

Town of Dunn Officials

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Roz Gausman, Clerk, Dunn Town Hall, 255-4219
Jim Manson, Highway Foreman, Dunn Town Garage, 835-5611
Dunn Police Department, 4156 CTH B, McFarland, WI 53558
Robert Berry, Chief, 255-4219 (non-emergency only)

June Tornado Changes Plans of Dunn Road Crew, Too

by *Jim Manson, Highway Foreman*

We started this spring with the usual routine of patching road holes and weak spots as they developed, thinking this summer would be just a normal one for us.

Then on June 17, the tornado hit the town and changed things not only for the 30 or so families whose homes were destroyed, but for all the town employees, too.

On the day of the tornado, we were out putting up speed limit signs on Lator Road. At noon it started looking really nasty, so we headed to the town garage to eat lunch. Then the power went out, so we grabbed our lunch bags and headed into the town hall to have lunch with the people in there.

When the sirens went off, we ended up having lunch down in the basement. We didn't hear or see it go through, but somebody stopped and said the tornado had just gone through on the hill in Waubesa Heights.

I jumped into the pickup and tried to get up there, only to find the road was blocked. I went all over trying to get through. I couldn't see much, so I went back to the hall and told Todd to get the end loader to get stuff off the road, and I jumped in the grader to try to push stuff off the roads.

The power was out and so were the phones; we tried many times to call in to McFarland on the truck radio, but nobody answered. With all the commotion, apparently there was nobody near a radio.

By the time we got back up the hill — it's only a mile away — emergency personnel were on the scene trying to get in, too. We had our work cut out for us.

In all, the road crew spent five or six weeks of steady cleaning up after that. The tornado hit worst at Waubesa Heights, but we had cleaning up to do on Schneider Drive, Southview Road, Mahoney Road, quite a bit on Evans Road, Burmeister's Woods area, and quite a bit in the eastern part of town on Elvehjem Road.

We were very lucky that we got a lot of help from our friends from neighboring towns and villages. The village of McFar-

land was here for about a week with several men and trucks. We also had help from the town of Rutland, village of Cottage Grove, town of Bristol, town of Dunkirk, town of Blooming Grove, village of Maple Bluff and the town of Christiana and we even hired extra help to run our own equipment.

We had all three of our end loaders going steady and the village of McFarland was also going pretty steady for quite a while. McFarland also came in with their street sweeper for two days to help clean up nails from the streets because too many people were getting flat tires on their cars.

We spent a lot of time hauling debris that residents and volunteers would haul out to the streets.

We hauled a lot of downed trees and homes to the dump, where we burned everything. We just finished burning all the debris and the final cleaning up last week.

After the major part of the clean-up we had to catch up on our normal work of mowing roadsides and patching roads to get ready for sealcoating roads. This year we sealcoated about 13 miles of roads. They include Holm Road, Schuster Road, the west mile of Rutland-Dunn Townline Road, Labrador Road, Retrievers Club Road, Schneider Drive, Barber Drive, Colladay Point Road, Zor Court, a half mile of Dyerson Road, two-thirds of Tower Road, and all of the streets in Spartan Hills. Then it was back to mowing roads and trying to put up signs that were stolen or run over by automobiles.

Our road paving projects got put on hold not only because of the cleanup. Part of the hold-up was because of the weather. When things cleared up, then the contractors got busy. We are just this week trying to get our paving completed.

Let's just hope we have a mild winter. We don't need any more of this nasty stuff.

Dunn Prepares Burying Ground Addition this Fall

by *Jo Reynolds, Dunn Burying Ground Task Force*

The Dunn Burying Ground expansion project is under way, with plans for work to begin yet this fall. (Due to the dry summer weather and the June tornado, diskling and seeding wasn't done this summer.) The cemetery layout has been approved by the town board and is now due to be surveyed and plotted (after fall diskling) by Abex Survey Company, which submitted the most competitive bid. The road and paths will be laid out at the same time and, weather permitting, the one-way circular gravel road will be put in.

Plots will be available to town residents after the surveying is completed and plot markers are in the ground. Then, information on

plot costs and other cemetery regulations will be available after finalized by the town board.

Anyone wishing to donate landscaping materials for the new addition, or spring annuals or perennials for the original burying ground is encouraged to contact the town hall and leave their name as an interested donor. Native trees, old fashioned shrubs, heirloom roses and perennials will the emphasis of the plantings, in keeping with the original rural cemetery.

A brochure detailing the original cemetery and its burials is now available at the town hall, and is a valuable guide when visiting the cemetery.

Dunn Police Chief's Report

by *Chief Bob Berry*

It's been a long summer for those who live along and use Highway 51. With the road construction nearly completed, the new highway will be a welcome change. The town has had driving complaints already, with some motorists exceeding the speed limit on the new highway.

I would like to thank the many nice people who showed respect by following the requests of the officers after the June 17th tornado, when they were asked not to drive through the area by the local police, security personnel and the Dane County Sheriff's Department. This made our jobs a lot easier. Yes, there were many who were issued citations for failure to obey the

road closed signs; those that were cited and appeared in court should be very thankful that they didn't have to experience the tornado first hand. Most had very original stories to tell.

The storage of boats, vehicles and recreational vehicles along the road right of way for longer than 48 hours is a violation and will be ticketed. Failure to remove the vehicle within 24 hours after the citation is issued will result in its being towed at the owner's expense. Last winter, many vehicles were left alongside the streets and were very troublesome for the road crew to plow around. Now is the time to move these vehicles to the proper storage area.

Boat Landing Will Soon Be Ready For Ice Fishermen

Construction of the Amundson Boat Landing on Lake Kegonsa is underway and the ramp will be open this winter as an access point for ice fishermen, says Scott Stewart of the Department of Natural Resources.

During the second week of November workmen were pouring the concrete boat ramp and preparing the base for the parking lot. The workmen believe they will be completed by the beginning of December. Stewart, though, is concerned that early cold weather conditions may prevent the paving this fall, but he said that would not stop the access point to the lake from

being open to ice fishermen.

The boat landing, which is located on Quam Drive, will have five car and trailer parking stalls and five additional stalls along the street. One of the stalls in the parking lot will be handicapped accessible.

The town helped purchase the property two years ago with the state by paying the excess the state had not budgeted for the land. The ramp and parking lot are being constructed with state Dingle-Johnson monies, an excise tax on fishing equipment. When the landing is completely finished, it will be dedded to the town of Dunn.

Dunn Parks News

by Elaine Andrews, Parks Commission Chair

Goings and Comings Zarnstorff appointed to commission

The Dunn Parks Commission would like to extend its appreciation to Carol Schwartzburg for her service from 1983 to 1992. During her tenure on the commission, Carol provided leadership in designing the town's approach to neighborhood park development. She was also active in the commission's annual award program and created the town's Stewardship Award plaque.

The Dunn Parks Commission would like to welcome Dan Zarnstorff, appointed to the parks commission in September. Dan will serve until July 1, 1995, completing Carol Schwartzburg's

current term. Dan has been active in developing solutions to various problems for the undeveloped area in the Colladay Point neighborhood. Dan is especially interested in the potential for natural landscaping in the town.

Town residents interested in becoming active on the parks commission are encouraged to provide their names to the commission. Several volunteer opportunities are currently available. Citizens interested in future vacancies on the commission will be informed when they occur.

Do You Have Questions about Neighborhood Parks? From A to Z, We Can Help You

Town of Dunn neighborhood parks are developed and maintained through a neighborhood-town partnership. Neighborhoods interested in developing local town park land should request to be on the parks commission agenda. The parks commission can provide planning and financial assistance in getting the park started.

Resources about neighborhood park planning can also be found at the town hall. The town is developing its files on park equipment suppliers and techniques and resources for natural landscaping. Information on natural landscaping includes:

<i>Lake Waubesa area:</i>	Dan Zarnstorff 873-0366
	Mike Peterson 873-8581
	Judy Kinney 835-3830
	Sue Sanford-Ring 838-9733
<i>Town hall area:</i>	
	Jan Zimmermann 221-8423
	Doug Kornetzke 222-5848
	Elaine Andrews 222-2255

Spring Arbor Day - Be There! County Agent Mindy Habecker Talks Trash

"Don't burn or bag — compost" will be the theme of this year's Arbor Day celebration planned for Friday evening, April 23, 1993. Each April, the parks commission sponsors the annual potluck to celebrate Arbor Day, and learn something new about caring for our town's resources. All ages are invited. Details will be provided in the spring Town of Dunn Newsletter.

This April, Mindy Habecker, Dane County Agricultural/Natural Resources agent will talk to town residents about what, how and why to compost. Mindy has taught and written about composting for the last several years. Composting is the breakdown

suppliers and plant materials costs, newsletters, and information about the Dane County Parks Commission Adult Conservation Team.

If you have questions about neighborhood parks, contact the commissioner from your area:

<i>Lake Kegonsa area:</i>	
	Jan Zimmermann 221-8423
	Doug Kornetzke 222-5848
<i>Lake Waubesa area:</i>	
	Dan Zarnstorff 873-0366
	Mike Peterson 873-8581
	Judy Kinney 835-3830
	Sue Sanford-Ring 838-9733
<i>Parks Chair:</i>	
	Elaine Andrews 222-2255

of organic matter by bacteria and other organisms. The end product of composting is humus, which is rich in nutrients and organic matter. The value of organic matter to crops has been established since early times. Burning of organic matter contributes to air quality problems and global warming. Bagging for landfill disposal adds to landfill problems. Dumping of grass clipping and leaves on town roadsides both is unsightly and has led to town road crew accidents.

Winter is a good time to set up your composting system. If you don't want to wait until April for information, contact the Dane County Extension Office for resources available in print.

Wes and Jane Licht Receive 1992 Dunn Stewardship Award

The annual Arbor Day potluck sponsored by the Town of Dunn Parks Commission on April 24 honored Wes and Jane Licht with the Town of Dunn Stewardship Award for their long-standing commitment to community service and the preservation of natural landscapes.

The Licht family efforts have included development of a wet prairie on their property, which has restored wildlife habitat and served as a learning opportunity for many town residents and friends.

Jane has provided strong regional leadership through documentation of local history and promotion of the Wisconsin Wetlands Bill. She spent six very active years as a county supervisor, serving on the Dane County Parks Commission, and was instrumental in developing the Nine Springs E-Way System. She is currently Dane County's Register of Deeds. Wes, a teacher at Glendale Elementary School, has taken his activities beyond the classroom by providing years of



Dunn Bicycle Trail Guide, initiated the annual Arbor Day programs, and created and led the annual Dunn stewardship tour.

Wes also worked for the unique system of shared management in Dunn's neighborhood parks and he pursued the purchase and funding for the Dunn Heritage Park, our future community park.

Congratulations Jane and Wes, and many thanks for your years of committed stewardship.

Annual Stewardship Award Help Us Find Candidates, Nominations Due February 1

Each year the parks commission recognizes a person or persons in the town who has contributed the most to the stewardship of the town's natural resources. We would like your assistance in identifying stewards for the 1993 award. Please send your nominations to the parks commission in care of the town hall by February 1. Nominations should be accompanied by a one-page description of why that person or persons should receive the 1993 award.

Stewardship can mean many things, depending on the individual point of view. Here are some of the thoughts that parks commissioners have used to guide their choice of individuals to be given awards each year, adapted from a presentation by Ruth Hine to the parks commission in 1984.

Stewards of the earth recognize through their actions that:

1. All nature has value.
2. All people, plants and nonliving components of the earth are part of an interrelated whole.
3. Humans are from the earth and are dependent on it.
4. Nature is a gift to be honored and respected.
5. Nature has value to the human spirit.
6. Humans do not own the earth.
7. Humans have been given the responsibility to care for the earth.

Past awards have been given to farmers, citizen activists, professors, teachers, and local landowners. If you are curious about who has received past awards, visit the town hall and view the Stewardship Award plaque.

Smokey Hook Lake Prairie Burn Was Unintentional

By Doris Rusch, DNR Wildlife Manager

When the buffalo roamed over what is now the town of Dunn, and the Indians camped on the shores of Hook Lake and trapped in the waters of Grass Lake, the landscape was waving fields of prairie grasses and flowers. The prairie panorama was broken by an occasional oak or clump of oaks mixed with hickory and cherry. Europeans named this landscape of tall grasses and oak "savanna." Where the oaks are scattered widely, we call it oak savanna. Where the oaks grow in closer proximity, but allow sufficient light for the tall grasses to grow at their feet, we call it open oak savanna woodland.

Savanna and fire are synonymous. Without fire there was not savanna; fire made the savanna. Before settlement, scarcely a year went by without fire. Where annual fire was less intense, the sturdy oak survived in open woodlands or scattered clumps. Where fire was intense, it left nothing but treeless prairie grassland.

When we undertook the project of public ownership of the Hook

Lake-Grass Lake Area, we agreed to return the area to oak savanna. The Dunn folks want the area to be restored to a "natural" condition. The natural condition would represent the presettlement savanna vegetation.

Our plan is to gradually plant the existing fields to native prairie vegetation and to return the woodlots to open oak savanna. Our vision of the future landscape is a multitude of prairie flowers and grasses - cone flowers and rattlesnake master, big bluestem and Indian grass, blazing star and compass plant, and many others - and oak. The woodlots already have the oak component, but are filled with box elder and exotic brush such as honeysuckle and buckthorn. Burning through the woodlots will gradually kill the honeysuckle and box elder, opening up the woodland floor to light and the emergence of native savanna grasses and woodland flowers.

This April we waited and waited for the proper burning conditions. We wanted a south wind to prevent smoke from

traveling toward houses to the east or west. We needed a strong wind to provide enough oxygen to carry the fire through the woods. We needed a day or two without rain so the fuel would be dry enough to burn. The humidity could not be too low (more difficult to control the fire), or too high (nothing would burn). The white oaks had to drop their leaves to provide the woodland fuel. The honeysuckle had to be in leaf-out condition to give the fire killing power. The fields full of little box elder trees had to be dry enough to burn. All these events had to occur simultaneously, and before grassland birds began nesting in earnest. The peak of nesting occurs in mid to late May, we stop conservation burning in early May.

We waited for the perfect combination of events. The wind was the worst problem. The prevailing westerly winds prevailed. Every time there was south wind, it brought moisture. Rain, rain, and more rain, filling up the wetlands but preventing any prescribed burns. Finally, just when we'd

almost given up, we had such a morning. It was our last chance. Standing on the McMannus drive, a strong wind blew straight from the south. We hoped for no smoke problems.

But there were smoke problems, and we apologize sincerely to those who had to put up with smoke during the midday hours on May 1st.

We began the burn on the southeast, but the wind there blew southwesterly. Was it just a local aberrance caused by the woodlot? The smoke drifted southeasterly, but appeared to dissipate rather quickly over the cornfield. In fact, rather than dissipating, it settled into the lower land. The subdivision to the east was like a magnet for the smoke. The fickle winds had shifted southwesterly.

We had issued a news release regarding our intent to burn. However, we couldn't predict the date. In future years, we will place a yellow notice of our intent to burn on doors of nearby landowners just prior to the burn. We will also continue to wait for that due-south wind in the future.

Most of Highway 51 is Open; Babcock Boat Ramp Closed 'till June

It's a welcome word and a lot fewer miles to drive for many of us. Beth Canestra of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation reports that Highway 51 opened on Monday, November 15.

Canestra said the highway is fully open from Stoughton to McFarland, but the portion between McFarland and the Beltline is open to traffic only on one side of the four-lane road because concrete poured on the Siggelkow Road bridge still hasn't cured fully.

She expects that portion of Highway 51 north of Siggelkow Road to open in late November or early December. "We are hoping to have all four lanes open for winter, before we shut down for the season," she said.

Canestra also cautioned motorists to avoid the Siggelkow Road interchange because the contractors have not finished work there.

While its good news the road is open, that's not the case for the Babcock Park boat launch, which has been closed for renovations since September. Jim Mueller of Dane County Parks says that area will be closed until June because

Dane County is expanding the parking lot and adding a fourth boat launch to the site. "We are hoping to have it open before then, but a lot depends on the weather. If we get a warm winter again, then we can probably work on a lot of this over the winter," he said, indicating the ramp and lot may be open sooner.

The renovation of the boat launch and parking lot will mean a majority of the car and trailer parking will be moved to the lake side of Highway 51, eliminating much of the pedestrian crossover traffic to the overflow parking lot. Mueller said the county is increasing the existing 31-parking-space lot to 80 car-trailer parking spaces by purchasing additional property and vacating a portion of Camp Leonard Road.

The overflow lot on the east side of the highway will still exist, he said, but parking in it will be more strictly controlled. Mueller said he expects the overflow lot will still be used frequently, since on peak week-ends the boat launch has had an average of 140 users.

In addition to the renovations on land, the county will be dredging the lagoon so that more boat-

ers can stay in the lagoon in bad weather as they wait for boat ramp space. On the other side of the river, in the campground area,

Mueller said a new restroom and shower facility is planned. That facility, he said, will probably open in 1994.

Summer Student Intern Saves The Day During Tornado Aftermath

This past summer Molly McCormick, Sun Prairie, served as a summer intern in the town hall. Molly is a senior at the University of Minnesota—Morris studying political science and women's studies.

She joined the Dunn office staff in early June. Originally she was hired to help update the town's ordinances, work on an office procedures manual and to work with updating several planning and land use maps. Instead, because of the June 17th tornado disaster, she became an invaluable office assistant, helping to process disaster assistance forms and being an addition team member in the town office.

"She was a blessing to have here," says Clerk Roz Gausman. "We needed extra support with a disaster relief person but, even



with all that she accomplished some of the goals that we set as her initial projects."

Molly returned to UM—Morris in late August and will graduate next spring. Next summer the town is hoping to find another able summer intern.