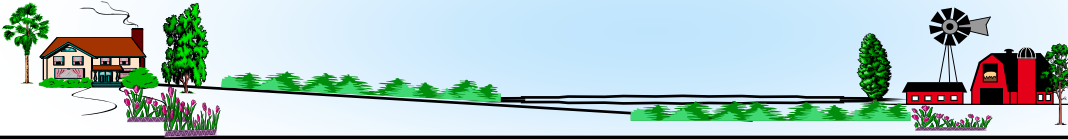


Town of Sun Prairie Newsletter

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



DECEMBER 2010

Volume 18 Issue 2

Town Official Nomination Papers

**Spring
Election
April 5,
2011**

Nomination papers for Town Officials to be elected at the April 5, 2011 Spring Election are available at the Town Office. The offices to be elected are: Town Chairperson, two Town Supervisors, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer and Town Constable. All positions are open for candidacy. Nomination papers need to be completed and signed by a minimum of twenty Town of Sun Prairie electors. Completed papers are due on January 4, 2011.

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Treasurer's Message

I would like to remind you again that I can only accept checks that are made payable to the Town of Sun Prairie. The Town of Sun Prairie and the City of Sun Prairie are two different municipalities. If your mortgage/escrow company makes the check payable to the City of Sun Prairie, the City needs to endorse the check over to the Town. An even bigger consideration in regard to this issue is if I receive a check made out to another municipality near the end of the month, you may miss the payment deadline while trying to get the error corrected. Contact your mortgage company immediately to get this corrected. Better to be safe than sorry. Also, if you are listed as a payee on the check, you need to endorse the back. The bank will likely send the check back to me for endorsement, which in turn may make your payment late.

If you believe you are eligible to receive a lottery credit on your real estate taxes but it is not listed on your tax bill; PLEASE call me immediately. I need to make changes at the town office and send paper work into Dane County. The more lead time you give me the better.



No Increase in Town Taxes

The Town Board and staff worked hard to contain spending in the 2011 Budget. The mill rate for the Town portion of the taxes will be \$2.40 per \$1,000 in property value. At that rate, a homeowner with a \$200,000 home will pay \$480 to the Town. That is the amount the same person paid for 2009 taxes.

The new budget does include some significant road work. The Board will be taking out a five year loan to maximize the potential for a lower asphalt bid. Ridge Road and West Medina will be rehabilitated. Asphalt overlays will be done on numerous subdivision roads, including Alvin, Torbleau, Hegeland, Oakcrest, Kenneth, Cardinal, Norton, LaRue, Hidden Meadows and Garden Court.

Property Tax 101

http://www.countyofdane.com/treasurer/property_tax.aspx

The property tax process begins with the **assessment**. Assessments are conducted by the local municipality. In some Dane County municipalities these assessments are done annually. In other municipalities (particularly the smaller ones) they are done every few years. (However, it would be unusual to not have a reevaluation every 4 to 7 years.) The assessment represents the value of the property as of January 1 of a given year. After the assessment is completed (March or later, depending on whether a reevaluation is taking place), property owners are sent a notice of assessment. **After receiving this notice, property owners have a limited period of time to discuss the assessment with the assessor and appeal to the Municipality's Board of Review.** This is important because the property tax is calculated based on this assessment. After the period for appeal is passed, it would normally be too late for the property owner to appeal the amount of property tax. (NOTE: the notice of assessment will indicate value **AND** classification. In rural areas the classification can be

important because of the different rate of assessment value placed on agricultural land, undeveloped land, and forestland.)

Wisconsin taxing districts (municipalities, schools, counties, etc.) set their budgets in the fall, usually November. After each district has set its levy for the next year, property taxes are calculated and bills are prepared. This means bills are usually received by the taxpayer in early to mid-December. The deadline for making the first payment is the following January 31st.

Because of the deductability of property tax on owner's federal income taxes, many property owners pay all of the bill by December 31st. However, all that is required is that the **first installment be paid by January 31st**. The first installment is usually about one-half of the total due. For those who choose to pay in two installments, **the second installment is due by July 31st**. By the way, property owners pay the first installment to their local municipality, but the second

installment is paid directly to their county. All of this information (amount, due dates, who to pay, etc.) is stated on the bill sent in December.

For owners who miss a deadline and become delinquent the following occurs: If a property owner is late with the first installment, he or she loses the ability to pay in two installments. The full amount comes due immediately. In addition, in Dane County an interest charge of 1% and a penalty of 1/2 % of the principal is added to the total outstanding. This charge (1.5% total) is accrued on the first of each month until the bill is paid. If a property owner is late with the second installment, interest and penalty are charged from February 1st. This means that a late payment received anytime in August will be charged interest and penalty for 7 months ($7 \times 1.5\% = 10.5\%$). Each month afterward the outstanding principal balance is charged another 1.5%. In determining whether a payment is timely, the treasurer's office goes by the postmark affixed by the US postal service.

Town Clerk IS Retiring

By Claudia J Quick

In April I will have completed 24 years as Town Clerk. It has been a wonderful experience. I have enjoyed all parts of the job, from preparing budgets and the accounting work to supervising elections. The best part has been the opportunity to serve and help the public. The responsibilities have increased in a major way since April of 1987, when I was first elected. At that time we did not have curbside collection, the town did not have any computers and there were less regulations and mandates. I worked out of my home for several years, before setting up office at the Town Hall. Many things have changed over those years. The job and its responsibilities have

provided numerous interesting, rewarding and challenging experiences. Along the way I have met many, many wonderful people and I will miss those contacts. But it is time that I shift gears and move on to other adventures. Thus I will not be seeking re-election.

If you are interested in the position of Town Clerk, contact me at the office (837-6688). I will be willing to answer your questions and talk to you about the job. The position is elected, and nomination papers are due January 4, 2011. The election is April 5, 2011. The next two year term begins April 12, 2011. Thank you for the opportunity to serve my community.

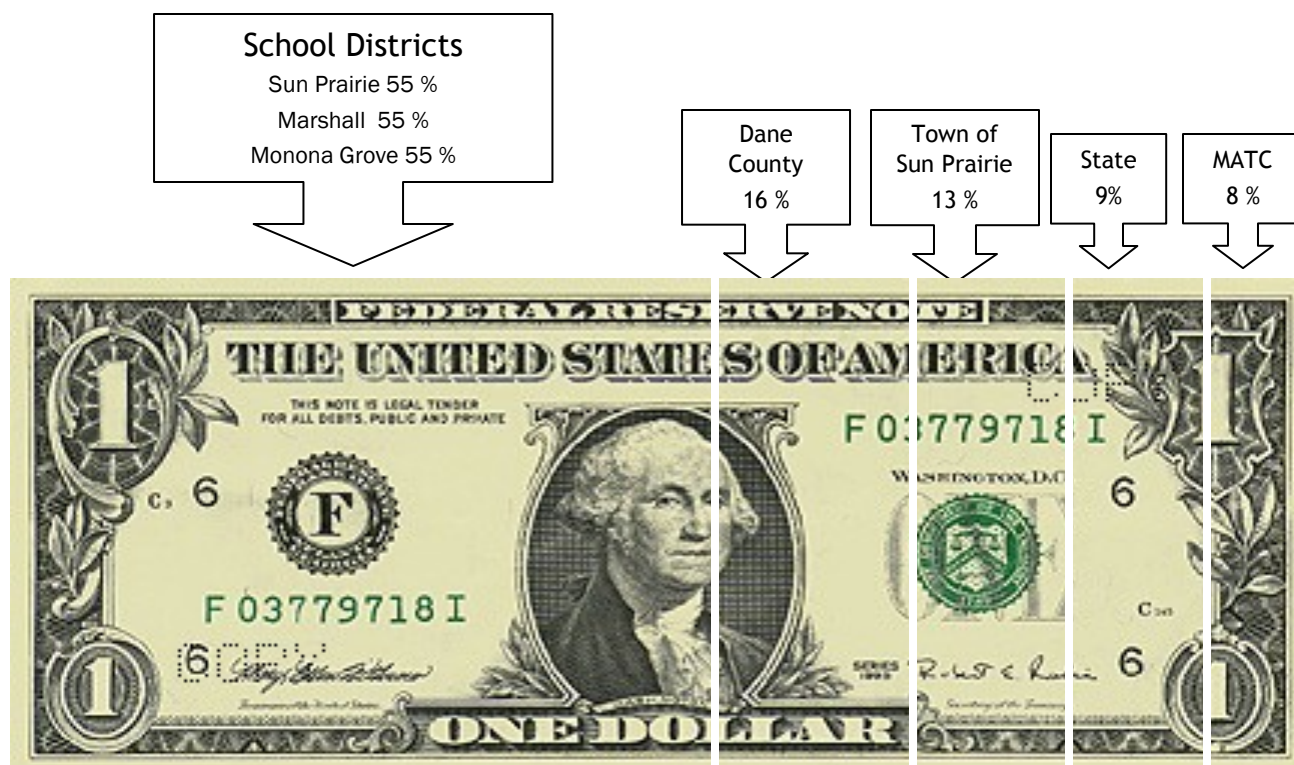
Your 2010 Tax Dollar

(payable in 2011)

Real Estate and Personal Property Tax

Lottery Credit reduced the taxes by approximately \$100 for each residence which is owner occupied

State School Tax Credit amounts to approximately 7% reduction in total tax bill





Increase In Special Charge For Curbside Collection



Due to costs that the state is passing on to the trash hauler, who in turn is passing those costs to the Town, the Board increased the cost of curbside collection. The new rate is \$140.00 per living unit, or \$2.70 per week.

Christmas Tree Collection

The garbage hauler will be picking up trees on January 10 and 17. Please have your tree roadside on these dates.

New Cart Program

The program appears to be going well. There was a bit of a learning curve for everyone. Remember to put everything in the cart. Leaving items outside of the cart defeats the purpose of the automated system. Waste Management will collect larger items that do not fit in the cart. Contact them directly at 273-2500. There is a charge for collection of "white goods", \$25.00 per item. There should not be a charge for sofas, mattresses etc.

Paint Disposal

Please take care when disposing leftover latex paint.

In the recent past months Waste Management has had issues with improper disposal of latex paint in trash containers. The improper disposal of the paint resulted with spilled paint.

Latex Paint

Recent research shows that latex paint can safely be put in the garbage if it's dry or solidified first. Residents should dry out latex paint and put it in the garbage.

There are three ways to dry out paint before disposal:

- **Dry it:** If only a small amount is left in the can (an inch or less of paint), remove the paint can lid and let the paint dry out in the can. Protect from freezing and rain as well as curious children and animals. This only works when it is left in the can and is most effective in the warmer months.
- **Mix it:** Mix absorbent material (i.e. kitty litter, sawdust and shredded paper) into the latex paint and allow mixture to dry. Use a 50/50 mixture for fast drying time.
- **Harden it:** Use a commercial paint hardener such as "Waste Away" with latex paint according to the directions.

Once the latex paint has hardened or solidified, put the can in your garbage container and leave the paint can lid off so the garbage truck driver can see that it is empty or contains only dried paint.

Oil based paint needs to be disposed at Clean Sweep, which is open May through October.

Recyclable Material

PAPER AND CARDBOARD

Cardboard must be cut or crushed to fit inside the Tote. No wax or plastic coated boxes.

Acceptable paper includes:

- Boxboard (Cereal, cake, soda or cookie boxes)
- Catalogs
- File Folders
- Junk Mail
- Magazine
- Notebooks
- Newspaper
- Newspaper inserts
- Phone Books

PLASTICS

Any plastic container with recycle symbol on it. No motor oil bottles or plastic bags.

Rinse the container clean.

Labels do not need to be removed.

ALUMINUM

Cans only.

No foil, pie plates, or pop-tops.

GLASS CONTAINERS

Jars and bottles only.

No ceramics or drinking glasses. Rinse the container clean. Labels do not need to be removed.

TIN OR BI-METAL CONTAINERS

Food containers only. Rinse the container clean.

Labels do not need to be removed.

EMPTY AEROSOL CONTAINERS

Container must be empty. Labels do not need to be removed. Any empty aerosol container may be recycled (including paints, pesticides, and so forth).

Electronic Recycling

Effective September 1, 2010, residential and business electronics such as computers, monitors, TV and other video display devices, fax machines, DVD and VCR players, printers and cell phones will be banned from landfills and incineration. Manufacturers are now responsible for collecting and recycling those electronics from households and schools. Computers, computer accessories, television, cell phones, and other electronics contain harmful materials including lead, mercury cadmium, other heavy metals, and chemical flame retardants. When disposed of illegally, these chemicals can leach into the environment where they may affect human and environmental health. Information on where these electronic can be recycled may be found on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/ecycle>

Curbside Collection Items

The normal collection day is Friday. If there is a holiday during the week, collection is on Saturday. Christmas and New Years Day are on Saturday so there will be no change in the schedule on those weeks.

Construction Waste

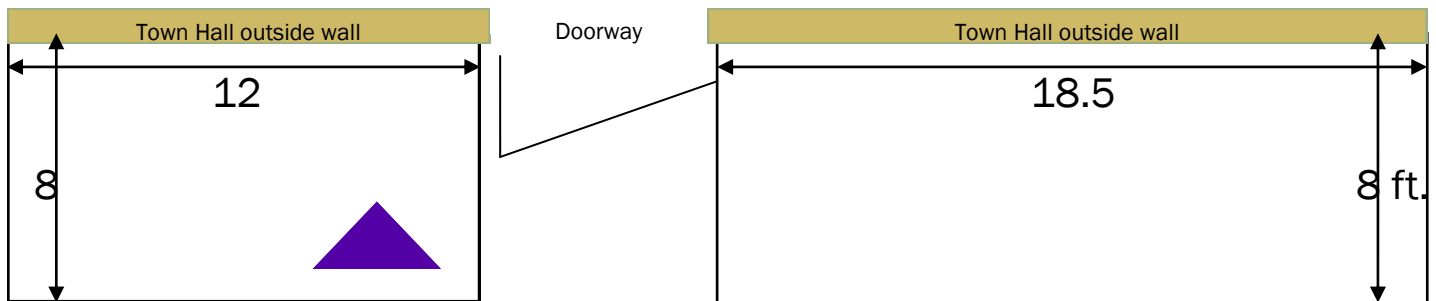
The Madison Prairie landfill, at 6002 Nelson Road (next to the RR tracks), is a construction waste landfill. Construction waste includes concrete, bathroom fixtures, roofing, siding, wood, glass etc. Phone 837-9031.

Our Town Hall Needs Landscaping Changes

Volunteers Needed - Layout Of Town Hall Flower Garden

In the spring of 2010 the large over grown shrubs were removed from the front of our town hall. Instead of just replacing the shrubs it was suggested that plants be used. There are two areas, 8' deep x 12' wide and 8' deep x 18.5' wide; see diagram. The thought is to have Ornamental Grasses with Perennial flowering plants that would give us color from Spring until winter. If you are interested please contact the town hall office, 837-6688 or email tspoffice@spwl.net.

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▲ Represents well area—we would very much like to hide this with plantings that if the well needs repair they can just be cut back. The well shaft is 2 feet high.

Plant areas face south and west; need plants that tolerate heat; perennials, low maintenance; color from spring

Let's Celebrate

Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission

2011 ART CALENDAR is now available at the Town Hall, Clerk's Office. Cost is \$8.00. The calendar is collections of art by local Dane County artists.

POSTERS There still are a few of the 2010 posters left. We will be getting the new posters in February.

Plat Books Available

We have a limited number of plat books available for sale. Cost is \$26.50.

2011 Elections

February 15, Spring Primary - if necessary

Judicial Officers, Municipal Judge, Local School Boards and Town Officials.

April 6, Spring Election

Election of Justice of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Court Judges, Sun Prairie, Monona Grove and Marshall School Boards and Town of Sun Prairie Town Chair, two Town Supervisors, Clerk, Treasurer and Constable.

Voter Registration

If you are not registered, you can do so at the Town Hall. Please bring a current ID and proof of Town of Sun Prairie residency. Voter registration forms are available through our website www.townofsunprairie.info. You can register on Election Day.

Winter Road Reminders

Winter usually brings some challenging road problems both for drivers and for people plowing the roads. The Town of Sun Prairie is proud to be able to clear the roads in a timely manner. The plow drivers prefer to tackle the job early, before the commuters and school buses are on the road.

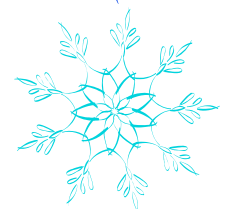
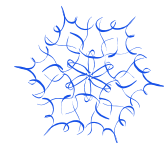
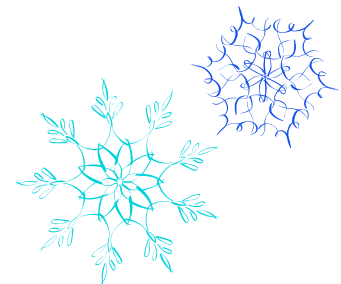
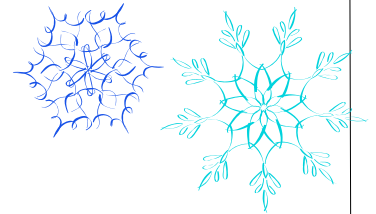
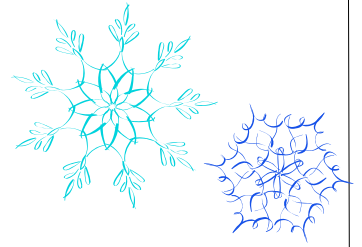
Following are several reminders for winter driving consideration.

- **When you clean your drive**, please do not push the snow across the road or into the road right of way. Snow and ice are left on the road and the rest is left on the shoulder which has already been cleared. The snow freezes hard and creates a real hazard. The sheriff will issue citations for this..
- **The snowplow driver dumps snow in my drive all the time!** There is nothing the plow driver can do to prevent this problem, but the homeowner may be able to help. Clear an area next to the driveway along the shoulder. When the plow passes, the snow will windrow into that empty area instead of your drive.
- **Cul-de-sacs** present a real challenge. Many have not been designed with the snowplow equipment in mind. There needs to be enough open space in the right-of-way to allow for piles of snow.
- **Stay a safe distance behind the plow.** The driver will not be able to see you if you are close and you will be showered with road salt. State Law requires that you leave 200 feet between you and the plow. When the plow drivers are cleaning an intersection they are will be backing up several times.
- **When there is a large snowfall the drivers are on the roads by 3:00 a.m.** The main town roads are opened first then the subdivisions.

Blue reflectors should be used if you wish to mark you're your driveway or mailbox. The red, white or amber reflectors are easily mistaken for vehicles by the plow drivers.

No parking permitted on Town Roads

Parking is not permitted on Town Roads from December 1 to April 1. This allows the plows to clean the roadway of snow. If vehicles are parked on the roads the plows may not have enough clearance to make it through safely. As a result the road will not be plowed and the vehicles will be ticketed and towed.



Town of Sun Prairie

5556 Twin Lane Road
Marshall, WI 53559

Phone: 608-837-6688
Fax: 608-825-4864
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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.

TIME SENSITIVE
INFORMATION INSIDE

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

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, by the mail boxes at 4167 CTH T just east of the T & TT split 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.

We're on the Web
www.townofsunprairie.info