



56 N. Ridge St., P.O. Box 628, Port Sanilac, MI 48469
Phone: 810-622-9963, Fax 810-622-7801
psanilac@airadv.net

PORT SANILAC - TODAY

Monday, April 1, 2024

Latest News, Bulletins, and Updates

Issue No.: 7

Sanilac East Fire Authority (SEFA) Negotiations

The Village of Port Sanilac Council is progressing with plans to maintain fire and EMS services through the Sanilac East Fire Authority (SEFA). After Forester Township withdrew from the SEFA agreement in 2023, the Council instructed the Village of Port Sanilac negotiating team, Mike Balysh, President Pro-Tem and Linda Hahn, Trustee, to revise the current fire and EMS services contract to include only the Village of Port Sanilac (VPS) and Sanilac Township (ST). In January 2024, the team consulted with Jim Sroka, SEFA Board of Directors member. The group proposed a new corporate structure that would simplify the financing and management of SEFA.

This new corporate structure would require equal contribution of assets from both VPS and ST. These contributions would make VPS an ST equal stockholders in the SEFA corporation. Cash from the contributions combined with the fire and EMS millage, valued at \$160,000, would provide enough yearly funds to run the corporation. If necessary, an additional .5 mill millage for equipment, supported by VPS and ST, could be added to the 2024 or 2026 ballot.

The Village of Port Sanilac approved the plan unanimously at the February 20, 2024 Council Meeting. The negotiating team met with Sanilac Township's representatives, Dan Kelly, Supervisor and Jeff Lyall, Trustee, on February 23, 2024; another meeting is planned for mid-March. The group hopes to have a contract finalized before the June 30, 2024 deadline for dissolution of the Sanilac East Fire Authority.

Community Development/Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation five-year plan is available for review on the Village Website.

The Community Development/Parks and Recreation Committee hosted "Music in the Bark" on February 3rd; the event drew about 30-35 attendees. Please look for future events on the Village Website, Village Sign, or Village Bulletin Board.

Game/Family Nights have begun! Join us on the first and third Wednesday of the month to have a fun night out playing games and getting to know your neighbors.

Discussions are being held with Sanilac Township to create a joint Community Development/Parks and Recreation Committee to better address needs in both the Village and the Township.

2022 Water Project Update

The project is entering the final stages so that construction can begin. Currently the schedule is as follows.

- Preliminary Plans/Layout Complete – January 12, 2024
- Final Plans – February 2, 2024
- Review with Lexington - February 8, 2024
- Submit to MI-EGLE for Permits – February 16, 2024
- Submit to USDA for Review – February 16, 2024
- Bid Solicitation - March 15, 2024

2022 Water Project Update (continued)

- Open Bids - April 18, 2024
- Award Project - July 12, 2024
- Start Construction - August 5, 2024
- Complete Project - June 1, 2025

Planning Commission

Currently operating short-term rentals within the Village will soon be required to register and show proof of current operation. All future short-term rental properties wishing to operate within the Village will be required to comply with updated zoning ordinance language soon to take effect.

The final step in adopting the new Master Plan for the Village took place at the required Public Hearing held on February 27th. A copy of the goals and objectives was available for those in attendance. A resolution to adopt the Master Plan will be presented at the March Planning Commission Meeting after minor updates are completed.

2024 Port Sanilac Events

- Saturday, March 2nd - Music in the Bark
- Saturday, March 30th - Easter Egg Hunt
- Saturday, April 6th - Music in the Bark
- Monday, May 27th - Blessing of the Fleet
- June/July - Youth Summer Recreation
- Saturday, June 1st- Garden Club Springtime Stroll
- Saturdays, June 15th - August 31st - Music in the Park
- Saturday, July 6th - Independence Day Events/Fireworks
- Saturday and Sunday, August 2nd and 3rd - Blues Festival
- Friday and Saturday, August 16th and 17th - Antique Boat and Car Show
- Saturday, August 24th - Summer Festival

- Saturday, September 7th - Lighthouse Park Picnic
- Friday and Saturday, September 27th and 28th - Bark Shanty Days
- Saturdays, October 12th and 19th - Haunted Village
- Thursday, October 31st- Halloween
- Saturday, November 30th - Festival of Lights

2024 Village Council Meeting Dates

Council Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Bark Shanty Community Center, 135 N. Church St, Room #3, Port Sanilac, MI 48469. Finance Committee Meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month in Room #2.

Governance Committee Meetings are held on the third Tuesday on the month at 6:30 pm in Room #2. Please feel free to join in and get to know what is going on in the Village of Port Sanilac.

Business Highlights

If you own a local business and would like to submit an introduction summary about your business, please stop by the Village Office and submit a short paragraph to be included in a future newsletter.

Port Sanilac History

Port Sanilac has a rich history dating back to the mid-19th century when it was founded as a lumbering town. The village was named after the nearby Sanilac County, which itself derived its name from a Native American word meaning “Old River.” In its early years, Port Sanilac served as a shipping hub for the timber harvested from the surrounding forests with sawmills and a busy water front. As the lumber industry declined Port Sanilac transitioned into a recreational and tourist

destination, capitalizing on its prime location along
Lake Huron.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS – 5 QUESTION SURVEY

1. How satisfied are you with the local infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, etc.)?

Satisfied Not Satisfied

Comments: _____

2. What additional community events would you like to see on a regular basis? _____

3. Do you have any safety concerns living in the Village?

4. Every effort is made to keep the Village website informative and up to date. How often do you utilize the site?

Weekly Monthly As Needed Never

5. Is there additional information/content that you would like to see on the website? Comments: _____

Please email your response to psanilac@airadv.net, or mail to the Village of Port Sanilac, 56 N. Ridge St., P.O. Box 628, Port Sanilac, MI 48469 or drop off at the Village Office. This survey can also be completed online at www.portsanilac.net.