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Town of Dunn
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McFarland, WI 53558

The Town of Dunn

2023 Fall Newsletter

www.townofdunnwi.gov

(608) 838-1081

Views From the Chair

By Steve Greb, Town Chair

The Town was recently contacted by the Dane County Historical Society (DCHS). They've come into possession of a series of 20 bronze plaques honoring the Dane County Civil War veterans and they are seeking funds (\$225 from our town) to restore the plaques. The plaques were made in 1912 and housed in the "Grand Army of the Republic" (GAR) memorial hall in Madison until it was demolished in 1973. They've subsequently been in storage. The plaques list Civil War veterans from Dane county towns and villages who died in combat.

I was interested in seeing the plaques, so I stopped by the DCHS office. The plaques make quite a moving display and what piqued my interest were the 13 individuals from the Town of Dunn who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Grave markers for some of these veterans can be found at the Town of Dunn Burying Ground and Oregon's Prairie Mound Cemetery.

The Burying Ground is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of County Rd B and Sandhill Rd. It is run and maintained by the Town. While the new section of the Burying Ground is mowed, the old, historic section is



Photo of a Civil War veteran memorial marker at the Town of Dunn Burying Ground by Kelsey Shepperd.

maintained as an early prairie cemetery and left much in its natural state to replicate how it appeared nearly two centuries ago.

One of these veterans was William Manson, whose homestead place still exists on Schneider Drive. To gain a little more perspective, I stopped by and talked with Jim Manson (our past road foreman) and his wife, Betty, about William, who was Jim's great grandfather. William was born in Ireland and immigrated to the US in 1849. He came to Wisconsin in 1853 and bought the homestead. He enlisted in the army in 1863 at age of 42. He participated in 6 major battles and died in Bentonville, North Carolina in 1865. He was buried in a mass burial in Raleigh, NC.

A couple things jump out at me as I read through this history. First, 13 casualties seem like a lot from a small town with only 1,055 residents (1860 census). Of course, many more served and were fortunate to make it home, so the war would have touched most families here. Second, William was an immigrant, having only settled here for 10 years, yet this was his home and he was willing to go to battle (at 42 years old, nonetheless) for his new country, protecting his home and the republic.

Views From the Chair continued on page 2.



Photo of the Town of Dunn Burying Ground sign by Mary Liebig.

Town Hall Holiday Closures

The Town Hall will be CLOSED the following days:

Thursday, November 23rd

Friday, November 24th

Monday, December 25th

Monday, January 1st

*A secure drop box is available for document or tax payment drop offs.

Special Town Meeting

November 21st, 2023, 7 PM

In-Person at the Town Hall or Attend Virtually on Zoom

Notice is hereby given of the Special Town Meeting called pursuant to Wis. Stats. 60.12(1)(c), by the Town Board of the Town of Dunn, on November 21st, 2023, at 7:00 PM. To view the meeting agenda and Zoom link, please visit dunn.civicweb.net.

Stay in the Loop!

- Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/townofdunndanecountywi
- Sign up for email alerts: dunn.civicweb.net.
- Visit the 'Announcements' tab on our website: www.townofdunnwi.gov

MyVote.wi.gov Website

2024 will be a busy election year! Visit MyVote.wi.gov for helpful information about voting, to view election dates, register or change your address, view what is on the ballot, find where to vote, request or track your absentee ballot's status, and to find information about voter registration and voter participation.

Views From the Chair (continued)

As I was reflecting on his amazing life, I was reminded of a recent song by the folk singer Iris Dement. One of the verses:

*But then I got to thinkin'
Of the ones who came before
And all the sacrifices that they made
To open up so many doors
Doors I got to walk through
On streets paved for me
By people who were workin' on a world
They never got to see*

I don't know what William Mason would think about the town today, but I'm sure he'd be happy to see the William and Lucinda Manson Homestead listed on the State Historical Society's Architecture and History Inventory and that the farm is still in his family to this day. It's great to see the continuity of land ownership, as it's a source of family and community pride, and further conveys a sense of place in our community. Similarly, the Town takes a long view on our future. Our Town has strived to preserve agricultural land and open spaces, like the Manson farm. The first goal of our Land Use Plan calls for the 200-year future vision of the Town

by making land use decisions based on the comprehensive plan and future land use map considering long-term implications of land use decisions. We think this approach leads to stability, continuity, and permanence for our town. I hope in some way, our land protection efforts help preserve the legacy of these veterans and pay tribute to their valiant efforts and sacrifices they made for all of us.



Photo of Town of Dunn Burying Ground by Kelsey Shepperd.

Proposed US Highway 51 Construction to Start Summer of 2024

In the coming years, major reconstruction work is set to take place on Highway 51 between Stoughton and McFarland. Medians will be added, roundabouts will be incorporated at certain intersections, and parts of the road will be closed to thru traffic. In the end, the project will improve safety along this approximately 5.6 mile section.

Proposed HWY 51 improvements from the WI DOT:

- Roundabouts at County B (east), County B/AB, Mahoney Rd, Tower Rd, and Exchange St
- Downward lighting and new signage at roundabouts
- A continuous median from B (east) to County B/AB

- Wider shoulders
- Four lanes with reduced speed limits from Tower Rd to McFarland
- Intersection improvements and turn lanes

The tentative schedule is to begin construction on the County B/AB roundabout in the summer of 2024, with the Tower to Exchange section in 2026, County B (East) to County B/AB in 2026-2027, and County B/AB to Exchange in 2027. The DOT has held public meetings about this project and will host additional meetings prior to construction.

The Town of Dunn would like to thank residents in advance for your patience during this construction

project. We hope the end result is a safer highway for everyone.

For more information or questions about the HWY 51 reconstruction project, or to learn of future public meetings, visit wisconsin.gov and search "US 51" or contact Kevin Drunasky of the Wisconsin DOT at kevin.drunasky@dot.wi.gov.

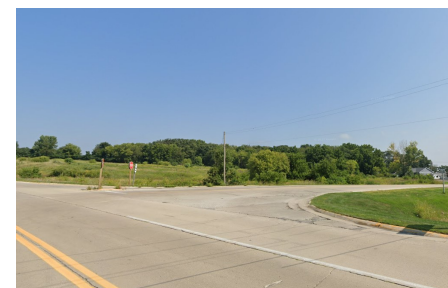


Photo of US 51 and County B/AB intersection from Google Maps street view.

recycling guide

PELLITTERI WASTE SYSTEMS

PAPER PRODUCTS

Empty cardboard, catalogs, magazines, phone books, empty food boxes, paper, envelopes, junk mail, wrapping paper (no foils), newspapers, paper cups (no plastic lids or straws), paper egg cartons, paper grocery bags, paper milk and juice cartons, pizza boxes (no food or grease), shredded paper (place in a clear or transparent plastic bag and tie shut, bag no larger than a basketball).

PLASTIC & GLASS PRODUCTS

All plastic bottles besides motor oil or gasoline bottles, #1-7 plastic items (including #1 clamshell), glass bottles and jars (clear, blue, brown, or green translucent glass)

METAL PRODUCTS

Empty aerosol cans, aluminum cans or plates, metal pots and pans, small metal appliances (nothing larger than a basketball), small metal plumbing fixtures, faucets, valves, and tin and steel cans.

NON RECYCLABLE ITEMS

Batteries or propane tanks (FIRE HAZARD! Check call2recycle.org), brake rotors or drums, construction waste, electronics, frozen food or microwave dinner plates, glassware and ceramics, metal items larger than a basketball or heavier than 10lbs, mirrors, windows, motor oil and gasoline containers, plastic film or wrap, styrofoam, recyclable containers containing liquids or food, carpet, clothing, diapers, fishing line, food, hoses, ropes, and shoes.

RECYCLING TIPS

- Additional bags of recycling outside of carts need to be prepaid and prescheduled for pick-up. Contact Pellitteri Waste Systems a minimum of one day prior to your normal pick-up day to schedule. Then place extra recyclables in clear, plastic bags (up to 32 gallon and 50 pounds max). Improperly prepared additional recyclables will not be picked up.
- If you choose to bag recyclables you place into the cart, use clear or transparent bags and leave open (do not tie or seal).
- Do not flatten or crush plastic or metal items. Only flatten cardboard boxes.
- Do not place smaller items inside larger containers. Items should be loose and empty.
- Remove all food waste, plastic, styrofoam, and packing peanuts.
- Containers containing food or liquids, construction waste or electronics CANNOT be placed in the recycling cart.
- Your recycling cart will not be picked up if it contains trash, yard waste, prohibited items, or if overloaded. The lid should shut.
- In a week containing certain observed Holidays, garbage and recycling pick up is delayed by one day. See Pellitteri's website for collection calendars.
- For additional pick-up volume or for additional questions, contact 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 4 PM, exceptions may be on Holiday weekends. 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, mattresses, 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.

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

Contact Clean Sweep for current hours or for additional questions at (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 an 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.

Winter Snowplowing

By Hardy Krueger, Parks, Buildings, and Grounds

The Town has approximately 64 road miles to maintain. Our goal is for all roads to be safely passable as soon as possible after a snowfall or other winter weather events, but that doesn't mean roads will be clear and dry after plowing. For major snow events, removal operations involve at least two rounds of plowing on major roads, followed by widening. It can take more than 48 hours to plow all roads after a winter storm event.

How can I help?

- **Don't Park on Roadsides:** Refrain from parking on shoulders or roads when snow is forecasted.
- **Garbage Carts:** Place carts in your driveway apron on the morning of garbage pick-up and remove as soon as possible after pick-up.
- **Do Not Push Snow Into the Road:** It's illegal.
- **Do Not Follow Too Closely:** WI law states vehicles must remain 200ft behind a snowplow for safety reasons. If you can't see both mirrors of the snowplow, you are too close.
- **Be Aware, Be Patient:** Snowplows make sudden stops, weave around obstacles, and back up, especially at intersections. Give them room.
- **Do Not Place Items in the Road Right-of-Way:** Keep trailers, burn barrels, or any other obstacles out of the RROW. This includes markers, stakes,

On the Road Again...

By Todd Klahn, Highway Superintendent

An important part of our work in the Fall involves road-side mowing to prepare for snowfall and to help control invasive species of vegetation. You can help us with this effort by removing all objects, decorative items, including yard signs, outside of the road right-of-way area, which is typically 33 feet from the center of the town road. Please park your vehicles, boats, and trailers on private property and not on roads or shoulders. This time of year we mow much further back

from the roadway to reduce potential drifting of snow onto roads, and parked vehicles can prevent us from doing our work.

We are applying for road construction grants for 2024 projects to help offset the high cost of road reconstruction. The cost of reconstruction for one mile of new blacktop has increased the last ten years from about \$85,000 to over \$250,000. To protect the significant investment made in town roads, the town uses sealcoating of new roads

or signs. Snow must be able to be winged back off the road and shoulder, especially in drift prone areas, for safety, roadside parking, and for road longevity. A deep frost is needed along the shoulders of the road to help support the road bed during the winter.

Winter Mailbox Damage

If a mailbox is dislodged or knocked down by the force of snow or slush from the plow or wing, the repair is the responsibility of the owner. If the plow or wing struck the box or post, the Town will inspect the mailbox for repair or replacement, not to exceed \$25.00. Replaced mailboxes must comply with the Town's Mailbox Policy. To view the full Mailbox Policy, visit www.townofdunnwi.gov/policies.



Photo from Creative Commons.

to extend their useful life. If no maintenance is done, the average life span of new blacktop is only 15 years. By sealcoating the road with oil and pea gravel every 5-7 years, the lifespan can extend up to 30 years. The cost for this treatment is \$20,000 per mile versus the above costs. While this process can be a messy, the preventative maintenance is needed and the cost savings are great. We appreciate your patience during road construction and sealing.

Funding Available for PDR Program

By Ben Kollenbroich, Planning & Land Conservation Director

The Town's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program protects lands to assure the future availability of land for farming and to support the local agricultural economy.

Through PDR, "development rights" (potential residential development on a property) are purchased by the Town and are permanently eliminated through a conservation easement agreement. So far, 39 properties, totaling around 4,000 acres have been protected through PDR in the Town of Dunn. The USDA created a grant program which allocates \$1 million to Dunn to spend on farmland protection over the next three years. If you are interested in finding out if your land is eligible, please contact Ben Kollenbroich, at (608) 838-1081, ext. 3 or bkollenbroich@townofdunnwi.gov.

Residents Encouraged to Participate in Private Well Testing for PFAS

Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC) is providing private well testing for PFAS. It is **FREE** for income eligible homes and discounted to \$418 for all homes in the Town.

What are PFAS? PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a large group of human-made chemicals also known as "forever chemicals". PFAS chemicals do not break down easily and are now common in our environment. They've been used for over 50 years and are in many everyday products. PFAS can accumulate in your body over time so it's important to limit exposure to protect health.

Why test my well? Some private wells in the Town have recently tested positive for PFAS. Testing is the only way to know if you need a drinking water filter rated effective for removing PFAS. Reasonably priced filters can reduce PFAS in drinking water and reduce lifetime accumulation. When shopping for filters, check labels for ANSI/NSF Standard 53. For Reverse Osmosis systems, look for ANSI/NSF Standard 58.

Income Eligibility Guidelines: (For larger households, please contact Public Health Madison and Dane County)

People in Household	1	2	3	4	5
Income (2022 Taxes)	\$66,300	\$75,750	\$85,200	\$94,650	\$102,250



Photo of flying cranes over farm fields by Mark Jung.

I am income eligible. How do I get FREE private well testing for PFAS? Free testing is available while funding lasts, or through June 2024. Income guidelines are from the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's CDBG Program. Complete the testing application online at publichealthmdc.com/documents/Free_Private_Well_Testing_Application.docx. PHMDC will contact you to schedule an appointment.

I am not income eligible. How do I get discounted well testing for \$418? Households exceeding income limits can email lab@publichealthmdc.com to order a sample kit. Include your name, address, and contact information.

How do I interpret the test results? If you need help understanding results, contact lab@publichealthmdc.com.

Where do PFAS come from? PFAS are in a lot of products. Because of their chemical structure, PFAS have many useful properties. They're durable and resist water, grease, fire, heat, and oil. This means they can be used in products used to prepare or eat foods, like non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, and microwave popcorn bags. They're also used in products like rain gear, stain proof or resistant carpets, and even makeup.

Where can I get more Information?

Contact PHMDC at health@publichealthmdc.com or (608) 266-4821 or visit publichealthmdc.com/environmental-health/environmental-hazards/pfas

2024 Proposed Budget Highlights

By Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager

In the Fall, we begin working on the proposed budget for the upcoming year. Town residents can join the discussion and vote on the Town's local tax levy at our Special Town Meeting which will be held in-person at the Town Hall on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7 PM. A Zoom link will be published on the agenda for those who wish to view the meeting virtually. You can view the proposed budget for road work, proposed equipment upgrades, purchases, and expenses by reading the attachments on the agenda for the budget hearing and Special Town Meeting which is published on our meeting website at dunn.civicweb.net.

Increase in the Assessed Value Mill Rate of 2.8% is proposed: The town tax mill rate is proposed to increase from \$2.12 per thousand of

assessed value to \$2.17 which reflects an increase of \$57,231 in the tax levy. The increase in the levy would fund a \$41,740 increase in loan payments on road reconstruction projects and a \$15,395 increase to our Rural Preservation Fund. The proposed levy amount could be changed at the Special Town Meeting because the levy is set by a public vote.

Decrease in the Equalized Value Mill Rate of 9.78% is proposed: Real estate values increased last year which translates to a lower equalized value mill rate. This mill rate is down from \$1.84 in the current year to \$1.67 per thousand proposed for next year. This equates to \$167.00 local tax for a property value of \$100,000.

The proposed budget includes over \$700,000 in payments for fire and EMS services provided by Oregon,

Stoughton and McFarland Fire and EMS services, and law enforcement services with the Dane County Sheriff. It also includes \$419,000 in debt payments and \$382,000 for the rural preservation fund for the purchase of conservation easements. The final budget is considered for adoption by the Town Board at their December 19, 2023 meeting.

2024 Revenue Highlights

The 2024 budget provides \$111,697 in increased grant revenue from the State which offsets \$109,759 of increases in Public Safety expenses and the loss of personal property tax revenues that are discontinuing due to changes in state law. This new grant revenue is restricted to certain uses including fire and EMS services and law enforcement.

Budget Highlights continued on page 5.

VALUATION	2020	2021	2022	
Assessed Valuation	951,787,600	956,473,300	956,622,900	
Equalized Valuation	922,791,000	1,100,203,300	1,242,945,700	
Tax Levy and Mil-Rate	2021	2022	2023	Variance
General Fund Tax Levy	1,264,248	1,279,135	1,279,231	0.01%
Debt Service Tax Levy	327,582	377,260	419,000	11.06%
PDR Tax Levy	366,605	366,605	382,000	4.20%
Total Levy	1,958,435	2,023,000	2,080,231	2.83%
Assessed Value Mil-Rate	2.06	2.12	2.17	2.81%
Equalized Value Mil-Rate	2.12	1.84	1.67	-8.98%
General Fund Balance	595,100	799,357	794,452	
Prior Year Assessment Ratio	1.0312364%	86.82450%	Not yet available	

Pellitteri Waste Systems Updates

Disabled Assistance: Pellitteri may be able to offer assistance to residents who are unable to get their carts to the curb (subject to medical necessity and driver safety). Contact Pellitteri for details.

2024 Extra Trash Pick-Up: Extra Trash Pick-Up will occur on June 13th & October 10th. All extra items must be curbside by **THURSDAY 6 AM** regardless of your normal service day. Only one trip will be made through the Town. The event will continue into Friday if Pellitteri is unable to finish on Thursday.

Pellitteri Waste Systems Mobile App: If you're in charge of taking out the trash each week, your job can now be easier with the Pellitteri Waste Systems app. Download the app from your app store or pellitteri.com/recycleright and make this chore almost effortless.

- Set a weekly reminder for a specific day and time
 - Receive real-time updates for holidays and inclement weather along your route
 - See your collection schedule at a glance any time
 - Stop "wishcycling" by using the Recycle Right search to dispose of specific items properly
- Trash and Recycling should be this easy.

Additional Recyclables Must Be Prescheduled and Prepaid For: Effective November 1, 2022, additional recyclables outside of recycling carts must be prepaid for and prescheduled for pick-up. Please contact Pellitteri a minimum of one day prior to your normal pick-up day for scheduling. Additional recyclables that will not fit in a cart must be in clear plastic bag(s) next to the recycling cart. Do not put any bags out unless you have prescheduled and prepaid. Pellitteri will accept bags up to 32 gallons in size and no heavier than 50 lbs. This includes cutting down cardboard boxes to fit in bags (not bundled, not placed in a bigger box). Improperly prepared additional recyclables will not be picked up.



Contact Pellitteri Waste Systems with any questions regarding the topics above: (608) 257-4285 or info@pellitteri.com.

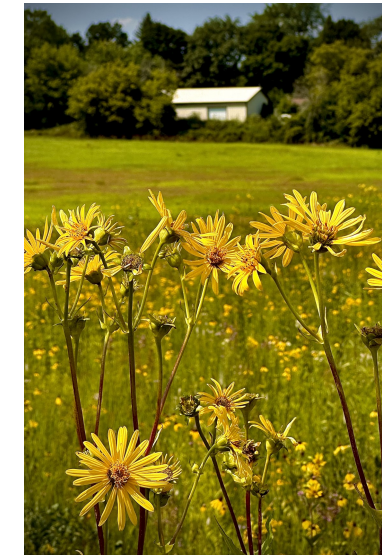


Photo by Mark Jung.

Waucheeta Connector Trail

Beginning this fall, Dane County Parks will begin construction for a shared-use trail through Capital Springs Centennial State Park (WI DNR).

The access for this trail will be located north of Waucheeta Trail in the Town of Dunn, and will provide connections to Goodland County Park, William G. Lunney Lake Farm Park, the Capital City

Trail, and the Lower Yahara River Trail. It will provide bicyclists and pedestrians with an alternative to traveling on Lake Farm Road.

Site prep and the installation of a stone base will take place this fall, followed by the construction of a boardwalk over the winter, with final paving and landscaping in the summer of 2024.

For questions or more information, please contact Chris James, Park Planning Manager, Dane County Parks, at james@countyofdane.com or (608) 235-2252.

Dunn Heritage Park Update

This winter, the Town of Dunn will be dredging the three ponds at Dunn Heritage Park between Jordan Drive and Mahoney Roads. The ponds serve as detention basins for runoff before it arrives at Lake

Waubesa and the largest pond also serves as a fish spawning habitat. In order to improve the ponds' efficacy, Dunn staff will be removing sediment which has built up over the years. A Dane County grant was awarded to Dunn to pay for this dredging project, along with future boardwalks, trees, and a regravelling of the canoe/kayak launch. We hope you enjoy these updates at the park!



Photo of Dunn Heritage Park sign by Mark Jung.

Town of Dunn Safety

By Deputy Stanford, Dane County Sheriff

Headlights

Greetings from the Sheriff's Office. Summer has come to a close, which means it has begun to get darker outside earlier in the evening. As a result, more people forget to turn their headlights on during the hours of darkness or reduced visibility. Most newer cars are more equipped to having automatic lights, but not all vehicles do. It is imperative to realize when you must have your headlights on if your car does not do it for you. Rain, fog, or snow can dramatically decrease your visibility and turning on your lights makes it easier for you to see AND for oncoming traffic to see you. Please make sure your headlights are functional and are reasonably clean and in working condition.

Securing your property

Most of us, at least once, have forgotten to lock our car, accidentally left the garage door open overnight, or even discovered in the morning that the front door was unlocked overnight. Theft is a preventable crime of opportunity that can happen in an instant. Make sure to lock your vehicles, house, and outdoor buildings in an effort to keep your property safe. Remove valuables from vehicles and lock all doors and windows.

Report any suspicious activity. In the event of an emergency, dial 911. If an incident occurs that you think is unlawful but not an emergency, please contact the Dane County Sheriff's Office as soon as possible after the incident occurs at (608) 266-9122 or (608) 255-2345.



Photo taken at Bluemoon Community Farm by Mary Liebig.



Photo taken by Mary Liebig.

McFarland Area Outreach Endowment Needs Your Help

McFarland Area Outreach Endowment is a 501c(3), under the McFarland Senior Outreach Department, which offers grants to financially-struggling seniors in the area. 2023 has been especially difficult for many seniors as we've entered the post pandemic era. Many economic programs put into place during that time have ended, leaving seniors with hard choices on how to pay for medications, utilities, home repairs, healthcare, and sometimes even beloved pets. The Endowment provides financial assistance to help with these needs not met by other sources. The primary focus of the Endowment is to provide modest grants to support older adults who meet qualifying guidelines. These grants enable older adults to remain in their home, maintain independence, and provide a safe and healthy environment. This year so far, the Endowment has granted over \$1,600 to your neighbors in the Town of Dunn.

If you would like to make a difference to someone local, consider making a financial donation. Donations can be sent to: McFarland Area Outreach Endowment, 5915 Milwaukee St, McFarland, WI 53558.

The Endowment Committee is also seeking additional board members. The Committee is comprised of seven members, including four officers. Commitment is minimal, as current meetings are quarterly.

If you are interested in joining or have further questions, please contact Lori Andersen, Director of McFarland Senior Outreach at (608) 838-7117.

2024 Proposed Budget Highlights (Continued)

2024 Expenditure Highlights

Public safety services are experiencing increases in costs which are passed on to the town. The largest increases in expenditures include Public Safety with Oregon and McFarland Fire and EMS and our Dane County Sheriff contract which are, in total, expected to increase by \$105,438 or 16.2% over last year. Sealcoating is increased to \$160,000 to treat roads that were reconstructed in 2021. Upgrades for the Town Hall property are proposed for \$16,000 and include an electrical upgrade, an automatic door opener to improve accessibility, new security cameras, and new landscaping at the entrance from the parking lot.

Donations

A bequest from the Ed Minihan

Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit

You may be eligible for a tax credit of up to 30% of the cost of certain energy-efficient improvements made to your home after January 1, 2023. The tax credit may be up to \$3,200. In most cases, the home must be your primary residence.

Qualified energy efficiency improvements installed during the year can include things such as:

- Exterior doors, windows, and skylights
- Insulation and air sealing materials or systems

Residential energy property expenses such as:

- Central air conditioners
- Natural gas, propane or oil water heaters
- Natural gas, propane, or oil furnaces and hot water boilers
- Heat pumps, water heaters, biomass stoves, and boilers
- Home energy audits of a main home

The credit is available only for qualifying expenditures to

estate, the Town of Dunn's former Chair for over 40 years, is funding the installation of a beautiful new sculpture near the north entrance of the Town Hall. The sculpture will be created by a local artist and will feature a sandhill crane.

2024 Capital Improvements Highlights

The 2024 budget provides \$1,832,206 for road reconstruction for areas including Schneider Drive. This longer stretch of road is more costly, but the town is applying for three different grant programs and hopes to obtain more than 50% funding from other sources.

The Town has been working with Legacy Solar Co-op to design and bid the installation of solar panels on the town's highway garage and to apply for financial incentives to

offset part of the cost. The garage was chosen for solar panels because of its metal roof and south facing surface. We will have further information at the budget hearing.

Several highway equipment upgrades totaling \$395,993 in purchases offset by \$82,309 in equipment sales will be discussed as part of the 2024 budget. Other improvements include foundation crack repairs for the salt shed buildings and Town Hall building, the addition of new parking lot lighting, and a roof repair. The 2024 budget proposes new borrowing of \$734,000 to fund capital improvements.

Sanitary District #1 and #4 budgets will be included in the Town's budget hearing as well.

existing homes or for an addition or renovation of an existing home, and not for newly constructed homes.

The credit has no lifetime dollar limit. You can claim the maximum annual credit every year that you make eligible improvements until 2033.

For more information visit www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/energy-efficient-home-improvement-credit



Photo from Creative Commons.

Salt Savers Pilot Program: Summary and Lessons

By Emily Jones, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

Freshwater is essential for healthy aquatic ecosystems. To keep our waters fresh, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), our local wastewater utility, is working to reduce the amount of salt ending up in the sewer. A few years ago, the Town of Dunn teamed up with MMSD on a pilot project to reduce salt contributions from water softeners.

In the pilot, called the Salt Savers program, MMSD tested the effectiveness of discounts in motivating people to improve their water softeners. Water softeners are the main source of salt to the sewer system, and inefficient water softeners use a particularly large amount of salt. By offering discounts, MMSD hoped to make it easier for residents to have their softeners optimized to low salt settings or to replace old softeners with new units that use less salt.



Photo of a water softener from Creative Commons.

How it worked

The Town of Dunn worked closely with MMSD to plan, administer, and promote the program. Local water softener companies and plumbing providers were trained in softening efficiency and provided softener evaluations, optimizations, and

replacements as part of the program. Optimizations were free to residents, while replacements of old, inefficient softeners qualified for \$200 discounts.

The program ran from October 2019 through May 2022, with a pause in 2020 after the onset of the pandemic. MMSD also partnered with the Village of McFarland and Pleasant Springs Sanitary District on similar pilot programs, as all three municipalities are in the same region of the sewer system.

Results and takeaways

There were 76 services provided under the program in Dunn, (30 were softener replacements, 18 were softener optimizations, and 28 were softener assessments). Across the three participating communities, there were 229 total services in the pilot program.

There were some positive outcomes of the pilot program. The pilot was a chance to test many different angles of water softener salt reduction, including financial incentives, outreach messages, working with water softener service providers, and the nuts and bolts of administering a rebate program. MMSD is using these lessons to chart out its future for salt reduction.

MMSD's main takeaway from the pilot program was that even though rebates and discounts can help motivate some action on water softeners, they're not a cure-all to the issue of excessive water softener salt. From the experience, a discount is not enough to get a large number of residents to upgrade their water

softeners. Individuals have different priorities and barriers, and a monetary incentive might not be the tool to address these barriers.

What's next?

While the pilot program indicated that a rebate/discount program isn't the only solution to curbing excessive water softener salt, MMSD still emphasizes water softener efficiency as a vital part of keeping salt at sustainable levels. Evaluate your home softener using the sewerage district's self-screen tool to find out if your softener could use upgrades: www.madsewer.org/pollution-prevention/chloride/for-residents/.

MMSD is also exploring and encouraging reducing salt use by softening less water. One way you can reduce your salt use at home is by having a plumber install a blending valve on your softener, which reduces the amount of water that's softened by diverting a portion of hard water around your softener and blending it back into the softened water. The result is water that is still mostly soft, which will prevent excessive scale buildup on appliances and fixtures, and a reduction in the amount of salt your softener uses. Learn more in their blog: www.madsewer.org/news-resources/blog/soften-water-with-less-salt-using-blending-valves/.

MMSD thanks the Town of Dunn and all residents who participated in the Salt Savers program. There is not a road map for salt reduction, but our communities are leading the way to make one!

Lake Waubesa Lake Management Plan Update

By Tamara Knickmeier, Lake Waubesa Conservation Association (LWCA)

Lake Waubesa Conservation Association (LWCA), in partnership with Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC), have been working throughout the summer to create a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (LMP) for Lake Waubesa. **LWCA identified five main goals for the LMP:**

- Increase community engagement and build organizational capacity
- Assist the DNR and Dane County in managing invasive aquatic plants, organisms, and fish
- Restore and protect habitat along shorelines and wetlands surrounding Waubesa
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Improve water clarity



Photo of Lake Waubesa by Mark Jung.

Leaf Collection Sites Available for Town Residents

There are 8 leaf collection sites available for Town residents (no contractors). Weather permitting, the sites will be available until the week of December 4th. If significant snow is forecasted before December 4th, sites will be removed for the season.

Sites are for leaves and grass clippings only. NO brush, twigs, garden waste, potted plants, seaweed, stones, rocks, animal waste, or any other non-leaf material. Bags must be emptied and removed. Non-leaf material will damage the leaf vacuum machine.

Make use of the sites listed below and refrain from burning leaves, grass clippings, yard waste, and other wet materials which result in smoldering and nuisance fires, which the Town prohibits. Maps are available at www.townofdunnwi.gov/leaf-management.

- Amundson Boat Launch
- Colladay Point Park
- Fish Camp County Park
- Dunn Heritage Park
- McConnell St
- Goodland County Park Parking Lot
- Tower Rd at Crescent Dr
- Camp Leonard Rd by Babcock Park

What's been accomplished so far:

- The stakeholder opinion survey, which was open throughout the summer, closed on August 31. Feedback is being compiled which will help LWCA prioritize projects that will be identified in the planning process.
- The shoreline survey was completed, which took five days and involved an analysis of 10 miles of shoreline up to 35 feet of land from the lakeshore,
- In early October, the "shoreline survey" team completed a near-shore inventory of coarse, woody debris in the water.

Next Steps for the LMP:

- The Stormwater Management Team will identify and map top-priority stormwater outfalls and green infrastructure practices.
- CARPC will develop a land use inventory summary for sub-watersheds and create a water quality report based on historical data.
- The Subteam will identify top priorities for agricultural best management practices.
- The Subteam will develop zebra mussel citizen monitoring program for the spring of 2024.

LWCA will keep the community apprised of these developments via email and their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Waubesa. If you have additional questions, contact LWCA at Waubesa.org@gmail.com.

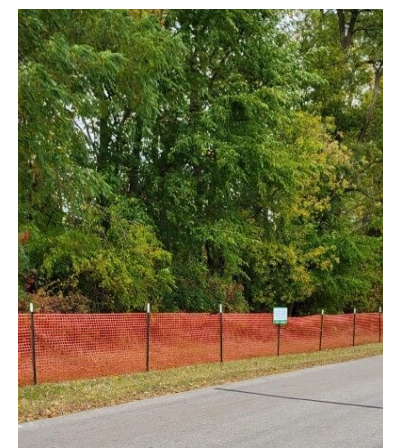


Photo of a leaf collection site showing orange containment area by Hardy Krueger.