



TOWN OF BLACK WOLF 2013 SPRING Newsletter

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

Newsletters are published twice a year, Spring and Fall.

Please keep this issue for reference. Check our website for additional information and past Newsletters.

CHANGES TO CLERK AND TREASURER POSITIONS:

At the Town's Annual Meeting last April, the electors passed a resolution directing the Town to begin having an *appointed* Clerk and Treasurer, rather than *elected*. These positions begin on the third week in April, 2013 when all elected town officials' terms began. The new Town Clerk is Kim Hopkins; the new Office Manager is Susan Cummins; and John McDermott will continue as appointed Town Treasurer.

Congratulations to Frank Frassetto, Michael Pollack and Robert Keller on their re-election as Chairman, Supervisor I and Supervisor II, respectively.

As the April 2nd Spring Election ended up in a tie vote for Town Constable, a drawing was held at the April 8th Town Board meeting to determine the winner of the Constable position, a 2-year term. **Congratulations to Leo Lefeber!** Contact Leo @ (920) 410-2400.

A few words from the former Constable,

Well, it's been a good run. The citizens of the Town have elected a new Constable. It has been a pleasure (and a challenge) serving as Constable for the past 20 years. Wow, 20 years! That's longer than my youngest child has been around. When I moved back into the Town in 1993, it was my Dad who encouraged me to take over for my brother who was moving forward with his life. I decided to take the job and was appointed to the position by then Chairman Jerry Kies in August of 1993. In 1995, I ran for the first time as an elected official in the Town of Black Wolf. In my time as Constable, I have responded to dozens (or maybe even hundreds) of calls about strays, barking dogs, sick raccoons, squirrels in attics and even horses and cattle running loose, took calls from the Sheriff's Department at 3:00AM, citizens at 3:00PM on vacation and pretty much everything in between. I've had meals interrupted and dates cancelled and missed some of my children's activities to address this or that. I have written ordinance updates, argued for changes, made other changes and have always kept the interests of the Town in mind. From the change in the Town Zoning to allow three dogs in All Zoning Districts to changing the place to take strays to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society, the changes haven't always been easy, but they really are for the good of the Town. I wish the new Constable well and good luck in his service to the Town

It's been interesting to say the least, but I have enjoyed working for the people of the Town of Black Wolf over these past 20 years. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community for such a long period of time. **Chris Martell**

A few words from the former Office Clerk,

I was retired until 2007 when I was hired to work with Town Clerk Ellen in the office. I've enjoyed this position immensely, but feel it's time to hand the reins over to a new person. This year marks my 47th year of living in the Town of Black Wolf, and I'll use the extra time I'm gaining to keep up my home and yard until they drag me out. **Mona Schultz**

A few more words, from the Town Clerk: Working for the town over the past 12 years as the Clerk and Office Manager has provided great insight into the workings of our township, as well as the opportunity to meet and work with its fine citizens. This has been a truly worthwhile experience. A big thanks to Mona Schultz, whose town knowledge and office skills have kept things running smoothly for the last few years, and to the Town Board for its ongoing guidance and support. Many changes have been made since my coming aboard which have kept the town growing in the right direction. **Ellen Chmielewski**



GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

Remember that all garbage/recyclables must be **IN THE CARTS**. Do not place any items/bags, etc. next to them as they will only pick up what is in the cart (lid closed). If you need an extra cart, you may set up extra service with Advanced Disposal (formerly Veolia) (800-688-4285) for a monthly fee. With the new automated trucks, carts should be facing the road, and at least 3 feet apart from each other. Contact the office if you are in need of carts. Recycling calendars and other information are available at the Town Hall..



OPEN BOOK

The Open Book is expected to be held in June, according to our Assessor John Bodouski with Bowmar Appraisals. This is the time to meet with the Assessor about the upcoming assessment on your tax bill. Questions on your assessment? Contact Bowmar Appraisals at (920) 733-5369.

BOARD OF REVIEW: The Board of Review is usually held about two weeks after the Open Book. Residents who object to their assessment have to make a written objection to the Clerk at least 48 hours in advance to appeal to the Board of Review.

Black Wolf Bridge Replacement

The Black Wolf Avenue Bridge is now scheduled to be replaced in the spring/summer of 2014. It takes two to three years to get the process from first funding application to construction, but the benefit is expected to be 75 plus years. For those engineers in the Town, here is the original; Project and Scope Information previously given to potential design firms:

Road Name: Black Wolf Avenue
Bridge ID: P-70-0911
Location: Willow Harbor Creek
County: Winnebago
Facility Owner and Project Sponsor: Town of Black Wolf

The existing structure is a single span steel and pre-stressed concrete girder bridge with a bituminous deck overlay. There are cracks and delaminations in the abutments, delamination of the concrete deck over the entire length and heavy cracking and delamination of the wing walls. The bridge is 30.5 wide 26 feet long and was originally constructed in 1920 and widened in 1960. The sufficiency rating is 46.9 with a structural evaluation rating of 2 which means the structure is functionally obsolete. The structure has an inventory rating of HS05 and an operating rating of HS12. There are no sidewalks and the structure is not part of a regional bicycle/pedestrian system.

The proposed improvement will be to replace the existing structure with a single span structure that is 26 feet by 30.5 feet. The asphalt approaches will extend 250 LF to the west and 250 LF to the east of the new structure. Improvement is to be designed and constructed to WDOT standards. There will be some minor right of way acquisitions which will include some strip takings and temporary easements to accommodate construction. The roadway will be closed during construction. As usual these specifics have changed during the actual design stages. The design has included sufficient width for current and future bicycle traffic. The latest informational meeting was held recently. Current plans and specifics can be viewed at the Town Hall. We look forward to a much improved traffic management and safe condition.

Road and Weather Report

We have enjoyed yet another winter in the Midwest. Snowmobilers and skiers will attest to that. The rest of us are just glad to arrive at our destinations. Our plow trucks were kept busy and at times we had to solicit larger Winnebago County equipment. We were not fortunate enough to have "corn row" snow fencing to alleviate some of the drifting. I will be investigating

locations for manually installed snow fencing for next year as the drifting is quite an issue.

The opportunity will now turn to water or storm water drainage management. The town board directly manages the road right of way opportunities, while the Storm Water Utility District manages storm water issues across private lands, including the Rail Road lands. Please report any concerns to the Town Hall for action regardless of its location or origination.

The annual road inspection will be conducted in April. It is at that time that the Board designates summer road maintenance plans. We take citizen notice of any specific defect or condition in need of attention at any time and respond as time and resources permit. I perceive the town citizens as the final quality control inspectors as well as end users.

Black Wolf Sanitary District

We would like to thank the Town of Black Wolf Sanitary District users for their cooperation in not flushing disposable rags and wipes. Since we asked you not to flush these items in last fall's newsletter, we have not had any issues with these products in our system. This has saved the district and its users nearly \$2000.00 since that time because we did not need to have our lift stations cleaned this spring and we have not experienced any pump blockages since. Thanks for helping us keep your user's fees low and the system reliable.

I would like to remind residents that if they are planning any road or driveway paving that they should check with the Sanitary District to insure there are no manholes in the area. The district will raise the manholes to the new grade prior to paving at no charge. If manholes are found paved over the district will charge to cut the pavement and raise the manhole. The resident is then responsible to patch the paving around the raised manhole. To have manholes located in your area, please call Scott at 216-6773.

Questions for Sanitary District? Call (920) 233-2901 or Sanitary District Treasurer at (920) 420-1208.



spring...Planting Season

- New gardeners learn by trowel and error
- Spring does not arrive until the ice is out of the compost heap



Firefighters Needed! Been thinking about volunteering?

The Van Dyne Volunteer Fire Department is currently looking for anyone who may be interested in joining the department. This opportunity gives you a chance to serve your community on a volunteer basis. Anyone living in the township of Black Wolf is qualified to join. We offer positions in firefighting, first responders and we also offer a cadet program. The department responds to about 200 calls per year. All of our training is done at the firehouse. Some outside schooling is required. No previous experience is required. Any questions you may contact Chief Mike Becker at 960-3207 or 1st Assistant Chief Dave Babler at 539-4571.

Some changes took place this past year on the department. Doug Seffern stepped down as Chief of the department after serving 35 years in that position. Howard Miller also stepped down as 2nd Assistant Chief after serving 41 years in that position. The department members would like to thank these two gentlemen for their past years of service and also their leadership. Both Doug and Howard will continue to serve on the department. The current officers on the department consist of Chief Mike Becker, 1st Assistant Chief Dave Babler, 2nd Assistant Chief Mike Liner and 3rd Assistant Chief Corey Hintz.

There also were some changes made this past year pertaining to how we respond to certain calls. Winnebago County initiated an automatic mutual aid agreement for all volunteer fire departments. This will allow our department to have more help responding on the initial call rather than requesting for it. The county has also initiated the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) throughout the whole county. This allows our department to preplan on who responds for a large fire incident or a mass casualty incident.

The Van Dyne Volunteer Fire Department is proud to serve the Town of Black Wolf and its residents. We would also like to thank the town for its continued support. If you have any question, feel free to contact them at 688-2293 or email at vdfd@charter.net.

If you are planning a controlled burn on your property, please contact the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department at (920) 236-7300.

PLANNING A PARTY?

Occasionally we are asked about renting out the Town Hall for parties. Currently the town hall is only used for civic and educational functions. The Van Dyne Lions Park is available for rent. Call 688-3372 for more information. Email: rosy0007@charter.net

Do you like to explore information about the "good old days in Winnebago County?" Google:

Winnebago County Ancestral Trackers



Springtime Brings More than Flowers with those Showers

March brings our first taste of Spring with warm southern breezes, rain showers and water everywhere. There are buds on the trees and Spring flowers beginning to make an appearance. But there are also oily sheens in parking lots running off with the melting snow and washing into the storm drains, and the muddy water is flowing down the ditches and gutters. Spring is a good time to stop and ask, "What happens to all that melting snow and rainwater washing across the ground?" Most of it ends up in our lakes and streams, but along the way it goes through a few changes.

Storm Water is more than Just Water

Storm water begins its journey to our lakes and rivers when it washes across the surface of the land. When snow melts and rain falls, water flows across streets, rooftops, lawns and farmland. The flowing water carries sand, salt, fertilizer, leaves, grass clippings, pesticides, oil, trash and many other pollutants. In developed areas, storm drains and ditches carry the large amounts of runoff water to lakes and streams.

Ditches located along our roadways collect the runoff, which flows untreated to nearby streams and lakes. A common misconception is that water running off streets goes into a sewage treatment plant. It does not! The polluted water flows directly into our lakes.

"What Can I Do?" The first step toward keeping our lakes and streams clean is to think about what we do at home. Each of us contributes to storm water pollution and each of us can help stop it. Here are some ways you can help:

- Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street.
- Direct rainwater away from paved areas to lawns or gardens where it can soak in.
- Get a soil test before applying fertilizer to your lawn.
- Don't pay for something you don't need. If you do use fertilizer, apply it according to directions and clean up any spills on paved surfaces.
- Clean up pet waste – bury it or flush it down the toilet.
- Compost your leaves and yard debris.
- Keep cars tuned up and repair leaks, and walk or ride a bike whenever you can.
- Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash that sends its used water to the sewage treatment plant.
- Prevent soil erosion.
- Don't let anything but rain go down the storm drain or ditch.



TOWN OF BLACK WOLF

380 E. Black Wolf Ave.
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902

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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

Clerk: Kim Hopkins

Constable: Leo Lefebber

Office Manager: Susan Cummins

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 located 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. Thanks!

Zoning Administrator, Tom Verstegen, Town Hall Office Hours

Mondays & Tuesdays 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall
Zoning permits and information may be obtained by contacting Tom at the Town Hall on Monday or Tuesday evenings (688-1404) or calling his cell phone (920) 379-3081. Appointments can be made to meet with him at other times

Building Inspector, Dave Frank

Building permits and questions are answered by calling Dave directly at (920) 233-1999.

Assessor:

Bowmar Appraisal, Inc. John Bodouski (920) 733-5369
3005 W. Brewster, Appleton, WI 54914

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 or posting boxes located at the following locations:

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

Town Board Meetings

7:00 p.m. – 2nd Monday of each month.

Planning & Zoning Committee Meetings

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

Stormwater Utility District

6:00 p.m. – 3rd Monday- bi-monthly meetings