



Farmington Town Hall Newsletter

Issue 25

www.farmington-waupaca.com

Spring-Summer 2021

Farmington Town News:

Summer road work: We are planning on Waupaca Cty Hwy scrape road edges that have built up. There will also be repairs to potholes throughout the township. And we have the following sealcoat projects: Janl Estates, Silver View Heights, Heritage Hills and Hill Subdivision.

*** WI Dept of Transportation notification of work on State Rd 49 bridge deck overlay over the south branch Little Wolf River in the town of Scandinavia. Construction will likely last two days, with traffic reduced to one lane with temporary traffic signals.**

The Town Board would like to **thank** our residents for their support in the April 6th election. We are charged with protecting the Health, Safety, and Welfare of its citizens. We work to maintain fire protection, ambulance service, town roads that are safe and well-maintained, property rights protected and lowest possible property taxes. We are available for resident calls, e-mails and visits.

Town Board meetings are held every **third Monday @ 7:00pm** at the Town Hall located at the corner of State Road 54 and County Road Q. Agendas are posted in the *Waupaca County Post*, on our website www.farmington-waupaca.com, and at the town hall.

TUESDAY, April 20, 2021 - Annual Town meeting of Electors...at 7:00pm.

Agenda items are the audit and financial report along with any other business that may legally come before the Board. A **regular Town Board meeting will follow.**

The Town currently oversees three cemeteries: **Barton, Salem and Sheridan.** Sites are available for purchase at \$400.00 which includes Perpetual Care. Anyone interested can contact the Cemetery Secretary, Danielle Taggart at the Town Hall (715-258-2779).

2nd half taxes are due July 31st & sent to the **Waupaca County Treasurer**
811 Harding St
Waupaca, WI 54981

Open Book/Board of Review

Each year residents are given the opportunity to meet at the Town Hall with the assessor during **Open Book** to discuss their current property assessments. If you choose after that meeting to appear before the **Board of Review** to contest your assessment, you will need to submit the necessary objection form in advance and receive an assigned appearance time from the Town Clerk,. The burden of proof lies with the property holder to provide their case for change in assessment. **Open Book and Board of Review are held at the Town Hall. Specific dates are published in the *Waupaca County Post* and on the Town website: www.farmington-waupaca.com**

Operator licenses for bartenders are valid July 1st thru June 30th of the following year and renewable for \$20.00 Any person not already holding a license in the Town of Farmington will need to have proof of completion of the **Responsible Beverage Service Course** when making application, Please contact Danielle Taggart, Town Clerk at 715-258-2779 or stop at the Town Hall.

Survey Regarding Garbage/Recycling Results:

Surveys were mailed out the end of January to over 1600 property owners. At the March 15, 2021 meeting, the Town Board found out that the results were virtually even - for and against - and decided to not pursue any further action at this time.

Driving Safely This Summer..... Watch Speed Limits

It has been brought to the Town's attention that many drivers are exceeding speed limits on Town roads. Please refer to the following limits and roads:

* 25mph - Otter Dr, Pine Ridge Ln, Murray Ln, Grandview Rd, County Park Ln, Whispering Pines Rd, Pleasant Park Ln, Snug Harbor Ln, Norris Ln, Locksley Ln, Round Lake Rd, Highland Ln, Hicks Ln, White Pines Ln, Cleghorn Dr, Browne Ln, Halbert Ln, Minor Dr (to Dayton town line).

King Rd - 25mph from State Rd 22 east .3 miles, then 35mph to Cty Rd QQ.

* 35 mph - Foley South, Anderson Rd , Smith Ln from State Rd 54 to intersection with Round Lake Rd, then goes to 25mph to termini

* 45 mph - Larson Rd, Foley North, Butts Dr., Golke Rd (from Cty Rd Q to Edminster Rd)

Also be mindful of **stopping at STOP signs.**

Outdoor Burning Laws for Waupaca County.....

* **Burning permits** (including special permits) are required January 1 thru May 31 when the ground is not completely snow-covered. This applies to areas outside of incorporated cities and villages.

* **Annual burning permits** are valid for the entire calendar year, but require daily authorization Permits can be obtained over the phone (1-888-947-2876), online (dnr.wi.gov.) search keyword "burn permit" or search keyword "burning restrictions"

***Residential burning is restricted** to pine needles, leaves, grass, brush, unpainted/untreated wood, and confidential papers. Restrictions apply all year. Businesses are prohibited from any outdoor burning.

***Campfires for warming or cooking purposes** do not require a burning permit and are allowed anytime except during Emergency Burning Restrictions notice.

* **Your fire must be attended at all times** until completely extinguished and cold to the touch. Failure to extinguish is a crime and may result in fine or jail time. Should your fire escape, you can be held liable for all suppression costs and damages

Burn Barrels are unhealthy, un-neighborly, unnecessary, unsafe and **illegal.**

Notice from the Waupaca Cty Sheriff Dept... Due to the current COVID situation, DNR and emergency wardens **WILL NOT** be issuing annual paper burning permits going into this spring. In order for everyone to get burning permits, they **WILL HAVE** to go online dnr.wi.gov or call 1-888-WIS-BURN

July 2nd Round Lake fireworks display: At their upcoming May 17,2021 meeting, the Town Board will consider Ordinance 5/17/21(2021) Regulating Boating Upon the Water of Round Lake to Assist in the Preparation/Set-up for the Fireworks Display for July One Day Event. **In other words**, the Town was asked to help while the workers prepare and setup for the evening event. The ordinance is for boaters to go **slow-no-wake while passing through Round Lake after 2:00pm**. Please note that this is for **one day only**. Excessive wave action hinders the workers in their setup. Show kindness and consideration in your boating activities for that day. **Thank you.**

PLEASE check your plant growth around your **fire number** that would interfere with the number being visible. You are responsible for removal of any overgrown branches/weeds that would cover the numbers. Fire numbers are required by law.(WI Stat 59.54(4)(a)(b)Public Protection & Safety) If a post has been damaged, contact the Town Hall 715-258-2779.

Please notify the Town Hall if you notice any "obnoxious weeds" surrounding your lot that are in the town right-of-way. As per WI Stats 66.0407, refer to "noxious weed" as Canada thistle, leafy spurge, field bindweed, plus any weed designated by DNR rule. The Town will have a certified County Hwy worker spray.

Thank you

Road Work:.....Casey Beyersdorf, Waupaca Cty Highway Commissioner letter: (edit permitted)

Through my travels as a resident in the Town of Farmington and working for Waupaca Cty Highway Dept., I've seen some significant water ponding and puddles on the paved roadways. Ponding can create saturated pavement which is not good for long road life in those areas. It is also not good and could support potential hydroplaning of vehicles. I, therefore, made a recommendation to the Town Board to reshape and remove sod on some of the shoulders in the township. (These are considered Town right-of-right.) After surveying the roads after a long rain event in late fall, I found a significant amount of areas where water cannot shed off of the asphalt. This is not significantly a bad thing since the majority of the Town is rather sandy and the water soaks away rather quickly. However, my concern relates to the spring thaw, usually during the day when the ground is frozen, the snow melts forming puddles which freeze and create slippery spots throughout the night as the temperature drops below freezing. Many of these areas are created when lawns are tight to the asphalt, on the Town right-of-way, and over years, the mowing starts stacking up creating sod on the shoulders and in turn become higher than the asphalt. My recommendation to the Town was to cut out many of these areas so the water can shed off of the asphalt in the lanes of traffic. (If water remains at the edges, it corrupts the cohesiveness of the asphalt and the asphalt eventually breaks up.) Many lawn owners may be aggravated by a large chunk of their lawn being removed from the Town right-of-way, however, it is a balance of safety vs. aesthetics. With the permission of the Town Board, Waupaca Cty Highway Dept will be removing the areas identified during the survey. The lawns will not be reseeded. Again, this is Town right-of-way.

Information regarding Room Tax: Within the township there are property owners who rent out their housing and should be paying a state imposed room tax. The state regulates that 70% of that room tax go towards tourism. And since the state does not/cannot differentiate what municipality the tax belongs to, it was sent to the City of Waupaca because of all rentals having the 54981 zip code designation. The City felt that a percentage of the remaining 30% tax should be returned to the towns for their use. Therefore, at the December 21, 2020 Town Board meeting, Ordinance 12/21/20(2020) was approved Establishing an 8% Room Tax for the Town of Farmington. An 8% tax is already collected from owners who rent, The Town of Farmington was found to have an estimated 38 rentals who should be licensed by the Waupaca Cty Dept of Health and Human Services - Public Health Services Dept at the courthouse.

Waupaca County Public Health is offering a waitlist for upcoming COVID-19 vaccine clinic held at the Manawa Lodge on N. Bridge St. in Manawa. Those eligible are: health care personnel, law enforcement, fire personnel and correctional staff and individuals 65 years of age and older. Starting around March 1st the next eligible populations are education & child care, individuals enrolled in Medicaid long-term care programs, some public-facing essential workers, non-frontline health care essential personnel and facility staff and residents in congregate living. Getting vaccinated will be one of the best ways to protect yourself and your community. Scientific evidence currently tells us that the vaccine is very effective at preventing serious illness caused by COVID-19. However, researchers continue to investigate whether vaccinated individuals are still able to spread the virus to others who have not been vaccinated. A vaccine does not replace the need to continue other actions to stop the spread and keep ourselves healthy. While you are waiting for your turn to get the vaccine, it is important to continue wearing masks, physical distancing, washing your hands, and getting tested and isolating if you have signs and symptoms of COVID-19. For more information go to Public Health website www.waupacacounty-wi.gov/departments/healthandhumanservices/vaccineinformation.

Solid Waste & Recycling Program Updates- 2021...by Taylor Sorenson, Recycling Coordinator

Recycle More & Pay Less for Garbage! The Waupaca Regional Recycling & Composting Center, 601 Lakeside Pkw in Waupaca offers a pay-by-the-bag garbage program that rewards you for recycling. The more you recycle, the less garbage you have and, therefore, the less money you have to pay for the disposal of that garbage. A WIN WIN situation! Stop at the site during hours of operation (Mon 12-6, Fri 7-4, Sat 7-3) for additional information or visit www.waupacacountyrecycling.com. Large bulky items such as furniture, carpet, & construction/demolition materials are not accepted at this site but are accepted at the Waupaca County PTF, Manawa. Minimum charge of \$15 up to 340 pounds or \$85 per ton.

PTF General Information. The Waupaca County Processing & Transfer Facility (PTF), located at E4981 Swan Rd in the Town of Little Wolf, is open Mon-Fri 7-3, Sat 7-11 (March-Nov.) 3rd Sat 7-11 (Dec-Feb) All loads MUST be covered, secured. Payment is cash or check only. The PTF brochure is available online at www.waupacacountyrecycling.com

Compost Bins for Sale! The *Home Composter* bin will be on display & available for purchase starting May 1st at the Waupaca County Solid Waste Dept., 811 Harding St., Waupaca and at the Waupaca County PTF. Bin capacity is 128 gallons and comes with a locking lid, dual access doors, and a "How To" handbook. Cost: \$55.00 includes tax.

Map Appliance Round-Up: During the first two weeks of May, residents can dispose of appliances at a reduced rate at the Waupaca County PTF. Freon appliances will cost \$10.00 per appliance, regularly \$15.00. Non-Freon appliances will cost \$8.00 per appliance, regularly \$10.00

Household Hazardous Waste: The Household Hazardous Waste program begins May 1st and runs through October at the Waupaca County PTF and is by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Call 715-258-6249 for an appointment to dispose of items such as old gas, paint thinner, varnish, oil paints, pesticides, and other poisonous or flammable substances.

It Won't Happen Here.....by Erica Halverson, Deputy Director, Waupaca Cty Emergency Management

In late February of 2021, when Texas and much of the south was hit with extreme cold and snow, I heard, "It won't happen here." My reply to them was, "Why not?"

Our infrastructure is very different than southern states for sure. Our electrical systems are designed for cold weather. Our water and wastewater is generally buried well below frost levels and our structures have adequate heat sources and insulation. That is, as long as things are normal, even for Wisconsin.

What were some of the shortfalls that occurred in the south that could affect us locally?

First is the high demand for electricity during extreme cold puts a huge strain on the electrical grid causing blackouts. Ice and snow can knock down power lines and poles that can take days to repair. Heating duels are also impacted during extended cold periods. During late February and early March, propane distributors were on allocation and were not receiving deliveries.

Our water and wastewater can be impacted by the extreme cold, lack of snow cover and loss of power. Both municipal systems and private well and septic systems can easily fail if precautions are not taken.

What can be done to prepare or mitigate potential problems that the south encountered?

First is to be informed. When severe weather is forecast, stock up well in advance on food, water and medications. Plan enough for a couple weeks. The supply chain may take several weeks to catch up with demands.

If you have a generator, make sure you have fuel and that it will start. Only connect a generator to a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician., If you don't have a generator you may wish to consider purchasing one. Only operate the generator in a well ventilated area. Generators don't need to be big. You can plug in appliances such as refrigerators, freezers and furnaces individually to lower the draw of power. Refrigerators and freezers stay cold for a long time if they remain closed.

Have adequate heating fuel on hand. You may benefit by having a contract with a fuel supplier. Portable UL approved heaters can be useful as a short-term supplement.

During extended periods of cold it may be necessary to allow water to run to keep pipes from freezing. Be aware of pipes located in outside walls and know how to shut off the water supply in the event of a break. Septic systems may need to be insulated if there is insufficient natural insulation or snow cover.

A little planning and preparation can give you piece of mind & save you from damage & expense.

Additional EAB Confirmed in Waupaca County.....Alex Feltmeyer, DNR Forest Health Specialist

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry staff have confirmed the presence of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Waupaca County in the Farmington and Weyauwega Townships. DNR Forest Health Specialists estimated that EAB has been present at the new locations for possibly 2-3 years and expects more sightings to be discovered in the local area.

Emerald Ash Borer is an insect that kills all varieties of ash trees (white ash, green ash and black ash) but is not known to affect any other Wisconsin tree species. More than 99% of Wisconsin's ash trees are expected to die. Once infested, ash trees generally die in 4-6 years. Due to a locally high water table, sustained flooding, and record rainfall in 2019, many ash in swamps have already been stressed or killed.

Woodpecker damage, thinning of the tree crown from the top, 1/8inch D-shaped exit holes, and branches sprouting low on the trunk all could be signs of EAB infestation.

More information on EAB can be found at: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/foresthealth/emeraldashborer>. For questions on residential trees, landowners are encouraged to check out the University of Wisconsin EAB page for info and management suggestions: <https://eab.russell.wisc.edu/>

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
WAUPACA COUNTY, WISCONSIN
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020
(WITH COMPARATIVE ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019)**

	Budget		Actual	Variance	2019 Actual
	Original	Final		Final Budget - Positive (Negative)	
REVENUES					
Taxes	\$ 676,703	\$ 676,703	\$ 691,705	\$ 15,002	\$ 687,427
Intergovernmental	344,631	344,631	476,621	131,990	331,483
Licenses and permits	55,940	55,940	69,165	13,225	70,741
Fines and forfeits	100	100	678	578	907
Public charges for services	3,420	3,420	6,293	2,873	5,067
Intergovernmental charges for services	3,536	3,536	8,764	5,228	2,153
Miscellaneous	53,300	53,300	53,215	(85)	61,357
Total revenues	1,137,630	1,137,630	1,306,441	168,811	1,159,135
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
General government	200,085	193,385	194,613	(1,228)	166,294
Public safety	201,040	201,040	208,138	(7,098)	184,575
Public works	460,295	460,295	584,390	(124,095)	757,927
Health and human services	11,575	11,575	7,597	3,978	8,934
Culture and recreation	67,675	67,675	66,440	1,235	65,700
Conservation and development	3,000	3,000	1,249	1,751	2,004
Capital outlay	200,660	200,660	47,251	153,409	5,996
Total expenditures	1,144,330	1,137,630	1,109,678	27,952	1,191,430
Net change in fund balance	(6,700)	-	196,763	196,763	(32,295)
Fund balance - January 1	450,549	450,549	450,549	-	482,844
Fund balance - December 31	\$ 443,849	\$ 450,549	\$ 647,312	\$ 196,763	\$ 450,549

Understanding VA Healthcare

WHAT IS VA HEALTHCARE?

VA Healthcare provides no-cost care to indigent Veterans, Veterans with catastrophic medical conditions, Veterans with a disability rating of 50 percent or higher, or for conditions that are officially rated as “service-connected.” VA Healthcare is not insurance. In order to take advantage of this benefit you must be eligible, apply, and be enrolled. Every Veteran has a unique eligibility status which affects the specific benefits they may receive.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You may be eligible if you were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions and meet:

Minimum Duty Requirements

Most Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, for a hardship or “early out,” or those who served prior to September 7, 1980. Since there are a number of other exceptions to the minimum duty requirements, VA encourages all Veterans to apply so that we may determine their enrollment eligibility.

Combat Veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after January 28, 2003, are now eligible to enroll in the VA health care system for 5 years from the date of discharge or release. *NOTE:* The 5-year enrollment period applicable to these Veterans begins on the discharge or separation date of the service member from active duty military service, or in the case of multiple call-ups, the most recent discharge date.

Combat Veterans who were discharged or released from active service after January 1, 2009, and before January 1, 2011, who did not enroll within the 5 years as stated above, are now eligible to enroll in the VA health care system for an additional period of one year beginning February 12, 2015.

Enhanced Eligibility

Certain Veterans may be afforded enhanced eligibility status when applying and enrolling in the VA healthcare system. Veterans who:

- Are a Former Prisoner of War (POW)
- In receipt of the Purple Heart Medal.
- In receipt of the Medal of Honor.
- Have a compensable VA awarded service-connected disability of 10% or more.
- In receipt of a VA Pension.
- Were discharged from the military because of a disability (not preexisting), early out, or hardship.
- Served in a Theater of Operations (for 5 years post discharge).
- Served in the Republic of Vietnam from January 9, 1962 to May 7, 1975. *U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships associated with military service in Vietnam see VA site.*
- Served in the Persian Gulf from August 2, 1990 to November 11, 1998.
- Were stationed or resided at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987.
- Are found by VA to be Catastrophically Disabled.
- Previous years' household income is below VA's National Income or Geographical-Adjusted Thresholds.

Note: To determine your eligibility, check eBenefits, contact VA Eligibility Center at 1-888-768-2132, or contact our office at 715-258-6475.

Understanding these and other VA Benefits can seem daunting, but the Waupaca County Veterans Service Office can help. If you could use a little help navigating the VA Benefit system please schedule an appointment today!

Jesse P. Cuff
Waupaca County Veterans Service Officer
Courthouse, 811 Harding Street
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-258-6475
www.facebook.com/WaupacaVeteransOffice
Hours: Monday – Friday 8a-4p

Source / for more information:

<http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/apply/veterans.asp>
http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/IB10-438_combat_veteran_eligibility.pdf
<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/>
http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/IB10-441_enrollment_priority_groups.pdf

OFFICIALS DIRECTORY

Chair

Caroline Murphy
N2576 Norris Ln
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-513-0013 (24/7)

Clerk-Treasurer

Danielle Taggart
715-258-2779

Waupaca County Zoning

Land Use & Sanitary Permits
715-258-6255

Supervisor I

Craig Nelson
N4228 Morgan Rd
Waupaca, WI 54981
715- 281-9051

Public Office Hours

Monday through Friday 8am-1pm

Assessor

James Stephens
715-258-9255 (leave message)
Cell: 715-281-0080

Supervisor II

Mark Jensen
E1498 Erickson Rd
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-281-6085

Building Inspector

Robert Underberg
715-281-1060

Town of Farmington
E913 Prairie View Ln.
Waupaca, WI 54981