



## Town of Middleton

SPRING  
2010

# NEWSLETTER

### Annual Town of Middleton Meeting

On Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, the Town will have its Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for Town of Middleton residents to express their views and ask questions about issues in the town. It is also an opportunity for the Town Board to inform members of the public about activities during the preceding year and aims for the future. The Town Meeting is a community event. All residents with an interest in civic activities are welcome to attend.



### Open Book/Board of Review

When Paul Musser, our Assessor, completes the assessment roll, it will be available for examination. This is known as "Open Book" and is the best opportunity for you, as a taxpayer, to review your assessment and request changes after comparing your assessment to others and providing evidence for the change request. You can meet with the Assessor at the Town Hall on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm to 8 pm. You may also schedule an appointment with Paul Musser to discuss any questions in an informal setting by calling him at 712-2847.

### Spring Election



The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The local Town positions to be decided by the Spring Election are: Town Board Supervisor Seats #3 and #4. Stephen Tumbush is running unopposed for Seat #3. Richard Oberle, incumbent, is seeking re-election and running unopposed for Seat #4. Election hours are from 7 am to 8 pm at the Town Hall.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of these discussions, an appeal may be made to the Board of Review, which is comprised of the Town Board. The Board of Review is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and may require more than one session if research is required. You must notify the Clerk, David Shaw at 833-5887, 48 hours in advance (by May 14<sup>th</sup> at noon since Town offices close on Fridays at noon) if you intend to make an appeal to the Board of Review. You will also need a Department of Revenue form. To facilitate the process, be prepared to defend your appeal with comparables and appraisals.

## Plan Commission Opening

As Steve Tumbush, Plan Commission Chair, is running unopposed for the Town Board, we are expecting an opening on the Plan Commission effective with the election in April. The Plan Commission will be interviewing candidates to fill the vacancy at their meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in participating in local government and serving as a Plan Commission member, please plan on attending this meeting. Candidates will be interviewed by the Commission members who will then make a recommendation to the Town Chair for a new member to be appointed by the Board.

The Plan Commission meets once a month on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm and makes recommendations to the Town Board regarding

approval of land divisions, zoning changes, conditional use permits and non-residential site plans. It also participates in the long range planning of the Town through periodic updates of the Town's Land Use and Comprehensive Plans.

If you are interested in serving as a member, please send a letter of introduction and interest no later than April 6<sup>th</sup> to the Town of Middleton Plan Commission at: Plan Commission Opening, 7555 West Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593, or, email us at: [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us), with a subject of "Plan Commission Opening."

Members receive a \$40 per diem for each meeting attended.

To obtain more information, call 833-5887.

## Plant Dane!

### Program Makes Native Plants Available at Greatly Reduced Prices

Rain gardens are an attractive way to reduce lawn maintenance time and costs, beautify your yard and help our lakes, rivers and streams all at the same time. And now, the Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program provides native plants to fill those rain gardens for less than half of retail prices!

Already in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, the Plant Dane! cost-share program provides homeowners, schools and nonprofit organizations with native plants, seeds and information to establish rain gardens and restore prairies through a gift from



the Graham-Martin Foundation. The Plant Dane! Program has provided tens of thousands of plants, resulting in hundreds acres being planted with native species throughout Dane County. Plan your rain garden today!

Go to [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com) for an online application. Orders may be placed through May 15<sup>th</sup>. Plants will be delivered on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

For more information please contact Marcia Hartwig, Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP) Storm Water Education Coordinator, at 608-224-3746, [hartwig@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:hartwig@co.dane.wi.us).

## **Invasive Weeds**

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We would like to remind all residents that it is their responsibility to destroy weeds on their property. 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 website 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 eradication of those weeds, possibly in the form of special tax assessments.

Residents are urged to act responsibly and destroy weeds that compromise our yards, green spaces and agricultural lands. Contact Richard Oberle, Weed Commissioner at 826-0559 or the Town Hall at 833-5887 with any questions.

## **Building and Driveway Permits**

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Building permits are required for projects valued at over \$1,000 (materials and labor) or that 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 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.

New rules going into effect on April 22<sup>nd</sup> involve renovations to pre-1978 homes. These new regulations cover Lead Safe Renovation Requirements. If you are renovating a pre-1978 home you'll want to be informed of these changes.

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 Thursday at the Town Hall or by calling Town Offices at 833-5887 or Fred Hankel's cell phone at 843-8996.

## **Changes to Parking Regulations**

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Effective May 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be restrictions on parking on Town Roads limiting the time that a vehicle of any description may be parked on a road to 48 hours. In addition, several roads will be changed to no parking at any time. These changes were made to facilitate the increasing level of traffic and to improve safety on our roads.

★ SHERIFF'S CORNER ★

In the last several months, our office has taken several complaints for theft from vehicles in the community. With the current economic situation, the criminal element will try and take advantage of others wherever and whenever possible. These individuals are in the neighborhoods targeting property that is easily accessed. They may return during the hours of darkness in order to check vehicles that are parked outside to see if they are unlocked. The simplest way to combat this is to ensure residents do not leave items of value in their vehicles and keep their vehicles locked. With this in mind, it is just as important to keep all doors to homes secured, paying close attention to garage access doors.

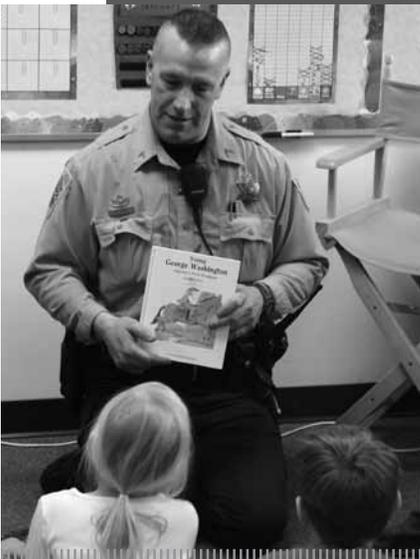
Hopefully, we will soon be saying goodbye to the snow and cold weather. With the warming weather, the roads will begin to settle and we will begin to see more bicyclists and people out enjoying spring weather and their community. Please be courteous to others enjoying the roads with you.

Be aware, most people are frustrated when a speeding vehicle goes by their residence. Please keep this in mind in your travels and pay a little more attention to your own vehicle speeds.

As a reminder to pet owners, please take the time to familiarize yourself with the Town's ordinances regarding your animals.

This is your community and we want you to stay safe. If there are any concerns that we may assist you with, please feel free to contact either myself, Deputy Garret Page at [page@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:page@co.dane.wi.us) or Deputy Mike Mohr at [mohr.michael@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:mohr.michael@co.dane.wi.us).

*Deputy Garrett Page reading to one of the 1st grade classes at West Middleton Elementary*



**2010 CENSUS: It's in Our Hands**

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$3 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about how we live as a nation – our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more – are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.



## The Census: A Snapshot

**WHAT:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.

**WHO:** All U.S. resident must be counted – both citizens and non citizens.

**WHEN:** You will receive your questionnaire in March 2010 either by U.S. mail or hand delivery. Some people in remote areas will be counted in person.

**WHY:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

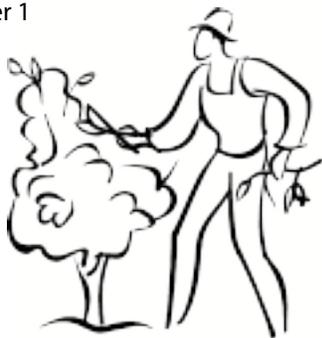
**HOW:** Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers will visit non-responding households to take a count in person.

Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential. For more information, visit the 2010 Census website at <http://www.census.gov/2010>.

## Brush and Small Tree Limb Pick-up

The Town Crew will begin chipping the week of April 19<sup>th</sup> and continue during the weeks scheduled below, coming to a conclusion the week of November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please have your brush and tree limbs curbside on Monday of scheduled chipping weeks. It takes the crew approximately five days to chip the Town.

**CHIP WEEKS:** April 19 • May 3 • May 17 • June 7 • June 21 • July 5 • July 19 • August 2 • August 16 • September 6 • September 20 • October 4 • November 1



**TIP 1** – Place the trunk ends of limbs and branches toward the road.

**TIP 2** – Gather the materials into armload-sized bundles for easy handling.

**TIP 3** – Gather undersized twigs (of pencil size diameter) into paper sacks that will be shredded or on a tarp that will be left behind to ensure a clean pick up. No plastic bags please.

Pick up dates and information on what is acceptable material for pick up can be referenced on the Town of Middleton website. Only acceptable material 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 the Town Hall to request delivery, be ready to specify the preferred unloading location as viewed from the road.

## Reserving Park Shelters, Athletic Fields and Town Hall

Town resources can be reserved by calling the Town Office at 833-5887 and completing a reservation form. Reservations are made on a first come/ first serve basis. Forms with required reservation information can be downloaded from the Town website under "Forms and Permits". The fee schedule associated with these resources is also found at this same site.

## Weather Radios

Weather radios that provide localized alerts are available to town residents. There are a limited number available at last year's cost of \$25 including tax and are available from the Town Office.

## Dog Licenses

Licenses are required each year for all dogs in the Town of Middleton. Recently, we've had calls from residents who have 'found' lost dogs. If the dog has a tag, the Town of Middleton can assist in identifying the owner and returning these straying dogs. If unable to identify the owner due to missing tags, Dane County is contacted with a resulting fine to owners of \$109 per dog. Please license your dog to help us provide the best service to the community and you.



## Summer Road Projects – Pioneer Place, Bronner and Koch Roads

The Town is planning to do maintenance on roads this summer including crack filing and chip sealing. When we have put together a final list of the roads that will be chip-sealed, we will e-mail it to our subscriber list and put it on the Town's website.

Pioneer Place will receive a full reconstruction and Bronner and Koch Roads will receive a wedge-overlay to restore the crown on these roads. These projects will go out for bid early this spring.

## Cultural Affairs Poster

The 2010 Dane County Cultural Affairs Art Poster is out and can be picked up from the Town Hall. More information about this poster can be obtained on their website: <http://www.culturalaffairscommission.com>. A donation to Dane County to cover the cost of time and materials is appreciated.

## Medicine Disposal Opportunity

Dane County is providing an opportunity to dispose of unwanted or expired medicine in your homes. On Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 1 pm, there will be a MedDrop site at the Middleton High School parking lot – 2100 Bristol St, Middleton, WI.

More information about the MedDrop is available at <http://www.meddropdane.org/>.

## 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 33 feet 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 833-5887 or 575-1045 (cell).

## Gypsy Moth Update

We would like to thank all the people who helped identify problem areas caused by the Gypsy Moth caterpillars. This information gave us the ability to create a second spray block in the Town of Middleton. The target location for control is in Cherrywood, covering approximately eighty acres in the Cherrywood Lane, Sabaka Trail and Ox Trail area. Several other sites were identified but, due to the size of these isolated locations, did not fit the guidelines required by the DNR. Monitoring will continue in the future so your help in identifying problem areas and sharing the information with the Town is essential.

## Yard Waste

The Town offers a Yard Waste Program beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup> allowing town residents allowing town residents to bring yard waste to the Town Hall to be composted. Please deposit waste in the designated area behind the Town Hall located on the left just off of Pioneer Rd. Yard waste is limited to leaves, grass, plant clippings and other non-woody material. The Yard Waste Program excludes woody material (twigs and larger), noxious weeds and ANY plastic bags or containers. 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 are best disposed by putting them in a bag labeled "Invasive Plants – Please Landfill" and deposit the bag with your other trash in your Green Valley Disposal cart.

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 266-4139.

### Items That Green Valley Disposal Does Not Accept For Bulk Pickup:

- Trees
- Grass Clippings\*
- Sod\*
- Leaves\*
- Gas/Kerosene
- Propane Tanks
- Computers
- Paint
- Batteries
- Hot Ashes
- Hazardous Chemicals
- Asbestos
- Appliances containing Freon
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Pesticides
- Poisons
- Ammunition
- Explosives/Fireworks
- Mercury from thermometers
- Acid
- Fire Extinguishers
- Auto parts
- Antifreeze
- Needles

\* See Yard Waste article above.



**Office Hours** Town business is conducted at 7555 W Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593. Office hours are: 8 am to 4 pm Mon-Thur; 8 am to Noon Fri. Town personnel can be reached by phone at 833-5887 or by email at info@town.middleton.wi.us. Keep up to date on events and actions involving the town by signing up for email notifications. Simply click on the Subscribe Now link from the Town of Middleton website (www.town.middleton.wi.us).

**Calendar  
of Events**

April 6	Spring Election	7 am to 8 pm	Town Hall
April 6	Deadline for Planning Commission Applications		
April 13	Town Meeting	7 pm	Town Hall
April 19	First brush chipping date	Ongoing	
April 28	Open Book	7 pm to 8 pm	Town Hall
May 4, 5, 6	Bulk Pick Up		
May 31	Town Offices Closed		
June 5	Med Drop	9 am to 1 pm	Middleton High School

**Important Contact Information**

Dane County Sherriff Dispatch.... 255-2345  
(Non-emergency)

Street Light Outages  
MG&E ..... 252-7333  
Alliant..... 1-800-Alliant

Green Valley Disposal..... 251-7878

Animal Control ..... 838-0413

Middleton Fired Department..... 827-1090  
(Non-emergency)

Middleton EMS Department ..... 827-1040  
(Non-emergency)

