

Town of Sun Prairie Newsletter

Sun Prairie Town Hall
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Marshall, WI 53559
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February 2008
Volume 16 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 837-5580
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

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

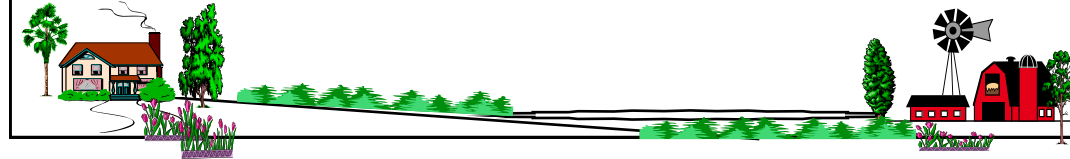
Sun Prairie newspaper, The Star. You can also check the town website or call the office.

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 northwest 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 and Friday from 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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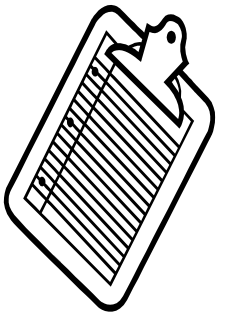
February 2008

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2008 REASSESSMENT BEGINS !!

The Town of Sun Prairie will undergo a reassessment of all real and personal property for the 2008 assessment roll. The process will be slightly different then the last reassessment in 2000. Our current assessing firm, Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc, will do the revaluations. The field work is expected to take five weeks with five Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc employees covering the town. They expect to begin their field work the week of February 25, 2008. The on-site assessment visits will be Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm with a couple of evenings for properties where the owner is not available during the day. The field work involves going from property to property determining the various elements of the buildings and the external dimensions. House furnishings do not influence the valuation nor does the deferring of normal maintenance. Please call to setup your appointment.



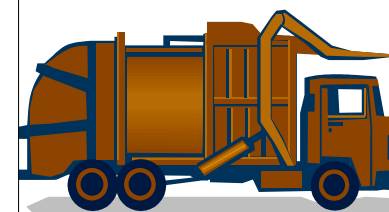
New Curbside Collection Schedule



Friday, March 7

Friday's will be the new day to set your trash out for collection; have your items out by 7:00 a.m. Please post this change on your calendar or refrigerator as a reminder.

When there is a holiday during the week, collection will be on **Saturday**. Waste Management observes the following holidays: New Years, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. If the holiday falls on a **Saturday or Sunday**, collection will not change, it will be on a **Friday**.



It is not true that the reassessment is to raise taxes. The reassessment has no impact on the total amount of taxes collected. However, it may change your property's percentage share of total taxes collected to increase, decrease or, have a minimal effect.

If my assessed value goes up, won't my taxes go up accordingly?

Not necessarily. Because your community is currently below 100% of market value, you may expect some increase in your assessed value. However, if your percent change is less than the average, your share of the total municipal taxes will actually go down. This is because your percent share of the tax load is less than before. If your percent change is greater than the average, your percentage share of taxes will rise, but less than the direct percent increase in value. This is because the mill rate used to calculate the tax bill will fall by the same proportionate change as the average increase in assessment.

Why do you need to inspect the interior of my home?

There is no question that a reassessment inspection is an

Town of Sun Prairie
Ordinance 2005-1
Amended 2008-2
**Ordinance Related To
Parking Restrictions On
Town Roads**

The Town Board of Supervisors of the Town of Sun Prairie, Dane County, WI, does hereby ordain as follows:

**Section 1. Parking
Prohibited at Specific
Times**

The parking of vehicles upon the Town of Sun Prairie roads will not be permitted between the first of December and the first of April.

**Section 2. Abandoned
Vehicles**

Pursuant of sec. 342.40(1m), Wis. Stats., any vehicle parked on a public highway for 48 or more hours is deemed abandoned. This is necessary to facilitate the maintenance of the town roads. Any vehicle that has not been removed by the owner after the Town has attempted to notify the owner will be towed at the owner's expense.

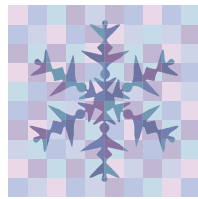
Section 3. Penalty

Any person who violates section 1, of this ordinance shall forfeit *not less than ten nor more than twenty-five dollars. The second violation shall be not less than twenty-five nor more than fifty dollars.* Each day or partial day, of continued violation shall constitute a separate offense.

In addition, without limiting the authority of the Town to impose the forfeiture, the Town may cause a vehicle parked in violation of this ordinance to be towed at the owner's expense.

Section 4. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication.



TOWN PARKING ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT

Snow...Snow...and more Snow. Winter usually brings some challenging road problems both for drivers and for the snowplow drivers. The Town of Sun Prairie drivers work hard and are proud to be able to clear the roads in a timely manner. The drivers prefer to tackle the job early, before the commuters and school buses are on the road. Some people, who have moved here from the neighboring cities, have expressed appreciation for the timeliness and thoroughness.

However, this snow season has posed more issues with snow removal than recent years due to the vast amount of snow. Two major issues are vehicles parked in the right of way and residents pushing snow from their driveway across the road. The drivers have been unable to plow several roads and school buses are unable to pick up students because of vehicles parked in the roads.



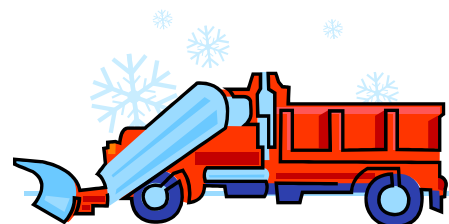
These issues have led the board to revisit the parking ordinance for town roads. The changes in the ordinance under consideration are enforcement and fines. The December 1 date for parking on roads will be enforced and the town constable will be responsible for the task of ticketing, & stiffer penalties. The board will take action at the February 11 board meeting. This will be effective immediately after adoption by the board and posting.



No Parking is permitted on town roads from December 1 to April 1. If vehicles are parked on the roads and streets the plows may not have enough clearance. The road may not be plowed, or the vehicle will be towed at the owners' expense. The town constable will now ticket vehicles parked on town roads. First offense is \$25; the fine will double with each subsequent offense (for example-\$25, \$50, \$100).

Snow plowed across the road: Plowing snow from your driveway across the road presents challenges and causes equipment damage for our town snowplows. Snow and ice that are left on the road and the rest deposited on the shoulder freezes and the impact on the plow can and has caused damage.

Safe distance behind the plow: Please stay a safe distance behind the plow. State law makes it illegal to follow within 200 feet of a snowplow that's moving or treating snow or ice. The driver will not be able to see you if you are close. Plus you may get a shower of salt.



MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER...CINDY YELK

Greetings fellow residents:

I wanted to thank you all for taking care of your tax payments, whether you did that by mail, drop box, or in person. I extend another thank you to those of you who waited in line patiently on the busy days of tax collection. One never knows how busy the office will be on any given day or at any given hour.

I would like to take this opportunity to address some issues I noticed during tax collection. I can only accept checks 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. If you were one of the residents with a check made payable to **The City**, please contact your mortgage company to get this corrected. Better safe than sorry.

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.

Also, if you have properties in more than one municipality, you must send a check to each individual municipality. Again, I cannot accept payment for a parcel in another township, even if the properties may be adjacent to one another.

To the best of my knowledge, I caught all the situations that may have become more serious issues, and thank you for addressing these immediately. I would hate to see a resident penalized and charged interest by Dane County.

For those of you who pay your real estate taxes in two installments, the July payment is due **July 31, 2008 at the Dane County Treasurer's office**. Again, if you send this to the Town office and the due date is near, I cannot guarantee that the County will receive the payment in time.

If at any time you have any questions regarding real estate and personal property taxes, please call me at the Sun Prairie Town Hall. The phone number is (608) 837-6688.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR BEST FRIEND

DOG LICENSES are required for all dogs **five months** or older and should carry a tag.

The dog licenses:

\$8.00 for neutered males and spayed females

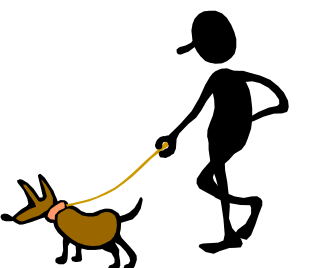
\$13.00 for females and males

\$50.00 for kennels up to twelve dogs; \$8.00 for each dog over twelve

Proof of rabies vaccination from the veterinarian needs to be sent or brought in when getting your dog license. Copies will be made and kept on file at the office.

A \$5.00 late fee will be charged to every owner of a dog five months of age or over if the owner fails to obtain a license prior to April 1, 2008 or within thirty days of acquiring ownership of a licensable dog.

Licenses are available from the Town Treasurer, Cindy Yelk, at the Town Business Office. Dog License fees **MUST** be paid with a separate check or cash. Licenses are valid from January through December. Dogs are not allowed to run at large or bark to the annoyance of others.



FRIENDS
OF
MCCARTHY
PARK
ANNUAL MEETING
February 26, 2008
6:00 p.m.
Community Room
Sun Prairie
Municipal Building
Downtown
Sun Prairie

2008 AREA ROAD CONSTRUCTION

It didn't seem to matter where you drove during the 2007 road construction season, there was construction every where. Getting around the Town should be less stressful during the 2008 road construction season. There is only a couple of projects planned. The town hall parking lot is scheduled for replacement and a short section of Twin Lane Road near the railroad tracks, County Road TT is scheduled for a resurface of deteriorated pavement from State Hwy 19 to State Hwy 73. However, it may be of interest as to road construction planned in the immediate surrounding roads.

- | | |
|--|--|
| USH 151 (Main St. to CTH VV) Construct Median High Tension Cable* | Hoepker Road (CTH C Intersection) Improve Intersection, Add Signals |
| USH 51/Stoughton Road, Hoepker Rd. and CTH CV Intersection Improvements* | W. Main Street (Kronke Dr. to USH 151 Ramps) Phases 1-4 Reconstruction |
| STH 19 (I-39/90 to USH 51) Replace Pavement* | W. Main Street Extended (Weybridge East Plat to CTH C) Construct New 4-Lane Street |
| STH 19 (Bridges over Token Creek) Replacement* | USH 51 (STH 19 to CTH V) Resurfacing and Intersection Improvements* |
| Hoepker Rd. (Rattman Rd. to Providence Plat) Reconstruction, Widening to 4 Lanes w/ Bike Lanes | STH 19 (Marshall to Waterloo) Mill & Overlay* |

Information taken from the Summary of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Major Anticipated 2008-2012 Projects



NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOP

The **Sun Prairie Garden Club**, Madison District of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation will host a Native Plant Workshop entitled **Operation Green Agent** on Saturday, May 3, 2008; registration at 8:30 a.m. The workshop will be held at the Sun Prairie Town Hall, 5556 Twin Lane Rd, Marshall, WI.

The workshop will include three speakers: Laurie Yahr, past president Madison Chapter of Wild Ones, will talk about native plants in our land-

scapes; S. Kelly Kearns, Plant Conservation Program Manager, with the Endangered Resources Program of the Wisconsin DNR will talk about invasive plants; and Roger Bannerman, an environmental biologist with the Wisconsin DNR, will talk about Rain Gardens.

A tour of the Native Plant Park being developed by Diane Powelka is planned for the afternoon. Diane currently serves as Operation Wildflower Chairperson for the Wisconsin Garden Federation and as a National Director for Wild Ones. Dave Lyle, member of the Sun Prairie Garden Club, will present a photography program for you photo bugs. For more information contact Diane Powelka at jpowelka@chorus.net or call 608/837-6308.



(Reassessment Continued from page 1)

inconvenience. For that, we apologize. However, building size, age, features, quality, and condition, along with many other factors affect the market value of your property. The only way to ensure a Fair Market Value is to collect current exterior and interior data for each property. We are not concerned with your housekeeping nor personal belongings. This information will not be recorded and kept confidential.

What if I refuse to allow the assessor into my home?

The Wisconsin Legislature recognizes the conflict between the right of privacy and the need for accurate information when establishing assessments. If an owner refuses entry into the property, the assessor sends a certified letter requesting a reasonable time for viewing the home. If no response is received, or entry is refused the assessor is required, by law, to estimate the value of the home based on the best available information. The property owner maintains his right of privacy, but loses all rights of appeal to the Board of Review.

How does the assessor value property?

Wisconsin law requires that property assessments be based on Fair Market Value. Estimating the market value of your property is a matter of determining the price a typical buyer would pay for it in its present condition. Some factors the assessor considers are: what similar properties are selling for; what it would cost to replace your property; the rent it may earn; and any other factors that affect value. It is important to remember that the assessor does not create assessed value but rather interprets what is happening in the market place through real estate sales.

What can I do to ensure a fair and reasonable assessed value for my property?

Even with the best of care and intentions, mistakes are possible. Inform the assessor of any problems that might affect market value. There will be an opportunity to discuss your assessment with the assessor at the Open Book. Should you feel your assessment is in error bring to the Open Book any documentation that supports your opinion of value. Property owners will be notified of their new assessment when the project is completed. If the discussion with the assessor does not resolve your concerns, a Board of Review will be held where you can again present sales or other market value evidence that shows the assessment to be in error.

Do all assessments change at the same rate?

No, not necessarily. There are differences between individual properties and between neighborhoods. In one area, the sales may indicate a substantial increase in value in a given year. Yet in another neighborhood for example, there may be no change in value or even a decrease in property values. Different types of properties within the same neighborhood may also show different value changes. For example, one-story houses may be more in demand than two-story houses, or vice versa. Older homes in the same area may be rising in value more slowly than newer homes. Perhaps the

older style homes that have been traditionally selling low are now selling much higher. There are numerous factors to be considered in each property, which will cause the values to differ. Some of the factors which can affect value are: location, condition, size, quality, number of baths, number of bedrooms, basement finish, garages, overall condition as well as many others.

What is the bottom line?

The revaluation is required by state law and is mandatory. The real issue is whether your property is assessed at the statutory required market value. Look at your final assessment after the revaluation. If it appears to be an accurate value when compared to sales of similar property, then it probably is a fair assessment. If, in your opinion, it does not reflect the market value of your property when compared to sales of similar properties, you should talk to the assessment staff. They may be able to provide information or take further actions to resolve your concerns. Please call with any Questions at 1-800-721-4157.

If you have questions and need more information

call the Town business office, 837-6688 or one of the Town Board members. Board member phone numbers are on the back page. The office has several handouts which can help explain the entire assessment process. Feel free to request one.

Appeal of Assessment When you do receive notification of your assessment you will also receive informa-

Check the Department of Revenue website:
<http://dor.state.wi.us/>
or
<http://www.revenue.wi.gov/pubs/slf/pb060.pdf>.
You can access the publications and download your copy of **Guide for Property Owners**.

A WORD FROM DANE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEPUTY NIEBUHR

With record amounts of snow falling this winter, it is important to remember good winter driving tips. Drive slowly and allow ample time to reach your destination. Have a winter survival kit in your vehicle, including a fully charged cell phone. Keep your gas tank full and always wear your seatbelt. If you should become stranded, stay in your vehicle and call 911. When snow is falling heavily, carefully weigh whether or not it is a good idea to drive. In these instances, it is better to stay home, than try and drive in challenging road conditions.



Spring is just around the corner...

Cleaning up after the long winter may require open burning.

Please remember **Burn Permits are required for burning outside of a burn barrel.**

Call 837-5066, Sun Prairie Fire Department answering machine.

There is no charge.

If the fire department is called out to a burn and you do not have a permit (did not call in) you may be fined.

Thanks for calling!

Where to Get Rid of Those Hard to Get Rid of Items.....

Appliances

(washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators etc)

The options available to you are as follow:

*Prearrange disposal with the waste hauler, **Waste Management** (273-2500). They will pickup from the end of your driveway. Do not put your appliance out until you have called. There is a \$25.00 charge for this service.

*Take your appliance to a Scrap Metal Dealer. **All Metal Recycling**, (255-0960) 1802 S. Park St, Madison, WI is the place to start. They do not **charge a fee**. Also, check the Dane County Web page; there are more listed. And don't forget the yellow pages.

*When you purchase a new appliance, request that they take the used item.

Brush and Leaves

***Waste Management** will not take these items. We encourage you to have your own compost pile. However, there is a site for brush and leaves at the Town Hall property, 5556 twin Lane Road if needed. The site is between the two northern buildings. Brush and leaves can be placed there from April 1 to Dec 1. **No plastic bags!**

Computers/Electronics

***Cannot be landfilled.** The county web page has a wealth of ideas. **Resource Solutions**, 244-5451, 5493 Express Circle, Madison, 53704, <http://www.recyclethatstuff.com> will recycle computers, printers, monitors/TV's, etc.

Construction Waste

***Madison Prairie Landfill** (837-9031), 6002 Nelson Road is a construction waste site. Location is about 1 mile west of Town of Burke/Sun Prairie line near the railroad track. Construction waste includes concrete, bathroom fixtures, roofing, siding, wood, glass, etc.

Furniture/Mattresses/Carpet

These items are to be picked up at the curbside by the waste hauler at no extra charge. Larger items may be picked up on the next day with a different truck. Call 273-2500 if you have questions. To recycle carpet pad take to:

***Future Foam**

2210 Parview Road
Middleton, WI 53562
831-4433

***Reynolds Urethane Recycling**

8417 Murphy Drive
Middleton, WI 53562
831-4244

(Continued on page 5)

Also check county web site: www.co.dane.wi.us

(Continued from page 4)

***Lead Acid Batteries**

Several options

*Scrap Metal Dealers will take; check yellow pages, or the Dane County Web page.

*Retail stores will take with purchase of new battery.

Microwaves

* **Moor's Salvage & Freon Recovery**, 6421 Edna Taylor Pkwy, (behind Broadway Tire) in Monona (223-9220) will take microwaves. There is a \$10.00 charge.

Tires

***Waste Management** will not take tires. We suggest that you leave your old tires with the dealer when you purchase new ones or:

***Comstock Tires** (257-1711), 2413 S. Park St. Madison will take loose tires.

***Dane County Landfill** (838-9555), Hwy 12&18 will also take loose tires.

Used Motor Oil

*Waste Oil deposit site is located at the **Dane County Hwy Garage** (266-4012), intersection of Highways N & 19 in Sun Prairie. It is a self service facility, accessible Monday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

If you have a question whether the waste hauler will take certain items, call 273-2500.

When putting out an extra large amount of trash, please notify the waste hauler. They need to know that it will not be a regular occurrence.

MEMO

News Articles and Announcements are always welcome!

Submit articles in person, by mail or email to the Town Hall office.

See addresses on back page.



Dane County's MedDrop

Unwanted, unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines can be found in every household in the county. We know that it's not safe to keep unneeded medicines in the house – children and others can accidentally take them.

You may have also heard that you shouldn't flush medicines down the toilet or put them in the trash. We now know that these medicines are bad for our environment – our water, our lakes and the animals in them.

So... how should you get rid of your medicines?

Bring your unneeded medicine to Dane County's MedDrop. MedDrop is a free, easy, drive-thru drop off. You won't be asked to provide your name.

Please keep your unused or expired medication in the original container. If you want, you can cross off your name and address, but please do NOT cover up the name of the medication. All medications and their containers will be destroyed at the end of the event and will be properly handled to ensure patient confidentiality.

You will drive through the drop off area and give medications to volunteer pharmacists, pharmacy students and hazardous waste experts.

When: Sat., June 7, 2008. Mark your calendars!
Where: City Transfer Station, 121 E. Olin Avenue, Madison, WI
Near the Alliant Energy Center and Goodman Pool

