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**Office Information**

**Town Offices:**

7555 W. Old Sauk Road,  
Verona, WI 53593

**Town Hours:**

8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through  
Thursday & 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on  
Friday

**Town Phone:**

(608) 833-5887

**Town Email:**

info@town.middleton.wi.us

**Town Website:**

www.town.middleton.wi.us

**Should the Town withdraw from  
Dane County Zoning?**

Zoning is “the use of the public regulatory power to specify how land may be used and developed.” The intent of zoning is to balance individual property rights with the rights of the general public creating a healthy, safe and orderly living environment.

Historically, Towns were not given zoning authority when zoning control was first implemented as to not overburden small towns with this requirement. Since that time, many Towns through various circumstances have had the opportunity to obtain control over zoning. Many towns took advantage of these circumstances and took over zoning. Others decided not to. The Towns in Dane County have never had the opportunity, until now, to have local control of their zoning. The County has maintained that control since 1938.

Due to Act 178, Towns in Dane County can now choose to withdraw (or opt-out) from the County’s control. Like all decisions, there are advantages and disadvantages either way. The Town Board has wanted to ensure that the Town Electors have the opportunity to make this decision at the Annual Meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> (7:00 pm at the Town Hall) and have therefore taken several steps as outlined in the legislation in order to allow this.

We have put together some information on this subject and placed them on our website: [www.town.middleton.wi.us](http://www.town.middleton.wi.us). The Town will host a Q&A session regarding this decision on **Saturday, March 25, at 10:00 a.m.** We look forward to a discussion on the subject at the **Annual Meeting, April 18<sup>th</sup>** prior to the vote. ***Your photo ID will be needed in order for you to vote at the Town Meeting!***

**Weekly Recycling**

With an increased demand and public awareness, the Town will now be offering recycling pick-up every week along with normal trash pick-up. This change starts on May 1<sup>st</sup>. As a reminder, cardboard, paper, beverage cans, plastics #1-7 and aluminum foil are all recyclable. Some common items that are NOT recyclable include Styrofoam, plastic bags, take-out containers with food residue, paper coffee cups, yardwaste/compost, and household glass. If you have anymore questions about what can or cannot be recycled you can call Advanced Disposal and ask at (608) 251-7878 or check out their website at [www.advanceddisposal.com](http://www.advanceddisposal.com).

Advanced Disposal wanted to leave you with a few other environmental tips: reuse grocery bags/take reusable bags to the grocery store, turn off water when brushing your teeth/shaving, change traditional light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs, reduce junk mail you receive by taking your name off mailing lists, and rinse out all containers before recycling because food waste may contaminate the recyclable items. In addition, recycling one aluminum can saves enough electricity to power a 100-watt light bulb for 3 hours, , teach your kids not to litter and to recycle—helping to create our next generation of environmental stewards and finally the average American discards four and a half pounds of garbage everyday (EPA). Let’s all try to lighten the load!

# Timely Reminders

## Board of Review

Once we receive the assessment book from Paul Musser, our Town Assessor, here at the Town Hall, you will be able to examine it to see how your assessment compares to your neighbors'. You will also be able to do this online through Access Dane and Assessor Data ([accessdane.countyofdane.com](http://accessdane.countyofdane.com) and [assessordata.org](http://assessordata.org)).

From when we receive the assessment book until the Board of Review is the best opportunity for you, as a property-tax payer, to review the assessment of your property. We expect to receive the assessment book on April 10<sup>th</sup>. We will send out an email notification when the assessments are available. Property owners that have had their assessment changed will receive notification of this change via first-class mail.

The process of contesting property assessment starts with research. The assessment of a property is compared to similar properties (via information available online at Access Dane, [assessordata.org](http://assessordata.org) or in the Town Hall during business hours). This comparison 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 proposed change.

If the decision is to proceed with an appeal, a change in valuation request is made directly to the assessor. Musser can be contacted to provide documentation and discuss the assessment.

Another option is to contact the Town Hall to make an appointment with Paul. He will be available from **5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 26, 2017 at the Town Hall**. Please realize that Paul cannot do anything about the 2016 property taxes already billed. His role is to create an accurate assessment of Town properties.

For those still not satisfied after discussions with Paul, an appeal may be escalated to the Board of Review, which is comprised of the Town Board. The property owner must inform the Town Clerk, David Shaw, of their intent to make an appeal. By State Statutes, this notification must be received 48 hours in advance of the Board of Review Meeting (effectively by noon on May 12, 2017).

The initial Board of Review meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and will occur concurrently with the Town Board meeting held that night. The appeal documentation may be submitted anytime prior to the meeting but must be submitted within the first two hours of the meeting. Hearings for the appeals submitted will be scheduled for a later date.

**PAUL MUSSER**  
**MUSSER APPRAISAL SERVICE**  
P.O. Box 620213 \* Middleton, WI 53562  
(608) 712-0236  
[Musser.apprz@frontier.com](mailto:Musser.apprz@frontier.com)

## Town of Middleton Meeting Schedule

**Town Board:** Meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00pm\* in the Town Hall.

**Plan Commission:** Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm\* in the Town Hall.

**Parks Commission:** Meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30pm\* in the Town Hall.

*\*Exceptions may occur. Watch for changes at the Town of Middleton website, posted sites, or subscribe to our email notifications (link available on Town website [www.town.middleton.wi.us](http://www.town.middleton.wi.us)).*

## Town of Middleton Annual Meeting

The Town will have its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. The Annual Meeting is meant to be an informative opportunity for Town residents to hear what the Town is working on the year. It is also an opportunity for residents to express their views and to ask questions. **There will be a vote on whether or not to withdraw from Dane County Zoning. All town residents are welcome to attend this public meeting. Your photo ID will be needed in order for you to vote!**

# Deputy's Corner



## Welcome Deputy Jeremy White

Hello everyone, my name is Jeremy White and I am the second shift Deputy for the Town of Middleton. I was selected in August to take the position of Deputy Mike Mohr who is now a firearms instructor for the Dane County Sheriff's Office.

A little about myself, I grew up in Cross Plains and graduated from Middleton High School in 2000. After graduation I enlisted in the U.S. Navy and spent four years active duty. Once I completed my enlistment, I came back to the U.S. and attended the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where I received my bachelors degree in Business.

I have been with the Dane County Sheriff's Office since 2007. I was assigned to Field Services out of the West Precinct before taking the position at the Town of Middleton. I am also a member of Dane County's Tactical Response Team and a state certified instructor.

If you see me out and about, stop and say hello. I am honored to be a part of this great community and have the opportunity to give back to the same community that I grew up in.

With that, I want to remind everyone that with the weather changing and spring approaching, there comes different activities. Please beware of bicyclists and children playing during your daily commute. Also, obey the stop signs on the school buses when they are in use. Allow plenty of distance between the bus and your vehicle. There has been an increase of complaints of drivers passing buses when the bus's stop sign and flashing lights are being displayed. We encourage town residences to report these incidents when they occur so we can better address the issue.

There have also been some burglaries in the surrounding areas. These are simple "snatch and grabs" where a garage door or a vehicle is left open or unlocked. Items are then taken and sometimes not noticed by the owner until days later.

See you out there and stay safe!

Deputy Jeremy White

Dane County Sheriff's Office



## Dog Licensing Reminder

All Town of Middleton/Dane County residents owning a dog five months or older **MUST** have their animal licensed every year and have their rabies vaccination information up-to-date. These licenses can be obtained through the Town. There is a late fee after March 31, 2017. Questions about Town of Middleton ordinances either for animals, or any other general ordinance, contact:

Deputy Page: [page@danesherriff.com](mailto:page@danesherriff.com) or

Deputy White: [white.jeremy@danesherriff.com](mailto:white.jeremy@danesherriff.com).



## Water Tower Update



City of Madison's construction of the Blackhawk water tower, at the corner of Old Sauk and Pioneer Roads, is expected to begin soon.

The schedule calls for it to be filled and functional by September 30, 2018; total project completion (landscaping, cleanup, etc.) is scheduled for October 31, 2018.

# Town Updates

## Improving your home or driveway?



Remember that a building permit is required for building projects that are valued at over \$1,000. This total includes materials and labor, or that involves installing or relocating plumbing, electrical, heating (including furnace replacement), air conditioning, or venting 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 'Construction & Permitting' section of the Town website. The Town Inspector, Fred Hankel, is available to answer your questions Monday through Friday by calling his office phone, (608) 833-4346, or cell phone, (608) 843-8996.

## Spring Election

The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The local Town positions to be decided by the Spring Election are Town Chair, Town Board Supervisor Seats #1 and #2. Bill Kolar, current incumbent, is running for Town Chair and Tim Roehl and Brent Renteria are incumbents running for Seats #1 and #2 respectively. Other offices on the ballot are State Superintendent, Supreme Court, Court of Appeals Judge and Circuit Court Judge.



Wisconsin voters must show an acceptable photo ID before receiving and casting a ballot either when voting by absentee or in-person on election day. For more information regarding Photo ID, please check out [www.bringit.wi.gov](http://www.bringit.wi.gov). In-office absentee voting will start Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Subscribe to Receive Email Notifications

Keep up to date on Town events, as well as what the Board and Committees are up to by subscribing to our email announcements at: <http://town.middleton.wi.us/>

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Bulk Pick-Up

May 9, 10, & 11<sup>th</sup>

Every Spring and Fall our garbage and recycle contractor, Advanced Disposal, has a bulk pick-up service on your regularly scheduled garbage pick-up day. This Spring, the dates are May 9-11<sup>th</sup>. What is considered garbage for bulk pick-up? Anything that can be landfilled that you normally can't fit in your garbage can.

Things that **cannot** be picked up include:

- Anything compostable – i.e. plant material of any kind.
- Anything potentially explosive – e.g. gas, tanks, ammo, fireworks, etc.
- Anything electronic – e.g. computers, monitors, TVs, appliances, etc.
- Anything hazardous – e.g. mercury, acid, anti-freeze, fluorescent bulbs, pesticides, poisons, chemicals, **asbestos**, **needles**, batteries, etc.
- In addition to the above: paint, fire extinguishers, auto parts, tires and hot ashes.



If you need to dispose of anything that is not accepted by Advanced Disposal, you can look up how to properly dispose of the item at the Dane County Clean Sweep website – [www.danecountycleansweep.com](http://www.danecountycleansweep.com). They accept most items, or have indications of where you can take specific items.

Still not certain if your item can be put out for bulk pick-up? Please call Advanced Disposal with any questions at (608) 251-7878.

# Crew Updates

## BRUSH AND SMALL TREE LIMB PICK-UP

April 3 & 17	May 1 & 15	June 5 & 19	July 3 & 17	August 7 & 21	September 4	October 2	November 6
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In an effort to better serve our residents, the Town provides a brush chipping service. The service is performed on a set schedule, however due to inclement weather and unforeseen events the time schedule may change. Brush collection will begin on the above dates.

**Important: Have your brush out on the Monday morning of each chipping cycle. It generally takes the crew five days to chip the Town. Only acceptable material placed in piles according to the Town guidelines will be picked up.**

### Guidelines:

- ◆ **DO NOT** create a big pile. Instead stack brush in smaller piles to be picked up by one person. This allows the Town crew to work more efficiently.
- ◆ Brush generated from an outside contractor **WILL NOT** be chipped by the town. It is the responsibility of the contractor to dispose of the waste they produce.
- ◆ Limbs should be no larger than 6 inches in diameter & be placed cut end towards the curb.
- ◆ Do not shorten long limbs. If you can reasonably get it to the street, the crew can get it into the chipper.
- ◆ Gather undersized twigs (pencil size diameter or smaller) into paper bags that will be shredded or in a wheel barrow, garbage can, tote or on a tarp that will be left behind after chipping. **NO PLASTIC BAGS.**
- ◆ Brush that contain nails, wires, etc. that may damage the chipper will not be disposed of, including large amounts of dirt, root balls, or stumps.
- ◆ Yard waste (leaves, yard clipping) will not be picked up.
- ◆ No rocks in the piles. They become **EXTREMELY** dangerous to the Town personnel if they go through the machine.
- ◆ Christmas wreaths have wires and need to go into the green trash container to be picked up by Advanced Disposal Service with the rest of your trash. They pose a hazard to both Town personnel and equipment.

**In order to accommodate every resident, chipping will be limited to 30 minutes per resident.**

## Wood Chips Available for Distribution

Material from the brush and small limb pick-up are chipped and are available to town residents for use as mulch. This is **not** commercial-quality mulch. It includes the wide variety of materials left roadside for the Town Crew to handle. Only full load quantities, approximately six-cubic yards are available. This is a pile of approximately 7' x 7' x 3'.

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

## NOTE:

Some residents place their yard waste in public areas – *i.e.* land adjoining parks, trails, or easements. **This is a violation of the Town Ordinances and will result in a fine.** Please do not use public lands as personal dumping sites!

# Summer Activities

## Pope Farm Conservancy On the Walls of the Smithsonian Museum

Local photographer, Sunil Gopalan created a stunning photo "Indigo Bunting on Sunflower," which was taken at Pope Farm Conservancy during Sunflower Days. It is honored in the Nature's Best 2016 Windland Smith Rice International Awards Competition in the birds category. It is now on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. You can see a better version of the picture on the National Museum of Natural History's website: <http://s.si.edu/2kxy8pl>



## WANT TO RENT A TOWN PARK SHELTER?

Town Park Shelters are rented on a first-come, first-served basis. Check with Town personnel regarding availability. Forms are available on the Town Website, tab at: Parks & Recreation / Activities / Park Shelter Rental. Fill out the Rental Application and either bring it or mail it to the Town along with any associated fees.



Sunflower days is an annual event put on by the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy. Nine acres of sunflowers bloomed last year with thousands of people from all over Wisconsin coming to see them. This year promises to be just as spectacular. Sunflower days is scheduled this summer from July 29-August 6<sup>th</sup>. After the flowers are

past their peak, they will be left to dry through the fall and will be harvested and sold as bird feed. In addition to Sunflower Days, Pope Farm has talks and tours from May-September in subjects such as local archeology, migratory bird species within the park, local plant life and more. Stop by their website for the full list of events: [popfarmconservancy.org](http://popfarmconservancy.org). Pope Farm is open sunup to sundown, every-day, so come and experience it for yourself!



## 2017 Plant Dane Native Plant Cost Share Program

The Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP) will be accepting orders for its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Dane Cost Share Program soon! The [Plant Dane Program](http://www.ripple-effects.com) provides native plants to Dane County residents at half the normal retail price. Schools, non-profit organizations, municipalities and individual residents of Dane County are eligible. Native plant gardens are an attractive way to reduce lawn maintenance time and costs, reduce stormwater runoff and beautify your property.

Choose from a variety of native plant species including butterfly, shortgrass prairie, and rain garden kits. Most plants will be \$2.00 each and all species must be ordered in multiples of four.

For more information on the Plant Dane Program visit [www.ripple-effects.com](http://www.ripple-effects.com). Order deadline with payment is Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Pick up is Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Dane County Land & Water Resources, 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison, WI 53719.

For more information, contact Christal Campbell, MAMSWaP Stormwater Education Coordinator [campbell.christal@countyofdane.com](mailto:campbell.christal@countyofdane.com) or call (608) 224-3746.



# Summer Activities

## Friend of the Town Award

The Town of Middleton has established a "**Friend of the Town Award**" to recognize individuals who have made a difference in the Town. The Town's hope in establishing this award is to:

- 1.) Recognize the actions that residents do to enhance our community and
- 2.) Commend those things that are founded on a humanitarian basis.

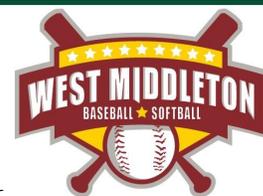
When you see a neighbor doing something outstanding, let the Town know by sending in the what, where, and when! The Town solicits nominations each year and the Town Board will then review candidates and select a recipient. All nominations can be sent to David Shaw. Submit the nomination by mail to Town of Middleton, 7555 W. Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593 or email to: [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us)

**All nominations must be in by April 10<sup>th</sup> to be considered.** The person you identify could be this year's Friend of the Town Award recipient!

TOWN OF  
MIDDLETON  
FRIEND OF  
THE TOWN

## West Middleton Youth Baseball and Softball

West Middleton baseball and softball 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 Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Leagues. Girls softball leagues are available for players in the current grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. Teams start at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with the coach pitching and then start pitching by themselves at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and above levels. Scholarships are available. Throughout the summer, players can attend the Sandlot program and have fun playing ball, work on their skills and just get rid of some energy.



Home games are played at the Pioneer Park ball fields in the Town of Middleton. Registration closes on March 31, 2017, **after which requests may be submitted, but players are not guaranteed a spot and a late fee is applied.**

Extensive detailed information can be found on the West Middleton Youth Baseball and Softball Club website: [www.westmiddletonbaseball.com](http://www.westmiddletonbaseball.com). Also on the website, are photos of past events and an easy-to-complete, online registration form. Go to either the baseball or softball tabs to find out more detailed league information. We would also love to have adults join in helping us develop the program as a coach, coordinator, or in other activity. Please email [wmybs1@gmail.com](mailto:wmybs1@gmail.com) if you would like to help the league or have any further questions.



*Freedom Fest* is a 4<sup>th</sup> of July, "Good, old-fashioned Picnic in the Park" for Town of Middleton residents and their families. The 2017 event will be the eighth annual celebration. Last year, more than 400 people attended. The hope is that it continues to grow every year.

The day starts with a 5K race for participants of all ages, followed by a children's fire-truck-led bike parade, a cookout – complete with a beer tent – and culminates with family games and prizes. Updated details will be on the Town website as the day draws closer.

As participation increases, so does the need for donations. *Freedom Fest* is now registered with the state as non-profit. Contributions of food/beverages/games and prizes are needed and also greatly appreciated. Money raised from the event is put back into the community. As a result of the donations from *Freedom Fest*, a grill was constructed in Pioneer Park, a new upgraded electrical box was installed in the Pioneer Park shelter, a portable PA was purchased to assist with park and conservancy tours, new flags were purchased for the Fire Department, and an AED was installed in the Town Hall.

Your help and ideas make this day enjoyable whether age 2 or 92! Your suggestions, desire to volunteer, or donations should be directed to Mike Hanson at: [hanson24@hotmail.com](mailto:hanson24@hotmail.com), subject line: ***Freedom Fest***.

# Town of Middleton

7555 W. Old Sauk Rd  
Verona, WI 53593  
[www.town.middleton.wi.us](http://www.town.middleton.wi.us)

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## Notable Dates

Date	Activity	Time	Location
April 4	Spring Election	7:00 am to 8:00 pm	Town Hall
April 18	Annual Town Meeting	7:00 pm	Town Hall
May 9, 10 & 11	Spring Bulk Pick-Up	On normal trash date	
May 29	Memorial Day	CLOSED	
July 4	Independence Day	CLOSED	
September 4	Labor Day	CLOSED	
September 12, 13 & 14	Fall Bulk Pick-Up	On normal trash day	

## Key Contact Information

### Dane County Sheriff Dispatch

Non-emergency (608) 255-2345

### Street Light Outages *(can be reported via email)*

MG&E (608) 252-7333

Alliant Energy (800) 255-4268

**Advanced Disposal** (608) 251-7878

**Animal Control** (608) 267-1989

**Dane Country Humane Society** (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 - Public Health

Madison & Dane Co. (608) 242-6515

Private Wells & Septic Systems (608) 242-6515