



Town of Middleton

WINTER
2010

NEWSLETTER

Mail Box Guidelines

Mailboxes are not the most exciting topic, but when damaged or knocked over can be a real pain to repair or replace – especially during cold weather. With winter snow removal season upon us, it is time to review Mail Box guidelines:

Mail boxes first and foremost must meet USPS guidelines:

- Bottoms of mail boxes should be 41 to 45 inches from the road service.
- House numbers on the box should be in letters not less than 1 inch high¹.
- The box must be positioned to allow for safe access for the mail carrier.
- See <http://www.usps.com/receive/mailboxstandards.htm>

Mail box supports are governed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation:

- Posts must be structurally sound, this includes the ability to withstand the force of snow being removed from roads². Posts must be able to break away on impact (not only plows, but also skidding vehicles.) Generally this means a 4x4 or drilled 6x6 post.

¹Mail box posts with fire numbers appended satisfy the 1 inch house number requirement by the USPS. Fire numbers, however, must be on the residence side of the street. Mailboxes across a road from residences cannot use fire numbers to replace the USPS numbering requirements.



The Town requires mail boxes and their posts to be free of obstructions and the doors of roadside mailboxes to be 18 inches back from the pavement edge.

Per Town of Middleton ordinance, mail boxes must have snow/ice cleared within 24 hours after the end of each snowfall for a distance of 15 feet on both sides of the box.

Mail Box Damage

Town roads are cleared of snow as promptly as possible after each snow fall. Each year, a few mail boxes are impacted during the snow removal process. In the event this happens to a town resident, the criteria used to determine responsibility for the event will be whether the mail box was actually in contact with the town plow or was impacted by only the force of the snow removed.

²If the force of the snow being removed from the roadway causes the damage, the resident will be responsible for all costs associated with the repair/replacement of the mail box and post. If the town plow came into contact with the mail box and generated damage, the resident is asked to contact Town offices at 833-5887 the next business day during normal office hours. Town reimbursement is limited to \$50.00 per occurrence.

More information on Town Ordinances covering mail boxes is available at the Town Hall.

 TOWN TIDBITS

Neighborhood Walkers

It is important that people walking before sunrise or after sunset wear reflective materials. It is difficult to see people during these hours. As a safety issue, please give serious consideration to this request for your own safety and that of your loved ones.

Plowing Request from the Town Crew

Please assist the crew during snow removal times by keeping the town right-of-ways cleared. Plow wings often extend upward off the pavement to sufficiently clear accumulated snow. Objects located in right-of-ways create temporary hazards for the crew and result in undesirable road drifts. As a reminder, all parking is off road (all four wheels) and for a maximum of 48 hours in any one location. Also, it is a violation of Town Ordinance (Section 4-3-5) to blow, plow, or deposit snow in or on the right of way of any street or road located in the Town of Middleton.



Who is Veolia ES Solid Waste, Inc?

Veolia Environmental Services Solid Waste Inc. acquired assets from Republic Services, parent company of Green Valley Disposal. The phone number remains the same, but the name on the trash and recycling trucks will now be associated with Veolia ES Solid Waste, Inc.

Burning

Town residents have expressed concern over some of the burns in the Town this fall. Extremely smoky burns create traffic and health hazards. Please limit burning to materials that are dry to minimize smoke and smoldering fires.

Baseball and Softball Registration Is Around the Corner

West Middleton Youth Baseball and Softball offers summer programs for recreational and competitive teams comprised of players from preschool through high school. Registration will occur in February and March. Watch the Town recreation web site for information. This is a volunteer community organization and new participants are welcome. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Ted Wadzinski at 831-2839.

Spring Elections

The Spring Primary (if necessary) will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2011. The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011. The positions to be filled by this election are:

Office	Position	Incumbent
Town Board Chair	Chair	Milo Breunig
Town Board Supervisor	Seat #1	Tim Roehl
T own Board Supervisor	Seat #2	Bill Kolar

The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2010. Nomination papers are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 4, 2011. Call or come to the Town Office for a Candidate Registration Packet if you are interested in running for the Town Board.

Old Sauk Road Reconstruction Project

With the passage of the 2011 budget, the long awaited Old Sauk Road reconstruction project is slated to begin in Spring 2011. This project begins at the intersection of Pioneer Road and continues west to Timber Lane.

As with any capital project of this size, the payment for work done is best handled over multiple years rather than attempting to be handled in a single year. To this purpose, the Town Board has borrowed \$1,850,000 in 'Build America Bonds' at a very attractive rate.

To firm up an understanding of the funds required for this project, the design of the project is well underway and consists of expanding the road width to 28' from Pioneer Road to Swoboda Road. This allows for 4' bike lanes on each side of the road. West of Swoboda Road, the road will narrow to 24' wide, which still allows for 10' drive lanes, and 2' paved shoulders on either side. The current road width is approximately 21'.

In addition to the Build America Bonds, the Town was recently awarded a Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant of up to \$235,000 to allow the 28-foot width and bike lanes to continue beyond Swoboda to Timber Lane. After serious consideration of this opportunity, the Town Board decided not to accept the grant for several reasons.

- First, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) informed the Town that construction may not start until 2012 or possibly 2013. This delay would be due to updates and modifications currently being made to the WisDOT's Sponsor's Guide that could affect the both requirements and time needed to undertake a multitude of activities: local bid letting, the certification process by the Federal Highway Administration, environmental

reporting requirements, and the process of obtaining easements. The Town Board felt this delay posed a substantial risk to the project by pushing construction activity out of the current favorable pricing window for road construction work.

- Second, WisDOT requirements specify the entire length of the project be treated as a single project. This means all aspects of the project, not just the added bike lanes, require WisDOT review and approval. Negotiations already firmed up with various parties would be voided, resulting in the Town being committed to new negotiations by WisDOT agents without the ability to have Town control in exposure to new agreements.
- Third, the Town would incur additional expenses to pay for the WisDOT review, environmental assessment fees and extra engineering fees to justify costs for reimbursement. These expenses could significantly reduce the value of the grant.

The Town expects to complete the final design of the project by February of 2011 and send the project out to bid no later than March. It is hoped that construction will start in late April or early May and be substantially complete by September 1st. Another Public Information Meeting will be scheduled for early January 2011. Please check the Town's website at the end of December for more information.



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 e-mail at info@town.middleton.wi.us.

Calendar
of Events

Date	Events	Hours
Dec 24	Town Office Closed	Holiday Closing
Jan 4 – 6	1st Holiday Tree Pick Up	
Jan 18 – 20	2nd Holiday Tree Pick Up	
Jan 31	Final Date to Apply for Lottery Credit	7:30 am to 4pm
Jan 31	First Installment of Property Taxes Due	7:30 am to 4pm
Feb 15	Spring Primary Election	7 am to 8 pm
April 5	Spring Election	7 am to 8 pm

Important Contact Information

- Town of Middleton 833-5887
- Dane County Sheriff Dispatch..... 255-2345 (Non-emergency)
- Street Light Outages
MG&E 252-7333
Alliant..... 1-800-Alliant
Reporting outages via web is an option
- Trash/Recycling
Veolia ES Waste Disposal, Inc 251-7878
Formerly known here as Green Valley Disposal
- Animal Control 838-0413
- Middleton Fire Department 827-1090 (Non-emergency)
- Middleton EMS Department 827-1040 (Non-emergency)

★ DEPUTY'S NOTEBOOK ★

First off, **THANKS TO YOU**, for your consideration while operating your vehicles on township roads. With the school year in full swing, I have received minimal bus passing complaints or traffic issues. Please keep up the good work!

Next, I want to send a reminder to residents that as of December 1, 2010, the new Texting while Driving law takes effect (ss 346.89 (3)(a)). The essence of the law is: No person may drive a motor vehicle while composing or sending an electronic text message. Let's try to minimize the amount of distractions we have when driving and continue to keep the community safe for all to enjoy.

As always, if you have areas of concern that you believe need to be addressed, feel free to let me know.

Be Safe!

Deputy Garrett Page

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