

Town of Middleton

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Town of Middleton

SPRING ISSUE | 2012 | NEWSLETTER

Office Hours

Town Offices: 7555 W. Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593
Town Hours: 8 am to 4 pm Monday -Thursday
8 am to noon - Friday
Town phone: 833-5887
Town email: info@town.middleton.wi.us
Town website: www.town.middleton.wi.us

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
March 31	<i>Dog License Application Due Date</i>		
April 2	First brush chipping date	As scheduled	
April 3	Spring Election	7 am to 8 pm	Town Hall
April 10	Town Annual Meeting	7 pm	Town Hall
May 1, 2, 3	Bulk Pick Up	<i>On normally scheduled trash day</i>	
May 28	Town Offices Closed	<i>Memorial Day</i>	
July 4	Town Offices Closed	<i>Independence Day</i>	
August 14	Fall Election	7 am to 8 pm	Town Hall
September 3	Town Offices Closed	<i>Labor Day</i>	

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

Dane County Sheriff Dispatch
Non-emergency _____ 255-2345

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

Veolia ES Solid Waste, Inc _____ 251-7878

Animal Control _____ 838-0413

Middleton Fire Department _____ 827-1090
(Non-emergency)

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

Town Building Inspector _____ 833-4346
(Fred Hankel)

Town Assessor _____ 712-2847
(Paul Musser)

Well Water Testing _____ 266-4821
(DHMDC)

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CIVIC HAPPENINGS

Annual Town of Middleton Meeting

On Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 7 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.

Spring Election

The Spring Election is Tuesday, April 3, 2012. Local Town positions to be decided by the Spring Election are: Supervisor Seats #3 and #4. Steve Tumbush and Richard Oberle are incumbents running for Seats #3 and #4 respectively. Steve Tumbush is being challenged by Paul Connell. Other offices on the ballot are the Presidential Preference election, Court of Appeals – District 4, Dane County Circuit Court Judge – Branches 3, 8, 11 & 12, Dane County Supervisory District 15 & 29, School Board Members and a Dane County Referendum regarding collective bargaining. As of the printing of this letter, uncertainties surround both the recall election and Photo ID legislation. For the most up to date information, please access the GAB website:

Recall information:

<http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/recall>

Photo ID information:

<http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/photo-id>

Changes in the Election Process

Absentee voting in the Clerk's Office ends the Friday before the election. For large elections, the Town of Middleton has traditionally been open for voting the Saturday before an election, but will no longer be able to offer this service in order to comply with the new state law.

Signing the Poll Book

Voters are now required to sign or make their mark on the poll book before receiving a ballot. There is an exemption for voters who are unable to sign the poll book due to a disability.

Voter Registration Changes

The following changes to voter registration are effective immediately:

- Under the new law, citizens may no longer register to vote the Saturday, Sunday, or Monday before an election. However, citizens may still register to vote at their polling place on Election Day.
- Voters may no longer use a corroborating witness as proof of residence when registering to vote.
- A voter residing in the Town for less than 28 days before an election can vote at their previous polling location since there is now a 28 day residency requirement.

Open book/Board of Review/Property Reassessment Status

Most Town properties have been visited by Paul Musser, the Town Assessor. If Paul has not been to your residence, he will follow up with you shortly. The Town thanks you for your cooperation in this initiative. The next step for Paul will be entering information into a software program and refining values over the summer. By August, Town property owners will receive the updated assessment information.

After receiving the updated assessment letter, residents not agreeing with the new assessment have a chance to meet with Paul Musser at an Open Book meeting in September. Residents still not agreeing can use the Board of Review (scheduled at a date after the Open Book meeting) to challenge their assessment. The Board of Review will make a ruling as to the value after hearing and reviewing material from the appeal process.

Park Survey

As part of the planning process to update the 5 year (2013-2017) Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the Town of Middleton Park Commission is soliciting Town Resident views as to the status of our parks and recreational resources to help guide future priorities. We would like to thank-you in advance for your time to complete this survey. Your input helps The Town of Middleton Park Commission improve our service to you and other patrons who use our parks and conservancies. Your feedback is extremely valuable, and we welcome any comments and suggestions.

A link to the survey can be found at www.town.middleton.wi.us and is available to all residents. We ask you to complete the survey no later than April 30, 2012. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the Town Hall at 833-5887 and we will assist and make arrangements for you to take the survey online.



Freedom Fest Event at Pioneer Park

Town Projects in 2012 include:

Storm water management

- Vickiann/Mathias drainage management
- Twin Valley drainage management
- Ditch expansion on various Town roads

Chip sealing roads on normal rotation

- A map of roads to be chip sealed will be on the Town of Middleton Website once the Town receives a final bid price.

Long Range Planning

- Keewatin Trail/Winderemere Road area

Ongoing

- Trail work/park maintenance
- Tree Trimming in Road right-of-way

FUN STUFF

West Middleton Youth Baseball and Softball

West Middleton Youth Baseball and Softball Club (WMYBB) has youth league open registration for boys and girls that match all levels of development and competition.

- Baseball leagues start at T-ball and go up through competitive teams playing in the Dane County Call Ripken and Babe Ruth leagues. New in 2012 is the Storm Club group of competitive baseball teams.
- Girls' softball leagues are available for players in grades 1 through high school.

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 Baseball and Softball Club website, including photos of our events and an easy to complete on-line registration form:

<http://www.westmiddletonbaseball.com>

Freedom Fest 2012

Freedom Fest is a 4th of JULY "OI" Fashion Picnic in the Park" for all of the residents in the Town of Middleton. The 2012 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 (cake walk, 3-legged race, balloon toss, dunk tank and more). 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 gets bigger, we are in need of donations. Freedom Fest is now registered with the State of WI 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 new, permanent community grill in Pioneer Park for everyone to use. The grill is being 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 only make this day a fun event for all ages. If you have ideas and the time to help us plan and implement them, join us Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall (Old Sauk/Pioneer Rd). Your commitment would only be for two meetings prior to the event. What a great way to be involved in your community and shape how Freedom Fest 2012 will look. If you have questions, contact Mike Hanson: hanson24@hotmail.com. Title your email 'Freedom Fest' please.



Fireworks in the Town

Generally, fireworks are not permitted in the Town. An exception is allowed for sparklers and snakes as being legal to use in Wisconsin without a permit. The Town of Middleton has an ordinance that allows organizations to request a permit if they wish to sponsor a pyrotechnic display. This request must be made well in advance in order to allow time for Town staff and the Middleton Fire Department to investigate the pyro-technicians that will be handling the fireworks and organizing the display prior to going to the Board for approval. The storage of fireworks must be registered with the Fire Chief. A resident using illegal fireworks without proper permission could receive a ticket and be fined.

Reserving Park Shelters

Town park shelters can be reserved by calling the Town 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.

Cultural Affairs Poster

The 2012 Dane County Cultural Affairs Art Poster is out and can be picked up from the Town office. It is a still life titled 'Next of Kin' by Jacob A. Pfeiffer. 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.

Landscaping/Gardeners: Check out Sustain Dane

Through a gift from the Graham-Martin Foundation* (GMF), the Plant Dane! Program provides native plants at the greatly reduced price of \$1.80 each—less than half the normal retail price. The Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program is open to schools, non-profit organizations (homeowner, lake or neighborhood associations, youth groups, faith centers, clubs, etc.), municipalities and individual residents in Dane County, Wisconsin.

The process to order plans is spelled out at: <http://www.myfairlakes.com/plantDane>.

You can also attend a Retain the Rain! Workshop on April 14, 2012. For more information, contact Marcia Hartwig, Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership Education Coordinator at (608) 224-3746 or hartwig@co.dane.wi.us.

**The Graham-Martin Foundation, Inc., is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the preservation and restoration of natural ecosystems and the promotion of environmental education.*

AVOIDING THE DOG HOUSE

Don't be late - Dog Licenses

Licenses are required each year for all dogs in the Town of Middleton. Dog license applications are due by the end of March or late fees will be assessed. Licensing of dogs is part of a concerted effort to be sure that pets are protected from rabies. Please license your dog, not only because it is the law, but also because you are a good neighbor to other pet owning Town residents.



Wiley Coyote

The Town has received a multitude of reports of coyote sightings lately in all areas of the Town. Please be vigilant when you let your pet (dog or cat) out since these would be a target for a hungry coyote.

Straying dogs

During February a resident notified the Town their dog was lost. If you are wondering what happens in this situation, Kary Beck (another town resident) was nice enough to share the following information with the Town if the dog is picked up by the City of Middleton police: City of Middleton police typically take runaways to the Middleton Vet Clinic on Parmenter Street. Kary said leaving your name and number with both the police and the veterinary is a good idea. Her dog had dementia when it was old and occasionally wandered off. She was especially thankful for a good dog collar, pet ID and nice police officers. Adding a license tag allows the Town to identify the owner, speeding the return of the straying pet. (P.S. Daisy is back home.)

If a Dane County Deputy comes across a stray animal during reasonable hours, typically they will try and attempt to identify the owner either by license or talking with nearby residents. If they are unable to locate owner, a Humane Officer will be contacted. If the Humane Officer is on duty, the animal will be taken to the Humane Society for care. If it is after hours, the animal will still be taken to Humane Society by DCSO.

In the City of Verona assistance from Animal Services is requested. If the owner is known or the officer is able to make contact with the animal's owner, Verona does their best to get the animal back to its owner. On rare occasions (if Animal Services is unavailable), Verona has taken animals to the Animal Shelter in McFarland.

Leashing your dog

There are NO Town parks where dogs are allowed off leash. We have had several residents call the Town recently when walking their dogs on leash only to have their dog approached by other dogs off leash. This can be an unsettling situation since the restricted dog can feel vulnerable and react badly. The Town is sensitive to requests by resident for an off leash dog run area in the Town. Until a solution is found, be aware that leashing your dog is the right thing to do. The Town will increase surveillance by Town officers and park rangers to help non-residents understand Town rules. Anyone not leashing their dogs is subject to fines.

Doggie Do – Please Don't!

Please be a responsible pet owner. No one likes to deal with doggie do – and that goes in spades for people who don't own dogs only to find it in their yards or in public spaces where children play or on roadsides. The Town has received several complaints recently. Short and sweet – pick up after your pet and dispose of appropriately.

Gypsy Moth Update

There will be no spraying for Gypsy Moths in 2012 as a result of factors that helped suppress them in 2011. We would like Town residents to continue to provide information to the Town about infestations in their area. They are normally at the caterpillar stage in May and moth stage in July. Pictures can be viewed on various websites to help identify these moths if you have questions.

Deputy's Corner

During the last several months, the Sheriff's Office has received increasing reports about Bus Passing complaints. Complaints are coming both from residents and from the Middleton-Cross Plains School District bus company. This type of driving jeopardizes not only the safety of the children but the rest of the public.

In 2011, the Sheriff's Office received 47 verified reports of Illegal Bus Passing. As a result, there were 31 citations issued for either Illegal Passing or for Owner Liability. Please keep in mind that there were MANY more received but detailed information was not provided.

With these types of reports, a Sheriff's Deputy DOES NOT have to be witness to the violation. A bus driver or another member of the public can provide the vehicle's license plate information and report it to Law Enforcement. If the information provided can be verified, a citation may be issued. The fine for illegally passing a stopped school bus is \$240 and 3 points. If you are cited for Owner Liability (vehicle ownership/unable to verify driver identity) for illegal passing of stopped school bus, the fine is \$240 and 0 points.

Please remember that if you encounter a school bus and it has its red flashing lights activated, they are probably signaling that they are approaching a student to be picked up and getting ready to extend the bus stop sign. Once the bus has activated both flashing red lights and the stop arm has been extended, it is ILLEGAL to pass this vehicle.

The safety of the children is everyone's responsibility.

Garrett Page

Deputy Sheriff

Town of Middleton

Dane County Sheriff's Office

page@danesherriff.co



Request to Home Owner Associations

Help the Town keep in touch by providing updating information to the Town when new officers are elected. Send the contact information to info@town.middleton.wi.us.

Thank you.

Cross Plains Emergency Medical Services in need of Volunteers

The Cross Plains Area Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is looking to recruit volunteers to become Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) for the Cross Plains Area EMS. Volunteers are also needed to be an emergency vehicle operator to respond with the ambulance and crew. Current needs are weekend and daytime response personnel. Several Town of Middleton residents already are members and have been for a number of years. The Cross Plains Area EMS has very nice accommodations for members who pull shifts at the station. Training is provided through Madison College west campus and is reimbursable for members who complete and serve with the Cross Plains Area EMS. You must be 18 to apply. This is a great learning and volunteering experience for High School students. To learn more or request an application contact the Cross Plains Area EMS at 798-2720 or email cpemsdirector@charter.net.

Don't be the last to know!

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 and follow directions from there.

SPRUCING UP THE HOUSE



Spring Bulk Pick Up is May 1-3

Veolia ES Solid Waste, Inc. will pick up bulk items on your normally scheduled trash collection date on May 1-3. As a refresher, items below will NOT be picked up by Veolia ES Solid Waste, Inc. during bulk pickup:

- 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 Veolia may be accepted at Dane County Clean Sweep – see their website at www.danecountycleansweep.com or at one of the Dane County compost sites (see yard waste below). If you have questions on whether specific items are eligible for pick up, please call Veolia ES Solid Waste, Inc. 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 ewaste for a fee:

- FILE 13 _____ 848-0013
 Resource Solutions _____ 244-5451
 Veolia ES Solid Waste, Inc. _____ 251-7878.

Med-Drop

A Med Drop box is now available in the lobby at the Middleton Police Department, 7341 Donna Drive. Middleton, WI and is available to anyone, not just City of Middleton residents. Keeping these chemicals out of waterways and landfills is one way of keeping our land clean and green. The lobby is open 24 hours a day, every day. Please empty pills into plastic sealed bags and recycle the pill bottles at home. If you are dropping off liquids or creams, they may remain in the original container, but also placed in a sealed plastic bag to avoid spillage.

You Can Get Rid Of:

- Prescription Medicine (pills, liquids and creams)
- Over-the-Counter Medicine (pills, liquids and creams)
- Medications for Pets
- Vitamins
- Nebulizer Solution
- Medication Samples
- Illegal Drugs (Illegal drugs will be taken, no questions asked. They will be turned over to proper authorities immediately for proper disposal)

Do Not Bring:

- Needles/Sharps
- Inhalers
- IV Bags
- Oxygen Tanks
- Nebulizer Machines
- Thermometers

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 the Town Office (833-4346) or Fred Hankel's cell phone (843-8996).

TOWN CREW CORNER

Brush and Small Tree Limb Pick up

The Town Crew chip brush and tree limbs left curbside on the following schedule:

- April 2 and 16
- May 7 and 21
- June 4 and 18
- July 2 and 16
(Crew will not chip on Independence Day)
- August 6 and 20
- September 3
(Crew will not chip on Labor Day)
- October 1
- November 5



IMPORTANT

- 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 Veolia with the rest of your trash. Almost all have wires to hold branches in place.

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. 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. When calling Town Hall to request delivery, be ready to specify the preferred unloading location *as viewed from the road.*

Yard Waste

The Town has a Yard Waste Program 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 (575-1045) at the Town to coordinate placement of excess material. The Town compost site will close on November 30, 2012.

*NOTE: 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*

Invasive / Noxious Weeds

No one likes to have weeds appear in lawns in gardens where they are not welcome. Please destroy noxious weeds on your 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 additional noxious and invasive weeds. The best time to identify and control weeds is before they flower and seed. Contact Richard Oberle, Weed Commissioner (826-0559) or the Town Hall (833-5887) with any questions.

Noxious Weeds are best disposed by putting them 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 to become someone else's issue.

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.

NOTE: Some residents place their yard waste in public areas – *i.e.* land adjoining parks, trails, or easements. **THIS IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE DISPOSAL STRATEGY.** Do not use public lands as personal dumping sites for anything!