

**TOWN MEETINGS** are public meetings and the public is encouraged to attend them. Public comments are at the discretion of the board or commission. Meetings are posted on the town website at:

[www.townofwheaton.com](http://www.townofwheaton.com) , at the Town Hall, the Fire Station, and various businesses throughout the town. You can call any board member for further information.

**Wheaton Planning Commission:**

At the Wheaton Fire Station / Park, 3800, 38<sup>th</sup> St, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, unless noticed otherwise – Chairman - Bud Beckwith

**Wheaton Town Board:**

At the Wheaton Town Hall, 4975 CTH T 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, unless noticed otherwise. Chairman – Mark Blaskowski

**Wheaton Park Commission** : At the Wheaton Fire Station / Park, 3800, 38<sup>th</sup> St on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, unless noticed otherwise – Chairman Ken Books

**Chippewa Fire District** : Meeting rotates between the stations in the district and is posted at the fire stations, town halls, and various locations in the district. It is usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month –

Chairman – Vern Schindler

**Wheaton Tourism Board** : - Chairman – Nate Labelle.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW**

Pursuant to State Statute 66.1001(3)(L) and State Statute 60.62, the town board has requested the PlanCommission to undertake a thorough review of the comprehensive plan to assure that the requirements of the plan are consistent with the goals of the township. The Plan commission, by board resolution, has been directed to schedule and hold three public hearings to: 1. Determine factors important to the community (i.e., open space, residential growth, parks, saving rural character, saving farmland, business development, water and sewer considerations, campfires and other rural activities not farm related, speed limits, tax base, and all other such factors as may be deemed important by the community members),

2. Provide information showing pros and cons of various proposals for issues raised, including feedback from the community,

3. Develop referendum questions to ascertain the wishes of the voting public at the November 2016 election, as deemed necessary by the Plan Commission.

The three PUBLIC HEARINGS as listed below, have been scheduled to provide EVERY interested party the opportunity to express their concerns and opinions about the comprehensive plan and its issues, such as the 5-acre ordinance and its pros and cons. This is just one issue to discuss, but an important one. Saturday, February 6, 2016 (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) Monday, March 7, 2016 (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) Wednesday, April 6, 2016 (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend at least one of these public hearings! The comprehensive plan, as a living document, is used as a guide to the Town Board in the direction that the town residents desire the town to go for the future. We need your involvement to enable us to make proper decisions concerning the development of the town as a whole. PUT AT LEAST ONE OF THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW! This is your town and your opportunity to clarify your wishes to the town board. Your opinion is valuable to this town.

## **ELECTION NOTICES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in the Town of Wheaton, Chippewa County on

Tuesday, April 5, 2016, the following officers are to be elected:

A TOWN SUPERVISOR, for a term of two years to succeed Bud Beckwith whose term will expire on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016,

A TOWN SUPERVISOR, for a term of two years to succeed Fred Anderson whose term will expire on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the first day to circulate nomination papers is Tuesday, December 1, 2015, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Candidates for these offices must file with the Town Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

November 19, 2015

Mark A. Christenson, Clerk

Town of Wheaton

**VOTER ID LAW** (Info provided by Wisconsin Government Accountability Board, visit [bringit.wi.gov](http://bringit.wi.gov))

**Do I need a special Voter ID Card?** There is not a separate "Voter ID" card. There are many forms of Photo ID, which you may already have, that can be used to vote. Anyone with a

valid Wisconsin driver license or Wisconsin state ID card, or any of the documents listed below, already has the photo ID they need for voting purposes.

**The following photo IDs are acceptable for voting purposes, and can be unexpired or expired after the date of the most recent general election (currently, the November 4, 2014 election):**

- o A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- o A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- o Military ID card issued by the U.S. Uniformed Services
- o A U.S. passport book or card
- o A certificate of naturalization (that was issued not earlier than two years before the date of the election)
- o An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- o A driver license receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days from date issued)
- o An identification card receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days from date issued)
- o A photo identification card issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college, or technical college that contains the following:
  - \* Date the card was issued
  - \* Signature of student
  - \* Expiration date no later than two years after date of issuance
  - \* The university or college ID must be accompanied by a separate document that proves enrollment, such as a tuition fee receipt, enrollment verification letter, or class schedule

### **What will the poll worker be looking at on my photo ID?**

- o **Elector's Photograph:** The photograph must reasonably resemble the elector
- o **Elector's Name:** The elector's name must conform to the name on their voter registration; conform does not mean that the name must be identical to the name on the voter registration

- o **An expiration:** If the ID has an expiration date, it must meet the expiration requirements listed above.

**An acceptable Photo ID for voting does not have to include a current address.**

**Are there any photo IDs I cannot use to vote:**

Yes. The following are NOT acceptable for voting purposes:

- o A Military Veteran Affairs ID
- o A State or Federal government employee IDs
- o An out-of-state driver license or identification card
- o An employment ID
- o A membership or organization ID
- o A Certificate of Citizenship

**Are there any Photo IDs that can be used for voting that do not have a photo on them?**

Yes. The following documents, which do not contain a photo, can be used for voting purposes:

- o A citation or notice of intent to revoke or suspend a driver license, which is dated within 60 days of the date of the election. If your driver license has been taken away by law enforcement or a court, you may present written documentation of that fact in order to vote without your photo ID
- o A State of Wisconsin, DOT issued, identification card without a photo, issued to those electors with a religious objection to be photographed.

**Is there anyone who does not need to provide a photo ID?**

Yes. The following electors do not need to provide a photo ID

- o Confidential electors are always exempt from photo ID requirements. Confidential electors have applied for this status with their municipal clerk, and have presented a court order, a letter from law enforcement, a letter from the staff of a domestic abuse shelter, or the staff of an agency assisting victims of domestic abuse.
- o Active military and permanent overseas voters are not required to provide a photo ID when they vote by absentee ballot, but if they vote in person, they must present photo ID

o Indefinitely confined voters and voters in special care facilities can provide a witness signature on their absentee ballot certificate envelope in substitute for showing photo ID; if they vote in person, they must present a photo ID

**Go to the Wisconsin GAB site [bringit.wi.gov](http://bringit.wi.gov) for further information and examples of proper IDs**

## **TOWN PARK**

The Town Park is located at 38<sup>th</sup> St and Frontage road, along Highway 29. Many improvements have been made to this park over the years. This winter will feature an ice rink over the tennis court, sponsored by the Wheaton Volunteer Firefighters. As usual, there will be sliding on the hills around the park. Come enjoy the winter fun, while it lasts! And come back for all the summer activities available at your park.

## **WINTER IS COMING...**

With winter comes snow plowing. Set your garbage collection cans off the road by at least 8 feet, so that the plow trucks do not hit them.

A reminder that Wisconsin Statute 346.94(5) states that no person may place or cause to be placed upon any highway any substance that is or may be injurious to any vehicle. The penalty is \$50 for each offense per 346.95(3). This includes snow. Do not plow snow across the roadways. It causes ridges, uneven surfaces, and ice and can be dangerous for motorists. You can be held liable for damages.

## **BUT WINTER WILL BE GOING – PLAY BALL!**

And when winter goes, the ball leagues begin. The Wheaton Ball League will have registration for the 2016 ball season starting January 1. Completed forms are due by March 1 for upper levels and April 15 for T-Ball. Forms can be mailed to Kelly Books at 1121 40<sup>th</sup> St, Eau Claire, WI 54703 or hand delivered at the on-site registration on February 6 at the Wheaton Fire Station from 9 to noon. Programs are available for kids age 4 to 14. If you have any questions or would like to request a registration form, please [email wheaton.ball@hotmail.com](mailto:wheaton.ball@hotmail.com) or call Kelly Books at 715-874-6414. More information is available on the Town of Wheaton website at [www.townofwheaton.com](http://www.townofwheaton.com) under the 'Wheaton Ball League' tab. You can also find, and 'like', the Wheaton Ball League on Facebook to stay connected. Several improvements for the ball fields are in the works for spring 2016. Upgrades to the batting cages, fences, walking areas, field grass and play areas are planned. Our facilities are fantastic and the fun is going to be remembered by all the families for years to come. Residency is not a requirement to take part in the fun. The ball league is open to children from all locales. If you have friends or family that might be interested in joining, but do not receive this letter, please forward this information to them. We would love to see people from all the surrounding communities participate in the Wheaton Ball League.

## **HALL RENTAL:**

The hall rental rate is \$100.00 per day plus a refundable \$100 deposit.

**You are responsible for the cleanup and removal of garbage before 8:00 a.m. the following day 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 Town of Wheaton. The contract only allows for dogs surrendered by Richard to be accepted. If you catch a tray dog, please contact Richard. Do not take the stray dog to the Humane Association.

### ***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 EACH

**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. Make check payable to and send to: Town of Wheaton Treasurer. Ruth's address is shown below under property taxes heading. Please send separate checks for dog license and Property Tax payment.

## **PROPERTY TAXES**

When you receive the property tax statement, the first half (or full amount, if you wish), of your taxes must be paid on or before January 31, 2016. This check is to be made payable and mailed to **Town of Wheaton Treasurer**. If property taxes are not paid in full by January 31, 2016, your second payment must be paid on or before July 31, 2016 to the Chippewa County Treasurer. The **Chippewa County Treasurer** will send you a notice informing you of the remaining property tax payment owed.

**First Payment: (full or half payment) Second Payment (if paying half at a time):**

Ruth Fagerland - Town of Wheaton Treasurer Chippewa County Treasurer 2384  
80<sup>th</sup> St 711 N Bridge Street Eau Claire, WI 54703 Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Please send a self-addressed , stamped envelope, along with your payment. Thank you very much.

**From Town Treasurer – Ruth Fagerland**

## **Important tax collection change for 2015-2016**

The Chippewa County and Township Treasurers will be using a new software program pertaining to property tax and dog licenses for the 2015-2016 tax year. I, as well as all treasurers need to be familiar, efficient, and feel comfortable processing your property tax and dog licensing payments. Therefore, I will not be available at the Wheaton Town Hall to collect payments of your property taxes and dog licenses.

Please send separate checks for your property tax and your dog license to me at the address above.

## **FIRE NUMBERS AND BURNING PERMITS:**

Please make sure that your fire number is visible from both directions. Cut brush and tall grass away from the fire number. Also, please take care when piling snow to avoid obstructing the visibility of your fire number. If your fire number needs to be replaced, call Russ Bauer at 715-726-7930.

The Town of Wheaton does not have a burning ordinance and therefore **does not** issue burning permits. You may call the Lake Hallie Station 1 of the Chippewa Fire District if you would like to give them a notice that you will be burning permitted items. The phone number is **715-723-5488**.

Materials that **may be burned** are dry leaves, brush, clean wood (not painted or treated). Go to the Wisconsin DNR website for a complete description of allowed and disallowed materials. Remember, you are liable for any costs and damages caused by fires that you start.

## **DRIVEWAY PERMITS:**

Driveway permits for new home construction can be obtained from Chippewa County Zoning. Field driveway permits can be obtained from the Town of Wheaton at no cost to you. Please contact one of the town board members or town workers for a permit and a copy of the ordinance specifying culverts and locations. There are specific requirements for widths, slopes, and tie-ins of driveways.

## **BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED:**

The Town of Wheaton is a zoned township which means that a building permit is required for all structures, such as new homes, additions to homes, barns, sheds, silos, grain bins, garages, decks, metal/canvas covered canopies, portable buildings, and move on buildings such as garages & sheds. As misinformation is often given out, farmers are not exempt from needing a building permit. There are also setback requirements not only from your property boundary lines, but also from other buildings, septic systems, & wells. Note: If you have a home that is several years old and plan to add on or add another structure to your property the zoning office is often requiring you to bring your sanitary system up to code. **Do not start any construction projects without the proper permits as after the fact fees will also be charged.** If you have any questions or doubts, call the Chippewa County Zoning Office at 715-726-7940.

## **STARTING A NEW BUSINESS?**

We always welcome new businesses in the Town of Wheaton. If you are planning on starting a homebasedbusiness adventure, please contact the Planning Commission, the Town Board, & Chippewa County Zoning office to get the correct permits and conditional use permits that you may need.

## **RECYCLING CENTER: Phone 715-874-6271**

**Summer Hours April 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup> Winter Hours October 1<sup>st</sup> thru March 31<sup>st</sup>**

Wednesdays: 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm Wednesdays: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Saturdays: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Saturdays: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

### **Acceptable Material:**

Household garbage in the blue bags

- \* Clean **#1** thru **#7** plastics. Plastic bags are not accepted as they plug up the plastic shedder. Please wash food and dirt out of containers prior to recycling.

- \* Cardboard, paper, & magazines, (cardboard milk cartons are not recyclable).

- \* Metal (copper, aluminum, steel & iron)

- \* Clean glass bottles and jars

- \* Demolition material & furniture (nominal fee)

- \* Appliances (nominal fee)

- \* Tires (nominal fee)

- \* Batteries, both household and auto

- \* Electronics (these can be taken to Best Buy or First Choice Recycling in Eau Claire)

### **Items not accepted:**

- \* Fluorescent light bulbs are not accepted. (Chippewa True Value Hardware in Chippewa Falls accepts fluorescent bulbs for a nominal fee).

- \* Oil Filters

- \* Hazardous Materials

Garbage is accepted in Town of Wheaton labeled, blue bags that are sold at the recycling center for \$3.00 each. Blodgett's Service and Repair located at 5850 50<sup>th</sup> Street will now accept used engine oil. Please do not contaminate oil with paints, chemicals or anti-freeze. Containers of 5 gallons or smaller are preferred. Oil can be dropped off during regular business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. If you have questions please call 715-874-5950.

R.U.A.S. Recycling at 207 E Vine St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 is currently taking large appliances, except TV's, for recycling. This is free of charge at this time. We hope this can continue with the downturn in scrap prices. You can bring your appliances to the Wheaton Recycling Center for a small fee, where they are picked up by RUAS periodically, or call RUAS directly for instructions on how to get rid of those items. If you have any questions about recycling, call the center during open hours. They are very helpful.

### **CEMETERIES:**

The Town of Wheaton maintains two cemeteries. If you are in need of information about the cemeteries or

need to purchase cemetery plots call Helene Anderson at 874-5207.

A new sign has been recently placed at the McCombs Cemetery on 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. We are contemplating installation of a similar sign at the Rumery Cemetery. We are also in the process of maintenance improvements to both cemeteries.

### ***TOWN BOARD MEMBERS***

Mark Blaskowski, Chair 715-874-4969 email: mark.blaskowski@gmail.com

Bud Beckwith, Supervisor 715-874-5051

Ken Custer, Supervisor 715-874-6591

Alan Solberg, Supervisor 715-874-5798

Fred Anderson, Supervisor 715-874-5207

Mark Christenson, Clerk 715-874-6612

Ruth Fagerland, Treasurer 715-861-3933

Randy Prochnow, Assessor 715-632-2116

Please feel free to use the email shown for non-emergency issues and questions you may have for the Town Board. I will get the email to the appropriate parties for resolution.

If you know of a town resident that does not receive this newsletter, please contact the town clerk or email [mark.blaskowski@gmail.com](mailto:mark.blaskowski@gmail.com) so their name and address can be added to our mailing list.

This letter is for every land owner and town resident in the township. You can find this newsletter included on the town website at [www.townofwheaton.com](http://www.townofwheaton.com) along with many other items of interest to the township. Thank you!