

2009 SPRING Newsletter

CHANGES COMING IN GARBAGE




PICK-UP THIS YEAR

Garbage & Waste/Recycling Pick-Up-Town of Black Wolf Public Hearing Town Hall - March 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

It is expected that by July 1, 2009, Black Wolf residents will see significant changes in the garbage/waste and recyclable material collection program:

- 1) **Veolia** will abandon its present collection schedule (Monday and Wednesday) and go to a single day collection (Wednesday) for all Town residents
- 2) **Winnebago County** will begin single-stream collection of recyclables (all recyclables can be put in a single container and collected each week):
 - a. However, the Town can opt out of single-stream collection.
 - b. Even if we opt out, clear or blue bags can no longer be used after July 1.
- 3) **If the Town opts in**, Veolia has offered to rent standard waste containers to Town residents
 - a. These will allow automated pickup of waste and recyclables.
 - b. Per month costs for garbage/waste and recyclable collection will increase from \$8.53 to \$11.98.
 - c. A variety of container sizes will be available (35, 65 and 95 gallons) and residents can choose which size(s) they need.

Obviously, there are many choices and issues to be discussed. We encourage you to attend the Town meeting at the Town Hall on Monday, March 16 and

-  Give us your views on participating in single-stream recycling
-  Review your options regarding waste-container sizes
-  Ask questions of Veolia representatives and the Board regarding these changes.

Tom Herzing, Supervisor I (Cell: 379-4433)

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting is open to the public. Town residents are invited and encouraged to attend. This is a time for residents to present and discuss concerns and/or issues they would like the town officers to consider. We welcome your comments!

SPRING ELECTION APRIL 7TH

Everyone is encouraged to vote!

All incumbent Town of Black Wolf elected officials will be on the ballot, State and County contests, and the Oshkosh Area School District referendum.

Are you REGISTERED to vote? If unsure, you can do either of the following: Call the Town Hall Office at 688-1404 OR go online to the state's voter public access website <http://elections.state.wi.us>, click on "Check Registration Status Polling Location, please use Voter Public Access: Click here"

If you are NOT REGISTERED, and want to avoid waiting in line at the polls, register prior to the election date. Stop in at the Town Hall Office during normal business hours.

The Voter Registration Form (EB 131) is available at the Town Hall office, on our website, or online at: <http://elections.state.wi.us/index.asp>

Search for Keyword "Forms" - All Forms EB 131 Voter Registration Application - You may fill in the form online and then print it out. After completing the form, bring it to the Town office any afternoon (Noon-5 pm), except Wednesdays. You must provide your Wisconsin driver's license with your current Town of Black Wolf address.

If you don't have a Wisconsin driver's license, you may use the last four digits of your Social Security number and provide proof of residency.

Acceptable items include a bank statement, paycheck, sanitary district bill, etc. which shows your name and current Black Wolf address.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 16 - Recycle & Garbage Town Meeting

April 7 - Spring Election

April 14 - Annual Meeting

Early June - The Open Book is expected to be held in early June, according to Assessor John Bodouski, Bowmar Appraisals (920 733-5379). Watch the website and posting boxes for more information, or call the Town Hall office at 688-1404.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RECYCLING EFFORTS

Out of the 16 Towns in Winnebago County, Black Wolf placed 3rd for the number of tons recycled materials per person:

1 st place - Town of Clayton	250 tons
2 nd Place - Town of Neenah	240 tons
3 rd Place - Town of Black Wolf	221 tons

The Winnebago County Sunnyview Landfill has made several changes. The rate charged for televisions and monitors is reduced to \$5 each (*limit 4*).

All computers, televisions and other electronics dropped off will be recycled, regardless of whether the customer is a business or resident. There is also an ongoing light bulb recycling program. Fluorescent bulbs (including tube, compact, circular, U-tube and other) as well as incandescent bulbs can be recycled for 25 cents each every day. An E-Waste Round-up was held last November and 200 residents brought in over 25,590 lbs. of televisions, computers and other electronics for recycling. The on-going electronics recycling program in 2008 resulted in 75,461 lbs. (nearly double that collected in 2007).

All loads must be secured with a tarp to enter the landfill station...you won't be admitted without one. They are open Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. until Noon. Please check their website for a list of items and fee schedule or call 232-1800. http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/Solid_Waste/Landfill.htm

SANITARY DISTRICT BILLS

Did you know that you can drop off payments for your quarterly sanitary district bills in the slot on the door of the Sanitary District building?

That's the building located East of the Town Hall.

SHOWERS...MAY BRING FLOODED BASEMENTS

Having the right insurance is necessary to cover damage to a furnace, hot water heater, washer, dryer, etc. when damaged by a flooded basement.

To cover losses, a sewage backup policy is needed, and to be on the safe side add flood insurance. For example, flood insurance covers rain flooding into the basement from the window. A sewage backup policy covers damage from sewage backing up into a basement, which was the case for many residents last year. For homeowners, a sewage backup policy costs about \$50 per year for \$5,000 in coverage and \$220 year for \$50,000 in coverage.

That breaks down to slightly more than \$4 per month for the less expensive policy and \$18 more per month for the better coverage.

Storm Water Management Tom Versteegen, Zoning Administrator

As you may be aware, the Town of Black Wolf was required by the WDNR to apply for a stormwater discharge permit for the “urbanized” area east of South US Hwy 45. That permit was granted in 2008. The permitting process is an effort to clean up any water being discharged to Lake Winnebago.

One of the requirements of the permit is that the Town must create an ordinance for controlling illicit discharges to the stormwater sewer system (ditches) in the township. Chuck Nahn, Nahn and Associates, the consulting firm hired to walk the Town through the permitting process, has a great deal of experience working with the WDNR on stormwater issues. He has recommended a couple of changes to the Town’s existing ordinances as well as creating a new ordinance specifically directed at illicit discharges. These recommendations will be reviewed by the Town’s Planning and Zoning Committee. Prior to any changes in the Town’s Ordinances, a public hearing will be held for public input. Please stay informed and be aware that these mandatory changes are coming.

Frank Frassetto, Town Board Chairman



Update on Establishing a Railroad Quiet Zone in the Town

The Town of Black Wolf continues to pursue the establishment of a quiet zone and at this point we are much closer to finishing this project.

Thomas Boyke, Project Engineer at Ruckert-Mielke has been assisting the town to establish our quiet zone. After many contacts with the Federal

Railroad Administration (FRA), Mr. Boyke sent a letter to the FRA on February 5th requesting a Petition of Waiver to include the closures of both Swiss Road and the realignment of Country Club as part of the risk reduction calculations that are used to create quiet zones. To date, we’ve not yet received confirmation from the FRA that our request is in their system for review but we expect to hear word in the very near future.

Based on discussions between the FRA and Mr. Boyke, we are cautiously optimistic that a waiver will be granted as there have been many towns making similar requests as they, too, create quiet zones. Once a decision has been made and we are notified of it, I will report back to the town either through the minutes of our regular monthly town board meeting or via the newsletter. **Bob Keller, Supervisor II (Cell: 379-0717)**

Bridge Replacement Projects: Planning and approval of the Lone Elm and Koelpin bridge replacement projects began in the Spring of 2006.

Bids were let in December 2008. The contract award will be given to Radtke Contractors, Inc. We expect a construction start and completion in

Spring or early Summer of 2009. We are getting 90% financial assistance from Federal, State and County agencies from the *Local Bridge Program*.

We have initiated an application at the County level for the same program for a third town bridge repair or replacement at Black Wolf Avenue located .8 miles east of CR-R. This project may be a candidate for federal stimulus funding. We are investigating our option for both programs.

Road Maintenance: We will complete road inspections in April for the development of the Summer maintenance schedule. Please call the Town office if you know of any special requirements. *Note:* We have had a high incidence of signs being stolen from locations required by law. As the signs were replaced, they were again stolen. This has been reported to the Winnebago County Sheriff. We would appreciate any information which may help us reduce this maintenance cost to the Town.

We will begin a project to replace existing address signs. The intention is to create a more uniform style and placement of the address signs.

This will help emergency vehicle drivers as well as visitors find our home locations. The placement and style will be similar to what can be seen in Fond du Lac County. The project will be completed in phases.

Mailbox Safety Reminder: New, existing and replaced mailboxes can pose a safety hazard. Although we have no regulations at this time regarding mailbox installation, it is the responsibility of the resident to provide a safe installation. Please check with the post office for any regulations as to mailbox installation. There are a number of internet websites which address the safety issues. Basically, the main threat is a heavy box parting from the post and entering the passenger compartment. Hazards include: masonry installations, large receptacles filled with sand or concrete, metal posts larger than 1-1/2" inside diameter and wood posts larger than a nominal 4 inches square or 4 inches in diameter.

Please use discretion when installing mailbox structures.

Seed catalogs make splendid fiction, In March they bloom with sure conviction, They picture dreams a person needs,

A plot with neither toil nor weeds!

Four-Year Voter Maintenance

On February 20, 2009, approximately 313,205 State of Wisconsin voters were mailed a Notice of Suspension of Registration postcard by the Government Accounting Board (GAB). These voters had not voted in the past four (4) years, and they will be given until March 23rd to respond and continue their registration. Voters can check the State's Voter Access website to check their registration status and voting history: <https://vpa.wi.gov> Voters being sent the postcard continue to have an "Active" voter status, were included on poll lists for the February 17th

Spring Primary Election, and will remain on the poll list for the April 7th Spring Election. *"This mailing is not designed to keep any active voter's name off the poll list...Rather it is designed to help Wisconsin maintain accurate and quality voter data, and make sure every voter is listed under his/her correct name and at the current address."*

BLACK WOLF SANITARY DISTRICT

This spring the Sanitary District will be televising the last 15 leaking house laterals identified during last springs mainline televising. Now that all of our main lines have been televised, we will be monitoring the system for clear water infiltration by spot checking manholes during wet conditions.

To help with this spot checking, the District has purchased its own push camera. If we find areas of higher flow, this camera will allow us to identify the source. This camera will also enable us to televise and locate house laterals for residents in our Sanitary District. If a district resident wishes to have their lateral televised or located, please call the District office to set up an appointment (920 233-2901). The cost is \$75.00/hour. It is a good idea to have your sewer lateral located before digging, planting trees or any kind of construction.

The district will be restoring lawns around the manholes that we repaired last summer. We must wait for soil temperature to warm enough for the seed to germinate. Your patience is appreciated.

Finally, we would like to remind residents that they can drop off their user fees in the District's office drop slot. The slot is located in the District office door. This may be worth the drive with postage rising to 44 cents this summer.

By: Chuck Linde

John McDermott, Town Treasurer

Lottery Credit: Make sure you check your tax bills each year to make sure you have received a lottery credit. If you are a new resident to the Town of Black Wolf, you will need to apply for the lottery credit. The form is available in the Town office, or at the Wisconsin Department of Revenue website (Form LC300). Call the Town office 688-1404 or the WI Department of Revenue (608) 266-9457 or (608) 266-0772 for more information.

Escrow Payments: Depending on your mortgage company, there are usually several options when it comes to paying your property tax escrow check.

The two most common methods are:

1. The mortgage company sends you the check payable to you and to the Town. By using this method you will usually receive the check faster, and puts the timing of your payment in your control. You are also sure that the check has been sent to us.
2. The mortgage company sends the check directly to the Town. This method is more direct, but experience has shown that many taxpayers go through major frustrations due to incorrect mailing address, etc.

Whichever method you select, it is recommended that you contact your mortgage company to make sure they have our correct mailing address and other necessary information.

Reminders about tax collection:

- Business-size, self addressed stamped envelopes should be enclosed with your tax payments and/or dog license payment. **Beginning this Fall, the Town will not be mailing you a real estate tax receipt or dog license tag unless you provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Copies of your receipt can be produced, on demand, when you visit the Town Hall.**
- One check may be written for all payments (including dog licenses).
- If you have concerns about your assessment, call Bowmar Appraisal (920)733-5369 or attend the Open Book and/or Board of Review. Watch for these dates to be scheduled.

Chris Martell, Town Constable

Phone (920) 688-2445

Spring will be here soon and it's time to send out a few reminders about pets. The Town's dog ordinance states that dogs must be under control at all times. This doesn't mean that the dog needs to be on a leash, but if that's what is needed to keep a dog under control, then do so. With that in mind, if your dog does get away, call me at home (688-2445) so that I can make a note of it and call you back if I get a call or find your dog. If you find a dog running loose **DO NOT CAPTURE OR HOLD THE DOG!!** Don't let it in your garage, put it in your kennel, tie it up or let a stray in your house! There have been many instances that a seemingly friendly dog turns on and harms the person(s) that has captured them. All stray or strange dogs should be treated with caution and not approached.

Also, try not to leave food out for animals. If you feed them, they will return. This applies to dogs and cats. There are no ordinances regarding cats in the Town. If you have strays in your area and you want them captured, again, call me at home and I will do what I can to capture them. If you trap a cat on your own (without the knowledge of the Town) you will be responsible for the disposition of the animal.

All animals are taken to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society. If you take a dog or cat to the shelter without prior authorization from the Town, you will be charged \$35 per animal (or \$35 for a litter of pups or kittens). If your pet has been captured and taken to the shelter, there is a fee for picking the pet up. Once an animal has been taken to the shelter, it must be claimed at the shelter. I cannot access the animal once it has been surrendered.













Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. And if you have friends who make you laugh, Spend lots and lots of time with them.

Building Permits

Our Building Inspector, Dave Frank, issues Building Permits. Dave is available at the Town Hall Office on **Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.**

You may also call Dave directly at his home phone: (920) 233-1999.

Building Permits are required for the following:

-  Zoning Permit
-  Fill Permit
-  New Construction Permit
-  Sign Permit
-  Accessory Building/Structure Permit
-  Moving Structure Permit
-  Addition Permit
-  Fence Permit
-  Remodeling Permit
-  Mechanical Permit
-  Special Project Permit: window/door, foundation repairs, siding, decks
-  Road Access (Culvert) Permit

March of Events

March winds: blew skies

St. Patrick's Day: lark of the Irish

Surprise blizzard: snowflake

Bees waiting for the first swarm weather.

Spring! When the sun smiles and the earth greens back,

May your eyes be a sparklin'

Like the lakes of Killarney!

May your smile be the brightest,

And your lips touched with blarney!

May your heart be as happy,

As a wee leprechaun,

And your whole self be joyful

From St. Patrick's Day on!