

# VILLAGE NEWS

Village of Benton Newsletter

December 2022

## In This Issue

Shared Revenue

Important Dates

Benton Library, Community Center, Museum

Urban Forestry Grant

Good to Know

Benton Community Fund

## Shared Revenue: A Broken System for Critical Local Services

Wisconsin's levy limits and weakening shared revenues are depleting municipalities' ability to sustain police, fire, EMS, public works, and other essential services. Property taxes rise, municipalities take on more debt to get by, and budget cuts are more common than ever, putting a strain on the services they are able to provide. In short, the expenses keep going up, but the revenues are staying the same. The Village of Benton is no exception to this.

The message from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities is, "The system of paying for essential services is broken and it's up to the Wisconsin Legislature to fix it."

As a resident of our municipality, we need your help in reaching out to our legislators so they can hear our story. Without the help of legislation, we are facing the inability to afford rising fuel costs, road maintenance, and other adequate services for our community.

Between 2018-2019 in Wisconsin:

- 253 municipalities cut law enforcement funding
- 59 communities reduced number of officers on the street
- One in three municipalities cut back on fire protection
- State tax revenues have tripled in the last 30 years, but the share of those taxes going to support police, fire, EMS and other local services has gone DOWN.

Call or write our legislators, Senator Howard Marklein (608-266-0703) and Representative Travis Tranel (608-266-1170), to help enact change. Visit [legis.wi.gov](http://legis.wi.gov) for more contact information.

YEAR	SHARED REVENUE
1990	173,504.02
1991	196,322.95
1992	209,397.36
1993	222,127.76
1994	246,115.42
1995	264,404.43
1996	262,004.98
1997	267,445.92
1998	271,838.11
1999	275,654.67
2000	288,099.20
2001	296,358.69
2002	300,303.59
2003	304,129.98
2004	287,668.92
2005	287,555.65
2006	287,555.65
2007	287,555.65
2008	287,555.65
2009	287,555.65
2010	287,555.65
2011	283,782.22
2012	280,091.71
2013	280,091.71
2014	280,091.71
2015	280,091.71
2016	280,091.71
2017	280,091.71
2018	280,091.71
2019	280,091.71
2020	280,091.71
2021	280,078.51
2022	280,084.75

## IMPORTANT DATES

### 2023 SPRING ELECTION - TUESDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

Voting is open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Tuesday, April 4th at the Benton Business Incubator in the conference room. For more information on the ballot or how to register, visit [www.elections.wi.gov](http://www.elections.wi.gov).

For the Village of Benton, there will be three 2-year term trustee positions, one 1-year term trustee position, and a 2-year term president position on the ballot.

Updates will be provided on our website, [www.bentonwi.us](http://www.bentonwi.us), and on our Facebook page.

### CHRISTMAS TREE AND GARLAND PICK-UP - MONDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

Please have trees and garland on the curb by 7 AM — NO ARTIFICIAL OR PLASTIC TREES, OR GARLAND.

### DOG LICENSES - REGISTER YOUR PET NO LATER THAN APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>

Please remember to license your dog prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a late fee. The Village of Benton has assessed a total late fee of \$15 per dog licensed after April 1.

Remember to always pick up after your dog when on walks or public property.

If there is an outage or utility emergency during non-office hours, please contact the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department, 608-776-4870.

# Benton Library, Museum, Community Center

Benton's Library, Museum, and Community Center Building Committee has been working hard to get our new community center shovel-ready by the fall of 2023. Our talented team of architects at FEH Design have worked their magic to make some changes that we think you are going to like!

They have found space throughout the building to make permanent and rotating museum exhibits that feature Benton's mining, agriculture, and business histories. Our *Salute to Veterans* exhibit will hold a prominent place in the facility, honoring the sacrifices Veterans have made for our nation and telling the stories of pivotal moments in military history. The addition of these permanent exhibits in the new facility has freed up storage space that will be used to meet the needs of the community.

We are excited to announce that our community center will now include both the Police Department and the Village Clerk/Treasurer's office. Having both offices in one centralized location will encourage better community relationships and strengthen community involvement—both positive outcomes for residents of Benton.

Visit the Village of Benton's website, [www.bentonwi.us](http://www.bentonwi.us), to find the most current information, including recognition opportunities and campaign updates.



Be Rooted Chiropractic & Wellness, 188 E Main, would like to welcome to town and their team, Dr. Bailee Meier, D.C. She is a 2022 graduate of Palmer College of Chiropractic, and her areas of special interest include women's health, prenatal and postpartum care, pediatric care, and instrument assisted soft tissue techniques, while caring for patients of all ages. At Be Rooted Chiropractic & Wellness, Dr. Steffanie and Dr. Bailee are committed to helping you find the root cause of your health concerns. Their team will empower you to optimal health through chiropractic adjustments, functional lab testing, digital x-ray analysis, laser therapy, infrared sauna, and myofascial release.

**Clinic Hours: Mon 8AM-6PM Tue 1PM-6PM Wed 8AM-6PM Thu 8AM-12PM Fri 8AM-5PM**

**Accepting new patients now. Call and get your spine checked today!**

**New Year's Sauna Special for January: 4 sessions for \$100**

## THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW!

### Alternate Side Parking:

Between November 1 and April 1, vehicles shall be parked only on the even numbered side of the street on even numbered calendar days, and on the odd numbered side of the street on odd numbered calendar days, between the hours of 12:00 AM (midnight) to 8:00 AM. (*Ordinance §320-12 (D)*)

\*No parking on Main Street from N. Van Buren Street to Bean Street 3 AM to 6 AM, year round.

\*Easy Street parking on even side of the street only, year round.

### Snow & Ice Removal:

All snow and ice should be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours of the most recent snowfall. If there is an area not being cleared within this time, please notify the Village Office.

### Adopt a Fire Hydrant:

By removing snow and ice from around fire hydrants in your neighborhood, you can help make access easier for personnel in case of an emergency. Thank you for helping keep our community safe!

## The Village of Benton is excited to announce that we have been selected to receive a WI Department of Natural Resources 2023 Urban Forestry Grant for \$5,000!

This start-up grant covers a portion of the costs for removal, pruning and planting of trees in our parks. It is a great step toward improving our parks and recreation areas.

If you wish to make a donation towards the planting of new trees in memory or in honor of a loved one, stop in or call the Village Office. All donations are tax-deductible.



# Benton Community Fund

*a charitable endowment for the Benton area*

As we head into 2023, the Benton Community Fund (BCF) extends our wishes for a Happy New Year. Our fund is a great way to support the projects and plans that make lives better now and well into the future. Since inception in 2011, the BCF has distributed 73 grants totaling more than \$163,000 to non-profits that benefit our community. This result is possible due to the incredible generosity of our donors. One important project funded in 2022 was a new blood pressure machine for the Benton First Responders. Pictured below are volunteer members of the Benton First Responders with the new piece of equipment.



*Pictured from left to right: Adele Rowe, Maggie Langkamp, Leslie Beau, Tom Behrens, Melissa Keleher, Carl Langkamp, Nick Neis and John Scanlan*

**Thanks to the following donors since our last update:**

- Bill & Grenith Cherry
- Gary & Patti McCauley-IMO Deb Stephens
- Bruce Knox
- Bob & Jill Knight-IHO Mick & Judy Vaughn Ann.
- Bob & Jill Knight-IMO Loretta Lade
- Mick & Judy Vaughn-IHO Mowry's 50<sup>th</sup> Ann.
- Peggy & John Richards-IHO Mowry's 50<sup>th</sup> Ann.
- Dave & Jeanne Steffen-IMO Loretta Lade
- Steve Rosseter
- Dan & Tammy Aurit-IMO Marc Rath
- Jeff & Michelle Savatski-IMO Julie Clough

**IMO=In Memory Of**

- Hazel Green Lions Club-IMO Leo Scanlan
- Gary & Patti McCauley-IMO Jack & Pauline Alexander
- Jeff & Michelle Savatski-IHO Mick & Judy Vaughn Ann.
- Dale & Connie Baughman
- Jeff & Michelle Savatski-IHO Bill & Mary Mowry 50<sup>th</sup> Ann.
- Bob & Jill Knight-IHO Mowry's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Gary & Marlene McCrea-IMO Jean Hull & Barbara Meloy
- Mike & Patty Mowry-IHO Mowry's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Gary & Marlene McCrea-IMO Marybelle Whaley
- Dan & Tammy Aurit-IMO Patrick Bell
- Margaret Wolf

**IHO=In Honor Of**

Bob & Jill Knight-IMO Deb Stephens  
 Chuck & Renee Wartner-IMO Julie Clough  
 Jeff & Michelle Savatski-IMO Ron Donar  
 Ron & Gail Richardson-IHO Mowry's 50<sup>th</sup> Ann.  
 Grange Insurance-IHO Nick Neis  
 Veterinary Associates  
 Marv & Tricia Puls  
 Lois Bastian-IMO Dick Bastian  
 Randy & Julie Neis  
 Dick & Patti Beau  
 Susan Walkup-IMO Lucy Meloy Walkup  
 Dan and Carol Kopp  
 Benton State Bank  
 Ray Alvarado-IMO Mary L Alvarado  
 Anonymous  
 Jeff & Cindy Thumser  
 Lee Alderson  
 Connie Curwen Hay-IMO Ceanne Curwen  
 Lori Droessler Real Estate  
 Kevin & Janice Bennett  
 Jan Spillane Nankee  
 Robert Dare  
 Vicki Farrey  
 Mark & Sylvia Cruse  
 Michael & Amber Perkins  
 Pat Spillane  
 Tim & Crystal Robbins  
 Myrna Sysko-IMO Jim & Josh Sysko

Bob & Jill Knight-IMO Julie Clough  
 Chuck & Renee Wartner-IMO Marybelle Whaley  
 Bob & Jill Knight-IMO Ron Donar  
 Terry & Mary Stanton-IMO Keith Farrey  
 Tom & Abbie Behrens  
 Elaine Lewis-IMO Dennis Lewis  
 Kyle Cherry  
 Kenneth "Butch" & Janice Hammill  
 David "Skip" & Mary Lawrence  
 Michael Droessler  
 Ashley Lawrence-Sandy Hook Tavern  
 Chris Herbst-IMO Bob Herbst  
 Dixie & Doc Paquette  
 Jean Kunkel  
 Barbara Grotkin-IMO George R Grotkin  
 Jim & Leslie Beau  
 Scott Cruse & Mary Bergs  
 Bernarr and Ardice Aurit  
 Patrick & LeAnn Bruno-IMO Sally & Lee Bennett  
 David & Deanna Studier  
 Jim & Gayle Wolf  
 Linda Alexander-IMO Jack, Pauline & Mike Alexander  
 Dale & Connie Baughman  
 Sandra Scanlan-IMO Leo Scanlan  
 Jim & Jo Malmgren-IMO Jack & Pauline Alexander  
 Kathy Spillane Lacke  
 Kyle & Dixie Luedtke  
 Dave & Sharon Driscoll



I am pleased to show my support of the Benton Community Fund

Please accept this pledge or donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Special Projects Fund (immediate needs)  
 Endowment Fund  
*If no box is selected, 20% of your gift will go to Special projects and 80% will go to the Endowment Fund*

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is made (circle one) in honor or memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to "Benton Community Fund"

Donations can also be made securely online via the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin website at cfsw.org.

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

Benton Community Fund Processing  
 PO Box 8125  
 Janesville, WI 53547

All donations to the Benton Community Fund are tax deductible.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to have my name listed in the Fund's published report