



January 2017

Dear Mosinee Resident:

I hope this first 2017 update from the Mayor's Office finds you well, and I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season. While the budget process ended with the approval of the 2017 Budget at the end of November, we were still busy during December with several important items as we wrapped up 2016.

First, one of the major concerns I heard coming into office was concern from residents over the spread of Oak Wilt. This unfortunate tree-killing disease has claimed numerous Oak trees on private and public land throughout our community. A considerable number of trees at our beautiful River Park fell victim to the disease. This disease creates serious issues - it burdens our forestry budget to replace trees on public property; it takes away from the attractiveness of our urban areas; and it impacts property values and, consequently, our tax revenue to name a few. Therefore, in 2016 the City Council commissioned an Oak Wilt study to reassess the extent of the disease throughout the western half of the City. The Council was briefed on this study by an expert at its December meeting and anticipates discussing corrective actions in its first meetings of 2017.

Another, related issue of concern in our forestry department is the arrival of Emerald Ash Borer. This beetle, which feeds on Ash species, is anticipated to be devastating relative to Oak Wilt and has already attacked nearby communities. As part of our agenda for 2017, I will be asking the Council to consider any preventive measures we can take as a community to prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer in the future.

Turning to public works matters, the Council was briefed by staff on the status of our lead service line replacement grant program. Lead in water has become increasingly apparent in older sections of communities throughout Wisconsin. Thanks to staff efforts, earlier this year we were quick to act on a grant program that resulted in an award of \$300,000 in funds to be used toward replacement of lead service lines throughout the City. Staff is currently finalizing program eligibility requirements to comply with federal funding guidelines and our hope is to roll out the program in early 2017. More information will be publicized when this program is ready. I want to encourage all residents with lead service lines to consider taking advantage of the program.

In other news, you have heard me report on issues surrounding our room tax dollars on several prior occasions. Historically, the City has directed over 50% of the room tax dollars it collects to a regional tourism entity. We have enjoyed a positive relationship with this entity over the years but to create more local control over our room tax dollars the Council created a local tourism commission in March. Last fall I appointed members to this commission and, in December, we finalized a partnership with the Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce to serve as our new tourism entity. It is notable that in accordance with state law 70% of our room tax dollars must be spent on tourism activity. We anticipate that the changes we have made will allow us to retain local control of over \$20,000 annually in room tax revenue. At its January meeting, our Tourism Commission will be discussing ways to best market the availability of these funds to local groups that meet the requirements of state room tax law.

Finally, as I have in the past, I want to stress that as Mayor it is very important to me to learn more about all of the businesses that contribute to our community, regardless of size. I want to take this letter as an opportunity to encourage business owners reading it to consider inviting me to visit your business and learn more about it and how it contributes to our community, Central Wisconsin and beyond. These opportunities also allow me to hear from you regarding what is positive about doing business in Mosinee, what is challenging, and what your local government could consider to encourage additional business activity in our community.

I want to wish you the best for a great New Year, and I look forward to updating you throughout 2017.

Mayor Brent Jacobson



City of Mosinee

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STREET PARKING RESTRICTED

Parking is not allowed during the hours of 2:00a.m. and 6:00a.m. on any street or highway from November 1 to April 1 in the City of Mosinee. For more information, please contact the Mosinee Police Department – 715-693-2000

NOTICE – DOG/CAT OWNER

Dogs and Cats are required to be licensed by March 31st, 2017. The license period runs from January 1st, 2017 to December 31st, 2017. State law requires that all dogs must be licensed yearly AND City ordinances require cats to be licensed yearly. Before a license can be issued, you must furnish a rabies vaccination certificate to show proof of vaccination against rabies.

Christmas Tree & Brush Pickup

The Mosinee Public Works Department will pick up Christmas trees and brush the week of January 9th, 2017 - weather permitting. Please have your tree or brush placed near the curb or in the alley. Plastic bags, stands, wire, etc. must be removed from the trees. Trees that have plastic bags, stands or wire on or are buried in snow will NOT be picked up. If you have any questions please call the Mosinee Public Works Dept. at 715-693-3840 or email to: publicworks@mosinee.wi.us



Recycle Christmas Lights

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau is collecting Christmas lights. Every year tons of light strings are thrown away and end up in landfills across the country. Habitat for Humanities collects all kinds of light strings – old or new, working or not. Worn out extension cords are also collected. Habitat for Humanities recycles the copper and plastic from the strings and uses the proceeds to assist low-income families in our community. **A drop box is available at City Hall – 225 Main Street.** For more information please call City Hall – 225 Main Street or HFH at 715-848-5042.

