

# *PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES*

Remarks from the Chair...By David Pfeiffer

Winter is almost here which means property tax bills for 2017 will soon arrive. As communicated previously, the Town has embarked on a strategy to address the severely deteriorated condition of many Town roads. In 2017, this effort was funded through the use of \$200,000 of ATC funds and a matching amount of borrowing. Repayment of this borrowing in 2018 requires increasing the Town mill rate to 1.74. This rate is still well below the mill rate of neighboring Towns and represents only about 11% of your total property taxes with the remainder going toward Dane County and Schools.

Over the next five years, the Town plans to continue funding road rehabilitation projects by utilizing the remainder of the ATC funds plus an average of \$300,000 in borrowing each year. As we reach the end of this five year period, we will review our progress to determine how to proceed on remaining work. We are borrowing because the high cost of reconstruction projects leaves no funds left for maintenance. But, shortchanging maintenance costs taxpayers more in the long run because it causes good roads to deteriorate faster than they should.

Also soon to arrive will be the completion of the I90/94 Hwy N interchange project. The DOT has provided the Town with information handouts regarding how to navigate the roundabouts. However, we are not done with feeling the effects of the I90/94 construction. Next will come the expansion of the interstate to 6 lanes. This work will also result in increased traffic through the Town as travelers seek alternate routes in response to traffic delays. Please drive with care!

In 2017, the Town completed a 10 year update of the Comprehensive Plan. Dane County is also currently in the process of updating their Zoning Ordinance. Over the course of 2018, Dane County Department of Planning and Development staff will be working with the Town Plan Commission, Town Board and landowners to revise proposed zoning maps to meet individual needs and the Town Comprehensive Plan.

Your Town Board will continue to focus on keeping operations as efficient as possible. The Town has only 2 office staff, 2 public works employees plus part-time help for mowing and snow removal. The workload for staff continues to increase and the Town could not operate as economically without their hard work. Please thank them if you have an opportunity to do so.

It has been an honor to serve as your Town Board Chair over the past year. I promise to continue to do my best to carry on the Pleasant Springs tradition of sensible and efficient local government. Best wishes to all in 2018.

Chair David Pfeiffer

## ***Comings and Goings...***

The Town welcomes new Plan Commission members Lila Lemanski and John Pitas, and welcomes John Barry to the Sanitary District.

The Town would like to thank Robb Washicheck for his services on the Plan Commission.

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2018 Waste and Recycling calendars are available on the Town website, and a copy is also available at Town Hall.

A reminder from Pellitteri-

During or after inclement winter weather, please remember to keep your trash and recycling carts accessible by clearing the area of snow and ice to ensure service. If you do not place your carts in your driveway, then you may need to shovel out an area on your property for the carts. They should be within two feet of the street (but not in the street) and approximately four feet away from obstructions such as mailboxes, trees, and cars. Please do not place your carts on top of snow piles or in the street.

If you would like to receive information regarding service delays due to holidays or weather related conditions via e-mail, please [email info@pellitteri.com](mailto:info@pellitteri.com) to sign up (please include your address and/or municipality) or call [608-257-4285](tel:608-257-4285).

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## **Town of Pleasant Springs**

### **Representative to the Commission on Aging Report – Faith Schuck**

In February, 2017, I was appointed as the Town of Pleasant Springs Representative to the Stoughton Senior Center – Commission on Aging.

Some of the things I have learned over the last 10 months are:

- That you do not have to be 65 to use the Senior Center facilities/programs. You can start at 55.
- The monthly newsletter, “Yahara Senior News” is available at the town hall, library, on line at [www.ci.stoughton.wi.us/senior/](http://www.ci.stoughton.wi.us/senior/) or other places throughout the Stoughton area free of charge. If you wish to have a newsletter mailed to you, the cost is \$9.00 per year.
- At this time the Senior Center staff and the Commission on Aging are working on accreditation standards. This is once every 5 years.
- Senior Citizen Residents of Pleasant Springs are assigned to McFarland Case Manager, Briann Susdorf. Appointments can be made at the McFarland Outreach office at 608-838-7117.
- Golden Athletic Pass for Seniors – All seniors age 60 or older in the Stoughton Area School District are eligible for a Golden Pass from the school district. This pass will allow you to attend athletic games at the high school free of charge. This pass does not include tournaments. Stop by the Stoughton Senior Center or obtain your Golden Pass.

As your representative please contact me at 608-234-0759 with any questions or concerns. I will do my best to find out the answers.

Please stop in and use the Stoughton Senior Center, make new friends or visit with old friends.



## **2018 Election Dates**

**February 20, 2018 - Spring Primary**

**April 3, 2018 – Spring Election**

**August 14, 2018 Partisan Primary**

**November 6, 2018 General Election**

**Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm**

## **TAX SEASON INFORMATION**

Tax bills will be mailed by December 18, 2017.

Payments for real estate and personal property tax are due to the Town of Pleasant Springs by January 31, 2018. You must pay at least the first installment of real estate taxes by that date to avoid delinquency. All personal property tax payments are due in full and may not be divided into payments. If you choose to pay only the first installment, the second installment is due on July 31, 2018. All payments made after January 31, 2018 must be made to the **Dane County Treasurer**. You may mail the payment, or pay in person at the Dane County Treasurer’s office. Please refer to the tax bill for the correct mailing address.

Need your tax receipt? Lost your tax bill and want to obtain another copy? Visit AccessDane for a variety of property information:

<https://accessdane.countyofdane.com>

### **TOWN HALL CLOSINGS**

Friday, Dec. 22, 2017 & Monday, Dec. 25, 2017

Friday, Dec. 29, 2017 & Monday, Jan 1, 2018

**If you are planning to pay your taxes in person, please plan accordingly. We recommend mailing tax payments.**

**The Town DOES NOT accept postdated checks. All postdated checks will be returned to the property owner.**

We strongly urge you not to wait until the last day to make your payment. If your check is incorrect and must be returned to you for any reason, you risk having a delinquent payment because the check was not returned to the Treasurer, or postmarked, on or before the due date.

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### **Mill Rate Comparison**

#### **Cost per \$1000 of valuation**

*\$1.74-Town of Pleasant Springs-\$1.37 in 2017*

\$2.54 -Town of Dunn

\$2.22-Town of Albion

\$2.84-Town of Rutland

\$3.86-Town of Cottage Grove

\$2.89-Town of Dunkirk

### **Voter ID information:**

Most Wisconsin voters must show an acceptable photo ID when voting at the polls on Election Day or by absentee ballot. There are some exceptions for absentee voters. More information on the Photo ID law is available below or you can find detailed information on Photo ID and the exceptions to the law at <http://bringit.wi.gov>

#### **Do I Need a Special Voter ID Card?**

**There is not a separate “Voter ID” card.** There are several forms of Photo ID, which you may already have, that can be used to vote.

Anyone with a valid Wisconsin driver license or Wisconsin state ID card, or any of the documents listed below, already has the photo ID they need for voting purposes.

#### **What Can I Use as Photo ID to Vote?**

**The following photo IDs are acceptable for voting purposes, and can be unexpired or expired after the date of the most recent general election (currently, the November 8, 2016 election):**

- A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- A Military ID card issued by the U.S. Uniformed Services (including retired and dependent uniformed service IDs)
- A U.S. passport book or card

**The following photo IDs are also acceptable for voting purposes:**

- A certificate of naturalization (that was issued no earlier than two years before the date of the election)

- An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin (can be expired or unexpired)
- A driver license receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days from date issued)

- An identification card receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days from date issued)
- A Veteran Affairs ID card (must be unexpired or have no expiration date)
- A photo identification card issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college, or technical college that contains the following:
  - Date the card was issued
  - Signature of student
  - Expiration date no later than two years after date of issuance
  - The university or college ID must be accompanied by a separate document that proves enrollment, such as a tuition fee receipt, enrollment verification letter, or class schedule. Enrollment verification document can be shown electronically.

**Is There Anyone Who Does Not Need to Provide a Photo ID?**

- Yes. The following electors do NOT need to provide a Photo ID:
  - **Confidential electors are always exempt from Photo ID requirements.** Confidential electors have applied for this status with their municipal clerk, and have presented a court order, a letter from law enforcement, a letter from the staff of a domestic abuse shelter, or the staff of an agency assisting victims of domestic abuse
  - **Active Military and Permanent Overseas voters are not required to provide a Photo ID when they vote by absentee ballot,** but if they vote in-person, they must present Photo ID
  - **Indefinitely confined voters,** if a voter has a hard time getting to the polls on Election Day due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability they can request a ballot be sent to them. Indefinitely confined voters do not need to show a Photo ID when voting by absentee ballot. If they vote in person, they must present a Photo ID.
  - **Voters in special care facilities** can provide a witness signature on their absentee ballot certificate envelope in substitute for showing Photo ID; if they vote in-person, they must present a Photo ID

**What Will the Poll Worker Be Looking at On My Photo ID?**

- **Elector's Photograph:** The photograph must reasonably resemble the elector
- **Elector's Name:** The elector's name must conform to the name on their voter registration; conform does

not mean that the name must be identical to the name on the voter registration

- **An Expiration Date:** If the ID has an expiration date, it must meet the expiration requirements listed above

**An acceptable Photo ID for voting does not have to include a current address. You only prove your address when registering.**

**Are There Any Photo IDs I Cannot Use to Vote?**

**Yes. Any ID that is not on the above list cannot be used. Here are some examples of photo IDs that are NOT acceptable for voting purposes:**

- A State or Federal government employee ID
- An out-of-state driver license or identification card
- An employment ID
- A membership or organization ID
- A Certificate of Citizenship

Don't wait until the last minute, make sure you have a valid photo ID for the 2018 election season.

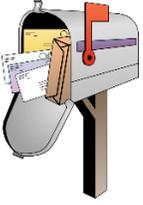
**Town Board-Caucus Information-**

The Town Board will hold its Caucus on January 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. At the Town Caucus, nominations for offices are taken from the floor from Town residents, each nomination must receive a second. Those who wish to be placed on the ballot should attend this meeting for nominations.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Town Board Supervisor Seat 3	Jay Damkoehler
Town Board Supervisor Seat 4	Janiece Bolender

All terms are for two years, beginning Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

If you are a resident of the Town of Pleasant Springs, and interested in running for office, please contact the clerk's office at (608)873-3063, email: [clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org](mailto:clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org). Or the Wisconsin Elections Commission at: (608) 266-8005, email: [elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov)



### **What Happened to my mailbox?**

Occasionally during the winter season, a snowplow blade will damage a mailbox or mailbox post. The Town will compensate the owner of a mailbox damaged by the impact of a town snowplow blade. The Town has no responsibility for damage resulting from the impact of snow pushed against a mailbox. Please leave a message at 608-205-9169, and a staff member will investigate and determine whether repair, replacement, or reimbursement is appropriate. Reimbursement is limited to a reasonably comparable mailbox and will not exceed \$25.00. No special allowance is made for decorative, unusual, or ornamental mailboxes or posts.

The Town is not responsible for installation, or reimbursement of installation costs, and reserves the right to repair the box in lieu of paying for a replacement.

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### **Weather Parking Emergencies**

Effective July 25, 2008, an ordinance was passed that allows the Town Chairperson, or their designee, to declare a weather emergency whenever three inches of snow has fallen, or as conditions warrant. **During such an emergency, nothing may be parked or placed in the road right-of-way.** This restriction remains in effect for three consecutive 24-hour periods, unless the emergency is cancelled or extended. Notice of these weather emergencies will be given to the same Madison news outlets used by the Stoughton Area School District for school closings, and local cable television.

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### **Gravel Road Snow Plow Policy**

When it snows, all paved town roads are cleared prior to the gravel roads. Additionally, gravel roads are only plowed when the snow fall is greater than 3 inches. The Town has approximately 69.46 miles of roads to plow, which takes roughly 7 hours to plow driving lanes on the paved roads. Please be patient.

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### **Safety Reminders!!**

\*When out and about this winter, please **stay back AT LEAST 300 feet from plows on the road, do not attempt to pass a plow truck, and stay back at intersections to allow plow trucks to turn around and continue plowing.** If you have any questions or concerns about snow plowing or sanding, please contact the Public Works Department at 608-205-9169.

\*In an effort to help with snow removal, please remove your trash totes promptly after your trash has been picked up. Totes that sit by the curb for days prevent Public Works from clearing roads in a timely manner, and are also in violation of Town ordinances.

\*Residents are discouraged from pushing snow across the road. In an effort to remove snow from their own property, Public Works has observed residents pushing snow across the road ways in the Town. Often times this causes a buildup of snow on the road way that can create a hazardous situation for cars. Help keep Town roads safe and clear this winter.

The Town of Pleasant Springs would like to wish you a safe and happy Holiday Season!

## Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Confirmed in Lafollette Park

Emerald ash borer (EAB) was officially confirmed in the Town of Pleasant Springs. The infestation was initially found by Dane County Parks staff at the Lafollette Park property. This is not a surprise given the proximity of the Town to other known EAB infestations.

It is likely that the area has been infested for a while - but it takes some time for insect damage to become obvious and trees to start to succumb.

One thing for your residents to keep in mind though – DON'T move firewood – especially to cabins “up north” - Moving wood out of the quarantine (see DATCP) -violates the quarantines and spreads the insect to uninfested areas of the state. All counties in the lower half of Wisconsin are quarantined, but not every community in those counties has an infestation – so keeping firewood close to “home” is a good measure to prevent spreading this devastating insect.

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an invasive, wood boring beetle. It kills ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp) by eating the tissues under the bark.

This metallic green beetle is native to East Asia. It was brought to the United States accidentally, in the wood of shipping crates from China.

### **EAB kills ash trees and Wisconsin has a lot of ash trees**

EAB is not a threat to human health but it kills our native ash trees of any size, any age, healthy or unhealthy, (according to research by Michigan State University and the US Forest Service).

The larva (the immature stage of EAB) spends its life inside ash trees, feeding on the inner bark where we cannot see it. This feeding disrupts the trees' ability to move water and nutrients back and forth from the roots to the rest of the tree. The tree starves and eventually dies.

A tree that has been attacked by EAB can die within 2-4 years. It is estimated that more than 50 million ash trees are dead or dying in the Midwest because of this insect.

Wisconsin forests contain more than 770 million ash trees, nearly 7 percent of the tree population. In urban areas, we estimate that, on average, 20 percent of trees are ash.

### **EAB moves far by hitching rides**

On its own, the beetle will only fly a few miles. However, it is easily and quickly moved to new areas when people accidentally move emerald ash borer larvae inside of infested firewood, ash nursery stock, and other ash items.

**Ash wood processing options for the homeowner.** Managing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Infested Wood A key aspect of reducing the spread of emerald ash borer is properly managing the wood, brush and stump grindings generated by removal of infested trees.

This requires an understanding of the processes that will destroy the insect, but also the federal, state and local regulations that apply to those processes. The preferred method of managing the wood is to have it processed in a manner that utilizes the wood and eliminates the risk of spreading EAB to new areas.

If you suspect you have EAB, please contact the EAB Hotline at 1-800-462-2803 for confirmation. Additional information can be found at [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov).

**Processing Options to Eliminate EAB.** The following options are available for processing infested ash wood to kill EAB or prevent completion of its life cycle and spread to uninfested trees:

- Chipping: Ash wood, brush and stump grindings must be chipped or ground down to a maximum size of no more than 1" in two dimensions (two of the three measurements - length, width and depth - must be 1" or smaller). The typical chipper used in tree care operations will not reliably create chips that meet this specification, but some may if fed through the chipper multiple times. Check with your manufacturer. Chippers equipped with a 1" screen will assure compliance. No Department of Natural Resources (DNR) waste program approvals or licenses are necessary for grinding or use of this material.
- Debarking for lumber: Complete removal of all bark, plus ½ inch of wood. The debarked wood can be milled into lumber. Any bark remaining on the lumber must be removed before the lumber can be moved out of the quarantined areas. Note that the removed bark and wood must be chipped down to a maximum size of 1-inch by 1-inch in 2 dimensions. (This option is designed for the professional, but some homeowners may have the equipment to perform this task)
- Burning: Wood, brush or chips may be burned prior to insect emergence. This should be used as a last resort. o NOTE: Before any burning is initiated, homeowners should check with their community to see if they have any burning ordinances.
- Aging: Ash wood material that is aged for 2 years after tree death will be free of EAB. The wood will have dried to the point EAB can no longer survive in it and any EAB present when the tree died or that infested the wood shortly after cutting will have

emerged during the 2 year period. If this processing option is used, it should be understood that EAB will continue to emerge during the 2 year aging period and this wood poses a risk of infestation to living ash in the area where it is being aged. This wood must not be moved out of a quarantined area during the aging period.

For more information, please see below or contact:

For general questions and concerns please email us at [DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov) or call **1-800-462-2803**.

### **For Media**

#### **Donna Gilson**

Public Information Officer for WI DATCP  
608-224-5130

[Donna.Gilson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Donna.Gilson@wisconsin.gov)

For most EAB related questions.

### **Pesticides**

#### **Chris Williamson**

University of WI - Extension  
608-262-4608

[rcwillie@entomology.wisc.edu](mailto:rcwillie@entomology.wisc.edu)

For specific pesticide and other chemical management options.

### **Regulations**

#### **Tim Allen**

DATCP  
715-891-8158

[timothy.allen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:timothy.allen@wisconsin.gov)

For questions regarding quarantines and regulatory issues within Wisconsin.

### **JoAnn Cruse**

State Plant Health Director USDA, APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine  
608-286-3604

[Joann.m.cruse@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Joann.m.cruse@aphis.usda.gov)

For regulation questions outside of Wisconsin.

### **Related Documents**

Wisconsin's emerald ash borer program goals and strategies for 2016-2017.

[EABProgramStrategies.pdf](#)

Wisconsin's overall, long-term plan for dealing with emerald ash borer.

[WI EAB Strategic Plan.pdf](#)

Wisconsin's 2016 EAB Program Summary.

[WI EAB program summary 2016.pdf](#)

Town of Pleasant Springs  
2354 County Rd N  
Stoughton WI 53589-2873

Winter 2017/2018

**TOWN OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm

Wednesday—CLOSED

Thursday—10:00 to 6pm

Friday—CLOSED

Town Office: 608-873-3063

Email: [clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org](mailto:clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org)

Public Works: 608-205-9169

Town Chair Person..... David Pfeiffer, (608) 873-0880

Supervisor #1..... Eric Olson, (608) 873-1834

Supervisor #2..... Doug Larsson 608) 873-3063

Supervisor #3..... Jay Damkoehler, (608) 492-9701

Supervisor #4..... Janiece Bolender, (608) 877-1936

Clerk/Treasurer..... Maria “Pili” Hougan, (608) 873-3063

Office Assistant..... Sandy Wilke, (608) 873-3063

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**HOLIDAY TREE DISPOSAL**

Sat. January 6, 2018, 8am to 1pm

Sat. January 13, 2018, 8am to 1pm

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**REMINDER:** All dogs must be licensed by March 31st of each year to avoid the \$10 per dog late penalty. All property owners will receive the dog license application with their tax bills. **If you mail your dog license in with your tax bill, you must include a separate check for the dog license and a self-addressed stamped envelope for us to return the tag.**

The office can process dog licenses in person beginning after January 31, 2018 during business hours. Please make sure to include a valid copy of your dog’s vaccination certificate. Dog licenses are generally processed throughout the year on Thursdays.

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**BASEBALL SEASON IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!** Stoughton Area Little League is open to youth who have completed Kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Online registration is open January 1 – March 1, 2018. For more information and to register visit [www.stoughtonbaseball.com](http://www.stoughtonbaseball.com).

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**\*\*\*2018 Assessment Begins\*\*\***

Accurate Appraisal staff will be doing walk throughs on those properties that been recently purchased or acquired a building permit during 2017. The purpose of the walk through is to obtain a proper listing of the rooms and to gather other essential data or to check the completion of the building permit that was issued. Letters of notification will be sent to those property owners.

**After** property owners receive a letter from Accurate Appraisal, they can make appointment by phone at 1-800-770-3927 or by logging on the accurate appraisal’s website at: [www.accurateassessor.com](http://www.accurateassessor.com) Please make sure when you are scheduling an appointment you go all the way through the steps provided by Accurate Appraisal. **If** you do not receive a letter from Accurate Appraisal, you do not need to make an appointment. *If you are having trouble scheduling an appointment with Accurate Appraisal, please contact office staff at 608-873-3063 and they can help you through the process.*



