



Views from the Chair

By Ed Minihan, Town Chair

The Sandhill Cranes have returned to herald the reawakening of this bit of earth we occupy. Those cranes return in groups to the same area every year. Flocks are really small communities. It is in the Town of Dunn that these small communities reproduce and prosper. Like us, the Cranes rely on the land and water for their sustenance and quality of life. They rely on each other for protection during the two long migrations each year. The flock knows where to stop to rest and to eat. The Cranes do not debate the reliance they have on one another. The dangerous migration requires it - it is a communal undertaking. Were it so in the human community. Our instincts are right. Children do not grow up hating others unless adults teach them to. In these last few years there has been an erosion of reliance on community. The focus has too often turned to self-obsession and the denial of the importance of the community. More folks are asking "What's in it for me?" rather than "What can I do for my community?" We like

to think that because of the sense of community in the Town of Dunn, that this impact is minimal. And it is in large part, but our staff are increasingly yelled and sworn at if people do not get their way. Disputes between neighbors have increased, both with the expectation that the Town can resolve their personal animus. Rarely can we and never to the satisfaction of both parties. We can deny the reliance on our community all we want - but deep down we know better. If something goes wrong at home, a medical event, a fire, or even the need for food (yes we have folks who need food even in the Town of Dunn), who will be



Numerous tundra swans were visible from the historic Dyreson Bridge in February after making their spring migration journey. Photo by Kevin Cronk.

there to help when it is most needed? As good as our fire and police support is, the first responder is going to be your neighbor. It is that plain and simple. We have a chance now to get back to an "old" normal - let's take it!
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Groups Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine Expanding Starting March 29

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced that individuals age 16 and older with certain medical conditions will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine beginning March 29th. DHS anticipates the general public will be eligible for the vaccine sometime in May. Due to the limited supply of vaccine and with this next eligible group likely adding more than 2 million individuals in Wisconsin eligible for the vaccine, providers may need to prioritize individuals within this population who are at higher risk. These include individuals with severe medical conditions, those with two or more conditions, older adults, or those living in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Individuals with eligible medical conditions can access vaccines through a variety of options, including community-based clinics, health

care providers, Local and Tribal Health Departments, and pharmacies. Wisconsinites with a primary care provider may hear directly from their provider. Call the toll free vaccine hotline at 1-844-684-1064 to learn more.

In the meantime, it is important to double-down on ways to stop the spread of COVID-19 due to emerging strains of the virus. Masking up, staying physically distant, washing hands, and getting tested continue to be crucial tools for protecting ourselves and our communities against COVID-19. For information, resources, and data related to Wisconsin's COVID-19 vaccination program, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/.

Read the full press release and the full list of eligible medical conditions at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/031121.htm

**YOU
STOP THE
SPREAD**

Call the toll free vaccine hotline at 1-844-684-1064 to learn more.

Virtual Annual Town Meeting: April 20th, 2021, 7 PM on Zoom

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Town Meeting called pursuant to Wis. Stats. 60.12(1)(c), by the Town Board of the Town of Dunn, on April 20th, 2021, at 7:00 PM. The purpose of the Annual Town Meeting is to present financial and activity reports for various departments, a COVID-19 response report, storm water management education as required by Section 216.07(2) of State Admin. Code, and any new business from the floor allowed under Wis. Stats. Ch 60.10.

To view additional meeting details, call-in or log-in information and the agenda, please visit dunn.civicweb.net.

Views from the Chair *(continued)*

On a more spring-like note, you will read elsewhere in this newsletter about our group of farmers who are fulfilling the Town's dream of having excellent, sustainable food resources in our Town. They are an impressive group of businesspeople. Farmers might have hands that are rougher than your local banker, but they are every bit as much in business. With the help of experienced agricultural marketing experts, the Cislers, they are working to make the Dunn Naturally branding efforts a success. They adapted quickly to the COVID crisis and have survived and even prospered during it. Very few small businesses were

able to create alternate business plans. Please buy food from these folks. They produce great product and they are in your community! We have protected land available for even more of these kinds of enterprises. Our development plan is to continue to make our Town a sustainable community, to protect farmland, encourage farming as a viable business, fight to keep our lakes and river resources clean for our, and other, communities, and to continuously become a source of healthy food. It is where we have been and where we continue to go because our community has decided upon what future we will create and how we will maintain and even improve our quality of life.

Garlic Mustard: A Threat to Wisconsin's Woodlands

Information and photo from UW-Extension

Garlic Mustard, native to Europe, was introduced to North America by early settlers for its supposed medicinal properties and use in cooking. However, once garlic mustard has been introduced into non-native habitats, it takes over and displaces native woodland vegetation and degrades wildlife habitat and forests by shading out tree and shrub seedlings. Proper management of garlic mustard is needed to prevent habitat degradation.

Growth: Garlic mustard is a rapidly growing hardy biennial (two-year growth cycle). Its appearance changes dramatically from one year to the next. Seed capsules begin to form within days after flowering begins. Seeds become viable quickly and are disseminated in July and August when the plant dies.

Flowers and Leaves: Four white petals at the end of stems, ¼" wide, only in 2nd year plants, rounded to kidney-shaped leaves (1st year) and larger toothed, heart-shaped leaves (2nd years).

Blooming Period: Seeds germinate in early April. Flowers bloom late April to early June.

Habitat: Generally requires some shade; found in upland and floodplain forests, savannas, yards, along roadsides, stormwater entry points, along trails, and at the base of large trees. It is less tolerant of acidic soils. The invasion of forests usually begins along the wood's edge.

Odor: Garlic mustard has a distinct odor of garlic when its leaves are crushed.

Preventing Spread: Garlic mustard spreads by seed carried on the fur of mammals, by flowing water, and through human movement. Prevention is the best way to stop the continued spread of garlic mustard:

- Clean clothing and shoes thoroughly after walking or working in an infested area. Seeds can lodge in cracks of shoes.
- Survey your area for garlic mustard plants. If you find an infestation, determine the outer edges of the population and remove plants working from the least infested area to the most infested area.
- Monitor woodlands that are not infested carefully and frequently. Removing one or two plants before they go to seed is much easier than removing many.

Control Methods: Any control method selected must be repeated for several years until the garlic mustard seed bank is depleted. Control methods work best when completed prior to flowers blooming in order to prevent further seed germination.

- *Hand Pulling:* For smaller infestations or where large groups of people are involved, hand pulling garlic mustard can be effective. Tarp the soil down after pulling to limit further seed germination. Garlic mustard can set seed just days after flowering begins, even after it is pulled!



Pulled plants may be put in plastic bags or large paper bags. Do not compost garlic mustard! Few compost piles produce enough heat throughout to destroy all of the garlic mustard seeds. Bagged plants should be disposed of by burning or disposing them in the trash.

- *Cutting:* Some sources indicate that cutting garlic mustard plants as near to the soil surface as possible just after the flower stalks have elongated but before the flowers have opened has been very effective in killing garlic mustard plants, preventing seed production, and avoiding soil disturbance. Others say that garlic mustard resprouted several times when they used this technique, making it more labor intensive. Research has had conflicting results thus far.



Photo showing crab apple trees blooming at the Town of Dunn Burying Ground located off Sand Hill Road. Photo by Kelsey Shepperd.

Our Urban Forest

By Hardy Krueger, Town of Dunn ISA Certified Arborist

The past couple of years have been extremely hard on our trees. Direct and indirect causes have changed our landscape's urban forest. Unfortunately, the emerald ash borer is a direct cause in making the number of dead and dying ash trees visibly increase. Additionally, evident signs of Oak Wilt and BOB (bur oak blight) can be found throughout our community. Trees are also showing stress from the recent years of flooding.

We, as a community, must take even more care now in preserving our urban forest. Trees are an important working component of our community infrastructure, just like streets, sewers, utilities, and public buildings and recreational facilities. Healthy "green infrastructure" pays the community back by providing services such as energy conservation, economic and physiological vitality, improved air quality, reduced stormwater runoff, carbon sequestration, noise reduction, enhanced beautification, and wildlife habitat. Our trees need care to survive. With our care, the longer they live and the more benefits they provide. We can help by planting, treating, and properly pruning our trees. Please follow all state and local rules, regulation and ordinances regarding pruning, planting, treating, and the movement of trees, brush and firewood. We highly encourage our residents to utilize the Town of Dunn Transfer Site for brush drop off. **Remember, you CAN make a difference!**

For more Urban Forestry information, local ordinances, and Transfer Site information visit the Town's website: www.townofdunnwi.gov. State rules and regulations can be found on the WI DNR website at: www.dnr.wi.gov/topics/invasives.

The Golden Rule of Respect

By Tamara Knickmeier, Lake Waubesa Conservation Association

Spring is around the corner and along with the warmer weather and excitement of getting outdoors, comes the realization that the pretty white snow covered lots of debris along with that last bit of yard work you didn't get around to in the fall. As you prepare to embark on your spring cleanup, please take a moment to look around and consider how you dispose of your yard waste and how your actions impact the lakes and your neighbors.

Look beyond your yard and take a walk down your street. Consider where storm water goes during heavy rains. There is an excellent chance that storm water ends up in a wetland or a lake.

The Town of Dunn, the Lake Waubesa Conservation Association, and the Friends of Waubesa Wetlands are partnering to improve the water quality of Lake Waubesa and we need your help.

There are several locations along our roads that have become dumping sites for leaves and yard waste in and near the wetlands. We understand it may seem OK to put organic material into a wetland, but it is not. Putting yard waste including leaves in the wetland violates Town Ordinance 14-7 and violates our wetlands and lakes.

When yard waste and leaves break-down they create a "tea" that is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus and washes directly into the lakes through runoff. Wetlands do not filter out these large additions of nutrients.

Did you know?

- Phosphorus is the greatest contributor to algae growth in the lake.
- It only takes 1 pound of phosphorus to produce 500 pounds of algae.
- Phosphorus settles to the lake bottom or wetland, increases over time, and continues to feed algal blooms for years.
- Nitrogen can increase TOXIC algal blooms in the summer months.
- Nitrogen have been shown to cause algal blooms that are poisonous to pets and people.
- Algal blooms spurred by Nitrogen and Phosphorus can contribute to large fish kills.

The rural nature of the Town of Dunn is a big reason why many of us choose to live here and sometimes we forget that the open space next to our property or across the street belongs to our neighbor. That neighbor may be the farm a quarter of a mile away, a neighbor you have never met. Never the less, that owner is your neighbor and you may be dumping your yard waste in his yard. Please consider this the next time you begin to dump waste in that "open space". Be respectful of other people's property.

What should you do with your yard waste? The answer is simple, but not necessarily easy, as with many things in life worth doing.

Yard waste should be taken to the Town of Dunn transfer site for composting. It should not be burned.

If getting to the transfer site is challenging, reach out and work with your neighbors to come up with ideas and solutions on how you can support each other in this task. If we can all do our part, we will continue to be rewarded by living in a beautiful and closer community that respects the environment and our neighbors.

Lake Waubesa Conservation Association, Friends of Waubesa Wetlands, Town of Dunn



Lake Waubesa sunrise. Photo by Kelsey Shepperd.

Swan Creek Monitoring Station

By Ronald French, Lake Waubesa Conservation Association

The United States Geological Survey (USGS), in partnership with the Town of Dunn, City of Fitchburg, and the Lake Waubesa Conservation Association (LWCA) will be installing and operating a streamflow and water quality monitoring station on Swan Creek at Lalor Road. The data collected will serve to establish the current water-quality conditions, track how water-quality changes



The picture depicts where the monitoring station will be located. Photo by Todd Stuntebeck, (USGS).

over time, and provide critical information to help guide land management in the Swan Creek watershed to preserve and protect valued natural resources.

The monitoring station will be configured similarly to other USGS monitoring stations in Dane County and will include a water-level sensor, automated water sampler, conductivity and water temperature probes, a rain gage, and other necessary data logging and data transmission equipment. Streamflow, rainfall, and water temperature and water conductivity data will be measured in real-time and will be publicly available via USGS web pages (<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wi/nwis/rt>). Water samples will be collected at selected intervals (during a rainfall-runoff event, for example) and analyzed for concentrations of total phosphorus, dissolved phosphorus, nitrate plus nitrite nitrogen, chloride, and total suspended solids. At the end of each year, the streamflow and concentration data will be used to compute daily loads (in pounds) of total phosphorus, chloride, and total suspended solids. Water-quality concentration and daily load data will also be made publicly available. The Swan Creek site at Lalor Road is also monitored monthly by the Rock River Coalition for turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and temperature.

The total cost for the installation and

operation is \$35,000, with the City of Fitchburg contributing \$17,250, the Town of Dunn contributing \$5,000 toward the installation of the monitoring station and another \$2,000 toward operating costs for 2021. The LWCA has contributed \$2,000 to help supplement installation costs. The Town of Dunn and LWCA may also provide additional labor to support the retrieval of water samples from the station. The USGS will contribute \$8,750 of the total costs of the equipment, installation, and first year operation and maintenance.



This picture is an example of what the monitoring station will look like. Photo by Todd Stuntebeck, (USGS)

Natural Dunn Takes Flight

Article by Meg Nielsen

Naturally Dunn, the Town of Dunn's Producers Association, was barely fledged last spring when the COVID-19 Pandemic struck. In Dunn's 2020 spring newsletter, the newly formed group of small farmers shared soaring hopes of promoting its farmers and producers through branding, labeling and public events. And then life changed.

Both Kevin Oppermann of Highland Spring Farm and Kristen Kordet of Blue Moon CSA said they realized early in the pandemic that restrictions on gathering, masking and distancing would require rethinking business strategies.

"So, we decided to take a hint from the big guys like Walmart. We wanted to increase our level of service, so we went to "Barn Side Pick-up," Oppermann said. Highland Spring already sold its quality beef, pork and chickens from the farm, but had cut pick-up times from two days per week to one during the Farm Market season.

Kordet also recognized that changes would have to be made. "Blue Moon is primarily a CSA [Community Supported Agriculture] farm, with over 200 families visiting every Wednesday for what in the past had been a bustling, lively scene. We knew we needed a different model if we were going to continue through COVID. For us that included adding drive-up service to our CSA distribution, organizing our members by time slot to avoid overcrowding, adding packaging to eliminate shared contact, and pre-ordering options for our Farm Stand and Farmers Market," she said.

Kordet described 2020 as "a beautiful growing season" – one of the most productive years in her 16 years of farming, with minimal production-related struggles. "Like most businesses though, our costs – largely in labor, additional supplies, packaging, COVID gear, and modifications to our spaces for distancing and safety – were high as well. We were fortunate to receive financial assistance from both Dane County and the state to offset some of those costs," she said.

While Vitruvian Farms has charted a 10- to 15-percent yearly growth rate for the past five years, 2020 marked its most positive financial growth by far. Vitruvian doubled its number of employees and added a home delivery service. Part-owner Tommy Stauffer said: "We began to pivot in March from an 80-percent wholesale business to restaurants to online retail orders with drive through pick-up or home delivery. Switching to a direct-to-consumer selling operation has enabled us to employ staff year-around instead of seasonally."

Steve Lagman of One Seed Farm knew early on that their plan to convert from a traditional CSA model to a free-choice farmstand was not going to fly during a pandemic. "COVID killed that idea," said Lagman. As a healthcare provider, his professional life instantly transformed into a series of meeting, after meeting, after meeting leaving him little time for the farm.

Instead of trying to make big changes, One Seed Farm opted to maintain a conventional CSA approach, but offered members online pre-orders of customized shares picked up at staggered times to limit contact. All workers wore masks and practiced hand washing. No harvesting in clusters was allowed.

"We found that demand for local food went wild! We sold all of our broiler chickens without any marketing outside of the CSA



Vitruvian Farms doubled its number of employees and added a home delivery service in 2020. During COVID, they took the opportunity to collaborate with other small farmers and businesses in Dunn and the surrounding area. Photo by Meg Nielsen.



Highland Spring Farm's cattle herd can often be viewed from Lalor Road. Kevin Oppermann of Highland Spring Farm went to "barn-side pick-up" last year when COVID closed restaurants and public places. Oppermann said he is proud of what the town's small farmers have accomplished during a difficult 2020.

membership. We sold out of practically everything," Lagman said, noting that 2020 was their best year since starting their business five years ago.

"There seemed to be a perception among our customers that eating fresh, locally grown food was safer and healthier – that healthy eating would make them better able to withstand the illness if they did get sick," he said.

Lagman also noted an increase in collaboration within the community. "People pitched in and tried to do things for each other. They couldn't be *in* community, but they could *support* their local community by patronizing local businesses, and they did," he added.

For Kordet, the feeling of community expanded to include other segments of Dane County. "One of the most significant developments of this past season has been the investment in sourcing local food for COVID food security efforts led by Dane County through Second Harvest. We were able to provide more food than ever to those struggling with food insecurity – a silver lining that has fulfilled a long held aspiration for us. The funding will continue into 2021, and we're thrilled to be a part of that project. Fresh, nutritious produce is something so often missing from assistance programs, and sourcing it from our local farms is clearly a win-win for our local food system," she said.

Oppermann, Kordet and Stauffer also noticed increased community collaboration. "A bunch of us small farmers and businesses tried to figure out what to do when COVID hit. Restaurants had closed. Gatherings were restricted. But, in the absence of those venues an 'organic' contact seemed to grow between the small farmers in Dunn and businesses in the surrounding area. We began to find products that we could share in our online market sites. And local people started to lend their support to businesses like ours," Oppermann said.

Yes, there were losses, some personal, among the farmers and their workers. But while Naturally Dunn's growers, whose work intersects naturally, worked together and assisted one another in various ways throughout the pandemic, the official activities of the association have been on hold. All look to 2021 as a year of reboot.

"The plans we discussed a year ago had to be put on hold due to COVID. The producers decided to put all their time and energy into online sales and delivery. Unfortunately that also stalled our efforts for branding and labeling," said Jane Cisler, association coordinator. The group plans to begin meeting soon to reassess plans for the summer. Watch for news of coming events at Naturally Dunn on Facebook or on the Town of Dunn website, www.townofdunnwi.gov.

"The world around us has changed since Naturally Dunn last met – more permanently in some ways than others – so our mission will deserve a fresh look before we can really take off. We are firmly committed to our work in the Town of Dunn, and I'm so proud of what we have accomplished in a most extraordinary year," Kordet said.

"We are thankful for the relationships we have discovered within the community we helped to create," Oppermann added. In difficult times community support might just be the wind that lifts your wings.

2021 Parks Commission Update

COVID-19 caused a brief pause in Town park projects last spring. The Town has since ramped up efforts to improve our parks. Various upgrades were made at local parks last summer and fall. Dunn Heritage projects included invasive species removal in the prairie, native seed planting, improvement of the pond banks, removal of muck, and reinstallation of a canoe/kayak launch that had been washed away during flooding. The Dunn Heritage pond was originally created as a northern pike spawning habitat and we hope the dredging that occurred here a few years ago will help improve this spawning area. The Town sincerely appreciates and extends our thanks to the volunteers that helped us burn prairies last year. We hope to see a plethora of prairie plants popping up this year - a nice visual reward for everyone's efforts!

This year, Town staff hopes to begin a prairie restoration project at Simpson Park. This project includes tree plantings, the creation of a 1-acre prairie, and the addition of trails in the north-half of the park. The entire project will take 1-2 years to complete.

Unfortunately, both Arbor Day and Pumpkin Fest were cancelled last year due to COVID, but we still managed to host a drive-thru event where residents picked up free bareroot oak trees in celebration of Arbor Day. This event was very successful! We will host another drive thru event this year as part of our Virtual Arbor Day celebration. More information about this event is listed below.

Reminders:

- All motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles and ATVs, are not allowed in Town Parks or on any Town property. Please use designated approved routes.
- Town property is not to be used for storage of private property or other private uses.
- The Town has experienced an increase of complaints regarding dogs running loose in Town parks. Please keep dogs leashed as many of our parks are conservancy lands that are home to prairie plants and birds. Unleashed dogs also interfere with walkers and have gone on to private properties.

Virtual Arbor Day: April 24th, 2021

While COVID will prevent an in-person gathering this year, the Town will still host Virtual Arbor Day on Saturday, April 24th. From 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM, we will have a drive thru tree pick up event at the Town Hall, (4156 County Road B). Park Commissioners will hand out small, bare root oak trees to people as they drive thru. No need to leave your vehicle! Trees will be available while supplies last. Following the tree handout, from 4:00 PM to 4:30 PM, Dunn resident and farmer, Kevin Oppermann, will host a virtual presentation via Zoom about local farming operations and how Dunn farmers have worked together during the COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more about this local farming organization, please see the article *Naturally Dunn Takes Flight* on page 4 of this newsletter. The Zoom link will be posted on our website's Announcement's page prior to the presentation. We are hopeful we can resume in-person community gatherings soon!



Photo from www.chicagotribune.com



A beautiful prairie, oak trees, and a glimpse of Lake Waubesa can be viewed from the top of the hill at Sinaiko Park. As we've learned in the past year, the outdoors are vital to our well-being, so be sure to get out and enjoy our Town parks!

Crime Prevention

By Leslie Fox, Dane County Sherriff

The Dane County Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies are continuing to respond to numerous reports of stolen vehicles, theft from autos, and home burglaries. Most of us have forgotten to lock our car, or accidentally left the garage door open overnight, or even discovered in the morning that the front door was unlocked overnight at least once. You can help prevent yourself from becoming a victim by following the "9:00 p.m. Routine."

Law enforcement agencies across the nation are asking people to develop this habit for protecting property from theft, and protecting your home from intruders.

This 9:00 p.m. routine can be used any time of the day and includes:

- Check vehicles to insure you've removed all valuables and that the doors are locked.
- Walk around inside your home and lock and secure all doors and windows.
- Turn on outside lights.
- **Report any suspicious activity immediately.**

Theft is a preventable crime of opportunity that can happen in an instant. Taking these simple steps can prevent you from becoming a victim. Also, get to know your neighbors so you know who belongs in your neighborhood and don't be afraid to call 911. To report an incident call non-emergency dispatch at (608) 255-2345 or 911.

COVID-19 Vaccine Transportation for Dane County Adults 65+

Have you exhausted all options available to you and still need a ride to your COVID-19 vaccine appointment? Contact New Bridge for information at (608) 512-0000, ext 3. No cost for Dane County residents. Funded by Dane County Department of Human Services.



Annual Well Testing

We have had some unusually high levels of precipitation over the last few years, which can impact well water quality. It is recommended that private well owners test annually for bacteria and nitrate/nitrite. Testing is recommended sooner if there has been flooding in the area or if any changes in taste, odor, or appearance of the water are noticed. Contact Madison and Dane County Public Health at (608) 243-0357 for information about well testing. They will be able to help discuss the types of tests you need based on your situation and their cost. Reminder, you are your own water utility manager!

A Message from the Assessor About the 2021 Revaluation

Wisconsin laws require periodic revaluations to keep assessment levels at or very near actual market values and the Town of Dunn is required to perform a revaluation in 2021. The Town's statutory assessor, Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc., will be conducting the community-wide property revaluation for the current 2021 assessment year. This will involve a complete and thorough review of assessments to establish new values for each property, on a fair and equitable basis, at 100% market value as of January 1, 2021.

The purpose of this review is not to raise taxes but rather to provide a fair distribution of the property tax burden and to comply with state law. Since the town does not adjust assessments each year, the assessment level and the uniformity of assessments have gradually eroded and have fallen behind the real estate market.

The Department of Revenue annually estimates the fair market value of all real estate in the town by establishing an equalized value (100% market value of all

parcels in the town). Last year, the town's assessment values were at 77% of the state's determination of our equalized value.

Representatives from Associated Appraisal will begin their fieldwork soon, which includes inspecting the exteriors only, taking measurements and photos, of all properties within the town. Assessors will not make appointments for these onsite inspections and are authorized by the State of Wisconsin to walk onto properties to make these exterior inspections. Drone photos from the lake may be utilized as part of these exterior inspections. Assessors will carry photo identification badges and an inspection authorization letter from the town. All vehicles used during the revaluation are red in color and have the Associated Appraisal logo and contact information clearly indicated on them.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interior inspections will be replaced with an important questionnaire where you will report and disclose accurate information about the interior conditions of your home.

The questionnaire will be mailed to you. You may also submit photos if needed. After the review process is complete and new assessed values are determined, all taxable property owners will receive a Notice of Assessment in the mail with their new assessment valuation along with the date of scheduled Open Book Sessions and the Board of Review. Watch your mailbox during the month of September for this important notice. Open Book and Board of Review events are opportunities to address any concerns or objections property owners may have and to provide the best information to the assessor so that each assessment is as accurate as possible. We look forward to working with you to complete a successful revaluation program for the Town of Dunn.

Questions may be directed to Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc. Please call (920) 749-1995, Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Knowledgeable and willing staff are ready to assist with all inquiries and concerns.

Frequently Asked Revaluation of Assessment Questions

Q - Will my property taxes increase due to the revaluation?

The answer to that question is different for each property owner. Revaluations have no impact on the total amount of taxes collected. However, it may change your property's percentage share of total taxes collected. **Typically, in a revaluation year, some properties experience an increase in property tax, some stay the same, and some decrease.** We will not know until the mil-rates (tax rates) are available in December whether new assessments will result in higher or lower taxes on an individual parcel. If your property has not kept up with the rate of rising property values in the town in recent years, your tax bill may be reduced. If your property has gained in value faster than the average in recent years, you have been paying less than neighbors with more accurate assessments. The revaluation will restore the balance by making all property assessments fairer and more equitable, at 100% market value.

Q - If assessments go up, will the tax mil-rate (tax rate) go down?

YES, the mil-rate used to calculate property tax is proposed to go down this year. The new mil-rates from the State, County, Technical College, and School Districts will be available in December of 2021 and they will be reduced by the estimated increases in our total assessed value. We do not have enough information yet to calculate the effect on each individual property. Do not look at last year's mil-rate with your new assessment in mind. Your property tax bill may go down, stay the same, or increase this year because of the revaluation.

Q - How does the assessor value property?

Wisconsin law requires that property assessments be based on Fair Market Value. Estimating the market value of your property is a matter of determining the price a typical buyer would pay for it in its present condition. Some factors the assessor considers are: what similar properties are selling for; what it would cost to replace your property; the rent it may earn; and any other factors that affect value. It is important to remember that the assessor is required to set values in accordance with the Department of Revenue requirements.

Q - Is the purpose of revaluation increasing the tax base or taxes?

No. A reassessment has no impact on the total amount of taxes collected. However, it may change your property's percentage share of total taxes collected to increase, decrease or, have a minimal effect.

Q - What can I do to ensure a fair and reasonable assessed value for my property?

We are required to make each assessment as accurate as possible based on the facts. Even with the best of care and intentions, mistakes are possible. When you receive your Notice of Assessment with the new 2021 value and Open Book dates, review it carefully. Inform the assessor of any considerations that might affect market value. An error in the reporting of a home's square footage, for example, could be promptly corrected at Open Book for an accurate assessment. If you feel there has been an error, bring any documentation or photos to the Open Book meeting. If the discussion with the assessor does not resolve your concerns, you may file an objection to be heard in a quasi-judicial hearing with the Board of Review. The Board of Review operates like a court to consider evidence related to value to resolve objections and assessor errors.

Q - Do all assessments change at the same rate?

No, not necessarily. There are differences between individual properties and between neighborhoods. Some of the factors which can affect value are: location, condition, size, quality, number of baths, number of bedrooms, basement finish, garages, overall condition as well as many others.

Q - What is the bottom line?

Assessments are required by state law and are mandatory. The real issue is whether your property is assessed at the statutory required market value. Look at your final assessment after the revaluation. If it appears to be an accurate value when compared to sales of similar property, then it probably is a fair assessment. If, in your opinion, it does not reflect the market value of your property when compared to sales of similar properties, you should talk to our assessment staff. We may be able to provide information or take further actions to resolve your concerns.

Q - What website can I go to for more information?

Please visit the Wisconsin Department of Revenue website at www.revenue.wi.gov/ and search "Guide for Property Owners" and "Guide for Agricultural Assessments" for more information about property assessment and taxation.

April 6th, 2021 Spring Election Early Voting Information

Can't make it to the polls on Election Day? Come visit us for early voting via curbside at the Town Hall on the dates below. No appointment needed! Voters may remain in their vehicle while they mark their ballot. Voter must bring a valid ID to vote. By state statute, early voting is prohibited on Monday, April 5th. If these early voting hours do not work for you, please give the Town Hall a call to schedule an appointment: (608) 838-1081, ext 206. Registration available at the polls on Election Day, April 6th. The polls will be open from 7AM to 8 PM.

Days	Dates	Times
Tuesday - Friday	March 23rd - 26th	12PM - 4PM
Monday - Friday	March 29th - April 2nd	12PM - 4PM

Visit the MyVote.wi.gov website for helpful information about voting, to view what is on the ballot, to find where to vote, to track your absentee ballot's status, and to find information about voter registration and voter participation.



On the Road Again...

Now that spring weather is here, the Town of Dunn Highway Department will start to fix potholes. Patch will be applied to the potholes temporarily until the permanent patch can be applied.

Roadwork bids for 2021 construction and repair that are being considered include the following roads: Hawkinson Road, White Oak Court, White Oak Trail, and Willow Pass. The process will be to mill a lip in the driveways, then do a two pass overlay on the road. The first pass will be a skin coat to level and crown the road. The second pass will be to add blacktop which adds strength to the road. During the second pass, the road will meet the pre-made lip in the driveway to tie in appropriately.

Roads scheduled for sealcoating in 2021 include Don's Rd, Halverson Rd, Lake Kegonsa Rd, Lakeview Dr, Lakeview Terr, Liatrix Ln, Sand Hill Rd, Stenjem Dr, and Woodland Terr.

There are no large culverts that need to be replaced this year. Small culverts will be evaluated and replaced as needed.

The road right of way is typically 33 feet from the center of the road. Please keep this area clear from any obstacles for the purpose of roadside mowing and maintenance.

Lastly, please place your garbage and recycling bins completely on the shoulder of the road so that no part of the bins are on the road, as this can be a safety concern. Your cooperation is much appreciated!



2021 Extra Trash Pick-Up Dates

Spring pick-up dates are June 17th and 18th. Fall pick-up dates are October 14th and 15th. Pick-up dates follow your normal trash and recycling schedule. For a list of acceptable items, visit www.pellitteri.com and search "Clean Up Days".

Town of Dunn Salt Savers Program

Is your home connected to a sanitary district and you still have not had a free water evaluation under the Town's Salt Savers Program? Good news - this program is currently open to residents of the Town of Dunn! Participation is key to help protect our freshwater resources. Each day, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), our local wastewater utility, receives water with over 100 tons of dissolved salt, mostly from water softeners. The treatment plant isn't designed to remove chloride (a component of salt), so the salt passes through treatment and into freshwater waterbodies. It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic to freshwater ecosystems. If chloride levels continue to rise, downstream waters may become too salty for aquatic life, and the treatment plant will be facing expensive upgrades. Treatment to reduce chloride would cost over 400 million dollars: meaning higher sewer bills for everyone. Rather than adding costly treatment, we can reduce chloride at the source.



Is your softener using more than one bag of salt per month? This might indicate an inefficient softener.

You are eligible to participate in this program if:

1. You have an existing water softener in your home; and
2. You live in the Town of Dunn and are connected to the MMSD sewer system through a sanitary district (properties on septic systems are not eligible); and
3. You have a trained program provider service your softener and document the service through the Salt Savers application. Softener replacements or optimizations that occurred prior to this program are not eligible for reimbursement.

How it works:

1. Gather as much information as possible about the condition of your water softener, including its age and brand. It's okay if you can't find this information, but having general information about your softener can help your service provider make a determination about its condition. You can complete the home softener evaluation developed by MMSD to get an idea of whether your softener would qualify for an optimization or replacement by visiting: www.surveymonkey.com/r/DZPFMK6
2. Call a trained Salt Savers service provider to request a service to your softener. Evaluations and optimizations are free to Town of Dunn residents during the pilot project period. For a list of program providers, please visit www.madsewer.org/SaltSavers.
3. If your service provider determines that your current softener is an inefficient "clunker" that is not optimizable, you will receive a \$200 voucher to replace your softener with a softener with an efficiency of at least 4000 grains per pound or other approved water treatment unit. A trained service provider must install the new efficient unit and document the installation for the discount to be redeemed.

Town Mail Box Policy

Whether you are installing a new mailbox or repairing an old one, the Town of Dunn has a Mailbox Policy that oversees proper placement and installation. The policy was put into place in 2014 to ensure driver and mail carrier safety and to reduce potential conflicts with snow removal operations. Many mailboxes are placed *too close* to the road and *too low* to the ground. The Town's Mailbox Policy is available on the Town's website: www.townofdunnwi.gov/policies. Please install your mailbox in compliance with this policy and please note that many decorative mailbox posts are for more urban (curb and gutter) areas and do not meet the requirements of the rural Mailbox Policy.

RECYCLING GUIDE

PELLITTERI WASTE SYSTEMS

PAPER PRODUCTS

Empty cardboard, catalogs, magazines, phone books, empty food, milk and juice cartons, paper, envelopes, junk mail, gift wrapping paper (no foils), pizza boxes (no food or grease), newspapers, egg cartons, paper grocery bags, and shredded paper (placed in a transparent plastic bag and tied shut; bags should be no larger than the size of a basketball).

PLASTIC PRODUCTS

All plastic bottles besides motor oil or gasoline bottles, #1-7 plastic items (including #1 clamshell), all plastic bags besides black or brown bags (placed in a transparent plastic bag and tied shut; bag should be no larger than the size of a basketball).

METAL AND GLASS PRODUCTS

Empty aerosol cans, aluminum cans or plates, metal pots and pans, small metal appliances (nothing larger than a basketball or heavier than 10 lbs), small metal plumbing fixtures, faucets, valves, tin and steel cans, and clear, blue, brown, or green translucent glass bottles and jars.

NON ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Brake rotors or drums, construction waste, deli containers except #1 plastic, electronics, frozen food or microwave dinner plates, glassware and ceramics, metal items larger than a basketball or heavier than 10 lbs, mirrors, windows, motor oil and gasoline bottles, plastic film or wrap, styrofoam, recyclable containers containing liquids or food, carpet, clothing, diapers, fishing line, food, hoses, ropes, and shoes.

RECYCLING TIPS

- If you bag recyclables, place in a transparent bag and do not tie or seal.
- Do not flatten or crush plastic or metal items. Only flatten cardboard boxes.
- Place extra recycling in clear, plastic bags (up to 32 gallon and no more than 50 pounds) and place the bags next to your recycling cart. Improperly prepared additional recyclables will not be picked up.
- Do not place smaller items inside larger containers. Items should be loose and empty.
- Remove all food waste, plastic, styrofoam, and packing peanuts.
- Your recycling cart will not be picked up if it contains trash, yard waste, or prohibited items.
- In a week containing a Holiday, garbage and recycling pick up is delayed by one day.
- For additional pick-up volume, contact Pellitteri. For a fee, they will provide a 65-gallon or a 95-gallon cart for trash. For free, you may also receive a 35-gallon or a 95-gallon cart for recyclables.

Direct additional questions to info@pellitteri.com or call (608) 257-4285.

MEDICATION DROP OFF

Protect our water! Do not flush medications down the drain. Drop off unwanted or expired medication at police departments. Contact the following for more information:

McFarland Police Department at (608) 838-3151
Oregon Police Department at (608) 835-3111
Stoughton Police Department at (608) 873-3374

TOWN TRANSFER SITE

Open to Town residents only
4030 County Road B, McFarland, WI 53558
1/4 mile east of the Dunn Town Hall
Open monthly on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays
8 AM to 3:45 PM
Also open Wednesdays, April through the end of November, 2 PM to 4:45 PM

ACCEPTED ITEMS

Brush and wood free of soil, leaves and grass clippings, any compostable material, holiday trees without tinsel, decorations, or stands, antifreeze that is free of oil, motor oil that is free of other liquids, automotive type and rechargeable batteries, all appliances (except water softeners and dishwashers), scrap metal, and motors free of gas and oil.

Tires are also accepted for a fee. We charge a fee based on our costs for disposal. At the time of this publication, auto tires without rims are \$5 and \$10 for tires with rims. Semi-truck tires cost \$10 for disposal and tractor tires cost \$25.

NON ACCEPTED ITEMS

Construction materials, dishwashers, electronics, furniture, household batteries, lumber, shingles, stumps, TVs, and water softeners.

Direct additional questions to (608) 838-1081.

DANE COUNTY CLEAN SWEEP

7102 US Hwy 12, Madison, WI 53718
Please contact Clean Sweep for current hours.

Dane County Clean Sweep offers a place to bring hazardous household materials and electronics. Visit danecountycleansweep.com for a list of acceptable items. Fees may apply. Please contact Clean Sweep Wisconsin prior to delivery of items or to receive more information.

Direct additional questions to (608) 838-3212.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

TVs, laptops, cellphones and other electronics contain valuable materials that can be recovered through recycling. Electronics also contain hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury, which can harm human health and pollute the environment if not properly managed. Wisconsin has a electronics recycling law which prohibits the following electronics from being put in the trash or sent to Wisconsin landfills and incinerators:

TVs, computers, printers, scanners, fax machines, monitors, computer accessories such as keyboards, mice, speakers, external hard drives, flash drives, e-readers, VCRs/DVD players, and cellphones.

These electronics can be recycled at various locations across the state. For a list of collection sites, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "ecycle". Some collectors may charge fees and may not accept all devices. Contact collectors beforehand to learn about their policies

Direct additional questions to Wisconsin DNR ECycle at (608) 264-6001.

REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.