

Mayor's Corner November

What's happening in Shell Lake

**VOTE**...the biggest event in November will most likely be the election that will take place on Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>. Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> is the last day that you can vote absentee. The City Office will be open until 5:00pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> so to allow all those who wish to vote this way can do so.

On Election Day, the polls at City Hall will open at 7:00am, and will be closing at 8:00pm. Please remember you **MUST** bring with you some form of picture ID to identify yourself. Without this identity, you will not be able to cast a vote.

How many of you have actually attended a POWWOW? Friday November 15<sup>th</sup>, you will be able to attend and celebrate the Indigenous culture and heritage right here in Shell Lake! This is sponsored by the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin. All are welcome to join in this celebration, with Indigenous music, dancing, food and local vendors! The event will take place at the Shell Lake school from 2-3PM for the Shell Lake Students, and from 5-8PM it will be open to the public.

There will also be vendors to sell their wares. I myself have never had the opportunity to attend one of these events, so I am super excited to experience this POWWOW, and partake in the celebration. Come one come all...this is free, and sure to be a great experience!

**WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS:** Beginning Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be a Snow Removal Parking Restriction on all public streets in Shell Lake. The Parking Restrictions will be from the hours of 2:30AM-6:00am. This is to allow for the city crew to clear the streets of snow in a timely fashion. Please note, even if there is not snow on the ground these restrictions will apply. The parking ticket that will be issued in violation of this restriction will be \$50. It is a huge safety hazard for the city crew to try and plow around parked cars, to avoid this danger, the Winter Parking Restrictions is mandatory. So, to allow our city crew and the residents of Shell Lake to be as safe as possible, please take heed, and follow these restrictions.

### **Dates to remember in November:**

VOTE November 5<sup>th</sup> at City Hall

11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day, City Hall will be closed that day

12<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting 7PM at City Hall

15<sup>th</sup> POWWOW at Shell Lake School District

28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving, City office Closed

29<sup>th</sup> City Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Do you know the history behind the first Thanksgiving Dinner? The first holiday dates back to November of 1621 when the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians gathered at Plymouth for an Autumn harvest feast, an event regarded as America's "first Thanksgiving" At the first Thanksgiving, colonist were likely outnumbered more than two to one by Native Americans. These facts were noted by Colonist Edward Winslow. In fact, the Indigenous people at the feast would have been familiar with the tradition of "thanksgiving" since it was central to their regular spiritual practices to give thanks for natural bounty.

In 1621 the Thanksgiving celebration marked the Pilgrims' first Autumn harvest, so it is likely that the colonist feasted on the bounty they had reaped with the help of their Native American neighbors. Local vegetables that appeared on the table included onions, beans, lettuce, spinach, carrots and perhaps peas. Both the Pilgrims and members of the Wampanoag tribe ate pumpkins and other squashes indigenous to New England. Perhaps why we often associate pumpkins and gourds with fall decorations for our porches, or tables. The meat of choice was not turkey, as we are so accustomed to, but they ate deer meat, lobster, seal and swans! In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving to be a national holiday to take place every year, (always on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in November) to help unite the country during the civil war, with the hope to heal the wounds of the nation. Today, in many American households, the Thanksgiving celebration has lost much of its original religious significance; instead, it now centers on cooking and sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends. Turkey, a Thanksgiving staple so ubiquitous it has become all but synonymous with the holiday. Today 90% of Americans eat the bird according to the National Turkey Federation.

This all may be more than you ever wanted to know about Thanksgiving, but I felt compelled to research it, and let you know some of the fun facts about this wonderful holiday called Thanksgiving.

In closing I would just like to wish you all, a harvest of love, laughter and gratitude this Thanksgiving. I hope you have a wonderful holiday with your family and friends, no matter what the food may be. I count my blessings every day, and I am so Thankful for all that I have, and what has been given to me. This Thanksgiving, let's come together to celebrate the beauty of family, friendship, and community.