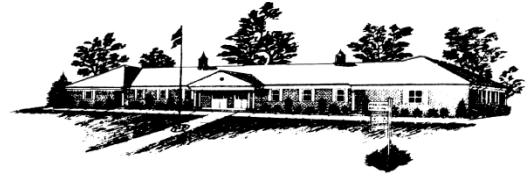


Village of Hales Corners

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James R. Ryan Municipal Building

JULY 4TH COMMITTEE Minutes June 10, 2026 Village Hall (Meadows Room)

- 1.0 Call to Order & Roll Call-** N. Wilkes called to order at 6:32 pm.
Present: N. Wilkes, Dan Besson, Diane Besson, E. Valaitis, R. Lindner, I. Thomson, O. Stern, R. Dodd
- 2.0 Approval of 4/29/26 minutes**
- Approved (Diane Besson 1st, A. Dunning 2nd, All Approved)
- 3.0 Treasurer's Report**
- Diane Besson reported no changes to the Treasurer's Report.
 - E. Valaitis submitted an invoice for Medals.
- 4.0 Safety & Security Review**
- Officer Henner was not present.
 - D. Besson asked that the Fire and Police Chiefs both be copied on the final Parade Line Up
- 5.0 Food and Drink Vendors**
- N. Wilkes has secured license agreements and the Health Dept. Inspection fees payments from four out of the five food truck vendors.
 - Food Trucks to set up between 3 pm and 4 pm.
 - Food Trucks to enter via New Berlin Road.
 - A. Dunning will put together a Facebook Post promoting the Food Trucks.
- 6.0 250th Commemorative T-shirts**
- The deadline for ordering was May 31st
 - 70 T-shirts sold for a profit of \$400
 - The committee decided not to order additional shirts for sale on the 4th, as it would be difficult to manage sales and cash payments.
 - T-shirts can be ordered online on the 4th-7th. Alyssa will order six-yard signs to advertise additional sales, featuring a QR Code that links users to the Ideal Logos online shop.
- 7.0 Status of Village Website Updates**
- I. Thomson has updated the Parade Application.
 - R. Linder updated the Bed Race Rules and Registration Form.
 - R. Dodd confirmed the New Firecracker Four Route is listed with Course Map.
 - Current forms on website also include: The Children's Parade Rules, Hot Dog Eating Contest Application and Waiver, Children's Field Games Itinerary, and the Patriotic Pet Costume Contest Entry Form
 - It was suggested that the Pie Baking Contest Information be added to the Website.

8.0 2026 Flyer

- Flyer is complete and very nicely done – includes recognition of America's 250th.
- The flyer is posted on the Village Website

9.0 Events

9.1 Firecracker Four

- The new route description and map is posted on the Village website.
- Registration is up 10% at this point.
- 1300 T-shirts have been ordered.
- Pre-Race Packet Pick Up:

7/2 at Performance Running Outfitters-Brookfield 1-6 pm

7/3 at Hales Corners Pool House noon-3 pm

7/4 6:45 am-7:45 am

- Trophies ordered for 1st Place Female and 1st Place Male Runner.
- The Rotary Club will help host a water stop at Woodside and 111th St.
- Discussion was had as to contacting the Lion's Club about unlocking Pool House Pavilion for Packet Pick Up on 7/3 and the morning of 7/4 at 5:30 am.

9.2 Holz Car Show

- D. Besson reported the Car Show is all set.

9.3 Children's Parade

- A. Dunning is all set with volunteers, signage and awards.

9.4 Ice Cream & Children's Game

- E. Valaitis confirmed that she will hang banners to recognize Festival Foods for their ice cream donation at the event.
- Field Games lines will be marked on Friday, 7/3, 6 pm, followed by water balloon filling.
- Ice cream Passers, Line Judges, and Award Table volunteers secured.
- E. Valaitis confirming with Leos about volunteers to help apply temporary patriotic children's tattoos from 9:30-10:30 am. R. Scherrer and her daughter will also help with the tattoo table.

9.5 Patriotic Pet Costume Contest

- N. Wilkes has this fully organized with judges and prizes secured.

9.6 Pie Baking Contest

- Pie drop-off time is 11:00 am-12 noon.
- Judging begins at noon
- I. Thomson to provide Pie Baking Contest Information for the Village Website.

9.7 Hot Dog Eating Competition

- Tim Gjerde will emcee the event.
- R. Lind will set up the sound system for Hot Dogs and Bed Races
- Additional help is still needed to assemble hot dogs and buns

9.8 Bed Races

- R. Lindner reported that Reis Auto began looking at the bed.
- N. Wilkes will order a yard sign recognizing Reis Auto, and R. Lind will provide signage for the bed.
- The Bed Race Information Entry form on the village website has been updated to include the Team Classifications. New Classifications: Grade/Middle School, High School/College Age, All Girls (any age), 25&over. Classifications may still need to be combined in the spirit of competition based on actual teams participating.

- Registration is on site, 12:45-1:15 pm Races start at 1:30 pm

9.9 Big Parade

- I. Thomson is completing the permit for the parade route. Forest Home Westbound from Grange to 116th will be closed from 2 pm to 5 pm on July 4th. East Bound Forest Home closes at 4 pm. The full parade route shuts down by 3 pm. Also, need to shut down 104th & Charles/Parnell area where the horses line up.
- I. Thomson provided an overview of units currently committed and pending.
- O. Sterny suggested setting up a Google Doc of parade participants.
- O. Sterny is working with units to gather more information for the parade script.
- N. Wilkes announced that Tom and Kelly Nowak from Daily Social will Emcee this year's parade. The committee approved ordering T-shirts for our parade emcees.
- Currently, three confirmed floats: Lions, Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce
- The committee agreed to order an award for the best float. O. Sterny volunteered to gather a judging panel.
- Still waiting for final confirmation for the UW Band about 5th quarter presentation at the parade end.
- Jeff Chesney, Jeff's son, and Rand Lind will build a review stand on July 3rd. Mary Bennet will also assist.
- A. Dunning has made arrangements with N&S towing and will make pizza arrangements.
- Kent Bieganski will photograph the 2026 Events.
- The committee discussed recognizing Tod Colbert for his past 4th of July photography contributions. I. Thomson motioned for the committee to provide a \$100 certificate to Tod and his family, 2nd N. Wilkes. All committee members approved the gift.
- July 5th Committee Park Clean Up set for 8 am. N. Wilkes will reach out to Lions for additional assistance.

Adjournment- 7:52 pm Motion by R. Lind with 2nd by I. Thomson

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 1st, 6:30 pm