

Town of Maple Creek

Outagamie County
W10388 County Road W
New London, WI

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www.townofmaplecreek.com

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Letter from the Chair

Spring is fast approaching and before you know it we'll be in the fields preparing for planting.

When exiting these fields sometimes we bring mud or manure out on the roads. This can't be helped, but at the end of the day please scrape it off. Don't just scrape it off into the ditch, rather back into the field where it came from. Mud and manure scraped into the ditches eventually affects the drainage of the ditch, causing greater problems down the road.

Speaking of roads, lets be careful when transporting heavy equipment or loads on the town roads. Whenever possible, don't run on shoulders or the road edge as that breaks down the edge, which is the weakest part of the road. Try to keep your outer wheels 18" in from where the pavement ends to keep from breaking the edge of the asphalt. The load-bearing capacity is much greater 18" in. Rebuilding and repairing roads is expensive—they are our roads, lets protect them.

Going forward I hope to include one of these letters in each quarterly newsletter. I realize its not always easy to get to the town meetings, and other than giving me a call this newsletter is the main way I have to communicate with you. So I look forward to sharing my thoughts with you, and as always, if you have any concerns my number appears below. - Paul Gitter

February Election Results

The spring primary saw 48 people make the trip to the Town Hall to cast their votes. Out of the 361 registered voters, this comes out to a participation rate of 13.3%. That's not great, but it is better than the statewide turnout rate of about 10%. The only thing on the ballot in Maple Creek was the Wisconsin Supreme Court primary race, which narrowed the field for the April election down to 2. The results were:

Rebecca G. Bradley	26
JoAnne F. Kloppenburg	16
Joe Donald	5

The reason this adds up to 47 instead of 48 is that one ballot had 2 candidates voted for when one was the maximum— that ballot was discarded.

The next election will be on Tuesday, April 5th. That election will include the state Supreme Court race, the New London and Shiocton school board elections, the County Supervisor race for our area which is District 31, and a State Appeals court election for District III.

Make sure to bring your photo IDs!

Polls open at 7 AM and close at 8 PM. A special thanks to our intrepid poll workers for the long day and excellent service they provide to Maple Creek.

Contact Information

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920-982-5617

Dalton Korth, Planning Commission
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Harters Refuse Service
888-804-8556

Inland Service Corp — Recycling
920-759-0501

Associated Appraisal- Appraisers
800-721-4157

Recycling Carts Update

By an ordinance passed last year, the Town Board has decided to purchase recycling carts to facilitate the single-stream recycling effort the County has embarked upon. The garbage bins we put into service last year seem to be working well, with only a few mishaps.

A brand new cart, including shipping costs about \$52. The Board looked into buying used carts, and found a seller in our refuse hauler, Harter's, for \$20 each. These carts are exactly like our garbage carts, and seem to be in great shape. The Town, upon picking these carts up, will have to stencil the town name on them and also mark them as being for recycling pick up.

The cost of these carts will be a one-time-fee assessment on our property tax bills next December. The bins will stay with the property address if the owner should sell or move. Expect delivery of one of these recycling carts to your address sometime during the next couple months. Further information will be provided with the cart.

Head Groundskeeper— Still looking!

We are still in need of a part-time Head Groundskeeper for the upcoming mowing season. The position pays \$15 per hour— last year there was about 100 hours of work. Please get in touch with the Clerk or a Board member if you are interested in the job.

Still more on Recycling...

Our county recycling partners ask that we pass on a few more things on the recycling opportunities they offer.

2016 Hazardous Waste (oil or lead-based paints, engine fluids, herbicides, cleaners, pool chemicals, etc.) Our drop-off site is **1919 Holland Road** in Appleton.

Wednesday May 4, Saturday May 21

Wednesday June 1, Saturday June 18

Wednesday July 13, Saturday July 16

Wednesday August 10, Saturday August 27

Appointments are required—920-832-5277.

Tires may be dropped off free of charge during the week of April 18 to 22. Tires must be 18" or less, and there is a limit of 4 tires per household. Of course, they can be dropped off any other time for the usual fees.

Outagamie County Recycling also sells **compost bins** at their office at 1419 Holland Road in Appleton. These bins are \$45 and include a how-to guide.

For much more information on recycling, hours of operation, and disposal fees, see recyclemoreoutagamie.org online, or call 920-832-5277. More current news can be obtained on their Facebook page- just search for Outagamie Recycling.

From the Silo with Larry Morrison

Good Morning Maple Creek.

We have had an easy winter and hopefully a short one. We never know what March and April brings in Wisconsin. This morning I would like to discuss Road Right of Ways (ROW). Most of our town roads are either 3 rod roads or 4 rod roads. A 4 rod road is 66 ft. across or 33' from the center to the edge of the ROW and a 3 rod road is 50 ft. across or 25 ft. from the center to the ROW edge. One rod is 16 ½ ft. Part of the problem we are encountering is that our old records, state and county records don't agree what the roads should be. Our first problem is to identify what the roads should be. The next problem is to stem the encroachment into the ROW. As I understand it, the property line goes to the center of the road but the land owner cannot plant, build or otherwise encroach into the ROW. At one time, the board had most of our roads ROWs marked. However over the years these stakes have disappeared. The board is now in the process of finding out what it's going to take to remark these roads. The cost to survey, to purchase the stakes and to place them will not be cheap.

In the cities they have storm sewers for runoff but here in the country we have ditches to move our water. Our main reason to protect our ROWs is so that the flow of runoff is not restricted. Those who are planting into the ROW will eventually cause that ditch to be plugged creating costs to re-dig the ditch, which someone will need to

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pay for. The landowner is ultimately responsible for protecting the ROW and needs to know that they could be held liable for any expenses associated with the repair of the ditch. We have mentioned this before and have even sent letters to the landowners with very little success in solving the problem. One of our problems is to put some common sense to this as not all ROWs are the same. The other problem with things growing in the ROW is the safety of those driving on the road. Objects in the ditch can be hazardous to drivers and can also block the drivers view. They can also hinder some of the large equipment going up and down the road. There are rules which all residents can plant trees and shrubs in the ROW with the board's approval but along with that there are also rules that allow for the board to remove them at any time. Your board has resolved itself to give this matter a lot of attention in the future and correct the infractions of encroachment.

Have a great summer and a safe one. Come to our meetings on the second Monday of the month and use our website www.townofmaplecreek.com to stay informed. Your voice can make things better. We are working to improve our website and make it easier to use. Any feedback for how to make it better is welcome.

Larry Morrison

Internet in the Countryside

Maple Creek is fortunate to be a rural town. However, along with the lifestyle this provides come a few downsides. One of them is the relative absence of high-speed (broadband) internet service. While it is true there are very few residents who can take advantage of wired internet, there are an increasing number of wireless options available. Here is a run-down of what's currently out here.

1) Satellite. This requires a dish similar to the satellite TV services. Speeds have increased dramatically for these services, up into the 10M range. These plans are relatively expensive, and there is a limit on amount of usage allowed per month unless you pay more. They also suffer from a long latency time—the time the signals must travel to and from your house. Satellite signals travel 90,000 miles for each round trip! Because of this, these services can seem “choppy.” Some providers are Hughes, Wild Blue, and Exede.

2) Wide area wireless. Cellcom offered a service called ResNet. This has since been discontinued to new customers. They will maintain existing customers with used equipment, but no new sales. This is too bad, as the price was relatively cheap and though

the speed was low (around 600K) the fast latency time makes this feel much faster. This is what we use in our Town Hall.

3) Home “cell” service. Most cell providers will sell a household box with a wireless router built into it. This is basically another cell phone contract which is used in your home specifically for internet data access. Costs and speeds are similar to a cell phone data plan.

4) The newest entry among internet providers is a point-to-point service offered by Star Communications from Weyauwega. This involves a dish directed at a relatively local access antenna. This technology is sometimes called Airmax®. Speeds reportedly are good and costs seem competitive. One consideration is installation of the dish, which must be high enough to have a somewhat clear line of sight to one of the local access antennas. There are a handful of Maple Creek residents currently making use of this service with a few more scheduled to be installed.

Perhaps Maple Creek isn't quite on the information super-highway, but we are definitely on the information county trunk roads.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Monday March 14, 6:30 pm —Monthly Town Board Meeting

Monday, March 21—First day for in-person absentee voting

Saturday, April 2, 10 am - Public test of voting machine

Tuesday, April 5, 7 am—8 pm—Spring Election

Monday, April 11, 6:30 pm —Monthly Town Board Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 4 pm to 6 pm Assessment Roll “Open Book”

Monday May 9, 6:30 pm —Monthly Town Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 4 pm to 6 pm—Board of Review

Monday June 13, 6:30 pm —Monthly Town Board Meeting

And remember... if a holiday falls during a week, refuse and recycling pickup slides to one day later.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Town of Maple Creek
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New London, WI 54961