



# Town of Middleton

## SPRING ISSUE | 2013 | NEWSLETTER



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## CIVIC HAPPENINGS

### Town of Middleton Annual Meeting

On Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 7:00 pm, the Town will have its Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for residents to express their views and ask questions. It is also a chance for the Town Board to share town achievements during the preceding year and its plans for the future. All town residents are encouraged to attend this public meeting.

### Open Book and Board of Review

Open Book is the best opportunity for you, as a taxpaying property owner, to review the new assessment of your property. **The Open Book window is April 15 through May 5.**

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 or in the Town Hall). 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. Information to research property values is available during Town business hours.

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 2012 property taxes already billed. His role is to create an accurate assessment of town properties.

#### Paul Musser • Musser Appraisal Service

PO Box 620213 • (608) 712-0236

[musser.apprz@frontier.com](mailto:musser.apprz@frontier.com)

For those not satisfied with the outcome of the Open Book review when discussions are between the property owner and the assessor, an appeal is escalated to the Board of Review comprised of the Town Board.

As with the Open Book, the property owner creates the documentation for the appeal. The research done in the Open Book phase will be used and perhaps enhanced by additional documentation for the Board of Review. Directions on the appeal process are found at the Wisconsin Department of Revenue website that contains the 2013 Property Assessment Appeal Guide. The website is <http://www.revenue.wi.gov/pubs/slf/pb055.pdf>. A key responsibility of the property owner is to be prepared to defend their appeal with comparables to their property and/or recent appraisals of the property.

(continued on page 2)

# CIVIC HAPPENINGS

(continued from page 1)

Once justification work is completed, 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 (by noon on May 17).

The initial Board of Review meeting is scheduled for May 20 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 and 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 after May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Spring Election – Tuesday, April 2, 2013

The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013. The local Town positions to be decided by the Spring Election are: Town Board Chair and Supervisor Seats #1 and #2. Greg DiMiceli is challenging Milo Breunig, incumbent, for Town Chair. Cynthia Richson is challenging Tim Roehl, incumbent, for Seat #1 and Troy Alton is challenging Bill Kolar, incumbent, for Seat #2. Other offices on the ballot are State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Court of Appeals (District 4), Justice of the Supreme Court, Dane County Executive, Dane County Circuit Court Judge (Branch 16) and School Board Candidates. There is also one advisory referendum question pertaining to Election Day voter registration.

## Are you registered to vote?

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

- ✓ Check the status of your already submitted voter registration.
- ✓ Use “My Vote” to update your registration (you must print out the form and bring to the polling place with you).
- ✓ Find the location of the polling place for your residential address.
- ✓ View a sample ballot for the election.

## Sheriff's Office

Soon we will see the snow make way for more favorable spring weather. With that comes an increase in outdoor activities, one of which we see quite frequently here in the town is bicycling.

According to Wisconsin DOT, in Wisconsin in 2010 one bicyclist was injured or killed every 8.4 hours.

- 1,092 crashes involved bicyclists in Wisconsin in 2010.
- Of these crashes, 9 bicyclists were killed and 1,028 bicyclists were injured.
- The bicyclist is almost always injured in a bicycle/motor vehicle crash.
- Children sustain between **1/3** and **1/2** of all bicycle injuries each year. They are involved in crashes caused by darting into traffic and excessive vehicle speeds in neighborhoods.

### What You Can Do:

- Give the bicyclist at least 3 feet of clearance when passing.
- Bicyclists passing a parked, stopped, or moving motor vehicle are also required to give at least 3 feet of clearance.
- Be aware of children riding their bicycles. A child riding in the street or road may suddenly swerve in front of you.

### Current Bicycle Laws –

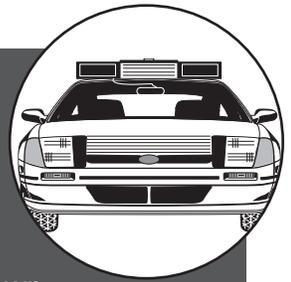
Based on Wis. Stats. 340.01(5), 346.02(4)(a) and 346.80(2)(a)

- Vehicular Status—the bicycle is defined as a vehicle. The operator of a vehicle is granted the same rights and subject to the same rules as the driver of any other vehicle.
- Any person operating a bicycle at less than the normal speed shall ride as close as practicable (not as far right as possible) to the right-hand edge of the unobstructed traveled roadway, including riders who are riding two or more abreast.

I would like to remind folks that if you find it necessary to report irresponsible bicyclists, to try and provide as much description of the riders so that we may try and locate them. I have a link to the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (<http://bfiw.org/>), so that everyone has access to the same information.

Once the weather warms up, I, along with Deputy Mohr, will be out in the community on our bikes. Please feel free to stop us and say “hi”.

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



# SEASONAL INFORMATION

*Spring is the time of projects and garden plans.*

## Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Town is currently working on updating its 2008-2012 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The purpose of the CORP is to outline the Town's plan over the next five-years for outdoor recreation management, conservation and facilities development.

It provides the strategic framework to guide the Town in planning and prioritizing resources for staff and funding, and includes a timeline for implementation. A draft copy of the CORP is anticipated to be posted on the Town's website no later than April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Park Commission and Town Board are requesting your input. The Park Commission is also inviting residents to provide input on the CORP at its meeting scheduled for Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. You can also direct your comments or questions to Sara Ludtke at [sludtke@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:sludtke@town.middleton.wi.us).

## Town Crew Information —

### 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 1 and 15**
- **May 6 and 20**
- **June 3 and 17**
- **July 1 and 15** (Crew will not chip on Independence Day)
- **August 5 and 19**
- **September 2** (Crew will not chip on Labor Day)
- **October 7**
- **November 4**

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

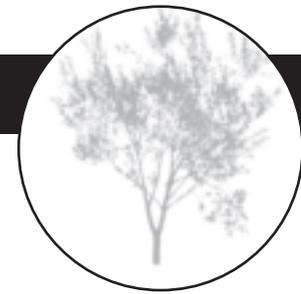
### Reminder:

- 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 materials 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.



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.

# BRUSH AND SMALL TREE LIMB PICK 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 the 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 (608) 833-5887 or (608) 575-1045 (cell).

## 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, road right of way, trails, or easements.

**THIS IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE DISPOSAL STRATEGY.** Do not use public lands as personal dumping sites for anything!

## Yard Waste

The Town has a Yard Waste Program that **begins Thursday, March 21** and continues through the fall allowing **only town residents** to bring yard waste to the Town Hall to be composted. Please deposit waste in the building behind the Town Hall, placing 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) 575-1045, at the Town to coordinate placement of excess material. The Town compost site will close on November 29, 2013.

*\*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.\**

# SEASONAL INFORMATION

## Spring Bulk Pick Up is May 14, 15, 16

Advanced Disposal will pick up bulk items on your normally scheduled trash collection date on May 14-16. Advanced Disposal will NOT pick up the items below:

- 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, anti-freeze, fluorescent bulbs, pesticides, poisons, chemicals of any sort, asbestos, needles, batteries, etc.*
- In addition: *paint, fire extinguishers, auto parts, and hot ashes will not be picked up.*

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 251-7878.

## Electronic Waste

Late in 2010 all electronic waste was banned by State Law from being thrown out with the trash. Special arrangements can 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 starting to offer drop off sites for e-waste. There are also businesses in the Madison area that take e-waste for a fee:

<b>FILE 13</b>	848-0013
<b>Resource Solutions</b>	244-5451
<b>Advanced Disposal</b>	251-7878



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

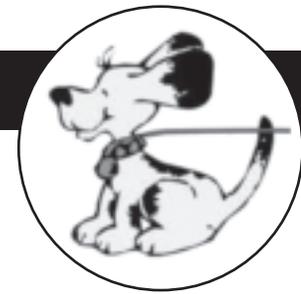
The emerald ash borer is lurking close by in Janesville and eleven counties in Wisconsin are infected, it is time to educate yourself on the trees on your property, street and the signs and symptoms of EAB. This borer attacks Ash trees that are a common urban landscape tree. Signs include D-shaped emergence 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. A few of the goals are:

- Reduce the environmental impacts of the EAB within Dane County.
- 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)
- To report EAB call: 1-800-462-2803
- View “How to Identify the Emerald Ash Borer” Presented by the Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24TSrUljpMo>



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 email [highway@countyofdane.com](mailto:highway@countyofdane.com) or call (608) 266-4011.

## From the Town Inspector – Building and Driveway Permits

There has been an increase in building projects recently. 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 'Forms' 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.

*What a wonderful time of the year to get out the leash and walk the dog! Please remember that what "Spot" may "deposit" along the way, should be picked up and properly disposed of by their owner.*

## Did You Know...

- **A Dog License is the Law.** County ordinances require annual licensing for all dogs five months of age. 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. (At this time, cats do not need to be licensed in the Town of Middleton.) 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.
- **New website coming soon:** The Town of Middleton is redesigning the Town's website. The new website is expected to be up and running by the end of summer.
- **We need your help!** The Town requests that all Home Owner Associations 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, 2013–July 31, 2014. Updates on the City of Madison Roadwork Projects can be found at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/transportation/roadworks>.

## FUN STUFF



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 up through competitive teams playing in the Dane County 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 grade 12. Home games are played at the beautiful Pioneer Park ball fields in the Town of Middleton. Scholarships are available. Late registration fees apply after March 31.

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

## Freedom Fest

Town of Middleton

Freedom Fest is a 4th of July "Ol' Fashion Picnic in the Park" for all of the residents in the Town of Middleton. The 2013 event will be our third annual celebration. Approximately 200-300 people attended last year and we hope it continues to grow. The day starts with a 5k race, 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 would be very 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. The grill was constructed with the generosity from Olson-Toon Landscaping, K&M Concrete, the West Madison Lion's Club and Twin Valley Farms.

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.



### Cultural Affairs Poster

The 2013 Dane County Cultural Affairs Art Poster is out and can be picked up from the Town office. The 18" x 26-1/2" poster is a still life titled "Crabapple" by Dane County artist Jayne Reid Jackson. More information about this poster can be obtained on their website <http://www.danearts.com/>. A donation to Dane County to cover the cost of time and materials is appreciated.

# 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)

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
March 31	<i>Dog License Application Due Date</i>		Town Hall
April 1	First Brush Chipping Date	As scheduled	
April 2	Spring Election	7:00 am to 8:00 pm	Town Hall
April 16	Town Annual Meeting	7:00pm	Town Hall
May 14, 15, 16	Bulk Pick Up	On normally scheduled trash day	
May 17	Property owner registers their appeal by noon – Board of Review <i>By State Statutes, this notification must be received at the Town 48 hours in advance of the Board of Review Meeting.</i>		
May 20	Board of Review – <i>(Paper work that was submitted to the Town Clerk will be distributed to the Board of Review that night with appeals to be heard at a later date.)</i>	7:00pm	Town Hall
May 27	Town Offices Closed		<i>Memorial Day</i>
July 4	Town Offices Closed		<i>Independence Day</i>
September 2	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  
[www.mge.com/contact/streetlight.htm](http://www.mge.com/contact/streetlight.htm)

Alliant 1-800-Alliant  
[www.alliantenergy.com/CustomerService/StormandOutageCenter/StreetLights/index.htm](http://www.alliantenergy.com/CustomerService/StormandOutageCenter/StreetLights/index.htm)

**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**  
DHMDC (608) 242-6515