpayers are encouraged to pay property taxes by check. If you would like a receipt, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your payment. Alternatively, paid tax information is available on Outagamie County's website that you may print a payment receipt for your records. Postings are updated daily.

If receiving an escrow check from your mortgage company, the entire payment amount must be applied to your tax bill. If the escrow check exceeds the entire tax amount you will be issued a refund. Cash refunds are limited to \$50.00 at Village Hall and if it exceeds \$50, a refund check will be issued. Refund checks are cut weekly.

Please notify us if there is an incorrect mailing address on your tax bill. We will forward your information to the County Treasurer for you. However, if there is an ownership or legal name change that is not reflected on the tax bill, those changes must be recorded by the taxpayer at the County Register of Deeds.

LITTLE CHUTE WINDMILL

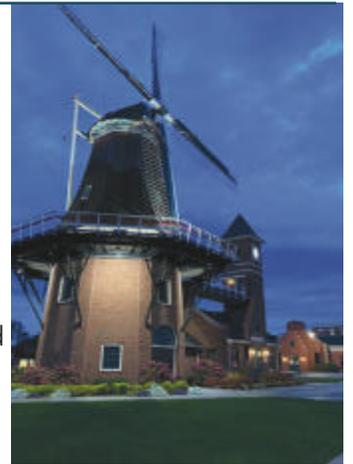
Need a Christmas gift idea? The Little Chute Windmill has the opportunity to place more Commemorative Bricks on their front plaza in 2020. Now is the chance to give your family or someone special a "forever gift" with their own commemorative brick. Email or download a form from the website.

Looking for a special place to hold your Bridal or Baby Shower or other event? Little Chute Windmill has an event room, cost is \$100.00 and a refundable deposit of \$400.00. Call or email for rental information.

The Little Chute Windmill provides an educational opportunity for all ages by celebrating the Dutch

heritage of northeast Wisconsin. As a tourist destination, the Windmill helps local businesses thrive and contributes to revitalization of the downtown. LCW is in need of volunteers for the 2021 season. If you are interested in welcoming visitors from around the world to our great community, please consider volunteering!

For room rental, applications or Brick Order Form visit our website at www.littlechutewindmill.org email us at littlechutewindmill@gmail.com or contact Harriette Janssen at 920-788-2629.



FIRST DOLLAR CREDIT FOR PROPERTY TAXES

First dollar credit applies to all property (residential, commercial, manufacturing) that has an improvement value printed on the tax bill. The legislation excludes mobile homes and leased property from the distribution. The first dollar credit is evenly applied to both installment payments unlike the lottery credit that is applied only to the first installment.

DOG LICENSING

Dog licenses can be purchased at the Village Hall Finance Department. Per Ordinance, all dogs five months or older must be licensed. Please bring the following copies with you:

- Rabies vaccination records
- Proof of Spayed/Neutering

The fees are \$7.00 (\$12.00 after March 31st) for spayed/neutered and \$12.00 (\$17.00 after March 31st) for in tact.

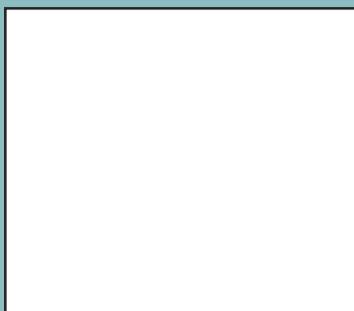
LOTTERY CREDIT FOR PROPERTY TAXES

Residential property owners are eligible for a lottery credit if they meet the following criteria:

- **Property must be your primary residence**
- **Residency established as of January 1 of the current year**

If you continue to reside in the same owner-occupied residence, and have received the lottery credit previously on your property tax bill, you do not need to take any action.

Those who purchased or built a new home in 2019 and occupied it by January 1, 2020 are responsible to notify the local treasurer (Village Hall) or the county treasurer (Outagamie County Courthouse) certifying their eligibility by signing a Lottery Credit Application. Forms are available at the Village Hall, Outagamie County Courthouse, or online at www.revenue.wi.gov/pages/form/lottery-home.aspx



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PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

2021 PARK SHELTER & RECREATION CENTER RENTALS

The current policy on park shelter & rec center rentals allows the public to reserve facilities on the first business day of the new year, which will be Monday, January 4. All reservations are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. To book a date in 2021, you can either stop in at the Park & Rec Dept (2nd floor of Village Hall) or you can call us during business hours at 423-3869. Payment is due in full at the time the reservation is made, so if you call to book a date you are required to pay with a credit card. **Reservations for open-air park shelters can be made from May through September 2021.** Information on park shelters (shelter choices, locations, pictures, rental fees) is located on the village website at littlechutewi.org/parks.

Reservations for the Van Lieshout Rec Center can be made from January 2021 through February 2022. The Rec Center is a temperature-controlled room that contains tables, chairs, stove, refrigerator, microwave, sink, and restrooms. It is a great place for an indoor birthday party, wedding/baby shower, family gathering, or company meeting!

PARKS & REC HELP WANTED:

YOUTH DANCE INSTRUCTOR

Our department is looking for a qualified individual who can help instruct tumbling and poms classes as a Youth Dance Instructor. The position requires instructing dance classes on Tuesday evenings for 12 weeks twice a year (Feb-May & Sept-Dec) with a Lead Dance Instructor. Each session of classes is followed by a dance revue, which is held on a Saturday/Sunday afternoon. Pay range is \$13.15 to \$13.80 per hour. If you are interested in this position, please call Donna at 284-3232 by Wednesday, December 30.

SUMMER PART-TIME APPLICATIONS

If your child is interested in applying for a summer job with the Little Chute Parks, Recreation & Forestry Dept for 2021, please have them pick up an application at the Park & Rec Dept (2nd floor of Village Hall) **starting in January** or they can download it at littlechutewi.org/recreation. The application is for anyone interested in applying for an opening as a recreation instructor, lifeguard, pool cashier, or parks/forestry/streets laborer.

The final deadline for summer part-time applications is Friday, March 5.

UPCOMING REC DEPT PROGRAMS

Check out our upcoming rec programs by going to <https://littlechute.recdesk.com/Community/Home>. You will be able to view upcoming rec programs, registration information, sign-up deadlines, and program fees. Families may register for programs online or stop in our office on the 2nd floor of the Village Hall. Our rec programs are open to Little Chute residents/taxpayers and non-residents on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 423-3869.



EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following Village of Little Chute employees who celebrated a milestone work anniversary this year. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

5 Year

Samuel Gueli
Christopher Murawski
Adam Breest
Paula Portman

15 Year

Jeremy Slotke
Ann Vanden Heuvel

20 Year

Molly Derricks

25 Year

Jeffrey Nett
Michael McClone
Steven Van Deurzen

30 Year

Daniel Thorson
Joseph Jansen

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Little Chute residents/taxpayers

DO NOT NEED TO CALL IN FOR PICKUP OF CHRISTMAS TREES!

Please place your tree curbside once all lights, ornaments, garland, and tinsel has been removed. Trees should not be wrapped with tree bags. Mobile home residents should also put out their tree to the street within their mobile home park. Starting in January the village forestry crew will be scheduled as deemed necessary for Christmas tree pickup with the chipper. Please be patient, since they will be chipping a lot of trees within the village. Wreaths or boughs containing metal wiring must be disposed of in your polycart because the chipper cannot chip items with metal.

HEESAKKER PARK ICE SKATING/HOCKEY RINK

The Village will have one ice rink at Heesakker Park as soon as the weather permits. The rink will be lit up by a floodlight next to the rink and it will have a net on one end for people who wish to play hockey. Please be considerate of other skaters at all times since everyone will be sharing one rink for two types of activities! There is NO supervision or warming shelter at the park, so please watch your children! Remember to keep all sticks & stones off the ice, and don't walk or skate on the rink if the water isn't completely frozen.

VILLAGE SLEDDING HILLS

Once the winter snow arrives, there are sledding hills at Heesakker Park (access sledding hill from parking lot off Sanitorium Road on south side of park) and Van Lieshout Park (hill located at corner of Florida Ave. & Vandebroek Rd) for everyone to enjoy.

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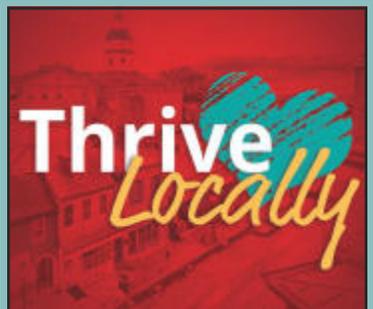


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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Any questions or concerns regarding the following information please call (920) 423-3865 or e-mail laura@littlechutewi.org.

HOLIDAY REFUSE / RECYCLING SCHEDULE CHANGES

Christmas Thursday, December 24th garbage will be collected on Wednesday, December 23rd. Friday, December 25th business garbage will be collected on Monday, December 28th.

IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER

Your LAST Garbage Collection Day of the Calendar Month of January, April, July and October: pickup of large metal items on your regular day of collection.

Your LAST Garbage Collection Day of the Calendar Month: pickup of large non-metal items on your regular day of collection.

LAST week of December on Your LAST Garbage Collection Day of the Calendar Month: pickup of "extra" bagged garbage on your regular day of collection.

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					VH	2		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31			
31																				

VH Village Holiday

Recycling Collection Dates

SNOW & ICE REMINDERS

Parking Restrictions

As a reminder, winter parking regulations begin December 1st-April 1st. During this time vehicles are not permitted to park on the street between the hours of 2:00 am to 6:00 am. Other times of the day when street parking is not regulated please avoid parking next to snow piles to make it easier for the plows to remove the snow.

Depositing Snow On Public Streets

Sec. 40-65. Snow and ice removal. (c) Snow and ice not to encroach. No person shall push, shove or in any way deposit any snow or ice from any

private driveway, private sidewalk, or private property onto any public street or alley, public or private sidewalk, or public lands dedicated to public use either before or after the public streets have been plowed.

Mailboxes

Residents are responsible for keeping their mailboxes cleared of snow for mail delivery. The Village will not replace a mailbox that is not placed correctly if / when a plow or other street maintenance equipment hits and damages it. The crew is also not responsible for any damages done to a mailbox due to transfer of snow weight.

PRIVATE SNOW REMOVAL

Sidewalks are to be kept clear of snow and ice to a minimum of five feet in width (unless sidewalk is smaller). In the event that ice has formed on any sidewalk in such a manner that it cannot be removed, the owner, occupant or person in charge of the parcel or lot which fronts upon or adjoins said sidewalk shall keep the sidewalk sprinkled with sand and/or salt to permit safe travel.

NO written or verbal notice will be given to violators - it is the responsibility of a property owner of such parcel or lot which fronts upon or abuts any sidewalk to maintain the sidewalk area throughout the snow season. Any snow or ice not cleared within 24 hours from the time the snow ceases to accumulate, may be cleared by the Village and billed to the owner, lessee, or occupant. If you have a concern about a sidewalk call the Department of Public Works, (920) 423-3865.





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Village of Little Chute, Little Chute, WI

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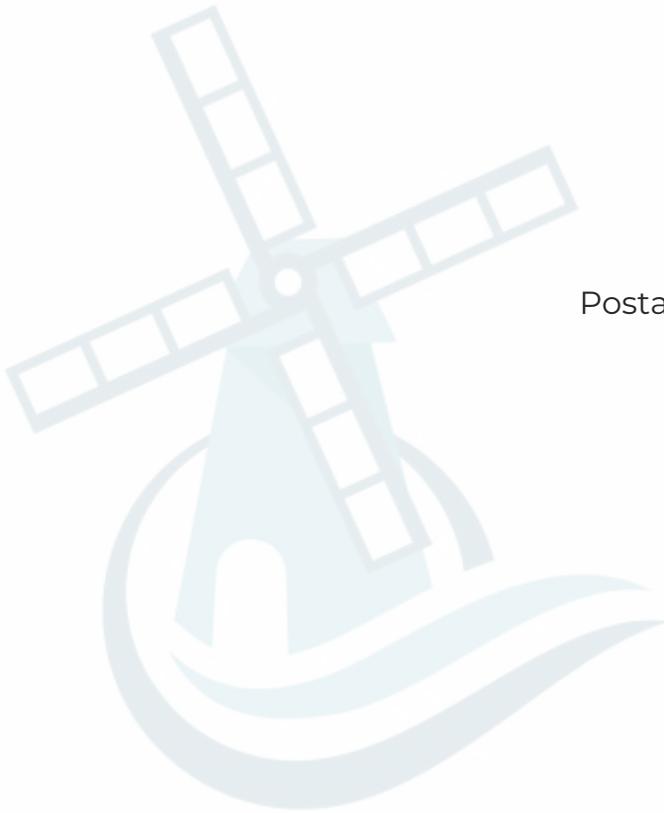
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CONTACT US!

Administrative Offices	108 W. Main St.	788-7380
Fox Valley Metro Police	200 W. McKinley Ave.	788-7505
Parks, Rec & Forestry	108 W. Main St.	423-3869
Public Works	108 W. Main St.	423-3865
Gerard H. Van Hoof Library	625 Grand Ave.	788-7825
Water Plant	625 Evergreen	788-7522
Water Emergency		788-7526
Water Bill Payments	108 W. Main St.	423-3854
Fire Non-Emergency		788-7399



HOLIDAY HOURS

All Village Offices Closed

DECEMBER 24

DECEMBER 25

JANUARY 1



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