



Town of Middleton

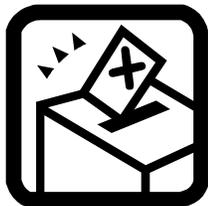
Spring 2009 Newsletter · Volume 11 · Issue 1

Annual Town Meeting

The Town of Middleton Annual Meeting will be held on April 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. All residents are encouraged to attend.

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for Town of Middleton residents to express their views and ask questions about issues in the Town. It is also an opportunity for the Town Board to inform members of the public about achievements during the preceding year and aims for the future, and where the recently elected Board members will take their oath of office.

Spring Election



The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. The local Town positions to be decided by the Spring Election are: Town Board Chair, Supervisor Seats #1 and #2. Milo Breunig, incumbent Chair, is seeking re-election and running unopposed. Tim Roehl is running against Gary Whitney, incumbent, for Seat #1. Fred Zietz is running against Bill Kolar, incumbent, for Seat #2.

Open Book and Board of Review

After the assessor completes the assessment roll, the tax roll will be available for examination. This is know as “Open Book” and is the best opportunity for you, the taxpayer, to review your assessment and compare them to others. You can meet with the Assessor at the Town Hall on April 29, from 6-8 pm. If you have questions about your assessment, you may schedule an appointment and discuss it with the assessor in an informal setting. This is the best time to try and have your assessment changed, if you have evidence to show it is incorrect.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of these discussions, you may appeal to the Board of Review, which is comprised of the Town Board. The Board of Review is scheduled for May 18 at 6:00 pm, but may take more than one session. You will need to notify the Clerk 48 hours in advance (by 6 pm, May 15) if you intend to object your assessment at the Board of Review. Be prepared to defend your objection with comparables and appraisals.

Town Receives AA+ Rating

The Town of Middleton has earned a AA+ rating from Standard and Poor’s. This rating was based on our very strong financial position, low debt levels and strong reserves. This is an unusually high rating for a Town. This rating resulted in lower interest rates for bonds issued for the Fire Station and road projects. In addition, we did not need to purchase insurance for these bonds, saving us more money.

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Town News—Keeping you Informed

News from the Sheriff



With spring approaching, many people will be out enjoying the numerous parks in the Town of Middleton. The Town of Middleton and the Dane County Sheriff's Office would like to remind people of a few rules in Town of Middleton parks:

Dogs are only allowed on the trails in the Cherrywood Conservancy and on the public recreational trails in Stonebrook Estates, Prairie Homes Estates and Prairie Homes Estates 1st Addition and a portion of the trails in Sauk Prairie Estates. Dogs need to be leashed at all times and picked up after.

All parks in the Town of Middleton open at sunrise and close at sunset.

Please remember that public parking behind the Town Hall is not allowed (lot entrance off Pioneer Road). This is for Sheriff and municipal vehicles only.

TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CALL:

9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

255-2345 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

FOR QUESTIONS OR GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Deputy Coy Bethel at (608)833-9560 or e-mail at bethel@co.dane.wi.us.

Deputy Dave Cattanaach at (608)267-4936 or e-mail at cattanaach.david@co.dane.wi.us.

Building Permits

Building Permits are required for projects valued at over \$1,000 (materials and labor) or which involve installing or relocating plumbing, electrical, heating (furnace replacement), venting or air conditioning equipment. Additions, alterations or structural repairs to buildings also require a permit. **If you are simply installing new shingles or replacing windows or doors that are the same size as the existing, you do not need a permit.**

You can find applications and other information under the "Forms and Permits" section of the town website.

The Town Inspector, Fred Hankel, is available to answer your questions; (office: 833-4346, cell: 843-8996) and is in the office Monday through Thursday.

Driveway Permits

The Town has new rules in place to help prevent shoulder washout and to make long driveways safer. All driveway installation or reconstruction now needs a permit.

Also, the Middleton Fire District has indicated several driveways exist in the Town that are substandard for their purposes (i.e., too narrow, too curvy, etc.). If you think you may have one of these driveways or you are thinking of replacing your existing driveway, please contact the Town to discuss your concerns. We would like to discuss your plans with you before your project is started.

Dog Licenses

Just a reminder that dog licenses expire at the end of each calendar year and must be renewed prior to March 31, otherwise a late fee of \$5.00 is incurred (per state statute). **NEW THIS YEAR:** we must have **proof of rabies vaccinations**. You **MUST** attach a copy of the rabies certificate for each dog licensed. All dogs over 5 months old must be licensed.

Please use the form enclosed in this newsletter (or download one from our website) with a self addressed stamped envelope and mail them to the town office before March 31, 2009.



Wood Chips

If you would like a load of chips created when we chip branches (this is not shredded bark quality) delivered **FREE** to your residence, please call the Town Hall at 833-5887 to make arrangements. One load is about four cubic yards of material.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON DOG LICENSE APPLICATION

All dogs over 5 months old must be licensed
Licenses are issued for one calendar year, January through December

Owner Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Dog Breed	Color	Rabies Exp. Date <small>(Must provide Proof)*</small>	Sex/Type <small>(see below)</small>	Fee	License #
1) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NM (Neutered Male)	SF (Spayed Female)	M (Male)	F (Female)	Late Fee	
\$15.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$5.00 (if paid After April 1, 2009)	

Send payment to the **Town of Middleton, 7555 W. Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593** along with the completed form (all information requested is required). **A self-addressed return envelope must be included with your application and fee.** Dogs must be on a leash whenever they are off of the owner's property in the Town of Middleton (\$200 Forfeiture for Violation).

Note: a late fee of \$5.00 per license is charged for applications received after April 1, 2009.

*Please provide a copy of rabies certificate for each dog licensed.
Ownership of more than 3 dogs requires a Kennel License.

Attention Seniors

The Middleton Senior Center has requested that the Town of Middleton participate in the Meals on Wheels Program and other programs which offer older adults, residing in the Town, assistance in accessing a variety of services, through the Senior Center. The Town Board is seeking feedback and interest from its residents as to the need for these services. If you or someone you know could use these services, please call the town office at 833-5887 or email us at: info@town.middleton.wi.us. Participants must be at least 55 years of age.

Baseball and Softball



The West Middleton Baseball and Softball Club is proud to provide youth leagues for boys and girls to match all levels of development and competition. Registration closes on March 31. Registrations received after March 31 are subject to team availability and must include a \$20 late fee. No refunds provided after April 30, 2009. Please go to www.town.middleton.wi.us and click on "Baseball/Softball" to register. **Please note that the Town Office does not coordinate or manage this program. The program is run through resident volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Cray at 827-8575 or via email at wmbbfields@charter.net.**

Tree Trimming in Road right-of-way



The Town Crew will be trimming trees and brush that are in the road right-of-way. The Town right-of way is 33 feet in each direction, from the center of the road. Most trees and brush that will be trimmed or removed are causing visual impediments to vehicles and/or drainage problems. If you have any questions, you can contact Jerry Wagner, Lead Town Crewman, at 833-5887.

Reserving Park Shelters, Athletic Fields and Town Hall

Park Shelters, Athletic Fields and the Town Hall meeting room can be reserved by calling the Town Office at 833-5887. Reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. You can download the reservation forms from our website at www.town.middleton.wi.us under "Forms and Permits." There is also a schedule of the fees associated with rental.

Cultural Affairs Poster

The 2009 Dane County Cultural Affairs Art Poster is now available at the Town Hall. This year's 34 X 20 inch poster is available at no cost but a donation is requested. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8:30-Noon on Fridays.

The Cultural Affairs art poster has become a signature icon and beloved, annual tradition celebrating arts and culture in Dane County. A reproduction of September Flora by Dane County artist Lee Weiss graces the 2009 edition honoring the Commission's over thirty years of community service. The original painting (watercolor, 40"x 26", 2007) is an enchanting representation of a flowery green landscape in Madison's Hoyt Park.

2009 Calendars

The Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission's 2009 Calendar "Luscious Landscapes" is still available at the Town Hall. The price is \$7.50 (includes tax). We take cash or check but not credit cards. Please have correct change.



Think Spring!

Springtime Brings More than Flowers with those Showers

Whether March comes in like a lion or a lamb, it also brings spring showers and melting snow. When snow melts and rain falls, it flows across streets, driveways, parking lots and rooftops, transporting sand, salt, leaves, oil, trash and many other pollutants to our lakes and streams.

Some folks mistakenly think that water running off streets goes into the ground. But the truth is that it goes right to our lakes and streams.

We can make a difference! A few things each of us can do to prevent storm water pollution:

- Install a rain garden.
- Install a rain barrel (or barrels).
- Use salt sparingly during the winter.
- Clean up pet waste year round—flush it down the toilet or collect it in a bucket until you can bury it properly.
- Keep cars well maintained and repair leaks; but consider walking, using public transportation or riding a bike whenever you can.
- Direct rainwater away from paved areas toward lawns or gardens where it can soak in.
- Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street. Compost yard waste, debris and leaves.
- Get a soil test before applying fertilizer to your lawn. Don't pay for something you don't need. If a test shows that your lawn does need fertilizer, apply it according to

directions and carefully clean up any spills on paved surfaces.

Go to www.myfairlakes.com for more ideas on how you can help our lakes and streams.

Rain Barrels

A rain barrel collects rain and melting snow that runs off your rooftop. The rain barrel is positioned under the downspout of a building to collect the rain that falls on that building's roof to be used later for lawn and garden watering.

Why use a rain barrel?

- Rain barrels help decrease groundwater demand during the hot summer months, which means less water needs to be pumped. Drawing water from an aquifer faster than it is naturally regenerated can adversely affect wildlife and water quality in the area. Less pumping also means less electricity (for pumping) is used during critical summer periods.
- Rain water is “soft” water, free of chlorine, lime and calcium. Plants prefer rain water.

Collecting and using rainwater helps our lakes and streams; otherwise it would run off directly into lakes and streams, carrying with it pollutants such as oil, bacteria and other nutrients.

Helpful tips:

- Add a screen to keep leaves and other debris out of the water. Use “Mosquito Donuts”, “Plunks”, or other mosquito larvae control measures from your local hardware store for an affordable way to prevent mosquito larvae from hatching in your rain barrel.
- Provide an overflow device to direct excess water away from house foundation when the tank is full.

- Monitor the barrel to ensure in-takes and overflows aren't blocked with debris.
- During the winter, make sure the rain barrel is drained and disconnected.

Direct your home's downspouts to a grassy area away from your home's foundation if you don't have them directed to a rain barrel.

Please note:

Water stored in a rain barrel or cistern should not be used as drinking water.

[Continued on page 6](#)



Rain Barrels Continued

Rain barrel resources:

Sustain Dane

Web site:

www.sustaindane.org

Phone number: 608-316-6844

E-mail: rainbarrel@sustaindane.org.

Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA)

Web site: www.usrwa.org

Phone number: 608-437-7707

E-mail: usrwa@mhtc.net (put "Rain barrel" in the subject line)

OR...Build your own! See the following links for ideas on how to build your own rain barrel:

<http://home.comcast.net/~leavesdance/rainbarrels/construction.html>

<http://www.longwood.edu/CLEANVA/rainbarrels.htm>

http://www.cityofbremerton.com/content/sw_makeyourownrainbarrel.html

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are shallow depressions typically planted with native wildflowers, grasses, and sedges. They soak up rainwater or melted snow from your rooftop, driveway and lawn. They are positioned to collect water from downspouts or at a low-point in the lawn where drainage naturally occurs. The gardens allow water to soak into the earth rather than running off to the nearest lake or stream.

A rain garden can soak up to 30% more water than a traditional lawn. Why is that important? Because it prevents runoff from rain and snow from our roofs, driveways, and streets from carrying pollutants like fertilizers, oil, and pet waste directly to nearby lakes and streams. Rain gardens also help recharge the groundwater table and baseflow in nearby streams, benefiting wildlife and water quality.

Mature rain gardens are delightfully easy to maintain. Once plants mature, little weeding is needed and much less time is spent on mowing. Just think—no noise, no gas, and all that free time!

Besides helping our lakes and streams, rain gardens are aesthetically pleasing and provide habitat for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects—including dragonflies that eat mosquitoes. You can make a big difference by devoting a small amount of space, time and money to the creation of a rain garden.

See the following links for information on rain gardens and ideas on how to build your own:

<http://www.danewaters.com/pdf/HowToBuildaGarden.pdf>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/rg/index.htm>

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/raingardens.cfm>

Plant Dane!

Is a cost-share program open to schools, non-profit organizations (homeowner, lake or neighborhood associations, faith centers, garden clubs, etc.), municipalities and individual residents in Dane County. The program provides native plants at the greatly reduced price of \$1.80 each—about half the normal retail price. Order forms are available online at www.myfairlakes.com. Order forms accepted now through the end of May. Plants will be delivered on Saturday, June 27 between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

To see rain gardens first hand, watch www.danewaters.com for the Better Lawns & Gutters Tour coming this August. Visit www.myfairlakes.com to learn more about rain gardens and the Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program.



Important information and numbers

Important Numbers

MG&E Power Outages/Downed

Wires: 608-252-7111

Street Light Outages:

608-252-7222

Alliant Energy Outages:

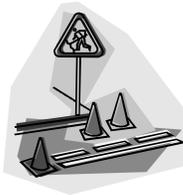
1-800-862-6261

Alliant Street Light Outages:

1-800-255-4268

Diggers Hotline:

800-242-8511



Upcoming Road Projects

The Town of Middleton, City of Middleton and the City of Madison are planning to reconstruct Blackhawk Road from Pleasant View Road West to Twin Valley Road. This construction is tentatively planned for the summer of 2009.

The Town is planning on undertaking various seal coat projects on roads within the township, tentatively scheduled for summer of 2009 as well.

Weeds, Weeds, Weeds

We would like to remind all residents that it is their responsibility to destroy weeds on their property. This is part of the Town's 2009 Weed Control Program. State statute mandates destruction of: Canadian Thistle, Leafy Spurge and Field Bindweed (Creeping Jenny). The Town of Middleton's Ordinance requires the control of many more noxious and invasive weeds. Property owners are encouraged to identify and control weeds before they flower and seed.

The Town of Middleton web site includes information on the weeds subject to Town Ordinance, with identification and eradication links. The Town will take aggressive action to control weeds if property owners fail to act. This will result in the property owners being subject to the cost of control and/or eradication of those weeds, possibly in the form of a special tax assessment.

Contact Richard Oberle, Weed Commissioner (826-0559) or the Town Hall (833-5887) with any questions.



Brush Pickup

The Town Crew will once again be chipping brush and small tree limbs, starting in April and running through November. The crew will begin chipping the week of April 6, (the weeks of the first and third Mondays of the month) and end the week of November 2nd. Please have your brush and tree limbs out on Monday of each chipping week. It takes the crew approximately three to five days to chip the entire township.

Chip weeks are:

April 6, April 20,

May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15,

July 7, July 20, August 3,

August 17, September 7,

September 21, October 5,

October 19, and November 2.

Brush Items Acceptable for Pick up:

- Brush stacked with cut ends facing the road
- Placed in small armload stacks along the road
- Tree Limbs up to 6 inches in diameter
- Only brush cut by residents pruning their own trees

Not Acceptable:

- Root Balls/stumps and brush mixed with soil
- Vines, leaf piles or weeds
- Shrubs or rocks
- Anything not listed as acceptable



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Spring Election—April 7
- Annual Meeting—April 14
- Bulk Pickup—April 28-30
- Open Book—April 29
- Board of Review—May 18
- Town Office Closed—May 25

Town Office Hours

Office hours are **8:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. Monday-Thursday** and **8:30a.m. to Noon on Friday.**

Please help us serve you more efficiently by contacting us during these hours. Appointments with specific staff are very helpful to serve you best and ensure that the staff member you need is available.

Weather Radios

Once again, the Town will be selling weather radios. This years radio is a Midland Public Alert All Hazard NOAA weather radio and should be available in early April. Cost for the radio is \$25 including tax. We will have a limited number available, so please watch for an email update from the Town office as to the exact arrival date of these radios. The radios will be sold on a first come, first serve basis and we will not be taking any reservations.

PRSTD STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MADISON WI
PERMIT #2783

Town of Middleton
755 W. Old Sauk Road
Verona, WI 53593
Phone: 608-833-5887
Fax: 608-833-8996
email: info@town.middleton.wi.us
www.town.middleton.wi.us