

The **TOWN OF DUNN NEWSLETTER** Spring 2012
 Official
 Town Phone Number: 608-838-1081 Town Website: www.town.dunn.wi.us

Views From the Town Chair

by Edmond P. Minihan, Dunn Town Chair

The Sandhills have returned; a sure sign that it really is spring. It has been a rollercoaster ride this year, but the cranes give us assurance that the sun is growing stronger and the plants and animals that sustain us will thrive once again. In our Town we have a heightened awareness of the importance of these living things that give us food, heat, and the pleasure of seeing them grow, providing the natural beauty that is an important part of the Town. These things are an important component of the lifestyle we enjoy here.

Unfortunately, our quality of life is getting harder to maintain. Mid-year budget cuts have worked a hardship on local government and the people who supply services here. When cuts come without warning, it is far more difficult to adjust budgets that have already been trimmed time and time again. Agencies like the State, County, municipalities, schools, fire departments, and police departments have one recourse. That is to place an additional burden on property taxes to make up for unexpected loss of revenue.

Clearly the property tax bill is the sum of the tax levies of a host of tax supported entities. In the Town of Dunn, the portion of property taxes supporting town services is 12 to 13 percent of the overall tax bill, depending on the school district. The remaining 87% of the property tax bill supports other agencies and is beyond the control of the Town. That fact does not keep folks from expressing their displeasure with the overall property tax increase.

Events You Won't Want to Miss

Wednesday March 28th

6:30 PM - 9 PM

Yahara Lakes Advisory Group Public Forum. Exposition Hall at Alliant Energy Center (1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison). **See article on page 3 for more information.**

Tuesday April 3rd 7AM-8PM:

Spring Election

Tuesday April 12th at 7 PM:

Annual Town Meeting

Saturday April 28th 4 PM-6 PM:

Arbor Day Celebration featuring guest speakers, awards presentations, and a pot luck dinner!

Significant property tax increases often take the form of spending referenda. It is only natural that those in support and those opposed to these proposals use a variety of numbers to make their case. It is rare that a straight forward description of the actual impact on the property tax bill is provided in the actual dollars that it costs to each taxpayer for the proposed spending. We are increasingly having to respond to the number spin in these proposals as Town residents ask for explanations.

Voters may see more and more spending referenda in the future and struggle to compare them across *(continued on page 6)*

TOWN OF DUNN ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY APRIL 10, 2012
7:00 PM

AGENDA

- I. Minutes – Special Town Meeting of November 12, 2011 and Annual Town Meeting of April 12, 2011
- II. Announcements and introductions by Chairman Minihan.
 - A. Comments by Chair Minihan
 - B. Donations, if any.
- III. Reports
 - A. Building Inspector Report
 - B. Cemetery Report
 - C. Land Trust Commission
 - D. Mobile Home Commission
 - E. Parks Commission
 - F. Plan Commission
 - G. Police Report
 - H. Tree Board
 - I. Staff report
- IV. Financial Report
 - A. Sanitary Districts - financial reports.
 - B. Treasurer's report - review 2011 audit.
- V. New Business
 - A. Any new business from the floor allowed under Wis. Stats. Ch. 60.10.
 - B. Consider contributing up to \$91,500 to Dane County's acquisition of 40 acres of a 52 acre property in sections 17 & 8 of the town in exchange for a perpetual conservation easement on the 40 acre portion and development restrictions on the remaining 12 acres.
 - C. In order to meet the requirements of the general storm water permit (and section 216.07(2) of State Admin. Code), there will be educational material on storm water management.
 - D. Present the Noxious Weed Notice.
 - E. Adjournment.

Every resident of legal voting age present can cast a vote at the Annual Town Meeting. This year, take an active role in your government and attend the Annual Meeting. Agendas and announcements for all special meetings are posted at the following locations:

- 1) Bulletin board outside the Dunn Town Hall at 4156 County Road B.
- 2) Message board at the corner of Third Street and Waubesa Avenue in the town of Dunn.
- 3) Quick Stop, 1888 Barber Drive.

Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager, WCMC

Newlyweds in Dunn?



You might be driving on Lake Farm Road heading to Goodland Park or Christy's Landing and you will think you see a pair of bison grazing in a prairie. You take a second look and sure enough you are RIGHT! Buffalo Bill and his mate Bella, are grazing in Don and Carole Schmidt's prairie. They are made from corten steel, a natural rusting material which is coated with patina. A patina is a coating of various chemical compounds such as oxides or carbonates formed on the surface during exposure to the weather. It therefore mimics the coloration of the American Bison. The pieces are full scale and weigh approximately 1500 pounds per piece! All the pieces are kinetic. Buffalo Bill and Bella were made by the artistic talents of Don Schmidt. Look for another member of this family coming this spring!

Town of Dunn
4156 County Road B
McFarland, WI 53558

PRSRT STD
US. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1027

Election 2012 - Photo ID Required, or Not?

by Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer

In compliance with Wisconsin's new Voter ID law, we required photo identification from registered voters at the polls during the February 21 primary election this year. At the time this newsletter went to print, an injunction from a Dane County Court is in place to prevent the requirement of photo ID for the April election, but keeping other provisions of the new law in effect. It is possible that this could change again before the April election.

During the 2012 February Primary Election, legislation was enacted the day before the primary that became effective on Election Day. That didn't leave much time for municipal clerks around the state to be trained on the new procedures required by the legislation. Given the pace of recent legislative changes, we are cautiously recommending that voters be prepared to show photo ID in the event that it is required.

The Clerk's Office will provide extended hours preceding an election to assist voters with registration, absentee voting and assisting voters with the new requirements for proof of residency and photo ID, if required by law. Regular office hours are from 8AM - 4PM Monday - Friday.

Extended Hours for Voter Registration and Absentee Voting

Spring Presidential Primary Election April 3, 2012	Summer Recall Primary/Election Dates to be determined
Town Hall Hours Monday - Thursday March 26-29 8AM - 5:30PM	Town Hall Hours Monday - Thursday Date to be determined 8AM - 5:30PM
Town Hall Hours Friday March 30 8AM - 5:00PM	Town Hall Hours Friday Date to be determined 8AM - 5:00PM
August Primary Election August 14, 2012	Fall Presidential Election Nov. 6, 2012
Town Hall Hours Monday - Thursday August 6-9 8AM - 5:30PM	Town Hall Hours Monday - Thursday Oct. 22-Nov. 1 8AM - 5:30PM
Town Hall Hours Friday August 10 8AM - 5:00PM	Town Hall Hours Friday Nov. 2 8AM - 5:00PM

Each voter's signature is required on the Poll Book

We are finding that this new requirement, more than any other, slows down the lines on Election Day. The Town will be providing more poll stations whenever possible to compensate.

Voters unable to sign the poll book because of a physical disability are

exempt from this requirement. If this applies to you, tell the election officials that you are unable to sign because of a disability. Election officials will write "exempt" in your signature block.

Hospitalized Voters

Hospitalized voters may appoint an agent to pick up their ballot from the clerk's office. In the event that the new Voter ID law is in full effect, the agent must present the hospitalized voter's photo ID to the clerk's office.

Voter Registration Changes

- **No registration on the Monday preceding Election Day.** You can register to vote up until the Friday before the election or on Election Day.
- You must reside at your address for 28 consecutive days to register on election day.
- You may no longer use a corroborating witness as proof of residence.
- Proof of residence is required when registering less than 20 days before an election, on Election Day, and for first time Wisconsin voters registering by mail. For more information on acceptable proof of residence documents, contact your local municipal clerk.

Changes to Absentee Voting

No absentee voting in the Clerk's Office on the Monday preceding Election Day. Absentee voting in the clerk's office is now restricted to the two weeks before an election. Absentee voting now ends at the close of business the Friday before the election.

The new law prohibits absentee voting and voter registration the Saturday, Sunday or Monday before an election.

In the event that the new Voter ID law is in full effect, absentee voters in the clerk's office must present the same type of photo ID required at the polls.

Absentee Requests by Mail

In the event that the new Voter ID law is in full effect, absentee requests for ballots sent by mail must be accompanied by a photocopy of an acceptable form of voter ID. Once you have sent the clerk's office a photocopy of your ID, you will not need to send photocopies with future absentee ballot requests by mail unless you change your name or address.

Absentee Requests by Email / Fax

In the event that the new Voter ID law is in full effect, when submitting an absentee request via fax or email,

you must either include a photocopy of acceptable ID with your request or in your absentee ballot envelope.

Starting after the February 2012 primary, only military and permanent overseas electors can receive absentee ballots via fax or email.

Photo Identification

In the event that the new Voter ID law is in full effect, you cannot receive a ballot at the polls until you have met ID requirements. Wisconsin does not issue a separate "Voter ID" card. Instead you must use one of the photo IDs listed below.

Your photo ID does not need to show a current address.

Acceptable forms of Photo ID (If the new Voter ID law is in full effect)

- Wisconsin driver license*
- Wisconsin DOT-issued photo ID card*
- U.S. passport (book or card)*
- Military ID card*
**These documents may not expire earlier than the date of the last November election.*
- Certificate of naturalization issued within last two years
- Unexpired Wisconsin driver license or state ID receipt
- ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- Unexpired ID issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college that contains an issuance date, student signature, and expiration date within two years of issuance, along with a separate document showing proof of current enrollment.

If you are eligible to vote but do not have an acceptable ID, you may obtain a free ID for purposes of voting, but we recommend obtaining this free ID well in advance of Election Day to allow for possible delays in providing documentation to obtain the free ID. Please visit <http://gab.wi.gov> and click "Voter Photo ID" for more information.

Photo ID Exemptions/Exceptions (If the new Voter ID law is in full effect)

In the event that the new Voter ID law is in full effect, Photo ID will always be required when voting at the polling place and at the clerk's office unless you are a confidential elector.

Photo ID may not be required for these absentee voters, but other requirements may apply:

- Military electors
- Voters who are permanently abroad
- Confidential electors
- Indefinitely confined voters

- Nursing home and other care facility residents who have ballots delivered by a Special Voting Deputy
- Residents of care facilities who are not visited by a Special Voting Deputy

For further information contact your municipal clerk.

Provisional Ballots: Voters who do not provide Photo ID (If the new Voter ID law is in full effect)

In the event that the new Voter ID law is in full effect, voters, including absentees, who are required but unable to provide photo ID may vote by provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are not counted unless the voter provides an acceptable photo ID to the municipal clerk by 4 p.m. the Friday after the election.

Voter Information Online at the Voter Public Access Website

<http://vpa.wi.gov>



Visit the new Voter Public Access website at <https://vpa.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.

Public Forum Offers Opportunity to Give Input on Lake Level Management Recommendations

Over the past decade, flooding along the Yahara River Chain has become more frequent and more damaging. To address this issue, the Wisconsin



Photo from Dane County Land & Water Resources Department

Department of Natural Resources convened a group of key stakeholders to consider the DNR lake level operating orders which were written over thirty years ago, to determine if they were still effective for regulating and guiding the management of the water levels and flow through the Yahara River Chain and its lakes.

The Town of Dunn is one of the stakeholders invited to participate in the effort, called Yahara Lakes Advisory Group (YLAG2), and has been representing the interests of Town of Dunn residents to the group.

While lake levels prompted the initial discussion, it was clear that they could not be considered alone and the YLAG2 mission expanded to explore and evaluate the operations of the Yahara River Chain and its lakes as an integrated system.

YLAG2 members represent a wide range of interests. Recognizing there

are both conflicting and mutual interests, YLAG2 members committed to fully participate in a process that allowed them to make educated,

informed, and reasoned recommendations. Now, after a year of study the YLAG2 is pleased to offer its draft recommendations to the public for comment.

Yahara Lakes Advisory Group (YLAG2) will be holding a Public Forum to receive comments on its draft recommendations for the Yahara Lakes system. The free public event will be held 6:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 in the Exposition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center located at 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way in Madison.

The event will include interactive displays, an introduction to the work of YLAG2, and an opportunity to provide feedback and comments on all the proposed draft recommendations. For more information on the project go to:

<http://www.countyofdane.com/lwr/landconservation/ylag.aspx>

Sheriff's Report

by Mary Gross, Court Clerk



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 three deputy sheriffs that alternate shifts. Recently we had one of our deputies, Thomas Stokes retire. We now have Deputies Jeff Thiel, Joe Carill, and Rob Ladik.

We also hold 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, junk vehicles, and junk and waste on property. Please remember when a violation occurs to report it immediately to the Dane County Sheriff's office. If it happens during office hours, call the Town Hall. The Dane County non-emergency number is 266-4948.

NOXIOUS WEED NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 66.0407 that every person is required by law to destroy all noxious weeds on lands in the Town of Dunn which the person owns occupies or controls before the plants bloom. Noxious weeds include: Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge and Field Bindweed (creeping Jenny).

Jay Hoel, Weed Commissioner

Plan Commission Update

by Jim Molloy, Plan Commission Chair

The Plan Commission is served by Tim Andrews, Lorraine Gardner, Steve Greb, Dean Hein, Jim Molloy, Bob Uphoff and Vicki Wangerin. In 2011, we upheld the Town's progressive land use plan in all of our decisions and recommendations. The Plan Commission usually meets at 7:00 PM on the second Monday of each month and welcomes the public to its open meetings. To be placed on our agenda, please contact Erica Schmitz at the Town Hall at 608-838-1081, extension 205 at least two weeks prior to a meeting.

Occasionally a vacancy occurs on the Commission. If you are interested in serving your Town as an uncompensated member of this Commission, please indicate your interest to Cathy Hasslinger, Town Clerk by calling 838-1081 extension 204.

Land Trust Commission Update

by Erica Schmitz, Land Use Manager



Dunn Partnering with Dane County to protect Lake Waubesa shoreline property

Town staff and the Land Trust Commission have been working with the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department and the Natural Heritage Land Trust to permanently protect a gem of a property in the Town of Dunn. In addition to the 1,500 feet of frontage on Lake Waubesa, the property is adjacent to the Waubesa Wetlands State Natural area, and is home to approximately 26 acres of wetlands, with the balance of the 52 acres being primarily wooded.

This land conservation project involves the County purchase of approximately 40 acres of the total 52 acre property. The Town of Dunn and the Natural Heritage Land Trust would be co-holders of a conservation easement on the 40 acres. The landowner would retain 12 acres subject to certain development restrictions.

The benefits of this land conservation project are manyfold. The property contains a portion of the Waubesa Wetlands, named one of 100 state wetland gems and described by the Wisconsin DNR as "one of the highest quality and most diverse wetlands remaining in southern Wisconsin", which would be permanently protected. The preservation of the mostly undeveloped shoreline would preserve the scenic value of the property as enjoyed from the lake. Further, 40 acres of land would be open to the public. This is especially significant, because this acquisition would create an access not just to this publicly owned land, but would make the eastern portion of the Waubesa Wetlands State Natural area much more easily accessible to the public.

The electors of the Town of Dunn will have the opportunity to consider authorizing the Town to expend funds to assist in the County's purchase of the 40 acre portion of the property at the Annual Town Meeting on April 10th at 7:00 pm. The agenda for that meeting can be found on the front page of this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

LTC Welcomes Mike Carlson

The Land Trust Commission is pleased to introduce its newest member: Mike Carlson. Mike filled the seat on the Commission reserved for a representative of a Dane County nonprofit conservation organization. Gathering Waters Conservancy, where Mike works as the Government Relations Director, nominated him for the position. Mike's expertise is a wonderful addition to the Commission, and we are very grateful that he has joined us.



TOWN OF DUNN'S

Do Your Part to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Curbside Recycling

Dunn residents have several ways to recycle material. Common recyclables such as household plastics, glass, aluminum, aerosol and tin cans, cardboard and newspaper are picked up by Waste Management in the weekly recycling pickups each Wednesday.

Because wet paper products may not be recycled, withhold cardboard, newspaper and other paper recyclables for later pick-up if it is raining on Wednesday morning, or if the forecast indicates rain is likely.

Plastics - Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 plastics are now recyclable! Rinse and remove caps and rings; labels can remain. Flatten as much as possible. Bottles that have contained motor oil, medicine or chemicals cannot be accepted for recycling. All #2 plastic one and five gallon buckets cannot be recycled.

Aluminum - Only aluminum cans are accepted for recycling. Rinsing is encouraged. Don't include any other kinds of aluminum such as foil or aluminum pie plates in the recycling bin.

Tin Cans - Food cans only - no paint or chemical cans. Rinse, remove labels, and flatten. Please put sharp lids in the trash.

Aerosol Cans - can be recycled! Make sure they are empty and remove plastic nozzles.

Glass - Jars and bottles are accepted for recycling. Always rinse and remove the lid. Labels can remain on the container. Light bulbs, dishes, drinking glasses, mirrors and window glass can be recycled elsewhere or disposed of as trash.

Newspaper - Newsprint must be dry and bundled. Shiny inserts are acceptable. Place in brown paper bags. Do not mix with other types of paper!

Magazines - Magazines and catalogs must be in bundles and tied with string in 6 inch stacks. Do not mix with other types of paper!

Mixed Paper - Junk Mail, Office Paper, Soft drink/Beer cartons can be recycled. Place in brown paper bag. Do not mix with newspapers or magazines!

Cardboard - Corrugated cardboard can be recycled. Flatten boxes and keep dry. Cut pieces into less than 3 foot squares and bundle with string or place in a grocery bag. Pizza boxes, egg containers and wax-coated boxes can not be recycled.

Waste Management Curbside Pick-up

Each household is allowed one 34-gallon bag or two small kitchen sized bags for solid waste and an unlimited volume of recyclables. The charge is included on your tax bill in advance each year. Please put your recyclables in the small green bin provided by the Town or in clear plastic bags. A bin for solid waste is not provided by the Town. You may use your own container so long as it is not a Waste Management competitor's bin.

For additional volume pick up contact Waste Management. For an additional fee they will provide an extra 64-gallon toter or an extra 96-gallon toter. These 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 \$69.12 per year and the 96-gallon toter was \$87.96 per year.

Items that are too big to fit into a 34-gallon receptacle such as mattresses, chairs, couches, etc., can be arranged to be picked up by calling (608) 273-2500 at a cost of \$25.00 per item. These items are picked up on Fridays. Appliances such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc. can also be scheduled for pickup at the cost of \$25.00 per item by calling (608) 273-2500. These items are picked up on the 4th Friday of every month. Waste Management can also help you with your remodeling needs or cleanup. Please call (608) 273-2500 on the cost of renting a dumpster.



Town of Dunn Transfer Site

4030 County Road B, 1/4 mile east of the Dunn Town Hall

Open all year on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month from 8 AM to 4 PM. The transfer site will be open seasonally from April - October for additional hours on Wednesday from 2 PM - 4:45 PM.

The Transfer Site accepts:

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 any 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 also be taken to the Dane County Landfill for a small fee.

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

Questions? Call the Town Hall at 838-1081 ext. 201

E-Cycle Wisconsin

Wisconsin's electronics recycling law bans placing electronics in landfills. Wisconsin households may recycle electronics under the E-Cycle Wisconsin Program. More information about this program can be found at dnr.wi.gov/ecyclewisconsin.

DANE COUNTY COMPOST SITES OPEN APRIL 2ND

Yard wastes are banned from disposal at all landfills in the State of Wisconsin. Dane County will open its three yard waste compost sites on April 4th. All sites are available for people to bring non-woody yard waste to be composted. They do not accept brush, dirt, rocks, Christmas wreaths or garlands (because of the metal wire), or trash of any sort. Unscreened compost is available to the general public for a fee. For more information on the Dane County compost sites, call Robert Regan at 266-4139.

WESTPORT SITE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 3:30 pm, Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Located at 5254 STH 19 (Across from Sparby's Garden Center and Christmas Barn).

VERONA SITE HOURS: Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Located adjacent to the old landfill at Badger Prairie Park.

RODEFELD SITE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Saturday, 8:00am - 10:45am. Located at 7102 Hwy. 12 & 18, one-half mile east of I-90.

Would you like to more about the Dos and Don'ts of recycling? Would you like to know what can and cannot be recycled in the Town of Dunn?

Waste Management provides a comprehensive list on their website to answer these frequently asked questions.

Go to www.wm.com/customer-service/residential-recycling-faq.jsp for more information.

2012 RECYCLING GUIDE



Clean Sweep Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site Announces 2012 New Winter Season Hours

The Clean Sweep Program that allows Dane County residents to recycle household hazardous waste, free of charge, recently announced that it will begin a pilot program to collect waste during the winter. This is the first time the program has expanded its seasonal collection.

Dane County will be testing out a limited winter season during these hours:

2012 Winter Hours

- January 1st through April 27th
- Tuesdays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Due to the fact that the existing facility is located on an outdoor site, they are limited with the services they can provide during these new winter season hours.

Important program changes during the winter season

- The Product Exchange will **NOT** be open.
- Latex paint will **NOT** be accepted. (Winter Option – allow the paint to dry completely and then throw in trash)
- Clean Sweep will **NOT** be collecting water based cleaners and other non-hazardous materials that can be safely flushed down your drain or thrown in your trash. (Winter Option -- flush or throw in trash as appropriate, or

save to bring to Clean Sweep in May where it will be given away in the Product Exchange)

Location:

- Dane County Highway Garage property
- 2302 Fish Hatchery Road
- On the corner of Fish Hatchery & Badger Roads behind the Dane County Highway Garage on the north end of the property
- Tel: (608) 243-0368
- www.danecountycleansweep.com

Since this is a pilot program, winter hours of operation and program details may be altered as necessary. Please check the Clean Sweep website for any changes to the program.

Normal Summer Hours and operating procedures will return in May 2012:

2012 Summer Hours

- May 1st through October 31st
- Tuesday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Small Business Collection Program

The Small Business Collection Program accepts materials from small businesses and local units of government year round by appointment, Tuesday through Friday. There is a per pound charge for materials brought to the program. Business owners are reminded that they need to allow enough time to request reg-

istration materials and to submit an inventory of the materials for recycling. Registration is available at www.danecountycleansweep.com or by calling Dave Radisewitz, the Clean Sweep Coordinator, at (608) 243-0347.

Agricultural Clean Sweep

Clean Sweep will also accept agriculturally-generated wastes. A Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection grant underwrites the disposal costs, so there is no cost to farmers, and agricultural businesses only pay half the normal business cost. All farmers and agricultural-related businesses from Dane County are invited to participate. Agricultural Clean Sweep Program participation is by appointment only, Tuesday through Friday. Registration is available at www.danecountycleansweep.com or by calling Dave Radisewitz at (608) 243-0347.

Product Exchange

The Product Exchange offers high quality and usable products brought into Clean Sweep free of charge and will be open during the normal summer program hours.

For more information on Clean Sweep programs, please go to www.danecountycleansweep.com, or call the information line at (608) 243-0368.

One Day Only Extra Curbside Garbage Pick-up May 9th

Planning on cleaning out the garage or basement this spring?
Wondering how to get rid of large items?

Waste Management is offering extra curbside garbage collection on Wednesday, May 9th. On regular garbage pick up days, each residence can put out 34 gallons of trash plus unlimited recycleables for curbside pick up. On May 9th, residents can put out extra garbage at no additional charge. There are some restrictions. Appliances, tires, liquids, computers and construction materials may not be left at the curbside. Call Waste Management at 273-2500 for details.

Spring Roadside Clean-up - As the snow melts and spring winds blow, the litter that accumulated over the winter becomes more visible. This is a great time to tidy up the yard. We encourage everyone to participate in picking up a section of road before May 9th. The trash picked up on the roadside can be left out on Wednesday, May 9th when Waste Management provides unlimited garbage pick up.

Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale Saturday May 12, 2012



Earth Machine home compost bins (\$45, tax included) and System rain barrels (\$55, tax included) will be available for one day only at:

Alliant Energy Center, customers should use Olin Ave entrance

This is a one day only sale while supplies last. It will be held rain or shine. Cash, check, Visa or MasterCard accepted. The Earth Machine come with a complete instruction booklet on how to compost. Compost turners are also for sale for \$15 along with kitchen collector pails for \$7. More information on the sale is available at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/compost/CompostBinSale.cfm>.

Goodwill Industries Pick up

2012 Goodwill Industries pick-ups are scheduled for:
Saturday, April 14th from 9 AM to 12 PM
Saturday, August 4th from 9 AM to 12 PM
Saturday, December 8th from 9 AM to 12 PM
in the Town Hall parking lot.

Goodwill will provide the staff to help unload, give receipts and provide tax information.

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

Recycle Your Old Cell Phone

Protect the environment and raise funds for the Senior Center
Convenient drop off at Stoughton Senior Center and Radio Shack

The Stoughton Area Senior Center is participating in a fundraising project sponsored by the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and Cellular Recycler that recycles unwanted cell phones and now also laptops, cameras, mp3 players and video game consoles. Your donation helps the environment by keeping harmful chemicals out of our landfills and 90% of all proceeds benefit your local Senior Center.

THANK YOU TO ROADSIDE PICKUP VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to the volunteers involved with the adopt-a-highway program. Participants included Ackerland LLC, Waubesa Beach Association, Covenant Lutheran Youth, the University Physical Science Laboratory, Christ the King Church in McFarland, Sled Shed II, McFarland Lutheran Church, Waubesa Beach Neighborhood Association, Inc. and Waubesa Snowbird's snowmobile club. Call Mary at the Town Hall at 838-1081 if you'd like to adopt-a-highway in the Town of Dunn.

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.

McFarland Senior Center Bocce Volunteers

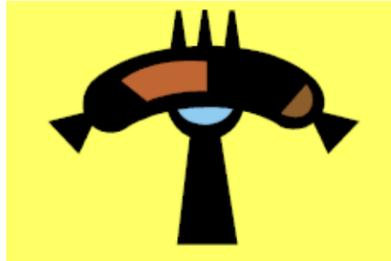
Volunteers are needed to supervise the newly built bocce court and assist with setting up and putting away the bocce materials. Schedule varies. Please contact Ingrid at 838-7117 for more information.

Oregon Senior Center

Annual Brat Bash Fundraiser

Friday, May 11th from 10 AM - 2 PM
\$3 for brat & chips, \$2 for hot dog & chips, \$1 for soda or bottled water
Oregon Area Senior Center
219 Park Street, Oregon
(608) 835-5801

Come see members of the UW Marching Band at noon!



Views from the Town Chair (cont.)

(continued from page 1) various districts with different ways of reporting the costs to taxpayers. In the future, the town will report the impact of any spending referendum for local, school, vocational school, or county purposes in actual dollars per equalized value that people will have to pay. It is clear that an objective report of the actual impact on property owners in terms of out-of-pocket dollars is needed. There are a number of games played by taxing authorities to mask the real amounts. Our reports will be fully transparent and available for all interested parties. This information will be posted on the Town website for all to see. Please pay attention to those fully transparent calculations.

A natural extension of our concern about the increasing property taxes paid by our citizens extends to various formulas used to determine the Town's total equalized value. The state uses equalized value to apportion the tax burden between municipalities. Everyone knows that

property values are decreasing. The Department of Revenue has decreased the total equalized value of the Town only slightly. The municipalities around us have seen much bigger decreases. We strongly disagree with the Department's figures. The disparity between our equalized value's small decrease and other communities' bigger decrease means that tax burden for State, County, vocational school and school district levies is going to be higher than those paid by other municipalities. It is no longer sufficient to keep the Town operating costs down and expect that property taxes will stay low. We

now have to fight for our taxpayers to make certain they are not paying more than their share due to equalized value determinations by the State. The Town is taking on these inequities. You have read about this battle in the paper and there will be more to come. The Town administration takes its responsibility to protect our citizens very seriously and will continue to fight for fairness in taxation.



Historic Dyreson Bridge Restoration Project Begins



The Dyreson Bridge restoration project has been in the works in some form or another for a decade. Finally, in the summer of 2012, we expect to see construction begin to reopen this one-of-a kind truss bridge in the Town of Dunn. We believe this bridge is the last of its kind in the state.

If you have not seen the Dyreson Bridge, you should take the time to do so this Fall after the renovation is complete. Autumn is a great time to view this unique historic area from one of our Rustic Roads. You will quickly see why the area has attracted artists and historians. The bridge was manufactured by the Milwaukee Bridge and Iron Company in 1898, and most likely erected by local farmers.

The history of this area is extensive

and fascinating. Archeologists have determined that there is ample evidence of regular human habitation on the banks of the river near the bridge going back at least 1,200 years. Indeed, recent

excavations have revealed evidence of human civilization going back 12,000 years. A qualified archeologist will be on site during much of the bridge reconstruction work to monitor disturbances and protect cultural assets. In the river waters, an ancient fish weir built by Native Americans can be seen when the water level is low. The remnants of a wooden dam built by settlers can also be seen. So this bridge restoration is about much more than the iron and steel of the bridge. It is about the succession of humans being sustained by the water and land of this special piece of the earth through different cultures. The bridge points to the fact that there have been many before us sustained by this natural community, and that there will be generations after us. It is what our Town's land-use policies are all about.

Senior Centers Welcome Dunn 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.

Dunn residents can contact the McFarland Senior Center for outreach services. 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

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

AREA YOUTH CENTERS

Youths are encouraged to call or visit our local youth centers. Adult supervision and activities are typically available for middle school students during the after school hours from 3pm to 6 pm. Some programs may be available for non-school days. Contact the youth centers directly for more information:

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

Property Revaluation is in Progress for 2012

by Cathy Hasslinger

For the third consecutive year, the Town of Dunn is seeking a revaluation of all real estate assessments. A computer assisted property revaluation was completed in the Town in 2010 and 2011, based largely on 2009 and 2010 sales data respectively. The 2010 revaluation was completed by Gardiner Appraisal Service and the 2011 revaluation was completed by Accurate Appraisals. Now the Town begins work on a revaluation of property values for 2012 that will reflect sales data gathered from sales in 2011.

Sales data from 2011 indicate a decline in value for many properties in the past year. It was determined that a revaluation would be needed to ensure that properties were not over assessed based on the new information. While it is unusual for a revaluation to be completed annually, recent declines in real estate values have caused the Town to contract for more frequent revaluation. The Town has awarded a contract to Accurate Appraisal for 2012. A computer-assisted revaluation of the Town will begin in March of 2012 and is scheduled to be complete in the Fall of 2012.

When the revaluation is complete, property owners whose assessments have changed will receive a notice of assessment change by mail. Please watch your mailbox in August for a notice from Accurate Appraisals. The Town will conduct Open Book meetings and a Board of Review for residents to get more information or to challenge assessed values. Dates for Open Book will be late in August. If you have questions you may contact the Town Clerk Treasurer, Cathy Hasslinger at 838-1081 Ext. 204.

Q - Why is the revaluation being done in 2012?

A computer assisted revaluation of property was completed last year in 2011 to bring all properties closer to 100% of fair market value under the state assessment guidelines which relied heavily on actual sales data from 2010. Throughout much of 2011, sales data showed that some properties were still selling for less than assessed value and another revaluation is needed to recognize those declines.

It is very unusual for the town to revalue properties in three consecutive years. The decision to undertake an additional revaluation was largely based on 2011 sales data showing a continuing decline in some property values, while others have stabilized or even increased.

Q - Will my home be inspected?

If your property was altered recently, an experienced appraiser from Accurate Appraisals will make a personal visit to your property. The appraiser will need to walk through the interior of your home and also walk around the exterior. The appraiser may take exterior measurements and an exterior photo. The appraiser will be carrying identification.

Q - How does the assessor go about placing a "fair market value" on my property?

Finding the market value of property involves reviewing what similar properties are selling for, what the property would cost today to replace, and factors affecting the real estate market. Valuation techniques for commercial proper-

ties also include analysis from an investment point of view. The assessors have the legal responsibility to discover and report the changes that are occurring in the market place.

Q - Will all assessments be reduced by a percentage?

Not all properties change in value at the same rate over time. In accordance with State guidelines for assessment, the computer assisted revaluation calculates the market value of each property, considering characteristics and neighborhood trends for each property. Some properties will go down, some will go up depending on market conditions and property characteristics.

Q - How can my assessment change when I haven't done anything to my property?

As property values change in the marketplace, those changes must be reflected on the assessment roll. Economic conditions such as recent home sales in your neighborhood, sales of reasonable comparable buildings, and inflation will influence the value of your real estate.

Q - Will my property taxes increase or decrease due to the revaluation?

The answer to that question is different for each property owner. Property owners with smaller changes in assessment will see smaller changes in their tax bill and those with greater changes in assessment will see a greater impact on their tax bill due to the revaluation. Typically, in a revaluation year, some properties experience an increase in tax, some stay the same, and some decrease. We will not know until the mil-rates are available in December whether new assessments will result in higher or lower taxes on an individual parcel.

Q- What is equalized value and how does it affect my taxes?

The Town's assessor sets assessed property values at 100% of fair market value based on his opinion and data. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue determines equalized value which is also set at 100% of fair market value based on its opinion and data. These two values should be very close, typically a fraction of one percent different. In recent years, the Department of Revenue's equalized value determination has been a few percentage points higher than our assessor's opinion of value. Since the Department of Revenue's equalized value is used to determine our share of the tax levies for the state, county and school districts, it is important that our equalized value be accurate. The Town's attorneys will be working closely with the assessor and Department of Revenue to ensure that equalized values most accurately reflect the fair market value of real estate in the town.

Q- How can I learn more?

If you have questions you may contact Accurate Appraisals at 1-800-770-3927 or the Town of Dunn Clerk, Cathy Hasslinger at 838-1081 Ext. 204.

Department of Revenue Publication Guide for Property Owners is available online at: <http://www.dor.state.wi.us/pubs/slf/pb060.pdf>



The Hazards of Snow Melting

Every once in a while, the thermometer will hit 45° (or even 60°!) in March, and although I know the warm weather is here only temporarily, I can't help but think of gardening, bike rides in the country, and picnics outside. Although March is often the snowiest month of the year, it also marks the official start to Spring. I myself have somewhat of a love-hate relationship with the month of March. On the one hand, it brings the possibility of a few warm days, red-winged black birds returning to the marsh across the road, and tulips lifting their leaves out of the soil. On the other hand, melting snow means muddy streets and soggy yards. I love the snow when it is falling, but I sure

hate the mess it creates when it melts.

Unfortunately, the spring melt can wreak as much havoc on our local lakes and rivers as it does in our yards. That dirty snow that has sat, accumulating car exhaust, salt, sand and litter for the past three months will melt and carry all of its dirt and muck with it down the street and into our local waterways.

The sheer volume of stormwater created by melting snow can often overwhelm local drainage systems. In a natural system, deep-rooted plants and tree roots absorb the melting snow. Some-

times the water collects in pockets in the land, creating vernal (seasonal) pools that act as breeding grounds for frogs, salamanders, and insects

such as dragonflies and damselflies. In our modern society, however, driveways, houses, and roads often disrupt these natural systems. These hard surfaces cannot absorb the stormwater and instead channel it to storm drains, culverts and local ponds. The result, too often, is flooding, stream bank erosion and dirty water.

We can limit the harmful impacts of spring snow melt by creating

Towns and neighborhoods that function more like natural systems. One solution is to build narrower roads and shorter driveways to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces. Another is to increase the ability of your yard to absorb water by aerating your lawn, planting trees and deep-rooted plants, and building rain gardens. A mature tree canopy will capture 1,600 gallons of water per year, while a 100 sq. ft. rain garden will absorb another 9,000 gallons. To learn more about landscaping your yard for clean water visit www.BlueThumb.org.

Source: Angie Hong, cleanwatermn.org.



On the Road Again...

By Todd Klahn, Highway Foreman

Due to the cold and snowy weather, residents will find numerous pot holes this spring as the road thaws. In addition to the pot holes, there are many large dips at culverts caused by roads swelling from the freezing water in the soil. Around the culverts, gravel is placed during installation which does not retain the water and therefore does not expand like the soil on either side of it. They will smooth out as the frost leaves the ground.

The 2012 roadwork bids are being considered. Due to state budget cuts, we will not be able to conduct as much road maintenance as we would like. We will be doing road repairs on Lake Kegonsa Road, Rutland Dunn Townline Road, Wilnor Drive, North Wilnor Road, and Alice-Pauline Drive. Seal coating will be done on Liatris Lane, Jordan Drive, South View Road, the Oregon Heights Subdivision, Schuster Road, and Holm Road. We will try to give the residents some advance notice but it will probably happen in June sometime depending on the contractor's schedule and the weather. Remember we seal coat the roads to add ten years to the life of the road. We will also be replacing culverts on Hawkinson Road, Sand Hill Road, Lalor Road, Labrador Road, Hook Island Road, and two on Schneider Drive.

Just a reminder to residents that road right of way is 33 feet from the center of the road. This area is used by the town for road maintenance, snow removal, and water drainage.

Our Urban Forest

by Hardy Krueger



When the word forest comes to mind, most people think of? Large stands of timber 'up north', our national and state forests, and the secluded

wooded areas of our world? Yes, these are all forests, but did you know that you have one right outside your front door? This is called an urban forest. An urban forest is the collection of all trees and other vegetation in and around a city, village or town development in association with buildings, infrastructure, soil, water, air, topography, animals and people. Our urban forest includes both public and private lands.

Trees grow differently in a typical forest habitat than in an urban setting. In the typical forest, trees grow tall, each competing for sunlight up in the canopy of the forest. Leaves and branches fall to the ground which then decompose to create fertile soil in which new plants and trees grow. The forest grows together as a unit. In an urban forest this is not the case. We plant trees and cut down others to meet our specific needs and desires. We prune, mow, rake, and mulch our urban trees to keep them how we want them.

But urban forestry is much more than that. We must, as a community, take even more care. Trees are important working components of community infrastructure, just like streets, sewers, utilities, public buildings and recreational facilities. A healthy urban tree canopy functions as "green infrastructure", reducing the need and expense to manage air quality and waste.

Trees need care to survive and the longer they live, the more benefits they provide. Trees are utilities that pay us back for this care by:

- Energy savings (electricity and natural gas)
- Air pollution reduction (carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur

dioxide, ozone, airborne particles, and volatile organic compounds)

- Runoff reduction (rainfall interception – storm water management)
- Noise reduction
- Increase in property values
- Lower levels of violence
- Positive psychological effects
- Providing wildlife habitat

In response to the 2005 tornado, the Town of Dunn in 2007 took steps to preserve and manage its urban forest through a Tree Ordinance and the creation of a Tree Board. With the help of Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Grants, an Urban Forestry Strategic Plan was created and several high risk trees in the Town's ROW's (right of way) were identified and removed. Planting and pruning was also conducted along with providing education for Town staff and creating outreach materials. The Town has since been awarded the Tree City designation for the past four years. The Town has also been awarded an Urban Forestry Grant for 2012. This grant will allow the Town to create a Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Plan, start a tree inventory of the Town's ROW's and parks, implement a voluntary private property tree inventory, conduct urban forestry training for town staff, and implement a Town of Dunn native seed collection and planting.

If you are interested in the Town of Dunn Urban Forestry Program, please feel free to contact Hardy Krueger or Jay Hoel. The voluntary private property tree inventory form will be available on the Town's website in May 2012. This private property tree inventory will be extremely beneficial to both the property owner and to the Town. **Please don't forget to come to the Town of Dunn's annual Arbor Day Celebration and Potluck April 28th 4-6pm!!!**

Source of Information for the article:
WDNR Urban Forestry

Dunn Wishes A Happy Retirement to Deputy Tom Stokes



Deputy Thomas Stokes retired this year from the Dane County Sheriff's Department. We wish him the best in the future. Below is a proclamation that the Town Board issued to Deputy Stokes at his retirement party.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY THOMAS STOKES

WHEREAS, Deputy Thomas Stokes, of the Dane County Sheriff's office and Chief Deputy for the Town of Dunn, has served the citizens of our beautiful town by keeping order and peace, solving crimes, citing violators, saving lives, and generally providing security for all, and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career, Deputy Stokes has earned an outstanding reputation for his caring attitude, professionalism, and ongoing commitment to excellence in law enforcement and public service; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Dunn recognizes that its citizens have benefited from the service of Deputy Stokes, due to his compassion and experience, and his providing sound counsel in the diligent and responsible fulfillment of his duties as Deputy Sheriff.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Dunn Town Board, on behalf of the citizens of the Town, proclaim that Deputy Thomas Stokes is a revered and respected Deputy Sheriff who departs our service in the highest regard for his contribution to the betterment of the town, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Deputy Stokes will be greatly missed and the Town of Dunn expresses sincere appreciation for the thirteen years of exemplary service and dedication, extends wishes for success, happiness and health in all his future endeavors and honors him by making this resolution part of the permanent records of the Town of Dunn.

Parks Update 2012

Finally the snow is melting and the temperature is starting to rise. We are all looking forward to getting outside and enjoy our beautiful parks.

Spring is always a busy time in the Town. We will be trying to do some prairie burns during the short time slot that nature allows. Please remember to clean up after your pets in our parks and on our roadways per our ordinance. The complete ordinance can be found on our website.



We are still working on revising our Bike Tour brochure that was done in 1976. We would like to use some of that information to make a new Bike Tour brochure.

The commission also developed a policy for use of Town property. The policy is as follows:

1. The Town may allow planting donations on Town property, but must be approved by the Parks Commission before permission is granted.
2. The Commission may allow planting donations as long as it does not infringe upon public access to the water.
3. All plantings must be in accordance with the Parks Master Plan.
4. Non-removal of private items may result in written notice of 14 days for removal or items will be removed at the owner's expense.
5. The policy may be modified or amended to promote the Parks Master Plan.

The Commission has been working on two of our parks in particular. Dunn Heritage had been taken over with willow trees and reed canary. The park was sprayed June 29, 2011. The Town will plant corn this summer and probably the Summer of 2013 to help eliminate stumps. Soybeans will be planted the Summer of 2014. The Fall and Winter of 2014 we will plant native species to restore the area to a pre-settlement habitat. Kegonsa Manor was readied for planting and volunteers organized by Don Schmidt seeded the park on January 28, 2012. It was suggested by one of the volunteers that we mow the seeded area this summer which is common practice. This whole process is very long, but soon it will be a beautiful prairie for everyone to enjoy!

Make sure to mark your calendars for the Arbor Day Celebration scheduled for April 28, 2012. Enjoy Spring!