



# *PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES*

**Spring/Summer 2021**

Pleasant Springs Town Hall  
2354 County Highway N  
Stoughton WI, 53589

## **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR....by David Pfeiffer**

It has certainly been a year unlike any other. After recently receiving my second dose of vaccine, I've been thinking back on the many challenges we've all experienced while looking forward with both renewed optimism and new concerns. While I'm thankful that no one from my immediate family was lost to this disease, I know many families were not so fortunate. Few networks of extended family and friends have been untouched by tragedy. The good news is that the new vaccines are already making great progress towards bringing an end to the pandemic. But, I've heard there are people who are reluctant to get vaccinated, either because they don't trust it is safe and/or that they don't believe the virus poses a significant threat to them. I ask those who are reluctant to consider the following thoughts.

The pandemic has already demonstrated the danger of the virus. Getting vaccinated isn't something we do just to protect ourselves; we do it to protect others. Thanks to vaccines, many people have no experience at all with diseases common in my Dad's lifetime such as Polio, Smallpox, Diphtheria, Rubella, Measles, Mumps, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox and others. More recent vaccines protect us against Meningitis, Hepatitis, Pneumonia, HPV and, now, COVID-19. Most people who contracted these diseases did not die from them. Many did not even become seriously ill and some had no symptoms at all. But, all of these diseases were very deadly to the most vulnerable in the population. Just like COVID-19.

Also, many dedicated scientists have devoted their entire careers to the fields of virology and immunology. The technologies used to sequence DNA and construct modern vaccines have been developed and refined through decades of research and testing. When we compare any other current technology to what existed 100 years ago when the first vaccines were developed, it should not be at all surprising that a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19 could be developed in a year. I encourage everyone to get vaccinated so we can relegate this pandemic to the history books as quickly as possible. I believe doing so is both a moral and civic duty.

Part of my renewed optimism is due to the way in which so many people have stepped forward to help others in these challenging times and the widespread recognition and appreciation of health care professionals and the importance of all the other "essential workers" that were often overlooked. But, I also have concern over another trend. It seems that many of us have responded to the hardships of the pandemic by becoming less tolerant and quicker to anger. Even local headlines are followed by stories of behavior I just can't understand. I worry that too many of

us have become voracious consumers of an “outrage generation machine” that comes in the form of cable news and internet blogs, all designed to deliver eyeballs to targeted advertising. Perhaps we might all do well to remember the lessons our Mothers taught us when we were kids, things like the Golden Rule, and “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” I think the human characteristic that plays the most important role in creating a successful society is our ability to empathize. But, it appears that empathy and compassion are traits that must be nurtured. I fear for the future of our society if we fail to do so.

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## **SECOND INSTALLMENT REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS DUE JULY 31.**

Real estate second installment tax payments are due on July 31. Please note that second installments must be sent to the **Dane County Treasurer, PO Box 1299, Madison, WI. 53701-1299**. Checks must be made payable to the Dane County Treasurer. Payments cannot be accepted at Pleasant Springs Town office. Please refer to the address on your tax bill for the correct mailing address.

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## **HOW ARE YOUR ASSESSMENT AND PROPERTY TAXES CALCULATED?**

A Guide for Property Owners is available on the Wisconsin Department of Revenue’s website at: <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/DOR%20Publications/pb060.pdf>. This publication discusses in detail the process from the assessment cycle to how property taxes are calculated.

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## **DOG LICENSES**

If you have not licensed your dog by March 31<sup>st</sup>, a late fee of \$10.00 must be added to the normal license fee. Please remember that all dogs over the age of five months must be licensed each year, and fines for dogs running at large range between \$100 and \$400.

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## **USE COURTESY, PLEASE**

Taking your dog for a walk in the park? In the past, there was an abundance of dog feces piling up at the Spring Hill park. Please remember that it is the law that dog owners pick up after their pets per local ordinance chapter 160-1(Q) and 160-7 (ref. Chapter 55-1). Violations shall be deemed a public nuisance. Penalties may be issued according to Municipal Code Chapter 1.

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## SUMMER ROAD PROJECTS FOR 2021

### Potential roads for paving:

- Circle Dr from Hwy N to Williams Pt Dr
- Williams Pt Dr from Circle Dr to State park Bridge
- Country Club Road from Hwy B to Shadyside Dr
- Skyline Dr from Hwy B to Shadyside Dr
- Skyline Cir from Skyline Dr to End
- Oak Dr from Country Club Rd to Shadyside

### Potential roads for Sealcoating/Crack filling:

- Burritt Rd
- Oak Knoll Ln
- Yahara Rd
- Alice Circle
- Kegonsa Rd
- Oakview Dr
- Fairview Dr
- Oak St
- Church St

### Culvert Replacements Under Road:

- Circle Dr culvert replaced 04/21

**NOTICE:** The road projects listed here are subject to change due to weather conditions damaging roads.



**Other Public Works Information:** The town does not pick up leaves or other brush. Please do not pile brush or other items in the right-of-way.

Public Works conducts tree trimming on a yearly basis. If you received notification from us about tree trimming in your area, you may notify Public Works *if* you would like them to leave the tree trimmings for you.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE PROVIDED: HOLIDAY TREE PICKUP; PLEASE HAVE TREES OUT TO THE ROAD BY JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**

Please contact the Public Works crew for more information at (608) 205-9169.

### MOVE OVER AND SLOW DOWN...Road Construction Work Zone Safety Tips

- **Pay Attention.** Construction Zones contain many hazards such as uneven pavement, narrow lanes, heavy equipment, and loose gravel. Signs and construction zone flaggers save lives.
- **Slow down, even if you don't see anyone working.** Physical hazards such as traffic shifts or lane reductions may be present. Also, most crashes in the summer months are related to excessive speeds.
- **Stay Alert.** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- **Watch for signs.** Remember, workers are just inches away from traffic.
- **Don't Tailgate!**

- **Expect the Unexpected.** Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
- **Be Patient.** Remember the construction zone crew members are working to improve your future ride.

**Remember** that construction zone crew members are someone's Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Brother or Sister. Use caution and slow down. In Work Zones, Drive Like You Work Here.

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## **CRIME PREVENTION**, By Leslie Fox, Dane County Sherriff

The Dane County Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies are continuing to respond to numerous reports of stolen vehicles, theft from autos, and home burglaries. Most of us have forgotten to lock our car, or accidentally left the garage door open overnight, or even discovered in the morning that the front door was unlocked overnight at least once. You can help prevent yourself from becoming a victim by following the "9:00 p.m. Routine." Law enforcement agencies across the nation are asking people to develop this habit for protecting property from theft, and protecting your home from intruders. This 9:00 p.m. routine can be used any time of the day and includes:

- Check vehicles to insure you've removed all valuables and that the doors are locked.
- Walk around inside your home and lock and secure all doors and windows. • Turn on outside lights.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately.

Theft is a preventable crime of opportunity that can happen in an instant. Taking these simple steps can prevent you from becoming a victim. Also, get to know your neighbors so you know who belongs in your neighborhood and don't be afraid to call 911. To report an incident call non-emergency dispatch at (608) 255-2345 or 911.

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## **FIREWORKS ORDINANCE**



The town would like to take the opportunity to remind residents of Chapter 103 of the Town of Pleasant Springs Ordinances relating to Fireworks. The use of fireworks, as defined in section 167.10(1) of the Wisconsin States Statutes, will require a Fireworks use permit.

Residents wishing to hold a fireworks display should stop by the Town Hall to obtain a firework's use permit application.

A copy of the complete ordinance is available on the Town of Pleasant Springs website – [pleasantsprings.org](http://pleasantsprings.org).

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**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FROM PELLITTERI WASTE SYSTEMS:**

PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR WORKERS AND FACILITIES SAFE!



**LITHIUM ION BATTERIES  
AND PROPANE TANKS**

**We cannot recycle batteries or propane tanks at our facility.**

Batteries and propane tanks can cause sparks that will start fires in our vehicles and our facility. These fires can injure employees and damage machinery. Please use one of the many disposal drop-off sites in the area. Contact us with any questions.

LEARN MORE



**USING A BAG**

Remember to use **clear or transparent bags only** if you choose to bag your recyclables. For the safety of our employees, black trash bags are sent directly to the trash.

LEARN MORE

For more 1-minute recycling tip videos, please visit our website at [www.pellitteri.com/recycling-tip-videos](http://www.pellitteri.com/recycling-tip-videos). You can also sign up for the newsletter at the bottom of our website or call 608-257-4285 or email us at [info@pellitteri.com](mailto:info@pellitteri.com) (please include your address). Thank you for your assistance!

**CLEAN SWEEP** is a Dane County-operated facility that collects hazardous household materials like paint, pesticides, and rechargeable batteries. Some fees may apply depending on the materials. The site is located at 7102 US Hwy 12/18 and is open year-round. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday 7:00-2:45 and Saturday 8:00-10:45am. For more details, please call (608) 838-3212 or visit their website at [danecountycleansweep.com](http://danecountycleansweep.com).

## **BUILDING PERMIT INFORMATION**

Spring is in the air, and that typically means many residents will be starting construction projects for home improvements, renovations, etc.

To obtain a building permit,  
please contact the Building  
Inspector at:  
(608) 445-9715

For questions about projects that may or may not require permits, to schedule an inspection, or for more information such as pre-construction, please contact the Town's Building Inspector, Steve Kittelson.

A building permit must be obtained from the Town Building Inspector prior to commencing any of the following work:

- (1) All new buildings-construction including, but not limited to, residential dwellings, garages, agricultural buildings, and sheds over 120 square feet in area.
- (2) All building additions that increase the physical dimensions of an existing building, including, but not limited to, decks, porches and garages.
- (3) All alterations to the interior and/or exterior structure of an existing building including, but not limited to, kitchen remodeling, bath remodeling, remodeling an attic and/or basement for living space, window replacement, changes in exterior finish such as brick façade, clapboard or vinyl siding, and roof replacement and repair. No more than three layers of roofing shall be installed on any roof.
- (4) All alterations to the heating, electrical or plumbing systems of an existing structure.
- (5) Replacement of major building equipment, including furnaces and air conditioners. Water heater replacement shall require a permit if the plumbing, venting, electrical or gas supply system is altered.
- (6) Demolition of all existing structures. This includes all agricultural structures, such as silos, chicken houses, tobacco sheds, etc.

A **building permit application** can be found on our website at:

<http://pleasantsprings.org/buildingpermits.html>

More information can also be found in the Building Construction town ordinance (Chapter 70), which can be found on our website at

<http://pleasantsprings.org/ordinance.html>

*\*Note: If a project requires a driveway access damage deposit and permit, NO BUILDING PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED until the proper damage deposit permit has been issued.*

**DAMAGE DEPOSITS:** Many projects may require obtaining a Driveway Access Damage Permit and deposit prior to issuance of building permits. For questions regarding driveway damage deposit permits, contact the Public Works department at (608) 205-9169.

If your driveway access is contiguous with a town road, a \$1,000 access damage deposit and permit must be obtained prior to commencing any of the following work:

(1) Any construction, demolition, or landscaping that requires material and/or equipment weighing twelve or more tons (24,000 lbs.) including delivery vehicle weight.

(2) All debris dumpsters that weigh and/or require equipment weighing twelve or more tons (24,000 lbs.) including delivery weight. No dumpster shall be placed on public property.

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**BOAT LAUNCH STICKER – *Did you know?***

Your resident sticker is good for both dropping brush off at the Brush Compost Site behind the Town Hall, and free parking at the Boat Launch at 2267 Williams Point Drive. Stop by the Town Hall and pick up your free resident sticker. (*Proof of residency required*).

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**2021 BRUSH SITE**

**PLEASANT SPRINGS RESIDENTS ONLY**

**\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*\*\***

**NEW LOCATION  
OPEN DAILY**

**The Brush Site has been relocated from the previous address of 1754 Tower Drive to a new location. Brush and yard waste may now be dropped off behind the Town Hall.**

Thanks to the leadership of our Public Works Superintendent, Town residents now have a location to drop off brush and yard waste that is **open daily, 7am – 5pm**. Please observe the posted signs regarding where to place these materials.

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**FRIENDS OF YAHARA BAY**

Are you aware the City of Stoughton has proposed removing the Fourth Street dam to develop a whitewater rafting park? This may significantly impact water levels and wildlife in the river and bay. See **Friends of Yahara Bay** on **Facebook** for info.

## **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN TOWN PARKS**

Do you or your children use Town Parks for recreation? Do you have ideas or suggestions regarding our Town Parks? The Town Board is looking for residents interested in serving on a Parks Committee. We envision that the Committee would meet once or twice a year to discuss all aspects of our parks and provide advisory recommendations to the Board. If interested in serving on this committee, please contact the Town Clerk's office or request information via the Town website.

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## **NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEED CONTROL**

In order to prevent the control of noxious and invasive species, state statute requires that every landowner must destroy all noxious weeds on all lands he owns, occupies or controls. The term "noxious weeds" includes Canada thistle, leafy spurge and field bindweed. If a landowner fails to comply, the town can order the weeds destroyed and the landowner is responsible to repay all costs associated with the work. The Town Board appreciates your responsible compliance and cooperation.

The Town also requests residents consider keeping all weeds trimmed and mowed. While state statutes only require those weeds defined as noxious weeds to be destroyed, there are a lot of other weeds that cause great discomfort for residents with allergies. Please consider being a good neighbor and keep your weeds trimmed for the enrichment and well-being of all residents in the Township.

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## **SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE**

The Town Board will be considering an ordinance regarding short-term rental activities, properties advertised for vacation rentals on sites such as AirBnB. This activity can potentially provide valuable additional income to property owners. It also has the potential to negatively affect neighbors and the characteristics of entire neighborhoods. A Town ordinance is needed to provide a uniform and predictable framework for the regulation of this commercial activity taking place in residentially zoned areas. If you have interest in serving on a task force which will make advisory recommendations to the Town Board on this issue, please contact the Town Clerk's office or request information via the Town website.

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## **OPEN BURNING GUIDELINES**

- Call the appropriate fire department non-emergency number and inform them of the details for your burn. If you are unsure of the correct fire department, you may contact the office staff at 873-3063.
  - Do not burn during windy or overly dry conditions
  - Fires must be extinguished within one half hour of sunset. Any smoldering material counts as a burning fire.
  - Keep the burning pile small-under 4 x 4 ft.
  - You may burn yard waste and clean, untreated wood from a single family or household on your property where it is generated, you may not burn for others, neighbors, etc.
  - Never leave the fire until it is completely out-never leave fire unattended
  - Fire Department Contact Numbers:
    - Stoughton Fire Department - 608-873-7218
    - McFarland Fire Department - 608-838-3278
    - Cottage Grove Fire Department - 608-839-4343
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## **Dane County Sheriff Mental Health Notice**

Law enforcement is being challenged by the growing number of calls for service involving people with mental health needs. It is imperative we recognize when mental illness may be a contributing factor during a call for service so we can respond in a manner as to de-escalate crisis situations.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Journey Mental Health Center. A Crisis Worker, from Journey, is embedded part time with the Sheriff's Office Field Services Division. The goal of utilizing an embedded mental health worker is to create a better response to mental health related calls and to engage in preventative follow-up work that may reduce repeated law enforcement contacts with the same individuals.

Our mental health crisis worker is available to co-respond to calls for service, conduct consultations via phone, and assist with Emergency Detentions. Additionally, the mental health crisis worker can accompany deputies on proactive home visits to connect mental health consumers to services.

Together, we can problem solve a wide array of mental health issues and work toward curbing incarceration and creating better short-term outcomes for community members.

Happy Spring and Stay Safe!

Deputy Leslie A. Fox

Dane County Sheriff's Office

Southeast Precinct

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## **COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE**

**Everyone 12+ is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Wisconsin.**

*The COVID-19 vaccine is free and you do not need an ID or insurance to get it. Getting your vaccination protects you and your community.*

### Wisconsin Now Offering COVID-19 Vaccinations to Children Ages 12-15 Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine deemed safe and effective

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced that children 12-15 years old are now eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and vaccinations began Thursday, May 13. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine requires two doses for full protection and is the first and only vaccine available for this age group.

After successful clinical trials and a rigorous review of all available data, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized Pfizer's request to expand the emergency use authorization (EUA) to include adolescents ages 12-15. On Wednesday, May 12, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) confirmed the vaccine is safe and voted to recommend the vaccine to the age group.

Parents and guardians of children ages 12-15 can schedule a vaccination using a variety of options, including with their health care provider, at community-based vaccination clinics, local and tribal health departments, or pharmacies. To locate a provider administering the Pfizer vaccine, visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/parents.htm). Parents and guardians can learn more by visiting <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/parents.htm> or by calling 1-844-684-1064 toll-free.

For information, resources, and data related to Wisconsin's COVID-19 vaccination program, visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/).

### **Covid-19 Vaccine Transportation for Dane County Adults 65+**

Have you exhausted all options available to you and still need a ride to your COVID-19 vaccine appointment? Contact New Bridge for information at (608) 512-0000, ext 3. No cost for Dane County residents. Funded by Dane County Department of Human Services.

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## **WISCONSIN RESIDENTS WILL NEED TO DIAL 10 DIGITS TO MAKE LOCAL CALLS**

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Wisconsin residents will have to dial 10 digits to make local calls starting this fall.

Right now, people in Wisconsin can place a call to a number in the same area code without dialing the area code. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports that beginning Oct. 23 people will need to include the area code in all calls.

The change will affect both landlines and cellphones across all six of Wisconsin's area codes, including 262, 414, 534, 608, 715 and 920.

Two dozen other states that have not switched to 10-digit dialing also will be affected.

The change comes about because the Federal Communications Commission is establishing 988 as the new, nationwide phone number for suicide prevention and mental health help.

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## **PLEASANT SPRINGS TOWN HALL/OFFICE**

Although our office is open to the public, we encourage residents to use the drop box that is located in the front entrance of the town hall to drop off forms and payments during open business hours.

Town meetings are currently being held virtually via zoom. Agendas are still posted to the website and outside of the town hall.

We will continue to make our best efforts to accommodate your needs during this time.

Thank you and stay safe!

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

**Town of Pleasant Springs**

**Spring/Summer 2021**

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Town Office: 608-873-3063  
Email: [clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org](mailto:clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org)  
Website: [www.pleasantsprings.org](http://www.pleasantsprings.org)

TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm Wednesday—CLOSED Thursday—10am to 4pm Friday—CLOSED
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Public Works	Alex Mesdjian and Shane Bakken, 608-205-9169
Town Chairperson	David Pfeiffer, 492-4877
Supervisor #1	Doug Larsson, 873-3063-leave message at Town Hall
Supervisor #2	Eric Olson, 873-1834
Supervisor #3	Jay Damkoehler, 205-9658
Supervisor #4	Janiece Bolender, 877-1936
Clerk/Treasurer	Maria "Pili" Hougan, 873-3063
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer	Lisa Skar, 873-3063

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**Area Guides and information for Senior Services** – are available at the Town Hall and posted to the website. You may also contact Stoughton Senior Center at (608) 873-8585 to check out the newest additions of their FREE directory of services available to older adults in the Stoughton community. The guide may be picked up at the Senior Center or viewed under Community Resources on their website at <https://stoughtonseniorcenter.com/>. McFarland Senior Outreach may be contacted at (608) 838-7117.