



Spring 2016

Town of Middleton

Town of Middleton Meeting Schedule

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Town Board

The **Town Board** meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m.* in the Town Hall.

Plan Commission

The **Plan Commission** meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.* in the Town Hall.

Parks Commission

The **Parks Commission** meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.* in the Town Hall.

Finance Committee

The **Finance Committee** meets on an ad hoc basis and establishes the subsequent meeting date during each meeting.

**Exceptions may occur. Watch for changes at the Town of Middleton website, the Town Hall, or subscribe to our email notifications (link available on Town website).*

Election News for Spring 2016

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, April 5, 2016: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

THE SPRING PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE ELECTION

The Spring Presidential Preference Election will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 in the Middleton Town Hall. This election also includes those positions in the Town that are to be decided upon, which are Town Board Supervisor Seats #3 and #4.

Paul Connell and **Gary Whitney** are incumbents running for Seats #3 and #4 respectively. Other offices on the ballot are the Justice of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Dane County Circuit Court Judges and School Board Seats.

Remember that Wisconsin voters must now show an acceptable photo ID before receiving and casting a ballot either when voting by absentee or in-person on Election Day. Acceptable forms include: A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, a Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card, military ID issued by a U.S. uniformed service, or a U.S. Passport (booklet or card). For more information regarding Photo ID, please check out www.bringit.wi.gov. In-office absentee voting started Monday, March 21 and continues through Friday, April 1, 2016 at the Town Hall.

Seasonal Updates

Board of Review

Open Book is the best opportunity for you, as a tax-paying, property owner, to review the assessment of your property. **The Open Book window is Monday, April 4 through Friday, April 29, 2016.**

This process starts with the property owner doing research. That owner compares the assessment of their property against similar properties (via information available online at Access Dane, Town website or in the Town Hall during business hours). This work 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 change.

If the decision is to proceed with an appeal based on a perceived inequity in property valuation, a change in valuation request is made directly to, the assessor, Paul Musser using the information gathered during the research phase. Paul can be contacted in advance of Open Book to provide documentation and discuss the assessment.

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

Another option is to contact the Town Hall to make an appointment with Paul. He will be available from **6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2016** at the Town Hall. Please realize that Paul cannot do anything about the 2015 property taxes already billed. His role is to create an accurate assessment of Town properties.

For those not satisfied with the outcome of the Open Book review, an appeal may be escalated to the Board of Review, which is comprised of the Town Board. The property owner registers their appeal by informing the Town Clerk, David Shaw, of their intent to make an appeal. By State Statutes, this notification must be received at the Town 48 hours in advance of the Board of Review Meeting (effectively by noon on May 13, 2016).

The initial Board of Review meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and will occur concurrently with the Town Board meeting held that night. Paperwork submitted to the Town Clerk will be distributed to the Board of Review that night with appeals to be heard at a later date. Town staff will schedule the hearings for the evening of May 23, 2016.

Town of Middleton

Annual Meeting

The Town will have its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 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 planning to accomplish during the coming year. It is also an opportunity for residents to not only express their views, but to also ask questions. All town residents are welcome to attend this public meeting.

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.

Honoring Gil Voss

Gilman (Gil) C. Voss

Gil was added to the Town of Middleton Memorial Rock in Pioneer Park. Gil was a valued member of the West Middleton Baseball & Softball Program. Gil coached, donated time and also played on Middleton's original **Town Home Talent Team**, as well as the **Sunday Night Softball League**. He will be missed by all. Attending the installation were, on the left, his son, Chris Voss, in the middle, his wife, Carol Voss and to the right, his daughter Ann Voss. Although Gil is no longer with us, his legacy will be forever remembered.



West Middleton Youth 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. Scholarships are available.

Home games are played at the Pioneer Park ball fields in the Town of Middleton. Registration closes on March 31, 2016, **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. Also on the website, are photos of past events and an easy-to-complete, on-line registration form. Click on the following:

<http://www.westmiddletonbaseball.com>. Go to either the baseball and/or softball tabs to find out more detailed league information. Any further questions can be emailed to: West Middleton BB/SB at wmybs1@gmail.com.

Let's Play Ball!

Deputy's Corner



Since we are currently in full swing of the 2016 tax season, the Sheriff's Office has seen a significant increase for calls relating to IRS tax scams and fraud.

According to the IRS, they have seen an approximate 400-percent surge in phishing and malware incidents so far in the 2016 tax season. So often, people receive "official" looking websites, that when opened, may carry malware. These sites can, and do, infect our computers. This allows criminals to not only access your files or track your keystrokes, but they are also able to gain valuable information about your personal identity and vital information.

This is only one of MANY schemes used by criminals to gain access to your personal information. I encourage people to be diligent when speaking with others, either over the phone or via the computer, regarding personal information. Just as you lock the doors and windows to your home, you are the one responsible for the security of your information.

I would also encourage you to visit the website: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Scams-Consumer-Alerts>, for more information on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud.



Stay Safe,

Garrett Page

Deputy Sheriff - Town of Middleton



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 rabies and vaccination information must be up-to-date. These licenses can be obtained through the Town. There is a late fee after March 31, 2016. Questions about Town of Middleton ordinances either for animals, or any other general ordinance, contact Deputy Mohr: mohrmichael@danesheriff.com or Deputy Page: page@danesheriff.com.

Save the Date

Freedom Fest is a 4th of July, “Good, old-fashioned ‘Picnic in the Park’” for Town of Middleton residents and their families. The 2016 event will be the seventh 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 not only needed, but also greatly appreciated. Money raised from the event is put back into the community. The grill at Pioneer Park is the outcome of a *Freedom Fest* donation.

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, subject line: *Freedom Fest*.

“FRIEND OF THE TOWN” AWARD



Do you know someone who makes a difference in our community? The Town wants to recognize their contribution.

The annual “**Friend of the Town Award**” is given to a resident who contributes to, and enhances, our Town year round. The Board would like your input.

A recipient is selected, then honored, at the annual Freedom Fest, on July 4, at Pioneer Park.

All nominations should be sent either via mail or email, to David Shaw, by May 31, 2016.

BRUSH AND SMALL TREE LIMB PICK UP?

The Town Crew is scheduled to chip brush and tree limbs left at curbside during the following weeks:

- **April 4 and 18**
- **May 2 and 16**
- **June 6 and 20**
- **July 4 and 18 (Crew will not chip on 4th of July)**
- **August 1 and 15**
- **September 5 (Crew will not chip on Labor Day)**
- **October 3**
- **November 7**

NOT ACCEPTABLE



ACCEPTABLE



- Place the truck 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 smaller branches, brush, etc. into armload-sized bundles for easy handling.
- Place undersized twigs (pencil-size diameter or smaller) into paper bags – no plastic please – which will be put through the chipper with the twigs. If there are too many for paper bags, they may place in a garbage can, wheelbarrow, tote, or on a tarp. These carriers will be left behind.
- 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 equipment and Town personnel.

Did You Know...



With the recent surge in home and apartment construction, there have been questions about when Madison may try to annex neighborhoods in the Town. An Inter-Government Agreement ^[1] between the Town and Madison was signed in 2003 and filed with the State. It covers what area(s) can be attached ^[2] to the City and when. In brief, it states that any property that is east of the Boundary Line ^[3] will automatically be attached to the City, if developed, meaning: subdivided, developed or substantially redeveloped.

Any lands east of Pioneer or Meadow Road, not yet in the City by 2042, will be attached at that time.

No lands west of the Boundary Line may be annexed into the city, without the Town Middleton Board's consent, prior to 2060. This is the key issue of concern for most residents. This document is available on our website: www.town.middleton.wi.us, then "Government," then "Ordinances, Codes and Plan Agreement," then "Intergovernmental Agreements," then "City of Madison and Town of Middleton Cooperative Plan."

^[2] Since there is no formal annexation process where a property owner needs to request to be annexed, that term is not used here. Rather, attachment is used as it is an automatic process that is triggered by development.

^[3] The Boundary Line is Pioneer, Valley View, and Meadow Roads. This Boundary Line is expected to shift somewhat, in the future, as a new connection is established between Pioneer and Meadow Roads.

Should you have further questions on the subject, please contact David Shaw, Town Administrator, at 833-5887.

Re-Subscribe to Receive Email Notifications

Email announcements are a great way to stay updated on the Town's, Board's and Committee's events. Please select the notifications you would like sent to your email at:

<http://town.middleton.wi.us/>

This is a new system as of January 1, 2016.

You **MUST RE-SUBSCRIBE** to receive Town emails and updates. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Recycling in the Town of Middleton

In the age of on-line shopping, there is a marked increase in the amount of recycled cardboard, leaving residents in a quandary. There are two options:

1) Request a second recycle container from Advanced Disposal. Containers come in three sizes: 35-, 65-, and 95-gallon. There are not many 35-gallon containers in use, but the easy option is to exchange a 65-gallon for a 95-gallon receptacle.



2) Secondly, the Town has five, nine-yard dumpsters behind Town Hall that may be used to dump off cardboard and other recyclables for those infrequent occasions where one has accumulated more than anticipated. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BREAK DOWN ALL CARDBOARD.** Dumpsters are emptied Monday, Wednesday and Friday of every week. If dumpsters are full, know that they will be emptied soon. Instead of littering, coming back later would be greatly appreciated. For the environmentally conscious: five containers, times nine yards, thrice a week, equals over 100-cubic yards of recyclables per week. Please do your part: be conscious of your neighbors.

Town & Crew Updates

Spring Bulk Pick Up

May 10, 11 & 12

Advanced Disposal will pick up bulk items on ***your normally scheduled trash collection date of May 10, 11 or 12.***

ITEMS BELOW WILL NOT BE PICKED UP BY ADVANCED DISPOSAL:

- ✗ 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 of any sort, asbestos, needles, batteries, etc.
- ✗ In addition to the above: paint, fire extinguishers, auto parts, tires and hot ashes.

Disposal of those items not accepted by Advanced Disposal may be accepted at Dane County Clean Sweep – see their website at www.danecountycleansweep.com or at one of the Dane County compost sites. If you have questions on whether specific items are eligible for pick up, please call Advanced Disposal directly at (608) 251-7878.



Improving your home or driveway?

Remember that a building permit is required for any building project that is valued at over \$1,000. This total includes materials and labor, or that involves 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 '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, (608) 833-4346, or Fred Hankel's cell phone (608) 843-8996.

Wood Chips Available for Distribution

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. It includes the wide variety of materials left roadside for the Town Crew to handle. Only full load quantities, approximately four-cubic yards are available.



This is a pile of approximately 6' x 6' x 3'. When calling 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 Town Ordinances.** Please do not use public lands as personal dumping sites for anything!

Town of Middleton

7555 W. Old Sauk Rd

Verona, WI 53593

www.town.middleton.wi.us

PRESORT
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MADISON WI
PERMIT NO. 406

Date	Activity	Time
Tuesday, April 5	Spring Presidential Preferential Primary Election	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tues., Wed., & Thrs.	Spring Bulk Pick Up	On normal trash date
Monday, May 30	Town Offices Closed	All Day
Monday, July 4	Town Offices Closed	All Day
Monday, Sept. 5	Town Offices Closed	All Day

Office Hours & Information

Town Offices: 7555 W. Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593
Town Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Thursday
8:00 a.m. to noon on Friday
Town Phone: (608) 833-5887
Town Email: info@town.middleton.wi.us
Town Website: www.town.middleton.wi.us

Key Contact Information

Dane County Sheriff Dispatch (non-emergency)	(608) 255-2345
Street Light Outages (Can also be reported to your respective utility company via email)	
M G & E	(608) 252-7333
Alliant Energy	(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
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