



TOWN OF BLACK WOLF

2012 FALL Newsletter

Website: townofblackwolf.com

E-mail: tbw@northnet.net

Newsletters are published twice a year, in Spring and Fall

Please keep this issue for reference. Check our website for updated information.



Voting in Black Wolf – The last day to vote by *Absentee Ballot* for the November 6th election is Friday, November 2nd.

To receive an Absentee Ballot, you first must be a registered voter in Black Wolf and fill out the Request for Absentee Ballot form. The form is available at the Town Hall office or on our website. The form can be mailed in, dropped off in the drop box, or brought into the Town Hall Office.

The office is open from noon-5 pm any afternoon (except Wednesdays). When you stop in and fill out the absentee ballot request form, you will be given a ballot and be able to vote at the same time.

To Register to Vote you must be a resident in the town for at least **28 consecutive days**. This was recently changed from 10 days of residency. You then need to complete the Voter Registration form and have an acceptable proof of residence document showing your current Black Wolf address. Voters can register on Election Day; however, we would suggest this be done prior to November 6, 2012 because of an expected large turnout.

WI Voter Photo-ID Law:

This is currently on hold due to court order; at this time no photo ID is required to receive a ballot.

On Election Day voters are required to state their name and address clearly, and sign the poll book.

Voting activity in 2012...It's Been a Busy Year!

We have approximately 1,780 registered voters

- ❖ April Presidential – 851 voters
- ❖ May Recall Primary – 845 voters
- ❖ June Recall Election – 1,452 voters
- ❖ August Primary – 616 voters

NEW: VEOLIA COLLECTION CHANGE

Fully Automated Trucks are coming! Please leave between 5'-6' between trash & recycling carts now.

TOWN INFORMATION

Annual Budget Meeting: November 12, 2012

The Budget Hearing for 2012 will be held on Monday, November 12th at 6:30 p.m. Copies of the proposed budget will be available at the Town Hall prior to the hearing. The regular monthly Town Board meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m.

APPOINTED CLERK AND TREASURER POSITIONS

At the Town's Annual Meeting in April, the electors passed a resolution directing the Town to begin having an *appointed* Clerk and Treasurer, rather than *elected*. These positions will begin on the third Tuesday of April, 2013 which is the day when all elected town officials terms expire.

We will be formally announcing that we are seeking people interested in these positions in the very near future. If you are, or know anyone who might like to apply and be considered by the board for either of these posts, please send a letter of interest and your resume to the town clerk.

TIME OF THE SIGNS – OR – SIGN OF THE TIMES (POLITICAL)

I don't know about you, but I kind of like that title!

First, it is the time for signs, political signs that is. The Town's Zoning Ordinance covers political signs in Section 7.3(2) and (7). Please be aware that the size of a political sign is limited to 6 square feet. If you allow someone else to place a sign on your property, you are responsible for that sign.

Secondly it is a sign of the times that there are more elections and contended races than ever. Signs may be displayed for 60 days within a one year period for a particular race and removed within 7 days of completion of that election. It is a wonderful thing to live in a country where we can freely take part in the political process.

Please do not abuse the privileges.



STREET SIGNS

A federal mandate requires that municipalities must begin upgrading post-mounted guide signs (e.g., stop signs, speed limit signs, etc.) to meet minimum retro-reflectivity standards by 2015. States must also upgrade street name signs and overhead guide signs to meet minimum retro-reflectivity requirements by 2018.

Newly-installed street name signs (or replacements for existing street name signs) must use a combination of upper and lower case letters rather than all upper case (i.e., capital letters). Signs executed in predominantly lower case letters are generally easier to comprehend than signs written in capital letters.

In the future, Town of Black Wolf replacement signs will be compliant with the federal mandate. The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission recently completed a *Sign Management Plan* detailing all signs in Black Wolf so we have a current inventory of all signs in town.

RAILROAD QUIET ZONE:

The railroad quiet zone remains in effect. However, I want to remind residents that the efforts the town took to establish this zone comes under annual review by the Federal Railroad Administration each year. To remain a quiet zone, we need to be below the National Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT). We've been able to do that without applying additional supplemental safety measures (such as channelization devices, road closures and the like). We remain vigilant in maintaining our quiet zone but, over the last two years, we've gotten closer to the NSRT and some day, we may be at risk of not meeting it.

Over the last two months, the town has been in contact with the Canadian National Railroad, the Federal Railroad Administration and Congressman Petri's office to pursue other cost effective safety measures that we can place at a crossing(s) that would put the town in a position of remaining well below the NSRT for the long term. These measures include longer gate arms at existing crossings that would cover both traffic lanes or adding two (2) additional gate systems at a particular crossing (making that crossing a 4-quadrant system). These options are intended to render the crossing "closed" without actually having to close them.

There will certainly be some costs associated with these efforts but we have always worked to find ways to address town needs and keep our costs in check.

Less Garbage...More Recycling!



Please note that reports from the Tri-County landfill indicate Black Wolf's recycling totals are lower than our neighboring towns. Please make every effort to recycle as the total tonnage resulting from your recycling efforts provides the town with grant monies from the State. Grant money reduces the overall costs that are added to your tax bill.

As a reminder, all garbage and recyclable items must be in the proper cart. Do not place any items or bags, etc. next to the container as Veolia will only pick up what is in the cart (lid closed). If you need an extra cart, you may set up extra service with Veolia (800-688-4285) for a monthly fee. Place carts no more than 10' off the road, in the driveway, **5' to 6' apart from each other**, with both carts facing the road. If you move out of the town, the carts should remain with the property.

**Set those myths aside –
recycling is a win-win for everyone!**

According to one of the myths that swirl around recycling, the contents of recycling bins don't really get recycled – they just end up in the landfill with the trash. The vast quantities of paper and cardboard, plastic, metal and glass are efficiently sorted and baled for shipment to buyers all over the United States and the world.

That's right: the plastic water bottle you drank from today might be headed to North Carolina tomorrow to be made into carpet; the cartons used to ship canned goods to your local grocery store might show up next week at a loading dock in Milwaukee, ready to be turned into cereal boxes.

Trash and Recycling Collection Dates:

There is one more day this year when recycling and garbage collection is changed from Wednesday due to a holiday. Instead of Wednesday, December 26th, pickup will be on Thursday, December 27th.

2013 Trash & Recycling Calendars:

We expect to have the 2013 magnetic calendars in the office prior to the November election. These calendars are not mailed out.

Please stop in the office and pick up your 2013 calendar starting in November.

Black Wolf Sanitary District - Fall 2012

We have been experiencing an unusual number of pump blockages in recent years. It seems to be primarily as a result of disposable rags and wipes entering the system. As these disposable products have gained popularity we have been experiencing more problems as a result. Please dispose of these products, along with dental floss, in the garbage. The floss tangles in our pump floats and causes them to malfunction.



I would also like to remind residents to locate their sewer lateral before doing any construction or tree planting. It is best to stay clear of your lateral. The Sanitary District can locate your lateral for around \$75. If you are experiencing troubles with your lateral we can also televise it for around the same price.

Finally, we would like to remind residents and businesses in the Black Wolf Sanitary District that any sewer work outside of the foundation requires a sanitary work permit. There is a \$75 to \$125 fee for this permit to cover the inspection cost. Please call Scott at 216-6773 for a permit or to have your lateral located.

Black Wolf Sanitary District – Treasurer

For questions on your sewer hook up amount or your quarterly usage bill, please contact Jennifer Oleson, Sanitary District Treasurer-Bookkeeper, at (920) 420-1208. The Town Hall office does not have this information. Thank you.

*O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather*

Building Inspector Hours

Dave Frank is no longer in the Town Hall on Tuesday evenings. Call Dave at home: (920) 233-1999 for building permit questions or to schedule an appointment

Van Dyne Volunteer Fire Department Douglas Seffern, Chief, Van Dyne Fire Department



**Firefighters Needed!
Been thinking about
volunteering?**

Help protect our community

- Serve your community close to home
- Join a great group of men and women
- Meet new people
- Learn new skills

We are in need of firefighters and first responders.

Open to all residents living or employed in Friendship and Black Wolf. No experience necessary. We will train you!

For more information call the Van Dyne Volunteer Fire Department (920) 688-2293 or email us at vdvd@charter.net

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WARNING:

It has been reported that there is an uptick in daytime home invasions/break-ins. We need to remain vigilant for unusual activities/vehicles in and around Black Wolf. Many times you will see unusual cars staking out neighborhoods to look for patterns of people coming and going. If you notice this, please call the Sheriff's Dept. (920) 236-7300 to report this and check it out.

Keep your doors locked and garage doors closed!



*Listen! The wind is rising,
and the air is wild with
leaves. We've had our
summer evenings...now for
October eves!*

Winter Plowing:

Our trucks have been maintained and upgraded for winter use. All drivers are in place. We should have a good response team to handle the new winter road needs.



Snow Plowing Policy

Our crews will remove snow from all Town roads as well as from private roads that qualify under the following conditions:

- There must be at least three permanent and inhabited residences served by the private road.
- A private road must be maintained, at the owners' expense, in such a fashion as to not cause damage to the Town snow removal vehicle. Brush, trees, low-hanging wires, signposts, and mailboxes must not interfere with plow access.
- A private road must have a road bed sufficient to support the Town vehicle and an area large enough to turn the vehicle around without damage to the vehicle or surrounding property.

Private roads are plowed under conditions stated above as a service to the residents for fire and emergency protection.

Other Plowing Policies and Conditions

- Private roads are not salted, sanded, signed or maintained by the Town.
- Private roads or driveways with two or less residents are not plowed by the Town.
- Gravel roads are not plowed until there is sufficient frost to prevent damage by the plow.
- Repair of damage caused by snow removal such as gravel in lawns or damage to sod along a road, is the responsibility of the property owners.

Town roads and private roads east of Highway 45 and some private roads west of Highway 45 are plowed by the small white town truck. Town roads west of Highway 45 are plowed by the large orange town truck. Efforts are made to coordinate the two in order to best serve the residents.

Equipment availability and breakdowns will at times limit the ability to clear all roads immediately.

An agreement has been made with Winnebago County Highway Department to plow roads when there is Town equipment breakdown. However, if and when the County is needed to plow, the Town receives the lowest priority.

A special THANK YOU to the many residents who help maintain Town right-of-ways, ditches, and fire lanes from litter, debris, vegetation growth or whatever. It has not gone unnoticed. Your efforts have helped keep the highway costs from snowballing during this time of year.

WINTER REMINDERS:

DO NOT snowplow or blow snow onto the roadways or across the road into the ditches. Ditches and culverts must be left open for drainage and safety. Large rocks or other

decorative items should not be placed on the road right-of-ways. The plows in winter and grass cutters in spring and summer need an unobtrusive area to be effective.

The town crews will be adding metal post markers in the Road Right of Way. The posts mark locations of manhole covers & other conditions which may extend above the road surface. These posts act to warn the snow plow drivers of a potential hard hit as they plow. Please do not remove or disturb the posts during winter plow season. Removal of the post may result in injury to drivers or damage to the Town trucks.

WI Statute 346.95(5) *Placing injurious substance on highway.* No person shall place or cause to be placed upon a highway (roadway) any foreign substance which is or may be injurious to any vehicle or part thereof. This includes pushing snow from driveways across roads into the ditch.

WARNING: By law, you are required to stay a min. of 200' from snow plow trucks; this applies to all snow plow trucks.

Any issues, requests or questions regarding town roads are always welcome. Please make contact at the Town Hall to express any comments.



Chris Martell, Town Constable

Three (3) dogs per household are now allowed

A change in the Town's ordinance means **three** dogs are allowed per household in residential areas. All dogs must be licensed within six months of initial ownership.

With cooler temps and shorter days approaching, wild animals will be looking for places to stay for the winter and more importantly, food sources. Keep your garbage covered and any pet food in a secure container.

If you do encounter a wild animal, stay away. Especially if they appear sick or lethargic, they are most likely rabid. They are usually more afraid of you than you are of them. I have little authority or expertise to deal with wild animals, so if you have one creating a problem, contact the WI DNR (Oshkosh Service Center (920) 424-3050) and they can provide you with information to properly deal with them.

When it comes to your pets, please keep in mind that all animals must be kept under control. Again, **not necessarily on a leash, but under control.** Please make sure your animals are properly contained in appropriate buildings, structures, pens, pastures or an appropriate lead. Loose animals cause traffic problems, destruction of property and are a threat to others.

Please **do not capture** stray animals. **DO NOT** call the Sheriff's Dept. unless there has been a bite or other threatening behavior. Leave the animal loose and either contact me or call the town office to take care of the issue. Capturing strays is a very dangerous practice and should be avoided.

OAHs will not accept strays brought into the shelter by anyone other than a Town Official without prior consent from the Town. If you have any complaints or concerns, please call me at (920) 410-6277, and leave a message. Be sure to include your name and phone number and a brief description of the problem.

2012 Tax Collection-John McDermott Treasurer

If paying taxes in 2012 for income tax purposes, the postmark must be on or before December 31, 2012 or put in the 24-Hour Access DROP BOX before midnight (12/31/2012). All other first installments paid by mail must have a postmark of January 31, 2013 or put in the 24-Hour Access DROP BOX before midnight (1/31/2013).

- Receipts for taxes and/or dog licenses **will not** be mailed unless you furnish a self-addressed, stamped large/business size envelope.
- **One check may be made out for all payments, including dog licenses and multiple parcels.** You do not need separate checks for taxes and dog license(s).
- Check your tax bill to see if you received a lottery credit. If you are a new resident, you will need to apply for the lottery credit. Forms are available in the Town office or the Dept. of Revenue website. (Form LC 100)
- **The Town of Black Wolf Treasurer cannot collect any taxes after January 31, 2013.** If you do not pay by this date, you will need to make your payment directly to the Winnebago County Treasurer.
- Please do not use staples or tape.

DROP BOX 24 HOUR ACCESS

The drop box at the entrance to the Town Hall provides a convenient way to drop off your payment. Payments dropped off prior to 12 midnight will be considered IN for that day.

DO NOT DROP OFF BLACK WOLF SANITARY DISTRICT PAYMENTS IN THIS BOX. There is a slot in their door payments (building just east of the Town Hall on the corner of County Rd. R and Black Wolf Ave.)

TREASURER OFFICE HOURS

Treasurer hours for tax collection/dog licenses at the Town Hall, 380 E. Black Wolf Ave., 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. on:

**THURSDAY, December 20, 2012 and
THURSDAY, January 24, 2013.**

DOG LICENSING:

Town Ordinance allows three (3) dogs/ residence -

Pursuant to Section 174.052, Wisconsin Statutes, all dogs five (5) months or older must have a dog license and proof of vaccination against rabies. State law requires vaccination against rabies by a veterinarian within 30 days after a dog reaches five (5) months of age, and re-vaccinated within one (1) year. Older vaccinated dogs must be re-vaccinated when the certificate expires or within three (3) years of the previous vaccination.

Please make sure your dog has a rabies vaccination that is up-to-date prior to mailing or bringing in your payment.

Licenses cannot be processed without proof of current rabies vaccination along with a self-addressed, stamped business/large size envelope.

Fees: Neutered Male/Spayed Female \$3.00
Unneutered or Unspayed \$8.00

To obtain your dog license follow the same procedures listed above for tax payments. **A separate check is not necessary. Taxes and dog license fees may be included on one check.**



TOWN BURNING POLICY ... Bonfires and burning rubbish

Black Wolf does not have an ordinance which prevents burning, however, please respect your neighbors. Observe good safety practices, and be especially careful to burn only during calm periods of the day or early evening. Never leave any fires unattended! Contact the Van Dyne Volunteer Fire Dept. and the Oshkosh Fire Dept. if you are planning a large burn in the event they receive fire calls.



Raddatz Farm on Nekimi Avenue



"Autumn begins with a subtle change in the light, with skies a deeper blue, and nights that become suddenly clear and chilled. The season comes full with the first frost, the disappearance of migrant birds, and the harvesting of the season's last crops."



Town of Black Wolf

380 E. Black Wolf Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902

Phone: (920) 688-1404

FAX (920) 688-1405

E-mail: tbw@northnet.net Website: townofblackwolf.com

Town Chairman: Frank Frassetto

Supervisor I: Mike Pollack

Supervisor II: Robert Keller

Treasurer: John McDermott

Town Clerk: Ellen Chmielewski

Deputy Clerk / Office Assistant: Mona Schultz

Constable: Chris Martell

Zoning Administrator: Tom Verstegen

Building Inspector: Dave Frank

Assessor: Bowmar Appraisal, John Bodouski

Town Hall Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 12 noon – 5:00 p.m.

Use the drop box by the front door when the office is closed.

Please note: Phone calls should be directed to the Town Hall, unless it's an emergency. Messages will be taken and forwarded to the proper individual or department, thus eliminating the need to contact town officials at their homes.

Zoning Administrator, Tom Verstegen, Office Hours

Mondays & Tuesdays 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Zoning permits and information may be obtained by contacting Tom at the Town Hall on Monday or Tuesday evenings, (920) 688-1404, or his cell phone (920) **379-3081**. Appointments can be made to meet with him at other times.

Building Inspector, Dave Frank

Building permit questions? Call Dave at home (920) **233-1999** to schedule an appointment to meet with him.

Assessor: John Bodouski with Bowmar Appraisal, Inc. Appleton, WI (920) 733-5369

MEETING SCHEDULES – Town Hall

Special circumstances sometimes require the need to change meeting dates and/or times. Postings are updated on a regular basis. Check the website, townofblackwolf.com, or the posting boxes at the following locations:

Town Hall Lakeshore Mart Lakeside Superette and
Ripple Rd across from Oshkosh Country Club

Town Board Meetings

7:00 p.m. – 2nd Monday of each month.

Town residents are always welcome!

Planning & Zoning Committee Meetings

6:30 p.m. – 1st Tuesday of each month.

Storm Water Utility District Meetings

6:00 p.m. – 3rd Monday bi-monthly

Plan Commission Meetings: Meet as needed