

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES

Spring/Summer 2020

Pleasant Springs Town Hall
2354 County Highway N
Stoughton WI 53589

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR....

These are certainly challenging times. We worry about our health and the health of loved ones. We worry about our jobs or how we will get by after losing our income. We worry about our small businesses, our retirement funds, our livelihoods. We worry about how long this pandemic will last.

The challenges we face have not fallen equally on everyone. People have lost loved ones without even being able to say goodbye. The health care community, first responders and essential service workers have had to take on greater personal risk. A generation of children have had their education disrupted. Many of us, especially those whose livelihoods depend on "non-essential" businesses, are experiencing a heavy financial impact. We know that all businesses are essential because they provide jobs and income.

As a society, we need to support those who are carrying a heavier burden, both financially and with empathy. We also need to have faith in each other and demonstrate the necessary balance of patience and urgency as we respond to the virus. Without the proper tools in place, a second wave could be even more costly and deadly. A pandemic cannot be defeated without a committed and comprehensive response.

Meanwhile, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day passed while the world is largely focused on the virus. But, the time for us to act to protect future generations from the worst consequences of our consumption of fossil fuels is running short. My Dad often says God provided fossil fuels as "mother's milk" to nurture the human race until the development of science and technology and that it is long past time for humanity to be weaned.

Dad lived through the great depression and served in World War II. A man of faith and science, he sees no conflict between the two, devoting his post war life to public service as a science teacher. He has witnessed the development of so much we take for granted, cars, televisions, computers, cell phones, vaccines for previously deadly infectious disease such as smallpox, polio, measles. He doesn't understand why some now regularly seek to disregard the process that made all of these possible. Science, the most fantastically successful way of knowing things ever devised.

Dad is part of what Tom Brokaw named the greatest generation because they understood sacrifice for others to be a moral duty. They lived through the worst economic collapse in our history and endured the most devastating war the world has ever seen. As Brokaw wrote, they were "participants in and witness to sacrifices of the highest order" while remaining modest, making "no demands of homage from those who followed and prospered economically, politically, and culturally because of its sacrifices."

Some have suggested that this generation is willing to sacrifice themselves again to "protect" the economy.

Of course, this is a false choice as the economy is protected by defeating the pandemic through a concerted effort to implement widespread testing, comprehensive contact tracing, isolation of those exposed, effective treatment of those becoming seriously ill, and,

hopefully, the eventual development of a vaccine. A thriving economy needs more than open businesses; it needs employees and customers confident that they can participate without risking their lives or the lives of their loved ones.

Moreover, the idea that we should be willing to sacrifice the lives of those most vulnerable to the virus strikes me as outrageous. This is the time for those of us who did not do so much to create the world we take for granted, who have never been asked to sacrifice nearly as much as what they endured, this is the time for us to demonstrate through our actions that we can follow their example.

And, like them, shouldn't we recognize our obligation to future generations?

The Town will do our small part. We will follow the guidelines set by public health agencies. We will protect our staff and community by practicing social distancing and doing as much as possible to contain and limit the impact of the virus while continuing to provide our essential services. We will show we care about others by wearing masks as advised. We will look for opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint and protect the environment.

The word crisis comes from a Greek word meaning "to separate" or "to sift", that is, a time to evaluate and keep what is worthwhile. Challenges can provide clarity and purpose. My Dad, my wife and I rebuilt after the 2005 tornado took our homes and our possessions but spared our lives, serving as a powerful reminder of what is most important. I believe how we face challenges defines who we are.

If we care about each other and work together rather than retreating to tribal divides, we will continue to form a more perfect union and create a better world.

David Pfeiffer, Town Chair

THANKS are in order for Clerk/Treasurer Pili Hougan, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Skar, Public Works Superintendent Alex Mesdjian and all the dedicated election workers who combined efforts to carry out the spring election under very difficult circumstances, adapting to guidelines that seemed to change daily.

As far as we are aware, no transmission of the COVID-19 virus has been attributed to voting activity in the Town. Voters, you deserve credit too! Well done!

POSSIBLE FOURTH ST. DAM CLOSURE

Are you aware that 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 and have asked for further study.

If you wish to be included in email notifications regarding possible Town meetings on this issue, please send an email to yahara.river.townps@gmail.com.

SECOND INSTALLMENT REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS DUE JULY 31

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dane County has allowed municipalities to waive interest and penalties for real estate and personal property tax payments paid no later than Oct. 1. The Town Board will consider approving this waiver at a future meeting. 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.

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.

CONTESTING YOUR ASSESSMENT: BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

The Board of Review is scheduled to meet on Thursday, May 21, 2020, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Pleasant Springs Town Hall, 2354 County Rd. N, Stoughton, WI. Anyone with property located in the Town of Pleasant Springs wishing to contest real or personal property at the Board of Review will need to submit a written objection to the Clerk, no later than 48 hours prior to Board of Review. Objection information and forms can be obtained on the Town website, or at the Clerk's office during office hours. **Please make sure you have contacted Accurate Appraisal prior to submitting Objection forms for the Board of Review.* Sometimes (not always) Accurate Appraisal can adjust the value of your property if they feel there is a valid case, or provide you with necessary information regarding your property. You may contact them at (800) 770-3927, or email at info@accurateassessor.com.

DOG LICENSES

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

USE COURTESY, PLEASE

Taking your dog for a walk in the park? Last summer, 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.

SUMMER ROAD PROJECTS FOR 2020

Potential roads for paving:

- Spring Rd From Hwy B to End
- Center Ave from Hwy N to BN

Culvert Replacements Under Road:

- Circle Dr

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

Potential roads for Sealcoating:

- Shadyside Dr
- Tracy Ln
- Washington Rd
- Skyline Dr (partial)
- Skyline Circle

Potential roads for Crack Filling:

- Kaase Rd
- East Koshkonong Rd
- Washington Rd



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 them *if* you would like them to leave the tree trimmings for you.

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 every construction zone worker is someone's Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Brother, Sister, Son or Daughter. Use caution and slow down! When in Work Zones, Drive Like You Work Here.

SPRING NEWS FROM PELLITTERI WASTE SYSTEMS

Curbside Recycling –

Proper Preparation of Recyclables That Do Not Fit in the Cart

The standard for residents with extra recyclables that do not fit in their recycling cart is to place extra recycling in clear, plastic bags (up to 32 gallon and no more than 50 pounds) and place the bags next to their recycling cart. This includes cutting down cardboard boxes to fit in those bags (not bundled, not placed in a bigger box). Our service professionals have been accepting extra recycling that does not conform to the standard but will no longer do so, effective 4/1/2019. Going forward, we are asking for everyone's cooperation in preparing extra recyclables for collection properly. Enforcement of the proper preparation has become necessary due to the following industry changes:



- There has been a large increase in the amount of cardboard and paper that residents produce due to online shopping. Meanwhile, the markets for cardboard and paper recycling have been struggling. Placing extra recyclables in clear plastic bags ensures the material stays dry and recyclable. When cardboard gets saturated it causes it to not sort properly at the Material Recovery Facility, possibly leading it to end up in the trash. Wet material also downgrades the quality of the cardboard, which reduces the value of the cardboard and increases the cost of recycling.
- The spike in recycling has resulted in a large increase of manual pickup of additional recycling which results in additional service time for the routes. Proper preparation allows our service professionals to be efficient so that we can conform to the federal requirements for hours of service for drivers.
- A good portion of our residential truck fleet has been updated with side-loading systems. This system greatly reduces the issue of wind-blown materials. With the side-loading trucks, we must reload the recycling cart with the additional materials in order to dump the cart again. Therefore, if the material is too big to be reloaded into the cart, it cannot be picked up.

Moving forward, improperly prepared additional recyclables will not be picked up. The driver will leave a notification sticker on the resident's cart.

As we work to serve your community, please support our initiative by communicating with your residents the above information. We will also be communicating via email to all residents that have signed up with us to receive notifications.

Sincerely,

Danielle Pellitteri, V.P. of Sales (608) 257-4285

[Pellitteri Recycling Notice](#)

CLEAN SWEEP is a Dane County-operated facility that collects hazardous household materials like paint, pesticides, and rechargeable batteries. Some fees

may apply depending upon the materials. The site is located at 7102 US Hwy 12/18 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 them on the website at danecountycleansweep.com.

2020 CENSUS

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a nationwide census. The collected data helps determine how federal funds, grants and state support will be distributed to assist in funding schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other essential programs. Completing the census is mandatory.

For more information, visit **2020census.gov** or call (301) 763-4636.

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 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.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

Being neighborly makes communities thrive. Town ordinances prohibit activities that create a hazard or public nuisance. Failure to perform proper upkeep of your property, storing inoperable vehicles or unsightly materials in your yard, smoke from burning yard waste entering adjacent properties, frequent excessive noise, and failing to control animals are some of the things that often lead to complaints. Please be considerate of your neighbors!

BOAT LAUNCH STICKER – *Did you know?*

Your resident sticker is good for both dropping brush off at the Brush Burning Compost Site at **1754 Tower Drive** and free parking at the Boat Launch at 2267 Williams Point Drive. Contact the Town Hall to obtain your free resident sticker. (*Proof of residency required.*)

BUILDING PERMIT INFORMATION

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

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 an 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 Damage permit and deposit permit 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.

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 to keep all weeds trimmed and mowed. While state statutes only require those weeds defined as noxious weeds to be destroyed, there are many other weeds that cause great discomfort for residents with allergies. Please be a good citizen and keep your weeds trimmed for the benefit of all residents in the Township. Your neighbors thank you.

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE GRASS CLIPPINGS ON THE STREET

When mowing your property, please don't discharge grass clippings onto the street. State law prohibits leaving any substance in the roadway that could cause accidents. Grass clippings can present a serious hazard to bicycles and motorcycles. A thick layer of grass can make the street surface so slippery that even cars lose traction. Grass clippings should remain or be placed where they can decompose back to the soil rather than in the street where they contribute to runoff pollution.

ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION: Due to the huge influx of absentee ballot requests due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please help us! If you have requested an absentee ballot for an upcoming election, and you have not received your ballot and it's 7 days prior to the election, please contact the clerk's office ASAP!!

2020 BRUSH BURNING SITE HOURS PLEASANT SPRINGS RESIDENTS ONLY

SUMMER HOURS

Sat. June 6, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Wed. June 10, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sat. July 11, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Wed. July 15, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sat. Aug. 1, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Wed. Aug. 5, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

FALL HOURS

Sat. Sept. 5, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Wed. Sept. 9, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 3, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Wed. Oct. 7, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Oct 10, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wed. Oct. 14, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Oct 24, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sat. Oct 31, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sat. Nov 7, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

OPEN BURNING GUIDELINES: *ALL BURNING CURRENTLY PROHIBITED!*

- 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

HIGH SPEED INTERNET & SHELTERING AT HOME

Sheltering at home is a particularly difficult challenge for some Town residents. It's hard to effectively work from home and for kids to attend virtual classrooms when internet speeds are insufficient. Unfortunately, the Town has no ability to effect change. Grant funds are available only if providers make the application. Unlike the days of rural electrification or hard line telephones, internet service providers are not required to serve everyone. Providers analyze return on investment in the short term. Risk is high due to rapidly changing technologies. So, many areas lacking sufficient density of potential subscribers continue to be left with few options.

One way to check on possible options at your address is by referring to the FCC broadband map website at :<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/>

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

(Due to COVID-19, many of these services are currently suspended)

In January of 2019, McFarland Senior Outreach Services began offering transportation services to the residents of Pleasant Springs. Prior to this, Stoughton Area Senior Center managed that service. Transit Solutions Inc. currently provides the rides under a Dane County Contract. Rides are on a schedule as follows-

First Monday of the Month – Super Walmart in Monona Pick up starts at 9:30 am

Second and 4th Tuesday of the month- Pick n Save McFarland Pick up starts at 9:30

Third Tuesday- Shopping in Madison (Destinations vary) Please check the McFarland Area Senior Newsletter or call 838-7117.

Second Thursday of the month – McFarland shopping destination of your choice
9:30 am – 12:00 noon

McFarland Senior dining site- *Mondays and Fridays* (reservations are required 24 hours in advance)

Medical rides are provided through volunteer RSVP drivers. You can request a ride by calling our office at 838-7117 and asking for Katie. Katie works Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday. A one-time preregistration as a passenger must be completed. A 5 working day notice is needed to schedule a ride. Although we cannot guarantee a ride, we are rarely unable to fulfill requests. Rides are limited to no more than three in a month per individual. Rides must be given during the hours of 8:00-4:30. All passengers must be able to get in and out of a vehicle on their own. We reserve the right to cancel rides due to unsafe weather conditions or when schools are closed.

Cost for all of these services are on a donation basis. If you would like to set up a ride or have further questions, feel free to contact us at 838-7117. This information and more is available in the McFarland Area Senior News, which is available online under the Village of McFarland website or hard copy at the Pleasant Springs town hall. If you would like a copy emailed to you directly on a monthly basis, please provide us with your email.

We hope you will consider utilizing these services to enhance your independence. If we can answer any other questions, regarding services or resources, please give us a call. We are here to assist the seniors of Pleasant Springs.

If you are interested in volunteering to provide medical rides or home meal delivery please contact us. Our volunteers help make these programs possible.

WEARING MASKS IN PUBLIC is how you show you care about others.

You can be carrying the virus and have no symptoms. If infected, wearing a mask can protect others from becoming infected. An uninfected person wearing a mask is still at great risk when interacting with an infected person NOT wearing a mask.

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

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE TOWN HALL IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK/TREASURER'S OFFICE AT (608) 873-3063 OR EMAIL AT: CLERKTREASURER@PLEASANTSPRINGS.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE.

THERE IS A DROP BOX LOCATED IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE WHERE FORMS AND PAYMENTS CAN BE DEPOSITED DURING OPEN BUSINESS HOURS. YOU MAY ALSO CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT IF NECESSARY.

YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AT (608) 205-9169 AND LEAVE A DETAILED MESSAGE.

TOWN MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. AGENDA'S ARE POSTED TO THE WEBSITE AND OUTSIDE 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**

***PLEASE CONSIDER, you could be carrying the virus and not have any symptoms.
Wearing a mask shows you care about others, not that you are afraid of them.***

Town of Pleasant Springs

Spring/Summer 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Town Office: 608-873-3063
Email: clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org
Website: www.pleasantsprings.org

TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm Wednesday—CLOSED Thursday—10:00 to 4pm Friday—CLOSED

Public Works	Alex Mesdjian and Jim Alme, 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

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 their 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.