

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR....by Mary Haley

We have certainly enjoyed a pleasant summer and fall and I hope that the approaching winter will be as wonderful to all of us.

A concern facing many municipalities, our Town included, is the issue of deteriorating roads. While it has been our practice to try to maintain the maximum life of each road segment at the lowest cost to taxpayers, the costs to patch and repair are increasing and the roads are rapidly deteriorating. Since the State levy limits were frozen in 2010, road maintenance has fallen behind more and more each year. The only way at this time to increase the levy limits for a municipality is to borrow. The Board is strategizing at this time on using a majority of the remaining ATC funds, along with agreed upon borrowing, to try to prevent more of the Town's roads from failing. The longer the Town continues to let roads decline, the more costly the roads become to fix. The

Town's goal is to spend more money on maintenance now, to prevent costly reconstruction later.

We have learned that the I-90/Co N interchange project that was to commence in 2017, has been pushed back according to the WI DOT. They are still moving forward to purchase the needed property and updates are always available on their website.

On behalf of the residents of the Town, the Board approved donating to the Stoughton Veteran's memorial for the purchase of the State of Wisconsin flag. The plaque will read "Flag Pole donated by the Town of Pleasant Springs May We Never Forget Their Service". The memorial will be built in our Town at the corner of Co B and Country Club Rd. on land donated by Oscar and Shirley Linnerud.

A new one ton truck was purchased this year and replaced the 2000 one ton. The Town also purchased a used 2001 Interna-

tional truck, for \$37,000 with fewer miles to replace the problematic 1998 International truck.

A Focus on Energy audit was completed for the Sheriff's Dept. area and energy efficiency upgrades were made through the program. This was previously done earlier in the year for the Town Hall and garage. Another cost saving measure was to award the propane contract to Amerigas at a substantial savings.

While we have completed work on the 2016 budget, we are faced with increasing costs for Fire and EMS services. The towns of Rutland, Dunn, Dunkirk and Pleasant Springs are working with the City of Stoughton regarding a new contract for EMS services to address these costs.

Our Town Clerk is attending meetings hosted by the County, for municipalities to update their Hazard Mitigation Plan.

UPDATE

TOWN OF
PLEASANT SPRINGS

DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: 2006-2025

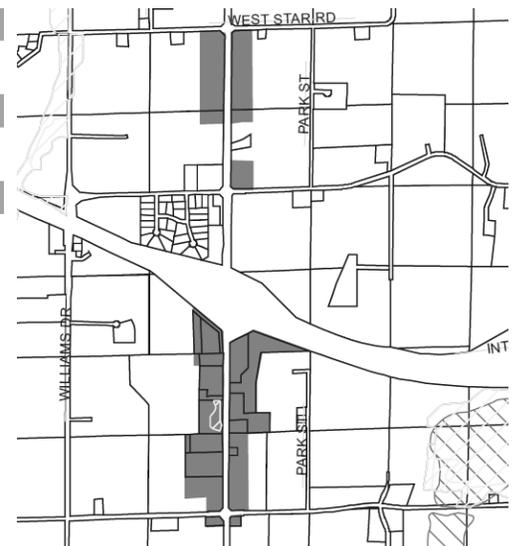
ADOPTED: APRIL 5, 2006

We've been working on the update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan since the beginning of 2015. With help from Dane County, we're getting updated land-use, environmental, transportation, and population data to be used in updating the Plan. The schedule is to complete the update to the comprehensive plan in 2016. One part of the comprehensive plan is the future land use plan, a piece of which is shown to the right.

The Plan Commission would like to invite you to attend the Comprehensive Plan discussions. The Plan Commission meets at Town Hall the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. We discuss land use requests first and then the comprehensive plan discussion follows. Again we welcome your presence and comments.

We have prepared a survey for all town residents, which will help us understand whether opinions on land use, transportation and other factors have changed since the survey that was conducted in 2003. The survey asks your opinion on a wide variety of issues, and also has some spots for you to tell us what you think is most important. We promise, it's not too long!

Please help us plan the future of the Town of Pleasant Springs by responding to the survey. To take the survey visit <http://www.pleasant springs.org/complanupdate.html> and click on the survey link. The Town will have a station set up to take the survey in Town Hall during office hours; otherwise the survey will also be available 24/7 for pick up in a box just outside Town hall. These applications can be returned to a drop box inside Town Hall during office hours, or via mail to 2354 CTH N, Stoughton WI 53589.



Hwy N & I90 Intersection

The future land use plan is one of the most important parts of the comprehensive plan, because it directs the Town how to review land use change requests. For example, Gray denotes the future plan for the area of the Highway N/I-90 Intersection. The Comprehensive plan provides clear direction when requests for zoning changes by land owners are presented to the Town. If you have comments, please, fill out the survey!

TAX SEASON INFO

Tax bills will be mailed by December 21, 2015. Payments for real estate and personal property tax are due to the Town of Pleasant Springs by January 31, 2016. 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, 2016. All payments made after January 31, 2016 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

Thurs., Dec. 24, 2015 & Friday, Dec. 25, 2015

Thurs., Dec. 31st, 2015 & Friday, Jan 1, 2016

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

The Town DOES NOT accept post dated checks. All post dated 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.

Mill Rate Comparison (2014-2015 data)

Cost per \$1000 of valuation

\$1.21—Town of Pleasant Springs

\$2.63—Town of Dunn

\$2.69—Town of Albion

\$2.82—Town of Rutland

\$2.98—Town of Dunkirk

\$4.03—Town of Cottage Grove

\$5.57—Village of Cottage Grove

\$7.27—Village of McFarland

\$8.54—City of Stoughton

\$9.16—City of Madison

Election Dates

February 16, 2016 - Spring Primary

April 5, 2016 - Spring Election and Pres. Preference

August 9, 2016—Partisan Primary

November 8, 2016—Fall General Election

Polls open from 7am to 8pm.

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>

PHOTO ID WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN 2016!!!

Don’t wait until the last minute, make sure you have a valid photo ID for the 2016 election season.

What is considered valid forms of Photo ID?

The following types of ID are acceptable:

- Wisconsin driver license or Wisconsin DOT-issued photo ID card expiring 11/4/14 or later
- U.S. Passport expiring 11/4/14 or later
- Military ID card expiring 11/4/14 or later
- Certification of naturalization issued within the last 2 years
- Unexpired Wisconsin driver license or DOT-issue photo ID receipt
- Unexpired ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin

Wisconsin accredited university/college ID with issuance date, signature, and expiration within 2 years of issuance, and proof of current enrollment

*****THESE ARE THE ONLY FORMS OF ID ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME*****

Common forms of identification that ARE NOT

ACCEPTED include: Out of state driver license, Military Veteran Affairs IDs, Government Employee IDs, Membership or Organization IDs, and certificates of citizenship.

The WI DOT provides a free state ID card for voting. The WI DOT also has a new policy to help people get a free state ID who do not have a birth certificate. Contact the WI DOT directly at (608) 266-1069 for more information. **Note: This free state ID card is for those who do not have one of the above listed forms of photo ID. If you have a valid WI Driver’s license or ID card, you already have what you need to vote.** If you have any questions, please contact the office at 608-873-3063.

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.

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 build up of snow on the road way that can create a hazardous situation for cars. Help keep Town roads safe and clear this winter.

2016 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 29-36, with walkthroughs on a couple properties in sections 1-12, and any new building construction in 20145

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. *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.*

A special thank you to Girl Scout Troop #2797 and their hard work to construct the new Little Free Library at Oak Knoll Park. Stop on down and check it out!!!

2016 Waste and Recycling calendars are available on the Town website, and a copy is also available at Town Hall.

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

www.pleasantsprings.org

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm

Wednesday—CLOSED

Thursday—Noon to 6pm

Friday—CLOSED

Town Office: 608-873-3063

Email: clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org

Public Works: 608-205-9169

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

NEW TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURT!

The tennis court at Quam park has been re-surfaced and striped for both Tennis and Pickleball.

Thanks to the Pleasant Springs Garden Club for their time and effort in planting shrubs and flowers in the Town parks to keep them looking good!

HOLIDAY TREE DISPOSAL

Sat. January 2, 2016, 8am to 1pm

Sat. January 9, 2016, 8am to 1pm

OPENING ON PLAN COMMISSION!!

The Town is currently looking to fill a seat on the Plan Commission. Plan Commission is responsible for land use requests including rezones, conditional use permits, and variances. The Plan Commission is also in the process of updating the Town's comprehensive plan. Commissioners attend one plan commission meeting a month on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Residents should submit a letter of interest via mail to: 2354 County Highway N, Stoughton WI 53589, or via email at clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk at 608-873-3063

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 February 1, 2016. Please make sure to include a valid copy of your dogs vaccination certificate.