

Mayor's Corner

What's up in Shell Lake?

Can hardly believe that we are already into the month of August....often thought of as the Dog Days of Summer! What exactly does that mean? It really does not reference our furry little friends, instead the term refers to the hottest days of the year, or the last months of summer here in the Northern Hemisphere. So, it pretty much solely refers to the peak temperatures we see in late summer...which is often the month of August. How did dog become the canine theme, it is actually a reference to Sirius (the Dog Star)...which quite literally means "scorching".

Happy to report that we have had a fabulous July! Started out with the Ice Cream Social, put on by the city, on the 3rd of July, teaming up with the Veteran's to celebrate our 250th anniversary of our great nation! Also, we had a huge success with the 3rd Annual Great Shell Lake Get-together on the 12th of July. I can not say enough how this event would not be possible without the tremendous effort of the volunteers in this community. We had over 35 volunteers who were willing to give up their Sunday to help us put this on. We served well over 325 people, and ran out of just about everything by 2:00, which worked out perfect. We also received support from the various organizations from our city as well as those in the surrounding area. This ranged from cash donated, to food and ice. I wanted to take a moment to recognize those folks, and they are: EconoFoods Spooner, Louis' Fine Meats in Cumberland, West Dairy in Hayward, Lions Shell Lake, Shell Lake State Bank, Shell Lake Chamber, Republic Services, and Marc Lapari, who supplied all of the ice needed. As you can see, this truly takes a village! Thanks to all of you!!

With the 4th of July, came the famous boat parade, which I understand had over 35 boats that participated. The problem that continues to occur each year is the use of water balloons. A concern citizen took pictures of the deflated balloons that ended up on their beach, indicating a huge amount of debris left behind floating in the water. This type of behavior is concerning to the safety of the waterfowl, and fish alike in our lake. The ingestion of balloons can cause fatal digestive blockages when ingested and severe injuries through entanglement. Research has indicated balloon debris is significantly more lethal to seabirds than hard plastics. So please, refrain from using any type of water balloons in the lake, you can still have fun using water guns, and you can be assured this type of activity is not going to harm any aquatic life.

The Shell Lake Arts Center believe it or not, is starting to take reservations for Christmas events. There are so many events that can take place there, i.e. Christmas Cookie Baking, Cooking classes, Christmas office parties, Holiday parties...the list is endless. Just imagine a beautiful Christmas tree with all the lights glowing thru the atrium as your party takes place. They are encouraging people to get their dates reserved now! You can contact them at rentals@shelllakeartscenter.org or at 715-468-2414.

On Saturday, July 25, the City of Shell Lake hosted the annual Lions Triathlon in partnership with the Shell Lake Girls Softball Booster Club. To say the event was a smashing success would be an understatement! This year's triathlon truly showcased the incredible spirit of our community. It took the support of nearly every corner of Shell Lake to make it happen—from our school students, the Lions Club, the City of Shell Lake, the Shell Lake Girls Softball Booster Club, the Shell Lake Chamber, and the many local businesses that generously donated funds, products, and services, to the countless volunteers who gave their time and energy. Every contribution played an important role in the day's success.

The event welcomed 239 athletes and drew hundreds of spectators who came to cheer them on. With beautiful weather and a vibrant atmosphere, the city was on full display at its very best. Participants ranged in age from just 9 years old to a 78 year old, proving that determination and athleticism have no age limit. Congratulations to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported this outstanding community event!

Have you ever thought of playing the game of Pickleball, but did not have a clue as to how the game was played? Shell Lake Pickleball group would like to extend a special invitation to anyone who has any interest in learning the game. No experience is necessary, and all age groups are invited. Windscreens have just been installed at the Pickleball/Tennis courts in Shell Lake, and has enhanced the overall playing experience. For more information on this, and hours available you can search **Shell Lake Area Pickleball People** on Facebook, or download the app PlayTime Scheduler. It's a great way to meet new friends, and get in your exercise at the same time!!

I don't typically use my Mayor's Corner to address social media conversations, but after a concerned citizen raised the issue of false information during the last City Council meeting, I feel it's important to address it with our community. Recently, inaccurate information has been shared on Facebook regarding several city matters, including the Police Department and potential data center projects. I want to be clear: these claims are false. Unfortunately, rumors and speculation can spread quickly, creating unnecessary confusion and concern. Our community deserves accurate, factual information—not misinformation. The city remains committed to making decisions that are in the best interest of our residents. We will continue to communicate openly and provide timely, factual updates on issues affecting our community. I encourage everyone to seek information from official City sources or to contact City officials directly with any questions, rather than relying on rumors or social media speculation. We welcome your questions and are always happy to provide accurate information.

Dates to Remember in August:

4th National Night Out, Full Gospel Church 5PM -7PM

10th City Council Meeting 7:00 PM

11th Partisan Primary Election at City Hall 700AM-8:00 PM

22nd Ukulele Festival at the Shell Lake Art Center @ 0930 AM

It has been an amazing month in Shell Lake, and I still can't believe August is already here. Summer always seems to fly by, especially when our community calendar is full of great events, celebrations, and opportunities to spend time with family and friends. As we turn the page to August, there is a familiar excitement in the air. Conversations are already turning to back-to-school shopping, teachers preparing their classrooms, Friday night football under the lights, and the many activities that come with a new school year. Before long, we'll begin to notice cooler mornings, shorter days, and the first hints of color appearing on the trees. While we're all looking ahead to fall, I hope everyone takes the opportunity to enjoy these last weeks of summer. Whether it's spending time on the lake, attending one of our local events, supporting our businesses, taking in a concert, or simply relaxing with family and friends. August offers plenty of chances to slow down and appreciate all that makes Shell Lake such a wonderful place to live. So, soak up the sunshine, make a few more summer memories, and before we know it, we'll be talking about Halloween, the holidays, and another Wisconsin winter!