

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES

Check <https://pleasantsprings.org/> for up-to-date information.

Remarks from the Chair... By David Pfeiffer

The past year has again had many challenges. But, it has also reminded me of what a privilege it is to live in America. I find myself thinking often of the citizens of Ukraine who have lost so much and are making such huge sacrifices to defend their country from Putin's unjustifiable war of aggression. Overwhelming numbers of people in many other countries also have ongoing struggles, civil war and famine in Somalia, poverty in Haiti, repression in Iran and Afghanistan... the list goes on and on.

Meanwhile, back here at home, I'm finding it harder and harder to have patience with those who continually howl that our country is facing imminent danger from "culture war" issues that pale in comparison to the real dangers being faced by so many less fortunate, all to rouse support for political purposes, for financial gain and to divert attention from other more pressing matters. Even a culture war causes collateral damage and a civil society is among the casualties. Reporting on the economy also tends to be framed in existential tones. Yes, the inflation we are currently experiencing can be painful and stressful. But, employment is strong and the impact of the pandemic on businesses and supply chains is fading. Our economic system is the most resilient in the world. Pessimism and fear is a path that leads us away from what makes this country great.

I believe the greatness of our country is built on the backs of each generation of immigrants who came here with optimism seeking opportunity and the freedom to live how they wished to live. We are stronger due to all those diverse people who came here with the belief that a better life was possible and that a country that encourages diversity of opinion is a country that will not fall under tyranny. There have been many missteps along the way. The founding documents of our nation were and are aspirational. We've always fallen short of their calling. But, America thrives because we continue to look forward and find a way to do better.

The media loves to report on how divided we are. But, the reality is that most of the issues politicians encourage us to take sides on have a lot of room in the middle where most people actually are. Nobody loves paying taxes. But, we agree to tax ourselves so that investments can be made in the future and vital services people need are available to all. Capitalism vs socialism... we've always had both. Schools, police and fire protection, investment in science and medicine, roads, parks and so many other societal goods are funded collectively. The middle class emerged from the great depression thanks in large part to taxation as part of the New Deal. America has always been a place where hard work can lead to success. But, much of what makes success possible is also due to our willingness to work together and to find common ground. We don't need to agree on everything. Living in a free society is about accepting that there are as many different ways to pursue happiness as there are people. Being an American isn't just about our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is the recognition that it is each person's right to the same and that our rights can't come at the expense of others. And, as we are reminded at this time of year especially, the greatness of a society is judged by how it treats the least of us. And, that having compassion for others is always in season.

Thankfully, local government is too busy with the pragmatic tasks of getting things done to allow that work to get bogged down with politics. We've accomplished a lot over the past several years. Over \$3,200,000 has been expended addressing the severely deteriorated condition of Town roads over the past 5 years compared to less than \$700,000 spent improving roads over the prior 10 years. Our timing was good as we were able to take advantage of ATC funds and the period of low interest rates to fund some of that work. This borrowing was all

in the form of short-term 2 year loans. So, the Town is not accumulating debt as a result of these investments in our roads. But, there is still work to be done and the challenge of the current economic conditions may require consideration of additional funding strategies. We are also fortunate to have modernized much of our fleet of vehicles and equipment over the past several years. Other municipalities are finding that inflation and supply chain issues are now seriously impacting their budgets for such purchases. Meanwhile, we continue to operate under the lowest mill rate in the County (other than a neighbor subsidized by power plant revenue). Other issues your Town Board will be focused on in the coming year are the County plans to extend the bike path system through Lake Kegonsa State Park and down to Stoughton, how to utilize the Federal funds provided via the American Rescue Plan Act, possible opportunities to apply for additional Federal funding via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the plans for the Stoughton water park and the impact it would have on the Yahara River, an irreplaceable Town asset.

Last, but certainly not least, our Town employees continue to diligently work providing us all with the services we count on and they deserve our thanks as do those who give up some of their free time to serve on boards, commissions, committees and as election workers. As always, I am honored to serve as your Town Chairperson and promise to remain focused on providing sensible and efficient governance for the Town of Pleasant Springs.

Best wishes to all for 2023!

David

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.

ATTENTION: Residents with wooded driveways.

Now is a good time to make sure your driveway has clear access for fire and medical emergency vehicles. Fire and medical emergency vehicles need a clear path that is at least 11ft. wide and 13.5 ft. in height.

2023 Waste and Recycling calendars are available on the Town website, and a copy is also available at the Town Hall. The town adds notifications of weather-related and holiday delays to the town website announcements when possible.

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. However, since Christmas and New Year's fall on Sunday this year, there will be no delay in trash/recycling service those weeks.

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, paper 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 US 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 and COVID related information. If you are viewing this electronically off the website, please click the link below:

[Clean Sweep | Dane County Waste & Renewables \(countyofdane.com\)](http://danecountycleansweep.com)

Animal Services

Public Health Madison & Dane Co. Animal Services assists with a variety of animal-related issues (listed below). Please contact them via the telephone numbers below or visit their website for more information:

<https://www.publichealthmdc.com/environmental-health/animals>

Request Animal Services Officer Dispatch (Urgent)

Call (608) 255-2345 to have an Animal Services Officer sent to help with:

- Aggressive animals
- [Animal bites](#)
- Accumulation of animal feces
- Animals in traffic causing safety concerns
- Investigation of cruelty/neglect
- Rabies quarantines and testing
- Sick or injured animals, either wild or domestic
- Stray animals or domestic animals running at large

Animal Services Does NOT Respond to:

- Barking dogs. Please call your local Police Department.
 - Madison Police Department: (608) 266-4275
- Nuisance wild animals. Please call a Private Pest Control Service.

Call Animal Services Office (Non-Urgent)

Call (608) 267-1989 (Animal Services Office) for:

- Information about animal care and health
 - Education about staying safe around animals and preventing rabies
 - Non-urgent complaints
 - General information
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ATV Usage



Please note that ATV operation is not allowed on Town roads. ATVs may be operated on the operator's private property, designated trails, or in the public right-of-way, *as needed, to cross roads, bridges, culverts, railroad tracks, etc.* ATVs currently are not approved for operation on Town roads, nor should they be operated in Town parks.

*****2023 Assessment Begins*****

Accurate Appraisal staff will be doing visits on those properties that have been recently purchased or acquired a building permit during 2022. 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 1-920-749-8098 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.*

A message from UpNetWI regarding fiber optic service to Pleasant Springs:

We are excited to announce the fiber project is now complete and ready for all households to be installed. UpNetWI is looking to expand their fiber network in the future. If you are interested in fiber or have questions please let UpNetWI know. For more information please visit UpNetWI's website at www.upnetwi.com or contact (608)234-5980, or email: customerservice@upnetwi.com

TAX SEASON INFORMATION

Tax bills will be mailed by December 19, 2022. 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, 2023. 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, 2023. All personal property tax payments are due in full and may not be divided into payments.

All payments made after January 31, 2023 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

Monday, Dec. 26, 2022

Monday, Jan 2, 2023

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. 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.

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 can accept payment in check or EXACT cash. We cannot accept credit/debit cards.

Mill Rate Comparisons

Cost per \$1000 of valuation

\$1.46-Town of Pleasant Springs (1.88 in 2022)

\$2.79-Town of Dunn

\$3.66-Town of Dunkirk

\$7.01 Stoughton

Town Board-Caucus Information-

The Town Board will hold its Caucus on January 17th 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Please check the website or call the clerk's office for the meeting notice. 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 Chairperson	David Pfeiffer
Town Board Supervisor Seat 1 Dana Stadler	
Town Board Supervisor Seat 2 Eric Olson	

All terms are for two years, beginning Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

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

2023 Election Dates:

February 21, 2023 Spring Primary Election (if needed)

April 4, 2023 Spring Election

OPENING ON THE PLAN COMMISSION!

Town residents wishing to serve on the Plan Commission are encouraged to contact the Clerk's office at (608)873-3063 or send an email at clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org expressing interest in serving on the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 6:30 p.m. The Plan Commission hears all requests for rezoning, certified survey maps, variances, and other related requests. The Plan Commission makes recommendation for action to the Town Board. The opening is for Seat # 6, with the three-year term ending April 2025.

Road Work Updates

2022 Completed Road Work:

20+ culverts replaced for the Williams Drive paving project
3 culverts replaced for the Kinney Road paving project
Williams Drive from Circle Drive to HWY MN was pulverized and paved
Williams Drive from Circle Drive to 1800 ft south was pulverized and paved
Spring Hill Subdivision was paved
A section of Vilas Road was paved
2800 feet of Kinney Road was paved

Proposed paving for 2023:

Tower Drive from Kaase Road to HWY B
Lunde Circle
Red Oak Subdivision (Oakwood Hill)
Pleasant Hill Road

Proposed Paving For 2024:

Skaalen road from Tower Road to HWY N

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.

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.

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.

BURNING OF LEAVES & BRUSH:

The Town has a waste site located behind the town hall. You may drop off your leaves and brush at this site. The Town has had several complaints regarding burning from several neighborhood areas. Please remember if you are in close proximity to your neighbors, the smoke from burning may be very disturbing and irritating to people with allergies and health related issues. Also remember fires must be attended at all times and must be extinguished at sun down. Please take this into consideration. This may be deemed as a nuisance and local officials may intervene.

HOLIDAY TREE DISPOSAL *New Service*****

This year public works employees will pick up your trees. Please have your trees out to the road right of way (ROW) in front of your home by January 9, 2023. All decorations, tinsel, etc. must be removed. You must contact the public works department at (608) 205-9169 so they can add you to the pick-up route. Please make sure to leave your address.

You may also drop your tree off at the new yard waste site behind the Town Hall located at 2354 County Rd. N, Stoughton WI, 53589. The site is open daily from 7:00am to 5:00pm.

REMINDER: All dogs must be licensed by March 31st of each year to avoid the \$10 per dog late penalty. All property owners will receive the dog license application with their tax bills. **If you mail your dog license application 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 2022 tag.**

The office can process dog licenses after January 31, 2023 or sooner as time allows. Please make sure to include a valid copy of your dog's vaccination certificate, and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Thank you!

USE COURTESY, PLEASE

Taking your dog for a walk in the park or alongside the road? Please remember that it is the law that dog owners pick up after their pets per local ordinance chapter 160-1(Q) and 160-7 (ref. Chapter 55-1). Violations shall be deemed a public nuisance. Penalties may be issued according to Municipal Code Chapter 1. Dog waste should be disposed of properly and not thrown in a waterbody or other public areas.

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

Winter 2022/2023

TOWN OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm (Staff is available at 8:00 a.m.)

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

Thursday—10am to 4pm (Feb.-Dec. 16) 10am to 6pm (Dec. 19-Jan. 31, Thursdays)

Friday—CLOSED (Call for availability)

Town Office: 608-873-3063

Email: clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org

WEBSITE <https://pleasantsprings.org/>

Public Works: 608-205-9169 Alex Mesdjian and Shane Bakken

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

Supervisor #1..... Dana Stadler, (608) 492-0095

Supervisor #2..... Eric Olson, (608) 575-9272

Supervisor #3..... Dick Green (608) 873-0934

Supervisor #4..... Melanie Miller (608) 513-9894

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

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Laura Trotter, (608) 873-3063

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

Wishing you a safe and Happy Holiday Season!!