



# Newsletter

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### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

DENNIS KENEALY, TOWN CHAIRMAN

I wish to thank all those who ran and voted in the recent Town election. In regard to that, a reminder: The Town is always in need of election workers and volunteers to serve on certain committees. Please contact the Town Clerk if you are interested in serving in either or both capacities.

The Town Hall renovation is basically complete. We now turn to summer Park and Road projects as we continue trying to keep up with those needs.

There will be some planning for the upcoming U.S. Open Golf Tournament, and we will soon begin reviewing the future of our St. Patrick’s Day Parade and events.

### CLERK’S CORNER

JULIE KRIEVALDT, TOWN CLERK

#### Help Wanted—Poll Workers

At the end of 2015, the Town Board will be appointing poll workers for the 2016 – 2017 term. With the upcoming Presidential Election in 2016, the Town is in need of additional poll workers. Poll workers must be available during the day for training, working at elections, and (after the election) to reconvene to count late-arriving absentee ballots. Election days start at 6:30 AM and end sometime around 9:30 PM (or whenever the paperwork is done). There are three to four elections in the even years, and one or two elections in the odd years.

If you are interested, please contact the Clerk by email [erintown@netwurx.net](mailto:erintown@netwurx.net), or call 262-673-3682.

#### Meet Our New Zoning Clerk

In April the Town hired a new Zoning Clerk. Her name is Patti Weix. She is a resident of Erin. Her office hours are Tuesdays 12:00 Noon - 4:00 PM and Thursdays 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Stop in and say “Hi” to Patti.



Photo credits Unico Studios, Hartford

## CLERK'S CORNER, CONTINUED

### Voter Registration

Elections are done for 2015, but keep in mind if you need to *register* to vote, that can be done at any time.

If you have turned age 18, moved into the Town of Erin more than 28 days ago, changed your name, or even moved from one address in Erin to another address in Erin, you need to register to vote.

To register you can do one of the following: Go to "My Vote Wisconsin" on the Internet, download Form GAB-131 from the Wisconsin Government Accountability website, or come into the Clerk's Office. Please remember that when using "My Vote Wisconsin," you still must print off the form and mail it in along with a proof of residency. If you downloaded a Form GAB-131, you must also mail it in with a proof of residency. A proof of residency is required no matter when you register to vote.

Also keep in mind closed registration always starts 20 days before an election. To register within 20 days of an election, you need to register in person at the Clerk's office.

I noticed at the April election some residents, already registered, thought they had to register again. Once you are registered in Erin, as long as your name or address does not change, you do not need to re-register. If your name is not in the poll book, you most likely haven't voted in four years. Following a November election, the Government Accountability Board will mail out confirmation cards to voters who have not voted in four years. If they are not returned to the clerk of the municipality, the voter is marked inactive. Inactive voters will not appear in the poll book and the voter must register again.

If you have any questions regarding voter registration, feel free to call or email the Clerk.

## 35th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Thankfully the weather was much warmer than the last two years. In spite of the better weather, 2015 was a new Parade low, with only 16 entries (13 paid). Previous entrants were contacted in the hope that they'd be able to participate again. Some were not able to because the 17<sup>th</sup> was on a Tuesday. Others refused, saying the crowds are simply too rowdy; they were afraid of injury or damage to their entries. This has been an ongoing issue with no apparent solution. Perhaps it's time to re-evaluate.

That being said, many thanks to many people:

First and foremost to Washington County Sheriff Dale Schmidt, Sergeant Ryan Herman and all the deputies who handled the crowds with tremendous professionalism and dispatch.

Our volunteers who helped with traffic control, parking and clean up:

- ◆ Derek Spieker—our new Parade Administrator—Volunteer/police coordination, entry alignment, general road supervision, and cleanup supervision.
- ◆ Barb and Greg Leach, Brad Magin, Tony Magin, Mark Friend and all the many who helped with cleanup.
- ◆ Jeff Kraft—Parade Committee Chairperson
- ◆ Jeff Millikin—Town Liason
- ◆ Dave Lofy of the Town of Erin road crew, who handled the barricades, garbage drums and pickup, and all the miscellaneous tasks required to make the Parade happen.

*(continued on next page)*

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Parade (continued from Page 2)

Our generous financial sponsors, whose donations ensure that the Parade goes on without taxpayer expense:

- ◆ County Supervisor Mark McCune
- ◆ First Bank of Oconomowoc
- ◆ Tally Ho and the Erin Inn
- ◆ Dan McNeil of Advanced Disposal for use of their donated dumpster

This year's Parade Judges:

- ◆ Scott Schiltz
- ◆ Heather Powell
- ◆ Ben Powell

This year's King and Queen:

- ◆ Rob Touhy and Samantha O'Dell

Parade Prize Winners:

- ◆ Judges' Choice—Shorewest Realty/Laurie Walther "Irishmobile"
- ◆ Animal—Monches Critters—George Strobl critters
- ◆ Antique—Frank Wiedmeyer—1959 John Deere 830 Tractor

A special note of thanks to Mark McCune for his ongoing, generous financial support



## Pictures from St. Patrick's Preservation Article on Page 12



Mass at St. Patrick's  
Father David LaPlante, Pastor of St. Kilian's, Father Wally Vogel, the last Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, and Michael Tennies



Michael Tennies offering Father David's Irish cookies to Hadley Kuepper



Steve Tennies & Organist Audrey Timm-Rhinehart



Dax, Kuepper and Schippers families from Erin attend Mass at St. Patrick's

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Emergency Government

Bradley Bautz, Director

I have a busy foreseeable future coming up in Emergency Management. I will be updating our Emergency Operations Plan. With the U.S. Open coming up in 2017, it will be important to have that ready. There will be a lot of planning involved, and I will be helping to make this important event safe for everyone. I have also been gathering information and costs for a generator at the Town Hall and/or Erin School. The Town Hall is our emergency operations center and needs a constant supply of electricity. The reason for the school is it is our emergency shelter. The Executive Committee would make any recommendation to the Board as part of our normal budget process.



To that end, I attended a two-day FEMA class on Special Event Planning. There was an Erin Hills representative, along with a number of supervisors from the Sheriff's Office and State Patrol. It was educational and will definitely help in the planning process. There will be a lot of work to do, and we will likely need some new Town ordinances in place to make sure both the residents and the guests have an enjoyable time.

The PGA Championship will be at Whistling Straits this August, and I am making plans on attending and spending a day with their EM officials.

I am also the Town's representative on the County's hazard mitigation planning team. This is made up of representatives from all the municipalities in the county. SEWRPC is assisting the County in developing the plan. The goal is to come up with a County-wide hazard mitigation plan. This is to reduce the long-term risk to life and property due to hazards. Such things may include floodwalls, elevating homes/businesses out of floodplains, or acquiring land and demolishing structures in repeated flood-prone areas. There will be public meetings and input sessions, and they are anticipating adoption by the County Board in early 2017.



With severe weather always a possibility, I wanted to take the opportunity to remind you about severe weather watches and warnings. A *Severe Thunderstorm Watch* means that conditions are favorable for the formation of severe storms, with damaging winds, dangerous lightning, and large hail. A *Severe Thunderstorm Warning* means these conditions are occurring. A *Tornado Watch* means conditions are favorable for the formation of tornadoes. A *Tornado Warning* means a funnel cloud was sighted or a tornado has touched down: **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.** Go to the lowest level of your home or building, and stay away from windows. A weather alert radio would be an excellent way to help protect yourself and your family. They can be purchased at many electronic stores. You can also receive weather warnings on your smartphone. There is no need to sign up; as long as your phone is WEA (Wireless Emergency Alerts) capable, you will receive them, and they are free.

*Continued on next page*

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT

*Continued from previous page*

### Reminder

I encourage you to make use of the brush drop-off at the Town's dump site or recycle.

Please be cognizant of conditions before you burn. We had several grass fires this spring, and they were preventable. Your fire **must be attended at all times**. You must be near the fire. You cannot burn during a burning ban. Do not burn if the windspeed is greater than 9 miles per hour. Violations will likely result in a citation from the Town. The rules for burning are set forth below.

- ◆ No burning permits are required.
- ◆ When fire danger is very high or severe, all outdoor burning will be banned (this includes fireworks) by order of the Emergency Management Director or Town Chairman. Outdoor cooking (i.e., grills) is an exemption. For such a ban, I will notify the Sheriff's Office and local radio stations. Notices will also be found on the Town posting boards and on the website.

At any time of year:

- ◆ Open fires must be attended.
- ◆ The jurisdictional fire department, or preferably the Washington County Sheriff's Office, must be notified of any bonfire in excess of 10 feet in diameter or if a large area of grass is burned (i.e., over ¼ acre).
- ◆ Fires can't be started on the roadway surface, and only leaves and grass can be burned in the right-of-way.
- ◆ **The burning of garbage, plastics, rubber, treated wood, petroleum products or anything that emits noxious or toxic odors is PROHIBITED.** The DNR already bans the burning of these items, as they pose a health hazard to residents if burned.

Have a safe and happy summer!

## ERIN HILLS UPDATE

Erin Hills is proud to host the Wisconsin State Amateur Championship July 20-23. Come out to watch the State's best amateur golfers compete for the most prestigious prize in Wisconsin amateur golf. Admission is free.



## NOTICE TO VETERANS OF THE TOWN OF ERIN:

If you or anyone you know would like to have a name enrolled on the Erin Veterans' Memorial Monument, or would like to help, please call the Veteran Service Office in West Bend at 262-335-4457.

To be eligible, you must be a resident or former resident of the Town of Erin and also have a copy of DD-214, Honorable Discharge, or deployment orders by the Federal Government documenting your military history.

## SHARE NEWS

The *Erin Township News* is published every four months. The deadline for getting articles to the editors for the next issue is **September 10, 2015**. The issue should be available on our website by end of September and in mailboxes by early October.

Please send questions and article submissions to Cornel Rosario at [Crosario08@aol.com](mailto:Crosario08@aol.com). Please submit articles as electronic files, preferably in Word. Pictures are always welcome!

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## 2015 ERIN PARK BOARD SUMMER UPDATE

The trees are budding out and the flowers are blooming. The growing months have made our Park a beautiful place to visit. The Soccer and Baseball Clubs are holding practices and playing games. The disc golf course continues to draw in more and more golfers playing our well laid out course and taking in the scenery. The Park is alive with activity.



The Park Board has made some significant changes this spring. In an effort to decrease the amount of time mowing the Park and increase the productivity of the Park employees, the Town has purchased two new zero-turn mowers. Zero-turn mowers cut faster and maneuver more accurately around park obstacles. Jeff Nienhaus and the Parks crew have already started the mowing season and the turf looks fantastic. We also cleaned up the Park picnic tables and replaced those that were unsafe or difficult to maintain. Tim Zignego, Town Supervisor, has been instrumental in acquiring the mowers and picnic tables, and we appreciate his efforts to communicate between the Park and Town Boards. Lastly, the finishing touches have been made to the restructuring of the south baseball field. Drainage has been improved and the over-seeding has been completed.

Other Park projects considered for this year include: Reviewing the playground equipment, sourcing power to the scoreboards and surrounding areas, rebuilding the split rail fences, providing a summer facelift for the flower beds around the park, and other miscellaneous maintenance projects.

As you know, the Park Board is made up of “hands-on” volunteers who work on the Board as well as in the parks. We are always looking for new Park project ideas and are willing to help organize a community project around a great idea. Come on down to our Park and enjoy the walking trails or a baseball game, or bring a picnic lunch up to the Gazebo this summer.

Joel Janz - Erin Park Board Chairman  
Tim Zignego - Erin Town Supervisor

## JACK RUSSELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Jack Russell Memorial Library at 100 Park Avenue in downtown Hartford invites all Erin residents to visit the Library to check out the variety of materials and programs that are available to patrons of all ages. The Library is open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Fridays from 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM, and on Saturdays from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Library cards are issued free of charge to Erin residents by providing a photo ID and current address. Children age 5 through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade may obtain a card with parental approval.

The Library began a new chapter on April 1. Our new Library Director, Jennifer Einwalter, started! She has over 16 years of public experience, having spent the past 14 years as the Director at the Slinger Community Library. Be sure to stop in and welcome the latest addition to the Hartford Library family.

New this summer for adults is the Easy Breezy Summer Reading Program. This program is open to any adult over the age of 18. Starting June 8<sup>th</sup>, each time you read a book, stop in the Library to fill out a slip with the title read and enter it into a drawing for one of six fabulous prizes! Enter as many times as you like. A drawing will be held on August 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM on the second floor patio, where the winners will be announced.

“Every Hero Has A Story!” is the theme for the 2015 Summer Library Program. The program sponsored by the Library encourages recreational reading and Library usage by children and teens during the summer. The Library offers three program levels: A Read-to-Me section for non-readers and those beginning to read, an Independent Reading Program for those able to read on their own through Grade 5 and a Teen Reading Program for Grades 6-12.

Highlights (All Ages Welcome!)

- ◆ Monday, July 13, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM, Animals Have Superpowers
- ◆ Wednesday, July 15, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM, Milwaukee Ballet Company Dance
- ◆ Monday, July 27, 3:00 PM-4:00 PM, Zoozort, Live Animals

Please “like” our Facebook Page, Jack Russell Memorial Library, for program announcements and other information about the Library. To search the trio online catalog and download eBooks for tablets and other personal devices, you may visit [www.hartfordlibrary.org](http://www.hartfordlibrary.org) for access. Please call us at 262-673-8240 for more information.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## May Crowning at Holy Hill,

By Mary Anne & Grace Marie Urlakis

May 3<sup>rd</sup> was a lovely day to celebrate the annual May Crowning at the Basilica at Holy Hill. Each year, scores of faithful join this festive procession, with traditional songs and flowers.



The procession, beginning from the Basilica, wound its way down the Hill and came to the Lourdes Grotto. There, around a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, all gathered and were led in prayer by Fr. Don Brick and Fr. Celedonio.

After hymns were sung in English, Spanish, and Latin, recent First Communicants stepped forward with a crown and wreath of spring flowers. It was a perfect picture as they placed the crown on the head of Our Lady, who held a scepter in her hand.



## Remembering our Civil War Veterans

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. There are over 500 Civil War soldiers buried in 69 Washington County cemeteries. The mission of the Civil War Monuments Committee is to begin placing monuments in our cemeteries to honor those who served in the Civil War. For more information, please contact Mark Baldwin at 262-335-4457, or visit [www.co.washington.wi.us](http://www.co.washington.wi.us).

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

175th Anniversary Year Has Continuing Festivities

The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations at St Paul's will continue throughout the summer, with presentations of church and local history on the last Sunday church service of each month through July; an August 16<sup>th</sup> outdoor service and cemetery tour; and a September 27<sup>th</sup> choral festival.

The celebration will end with the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Service and dinner on Sunday, October 11th, a very special event to which local, state and national dignitaries, as well as all living former pastors of the church, and current and former church members, have been invited.



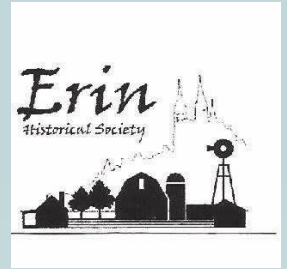
**Worship Service – 9:30 AM**

### Upcoming Events

Homemade Bread & Soup Lunch / Bake Sale  
Saturday, September 20th – 11 AM to 3 PM  
St. Paul's cooks and bakers produce their finest specialties for this annual event!

St. Paul's United Church of Christ – Erin  
495 St. Augustine Road  
262-628-2319  
[www.stpaulserin.org](http://www.stpaulserin.org)

## Erin Historical Society



The Erin Historical Society has transitioned into the "*Erin-Monches History Hunters*" to focus on organizing and maintaining historical records for Erin Township and the Monches Community.

The society members have been driven by the question: "Wouldn't it be a shame to lose much of the history of Erin and Monches by not saving and organizing our community's old records, stories, photos and documents?" The group has already developed a searchable database of well over 5,000 records of people, places and things related to the Erin-Monches area.

Please "*like*" the "*Erin-Monches History Hunters*" on Facebook to follow the group's ongoing activities, starting with a look at how closely Erin Township and the Monches Community are linked "not by boundaries and roads, but by culture, relationships and tradition."

Consider sharing some of your own local history: photos, stories, documents, records. Also, let the group know if they can help you find records on your Erin-Monches people, places and things. Then, consider joining with the group to collect and organize Erin-Monches historical records.

Contact Joan Coffey, 262-673-2193, [coffey71@yahoo.com](mailto:coffey71@yahoo.com); Peggy Massey, 414-207-1172; and/or Bonnie Zygmunt, [bsz3866@aol.com](mailto:bsz3866@aol.com), for more information if you would like to help keep our Erin and Monches history "alive and well" through the efforts of the "*Erin-Monches History Hunters*."



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WASHINGTON COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

One of the biggest reasons given for relinquishing pets to WCHS is that the pet owner is moving. When looking for a place that will take your animals, be prepared to spend time demonstrating you are a responsible pet owner and good tenant by developing a "Pet Resume." Try to address the following areas in your Pet Resume:

- ◆ Mention anything about your pet's age, activity level and/or breed traits that help make your dog or cat a "good tenant." Emphasize characteristics that make your pet suited for city living. Tell the landlord something special about your companion animal's personality.
- ◆ Provide examples of your pet's good behavior. Has your dog been to obedience school or had special training? If your dog has lived in an apartment before and is accustomed to it, be sure to say so. If you have more than one cat, let the landlord know how well your pets get along and keep each other company while you are away. If your cat uses a scratching

post, say so, and note that your cat is litterbox trained.

- ◆ Provide proof that your dog or cat is spayed or neutered and explain that this makes for a well-behaved, healthier pet. Also note that your animal is up-to-date on his/her inoculations and mention who your pet's veterinarian is.
- ◆ If your pet is quiet, calm and/or less active, point that out. If you have an active dog, explain how you fulfill his/her exercise requirements. Impress upon the potential landlord that cleaning up after your dog is part of your daily routine.
- ◆ Describe your arrangements for your pet when you go to work or on vacations.

Let the property owner know that you are willing to sign a pet agreement and pay an additional pet deposit. Finally, encourage the prospective landlord to meet your pet.

**\*\*Join us for  
Paws in the Park\*\***  
Saturday, September 12, 2015  
Jackson Park  
9am-2pm



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

As I reflect on the past 2014/15 Erin Soccer year, I want to turn my focus in my quarterly article not only to the 98 amazing soccer superstars that we had this year, but to the community that makes our league an absolute unique and pure cultural experience!

Let me focus on the Erin Park grounds. Each week for our practices and games, our players, families, relatives, and friends, get to enjoy the breathtaking views and well-manicured fields which, at times, I personally take for granted as we all do until you hear a visiting team compliment the unbelievable atmosphere at Erin Park. Without the dedication of Erin Park and Joel Janz, our field lines and goals, grass and overall park experience wouldn't be what it is on a weekly basis. Thank a Park member and Joel for the beautiful scenery that we all enjoy!



Let's praise our Coaches – all 20 of them! Individuals who were willing to learn the game, attend coach camps and dedicate an average of 12 hours weekly all to be there for the player who made his or her first goal, assist or blocked goal of the season, and are rewarded with a priceless expression of that player as their proud family and friends are present to celebrate. Thank you for the cold, rain and snow that you endured this past fall and spring; you are priceless to our success in Erin Soccer Club. Take time to thank the coaches for their dedicated season and developing our children to become fine and respectful youths!

Where would be weekly without our referees? Responsible, educated and brilliant young adults arrive weekly at the crack of dawn (thank you, parents, for driving them and setting those alarm clocks) ready to battle weather conditions and sometimes over-eager parents. We commend them for their willingness to achieve and become certified in the needed skills as certified referee on an annual basis. Their fearless leader, Teri Sippel-Schmidt needs to be recognized for her selfless dedication to our "fair and responsible" philosophy during play while also developing our U12 coed team as well. Take time to shake the hand of the person in yellow and black; that proud role is harder than one would think!

Let's talk food! Erin concessions. Our weekly opening of the infamous Snack Shack, ready and eagerly awaiting customers, is well-stocked, contains multiple varieties of foods and is always a true success. Erin Soccer parents are outstanding with their volunteer hours to ensure all in attendance for that game are fed and hydrated! Thank you, volunteers, and a very special "thank you" to John Friedl, our Concession Director, for grilling, preparing food and opening and closing concessions each and every week. Let's stop and thank our volunteers and John the next time you get a fresh snack at our concessions!

Last, but certainly not least: our Erin Soccer Board Committee Members! Endless hours each week are performed by our Secretary/Treasurer (yes, she holds two positions on our Board), Marilyn Litts! Thank you, Marilyn, for making this Club what it is today. Your energy and dedication are priceless to our Club and community! Vice President Bridget Hubing has implemented emergency coaching programs to educate our coaches and has been an overall support/coach for the Club! Thank you, Bridget. Your efforts have brought this Club into the year 2015!

Hug a board person the next time you see them, as without their endless volunteer hours to run this extraordinary club, ESC would be nothing!

In closing, an average week to successfully run Erin Soccer Club – between our players, parents, coaches, referees, concessions, volunteers, field grooming, park employees – averages an outstanding 835 hours!

Thank you Erin Soccer Club for 18,370 hours of pure human volunteer time which contributed to our fantastic 2014/2015 session!

Sincerely,  
A very proud Erin Soccer President  
Barb Bielmeier

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## HIGHWAY J CITIZENS' GROUP

On March 20, 2015, several Highway J Citizens Group (HJCG) members testified at a public hearing on the proposed 2015-17 state budget, held by the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance in Milwaukee.

At this public hearing, the HJCG urged these State legislators to vote against any tax, fee or debt increases related to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) budget and then fully support the following "common sense conservative" solutions:

- ◆ Cancel all wasteful and unnecessary highway widening projects throughout the state (especially the Highway 164 widening project near the Town of Erin)
- ◆ Implement other more cost-effective, community-friendly and safety-enhancing options (like reducing Highway 164's speed limit to 45 mph, costing only \$8,000)
- ◆ Redirect the many millions in tax savings from cancelling these wasteful projects to our towns, villages and cities for local road repair and maintenance (thereby providing additional property tax relief) and . . .



- ◆ Insist upon an independent audit of the WisDOT's spending practices and a complete restructuring of this State agency.

On April 10, 2015, the WisDOT approved its latest version of the Highway 164 widening project which would:

- ◆ Cost nearly \$20 million to build
- ◆ Destroy historic homes and approximately 50 acres of farmland, wetlands and other natural areas
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HJCG attorneys now plan to pursue further federal court litigation against the WisDOT so that the widening of Highway 164 can be stopped -- again.

To learn more about these ongoing efforts to save scarce tax dollars and protect our beautiful Kettle Moraine area, please visit the HJCG website at: [www.hwycitizensgroup.org](http://www.hwycitizensgroup.org).



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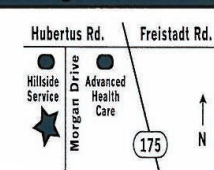
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## ST. PATRICK'S PRESERVATION

*We are grateful to Annysa Johnson of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for her beautiful article regarding our Annual St. Patrick's Day Mass on March 17, 2015.*

**Erin** — Nearly every year for more than a century, Catholics in and around this rural town have gathered at this small church on St. Patrick's Day to invoke the lessons and blessings of the patron saint of Ireland. Many feared the tradition might die in 1999 when the church closed its doors and the congregation merged with St. Kilian in nearby Hartford. Or again last year, when the Rev. David La Plante of St. Kilian was too ill to preside at the annual Mass.

But La Plante and the faithful returned to the former St. Patrick Church again on Tuesday to celebrate the Eucharist and reflect on the missionary zeal of its fifth century namesake — at a time when all Catholics are being called to newly evangelize the faith.

"We use it as a celebration of the Irish," said La Plante, who called on worshippers to emulate St. Patrick's spirit of charity and mercy.

"But the mission is to the whole world. This mission of mercy and charity has to go out to everyone."

The annual Mass offers a prayerful alternative — or perhaps prelude — to the more raucous traditions of a holiday better known for free-flowing green beer than spiritual reflection. This year, about 200 worshippers filled the pews, many donning green attire or the woolen sweaters of the Aran Isles, with more than a few red heads in the mix.

"This is such a blessing, a miracle," said Maureen Fitzsimmons-Vanden Heuvel, who had moved to the area years ago because of the church.

Fitzsimmons-Vanden Heuvel, like many of the longtime members, was devastated when the church closed. And like many, she returned to revel in the memories of marriages and baptisms, and the rhythms of life in this rural church that had been the center of a community for nearly 150 years.

"There's just so much history and tradition and love for this church," she said.

### 'Irish in spirit'

Built in 1855 by Irish immigrants, many of whom are now buried in its cemeteries, St. Patrick's is one of the few churches in Wisconsin built in the shape of a cross, according to the nonprofit organization founded to ensure its preservation. An imposing statue of its patron saint flanks the altar in a testament to its history.

Germans and other immigrants eventually made their way to Erin and the surrounding communities over the years. The annual St. Paddy's Day Mass has come to reflect that diversity.



The Rev. David LaPlante, priest at St. Kilian Parish, serves cookies to Mary Purtell and Joan Coffey Tuesday after Mass at the closed St. Patrick's Church in the Erin. The church closed in 1999 after a merger but opens every year for the St. Patrick's Day Mass in this community built by Irish immigrants in 1855.

*Continued on Page 13*



# COMMUNITY NEWS

Continued from Page 12

"We're Irish in spirit, if not in biology," Steve Tennies reminded his German father, who moved to this small town to farm in 1923 and was the last president of St. Patrick's Holy Name Society before it closed its doors.

Tennies helped prepare the music for Tuesday's Mass — from "This Day God Gives Me" sung to a Gaelic folk tune, to "St. Patrick's Breastplate" and, of course, "Oh, Danny Boy."

Tom Byrne and his sister Eileen came from Chicago. Their family has deep roots in the area. They grew up visiting their grandparents' home as children, and Tom Byrne now owns land in nearby Hustisford. They've been coming to the annual Mass on and off for 30 years.

"We just want to keep those ties and to reconnect with the people," said Tom Byrne, wearing the sash of the Ancient Order of Hibernians across his chest.

Mary Jane Gallo, whose family owns the nearby Erin Meadows Equestrian Farm, calls the annual reunion "Our Brigadoon." It's a frequent reference here to the Lerner and Loewe musical about a mythical Scottish village that reappears once every hundred years.

There is a poignant line in "Brigadoon" uttered by the lovestruck protagonist, Tommy. "Why," he asks, "do people have to lose things to find out what they really mean?"

It is a question that resonates for many in this simple space.

"Since the church closed, it's here now just one day a year," says Gallo, whose bright red hair belies her married surname — she's an O'Hare by birth.

"But," says Gallo, "We all hope the Catholic Church, in its wisdom, will reopen it some day."

(See more pictures on Page 3)



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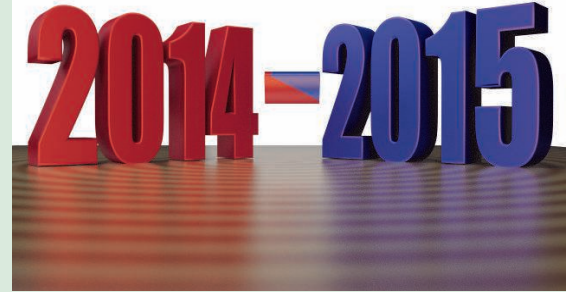
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# SCHOOL NEWS

## ERIN SCHOOL PTC

By Marcia Bender, Secretary

As the final update for this amazing 2014-2015 year at Erin School, the PTC put on its annual Fun Fair welcome to all with carnival type games, bingo, wonderfully made baskets for the silent auction and great food! This year's Erin School Fun Fair profited a total of \$11,378, making it the most successful Fun Fair to date! Thank you to everyone that was involved in volunteering their time towards the setup, working, participation and breakdown of the silent auction and the fair as a whole! The PTC would also like to say a special Thank You to Shannon Lutz for all of her hard work and time chairing the Fun Fair over the past years. Thank you very much, Shannon Lutz!



We also celebrated Grandparents' Day on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the 5k through 2nd grade at Erin School. It was a wonderful day and the kids had fun with their grandparent(s) or special friend with a presentation from the WISE Division of the National Model Railroad Association on the history of railroads in America along with a musical program that showcased a variety of songs and musical talents and interestingly made instruments that went along with the fantastic train theme! Warm thanks to Ryan Meisel, Tim Mueller, Shannon Lutz and Christine Schmitt for this very special event.

Over this year, the fundraisers the PTC held were Market Day, PartyLite, and School Mall. We participated in many programs such as School Mall, Amazon Smile, Target Red Card, Box Tops and Scrip, to name a few. Our Events have included the PTC Open House, Fall Fest, two Book Fairs (Fall and Spring), the Holiday Craft Day for the students, Erin School Fun Fair, Grandparents' Day, and Staff Appreciation.

To help Erin School, the PTC has voted to purchase a new Die Cut Machine and a new Laminator. We've also given money towards the purchase of Marching Banners for the music program, running club TShirts, the Eagle Project, Hartford Union High School Scholarship(s), acoustical tiles, basketball uniforms, and the sponsorship of a Radio Ad to help get the word out about our wonderful Erin School.

As per our Bylaws, the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and three Executive Committee member positions were nominated, elected and voted upon. The newly elected officials for the PTC are: Vice President, Kristin Patey; Treasurer, Sophie Matthys; and Executive Members, Dee Schultz, Lisa Jelen and Rachel Deutchendorf. The PTC would like to congratulate and give the new members a warm welcome to a wonderful next year!

The PTC would like to say a special Thank You to the Erin School Board, the concession co-chairs, Kieth Kriewaldt and Monika Weber, and all of the volunteers for all of their hard work towards the concessions: to Susan Rogen, for her unending work associated with Market Day, to Kathryn Resch and Kristin Patey for their efforts with the Holiday Craft Day. Our gratitude also goes out to Lisa Jelen with the Box Top parties, Michelle Rhodes for making our Book Fairs possible, as well as Christine Schmitt for Grandparents' Day and Lana Sanders for Staff Appreciation Week. We also would like to thank Darren and Jenny Stamm for their generosity through the year with Robert's Custard. I would like to personally thank your Erin School PTC Executive Committee and all of our Committee Members, as well as the parents and teachers who have attended our meetings this year and contributed towards our children's school. The PTC couldn't have had this amazing year without all of you. If anyone was not mentioned, I truly apologize, and we thank you as well!

Thank you all for a wonderful and successful year at our fantastic Erin School! We look forward to seeing you all in the fall!

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Erin Baseball 2015 Season

We would like to thank, as always, our generous sponsors! This year they include the following:

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We have some slick new uniforms this year! Thanks again to First Bank Financial Centre and Mark McCune for donating our baseball hats again!

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who makes baseball work, from our field maintenance crew and coaching staff, our board, our parent volunteers, and our umpires. We couldn't play baseball without you!



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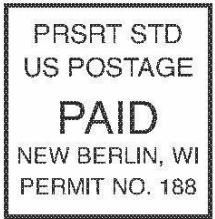
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Meeting notices: published in the Daily News and posted outside the Town Hall, Erin Inn, and Erin School.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Kenealy, Chair: 966-2148  
Jeff Millikin: 673-7001  
Dan Coffey: 673-5840  
Pat Landon: 673-2130  
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### TOWN TREASURER

Nicole Lipske: 966-0539

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Dave Lofy: 262-673-3702  
Tree Emergencies: 414-750-9529

### ZONING OFFICE

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Tuesdays 12:00 PM—4:00 PM  
Thursdays 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

### TOWN CLERK

Julie Kriewaldt: 673-3682  
Mon/Wed 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
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### ASSESSOR

Michael Grota  
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Scott Hussinger  
490-8222  
Tues/Thurs 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM