



# *PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES*

**Spring/Summer 2022**

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

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

Summer is upon us and summer temperatures have been here for a while already. Happily, the pandemic is not the main news story of the day. Unhappily, we have plenty of new things to worry about. But, I'd like to take this opportunity to look back on the past few years with appreciation for all those who faced this challenge with courage, empathy and honor. Whether by developing vaccines or providing essential services, working in health care or childcare, showing compassion for fellow citizens at greater risk and especially for those coping with tragedy, caring about others always helps us to make it through difficult times.

I'd also like to thank a few people who made a difference for our Town. Janiece Bolender, Jay Damkoehler and Doug Larsson served residents well during their time on the Town Board. All are caring individuals who devoted many hours to public service. Jay in particular volunteered countless hours of his time and expertise on various projects that both improved Town operations and saved taxpayer money.

All three board members were instrumental on the initiative to improve Town roads while also finding ways to perform road maintenance more efficiently. For example, with their support and under the leadership of our Public Works Superintendent, the Town regularly utilizes all three plow trucks so that roads are cleared more quickly. And, we equipped a pickup truck with a snow blade so that unfrozen gravel roads could be plowed with less damage than occurs when using the heavy plow trucks.

We also purchased a track loader that serves multiple purposes and sold our road grader. The track loader has proven to be more efficient at grading roads, getting the job done in much less time since it is both more maneuverable and able to be trailered to the worksite rather than having to slowly drive there. This efficiency allows staff the time to use the same equipment to work on other long neglected projects such as cleaning up road right-of-ways. Maintained right-of-ways improve sightlines for drivers and keep water off the road while allowing more sunlight to melt ice and snow, improving safety and avoiding premature road deterioration.

We also have Superintendent Mesdjian to thank for identifying a unique opportunity for the Town to lock in new equipment purchases at low State contract prices before supply chain problems and inflation combined to drive up costs and reduce availability. Meanwhile, we were able to take advantage of those same factors to maximize the return when selling or trading in our old equipment.

In other changes, our longtime tenant the Dane County Sheriff Southeast Precinct moved to new quarters in Stoughton. We thank all of the officers who have served and continue to serve Town residents. We will miss having them so close by. But, we are very happy to have UpNet Wisconsin as our new tenant and look forward to their continued work to expand high-speed internet access to customers for whom cable or dsl service is unavailable or inadequate for their needs. Thanks Alex, for seeing the mutually beneficial opportunity and suggesting the idea to UpNet.

Later this summer and fall we will again be conducting elections, as if you didn't already know based on all the ads. Our Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and election workers will be hard at work performing their entrusted duties to ensure a safe and secure election, as democracy requires. They deserve our thanks and support.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer.

David

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## **TOWN MEETING REGARDING STOUGHTON DAM PROJECT JULY 12 @6**

The City of Stoughton is proposing to remove the Fourth Street dam as part of their plan to develop a whitewater rafting park. This action may have significant consequences for wildlife and recreational activities in the section of the Yahara River flowing through the Town. Residents have expressed concerns that the project planners have not adequately assessed the potential impact to water levels. The findings of an independent review will be presented at a public meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. See the Town website or contact the Clerk's office for more details.

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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. Here is a quick look at the difference between an assessment and an appraisal:

# Assessments

vs.

# Appraisals

Assessments are determined based on sales within the taxing district, in the town, village, or city.

Assessors use previous years sales data.

Assessors compare annual market sales year-over-year.

Assessors set values based on the entire community to determine the values of all properties on a mass scale.

Assessments are regulated by the state of WI. The Department of Revenue requires each municipality to maintain assessments within 10% of market value.

Appraisals use comparable sales from similar properties usually going outside of the taxing district.

Appraisers use sales from past years as well as current year sales.

Appraisers use current market sales, month-to-month or day-to-day.

Appraiser hand pick comparable sales to help them determine the value of 1 property. Usually use 3 to 6 comparables.

Assessors are not regulated by the state of WI. Their values are used to help determine values to obtain loans, get values for a settlement, or get a line of credit.

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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? 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. Dog waste should be disposed of properly and not thrown in a waterbody or other public areas.

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## SUMMER ROAD PROJECTS FOR 2022

### Potential roads for paving:

#### Roads for paving:

Williams Dr from Circle Dr to HWY MN  
Portion of Williams Dr from Circle to the South  
Spring Hill Subdivision  
Section of Vilas Road

### Potential roads for Sealcoating/Crack filling:

#### Culvert Replacements Under Road:

13 culverts replaced on Williams Drive  
1 culvert replaced on Skaalen Rd  
1 culvert replaced on Holzhuter Dr.  
1 Potential replacement on River Drive

**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 Sheriff

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 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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## **EASEMENTS**

### **Please be aware that activity within public easements may be restricted.**

Residents should be mindful of any public easement on their property. Activities within a public easement may be restricted and the cost of removing private property placed in a public easement may be charged to the property owner. Please contact the easement holder before installing or making modifications to property located within a public easement.

## 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.

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## SHORT TERM RENTALS

**Please be aware that the Town has recently enacted an ordinance governing short-term rentals.** Recent changes in State law have necessitated the adoption of local ordinances regarding the temporary rentals of residences via websites such as AirBnB and VRBO. Without a local ordinance, commercial activity of this type in residential neighborhoods is unregulated. The Town must balance the interests of property owners who wish to earn income from temporary rentals against the interests of other residents who purchased homes in residentially zoned neighborhoods with the expectation that they would be living there without commercial businesses operating nearby.

The ordinance establishes permit requirements and regulations for operation of short-term rentals for property owners who wish to utilize their property for this purpose more than 10 days in a calendar year. The process for issuing permits is currently under development and the ordinance will be effective as soon as the permit procedures are finalized. If you operate a short-term rental at your property within the Town, please contact the Clerk's office to receive instructions regarding how to obtain the required permit.

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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 7:00am-2:45pm and Saturday 8:00-10:45am. For more details, please call (608) 838-3212 or visit their website at [danecountycleansweep.com](http://danecountycleansweep.com).

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## **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, additional stickers are a \$10.00 fee*).

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**2022 BRUSH SITE**

**PLEASANT SPRINGS RESIDENTS ONLY**

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

**NEW LOCATION**

**OPEN DAILY**

**The brush and yard waste drop-off site  
is behind the Town Hall.**

The Town yard waste site is now located behind the Town hall. This Site is for town residents only, no contractor dumping. The town also offers a Scrap metal Dumpster which is also located in the yard waste site. If yard waste is brought to the waste site in bags of any type, please take those with you to dispose of. The yard waste site is open daily from 7am-5pm, 7 days a week. You must be a resident of Pleasant Springs. You will need to have a resident sticker on your windshield.

## **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.

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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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## **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 608-873-3063.
  - 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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## **DANE COUNTY BROADBAND TASKFORCE INFORMATION**

The 15 member Dane County Broadband Task Force was created in 2021 by the County Board to focus on how to provide broadband access to all of Dane County's residents, particularly those who live in rural areas where broadband access may be lacking or non-existent.

The Task Force aims to create a greater community understanding of Dane County's challenges related to high-speed, reliable and affordable internet access for the County as a whole. They are working to prepare local partners in Dane County to have the background and knowledge (e.g. accurate maps, data on speeds, access, etc.) to apply for various grants and funding to expand access to unserved and underserved areas of the county, and increase awareness of the issues those without reliable internet access face.

The Task Force is collecting data, researching and exploring various funding mechanisms, partnering with stakeholders to identify where broadband access is and is not, exploring alternative solutions, and will make recommendations to the County Board on the role of Dane County in facilitating the expansion of broadband services to residents. The Task Force conducted a survey of rural residents in specific areas to identify homes and neighborhoods in which service is not available, and communities and internet service providers will be able to use this information to be able to apply for grants to expand access to these areas.

**Visit their website for more info:**

<https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-Task-Force>

**They are asking for your help!**

To bolster the effort to create more accurate maps of service coverage and speeds, the Task Force is encouraging members of the public to take 2 minutes to complete the MadREP speed test. The more data that is collected the fuller the picture of broadband access issues in Dane County, that will be utilized by the many organizations and units of government to expand access and provide affordable, reliable service to every resident.

The speed test can be found here: <http://madisonregion.org/industry-and-innovation/broadband/>

Please contact the Task Force at

[Dane.Broadband.Task.Force@countyofdane.com](mailto:Dane.Broadband.Task.Force@countyofdane.com) or call 608-266-5758 and let them know of your broadband issues and how it has impacted you.

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

Spring / Summer 2022

**Town of Pleasant Springs**

**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 (we are generally available at 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Thursday—10am to 4pm

Friday—CLOSED

Please call the office for additional availability. We are available at 8:00 a.m. most days

Public Works - Alex Mesdjian and Shane

Bakken, 608-205-9169

Town Chairperson David Pfeiffer, 608-492-4877

Supervisor #1 Dana Stadler, 608-492-0095

Supervisor #2 Eric Olson, 608-873-1834

Supervisor #3 Dick Green, 608-873-0934

Supervisor #4 Melanie Miller, 608-513-9894

Clerk/Treasurer Maria "Pili" Hougan, 608-873-3063

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Laura Trotter, 608-873-3063

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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.