

Town of Maple Creek

Outagamie County
W10388 County Road W
New London, WI

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www.townofmaplecreek.com

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Chair

Fall is again upon us— the harvest season is here. I hope everyone had a great summer, now its already time to get ready for winter.

For those that sign up for **snowplowing** of their drive-ways, remember to clear them of all obstacles and provide enough room for the plow to turn around. The county plows are rather large in size so give them room. Each year the town sends a new list of snowplowing addresses to the County— so don't assume you'll be plowed out just because you were last year. The clerk sends out letters to past subscribers, so please return that if you want to be plowed. New subscribers just call the town clerk.

It is also a good time to make sure your **fire numbers** are readily visible from the roads. Clear all brush and long grass so they can be seen by police, fire, and ambulance from both directions. As the snow piles up (if it does), make sure your sign stays above the snow. If you can't see it as you drive up to your house, they can't either.

Since the harvest season is upon us, **watch for mud and debris on the local roads**. Field entrances can get a little greasy— use caution when going through these areas. These things are just a part of country living. The farmers are encouraged to clean them up as soon as

possible; remember, don't deposit the mud and debris in the ditch, put it back in the field.

As always, I encourage all to attend the Town Board meetings on the second Monday of each month. If you can't make that, the agendas and minutes are always published on the town website at www.townofmaplecreek.com. It's your township, get involved! I encourage any questions of comments—feel free to call me at 920-538-4999.

- Paul Gitter

A Bit about Maple Creek Population

Per state statute, Wisconsin estimates certain statistics about each municipality every year and provides that information to them. Maple Creek recently received our estimates as of January 1st 2017. For comparison, the values are compared to actual counts taken during the 2010 census:

Category	2010 Census	2017 Estimate
Population	619	601
Motor Vehicles	435	412
Tax Returns	224	172

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Contact Information

Paul Gitter, Chairman
burning permits
920-538-4999
maplecreekchair@gmail.com

Dalton Korth, Supervisor
920-470-4986

Mike Bruette, Supervisor
920-450-5287
sugarcreek@frontiernet.net

Town Hall
920-982-3929
(fax picks up after 4 rings)

Larry Katerzynske, Clerk
920-634-9429
maplecreekclerk@gmail.com

Tory Much, Treasurer
dog licenses
920-982-3915
maplecreektreasurer@gmail.com

Steve Janke, Constable
715-752-4248

Dennis Handschke, Building Inspector
raft licenses, culverts, driveways
920-982-6042

Paul Hanlon, Building permits
920-982-4201

Gary Coroneos, Cemetery Sexton & Planning Commission
920-982-5617

Harters Refuse Service
888-804-8556

Inland Service Corp — Recycling
920-759-0501

Associated Appraisal- Appraisers
800-721-4157

Of the 601 people, 473 of them are estimated to be of voting age. The slight decrease goes against the trend for the entire State of Wisconsin, which has increased in population by 101,514 people since the last census. The population of the state is now estimated at 5,788,500.

This continues a trend in the state, where overall, rural areas have lost people and urban areas have increased. The Census Bureau categorizes counties 3 ways: metropolitan, micropolitan, and “neither”, which can be translated to mean “no large cities.” Since 2010, the metropolitan counties have added almost 100,000, while the more rural counties have lost almost 8,000.

Outagamie County itself is defined as a metropolitan county, and has actually gained almost 7,000 people since 2010. For comparison, right next door in Waupaca county the population has declined by about 500. Reasons for this vary, but the consensus seems to be one thing: economics. Many people, especially the young, move towards metro areas for jobs.

These trends can have great impact on our daily lives due to the allocation of state resources. School funding, for example, is based on population, as is road funding.

However...

Our 2017 Equalized Value has increased slightly from 2016. Real estate value is set at \$45,310,600, which is an increase of \$1,488,200 over 2016. This value determines the amount of real estate tax we will pay at the end of the year. Of that real estate tax we all pay, the town portion (that we get to keep) went up \$246. Last year our levy limit was \$65,998—this year \$66,244. Of course the amount the town actually gets is less than that, since there are several tax bills that go unpaid during the year.

Winter is Coming, but Spring too...

As we sit and contemplate the long winter to come, we can take heart in the fact that county tree sales for next spring are already beginning. Waupaca County has their order form circulating for the 2018 sale, and Outagamie will have theirs ready in October. (Yes we live in Outagamie, but I checked with Waupaca and its fine if one orders from them.)

In my experience, Outagamie has a wider variety of trees to offer, including many shrubs and even some ornamentals. Waupaca has a more basic variety of 7 softwoods and 9 hardwoods plus cover plants like red dogwood. However, if you are looking for bulk quantities, Waupaca offers a price break on per/100 quantities. All other pricing from both counties is per 25 trees. An example from the Waupaca sale this year: 25 white pine are \$23, 100 of them is \$84. Trees must be picked up by you in both cases.

Outagamie also has tree planting and seeding equipment for rent. From pull-behind tree planters to food plot seeders to simple tree planting tools, they offer rentals at very reasonable rates. See the link below for more information on equipment rental:

<http://www.outagamie.org/government/f-through-m/land-conservation/rental-equipment>

Outagamie County tree order form will be at:

<http://www.outagamie.org/government/f-through-m/land-conservation>

Waupaca County tree order form is at:

http://www.co.waupaca.wi.us/departments/land_and_water_conservation/index.php

Or simply call the town clerk at 920-634-9429 and I can get you any of the information you need.



Budget Time Draws Near

For a township, autumn means budget time.

Maple creek has set their public budget meetings as follows:

Working session: Tuesday, October 24 at 6 PM.

Public budget hearing, Special Town Meeting of Electors and Special Town Board Meeting will run consecutively on Tuesday, November 21st at 6 PM. All meetings are at the Town Hall.

Materials will be available from the clerk before

these meetings if anyone desires.

It is true that in our small municipality the budget process is fairly cut-and-dried. There are simply not a lot of revenue sources, and therefore what we can do is limited. During our current year, the town's income is projected to be \$180,781. This mainly comes from 3 sources: state shared revenue, state transportation aids, and the rental we get for the power line that runs across our town.

We'd love your input on the budget process. Plan to attend some of the meetings listed to the left or contact the clerk for more information.

Building Permits

Everyone has heard the term ‘Building Permit’ and most have a vague notion that they might need one if they build a new house or other structure. But there are other instances where a building permit can be required.

But why the need for one in the first place? Wisconsin Administrative Codes clearly define what they call the “Uniform Dwelling Code” (UDC). The codes go into great detail on specific construction practices and materials that are deemed safe and effective by the state. Everything from the thickness of residential concrete floors (at least 3 inches) to joist and rafter tables for how roofs are framed is included.

Our own town ordinance states it’s purpose in chapter [2]: *The purpose of the ordinance is to promote the general health, safety, and welfare, and to maintain required local uniformity with the administrative and technical requirements of the Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code.* Maple Creek’s ordinance that covers this is Chapter 8.06, Adoption of Wisconsin Dwelling Code, which was enacted by the town board on January 1st, 2005. (If a town doesn’t have an explicit ordinance, it follows the county ordinance.) The salient part of the town ordinance says this:

[6] Building Permit Required. *No person shall alter, in excess of \$5,000 value in any twelve(12) month period, build, add onto or alter any building within the scope of this ordinance without first obtaining a building permit for such work from the building inspector. My structural changes or major changes to mechanical systems that involve extensions shall require permits. Restoration or repair of an installation to its previous code-compliant condition as determined by the building inspector is exempted from permit requirements. Re-siding, re-roofing, finishing of interior surfaces, and installation of cabinetry shall be exempted from permit requirements.*

The upshot is this: If you are painting your living room, replacing kitchen cabinets, re-roofing or re-siding, no permit is required. If you are doing structural work or adding an outbuilding that adds \$5000 in value to your property, you need a permit. Note that when a building permit is issued, a copy is also sent to our town assessors so that up-to-date property values are maintained.

Maple Creek has two building inspectors. If you are doing improvements or adding an outbuilding, call Jeff Handschke. For new residential construction, our UDC inspector is Paul Hanlon. Their contact information is listed on the front page of this newsletter.

Wanted: Election Inspectors

Election workers are the force makes an election happen. We’ve had a quiet election schedule in this off year, but next year we kick into gear again with 4 likely elections. Here in Maple Creek we’ve traditionally maintained a roster of about 10 election workers. Due to some of our workers moving out of the town, we could use a couple more.

It’s a long day, from about 6:30 in the morning until 9 PM that night, but lunch and dinner are provided. Poll workers get paid \$10 an hour. A training session is required every two years for election inspectors. In addition, we should have another Chief Inspector, who receives more training. This person runs the election and earns \$11 per hour.

Election Inspectors are appointed for a 2-year term. If you are interested, please contact the town clerk at 920-634-9429.

Cemetery Clean-Up

Please have any summer decorations off of graves by October 15th. After the fall clean up, you are welcome to place new decorations back out.

Odds and Ends

□ At its September meeting, the town board voted to renew our contract with Associated Appraisal Consultants Inc. They have been our **town assessors** for the past three years, and the new contract also runs for three years through 2020. The charge for 2018 is \$4,100 for the year. Associated has been doing a great job for the town; they are very open to questions and always respond quickly. For town assessment questions our contact there is Dave Kittel. He can be reached at their main number— 800-721-4157.

□ If you had a fire, could a firetruck reach your house? A modern fire engine can be 40 feet long, 9 1/2 feet wide and 12 feet tall. Wisconsin recommends a minimum driveway width of 14 feet to handle emergency vehicles. Town Ordinance 4.08 supersedes that recommendation for driveways over 100 feet long, stating that they need a right of way of 20 feet and a graveled or paved surface 16 feet wide.

□ If you have something you would like covered or something you’d like to contribute to this newsletter, please let the clerk know.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Tuesday	10/3/17	Plan Commission Meeting (if necessary)
Monday	10/9/17	Town Board Meeting
Tuesday	10/24/17	Board budget working meeting— 6 PM
Tuesday	11/7/17	Plan Commission Meeting (if necessary)
Monday	11/13/17	Town Board Meeting
Tuesday	11/21/17	Town Budget meetings (3) - 6 PM
Tuesday	12/5/17	Plan Commission Meeting (if necessary)
Monday	12/11/17	Town Board Meeting
Saturday	12/23/17	Pay taxes at Town Hall—9 AM to 3 PM
Saturday	12/30/17	Pay taxes at Town Hall—9 AM to 3 PM
Sunday	12/31/17	Deadline for appointing election inspectors

Trash / Recycling

Trash only: Sep. 29, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10, Nov. 25, Dec. 8, Dec. 22

Trash/Recycling: Oct. 6, Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 15, Dec. 30

REMEMBER: These are pick-up dates! Make sure to put your bins out the night before!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Town of Maple Creek
PO Box 224
New London, WI 54961