



# Farmington Town Hall Newsletter

Issue 27 [www.farmington-waupaca.com](http://www.farmington-waupaca.com)

Spring-Summer 2022

## Farmington Town News:

**Summer road work:** We are planning on sealcoating River Dr., Frost Valley Rd and Woodland Cir. Please be aware of the tar and stones application. Drive slowly!

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**\* WPS (Wisconsin Public Service) will be installing underground wiring for the following roads: Highland, Browne, Locksley, Smith, Rainbow and Norris beginning in May dependent upon WPS schedule. Keep in mind that WPS uses Asplundh for their archery contractor should there be any trees in the Town right-of-way that need to be removed.**

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**Amherst Telephone (MI-TECH) will be doing utility fiber optic construction on following roads: Cty Q, Shirley Ct, Lone Pine, Manney Ct, Cobbtown, Foley, Frost Valley, Forest Valley, Morgan and Tomorrow River. PLEASE BE AWARE of their Vehicles.**

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**Town Board meetings are held every third Monday @ 6:30pm at the Town Hall located at the corner of State Road 54 and County Road Q. (Exception being April & November begin at 7:00pm) Agendas are posted in the Waupaca County Post, on our website [www.farmington-waupaca.com](http://www.farmington-waupaca.com), and at the town hall.**

**TUESDAY, April 19, 2022 - 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.**

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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, Kathy Kasza at the Town Hall (715-258-2779).

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

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## 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](http://www.farmington-waupaca.com)**  
**Since the Town was below the State law requirement of being within 10% of equalized value, we were compelled to do this re-evaluation last year.**

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**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 Kathy Kasza, Town Clerk at 715-258-2779 or stop at the Town Hall.

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**Town Electronic drop-off** will be held **Friday, April 22nd (EARTH DAY) at the Town shed from 8am to 12 noon. Electronics include:** TV's, computers, monitors, laptops, netbooks, tablets, keyboards/mice, scanners, printers, fax machines, DVD players, VCR's, DVR's, USB flash drives, external; hard drives. **NO CONSOLE TV's.** **Our Electronic Drop-Off is for Town of Farmington residents ONLY. Please do not bring any electronics from friends living in other towns or cities. THANK YOU.**

**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 Don't forget to let them know when you are burning brush piles to avoid unnecessary fire department calls!

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**July 1st (Friday) Round Lake fireworks display:** At their May 17,2021 meeting, the Town Board approved 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.**

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**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**

**Garbage/Recycling Update:**

The Waupaca Regional Recycling/Composting Center on Cty Rd K, Waupaca, is managed by the following municipalities: City of Waupaca, Towns of Farmington, Dayton, Lind and Waupaca to insure that "solid waste generated within these municipalities is properly recycled or disposed of according to the laws of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency when applicable.;" There is a possibility that the Recycling Center **may be closing** for garbage/recycling but remain OPEN for brush/leaves, tires, oil, paint. This is because the City of Waupaca and the Town of Waupaca (and most likely the Town of Lind) are going with a single vendor for garbage/recycling. The Town of Farmington **may need to re-evaluate their position in the future**. The Board wants their residents to be aware of events and how they may be affected.

**Information regarding Room Tax:** Within the township there are property owners who rent out their housing and should be paying a town imposed room tax. The state regulates that 70% of that room tax go towards tourism. And since the on-line vendors do 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. Please refer to information that was included in your tax bill..

**RENTALS MUST BE LICENSED from Waupaca Cty Health Dept. and the Town of Farmington.**

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**ATV/UTV Equipment Requirements.....Jonathan Kaiser, DNR**

Updates/requirements were made to the ATV/UTV laws according to the DNR and include the following items regarding lighting that needs to be emphasized:

"ATVs must be equipped with at least one white headlamp and a red tail lamp. UTVs must be equipped with 2 white headlamps and a red tail lamp and brake lamp. ATV/UTV headlamp(s) must be able to illuminate any person or object at a distance of 200 feet in front. ATVs/UTVs must be equipped with a tail lamp that is visible for 500 feet to the rear during the hours of darkness.

**No person may operate any ATV or UTV that is equipped with any of the following:**

- \* **A lamp that emits any color of light other than white or amber and that is visible from directly in front of the ATV/UTV**
- \* **A lamp that emits any color of light other than red, yellow, amber or white and that is visible from directly behind the ATV/UTV**
- \* **A flashing, oscillating, or rotating lamp that emits any color other than yellow or amber.**

ATV/UTVs may not be equipped with more than two back-up lamps that illuminate the area to the rear of the vehicle for a distance not to exceed 75 feet. If an ATV/UTV is equipped with additional adverse weather lamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps, or any other lamp on the front of the ATV/UTV that is capable of more than 300 candlepower, not more than 4 of these lamps may be illuminated simultaneously within 500 feet of an oncoming ATV/UTV or other vehicle upon a roadway, ATV route, ATV trail, or public area. An ATV/UTV may be modified so that its maximum width exceeds the width allowed for either an ATV (50 inches) or an UTV (65 inches). This does not apply to the operation of an ATV/UTV on private property. ATV/UTVs must be equipped with at least one brake, operated either by hand or by foot."

More can be found by visiting DNR.WI.GOV and search "ATV".

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**Important Information Regarding Absentee Ballots.....Kathy Kasza, Town Clerk**

In accordance with Wis. Stat s. 6.84(2), any absentee ballots returned in drop boxes **CANNOT** be accepted.

If you return your ballot in the drop box, you will be asked to pick up your ballot and drop off in person for your vote to count.

If returning your ballot in person, you are only allowed to return **YOUR** ballot; we cannot accept ballots dropped off by anyone other than yourself.

For your convenience, the envelope is pre-stamped for return by mail. We strongly encourage you to mail your absentee ballot.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
 WAUPACA COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND  
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021  
 (WITH COMPARATIVE ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020)

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Variance Final Budget	Actual 2020
<b>REVENUE</b>				
TAXES	696,450	710,148	13,698	691,705
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	345,462	351,564	6,102	476,622
LICENSES & PERMITS	50,529	86,229	35,700	69,818
FINES, FORFEITURES & PENALTIES	500	558	58	25
PUBLIC CHARGES FOR SERVICES	3,320	5,759	2,439	6,293
INTERGOVERNMENTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	3,536	3,925	389	8,764
MISCELLANEOUS	51,800	50,092	(1,709)	53,215
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,151,597</b>	<b>1,208,274</b>	<b>56,677</b>	<b>1,306,443</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	179,414	181,350	(1,937)	194,617
PUBLIC SAFETY	194,507	215,096	(20,590)	208,137
PUBLIC WORKS	510,728	486,643	24,085	584,390
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	11,575	8,178	3,397	7,597
CULTURE, RECREATION & EDUCATION	67,675	56,981	10,694	66,440
CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT	3,000	7,367	(4,367)	1,249
CAPITAL OUTLAY	159,698	8,190	151,508	47,251
OTHER FINANCING USES	25,000	-	25,000	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,151,597</b>	<b>963,806</b>	<b>187,790</b>	<b>1,109,681</b>
	-	244,468	244,468	196,762
<b>FUND BALANCE - JANUARY 1</b>		<b>647,311</b>		<b>450,549</b>
COMMITTED FUND BALANCE - DECEMBER 31		312,000		312,000
UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE - DECEMBER 31		579,779		335,311
<b>FUND BALANCE - DECEMBER 31</b>		<b>891,779</b>		<b>647,311</b>

The financial year ending December 31, 2021, saw an increase in remaining funds due to several factors.

- The collection of room taxes on the rental properties within the town resulted in additional funds to reserve for future lake patrol expenses. The Town retains 30% of the taxes collected and the Waupaca Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (WCVB) receives 70% to invest in tourism projects and community program grants.
- The agreement with Gold Cross Ambulance Service resulted in a one-year increase to cover their COVID-19 revenue loss.
- The milder winter resulted in lower snowplowing costs.
- The Youth Program Fund returned unspent funds from the reduced service provided in 2020 resulting in lower costs for the town.
- The portion of room taxes distributed to the WCVB is recorded as an expense in Conservation & Development and will be budgeted in future years.
- The Town did not reconstruct any roads which allowed funds to be carried forward to future projects. Also, the purchase of a new lake patrol boat was deferred.
- No use of the \$25,000 contingency in the budget.

The Town received a payment of \$202,063 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The payment is not included in the 2021 budget to actual until the funds are spent. These funds will be used towards providing broadband internet access within limit access areas of the Town.

**Information provided by Kathy Kasza, Town Clerk/Treasurer**

## Restoring power to your home after a storm

What should you do if you lose power from a storm? First is to make sure that you and your family are safe. If you go outside to survey your property for damage, be sure to watch out for downed wires. Assume that any wires are live and anything they are touching could conduct electricity, including telephone and cable TV wires.

Who should you call if you have lost power? If there is an immediate emergency or hazard, such as arching wires, downed wires or objects on fire, call **911**. Be sure that you know the address of the danger and the power company if possible. **911 Centers** are extremely busy and you should not call them to report an outage if there is no emergency or hazard.

Three electric utility companies serve the Town of Farmington. Wisconsin Public Service, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative and Alliant Energy. Be sure you know who your utility company is before you have an emergency. The call centers for utility company will be busy after a storm. Be patient. Calling 911 will not speed up restoration of your power outage. If you have internet access, you can report an outage online and view an outage map. The numbers to report an outage are at the end of this article.

What if there is damage to your electrical service equipment? If there is damage to equipment attached to your house such as the circuit breaker panel, service riser pipes, weather head and meter base, you will need to contact an electrician to make repairs before the utility company can restore power. The utility is responsible for the incoming service lines, the meter, transformers and poles.

Who gets power restored first? Typically, utilities will attempt to restore power as follows:

- Emergency and essential services - Efforts to restore power to agencies that protect the health and safety of the public receive top priority. These agencies include hospitals, police departments, fire departments, water treatment facilities and pumping stations.
- Transmission lines, substations and distribution lines. Repairing damage to these components is necessary to restore power to your home.
- Service lines - Repairs are then made to service lines to individual homes. This is the most time-consuming part of the restoration process. After a power outage, if you notice that your neighbor's power is back on but yours is not, please contact your utility company. You may have damage to your individual service meter equipment.

Remember, the goal is to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Do not assume that your utility company knows that you have an outage. Call and report your outage. This also helps them to know the extent of possible damage and outages. The numbers to report and outage are listed below:

**Wisconsin Public Service 1-800-465-1212**

**Alliant Energy 1-800-ALLIANT 1-800-255-4268**

**Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative 1-800-377-2932**

**Eric Halverson, Deputy Director  
Waupaca Cty Emergency Management**

## Solid Waste & Recycling Program Updates - 2022

Provided by Taylor Sorenson, Recycling Coordinator

[www.waupacacountyrecycling.com](http://www.waupacacountyrecycling.com)

715-258-6240



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Waupaca County Solid Waste & Recycling

- **Recycle More & Pay Less for Garbage!** The Waupaca Regional Recycling & Composting Center, 601 Lakeside Parkway 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](http://www.waupacacountyrecycling.com). Large bulky items, such as furniture, carpet, and construction/demolition materials are not accepted at this site but are accepted at the Waupaca County PTF. Minimum charge of \$20 up to 400 pounds or \$92 per ton.
- **Compressed Gas Cylinders Now Accepted for Recycling!** The Waupaca County Processing & Transfer Facility (PTF) is now accepting compressed gas cylinders, such as Propane, MAPP, CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, and Helium tanks for recycling! 1lb. tanks are \$3.00 each and 2-20lb tanks are \$15.00 each. You should never put a compressed gas cylinder in your normal trash or recycling containers as the tanks contain flammable gas and any residual gas could potentially start a fire. The PTF is located at E4981 Swan Road in the Town of Little Wolf, open Mon - Fri 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat 7 a.m.-11 a.m. (Mar - Nov), 3rd Sat 7 a.m.-11 a.m. (Dec - Feb). All loads MUST be covered, secured. Payment is cash or check only. The PTF brochure is available online at [www.waupacacountyrecycling.com](http://www.waupacacountyrecycling.com).
- **Compost Bins for Sale!** The *Home Composter*™ bin will be on display and available for purchase at the Waupaca County Solid Waste Department, 811 Harding Street, 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.
- **May 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- **Outdoor Burning.** Spring is wildfire season. In Wisconsin, most fires occur in April and May, after the snow is gone and before plants have greened up. Burning permits are required Jan. 1- May 31<sup>st</sup>. Permits can be obtained online at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) (search keyword 'burn permit'), or by calling 1-888-WIS-BURN. Burning of garbage, furniture, treated wood, construction debris, etc. is **illegal** and carries a hefty fine. Residential households can burn only leaves, brush, clean untreated wood and small amounts of confidential papers. Although burning permits are required through May 31<sup>st</sup>, the above burning restrictions apply year-round.

## Understanding VA: Non-Service Connected Pension

If you're a Veteran who served on active duty under honorable conditions you might be eligible for VA Pension. For Veterans who qualify, VA pension is a needs based benefit which pays a monthly benefit.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

You may be eligible if:

- You were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- You served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time\*, **AND**
- Your countable income is below the amount listed in the chart below, **AND**
- You meet the net worth limitations, **AND**
- You are age 65 or older, **OR**, you have a permanent and total non-service connected disability, **OR**, you are patient in a nursing home, **OR** you are receiving Social Security disability benefits.

\*Veterans who entered active duty after September 7, 1980, must also serve at least 24 months of active duty service. If the total length of service is less than 24 months, the Veteran must have completed their entire tour of active duty.

### **HOW MUCH DOES VA PAY?**

This benefit is income and asset tested by VA. This means the VA must confirm your total net worth is under \$138,489, and your income for VA purposes is under the Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR). The VA calculates your annual pension payment by first determining, for your particular circumstances, the MAPR – an annual payment amount set by Congress. There are three MAPR categories known as Basic, Housebound, and Aid and Attendance. For example, if you are a Veteran with no dependents, the Basic MAPR is \$14,753, the Housebound MAPR is \$18,029, and the Aid and Attendance MAPR is \$24,610. As you might have guessed, the MAPR categories correspond to your medical condition and level of care required. For Basic think completely independent, for Aid and Attendance think skilled nursing care, and Housebound falls in the middle. Next, VA determines your countable income. VA determines countable income by subtracting from your total income, received in a particular 12-month period, the amount of those exclusions provided by law\*. VA then subtracts your countable income from the MAPR; the difference is your annual pension entitlement. VA divides this amount by 12 and rounds down to the nearest dollar, this is the approximate amount of your monthly pension payment.

\*VA deducts certain expenses paid by you, e.g., unreimbursed medical expenses, from your annual household income, which will decrease your countable income and increase your monthly pension payment. A complete list of these exclusions is provided in section 3.272 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations. These regulations are available at the Government Printing Offices website.

*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](http://www.facebook.com/WaupacaVeteransOffice)  
 Hours: Monday – Friday 8a-4p

#### **Source / for more information:**

<http://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/livepension.pdf>  
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/>  
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/PENSION/wartimeperiod.asp>  
[http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/current\\_rates\\_veteran\\_pen.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/current_rates_veteran_pen.asp)