



# Town of Middleton

Spring Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 2  
April 2008

**Annual Meeting** The annual meeting for the Town of Middleton will be held on April 8, 2008 at 7 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend.

## Open Book / Board of Review

After the assessor completes the assessment roll, the tax roll is available for examination. This is known as "Open Book" and is the best opportunity for you, the taxpayer, to review your assessment and compare it to others. Open Book will start on April 3. If you have questions about your assessment, you may schedule an appointment and discuss it with the assessor in an informal setting. This is the best time to try to have your assessment changed if you have evidence to show it is incorrect.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of these discussions, you may appeal to the Board of Review, which is comprised of the Town Board. The Board of Review is scheduled for May 15 but may take more than one session. You will need to notify the Clerk 48 hours in advance (by 7:00 p.m. May 13) if you intend to object to your assessment at the Board of Review. Be prepared to defend your objection with comparables and appraisals.

## Gypsy Moths

### **Please be on the look-out for Gypsy Moths.**

Last year we were introduced to the Gypsy Moth and found out what a destructive creature it can be. Thousands of these caterpillars did their best to defoliate hundreds of trees here in the Town. Since they have now invaded the Town, we need your help in locating them so that we can keep them under control.

Each year, gypsy moth caterpillars defoliate thousands of acres of hardwood  
*(Continued on page 4)*



## Branch Pickup

The Town picks up and chips branches up to 6" diameter. This does not include branches from businesses, farms, forest management, residential lot development or trimming by professional tree services. Branch pickup starts on the first and third Monday of each month, April 7 through November 7. Please have your branches out by the road early on those Mondays. Depending on the volume of brush left out for pickup, it can take from two to four days for the crew to complete pickup throughout the entire Town. Place arm-load-size bunches of branches (any length, longer is better) in small piles along the edge of the road with the cut ends facing the road. Please leave woody branches only. Garden plants, weeds, corn stalks, etc. cannot be run through the chipper and will not be picked up by the Town Crew.  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

*Branch pickup  
starts April 7*



*The Yard-Waste  
dumpster is  
located behind  
the Town Hall*

### **Weather Radios are Back**

As part of Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week, Dane County is once again offering Weather Radios at a substantial discount. These programmable radios, with batteries, will be available at the Town Hall on or before April 21. The cost will be \$ 23.21 including tax.

### **Some reminders about the Town Yard-Waste program**

You may bring your yard waste to the Town Hall to be composted. Please deposit waste in the large open dumpster located behind the Town Hall located on the left just off of Pioneer Road. To keep taxes down, this dumpster is available for Town Residents only.

Yard Waste consists of leaves, grass, plant clippings and other non-woody material. **NO woody material such as twigs or tree branches**

If you have noxious weeds (Garlic Mustard, Thistle, Leafy Spurge, etc.) to dispose of, please put them in a bag labeled "Invasive Plants - Please Landfill", then put the bag in your trash. NO noxious weeds are allowed in the dumpster as the material is composted.

**PLEASE, NO BAGS OR CONTAINERS.** Empty bags may be placed in the cart next to the dumpsters. If you have stumps to dispose of, you may place them by the sign **outside** the dumpster.

Dane County sells **compost** at the old Dane County-Verona Landfill adjacent to the Badger Prairie Health Care Center, at the Westport Site at 5254 State Highway 19 and at the Lake Farm Site. For more information regarding composting call 266-4139.



### **Weeds, Weeds, Weeds.**

We would like to remind all residents that it is their responsibility to destroy weeds on their property. This is part of the Town's 2008 Weed Control Program. State statute mandates destruction of: Canadian Thistle, Leafy Spurge and Field Bindweed (Creeping Jenny). The Town of Middleton's Ordinance requires the control of many more noxious and invasive weeds. Property owners are encouraged to identify and control weeds before they flower and seed.

The Town of Middleton web site includes information on the weeds subject to Town Ordinance, with identification and eradication links. The Town will take aggressive action to control weeds if property owners fail to act. This will result in the property owners being subject to the cost of control and/or eradication of those weeds, possibly in the form of a special tax assessment.

Contact Richard Oberle, Weed Commissioner (826-0559) or the Town Hall (833-5887) with any questions.

**The Town Crew** would like thank you for your understanding this winter with little to no salt. We are aware of the large amount of sand and chips left on the roads. We hope this will be washed off of the road with spring rains. We will be sweeping intersections and cul-de-sacs later this spring as needed.

## Pioneer Road Project

In preparation of the new Fire Station on Pioneer Road, Pioneer Road itself will be reconstructed from approximately the intersection of Heather Knoll north to the back driveway of the Town Hall. We expect to have the Road closed from April 14 to May 16. Please plan accordingly.



## Summer Road Projects

The Town is planning to do extensive maintenance on roads this summer including Crack Filling and Chip Sealing. When we have put together a final list of the Roads that will be Chip-Sealed, we will email and put it on our website. We are also expecting to reconstruct Old Sauk and Blackhawk Roads this summer.

**Wood Chips!** If you would like a load of chips created when we pick branches (this is not shredded bark quality) delivered FREE to your residence, please call the Town Hall at 833-5887 to make arrangements. One Load is about four cubic yards of material.

## Town Truck with Plow and Trailer for Sale

The Town is selling its 1994 Red Chevy K3500 Dump Truck with Plow. It has a 7.4L V8 with approximately 140,000 miles on it (Odometer reading not accurate). It has some rust but is in good running condition. The Plow is a 9' Western "Pro-Plow" and is in good condition. The trailer is a "Big O" 8'x20' with 5000 lbs capacity (7000 lbs GVW). Photos are available on the Town Website.

Sealed bids will be taken at the Town Hall (7555 W. Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593) up to the Bid Opening of 1:00 p.m. on April 18, 2008. Please address bids to: "Town Truck & Plow" or "Town Trailer".  
Minimum bid for Truck & Plow: \$ 3,000. Minimum bid for Trailer: \$ 800.

## Did you always want to be a firefighter when you grew up?

Now is your chance to have a fun and rewarding experience with a progressive department and make a difference in your community by protecting family, friends and neighbors.

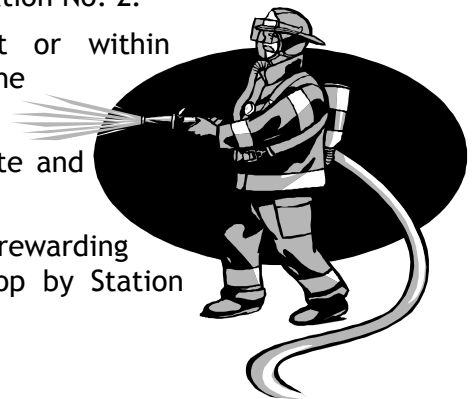
Did you know that the Middleton Fire District has been an all volunteer force for over 100 years?

It provides fire protection for the City of Middleton, Town of Middleton as well as portions of the Towns of Springfield and Westport. The Department also provides mutual aid fire protection services as needed to other communities throughout Dane County. The Middleton Fire District has two stations and 73 Volunteer / Paid on-call firefighters. Due to our continued growth and call volume, we are actively recruiting additional volunteer/ paid on-call firefighters for Station No. 2.

Qualified applicants must live in the Middleton Fire District or within two (2) miles of Station No. 2 which is located at the Middleton Town Hall, 7555 West Old Sauk Road.

No experience is necessary and all training, which meets both State and National standards, is paid for by the State of Wisconsin.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting and rewarding opportunity please contact Chief Aaron Harris at 576-1416 or stop by Station No.1, temporarily located at 3040 Laura Lane in Middleton.



## Gypsy Moths *(Continued from page 1)*

forests throughout northeastern United States, including Wisconsin. In order to limit their damage to trees in this area it is important for residents of the Town to identify the moths, caterpillars, pupa and or egg masses and report any infestation to the Town and to the State.

Thousands of these caterpillars have already been caught and destroyed around the Pope Farm Park. Others have been found in other areas in the Town. In order to keep these pests in check we need to know where they are. We are working with the State to spray areas of known infestation through their State-wide spray program.

### How to Identify the Gypsy Moth

**Distinctive markings:** They have five pairs of blue dots followed by six pairs of red dots down the length of their back. They are often mistaken for Tent Caterpillars.

**Behavior:** The gypsy moth feeds on oaks, crabapple, linden, willow, birch, aspen, and more than 250 other species of trees. The caterpillars hatch in May and feed through early July. During an outbreak they can strip trees, seemingly overnight. **They build no silk tents.**

### Look for egg masses

Survey your property for gypsy moth egg masses. If you find many fresh masses contact the Town Hall at 833-5887. Don't remove egg masses! The Town will send someone out to confirm the find and will need to count the egg masses.

Destroy egg masses by spraying them with a horticultural oil (available at lawn or garden centers). Do not use motor oil. Treating egg masses with oil is preferred as it leaves the egg masses in place to

be counted by the town's inspectors. Spray the oil onto the egg mass until it is soaked. If you prefer, you may, after the egg masses have been inspected, scrape off egg masses into a jar using a knife. Eggs can then be killed by microwaving them on high for 2 minutes or by soaking in soapy water for 2 days before discarding them in the trash. Don't just scrape egg masses onto the ground or try to crush them with your shoe as they will survive and hatch next spring.

Who should I talk to if I have more questions?

If you have concerns or questions about gypsy moth on your property or in your area, the fastest way to get the most detailed information is to email the DNR Gypsy Moth Mailbox at [DNRFRGypsy-moth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRFRGypsy-moth@wisconsin.gov). In the e-mail, be sure to include:

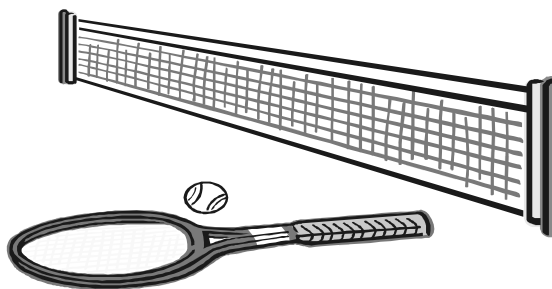
- Your name
- Your phone number
- The address of the property affected by gypsy moth
- A brief description of your affected property (how many acres, how many are wooded, how close are your neighbors, what gypsy moth activity you have been seeing on the property or in the area, etc.)
- Specific questions so we may quickly respond with the most relevant information

E-mails are checked frequently and are the most efficient way to reach DNR staff and have your questions and concerns resolved.

If you do not have access to e-mail, you can call the Gypsy Moth Information Line at 1-800-642-6684, choose option 2 and leave a message. Please include all of the bulleted information above. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

## Settlers Prairie Tennis Courts

The new tennis courts in Settlers Prairie Park off Airport Road are almost complete! We anticipate that they will be ready for use by early summer. The courts are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If others are waiting to use the courts, please limit playing time to one hour.





## Time for a New Dog License

Dog License Applications may also be downloaded from the Town website under “Forms”.

Send payment along with the completed form to: **Town of Middleton, 7555 W. Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593**. Please include a self-addressed return envelope so that we can mail the license back to you. The late fee is included in the pricing shown.

### TOWN OF MIDDLETON DOG LICENSE APPLICATION

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Owner’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Breed	Color	Rabies Expiration Date	Sex/Type (see below)	Fee	License # Issued
1) _____	_____	___/___/___	_____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	___/___/___	_____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	___/___/___	_____	_____	_____

<b>NM (Neutered Male)</b>	<b>SF (Spayed Female)</b>	<b>M (Male)</b>	<b>F (Female)</b>
<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>

**Reminders: Dogs must be on a leash whenever they are off of the owner’s property in the Town of Middleton (\$200 Forfeiture for Violation). Ownership of more than 3 dogs requires a Kennel License.**

## Building Permits

Building Permits are required for projects valued at over \$1,000 (materials and labor) or involve installing or relocating plumbing, electrical, heating (furnace replacement), venting or air conditioning equipment. Additions, alterations or structural repairs to buildings also require a permit. **If you are simply installing new shingles or replacing windows or doors that are the same size as the existing, you do not need a permit.**

You can find applications and other information under the “Forms” section of the town website.

The Town Inspector, Fred Hankel, is available to answer your questions; (office: 833-4346, cell: 843-8996) and is in the office from 8:00–9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

## Driveway Permits

The Town has new rules in place to help prevent shoulder washout and to make long driveways safer. All driveway installation or reconstruction now needs a permit.

Also, the Middleton Fire District has indicated several driveways exist in the Town that are sub-standard for their purposes (i.e., too narrow, too curvy, etc.). If you think you may have one of these driveways or you are thinking of replacing your existing driveway, please contact the Town to discuss your concerns. We would like to discuss your plans with you before your project is started.

## Sheriff's Reminders (from West Precinct Deputy Coy Bethel )

The Dane County Sheriff's Office would like to remind you of a few basic crime prevention tips. Please make sure all vehicles, houses, patio doors, and garages are **secured and locked** at all times. **Most victims of thefts have not locked up**, allowing easier access to valued items. Remember, burglars can enter your house if your vehicle is left unlocked with the garage door opener or keys inside.

In addition, keeping an inventory of your property (including serial numbers and photos of property) is very helpful for reporting purposes in case you become a victim of a crime.

If you are on vacation, ask a trusted neighbor to watch your residence. Also, arrange for someone to mow the lawn, gather your mail, newspapers, etc. It's also a good idea to contact the Dane

County Sheriff's Office and have them conduct a vacation check on your house, free of charge, while you're away. In general, keep your bushes/shrubs well trimmed so that all doors and windows can be seen and have sufficient lighting to illuminate all sides of your house.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office would like any suspicious activity, noise, people, or vehicles in your neighborhood to be reported **AS SOON AS YOU SEE THEM**. Vehicle license plate numbers, description, location, and direction of travel can be extremely helpful in locating and preventing criminal activity in your neighborhood. You are the eyes and ears of your neighborhood and the information you share can be very valuable in making your neighborhood a safer and better place to live.

**TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CALL:**

**9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES**

**255-2345 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES**

**FOR QUESTIONS OR GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

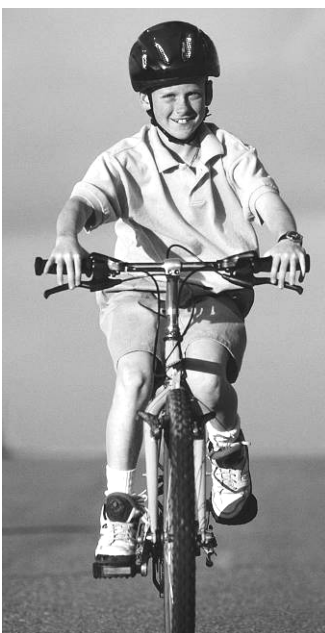
Deputy Coy Bethel at (608)833-9560 or e-mail at [bethel@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:bethel@co.dane.wi.us)

Deputy Dave Cattanach at (608)267-4936 or e-mail at [cattanach@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:cattanach@co.dane.wi.us)

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Tips**

With the increase of bicyclists and pedestrians using the county highways, please keep in mind the following information. According to Wisconsin State Statutes, a bicycle is considered a vehicle. This means the operator of the bicycle is subject to and is granted the same rights as the operator of any other vehicle. This includes obeying the rules of the road.

A bicyclist should obey all traffic rules, signs and traffic signals. In addition, cyclists should ride on the right side of the road with traffic, not against it. Stop at stop signs, making sure traffic is clear before you go and always use the correct hand signals before stopping or turning. Riding two



abreast is permitted on any street as long as other traffic is not impeded. A motorist passing a bicyclist in the same lane is required to give the bicyclist at least 3 feet of clearance, and to maintain that clearance until safely past.

The proper clothing is also important when riding a bicycle. A safety helmet should be worn at all times. 85% of all head or brain injuries could be avoided if cyclists wore bicycle helmets. Be sure the helmet fits well, covering the forehead. The bicyclist should wear bright/light-colored clothes or clothes with retro-reflective material. Bicycling at night requires a white front headlight and a red rear reflector. The white front light must be visible to others 500 feet away.

## ***Sheriff's Reminders—Bike Safety***

*(Continued from page 6)*

The red rear reflector must be visible to others between 50 and 500 feet away.

The most common causes of adult bicycle accidents are: motorist turn/merge into bicyclist's path, motorist driving out from a stop sign, motorist exiting a driveway or alley, bicyclist turn/merge into motorist path. Please be aware of these causes and use caution.

Both rural and urban pedestrians need to be on the lookout for motorists whenever and wherever

they walk. Before you step into a roadway, look left, right and left again for turning and approaching vehicles. Be aware of vehicles leaving driveways and alleys, and keep looking for vehicles as you cross the roadway.

In rural areas, always walk on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic. Be sure drivers can see you, whether you're crossing the street, walking through a parking lot, or past a driveway or country road. It's a good idea to wear light, bright, or fluorescent colors during the day. At night, carry a flashlight and wear retro-reflective clothing.

## **Openings on the Town Board and Plan Commission**

The Town of Middleton is seeking residents who want an opportunity to participate in Town Government by serving as a Board or Plan Commission member. Please send a **letter of introduction and interest** to the Town Board at: 7555 West Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593, or, email us [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us), subject "Board Opening" or "Plan Commission Opening"

The Board normally meets twice a month on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 pm. Applications must be submitted by April 17, 2008. Candidates will be interviewed at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting.

The Plan Commission normally meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Applications must be submitted by April 30, 2008. Candidates will be interviewed at the May 7<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

### **Need to contact the Town Hall?**

You may send us an email: [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us), call 833-5887, or fax 833-8996. You may also send a letter to: 7555 W. Old Sauk Rd., Verona, WI 53593. If you would like your correspondence routed to individuals, Commission, Committee, or Board members, please note it in your correspondence.

### **Subscribe to the Town email list**

Many of your questions will be answered by reading the information we send out to the list. You will also get information about upcoming meetings at the Town Hall. You may also check our website: [www.town.middleton.wi.us](http://www.town.middleton.wi.us)

### **Bulk Pickup Days**

Two times per year Green Valley Disposal picks up bulk items and excess trash that will not fit into your garbage cart. Your next free bulk pickup day is April 29/30 or May 1, depending on which is your regular trash day. If you have questions about what items Green Valley will pick up on those days, please call them directly at 251-7878.

### **Reserving Park Shelters, Athletic Fields and Town Hall**

Park Shelters, Athletic Fields and the Town Hall meeting room can be reserved by calling the Town Office at 833-5887. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Spring Newsletter, 2008

Town of Middleton  
7555 W. Old Sauk Road  
Verona, WI 53593

Phone: 608-833-5887

Fax: 608-833-8996

E-mail: [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us)

Web: [www.town.middleton.wi.us](http://www.town.middleton.wi.us)

### Fire Station #2 Takes Shape!

As you may of noticed when you came to vote, Fire Station #2, Just down the Road from the Town Hall on Pioneer Road, is starting to take shape! Walls started going up as of March 20 and we hope to have a roof on soon. Completion is expected somewhere in July. More Photos available on the web.

