

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES

Remarks from the Chair... By David Pfeiffer

Another winter is arriving, and with it comes the annual migrations of wildlife to warmer climates. Others opt to hunker down and wait out the season by hibernating while some remain active and tackle the daily challenges of the cold and snow. People use the same strategies. "Snowbirds" depart for second homes in Florida, Arizona and elsewhere, others retreat indoors to the warmth of home and fireplaces and some embrace winter activities like skiing or making snowmen.

Over the past year and a half, most of us have become all too familiar with the hibernation strategy due to COVID-19. Unfortunately, the pandemic is not over. Wisconsin is currently experiencing a surge in cases and hospital intensive care units are again overflowing, mostly with unvaccinated people. I again urge everyone to get vaccinated. Previous pandemics throughout history have taken a greater toll in the second winter than in the first. Thanks to the successful development of vaccines, that doesn't have to be the case this time if we simply respect the danger and act accordingly.

The pandemic has increased the stress we experience in every day life. As with strategies for dealing with winters in Wisconsin, I don't think it is at all productive to view people's choices during the pandemic as having chosen a side in a debate. Just as not everyone has the option of second homes to escape winter, front line workers continued to provide vital services during the pandemic and many people experienced hardship due the public health measures needed to save lives.

"You never really understand someone until you walk around in their shoes for a day" was a valuable lesson my Mom taught me when I was young, advice I think is even more valuable today. It seems the stress people are experiencing is manifesting in an increased tendency for people to argue and get angry with those they disagree with. I've noticed many seem to have an inordinate need to "win" every argument and an unwillingness to see things from the point of view of others. This trend and the whole concept of winning has been on my mind a lot recently.

When I was very young, I was far more interested in science and technology than I was in sports. My Dad was a big influence as he was the head of the science department at my high school. But, he also coached and was involved in school athletics throughout his teaching career. Although I did enjoy sports, I remember asking him why schools invested so much time and energy on them. I didn't see the point, other than to have a team to cheer for and teams to root against.

His answer was that sports aren't just about winning and losing. They are about trying your best to pursue excellence, learning about teamwork, and practicing sportsmanship. Of course, the object of any game is winning. It isn't a contest unless all competitors try to win. But, sportsmanship is the recognition that the players, coaches and fans are all involved in something together that is more significant than winning. The desire to win should never come at the cost of failing to respect one's opponent. Without others willing to participate and follow the same rules, there can't even be a game.

That was another valuable lesson for me, one that may not be taught enough today. Winning at any cost is becoming an accepted way of thinking. I've noticed many sports fans become so overwhelmed by the desire for their team to win that they hate the other team and believe the officials are unfair. I've heard professional athletes say they don't enjoy winning as much as they hate losing. The same is true of many fans. Behavioral studies have shown that for people in general, and particularly for those who place undue emphasis on winning, the euphoria experienced by victory is short-lived while defeats tend to linger. Far happier are those competitors and spectators who put greater focus on the joy of the game itself.

I think politics lately has become much like sports with many people carrying their partisanship to extremes the same way they root for their teams. Americans disagree with each other on many issues. But, we shouldn't expect nor want everyone to be in agreement. Show me someone who believes they are never wrong and I'll show you someone who has much to learn. A contest of ideas only works if there is diversity of opinion and all have equal opportunity to be heard and are willing to listen. And, a willingness to agree on established facts.

I have strong opinions myself and no one holds an opinion thinking they are wrong. But, none of us are experts in everything. Expertise matters. When the vast majority of people who have devoted their lives to the study of a particular field are in agreement that factual evidence supports certain conclusions, we would do well to listen even if those conclusions run counter to what we prefer to be true.

Citizenship has much in common with sportsmanship. Believing in our form of government, in America, the country that has achieved more than authoritarian governments ever will, means accepting that sometimes we may be part of the majority and other times we are in the minority. Respect for others and the act of compromise are attributes of strength, not weakness. They allow a society to continue to evolve and improve rather than succumb to conflict. Without common acceptance of these foundational ideas, can the American experiment survive? Our republic will endure only if we recognize we are all participants in a shared endeavor far more important than simply trying to vanquish the other team.

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Due to the repayment schedule change that substantially reduced last year's tax levy, borrowing due in 2022 requires an increase for the Town's share of property tax bills. Our mill rate is still one of the lowest rates in the County, even as we continue to make progress on our plan to invest in road improvements. The Town Board will also be seeking opportunities to utilize American Rescue Plan Act grant funds and potential funding from the recent Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to accomplish needed projects for the Town that would be difficult to fund on our own.

Thanks to Clerk/Treasurer 'Pili' Hougan for ably navigating year 2 of the pandemic and a vacancy in the Clerk's office and to Lisa Skar for all her work on behalf of the Town. We recently welcomed the addition of Laura Trotter to our staff. I know Laura is looking forward to meeting and getting to know many of you in her role as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Thanks also to Public Works Superintendent Alex Mesdjian, Shane Bakken and Greg Spangler for their efforts. Due to their innovative ideas and dedicated work, roadside mowing was completed more often, improvements were made to some of our gravel roads, numerous roadside brush clearing and ditching projects were accomplished, parks look great, and residents enjoy greatly expanded access for brush and yard waste drop off at the new location behind the Town Hall.

I'd also like to extend my appreciation to my fellow Town Board members, our Plan Commission members and all of our election workers. It is not always easy for people to find time in their busy lives to take on these important responsibilities. The Town's business could not carry on without them. Thank you.

Hopefully, the current surge in virus cases will soon subside and we can all start moving back to some semblance of normalcy in 2022. It continues to be an honor to serve as your Town Board Chair. As always, I promise to do my best to carry on the Pleasant Springs tradition of sensible and efficient local government. Stay safe, be well, be joyful!

2022 Waste and Recycling calendars are available on the Town website, and a copy is also available at the 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 to sign up (please include your address and/or municipality) or call [608-257-4285](tel:608-257-4285).

Holiday Trash and Recycling Info:

During a week that has a Holiday, garbage and recycling pick up is delayed by one day. Please plan accordingly.

Pellitteri Customer Recycling Options

A Wisconsin statute requires haulers to notify their customers of the mandatory recycling laws that pertain to all business and residential units in Wisconsin.



We've made it easy for you to recycle some of these items with our All-In-One Recycling, including newspapers, magazines, office paper, glass bottles and jars, plastics cups, paper cups and containers #1-7, aluminum and steel containers, and more! Please see our [full list of acceptable recyclables](#), a [recycling video](#) of the sorting process, and our short [recycling tip videos](#). You can also like our [Facebook](#) page to keep up to date as more options become available.

If you are not currently recycling these items, please give us a call at (608) 257-4285. Increased recycling efforts on your part can aid in reducing overall waste removal expenses.

The following items are required to be recycled, but cannot be placed in your dumpsters: appliances, brush and yard waste, electronics, lead acid batteries, and tires. Please contact us for alternative disposal options.

Sincerely,
Pellitteri Waste Systems

Clean Sweep Wisconsin

Dane County offers a place to bring hazardous household materials such as TV's, paints, poisons, oil, and rechargeable batteries. They are located at 7102 US HWY 12. Open Year Round. Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM to 2:45 PM
Saturdays: 8:00 AM to 10:45 AM. *Closed Sundays and Holidays*



Call (608) 243-0368 or visit danecountycleansweep.com for more information and COVID related information. If you are viewing this electronically off the website, please click the link below:

[Clean Sweep | Dane County Waste & Renewables \(countyofdane.com\)](http://danecountycleansweep.com)

Animal Services

Public Health Madison & Dane Co. Animal Services assists with a variety of animal-related issues (listed below). Please contact them via the telephone numbers below or visit their website for more information:

<https://www.publichealthmdc.com/environmental-health/animals>

Request Animal Services Officer Dispatch (Urgent)

Call (608) 255-2345 to have an Animal Services Officer sent to help with:

- Aggressive animals
- [Animal bites](#)
- Accumulation of animal feces
- Animals in traffic causing safety concerns
- Investigation of cruelty/neglect
- Rabies quarantines and testing
- Sick or injured animals, either wild or domestic

- Stray animals or domestic animals running at large

Animal Services Does NOT Respond to:

- Barking dogs. Please call your local Police Department.
 - Madison Police Department: (608) 266-4275
- Nuisance wild animals. Please call a Private Pest Control Service.

Call Animal Services Office (Non-Urgent)

Call **(608) 267-1989** (Animal Services Office) for:

- Information about animal care and health
- Education about staying safe around animals and preventing rabies
- Non-urgent complaints
- General information

ATV Usage



Please note that ATV operation is not allowed on Town roads. ATVs may be operated on the operator's private property, designated trails, or in the public right-of-way, *as needed, to cross roads, bridges, culverts, railroad tracks, etc.* ATVs are not approved for operation on Town roads, nor should they be operated in Town parks.

2022 Assessment Begins

Accurate Appraisal staff will be doing visits on those properties that have been recently purchased or acquired a building permit during 2021. 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 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.

A message from UpNetWI regarding fiber optic service to Pleasant Springs:

We are pleased to announce that UpNet-WI received a broadband expansion grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to bring gigabit fiber optic service to additional residents in Pleasant Springs. Service will become available in two phases and will service the Spring Hill Drive neighborhood, the Havey Lane neighborhood and all residents along the way. For specific information regarding coverage, pricing, or other inquires, please visit their website at www.upnetfiber.com or contact (608) 234-5980, email: customerservice@upnetwi.com

Redistricting Information: Effective for the 2022 Election Cycle

As a result of the redistricting, residents in the Town of Pleasant Springs will be represented by Dane County Supervisory Districts 35 and 37. The majority of Pleasant Springs will be represented by Supervisory District 37, the portion of the town immediately to the north of the City of Stoughton, with a portion around the Lake Kegonsa area to be represented by Supervisory District 35.

TAX SEASON INFORMATION

Tax bills will be mailed by December 20, 2021.

The statutory deadline to mail tax bills is the third Monday in December. Payments for real estate and personal property tax are due to the Town of Pleasant Springs by January 31, 2022. You must pay at least the first installment of real estate taxes by that date to avoid delinquency. If you choose to pay only the first installment, the second installment is due on July 31, 2022. All personal property tax payments are due in full and may not be divided into payments.

All payments made after January 31, 2022 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. 24, 2021

Friday, Dec. 31, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town strongly encourages residents to mail tax payments or drop them in the drop box that is located in the front entryway. Please allow ample time when mailing payments.

The Town DOES NOT accept postdated checks. All postdated checks will be returned to the property owner. Please add a contact # (phone #) if we need to contact you for any reason regarding your payment.

We strongly urge you not to wait until the last day to make or mail 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 Projected Comparisons

Cost per \$1000 of valuation

\$1.88-Town of Pleasant Springs

\$2.72 Town of Rutland

\$2.06-Town of Dunn

\$3.60-Town of Dunkirk

\$2.17 Town of Oregon

Town Board-Caucus Information-

The Town Board will hold its Caucus in January 2022, (usually on or prior to the third Tuesday in January) Please check the website or call the clerk's office for the meeting date and time. 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.**

The following offices are open this year:

<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 19, 2022.

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, or email:

clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org.

Or the Wisconsin Elections Commission at: (608) 266-8005, email: elections@wi.gov

2022 Election Dates:

February 15, 2022 Spring Primary Election
(if needed)

April 5, 2022 Spring Election

August 9, 2022 Fall Primary Election

November 8, 2022 Fall Election

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 69.46 miles of roads to plow, which takes roughly 7 hours to plow driving lanes on the paved 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. Vehicles and other equipment routinely parked in the road right of way also pose a safety hazard and are a violation of Town ordinance.

*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.

News You Can Use: Be Salt Wise This Winter

Salt that has been applied to roads and sidewalks over the course of the winter ultimately ends up in our local lakes, streams, and drinking water. Road salt has been used as a de-icer since the 1950s, and as a result, chloride concentrations from salt in our lakes have steadily increased with harmful effects to aquatic life and our drinking water. It only takes one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water.

Starting at home, you can reduce the amount of salt that is used in the winter and still keep your sidewalks and driveways safe. The [Wisconsin Salt Wise Partnership](#) offers the following tips and a wealth of other information on ways individuals and our community can work together to reduce salt use.

- **Shovel:** Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.
- **Scatter:** If you use salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains. One twelve-ounce container (like a coffee cup) is sufficient to salt sixty to seventy feet of sidewalk, or about 10 sidewalk squares.
- **Switch:** When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.

On a broader level, in an effort to learn the balance between public safety and responsible salt use, a [Winter Salt Certification Program](#) helps private and municipal applicators lower their salt use by learning proper application rates and techniques. By working together, we can reduce salt and protect our environment.

HOLIDAY TREE DISPOSAL *New Service*****

This year public works employees will pick up your trees. Please have your trees out to the road right of way (ROW) in front of your home by January 10, 2022. You must contact the public works department at (608) 205-9169 so they can add you to the pick-up route. Please make sure to leave your address.

You may also drop your tree off at the new yard waste site behind the Town Hall located at 2354 County Rd. N, Stoughton WI, 53589. The site is open daily from 7:00am to 5:00pm.

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. **For everyone's safety, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town strongly encourages residents to mail dog license applications or drop them in the drop box that is located in the front entryway. If you mail your dog license application 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 original vaccination certificate and the 2022 tag.**

The office can process dog licenses after January 31, 2022 or sooner as time allows. Please make sure to include a valid copy of your dog's vaccination certificate, and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Thank you!

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

Winter 2021/2022

TOWN OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm
Wednesday—CLOSED (office is closed, however staff is usually available for immediate needs)
Thursday—10am to 4pm (Feb.-Dec. 09) 10am to 6pm (Dec. 16-Jan. 27)
Friday—CLOSED
Town Office: 608-873-3063
Email: clerktreasurer@pleasant Springs.org
Public Works: 608-205-9169 Alex Mesdjian and Shane Bakken
Town Chairman..... David Pfeiffer, (608) 492-4877
Supervisor #1..... Eric Olson, (608) 575-9272
Supervisor #2..... Vacant (608) 873-3063 (town hall office)
Supervisor #3..... Jay Damkoehler, (608) 492-9701
Supervisor #4..... Janiece Bolender, (608) 719-7240
Clerk/Treasurer..... Maria "Pili" Hougan, (608) 873-3063
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Laura Trotter, (608) 873-3063
Building Inspector..... Steve Kittelson (608) 445-9715