



# Town of Middleton

## WINTER ISSUE | 2012 | NEWSLETTER

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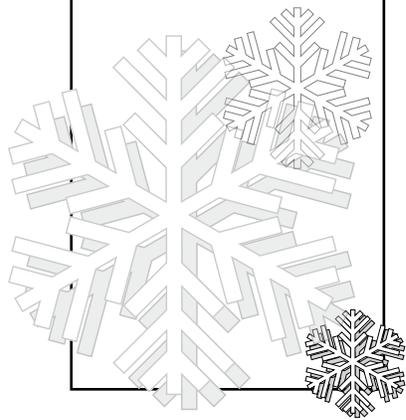
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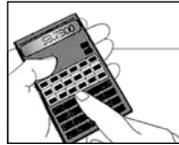
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### CIVIC HAPPENINGS

#### How did the property reassessment process impact my 2012 tax bill



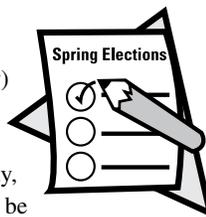
Property values on the 2012 Tax Bill reflect the updated, reassessed values mailed to you in August. Since the Town's budget is levied across all property values,

your relative portion of property tax **attributed to Town expenses only** may rise (if your home value increased), stay about the same (if your property value decreased by the average of 4%), or fall (if your property value decreased by more than 4 percent).

Keep in mind that school district levies and Dane County levies represent the greatest portion of your Property Tax bill. Additional assessments come from Madison Technical College and State of Wisconsin. Adding these various taxing districts together creates the total represented on the Property Tax bill.

#### Spring Elections

The Spring Primary (if necessary) will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2013. The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013. The positions to be filled by this election are:



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

The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2012. Nomination papers are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 2, 2013. Call or come to the Town Office for a Candidate Registration Packet if you are interested in running for the Town Board.

#### Mail Box Damage

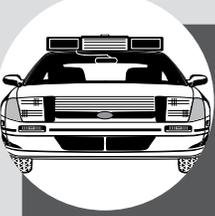
The town crew clears town roads of snow as promptly as possible after each snow fall. Each year, a few mail boxes are impacted during the snow removal process. In the event this happens to a town resident, the criteria used to determine responsibility for the event will be whether the mail box was actually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

✓ If the force of the snow being removed from the roadway causes the damage, the resident is responsible for all costs associated with the repair/replacement of the mail box and post. As a precaution, the Town recommends that you check your mail box before the first snowfall to be sure it is securely attached to its post and the post is secure in the ground.

✓ If the town plow came into contact with the mail box resulting in damage, the resident is asked to contact **Town offices at 608-833-5887** the next business day during normal office hours. Town personnel will inspect to confirm that the plow did the damage. If confirmed, Town reimbursement is limited to \$50.00 per occurrence.

✓ To the extent possible, on days when snow is being removed from roadways keep recycle and trash containers off the pavement (including pavement edges).

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



## Deputy's Notebook

If you've been defrauded over the telephone it is **VERY** difficult to get your money back. Before buying anything as a result of a telephone solicitation, remember:

- Don't buy from an unfamiliar company. Legitimate businesses understand that you want more information about their company and are happy to comply.
- Always ask for and wait until you receive written material about any offer or charity. If you get brochures about costly investments, ask someone whose financial advice you trust to review them.
- Always check out unfamiliar companies with your local consumer protection agency, Better Business Bureau, and/or state attorney general. Unfortunately, not all bad businesses can be identified through these organizations.
- Before you give money to a charity or make an investment, find out what percentage of the money is paid in commissions and what percentage actually goes to the charity or investment. The charity may be money ahead if you donate directly.
- Before you send money, ask yourself a simple question. "What guarantee do I really have that this solicitor will use my money in the manner we agreed upon?"
- Don't pay in advance for services. Pay services only after they are delivered.
- Don't pay for a "free prize." If a caller tells you the payment is for taxes, he or she is violating federal law.
- Before you receive your next sales pitch, decide what

your limits are — the kinds of financial information you will and won't give out on the telephone.

- Be sure to talk over big investments offered by telephone salespeople with a trusted friend, family member, or financial advisor. It's never rude to wait and think about an offer.
- Never send money or give out personal information such as credit card numbers and expiration dates, bank account numbers, dates of birth, or social security numbers to unfamiliar companies or unknown persons.
- Be aware that your personal information is often brokered to telemarketers through third parties. In other words, if you respond to appeals your contact information will be shopped around.
- If you have been victimized once, be wary of persons who call offering to help you recover your losses for a fee paid in advance.
- **Finally, always take your time making a decision.** Legitimate companies won't pressure you to make a snap decision. The additional time gives you a chance to get some perspective on the request and whether you feel it is legitimate.

*These are reminders of common sense steps for all residents of Dane County. There are no issues we are currently working on in the Town of Middleton that are associated with fraudulent telemarketers, but it is always a good idea to be on guard when asked for funds or personal information.*

I join the Dane County Sheriff's Department in wishing you a safe and happy holiday season,

*Deputy Garrett Page*

## Middleton Fire District Hot Topics:

**Smoke Detectors:** The Middleton Fire District would like to remind you to take time to test your smoke detectors monthly. It is also a good idea to have one of each kind of smoke detector throughout your home. The ionization kind is the most popular. According to some studies they tend to activate sooner for faster flaming fires. The other kind is photoelectric. According to the same studies they activate sooner during slow smoldering fires. You may want to think about talking smoke detectors. The parents can record their own customized message in their own voice. Studies show that children respond faster to hearing their name and a parents voice vs the beeping of the typical smoke detectors.

**Address Signs:** The Middleton Fire District needs your help in properly displaying your address signs. We use the address indicators to find the address of emergency calls we respond to. If they are on the wrong side of the road, they are covered by vegetation, or just not there it may result in our response being delayed. For example, in the event of a fire that has gone into open flame, the fire will double in size every 17 to 30 seconds depending on the fuel load. So if we are looking for an address and are delayed, the fire continues to grow extremely fast. Each emergency service that serves the Town of Middleton uses these markers in a similar way; please help all of us help you.

**Carbon Monoxide Alarms:** Now that the home heating season has begun, you need to know that 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. The goal of both smoke and carbon monoxide alarms is to save lives. Be sure to have them tested regularly. The primary maintenance is to change batteries at least annually.

*Brad Subera*

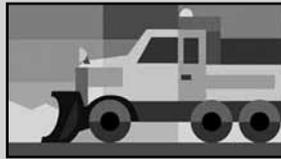
Middleton Fire District





## Plowing Request from the Town Crew

Please assist the crew during snow removal times by keeping the town right-of-ways cleared of obstructions. 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. Please remember:



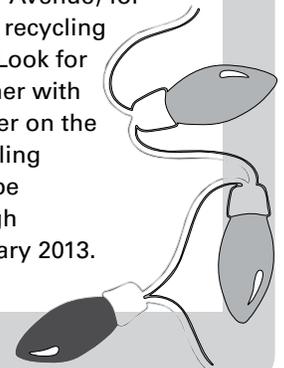
- All parking is off road (**all four wheels**) and for a maximum of 48 hours in any one location. Vehicles parked across the road from each other create width barriers for plowing. Please park on the same side of the road if multiple cars are on the street.
- It is a violation of Town Ordinance (Section 4-3-5) to blow, plow, or deposit snow in the road **before OR after** the plow has passed through your driveway.

## Plowing Safety Issue – Children Building Snow Forts at Road Edge

The Town Crew wants parents to have children who make snow forts to **create them AWAY from the road edge**. Snow forts have inherent dangers due to structural instabilities and the risk collapsing snow fort roofs are always a danger – **so the Town is NOT endorsing the building of snow forts under any conditions**. It would be sad if something bad happened to any child for any reason, but it would be particularly tragic if it were a result of the Town doing what is required to keep roads passable and prepared for future snow events.

## Holiday Light Strings Not Working?

The City of Middleton is sponsoring a String Light recycling program. Drop off burned out, problem and old holiday lights at either Ace Hardware Middleton Springs (2540 Allen Boulevard) or Wolff Kubly Ace Hardware (6305 University Avenue) for safe and proper recycling free of charge. Look for the gray container with the wreath poster on the front. The recycling containers will be available through the end of January 2013.



## Property Tax Payments

Whether bringing in your check or mailing it to the Town, provide the entire tax bill. The tear off portion for the resident will be stamped with the receipt date. For mailed in payments, a stamped self addressed envelope needs to accompany the payment to receive a receipt. Envelopes received on or before December 31 will be receipted for 2012. Any overpayments are refunded in March less a \$5.00 processing fee.

## License Plate Renewals

When applying for a license plate renewal, be sure the jurisdiction is listed as the Town of Middleton. It will help ensure that state revenues flow back to the community where the resident lives.

## Where to take Waste Oil

There is a waste oil receptacle on City of Middleton property at the southeast intersection of Highway 12 and Airport Road.

## Where to take excess/unwanted medicines

A 24-hour drop box is available in the lobby of the Middleton Police Department, 7341 Donna Drive. Empty pills into plastic sealed bags and recycle the pill bottles at home. (West Middleton Church accepts these bottles if labels are removed. They are repurposed for clinics in Africa

where the containers are hard to come by.) If dropping off liquids or creams, they may remain in the original container, but placed in a sealed bag to avoid spillage.

## West Middleton Youth Baseball

The players and families participating in the West Middleton Youth Baseball and Softball League had a great year playing at Pioneer Park and around the area. This year we had over 450 players in grades Pre-K through High School. We can be proud of the 4 teams who competed in the Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth League state tournaments with great success. For more information see the club website at [www.westmiddletonbaseball.com](http://www.westmiddletonbaseball.com). **Registration for 2013 will begin in February.**

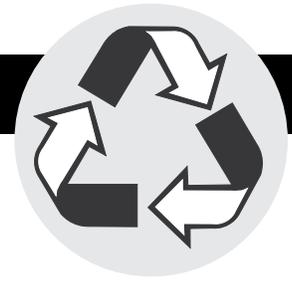
## Street Light in your neighborhood burned out or flickering?

Street lights are not maintained by the Town of Middleton. Make a call directly to Alliant Energy (1-800-Alliant) or MG&E (608-252-7333) for prompt service. Both Alliant Energy and MG&E have websites for reporting problem street lights.

**Alliant's website is:** <http://www.alliantenergy.com/CustomerService/StormandOutageCenter/StreetLights/index.htm>

**MG&E's website is:** <http://www.mge.com/contact/streetlight.htm>

# RECYCLE\*



## Five things you didn't know you could recycle\*

- Sneakers** - Nike's Reuse-a-shoe program turns any brand of old athletic shoes into playground and athletic surfaces, such as basketball courts and running tracks. For more information go to [www.nikereuseashoe.com](http://www.nikereuseashoe.com).
- Crayons** - If you have broken, stubby crayons in abandoned boxes, give them another life through the National Crayon Recycle Program. Crayons are melted down and turned into new crayons of various shapes. Visit [www.crazycrayons.com](http://www.crazycrayons.com) to learn more.
- Trophies** - Total Awards and Promotions in Madison is one of many companies that will recycle old trophies for parts or re-engage and donate them to nonprofits. This program isn't always offered, but check at [www.awardsmall.com](http://www.awardsmall.com) to find out if and when you can send in your old trophies to be reused.
- Wine Corks** - Close the loop by sending in your old wine corks to become floor and wall tiles. Yemm and Hart, a company that manufactures materials out of recycle content, creates and sells the tiles. Visit [www.yemhart.com](http://www.yemhart.com) for more details.
- Jeans** - When your old jeans (or any denim) are too worn out to be donated, consider giving them to the 'Cotton. From Blue to Green.' program to be turned into natural fiber insulation. More can be discovered at [www.cottonfrombluetogreen.org](http://www.cottonfrombluetogreen.org).

*\*Source: DNR/Bureau of Waste and Materials Management/Recycling News/September 2012*

## HOW, WHEN AND WHERE TO CONTACT TOWN PERSONNEL

### TOWN CONTACT INFORMATION

Town Offices: 7555 W. Old Sauk Road, Verona, WI 53593  
 Town Hours: 8 am to 4 pm Monday - Thursday  
 8 am to noon - Friday  
 Town phone: 608-833-5887  
 Town email: [info@town.middleton.wi.us](mailto:info@town.middleton.wi.us)  
 Town website: [www.town.middleton.wi.us](http://www.town.middleton.wi.us)

### USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

**Dane County Sheriff Dispatch**  
 Non-emergency 608-255-2345

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**Street Light Outages**  
 MG&E 608-252-7333  
 Alliant 1-800-Alliant  
*Reporting outages via web is an option*

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**Advanced Disposal** 608-251-7878  
*Formerly Veolia ES Solid Waste Inc.*

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**Animal Control** 608-838-0413

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**Middleton Fire Department**  
 (Non-emergency) 608-827-1090

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**Middleton EMS Department**  
 (Non-emergency) 608-827-1040

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**Town Inspector** 608-833-4346  
 Fred Hankel

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**Town Assessor** 608-712-0236  
 Paul Musser

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**Well Water Testing** 608-266-4821  
 (DHMDC)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
Dec 24 - 25	Town Offices Closed		
Dec 26 - 28 Dec 31	Town Hours for Tax Collection	7:30 am - 4:00 pm - M-TH 7:30 am to Noon - F	Town Hall
Jan 1	Town Offices Closed		
Jan 8 - 10	1st Holiday Tree Pick Up		
Jan 22 - 24	2nd Holiday Tree Pick Up		
Jan 31	Final Date for Tax Payment at Town	7:30 am to 4 pm	Town Hall
Feb 19	Spring Primary Election	7 am to 8 pm	Town Hall
April 2	Spring Election	7 am to 8 pm	Town Hall
May 14 - 16	Spring Bulk Pickup		