



Town of Middleton

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FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

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Town Tidbits

Property Reassessment

Recently, property values have been altered due to market forces beyond all of our control. Beginning in 2011 and ending in 2012, the Town Board has contracted to have Paul Musser, the Town Assessor, reassess Town properties to recognize these changes. It has been approximately 20 years since the Town last did a full reassessment so some residents may have questions about the process.

What is the Town's goal in this assessment? "It is the local assessor's responsibility to discover, list, and value each taxable real estate parcel and each taxable personal property account. That value is what the local clerk uses to determine the share of the property tax that is borne by the property."¹

- We want accuracy.
- We want uniformity.
- We want a property tax system that is administered fairly.

Paul Musser began reassessing Town property this summer, starting in the northern sections of the town and progressing southward. Residents will receive a postcard from him asking them to set up an appointment when

he can visit their property. Viewing both the exterior and interior of residences is part of this process since the finishing touches often make a difference in the fair market value of property. The Town asks for your prompt response upon receipt of the Assessor's postcard to meet deadlines for geographic areas within the Town. Paul's phone number is 608-712-0236.

¹ Wisconsin Department of Revenue, <http://www.revenue.wi.gov/pubs/slf/wieqval.pdf>

West Old Sauk Road is Nearing Completion

The Town thanks all the residents who have been impacted by the renovation of the Old Sauk Road project. It has been a dusty, disrupted summer for all involved, with many residents making accommodations in their daily schedule for additional travel time and altered routes. As of this writing, the work remains on schedule to be substantially complete by September 1st. All of us are looking forward to the renovation of West Old Sauk Road being completed.

Election Update: Voter Identification

Beginning in 2012, a voter cannot receive a ballot until they show one of the following forms of voter ID:

- Unexpired Wisconsin driver's license or state ID receipt.
- Unexpired ID issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college – it must contain issuance date, student signature, and expiration date within two (2) years of issuance, along with proof of current enrollment.
- ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin.
- U.S. passport expiring after 11/2/2010.
- Military ID card expiring after 11/2/2010.
- Wisconsin DOT-issued photo ID card expiring after 11/2/2010.
- Wisconsin driver's license expiring after 11/2/2010.
- Certificate of naturalization issued within last two (2) years.

The photo ID does not need to show a current address.

If you are eligible to vote but do not have a Wisconsin ID card, you may obtain a free ID for purposes of voting by checking a box on the DMV application to indicate that you need the ID for voting purposes.

Documents you will need to obtain an ID from the DMV include (but are not limited to):

- **Proof of name and date of birth**
*Certified U.S. birth certificate, or
Valid passport, or
Certificate of naturalization*
- **Proof of identity**
*Social Security card, or
Military papers, or
Marriage papers*
- **Proof of Wisconsin residency**
*Utility bill, or
Pay stub, or
Mortgage*
- **Proof of U.S. citizenship**
- **Social Security number**

These documents may not be free and may take time to obtain (especially out of state certified birth certificates). We recommend applying for an ID as soon as possible if you do not already possess one. If you have questions after reading this, please contact Sara Ludtke at the Town Hall.



Take Advantage of Town Parks

With the restriction of most Town parks to people (no dogs) or horses (Pope Farm Park only), park users are seeing wild life in areas that are dedicated to prairie recovery. Recently, two Gray Cranes were observed in Pope Farm Park. In addition, Turkeys, Red-Tailed Hawks, Eastern Meadow Larks (ground nesting birds) are making a comeback in these undisturbed areas. Be sure to enjoy the open spaces available to residents in the Town when you have time. The Town also has a limited selection and number of Wildcards available from the DNR series that were published in 2005. Feel free to stop in and pick up these cards if you are a collector.

WANTED: Election Inspectors

The Town of Middleton is looking for a few good Election Inspectors. To be an Election Inspector, a person must:

- Be a qualified elector in the municipality in which the polling place is established. (i.e., an adult citizen of the United States who has resided in the election district for 28 days and is not otherwise disqualified to vote).
- Be able to speak, read and write fluently in the English language.
- Have strong clerical skills.
- Be able to solve problems.
- Be an effective communicator.
- **NOT** be a candidate for any office on the ballot for the election taking place.

TASKS: Election Inspectors help ensure an open and fair election. Some of their duties include issuing ballots to registered voters, registering voters, monitoring the voting equipment, explaining how ballots are marked, explaining how voting equipment works, or counting votes.

SHIFTS: Polling hours are from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Inspectors in the Town normally work split shifts; either from 6:30 AM until 2:00 PM or 2:00 PM until approximately 9:00 PM. Heavy elections may expand the hours worked for the later shift.

PAY: Election inspectors are compensated at a rate of \$10/hour for time worked or time spent in training before the election. Inspectors may also volunteer their time by informing the Deputy Clerk ahead of time.

TRAINING: Election inspectors are required to attend training sessions. The training provides all necessary information and knowledge to be a successful poll worker. The training will take place at the Town Hall and will last approximately 2 – 3 hours.

TERM: Inspectors are appointed to two-year terms so by signaling interest you are making a minimum two-year commitment. However, committing to one election cycle is also appreciated.

WHEN: 2012 Election Dates are:

Spring Primary	February 21, 2012
Spring General	April 3, 2012
Fall Primary	August 14, 2012* <i>*Date not yet final</i>
Fall General	November 6, 2012

WHO: Contact Sara Ludtke, Deputy Clerk at 608-833-5887 or sludtke@town.middleton.wi.us BEFORE October 15, 2011 if you are interested.

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 a 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.

Deputy's Corner

Over the course of the summer I have taken a few complaints about "suspicious" activity or persons in a few of the residential areas. I am sure that more have gone unreported. I would like to offer a few tips if you or someone you know witnesses this type of situation.

- If it seems strange to you, it probably is. Call 911 immediately and get a Deputy headed your way.
- If there is a vehicle involved, try and relay as much information about the vehicle to the dispatcher as you can without putting yourself in harm's way. If the vehicle leaves prior to the Deputies arrival, a direction of travel for the car is also helpful.
- If the situation involves people, please provide any physical descriptors that you can safely observe.

Thank you for your diligence in helping to keep the community safe.

If you have any concerns that we can assist you with, please feel free to contact either me, Deputy Garrett Page at page@co.dane.wi.us or Deputy Mike Mohr at mohr.michael@co.dane.wi.us.

Bugged by Japanese Beetles?

Every summer Southern Wisconsin has a surge of Japanese Beetles. For the trees these Beetles prefer to graze on, this can lead to defoliation. When a tree loses most of its leaves, it loses the ability to make food. Most trees have enough reserves to form a replacement set of leaves, but this badly drains the tree. Repeated defoliation can eventually cause dieback or death. Environmentally, the loss of many trees could lead to an increased amount of stormwater runoff. The quality of streams and rivers can suffer from both runoff and increased water temperature.

Residents have had conversations about the Japanese Beetles as the population has increased in the Town. For those who want to know more about these pests, the Town is providing information about controlling them during their various life cycles. The best sources have been the various State University Extension services. One of the more complete articles about controlling Japanese beetles during their various life cycles can be found at the following sites: <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/japanese-beetle> and <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG7664.html>.

Source of defoliation information: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/publications/pdf/FR-220a.pdf>

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

As of February 1, 2011 all one and two family homes are required to have carbon monoxide alarms, regardless of the home's age. At least one alarm is required on each floor level.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas that is highly toxic. In homes it is created by incomplete burning of fuels. The threat for unexpected carbon monoxide build up grows during the colder months. Periodic furnace checks help, but having a detector adds a layer of safety for the residents as a result of other sources of combustion within the home.

The goal of the requirement for homes to have smoke and carbon monoxide alarms is to save lives. Be sure to have them installed and tested regularly. The main maintenance is to change the batteries as needed. Industry recommendation is twice annually concurrent with daylight savings time changes.

More information about new state requirements for carbon monoxide alarms is available at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/pressreleases/2011/012011COTheat.pdf>.

Fall Bulk Pick Up is September 20-22

Fall bulk pick up will occur on your normally scheduled trash collection date scheduled during the week that includes September 20 to 22. **As a reminder, 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.

If you have questions on whether specific items are eligible for pick up, please call Veolia ES Solid Waste, Inc. directly at **251-7878**.

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.

Burning permits are no longer required for Town residents. Keep in mind that as a resident you accept responsibility for being able to manage 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 burn ordinance is available at the Town Hall.

Where are composting sites for LARGE amounts of material?

Larger amounts 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 266-4139.

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

Recycling Option

Recent discussions with Veolia about materials that may blow out of the recycle truck have led to the decision to let Town residents have the option to place recyclables into traditional trash bags inside the recycle bins. When recyclables are tipped out, the materials will have less chance to be caught by the wind and blown into neighborhoods. In addition, trucks travelling at higher speeds to or from the recycling location have less chance of having materials blow out of the tops of trucks. This is not mandatory, but simply something the Town is trying out when windy weather causes materials to miss tipping into the intended recycling transport.

Fall Mulching Opportunity

Chipped brush and small limbs are 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 3 to 4 cubic yards are delivered. This represents a materials pile of approximately 6' by 6' by 3'. When calling Town Hall for full load quantities (833-5887) to be delivered, be ready to specify the preferred unloading location as viewed from the road. Deliveries cannot be scheduled.

Brush and Small Tree Limb Pick-up

The timetable for the final chipping weeks in 2011 start on the first work day the following weeks:

Monday, September 5, October 3, and November 7.

- 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').

TOWN OF MIDDLETON — MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Town Board	The Town Board meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.*
Plan Committee	The Plan Commission meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.
Parks Committee	The Parks Commission meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM* in the Town Hall.
Finance Committee	The Finance Committee meets as needed for auditing and budget preparation. Please watch official posting sites or the web sites for dates and times.

*Exceptions may occur around election dates. Watch for changes at the Town of Middleton website, posted sites, or sign up for emailed information subscription link on the Town website. Official posting sites include the sign boards at Town of Middleton, Settlers Prairie Park and Voss Park.

TOWN TIDBITS

- ☀ **Voss Park** is returning to active use in the Fall of 2012. Field drainage issues during rain storms should be substantially improved.
- ☀ **The 2012 Town Budget** will be submitted for review and public hearing on November 16, 2011.
- ☀ **Building Permit Applications** are found under the 'Forms' section of the Town website. Contact the Town Inspector, Fred Hankel, with questions (833-4346).
- ☀ **Gypsy Moths** are seen in late August and September. 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.
- ☀ **Town Information:** 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 (www.town.middleton.wi.us).
- ☀ **New neighbors** are sent Town information if the Town is alerted to the change in ownership. The packet includes current Town Newsletters, trash schedules, and more.
- ☀ **A permanent Medication/Drug Disposal Site** is available at the City of Middleton Police Department, 7341 Donna Drive, Middleton, WI during normal business hours.
- ☀ **Well water should be tested annually**, especially in households including pregnant women, infants and young children. For more information on making arrangements for testing, send an email to health@cityofmadison.com or call the PHMDC Laboratory at 608-243-0357.
- ☀ **Park Shelters can be reserved** for Town Residents and their guests. No glass beverage containers are allowed in Town parks.
- ☀ **The Town Hall can be rented** by Homeowner Associations located within the Town for annual meetings. No food or beverages are allowed within the Town Hall. Contact the Town with questions.
- ☀ **The 2011 Dane County Cultural Affairs Art Poster** is still available and can be picked up from the Town office. 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.

Town of Middleton | PHONE: 833-5887 | E-MAIL: info@town.middleton.wi.us | WEBSITE: www.town.middleton.wi.us



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.

PHONE: 833-5887 **E-MAIL:** info@town.middleton.wi.us.

WEBSITE: www.town.middleton.wi.us

**Calendar
of Events**

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
Sept. 5	Town Office Closed	Holiday Closing	
Sept. 11	Ironman Race		Timber/Midtown Roads
Sept. 20-22	Bulk Pick Up	Normal Trash Day	
Nov. 7	Final Brush Chipping Week		
Nov. 16	Town Budget Hearing	7:00 pm	Town Hall
Nov. 24-25	Town Office Closed	Holiday Closing	
Dec. 19	Tax bills will be mailed on or before this date		

Important Contact Information

- Dane County Sheriff Dispatch..... 255-2345
(Non-emergency)
- 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)