

YORK *Town* News

December 2007

Town website:
www.townofyork.org/

York Town Board meets every
2nd Tuesday of the month, 8 pm
email: townboard@townofyork.org

Chairman: Dan Reeson
chairmanreeson@townofyork.org
608-523-1331

1st Supervisor: Dan Truttman
supervisortruttman@townofyork.org
608-527-5089

2nd Supervisor: Steve Hermanson
supervisorhermanson@townofyork.org
608-523-4513

Clerk: Nancy Anderson
yorktownclerk@townofyork.org
608-523-4529

Treasurer: Nathan Ula
treasurer@townofyork.org
608-523-4308

Assessor: Wayne Damrow
608-876-6704

Plan Commission meets every
1st Tuesday of month, 8 pm

Chair: Curtis Moen
608-527-2261

Vice Chair: H. Sean Shilling
608-523-1125

Secretary: Kelly Hermanson
608-523-4513

Don Anderson
608-523-4039

Heidi Hankley
608-523-4095

What do you want to see in your
Town newsletter? Send your news to
YTN Editor: Carrie Czerwonka
yorktownnews@gmail.com

ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

—NANCY ANDERSON

The Wisconsin State Voter Registration System or SVRS is now in place. It is a massive database with every registered voter's address and proof of residency in it. Every state must have one. Many of you have already registered. In fact, there are 474 voters registered for the Town of York. Next year is a presidential election year, complete with primaries. It is imperative that all citizens be registered in order to vote. For those of you not yet registered, you must either contact me at 523-4529 so that we can arrange to meet in person to fill out the form, or you must register at the polls on election day. You must be eighteen years old or older and have a valid Wisconsin Driver's License. If your current address is not on your license, you will need some other proof of residency, such as a utility bill or a bank statement. If you do not hold a valid driver's license, the last four digits of your social security number can be used instead. Exercise your right to vote and register.

THE TOWN RECYCLING CENTER—SOCIAL HUB OF YORK

—DAN TRUTTMANN

DOWNTOWN POSTVILLE—
The Town recycling center is open for the collection of recyclables and residential waste Saturdays from 8–12 a.m. year-round, and on Wednesday evenings from 5–8 p.m. June through August. Currently there are 6 containers for garbage and 3 for commingled recyclables, plus a container for recycling used motor oil. The silver container at the top of the hill is for steel (please disassemble items as much as possible and throw only the metal parts in the container).



The garbage containers are for the collection and disposal of nontoxic household waste. To keep the ever-increasing cost of disposal under control, farms and businesses that generate a significant amount of waste are asked to have their own containers on site, as are homebuilders and homeowners doing remodeling projects. Additionally, yard waste should be composted to minimize disposal cost, prevent air pollution, (See RECYCLING, page 2.)

TAX TIME IS HERE!

—NATHAN ULA

Dog license: A copy of the current vaccination record must be on file at the Town Hall before a dog license will be issued. The Town could be liable if a license has been issued and there is no proof of vaccination on file. Find your record now and make a copy for tax time or send it to the treasurer now so that it is on file. Please do not send any dog license fees without the proof required or the fees will be returned to you. Fees are the same as last year: \$9.00 for male or female and \$4.00 for neutered or spayed. A multiple dog license (See TREASURER, page 3.)

RECYCLING (continued from page 1) and to recycle nutrients to the soil. All residents, as well as farm and business owners, are strongly encouraged to follow State law and our Town recycling ordinance by bringing recyclable materials to be properly recycled. Accepted materials include

- newspaper
- printer paper
- books
- magazines
- corrugated cardboard
- paper cartons
- aluminum cans
- steel food cans
- glass bottles and jars
- plastic with a neck (#1-7)

Exceptions include motor oil containers, hazardous material containers, and plastic tubs such as yogurt containers.¹

A very successful Town clean-up day was held this past summer for the purpose of collecting items that are not normally accepted, such as tires, batteries, appliances, computers, and TVs. The cleanup day will be held again in late spring or early summer and will likely be an annual event. The following hazardous

¹Editor's note: My yogurt containers have an acceptable number 5 on their bottoms, so I called Waste Management about the tub restriction. They cannot recycle plastic in tubs because of the shape. Any plastics 3-7 need a narrow neck in order to be recyclable. Any shape 1's and 2's are ok. Other municipalities do have the means to recycle 1-7 any shape, but as of right now, York Township does not.

materials are not allowed at either the recycling center or at the clean-up day but should be kept safely until the next County Clean Sweep day: oil paints and stains, solvents, fertilizer, pesticides, poisons, and mercury-containing items like thermometers



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

—DAN REESON

As I write this note it is snowing again. The week of December 3 through 9 I was in Texas seeing my daughter home from Iraq, and for some reason my phone recorder did not work. I am sorry for any inconvenience this caused. So if anyone called please call me back.

First I would like to talk about our budget. Costs are going through the roof on everything to do with road repairs and snow removal; so far in York we are doing okay, but that means we may have to drive on snow-packed roads and, the way it is going, it could be all winter. Wayne is working extra hours along with Eric to keep clearing them off. We have had a few calls for private plowing, the guys really don't have time for extra work, but I do have a few phone numbers for private snow plowers, give me a call.

The roads will be posted with weight limits next spring, during spring thaw, hopefully that will help save our roads some. I would really like thank Wayne Bue, Nancy Anderson, and Nate Ula for making my job a little easier, and other people who need to be thanked are Dan Truttmann, Steve Hermanson, Curt Moen, Sean Shilling, Kelly Hermanson, Don Anderson, and Heidi Hankley. Special thanks to my lovely wife, Mareen. Couldn't do it without you.

The Plan Commission is getting towards the end of working on the tiered land division to help keep York more rural. Great job folks. The last note for now, York is looking to have another cleanup day in the Spring. Now I need to get back out and plow some snow.

and fluorescent bulbs.

For more info, please ask Tommy for assistance at the recycling center, or check the notice board or Town web site. Other resources include the Wisconsin DNR and Waste Management web sites.

WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLAR GOES

The Town gets a lot of questions about where all of the property tax money goes, and where are the services for the money collected. It's important to note the amount that goes to the Town is about 13%, and it is used for maintenance and plowing of Town roads, garbage and recycling collection, public protection services (fire and ambulance), and the basic cost of local governance and administration. The largest portion goes to our local schools, followed by county expenses for roads, public services, and government.

Where your 2007 tax dollar went (Percentages for each of the three school districts in York).

	New Glarus	Pecatonica	Argyle
	%		
State	1.0	1.0	1.0
County	28.3	27.6	28.3
Township	13.2	12.9	13.2
School	50.6	48.8	50.6
Vo-tech	6.9	9.7	6.9

Tax (mil) Rates for 2007:

New Glarus	0.020007702
Pecatonica	0.020495262
Argyle	0.019841423

Farm-Fresh Eggs Available up the Road
The Goose Chaser Farm
Stef and Andre Culberson
N8855 Badger Road
 thegoosechaserfarm@yahoo.com
Pasture-raised ducks, chicken, and eggs

Local Flavor

Stef Culberson started her farm in 2004, the year her son was born. She and her husband Andre decided to grow most of their own food for their family's consumption. The Goose Chaser Farm was born. Stef and Andre sell fresh eggs and whole, plucked chickens and ducks on this family operated farm. Growing up in Germany, Stef brought her European farming practices to

Wisconsin. Her ducks and chickens are grass-fed and pasture-raised.

The Culbersons' desire for fresh, healthy produce can benefit you and your family as well—to take advantage of this close resource, contact the Goose Chaser Farm.

Do you have a York resource or project you'd like featured in our next newsletter? Please contact the editor.

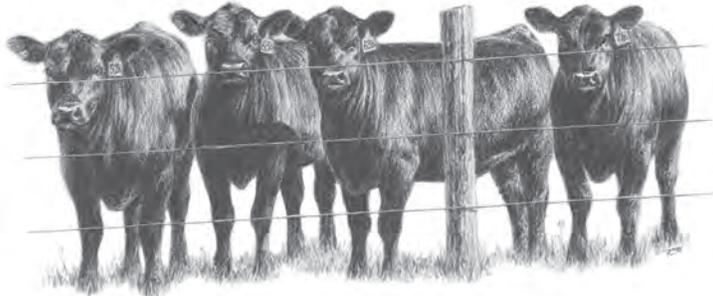
GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS

—STEVE HERMANSON

Fences are an important part of property ownership. Town of York is presently in the process of adopting a fencing ordinance. The State has regulations on fencing under Chapter 90 of Wisconsin statutes. The Town of York presently follows these statutes but would like to make an additional requirement.

Presently, when adjoining land is subdivided, each portion is divided in half. Under the new ordinance, when adjoining land is subdivided, the subdivider (or association) will be responsible for half of the entire fence. This will allow the adjoining land owner to retain his or her original fence.

Here is some helpful information when dealing with fencing issues. When a person is standing on his or her property line, facing the neighbor's



property, he or she has the duty to maintain the half of fence on his or her right. Then, the neighbor maintains the half on the left.

What is a legal fence? In general all fences must be 50 inches high, with the bottom not over four inches from the ground. There are many types of fences: woven wire, barbed wire, board

fences, board-wire fences, wire-and picket fences, electric fences (if both neighbors agree in writing), rails, wall, and other alternatives.

Ideally, this ordinance will serve to aid in resolving disputes and recovering cost disputes, using the law as a guide.

If a dispute cannot be resolved, either neighbor may contact his or her Town supervisors to resolve

the dispute. There is a procedure and a cost for this method. All land owners need to be aware of their responsibility for fences.

SNOW PLOWING SAFETY

Winter weather is upon us in a big way this year, with no sign of letting up. Here are a few reminders from the board and plow drivers:

- When residents are clearing their driveways, they should avoid pushing the snow across the public road whenever possible (Green County is especially adamant about this). Aside from the obvious hazard of being crossways in the road when traffic may be approaching, any snow left in

the road creates rough, icy, and slippery spots that affect not only other drivers, but also jars the plow truck.

- Large trucks need room to work and turn around. Please avoid parking or placing other obstacles in the roadway.
- Visibility from the truck can be a challenge. Allow plenty of room when following snow plows and be aware that they may need to back up.
- The drivers have had their hands full keeping the Town roads clear and safe. The Town board has decided

that at this time there is neither the equipment nor man power available to do work on private roads (except in the case of emergencies), not to mention the safety and liability issues that could arise. Local contractors are available to meet those needs, and should be contacted first.

Wayne and Eric do the best job they can given the oftentimes difficult working conditions. Patience is appreciated during busy times but, as always, feel free to contact board members with legitimate concerns so that they may pass them along to the drivers.

TREASURER (continued from page 1)

can be purchased at \$35.00 for 12 or fewer dogs and an additional \$3.00 for each dog over the 12. Once again, proof of vaccination is required for each dog on the multiple licenses.

Receipts: If you would like your payment stubs stamped PAID and returned to you, include first class postage or a SASE with your payment. Payment stubs do not need to be included with payment IF the name on the check matches that on the tax bill. Please include a note to indicate all parcels being paid and whose name under which they are listed.

Payments: Electronic check and credit card payments for property taxes are becoming more numerous each year, but remember that a fee is charged for this convenience. These types of payments can only be made online through the county website (www.co.green.wi.gov) by clicking on PAY TAXES. Payment by check and/or cash, either first installment or payments in full, are paid to the local treasurer before January 31. Only second installments paid after January 31 are paid to the county treasurer. A listing of the 2007 tax roll will once again be posted on the Town website (www.townofyork.org). Check the website often for additional property tax information.

Escrow checks: Mortgage company checks in excess of amount due will be accepted and the overpayment refunded to the taxpayer. Please remember to endorse the back of the check before mailing if it is a two-party check.

YORK *Town News*

c/o Nancy Anderson
N8791 York Center Rd.
Blanchardville, WI 53516



BUILDING PERMITS?

Do I need one?

The following is an excerpt from the York building permit ordinance. For any questions, contact the Town building inspector, Mike Fenley, at (608) 963-0652.

SECTION 5

BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED

Prior to commencing any of the following work, the owner or agent shall obtain a valid permit from the Town of York Building Inspector for:

- a. Construction of new buildings, including 1 and 2 family dwellings, garages, storage sheds, etc.
- b. Additions that increase the physical dimensions of a building, including decks;
- c. Alterations to the building structure, or alterations to the building's heating, electrical or plumbing systems, except where exempted below (Sect. 6). Restoration or repair of an installation to its previous code-compliant condition as determined by the Building

Inspector is exempted from permit requirements;

- d. Water heater replacements shall require a permit if the plumbing, venting, electrical or gas supply systems are altered;
- f. Electrical service modifications;
- g. Construction or placement of mobile homes is not allowed in the Town of York.

SECTION 6

EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMIT REQUIREMENT

The requirement in Section V to obtain a Town Building Information Permit shall not apply to any of the following:

- a. Buildings or structures owned by the Town of York;
- b. Remodeling or alterations to buildings (except electric service), when the cost of the work, including labor, shall be less than \$5,000 within a twelve (12) month period.
- c. The restoration or repair of building equipment, such as furnaces, central air conditions, water heaters, and similar mechanical

equipment (except electric service) without the alteration of, or addition to, the building or structure.

- d. Minor repairs performed for maintenance or replacement purposes in an existing building which does not involve the structural portions of the building or structure, or which does not affect room arrangement, light and ventilation, access to or efficiency of any exit stairways or exits, fire protection and which does not increase a given occupancy or use (ex. Window and door replacement if it does not affect structure)

- e. Re-siding, re-roofing and finishing interior surfaces, and installation of cabinetry. However, unless structural calculations are provided, no more than two layers of roofing shall be installed on a roof.

- f. Fences or other similar like enclosures.

- g. Portable buildings, or buildings less than 200 square feet. You may still need a permit from Green County zoning.

- h. Agricultural buildings.