

Winfield News

This newsletter is being sent to all Town of Winfield residents and residential property owners. It contains recycling information and the latest in town news.

December 2009

Recycling Update

Peterson Sanitation, Inc. (a division of Town and Country Sanitation, Inc. of Boscobel) will continue to provide recycling and garbage pick up in 2010. The cost to you will be \$125 per year which will be added to your tax bill. This is about a 9 percent increase due to a provision in the state's budget which increased the landfill surcharges. Garbage pick up will continue every Tuesday. Recyclables will be picked up every other Tuesday. Garbage should be put in plastic bags and sealed. Recyclables should be put in the plastic bins provided by the company. Please see the flyer with instructions at the end of this newsletter.

Please note that if a holiday falls on Monday or Tuesday, our pick up day will be Wednesday. In 2010, these holidays included Memorial Day on May 31 and Labor Day on September 6.

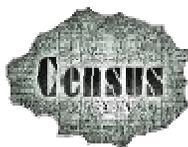
If you need to contact the company, please call 608-524-6603.



2010 Census

Every decade since 1790, the U.S. Census Bureau has conducted a census to determine the number of people living in the US. In March, each household in the town will receive a short census form to complete. Please complete the confidential form and return promptly. If you do not return the form, a census worker may come to your home. By returning the form promptly, you will help reduce the overall cost of the census.

Census data is used for many purposes, including: determining the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives, determining legislative districts, and determining the amount of federal funding given to Wisconsin.



Letter from the Chairman

As we drive around this state or others in this region, I am sure most of you will agree that the Town of Winfield is one of the most beautiful areas. Our number one budgetary priority has been and will continue to be road safety. As residents and motorists, you pay to get the best possible roads that our annual budget will allow. Costs for road construction and maintenance repairs have gone up every year, and starting next year those costs will jump again due the present leadership in Wisconsin government. However, the town board will continue to focus budget money on making our roads safe for everyone to travel. It was suggested at a town meeting that more brushing along roads be done in the future; the board agrees and will allocate more funds to clear the worst of the ditches. Every two years, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has us evaluate our town roads. According to their grading system, we average 6 on a scale of 1 to 10.

For more than a year the town board has discussed motorist safety by drafting and then adopting an ordinance to limit encroachments in our road right of ways. Even though the majority of residents we visited agreed to make safer roadside changes, the town officials believed it was in the best financial interest of all the citizens to rescind that ordinance in an effort to save costly lawyer and court fees pursued by some. The issue of encroachment safety still exists, but will have to be approached from a different perspective; any ideas are welcome at the monthly town meetings.

In July, work began on replacing our town hall roof only to find out the huge old chimney was deteriorated and leaking water into the building. The decision was made to remove the chimney and roof over it. With no chimney, the old oil furnace needed to be replaced with a high efficient LP gas model. Minor improvements were also made to the hall entrance to have a handicap accessible polling place. Plans are to have the entire building repainted next year.

As this year draws to a close and the new year begins, let us all be thankful for the many individuals who give, or have given, of their time, talents, and in some cases even their lives, to make our democratic way of life possible. Please, respect your neighbors and communicate with each other in an honest manner to promote a higher quality way of life here in our naturally scenic town.

Paul G. Rasmussen
Winfield Town Board Chairman

Encroachment in Right of Way Ordinance

For more than a year, the town board identified encroachments in the road right of ways throughout the town. The right of way is 33' from the center line of the road. These encroachments mainly included mail box structures, pillars, decorative items, retaining walls, and trees. Town board members visited with property owners over the summer and explained the safety issues involved with the identified encroachments. The town board wishes to thank the residents (59%) who have already replaced, removed, or modified their potentially dangerous items in the road right of ways.

Public Input Wanted: The town board adopted an ordinance in April, but repealed it in September. The town board plans to start making revisions to the ordinance in January with more input from town residents. If you are interested in working with the town board to revise the ordinance, please inform the town board chairman of your interest.



Construction Under Electric Transmission Lines

The American Transmission Company is the transmission-only utility that maintains the electric transmission system in much of Wisconsin. The company closely monitors the right of ways to ensure public safety and the reliability of the system.

State regulations restrict building encroachments that compromise public safety or the reliability of the electric system. No dwelling may be constructed near or under transmission lines. If you are planning to build in the area of a transmission line, please inform Jim Pelton (as stated in another section of this newsletter) and the American Transmission Company real estate representative at 866-899-3204.

The company also has vegetation management practices which remove all trees and brush beneath the transmission lines and on each side of the lines.

In the Town of Winfield, the transmission lines are located along County Road H. The Zobel substation is located on County Road H close to North Dewey Avenue.



Land Use and Wetlands

Wetlands are defined as areas where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting water-loving vegetation, and having soils indicative of wet conditions. Most wetland may be found along the town's rivers and streams, but many wetlands are also isolated from rivers and streams. Some of our wetlands may hold water for only a few weeks each year. Wetlands can help reduce flooding and provide wildlife habitat. Wetlands slow down and filter runoff from storms and snowmelt, sediment, and other pollutants before reaching our rivers, streams, and water aquifers.

Wetlands also absorb and transform nutrients and contaminants.

Even though most of the town's wetlands are located on private land, the state/county/town has the authority to restrict wetland development activities. Wetland permits are required for any fill or construction activity.

Wanted: Mowing Bids

The Town of Winfield hires someone to mow the grass along the town roads. If you are interested in doing this, please submit your bid to the town chairman for consideration. The town owns the mower. Your bid should include the cost of your tractor, gas, and labor. We usually have the grass mowed twice each summer. We have approximately 42 miles of roadway. In the past, it has taken about 33 hours to mow all the road sides. A certificate of liability insurance is required. Contact the town chairman or supervisors for details.

Wanted: Road Brushing Bids

The town will be doing more brushing along roads in 2010. If you are interested in doing this, please contact the town chairman or supervisors for details.

Line Fences

Chapter 90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes explains the rules applied to line fences between adjoining lands when used or occupied for farming or grazing purposes. The rule for line fences notes that a land owner stands on their property facing the neighbors and the half portion to the right is that land owner's responsibility.



Town Web Site

The Town of Winfield has a web site! The web site is a work in progress at this time. If you have pictures of our beautiful town and would like to see them on the web site, please contact the town clerk. We are looking for digital pictures to include on the home page.

The web site includes town meeting minutes, agendas, and contact information at this time. We have plans to add the ordinances, recycling information, budget information, and our newsletters. If you have other items you would like to see on the web site, please contact the town clerk.

Address: www.townofwinfieldwi.com.

Recycling Electronics

In January 2010, a new law will require manufacturers to collect and recycle electronics, including computers, video display devices, TVs, and printers, from households. The law will also include a ban on landfill disposal of certain electronics beginning September 1, 2010.

Computers, computer accessories, TVs, cell phones, and other electronics contain harmful materials. When landfilled, these chemicals can leach into the environment where they may affect human and environmental health. It is also important to recycle electronics because of the valuable reusable materials they contain, including plastics, metals, circuit boards, and others. Recycling or reusing these materials reduces environmental impacts and economic costs by reducing the need for virgin materials in new electronics.

In February, the Department of Natural Resources should have collection options available on their web site: [//dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov).

Fire Wardens

The following people serve as fire wardens for the town and may issue burning permits:

- Randy Winchel, S2348 County Road V, Reedsburg
- Donald Lichte, 131 South Park Street, Reedsburg
- Lynn Peterson, Reedsburg Police Department, 200 South Park Street, Reedsburg

Uniform Dwelling Code Inspector

The town board contracts with the State of Wisconsin to provide a Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) inspector to inspect all new homes built in the town. Last year, the state assigned General Engineering Company of Portage to provide this service. This year, a state employee will be doing the inspections. Before you build a new home, please contact Jim Pelton for more details.

Plan Commission

The Town of Winfield Plan Commission was organized as a result of the town's comprehensive plan that was developed with Sauk County Planning and Zoning. It consists of five town residents appointed for staggered terms by the town chairman. Currently, they meet prior to the monthly town meetings to give preliminary approval to various land use issues, such as driveway permits, certified survey maps, and development proposals. Current members include Chairman Brad Schyvinck, Secretary Judy Bass, Harley Judd, Dave Retzlaff, and Town Board Supervisor Pauline Brown.

Snow Plowing

The town board will continue to contract with the Sauk County Highway Department to plow the town roads.

Ambulance Service

The Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service started in 1973 with several ambulance attendants. Since that time, they have grown from one ambulance to three, have built a new ambulance garage, and have upgraded services from ambulance attendants to emergency medical technician intermediate technicians. Intermediate technicians are the middle level of emergency care in the emergency medical services system. They can start IVs and administer a limited amount of medications. They can deliver medications for low blood sugar, a narcotic overdose, asthma attacks, allergic reactions, and chest pain.

The Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service has always been committed to giving the best service to the community as possible. In 2005, the service moved from an EMT-basic service to an intermediate technician service. Since that time, the EMTs have continued to advance their training, such as the addition of the 12 lead EKG to monitor a patient's heart.

The Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service is again looking at upgrading its service to the paramedic level. This is the highest level of prehospital care. Paramedics can administer over 40 medications, including medications for the heart, seizures, blood pressure, breathing problems, pain control, nausea, and vomiting. Paramedics can do additional procedures, including reading heart rhythms and placing a tube in someone's airway to breath for them. Paramedics are also certified in advanced cardiac life support.

To move to this service, there will be a rate increase. The Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service currently charges \$3 per resident in each municipality they service. Under the proposal, the cost would be \$10 per resident. The Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service would hire 3 fulltime paramedics and a full time director. The paramedics would respond in a separate vehicle either with or before the ambulance. If the paramedics weren't needed for the call, they would be available for the next call. If they were

needed, they would stay with the patient until arrival at the hospital.

If the Reedsburg Area Ambulance Service board accepts this proposal, the proposed implementation date is 1/1/11. The ambulance board will be voting on the proposal at their regular monthly meeting on 1/12/10. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact the town board chairman, town board supervisors, or Ambulance Chief Phil Raupp.

Election Dates

2/16/10 – Spring Primary
4/6/10 – Spring Election
9/14/10 – Partisan Primary
11/2/10 – General Election

Polling Place

The polling place is the Winfield Town Hall at the intersection of County Roads K and F just north of Reedsburg.

Poll Hours

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voter Registration Required

Voters are required to register before voting. Voter registration forms are available at the polling place on election day. Your Wisconsin driver's license is needed to register. Registration is required again if you change your name or address. And, if you do not vote at least once in a four year period, you need to register again.

Town Board Meetings

The town board meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the town hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mail Box Structures

Mail boxes and their structures must accommodate the owner and the mail courier, along with considering the safety of residents if they hit a mail box structure with their vehicle. The ideal mail box structure will easily break off if hit, posing little harm to the vehicle or its occupants. The DOT considers the following hazardous obstacles: masonry installations, large receptacles filled with sand or concrete, metal posts larger than 1.5 inches inside diameter, wood posts larger than 4 inches, old plows and wagon wheels, and more than two boxes mounted on a single support or installed too close together.

The postal service requires that the bottom of the box be 42-48 inches above ground level. The following are recommended standards for supports which ensure that they will break away on impact: pipes should be 1.5 inches inside diameter or less, square wood posts should not be larger than 4x4 inches and round wood posts should not be larger than 4 inches in diameter, metal posts should not weigh more than 2 pounds per foot, and imbed supports no more than 24 inches into the ground and do not imbed them in concrete.



Town of Winfield Officials

Chairman Paul Rasmussen.....	608-524-1474
Supervisor I Linda Schommer.....	608-524-4549
Supervisor II Pauline Brown.....	608-524-6007
Treasurer Robin Craker.....	608-524-6261
Clerk Teresa Bass.....	608-524-6654
Assessor Ian Holloway.....	608-374-4207
Building Inspector Jim Pelton.....	608-524-4463
UDC Inspector: Wisconsin Department of Commerce...	608-789-5656

e-mail: udctech@wi.gov

Town Web Site: www.townofwinfieldwi.com

Building Permit Information

New House

- Inform Jim Pelton.
- If in extraterritorial area, contact City of Reedsburg for **zoning** permit.
- If building a new driveway, see below*.
- Contact Sauk County Planning and Zoning for Land Use Permit, Sanitary Permit, and any other permits required by county.
- Contact UDC (Uniform Dwelling Code) Inspector at the Wisconsin Department of Commerce for building permit.

New Agricultural Building – for all of the Town of Winfield: Contact Jim Pelton for building permit.

Accessory Building With House on Parcel

Description: Any building, including garage, carport, shed, storage building, children's playhouse, garden house, private greenhouse, patio, signs, fences (not required for farming purposes), etc.

- Inform Jim Pelton.
- If in extraterritorial area, contact City of Reedsburg for **zoning** permit.
- If building a new driveway, see below*.
- Contact Sauk County Planning and Zoning for Land Use Permit and any other permits required by county. If in extraterritorial area, only contact Sauk County if the parcel is in a flood zone or shoreland area.

Accessory Building With No House on Parcel

Description: Any building.

- Inform Jim Pelton.
- If in extraterritorial area, contact City of Reedsburg for **zoning** permit.
- If building a new driveway, see below*.
- Contact Sauk County Planning and Zoning to get Sauk County Affidavit form.
- Contact Teresa Bass and ask to be on town's Plan Commission Meeting and Town Board meeting for approval.
- Contact Sauk County Planning and Zoning for Land Use Permit and any other permits required by county. If in extraterritorial area, only contact Sauk County if the parcel is in a flood zone or shoreland area.

Driveways

- On town roads: Contact Teresa Bass. Ask to be on agenda for town's Plan Commission meeting and Town Board meeting for approval.
- On county roads: Contact Sauk County Highway Department for driveway permit.
- On state road: Contact Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Additions to House

Description: Anything that adds floor space to house.

- Inform Jim Pelton.
- If in extraterritorial area, contact City of Reedsburg for **zoning** permits.
- Contact Sauk County Planning and Zoning for Land Use Permit, Sanitary Permit, and any other permits required by county. If in extraterritorial area, only contact Sauk County if the parcel is in a flood zone or shoreland area.

Extraterritorial Zoning District: Area lying outside the City of Reedsburg, but within 1.5 miles of the city limits. The purpose of this district is to provide for proper zoning and control over said area and allows for the orderly growth and expansion of the city. A zoning permit is required from the City of Reedsburg for everything except agricultural buildings.

Contacts:

Jim Pelton, Town of Winfield Building Inspector, S2123 County Road H, Reedsburg, WI 53959, Phone: 608-524-4463

Teresa Bass, Town of Winfield Clerk, E6274 Bass Road, Reedsburg, WI 53959, Phone: 608-524-6654, E-Mail: tbass@rucls.net

Brian Duvalle, City of Reedsburg Planning/Zoning Administrator and Building Inspector, bduvalle@ci.reedsburg.wi.us

Steve Zibell, City of Reedsburg Public Works Director/City Engineer

134 South Locust Street, Reedsburg, WI 53959, Phone: 608-524-6404, Fax: 608-524-8458

Sauk County Planning and Zoning

West Square Building, Room 248, 505 Broadway Street, Baraboo, WI 53913, Phone: 608-355-3285, Fax: 608-355-4440

Sauk County Highway Department, P.O. Box 26, State Highway 136, West Baraboo, WI 53913, Phone: 608-356-3855

UDC Inspector at the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, 608-789-5656, udctech@wi.gov.