

WHEATON TOWN NEWS

SUMMER 2016

WELCOME

Welcome to the Town of Wheaton newsletter for Summer, 2016. There are lots of things happening in our township, from agricultural activities, expansion of existing and new businesses, construction on new residential lots, road improvements, Wheaton Park expansion, operation of a top notch recycling facility, and world class trout stream with improvements.

The township has 83 plus miles of road. Our township has more miles of roads to maintain than most rural townships in the state, and we are 100% paved. With the tight budgets prevalent for so many years now, we are diligently pursuing means and methods of pavement and ditch maintenance to maximize the amount of improvements to the roadways for the available funds. As we all know, the State of Wisconsin has cut the transportation budget, which in turn affects our road aids amount. This didn't go down, but it also is not going up to keep up with inflation.

The good news right now is that the price of oil worldwide is very low, and the cost of asphalt has gone down, temporarily. This affects our crack sealing, chip sealing, patch paving and paving project costs. Also, we applied for, and received a Town Road Improvement – Discretionary fund grant. This is a 50/50 matching grant for the reconstruction of the 30th Ave, - 40th St intersection to upgrade the design from 25 mph to 50 mph state design. Our grant is in the amount of approximately \$335,000. This was one of the top awards from the state in this biennium.

Along with this intersection, we will also be pulverizing and paving 40th St from 20th Ave to HWY 29, widening the paving to 24 feet. Additional work is being planned for 20th St just south of HWY 29, and various improvements in other sections in the township. Please use alternate routes whenever possible and remain very cautious and patient as these road projects are being completed.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Our township maintains a website at www.townofwheaton.com. You can find lots of information about what is going on, including this newsletter, agendas, meeting minutes, etc. We maintain a list of town board and commission members and their contacts. A schedule for meetings and park rentals is also available there. Please visit this site often. As we go through our comprehensive plan and ordinances, these will be put on the site. Our intention is to provide up to date information as quickly as possible. Please remember, we are doing this part time, so if we miss something, please feel free to contact one of us and we will do our best to correct it.

Town Government Members:

Mark Blaskowski, Chair	715-874-4969	Bud Beckwith, Supervisor	715-874-5051
Ken Custer, Supervisor	715-874-6592	Gary De Moe, Supervisor	715-879-5306
Al Solberg, Supervisor	715-874-5798	Mark Christenson, Clerk	715-874-6612
Ruth Fagerland, Treasurer	715-861-3933		

Plan Commission Members

Gary Bodenbug	Bud Beckwith	Tom Piercy	Mike McGinley
Wayne Miller	Alice Droske	Nate Labelle	

Parks Commission Members

Ken Books	Jesse Miller	Jenny Schutte	Chad Kragness
Lynnette Muszynski	Stephanie Hay	Dora Wood	

The Plan Commission term for each member is 3 years, from May 1 to April 30. Appointment to the commission is by the Town Chair, with board approval. Terms are staggered. Two members one year, two members the second year, and three members changed the third year, maintaining a consistency in the commission. If you are interested in an appointment to the Plan Commission, please contact any Town Supervisor or Chair to add your name to the list. Meetings are normally once per month, on the first Tuesday, held at the Wheaton Fire Station meeting room, at 7:00 pm.

The Parks Commission term for each member is 7 years, from July to June. Appointment to the commission is by the Town Chair, with board approval. The terms are staggered each year, with one member's term expiring each year. If you are interested in an appointment to the Parks Commission, please contact any Town Supervisor or Chair to add your name to the list. Seven years is a long commitment. Some members may not be able to stay that long, which means appointments may be more often than once per year. We can use your input.

Ordinances and Comprehensive Plan

The website includes the town ordinances that are in effect, along with the comprehensive plan. The Plan Commission is currently in the process of reviewing all the ordinances to update and coordinate them with County Zoning and our comprehensive plan. New state statutes have redefined zoning requirements, giving more control to the land owners and less to the municipalities. Courts are now required to rule in favor of free land use in the case of any discrepancy in the ordinances. The review will take some time, as a new numbering system to match the county organization will be part of the rewrite. Feel free to review our ordinances and suggest additions, deletions, corrections, or any other changes you may find useful. These should be taken to the Plan Commission for their review, discussion and recommendations.

Town Park

The Wheaton Town Park is located at 38th St and Frontage road, along Highway 29. The ball fields have had several improvements made to them, along with upgrades of the site. This fall will bring along some timbering operations in the south 40 acre parcel, to help in the planned development. Walking trails, a sledding hill, and other improvements will be made in the near future. The Town Board has voted to close the park to hunting beginning this fall when the timbering operations begin. As development continues, we will assess the viability of hunting on the site, with input from all of you who are interested.

3rd Annual Fired Up Day will be held on Saturday, August 13th, beginning at 4:00pm. Come early and stay late. Planned events include fire department equipment display and operation, T-Ball and softball games, food by the 4-H club and beverages by the Wander Inn, and the best fireworks display in the area! Make sure you attend.

Wheaton Fired-Up Day

A Celebration Of Community

Hall Rental

The hall rental rate is \$100 per day, plus a refundable \$50 deposit. You are responsible for the cleanup and removal of garbage after your event. To schedule the rental of the Town Hall, please call Elmer & Mary Eckwright at 715-874-5397.

Dogs

The Wheaton dog catcher is Richard Manthey 715-874-5838. The Town of Wheaton contracts with the Chippewa Humane Association to receive stray dogs from the township. The contract only allows for dogs surrendered by Richard to be accepted.

Dog license fees are as follows:

- Spayed or neutered dogs - \$8.00
- Unspayed or unneutered dogs - \$13.00
- Multiple dogs – for up to 12 tags - \$60.00
- Additional tag for multiple dogs after 12 tags - \$7.00

Proof of current rabies vaccination is required. Proof will be returned to you upon payment. Late fee after April 1 will be \$5.00 for each dog being licensed. Please send check, proof of vaccination and a stamped, self-addressed envelope Send a check payable to:

Ruth Fagerland – Town of Wheaton Treasurer
2384 80th St
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Volunteers

The Wheaton Station 2 volunteer fire department, of the Chippewa Fire District, is in need of 16 to 20 more volunteers. A 66 hour class, paid for by the District, is required of all the members, to be completed within 2 years of joining. We hold station training on the first Monday, a meeting on the second Monday, and a work night on the third Monday of each month. Members are expected to attend at least 4 meetings and trainings each year. There is a "length of service" award program that puts money into a retirement account for each volunteer, with a 5 year vested time. The amount depends on how active you are in the organization. Also, volunteers are paid per hour for the meetings, trainings and responses to calls. This is your opportunity to meet lots of neighbors you may never otherwise meet, and to help those around you in a time of emergency. It can be a very fulfilling endeavor. Contact any Town Board member or volunteer to join. Classes are always being offered.

Driveway Permits

Driveway permits must be obtained from the township. In order to get this form, contact County Zoning or go on their website and download the appropriate application. Fill out the form. Stake the centerline of the proposed driveway location. Contact the Town Chair or Board Supervisor to set up a time to go to the site and review and approve or move the location. A culvert size and length can then be determined. Once filled out, take the form back to County Zoning for their processing.

Field road permits must also be obtained from the township. Contact the Town Chair or Board Supervisor to obtain a form for the permit. The site visit and review will be the same as for the driveway permit. After the form is completed and location reviewed, the town will maintain a copy of the field permit.

Road Work and Maintenance

There are several areas of the town roads that will be getting work completed on them. 20th Street (Elk Creek Road) will have a wedge layer and topping placed from HWY 29 south almost to 10th Ave. Work is scheduled for August 15th/16th. There will be road closures for small sections at a time on both days. Please be patient, as we anticipate that the delays for any one resident should not exceed about ½ hour each day. Only local traffic will be allowed, with no through traffic. Avoid that road during the construction if possible.

We intend to pulverize, widen and pave on 50th St from 45th Ave north to 50th Ave yet this fall. 90th St from County X to 50th Ave will be pulverized and widened. This section may stay gravel until spring, depending on some state funding agreements. If we can get it paved this fall, we will. In any case, that section of road will be complete by late spring of 2017.

The intersection of 40th St and 30th Ave is designed and funded. At this time we are in the process of securing additional land as required. It is late in the year to begin this work, and is therefore being put off until spring of 2017. At that time, we will also complete a full pulverizing, widening and pavement of 40th St from 20th Ave north to HWY 29. 30th Ave from 50th St to the intersection will also be rebuilt.

We hope to be able to widen and rebuild 50th St from 50th Ave to County N next year, but that will depend on how we can coordinate the 40th St work with this section of road, as we don't want to have too many miles of road torn out at any one time.

Additional roads in town are on our list for repairs, maintenance and/or replacement. We will continue to keep people informed as much as possible about the progress of the work. You can go to the town website for meeting minutes and any updates on the road work. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Town Chair or Town Shop.

Elections

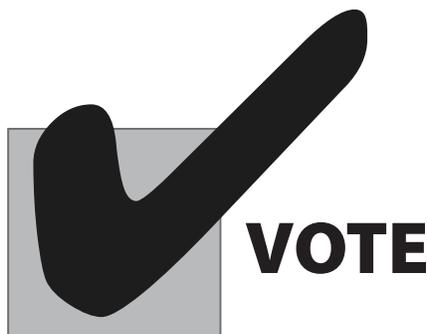
The Partisan Primary election will be held on August 9, 2016 from 7:00am to 8:00pm. The Wheaton polling location is the Wheaton Town Hall. Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Town Clerk beginning on August 2. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is August 4. All absentee ballots must be returned to the polling place before 8:00pm on August 9.

The General Election will be held on November 8, 2016 from 7:00am to 8:00pm. The polling location is the Wheaton Town Hall. Absentee ballots may be obtained in person from the Town Clerk beginning October 24th. Since we do not have regular office hours, please call the Town Clerk to set up a time when you can pick up an absentee ballot. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is November 3. All absentee ballots must be returned to the polling place by 8:00pm on November 8, 2016.

If anyone has any questions about Voter ID, voting, absentee voting or any other issue about the elections, please call the Town Clerk and he will answer the question. If he doesn't know what the answer is, he will be happy to find out for you.

You can also go to the website shown below for further information about the elections

<http://elections.mytimetovote.com/dates/wisconsin.html>



Town of Wheaton
4975 Cty Hwy T
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

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