

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES

IT'S BACK!!!

The Town heard your feedback regarding the newsletter and has found a way to put the mailing of the newsletter back into the budget. As always, we continue to encourage residents to visit the Town's website for all of the most current news, but we will begin mailing the newsletter in the spring and winter. The Town has cut costs by removing the color and having the newsletters printed by a new company.

A Word from the Chair.... By Mary Haley

In April I was elected as your new Town Chairperson, and I would like to introduce myself. My husband Tom and I are now retired, having both worked for Dane County, and have lived in Pleasant Springs since 1980. I began serving the Town first as a Plan Commission member in 1997 and then became a Town Board member in 2000. I also presently serve as a member of the Dane County Board of Adjustments. I am proud to continue to serve the residents in the Town as your Chairperson.

Janiece Bolender and David Pfeiffer became Town Board Supervisors this year and I thank them for their proven dedication and willingness to serve the Town.

The Town will be replacing the 1994 International truck next year and Public Works staff have identified culverts within the Town that are near failing and need replacing.

Last year the Town received a grant from the State for the renovations at the Boat Launch and this year we also applied for and received a Dane County Parks grant for this project. The renovation will be completed by November 15 and will provide a handicap access floating pier, bio-retention basin and an aquatic waste removal station.

This year the Board is working with the Town of Dunkirk to apply for a grant to improve Williams Drive. The City of Stoughton is also applying for a grant as all three municipalities share the portion of Williams Dr. from County B to Page St. The Town

is also working with Dunkirk, Dunn, Oregon and Rutland to jointly bid for road repairs and this has shown to produce considerable savings.

Even though we are still working with a fixed levy limit, the Board has completed its work on the budget and has made great effort to continue to provide all services to residents and keep the Town's portion of your tax bill low.

The Town Board and the staff of Pleasant Springs are committed to serving its residents and keeping you informed of changes, challenges and developments that impact all of us.

We will again be mailing a newsletter to everyone twice a year but continue to update our website as changes occur. Please check the website at www.pleasantssprings.org.

2014 Assessment Begins!!

Accurate Appraisal staff will begin the annual real estate property assessment process shortly. Each year 25% of the residences receive a walk-through inspection, as well as all properties involved in a building permit project. If you are not at home when the assessors are in the area, you will receive a letter with instructions for scheduling this visit. Please take advantage of the inspection opportunity to talk with the assessor about the features of your residence, and to check that the property record card correctly lists those features. For example, if the card lists four bedrooms and a fireplace, but you have three bedrooms and no fireplace, the assessor doing the visual inspection can correct the card immediately. The more accurate the records, the more complete and fair every assessment will be. If the assessor cannot do the walk-through, the assessment is based on an exte-

rior view.

This year Accurate Appraisal will be doing walk-throughs for sections 18-36 and any new building construction in 2013.

Residents can make appointment by phone or by logging on the accurate appraisal's website at: www.accurateassessor.com

Please make sure when you are scheduling and appointment you go all the way through the steps provided by Accurate Appraisal.. The Town found some residents did not complete the process and their appointments were not scheduled. *If you are having trouble scheduling and appointment with Accurate Appraisal, please contact office staff at 608-873-3063 and they can help you through the process.*

USE OF ATC FUNDS

Here at Town Hall we are often asked, what did the Town ever do with the funds from ATC? The Town would like to take an opportunity to update residents on what the funds are currently being used for.

As a reminder there are two different payments from the ATC Transmission line.

Annual Payment—the Town receives an annual payment from ATC as an environmental impact payment for the Rockdale-Middleton Transmission line that runs through the Town. The Town will receive a sum of \$111,044 for a 20 year period that commenced in 2011. There is no restriction on how these dollars are spent. The Board disburses those funds per the annual budget within the following areas, prioritized as follows:

1. Capital equipment
2. Road maintenance
3. Town Hall maintenance and repair

One Time Fee—The Town also received a lump sum payment of \$925,367 in 2011. Pursuant to WI State Statute 16.969(4), the Town may only use these funds for a park, conservancy, wetland, or other similar environmental program, unless the PSC approves a different use under this subsection. The PSC has noted generally they will approve the funds be used in a manner outside of the statute, as long as the Town can prove it is in the best interest of the residents.

To date the Town has used those funds on the following projects:

1. A New Salt Shed
2. Paving of the Town Hall Parking lot
3. Adding a new garage bay and a new Town Hall vestibule

Weather Parking Emergencies

In an effort to limit safety hazards, it is unlawful to habitually park, abandon, or stop any motorized vehicle, trailer, or any object on the town road right-of-way at all times.

Effective on 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.

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 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.

TAX SEASON INFO

Tax bills will be mailed by December 16, 2013. Payments for real estate and personal property tax are due to the Town of Pleasant Springs by January 31, 2013. 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, 2013. The county will send a reminder bill to you in June. All payments made after January 31, 2013 must be made payable 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.

TOWN HALL CLOSINGS

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2013 & Wednesday Dec. 25, 2013
Tuesday, Dec. 31st, 2013 & Wednesday, Jan 1, 2013

-If you are planning to pay your taxes in person, please plan accordingly.

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.

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES.....CONTINUED

NEW HOURS AT THE BRUSH BURNING COMPOST SITE!!

Beginning in June of 2013, the Brush Burning Compost Site changed hours of operation. In an effort to be more accommodating to the residents, the Town is reducing the hours on Saturday and opening up an additional day on Wednesday for the period of June through September. See below for the adjusted schedule. The Board will rely on the feedback received to gauge if this will be a permanent change.

The Brush Burning/Compost Site, 1754 Tower Drive, will be open to receive grass clippings, leaves, and clean brush 4 inches in diameter and smaller, on the days listed in the schedule below

This site is open to Pleasant Springs residents only. Lumber and construction materials are NOT allowed. Businesses and non-residents are prohibited from using the site. Do not leave material in garbage bags. Please empty contents and take bags with you.

The Dane County Landfill, 7102 US Highway 12-18, is available for all county residents, Monday -Friday 7am – 2:45pm and Saturday 8am-11am.

In 2013, the Town Board discussed possibly implementing a fee for the brush burning compost site to compensate for rising costs. At this time the Town Board has decided NOT to pursue a fee for the brush burning compost site.

Winter/Spring Hours	Summer Hours	Fall Hours
Sat. Jan. 4, 2014, 8am to 1pm	Sat. June 7, 2014, 8am to 11am	Sat. Sept. 6, 2014, 8am to 11am
Sat. Jan. 11, 2014, 8am to 1pm	Wed., June 11, 2014, 6pm to 8pm	Wed. Sept. 10, 2014, 4:30pm to 6:30pm
Sat. April 4, 2014, 8am to 1pm	Sat. July 12, 2014, 8am to 11am	Sat. Oct. 11, 2014, 8am to 11am
Sat. April 12, 2014, 8am to 1pm	Wed. July 16, 2014, 6pm to 8pm	Wed. Oct. 15, 2014, 4:30pm to 6:30pm
Sat. May 3, 2014, 8am to 1pm	Sat. Aug. 2, 2014, 8am to 11am	Sat. Oct. 18, 2014, 8am to 11am
Sat. May 10, 2014, 8am to 1pm	Wed. Aug. 6, 2014, 6pm to 8pm	Wed. Oct. 22, 2014, 4:30pm to 6:30pm
		Sat. Nov 1, 2014, 8am to 1pm
		Sat. Nov. 8, 2014, 8am to 1pm

SNOW PLOWING

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 miles of roads to plow, which takes roughly 6 hours to plow driving lanes on the plowed roads. Please be patient.

Safety Reminders for driving on roads in winter: stay back at least 300 feet from plows on the road, do not attempt to pass a plow truck, and stay back at intersections and 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.

Upgrade to Lake Kegonsa Boat Launch Complete!

The Town has completed upgrades to the Lake Kegonsa Boat Launch that include: a new 60 foot floating pier, a bio-retention basin, and additional landscaping. 90% of the project was funded by the “Wisconsin Recreational Boating Grant,” and the “Dane County Parks and Recreation Grant.” The remainder of the upgrade was paid for with funds from daily and annual permits for the site. We invite you to stop down and check out the upgrades!

Reminder: Your Town resident sticker also allows you free admission to the launch. If you have not yet obtained a resident sticker, please stop down at Town Hall to receive your free sticker.



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

www.pleasantsprings.org

Election Dates

February 18, 2014 - Spring Primary
April 1, 2014 - Spring Election
August 12, 2014 - Fall Primary
November 4, 2014 - General Election

Haven't voted a couple years? Unsure about your Voter Registration status? Want to see who is on the ballot for an upcoming election?

Check out the State of Wisconsin Voter Public Access Website:

<http://myvote.wi.gov>

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm
Wednesday—CLOSED
Thursday—Noon to 6pm
Friday—CLOSED
Phone Number: 608-873-3063
Email: cttops@tds.net

Town Chair Person.....Mary Haley, 873-9013
Supervisor #1.....David Pfeiffer, 873-0880
Supervisor #2.....Tom McGinnis, 877-0462
Supervisor #3.....Jay Damkoehler, 205-9658
Supervisor #4.....Janiece Bolender, 877-1936
Clerk/Treasurer.....Cassandra Suettinger, 873-3063

BAN OF SKYLANTERNS

On July 16, 2013, the Town of Pleasant Springs amended Chapter 100 of the code of ordinances in the Town of Pleasant Spring to **ban the usage of sky lanterns** in the Town of Pleasant Springs.

A sky lantern, also known as Kongming lantern or Chinese lantern, is a small hot air balloon made of paper, with an opening at the bottom where a small fire is suspended.

On August 20, 2013, The Town Board issued a resolution of commendation to Richard Green for all of his years of service. After 15 years of service to the Town, Richard stepped down as chairman in April. The Town thanks Richard for all of his contributions, and wishes him well in his retirement.

(picture: Mary Haley presenting resolution of commendation to Richard Green)

