



# Town of Middleton

## SPRING ISSUE | 2014 | NEWSLETTER

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## CIVIC HAPPENINGS

### Spring Election

The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, **April 1, 2014**.

The local Town positions to be decided by the Spring Election are

Town Board Supervisor Seats #3 and #4. Paul Connell and Richard Oberle

are incumbents running for Seats #3 and #4 respectively. Richard Oberle is being challenged by Gary Whitney. Other offices on the ballot are Court of Appeals (District 4), Dane County Circuit Court Judge (Branches 1 and 7) and School Board Candidates.



### Town of Middleton Annual Meeting

The Town will have its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, **April 15, 2014** at 7:00 pm. The Annual Meeting is a great chance for residents to hear what the Town is planning to accomplish during the coming year. It is also an opportunity for residents to express their views and ask questions. All town residents are encouraged to attend this public meeting.

### Sale of Pioneer Lands

The Pioneer Lands are located behind the Fire Station on Pioneer Road. At the Annual Town meeting on **April 15, 2014**, the Town Board will pose the question to you, the Town Electors, "May the Town Board sell the remaining portion of the Pioneer Lands?" This will be your opportunity to have direct input on Town business.

This issue has been looked at by the Finance Committee, the Park and Plan Commissions as well as the Board. It is now time for you to look at it as well and decide if it should be developed and sold at this time. We will have more information on the Town's website soon and we will send out an email when that information has been placed on the website.

### Town Earns AAA rating!

Standard and Poor's Rating Services recently contacted us to get current financial information needed to update the Town's bond rating. With the current state of the economy, it is very important for credit rating agencies such as Standard and Poor's to have an accurate up-to-date rating for municipalities.

Standard and Poor's has announced that the Town of Middleton has achieved a rating of **AAA!** This is the highest rating available and no other town in Wisconsin has achieved it. We are very proud of this accomplishment and how it reflects on the Board, Finance Committee, Staff, especially Patti Keichinger, our Deputy Treasurer, and the Community.

# CIVIC HAPPENINGS

## Board of Review

Open Book is the best opportunity for you, as a taxpaying property owner, to review the assessment of your property. **The Open Book window is Tuesday, April 22 through Wednesday, May 7.**

This process starts with the property owner doing research. The property owner compares the assessment of their property against similar properties (via information available online at Access Dane, the Town website, or in the Town Hall during business hours). This work provides needed evidence to justify the proposed change in property valuation. Since Assessors look at comparable sales to determine the value of a property, the materials presented should show sales or assessments of comparable homes that substantiate the change.

If the decision is to proceed with an appeal based on a perceived inequity in property valuation, a change in valuation request is made directly to Paul Musser using the information gathered during the research phase. Paul can be contacted in advance of Open Book to provide documentation and discuss the assessment. Another option is to contact the Town Hall to make an appointment with Paul during the windows of time that he will be available at the Town Hall for these discussions. Please realize that Paul cannot do anything about the 2013 property taxes already billed. His role is to create an accurate assessment of Town properties.

**Paul Musser • Musser Appraisal Service**  
PO Box 620213 • Middleton, WI  
(608) 712-0236 • musser.apprz@frontier.com

For those not satisfied with the outcome of the Open Book review, an appeal may be escalated to the Board of Review, comprised of the Town Board. The property owner registers their appeal by informing the Town Clerk, David Shaw, of their intent to make an appeal at the Board of Review. By State Statutes, this notification must be received at the Town 48 hours in advance of the Board of Review Meeting (effectively by noon on **May 16, 2014**).

The initial Board of Review meeting is scheduled for **May 19, 2014** at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall and will occur concurrently with the Town Board meeting held that night. Paper work submitted to the Town Clerk will be distributed to the Board of Review that night with appeals to be heard at a later date. Town staff will schedule the hearings for evenings in June.

## Park Commission News

We welcome you to visit the newly updated “Park and Recreation” tab on the town website, <http://town.middleton.wi.us>, to learn more about the Town’s Park amenities and opportunities for recreation. This website has been updated by the Parks Commission and we are looking for feedback from YOU for additions or improvements. Some of the highlights of the website include:

- Maps detailing the Town’s 22 miles of pedestrian and/or biking trails.
- A detail of each Park and Conservancy in the Town and the amenities offered in each area.
- A rundown on renting an affordable venue for your outdoor celebration in one of our four park shelters located at Enchanted Valley, Hickory Woods, Pioneer and Settlers Prairie Parks.
- Areas in the Town available for on-leash dog walking and the details of the Town’s Canine Coordinator program for those interested in using any additional trails in Town for on-leash dog use.
- A copy of the 2013 5-year Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Lastly, the Park Commission meets at 6:30 PM on the second Monday of every month at the Town Hall. We would love to see you there and hear your thoughts on the website or anything else having to do with the Town’s Park and Conservancy space. Please join us!



# CIVIC HAPPENINGS

## New Voting Machines

All the municipalities in Dane County, along with several other counties throughout Wisconsin will be using new voting machines starting in 2014. The new machines are intended to be more secure and reliable. For example, when a ballot is fed into the new machines, the screen will show whether it was accepted properly or whether there was a problem. This will assure the voter that their ballot was counted. This new process takes a minimum of time, so we are asking voters to **please wait after inserting the ballot** until the machine indicates it has accepted the ballot.

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## Are You Registered to ✓ote?

Log onto My Vote Wisconsin:  
<https://myvote.wi.gov>

- ✓ Check the status of your voter registration.
- ✓ Use “Click & Mail” to update your registration (you must print the form and bring to the polling place with you).
- ✓ Find the location of the polling place for your residential address.

## Deputies Corner



Now that we are getting close to the end of winter, it is a good time to check your vehicle out and make sure its equipment has survived. Winters are hard on a lot of external equipment so this is a great time of the year to make sure you are safe and legal.

Here are the areas to check from front to rear:

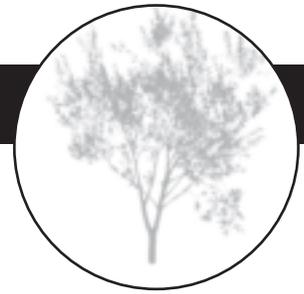
- Front lights, to include blinkers and parking lights
- Front license plate (these are still legally required in the state of Wisconsin)
- Front tires for tread depth and signs of dry rot (tread depth needs to be more than 2/32")
- Windshield (any crack more extending than 8" in the area cleaned by your windshield wipers is illegal)
- Rear tires (same as the front)
- Rear lights
- License plate lights
- License plate registration stickers (ensure you have a current year sticker)
- Exhaust (look underneath to make sure nothing is dragging or rusted off)

The above checks will make sure you avoid drawing the unwanted attention of the police while helping to provide safety while on the road. A number of the cars I dealt with that were in accidents over the winter were overdue for new tires. Also, as temperatures warm up keep an eye on your tire pressure. You will see the pressure change as the temperatures warm up and that can cause over or under inflated tires which have an impact on your cars ability to negotiate corners or stop.

In addition, it is a good idea to make sure your insurance information and registration information are in the car as well. If you have new drivers in the family make sure they know where to find the insurance and registration information in the event they are in an accident or stopped by the police.

The cold weather and the copious amounts of salt used on our roadways can cause a lot of damage to the vehicles we drive. As the weather warms up take the ten minutes or so and give your car a quick once over for your peace of mind and the safety of all of us on the roads.

As always, be safe and if you have any concerns that we can assist you with, please feel free to contact either me, Deputy Mike Mohr at [mohr.michael@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:mohr.michael@co.dane.wi.us) or Deputy Garrett Page at [page@danesherriff.com](mailto:page@danesherriff.com).



## Brush and Small Tree Limb Pick up

The Town Crew is scheduled to chip brush and tree limbs left at curbside during the following weeks:

- April 7 and 21
- May 5 and 19
- June 2 and 16
- July 7 and 21
- August 4 and 18
- September 2 (*Crew will not chip on Labor Day*)
- October 6
- November 3

(The town trash calendar also identifies the weeks the crew will be chipping.)

## Reminder:

- Place the trunk ends of limbs and branches toward the road. Do not shorten long limbs. If you can reasonably get it to the street, the crew can get it into the chipper.
- Gather the smaller branches, brush, etc. into armload-sized bundles for easy handling.
- Gather undersized twigs (of pencil size diameter or smaller) into paper bags that will be shredded, on a tarp that will be left behind, in a wheel barrow, garbage can, tote, etc. to ensure a clean pick up. No plastic bags please.
- Christmas wreaths need to go into the green trash container to be picked up by Advanced Disposal Service with the rest of your trash. Almost all have wires to hold branches in place and as a result pose a hazard to both equipment and Town personnel.



**Important: Have your brush and tree limbs out on Monday morning of each chipping week.** It takes the crew approximately five days to chip the Town. Pick up dates and information on what is acceptable material for pick up can also be referenced on the Town of Middleton website. Only acceptable material placed in piles according to Town guidelines will be picked up.

## Wood Chips

Material from the brush and small limb pick up are chipped and available to town residents for use as mulch. This is not commercial quality mulch and includes the wide variety of materials left roadside for the Town Crew to handle. Only full load quantities of approximately 4 cubic yards are available. This represents a materials pile of approximately 6' by 6' by 3'. When calling Town Hall to request delivery, be ready to specify the preferred unloading location **as viewed from the road.**

## Tree Trimming in Road right-of-way

The Town Crew will be working on trimming trees and brush that are in the road right-of-way. The Town right-of-way is approximately 33' in each direction, from the center of the road. Most trees and brush that will be trimmed or removed are causing visual impediments to vehicles and/or drainage problems. If you have any questions, you can contact Jerry Wagner, Lead Town Crewman, at the Town office by dialing (608) 833-5887.

## Yard Waste

The Town has a Yard Waste Program that **begins Thursday, March 27, 2014** and continues through the fall allowing **only town residents** to bring yard waste to the Town Hall to be composted. Deposit waste in the building behind the Town Hall, at all times place the yard waste as far into the building as feasible. This will allow space for those who come after you to also place their yard waste into the facility. If the building appears to be full, please contact Jerry Wagner, (608) 833-5887, at the Town Hall to coordinate placement of excess material.

*Yard waste is limited to leaves, grass, and plant clippings. The Yard Waste Program excludes all woody material (twigs and larger), noxious weeds and ANY paper, plastic or containers of any type. When leaving yard waste, note the rules posted at the site. This program is a courtesy for residents and can be discontinued if abused.*

## Noxious weeds

Noxious weeds should be disposed by placing the weeds in a bag labeled "Invasive Plants – Please Landfill" and placing the bag with other waste in your green trash disposal cart. These should **NOT** be placed in the Town compost container!

Dane County also maintains compost sites 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 (608) 266-4139.

**NOTE: Some residents place their yard waste in public areas – i.e. land adjoining parks, trails, or easements. This is a violation of Town Ordinances. Do not use public lands as personal dumping sites for anything!**

# SEASONAL INFORMATION

## Road Construction

Old Sauk Road will be reconstructed and widened from Pioneer Road east to Schewe Road. This project is slated to begin this spring with substantial completion by July 15th. Final plans for the project can be viewed at the Town Hall during regular business hours.

The design of the project consists of expanding the road width to 28' from Pioneer Road east to Schewe Road. This allows for 4' bike lanes on both sides. The current road width is approximately 21'.

During construction, Old Sauk Road will be closed between Pioneer Road and Schewe Road, open only for traffic entering Pope Farm Conservancy. The Conservancy will remain open during the construction project. All other traffic will be detoured onto Pleasant View, Mineral Point or Pioneer Roads.

Questions regarding the project can be directed to Sara Ludtke, Public Works Coordinator at (608) 833-5887.

## Spring Bulk Pick Up is May 13, 14, 15

Advanced Disposal will pick up bulk items on your normally scheduled trash collection date on May 13-15. The items below will NOT be picked up by Advanced Disposal:

- ✘ Anything compostable – i.e. plant material of any kind.
- ✘ Anything potentially explosive – i.e. gas, tanks, ammo, fireworks, etc.
- ✘ Anything electronic – i.e. computers, monitors, TVs, appliances, etc.
- ✘ Anything hazardous – i.e. mercury, acid, antifreeze, fluorescent bulbs, pesticides, poisons, chemicals of any sort, asbestos, needles, batteries, etc.
- ✘ In addition to the above: paint, fire extinguishers, auto parts, and hot ashes.

Disposal of items not accepted by Advanced Disposal may be accepted at Dane County Clean Sweep – see their website at [www.danecountycleansweep.com](http://www.danecountycleansweep.com) or at one of the Dane County compost sites. If you have questions on whether specific items are eligible for pick up, please call Advanced Disposal directly at (608) 251-7878.

## Electronic Waste

Late in 2010 all electronic waste was banned by State Law from being thrown out with the trash. Special arrangements need to be made for the proper disposal of computers, monitors, televisions, cell phones, printers, fax machines, VCR's, DVD players, devices with video displays and the many other items that are electronic. Presently, several large computer and appliance stores are offering drop off sites for e-waste.

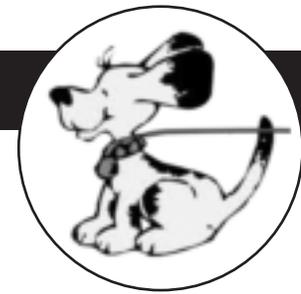


## Have you seen the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?

Madison is quarantined for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). This means no wood can leave the county nor be returned to the county. This borer attacks Ash trees that are a common urban landscape tree. Signs include D-shaped emergence holes in the bark, winding s-shaped lines on the trunk, woodpecker activity, unusual sprouting from trunk, vertical bark splits, and branch dieback.

Dane County has set up a management plan for control efforts and tracking of the EAB. The goals are: Reduce the environmental impacts of the EAB within Dane County and mitigate the potential economic and social costs associated with emerald ash borer control efforts and damage. Educate yourself by:

- Learning more at: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) or [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov)
- Report sightings of EAB by calling: 1-800-462-2803
- “How to Identify the Emerald Ash Borer” Presented by the Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24TSrUljMo>



## From the Town Inspector – Building and Driveway Permits

Building projects pick up in the spring of the year. A building permit is required for projects valued at over \$1,000, combined materials and labor, or that involve installing or relocating plumbing, electrical, heating (including furnace replacement), venting or air conditioning equipment. Additions, alterations or structural repairs to buildings also require a permit as do installation or upgrading of driveways. The exception to a permit is installing new shingles, siding or replacing windows/doors that are the same size as the existing.

Building Permit Applications and other information is found under the ‘Construction & Permitting’ section of the Town website. The Town Inspector, Fred Hankel, is available to answer your questions Monday through Friday by calling Town Offices, (608) 833-4346, or Fred Hankel’s cell phone (608) 843-8996.

## Keep the Town looking good

As the winter snow and ice recede, the roadsides of the Town of Middleton show the signs of improper disposal. When you are out for a walk or just in your neighborhood, pick up and clean up this year. Let’s keep the Town of Middleton a beautiful place we call our home. For those interested in a more committed endeavor contact the Dane County Adopt a Highway Program. For questions regarding this program call (608) 266-4011 or email [highway@countyofdane.com](mailto:highway@countyofdane.com)

## Pet Etiquette

- ***Always pick up after your dog!  
There are many dogs in the  
Town of Middleton and all of  
them poop. We need to keep  
our community clean.***
- ***Carry extra bags when walking  
your dog.***
- ***Teach your children how to  
properly clean up and dispose  
of pet waste.***



**West Middleton Youth Baseball and Softball** is having youth league open registration for boys and girls that match all levels of development and competition. Baseball leagues start at T-ball and going up through competitive teams playing in the Dane Co. Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth leagues. The Storm Club group of competitive baseball teams continues to grow in popularity. Check it out!

Girls’ softball leagues are available for players in grades 1 through high school. Home games are played at the beautiful Pioneer Park ball fields in the Town of Middleton. Scholarships are available.

More information can be found on the West Middleton Youth Baseball and Softball Club website, including photos of our events and an easy to complete on-line registration form: <http://www.westmiddletonbaseball.com>

## *Did You Know...*

- A Dog License is the Law. County ordinances require annual licensing for all dogs five months of age or older. The license year is January 1 through December 31. Owners must license any dog within 30 days of acquiring a new dog or moving to the unincorporated area of the County. \*\*Renew your dog license before March 31st to avoid the late fee.\*\*

A license provides an easy means of identifying you as its owner. If your dog is injured, the license may help others notify you quickly, possibly saving your dog's life. If an Animal Control Officer rescues your lost dog, the license may enable the Officer to return the dog directly to you, thereby saving both you and your dog a trip to the Shelter.

- Check out the Town of Middleton website at [www.town.middleton.wi.us](http://www.town.middleton.wi.us) where information is available about Town Board, Parks and Plan activities along with many other options.
- Home Owner Associations need to keep in touch by providing updated information when new officers are elected. Send the contact information to [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us)
- CTH M & S (Junction Road & Mineral Point Road) Madison Roadwork Project: Work is scheduled September 1, 2012 – July 31, 2014. Updates on the City of Madison Roadwork Projects can be found at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/transportation/roadworks/>



Freedom Fest is a 4th of July “Ol’ Fashion Picnic in the Park” for all of the residents in the Town of Middleton. The 2014 event will be our fifth annual celebration. Approximately 300-400 people attended last year and we hope it continues to grow.

The day starts with a 5k race (last year there were 80 runners), children’s fire truck bike parade, followed by a cookout/beer tent and then family games. Please visit the Town of Middleton website as the day draws closer for more specific details and times for Freedom Fest.

As participation in this event grows, we are in need of donations. Freedom Fest is now registered with the state as a non-profit. Donations for food/beverages/games and prizes are always helpful. Money raised from the event is put back into the community. A donation from Freedom Fest has put in place a permanent community grill in Pioneer Park for everyone to use. Last year over \$500 was given to the Town for a walking “public address” system for all the park tours given. It will be used during Freedom Fest.

Your help and ideas can make this day a fun event for all ages. If you have any suggestions, desire to volunteer time or donations, please contact **Mike Hanson** via **email: [hanson24@hotmail.com](mailto:hanson24@hotmail.com)** and please put Freedom Fest in your subject line.

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

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## Office Hours

Town Offices: 7555 W. Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593  
Town Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday—Thursday  
8 a.m. to noon—Fri.  
Town Phone: (608) 833-5887  
Town Email: [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us)  
Town Website: [www.town.middleton.wi.us](http://www.town.middleton.wi.us)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
March 31	<i>Dog License Application Due Date</i>		Town Hall
April 1	Spring Election	7:00 am to 8:00 pm	Town Hall
April 7	First Brush Chipping Date	As scheduled	
April 15	Town Annual Meeting	7:00 pm	Town Hall
May 13, 14, 15	Bulk Pick Up	<i>On normally scheduled trash day</i>	
May 19	Board of Review	7:00 pm	<i>Town Hall</i>
May 26	Town Offices Closed		<i>Memorial Day</i>
July 4	Town Offices Closed		<i>Independence Day</i>
August 12	Partisan Primary Election	7:00 am to 8:00 pm	<i>Town Hall</i>
September 1	Town Offices Closed		<i>Labor Day</i>

## KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

### Dane County Sheriff Dispatch

Non-emergency (608) 255-2345

### Street Light Outages

MG&E (608) 252-7333

Alliant 1-800-Alliant

Advanced Disposal (608) 251-7878

Animal Control (608) 838-0413

### Middleton Fire Department

(Non-emergency) (608) 827-1090

### Middleton EMS Department

(Non-emergency) (608) 827-1040

### Town Building Inspector

(Fred Hankel) (608) 833-4346

### Town Assessor

(Paul Musser) (608) 712-0236

### Well Water Testing

PHMDC (608) 242-6515