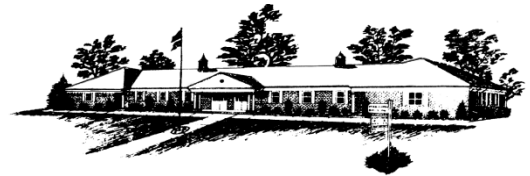


Village of Hales Corners

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James R. Ryan Municipal Building

JULY 4TH COMMITTEE Minutes March 4, 2026 Village Hall (Meadows Room)

1.0 Call to Order & Roll Call- N. Wilkes called to order at 6:30pm.

Present: N. Wilkes, Dan Besson, Diane Besson, E. Valaitis, A. Dunning, J.
Gilboy, P.Czerwinski

2.0 Treasurer's Report

- No Financial Report
- I. Thomson is working on the contracts for Port-A- Potties and ATVs
- D. Besson reported that contracts can now be signed by the Village Administrator

3.0 Treasurer Election

- The committee will hold an election for Treasurer at the April Meeting

4.0 Safety & Security Review

- Officer Henner was not present.
- Discussion tabled until next meeting

5.0 Food and Drink Vendors

- Nancy asked for input on the type of food vendors to have.
- The plan is to have all vendors park on New Berlin Road
- Nancy will call the health department to see if there's a fee for vendors.

6.0 Theme for 2026

- A. Dunning suggested two themes for consideration:
- Proud Past, Bright Future
- Small Village Big Freedom
- E. Valaitis suggested incorporating USA 250 into this year's theme and saving the Small Village Big Freedom theme for 2027, which is the 75th Anniversary of the Village
- Committee to vote on the theme at the April meeting.

7.0 Website - needs to be updated.

8.0 Events

8.1 Firecracker Four

- Paulette Czerwinski was present for R. Dodd
- N. Wilkes reported the HC Lions approved use of the Pavilion on 7/3, noon-3 pm for packet pick up and 6 am-11 am on 7/4 for Run and Children's Parade Ice Cream Distribution

- The route should return to the traditional Run route.
- T-shirts will incorporate something to commemorate the 250th

8.2 Holz Car Show

- D. Besson reported that planning is underway.

8.3 Children's Parade

- A. Dunning submitted the request to WSD for the use of HCE outdoor spaces for events.
- A. Dunning submitted the online request with Festival Foods for Ice Cream donation. (650) waiting for confirmation.
- E. Valaitis will order 9 of each medal and 1 best in Show.
- Discussed changes to the judging line-up.
- Discussed changing how the Children's parade time is listed on the flyer.
- A Dunning has secured her volunteers.

8.4 Ice Cream & Children's Games

- E. Valaitis will coordinate volunteers.
- Dan O'Donnell has agreed to emcee the children's awards and games.
- The Lion's Leos will help with patriotic tattoos (9am-11am)
- E. Valaitis will order patriotic tattoos.

8.5 Patriotic Pet Costume Contest

- N. Wilkes is coordinating sponsors and judges.

8.6 Pie Baking Contest

- No Discussion

8.7 Hot Dog Eating Competition

- Still need a coordinator for this event

8.8 Bed Races

- R. Lindner not present
- N. Wilkes presented a new bed design from Rand.
- N. Wilkes presented 1st place trophy design from Rand.

8.9 Big Parade

- N. Wilkes reported for I. Thomson and O. Stern
- O. Stern has been looking for additional parade units.
- I. Thomson has a message out to the Sons/Daughters of the American Revolution. If they participate, it was discussed that they could be the Parade Marshall.
- I. Thomson is working on securing the horse-drawn carriages for the Village President and Trustees
- I. Thomson has a meeting with the Band Boosters to see if they can put together a small Revolutionary War era fife and drum corps.
- E. Valaitis reported Gene Mueller cannot emcee the Big Parade
- I. Thomson to update the parade application posted on the committee website.

New in 2026 Discussion

- J. Gilboy reported Reis Automotive can provide the committee with corn hole games for use on the 4th.
- The committee further discussed a tug-of-war contest before the fireworks. Suggested age groupings: Middle School Students, HS Students, 18+. Need a coordinator for this event. N Wilkes will contact the Fire Department about the use of a rope for the event.
- N. Wilkes has reached out to Ideal Logo, and they are interested in sponsoring a special T-shirt and coordinating pre-4th online sales.

- R. Lindner submitted the request for a military flyover on the 4th.
- E. Valaitis reached out to WSD to see if there are ways to incorporate students in the planning and volunteering of events.
- J. Gilboy will reach out to Kent Biganski about photographing the 4th of July events.
- D. Besson will check into organizing a 4th of July drone photo over the Hales Corners Park field.

9.0 Adjournment 7:30 pm

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, April 8th at 6:30 pm.

DRAFT