



PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES

Spring/Summer 2023

Pleasant Springs Town Hall
2354 County Highway N
Stoughton WI, 53589

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR....by Richard "Dick" Green

As a result of the April 4 election, changes on your town board took place. Faith Schuck is now Supervisor 1, Eric Olson was re-elected Supervisor 2, and I became Town Chairperson. Larry Schuller was appointed by the board to complete the term of Supervisor 3. Next year Supervisors 3 and 4 will be on the ballot.

As your town chair I will respond to your question/concern within 24 hours. My goal is to keep expenditures within the budget while maintaining our roads, infrastructure, and parks. You will now see public works employees on the job 7am to 3:30pm weekdays. I am working with our employees daily.

You will see a new page in this newsletter- the auditor's summary for the 2022 year. Note the difference between revenues and expenditures. Changes will be made to bring a balance to these numbers.

I ask for your patience as we continue to repair/reconstruct our 71 miles of roads. Until our state representatives decide to provide more money to towns for road aid, we are limited in funds. We will continue to prioritize roadwork based on road ratings.

Many of you are using the brush/yard waste site behind the town garage. This site is for Pleasant Springs residents only and you need a sticker on your windshield. We do not have a license to burn at this site and ask that brush be limited to 3 inches in diameter. On May 10, someone set brush on fire at 11:30 pm. A camera on the neighbor's house filmed this. Fortunately, a deputy driving by on Hwy. N spotted the fire and Stoughton's firemen arrived promptly. The wind was blowing toward our buildings at the time. This arson event is being investigated. We are installing cameras soon.

This spring our assessor, Accurate Appraisal, discovered an error in assessing modern single-story homes. By now all of the errors should have been corrected and you should have received a new assessment. If you have questions, please call the town office.

Town Board members continue to monitor the status of Stoughton's proposed whitewater waterpark. Dane County is currently dredging the segment of the Yahara River in Pleasant Springs. With little or no rain, the water levels are dropping. A schedule of meetings opposing the waterpark is up on our town website.

The tennis court project at Oak Knoll Park is now complete. The court is striped for tennis as well as pickleball. We plan to do a similar repair with the court at Quam Park this summer.

When you receive this newsletter, we will have completed resurfacing Linnerud Dr., Sheryl Lane, Koshkonong Rd. west of Hwy. N, Pleasant Hill Rd., and Kaase Rd. Still to be done are Tower Dr. south of Hwy. B and Skaalen Rd. east of Pleasant Hill Rd. The remainder of Skaalen Rd. will be done in 2024.

I hope all of you will take time to enjoy summer and fall in Wisconsin.

Comings and Goings:

A big thank you to David Pfeiffer and Dana Stadler for serving on the Town Board, and John Pitas for serving on the Plan Commission.

We would also like to thank Alex Mesdjian, Shane Bakken, and Laura Trotter for their service to the Town, they have moved on to pursue other opportunities. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Please welcome Richard "Dick" Green as your new Town Chair, and new Town Board members Faith Schuck and Larry Schuller. Troy Wieser and Nick Pfundheller have been appointed to serve on the Plan Commission.

Please welcome Bryce Sime and Gary Teigen to the Town's Public Works Department. They come with a combined wealth of experience and knowledge and are ready to hit the ground running. Please welcome Kathy Wilson as the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, who also comes to the Town with a wealth of experience and knowledge as a previous Clerk / Treasurer.

SECOND INSTALLMENT REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS DUE JULY 31.

Real estate second installment tax payments are due on July 31. Please note that second installments must be sent to the **Dane County Treasurer, PO Box 1299, Madison, WI 53701-1299. Checks must be made payable to the Dane County Treasurer.** Payments cannot be accepted at Pleasant Springs Town office. Please refer to the address on your tax bill for the correct mailing address.

HOW ARE YOUR ASSESSMENT AND PROPERTY TAXES CALCULATED?

A Guide for Property Owners is available on the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's website at: <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/DOR%20Publications/pb060.pdf>. This publication discusses in detail the process from the assessment cycle to how property taxes are calculated. Here is a quick look at the difference between an assessment and an appraisal:

Assessments

vs.

Appraisals

Assessments are determined based on sales within the taxing district, in the town, village, or city.

Assessors use previous years sales data.

Assessors compare annual market sales year-over-year.

Assessors set values based on the entire community to determine the values of all properties on a mass scale.

Assessments are regulated by the state of WI. The Department of Revenue requires each municipality to maintain assessments within 10% of market value.

Appraisals use comparable sales from similar properties usually going outside of the taxing district.

Appraisers use sales from past years as well as current year sales.

Appraisers use current market sales, month-to-month or day-to-day.

Appraiser hand pick comparable sales to help them determine the value of 1 property. Usually use 3 to 6 comparables.

Assessors are not regulated by the state of WI. Their values are used to help determine values to obtain loans, get values for a settlement, or get a line of credit.

DOG LICENSES

If you have not licensed your dog by March 31st, a late fee of \$10.00 must be added to the normal license fee. Please remember that all dogs over the age of five months must be licensed each year, and fines for dogs running at large range between \$100 and \$400.

USE COURTESY, PLEASE

Taking your dog for a walk in the park? 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.

Opening on the Plan Commission

Want to be part of the Town's Land Use and Planning Process? The Plan Commission hears and reviews all requests for rezoning, variances, Conditional Use Permits, Certified Survey Maps, and makes recommendations for action to the Town Board. The Plan Commission meets @ 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month. Plan Commission seats are 3-year terms. Town residents wishing to serve on the Plan Commission are encouraged to send a letter of interest to the Clerks office to the address of:

Town of Pleasant Springs
2354 County Rd N
Stoughton WI 53589

Or you may email to: clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org

Please contact the Town office at (68)873-3063 for any questions you may have regarding the Plan Commission.

SUMMER ROAD PROJECTS FOR 2023:

Potential roads for paving:

Tower Drive
Skaalen Road
Pleasant Hill Road

Potential roads for Sealcoating/Crack filling:

Sheryl Lane
Linnerud Drive
Koshkonong Rd.
Kaase Rd.

NOTICE: The road projects listed here are subject to change due to weather conditions damaging roads.

Other Public Works Information: The town does not pick up leaves or other brush. Please do not pile brush or other items in the right-of-way.

Please contact the Public Works crew for more information at (608) 205-9169.



MOVE OVER AND SLOW DOWN...Road Construction Work Zone Safety Tips

• **Pay Attention.** Construction Zones contain many hazards such as uneven pavement, narrow lanes, heavy equipment, and loose gravel. Signs and construction zone flaggers save lives.

• **Slow down, even if you don't see anyone working.** Physical hazards such as traffic shifts or lane reductions may be present. Also, most crashes in the

summer months are related to excessive speeds.

- **Stay Alert.** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- **Watch for signs.** Remember, workers are just inches away from traffic.
- **Don't Tailgate!**
- **Expect the Unexpected.** Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
- **Be Patient.** Remember the construction zone crew members are working to improve your future ride.

Remember that construction zone crew members are someone's Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Brother or Sister. Use caution and slow down. In Work Zones, Drive Like You Work Here.

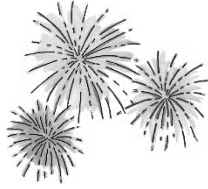
CRIME PREVENTION, By Leslie Fox, Dane County Sheriff

The Dane County Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies are continuing to respond to numerous reports of stolen vehicles, theft from autos, and home burglaries. Most of us have forgotten to lock our car, or accidentally left the garage door open overnight, or even discovered in the morning that the front door was unlocked overnight at least once. You can help prevent yourself from becoming a victim by following the "9:00 p.m. Routine." Law enforcement agencies across the nation are asking people to develop this habit for protecting property from theft, and protecting your home from intruders. This 9:00 p.m. routine can be used any time of the day and includes:

- Check vehicles to insure you've removed all valuables and that doors are locked.
- Walk around inside your home and lock and secure all doors and windows.
- Turn on outside lights.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately.

Theft is a preventable crime of opportunity that can happen in an instant. Taking these simple steps can prevent you from becoming a victim. Also, get to know your neighbors so you know who belongs in your neighborhood and don't be afraid to call 911. To report an incident call non-emergency dispatch at (608) 255-2345 or 911.

FIREWORKS ORDINANCE



The town would like to take the opportunity to remind residents of Chapter 103 of the Town of Pleasant Springs Ordinances relating to Fireworks. The use of fireworks, as defined in section 167.10(1) of the Wisconsin States Statutes, will require a Fireworks use permit.

Residents wishing to hold a fireworks display should stop by the Town Hall to obtain a firework's use permit application.

A copy of the complete ordinance is available on the Town of Pleasant Springs website – pleasantsprings.org.

EASEMENTS

Please be aware that activity within public easements may be restricted.

Residents should be mindful of any public easement on their property. Activities within a public easement may be restricted and the cost of removing private property placed in a public easement may be charged to the property owner. Please contact the easement holder before installing or making modifications to property located within a public easement.

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 are not approved for operation on Town roads, nor should they be operated in Town parks.

**Town of Pleasant Springs
Presentation to the Town Board Board - May 2nd, 2023**

GENERAL FUND BALANCE		
Details of General Fund Balance	2022	2021
Reserved for environmental programs	\$ 216,293	\$ 216,293
Reserved for ARPA program	341,586	-
Designated	1,060,856	1,110,394
Undesignated	85,985	819,661
Total General Fund Balance	\$ 1,704,720	\$ 2,146,348
Analysis of General Fund Balance	2022	2021
Unreserved fund balance (Designated/Undesignated)	1,146,841	1,930,055
Operating expenditures	2,716,132	1,964,701
 % of Operating expenditures	 42.22%	 98.24%
GFOA recommended minimum for % of operating expenditures is no less than 2 months of GF operating expenditures (~16%-17%).		

GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT		
Total General Obligation Debt	2022	2021
Town	\$ 450,969	\$ 600,000
G.O. Debt capacity	\$ 33,946,330	\$ 30,125,185
% of Debt limit used	1.33%	1.99%

GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES		
Revenues and other financing sources	2022	2021
Taxes	\$ 1,091,434	\$ 777,747
Intergovernmental	494,664	627,816
Licenses and permits	52,259	40,306
Fines, forfeitures and penalties	125	465
Special assessments	24,398	2,805
Public charges for services	222,944	223,586
Investment income & miscellaneous	88,680	88,628
Debt issued	300,000	300,000
Total	\$ 2,274,504	\$ 2,061,353
Budget	\$ 2,117,674	\$ 1,815,642
Expenditures		
General government	\$ 289,860	\$ 284,014
Public safety	274,112	228,357
Public works	1,405,013	1,040,799
Health and human services	6,258	5,422
Culture, recreation and education	71,317	14,338
Conservation and development	3,280	3,840
Capital outlay	200,247	230,900
Debt service	466,045	157,031
Total	\$ 2,716,132	\$ 1,964,701
Budget	\$ 2,446,428	\$ 2,042,473
Net change in fund balance:	\$ (441,628)	\$ 96,652
Budgeted change in fund balance:	\$ (328,754)	\$ (226,831)

The information presented above is derived from the current and prior year financial statements.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FROM PELLITTERI WASTE SYSTEMS:

PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR WORKERS AND FACILITIES SAFE!



LITHIUM ION BATTERIES AND PROPANE TANKS

We cannot recycle batteries or propane tanks at our facility.

Batteries and propane tanks can cause sparks that will start fires in our vehicles and our facility. These fires can injure employees and damage machinery. Please use one of the many disposal drop-off sites in the area. Contact us with any questions.

LEARN MORE



USING A BAG

Remember to use **clear or transparent bags only** if you choose to bag your recyclables. For the safety of our employees, black trash bags are sent directly to the trash.

LEARN MORE

For more 1-minute recycling tip videos, please visit our website at www.pellitteri.com/recycling-tip-videos. You can also sign up for the newsletter at the bottom of our website or call 608-257-4285 or email us at info@pellitteri.com (please include your address). Thank you for your assistance!

CLEAN SWEEP is a Dane County-operated facility that collects hazardous household materials like paint, pesticides, and rechargeable batteries. Some fees may apply depending on the materials. The site is located at 7102 US Hwy 12/18 and is open year-round. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday 7:00am-2:45pm and Saturday 8:00-10:45am. For more details, please call (608) 838-3212 or visit their website at danecountycleansweep.com.

**To obtain a building permit,
please contact the Building
Inspector at:
(608) 445-9715**

BUILDING PERMIT INFORMATION

Spring is in the air, and that typically means many residents will be starting construction projects for home improvements, renovations, etc.

For questions about projects that may or may not require permits, to schedule an inspection, or for more information such as pre-construction, please contact the Town's Building Inspector, Steve Kittelson.

A building permit must be obtained from the Town Building Inspector prior to commencing any of the following work:

- (1) All new buildings-construction including, but not limited to, residential dwellings, garages, agricultural buildings, and sheds over 120 square feet in area.
- (2) All building additions that increase the physical dimensions of an existing building, including, but not limited to, decks, porches and garages.
- (3) All alterations to the interior and/or exterior structure of an existing building including, but not limited to, kitchen remodeling, bath remodeling, remodeling an attic and/or basement for living space, window replacement, changes in exterior finish such as brick façade, clapboard or vinyl siding, and roof replacement and repair. No more than three layers of roofing shall be installed on any roof.
- (4) All alterations to the heating, electrical or plumbing systems of an existing structure.
- (5) Replacement of major building equipment, including furnaces and air conditioners. Water heater replacement shall require a permit if the plumbing, venting, electrical or gas supply system is altered.
- (6) Demolition of all existing structures. This includes all agricultural structures, such as silos, chicken houses, tobacco sheds, etc.

A **building permit application** can be found on our website at:

<http://pleasantsprings.org/buildingpermits.html>

More information can also be found in the Building Construction town ordinance (Chapter 70), which can be found on our website at

<http://pleasantsprings.org/ordinance.html>

**Note: If a project requires a driveway access damage deposit and permit, NO BUILDING PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED until the proper damage deposit permit has been issued.*

DAMAGE DEPOSITS: Many projects may require obtaining a Driveway Access Damage Permit and deposit prior to issuance of building permits. For questions regarding driveway damage deposit permits, contact the Public Works department at (608) 205-9169.

If your driveway access is contiguous with a town road, a \$1,000 access damage deposit and permit must be obtained prior to commencing any of the following work:

(1) Any construction, demolition, or landscaping that requires material and/or equipment weighing twelve or more tons (24,000 lbs.) including delivery vehicle weight.

(2) All debris dumpsters that weigh and/or require equipment weighing twelve or more tons (24,000 lbs.) including delivery weight. No dumpster shall be placed on public property.

If your landscape/Remodel project requires equipment that weighs less than 24,000 lbs. a permit with a \$50.00 deposit is required.

Town of Pleasant Springs Boat Launch and Yard Waste Site:

Property Owners within the Town of Pleasant Springs may obtain a resident sticker to utilize the Boat Launch and Yard Waste Site. **You must have a sticker to utilize the Boat Landing and Yard Waste Site, and you must be a property owner!!** The Yard waste site is located behind the Town Hall at 2354 County Hwy N., Stoughton WI. Cameras have been installed at the site to help monitor the hours and usage of the Yard Waste Site, to include vehicles without the sticker located on their windshield.

NO CONTRACTOR DUMPING!!

If yard waste is brought to the site in bags or containers of any type, please take those with you and do not leave them at the site.

BRUSH IS LIMITED TO 3" DIAMETER!!

The first sticker is free of charge. A replacement sticker or additional sticker is \$10.00. If you sell your vehicle or replace your windshield, if you can peel off the previous sticker or at least a portion of it and bring to the Town Hall, you will be issued another sticker free of charge, otherwise, it's \$10.00.

The Boat Launch is located at 2267 Williams Point Drive. You will need to have your sticker on your vehicle windshield to utilize the Boat Launch, otherwise, if you don't have a sticker, there are daily permits located at the Boat Launch for a \$5.00 daily permit fee. The Boat Launch is monitored frequently, so please make sure you have your sticker placed on your windshield or a daily permit, otherwise you may most likely get a citation.

FRIENDS OF YAHARA BAY

Are you aware the City of Stoughton has proposed removing the Fourth Street dam to develop a whitewater rafting park? This may significantly impact water levels and wildlife in the river and bay. Information is posted to the town's website at www.pleasantsprings.org under Community, click on Yahara Waterway, or see **Friends of Yahara Bay** on **Facebook** for info.

NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEED CONTROL

In order to prevent the control of noxious and invasive species, state statute requires that every landowner must destroy all noxious weeds on all lands he owns, occupies or controls. The term "noxious weeds" includes Canada thistle, leafy spurge and field bindweed. If a landowner fails to comply, the town can order the weeds destroyed and the landowner is responsible to repay all costs associated with the work. The Town Board appreciates your responsible compliance and cooperation.

The Town also requests residents consider keeping all weeds trimmed and mowed. While state statutes only require those weeds defined as noxious weeds to be destroyed, there are a lot of other weeds that cause great discomfort for residents with allergies. Please consider being a good neighbor and keep your weeds trimmed for the enrichment and well-being of all residents in the Township.

OPEN BURNING GUIDELINES

- Call the appropriate fire department non-emergency number and inform them of the details for your burn. If you are unsure of the correct fire department, you may contact the office staff at 608-873-3063.
 - Do not burn during windy or overly dry conditions
 - Fires must be extinguished within one half hour of sunset. Any smoldering material counts as a burning fire.
 - Keep the burning pile small-under 4 x 4 ft.
 - You may burn yard waste and clean, untreated wood from a single family or household on your property where it is generated, you may not burn for others, neighbors, etc.
 - Never leave the fire until it is completely out-never leave a fire unattended
 - Fire Department Contact Numbers:
 - Stoughton Fire Department - 608-873-7218
 - McFarland Fire Department - 608-838-3278
 - Cottage Grove Fire Department - 608-839-4343
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Dane County Sheriff Mental Health Notice

Law enforcement is being challenged by the growing number of calls for service involving people with mental health needs. It is imperative we recognize when mental illness may be a contributing factor during a call for service so we can respond in a manner as to de-escalate crisis situations.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Journey Mental Health Center. A Crisis Worker, from Journey, is embedded part time with the Sheriff's Office Field Services Division. The goal of utilizing an embedded mental health worker is to create a better response to mental health related calls and to engage in preventative follow-up work that may reduce repeated law enforcement contacts with the same individuals.

Our mental health crisis worker is available to co-respond to calls for service, conduct consultations via phone, and assist with Emergency Detentions. Additionally, the mental health crisis worker can accompany deputies on proactive home visits to connect mental health consumers to services.

Together, we can problem solve a wide array of mental health issues and work toward curbing incarceration and creating better short-term outcomes for community members.

Happy Spring and Stay Safe!

Deputy Leslie A. Fox

Dane County Sheriff's Office

Southeast Precinct

DANE COUNTY BROADBAND TASKFORCE INFORMATION

The 15 member Dane County Broadband Task Force was created in 2021 by the County Board to focus on how to provide broadband access to all of Dane County's residents, particularly those who live in rural areas where broadband access may be lacking or non-existent.

The Task Force aims to create a greater community understanding of Dane County's challenges related to high-speed, reliable and affordable internet access for the County as a whole. They are working to prepare local partners in Dane County to have the background and knowledge (e.g., accurate maps, data on speeds, access, etc.) to apply for various grants and funding to expand access to unserved and underserved areas of the county, and increase awareness of the issues those without reliable internet access face.

The Task Force is collecting data, researching and exploring various funding mechanisms, partnering with stakeholders to identify where broadband access is and is not, exploring alternative solutions, and will make recommendations to the County Board on the role of Dane County in facilitating the expansion of broadband services to residents. The Task Force conducted a survey of rural residents in specific areas to identify homes and neighborhoods in which service is not available, and communities and internet service providers will be able to use this information to be able to apply for grants to expand access to these areas.

Visit their website for more info:

<https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-Task-Force>

They are asking for your help!

To bolster the effort to create more accurate maps of service coverage and speeds, the Task Force is encouraging members of the public to take 2 minutes to complete the MadREP speed test. The more data that is collected the fuller the picture of broadband access issues in Dane County, that will be utilized by the many organizations and units of government to expand access and provide affordable, reliable service to every resident.

The speed test can be found here: <http://madisonregion.org/industry-and-innovation/broadband/>

Please contact the Task Force at

Dane.Broadband.Task.Force@countyofdane.com or call 608-266-5758 and let them know of your broadband issues and how it has impacted you.

OAK KNOLL PARK HAS A NEW TENNIS COURT AND PICKLE BALL COURT

We are happy to announce the tennis court had been redone at Oak Knoll Park and also has been striped as a pickle ball court. If you intend to play pickle ball, you will need to provide your own net. Please enjoy the new court!



Town Meetings

The Town Board Meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:00 P.M.

There are additional meetings during budget preparation time and certain times when a special meeting must be held. The Board's primary function is to provide legislation, policy and decision making for the Township, as well as set the annual budget and determine the yearly tax levy.

Town Residents are encouraged to attend Town Board Meetings regularly to keep up on the events and happenings of the Town.

Meeting agendas are posted to the town's website at: www.pleasantsprings.org, under the Town Board and Meetings page, and also on the posting board outside of the Town Hall. If you are interested in placing an item on the agenda for consideration, please contact the Town Clerk/Treasurer's office at (608) 873-3063, or via email at clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org.

The Plan Commission meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30. Plan Commission agendas are also posted to the town's website and on the posting board outside of the Town Hall.

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

Spring / Summer 2023

Town of Pleasant Springs

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Town Office: 608-873-3063
Email: clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org
Website: www.pleasantsprings.org

Town Chair Dick Green (608) 480-9590
Supervisor #1 Faith Schuck (608)234-0759
Supervisor #2 Eric Olson (608)873-1834
Supervisor #3 Larry Schuller (608)628-2933
Supervisor #4 Melanie Miller (608)513-9894
Clerk/Treasurer- Maria "Pili" Hougan (608) 873-3063
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer- Kathy Wilson (608)873-3063
Public Works Dept. -Bryce Sime and Gary Teigen (608)205-9169

TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS:
Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm
Wednesday—CLOSED (we are generally available at 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
Thursday—10am to 4pm
Friday—CLOSED
Please call the office for additional availability. We are available at 8:00 a.m. most days

Area Guides and information for Senior Services – are available at the Town Hall and posted to the website. You may also contact Stoughton Senior Center at (608) 873-8585 to check out the newest additions of their FREE directory of services available to older adults in the Stoughton community. The guide may be picked up at the Senior Center or viewed under Community Resources on their website at <https://stoughtonseniorcenter.com/>. McFarland Senior Outreach may be contacted at (608) 838-7117.