

YORK *Town News*

September 2015

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: Tim Czerwonka
1stsupervisor@townofyork.org
608-239-3696

2nd Supervisor: Steve Hermanson
supervisorhermanson@townofyork.org
608-558-2035

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

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

Assessor: Gardiner Appraisal Service
608-943-8013 888-756-9726
gardinerappraisal@gmail.com

Building Inspector: Mike Fenley
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608-963-0652

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

Chair: **Marselino Miranda**
Curtis Moen 608-214-2291
608-527-2261

Brian Bubenzer
608-527-4434
Terri Nipple 608-527-4111
Linda Yates
608-523-4554

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

RECYCLING PROJECT: MIRROR HANG TAGS DISTRIBUTION

GET YOUR TAG IN OCTOBER

—TOWN CLERK NANCY ANDERSON

There has been much concern over the past few years from both the recycling supervisors and others in the Town that there are persons coming to the Recycling Center who are either unknown by the supervisor or not authorized to use the facility. This facility is for citizens, residents, and taxpayers of the Town of York only.

The Town of York Recycling Center was established by ordinance in 1994 as a convenience for its citizens and to eliminate the dumping of trash on private property. It is expensive to operate, and must conform to rules set down by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Certain criteria must be met and reported annually to the DNR. Reports include an "Actual Costs" report of the previous year's expenses, and a "Grant Application" for the coming year. If this facility is not run properly, the DNR could shut us down, leaving York citizens to contract privately for trash and recycling pickup.

To address use by unauthorized persons, the Town Board approved the purchase of numbered mirror hang tags at their August Town Board meeting. These will be distributed during the month of October. All vehicles must display the tag each time the recycling center is visited regardless of whether it is a Saturday or a Wednesday or whether you are a regular or occasional user of the facility. The supervisor on duty has the authority to turn away any vehicle not displaying the tag.

To implement this project, every vehicle entering during October will have to sign up to receive a tag. The sign-up and distribution of tags will take place during four Saturdays in October, beginning on the **10th of October** and ending on (see **TAGS**, p. 3)



STORM DAMAGE IN YORK

—TANNA McKEON, DIRECTOR, GREEN CO. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Strong thunderstorms rolled through southern Wisconsin on June 22, 2015 and caused considerable damage in northern Green County. York Township was impacted the hardest, with several homes heavily damaged and Buckeye Road was closed for a time until the downed trees and electric lines could be removed. Tanna McKeon, Director of Green County Emergency Management, did an initial damage assessment the day the storm hit and was shocked at the extent of damages and downed trees. She sent pictures to the National Weather Service and they came down the next day to view the damages. From their observations and radar analysis, they determined that straight line winds did the damage and it was not a tornado.

(see **STORM**, p. 3)

FROM OUR TOWN BOARD

—CHAIRMAN DAN REESON

Hello to all in the Town of York, it's after Labor Day, another summer gone. It has been a busy one.

My wife Mareen and I spent a couple weeks in Spain in early August. I spent a year there in the service 39 years ago, it has not stayed the same for sure. There were mostly mopeds and small cars; now there are SUVs everywhere. I also sold my cows to a neighbor, Sean Shilling Jr. I think he started to help me when he was in 5th grade. He is milking in my barn, I still do the crops, so we help each other out.

The Town of York has a few changes. Dan Truttman stepped down from the board. I want to thank him for all he has done. Good Luck in your future.

Tim Czerwonka is our new board member, he is doing a great job.

We have a new bridge on Poplar Grove Road. It has been about 3 years in the planning with lots of people involved. The cost is around \$240,000. Federal government pays 80%, the county pays 10%, and York pays 10%. I hope everyone who has used it sees the improvement. It should last way past our life time.

Our roads are in pretty good repair, but it seems like we are losing ground a little every year. The funds are just not there to keep up with all the maintenance. Winter seems to be harder on the roads lately, and there a few roads that have some heavy weight issues. We do post the weight laws in the spring.

I have not received many permit applications for implements of husbandry for overweight ag equipment.

I want to thank everyone who has helped out for the township this last year.

—1ST SUPERVISOR TIM CZERWONKA

A little over a decade ago my wife and I attended a January Town Caucus. At this meeting, three candidates were nominated for an office. A vote among those attending was taken to determine which two people were to be placed on the April ballot. This made an impression on me—neighbors gathered and we made an important decision right then and there. There are few times when democracy is as real or tangible than it was at that moment.

Fast forward to this year—I'm the newest member of the town board and I'm still impressed with the immediacy and accessibility of local government.

Thank you for voting in the last election. My name is Tim Czerwonka. My wife Carrie and I moved here in 2004; our girls attend kindergarten in New Glarus. I spend my days in Madison working for the UW and I'm happy that this is the place that we call our home.

I have enjoyed meeting and talking with many town residents over the past year. Many of you have approached me with questions both in-person and via our website. It's always a fun learning process to find complete and accurate answers to your questions. I am fortunate to have our experienced and dedicated board members as resources for these answers.



—2ND SUPERVISOR STEVE HERMANSON

Another year has passed since our last newsletter and there have been a lot of changes. Wayne Bue retired after being patrolman for sixteen years. I would like to say thank you to Wayne for doing an excellent job over the years. We had fourteen people apply for the patrolman's job, interviewed the top four, and hired Wade Jones. Wade lives in Blanchardville and is learning the many tasks that need to be done.

Dan Truttman decided not to run as first supervisor for another term. Thank you for your service, it was a privilege to serve with Dan for all those years. We welcome Tim Czerwonka and look forward to serving with him.

The Poplar Grove bridge project was completed this year, the town paid 10% of the cost.

Town of York also purchased a new plow truck this year, the plow truck should have all plow equipment and be ready for use by November. We got bids from International, Mack, Monroe Truck, and Madison Truck Equipment. We decided on International for the truck, and Monroe Truck for the equipment. We will sell our Freightliner plow truck outright, we expect to save money on the total cost. Updating our equipment helps us better serve the town.

FOR SALE
20 Stackable, padded arm chairs
In good condition
Make an offer!
Call the clerk at 523-4529

—TREASURER ANN CARLSON

Property taxes: Once again this year you can pay your property taxes online using a credit card or debit card. Another option is to pay with an electronic check (debit) from your checking account. An advantage to paying by electronically is that you get confirmation of your payment and can print a receipt immediately. Both of these options are available through the secure county website (www.co.green.wi.gov). A listing of the 2015 tax roll will be posted on the town website (www.townofyork.org). Collections at the York Town Hall will be on **Thursday, December 31, 2015** and **Saturday, January 30, 2016**.

Mailing payments is the most efficient payment process. All payments with a postmark date of December 31, 2015 and prior

will be posted in 2015. All payments with a postmark of January 31, 2016 will be applied to the first installment in 2016. All payments made after January 31, 2016 are to be mailed to Green County. Payments requiring a receipt must include an email address or a self-addressed stamped envelope. Escrow checks exceeding taxes due will be accepted and the overpayment refunded to the tax payer after the next town board meeting. Any two-party checks need to be endorsed by the taxpayer and all checks written prior to February 1, 2106 need to be made payable to: Town of York.

Dog license fees remain unchanged: males and females, \$10; spayed and neutered, \$5; multiple dog fee of \$40 for up to 12 dogs and \$4 for each additional dog. 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 \$1,000 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.

REQUEST FOR A TOWN OF YORK REFERENDUM

— DEBBIE FAIRBANKS

Since the January 2010 Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. FEC, political campaign spending has run rampant. We used to say, “Any child can grow up to be President.” Now only those who can rustle up a billion dollars or more stand a chance. And that doesn’t include the anonymous PAC and Super PAC money that floods our airwaves with attack and “issue” ads. It’s no wonder people have a hard time trusting politicians when they appear to be bought and paid for before they even get elected!

In order to put an end to the corruptive influence of big money in our electoral system, Green County United to Amend seeks to pressure our state and federal lawmakers to overturn Citizens United by enacting a 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that clarifies that special interest groups are not people and money is not speech. To this end we’ve asked the Town of York Board to place this referendum on the April 2016 ballot:

The people of the Town of York direct our representatives in the United States Congress and in the Wisconsin State Legislature to initiate and support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will establish that:

1) Only human beings – not corporations, unions, non-profits or similar associations – are endowed with constitutional rights and

2) Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to restricting political speech.

Be it further resolved that the Town of York Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to our representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature and in the U.S. Congress, with copies to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Attorney General, directing them to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

Sixty communities in Wisconsin, including the Town of Exeter and the Village of Belleville, have adopted this resolution or held referenda, which have won with overwhelming bipartisan support. If you’d like to learn more about this issue, there will be an open forum at the Monroe Public Library on **September 30th**, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Events will be held monthly leading up to the 2016 elections.

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

(TAGS, continued from p. 1) October 31st. During this time, an attendant will meet you at either entrance to sign you up and issue a tag.

We ask for your patience during this time. Our hope is that we can eliminate those who should not be coming into our facility. If you know of someone who is visiting the facility who should not be, please let the supervisor on duty know about it. Thank you for your help with this very important matter.

YORK TOWNSHIP PLAN COMMISSION

— TERRI NIPPLE

York Township Plan Commission member Heidi Hankley resigned this year. Heidi was a valued contributor to the Plan Commission and her services to York Township have been greatly appreciated.

We welcomed new member Linda Yates. Linda is recently retired and has been a long time resident of York Township. She brings with her a willingness to help the Plan Commission with whatever is needed and has served as a poll worker at recent elections. Others currently serving on the Plan Commission are Curt Moen, Chairman, Brian Bubenzer, Marselino Miranda, and Terri Nipple, Secretary.

The Plan Commission did a lot of work in 2014 on revising the Land Division Ordinance and developing a data base to keep track of Dwelling Unit Allotments in York Township. The Plan Commission is asking the residents of York Township for their help in keeping the data base for Dwelling Unit Allotments current.

All plans to sell or divide land in the Township of York needs to come before the Plan Commission prior to the transaction taking place. The township needs to know whether Dwelling Unit Allotments are being transferred in the transaction and who the new owner will be. A preliminary form to be used in the procedure can be found on the website. <http://www.townofyork.org/>. If there is to be a land division, a Certified Survey Map must be included with the form. The Plan Commission meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the York Town Hall. A call to Curt Moen (527-2261), Terri Nipple (527-4111) or a Town Board member will get you on the agenda.

(STORM, continued from p. 1) Wisconsin Emergency Management has a program called the Wisconsin Disaster Fund that helps municipalities recover some of the costs incurred from debris clean up. York Township met the initial eligibility and submitted an application to the WDF. If the application is approved York Township will be reimbursed 70% of the \$7,903 in debris removal expenses from this storm.

Mennonite volunteers came up and helped some of the farmers on Buckeye Road clean up downed trees and put fences back up. Their help was very much appreciated and they got a lot done in just one day; even working in the rain for part of the day.

Green County Emergency Management wants to remind residents to inform them when you have major damages from storms. You can reach us at 328-9416. We are responsible to inform Wisconsin Emergency Management, who in turn informs the Governor’s office of our impact from storms or other large emergencies. Some examples of major damages include roof damage, lots of trees down, or 6 inches or more of water in your basement. If you are not sure call us anyway! And of course, life safety is the most important thing and call 911 if someone is injured or trapped by falling debris.

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month, and to celebrate this we have coordinated the Green County Community Day Fair on Sept. 12. Our theme was “Come and Meet Your Local Heroes.” We had fire trucks, squad cars, ambulances, Life Safety House, balloon twister, face painters, and much more. Veterans had an opportunity to learn more about VA benefits with the Green County VA office. Lots of emergency preparedness items such as weather radios and first aid kits were given away. We also had 6 kids’ bikes to give away. We thank the following sponsors for supporting this event: Wal-Mart, Colony Brands, Shopko, Grede Foundry, Badger State Ethanol, New Glarus Brewery, Piggly Wiggly, Monroe Times/Shopping News, Kuhn Manufacturing, Farm & Fleet, Thunder Bridge Trading Co., and Klondike Cheese Factory. Check our facebook page for more information and pictures. Thanks to all participants and we hope to see you again next year.





GREEN'S PRAIRIE CEMETERY

2015—A YEAR OF CONTRASTS

—WILLIAM E. KUENZI, JR., PRESIDENT OF
GREEN'S PRAIRIE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

In early April, vandals knocked over the upper portion of the tombstone for War of 1812 veteran Elisha Gorham. In addition, they tried



to dislodge the upper portion of the monument of Chester Stephens. These were both very beautiful and prominent stones right along the fence on Postville Road. The investigation was completed with no one found responsible.

Following our



Annual burn in later April, Gerry Pechmann fulfilled a contract to reset seven tombstones. On Memorial Day the participants toured the areas that used to be large lily patches and have now been converted to prairie plants. This process has taken a few years of intense work by the volunteers. The results are very gratifying. The crowd was amazed by the great number of Compass plants that were emerging this spring. GPC most likely has the largest number of naturally occurring Compass plants in Southern Wisconsin.

Dave Green, using a probe described by Gerry Pechmann, found a buried stone for Julius Hilton. Julius was the first child of James and Ellen Hilton.

Julius died at age of six months of scarlet fever on May 28, 1860. His stone is now listed on the updated map at the cemetery. Dave also found the bases for two tombstones, those of Albro Crowel and William Crowel. It appears that Lucy Miller's stone is currently setting in the base intended for Albro's stone.

Interest continues to grow in support of this heritage cemetery as newly discovered relatives of the interred are found. This is very encouraging to the friends of Green's Prairie Cemetery.

