

Town of Dunn
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McFarland, WI 53558

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2025 Spring Newsletter

www.townofdunnwi.gov (608) 838-1081 4156 County Road B, McFarland WI 53558

Views from the Chair

By Steven Greb, Town Chair

The Town is exploring the practice of green burials in the Town of Dunn Burying Ground and has recently formed a committee to increase our understanding of green burial practices, review state or local laws, costs, and other considerations. A short and long-term vision and implementation plan will be brought before the Town Board.

Green burials are becoming an increasingly popular environmentally friendly practice since they avoid chemicals, concrete vaults, and other non-biodegradable materials. I would guess our earliest burials in the Town Burying Ground would probably be considered green. Cemeteries around the country have reported a 72% increase in demand for green burials. In 2015, 64% of people 40 and older were open to considering a

green burial. I know you're thinking, "Well that's the last thing I need to deal with." So true.

I thought I'd try to learn more about our current cemetery as we consider new options in its future care and management. What I quickly found is the Burying Ground is a historic, cultural, and environmental treasure. In the past, the Burying Ground has also gone by the names of Waubesa Cemetery and Lake View Cemetery. The Town put out a pamphlet some years back and I'll quote some passages here: In 1852, landowners Levi and Lucy Beebe, and their son Arsinae and his wife Eliza, sold a small, wooded 1/2 acre parcel to Dunn for four dollars. The record of sale said the property was "for the use of said district for a burying ground forever." As part of the agreement, the family retained the timber to cut and use when they



Photo of the cherry blossoms taken at the Dunn Burying Ground by Kelsey Shepperd

choose. The land was likely already used as a burial ground for several years prior to the Town purchase. The cemetery was deemed full by 1890, with approximately 200 graves. It wasn't until over 100 years later, in 1992, that the Town purchased two additional acres to expand the cemetery.

Continue reading on page 2.

Arbor Day Potluck: Saturday, April 26th, 2025, 4 PM to 6 PM

The Town Parks Commission invites you to celebrate the annual Arbor Day Potluck, at the Town Hall on April 26th starting at 4 PM sharp. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy an evening with your neighbors!

After a presentation about songbird conservation by Lisa Gaumnitz of Save Our Songbirds (SOS), a potluck dinner will be served. Brats, hot dogs, plates, napkins, utensils, and drinks will be provided. There will also be a fun activity station for kids plus free trees and door prizes, while supplies last!

The 2025 Stewardship Award will also be dedicated to Jim Welsh (formerly of Groundswell Conservancy) for his outstanding dedication to preserving farmland and open space in the Town of Dunn and the surrounding region. Thanks, Jim, for your tireless efforts for land conservation!



Photo of a cedar waxwing eating crab apples by Kevin Cronk of a Fleeting Glimpse Photography

Spring Election Early Voting Dates and Hours:

Tue - Fri, Mar. 18 - Mar. 21: 12 PM to 4 PM

Mon - Fri, Mar. 24 - Mar. 28: 12 PM to 4 PM

Call (608) 838-1081 to make an appointment if you are unable to vote during these times. Polls will also be open on Election Day, April 1, from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Visit the [MyVoteWi.Gov](https://www.mylvotewi.gov) website for more information.

Farm Succession Planning Event:

Thursday, April 3rd from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Join Groundswell Conservancy for a discussion on farm succession strategies. Local farmers will share how they acquired their farms and how they plan to pass them on to the next generation. After the discussion, there will be an opportunity for a Q&A session. See page 4 for sign up info.

Annual Town Meeting: Tuesday, April 15th at 7 PM

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Town Meeting to be held at the Town Hall on April 15th at 7 PM and called pursuant to Wis. Stats. 60.11(1)(2) by the Dunn Town Board. Various Town reports will be presented. To view the meeting agenda, visit dunn.civicweb.net.

Open Book: Monday, May 5th, 4 PM to 6 PM

Contact the Assessor, Associated Appraisal Consultants, now by phone or email with questions about your property tax assessments: (920) 749-1995 or info@apraz.com.

If concerns remain, request an appointment for Open Book on May 5th, between 4 PM and 6 PM.

2025 Extra Pick-Up Days: June 12th and October 9th
Regardless of your normal service day, all extra items must curbside by 6:00 AM, THURSDAY.

Only one trip through the Town will be made. If Pellitteri is unable to finish on Thursday, the event will continue into Friday. Contact Pellitteri with questions: (608) 257-4285

Town of Dunn Fall Event:

Saturday, October 11th from 9 AM to 11 AM

Mark your calendars for the Town's Fall Event at the Town Hall! There will be donuts, coffee (milk and juice for kids), and small bare-root trees, while supplies last. Start your morning off by chatting with neighbors over coffee and donuts and then take a tree to go!

Views from the Chair
(Continued)

Like most, I have mixed feelings while walking in a cemetery and thinking about my own mortality. Like Woody Allen said, “I’m not afraid of death; I just don’t want to be there when it happens.”

As you enter our cemetery, the first thing you’ll see is the magnificent gates. These were constructed in 2014, largely by efforts from Ed Minihan, our past Town Chair (stonework) and Don Schimdt (the iron and decorative work). Of course, many other residents contributed sweat equity and stones to be used. Field stones from rock piles and old stone foundations were contributed from a number of farms in the Town, e.g Uphoff, Schneider, Gausman, and Olson farms to name a few.

I called Don Schmidt the other day and asked about the construction. He said it was quite challenging, given the height (20 ft) of the gates. Though it looks like the gates are anchored in the stone wall, there’s actually heavy I-beams underneath the stone façade. The massive size of the gates required structural strength, but he wanted them to display an elegance and inviting look. He also sculpted two sandhill cranes



Photo of the Burying Ground gate taken by Hardy Krueger

in the gates, providing a 3-dimensional look. Another fun detail, note the two cranes are in different flight motion, one is gliding, the other beginning a downward power wing motion.

The old part of the cemetery contains graves of some of our earliest settlers. Some served in the civil war and you’ll see the designation of G.A.R. The Grand Army of the Republic was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army. In a previous article, I talked about William Manson, an Irish immigrant who came to Wisconsin in 1853, bought a homestead but died in the war at age 45. He was actually not buried here, but some of his children have plots here. Other casualties of the Civil War like Alvin Day, Oliver Johnson, and Robert Penewell are buried here. Of special note is Harvey Pritchard, born in 1785, who was a drummer boy in the War of 1812! His musical talents were passed on to his son, who played lead violin at the Ford Theatre the night President Lincoln was shot.

Another treasured aspect of the Burying Ground is the natural state of the older section. This area probably hasn’t changed much since the cemetery began. Visit in the spring when the native ephemeral wildflower, shooting stars, carpet the ground under the shade of old oak trees. This area is typical of early prairie cemeteries (before lawn mowers) and hasn’t changed much in the 170 years. The oak trees probably witnessed the first burials in the cemetery.

The Scottish poet Charles MacKay said “There is no such thing as death. In nature nothing dies. From each sad remnant of decay, some form of life arises...” I think the practice of green burials aligns us with this principle. The Town of Dunn Burying Ground is a place one walks with reverence. Many of us have relatives and/or neighbors buried there. It’s a place we show respect for all those who came before us in this township, who have helped shape the community we have today. I hope you take a few minutes to visit this Town treasure.



Photo taken at the Dunn Burying Ground by Kelsey Shepperd

Is Your Well, Well?

When your property is on a well, you are your own water utility manager! It’s recommended that private well owners test annually, or sooner if there’s been flooding in the area or if there’s any changes in taste, odor, or appearance of the water.

Contact Madison & Dane County Public Health at (608) 243-0357 or visit publichealthmdc.com for more information. Public Health staff can help discuss the types of tests you need based on your situation and their cost.

Pellitteri Waste Systems

Accepted 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, shredded paper (place in a clear or transparent plastic bag and tie shut, bag no larger than a basketball).

Accepted 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).

Accepted Metal Products

Empty aerosol cans, aluminum cans or plates, metal pots and pans, metal appliances and plumbing fixtures/ faucets (nothing larger than a basketball), 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

- Stop “wishcycling” and download the Pellitteri Waste Systems Mobile App to use the Recycle Right search to dispose of specific items properly.
- Additional recyclables outside of recycling carts must be prepaid for and prescheduled for pick-up. Contact Pellitteri a minimum one day prior to your normal service day. Additional recyclables must be in clear plastic bag (s) next to the recycling cart, no larger

- than 32 gal., and no heavier than 50 lbs. Cut down cardboard to fit in bags, do NOT bundle or place in a bigger box.
 - Only flatten/crush cardboard boxes, NO plastic or metal items.
 - Don’t place smaller items inside larger ones. 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 recycled.
 - Recycling carts will not be picked up if it contains trash, yard waste, prohibited items, or if overloaded.
 - In a week containing certain observed Holidays, pick up is delayed by one day. Check with Pellitteri for a schedule.
 - For additional pick-up volume or for questions, contact info@pellitteri.com or call (608) 257-4285.
- Electronic Recycling**
- TVs, laptops, cellphones, and other electronics contain valuable materials that can be recovered through recycling. Electronics also contain hazardous materials 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. Please direct additional questions to Wisconsin DNR ECycle at (608) 264-6001.

Town Transfer Site

Open to Town residents only. Located at 4030 County Road B, 1/4 mile east of the Town Hall. Open monthly on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 8 AM to 4 PM, exceptions may be on Holidays or Holiday weekends. April through the end of November, the Transfer Site is also open Wednesdays from 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. Fees are based on our costs for disposal. At the time of this publication, auto tires without rims are \$5 and \$10 for tires with rims. Fees for semi-truck tires are \$10 and tractor tires are \$25.

Non-Accepted Items

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

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. For a list of acceptable items, visit danecountycleansweep.com. Fees apply. Prior to delivering items or for current hours, contact Clean Sweep at (608) 838-3212.

Medication Drop Off

Protect our water resources! Do not flush medications down the drain. Drop off unwanted or expired medication at local police departments:

McFarland: (608) 838-3115
Oregon: (608) 835-3111
Stoughton: (608) 873-3374

On the Road Again

2024 Completed Road Projects

The 2024 - 2025 biennium paving project consisted of road reconstruction of Schneider Dr (from US 51 to CTH MM), Dyreson Rd (from CTH B to Schneider Dr), Rons Rd, Audrey Ln, and Green Ridge Rd.



Photo of Schneider Drive road closure by Mary Liebig

Schneider Dr was completed with the help and cooperation from the City of Fitchburg. Significant grant funding made this project possible. Not including Town labor or equipment, the Town’s total cost of these projects was roughly \$1.23 million (of which roughly \$880,271 was funded through grants).

Due to a substantial increase in road height and widening of the gravel shoulders along these roads, all mailboxes in these areas must be brought into compliance with the Town’s Mailbox Policy. Visit townofdunnwi.gov/policies to view the policy.

Sealcoating was completed on Rutland-Dunn Townline Rd, part of Lake Kegonsa Rd, Bonner Trl, Labrador Rd, Hook Island Rd, Sand Hill Rd (south of Townline), Schuster Rd (Dunn’s section), and Holm Rd. The Town also replaced two large culverts on Lalor Rd.

2025 Road Projects

Grant funding for road paving projects tends to be available every other year. The Town will be applying for grant funding in 2025 for the 2026 - 2027 biennium grant cycle.

This year, the Town plans to sealcoat roads in the Spartan Hills and Olsonia / Orvold Park neighborhoods.

The Town sealcoats roads to extend the roads’ useful life and protect the significant investments made. If no sealcoating maintenance is done, the average life of blacktop is only 15 years. When sealcoating with oil and stone every five to seven years, road lifespans can extend up to 30 years. The cost for sealcoating treatment is \$25,000 to \$30,000 per mile versus \$250,000 per mile for new blacktop. We appreciate your patience during roadwork inconveniences and delays.

Mailbox Placement

With the wet heavy snow that we experienced this winter, many mailboxes were knocked down during plow season. If you need to replace your mailbox for any reason, you must adhere to the Town’s Mailbox Policy. This includes placement and dimensions in height from and distance off the road surface. To view the policy, visit townofdunnwi.gov/policies.

Garbage Cart Placement

Garbage and recycling bins should be placed in your driveway apron and not in the road shoulder, especially during the winter. This will allow for efficient pickup by our trash vendor and general traffic safety.

Roadside Mowing

With spring and summer around the corner, roadside mowing will begin. There will be a change in our roadside mowing approach since we are experiencing more invasive vegetation along our roadsides. Due to this, we may mow more often and/or the full road right-of-way width in order to deplete the viable seed production of these plants. Please keep all obstacles, including any signage, out of the road right-of-way, which is typically 33-feet from the center of the Town road.

Proper Disposal of Rechargeable Batteries

Article adapted from Wisconsin DNR
Rechargeable batteries are commonly used in devices like phones, laptops, and power tools, but their disposal poses significant risks to waste management facilities. Improper disposal of rechargeable (lithium) batteries in trash or recycling can cause dangerous fires, threatening infrastructure and the safety of waste removal workers. Fires can disrupt operations for months and fires can burn underground for weeks. **You can help prevent fires by following these steps:**

- 1. Never put batteries or electronics in your recycling bin or cart.
- 2. Take rechargeable batteries to a recycling drop-off site or E-cycle your electronic devices through E-Cycle Wisconsin. Visit Call2recycle.org or dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ecycle to find a drop-off site.

Town of Dunn Parks

Thanks to a Dane County grant and favorable winter weather, our parks maintenance crew was able to dredge the three ponds at Dunn Heritage Park this winter. Sediment removal was necessary due to previous flooding damage. The dredging helped restore the ponds' function of managing runoff before it reaches Lake Waubesa. The largest pond also serves as a fish spawning habitat.



Photo taken at Dunn Heritage Park during the dredging. Photo by Hardy Krueger

Lake Waubesa Management Plan Approved by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Article by Tamara Knickmeier

It is with great excitement that Lake Waubesa Conservation Association (LWCA) announces the approval of the Lake Waubesa Lake Management Plan (LMP) by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This is a significant achievement for Lake Waubesa. The plan includes comprehensive data on lake characteristics, historical water quality trends, aquatic plants, and runoff modeling from both rural and urban areas. This science-based, data-driven approach provides a detailed list of recommendations to guide the long-term improvement of Lake Waubesa for years to come.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission for their invaluable partnership and expertise in helping us complete this plan. A special thanks to our project manager, Carolyn



Photo of Lake Waubesa shoreline by Krystal Stankowski

Prescribed burns are planned this spring, weather permitting, at Dunn Heritage, Simpson, Colladay Point Park, Kegonsa Manor, and the old section of the Dunn Burying Ground.

Be sure to get outdoors and enjoy our Town parks! When visiting Town parks, please keep pets leashed and dispose of all waste properly. For park locations, visit townofdunnwi.gov/parks.

Betz, and our dedicated Steering Committee members: Paul Dearlove (Clean Lakes Alliance), Ronald French (LWCA), Katie Hein (LWCA), Lee Igl (Village of McFarland), Pete Jopke (Dane County Land & Water Resources), Tamara Knickmeier (LWCA), Kelsey Shepperd (Town of Dunn), Ben Shulte (City of Fitchburg), Joy Zedler (Friends of Waubesa Wetlands).

Five Key Goals of the LMP

- Reduce agricultural runoff and improve water clarity
- Manage aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Lake Waubesa and prevent their spread
- Restore and protect habitat along lake shorelines
- Reduce urban stormwater runoff
- Increase community engagement and build organizational capacity

From Planning to Action

With the plan now in place, we now shift our focus to implementation. We are forming an LMP Implementation Planning Committee to review the recommendations and identify top-priority projects. Approved projects will be integrated into a rolling 2-3 year plan for execution.

We are excited about this next phase and look forward to working together to protect and enhance the beauty and health of Lake Waubesa. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved and make a difference! For more information, visit waubesa.org/what-can-i-do.

Preserve Your Farming Legacy

By Brandon Mann, Groundswell Conservancy Easement Stewardship Manager

As the average age of farmers and agricultural landowners continues to rise, the future of agricultural land is at a critical crossroads. Within the next 20 years, nearly one-third of U.S. farmland will change ownership. During ownership transitions, agricultural land is most vulnerable to conversion and development. Locally, Dane County is almost the most rapidly growing county in Wisconsin. If we want to maintain productive agricultural land, rural lifestyles, and scenic landscapes, the time to plan is now.

Transferring a farm is also often a complex process, involving legal, financial, and emotional considerations— even when an heir is identified. For many retiring farmers, finding someone to continue the farm business can be a significant challenge. For new farmers, especially those without a farming background, the biggest obstacle is often finding affordable

land. Successful land transfers take time and require building relationships between families, landowners, new farmers, and support organizations. **Interested in starting the conversation about your farming legacy? Join Groundswell Conservancy on Thursday, April 3rd, from 4:30PM to 6:30PM at the Town Hall for an insightful discussion on farm succession strategies.**

During this event, local farmers will share their experiences on how they acquired their farms and how they plan to pass them on to the next generation. After the discussion, there will be a Q&A session. This event is part of a series dedicated to helping local farmers explore successful land transfer strategies.

If you are interested in attending this event or in learning more, visit www.groundswellconservancy.org/

[event/farmplan](#) or contact Brandon Mann at (608) 258-9797 or Brandon@groundswellconservancy.org

Groundswell Conservancy is a partner in the Land Transfer Navigators project coordinated by American Farmland Trust. The goal of the project is to help farmers “navigate” the farm succession process. Funding is provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).



Photo by Mary Liebig

Dunn’s New Land Use and Conservation Manager

The Town is pleased to announce Kelsey Shepperd as the Town’s new Land Use and Conservation Manager. Over the past seven years, Kelsey has been overseeing building and driveway permits, water quality initiatives focused on phosphorus and chloride reduction, mapping projects, elections, and the Town’s website and newsletter.

Kelsey obtained her Masters of Science in Environmental Conservation from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Prior, she also studied Geography, Land Use Planning, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). She looks forward to continuing Dunn’s legacy of farmland preservation and rural planning.

The Town would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to Ben Kollenbroich, Dunn’s previous Planning and Land Conservation Director. During Ben’s tenure with the Town, he was instrumental in preserving farmland, protecting wildlife habitat, helped property owners with land divisions and rezoning, and so much more! We wish him all the best in his new role as a Senior Planner for Dane County!



Photo of Ben Kollenbroich (left) and Kelsey Shepperd (right)

Keep Invasive Plants Out Of Garden Plans

Article adapted from article by Wisconsin DNR

While dreaming of spring blooms and designing your next garden or landscape layout, be on the lookout for invasive plants that may try to weed their way into your plans.

Many invasive plants that are problematic for Wisconsin found their foothold as garden ornamentals. Although Wisconsin regulates 145 plants under Invasive Species Rule NR 40 prohibiting their sale, it’s still essential to check your selections before purchasing and choose native plants when possible.

Invasive plants can quickly spread and take over an area, crowding out native plants and creating a monoculture (an area dominated by a single plant). This reduces biodiversity and harms habitats.

Wildflower seed mixes can be especially problematic in hiding invasive plants. Seeds for invasive plant species may be mixed with native wildflowers in seed packs, so carefully read labels before purchasing. There are non-native plants available that do not pose the threat of becoming invasive. If you aren’t sure if a plant is invasive, try searching the name along with “invasive” and “Wisconsin” in an online search to verify.

Mental Health Resources

Article by Deputy Zach Barton #1982, Dane County Sheriff’s Office

As the growing number of calls for service involving people with mental health needs, it is imperative that our agency, the Dane County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO), recognizes when mental illness may be a contributing factor during a call for service so that we can respond in a manner to de-escalate crisis situations.

In October 2022, DCSO took a significant step toward addressing this by creating a Mental Health Team within DCSO’s Field Services Division. This team, which includes two crisis workers and four deputies,

partners part-time with the Journey Mental Health Center.

The team’s goal is to improve responses to mental health-related calls and to engage in preventative follow-up work that may reduce repeat law enforcement interactions. The team also assists with cases involving mental illness, dementia, and intellectual disabilities.

In addition to co-responding to calls for service, the team is also available to conduct phone consultations, assist with emergency detentions, connect individuals to resources, create safety plans, and provide

Early Voting for the April 1st, Spring Election

We are happy to offer the convenient option of early voting at the Town Hall. Bring your photo ID and come visit us on the dates below. Wait times for early voting are typically minimal and no appointment is needed.

Tues - Fri, March 18th - 21st: Noon to 4 PM

Mon - Fri, March 24th - 28th: Noon to 4 PM

During early voting you may choose to vote on the main floor to avoid the stairs or the elevator. Curbside voting is also available and allows voters to remain in their vehicle while they mark their ballot.

During the early voting period (March 19th - March 28th), if you are unable to vote during the times listed above, please call the Town Hall to make an appointment: (608) 838-1081

Visit the MyVoteWi.Gov website to view what is on your ballot or for additional voting information.



Photo of a bald eagle by Kevin Cronk of a Fleeting Glimpse Photography

education/training. Together, we can problem solve a wide array of mental health issues and work toward curbing incarceration and creating better outcomes for our community members facing mental health needs.

Mental Health Resources:

- Journey Mental Health: (608) 280-2600
- Behavioral Health Resource Center: (608) 267-2244
- Suicide/Crisis Hotline: 988