

The Town of Black Wolf

Spring Newsletter

April 24, 2014



A Few Words from your Town Chairman, Frank Frassetto

Burning of Yard Waste

Now that spring is finally upon us, we're now engaging in the obligatory chores that come with a nice lawn. One item is burning off the winter kill. As many residents already know, the Town of Black Wolf does not ban the burning of yard waste. However, for those of you who choose to burn please keep in mind safety and common courtesy. First and foremost, do not leave your burn piles unattended and keep the burn area clear of debris that may catch fire unexpectedly. Next, always check the weather for non-windy days so as not to disturb your neighbors' air quality. As a helpful hint (in order to reduce the amount of burning in the town), consider using any waste in your gardens as mulch. A combination of ash and slightly decomposed yard waste is a good way to help produce a bountiful harvest, to keep weeds at bay and to reduce backaches!

Recreational Opportunities

In the Town of Black Wolf, there are ten "lake access" points. Two of these are functioning motorized boat launches, two are roads that end,

literally at the water's edge, two appear to be yards, one is a hybrid (terrace) and three are hard, if not impossible, to find. These access points are often referred to as *fire lanes* yet the Van Dyne Fire Department said, "...we've never used them in 35 plus years", according to the just retired fire chief.

So, in the interest of putting some of these access points to use, we're exploring some options in the northern most section of the town to float the concept of a "passive park." The proposed property for this recreation spot is at the intersection of Ripple Road and Hwy 45 bordering the channel. As envisioned, a passive park would consist of green space, picnic table(s), a multi-use handicapped accessible dock to launch canoes and kayaks, an offshore fishing area and basically a place to rest. While this area is ideal for a small passive park, other lake access points may be suited for other types of water-based recreational development. But that's for another day.

To date, there has been support and encouragement to at least proceed in conversations with the DNR, local residents, engineering firms and the like to gauge continued interest and solicit ideas. Although the board has budgeted, and the town electors have passed budgets, that include money set aside for recreational uses, we have not spent any dollars during the preliminary research efforts on this project thus far.

Please feel free to weigh in and offer any suggestions you may have on this subject. More information will be presented and available at the May monthly Town Board meeting.

Valuable Info from Rob Keller, Supervisor II

Black Wolf Avenue, Willow Harbor Creek Bridge

The Bridge ¾ miles east of County Road R on Black Wolf Avenue will be replaced this summer of 2014. The exact start date has not been determined as of this writing. The demolition and construction of the new bridge is expected to take from 40 days to longer depending on weather and other unforeseen delays. The road will be closed during this period. Please plan extra time and alternate routes.

Concerns Regarding Trash Dumping and Highway Damage

The Town of Black Wolf has been experiencing trash dumping in some of our road ditches. Also there has been what appears to be intentional driving through road ditches while ground is soft. This not only creates ruts which impedes the natural drainage but causes an unpleasant appearance. Our Railroad curb and dividing markers are getting hit and damaged more than what is reasonably expected. All occurrences create unnecessary restoration and repair costs to our Town of Black Wolf taxpayers.

Anyone who has any information which can help identify someone intentionally participating in such damage is requested to notify the Winnebago County Sheriff's office or the Black Wolf Town hall personnel as soon as possible. As a tax payer of this town, I would certainly appreciate such effort.

ELECTION NEWS

THANK YOU FOR VOTING!

The Town of Black Wolf had a 553 voter turnout for the April 1st elections which is inspiring, to say the least. We would like to personally thank all voters and welcome all of you to please join us again August 12, 2014 for the Fall Partisan Primary.

The Fall Primary includes the Governor, Lt. Governor, Congress and Senate to name a few. If you were unable to attend the April election, we welcome and look forward to seeing you in August.

Should you need to register to vote, please visit www.myvote.wi.gov where you can conveniently register, update your voter record and/or request an absentee ballot! Sneak peeks of the sample ballot will also be located on the website shortly before the Fall Primary so mark your calendar! We hope to have a record turnout for the Town of Black Wolf and can only do this with your continued support and involvement in our Governmental processes.

1st Annual Farmers Market VENDORS WANTED!!!!

The Town of Black Wolf is holding a Farmers Market where vendors can display and sell homegrown or homemade items. The event will be held on Tuesday's from 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. beginning June 3rd through October 21st in the Town Hall parking lot. There will be **no charge for vendor booth space**. Applications can be picked up at the Town Hall or found on-line at www.townofblackwolf.com. For more information contact Kim or Susan at (920) 688-1404.

A Word from the Town Constable

Leo Lefeber reminds us of the importance to license dog(s) and have all pets vaccinated for rabies. Wild animals such as coyotes have had a tough winter and are looking for easy meals. Coyotes have and will take dogs and cats from your yard any time it looks easy. It is strongly encouraged to attach your pet's tags to the collar. (name and phone #). When a

pet goes missing the first thing people say is “my dog never did that before”.

All people love their pets, and all pets love their owners, but it's your responsibility to take care of them. **Please do not attempt to capture any stray animals.** It is important to understand that if a person is bitten and the dog has no identification and the owner cannot be immediately located, a rabies decision must be made. We know there are many dogs that are not licensed in our Township. As complaints come in we are forced to act. Do not call the Sheriff's department unless there has been a bite or other threatening behavior. Leave the animal loose and call **Leo Lefeber at (920) 410-2400** or the Town Hall at (920) 688-1404. Attempting to capture stray animals is very dangerous and should be avoided.

**Don't Miss the Van Dyne
Fire Department
85th Anniversary Open House**
The Open House celebration is tentatively scheduled for early afternoon on Sunday, October 19, 2014 at the Fire Department. Bring the entire family and check out the ambulance service, medical helicopter, gear and equipment displays, history of the department and more!

SPRING TIME IS CRIME TIME!

With the warmer weather also brings an increase in property crimes committed throughout Winnebago County. Property crimes have been the most reported incidents that have been victimizing our residents over the summer months. Of those property crimes, thefts, burglaries, and damage to property have been the most common. Some interesting facts from the property crimes that were reported:

- A majority of the theft complaints were vehicles being entered either in parking lots or driveways.
- In the burglaries and thefts, almost half reported no force being used to gain entry.
- Most of the items taken from these incidents are those that can be easily removed, i.e. i-pods, cell phones, money, electronics, etc...

Common sense is our best defense and by following a few simple precautions it can help prevent anyone of these crimes from occurring. Remember to always:

- Lock the doors and roll up the window tightly even when running a quick errand
- Keep your purse, cell phone, and other valuables out of sight. Lock them in the trunk or take them with you.
- Do NOT leave personal identification or credit cards in your vehicle
- Mark expensive accessories with your driver's license number
- Never leave your keys in an unattended vehicle
- Park in a well-lit area with pedestrian traffic
- If you have a garage, use it. Lock both the vehicles and the garage
- Be sure to remove automatic garage door openers from the car

By: The Honorable Sheriff John Matz, Sheriff of Winnebago County



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 contact the Town Hall for the container, of which there is a fee, depending on size. Advanced Disposal (800-688-4285) must then be contacted to set up extra service for a small monthly fee. With the new automated trucks, carts should be facing the road, and **at least 3 feet apart from each other.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

OPEN BOOK

May 8, 2014 from 12:00p.m. to 2:00p.m.

John Bodouski with Bowmar Appraisals will be at the Town Hall to meet with you to discuss any questions or concerns you may have regarding the current assessment on your property.

BOARD OF REVIEW

May 22, 2014 from 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m.

The Board of Review follows the Open Book and is for residents who object to their assessment. Residents are required to make a written objection to the Clerk at least 48 hours in advance to appeal to the Board of Review which will take place on May 22nd. You are welcome to contact the Town Clerk with any questions on this matter.



Safety First!

Spring is here, and with the better weather comes walkers, and bikers (motor propelled and people propelled). Please remember to walk against the traffic, and ride with the traffic so that cars are able to see you and pass safely.

Home and Yard

By Charles E. Nahn III, P.E.

Nahn and Associates, LLC

Rethinking yard care can save time and money. Many sources of urban water pollution originate right at home. Excessively or improperly applied fertilizers and pesticides can wash into storm water ditches. These chemicals then travel to lakes and streams. Clearly, there is a need to rethink what we're doing at home if urban waters are to be clean and usable.

For some, yard care can be a very rewarding pastime; for others, it is merely a chore necessary to protect the investment in a property's appearance. Regardless of motivation, most homeowners rely, at

one time or another, on lawn and garden pesticides and fertilizers. Unfortunately, routine use of these chemicals threatens to open a Pandora's Box of unintended environmental consequences. Following some common-sense guidelines, however, will bring about healthy lawns and gardens and minimize environmental problems.

Fertilizers: Excessively or improperly applied fertilizers and pesticides can wash into storm water ditches. These chemicals then travel to lakes and streams. Clearly, there is a need to rethink what we're doing at home if urban waters are to be clean and usable.

- Healthy lawns, trees and shrubs add to the beauty and value of a home. They also keep our lakes and streams clean by allowing rainwater to filter into the soil rather than running into ditches. Maintaining healthy lawns and landscape plants, however, often requires the use of fertilizers and improper fertilizer use can cause water pollution.
- Fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings contain nitrogen and phosphorus. When these nutrients wash into lakes and streams they promote unsightly algae blooms and lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water.
- Fertilizer carelessly applied on one lawn can be a waste of the homeowner's money. On hundreds or thousands of lawns, careless over-application creates problems for local streams and lakes.
- The label on a fertilizer bag has three numbers indicating the percentage (by weight) of the three nutrients most essential to healthy lawns. Nitrogen (N) is always listed first, followed by phosphate (P₂O₅), which supplies phosphorus, and potash (K₂O), which supplies potassium. Therefore, a 25 lb. bag of 25-4-5 fertilizer contains 25% (6.25 lbs.) nitrogen, 4% (1 lb.) phosphate, and 5% (1.24 lbs.) potash. The remainder is made of ingredients such as sand or ground limestone.
- Never use fertilizer unless a soil test shows you need one. Keep in mind that soil needs for your garden will likely vary from your turf's needs. Fertilizing when your lawn doesn't need it is a waste of your money.

- On heavy (clay) or compacted soils, fast release fertilizers are better than slow-release fertilizers. The longer a fertilizer granule remains undissolved, the greater the chances of it being washed into waterways. On sandy soils, however, nitrogen can leach through the soil into the groundwater. On these soils, slow release nitrogen is preferred. Slow release nitrogen sources provide soluble nitrogen over a period of time so there is not a large concentration of nitrogen available for leaching.
- Fertilize in the autumn, never in spring. Spring applications can actually harm lawns by promoting more top (leaf) growth than root growth. Shallow root systems are unable to sustain lawns through a drought or a harsh winter. Fall fertilizer applications, however, promote deep, healthy root systems and hardy lawns.
- Fall fertilizer applications should be made when the average daily temperature drops to 50°F.
- When careless fertilization is followed by routine removal of grass clippings (a natural source of nitrogen) further fertilization is required. The cycle of fertilizing, rapid growth, more cutting and bagging, more fertilizing, etc. gets to be time consuming and costly. It also increases the chance that fertilizer will be washed off to lakes and streams.
- Test the soil. Before planting a garden or fertilizing your lawn, have the soil tested. A soil test takes the guesswork out of fertilization.
- Fertilize lawns in the fall. Fall fertilization promotes healthy lawns with deep roots.
- Healthy trees and shrubs do not require an annual fertilizer application. Over fertilized shrubs, in fact, will produce more growth and require more pruning.
- Sweep all fertilizers, soil, and vegetation off paved surfaces.
- Fertilizers, soil particles, grass clippings and leaves contain nitrogen and phosphorus, which can cause nuisance algae growth if washed through storm water ditches into nearby water-ways. In addition, decomposing leaves and grass clippings can rob streams and lakes of oxygen.

- Contact your county UW-Extension office. Soil testing information and fertilizer recommendations for lawns and gardens, and suggestions for selecting the right plants, are available at your county UW-Extension office.

Pesticides: Pesticides and fertilizers should not be mixed.

- Using weed killers at the wrong time of year or spraying with insecticides "just to be on the safe side" is wasteful and environmentally damaging.
- Because yard care chemicals are readily available and easy to apply, there is a danger that their result is underestimated, especially if previous use resulted in no adverse incident. Although it's tempting to skip the instructions and just "get the job done," pesticide application is not the time to overlook something so important. The suffix "-icide" means "to kill." Insecticides kill insects, herbicides kill plants and fungicides kill fungus species. While greater success is realized every year developing chemical and application methods that are more target-specific, the fact remains that pesticides sometimes kill living things other than their targets.
- Limit the use of toxic or hazardous products in general. Keep them away from storm water ditches, lakes, and streams.

In closing, please read.....

Since we don't have a **fireworks or noise ordinance**, we depend on residents to be courteous and considerate of their neighbors when holding events that might include fireworks, shooting guns, loud music, large crowds, etc. Please be aware of your neighbors' who may be dealing with an illness or other serious problems that you are not aware of, and how your noise would impact their rights. Ending events at a reasonable time in the evening shows you respect the fact that others might have a need for quiet for a variety of reasons



TOWN OF BLACK WOLF

380 E. Black Wolf Ave.
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902

PRESORT
STANDARD
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OSHKOSH WI
PERMIT NO. 90



Town of Black Wolf 380 E. Black Wolf Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902

Phone: (920) 688-1404

E-mail: info@townofblackwolf.com

Website: townofblackwolf.com

Town Chairman: Frank Frassetto

Supervisor I: Mike Pollack

Supervisor II: Robert Keller

Treasurer: John McDermott

Clerk: Kim Hopkins

Constable: Leo Lefeber

Office Manager/Deputy Clerk & Treasurer: Susan Snyder

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 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 (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 Monday of each month.

Stormwater Utility District

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