

The VILLAGE VOICE

"The Official Publication of the Village Board"
FREE to Every Family in Merrimac

February 2026 - Volume 51, Issue 10

Draft Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Meeting February 5, 2026

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Parks and Recreation Meeting was called to order in the Village Hall by Chairperson Nate Taylor at 7:00pm. Committee members Amy Buck and June Krbecek were present, with Tim Klecker and Jennifer Thompson absent. Also in attendance were Administrator Jennie Klecker, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. Chairperson Taylor examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: Bob Pfaff of Green Merrimac updated the committee on the progress of the native planting demo plot at Memorial Park, and the groups plan to trim the crab apple tree.

Item 3. Community Survey Development: The committee brainstormed survey question ideas and formats for the community park survey. They will have a printed survey available for interested residents to fill out during the April 7th Spring Election at Village Hall. They also plan to set up a series of Facebook polls to gather information and preferences from both Merrimac area residents and visitors.

Item 4. Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: The committee discussed the need to create a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) to be able to apply for various grants. The most recent Village CORP was created in 1999, and much has changed since then. Administrator Klecker will reach out to MSA to seek a quote.

Item 5. Village Administrator's Report: None.

Item 6. Adjourn: At 8:29pm, Buck/Krbecek motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting February 10, 2026

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Village President Andrew Gallus at 5:30PM. Village Trustees Collin Bourgeois, Stan Senger, and Nate Taylor were present, with Trustee Budde absent. Also in attendance were DPW Justin Schultz, Administrator Jennie Klecker, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. President Gallus examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: Administrator Klecker gave Green Merrimac's Annual Report on behalf of Bob Pfaff, who was unable to attend. The report highlighted the group's accomplishments over the last year and outlined goals for the future. They will continue to sponsor and support local environmental educational and community service events such as; hosting environmental film presentations, sponsoring the Earth Day village cleanup, organizing the community-wide garage sale days, installing a native plant demonstration plot at Memorial Park, maintaining the community compost bin, and numerous other activities and initiatives. On behalf of Green Merrimac, Administrator Klecker thanked the Board and Village residents for their continued support of their organization. A Village resident emailed Administrator Klecker asking if the four Village Trustee candidates could provide a brief essay, to be printed in the Village Voice, about who they are and why they are running for Village office. The Board agreed that it would be a great idea. President Gallus spoke about a new Community Outreach Program that is being

organized in the Merrimac area. Watch the Village Voice and Facebook page for meeting notices and future events.

Item 3. Review Consent Agenda: Gallus/Senger motioned to approve the consent agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills: Senger/Taylor motioned to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on items 4.i.-4.v. of the Agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 5. 2025 Compensatory Time Payout: Due to an unusual amount of snowfall during the month of December, DPW Schultz was unable to use all the compensatory time he earned before the end of the year. The employee handbook states that employees must use compensatory time during the year it is accumulated, and that it may not be carried over into the next year. Given that there was not adequate opportunity to use the time up by the end of the year, Gallus/Bourgeois motioned to pay out 24 hours of compensatory time earned in 2025 to DPW Schultz. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 6. Discussion on planned update to Memorandum of Understanding between Merrimac Area Fire Protection Commission and USDA-Dairy Forage Research Center: Trustee Senger reported that at the last Fire Commission meeting, they discussed updating the MOU between the commission and USDA-Dairy Forage Research Center. Specifically, they are looking at updating the fee schedule pertaining to bulk water and hydrant use charges. The current agreement allows the Village of Merrimac to charge for bulk water "at the prevailing rate...plus \$20 per hydrant used at the fire." Per the current Village Water Tariff approved by the PSC, the Village may charge \$6.26 per 1,000 gallons of water used, plus a \$50 hydrant hook-up fee. The Board agreed that the new MOU should be written in a way that

reflects the fees set for the Village by the PSC and Village fee schedule.

Item 7. Policy Review Update Discussion:

Trustee Taylor gave a progress update on the policy review. While researching current policies, Trustee Taylor noted that several areas of the Village code relating to roles and responsibilities are outdated or need revision. Furthermore, after discussion with Administrator Klecker, it is apparent that the entire Village Code should be updated. New or revised ordinances have not been properly incorporated into the code document, and entire sections need to be re-evaluated. The online version is difficult to navigate and confusing to search. The Village last recodified their ordinances in 2006. Administrator Klecker reached out the company the Village worked with back in 2006, General Code, to talk about what it would take to get the ordinances updated and made available online in a more user-friendly format. A very rough estimate for a full recodification is \$15-20k and the process would take about a year to complete. Taylor/Gallus motioned to advise Administrator Klecker to move forward with General Code and take the steps needed to receive a full cost proposal for Board review. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 8. Report of the Parks & Recreation Committee:

Trustee Taylor gave the Board a report of the Parks and Recreation meeting held on 2/5/2026. The group is focusing on crafting a community parks "use and preferences" survey. The survey will help guide the committee as they begin work on the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, which is required for any future Parks & Rec grants the Village may apply for.

Item 9. Report of the Director of Public Works:

DPW Schultz informed the Board that all the work has been completed at the Wellhouse, except for an electrical adjustment by Cummings, and warranty replacement. The bleach scale quote from USA BlueBook is \$1,825, which can be paid with contingency funds left over from the project. Gallus/Senger motioned to approve the bleach scale purchase. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 10. Report of the Administrator:

10.a. SDWLP Disbursement Request No. 7 (FINAL); Taylor/Senger motioned to submit SDWLP Disbursement Request No. 7 (FINAL) in the amount of \$93,206.34, upon the completion of the voltage adjustment by Cummings. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 11. Adjourn: At 6:46PM, Taylor/Senger motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Klecker



Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting

March 10, 2026

5:30 PM @ Village Hall

Plan Commission Meeting

March 9, 2026

6:30 PM @ Village Hall

AA Meetings

Meetings will resume this summer at
the Memorial Park Pavilion
Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050

Recycling Pickup Dates:



March 2, 16, & 30

Winter Brush Pick-up Dates

March 18 & April 8

Meet the Village Trustee Candidates!

While some communities struggle finding folks willing to serve on their Boards, how wonderful is it that we have four candidates running for Village Trustee this Spring? Please take a moment to read what each candidate has to say, in their own words, about why they are interested in becoming a Village Trustee.

Then, don't forget to come to Village Hall on **April 7, 2026**, to vote! Remember, you'll only get to vote for **two**, although, with impressive candidates like these, we don't know how you'll be able to decide!

Scott Thompson: I am running for village trustee because I care about our community and want to serve the place I have called home for 52 years. This village is where I have lived, worked, and built my business, Merrimac Power Sports. Being a business owner here has helped me understand the needs of our residents and our local economy. I have seen our village grow and change over the years, and I want to help keep it a great place to live. I believe it is important to take care of our community, make thoughtful decisions, and plan for the future. I want to help protect what makes our village special. I believe in being honest, responsible, and hard working. If elected, I will listen to residents, attend meetings, and do my best to represent our community. I will work with others to make decisions that are fair and in the best interest of everyone. After living and working here for more than five decades, I want to give back to the community that has given me so much. I would be honored to serve as your village trustee and respectfully ask for your support and your vote. Sincerely, Scott Thompson.

Susan Caldwell: I have called the Village of Merrimac my Home for nearly nine years. My late husband and I were married for forty-five wonderful years before he passed away from congestive heart failure in 2021. Giving back to the community has always been important to me, but with his illness, the challenges of COVID, and my full-time career, I did not feel I had the capacity to contribute as fully as I wished. I grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, attended Edgewood High School, and went on to earn my BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Afterward, I completed a law degree at the University of Wisconsin Law School, focusing on regulatory compliance, contracts, and various in-house counsel responsibilities. I am a member of the State of Wisconsin Bar and the Dane County Bar. For over four decades, I built my career in the health, life, and disability insurance industry, retiring as a Vice President at the close of 2024. My work involved extensive corporate experience, collaboration with teams and committees, and leadership roles managing diverse departments since 1983. I have also served on several nonprofit boards, giving me a strong understanding of accountability in such positions. I truly love living in Merrimac, which is why I

chose to remain here after my husband's passing. It is a beautiful place, and the residents have been incredibly welcoming. With my education and professional background, I am confident I can make meaningful contributions to the Village Board. I hope you will consider allowing me this opportunity. Thank you.

Nicole Hartmann: I am honored to express my interest in potentially serving as a Village Trustee for the Village of Merrimac. Over the past several years, I have become deeply involved in our community and have developed a strong appreciation for the dedication and thoughtful leadership that guides our village. For the past three years, I have chaired the Merrimac Community Festival, which has strengthened my commitment to community engagement and collaboration. I currently serve on the Village of Merrimac Planning Commission, where I have gained valuable insight into zoning, development, and long-term planning. Through this role, I have attended numerous Village Board meetings and have enjoyed working alongside current board members to address matters affecting our residents. Professionally, I bring over 12 years of development and construction experience, including zoning and plan review. My career has centered on coordinating with municipalities, contractors, engineers, and investors to turn ideas into successful projects through planning and teamwork. Having built my home here in 2021, I understand firsthand the importance of balanced growth, responsible development, and maintaining the character that makes Merrimac special. In addition to my professional background, I am active within my subdivision and serve by playing piano and organ for the Catholic church in Merrimac. I believe our Village benefits when residents contribute their skills and volunteer their time. I am hardworking, resourceful, and eager to serve in a meaningful and helpful way. It would be a privilege to continue giving back to the community I proudly call home.

David Wiegmann: Hello! My name is David Wiegmann, and I'm proud to be running for Village Trustee for the Village of Merrimac. I've lived in Merrimac because I love our small-town spirit, scenic location on Lake Wisconsin, and the genuine sense of community that defines our village. With just over 500 full-time residents, plus seasonal friends who return year after

year, Merrimac is more than a place to live; it's a place where neighbors know one another, support local efforts, and work together to maintain the warmth and welcoming character we treasure. I'm interested in serving on the Village Board because I want to help ensure our community continues to thrive, balancing thoughtful growth with preserving the natural beauty and local traditions that make Merrimac special. Whether it's supporting our parks and recreation, protecting our environment, or fostering good communication between the village government and residents, I'm committed to listening, learning, and working collaboratively with our board and community members. I believe that every voice matters, from longtime residents to newcomers, and serving as a Trustee is a way to give back to the community that has given so much to my family and me. I'm eager to contribute my time, energy, and ideas to help navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead. Thank you for your consideration and support. — David Wiegmann

Spring Election Tuesday, April 7th



Polls Open
7:00am – 8:00pm

Merrimac Village Hall
100 Cook Street
Early voting March 24 – April 3
Questions? Call 493-2122

Future Elections:

Partisan Primary – August 11, 2026
General Election – November 3, 2026

Easter Egg Hunt

March 28, 2026 @ 10am

(Rain date April 4)

Located on the grounds of
Merrimac Methodist Church
& the Merrimac School

Bring a dish to pass for the
Brunch Pot Luck following the
hunt! Please bring a bag to take
candy home. Prizes awarded
after the hunt.



An Introduction to Gardening with Native Plants

Many people are interested in using native plants in their landscape but aren't sure where to start. Join us at Village Hall for an educational presentation by a guest speaker from Wild Ones on

Saturday, April 4 @9:30am

We will talk about plants that are "winners" in various conditions so that you can find some that will work well and look great in your garden!

The Merrimac Community Festival
will be held at Memorial Park on
SATURDAY, JUNE 13th 2026!!



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TO RECEIVE ALL UPCOMING UPDATES,
ANNOUNCEMENTS, & IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!



Merrimac Text List

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COMES
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Sauk Prairie Text List

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