

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES

Remarks from the Chair...By David Pfeiffer

Early arriving snow and cold was just one of many challenges faced by the Town this year. The extended period of freeze thaw cycles we are experiencing creates new potholes and forces out the patch material used to fill them. Although the ongoing plan to improve Town roads has made an impact in reducing the number of areas that require frequent maintenance, Public Works staff Alex Mesdjian and Jim Alme have already applied over 42 tons of cold patch this year compared to an average of 17 tons over the past three years. For 2020, the Town Board approved additional road improvements while also making sure we fund the preventive maintenance on improved roads needed to protect our investments.

Thankfully, we avoided a repeat of last summer's flooding, but, high lake levels remain concerning and saturated soils continue to present problems. In addition to damaging roads, high groundwater levels result in more stormwater runoff as the soil is less able to absorb additional precipitation. For those with driveway culverts, you can help to reduce flooding and potential road damage by making sure that your culvert is not obstructed. Residents are also encouraged to be mindful of whether they will impact stormwater drainage when making any landscaping changes. And when the snow flies, please do not leave vehicles parked in the road right-of-way as this makes snow plowing less efficient and more dangerous and your vehicle may be ticketed.

Another continuing challenge for the Town is the increasing cost of providing Fire and EMS services. The Town contracts with Stoughton, Deer-Grove and McFarland to provide these services to town residents. In addition to rising costs, these providers are also faced with a decline in people who are willing to serve as Fire or EMS volunteers. We should all be thankful to these dedicated people who provide such an important service to their fellow residents. For those who have any interest in serving in either capacity, I encourage you to contact your nearest provider.

You can also serve your fellow residents by participating in Town government, either by running for a position on the Town Board or applying to serve on the Plan Commission. If you live in the area with public sewer, you can serve as a Sanitary District Commissioner. I am thankful for all the individuals who have devoted their time and considerable expertise to serving the Town in these roles.

I'm also thankful for the capable and dedicated staff serving the Town. This fall, the Town welcomed Lisa Skar who joins us as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Lisa brings a variety of experience and a can-do attitude. In addition to the usual Town operations, Clerk/Treasurer Maria Hougan will again be relied upon to manage what will no doubt be a busy election year with the assistance of many Town residents who serve as poll workers.

It continues to be an honor to serve as your Town Board Chair. As always, I promise to do my best to carry on the Pleasant Springs tradition of sensible and efficient local government. Best wishes to all in 2020!

Chair David Pfeiffer

2020 Waste and Recycling calendars are available on the Town website, and a copy is also available at the Town Hall.

A reminder from Pellitteri-

During or after inclement winter weather, please remember to keep your trash and recycling carts accessible by clearing the area of snow and ice to ensure service. If you do not place your carts in your driveway, then you may need to shovel out an area on your property for the carts. They should be within two feet of the street (but not in the street) and approximately four feet away from obstructions such as mailboxes, trees, and cars. Please do not place your carts on top of snow piles or in the street.

If you would like to receive information regarding service delays due to holidays or weather related conditions via e-mail, please email info@pellitteri.com to sign up (please include your address and/or municipality) or call [608-257-4285](tel:608-257-4285).

Holiday Trash and Recycling Info:

During a week that has a Holiday, garbage and recycling pick up is delayed by one day. Please plan accordingly.

Pellitteri Customer Recycling Options

A Wisconsin statute requires haulers to notify their customers of the mandatory recycling laws that pertain to all business and residential units in Wisconsin.

We've made it easy for you to recycle some of these items with our All-In-One Recycling, including newspapers, magazines, office paper, glass bottles and jars, plastics cups and containers #1-7, aluminum and steel containers, and more! Please see our [full list of acceptable recyclables](#), a [recycling video](#) of the sorting process, and our short [recycling tip videos](#). You can also like our [Facebook](#) page to keep up to date as more options become available.

If you are not currently recycling these items, please give us a call at (608) 257-4285. Increased recycling efforts on your part can aid in reducing overall waste removal expenses.

The following items are required to be recycled, but cannot be placed in your dumpsters: appliances, brush and yard waste, electronics, lead acid batteries, and tires. Please contact us for alternative disposal options.

Sincerely,
Pellitteri Waste Systems



Clean Sweep Wisconsin

Dane County offers a place to bring hazardous household materials such as TV's, paints, poisons, oil, and rechargeable batteries.



They are located at 7102 HWY 12

Open Year Round

Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM to 2:45 PM

Saturdays: 8:00 AM to 10:45 AM

Closed Sundays and Holidays

Call (608) 243-0368 or visit danecountycleansweep.com for more information

*****2020 Assessment Begins*****

Accurate Appraisal staff will be doing walk throughs on those properties that been recently purchased or acquired a building permit during 2019. The purpose of the walk through is to obtain a proper listing of the rooms and to gather other essential data or to check the completion of the building permit that was issued. Letters of notification will be sent to those property owners.

After property owners receive a letter from Accurate Appraisal, they can make appointment by phone at 1-800-770-3927 or by logging on the accurate appraisal's website at: www.accurateassessor.com Please make sure when you are scheduling an appointment you go all the way through the steps provided by Accurate Appraisal.

If you do not receive a letter from Accurate Appraisal, you do not need to make an appointment. *If you are having trouble scheduling an appointment with Accurate Appraisal, please contact office staff at 608-873-3063 and they can help you through the process.*

Wishing you a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

TAX SEASON INFORMATION

Tax bills will be mailed by December 16, 2019. The statutory deadline to mail tax bills is the third Monday in December. Payments for real estate and personal property tax are due to the Town of Pleasant Springs by January 31, 2020. You must pay at least the first installment of real estate taxes by that date to avoid delinquency. If you choose to pay only the first installment, the second installment is due on July 31, 2020. All personal property tax payments are due in full and may not be divided into payments.

All payments made after January 31, 2020 must be made to the *Dane County Treasurer*. You may mail the payment, or pay in person at the Dane County Treasurer's office. Please refer to the tax bill for the correct mailing address.

Need your tax receipt? Lost your tax bill and want to obtain another copy? Visit AccessDane for a variety of property information:
<https://accessdane.countyofdane.com>

TOWN HALL CLOSINGS

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2019 & Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019
Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019 & Wednesday, Jan 1, 2020

If you are planning to pay your taxes in person, please plan accordingly. We recommend mailing tax payments. Please allow ample time when mailing payments.

The Town DOES NOT accept postdated checks. All postdated checks will be returned to the property owner. Please add a contact # (phone #) if we need to contact you for any reason regarding your payment.

We strongly urge you not to wait until the last day to make or mail your payment. If your check is incorrect and must be returned to you for any reason, you risk having a delinquent payment because the check was not returned to the Treasurer, or postmarked, on or before the due date.

**Mill Rate Projected Comparisons
Cost per \$1000 of valuation**
\$1.78-Town of Pleasant Springs
\$2.98 Town of Rutland
\$2.91-Town of Dunn
\$3.47-Town of Dunkirk

Town Board-Caucus Information-

The Town Board will hold its Caucus in January 2020, in the Town Hall (usually on or prior to the third Tuesday in January) Please check the website or call the clerk's office for the meeting date and time. At the Town Caucus, nominations for offices are taken from the floor from Town residents, each nomination must receive a second. **Those who wish to be placed on the ballot should attend this meeting for nominations.**

The following offices are open this year-

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Town Board Supervisor Seat 3 -	Jay Damkoehler
Town Board Supervisor Seat 4 -	Janiece Bolender

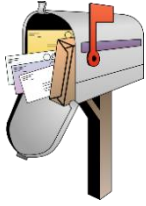
(Janiece submitted a notification of non-candidacy, meaning she won't be running again)

All terms are for two years, beginning Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

If you are a resident of the Town of Pleasant Springs, and interested in running for office, please contact the clerk's office at (608) 873-3063, or email: clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org. Or the Wisconsin Elections Commission at: (608) 266-8005, email: elections@wi.gov

2020 Election Dates:

February 18, 2020 Spring Primary (if required)
April 7, 2020 Spring Election & Presidential Preference
August 11, 2020 Partisan Primary
November 3, 2020 General Election



What Happened to my mailbox?

Occasionally during the winter season, a snowplow blade will damage a mailbox or mailbox post. The Town will compensate the owner of a mailbox damaged by the impact of a town snowplow blade. The Town has no responsibility for damage resulting from the impact of snow pushed against a mailbox. Please leave a message at 608-205-9169, and a staff member will investigate and determine whether repair, replacement, or reimbursement is appropriate. Reimbursement is limited to a reasonably comparable mailbox and will not exceed \$25.00. No special allowance is made for decorative, unusual, or ornamental mailboxes or posts. The Town is not responsible for installation, or reimbursement of installation costs, and reserves the right to repair the box in lieu of paying for a replacement.

Weather Parking Emergencies

Effective July 25, 2008, an ordinance was passed that allows the Town Chairperson, or their designee, to declare a weather emergency whenever three inches of snow has fallen, or as conditions warrant. **During such an emergency, nothing may be parked or placed in the road right-of-way.** This restriction remains in effect for three consecutive 24-hour periods, unless the emergency is cancelled or extended. Notice of these weather emergencies will be given to the same Madison news outlets used by the Stoughton Area School District for school closings, and local cable television.

Gravel Road Snow Plow Policy

When it snows, all paved town roads are cleared prior to the gravel roads. Additionally, gravel roads are only plowed when the snow fall is greater than 3 inches. The Town has approximately 69.46 miles of roads to plow, which takes roughly 7 hours to plow driving lanes on the paved roads. Please be patient.

Safety Reminders!!

*When out and about this winter, please **stay back AT LEAST 300 feet from plows on the road, do not attempt to pass a plow truck, and stay back at intersections to allow plow trucks to turn around and continue plowing.** If you have any questions or concerns about snow plowing or sanding, please contact the Public Works Department at 608-205-9169.

*In an effort to help with snow removal, please remove your trash totes promptly after your trash has been picked up. Totes that sit by the curb for days prevent Public Works from clearing roads in a timely manner, and are also in violation of Town ordinances. Vehicles and other equipment routinely parked in the road right of way also pose a safety hazard and are a violation of Town ordinance.

*Residents are discouraged from pushing snow across the road. In an effort to remove snow from their own property, Public Works has observed residents pushing snow across the road ways in the Town. Often times this causes a buildup of snow on the road way that can create a hazardous situation for cars. Help keep Town roads safe and clear this winter.

News You Can Use: Be Salt Wise This Winter

Salt that has been applied to roads and sidewalks over the course of the winter ultimately ends up in our local lakes, streams, and drinking water. Road salt has been used as a de-icer since the 1950s, and as a result, chloride concentrations from salt in our lakes have steadily increased with harmful effects to aquatic life and our drinking water. It only takes one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water.

Starting at home, you can reduce the amount of salt that is used in the winter and still keep your sidewalks and driveways safe. The [Wisconsin Salt Wise Partnership](#) offers the following tips and a wealth of other information on ways individuals and our community can work together to reduce salt use.

- Shovel: Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.
- Scatter: If you use salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains. One twelve-ounce container (like a coffee cup) is sufficient to salt sixty to seventy feet of sidewalk, or about 10 sidewalk squares.
- Switch: When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.
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On a broader level, in an effort to learn the balance between public safety and responsible salt use, a [Winter Salt Certification Program](#) helps private and municipal applicators lower their salt use by learning proper application rates and techniques. By working together, we can reduce salt and protect our environment.

FYI-

Effective January 1, 2020, the Dane County Landfill will no longer be collecting yard waste materials.

2020 Census Information

How You Can Help

The 2020 Census is more than a count. It's an opportunity—to get involved and to help shape the future of your community. Households will be able to respond to the 2020 Census online, over the phone, or through a paper questionnaire.

The 2020 Census marks the first time that you'll be able to respond to the census online.

Set the Record Straight

An accurate count is critical for communities across the country. Don't let misinformation keep your friends and family members from responding.

Every town is an important part of the American story.

Make sure your town's story is told by responding to the 2020 Census—the count of everyone living in the United States. When you do, you'll also help your town get the most out of the American dream.

Responding is important to your Community

Census responses provide data that can attract new businesses and the jobs that come with them. The data also informs where over \$675 billion in federal funding is spent each year in states and communities.

Responding is safe, your personal information is kept confidential.

Responding is easy. To complete the census, answer a handful of questions online, by phone, or by mail. Choose the option that works best for you.

Every person counts. Whether it's funding in communities across your state or helping determine the number of seats your state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives—every count makes an equal impact.

County roads don't build themselves. Lay the groundwork for better roads in your community by taking the census. Your response can impact funding for things like maintaining local roads, bridges, public transportation, and more each year.

For more information, visit: **2020CENSUS.GOV**

Information provided by the United States Census Bureau

Town of Pleasant Springs
2354 County Rd N
Stoughton WI 53589-2873

Winter 2019/2020

TOWN OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm

Wednesday—CLOSED (office is closed, however staff is usually available for immediate needs)

Thursday—10am to 6pm

Friday—CLOSED

Town Office: 608-873-3063

Email: clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org

Public Works: 608-205-9169 Alex Mesdjian and Jim Alme

Town Chairman..... David Pfeiffer, (608) 492-4877

Supervisor #1..... Eric Olson, (608) 575-9272

Supervisor #2..... Doug Larsson (608) 873-3063 (town hall office)

Supervisor #3..... Jay Damkoehler, (608) 492-9701

Supervisor #4..... Janiece Bolender, (608) 719-7240

Clerk/Treasurer..... Maria “Pili” Hougan, (608) 873-3063

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Lisa Skar, (608) 873-3063

Building Inspector..... Steve Kittelson (608) 445-9715

**HOLIDAY TREE DISPOSAL - LOCATED AT BRUSH BURNING COMPOST SITE
1754 TOWER DRIVE**

Sat. January 4, 2020, 8am to 1pm

Sat. January 11, 2020, 8am to 1pm

REMINDER: All dogs must be licensed by March 31st of each year to avoid the \$10 per dog late penalty.

Please note: The fee for dog licenses has increased by \$5.00 starting in 2020 due to Dane County’s imposed increase.

All property owners will receive the dog license application with their tax bills. **If you mail your dog license in with your tax bill, you must include a separate check for the dog license and a self-addressed stamped envelope for us to return the original vaccination certificate and the 2020 tag.** The office can process dog licenses in person beginning after January 31, 2020 during business hours. Please make sure to include a valid copy of your dog’s vaccination certificate.

BASEBALL SEASON IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! Stoughton Area Little League is open to youth who have completed Kindergarten – 6th grade. Online registration begins soon. For more information and to register visit www.stoughtonbaseball.com.