

WHEATON TOWN NEWS

SUMMER 2020

WELCOME and VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://www.townofwheaton.com>.

Welcome to the Town of Wheaton newsletter for "Summer 2020". There are lots of things happening in our township. "Tornado 2019" still has to recover funds from the State Emergency Management program. The decision by the Town Board to get out of the Chippewa Fire District and provide our own Volunteer Fire Department is on track to begin services on January 1, 2021. 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 to a world class trout stream with improvements, the Town of Wheaton is progressing forward! A revised Comprehensive Plan is required this year. The Covid 19 Pandemic has delayed efforts to complete the Plan, but it will go ahead as quickly as possible. This "road map of Town growth" is like all road maps, they are updated as needed, but give a general guidance to the direction the town residents want to go. Pressures for development along the County T corridor will continue and will be addressed by the board or will be lost to other entities that recognize its potential. Public utilities of water and sewer will quickly become topics that must be dealt with.

TORNADO

We will all remember where we were and what we were doing when it hit on September 24th. The Township recovery still consists of some road repairs and securing the reimbursement funds from the State Emergency Management organization.

The large pile of shredded branches and wood at the park has been removed by volunteers and companies to minimize the cost to the taxpayers. These are reimbursable expenses. Residents took some of the chips and much of it went onto the park trails just south of the ballfields. The gravel parking lot where the pile was has been rebuilt. We realize that some damaged properties are still in the process of recovery. Let the town board members know if there are some issues you need help with. We may be able, along with groups in the area, to get some volunteer help again.

The amount of support from businesses and individuals was tremendous. We thank each and every one who helped in the recovery.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

In September, the Town Board voted to leave the Chippewa Fire District organization and provide fire service through our own Volunteer Fire Department. EMS services will be provided by either the City of Eau Claire or the City of Chippewa Falls depending on which one is closer to the call. The official date for the change is January 1, 2021, per the agreements.

The committee of "non-fire department town residents" that was formed last spring and given the task of examining all pertinent information to recommend a path which the township

should take, has moved on with the organization of the fire department. A Department Constitution and Department By-Laws have been developed. A 3-member Fire Commission has been seated by the Town Board to manage the personnel and basic fire department operations per the Constitution and the By-Laws. The three Commissioners are Eugene Gutch, Scott Morris, and Dale Hayden. Each one brings a long history of emergency services operations and dealing with Human Relations in this type organization. The Town of Wheaton is stronger because these people have stepped forward with their time and talents to make sure the new **Wheaton Fire & Rescue** is a success. The official name has been finalized and in the coming months, a fire department logo will be completed.

So far, all the vehicle apparatus the Township will need for running the department on the first day has been purchased and is immediately available. Radio communications, bunker gear, and miscellaneous items are being looked at and priced for approval. The Fire Commission is responsible for appointing a new Fire Chief. Applicants meeting the qualifications will be interviewed at the discretion of the Fire Commission. The Town Board will determine salary or wages for the Fire Chief, as it deems appropriate. These will be budgeted in next year's budget.

The Wheaton Volunteers would like to have 30 volunteers actively participating in this rewarding activity on the first day. Come join the group. Most calls are for things other than structure fires. Off road rescues, car crashes, snowmobile incidents, downed powerlines, searches, water incidents, and brush fires are just a few of the things dealt with. Medical first responding will be part of the new fire department, with transport ambulances and paramedics coming from Eau Claire or Chippewa Falls. Call any Town Board member for more information and sign up soon. We can get you trained before the starting date!

ROADS

The township, with 83 plus miles of road, has more roads to maintain than most rural townships in the state, and we are 100% paved. With the tight budgets prevalent for so many years, 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.

CLEAN GROUND WATER

We all want and need clean water. The township has begun discussion and fact finding measures to determine what steps can and should be taken to assure that our groundwater resource is safe and will remain safe in the future for use by the people. If the groundwater is contaminated, what, if anything, can we do to reverse that situation and how can we minimize the chances of future contaminants entering the water source. UW-Stevens Point has studied the groundwater conditions in Chippewa County for decades. Some areas have been found to have high nitrates or other contaminants. The Comprehensive Plan will address clean water issues. Attend the meetings! Again, the Covid 19 Pandemic has put a delay on the State organizations that have been spearheading the effort to get a comprehensive groundwater management solution. We are keeping up with their progress and will move as quickly forward as we can.

You can contact Chippewa County Department of Land Conservation and Forest Management at the Court House in Chippewa Falls, WI. Go to Room 11 and ask for a Water Test Kit, fill out the form enclosed, and drop the box in the mail. Chippewa County will pay the \$19.00 for the Nitrate-Nitrogen test. It would be advisable to pay the additional \$19.00 for the Coliform Bacteria test.

There are several other private water testing companies. They will test only nitrates for free. All other testing will have to be paid for unless you buy their equipment.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Our township maintains a website at www.townofwheaton.com. There is lots of information available such as: town meeting calendar, meeting agendas/minutes, town board and commission member contacts, ordinances, comprehensive plan, fire and EMS transition plan, groundwater updates, parks and recreation, cemetery, and recycling center information. Please let us know what additional things you would like to see on the site. Please visit our site and bookmark it for easy return! **We need your input.**

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, Chair, or Clerk 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. Meetings are normally once per month, on the third Tuesday, held at the Wheaton Fire Station meeting room, at 7:00 pm. **We value your input.**

ELECTIONS

During the spring election, two supervisor positions were up for election. The successful candidates were Alice Droske and Bob Sworski.

The spring election went on as planned, as precautions for the virus situation were taken. These worked to perfection. If you want to make sure your vote is counted, the best way is to vote in person. Then bad things can't happen at the post office or other locations along the way. We want to make sure YOUR VOTE COUNTS! It is not clear what plan the election

commission will have in place. Pay attention to the state and local news. The Township will publish the election commission plans on the website as soon as they are finalized.

There will be a Partisan Primary on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 from 7:00am to 8:00pm at the Town Hall, 4975 CTH T (unless changed by the State Elections Commission).

The General and Presidential Election will be Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Again, please pay attention to the State and Local news for any changes in voting times, days or methods.

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Hall Rental

The hall rental rate is \$100 per day, plus a refundable \$100 deposit. You are responsible for the cleanup and removal of garbage after your event. To schedule the rental of the Town Hall, please call Mary Eckwright at 715-874-5397. All cleanup must be complete by 8:00am the following day!

DOG LICENSE INFORMATION: (See Real Estate Tax info below for further info)

SPAYED OR NEUTERED DOGS - **\$8.00**

UNSPAYED OR UNNEUTERED DOGS - **\$13.00**

MULTIPLE DOGS - FOR UP TO 12 TAGS - **\$60.00**

FOR EACH ADDITIONAL TAGS FOR MULTIPLE DOGS AFTER 12 TAGS -**\$7.00** EACH

PROOF OF CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION IS REQUIRED. WITHOUT PROOF OF RABIES VACCINATION, LICENSE WILL NOT BE ISSUED. Proof will be returned

PENALTIES

A minimum late fee of \$25.00 shall be assessed the owner of each dog 5 months of age or over who fails to obtain a dog license by April 1st of each year, or within 30 days of acquiring ownership on or before the dog reached licensable age. The minimum late fee has been raised by municipal action, and includes payment of costs assessed by the Township for checking on the license. Any owner, who fails to have a dog vaccinated against rabies as required by statute, may be required to forfeit not less than \$50.00 or more than \$100.00.

ALL DOG OWNERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE WISCONSIN STATE STATUTES REGARDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DOG OWNERSHIP

- (1.) Dogs more than 5 months of age shall be licensed by April 1 of each year or within 30 days of ownership of a dog 5 months of age, else a late fee of \$25.00 shall be imposed.
- (2.) Proof of rabies vaccination is required before a license will be issued.
- (3.) Dogs are not allowed to run at large. The dog must be kept on the owner's premises and under control of the owner or some other person.
- (4.) Dogs running at large are subject to impoundment.

(5.) If the owner permits a dog to run at large, the owner shall forfeit not less than \$25.00 or more than \$100.00 for the first offense and not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$200.00 for subsequent offenses.

(6.) The dog owner can be held liable for a dog causing injury to a person, domestic animal or property. The penalties imposed can be from \$50.00 to \$500.00, depending on the circumstances. The penalties are in addition to any other liability imposed on the owner of the dog.

If you are a landowner and have tenants who are dog owners, please forward this information to them. Thank you.

Please send check, proof of vaccination, plus a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Laura Hayden, Town of Wheaton Treasurer
4975 County Highway T
Chippewa Falls WI 54729
715.874.5982

Make check payable to: **TOWN OF WHEATON TREASURER**

The Dog Catcher for the Township is **Roger Fagerland**. Contact him at **715-497-0804** or you can email him at Wheaton.DogCatcher@gmail.com. **He deals with dogs.** If you have issues with other animals, please contact the Town Chair, any Town Supervisor or the Town Clerk for help. You can find everyone's name, phone, and email on the Town Website.

REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION FOR 2019-2020 (NEW TOWN TREASURER)

As a friendly reminder, when you receive the Real Estate Tax statement, the check for the first half or full payment of your Real Estate Taxes must be made payable to: **TOWN OF WHEATON TREASURER**, on or before January 31, 2019. A January 31, 2019 postmark will be accepted. Include your phone number on the check/checks. This is important so that we can contact you if there are any questions about your payment. Without your phone number, the tax payment may be delayed.

Payments are to be mailed to:

Laura Hayden, Town of Wheaton Treasurer,
4975 County Highway T
Chippewa Falls WI 54729

Please do NOT mail the first half or full payment property tax payment to the Chippewa County Treasurer *BEFORE* the January 31, 2018 date. Should this happen, the Chippewa County Treasurer's office then has to mail your payment back to the Town of Wheaton Treasurer for processing.

The second payment, if there is a second payment; the County Treasurer will mail you a tax statement regarding the remaining amount owed, which needs to be paid on or before July 31, 2018. Please make the second payment check payable to:

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY TREASURER,
711 N. BRIDGE STREET,
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729.**

As it was last year, in order to save on postage, the tax payment receipts will be mailed if you enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Your returned check from the bank will serve as your receipt.

Dog Owners: Please remember to send a separate check for your pet and tax payment, as well as a self-addressed stamped envelope.

**WHEATON RECYCLING CENTER
2429 20TH STREET
ELK MOUND, WI 54739**

Contacts:
Facility: 715-874-6271
Roger Fagerland 715-861-3933
Larry Tanner 715-210-1387

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION
Winter Hours October 1st thru March 31st

Wednesdays: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Saturdays: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Summer Hours April 1st thru September 30th

Wednesdays: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Saturdays: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

ITEMS MUST BE STORED AND PLACED IN PROPER DUMPSTERS

- Recyclable glass and plastics go together as does paper and cardboard go together
- Household trash goes into compactor. Trash bags for compactor can be purchased from attendant.
- Large items & materials go into the large construction dumpsters.
- Metal items go into metal dumpsters.
- Aluminum cans go into small wire cage
- Any items that go into the Construction Dumpsters **MUST** be approved by attendant before dumping.

PRICE LIST:

Demolition Material:

Full size pickup (Level full) minimum	\$45.00	Dehumidifiers	\$20.00
Small pickup (level full) minimum	\$23.00	Refrigerators	\$20.00
8 foot trailer with 3 foot sides (min)	\$45.00	Freezers	\$20.00
Larger trailers or overflowing pickup (Ask!)		Dishwashers (const. dumpster)	\$15.00

Sofa couch	\$15.00
Large chairs	\$10.00
Small chairs	\$ 7.00
White Kitchen Bags (13 gal)	\$1.00
Black or Brown Large Bags	\$4.00
Hide a bed couch	\$20.00
Mattress or Box springs (large)	\$15.00
Burn barrels	\$5.00

Microwaves (metal dumpster)	Free
10 Blue Wheaton Bags	\$30.00
Blue Wheaton Bags (single)	\$3.00
Burn barrels	\$ 5.00
Air conditioners	\$20.00
Recliner chairs	\$15.00
Mattress or Box Springs (small)	\$7.00
Chest of Drawers Type	\$10.00

TIRES

Small trailer, Car & small pickup	\$ 2.00
16" to 17"	\$ 3.00
18" to 19"	\$ 5.00
20" to 22.5"	\$ 8.00

Larger than 22.5"	\$10.00
Tractor under 28"	\$12.00
28" or larger	\$20.00
Tires with rims	add \$2.00

RECYCLABLES

- Batteries Free - put on pallet
- No# 1 thru 7 plastics – CLEAN
- Glass jars and Bottles – lids to be removed
- Metal of all kinds – sort brass and copper
- All others go in metal roll-off
- Paper and cardboard
- Stoves, Washers, Dryers Water Heaters, Motors, Bikes, Lawn Mowers, Tillers, etc. NO CHARGE
- Go into metal roll off dumpster.

There are a few businesses in the area that accept appliances for free. Ask the attendants. When in doubt, ask the ATTENDANT! It is either Roger or Larry!

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

No hazardous materials are accepted. Residents must save and take to Chippewa County Clean Sweep held in the Spring and Fall (this includes paint, Light bulbs and chemicals of all kinds).

Yard waste, Styrofoam, TV's and electronics are not accepted

Burning Permits

Burning permits are not required in Wheaton, but you can only burn what is allowed by state law. Visit the Wisconsin DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/openburning/> for burning regulations and several fine articles about the alternatives to burning.

If you must burn, please be careful. You are responsible for all costs of extinguishing a fire that you started if it has gotten out of control. Burn only when sufficient moisture exists (rain and/or snow cover) in the area, winds are light (under about 7 mph maximum gusts), and temperatures are cool. You can call the Chippewa Fire District at 715-723-5488 to let them know you are intending on burning.

Town Park

The Wheaton Town Park is located at 3900 38th Street, Elk Mound. A second park entrance is located right across the street from 3601 40th Street, Elk Mound. Improvements continue to be made as volunteers and funding becomes available. Interesting fact there are 1.5 miles of walking/hiking trails throughout the 63-acre park! Those trails are even nicer after the tornado tree damage wood chips were placed on all the trails between last fall and this spring. We would especially like to thank all the volunteers that donated time and equipment!! Checkout our new color trail map with trail names and trail pictures at www.townofwheaton.com/parks-recreation/

Park Rentals

Park rental rates are listed on the park reservation application. Rates vary depending on the applicant's residency status and the type of event being held.

Go to www.townofwheaton.com/parks-and-recreation

- ✓ Check Pavilion Sizes, Capacity, Number of Picnic Tables
- ✓ Check Pavilion Availability
- ✓ Download Reservation Application/Check Rental Rates
- ✓ Download Park Renter Procedures

To schedule park rentals, you can also email wheatonpark@gmail.com or call Ken Books at 715-874-6414.

Town Boat Landing

The Wheaton Town Boat Landing is located at 3001 106th Street, Chippewa Falls. Plans for addressing the boat landing ramp in 2020 have been approved and will take place this fall. Also, the Parks Commission is continuing work on another grant application for adding boat dock and solar lighting in 2021.

Reminder: For the safety of all park/boat landing users – NO hunting is allowed on park and/or boat landing property.

Wheaton Park Ornamentation Project Campaign

The Parks Commission has been adding amenities to the park over the last couple years and has also created an ornamentation project campaign for residents/non-residents. This fundraising campaign offers the community an opportunity to make a donation, memorial gift, or in honor gift with long lasting benefits to our area. By allowing for resident/non-resident and community donations this further creates a sense of community ownership to this project and unifies our commitment to the park.

Our project will have 2 phases and to help keep Wheaton Park aesthetically pleasing we have selected the donation level options. We have started with Phase 1 which focuses on areas around the lower pavilion and lower ball fields. Once Phase 1 is fully completed we will begin Phase 2 which will focus on areas around the upper pavilion and upper ball field.

Interested in DONATING? See the attached Wheaton Park Ornamentation Donation Form. Additional information is located at www.townofwheaton.com/wheaton-park-ornamentation-project-campaign/

WHEATON PARK ORNAMENTATION PROJECT DONATION FORM

Wheaton Parks Commission has started an ornamentation project to help beautify Wheaton Park and provide additional amenities.

Interested in DONATING? It as simple as 1-2-3!

1. Fill out the following information.

Name of Donor: _____ Amount _____

Donor's Address: _____

Donor's Phone: _____

DONATION: _____ MEMORIAL: _____ HONOREE: _____

In Memory Of/In Honor Of: _____

Donation Given for: BUSH ___ SHRUB ___ TREE ___ PICNIC TABLE ___ BENCH ___

Check Box if you prefer your donation be used where needed.

2. Make Checks Payable to Town of Wheaton

Check Box if you want your donation to remain anonymous.

3. Mail Donation Form and Check To

Ken Books
Town of Wheaton Parks Commission Chair
1121 40th Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Our project will have 2 phases and to help keep Wheaton Park aesthetically pleasing with ornamentation that goes together below are the different donation levels that have been setup along with example pictures. We will start with Phase 1 which will focus on areas around lower pavilion and lower ball fields. Once Phase 1 is fully completed we will begin Phase 2 which will focus on areas around upper pavilion and upper ball field.

Donation Level	Cost (Per Donation)	Phase 1 Needs	Phase 2 Needs
Bushes (Weigala, Spirea, Hydrangea)	\$50	10	3
Shrubs (Dogwood, Lilac)	\$100	1	0
Trees (Maple, Elm, Fruitless Flowering Crab)	\$200	13	3
Picnic Table (Wood)	\$350	1	3
Bench (8' Metal in Ground)	\$500	7	9