

# YORK



## Town News

December 2009

Town web site:  
www.townofyork.org/

York Town Board meets every  
2nd Tuesday of the month, 8 pm  
e-mail: 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: Gardiner Appraisal Service**  
608-876-6704  
888-756-9726

**Building Inspector: Mike Fenley**  
mfen@vierbicher.com  
608-963-0652

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

**Chair: Kelly Hermanson**  
**Curtis Moen** 608-523-4513  
608-527-2261

**H. Sean Shilling** 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

### NOVEMBER 2009 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

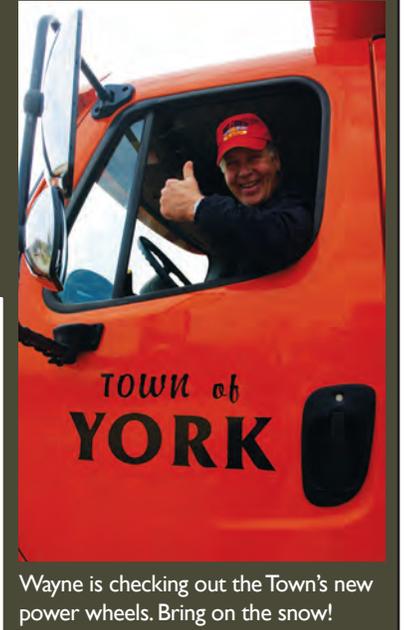
— DAN REESON

**A**nother year is going by fast, I'm sure it's one we won't forget with the recession going on. I know as a farmer it's tough to get up every morning knowing you're not making much headway, but as farmers are, tomorrow it's going

to be alright. The town budget seems to be doing ok for now, the board has done a great job trying to save a buck here and there, our roads are in fairly good shape. (It's the spring thaws that always bother me.) We haven't had or budget hearing yet as I write this, but I think we're looking around a 3% increase in our budget, 1.2% of that will be from new construction. The way expenses (see **CHAIRMAN**, page 5)

#### A WORD OF CAUTION!!

**T**he winter snow-plowing season is here. Whether you plow snow yourself or have it done, please keep this in mind. Plowing across the road leaves ridges that freeze up and can cause considerable damage to the Town snow removal equipment as the patrolman comes down the road. Breakdowns cost the Town and its citizens both time and money. Use care when clearing away snow on your property.



Wayne is checking out the Town's new power wheels. Bring on the snow!

#### SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN GRASSLAND AREA SAFE PROGRAM

**U**SDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, is offering a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice tailored to provide enhanced habitat for bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, and ring-necked pheasant. This practice, established through FSAs State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative, is available to eligible participants in parts of Dane, Iowa, Green, and Lafayette counties.



▲ Bobolink

#### PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS

SAFE practices include establishment of cool season grasses, warm season grasses, and prairie restorations. Grass that is currently existing that meets CRP (see **SAFE**, page 3)

#### NEW GLARUS FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUCK

**T**his year the New Glarus Fire District, which is comprised of five municipalities including the Town of York, purchased a new fire engine for the New Glarus Fire Department. The truck replaces an outdated engine and a squad truck, and is equipped with an air tank (see **NEW GLARUS**, page 2)



## 2010 CENSUS

— NANCY ANDERSON

2010 will soon be here, and along with it, the Decennial Census. Reapportionment and redistricting depends on the accuracy of this census count. Census data also affects how more than \$300 billion in federal funds are distributed to tribal, state, and local governments each year. The process is well on its way, and actually began two years ago.

In October of 2007, Dan Reeson and I attended an informational seminar in Fitchburg where we were told that we would, in fact, be participating in the 2010 census and in what capacity. Given several choices at that meeting, we determined how we were going to compile census data for the Town of York. Early in 2008, I received maps, templates, and address lists from the government, which I had to verify and add any new addresses to it. No names are involved; addresses only are required. The process took several weeks to complete. When it came time to submit the list, Chip

Hankley, a citizen of York, and my computer guru, was extremely helpful with the templates and procedures necessary to complete this task according to a specific format, of which I had absolutely no clue. Somehow the Census Bureau wasn't satisfied with our first submission. After a little tweaking and rearranging, the report was submitted a second time to their satisfaction. Thanks for the help, Chip.

Most of you are probably unaware of this, but during the late spring and early summer of 2009, canvassers were sent to our area to verify each specific address and validate the list that we submitted. A gentleman appeared at my door, said why he was here, and gave me a receipt that my address was verified. I'm assuming that if an address couldn't be verified, it would disappear from the list.

At the beginning of November, I did receive information from the Census Bureau.

Once again, Chip Hankley was able to help me pull the list of unaccepted addresses from all the cryptic encoded material sent to me.

What he did retrieve was a list of thirty-one addresses consisting of eleven non-residential addresses and twenty addresses not found during canvassing. Not to be deterred, I set out a mission to verify these addresses myself. What I found was that the eleven non-residential addresses were just that – mostly sheds with a fire number at the driveway entrance. Of the remaining twenty, I could only find eleven of those. The next step is for the Town to appeal and hopefully have the located addresses restored.

Finally, you will soon be seeing reminders from the government and from the Town of York, in the form of a "Complete Count Committee", of the importance of returning your census form once it has been mailed to your address. Depending on what the Census Bureau expects, I may need to call upon some of you for help in completing this count. The more surveys returned, the more accurate the count. This is extremely important, so please do your part.

The Green County Land and Water Conservation Department is once again holding a tree sale program. The following trees are available:

3'-4' bur oak, red oak, black cherry, sugar maple

2'-3' white oak, swamp white oak

1.5'-2' butternut

The cost is \$2 per tree, with a minimum order of ten trees of one species. All trees are bare root hardwoods. Orders will be taken until December 31, 2009. Delivery will be approximately the third week of April, 2010.

If you wish to order trees or have any questions, stop by the USDA Service Center at 1627 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. West in Monroe or call 325-4195, ext. 3.

## NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

—NATHAN ULA

**Property taxes:** Once again this year you can pay your property taxes online using a credit card. Another option is to pay with an electronic check (debit) from your checking account. An advantage to paying by e-check is that you get confirmation of your payment and can print a receipt immediately. Both of these payment options are available through the secure county web site ([www.co.green.wi.gov](http://www.co.green.wi.gov)). A link to this will be provided on the town web site ([www.townofyork.org](http://www.townofyork.org)). A listing of the 2009 tax roll will also be posted there. Collections at the York Town Hall will likely be on the last Saturdays of December and January to coincide with recycling center hours. Anyone mailing their payment and wanting a receipt must include a SASE or the necessary postage. Escrow checks exceeding taxes due will be accepted and the overpayment refunded to the taxpayer. Any two-party checks need to be endorsed by the taxpayer. Dog license fees remain unchanged: males and females, \$9; spayed and neutered, \$4; multiple dog fee of \$35 for up to 12 dogs and \$3 for each additional. A copy of rabies vaccination records is required to be on file before a dog license will be issued.

**What is a mil rate and how is it determined?** A mil rate is basically the dollar amount of tax per \$1000 of assessed value. When all levies have been set by the state, county, township, schools, and vocational districts, a mil rate is computed for each by dividing the amount levied by the total assessed value. Residents of York have one of three mil rates, depending on which school district they reside in. The mil rate seen on the tax bill is the state mil rate + the county mil rate – the county sales tax mil rate + the township mil rate – the school tax credit mil rate + the mil rates for the school district and vocational district in which the taxpayer owns land. Typically, as assessed value increases the mil rate decreases.

## NEW GLARUS (continued from page 1)

fill station, all in one truck. This apparatus carries 10 firefighters and equipment for firefighting, car accidents, EMS/rescue, and HAZMAT incidents. The purchase of the truck was very carefully bid out, but still the cost came in at over \$400,000.

The Town of York's fire protection is provided by either the Blanchardville Fire Department or the New Glarus Fire Department, or both if mutual aid is required. Both are staffed by dedicated volunteers that are capable and qualified to handle nearly any situation that they are called to, provided they can safely get to the scene. Therefore, it is important that we all do our part to keep our roads and driveways in good condition, with trees and limbs trimmed to provide enough room to get these large vehicles in and out easily.

York is represented on the New Glarus Fire District by Ron Erickson, who is the treasurer.

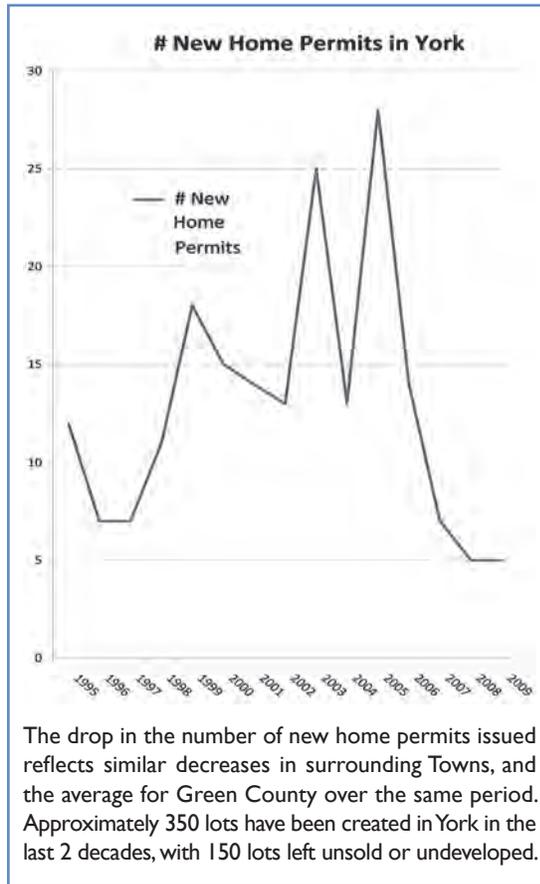
## PLAN COMMISSION REPORT

— HEIDI HANKLEY

Amidst our current economic woes, a silver lining can be found in the fact that residential development pressure in the Town of York is low. The Plan Commission is trying to take advantage of this lull by fully developing and implementing the new Rural Land Conservation Program. This program will administer the conservation easements made possible by the recently passed Land Division and Development Ordinance. The program will also be looking for other proactive ways that we can keep York's land in agriculture and economically viable for farmers.

To help with this large task, the Plan Commission and Town Board are forming the Rural Land Conservation Committee. Brian Bubenzer, Cynthia Dallman, Eric Peterson, and Chris Wetteland have stepped forward and offered their time and talents to help get the program up and running. Once the Committee and Plan Commission work out the nuts and bolts of the conservation subdivision design and conservation easement processes, attention will be directed in other areas that could benefit York's landowners.

The Town of York is the only township in Green County to be included within the



The drop in the number of new home permits issued reflects similar decreases in surrounding Towns, and the average for Green County over the same period. Approximately 350 lots have been created in York in the last 2 decades, with 150 lots left unsold or undeveloped.

boundaries of the Department of Natural Resources Southwest Wisconsin Grassland

growth in a way that preserves the Town's rural character and quality of life.

and Stream Conservation Area. In this program, the DNR is partnering with local governments, landowners, and conservation agencies to protect key grassland areas in southwestern Wisconsin. This program will likely offer landowners new options to help them afford to keep their land in agriculture. There are also programs associated with the State's Working Lands Initiative that could prove useful to agriculture in York. The hope is that the new committee will be able to keep tabs on all these opportunities and then relay the information to Town residents.

There is still one seat open on the Rural Land Conservation Committee. Anyone interested in filling this spot should contact Curt Moen at 527-2261. Let's hope the economy turns around soon, and in the meantime, the Plan Commission and Rural Land Conservation Committee will try to ensure that we have a solid program in place to manage new

**SAFE (continued from page 1)** eligibility requirements may also be accepted. A large variety of seed mix options are provided to produce a broad spectrum of habitat for the species of focus in this project.

### GOALS

The goal of this project is to restore and maintain grassland a prairie habitat for bird species of greatest conservation need in Wisconsin. This area harbors an extraordinary density of original prairie remnants, outstanding populations of grassland birds, and the headwaters of numerous rivers.

### LAND ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for placement in a SAFE CRP practice, land must be:

- Cropland (including field margins) that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 of the previous 6 crop years from 1996 to 2001.
- Physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.
- Located within the state designated SAFE area.
- A maximum of 4,000 acres in the designated counties are available for this project.
- Land need not be determined highly erodible for enrollment.

### PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

CRP participants must have:

- Owned or operated the land for the previous 12 months, some exceptions may apply.

- An average adjusted gross income of less than \$2.5 million unless 75% or more of income is from farming, ranching, or forestry operations.

### CRP PAYMENTS

Participants are eligible for four types of USDA payments:

- Signing Incentive Payment— A one-time payment of \$100 per acre. USDA makes this payment within 30 days after the contract has been approved.
- Annual rental payments based on the relative productivity of the soils within the offered area and the average dryland cash-rent or cash-rent equivalent, including a maintenance payment.
- Cost share assistance of 50 percent for installing the practice on contracted land.
- Practice Incentive Payment—Approximately 40 percent of the total cost for establishing the practice.

### MANAGEMENT

Participants are required to perform mid-contract management activities. These activities serve to increase the diversity of the habitat during the contract life-span. This could include disking, mowing, burning, herbicide application, and interseeding. A 50% cost-share payment is paid in the year the management is performed.

For more information about this program, contact your Green County USDA Service Center: 608-325-4195.

**TOWN OF YORK  
RECYCLING CENTER**

**In addition to the usual  
recyclables, we are now accepting  
the following items for recycling:**

- » Compact fluorescent bulbs
- » 2', 4', and 8' fluorescent bulbs
- » Dry cell batteries, including rechargeable, cell phone batteries, and power tool batteries
- » Containers for these are in the attendant's shed
- » Steel items may be put in silver dumpsters

**We DO NOT accept  
any of the following:**

- » Computers
- » TV's
- » Stereos, or other electronic equipment
- » Kitchen or household appliances, except dryers and dishwashers
- » Construction Waste
- » Tires

**Other recycling locations & what they will accept:**

- » File 13 E-Waste Solutions, Verona: computers, TV's, microwaves, printers, cell phones, monitors
- » Best Buy & other electronics retailers: cell phones, computers, etc
- » Goodwill: computers & computer components
- » Behr Salvage, Monroe: cars, steel, aluminum, appliances (if freon removed)
- » Local tire dealers: tires



Town of York Recycling Center hours:  
Saturdays 8 to 12 am year-round  
Wednesdays 5 to 8 pm, June through August



## REVIEW OF 2009 AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2010

—2ND SUPERVISOR STEVE HERMANSON

I'd like to review some of the highlights from 2009.

The purchase of the 2009 Freightliner truck from Truck Country in Shullsburg and plow equipment from Monroe Truck Equipment was completed this year. We as a board had hoped to delay the purchase, but due to major changes in emission standards for 2010 and the fact that repairs were increasing on the 1997 truck, we decided to make the purchase in 2009. The board put the 1997 International truck out for bids, and sold it in late November.

Our equipment in general is in good condition. The ditch bank mower was new in 2008. The grader is in good shape; the John Deere tractor is in good condition. The 2000 International plow truck is next on the list to be replaced. In 2010 we'll be starting a fund for the future purchase.

I'd like to thank Wayne Bue and Eric Peterson for their dedication during the winter storms. I'd also like to thank everyone who helped clear trees during the July wind storm. I was impressed how everyone worked together to make a large task manageable.

The Plan Commission continues to work on the Tiered Land Division Ordinance. Which has taken countless hours of research. We also have a newly formed Rural Land Conservation Committee that will be working with the Plan Commission. Thank you for your time and effort.

The budget hearing was on Nov. 24th. There was a small surplus for 2009 and the 2010 budget was passed.

We replaced the pews in the town hall with used chairs. Next year we need to replace the roof and make some repairs to the equipment shed.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy 2010.

## AG PLASTICS & TOXIC MATERIALS DISPOSAL UPDATES

— DAN TRUTTMANN

The future of a promising pilot program that collected waste agriculture plastic from silo bags, wrapped bales, soap containers, and plastic twine is still in question. Many thousands of pounds of plastic had been collected and converted to other plastic products as a cheaper alternative to items made directly from petroleum, but the company was dissolved. Recently, partners in the former company have started it up again, and plan to be very actively collecting plastic in Wisconsin in 2010.

In the meantime, farmers will need to either stockpile the plastic until another collection date is scheduled or properly dispose of their plastics from their own dumpster to a landfill. It's important to be aware that the burning of plastics releases harmful dioxins (as if there are good dioxins) into the air, and is also prohibited by the DNR.

Garbage and recyclables collection costs continue to increase significantly in the Town for a number of reasons; some good, some not so good, but mostly unavoidable. Recently the State of WI increased landfill tipping fees from under \$6 to \$13 per ton, so that will lead to future increases from our garbage contractor. Population growth is also a major contributing factor, and even with additional dumpsters we are again near capacity. On the positive side, most of the Townspeople are very conscientious recyclers, which leads to more tonnage in the recycling dumpsters but less for the landfill.

Last year we began accepting the following items to keep toxic materials out of the environment: dry cell batteries, including rechargeable and cell phone batteries, fluorescent tubes of all lengths, and compact fluorescent lights. These are all put into special shipping containers and sent to Waste Management for proper disposal. (Don't mix these with regular trash.) We plan to be set up soon to take in aluminum cans separate from other recyclables, and to use the revenue to offset a part of the cost of garbage disposal.

One last item: due to the cost of holding a Town clean-up day, and increasing availability of other sites to dispose of unwanted items, we are not currently planning to hold another one. Please consult the list of sites available posted at the recycling center and in this newsletter, or ask Karen at the recycling center, who is always willing to help out.

## NEW ASSESSOR FOR YORK

**G**ardiner Appraisal Service, LLC, has been hired by the Town of York to be the assessor. Greg Gardiner, owner/operator, will be the individual completing the work for the 2010 assessment year. Gardiner Appraisal Service is a financially stable, 25-year-old company serving municipalities throughout Southern Wisconsin. Gardiner Appraisal Service, LLC, is also the assessor for the Town of Monroe, the Town of Primrose, the Village of New Glarus, and the Village of Monticello.

New construction or any changes in land use that occurred in 2009 will be viewed. An employee of Gardiner Appraisal Service, LLC, will stop during the day to make any measurements and to view the interior if necessary if someone is at home. If no one is home, a card will be left indicating that someone stopped by. If it is necessary to view the interior, a postcard will be sent for an evening appointment.

If you have any questions regarding your assessment, you can call Gardiner Appraisal Service, LLC, toll free at 1-888-756-9726.



Photo credit: Alayna Truttman.

### **Vision Statement for Town of York**

We envision the Town of York as a rural farm-friendly community maintaining quality ground water, managed woodlands, wildlife and streams.

Residences are located to preserve productive farmland. Population density and retail development are controlled by a land use plan.

**CHAIRMAN** (continued from page 1) are going up I know the board members are working hard to keep taxes down. Nathan Ula, our treasurer, tells us he will be stepping down in the future, Nate has over 30 years on the York Board, I cannot Thank him enough for all the work he has done. Nate also had the pleasure of helping out 4 new board members in one term, couldn't have done it without ya. Thanks again Nathan! With Nate stepping down we have been talking about combining clerk and Treasurer duties. Every year there are more mandates coming from the state and it's always more paper work so I think we could make a part-time job out of the clerk-treasurer combine and probably have office hours also. Thanks everyone for all the work you do the town.



## GREEN'S PRAIRIE CEMETERY

A TOWN OF YORK HISTORICAL TREASURE

— BILL KUENZI, PRESIDENT GPCA

**G**reen's Prairie Cemetery is our jewel. It is truly a pioneer prairie cemetery. This burial ground served the Towns of York, Adams, Perry and Primrose. It preceded church cemeteries. The cemetery has been listed with the Wisconsin State Historical Society since 1996 and can be found in the catalog of burial sites.

One of the early burials was in 1846. This was the death of a mother, Joanna Green, wife of William Green, during child birth. The baby, Joanna named for her mother, died 19 days later.

The oldest person known to be buried here is Molly Peebles. She was born in 1761 and died in 1852. Her genealogy traces to five individuals that came over on the Mayflower. Her father, Benjamin Bisbee, served in the Revolutionary War. It is possible that Molly's son, Robert, who served in the War of 1812, is buried here. (This we would like to prove). We

do know that Robert's wife is buried here. Dithena died 4/29/1876, aged 80).

We do know that seven Civil War veterans are buried here and at least one buried elsewhere as noted on his parents grave marker. We possibly have three War of 1812 veterans and have at least one Blackhawk War veteran, General James Biggs.

Dave Thomas was elected the first Town of Primrose Chairman. He, his wife and son are buried in Green's.

Several of the famed "political" LaFollette family members were buried here. Sons

Marrion (2) and Robert (8 mo) and Josiah (37) remains were moved to Madison. At least one of the stones can be found in Green's.

All of the Green's Prairie Cemetery Association members have an interest in further archival search. We desire to find the "old" records if at all possible.

The cemetery fence was repaired by Bob Bergman and Zach Lehmann. Many volunteers assisted with other maintenance. The prairie was burned in early May. It was in very good shape as we welcomed 70 people to a Memorial Day event which focused on the seven Civil War veterans. We had other work days for weed control, a prairie walk, seed collection, visit from Assemblyman Brett Davis and educational presentations. About half of all the compass plants in Green County are found in Green's. The colorful prairie plants are seasonal specific so stop to see the appearance change throughout the year.

We will have special events to be announced in 2010.

We thank the Town for the gravel at the base of the stile. We look forward to continued interest and support from Town of York residents.

