

From Incorporation to 1999

by Donald H. DeGroot (taken from a Century of Progress 1889-1999)

In 1898 the Village fathers began their work of petitioning for incorporation to the Circuit Court of Outagamie County. The first official process in this matter was posting the following notice of intent: (see official notice of intent link on History Webpage)

In 1999 the Villagers held a Centennial Celebration at which time, with the assistance of Circuit Court Judge Dennis Luebke and Clerk of the Circuit Court Ruth Janssen, a re-enactment and re-affirmation of the Incorporation was held. It was documented as follows:

Amendment to the Order of the Circuit Court

In the matter of the petitioners for the reaffirmation of their desire to remain an incorporated Village in the name of Little Chute in the County of Outagamie Wisconsin, and it appearing to this Court that the current survey and census as reported by Jim Moes, Dir of Community Dev are correct, stating a total of 10,436 inhabitants and including about 2,820 acres more or less.

It is ordered that the said territory is hereby re-incorporated into the Village of Little Chute if the inhabitants shall assent to it thereof

*By the Court
Dennis Luebke
Judge*

*State of Wisconsin)
Outagamie County)*

I Ruth Janssen Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for the County of Outagamie and State aforesaid do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy with the original entered in the action therein that it is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof as the same remains on the record in my office Whereof I have hereinto set my hand and affixed the Seal of Said Court this 18th day of April AD 1999

*Ruth Janssen Clerk of the Circuit Court
Outagamie County Wisconsin*

VILLAGE OF LITTLE CHUTE 1899-1999

by *Donald H. De Groot*

John De Bruin had been sworn in as census taker by Notary Public John A Kilsdonk, the Petition of Incorporation was signed by Judge John Goodland, who then assigned G. H. Peeters, J. E. Verstegen and G. H. West to be inspectors of the first Village election.

The first election was held April 1, 1899, at the Forester Hall. Elected to office were:

John A. Kilsdonk:	President
John Hammen:	Treasurer
John De Bruin:	Clerk
Henry Gloudemans:	Assessor
Joseph Keef:	Marshal
Nicholas H. Adrians:	Justice of the Peace
Trustees:	H.J. Mollen
H.J. Verstegen	John Molitor
George Vanden Berg	James Gerrits
Henry Weyenberg,	John Lenz

In "The History of Outagamie County - 1911", it states that the newly elected officials "...at once set about to make public improvements and as a result can probably show more miles of good sidewalks and good roads than any other village in the county. The Village has a good engine house and council rooms, an outfit of fire fighting appliances and a good school building..."

"Though located on an interurban railway having hourly service, and but a few minutes ride from either Appleton or Kaukauna, Little Chute has as many prosperous business houses as commonly found in a village of its size, some of the stocks being exceptionally complete."

Little Chute continued to grow at a fast pace. The electric streetcar was extended through Little Chute to Kaukauna in 1900, operating until 1928. The Bank of Little Chute was organized in 1906. Little Chute's first newspaper "**The Valley Advocate**" was published in 1920.

The first telephone exchange was placed in operation about 1909. It was located in the Post Office on the corner of Main Street and Grand Avenue. In 1902 shortly after the Village was incorporated Little Chute had it's own school. In 1908 an addition was built to form a second story. During the next year a high school course was offered there.

In 1923 a water works system was installed. A deep well of 422 feet was dug near the locks that became a flowing artesian fountain supplying the Village with necessary water. Soon the number of consumers had increased necessitating the installing of a large pump, a reservoir and a water tower was erected to provide the required pressure that has a capacity of 100,000 gallons. In 1966 a second water tower with the capacity of 250,000 gallons was built near pump station # 2. A third well drilled in 1974 with a depth of 809 feet produces 1,100 gallons per minute to add to the efficiency of the water department. In 1999 a fourth well was dug to keep up with demand. A treatment plant and third tower are also in the plans.

The Village continued to grow throughout the first fifty years until in 1960 it had reached a population of 5099. During the early years the Village was mainly a bedroom community, with the majority of its workforce employed outside the community. Growth occurred through the building of residential homes within its incorporated boundaries and through small annexations.

Between 1960 and 1999 the Village more than doubled in population. This tremendous growth was the result of several factors. The public officials realized the potential the community had for growth because of its ideal location, access to highways and rail service. This growth occurred in a variety of ways. One way was through property annexation. Between 1970 and 1974 the Floyd Van Asten property located north of Hy 41, the Norb Vander Putten property west of Washington Street and the Moasis Drive properties were annexed to the Village. The Village also purchased the Marie Bohm farm in 1971. This was an 80 acre farm located northeas of the Village and was to be developed into the communities first Industrial Park.

In 1926 a fire truck was purchased with the capacity of 400 gallons per minute.

As the Village grew, so did the demand for additional services. In 1971 the City of Kaukauna and the Villages of Combined Locks, Kimberly and Little Chute formed a committee to explore the possibility of creating a Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Facility. As a result the Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District was established under State Statutes in 1975. A new wastewater treatment plant was built in Kaukauna and a trunk line was installed under the Fox River to collect wastewater from Combined Locks, Kimberly and Little Chute.

In 1971 the Village hired its first full time recreational director. A village Administrator position was created in 1986 and in 1988 the Village hired its first Public Works Director. In 1988 the position of Finance Director was established.

In 1981 the street department was relocated to the abandoned site of the old wastewater treatment plant to make way for the new Public Safety Building. The grand opening celebration for the Public Safety Building was held in 1983. The existing Village hall was then remodeled to accommodate the need for administrative offices.

A new Public Works building was constructed in 1987 and the Public Works and Recreation Departments relocated to the new facilities, allowing the Village to demolish the old wastewater treatment buildings and develop the area into a park.

In 1964, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin gave the Village permission to install a retaining wall in the canal at Doyle Park to help improve swimming conditions in the area. The Jaycees under-took this project.

When complete the Village had one of the largest swimming areas in the State. In 1989 the Village built a new Swimming Pool and Water Slide.

Demand for recreational needs continued to grow. The Village developed Heesakker Park in 1983. This 26-acre tract of land was set aside by the Heesakker family for park purposes and was to be left basically in its natural state. Other neighborhood parks were developed, Van Zeeland 1972, Hietpas 1973, Miller Lane 1980, Kinley 1985 and Island 1991. A 17-acre park was developed on the Villages northwest side in 1997. This Park was named Van Lieshout Park in honor of Dr. F.X. Van Lieshout who served the community for more than 40 years.

In 1996 the Village purchased the John Ebben Farm thereby doubling the size of its industrial park. Other infrastructure improvements were made to the wastewater and storm water collection systems. In 1995 a Sanitary Interceptor Line was installed from the Fox River to the north side of the Village. This interceptor line eliminated the need of three lift stations and will provide adequate sewer service for many years to come.

With these infrastructure improvements the Village has the capacity to serve growth well into the next millennium.

Our Village Presidents

John A. Kilsdonk

1899 - 1901 * 1902 - 1906

1908 - 1911

Gilbert F. Germanson

1901 - 1902

John H. Hammen

1906 - 1908

Peter A. Gloudemans

1911 - 1912

Anton Jansen

1921 - 1935 * 1947 - 1949

John H. Vandeyacht

1935 - 1947 * 1949 - 1951

Lester Sanders

1951 - 1953

Paul Kostka

1953 - 1965

Edward H. Spierings

1965 - 1981

Donald H. De Groot

1981 - 1997

John A. Rooyakkers

1997 - 2006

Charles Fischer

2006 to present