

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES

Remarks from the Chair...By David Pfeiffer

As I write this between Thanksgiving and Pearl Harbor Day, I am again reminded of the debt we owe to those who fought to preserve our freedom. We call them patriots, thank them for their service and owe them our respect. But, is that all?

I've heard complaints about losing our freedoms over the past year when it comes to the issue of wearing a mask to protect against the rapid spread of the virus. When I was growing up, I was taught that with every freedom comes a responsibility. Every time my parents allowed me greater freedom, it was understood that I could lose that freedom pretty darn quick if I acted in a way that was irresponsible. As we transition to adulthood, one key change is that we choose for ourselves the amount of risk we are comfortable with. But, that autonomy doesn't extend to causing risk to others. Freedom has never meant being able to do whatever we please. We are not "free" to ignore traffic signals, exceed speed limits or drink and drive, because those actions endanger others.

Today, many people are endangered by COVID-19. Our health care workers are on the front lines of this battle. They also deserve our thanks and respect. They are telling us the loss of life and suffering they are seeing is real and unprecedented in their experience. The impact to our elderly is especially severe. Consider the sacrifices made on our behalf by the generation that is now suffering most from this virus. Wearing a mask seems to me to be the least we can do in return.

Thanks also to the dedicated people who provide Fire & EMS services to their fellow residents. Volunteers are still needed. For those who have any interest in serving in either capacity, I encourage you to contact your nearest provider.

Another group of people I am thankful for are our municipal clerks and election workers. Our democracy depends on those who step forward from our communities to carry out the duties of conducting elections. Some seem to forget that these individuals are simply our neighbors who all have something in common, a love of country and a dedication to duty. I also call them patriots and thank them for their service. They deserve our respect as well.

Government is the frequent target of much criticism, some of it deserved. But, I think it is easy to confuse government with politics. Politics can often appear unsavory and combative. As a society, we may not always agree on every issue. But, partisanship should never be allowed to obscure our dependency on one another. The strength of our country has always been in our ability to come together when faced with a challenge. We should all be able to agree that government is entrusted with the responsibility to manage for the common good. I see Town government as one of the purest forms of this idea. Tasks like maintaining town roads and infrastructure and providing for Fire and EMS services aren't things we can do for ourselves, we must combine our efforts instead.

The Town continues to make progress on our plan to invest in road improvements. Due to a change in how our borrowing repayments are scheduled, taxpayers will see a reduction in the Town's share of the tax levy this year. Hopefully, that will be of help during a year of economic challenge. We thank Jim Alme for his prior service to the Town and welcome the addition of Shane Bakken to our Public Works team. Shane's expertise operating heavy machinery is impressive to watch. He and Superintendent Mesdjian have completed some long overdue cleanup of road right-of-way and ditching this fall.

High groundwater levels continue to cause stormwater runoff issues. Again, residents are encouraged to be mindful of whether they will impact stormwater drainage when making any landscaping changes. For those with driveway culverts, please try to make sure that your culvert is not obstructed. And when the inevitable snows come, please do not park vehicles in the road right-of-way as their presence makes snow plowing less efficient and more hazardous.

It's been a difficult year. But, 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. Stay safe, be well, be kind!

Chair David Pfeiffer

2021 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](#), which can be found at our website: www.pellitteri.com. You can also like our [Facebook](#) page at: (<https://www.facebook.com/pellitteriwastesystems/>) 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 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://Clean Sweep | Dane County Waste & Renewables (countyofdane.com))

2021 Assessment Begins

Accurate Appraisal staff will be doing walk throughs on those properties that been recently purchased or acquired a building permit during 2020. 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.*

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. **For everyone's safety, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town strongly encourages residents to mail dog license applications or drop them in the drop box that is located in the front entryway during business hours. 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 2021 tag.**

The office can process dog licenses after January 31, 2021 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!

TAX SEASON INFORMATION

Tax bills will be mailed by December 21, 2020. 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, 2021. 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, 2021. All personal property tax payments are due in full and may not be divided into payments.

All payments made after January 31, 2021 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

Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020 & Friday, Dec. 25, 2020

Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020 & Friday, Jan 1, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town strongly encourages residents to mail tax payments or drop them in the drop box that is located in the front entryway during business hours. 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

\$1.39-Town of Pleasant Springs

\$3.06-Town of Rutland

\$2.91-Town of Dunn

Town Board-Caucus Information-

The Town Board will hold its Caucus on January 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Please check the website or call the clerk's office for the meeting details as it will most likely be held virtually. 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 Chairperson	- David Pfeiffer
Town Board Supervisor Seat 1	- Doug Larsson
Town Board Supervisor Seat 2	- Eric Olson

All terms are for two years, beginning Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

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

2021 Election Dates:

February 16, 2021 Spring Primary Election

April 6, 2021 Spring Election

Broadband Expansion:

A message from UpNetWI: UpNetWI is pleased to announce its partnership with the Town of Pleasant Springs in our application for a Broadband Expansion Grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. If the application is successful, 133 locations along Highway N, Koshkonong Rd, in the Havey Farms neighborhood, and in the Spring Hill Dr. neighborhood will become eligible for fiber to the home service sometime in late 2021. Please see the attached map for a detailed look at the proposed fiber coverage and feel free to email martin@upnetwi.com with any questions.

If you're currently struggling with poor connectivity at your location, give UpNetWI a call at (608)-234-5980 or fill out a contact form on our website for a free, no-commitment site survey to see if you're eligible for our fixed wireless service.



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.

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.

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

Winter 2020/2021

TOWN OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm

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

Thursday—10am to 4pm (Mar-Dec.) 10am to 6pm (Jan-Feb)

Friday—CLOSED

Town Office: 608-873-3063

Email: clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org

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

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 COMPOST SITE
1754 TOWER DRIVE**

Saturday, January 2, 2021, 8am to 1pm

Saturday, January 9, 2021, 8am to 1pm