

# Town of Middleton

## FALL ISSUE | 2014 | NEWSLETTER

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## CIVIC HAPPENINGS

### Election Scheduled for Tuesday, November 4

The Town is getting ready for the Fall 2014 General Election scheduled for November 4. The polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Candidates for the following offices will be decided during that election:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- State Treasurer
- US Congressional Districts
- State Senate Districts
- State Assembly Districts
- Sheriff
- Clerk of Circuit Court



Absentee ballots will be available starting on Monday, October 20.

### Fall Bulk Pick Up is September 16-18

Fall bulk pick up will occur on your normally scheduled trash collection day during the week of September 16-18. If you have questions on whether specific items are eligible for pick up, please call Advanced Disposal directly at (608) 251-7878.

As a reminder, items below will NOT be picked up by Advanced Disposal during bulk pick up:

- Anything compostable – *i.e. plant material of any kind.*
- Anything potentially explosive – *i.e. gas, tanks, ammo, fireworks, etc.*
- Anything with electrical components – *i.e. computers, monitors, TVs, appliances, lamps, 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, hot ashes, 55 gallon drums, tires, concrete, and construction debris.*

Items not accepted by Advanced Disposal may be accepted at Dane County Clean Sweep located at the Dane County Land Fill on Highway 12 East of the 39/90 Interstate exchange—[www.danecountycleansweep.com](http://www.danecountycleansweep.com) is the website to navigate to.

Other sites with good information on where to take items not eligible for landfills are:

- ✓ Dane County - Public Works, Highway Transportation:  
<http://countyofdane.com/pwht/recycle/categories.aspx>
- ✓ State of Wisconsin – DNR  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Recycling>

# CIVIC HAPPENINGS (continued)



## Come Join the Town of Middleton Meetings

<b>Town Board</b>	The Town Board meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.*
<b>Plan Committee</b>	The Plan Commission meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.*
<b>Parks Committee</b>	The Parks Commission meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall.*
<b>Finance Committee</b>	The Finance Committee meets on an ad hoc basis.

*\*Exceptions may occur around election dates and holidays. Watch for changes at the Town of Middleton website, posted sites (Town Hall, Settlers Prairie Park and Voss Park), or sign up for emailed notices by emailing the Town a request to be added to the Town’s subscription list.*

## Noll Valley Conservancy – Check it Out!

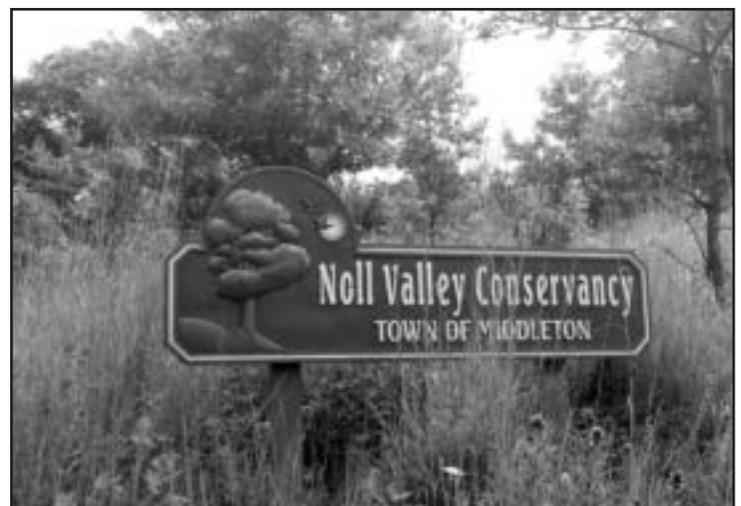
Noll Valley Conservancy is a great place for plant and nature lovers. The Conservancy also connects with the trails leading to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, where an additional 80 acres of parkland and miles of trails are available for outdoor enjoyment.

Noll Valley Conservancy is located a half mile east of Timber Lane on Noll Valley Road in the southwest corner of the Town of Middleton. To see a map of the area, view Trail Map #1 under Trail Maps of Parks and Recreation on the Town’s website (<http://town.middleton.wi.us>)

The five-acre conservancy features a quarter-mile loop walking trail through a savanna remnant – a piece of the original prairie and oak savanna that once was. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, prior to European Settlement, southern Wisconsin plant communities were primarily prairie, oak woodland, and oak savanna. During the past 200 years, over 99% of the original oak savannas were lost due to clearing, overgrazing, and invasion by dense shrub and tree growth due to lack of fire or grazing. Oak savanna is considered one of the most threatened plant communities in the Midwest with less than 0.01% remaining in an undisturbed, remnant condition. Also found in this relatively small Conservancy are over 154 native plant species.

In 1988, the Conservancy site was established as a conservation park by an agreement between the Town of Middleton and the developers of the Noll Valley subdivision. Noll Valley Conservancy is maintained by the Town of Middleton and by The Prairie Enthusiasts, a non-profit organization that protects, restores and maintains prairies and savannas. ([www.theprairieenthusiasts.org](http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org))

**The Town has scheduled a fall walking tour of Noll Valley Conservancy on Wednesday, September 10th at 6:00 pm with Mike Healy, Restoration Ecologist of Adaptive Restoration LLC. Adaptive Restoration assists the Town in maintaining this natural area.**





## Deputies Corner

### Firearms Safety and our children

It is hard to believe that we have already moved into August and school will again be starting up for all the children in less than a month. As we move later into the year and begin to think about education it has come to my attention that there is an area of safety education that is often times overlooked. The topic is gun safety and our children.

This topic has a history of being very politically charged which makes it difficult for many of us to talk about at any level. That being said, avoiding the issue entirely could lead to some serious consequences. Proper education coupled with simple and practical safety precautions could help safeguard your entire family from any unwanted consequences.

The point of this article is to strictly focus on firearm safety and the steps you can take to help educate your children to ensure their safety. Firearms will not go off on their own and require some sort of input to make them fire. From the technical aspect, they are simply a machine that has moving parts. Keeping that in mind, there are things parents can do to help keep everyone safe around them. First and foremost, if you have a firearm in your house keep it locked up. Additionally, keep the firearm unloaded and lock up the ammunition separately. If you feel the need to have a loaded firearm in your home keep it locked up in an area which no child has access to. The easiest way to keep children from having accidents with firearms is simply to reduce accessibility.

Understanding that reducing the accessibility will not remove every situation where firearms may be present around your children; there are some additional steps you can take to prepare them if they do find a firearm. To help ensure safety for your children, begin teaching them at a young age that they should not touch a gun if they find one or they are shown one by a friend. Teach your children if they are somehow in a place with firearms and no adults they should

#### **STOP, Don't Touch it, Leave the area, and Tell an adult.**

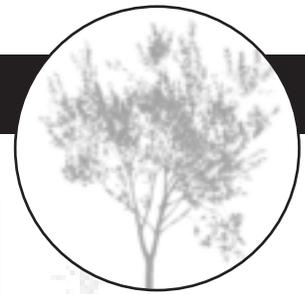
These 4 steps help give a child a preplanned way of dealing with this situation. These steps come from a program called "The Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program." This is a program sponsored and run by the NRA but does not promote gun ownership or ever show Eddie Eagle touching any firearms. The focus of this program is honed on safety and accident prevention. More information on this program can be found at [www.eddieeagle.nra.org](http://www.eddieeagle.nra.org).

Another very helpful source of education is any hunter's education program. Even if you, or your children, never plan to hunt, the safety lessons taught through this program are very valuable. These classes are not only valuable for hunting and firearms safety, but they also cover basic survival skills and land conservation.

It is an understatement to say there are a lot of firearms in our society. They are glamorized in television shows, movies, and children's video games. Let's work together to help keep ourselves and our children safe. By talking to your kids about firearms and giving them some pre-planned courses of action if they encounter a firearm, you can help remove some of the mystery around guns and help them feel safe and know how to react.

As always if you have concerns about this or other issues, please feel free to contact Deputy Garrett Page or myself at [page@danesherriff.com](mailto:page@danesherriff.com) or [mohr.michael@danesherriff.com](mailto:mohr.michael@danesherriff.com).

*Deputy Michael Mohr*



## Brush and Small Tree Limb Pick Up

Final chipping weeks for the remainder of 2014 begin on **September 2** (day after Labor Day), **October 6**, and **November 3**.

- Have brush out on Monday mornings of chipping weeks.
- Place the trunk ends of limbs and branches toward the road.
- Gather the materials into armload-sized bundles for easy handling.
- Gather undersized twigs (of pencil size diameter) into paper sacks (not plastic) that will be shredded or on a tarp that will be left behind to ensure a clean pick up.
- Root balls will not be chipped as the dirt dulls the blades of the chipper. Root balls CAN be left at the Town compost site by the designated sign ('Stumps').

**Please be aware that crew does not pick up brush piles with stones, dog feces or copious amounts of dirt.**

If chipping cannot be completed during the scheduled week, work will continue into the following week.

## Fall Mulching Opportunity

Material from the brush and small limbs are picked up and chipped and made available to town residents for use when completing fall mulch chores. This is not commercial quality mulch and includes the wide variety of materials left roadside for the Town Crew to handle. Town residents can pick up smaller quantities directly from chipped piles behind the Town Hall or be placed on a list for delivery.

- Only full load quantities of approximately 4 cubic yards are delivered. This represents a materials pile of approximately 6' by 6' by 3'.
- Specify the preferred unloading location *as viewed from the road*.
- Deliveries will be placed on resident driveways to avoid lawn damage.
- As a general rule, the crew delivers to the closest requesting resident location when full loads are ready and if multiple loads are requested will work to ensure all receive loads before large numbers of loads are delivered to a single resident.

## Where are composting sites for LARGE amounts of material?

Larger amounts of compostable material should be taken directly to the Dane County compost sites at the old Dane County-Verona Landfill adjacent to the Badger Prairie Health Care Center. Other sites are the Westport Site at 5254 State Highway 19 and at the Lake Farm Site at 7102 Highways 12 & 18. For more information regarding composting call (608) 266-4139 or use the website:

**[http://www.countyofdane.com/pwht/recycle/compost\\_sites.aspx](http://www.countyofdane.com/pwht/recycle/compost_sites.aspx)**

Note: Neither the Town nor Dane County accepts noxious weeds as part of the materials that can be placed in compost locations.

## What do I do with weeds?

### Weeds NOT Classified as Noxious:

Residents can either use the associated plant matter as compostable material in their yard or bring these materials to the back of the Town Hall, placing the material in the designated compost area (plastic bags are not allowed in the designated compost area). Compostable materials are non-woody leaves, grass and plant clippings.

### Weeds Classified as Noxious:

This plant material can be placed in with your other trash. Put them in a separate bag labeled "Invasive Plants – Please Landfill."

If you are unsure what plants are identified as noxious weeds by the DNR, please visit the Town website or the DNR site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives> where photos of the invasive plants are available.

## When can I burn leaves?

Burning is prohibited on Saturdays, Sundays and Federal Holidays. The Town recognizes that fall brings leaves, and the increased desire by residents to remove leaves from their property. As a result, an exception is made for the first and third Saturdays in October, November and December. Burns must start AFTER 8:00 AM and be fully extinguished by 3:30 PM and take place on days when the wind speed is below 15 MPH. Additional burn ordinance information can be obtained by contacting the Town Hall.

Another option is to bring leaves to either the Town or Dane County compost sites. The Town reminds you that you are responsible for disposing of compostable material properly. *Town ordinances prohibit the dumping of leaves and brush in any parkland, conservancy or stormwater drainage area.*

Burning permits are no longer required for Town residents. Keep in mind that as a resident you accept liability for any burn initiated under the weather conditions for the date you are burning as well as complying with all Town ordinances. Be especially sensitive to windy days. A copy of the burning ordinance is available at the Town Hall and can be viewed on the Town of Middleton website (<http://town.middleton.wi.us>).



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



- **Planning to do some remodeling or construction around the house?**

Check out the requirements for a building permit on the Town website or call Fred Hankel at (608) 833-4346 with questions. Building Permit Applications are found under the 'Building and Development' section of the Town website or can be picked up at the Town Hall.

- **Want to know more about the 2015 Town Budget?**

You are invited to participate in working sessions on budget workshop dates (posted at the Town posting sites and on the Town website). The final budget will be submitted for review and public hearing on Monday, November 17, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

- **Seeing Gypsy Moths in your neighborhood?**

Gypsy moths are seen in late August and September (<http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>). Only male moths fly; their coloring is primarily brown. Females don't fly, and are white in color. If you are finding significant numbers of moths in your area or adjacent areas, please contact the Town Hall with this information and your address. Without your help an area that should be identified for treatment may be missed.



- **Are you new to the Town or do you have new neighbors?**

The Town sends out a welcome information packet to new residents when made aware of the addition. The packet includes current Town Newsletters, trash schedules, and more. If you are new to the Town, drop by and we can provide you with the material in person or feel free to call and we'll mail a packet to you at your new residence.

- **Is it time to test your private well water?**

Well water should be tested annually for all Dane County residences using private wells. For more information on making arrangements for testing, view the Public Health Madison & Dane County website at <http://www.publichealthmdc.com/environmental/laboratory> or call the PHMDC Laboratory at (608)-243-0357.



- **Looking to get a 2013 and 2014 Dane County Cultural Affairs Art Poster?**

Copies of the 2013 and 2014 posters are still available and can be picked up from the Town Hall office. More information about this poster can be obtained on their website: <http://www.culturalaffairscommission.com>. A donation to cover the cost of time and materials is appreciated.

- **Getting rid of or replacing an old appliance?**

The Focus on Energy website at <http://www.focusonenergy.com/residential> is an excellent resource covering on Appliance Recycling for possible rebate and removal options.

- **Street light out near you?**

Call Alliant (608-255-4268) or MG&E (608-252-7333) directly with the nearest intersection or use their on-line reporting pages.

- **Tired of getting all those Phone Books?**

You can stop receiving phone books with a simple click of your mouse. Visit <https://www.yellowpagesoptout.com> and follow the instructions.



- **Want to keep up on Town happenings?**

Subscribe to get Town notices by email. Send your request to subscribe to [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us) with your preferred email address for receiving notices and the word 'Subscribe' in the subject line. To unsubscribe, include the email address that you want to unsubscribe and the word 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line, send it to [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us).

## How to Safely Deal with Bats in Your Living Space

### Bats in your House are a Risk to Your Health

Bats are important to our natural environment and ecosystem, and play a role in protecting the health and comfort of people and animals. One nursing mother bat can devour as many as 4,500 bugs, including mosquitoes every night. That is a genuine public service! The problem we have with bats is when they show up in our living space. Bats tend to show up indoors more often at this time of year because young bats born in the spring are now old enough to take to the air in search of food **and new places to live.**



Finding a live or even a dead bat in your bedroom can be upsetting. It can also present a serious risk to your health because bats can be infected with rabies. While only a very small percentage of bats actually carry rabies, the consequences of actual rabies exposure can be catastrophic in that an untreated rabies infection is almost always fatal. Here are some tips on how to stay safe when a bat gets into your living space.

If you find a live or dead bat in your living space in the morning, there is a possibility that you could have been bitten while you were asleep. Bat bites are often hard to notice. Even though all your instincts may tell you to shoo the live bat out, or toss the dead bat in the trash, **THIS IS A VERY BAD IDEA** because

- a. it is safest to assume that you have been exposed
- b. the only way to confirm an exposure is to have the bat tested in a lab
- c. if the tests are negative, you are in the clear
- d. if the result is positive, **or if the bat is unavailable for testing** you will need to undergo rabies vaccination.

If you find a dead bat, use a paper towel or disposable rubber gloves and carefully place it in a container (cottage cheese type container) and put it in the fridge for safe keeping. Call Public Health—Animal Services at (608) 255-2345 and they will pick up the bat and transport it to the lab.

If you find a live bat, try to catch it safely. Be extremely careful when attempting to catch the bat to avoid being bitten. The most common method of capture is to wait until the bat lands on a wall or other surface, then place an empty cottage cheese or other container over it, slide the cover under and secure it. Some people use a broom or tennis racket to knock the bat out of the air and then capture it. Once safely captured, keep the bat in the room with the doors and windows closed. Be sure to not set it free.

If you kill the bat, be careful not to damage the head since the brain needs to be intact for proper testing. Put it in the fridge to help conserve the tissues that need to be analyzed and call Animal Services at the number above for pick up. Animal Services may also be able to help you capture the live bat.

Bats are the primary carriers of rabies in Wisconsin, although so far this year only 3 bats have tested positive for rabies in Dane County and 14 have tested positive state-wide.

More detailed information can be found at:

[www.publichealthmdc.com/environmental/animal/rabies.cfm](http://www.publichealthmdc.com/environmental/animal/rabies.cfm)

and at [www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats/education/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats/education/index.html)

For information on the importance of bat conservation, see [www.batcow.org](http://www.batcow.org).

# 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 am to 4 pm Mon.—Thur.  
8 am to noon—Fri.

Town personnel can be reached by phone at (608) 833-5887 or  
by email at [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
Sept 8	Ironman Race		Timber/Midtown Roads
Sept 16-18	Bulk Pick Up	Normal Trash Day	
Nov 3	Final Brush Chipping Week		
Nov 4	Fall 2014 General Election	7:00 AM to 8:00 PM	Town Hall
Nov 17	Town Budget Meeting	6:00 PM	Town Hall
Nov 27-28	Town Offices Closed	Holiday Closing	
Dec 15	Tax bills will be mailed on or before this date		
Dec 24-25	Town Office Closed	Holiday Closing	

## KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

**Dane County Sheriff Dispatch**  
(Non-emergency) (608) 255-2345

**Dane County Sheriff Dispatch**  
(Emergency) 9-1-1

**Street Light Outages**  
MG&E (608) 252-7333  
Alliant (800)-255-4268

**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

**Middleton Fire Department/EMS**  
(Emergency) 9-1-1

**Town Building Inspector**  
(Fred Hankel) (608) 833-4346

**Town Assessor**  
(Paul Musser) (608) 712-0236

**Well Water Testing**  
PHMDC (608) 266-4821