

Town of Sun Prairie

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Marshall, WI 53559

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APRIL 2010
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The Town of Sun Prairie Newsletter is a communication service of the Town Board for the residents of the Town of Sun Prairie.

Contacts

Fire, EMS and Sheriff Emergency	911
Sheriff NE Precinct non-emergency #	266-3456
Lyle Updike, Board Chairperson	837-0069
Vernon Pogue, Board Supervisor	837-6749
Doug Yelk, Board Supervisor	333-3974
Claudia Quick, Clerk	837-6688
Cindy Yelk, Treasurer	837-6688
Jerry Hahn, Constable	837-9860
Waste Management, trash & recy.	273-2500
Burn Permit (answering machine)	837-5066
Dane County Planning & Development	266-4266
Building Inspector	1-800-422-5220

We're on the Web
www.townofsunprairie.info

TIME SENSITIVE
INFORMATION INSIDE

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US POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO 1369

BOARD & PLAN COMMISSION MTGS.

The Town Board's regular monthly meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m., at the Town Hall, 5556 Twin Lane Road.

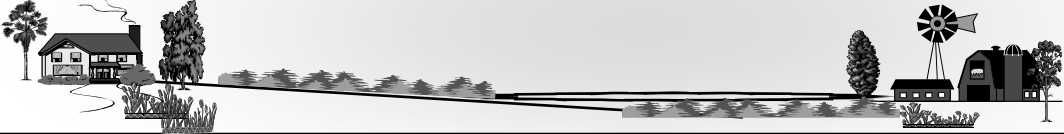
The Plan Commission meets on the 3rd Monday of the month. Periodically it has been necessary to change the dates and times because of conflicts. You can confirm the meeting date and time by checking the posted meeting notices or the official publication in the weekly Sun Prairie newspaper, The Star. You can also check the town website or call the office.

Meeting notices, ordinance adoptions and other information are posted on the website and three town bulletin boards. The bulletin boards are located at the Town Hall, the north-west corner of CTH TT and N and west side of Lonely Lane near the intersection with CTH N.

Building Permits & Ag Site Permits are issued by the building inspector, Chris Butschke. He has office hours at the town hall on Monday 9-10 a.m., 837-6688. He can also be reached by calling 1-800-422-5220. **Dane County** requires a zoning permit for all new structures and additions. The phone number is 266-4266, Rm 116, City County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Madison.

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CENSUS 2010 IS HERE

Census day is April 1, 2010. Households have begun receiving Census questionnaires. The instructions for this year's form will instruct people to fill in the form to account for everyone living at their address as of April 1, 2010.

- The 2010 Census form asks only 10 questions and is expected to take only 10 minutes to complete. This form will be the shortest in the more than 200 years history of the Census.
- Citizens should know that personal information provided to the Census cannot be share with anyone or used against you.
- The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years for the purposed of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Every person living in the United States must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens.

- More than 130 million addresses across the nation will receive a Census form in February and March. Households should complete and mail back their forms upon receipt.
- Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take a count in person.
- Census workers can be identified by a census badge and bag.

Key Census Dates:
April 1, 2010 Census Day

May – July 2010 Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

December 2010 By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President for apportionment.

March 2011 By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

Inside this issue:

<i>Ag Enterprise Areas</i>	2
<i>Building Permits</i>	3
<i>Burn Permit</i>	3
<i>Flood Insurance</i>	3
<i>Mailboxes</i>	3
<i>Identity Theft</i>	4
<i>Annual Meeting Invite</i>	4
<i>Access Dane</i>	5
<i>Board of Review Cont'd</i>	5
<i>Bits & Pieces</i>	5
<i>Curbside Collection</i>	6
<i>Wood Mulch</i>	6
<i>Comp Plan Update</i>	6
<i>HS Open House</i>	7
<i>Cultural Arts Poster</i>	7
<i>CG Annexes 260</i>	7
<i>Dog License</i>	7



Signs of Spring

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS
OPEN BOOK & BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

The property assessing firm, Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc. will hold an **Open Book Session on Wednesday, April 14, 2010.** Assessors will be available to talk with property owners concerning their assessment. We encourage anyone who has questions about their assessment to make an appointment. Property owners may review the assessment roll, check for errors and compare assessments. Taking the time to meet with the assessor can be very helpful and informative. The hours of Open Book are from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. April 14, at the Town Hall.

(Continued on page 5)

Agricultural Enterprise Areas

Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative July 2009

An agricultural enterprise area (AEA) is a contiguous land area devoted primarily to agricultural use and locally targeted for agricultural preservation and agricultural development.

Benefits of AEAs

- Preserve areas valuable for current and future agricultural use
- Promote the development of agricultural businesses
- Ensure eligibility of farm owners for tax credits through farmland preservation agreements

The state is authorized to designate:

- 15 AEAs (up to 200,000 acres) during a two year pilot period ending December 31, 2011
- Up to 1,000,000 acres total statewide after 2011

Designation of an AEA

The designation of AEAs is based on review of a petition voluntarily submitted by owners of at least 5 eligible farms and any affected local governments. The state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will request submittal of petitions. The request will include submittal deadlines and review procedures. Petitions filed with DATCP must meet basic requirements identified by DATCP to be considered for designation. Additional evaluation criteria may be used to review competing petitions.

The area proposed for designation as an AEA must be:

- Located in a farmland preservation area, as certified under a county farmland preservation plan
- A contiguous land area
- Primarily in agricultural use

Once successful petitions are selected, the state will officially designate the areas as AEAs through a modified administrative rule process. The rule process requires a public hearing and notice to the legislature. AEAs may only be designated, modified or terminated through this process.

Petition materials, including requirements and evaluation criteria will be made available on the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer

Protection website at <http://workinglands.wi.gov>.

Guidance for requesting designation of an AEA

1. Determine your interest in being a part of an AEA. You may wish to contact the state with questions or for further assistance.
2. Confirm your eligibility. (*Gross farm revenues of \$6,000 in the preceding year or \$18,000 in the previous three years*).
3. Identify at least 4 other eligible landowners within the area to serve as petitioners.
4. Determine the boundary of the area to be proposed for designation.
5. Get the support of political subdivisions in which the AEA is proposed.
6. Determine if all of the following apply:
 - Located in a certified farmland preservation area
 - Consists of contiguous land area
 - Primarily in agricultural use
7. Develop the petition requesting designation of AEA, making sure to fully complete all sections of the petition.
8. Identify interested cooperators who may support your petition.
9. Submit the petition to the State of Wisconsin by the identified deadline when a request for submittals is made.
10. Once the AEA is established:
 - Sign a farmland preservation agreement to collect tax credits, if desired.
 - Continue to promote agricultural land use and the development of agriculture within the AEA.

The process to designate an AEA may be initiated by landowners or by a political subdivision. In either case, it is important for the local farm owners and local governments to work together to ensure adequate interest in establishing and maintaining an AEA.

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade,
and Consumer Protection
<http://workinglands.wi.gov>
DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov

Spring Election is April 6, 2010

Dog licenses expired at the end of December,
Remember to renew at the business office.
In order to avoid delinquent charges get your license by April 1.

2010 DANE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS POSTER NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TOWNHALL...



Dennis Nechvatal, *Offering II*,
2004, acrylic on panel

Artist and Wisconsin native Dennis Nechvatal creates strong and powerful images that bid closer viewing and slowly convert into sophisticated reinventions of the natural world. His "Offerings" series features abundant floral bouquets lush with delicate brushstrokes. Offering II, his 2004 acrylic on panel selection from this series, is the image for the 2010 Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission art poster. The original work is now part of a private collection. With over a dozen museum exhibitions under his belt including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Corcoran Gallery in DC, the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Indianapolis Center for Contemporary Art, Dennis Nechvatal is one of Wisconsin's top artists working today.

COTTAGE GROVE ANNEXES 260 ACRES

On March 1st the Village of Cottage Grove annexed a number of parcels from the Town of Sun Prairie. The parcels are on N & TT near the intersection of County N and I-94. The Town has no standing to intervene in the annexation process because ALL the landowners and ALL of the residents of the parcels requested annexation.

However, the Village of Cottage Grove must request permission from the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission to extend water and sewer service to the area. Town Chair, Lyle Updike, in testimony to the Village plan commission, has indicated opposition to the expansion of urban services to the area unless an inter-governmental agreement defining long term borders and other issues of mutual concern is finalized with Cottage Grove. Village President Mike Mikalsen indicated that the Village will prepare an alternate version of an inter-governmental agreement and resume discussions with the Town. Any agreement will be reviewed by the Town Planning Commission and approved by the Town Board and the Village of Cottage Grove.

NEW SUN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 2010

Check out School
website for date: [www.
Sunprairie.k12.wi.us/](http://www.sunprairie.k12.wi.us/)
Or visit the school website
for a virtual tour:
[http://www.schooltube.com/
m/video/137cbe83c450455
da1ec/New-HS-Dec-tour](http://www.schooltube.com/video/137cbe83c450455da1ec/New-HS-Dec-tour)

CURBSIDE COLLECTION UPDATE

We have survived the switch to the automated system! It was a bit trying at times, but issues have been worked out. If you read the December newsletter you knew the schedule and what to do with the carts. If you didn't get a newsletter or didn't read it, you probably had questions. Please call the office if you did not get the newsletter so we can verify our mailing list.

Below are several reminders.

- The **trash** is collected **weekly** on Fridays.
Recyclables are collected **every other week**.
- Those living north of County Road T are collected one week; those living south of T are collected the next week. If you would like a copy of a calendar showing the schedule, call the office 837-6688 and we will send one to you, or check trash/recycling on the town website.
- Everything has to be in the carts. Nothing can be left outside the carts, leaving stuff on the ground next to the cart defeats the purpose of the automated system.
- If there is a holiday during the week, collection is on Saturday.

WOOD MULCH

For the last several years, the Town has been able to get free wood chips from the City of Madison. The mulch has been available to residents at the Town Hall site. Last year there was a \$100.00 charge for each semi-load. This covered the trucking costs to the outlying areas. In order to continue to offer this service, we are asking that people pay **\$10 per pickup load or portion thereof**. The money collected will be used to pay for the additional loads. Residents picking up a load during office hours can stop at the office to pay. After business hours people can deposit the fee in the drop box at the town hall.

TOWN OF SUN PRAIRIE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The first amendment to the **Town of Sun Prairie Comprehensive Plan 2003-2023** has been adopted by the Dane County Board and signed by the Dane County Executive on January 25th 2010. With this final action the Town's Comprehensive Plan amendments become amendments to the **Dane County Comprehensive Plan** and the **Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan**. This action by the County continues the Town's participation in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program which provides income tax credits to farm owners who keep their property in agricultural use.

The Town plan amendment provides the following:

- A required conservation easement of 2 acres of land for each acre of land removed (rezoned) from farmland preservation for development.
- Under the existing provision allowing 11 new residential lots per year, any unused allocation at the

end of the year would carry over to the following year.

- Allows the Town Board to acquire conservation interests in real property for the purpose of open space and rural preservation.
- Maintains the minimum lot size at 40,000 ft², but allows variances only in cases of legal hardship due to special conditions unique to the property, and when the purpose of an applicable ordinance is not violated.
- Updates the map of the extraterritorial jurisdiction boundaries of the Cities of Madison and Sun Prairie and the Village of Cottage Grove as they affect the Town of Sun Prairie.
- Clarifies the definition of "Farmer" as someone who is actively engaged and participating in farming operations.

The full text of these amendments are available at the Office of the Town clerk or on the Town of Sun Prairie website, www.townofsunprairie.info.

BUILDING PERMITS

Do I need a building permit?

Yes....when your project involves:

- An addition or change in the footprint of your house or accessory building.
- Any type of electrical, heating or plumbing work.

For **exterior** work, a permit is needed to:

- Add a screen porch or deck
- Replace window and doors with different size windows and doors
- Install any type of swimming pool
- Build a new structure
- Wood furnace or other outdoor heating device

For **interior** work, a permit is needed to:

- Replace a furnace or central air
- Finishing or remodeling of a basement
- Extensive bathroom or kitchen remodel
- Moving walls
- Installation of woodstoves, fireplaces

A permit is not required to :

- Change flooring, carpet, tile
- Install sidewalks and flat work
- Roofing, siding

Building permits are issued by the building inspector. He is in the office on Monday 9-10 a.m. Call the office, 837-6688 with questions.

BURN PERMITS

Burn Permits are available by calling the Sun Prairie fire department number 837-5066. Leave the requested information. There is no charge. You need to call in anytime that you burn outside of a burn barrel.

Burn Permits do not allow for burning of oil substances, asphalt, plastic, vinyl, rubber or food scraps. Burning these items harms human health and the environment. It also is a BIG nuisance to your neighbors. Smoke from burning these items may contain arsenic, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, sulfuric acid and other undesirable gases.

ASK ABOUT FLOOD INSURANCE NOW!

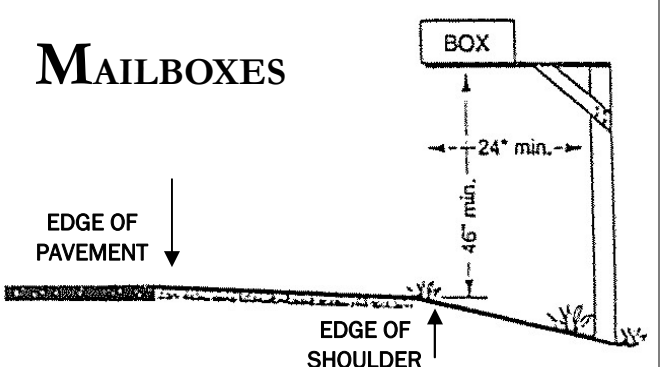
Dane County residents are encouraged to look into flood insurance for their property. There are many myths about flood insurance that expose residents to unnecessarily high levels of risk. For more information about flood insurance, visit both www.floodsmart.gov and the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance's web page about flood insurance (http://oci.wi.gov/sm_emp/flood.htm).

Myth: Properties are not at risk of flooding if they are not located in a mapped flood plain.

Fact: From the 2008 floods in Dane County, FEMA awarded 1,627 claims for Individual and Household Assistance. Of those awarded claims that could be mapped (non post office box addresses), 34 were in the 100 year flood zone and 46 were in the 500 year flood zone. Only 4.9% of those awards for flood assistance were in mapped flood hazard areas!!

Make sure your mailbox and post are secure. If you are replacing a mailbox, consider a black one, as they are easier to see in a snowstorm.

The front of the box should be aligned with the outside edge of the shoulder. (The shoulder is the gravel portion of the roadway.) Under no circumstances should the roadside face of the mailbox project onto the usable shoulder or onto the traveled way of the road.



Identity Theft

By Dane County Sheriff Dept Community Deputy John Nelson

Identity theft has been one of the fastest growing personal crimes in the United States over the last decade. This crime affects both young and old with long lasting consequences. With the advancement in technology and computers, your identity can now be stolen without your knowledge. Here are some tips to help protect you from being a victim of this crime.

- Avoid carrying your Social Security card with you and make sure you never give out your Social Security number or any other personal information unless absolutely necessary.
- Shred all personal documents before placing them in the trash.
- Do not leave out financial documents where they can be viewed by others.
- When setting up a password, make sure to avoid using the names of your family members or pets. In addition if using a numeric password, do not use birthdays or anniversaries. Criminals easily obtain this information.
- Think about opting-out of pre-approved credit card offers. To opt-out of credit card offers, call 1-888-5-opt-out.
- Never give out personal or financial information in response to an e-mail that was not initiated by you. Many scams have become very sophisticated and often times will direct you

to a website that looks very official. Legitimate financial institutions should never ask you to reply to an e-mail with personal information.

- Always review bank statements and credit card bills to verify all of your transactions. If you observe any discrepancies, contact them immediately.
- Obtain a copy of your credit report through all three credit-reporting agencies on a regular basis.

Equifax 1-800-685-1111

www.equifax.com

Experian 1-888-397-3742

www.experian.com

Trans Union 1-800-916-8800

www.transunion.com

If you fall victim to an identity theft please contact these agencies to report the crime.

- Local law enforcement agency
- Your financial institutions
- The three credit reporting agencies so an alert can be placed on your account.
- Federal Trade Commission Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC. 20580
www.consumer.gov/idtheft

*You are invited to Attend the Annual Town Meeting
On Tuesday, April 13, 2010—7:00 p.m.
At the Town Hall,
5556 Twin Lane Road
Review of 2010 Financial Statement
Update on EMS and Fire Dept.
Future Town Plans
Refreshments will be served
Everyone Welcome!*

ACCESSDANE

Online geographic and land information

Are you acquainted with Access Dane? The **Public Access System** allows you to search for real property, **tax and zoning information**. You can access foreclosure and Property Sales, Real Estate Records and Urban Service Area Information. In addition there is a **GIS & Mapping** section with Dane County Data and Map Catalogs. The **DCiMap** section allows you to do interactive mapping.

Website is <http://accessdane.co.wi.us/>

BOARD OF REVIEW

(Continued from page 1)

We encourage those who think they may want to appear before the Board of Review to first meet with the assessor during the Open Book session. **Board of Review is set for Wednesday, May 12, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.**

- The main function of the **Board of Review** is to hear objections to valuations that have not been resolved with the assessor during Open Book.
- The evidence presented by the property owner must be factual in nature, not just a matter of opinion.

Check the WI Department of Revenue website for informative publications <http://www.revenue.wi.gov/pubs/slf/pb060.pdf>. You may also call the Town Clerk at 837-6688 with assessment questions.

Bits & Pieces

The **Town Treasurer's new email address** is: treasurer@townofsunprairie.info.

Spring Election is April 6, 2010 – There are two County Supervisor Districts 20 & 21 in the Town. In each district the incumbent is being challenged. Sun Prairie School District School Board has four candidates for three positions. Marshall School Board has two candidate for two positions and the Monona Grove School Board has three candidate for two positions. The ballot will also include one court of appeals judge and six circuit court judge races.

Voter Registration If you are a new resident or just turned 18, remember to bring current ID and proof of residency to the polls when you come to vote. You can complete your **Voter Registration** form at the office prior to election day or you can register on election day. Call the office if you have any questions 837-6688.

Recycling Computers & Other Electronics Check the Dane County Website www.countyofdane.com for information on recycling electronics

Tuberculosis: A disease of the past, or not? Tuberculosis, or TB, is a disease that many of us consider a disease from the past or a disease in third world countries. However, TB is a current issue. In late December of 2009, the Associated Press reported on the first U.S. case of an extremely drug-resistant (XXDR) strain of TB. TB is a bacterial disease that can attack any part of the body, although the lungs are the primary site of infection. For more details go to: <http://www.publichealthmdc.com/disease/TB/> there is a wealth of information on the Public Health website.

**March
24th
World TB
Day**