

YORK TOWN News

April 2012

Town website:

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

Treasurer: Ann Carlson
treasurer@townofyork.org
608-527-3121

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

Brian Bubenzer
608-527-4434
Todd Larson
608-523-4041
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What do you want to see in your Town newsletter? Send your news to
YTN Editor: Carrie Czerwonka
yorktownnews@gmail.com

STATE REAL ESTATE PROPERTY REVALUATION PROCESS

NANCY ANDERSON, TOWN CLERK

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) will be making improvements to create a more efficient and fair property assessment process for Wisconsin. Two goals have emerged from a series of statewide discussions. One is the need to create uniformity among assessor practices. The second goal is the desirability of using technology to make the assessment process more efficient.

To achieve these goals, the DOR will be working with local governments and assessors during the next two years to implement two improvements by 2013:

1. Assessors will follow the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal practice (USPAP).
2. A municipality's assessment data must be stored and maintained electronically.

These changes will ensure consistent assessment practices statewide and benefit assessors, municipal officials, the DOR, and property owners. (SEE REVALUATION, p. 2)

SHEDS, TRUCKS, AND ROADS

STEVE HERMANSON, 2ND SUPERVISOR

Well, it's that time of year again to update you, the residents on what's happening with maintaining the town's property and machinery.

We are presently repairing the 40-year-old shed that is used to store machinery and tools. The shed held up well considering it was used to store tailings and salt. We replaced anywhere from two to six feet of steel around the bottom of the shed, and many of the girders have been replaced. We also eliminated one of the service doors, which was no longer in use, and replaced the other one.

Many of you may have noticed that we repainted the 2000 International plow truck. The truck had considerable rust damage and needed sand blasting and paint. We also replaced all of the hydraulic lines due to rust. This should extend the life of the truck. At this time a \$150,000.00 truck is not in our budget.

We, as a board are trying to take care of our roads and still maintain and replace buildings and equipment as needed. It's a tough balancing act. If we don't keep up with the roads, it will cost us more in the future. Hopefully after this mild winter our expenses will be down and allow us to put more money aside for a future plow truck.

YORK ADOPTS BILLBOARD CONTROL ORDINANCE

DAN TRUTTMANN, 1ST SUPERVISOR

Recently, the Town of York adopted a billboard control, or signage, ordinance. The purpose in doing so is to maintain the rural character and scenic beauty of the Town, and also to protect public health, safety, and welfare by prohibiting the construction and reconstruction of outdoor signs that are excessively high or excessively large.

According to the ordinance, no new outdoor sign may be constructed in the Town of York that has any of the following characteristics:

1. An area of more than 24 square feet.
2. A combined area of all Sign faces on any one parcel of more than 50 square feet.
3. A height of any part of the Sign that is more than 8 feet above the uniform finished grade.
4. Conglomerate Residential or Commercial signage.

The ordinance does provide exemptions for Governmental signs and flags, banners, warning signs, and special event signs. Additionally, there are provisions for variances if certain criteria can be met.

Any questions regarding the ordinance can be directed to the Town Clerk or any of the Board members. Please check the Town website to read a copy of the ordinance.

DRINKING WATER TESTING PROGRAM

DAN TRUTTMANN, 1ST SUPERVISOR

The Town of York and the Town of New Glarus will be participating in a water testing program. It is not mandatory, but rather, a service provided to the communities. It's important to know that you have safe water for consumption. These tests will be performed by a lab in Stevens Point, for a fee, at the beginning of June 2012. Three packages will be available to property owners.

- Homeowner Package: Includes tests for nitrate, coliform bacteria, pH, alkalinity, hardness, conductivity, corrosivity, and chloride. \$49.00
- Triazine Screen: Tests for triazine-type pesticides like atrazine. \$27.00
- Metals Package: Tests for copper, lead, iron, manganese, zinc, potassium, sodium, calcium, and magnesium. \$42.00
- All Three Tests: \$110.00.

Informational flyers will be mailed to all households in the sample area. It will include sampling techniques, important dates, and basic water quality information.

REVALUATION (CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

USPAP STANDARDS

Implementing the uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) standards will establish a reporting process through which our municipal assessor will document and explain the work completed for a particular assessment year.

The DOR is providing a USPAP report template for assessors to use. It outlines the analyses, opinions, and conclusions he/she reached during the assessment process. All assessors statewide will have the same tool in the same format. The assessor will use this report to explain the process and assessments at the local Board of Review. In addition, municipal officials and the DOR will better understand the assessor's methodology. The report will improve the transparency, consistency, and fairness of the local assessment process for property owners and local governments.

ELECTRONIC ASSESSMENT DATA REQUIREMENTS

Many municipalities and the DOR are using technology to improve assessment practices and save resources. Technology allows for better record availability, more efficient data management, and accurate property valuation. To achieve these objectives, municipalities will be required to store assessment data in an electronic format beginning with the 2013 assessment year.

TOWN OF YORK REVALUATION

The Town of York will begin its revaluation process in July of 2012, and will complete it in time for the 2013 Board of Review. Gregory Gardiner Appraisal Service has hired four appraisers beside himself to help complete this task. Bruce Gardiner, Jamie Sutfin, David Edge, and Delores Yerges have all been authorized by me to work in York to make their assessments. They will be wearing identification tags with my signature. I believe you will be notified ahead of time to schedule a convenient time.

WINTER NOTES

Below are a few reminders from the Town Board and our 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.

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.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

DAN REESON

Last October, the Town of York Board approved for our assessor to do a reevaluation of the Town of York. This is happening for several reasons. Beginning in 2013, assessors will be required to collect and store electronically all data on the current property record card. Information that is currently confidential will remain confidential. A lot of our property record cards are not current and/or the measurements are wrong on some or all buildings on some cards. So we the Board thinks it's time to do this all at once and try to get it right, to make it fair to everyone. During the next 2 years the assessor, Greg Gardiner, and his staff will be visiting every property in York, measuring every building and looking at houses/improvements. Some assessments will go down or up or stay the same, it is just time to do it. I think once every couple of weeks I get a complaint.

Town of York roads are in fairly good shape, we'll keep working on them. We had the older plow truck sand-blasted and repainted, it was getting rusty but the truck is in good shape so it was our best option right now.

As most of you know, in 2011 Town of York has a new recycling supervisor, Cynthia Allbee-Peterson, Thank You Cindy! I've had only good comments about you, keep up the good work.

Once again here is my Thank You list. Wayne Bue for keeping the roads tip top, Eric Peterson for helping plow snow. Board members Dan Truttmann, Steve Hermanson, Nancy Anderson, and Ann Carlson (our new treasurer): "great job." Plan Committee, Curt Moen, Kelly Hermanson, Heidi Hankley, and 2 newer members, Todd Larson and Brian Bubenzer. Carly Harris for keeping the hall clean, Todd Carlson for keeping the website going, and Carrie Czerwonka for the newsletter work. Our Election Poll workers, Nancy Anderson, Audrey Klosterman, Marilyn Lokken, Marilyn Jaeger, Sue Watrud, Steve Van Hout, Dorothy Peterson, Jean Blum, and Bev Jensen. It sounds like you folks could be busy this year.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

- ☑ Tuesday 3 April 2012, Presidential Preference, Court of Appeals Judge, County Supervisor, and School Board Members
- ☑ Tuesday, 8 May 2012, Governor and Lieutenant Governor Recall Primaries
- ☑ Tuesday 5 June 2012, Governor and Lt. Governor Recall Election (scheduled)

MEET OUR RECYCLING GURU



Hi, my name is Cindy Allbee-Peterson. I was raised on a dairy farm around the Prairie du Chien area. My husband Kim and I have lived in the Town of York for nine years. We love to garden, do canning and are multi-skilled. We have two grown daughters, April (20) and Meghan (22).

Please recycle and think about future generations. If you have questions, always ask me. If I don't know the answers, I will find them out for you.

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

NEW PHOTO ID LAW

NANCY ANDERSON

The state legislature has implemented a number of changes to the state election law.

Act 23 is the new Voter Photo ID law. For now, the Photo ID portion of Act 23 has been blocked, but at some point, electors will have to present a photo ID at the polls which conforms to the individual's voter registration record. Some acceptable forms of ID would be a driver license or state issued ID card, a US passport (book and card), a uniformed service ID card, certificate of naturalization, a tribal ID card, or university or college student ID. In addition, electors will be asked to sign the poll list before being issued a ballot.

With the exception of an overseas or military elector, Act 23 eliminates the authority for an elector to vote a straight party ticket.

Wisconsin Act 45 moves the presidential preference from the third Tuesday in February to the first Tuesday in April to correspond with the Spring Election. There are other changes waiting in the wings, so be prepared.

RECYCLING FACTS AND FIGURES

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resource conservation

- Rigorous recycling efforts keep almost 1.7 million tons of material out of Wisconsin landfills and incinerators each year.
- Wisconsin citizens have saved landfill space equivalent to the size of five average landfills since 1990.

Energy savings

- Recycling 1 ton of glass saves the equivalent of 10 gallons of oil.
- Recycling 1 ton of plastic saves the equivalent of 1-2,000 gallons of gasoline.
- Recycling 1 ton of newspaper saves the equivalent of 100 gallons of gasoline.
- Recycling one ton of aluminum saves the energy equivalent of 2,350 gallons of gasoline or the total amount of electricity used by a typical Wisconsin home over 10 years.
- Recycling 1 ton of iron saves 1 ton of coal.

Learn more about recycling benefits at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Recycling/facts.html>

Burning Garbage: A Problem for Our Communities



What's so bad about burning garbage?

It's unhealthy. If you burn garbage, we will all breathe and eat it, because smoke and ash pollute the air, water, and food supply.

It's unsafe. Burning garbage or brush leads to wildfires, property damage, and sometimes loss of life.

It's a nuisance. The smoke and ash smell can irritate eyes and lungs. It is especially bad for people with asthma or heart disease.

We've burned for years. What has changed?

Garbage has changed in the last 50 years. Today's garbage contains plastics, dyes, and other chemicals that release hazardous toxins when burned. Many of these materials were not around a few decades ago.

The pollutants from burning today's garbage cause many health problems and we understand them better than in the past.

We know more about how harmful smoke from burning garbage is, especially for kids and anyone with asthma or trouble breathing.

Alternatives to burning

- ✓ Recycle paper, cardboard, bottles and cans.
- ✓ Compost leaves, grass clippings, small brush and vegetable food scraps.
- ✓ Donate or reuse old clothes, furniture and other household items.
- ✓ Send waste that can't be reused, recycled or composted to the landfill. Get a Dumpster for large amounts of waste, such as agricultural plastics and construction and demolition debris.

Unhealthy and illegal

It is illegal for ANYONE to burn materials such as furniture, metal, painted or treated wood, plastics, shingles, siding, tires, and wire.

Please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/environmentprotect/ob> for more information on burning regulations.

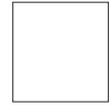
Many communities have further restrictions on what can be burned, where, and when. Contact your local officials to learn more.

PUB WA-1373 2010

Bureau of Waste and Materials Management

P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921

(608) 266-2111, DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov



Around the Town

HOW TO PICK A GOOD BABYSITTER

BY ELLA FUNT

Finding a qualified babysitter is a challenge for most parents. How will you find someone who will care for your children with the same level of care and interest as yourself? Entrusting someone else to care for your kids requires ensuring they are mature, have a genuine fondness for children, and are responsible.

The best sources for finding a good babysitter are references from friends, family, or trusted neighbors. But if you don't know someone who has kids, there are alternatives. Check the local paper, church bulletin boards, and some schools even have babysitting directories.

But once you think that you have a babysitter that can be trusted, how can you be sure? There are several ways to make sure your babysitter can be trusted. Ask about



their work history as a sitter. Have they ever had an emergency while sitting? Have they taken any certified babysitting, CPR, or first aid courses? You can ask for a meeting prior to hiring them to see how they interact with your children. Also ask if they have a younger sibling, which would give them more experience and possibly more patience. You could ask questions involving what the babysitter would do if a child got hurt, started choking, and so forth to make sure that you're putting your children in the right hands. You should ask for references of other families that they have babysat for and contact several of them to confirm the babysitter's qualifications. Ask the potential sitter if they would consider it okay to make a long phone call to a friend or send text messages while sitting. Would they think it okay to invite friends over while working? And what would they do if a stranger knocked on the door?

After you've found your babysitter, you have to make sure that the rate can be flexible and is okay for your budget. It will be handy



to have a few backups in mind should your primary choice be busy or ill. Make sure your babysitter is comfortable with your children and is entertaining to play with. You can facilitate this by planning a few things to do before you leave. Games, books, art projects, and outdoor activities that your children love and know the rules. They will love to "teach" the sitter how to play. The sitter then will likely make up new games and foster creativity. When your babysitter leaves, your children should be asking for them to come back.

