

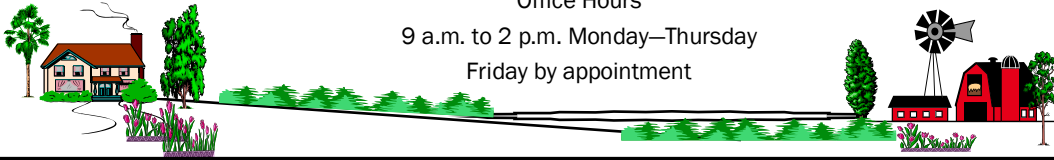
Town of Sun Prairie Newsletter

5556 Twin Lane Road, Marshall, WI 53559, 608-837-6688

Office Hours

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday–Thursday

Friday by appointment



Volume 22, Issue 1

March 2014

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OLD MAN WINTER CONVERTS PAVED ROADS TO WASHBOARDS!!

The county roads that run through the Town of Sun Prairie are in rough shape. Some of that roughness will go away as the frost leaves. However, the only way to get the road in the county budget for repair is by letting key people know it needs it.



Please contact:

State Rep, Mark Miller
(266-9170)

Assembly Representative, Gary Hebl
(266-7678)

Dane County Supervisor,
Dennis O'Loughlin
(846-1851)

Hwy & Transportation
Jerry Mandli
(266-4039)

LET'S PROTECT OURSELVES AND OUR NEIGHBORS!!

Remember that nasty rash of thefts from vehicles last summer and fall in the Towns of Sun Prairie, Bristol and Burke? Since that time, there has been a few more personal property thefts from vehicles, and over the winter there have been at least five home invasions in our Town and the surrounding area. These events can leave an individual feeling exposed and vulnerable. Isn't it about time that we step up and identify problems and weaknesses, and do our best to prevent theft from happening in our community?

Deputy Sheriff John Nelson, our community deputy, has shared some thoughts with us on how we can prevent further theft. When leaving a vehicle unattended, be sure to lock your doors, and keep



valuables out of sight. If someone can see something of value in plain view and they want it, he or she will not hesitate to gain entry into the auto through an unlocked door or to break open a window or two. Even better yet, don't leave anything of value in your auto. A would be robber can't steal anything if there is nothing to steal.

Protecting your home from invasion can be as simple as getting to know your neighbors. Knowing your neighbors comings and goings can really be helpful in determining if a strange vehicle is in the vicinity – maybe even “casing the place”. If you plan to be gone for an extended period of time have someone plow your driveway after snow-falls. Do not leave the garbage bins at the roadside – ask neighbors to pull them up to the house. Newspapers and mail left in the boxes are also key signs that the residents of the home are probably out of town. Stop your mail delivery or have someone collect it for you.

In a few of the most recent home invasions, entry has been made through purposely broken basement windows. You may wish to take steps to prevent entry, or install motion lights or alarms to outside areas

(Continued on page 2)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DISTRICT #14 (EMS)

Who do I contact if I have a medical emergency? In Dane County everyone should contact 911.

The 911 dispatch will notify the Marshall Area EMS District 14. The Town of Sun Prairie **does not** contract with the City of Sun Prairie EMS for medical emergency service. However, the District does have a mutual aid agreement with the city and the city will respond to an Advanced Life Support (ALS) call.

An EMS joint municipal agreement was signed between the Towns of Sun Prairie, Medina, York, and Village of Marshall forming an Emergency Medical Service District, June 30, 2005. The name given to the district is "Marshall Area EMS District 14." The "District" is governed by a commission consisting of four appointed members from each respective municipality. The purpose of the District is to provide emergency medical and ambulance services. Each municipality pays a portion of capital and operating expenses calculated by the equalization of the community. The ownership of assets is retained by the District. For example: the Town of Sun Prairie helped pay for the Public Safety Building in Marshall as well as the ambulances but they are titled to the District.

The current roster consists of 43 active members; 4-Paramedics, 23-Advanced EMTs, 12-EMTs, 3-Drivers only, and 1-Member in training. The EMS unit responded to 464 calls in 2013 of which 101 calls were from residents in the Town of Sun Prairie.

(Continued from page 1)

of your home that are not in plain view to neighbors or yourself.

For those of you that live in developments, you may want to consider a neighborhood watch group. Deputy Nelson indicated that such groups can be as simple or complex as a neighborhood wants them to be. If this concept is something that you would like to check out, he recommended visiting the usaonwatch.org website. They have a whole host of materials and information available for your review. Deputy Nelson also offered to meet with any of our residents to provide ideas and suggestions if you are considering setting up a neighborhood watch.

All the suggestions above are certainly common sense ideas, but often in this busy world we live in, we sometimes neglect to do things we normally would do. If you do see something that doesn't seem right, jot down the license plate, vehicle description or descriptions of unfamiliar people. You don't necessarily have to act on it immediately, but having information available to share with the sheriff if a theft did take place can be helpful in apprehending individuals. I think we can all agree that we want to keep our community safe and free of worries, so let us all keep our eyes open and get to know our neighbors.



WINTER WEATHER RAISES HAVOC WITH CURBSIDE COLLECTION!

Currently when there is a change in the collection schedule Waste Management will notify the town office. We appreciate knowing here at the office but would like to take it a step further. We would like to establish a resident email list serve. With this list we could email residents of the change and why. We will also post it on the website. Send us an email with **list serve** in the subject line and we will add your email address.

EMAIL: tspclerk@gmail.com or treasurer@townofsunprairie.info

FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

By Town Supervisor, Doug Yelk

I would like to bring you up to date on the fire service for the Town of Sun Prairie.

First a little back ground: The Town of Sun Prairie contracts with the Sun Prairie **Volunteer** Fire Department (SPVFD) for fire protection services. They are the men and women who provide the work force to fight fires, rescue, educate and other jobs to our community. The Town of Sun Prairie along with Burke and Bristol towns, own the fire trucks that are mainly used in the towns. The city of Sun Prairie owns the fire trucks that are mainly used in the city. The 3 towns have been purchasing other equipment on a 50/50 share with the city of Sun Prairie for more than 20 years. Together, the 3 towns and the city along with the volunteers have been under contract for fire protection services for us all.

In late May 2013, our town chair, Lyle Updike received a call from the mayor of Sun Prairie letting him know that the city was planning to create and use their own fire department, thus not needing SPVFD and this would end the current contract

on December 31, 2013. As you may have read in the local paper or seen on TV that many believed this would be the end of the volunteers, but this was not the case. The 3 towns were very much committed to continued service with the SPVFD. Now the towns would need a location to house the fire trucks and equipment.

Throughout the summer the towns met with the SPVFD to discuss the best way to continue service for the 3 towns. As summer turned to fall, the city remained divided on how to provide fire service to the city. You probably noticed a few signs around the towns and city in support of the SPVFD. Talks began with the city for possibly continued service with SPVFD and the towns. Late 2013, an agreement was reached to have SPVFD to provide service to the city for 2 more years, with a possible extension. Meanwhile the towns reached a 5 year agreement, with possible extensions with SPVFD. This provides benefits to both the city and towns for at least 2 more years of cooperative work together.

Another detail that arose during talks between the towns was that Burke was looking towards more of a contracted service than ownership. As part of the new contract with the SPVFD, the towns of Bristol and Sun Prairie will buy out the ownership of Burke's share of the trucks and equipment and continue to provide the fire services to them for the next 5 years and hopefully beyond.

While this issue has somewhat been settled for now, there will have to be continued talks with the city and SPVFD to go beyond the 2 year agreement that the city is currently under. I'm sure you will see this issue reappear in the headlines in the near future, but remember that the towns have a 5 year contract with SPVFD for services, while the city only has 2 years. We will continue to work towards the most cost effective solution for the town's future needs.

If you have any questions or ideas I encourage you to come to the annual spring meeting April 15th at our town hall. This topic will be on the agenda for discussion.

Would you like your town newsletter digital?

Drop us an email with newsletter in the subject line...

tspclerk@gmail.com or treasurer@townofsunprairie.info



**Town of Sun Prairie
Town Office**

tspclerk@gmail.com

608-837-6688

5556 Twin Lane Rd

Marshall, WI 53559

www.townofsunprairie.info

Voter Public Access

<https://myvote.wi.gov/>

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The Town Hall is available for rental. In 2013 we did a little “freshening up” and installed new carpeting. The beautiful maroon carpeting complements the front door awning that was installed in October 2012, giving the hall a more personal touch. There has also been a television installed with HDMI and USB ports that allows renters the ability to make presentations/play movies for special occasions.

Fee Schedule:

Town Resident/Personal Use \$50.00

Town Resident/Business Use \$75.00

Non Resident/Personal or Business Use \$110.00

Call the office at (608)837-6688 if you would like to rent out our facility for your next party or meeting!

Dane County Clerks Get New Voting Machines!

The DS-200 replaces the blue Eagle ballot machine. The Eagle was purchased nearly 30 years ago and parts for repairs have become unavailable. The voter will experience little change in voting with the DS-200 ballot machine. The ballot is placed on the tray and the machine takes it in just as before. Most of the changes are internal. The machine scans each ballot as it enters; a photo is taken of the ballot and placed on a flash drive in the machine along with recording data on ballot. This is a very valuable feature, if there is any question about fraud or recall or recount, each ballot can be viewed digitally or hardcopies reproduced. This is a cost savings for municipalities in people-power and monies.



The DS-200 has a screen like a personal computer. I ask you to pause when placing your ballot in the machine to watch what happens on the screen. It should display "THANK YOU FOR VOTING" if the ballot was marked correct. If not, it will also tell you and ask you what you would like to do with it.

Although the ballot has changed from drawing a line to filling a oval, it can be done with a #2 pencils, ink pen (no jel pen), or maker (not highlighter). I feel this is one of the nicest changes and economical also.

2014 Election Dates

April 1

Spring Election

August 12

Fall Partisan Primary

November 4

Fall General Election

POLLS OPEN AT 7 A.M.
& CLOSE AT 8 P.M.

Taxes Taxes Taxes

Second half of property tax is due by July 31, 2014. Please make payment payable to the Dane County Treasurer!!!

Mail your payment to:
Dane County Treasurer
P.O.1299
Madison, WI 53701-1299

A Note from the Treasurer:

Although local tax collection season is over, I want to share a friendly reminder that **the January 31st due date is really January 31st**. As long as you have paid in person, dropped your payment in the drop box at the Town Hall, or have the payment postmarked by January 31st, your payment is considered timely with me. Next year, I will be closing out my tax collection on the 31st of January. Payments I receive after that date by mail and within the 5 day grace period I

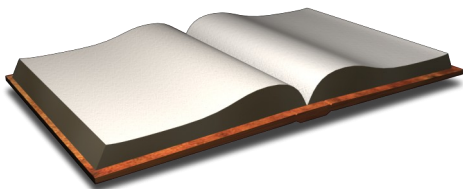
will endorse over to the County, and they will be considered timely. If you neglect to pay the taxes before the 31st at our Town Hall, I will direct you to visit the Dane County Treasurer's office on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd in Madison. Thank you.



Town Website....www.townofsunprairie.info

If you haven't already done so, please take some time to visit the Town of Sun Prairie website. You'd be surprised what you can find there. Agendas and minutes of each Board and Plan Commission meeting are available. Thinking about remodeling or adding on to your home? Our building inspector contact and fee schedule is there. Would you like a 2014 garbage and recycling calendar? It's there. Applications for Voter Registration and Absentee Voting are under the voting link. Past newsletters and dog license applications can also be found under other links.

Whatever you are looking for, most likely can be found on the website. You may even be able to get an answer to your question much more quickly, and at any time of the day, than if you called the office during office hours. We are becoming such a "tech savvy" world these days, so we try our best to have the most complete and accurate information available to you – at your fingertips. Of course, if you don't care to use the computer, we always welcome your call to the office. We like to know our residents!



Open Book/Board of Review

Property values in the Town of Sun Prairie are determined by our assessor, Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc. Annually, you have the opportunity to meet with the assessor to determine if the assessed value of your property is too high. This is called Open Book. If, after that meeting, you still wish to pursue the possibility of lowering your assessment, you can meet with the Board of Review. At that time, you would be meeting with the Town Board, the assessor, and the Town Clerk. These meetings usually occur in April and May, respectively. Dates have yet to be set for 2014, but if you wish to meet with the assessor in April, email Cindy at treasurer@townofsunprairie.info, or call her at (608)837-6688. Please leave your name, address, phone number, and if possible your parcel number. She will put you on the list to be contacted when dates have been decided.



HAVE YOU LICENSED FIDO?

Did you know: By State Statute 174.05, the owner of a dog more than 5 months of age on January 1st of any year, or within said year, shall annually license said dog. This is state law. Licensing is taken care of at the municipal level, so you can come to the Town Hall during office hours and license your beloved family dog. **Late fees are \$5 per dog if not paid by April 1st of each year (State Statute 174.05(5)).**

Did you know: Each dog must be vaccinated against rabies within 30 days after the dog reaches 4 months of age (State Statute 95.21(2)). Failure to do so may result in a penalty in the amount of \$50 - \$100 (State Statute 95.21(10)). Once again, these are state laws, and each Town, Village, and City is bound to follow state law.

Did you know: Licensing fees for Town of Sun Prairie residents are some of the most reasonable in our area. **Spayed/Neutered license fees are \$11 each. Unspayed/Unneutered license fees are \$16 each.** City of Sun Prairie fees are \$15/\$20, respectively. Village of Cottage Grove fees are \$13.25/\$18.25, respectively. Lastly, Town of Burke fees are \$20/\$30, respectively.

Did you know: As stated above, you can obtain a license in person at the Town Hall, 5556 Twin Lane Road, Marshall, WI 53559. You can also download a copy of the license application from our website, www.townofsunprairie.info (follow the Permits, Licenses and Applications link and click on Dog License Information and Application) and mail your completed application and fee to Cindy L. Yelk, Treasurer, Town of Sun Prairie at the address indicated above. You could also email the application to Cindy at treasurer@townofsunprairie.info, and mail the fee to the office at the address above. PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE A COPY OF THE RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATION HOWEVER YOU LICENSE YOUR DOG.

Did you know: Licensing you dog and providing vaccination information is much cheaper than having to reclaim your pet from the Humane Society if your dog is picked up. Fees begin at \$40, more likely \$60, and \$15/day after the first day. Repeat offenders incur additional charges.



GENERATION PARK UPDATE...

More improvements are coming to Generations Park in 2014. Plans are to lay stone in the access road and parking area. This will improve vehicle access to the Park and its nature trails. Also, a formal Park entrance will be constructed in 2014 utilizing a grant from the Wisconsin Garden Club. This follows 2013 activity which included moving the front gate and the addition of picnic tables. The picnic tables were constructed and donated by the Boy Scouts while the Girl Scouts cleared areas for those tables. The Parks Committee hopes that residents come by to check out the progress at Generations Park.

Fun Fido Facts:

Of the dogs licensed

YTD in the Town of Sun Prairie:

59% are spayed females

33% are neutered males

4% are unsprayed females

4% are unneutered males

Most popular name:

Cody & Cooper are tied at 3 each
with the same spelling,

there are also 3 named Bailey/Baylee
and 3 named Charlie/Charly



WILL THE WINTER OF 2013/2014 EVER END???

It seems as though we have had ample time to practice our winter driving skills this year. Please continue to be careful as we begin to “thaw out”. Road surface temperatures can fluctuate rapidly as the weather changes and the sun sets and rises. Black ice can develop quickly. Our road patrolmen are very conscientious, and work hard to make the roads as safe as possible, but it takes time to run their routes. Each driver spends about 4 hours on their route after a simple snow event. Ice events and blowing and drifting snow road clearings take longer. Please be patient, they will be in your neck of the woods as quickly as they can. **Please note: county roads (ie. T, TT, VV, N) are plowed by Dane County.** If you live on a county road and damage is done to your property by a county plow truck, you can contact Dane County at (608)266-4012.



MULCH – 2014

The Town of Sun Prairie plans to have mulch delivered to our lot in the spring as soon as the weather allows. Please note, we are asking for a \$10 donation per truckload to help defray the cost of delivery. Money can be brought into the office during office hours, or you can simply slip the money into our drop box located to the left of the main entrance of the town hall (envelopes are provided in the drop box). We will have more mulch delivered throughout the summer as long as we are able to pay the delivery charge for each new load with residents’ donations. When donations cease, so will the deliveries.

The mulch delivered is for the use of our residents on their own property. The mulch is not intended to be used for business use. When mulch is delivered, a notice will be added to the front page of the town web-

SPRING IS BOUND TO ARRIVE SOMETIME SOON!



We can only hope, right? Please consider this a friendly service reminder that farm implements will be out and about in full force soon. Your patience and observance is important in guaranteeing safe travels on our rural roads.

Some tips to consider: If the farm implement you are following slows its pace, it is most likely turning onto another road or into a driveway. Some equipment operators need to make wide turns into narrow driveways, so please hold back for a few more seconds and give them the space they need to make the turn safely. Most farm equipment operators have several rear view mirrors, but when these operators are pulling additional equipment the mirrors don’t always allow the operator to see everything, creating “blind spots”. Lastly, please don’t pass any farm equipment while traveling up a hill.

These points may seem like common sense, but as an equipment operator myself, I see this happen every year. Please stay safe this spring and allow a minute or two more travel time to reach your destination.

Town of Sun Prairie

5556 Twin Lane Road
Marshall, WI 53559

Phone: 608-837-6688
Fax: 608-825-4864
Email: tspclerk@gmail.com
Email: treasurer@townofsunprairie.info

TIME SENSITIVE
INFORMATION INSIDE

March 2014
Volume 22 No. 1

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
Jo Ann Ramsfield, Clerk	837-6688
Cindy Yelk, Treasurer	837-6688
Jerry Hahn, Constable	837-9860
Waste Management, trash & recyclable	273-2500
Burn Permit (answering machine)	837-5066
Dane County Planning & Development	266-4266
Building Inspector	1-800-422-5220

BOARD & PLAN COMMISSION MTGS.

The Town Board's regular monthly meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Meetings begin at 7:00 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 time because of conflicts. You can confirm the meeting

date and time by checking the posted meeting notices, the town website or call the office.

Meeting agenda 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, at 4167 CTH TT, and at the intersection of CTH N and Lonely Lane.

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 is often in the area and will meet with residents at other times. He can also be reached by calling 1-800-422-5220 or 608-576-6371. **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.

We're on the Web
www.townofsunprairie.info