

The Official TOWN OF DUNN NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012

Good News for Town of Dunn Residents

by Cathy Hasslinger

The Town of Dunn is rich with acres of natural habitats, woods, wetlands, prairies, farm crops and beautiful shorelines along Lake Waubesa, Lake Kegonsa, and the Yahara River. Situated close to Madison, with low tax rates, we have convenience and cost efficiency on our side too. We are truly fortunate to find our homes in this unique and beautiful location. This year, there are a few new advantages to share with our readers.

Dunn Residents Save 30% on curbside trash and recycling

Last year's tax bills had a special

charge for trash and recycling of \$193. That charge is going down by \$54 for every household to just \$139 on the tax bills property owners will receive in December. More information in the new automated trash and recycling service appears on page 8.

Reduced Tax Burden for Dunn Property Owners

Taxes levied by the school districts, county, state, and technical college may be increasing, but Dunn property owners will be paying a smaller share of the taxes levied by those larger taxing jurisdictions.

Town of Dunn property owners will

get some property tax relief. Equalized value is used by the state to apportion taxes to property owners for the school districts, state, county, and technical college.

The Town's equalized value as determined by the Department of Revenue has declined by 8%. More information on this topic appears on page 5.

Views From the Town Chair

Edmond P. Minihan, Dunn Town Chair



The cranes are grouping up for their southern journey. The training flights have been completed and this year's colts are nearly full sized and strong enough to make it to their winter home. They are travelling to a new environment, while most of us remain here, in our current environment.

But our environment is changing in major ways. This is not about the climate. It is about what is happening in our governmental environment. For municipalities, the effects

have been significant and rapid. The changes are only tangentially related to the economy. As all levels of government are being financially squeezed, municipalities take the brunt of the reductions. The effects are more than just financial. As state and county governments are reduced in capacity, they understandably go into survival mode. That means that the responsibilities they have to municipalities becomes secondary.

The effects are not in the abstract. We have found our Town has

to increasingly advocate for our citizens in order to get state agencies to perform their responsibilities. Just a few of the examples are the long fought battle with the Department of Revenue to fairly adjust our equalized value. Our residents have been paying more than their fair share of the tax for schools, county, state and other property taxes placed on property. Due to great effort on the part of staff, this has finally been recognized by the Department and has been corrected, at least in part.

We have repeatedly attempted to get the Department of Transportation to address the much needed safety improvements on Highway (please see Chair's Views on page 3)

**TOWN OF DUNN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday November 20, 2012, 7:00 PM**
Following the Budget Hearing
Dunn Town Hall
4156 County Road B

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF DUNN, DANE COUNTY

Notice is hereby given of a Special Town Meeting called pursuant to Wis Stats. 60.12(1)(c), by the Town Board of the Town of Dunn, on November 20, 2012 immediately following the budget hearing at 7:00 PM at the Dunn Town Hall at 4156 County Road B, McFarland. The purpose of the meeting is:

I. Introductions and Announcements

II. Business

- A. Approve minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting April 10, 2012.
- B. Approve the highway expenditures pursuant to Section 82.03(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.
- C. Set the wages for elected officials for the next term (April 2013 - April 2015).
- D. Approve the 2012 tax levies for the General Fund, Debt Service Fund and Rural Preservation Fund for the 2013 operating budgets.

Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager, WCMC

Posted October 25, 2012

Town Meetings are the forums at which major issues and town policy are decided. The residents of the town are the decision makers. Every resident of legal voting age present casts a vote.

Agendas and announcements for all special meetings are posted at the following locations: the bulletin board outside the Town Hall, 4156 County Road B; the message board on the corner of Waubesa Ave. and Third Street; and Quick Stop, 1888 Barber Drive.

Town Contact Information

Town Webpage: www.town.dunn.wi.us
Town Email: townhall@town.dunn.wi.us
New Phone Number: (608) 838-1081

**Town of Dunn
4516 County Road B
McFarland, WI 53558**

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1027

US 51 Corridor Study

Submit comments to:
Jeff Berens at 608-245-2656 or jeff.berens@dot.wi.gov

View the latest maps at:
<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/swregion/5139901218/>
(link is on our website)

POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
PLEASE DELIVER NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 7, 2012

Land Trust Commission Bids a Fond Farewell to Chair Beth Hastings, Seeks New Commission Member

by Erica Schmitz

Heartfelt thanks to Beth Hastings

At its May meeting, the Land Trust Commission said farewell to Land Trust Commission Chair Beth Hastings, thanking her for her outstanding service. Beth had served as chair of the commission since its creation in 1997. Under Beth's leadership, the Land Trust Commission used the Purchase of Development Rights program to permanently protect 25 properties for a total of nearly 2,900 acres of protected land. Earlier this year, Beth was honored with the Town Stewardship Award for her leadership in land preservation. The Town will be forever grateful to Beth for shepherding the Rural Preservation Program from its inception to its current status as a successful, nationally recognized leader in land conservation. We wish her all the best in the future. She will be greatly missed.

Commission under new leadership

The Commission is pleased to announce the appointment of Tracy

Wiklund as chair of the Land Trust Commission. Tracy has served as a dedicated member of the Land Trust Commission since 2006. We are very thankful that Tracy agreed to be appointed and look forward to the next phase of success for the Rural Preservation Program under her guidance.

Commission seeks volunteer for vacant seat

With Beth's departure, the Commission announces the opening of a seat on the commission and encourages interested Town residents to apply. The Land Trust Commission oversees the Rural Preservation Program, including the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program. The Commission is especially interested in applicants with experience in planning, land preservation, conservation, and knowledge of regional development plans. Any resident of the Town of Dunn is eligible to apply. Please contact Erica Schmitz, Land Use Manager and staff to the Land Trust Commission, with any questions at 608-838-1081 ext. 205 or eschmitz@town.dunn.wi.us.

Enjoy the Fall Colors but be Sure to Keep Leaves Out of the Street and Ditches

Has it happened to you? You look out the window one day to find your entire yard covered in a patchwork mosaic of yellow, orange and red leaves and you wonder, "Where has the summer gone?"

Beautiful as the fall leaves are, they mean lots of yard work for local homeowners. One option for reducing your workload is to use a mulching lawn mower to mulch leaves into your yard. It is less time intensive than raking and the shredded leaves act as a natural fertilizer during the fall.

While you are tending to your yard, take a moment to sweep or rake leaves and branches out of the

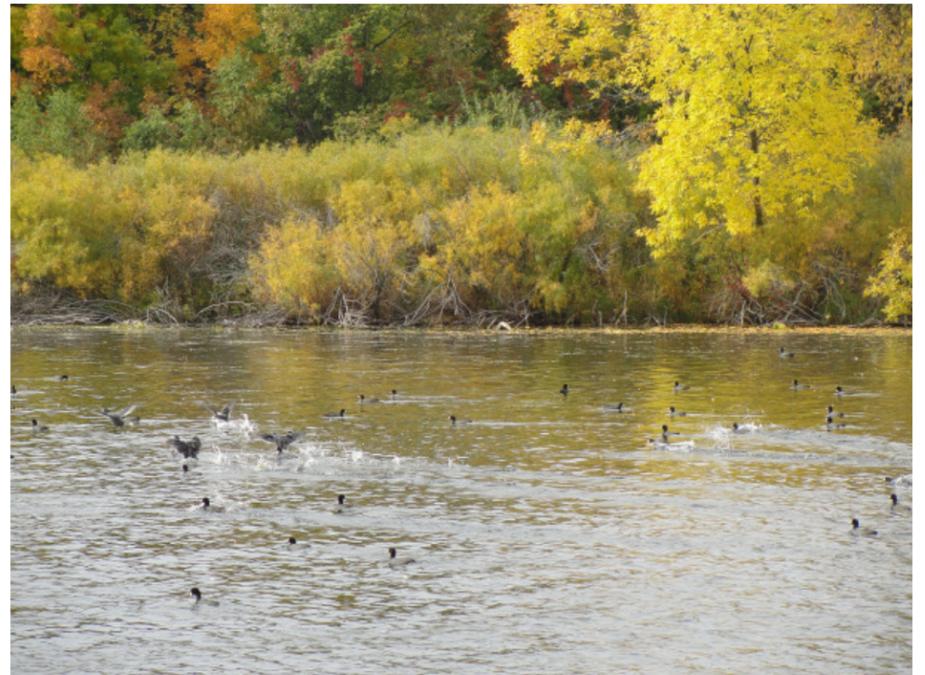
street in front of your house. Left in the street, they can clog culverts, contributing to localized flooding. When washed into nearby lakes, rivers and streams via storm drains or ditches, the leaves become a major source of phosphorus, the nutrient that allows algae to bloom in the summer. Dispose of leaves by composting them in your yard, or bringing them to your community compost facility (our Town Transfer Site). Keep leaves and yard waste out of the regular garbage, and never dump them in wetlands, buffer areas, road right of ways or ditches – it's illegal!

Source: cleanwatermn.org

Shared Table Free Community Meals

Shared Table Free Community Meals are held weekly on Thursdays at the Family Life Center of McFarland Lutheran Church on the corner of Marsh Rd and CTH MN (Broadhead Street). Doors open at 5:00 PM and meals are served from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. All are welcome! If you have questions, please call 838-8274.

Dunn Signs on to Landmark Effort to Improve Water Quality in our Lakes and Streams



The Town of Dunn is teaming with Dane County, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and 30 other cities, villages, and towns throughout the Yahara Watershed to implement a groundbreaking effort, to reduce amounts of algae-forming phosphorus that enter area streams, rivers and lakes. This first of its kind effort is known as the Yahara WINS partnership (Yahara Watershed Improvement Network). It was created significantly reduce phosphorus pollution from all sources, including urban and rural runoff, as well as municipal wastewater treatment plants, industrial and commercial sources. Excessive phosphorus runoff leads to algae growth in area waterways.

The four-year Yahara WINS pilot project is the first of its kind in the nation to use an innovative approach called adaptive management to meet regulatory requirements to reduce phosphorus loads to area waters. Phosphorus sources have traditionally addressed regulatory requirements in an independent manner, often-times resulting in expensive, resource-intensive solutions. Through this Yahara WINS project, MMSD, local municipalities and area farms will combine resources and add cost effective practices throughout the watershed to reduce phosphorus runoff.

In adaptive management, all sources of phosphorus work collaboratively to implement cost effective phosphorus control practices throughout the watershed. Control practices will vary, and will likely involve a mix of agricultural and urban best management practices (BMPs).

The Yahara WINS project will reduce the total watershed cost of complying with the phosphorus reduction requirements by an estimated 75%. Phosphorus control costs vary significantly depending on the practice used. Current estimates show an average compliance cost of approximately \$120 per pound of phosphorus removed using traditional approaches and \$30 per pound removed for compliance using adaptive management.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to implement the Yahara WINS project was signed by cities, towns, villages, farmers, government regulators and environmental organizations.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency have been very supportive of this project, believing that it can serve as a model at the state and national level.

Source: Dane County press release, MMSD press event handout

Town Hall Hours and Closings

- The Town Hall is open Monday to Friday from 8 AM - 4 PM.
- Closed Thursday, November 22
- Closed Friday, November 23 (Day After Thanksgiving)
- Closed Monday, December 24
- Closed Tuesday, December 25
- Closed Tuesday, January 1st
- Closed Monday, January 21st
- Town Hall may close when local schools are canceled to reduce traffic and facilitate snow removal.

Chair's Views (continued)

(continued from front page)

51. In other times, it would have been corrected, but now it is not the priority it needs to be for the protection of the people who travel that road. They will not even let us put up signage on the road to direct people to a storm shelter when there is an emergency. A great deal of effort has been expended to get this accomplished, but to no avail so far.

The DOT recently held a public information meeting on the US 51 corridor study. It's very important for the DOT to hear from Dunn residents as they move toward choosing a path that could permanently change the character of the Town. The Town recognizes the serious need for safety improvements on the roadway. This is why your Town Board is supporting the Low Build Alternative, which adds key safety features without the significant farmland and residents' homes sacrificed in the 4 lane alternative. Please see the Contact information at the bottom of page 1 and take the time to submit comments at this crucial point in the process.

The same is true with lake levels on the Yahara chain. Thanks to substantial participation from lake groups and our staff, the issue is at least being worked on. It is particularly important for our Town since we have more lakeshore and river shore of any municipality in Dane County.

The Town worked very hard to

get the County to do the right thing with the contaminated property now known as the Old Station Property. Only after the Town committed to undertake the clean up of the contamination, did the County finally take the property as they are required to do. There are at least six other properties in other parts of the County that are similarly contaminated and will not be taken by the County because of the cost. We were able to get this done only after a great deal of effort.

Our employees continue to handle the critical day to day responsibilities of the Town. They continue to work effectively despite the fact that there have been no raises in four years and the State has required us to reduce their income by an average of \$5,000 each year (the first reduction being forced upon us part way through the first year), a hardship for most any household.

These battles continue, but we are holding our own. The coming year will see the same level of service that people are accustomed to. Roads will be plowed, parks maintained, laws enforced, permits issued, and advocacy for our residents with respect to getting other levels of government to do their jobs. There are wonderful things happening in the Town thanks to the high level of citizen participation and the hard work of our dedicated staff.

As a result, the Town will continue to be the vibrant place it is to welcome the return of the cranes next Spring.

Voter Information Online at the My Vote Website

Visit the new My Vote website at <https://myvote.wi.gov/> to look up your voter record and view the following:

- Voter registration status (active or not)
- Polling place address (Town of Dunn residents vote at the Town Hall)
- Voting history
- Absentee ballot history
- Provisional ballot status
- View a sample ballot for a recent or upcoming election
- Current office holders for local, congressional and legislative

offices

- Local, congressional, and legislative voting districts

You may also search by your address to find your voting districts, municipal clerk, polling place and more.



New Assembly District

In Wisconsin, responsibility for redrawing legislative and congressional district lines rests with the legislature. The legislature is required to redraw legislative and congressional districts every ten years based upon the results of the decennial federal census.

The redistricting based on the

2010 census and finalized with Act 43 in 2011 affected all residents of the town. Those residing in Assembly District 46 and 48 are now in Assembly District 47.

All residents of the Town of Dunn are now in Senate District 16, County Supervisory District 34, and State Assembly District 47.

Poet's Corner with John Herm



On July 18, 2011, the Town of Dunn appointed John Herm as the Town's Poet Laureate. At this meeting, Dr. Herm read his poem "Ice Shoe" to the Town Board and to the residents in attendance. Hearty applause followed this reading and Dr. Herm has been greeted with praise for his poems ever since. You can listen to John read his original poems at various Town events such as the Special Town Board Meeting and Arbor Day. You can find some of Dr. Herm's poems on our website along with the Town Proclamation appointing Dr. Herm as the Poet Laureate and a Wisconsin State Journal article in which he was featured.

The Town of Dunn is proud to introduce a new feature to its newsletter: Poet's Corner. The section will feature one of the many amazing poems of the Town of Dunn Poet Laureate, John Herm. For our first segment, we are publishing two of Dr. Herm's works. We hope you enjoy Dr. Herm's poems.

Fall

Every year in August or September,
There's a day I mark so I remember
A day I always seem to recall,
It's the day I smell the approach of fall.

It's just a wisp of fleeting air
That gives me pause to stop and stare,
For still it seems like summer there
With flowers in bloom and fruits to bear.

It makes me think of the year that passed,
Some memories gone and some that last
As well as years that slipped on by,
Of times we laughed and times we cried.

It's funny how a single day
Can suddenly sweep your mind away.
It's the day I always like to recall
The day I feel the approaching Fall

Mother's Garden

I pick through rock piles others made
On sides of fields now deep in shade,
So I can find some stepping stones
And build a path to ease the grade

In Mother's garden... full of mist...
That she had sown with seeds she'd kissed,
Deep rooted now, full glory grown...
There I'll lay the stepping stones.

I hear her voice, her favorite place
Where flowers bloom in quiet grace,
She spoke of gardens I might make
With stepping stones to ease the grade.

TOWN OF DUNN PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET

2013 Budget Delivers Good News for Property Taxes

By Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager

The new budget delivers good news relating to property taxes for Town of Dunn property owners. For 2013, tax bills will show a reduction of \$54 per residence for the trash special charge. That will reduce out of pocket costs for every residence by \$54.

The 2013 budget for the Town of Dunn continues to trim costs, but does not involve the drastic cutbacks we experienced in 2012. The 2013 budget reduces General Fund expenditures for the third year in a row. Looking back three years to the 2009 budget shows that our budgeted general fund expenditures for 2013 are \$41,759 less than the 2009 budgeted amounts, despite steeply increasing prices for asphalt, salt and emergency services. Over the past several years the town has absorbed higher costs, while spending less, and cutbacks were made each year. The areas most affected were reduced roadwork, reduced civic contributions to senior centers, and reduced staff.

The 2013 budget provides for hours, services, and civic donations to be maintained at current levels and cutbacks are made to capital expenditures and reductions in staff hours including one staff position reduced from 32 hours per week to 28 hours per week and two full-time positions reduced to 95% hours.

The Tax Levy for 2012

The Town's tax levy includes a general fund tax levy, a debt service tax levy, and a PDR tax levy (to operate the Purchase of Development Rights Program). The proposed increase in the town's total levy is 4.9% for 2012 to fund the 2013 budget. The levy increase offsets reduced revenue from other sources and covers a 4.91% increase in the debt service levy. The debt service levy increased due to borrowing for road reconstruction and for the town's share of capital improvements in the Oregon Fire and EMS district. The mil-rate for the proposed total local levy on all three funds is \$2.60 per thousand of assessed valuation. The equalized mil-rate is \$2.61 or \$261.00 tax for a \$100,000 property value. The local levy amount could change based on decisions made by the citizens attending the budget hearing and special town meeting on November 20, 2012. A more detailed version of the draft budget will be presented at the budget hearing and will be posted on the town website after the hearing. Visit our website at <http://town.dunn.wi.us>

Revenues: The total tax revenue for the general fund is proposed to decrease by \$4,284 in 2013. Revenue from fees and licenses is anticipated to remain steady for 2013. The small increase in total revenue will provide for general fund expenditures and transfers to sinking funds for highway improvements and debt service.

Expenses: Contributions to area senior centers, youth centers, and employee compensation remain largely unchanged in the 2013 budget after deep cuts to these three areas in 2012. The Town's contract with the Dane County Sheriff's Department will be maintained at 18 hours per week after a 20% reduction in 2012. Public safety costs are reduced by \$4597 in the 2013 budget due to a change in how the town's portion of the Oregon Fire and EMS District debt is being handled. The town's portion of that debt is being added to the town's debt service levy for 2013. This change provided additional funds to the Oregon Fire and EMS district and \$25,000 in additional cost to the Town of Dunn. There are

GENERAL FUND	2011 Actual Year End	2012 YTD 10/15/2012	2012 Estimated Year End	2012 Adopted Budget	2013 Proposed Budget	Variance 2012 2013
REVENUES						
TOTAL Taxes	1,020,996	1,173,613	1,176,755	1,175,208	1,170,924	-4,284
TOTAL Intergov. Rev	319,121	211,160	298,803	292,563	317,066	24,503
TOTAL Lic./Permits	74,313	51,593	71,863	49,244	54,583	5,339
TOTAL Fines/Penalties	36,580	11,749	15,286	24,050	20,100	-3,950
TOTAL Publ Charges	382,714	381,716	382,087	382,993	383,500	507
TOTAL Misc. Revenues	16,133	7,743	8,642	13,200	9,100	-4,100
TOTAL General Fund Revenues	1,850,012	1,837,573	1,953,436	1,937,258	1,955,273	18,015
EXPENDITURES						
TOTAL General Gov.	323,366	233,628	321,735	352,164	343,993	-8,171
TOTAL Public Safety	464,062	353,810	475,692	488,517	483,920	-4,597
TOTAL Public Works	798,403	686,728	870,354	871,314	875,999	4,685
TOTAL Health & Human Svc	65,280	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
TOTAL Culture Recreation	38,110	29,027	37,365	34,703	33,940	-763
TOTAL Conservation & Dev.	30,980	24,502	32,115	35,106	35,540	434
TOTAL Transfers	129,811	105,454	285,924	105,454	106,707	1,253
TOTAL General Fund Exp. & Transfer	1,850,012	1,483,150	2,073,185	1,937,258	1,930,098	-7,160
BEGINNING GEN FUND BALANCE	549,629	549,629	549,629	549,629	429,880	-119,749
REVENUES	1,850,012	1,837,573	1,953,436	1,937,258	1,955,273	18,015
EXPENDITURES	1,720,201	1,377,696	1,787,261	1,831,804	1,823,391	-8,413
TRANSFERS	129,811	105,454	285,924	105,454	106,707	
ENDING GEN FUND BALANCE	549,629	904,053	429,880	549,629	455,055	-94,574
RURAL PRESERVATION FUND (PDR)						
BEGINNING PDR FUND BALANCE	1,506,114	1,456,050	1,456,050	1,456,050	1,840,600	384,550
REVENUES	357,628	249,130	749,470	746,060	818,113	72,053
EXPENDITURES	407,693	242,763	364,920	1,290,076	1,303,756	13,680
ENDING PDR FUND BALANCE	1,456,050	1,462,417	1,840,600	912,034	1,354,956	442,923
BURYING GROUND (BG)						
BEGINNING BG FUND BALANCE	44,373	44,725	44,725	44,725	45,545	820
REVENUES	5,474	3,206	6,572	6,600	6,600	0
EXPENDITURES	5,122	1,403	5,752	5,752	5,770	18
ENDING BG FUND BALANCE	44,725	46,529	45,545	45,573	46,375	802
DEBT SERVICE FUND (DS)						
BEGINNING DS FUND BALANCE	-107,786	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES	495,709	421,889	582,359	421,889	450,005	28,116
EXPENDITURES	387,923	388,727	582,359	421,889	450,005	28,116
ENDING DS FUND BALANCE	0	33,162	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (CP)						
CAPITAL PROJECT REVENUE						
Grant Income State TRIPLRIP	0	0	0	0	13,293	13,293
Loan Proceeds - Capital Improvements	117,715	0	134,346	230,000	110,000	-120,000
Loan Proceeds - Hwy Equip	0	0	43,325	70,000	0	-70,000
Loan Proceeds Drainage Project	3,549	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers in from Gen Fund	0	0	0	0	76,707	76,707
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJ. REVENUE	121,264	0	177,671	300,000	200,000	-100,000
CAPITAL PROJECT EXPENSES						
Road Construction Expenditure	114,244	125,230	125,230	165,000	100,000	-65,000
Dyreson Bridge	3,472	9,116	9,116	65,000	65,000	0
Hwy Related Equipment Exp.	0	43,325	43,325	70,000	35,000	-35,000
Transfers out	3,549	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJ. EXPENSE	121,264	177,671	177,671	300,000	200,000	-100,000
BEGINNING CP FUND BALANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES	121,264	0	177,671	300,000	200,000	-100,000
EXPENDITURES	121,264	0	177,671	300,000	200,000	-100,000
ENDING CP FUND BALANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0

VALUATION	2011	2012	2013	% change
ASSESSED VALUATION	665,165,000	638,406,500	Not available	
EQUALIZED VALUATION	703,029,800	635,025,400	Not available	
TAX LEVY				
GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY	991,400	1,153,976	1,151,123	
DEBT SERVICE TAX LEVY	178,887	179,603	188,417	
PDR TAX LEVY	351,858	246,060	317,513	
TOTAL LEVY	1,522,145	1,579,639	1,657,053	4.90%
ASSESSED VALUE MIL RATE	2.20	2.38	2.60	
EQUALIZED VALUE MIL RATE	2.16	2.25	2.61	
YEAR END UNDESIG. FUND BALANCE	549,629	429,880	455,055	
	estimated	estimated	estimated	
*levy reduced by estimated State Exempt Computer Aid of \$302				
Current year assessment ratio	100.00%			
Prior year assessment ratio	94.61%			

Year 2013 Budget Highlights (continued)

four municipalities that support the district in proportional shares and each municipality has increased its contribution for 2013.

In the Public Works budget, the street repair and maintenance will include a 12% increase in the amount for road repairs and seal coating. Seal coating is planned for Alsmo Lane, Elvehjem Road, Peterson Road, Tura Lane, Orvold Park Road, Hart Circle, Edgewood Drive, and Woodland Road. Large culvert replacements planned for 2013 include nine culverts on Schneider Drive and one on Sandhill Road for a total of \$34,000. Five of these culverts will be partially funded by cost sharing grants.

Capital Projects

Capital projects planned for 2013 include road reconstruction for \$100,000 to repave a portion of Goodland Park Road west of Waubesa Avenue. The Dyreson Bridge historic restoration project is budgeted for \$65,000. Highway equipment purchases include \$35,000 to upgrade the town's

excavator owned jointly with the Town of Oregon and the Town of Rutland. The road reconstruction project, equipment purchase, and Dyreson Bridge project will involve borrowing \$110,000, and a transfer of \$76,700 from the Highway sinking fund, plus funding from grants for the Dyreson Bridge project and State's Local Roads Improvement program.

Debt Service

New debt for 2013 is expected to be \$110,000 to cover the highway reconstruction, bridge restoration and equipment upgrade. It is proposed that the town retire a loan 5 years ahead of schedule in 2012. The remaining loan amount is \$153,560 and the interest rate is 4.45%. The early payment will reduce future debt service and reduce interest costs. The town's current cost for borrowing is 2.5% for a 5 year loan with the State Trust Fund. The town has been working to reduce debt with higher interest rates in favor of lower cost loans.

2012 Mil-Rate Charts

The chart below shows the local mil-rates for some municipalities in Dane County as reported on the www.wistax.org website. The Town of Dunn's careful planning and long range view in decision making have likely contributed to the Town's consistently low mil-rate when compared to other municipalities with similar services and similar populations. The mil-rates for the cities and villages closest to the town are also listed for comparison.

2012 Mil-Rate Comparison for Towns	Pop.	* Equalized Mil-Rate	Local Tax/\$100,000
Town of Madison	6,279	7.03	\$703.00
Town of Windsor	6,410	4.52	\$452.00
Town of Blooming Grove	1,815	4.12	\$412.00
Town of Cottage Grove	3,879	3.77	\$377.00
Town of Verona	1,950	3.51	\$351.00
Town of Middleton	5,921	2.70	\$270.00
Town of Deerfield	1,572	2.67	\$267.00
Town of Rutland	1,972	2.62	\$262.00
Town of Dunkirk	1,946	2.61	\$261.00
Town of Albion	1,955	2.60	\$260.00
Town of Sun Prairie	2,315	2.44	\$244.00
Town of Dunn	4,928	2.25	\$225.00
Town of Oregon	3,188	2.24	\$224.00
Town of Blue Mounds	972	2.12	\$212.00
Town of Pleasant Springs	3,162	1.38	\$138.00

2012 Mil-Rate Comparison for Neighboring Cities and Villages	Pop.	* Equalized Mil-Rate	Local Tax/\$100,000
Village of Belleville	1,850	8.15	\$815.00
Village of Brooklyn	939	7.64	\$764.00
City of Stoughton	12,588	7.62	\$762.00
City of Fitchburg	25,192	7.44	\$744.00
Village of Cambridge	1,350	6.94	\$694.00
Village of McFarland	7,818	6.61	\$661.00
Village of Deerfield	2,342	5.91	\$591.00
Village of Oregon	9,263	5.41	\$541.00
Village of Cottage Grove	6,209	4.20	\$420.00

*Tax Mil rate levied in 2011, collected in 2012. Information is from Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance website at www.wistax.org

Reduced Tax Burden for Dunn Property Owners

by Cathy Hasslinger

After three consecutive years of property revaluations, town property owners will finally benefit from a reduction in equalized value. The equalized value for the town has been reduced by 8% as determined by the State Department of Revenue. Equalized value plays an important role in determining the apportionment of taxes for each property in the state.

The Department of Revenue allocates the tax levies of the state, county, and school districts to tax payers based on the equalized value. Property owners with a reduction in equalized value will pay less state, county, and school taxes than those who do not have a reduction. Overall, this year's reduction will have a significant impact and reduce the overall tax burden for Town of Dunn property owners by more than \$700,000 in total.

In 2010 and 2011 the town's equalized value did not decrease as much as our surrounding municipalities and tax burden shifted toward the town. The reduction in equalized value was essential this year to reverse that shift and assure a fair apportionment of taxes.

Gaining the 8% reduction in equalized value did not come easily. The Department of Revenue's Equalization Supervisor, who was assigned to handle the Town of Dunn's value retired. The initial determination allowed for only a 5% reduction this year. The assessor made efforts and the town consulted an attorney, but the Department of Revenue stood by their 5% number at first. Eventually, I was able to work directly with an Equalization Supervisor from the Milwaukee region, James Bender, who agreed to reconsider some data that we felt did not represent fair market values in the analysis. Mr. Bender made no promises, but agreed to run the numbers one last time. We were hoping for a careful review of all the data and circumstances to ensure an accurate number. The result was a more favorable 8% adjustment instead of the initial 5%.

We have provided some estimated information about how the reduction in equalized value will affect property owners in each school district by reducing mil-rates or reducing an increase in the mil-rate for the school district. The information relates to the school district

levies and does not include state, county, local and vocation school levies. All property owners will benefit from reductions or smaller increases in mil-rates.

McFarland School District Mil-Rate

The McFarland School district increased their levy by 2.1%. Typically an increase in the tax levy would mean an increase in the mil-rate, but due to the proportionally large reduction in equalized value this year, the mil-rate is decreasing. The school district portion of the mil-rate for Dunn properties in this district is decreasing by 1.9%.

McFarland School District Mil-rate Change in Dunn
--

-1.9%

Oregon School District Mil-Rate

The Oregon School district held the line at a zero increase in their levy. The school district portion of the mil-rate for Dunn properties in this district is projected to decrease by 5.53%.

Oregon School District Mil-rate Change in Dunn

-5.53%

Stoughton School District Mil-Rate

The Stoughton district has the lowest mil-rate of our three school districts and is currently operating under a referendum to increase tax levies. The district's tax levy increased by 8.55%. Due to the proportionally large reduction in equalized value this year, the mil-rate is increasing by a much smaller amount. The school district portion of the mil-rate for Dunn properties in this district is projected to increase by 2.37%.

Stoughton School District Mil-rate Change in Dunn
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+2.37%

Total Mil-rates

Levies for the state, county, and vocational school districts are not available yet. Total mil-rates will be published in December.

Property Tax Collection News

Property tax bills will be mailed out around December 15th and residents should receive them within a few days of mailing. Extra copies of tax bills can be printed from <http://accessdane.co.dane.wi.us/> or may be requested by email. Please remember to endorse the back of any mortgage company checks that are made out to you and the Town before mailing your payment. Return envelopes will be included with your tax bills for your convenience.

Around the Town



Parks Commission

A portion of Dunn Heritage has been mowed, burned and tilled and local farmer has planted corn. We are trying to alleviate the willow and other invasive species from that section so we can re-plant the prairie. After the corn planting, soybeans will be planted in 2014. The fall and winter of 2014 we will seed native species to restore the area to a pre-settlement habitat. Then residents can enjoy a beautiful prairie again.

The Arbor Day Celebration was a huge success this spring. Beth Hastings was the recipient of the Stewardship Award for her leadership in the preservation of farm land. Cal DeWitt, former UW Professor of Environmental Studies, was our speaker along with Mark Guthmiller, WDNR Forest Health Specialist. Free trees were given out and participants enjoyed a delicious pot luck supper.

Just a reminder that motorized vehicles are not allowed in our parks, that would include snowmobiles. Also please remember to clean up after your pets.

There is currently a vacancy on the Parks Commission. If you are interested in applying to become a commissioner, please contact Mary Gross at (608) 838-1081. The Parks Commission meets at the Town Hall at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of every month, except December. Meeting times and dates may vary - please check the posted agendas for accurate details.

Road Crew

We resurfaced a portion of Lake Kegonsa Road, Wilnor Drive, Alice Pauline Road and Bonner Trail. We seal coated Liatris Lane, Jordan Drive, Schuster Road, Holm Road, and the Oregon Heights Subdivision. Seal coating the roads a year or two after re-paving adds ten years to the life of the road. Also, by using our excavator we were able to replace five culverts that were rusted out this year.

Please do not park on the roads or on the shoulder when it snows for ease of snow removal. The state law states motorists need to be 300 feet behind a snowplow or a citation could be issued.

Plan Commission

We meet at 7:00 PM the second Monday of each month and welcome the public to our open meetings. We always post our agenda outside the Town Hall and on our web page. To be placed on our agenda, please contact Erica Schmitz, our Land Use Manager, at the Town Hall at 608-838-1081, ext. 205.

The Plan Commission continues to process land divisions, re-zonings, site plans and other land use requests under the guidance of our Comprehensive Plan.

The Plan Commission consists of the following seven individuals: Tim Andrews, Lorraine Gardner, Steve Greb, Dean Hein, Jim Molloy, Bob Uphoff, and Vicki Wangerin.

Police

The Town of Dunn contracts with the Dane County Sheriff's office to work for the Town for approximately 18 hours per week. We have four deputy sheriffs that alternate shifts. We also have court once a month and our elected Judge is Robert Schneider. Most of our ordinances are complaint driven.

Please remember to report a violation immediately when it occurs to the Dane County Sheriff's office by calling the non-emergency number at 266-4948 (in an emergency, dial 911). If the violation happens during office hours, please contact the Town Hall at 838-1081.

Building Inspector

Before winter comes, residents should check that their chimneys and fireplaces are not plugged. Also, be sure to clear a separate exit from the garage to the outside in case of a power outage and the overhead door can not be opened. Please check that there are fresh batteries in the smoke detectors and that carbon monoxide alarms are in working order.

Area Senior Centers Welcome Town Residents

Seniors in the Town of Dunn will find a surprising variety of low cost or free services and events at area senior centers. While exact services vary from one Center to another, you can expect to find meals, social activities, transportation to medical appointments and shopping, crafts and hobbies, peer support, and outreach.

Outreach Workers are available to assist senior citizens and disabled adults to secure resources which allow them to remain in their own homes. Outreach Workers can assist with finances (Medical Assistance, home-stead credit/deferred loan, fuel assistance, Community Options Programs, Social Security and S.S.I.), housing, medical equipment on loan, meal programs, transportation, and adult day care programs.

Senior Centers welcome volunteers and financial support from the

community. Residents interested in volunteering or making a donation to an area senior center may contact the senior center directly, or the Town of Dunn.

McFarland Senior Center
5915 Milwaukee Street,
McFarland, WI 53558
608-838-7117

Stoughton Senior Center
248 W Main St,
Stoughton, WI 53589
608-873-8585

Oregon Senior Center
219 Park Street,
Oregon, WI 53575
608-835-5801

Fitchburg Senior Center
5510 Lacy Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711
608-270-4290

Area Youth Centers Serving Town Residents

Area Youth Centers Provide Quality Programs for Middle School Students

Socialize, get help with your homework, or take part in one of the many programs offered at a Youth Center. Adult guided activities are typically available for middle school students during the after school hours from 3 pm to 6 pm. Some programs may be available for non-school days. Funding for the youth centers is uncertain in the 2012 budget year and community support may be an important part of how these services

are delivered in the future. Residents interested in making a donation to an area youth center may contact the youth center directly, or the Town of Dunn.

McFarland Youth Center
5114 Farwell St., McFarland
608-838-3839

Stoughton Youth Center
567 E. Main St., Stoughton
608-877-9980

Oregon Youth Center
110 N. Oak St., Oregon
608-835-0822

Volunteer Opportunities

McFarland Senior Center

Volunteer Drivers

McFarland Senior Outreach Services Department is looking for responsible volunteer drivers for the driver escort program. The drivers take older adults to vital medical appointments in McFarland, Stoughton and Madison. Schedules for driving are flexible, so volunteers can designate which days and times they are willing to drive. Mileage is reimbursed for this program. Interested drivers should contact the Outreach office at 838-7117.

McFarland Senior Center

Home Delivered Meals Driver Substitutes

Substitute drivers are needed for the home delivered meal program of McFarland. Meal deliveries are typically between 11:15 am - 12:15 pm, depending on the route (in town and out of town). Substitutes can indicate which days they are most available. Mileage is reimbursed. Call 838-7117 for more information.

McFarland Senior Center

Sewing Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to assist in

sewing projects that support battered women and other vulnerable citizens. Sewing groups meet the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and meet at the Homestead Apartments at 5910 Anthony Street (across from the Municipal Center). Please call 838-7117 to RSVP or to find out more information.

Oregon Senior Center

Volunteer Driver Escorts

Help adults 60 and over who do not have access to personal transportation and respond to requests for medical and medically related needs. Drivers are reimbursed 50 cents/mile and provided with insurance. Please call Gene at 441-7896 for more information or to sign up.

Oregon Senior Center

Volunteer Substitute Meal Delivery Drivers

Volunteer drivers are needed to help deliver meals on a substitute basis, when other drivers are unavailable. Tuesdays and Fridays are when substitute drivers are most needed. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Sandy at 835-5801, between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm.

Larson House Gathers New Life

By Jane Licht

If you have driven through the Village of McFarland lately, you probably noticed that the Victorian home at the intersection of Farwell and Exchange Streets is getting a facelift. But, more than a facelift, the house is catching new life.

Built in 1898 by E.D. Edwards and purchased by John O. Larson in 1911, this Queen Anne Victorian home was lovingly maintained for decades. John's wife died young and daughter Bertha came to live with him to run the household. When Bertha died in 1988, her younger sister inherited the house and was soon followed by a nephew who lives Wausau. For the past twenty years the once stately home stood neglected and on the verge of ruin.

Then the McFarland Historical Society purchased the property at a sheriff's sale last February and decided to take on the monumental task of restoring the Larson House. Society President Dale Marsden, who lives in the Town of Dunn, appointed a special committee to plan the restoration efforts. Marsden himself serves on the committee along with Ken Brost, Meg Nielsen, Judy St. Clair, Jackie Utter, Lee Ackley, Brenda and Greg Zier, and Town of Dunn resident Jane Licht (this writer) who chairs the Larson House Planning Committee.

Their first task was to develop a restoration plan that would be acceptable to the Village of McFarland Landmarks Commission. They did so and their plan was approved.

Unlike many other historic homes, the Larson House was never remodeled. Its woodwork and rooms remain in tact. Except for a

few minor changes, Bertha and her older sister Tonetta, who also lived in the house after she retired, kept the house just as it was when their parents lived there. By 2012, the interior of the home was still in relatively good condition because a new roof had recently been added. Both of these factors contributed greatly to the historic value of the home and made it worth saving.



However, water, the enemy of most old houses, took its toll on the exterior of the Larson House. The badly deteriorated side porch had been removed several years ago. The siding was severely damaged. The committee decided the best solution would be to remove and replace it with new cedar siding that was milled to be rounded and "fluted" (with decorative lines on the rounded edge) – just like the original boards. The trim has since been scraped and painted and the side porch rebuilt.

In the process of cleaning, repairing and restoring, the planning committee has enlisted the aid of a wealth of resources in McFarland and the Town of Dunn. Many contractors provided their expert opinions and even donated their time and materials. Volunteers from the Lion's Club and McFarland Lutheran Church mission group cleaned and hauled away trash.

Who are these civic-minded people who share our vision of a house museum to celebrate local history and are willing to give of their time and talents? They are listed on the website at www.mcfarland-historical.com and include Town of Dunn Chairman Ed Minihan who did some volunteer masonry work at the Larson House.

And then there are donors who have given \$10,000 each for the right of naming a room: the family of Crystal Lokken, McFarland State Bank, and the family of Stanley

Dodson. Others who have promised to name a room are the family of Anne and Howard Davis, and the descendants of Obed Larson (John's oldest son who ran Larson's Beach Resort).

Hundreds more have joined a veritable army of "Board Buyers" by donating \$25 per board to re-side the remaining two sides of the Larson House. (The Society had enough funds to re-side the back and north sides of the house this year, and hopes to complete the work next year.) Boards may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one and can be done on the Society's website. Board buyers will be listed inside the house museum.

Currently, the planning committee and others are gearing up for the Third Annual Chocolate Fest to be held Saturday, November 3, from 7 to 9 PM at the Curling Club, 4802 Marsh Road, in McFarland. This elegant evening of candlelight, champagne and an amazing quantity and quality of dreamy chocolate desserts can be enjoyed for \$15 per person. All ticket sales and proceeds from the silent auction go toward the restoration of the Larson House.

Back when electricity came to McFarland in 1920, John Larson had knob and tube wiring installed in his home. Community members who have embraced the historic Larson House look forward to the day when the original chandeliers will shine again.

Photo: Some of the many volunteers for the Larson House, L to R: Wes Licht, Dick Kohl, Ginny Dodson, Ken Brost, Judy St. Clair, Greg Zier, Brenda Zier, Jane Licht, Dale Marsden.

Successfully Raising an Idea: Chicken Ordinance Approved

by Courtney Brown, Town Resident

My husband and I moved to the Town of Dunn last year. We were so excited to live away from the city. We are loving the country life here. We love the sense of community and how neighbors know each other.

When moving here we considered many things, the schools, being close to the lakes, and most of all the size of our lot and what we could do with it. Before we bought our house we lived in an apartment. We were so excited to buy a house with some room to move around in and a large yard for a garden. We had been planning on having a huge garden, and planning our many stages of growing it to eventually be what we want. We imagined a huge pumpkin patch, many rows of tomatoes (one of our favorites and something we grow best), flower beds, herb gardens, even a chicken coop to supply fresh eggs for our family and friends as well as fertilize our gardens!

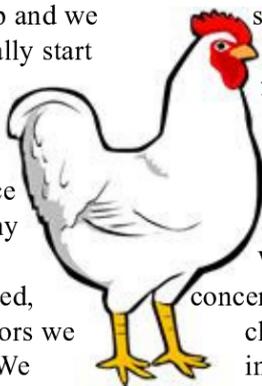
We were talking to the real-

tor who sold us our house about chickens last year. She was going to order some more chickens and was wondering if we wanted any for our place. We weren't planning on getting some so soon but thought about it and were very interested. After more thought we had some scrap wood to make a coop and we thought we could realistically start raising them as soon as spring. We started looking into what we may need to do to get some for our place (regulations as to how many we can have, what size chicken coop we would need, how far away from neighbors we would need it to be, etc.). We talked to the Town who told us we are not allowed to have any chickens in our yard because it wasn't allowed under Dane County zoning regulations. It was brought up a short time ago as an amendment, but was tabled because some concerns were brought

up, even though residents of many cities including Madison were and are currently allowed to have them. We had to decline the chickens for the time being.

After we heard this we contacted our County Supervisor Patrick Miles as well as the Town to voice our support for an amendment to allow chickens on single family lots. We have gotten together with others in the Town of Dunn as well as other towns who support the amendment.

We have all addressed the concerns about having "backyard chickens" and have a plan in place to reduce these concerns. People have been raising chickens for years and have been doing things to reduce noise, pollution, smell, diseases and disposal of waste. It is a great way to fertilize gardens as well as provide delicious eggs to everyone in the community!



Since then the amendment has been brought up and all towns have voted on it. We are looking forward to having healthy fresh eggs that are not trucked in from who knows where. It is wonderful to be able to come together with other people in the community to voice our opinions, and have things change for the better. It is amazing to live in a country, and a state/county/town where we can have the freedom to live a meaningful and free life! Thank you to the Town, Patrick Miles and everyone who helped get this amendment passed.

Editors note: Following the passage of Ordinance Amendment 11, 2012-13, beginning January 1, 2013, residents on single family residential lots are able to keep a maximum of 6 chickens, provided the owners comply with the provisions of the ordinance. To learn more, contact the Town of Dunn at 838-1081 or Dane County Zoning at 266-4266.



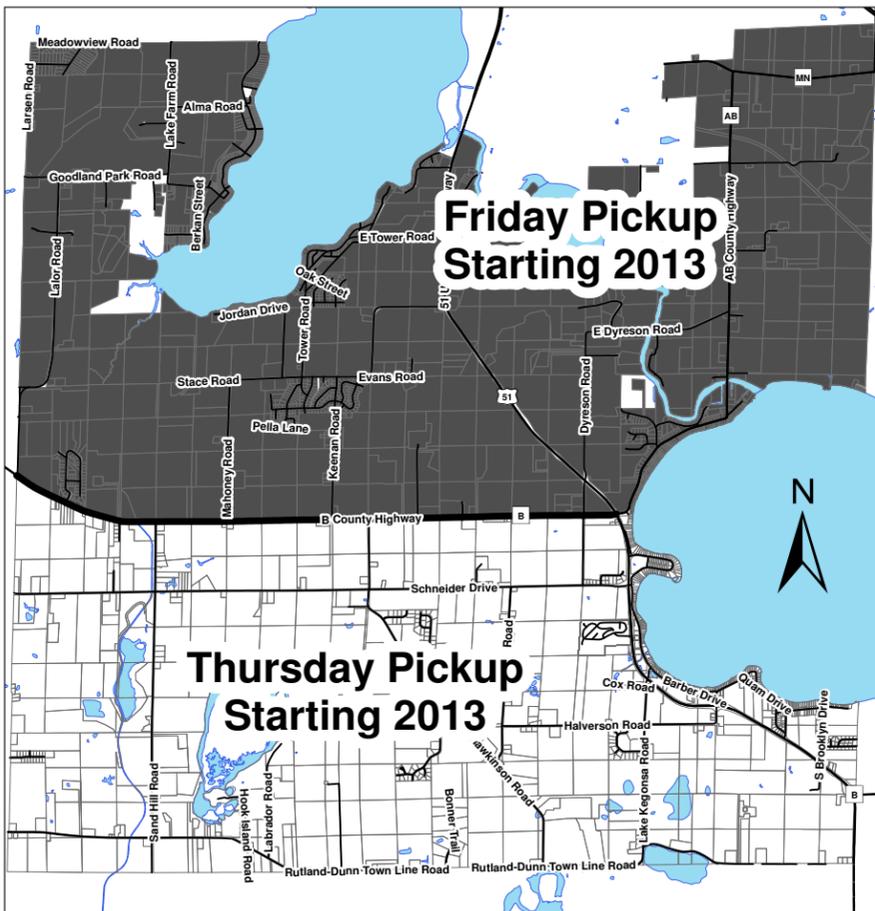
NEW TRASH AND RECYCLING PROGRAM WITH PELLITTERI

New Year = New Trash Day!

Beginning AFTER THE NEW YEAR, you will have a new trash day.

If you live NORTH of COUNTY ROAD B (shaded grey on the map below), your trash day will be FRIDAY

If you live SOUTH of COUNTY ROAD B (white on the map below), your trash day will be THURSDAY



*Sunnyside Street will have their trash picked up on Thursdays

Holiday Trash/Recycle Info

In a week that contains a Holiday, garbage & recycling pick up is delayed by one day. Please plan accordingly.

Dunn Residents Will Save \$54 on New Automated Trash and Recycling Pick-up

The Town of Dunn's new automated trash and recycling curbside pick up has many advantages including new trash and recycling carts equipped with wheels for easy handling, and a 30% reduction in the special charge for trash that appears on the property tax bill. Last year's tax bills included a special charge of \$193 per

residence for trash pick up and this year the special charge will be reduced to

\$139, a savings of \$54 for every household! Pellitteri Waste Systems is under contract for the next five years to provide the automated collection.

A mailing was sent to each

property owner by October 18th with information about the new service and offering each household the opportunity to choose from 3 cart sizes. Standard service includes a 35 gallon trash cart picked up weekly and a 65 gallon recycling cart picked up bi-weekly. The special charge of \$139 added to the tax bill covers the cost of

this standard level of service. Those wishing to upgrade to a 65 or 95 gallon trash or recycling cart can do so by contacting Pellitteri Waste Systems and making a payment of \$36 directly to Pellitteri for the additional service.

Waste Management 2011 Cost	Pellitteri 2012 Cost	Savings
\$193	\$139	\$54

Trash and Recycling Pick Up FAQs

Q: Why did the Town of Dunn switch to Pellitteri?

A: When the Town's contract with Waste Management expired in 2012, we requested bids from competing companies. Pellitteri responded with the most advantageous bid in terms of service and costs. Pellitteri is a local company and we hope that profits are more likely to stay in our regional economy. Property owners will save 30% (\$54 annually) on the trash special charge on their tax bill.

Q: How do I get rid of my unwanted Waste Management bins?

A: Waste Management will pick up the wheeled trash carts on the last pick up day in December of 2012. Wheeled carts must be returned, however you may keep your green recycling bin if you like. If you do not want Waste Management to take your green recycling bin, please leave a large, visible note on the bin that says "Leave Bin".

Q: What if I have old trash containers that I no longer want after the new carts are delivered?

A: A dumpster will be set up outside the Town Hall in the month of January. You may throw any remaining Waste Management bins or trash containers into this dumpster for recycling. Only Waste Management trash and recycling bins are allowed in these dumpsters. Please do not dispose of extra trash in this dumpster.

Q: What is the standard trash and recycling service?

A: Standard service for Town of Dunn residents is a 35-gallon trash cart and a 65-gallon recycling cart. The charge for these services is included on your tax bill as a \$139 special charge.

Q: What if I want a bigger cart?

A: You may upgrade the size of your trash cart to a 65 gallon or a 95 gallon cart by returning your old cart to the Pellitteri office at : 7035 Raywood Road in Monona, WI and making a payment to Pellitteri of \$36 per year. If you would prefer to have Pellitteri deliver your larger cart and pick up the smaller one, the cost is \$25 additional. Please call Pellitteri at (608) 257-4285 for more information

Q: What if I need more than 95 gallons for trash?

A: You can get an additional 95 gallon trash cart for an additional \$96, bringing the total paid to Pellitteri to \$132 on top of your tax bill charge.

Recycling & trash instructions will be inside your recycling bin when it is dropped off

Town of Dunn Transfer Site

¼ mile east of the Dunn Town Hall

Open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month

8 AM to 4 PM.

The Transfer Site accepts:

Holiday Trees - Pellitteri will not pick up trees left at the curbside. Trees without tinsel, decorations, or stands can be taken to the Town Transfer Site.

Scrap metal - Scrap iron, steel, copper, and other metals are accepted. We only accept motors after the gas and oil has been drained.

Antifreeze - Used antifreeze that is free from oil is accepted.

Motor oil - Used motor oil that is free of other liquids is accepted. You can recycle plastic motor oil containers and oil filters at the transfer site.

Leaves and grass clippings - Put any compostable material in the compost pile at the Transfer Site, or compost them yourself at home.

Brush and Wood - We take brush and limbs that are free of soil. We cannot take stumps, lumber, or wood furniture. **Dane County's landfill will take tree stumps, construction material and many other large items. Call 838-9555 for information.**

Tires - We charge a fee based on our costs for disposal. At the time of this publication auto tires were \$3 without rims and \$4 for tires with rims. Semi truck tires cost \$7 for disposal and tractor tires cost \$25. Tires (rims removed) can be taken to the Dane County Landfill for a small fee.

Appliances - We accept all appliances EXCEPT FOR TVs, electronics, water softeners, and dishwashers.

Questions? Call the Town Hall at 838-1081 extension 201