



EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
5750 Old Town Hall Road ♦ Eau Claire WI 54701
(715)834-3257 ♦ Fax (715)834-3325 ♦ www.townofwashington.org

TOWN OF WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

Vol. 38 No. 2 ~ December 2016



Eau Claire County Highway Department - snow plowing in the late 1920s or early 1930s

A look back at snow plow operations!

Plowing snow often took several days to complete. When crews were done in the evening, local farmers would take them in for the night, serve them dinner, and breakfast the next day before they got back out and started plowing again.

Animal Enforcement

Animal Control

Contact the Eau Claire Communication Center at 715-839-4972 regarding concerns or complaints of animals running at large, biting, uncontrolled noise, being treated inhumanely, or vicious. A Humane Officer will be dispatched to investigate.

License Requirements

All dogs within the Town of Washington are required to be licensed annually in January of each year, or within 30 days of obtaining a new dog (over five months old). Applications are on our website or at the Town Office. Written documentation from your vet showing that your dogs rabies vaccination is current must accompany your application and payment. Payments must be made on a separate check from your tax payment or with cash. If you no longer have a dog that was previously licensed with the Town, please let us know.



Inside this issue:

Tax Information	2
Election Information	3
2017 Tentative Road Projects	3
Healthy Soils & Healthy Waters	3
Winter Regulations & Reminders	4
Township Fire Department	5
Suicide Prevention	5

Tax Information

<u>TOWN OF WASHINGTON TAX RATE</u>		
	2015 (payable in 2016)	2016 (payable in 2017)
Tax Rate Per Thousand	Tax Levy	Tax Levy
Town Taxes		
Town Purposes	1.57	1.56
Fire Protection Purposes	<u>.28</u>	<u>.28</u>
Total Property Taxes	1.85	1.84

What portion of your tax bill stays at the Town of Washington?

\$100,000 home value, tax payment = \$184.00
\$150,000 home value, tax payment = \$276.00
\$200,000 home value, tax payment = \$368.00
\$250,000 home value, tax payment = \$460.00

Special Charges

What are the special charges listed on my tax bill? Eau Claire County collects two special charges. They are listed as SC Sewer and SC Recycling. Questions regarding these special charges should be directed to 715.839.4718 (sewer) or 715.839.2756 (recycling).

TAX COLLECTION

The 2016 tax bills will be mailed out on or near December 12. The first installment (or full payment) is due by January 31, 2017 to the Town of Washington. Your tax payments should be mailed or brought into the Town of Washington Office at: 5750 Old Town Hall Road, Eau Claire WI 54701-8948. Payments made after January 31, go directly to the Eau Claire County Treasurer's Office. If you choose to pay in installments, the 2nd installment is paid to Eau Claire County Treasurer's Office.

Checks payable to: **Town of Washington**
We do not take credit card payments at this time

In Person Collection Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
December 23 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
December 26 - Closed
January 2 - Closed

- Payments by check via MAIL are highly preferred.
- Cash payments will be accepted in the office for the exact amount.
- If your payment is made through an escrow account, please contact your bank to have the check made out for the EXACT amount. Checks made out to you and the Town of Washington **must** be endorsed by **ALL** payees prior to payment to the Town. If a refund needs to be made, they will be issued within 60 days from the date of payment. Refunds are not issued for amounts of \$2.00 or less.
- Checks are deposited on the date received. All returned checks will be charged a \$30 service fee.
- Receipts will be returned via mail; a self-addressed stamped envelope is appreciated.
- Payment of dog licenses must be done with a separate check.

Election Information

Nomination papers are available in the Town office for Town residents interested in running for the Town offices listed below. The filing deadline is Friday, January 6, 2017, by 5:00 PM. The term for all offices is for two years beginning on Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

Office	Incumbent
Town Chairperson	Micheal Peterson
Town Board Supervisor	Jane Mueller
Town Board Supervisor	Michael Stacy

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Spring Primary - February 21 (if needed)

Spring Election - April 4

Tentative Road Projects for 2017

Roads to be Paved:

London Road (*City project from Sessions to Damon*)

Mueller Road (*Hillview Road to 1.3 miles*)

Blackberry Road

Elderberry Road

Sunset View Drive

Cummings Avenue (*Golf Rd to Mitchell*)

Cummings Court



Various Contracted Maintenance Projects:

Crackfill: Foxmoor Lane, Meadowbrook Court, Mischler Road, Evergreen Terrace, Trillium Drive, Crocus Lane, Scott Avenue, Fawn Avenue, and Kim Avenue

Chip Seal: Graff Road

All projects are subject to bids and approval by the Town Board

Healthy Soils & Healthy Waters

The Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition is a network of residents, land-owners, lake groups, farmers, governmental bodies, and various stakeholders working together to address our soil health and water quality issues and opportunities. Reducing phosphorous and sedimentation into our surface waters is driving the plan. Phosphorous is coming from everywhere - the biggest chunk from agriculture. Combining the plan's conservation practices on the lakes, streams and uplands should result in a 24 percent reduction in phosphorous loading in 10 years. The goal is a 54 percent reduction. The entire document can be seen at <http://wcvrpc.org/Eau-Claire-Watershed-Plan.html>



Winter Regulations and Reminders

The Town of Washington, in most cases, owns 66 feet of road right-of-way. Considering the blacktop portion of the road to be approximately 22 feet wide, the remainder of the 66 feet is on either side of the blacktop (22 feet). Nothing should be placed in the 22 feet of right-of-way. When plowing, the snow is pushed back into this right-of-way area in preparation for the next snowfall. Due to the possibility of heavy snow, the snow needs to be pushed back as far as possible. The grass and shrubbery planted in the right-of-way may be scuffed by the plows. The Town does not object to residents using the Town right-of-way as an extension of their lawn, however, damage is the owner's responsibility to repair.



The Town of Washington Road Department plows 200 lane miles of roads after a snow fall. Emergency routes and school bus routes are cleared first. When possible, our drivers begin their routes in the middle of the night before the commutes and school buses are on the road. However, depending on when the snow starts or stops this is not always possible.

MAILBOXES

The plows continue to push back snow throughout the winter to make room for additional snowfalls. Large amounts of snow and ice do break off mailbox posts at times. You are responsible for repairing damage caused by snow coming off the plow. The Town reimburses for mailboxes which are hit directly by the snowplow, up to \$25.

PARKING

- **No vehicles are allowed on streets during and 24 hours after a snowfall.**
- **We do not have Odd/Even Parking.**
- In the event of a snow emergency NO PARKING on the street for 48 hours.
- Violators will be ticketed by Town of Washington Police.
- Vehicles that present an obstruction and are not removed will be towed.

PLOWING & SIDEWALKS

- Snow you remove must remain on your property. You may not deposit snow back onto the roadway or across the road when plowing your driveway or parking lot.
- Snow and/or ice must be cleared from sidewalks on your property within 24 hrs. from the time snow ceases to accumulate.

REFUSE & RECYCLING

- Garbage receptacles and recycling bins are not permitted in the roadway or the cul-de-sacs at any time. These receptacles must be placed in the resident's driveway, ten feet from the edge of the blacktop road - never across the road from your residence.
- For safety reasons, plow truck drivers will not exit their truck to move these obstacles.
- The receptacles and bins are not to be left in the right-of-way other than the day of collection.

Township Fire Department

As the heating season is drawing near we would like to suggest having your heating systems cleaned and serviced. This would include fireplaces, wood stoves, pellet stoves, outdoor wood burning boilers and the typical gas furnace. Routine maintenance can help prevent a future structure fire or carbon monoxide alarm. If you ever suspect you are experiencing a chimney fire from your wood burning fireplace, never put water on the fire. Pouring water on the fire can cause damage to the chimney and spread the fire to the attic or other floors of the home. Instead, simply close the doors on the fireplace, close the outside air intake, and call 911.

As a family safety tip, we suggest having an emergency plan in place for you and your family. This plan should include responses to many different types of emergencies, such as a structure fire, gas leak, carbon monoxide alarm, and severe weather event. Make it simple and easy to remember. Some examples for a plan could include: have a family meeting spot outside of your house in case of a fire, or establish the location of a safe place in your home during a severe weather event. Discuss ways to safely escape from a burning building and remember to safely close doors and windows after exiting through them. If your home has a fire extinguisher, make sure everyone knows where it is located and how to operate it. After you establish a safety plan, practice it often to prepare yourself for any future emergencies that may occur.

There are no Fire Numbers in the Town of Washington. Your address should be clearly marked on your home and on your mailbox.

For all non-emergency Fire Department questions or concerns or burning permit information, call 715-834-6868, Monday through Saturday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. All burning is prohibited on Sundays, holidays, during a burning ban, or when other conditions make burning hazardous.

Lastly, we are always looking for volunteers at the Fire Department. If you or someone you know would be interested, check out our website at www.townshipfire.org for information on how to apply. We greatly appreciate the support of our Town residents and we look forward to seeing you at our next charcoal chicken feed fundraiser on May 21, 2017.

Suicide Prevention Is Everybody's Business



In 2015, Eau Claire County recorded its highest suicide rate, which is concerning as suicide is the most preventable cause of death. Good news is that you don't have to be a professional to save lives. Our community is now offering *QPR* (*Question, Persuade, Refer*), a training designed for everyone to learn what they can do to prevent suicide. Various community partners are offering *QPR* in two different presentation formats, one geared toward adult learners and the other toward teens.

QPR training consists of a 60-90 minute presentation where you will learn the signs of suicide and the three basic principles of how to save a life. If you know at least one person, you should attend this training. Statistics show about 1 in 4 young adults will suffer an episode of depression before age 24 and 1 in 5 adults experience a mental illness. When you look at a handful of people in your life, someone in that handful is struggling.

If you are interested in attending *QPR* training, please look for upcoming trainings on the Eau Claire City-County Health Department's Facebook page or if you are interested in hosting a training for a small or large group, please call the Health Department at 715-839-4718.





5750 Old Town Hall Road
Eau Claire WI 54701
www.townofwashington.org

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Eau Claire, WI
Permit 203

Merry CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY *New Year*

TOWN OFFICIALS

Administrator/ Clerk/Treasurer:	Janelle L. Henning	715-834-3257
Deputy Clerk:	Jackie Vold	715-834-3257
Deputy Treasurer:	Kathy Kishaba	715-834-3257
Chairman:	Micheal Peterson	715-497-6333
Supervisors:	Jane Mueller	715-878-4058
	Donald Perry	715-831-9584
	Michael Stacy	715-834-5665
	Karen Tomesh	715-835-4742

Town Board Meetings
3rd Thursday each month at 5:00 PM

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Office Closed
Friday, December 23 at Noon
Monday, December 26
Monday, January 2, 2017

The Town of Washington website includes: notices, cemetery information, Town road map, directory for Town Board and staff, calendar of events, agendas and minutes, voting information, forms and permits, Municipal Codes, budget information and more. www.townofwashington.org