

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES

As winter approaches it is time again to remind everyone of the need to keep the Town roads clear for the plow drivers. Situations that create problems are garbage totes that are not removed after pick-up and parked vehicles or items placed within the town road right of way. One particular situation that has been problematic is residents parking vehicles horizontally where their driveway meets the road. Please be mindful of situations that restrict the drivers from being able to properly make the roads safe and clear for all.

A new plow truck was purchased this year and replaced the 1994 vehicle.

Maintaining roads is a challenge for every municipality. This year we were able to reconstruct and improve Apollo Circle, replace culverts and do maintenance on Williams Drive. Next year a large portion of our roads budget will be to repair and reconstruct portions of Williams Point Drive and make improvements to West Star Road to correct the road erosion problems.

You most likely noticed that im-

provements were underway this summer on the section of Williams Drive from Page Street to the Industrial Park entrance. The work done in this area created much needed improvements. The next phase, starting next year, will be from the Industrial Park to Co. B. Our town applied for and received grant assistance for the project and contributed these funds to the city. No other monies will be required by the town for the project. The City of Stoughton entered into a road maintenance agreement where they will be responsible for all costs to maintain and repair the new road.

We are still discussing with the State Dept. Of Transportation the changes that are being proposed for the County Highway N Interchange. Construction is slated to begin in 2017.

Our boat landing was able to open near the end of the season after dewatering and drilling into the bedrock to achieve the slope required to improve the area for launching. Due to the bedrock and the inability to secure a 60 foot floating pier, we are looking to modify to a 40 foot roll out pier by the opening of the 2015

season, that will have the weight to maintain its position in the lake.

The final budget was passed on November 18th. The current budget for 2015 shows a decrease in the tax levy of 2.87% due largely in part to the Town paying off its outstanding debt and having no debt payments in 2015. Our mill rate will also be changing from \$1.26 to \$1.24. The Board continually works hard to keep the **Town's portion** of your tax bill as low as possible and stay within the State imposed levy limits.

Board members are now accessing Town Board packets wirelessly to save cost on printing materials for meetings.

Savings were also realized from our participation in the Focus on Energy Business Incentive Program. Financial incentives were received toward replacing the lighting in town hall and garage. This provided cost-effective ways to save energy and lower monthly operational costs.

From all of us, employees, Board and Plan Commission, we wish all of our residents Happy Holidays and wishes for a Joyous New Year.

2015 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 exterior view.

This year Accurate Appraisal will be doing walk-throughs for sections 1-12 and any new building construction in 2014.

Residents can make appointment by phone at 1-800-770-3927 or by logging on the accurate appraisal's website at: www.accurateassessor.com

Please make sure when you are scheduling an 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 an appointment with Accurate Appraisal, please contact office staff at 608-873-3063 and they can help you through the process.

TAX SEASON INFO

Tax bills will be mailed by December 15, 2014. Payments for real estate and personal property tax are due to the Town of Pleasant Springs by January 31, 2015. 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, 2015. The county will send a reminder bill to you in June. All payments made after January 31, 2015 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.

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

<https://accessdane.countyofdane.com>

Note: If you have opted out of AccessDane you will not be able to search by property owner name. You will have to search by parcel number or property address.

**Local Area Mill Rate Comparison
(per thousand dollars of assessed value)**

City of Stoughton - \$8.56

Town of Dunkirk - \$2.80

Town of Rutland - \$2.76

Town of Dunn - \$2.69

Town of Pleasants Springs - \$1.24

TOWN HALL CLOSINGS

Wed., Dec. 24, 2014 & Thurs., Dec. 25, 2014

Wed., Dec. 31st, 2014 & Thurs, Jan 1, 2015

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

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.

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.

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

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.

Where to take items that won't fit in my trash toter?

Pelliteri Waste haulers will only take items that are in your trash toters. Any items outside of the toters will not be picked up. Residents have several options for disposing of large items, and the Town would like to highlight two of them:

1. Residents can call Pelliteri to schedule an extra pick up or request a temporary dumpster.
2. Residents can take bulky trash items to the Dane County Landfill, 7102 US HWY 12 & 18. Dane County currently charges 12.50/ton to dispose of items. Note: Items such as electronics, oil filters, hazardous waste, yard waste, and deer carcasses will not be accepted. All loads must be in enclosed vehicles or tarped, with no exceptions.

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES.....CONTINUED

Brush Burning Compost Site Hours. 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.



CHECK OUT THE NEW GATE AT THE BRUSH BURNING COMPOST SITE!

Winter/Spring Hours	Summer Hours	Fall Hours
Sat. Jan 3, 2015, 8am to 1pm	Sat. June 6, 2015 8am to 11am	Sat. Sept. 5, 2015 8am to 11am
Sat. Jan 10, 2015, 8am to 1pm	Wed. June 10, 2015 6pm to 8pm	Wed. Sept. 9, 2015, 4:30pm to 6:30pm
Sat. April 4, 2015, 8am to 1pm	Sat. July 11, 2015, 8am to 11am	Sat. Oct. 10, 2015, 8am to 11am
Sat. April 11, 2015, 8am to 1pm	Wed. July 15, 6pm to 8pm	Wed. Oct. 14, 2015, 4:30pm to 6:30pm
Sat. May 2, 2015, 8am to 1pm	Sat. Aug. 1, 2015, 8am to 11am	Sat. Oct. 17, 2015, 8am to 11am
Sat. May 9, 2015, 8am to 1pm	Wed. Aug. 5, 2015, 6pm to 8pm	Wed. Oct. 21, 2015, 4:30pm to 6:30pm
		Sat. Nov. 7, 2015, 8am to 1pm
		Sat. Nov. 14, 2015, 8am to 1pm

COMINGS AND GOINGS

In May of 2014 office assistant Lisa Spangler and her husband moved up to Lake Arrowhead. The Town would like to thank Lisa for her 3+ years of service to the Township.

The Town would like to welcome on board new office assistant Tina Erickson.

Congratulations!

The Town would like to congratulate Clerk/Treasurer Cassandra Suettinger on receiving her Clerk certification from the Wisconsin Municipal Clerk's Association.

REMINDER!!

Winter will have set in as this newsletter reaches you, but the Public Works Department would like to remind residents not to place leaves in the road right of way. The leaves can clog up the ditches and cause water management problems for both the Town and your neighbors. It is also prohibited by the Town's ordinances regarding the road right-of-way. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department directly at 608-205-9169.

Residents are encouraged to take leaves and yard waste to the Town's brush burning compost site for disposal.

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

www.pleasantsprings.org

Election Dates

February 17, 2015 - (tentative) Spring Primary
April 7, 2015 - Spring Election

Haven't voted in 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

HOLIDAY TREE DISPOSAL

Sat. January 3, 2015, 8am to 1pm

Sat. January 10, 2015, 8am to 1pm



Trash Courtesy

The Town would like to remind residents to make sure all trash is secured in a bag when placed in Pelliteri's Waste toters. Often if trash is not secured in a bag, loose items fly out of the truck and find their way on to the Town's roads and into ditches. The Town thanks you in advance for helping keep garbage and waste off the roads and out of the ditches!

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.