

The Official TOWN OF DUNN NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

Views From the Town Chair

Edmond P. Minihan, *Dunn Town Chair*

The Autumn is upon us. The Sandhill Cranes are beginning to group up now that their youngs' training flights are complete. They will be moving on soon to their wintering grounds, leaving us in our wintering grounds - Our homes in the Town of Dunn.

We have to remain here and make sure our wintering grounds are the safe, secure, and serene places that we have become accustomed to and have worked hard to create. The Town Board and staff are committed to keeping it that way. It is not going to be easy. All Wisconsin municipalities are under fiscal pressure imposed by the governor and legislature. State shared revenues have been cut drastically. Shared revenues are not a gift from the state. It is agreement between state and local governments to facilitate levy limits at the local level. It was the reason the sales tax was increased from 4% to 5%. The current administration has reneged on that agreement and substantially reduced shared revenues but maintained levy limits. You might notice that the sales tax has not been reduced accordingly, so they have broken an agreement with you as well. All municipalities are trying to operate under these constraints. The difference between the Town of Dunn and most other communities is that we have anticipated these difficult times. Most municipi-

palities are just beginning to realize this is for real.

We started adjustments early. Town employees have not had a raise in four years. On top of that, they have taken pay cuts that amount to about 10% of their compensation.

This was imposed mid-year, with very little time for our employees to adjust to the fact that what they had anticipated for the year is now substantially less. Yet they continue to help in keeping our operations as efficient as possible. Employees have been taking voluntary furloughs for the last two years and even with the state imposed pay cuts they continue to take voluntary furloughs. They have taken time off in lieu of being paid for overtime earned during snow storms and clean up from the occasional tornado. These are dedicated employees who are doing their part and more to help keep the Town financially healthy. Our workers have shown their commitment to maintain essential services to our residents even at their own expense. We are very fortunate to have employees of such caliber who are upholding the quality of Town services. Thank them the next time you see them. They deserve it.

There are certain perks in this job that make it worthwhile. I had the honor of appointing a Poet Laureate for the Town of Dunn. We are the only town to have one. He is John Herm, a resident of

Events You Won't Want to Miss

Tuesday, November 16th at 7 PM:

Budget Hearing Followed by Special Town Meeting at the Town Hall.

Monday, October 17th at 6 PM:

Senior Services Listening Session at the Town Hall.

the Town and a member of the Lalor road community. It is those folks who came up with the idea of having a poet laureate. It is significant that this notion was conceived on Lalor Road. For decades the efforts and talents of so many people have been dedicated to building a community that values and protects its resources for future generations. The residents of Lalor road epitomize those dedicated people. A few months ago, both sides of this rustic road became permanently protected. We will rely on Dr. Herm to commemorate, commiserate, and celebrate the milestones of our Town. His poetry is uplifting to read and emanates from someone who is steeped in the land ethic this Town has been able to bring to realization. One of his poems, *Ice Shoe*, is featured on page 7. When you read his work, you will be likewise uplifted.



Shown above, residents enjoy the 2011 Arbor Day celebration

Upcoming Shoreland Zoning Public Information Meeting: November 1st

Dane County Planning and Development will be holding a Public Information Meeting on proposed changes to shoreland zoning rules through NR-115 at the **Dunn Town Hall on Tuesday, November 1st at 6:30 PM**. This meeting will be a more in-depth follow up to a previous public meeting held at the Town Hall on August 10th. Demonstrations will be conducted to show how specific Town of Dunn properties will be affected by shoreland zoning changes. For more information on shoreland zoning, please go to http://www.countyofdane.com/plandev/planning/Shoreland_Zoning_Update.aspx or call Brian Standing at 267-4115 for questions about both shoreland zoning and the upcoming meeting.

**TOWN OF DUNN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday November 22, 2011, 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 22, 2011 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 12, 2011.
- B. Approve the highway expenditures pursuant to Section 82.03(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.
- E. Approve the 2011 tax levies for the General Fund, Debt Service Fund and Rural Preservation Fund for the 2012 operating budgets.

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.

Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager,
WCMC

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**

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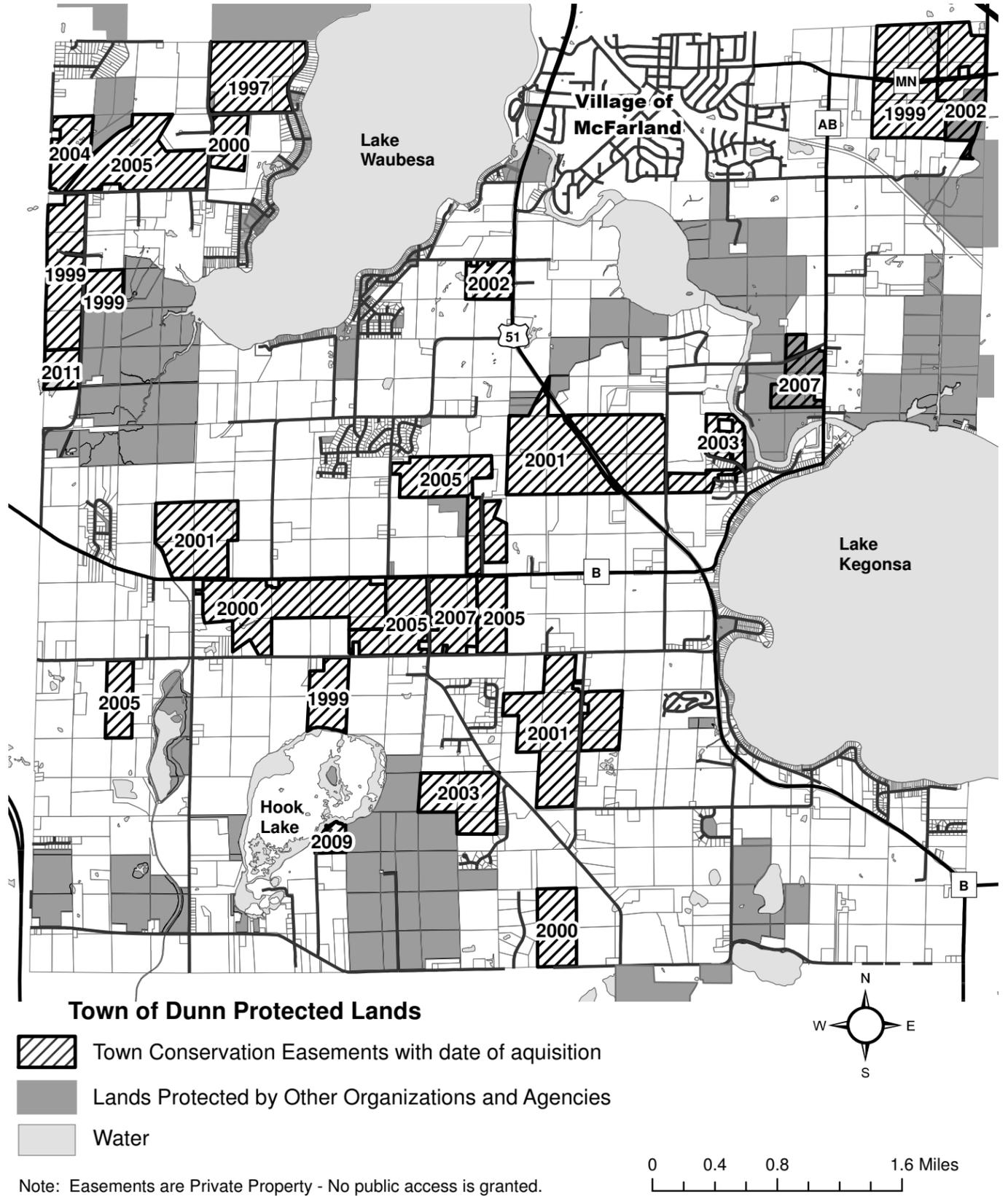
Celebrating Successes While Looking Toward the Future

by Erica Schmitz & Beth Hastings

Since its creation in 1996, the Town of Dunn's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program has been working to protect the rural landscape and character so valued by Dunn residents.

This year, the PDR program celebrates its 15th year. It's timely to look back on the successes as well as looking toward the future of the program. The map to the right shows the properties that the program has preserved and indicates the date of conservation easement purchase. In its first 15 years, the PDR program has permanently protected nearly 2,900 acres, which amounts to 15 % of the land area of the Town. Dunn has partnered with the Natural Heritage Land Trust to complete nearly every conservation easement shown. When the conservation efforts of other agencies and organizations are considered, approximately 25% of the land area of Dunn can be counted as permanently protected. This is a significant stride in protecting the rural character of the town, and gives us a solid foundation to build on for the future.

As we celebrate the achievements thus far, we also consider how best to continue to achieve our goals moving forward. The Land Trust Commission is currently working on evaluating the program ranking criteria and priorities for future acquisitions. In times of challenging budgets and limited funding partners, we're working hard to consider innovative ways to achieve cost-effective conservation. The Commission looks forward to celebrating future milestones in preserving land in the Town of Dunn and appreciates the ongoing support of the community.



Town Hall Hours and Closings

- The Town Hall is open Monday to Friday from 8 AM - 4 PM.
- Closed Thursday, November 24
- Closed Friday, November 25 (Day After Thanksgiving)
- Closed Friday, December 23
- Closed Monday, December 26
- Town Transfer Site will be closed December 31, 2011
- Town Hall may close when local schools are closed to reduce traffic and facilitate snow removal.

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 our website at <http://www.town.dunn.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 this year for your convenience.

Agricultural Enterprise Area Designation Means Farmers Eligible to Receive Tax Credits

A 10,436 acre portion of the Town of Dunn is officially designated as an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA). This represents a local commitment to fostering an agricultural economy, and also makes tax credits available to eligible Dunn farmers. The credits range from \$5 to \$10 per acre per year.

Eligible farmers located in a designated AEA may enter into voluntary farmland preservation agreements with the State in order to claim the farmland preservation tax credits. By entering into this agreement, a farmer agrees to keep land in agricultural use for the period of time specified in the agreement. Agreements must be for

at least 15 years. Landowners with a farmland preservation agreement signed prior to June 30, 2009 may modify the existing agreement to become eligible for the farmland preservation tax credit available under the new program.

Additional information and application materials are available at the Town Hall, by visiting http://datep.wi.gov/Environment/Working_Lands_Initiative/Farmland_Preservation_Agreements, or by contacting Kris Modaff at (608) 224-4633 or Kris.Modaff@wisconsin.gov.

Dunn Welcomes a New Case Manager for Senior Services

by Cathy Hasslinger

Senior Services Listening Session

Monday, October 17th
from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
at the Dunn Town Hall

Case Managers are vital to assessing and delivering the most needed senior services particularly when health insurance changes, loss of a loved one, or economic hurdles become overwhelming. Case Managers work directly with seniors to address these challenges and connect with resources that make life manageable once again. Case Managers make meaningful improvements in the lives of seniors at crucial moments. This is a service that saves money in the longer term by taking on problems early, when they are manageable, and preventing bigger costs down the road.

The Town of Dunn supports a variety of senior services including case management by making financial contributions to three area Senior Centers in Oregon, McFarland and Stoughton.

What's Changing in 2012?

Most seniors will not notice a change in 2012 and will continue to visit their favorite Senior Centers throughout Dane County for a wide range of activities including home delivered meals, meals served at senior centers, transportation to medical appointments, classes and activities. Dane County provides funding for senior centers to serve rural areas and that is expected to continue.

Seniors who are currently work-

ing with a case manager from the Oregon Senior Center will experience a change as they transition to a new case management provider. In 2012, we anticipate that the McFarland Senior Center will provide case management for all areas in the Town of Dunn. The Town will work closely with the Area Agency on Aging of Dane County as we make the transition in 2012.

Town of Dunn residents are invited to a listening session on October 17th from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Dunn Town Hall to provide input, comments or ask questions relating to senior services and funding.

Why Will Some Seniors Change Case Managers in 2012?

First, it is important to note that the decision to change case managers is not due to any dissatisfaction with the services provided by the Oregon Senior Center.

The process began with planning for the 2012 budget year. The town made significant budget cuts in 2010 and 2011 and even larger cuts were planned for the 2012 budget. Contributions to senior

centers were not reduced in the course of the 2010 and 2011 budget cuts. In fact, they were increased during those years.

The 2012 budget required the town to put every area of spending under consideration for budget cuts including staff, police, roadwork, garbage collection, and contributions to neighboring municipalities for senior and youth centers. To accomplish this level of budget cuts while maintaining services, the town needed to look closely at existing spending levels and look for duplicated efforts and excess spending.

It is important for the town to pay a fair amount for services provided to its residents,

without paying an amount so large that we are picking up the tab for other municipalities.

In the area of contributions to senior centers, the town sends a disproportionately large share of tax dollars to the Village of Oregon when compared to the contributions made to McFarland or Stoughton. Some of this can be explained by differing services, but the major reason for the comparatively large contributions to Oregon stem from a funding formula that is unusually advantageous to the Village and shifts costs to town taxpayers. Both McFarland and Stoughton

use cost sharing arrangements that are more typical in Dane County.

The Village of Oregon has taken an "all or nothing" approach to the towns request for a more equitable cost sharing arrangement. To keep case management at Oregon, the town must pay "all" which is the full amount due based on the old funding formula. Otherwise, the town is to pay "nothing" and must change case management providers. Since continuing to pay under the old formula wouldn't work under the 2012 budget, the town will change case managers. Despite the invitation to pay "nothing" the town anticipates making a contribution to the Village of Oregon for the senior center in 2012.

The 2012 spending cuts bring the equity issue into sharper focus as we struggle to evaluate how best to fund the most essential services and pay our fair share as a member of the larger community. Many services provided at senior centers are essential services that do more than just improve the quality of life; they may prevent more serious and costly needs from developing. It is sensible to support senior centers in neighboring municipalities and we are working to find a way to do so equitably.

What do YOU think? Provide your comments in one of the following ways:

- 1) Attend our listening session on October 17th at 6PM at the Dunn Town Hall.
- 2) Send an email to townhall@town.dunn.wi.us include your name and address.
- 3) Give us a call at 838-1081 and let us know what you think!

Voting in the Town of Dunn

by Cathy Hasslinger

In the summer of 2011, there was a special primary and a special election for Assembly District 48 which covers a portion of the Town. These two elections provided an opportunity to experience the "soft implementation" phase of the new Voter ID law.

The full implementation during all 2012 elections will require some major changes in our election staffing and procedures. Lines become backed up as each voter stops to sign the poll book and have their ID verified. Voters in the Town of Dunn have come to expect that lines will be short and move quickly. We will do our best to develop practices that keep lines moving. Voters can assist us by considering the following tips:

Is your registration valid? Check it out on the Voter Public Access website at <https://vpa.wi.gov>

If you have not voted in the last four years, or have had a change of address, your registration may have been purged, or may need to

be updated. Log onto the Voter Public Access Website listed above, enter your name and date of birth, then click on your voter record to confirm that your registration status is "active" and that address information is accurate. Taking care of registration in advance ensure that you won't have to worry about the new proof of residency rules on Election Day.

If you don't have a valid Wisconsin driver's license, plan ahead

Visit the Government Accountability Board website for information on requirements for individuals who do not have a Wisconsin driver's license at <http://gab.wi.gov/taxonomy/term/135>

The Department of Motor Vehicles issues free Voter ID's to those who request them and specifically state that

they want the "free voter ID". Obtaining the free voter ID may require certified copies of birth records, so plan ahead to allow extra time.

No Registration or Absentee Voting on Monday prior to Election Day

If you vote absentee in the Clerk's office before the election, plan ahead. Registration and absentee voting now **ends on the Friday before the election.**

Absentee voting in the Clerk's office will be available two weeks prior to the election.

In the past we have been able to offer absentee voting as soon as ballots were printed about 4 weeks prior to an election. Starting in 2012, absentee voting at the clerk's office cannot be-

gin until 2 weeks prior to the election.

Absentee vote with your municipal clerk at the Town Hall.

Residents often receive mailers from various groups (not affiliated with the clerk's office) at election time encouraging them to absentee vote and providing forms. In some instances these forms have been invalid, misprinted, listed wrong dates for elections, or faulty return addresses. Your municipal clerk has a statutory duty to handle your absentee application and ballot in accordance with the law. Absentee vote with your municipal clerk, not an outside organization.

Help us keep lines moving on Election Day

Long lines create an inconvenience for voters and we do our best to minimize waiting times. Please help us by handling concerns, complaints, and questions before you get into line.



TOWN OF DUNN PROPOSED 2012 BUDGET

Year 2012 Budget Highlights

By Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager

Each year the budget process in the Town of Dunn presents an opportunity to look back over the past year's expenses and accomplishments and plan for a next year's revenues and expenditures. The 2012 budget required some substantial cuts to offset expected losses in revenue and create a balanced budget. The 2012 draft budget proposes a 2.79% increase in the total tax levy for the Town.

The Town has been shifting its financial strategy in response to the economic trends over the past three years. In 2010 a total of \$248,768 in old debt was retired early to reduce future costs for interest expenses. Costs have been trimmed each year with a \$15,479 reduction of budgeted expenses in 2010, an additional \$34,722 reduction in 2011, and \$98,412 in reduced expenses planned for 2012. The pace of road reconstruction has slowed to keep costs down. These changes helped to offset lost intergovernmental revenues of \$105,421 in 2011 and put the Town in a better position to absorb the revenue cuts of 2012.

THE BUDGET SQUEEZE

Looking back over the past few years provides a sense of how budget pressures have been increasing. First, several key materials have increased in price.

The table below highlights the most dramatic price increases for materials that are a major part of the Town's budget. Rising materials prices have led to a reduction in the number of miles of road reconstruction accomplished each year to keep costs under budget.

Materials	Price in 2005-06	Price 2010-11	Total % Increase	Average Annual Price Increase
Asphalt hot mix	26.85 per unit	57.30 per unit	113.41%	18.9%
Seal coating	6,770 per mile	14,277 per mile	110.89%	18.5%
Fire and EMS	241,381	351,199	45.5%	7.6%

Secondly, several important revenues have declined over the past few years leading up to the 2012 state budget cuts. The chart below highlights a few of the most striking examples.

Revenue	Amount 2009	Anticipated Amount 2012	Total % Revenue Decrease	Average Annual Decrease
Intergov'tal 2009	436,971	278,271	36.3%	12.1%
Licenses/Permits 2009	59,383	49,139	17.25%	5.7%
Interest 2006	141,720	13,200	90.7%	15.1%

Intergovernmental Revenue declined by \$158,700 between 2009 and 2012 and has been one of the most difficult budget challenges to address. This amount includes property tax relief programs like shared revenue, state road aids, recycling grant, county aid for bridges, and other grant funding (*continued on next page*).

GENERAL FUND	2010 Actual Year End	2010 YTD 9/23/2011	2011 Estimated Year End	2011 Adopted Budget	2012 Proposed Budget	Variance 2010 2011
REVENUES						
TOTAL TAXES REVENUES	942,341	1,006,691	1,012,432	1,012,432	1,020,586	8,154
TOTAL Intergov. Revenues	344,844	198,485	306,049	308,119	278,271	(29,849)
TOTAL Lic./Permits Revenues	55,255	55,341	59,976	47,440	49,139	1,699
TOTAL Fines/Penalties Revenues	24,580	19,391	23,085	22,050	22,050	-
TOTAL Publ Charges Revenues	375,414	374,907	381,791	380,290	386,497	6,207
TOTAL Miscellaneous Revenues	19,324	15,666	17,056	7,200	13,200	6,000
TOTAL General Fund Revenues	1,761,758	1,670,481	1,800,389	1,777,531	1,769,743	(7,788)
EXPENDITURES						
TOTAL General Government	336,294	232,474	360,682	371,724	314,446	(57,278)
TOTAL Public Safety	447,178	348,017	474,420	476,332	478,399	2,067
TOTAL Public Works	788,818	583,562	820,892	838,681	864,385	25,704
TOTAL Health & Human Services	71,866	55,135	65,694	71,320	38,000	(33,320)
TOTAL Culture Recreation	39,197	27,788	41,035	41,215	38,847	(2,368)
TOTAL Conservation & Development	40,162	33,236	36,664	36,284	35,657	(627)
TOTAL Other Financing	38,200	-	-	32,590	-	(32,590)
TOTAL General Fund Expenditure	1,761,714	1,280,213	1,799,387	1,868,146	1,769,734	(98,412)
BEGINNING GEN FUND BALANCE	457,128	457,172	457,172	457,172	458,174	1,002
REVENUES	1,761,758	1,670,481	1,800,389	1,777,531	1,769,743	(7,788)
EXPENDITURES	1,761,714	1,280,213	1,799,387	1,868,146	1,769,734	(98,412)
ENDING GEN FUND BALANCE	457,172	847,440	458,174	366,557	458,183	91,626
RURAL PRESERVATION FUND (PDR)						
BEGINNING PDR FUND BALANCE	1,343,101	1,506,114	1,506,114	1,506,114	1,449,927	(56,187)
REVENUES	396,086	352,510	352,858	853,858	852,515	(1,343)
EXPENDITURES	233,073	196,927	409,045	1,308,945	1,274,076	(34,869)
ENDING PDR FUND BALANCE	1,506,114	1,661,697	1,449,927	1,051,027	1,028,366	(22,661)
BURYING GROUND (BG)						
BEGINNING CEMETERY FUND BAL.	41,581	44,373	44,373	44,373	45,009	636
REVENUES	7,256	4,200	6,600	1,325	6,600	5,275
EXPENDITURES	4,464	3,000	5,964	5,964	5,752	(212)
ENDING BG FUND BALANCE	44,373	45,573	45,009	45,008	45,857	848
DEBT SERVICE FUND (DS)						
BEGINNING DS FUND BALANCE	5,340	(107,786)	(107,786)	57,544	57,544	-
REVENUES	437,246	357,774	556,822	376,973	421,819	44,846
EXPENDITURES	550,372	336,370	391,492	391,492	421,818	30,326
ENDING DS FUND BALANCE	(107,786)	(86,382)	57,544	(122,305)	57,545	179,850
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND						
CAPITAL PROJECT REVENUE						
Grant Income State TRIP LRIP	34,494	-	-	-	-	-
Loan Proceeds - Road Construction	117,336	-	240,000	230,000	235,000	5,000
Loan Proceeds - Highway Equip	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loan Proceeds Emergency Shelter	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT REVENUE	151,830	-	240,000	230,000	235,000	5,000
CAPITAL PROJECT EXPENSES						
Road Construction Expenses	135,599	114,244	121,264	165,000	100,000	(65,000)
Dyreson Bridge Expenses	16,270	-	-	65,000	65,000	-
Hwy Related Equip. Expenses	-	-	-	-	70,000	70,000
Drainage & Other Transfers out	1,400	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Shelter Expenses	7,790	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	-	-	118,736	-	-	-
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT EXPENSE	161,058	114,244	240,000	230,000	235,000	5,000
BEG. CAPITAL PROJECT FUND BAL.	272,548	263,320	263,320	263,320	263,320	-
REVENUES	151,830	-	240,000	230,000	235,000	5,000
EXPENDITURES	161,058	114,244	240,000	230,000	235,000	5,000
END CAPITAL PROJECT FUND BAL.	263,320	149,076	263,320	263,320	263,320	-

VALUATION	2010	2011	2012	% change
ASSESSED VALUATION	692,742,500	664,168,600	Not available	
EQUALIZED VALUATION	703,716,000	703,029,800	Not available	
TAX LEVY				
GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY	920,000	991,400	999,354	0.80%
DEBT SERVICE TAX LEVY	193,822	178,887	213,803	19.52%
PDR TAX LEVY	371,827	351,858	351,515	-0.10%
TOTAL LEVY	1,485,649	1,522,145	1,564,672	2.79%
ASSESSED VALUE MIL RATE	2.32	2.20	2.36	
EQUALIZED VALUE MIL RATE	2.00	2.16	2.23	
YEAR END UNDESIG. FUND BALANCE	457,172	458,174	458,183	
	estimated	estimated	estimated	
*levy reduced by State Exempt Computer Aid of \$306.26				
Current year assessment ratio	94.47%			
Prior year assessment ratio	98.44%			

Year 2012 Budget Highlights (continued)

By Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager

(continued from previous page)

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 levy is 2.79% for 2011. The mil-rate for the proposed total local levy on all three funds is \$2.36 per thousand of assessed valuation. The equalized mil-rate is \$2.23 or \$223.00 tax for a \$100,000 property value. The equalized mil-rate increased by 2.89% over the 2010 rate. The local levy amount could change based on decisions made by the citizens attending the budget hearing and special town meeting on November 22, 2011. A more detailed version of the draft budget will be presented at the budget hearing on November 22, 2011 and will be posted on the Town website after the hearing: <http://town.dunn.wi.us>

REVENUES

The total tax revenue for the general fund is proposed to increase by \$8,154 in 2012. This modest increase will not fully offset \$29,849 loss of revenue from intergovernmental sources. Revenue from fees and licenses is anticipated to remain steady for 2012.

EXPENSES

The biggest cuts in expenditures for 2012 come from reducing employee hours and compensation to save \$44,494, with further labor cost saving by extending the wage freeze for a third year. Another area of major impact was our contributions to area senior and youth centers which were reduced by 46% reducing the budget by \$33,320. The Town's contract with the Dane County Sheriff's Department will be reduced to 18 hours per week which will save about \$10,000. Public safety costs

for the Oregon Fire and EMS are expected to increase by \$14,171. Budget cuts, in high priority areas, emphasize the results of several years of rising costs and declining revenues. Quality senior and youth services, professional law enforcement, top notch snow removal and highly qualified town staff are just a few of the items that make the town a great place to live. Deep spending cuts have an impact that goes beyond the bottom line. The Town will be working hard in 2012 to find creative ways to work with the new reduced funding.

In the Public Works budget, the street repair and maintenance will include no increase in the amount for road repairs and seal coating. Seal coating is planned for Liatris Lane, Jordan Drive, Southview Road and Oregon Heights. Large culvert replacements planned for 2012 include one at the north end of Lalor Road, and one on Hawkinson Road. Four smaller culvert replacements are scheduled as well.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital projects planned for 2012 include \$100,000 to install the top layer of pavement on Wilnor and Lake Kegonsa Road that were paved in 2011 and to repave Bonner Trail. The highway equipment budget includes \$50,000 to replace the Town's 1999 one ton pick up truck and \$20,000 for the Town's share in a 2012 grader to be owned jointly with the Town of Oregon. The budget includes work on the Dyreson Bridge historic restoration project for \$65,000. The road reconstruction project, truck purchase, and Dyreson Bridge project will involve borrowing for amounts not covered by grants.

DEBT SERVICE

New debt for 2012 is budgeted at 235,000 to cover the highway reconstruction, bridge restoration and new one ton pick up truck and grader.

2011 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.

2011 Mil-Rate Comparison for Towns	Pop.	* Equalized Mil-Rate	Local Tax/\$100,000
Town of Madison	5,923	6.89	\$689.00
Town of Windsor	5,942	4.35	\$435.00
Town of Blooming Grove	1,752	3.88	\$388.00
Town of Cottage Grove	3,952	3.77	\$377.00
Town of Verona	2,041	3.44	\$344.00
Town of Middleton	5,653	2.68	\$268.00
Town of Rutland	1,980	2.63	\$263.00
Town of Dunkirk	2,029	2.49	\$249.00
Town of Albion	1,933	2.44	\$244.00
Town of Deerfield	1,601	2.44	\$244.00
Town of Sun Prairie	2,410	2.43	\$243.00
Town of Oregon	3,357	2.20	\$220.00
Town of Dunn	5,257	2.16	\$216.00
Town of Blue Mounds	921	2.08	\$220.00
Town of Pleasant Springs	3,168	1.38	\$138.00

2011 Mil-Rate Comparison for Neighboring Cities and Villages	Pop.	* Equalized Mil-Rate	Local Tax/\$100,000
Village of Belleville	2,197	7.70	\$770.00
City of Stoughton	12,820	7.28	\$728.00
Village of Brooklyn	1,274	7.03	\$703.00
City of Fitchburg	23,690	7.03	\$703.00
Village of Cambridge	1,286	6.88	\$688.00
Village of McFarland	7,383	6.62	\$662.00
Village of Deerfield	2,250	5.82	\$582.00
Village of Oregon	8,840	5.17	\$517.00
Village of Cottage Grove	5,561	4.27	\$427.00

*Tax Mil rate levied in 2010, collected in 2011. Information is from Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance website at wistax.org

DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

If you are: altering an existing building, constructing a new building, doing major repairs, adding a solar collector, adding a bay or bow window, cleaning out drainage ditches or ponds or doing any brush or tree cutting, filling or grading in a floodzone, wetland or shoreland area, you probably do need a zoning permit.

For information call: Dane County Zoning at 266-4266.

To view the Dane County Zoning Code of Ordinances visit their website at www.countyofdane.com/ordinances

In addition to a Dane County Zoning permit you may also need a Town of Dunn building permit to remodel, replace siding or windows, build, repair, or add to your home, deck or other structures. For information, call Mary at the Town Hall at 838-1081 ex. 201.

Property Taxes Expected to Increase Over Last Year

by Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager

In revaluation years, like 2010 and 2011, the Town cautions residents that a revaluation of property assessments results in some property owners experiencing an increase in their taxes, some stay the same, and others experience a decrease in their overall property tax bill. That caution is valid for our 2011 revaluation this year, just as it was in 2010.

The 2011 revaluation is different in the sense that, for the first time, most property owners experienced a decrease in the assessed value of their property. Property owners are cautioned not to use last year's mil-rate to estimate their property taxes for 2011. The mil-rate will increase for 2011, and we won't have that number until mid-December. The safest bet is to plan ahead for an in-

crease until the mil-rates are published and an estimate can be made.

The state's mil-rate formula starts with the total tax levy and divides that number by the total assessed value, in thousands, for each school district in the town. The result is that when the total assessed value drops, the mil-rate increases to meet the total tax levy. It is reasonable to ex-

pect a tax levy increase in most of the components of the property tax bill including the county levy, technical college levy, local school district levy and the town levy. New levy limits and deep cuts in government spending may keep increases to a minimum, but exact figures are uncertain until those levies are determined later in the year.

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
5120 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

Donations to the McFarland Youth Center are Tax Deductible under 501(c)(3)

Parks Commission Update

By Mary Gross

Things are slowing down for our Parks Commission. With winter on the horizon, most of the work in our parks is completed for the season with the exception of mowing and tree trimming. Our Arbor Day Celebration/potluck was a huge success this year. We raffled off 20 trees and gave away bare root oak trees donated to the Town by Rock River Trail. Two of the raffled trees were donated back to the Town to be planted in the Town's parks by Anna and Grace Enfield. Jeff Rowe was our guest speaker and he also presented the town our fourth consecutive Tree City Award. Mary Joan Gefke was our stewardship recipient for the year. Mary Joan was very instrumental in establishing bike routes and very active in the Town. She passed away recently and her husband accepted the award on her behalf.



Shown above are Tree Board members (left to right) Peter Kaseman-Wold, Jay Hoel, & Sue Richards

Residents that live by Dunn Heritage have been seeing some changes at the park. The willow became uncontrollable at the park and the town has hired Robbie Nelson to spray it after the town had mowed it down. There is going to be one more round-up spraying. We will start another prairie and control it with annual spring burns. The prairie restoration planting is scheduled for this winter at Kegonsa Manor.

The commission will be planning a Spring Event and are thinking of having a pig roast and some entertainment and fun for the children. Watch the spring newsletter for more information.

The commission will be updating our bike brochure. The Town is a beautiful place to bike!

Please remember no snowmobiles or ATVs in Town parks. All Town parks are OFF LIMITS unless designated with snowmobile trail signage. Last year there was a problem with snowmobiles running at Spartan Hills. We also had some complaints about snowmobiles on private properties on Quam Drive this year.

Please clean up after your dogs! The town of Dunn has a dog ordinance on all town property, resident pet owners must remove all feces left by their pets. We have had numerous complaints from residents and our public works staff. They would like this problem solved. We have been having serious problems with Dunn Heritage and also Spartan Hills. Be courteous and clean up waste!

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, homestead 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

On the Road Again

Todd Klahn, Highway Foreman

Roadside mowing is just getting started. This is the way-back mow to help reduce drifting on the roads. All signs need to be placed outside of 33 feet from the center of the town road which is the road right of way. In addition please DO NOT park trailers, place burn barrels, or any other private property in the road right of way. There is a possibility that it will be ticketed and/or removed.

We resurfaced a portion of Lake Kegonsa Road, Alice Pauline Road and Wilnor Drive. We seal coated Waucheeta Trail, McConnell Street, Shaw Court, Gannon Street, Waubesa Avenue, Third Street, Lakeside Street, Noarts Street, Beale Street, and Berkan Street. 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 six culverts that were rusted out this year.

We will be putting on our snow equipment mid-November. Please do not park on the roads or on the shoulder when it snows for ease of snow removal. The state law states motorist need to be 300 feet behind a snowplow or a citation could be issued. Let's be courteous to our hard working town crewmen.

For snow and ice control we are planning to use a salt/sand mixture to reduce total salt usage and overall winter maintenance costs. Due to the increase of salt from \$46/ton to \$62/ton last year, the mixture will be more sand than salt.

Plan Commission Update

by Jim Molloy, Plan Commission Chair



The Plan Commission continues to process land divisions, re-zonings, site plans and other land use requests under the guidance of our Comprehensive Plan. 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. In the coming months, the Plan Commission will be considering amending the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Please watch meeting agendas for more information.

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

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Police Update

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. The most common violations other than traffic are dog-related, junk vehicles, and junk and waste on property. A number of break-ins have been reported recently. Be sure to lock your car, home, and garage doors. Please remember to report a violation immediately when it occurs to the Dane County Sheriff's office by calling 266-4948. If the violation happens during office hours, please contact the Town Hall at 838-1081. The Dane County non-emergency number is 266-4948.

A Guide to the Town of Dunn Illicit Discharge Ordinance

In 2007, the Town of Dunn enacted an Illicit Discharge Ordinance, which makes it illegal to discharge pollutants to the storm sewer system or to waters of the state. The Town's Illicit Discharge Ordinance is required by the Clean Water Act. It is designed to help maintain and protect the quality of the water in our streams, lakes and rivers.

What does the ordinance prohibit?

Directly discharging an "illicit discharge" (anything that is not composed entirely of storm water) into the storm sewer system or into waters of the state is prohibited.

Connecting any structure that carries any liquid other than storm water to the storm sewer or to waters of the state also is prohibited.

What do I do if I see a problem?

You can report suspected illicit discharges to the Town of Dunn at 838-1081 or to the WDNR Spill hotline at 1-800-943-0003.

What is the penalty for a violation?

Violations can result in a fine of \$100 to \$500 and the costs of prosecution for each violation, including the Town's attorneys fees incurred in the prosecution of the violation.

What does the ordinance allow?

Discharges from several everyday activities are allowed to flow into the storm sewer system or waters of the state. For example:

- Draining the water from a swimming pool, but only after the water has been dechlorinated (usually 2 to 3 days after you last added chlorine-use a pool water test kit to be sure).
- Washing cars only at home.
- Watering lawns and irrigating

landscapes.

- Flushing water lines.
- Water from crawl spaces and foundation drains.
- Condensation from air conditioners.
- Runoff from springs or drinking water sources.
- Discharges from fighting fires.
- Discharges that are allowed under the terms of a Federal or State permit.

However, if any of these activities are found to be causing water pollution, the Town will ask that the activity be stopped or be conducted differently so that our waters are not polluted.

What can I do to help keep our

lakes, rivers and streams healthy?

- Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the ditches and roadways.
- Direct rainwater away from paved areas, to lawns or gardens where it can soak in.
- Get a soil test before applying fertilizer to your lawn. Don't pay for something you don't need. If you do use fertilizer, apply it according to directions and clean up any spills on paved surfaces.
- Clean up pet waste – compost it, bury it, or flush it down the toilet.
- Compost your leaves and yard debris.
- Keep cars tuned up and repair leaks, and walk or ride a bike whenever you can.

What is the Town's Storm Sewer System?

Stormwater is the water from rain, melting snow, or ice, which flows over the ground or pavement without soaking into the ground.



The storm sewer system includes the roadside ditches and culverts that collect stormwater and carry it away from our streets, parking lots, and yards.

Waters of the State include the creeks, lakes, and rivers. Stormwater can flow directly into these waters, so they are part of the storm sewer system, too.

Did you know? Anything that is washed into the storm sewer ends up in the creeks, lakes, and rivers in the Town. That's because, unlike the wastewater from our kitchens and bathroom, stormwater is not treated before it's released into our waters.

- Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash that sends its used water to the sewage treatment plant.

- Prevent soil erosion.

- Don't let anything but rain go down the storm drain or ditch.

Congratulations Again To The Town of Dunn's New Poet Laureate, John Herm!

The Ice Shoe

I happened upon this abandoned farm
And was taken by the land with all its charm.
I wondered who'd left this special place
Whose prairie blooms a colored embrace.

The house fallen down but sat by a creek
Up high enough so rains couldn't seep.
The yard was choked with weeds that swayed
Where once some children laughed and played.

I rebuilt the house with one of my own
'N I fixed the barns where stock once roamed.
This wavy land with the rapping creek
So peaceful here... I couldn't speak.

'N while I toiled 'n kept a doin'
I kept my eye on a field stone ruin
With crumbled mortar but upright still
And squarely dug in the side of the hill.
I wasn't quite sure what once took place
Within these walls that made this space.

And soon came the days to restore these walls
For they held but storied waste and all.
And while I rummaged 'n looked for clues
Well...right there it was... a horse's shoe!

The shoe was weathered with worn down cleats
That once gave purchase on icy sheets
To pull his ice-block laden sled
From the frozen lake to this ice-house shed.

And I think how hard it must have been
When things were done by horse back then.
They sawed and cut the ice in blocks
To cool and save their cherished crops.

And I love to picture that tall strong horse
Who wore this shoe and stayed his course
To where I stand in this quilt of stone
By the singing creek that no one owns.

By John Herm 2008

Burning Ordinance



Below are answers to some of the more commonly asked questions about burning. For more information,

call the Town Hall at 838-1081, or go to our website for the full text of our Burning Ordinance.

- Any fire (excluding grilling and controlled burn), must be at least 15 feet from the property line (excluding right of way) and 30 feet from any buildings.
- Burning in barrels or fire pits is permitted on even-numbered days between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset, or 7 PM, whichever is later (excluding campfires).
- Burns outside a barrel or pit must be done when wind speeds are less than 15 mph, your fire department has been notified, you do not burn trash, and it is not a nuisance.

Burning or dumping of yard waste is not allowed on road pavement, in road right of ways, or in ditches.

Residents are highly encouraged to take yard waste to the transfer site, as burning can be harmful to ones health, safety, and the environment.



RECYCLING GUIDE

The small efforts we make each day to REDUCE, RE-USE, AND RECYCLE benefit our community and our environment for years to come. State law requires residents to recycle. This guide is designed to help you determine what to recycle, where to dispose of unusual items, and who to call if you have a question.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Glass Containers

- Jars & Bottles Only
- No Light Bulbs
- No Dishes, Cookware or Glasses
- Rinse Clean
- Clear, Green and Brown Glass Only
- Place Lids and Metal Rings with Other Garbage
- Do Not Have to Remove Labels on Glass

Plastic Containers

- #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 are all recyclable
- Do Not recycle #2 high density buckets (1 and 5 gallon)
- No Containers Used for Medicine, Oil or Chemicals
- Remove Lids and Place With Other Garbage
- Rinse Clean
- Crush Containers

Tin Cans

- Food Cans ONLY—No Paint or Chemical Cans
- Aerosol Cans Are Acceptable When Emptied
- Rinse Clean and Remove Label
- Place Lid Inside of Can and Flatten or
- Place Lid in Regular Garbage

Aluminum Cans

- Cans Only
- No Foil and No Pie Plates
- No Soda Pop or Beverage Tabs
- Drain All Liquids
- Rinse Clean

Cardboard/Paper Bags

- Only Clean Brown Paper Bags
- Only Corrugated Cardboard, (Place Wax-Coated Boxes In Trash)
- No Pizza Boxes or Egg Containers
- Flatten All Boxes, Keep Dry
- Cut Pieces to Less Than 3 Foot Square
- Bundle With String or Place in Paper Grocery Bag

Newspaper/Magazines/Phone books

- Newsprint (Includes Shiny Inserts)
- Magazines, Catalogs, Phone Books
- Place Newsprint in Brown Paper Grocery Bag
- Bundle Magazines With String in 6" Stack
- PAPER TYPES MUST BE KEPT SEPARATE!

Holiday Trash/Recycle Info

If a holiday falls Monday through Wednesday, garbage & recycling pick up is delayed by one day and pick up will occur on Thursday. Please plan accordingly.

Important Message From Waste Management!!

Trash will not be picked up by Waste Management if residents use a competitors' waste container. Waste Management containers can be obtained by calling (608) 273-2500.

The next Goodwill Industries pick up is scheduled: Saturday, December 10th from 9 AM to 12 PM

in the Town Hall parking lot.

Goodwill staff will help unload and provide tax receipts.

The town will only accept donations during the scheduled drop-off dates/times.

Need Extra Curbside Pick-up? Call Waste Management

Each household is allowed one thirty-four gallon container for solid waste and an unlimited volume of recyclables. The charge is included on your tax bill each year.

For additional volume pick up contact Waste Management. For a fee they will provide an extra 64-gallon toter or an extra 96-gallon toter. The Town does not provide the toters or bill for extra service. The toters may be filled in addition to the usual 34 gallon container allowed. Cost is billed directly to the homeowner. At the time of this publication the cost of the 64 gallon toter was \$78 per year and the cost of the 96 gallon toter was \$84 per year.

Items that are too big to fit into a 34 gallon receptacle such as mattresses, chairs, couches, washers, dryers, refrigerators, appliances, etc, can be picked up by Waste Management if you call (608) 273-2500 in advance. The cost is \$25.00 per item. These items are scheduled for pick-up once per month. Make sure to call ahead for the schedule. Waste Management can also help you with your remodeling needs or cleanup. Please call (608) 273-2500 for the cost of renting a dumpster.

Town of Dunn Transfer Site

4030 County Road B,

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:

**Scrap Metal - Motor Oil - Yard Waste
Brush and Wood - Batteries - Tires -
Most Appliances**

Holiday Trees - Waste Management 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.

Motor oil - Used motor oil that is free of other liquids such as antifreeze is accepted. Either reuse your used motor oil container or dispose of it in the trash. Don't leave oil containers near the used oil tank.

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 or lumber.

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, water softeners, and dishwashers.

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

Other Recyclable Items

Appliances, furniture and large items: Appliance pick up or drop off is available from Gary's Appliances, 2405 Vondron Rd. Call 221-1150 for more information. Television Recycling is available at Resource Solutions. Call 244-5451 for more information.

Most large items and appliances can be picked up by Waste Management. You must call ahead. Pick-up is offered once per month and there may be a \$25.00 fee. For more information call (608) 273-2500.

Remodeling Debris: Waste Management can provide a dumpster. Please call (608) 273-2500 for pricing. **You may be able to drop off construction materials at Madison Prairie Landfill, 3490 Nelson Rd. Please call ahead 837-9031. Dane County Landfill will also take construction material. Call 838-9555 for information.**

Fluorescent Light Bulbs: Recycled through any retailer who sells fluorescent lamps or through Waste Management. Call to arrange pick up 800-236-1028.

Thermostats: Due to health problems associated with mercury, old thermostats and thermometers should be recycled through Dane County Clean Sweep, Madison Gas and Electric, First Supply Madison, Gustave A. Larson Co. or Warren Heating and Air Conditioning. For more information call Clean Sweep Coordinator Dave Radisewitz (608) 243-0347.

Hazardous Materials: Paint, pesticides, poisons, solvents, ignitables, aerosols, sealants, fuel, oil and other hazardous materials must not end up in our landfill. Dispose of these items at Clean Sweep May 1 through October 31. Clean Sweep is located at the Dane County Highway Garage 2302 Fish Hatchery Road Madison. For further information call the recorded information line at 608-243-0368 or visit www.danecountycleansweep.com. For other possible drop off sites call the Wisconsin DNR at 275-3208.

Computers: Computers contain hazardous materials and should be recycled. Janssen Computers, 3 Marsh Ct., 222-9100 will take equipment for reuse or recycle. Cascade Asset Management accepts any and all computer and computer related equipment from businesses. Household computers are collected at semi-annual drop-offs in April and November. Call 222-4800 for more information. Also, see their web page at <http://www.cascade-assets.com>. Visit the Dane County website at www.countyofdane.com/pwht.