



BLACK EARTH NEWS



The Busy B.E.

Newsletter

April 2021

Village Municipal Office

OPEN 8:00 AM—4:30 PM • PHONE: 608.767.2563 • 1210 MILLS ST / PO BOX 347 • WWW.BLACKEARTHWISCONSIN.COM



SCHOOL MEALS!

The Wisconsin Heights School District will offer FREE meals to all children, 18 and under in the community, through June 4, 2021, or until available funding runs out.

Through pre-order and curbside pick up, all children will have the opportunity to participate in the school meals programs. Each week, households will pre-order meals using a Weekly Meal Pre-Order Form. Pre-orders must be placed no later than 12 PM on the Monday before curbside pick up, and you are strongly encouraged to pre-order as early as possible.

There is a misconception that school meals are only for children who qualify for free or reduced price meals; this is false. All children qualify for free meals during this pandemic. The meals are not designated for some children and not for others. No one is taking resources away from the school or from other children and families by participating. In fact, picking up meals during this pandemic helps distribute foods and beverages already in our school kitchens and boosts funding we receive from the government to keep the programs running in this and coming school years. Your participation is important tous!

Please do not hesitate to contact Rebekkah Plano, Food Service Director, at (608) 767-2595 extension 1008 or rplano@wisheights.k12.wi.us with questions or concerns.

VILLAGE SURVEY

The Economic Development Committee and Village Board want to thank all the community residents who completed our recent survey. We are committed to being proactive in sharing the Survey results with the community. While the survey was part of updating the Comprehensive Plan, sharing the results is an important step in moving your ideas, sharing your comments and keeping Village happenings transparent. We will be taking a proactive approach in dealing with your suggestions and new opportunities as they arise.

There was a 26% survey return, which is great for survey responses. It seems fitting this first piece will focus on communications, since one of the survey questions asked how you stay informed about events and news in the community. 73.2% of respondents said the Village newsletter is their primary source of staying informed.

Social media came in second for ways to stay informed. The Village website, the local newspaper and a smattering of other media platforms rounded out the information sources listed by respondents.

First up: The Village is currently updating the Village website. The Village website updates were funded by COVID grants. A local resident has provided community photos that will liven up the site instead of using stock photos. Our new website will certainly be more user friendly and link to our recently added You Tube Channel that airs our Village meetings as a result of our added Zoom capabilities. The website is still under construction and should be up and live this spring.

Stay tuned for more survey result updates in our newsletters that upcoming monthly which will also be on our website for your viewing pleasure anytime!

COMING SOON: WEBSITE REDESIGN

The Village's website is getting a full redesign! This update will give a facelift to the website making it easier to navigate so you can quickly access the things you need and have local pictures!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Village Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Upcoming Village Board Meetings will be on April 13, changed due to election on April 6th and May 4, 2021. Meeting agendas are posted on our website, post office, bank, sent to the Star News and posted at the front of Village Hall. You can optionally attend the meeting via phone call or Zoom.

BURNING PERMITS

The Village of Black Earth has previously been the Fire Warden in the area to issue burning permits yearly however, the WI DNR has notified all fire wardens that in-person issuance of burning permits has been suspended until further notice. Only the online or phone option will be available to obtain DNR burning permits. Online: dnr.wi.gov (keyword "burn permit") or Phone: 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876).



Black Earth Public Library & Community Events

Library

Black Earth Public Library Hours

The library has returned to no-contact walk-up pickup only for reserved books. When notified that a reserved book has come in, patrons will need to call the library at 608-767-4905 to schedule a pick-up appointment. Access to the library will be allowed by appointment only. (HOURS MAY VARY.)

Monday - Thursday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monthly Activity Grab Bags for Kids

Give us a call at 608-767-4905 to have your April bag set aside for no-contact pick-up.

Digital Magazines on Overdrive & Libby

Wisconsin's Digital Library now offers digital magazines on Overdrive and Libby! Over 3000 titles are available.

New Extended Wi-Fi Service

The library has obtained a new external Wi-Fi hub for the outside of the building. This means there is now a stronger Wi-Fi signal in our parking lot, and it can reach as far away as the post office! No password is required. Just find "Library-Wireless" on your device and enjoy this extended library service.

Monthly Activity Grab Bags for Kids

We now have Monthly Activity Grab Bags for Kids! Packed with activity sheets and other fun goodies, these grab bags will hopefully fill your month with fun. Give us a call at 608-767-4905 to have your April bag set aside for no-contact pick-up.



COPS CORNER!

We want to share an important event Mazomanie Police are hosting. On April 24, 2021 from 11 am to 1 pm, the Mazomanie Police Department, located at 133 Crescent St., Mazomanie, will be hosting a drug take back day. There will be boxes outside the Village hall front door in Mazomanie for this while an officer will be present through the window for any questions.

We want to encourage our residents in need of this service, to please utilize it. "Whenever possible, take your unused prescription drugs to a collection program or event— the Wisconsin Department of Justice's DRUG TAKE BACK Days happen, at a minimum, in the spring and fall of each year. You may safely dispose of controlled and uncontrolled substances, over-the-counter medications, ointments, patches, creams, non-aerosol sprays, vials, and pet medications at these events."

<https://doseofrealitywi.gov/drug-takeback/>

CHAMBER NEWS & EVENTS

Black Earth Area Wide Garage Sales are a go this year! April 16-17th, 2021

St. Vincent's will have a truck in the Village Hall parking lot on April 17th at 3 p.m. Please check their website for details:

<https://svdpmadison.org/shop/>

NWDSS thrift shop, Sunny Seconds, will be open 10-2pm Saturday, April 17th



Community

EASTER EGG HUNT!

Lion's Den Fitness & Martial Arts Center is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3, 2021 from 11 am-1pm.

This will start at 1337 Mills St. and for social distancing purposes at Veteran's Park. This event will have games, the egg hunt and lots of fun. Co-sponsored by the Black Earth Chamber and Black Earth Fire Department.

GETTING AROUND!

The Village Office has had many inquiries of late on how to help our Senior community get to appointments, groceries, etc.

Northwest Dane Senior Services is here to help! The following is provided by NWDSS:

Transportation Options

Medical Rides and other related rides with RSVP (requires a 3 business day notice)

- RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)- call NWDSS 798-6937
- Riders must be 60+ and must be able to transfer on their own into and out of the vehicle.

*Contact the Case Manager for other resources if you have wheelchair transport needs.

- Receptionist will register you, take your appointment information, set up a driver for you and call you back with details
- Cost is by donation - driver will give you an envelope (self addressed to be returned to RSVP of Dane County)
- Dane County Transportation Center 608-242-6489

Visit our website at www.nwdss.org

