



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. 39 No. 2 ~ December 2017

## *Welcome to the Town of Washington!*

Wisconsin has 1,259 towns in the state; just over 30% of all the people live in a town and 95% of Wisconsin’s land is within a town. The Town of Washington was formed in 1868 and currently has a population of just over 7,300. Our current Town Municipal Building was built in 2003. We are the 2nd largest municipality in Eau Claire County, behind the City of Eau Claire. We have six full-time employees, one part-time, and two seasonal employees.

### Road Reconstruction and Maintenance

One of the primary functions of Town government is to maintain roads in a safe manner for the traveling public. There are 99.24 miles of roads, 198.48 miles of shoulders & ditches, 510 culverts, and 1,070 street signs to maintain in the Town within a 54 square mile area. This includes plowing, sanding, mowing, sweeping, clearing and replacing, or reconstructing any component therein. Each year we implement a road improvement and maintenance plan and communicate affected roads in the newsletter and on our website and more extensive projects by letter to alert landowners of upcoming work. Such costs are not special assessed to property owners; this is a part of the annual Town budget.

The Town is legally responsible to maintain the right-of-way which includes the area from the center of the road 33 feet in both directions. Maintaining a right-of-way free of objects and obstructions is done for several reasons: minimize the potential of serious injury or death when a vehicle leaves the roadway, provide adequate visibility at intersections, provide adequate clearance for town equipment, provide an area to deposit snow, and an area for traffic signs and drainage. The Town typically mows the right-of-way twice a year and conducts brushing (trimming and tree removal) to maintain both a vertical and horizontal clearance.

### **HOMETOWN STORIES**

What makes our town exceptional? People from all walks of life call Town of Washington home. Some of us have lived here for generations; others just a short time. The town has delightful natural beauty, a fine farming heritage, quality recreational opportunities and attractive residential neighborhoods.

We invite you to share a picture of life in the Town: i.e. biking, hiking, snowshoeing, scouting, harvesting, sporting & family fun or capturing a sunset, scenic view, wildlife or a rippling creek. You could also submit a historical picture or story from the past. These hometown photos/stories may be featured on our website and/or in upcoming newsletters.

Submissions can be sent to 5750 Old Town Hall Road, Eau Claire WI 54701 or vold@townofwashington.org. Photos will be returned to you. Be sure and label where the photo was take within the Town. If a picture from the past, please indicate the year and location. Submissions should include your name, address, and phone number. Join us in showcasing our beautiful town!

### **Inside this issue:**

Tax Information	2
Revaluation of Property	2
Water Testing for Private Wells	3
2018 Tentative Road Projects	3
2018 Election Information	3
Winter Regulations & Reminders	4
Animal Ordinances	4
Township Fire Department	5
More Kids Drug Free	5

# Tax Information

The 2017 tax bills will be mailed out on or near December 12. The first installment (or full payment) is due by January 31, 2018 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. If you have delinquent taxes they can only be paid to the Eau Claire County Treasurer's Office.

## In Person Collection Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
 December 22 - Closed at 12:00 PM  
 December 25 - Closed  
 January 1 - Closed

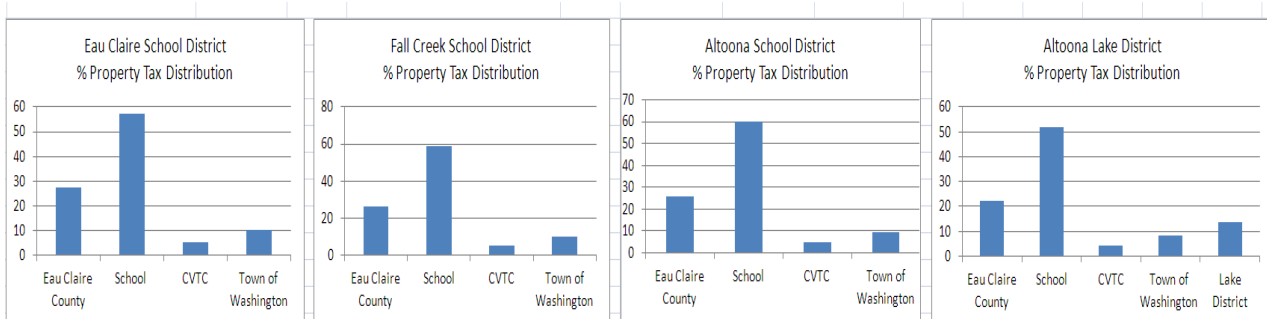
Checks payable to: **Town of Washington.**

**We do not take credit card payments**

- Payments by check via MAIL are preferred.
- Cash payments will be accepted in the office for the exact amount.
- If your payment is made through an escrow account, have your bank make the check out for the exact amount when possible. Checks made out to you and the Town of Washington **must** be endorsed by 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.
- Do not include payment of dog licenses on the same check as your tax bill. They must be separate.

## HOW ARE MY PROPERTY TAXES DISTRIBUTED?

The Town has three different school districts that levy taxes onto the property owners, depending on where they reside in the town. Find your school district below to see what percentages of your property taxes are distributed to which unit of government.



# Revaluation of Property Assessments

A revaluation of property assessments in the Town of Washington will occur for the 2018 assessment year. The Town Assessor may stop at your property anytime in the next six months or so; this would be Gene Johnson or John Palm of Appraisal Services. Questions should be addressed to their office at 715-834-1361.

The Assessor has certain statutory authority to enter land as described in Sections 943.13 and 943.15, Wisconsin Statutes. Property owners can expect to receive revaluation notices in early September 2018.



## Water Testing for Private Wells



Just as you have regular checkups with your doctor for you and your family's health, you also need a regular checkup for your private well! Safe, clean water is important for drinking, cooking, bathing, and cleaning. Well checkups should be done each year or if there is a change in color, taste, or smell. You can pick up a sample bottle to test for nitrate and bacteria from the Town Office or at the Eau Claire City County Health Department. A \$36 fee is due when samples are dropped off at the Health Department. Eau Claire County families with a newborn child that live in a home served by a private well can have their water tested for bacteria and nitrate contamination at no cost. For more information contact the Health Department at 715-839-4718 or go to <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/disease/nitrate.html> or <http://www.ci.eau-claire.wi.us/departments/health-department/environmental-health/private-wells>

## Tentative Road Projects for 2018

### Roads to be Paved:

Voight Rd, Holum Rd, S. Lowes Creek Rd (1200 ft section near Lowes Creek bridge), Fouser Farm Rd, and Terre Bone Trl

### Various Contracted Maintenance Projects:

Crackfill: Brian St, Mall Dr, Skeels Ave, Markgraff Rd, Whitetail Dr, Vold Ct, Sandstone Rd, Hwy 93 Bike Trl, Joanne Ln, Sandy Ridge Ln, Surrey Ln, E. Shore Dr, and S. Shore Dr

Crackfill, Chip seal, Fog seal: Sheeder Rd, Gunnes Rd, Ridgedale Rd, Ridgedale Ct, Priory Rd, Chokecherry Rd, Black Oak Rd, Hickory Rd, and Cemetery Ln

Wedge, Crackfill, Chip seal, Fog seal: Davis Dr and Talmadge Rd

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



## Election Information

Nomination papers are available in the Town office for Town Supervisor. The filing deadline is Tuesday, January 2, 2018, by 5:00 PM. All elected officials have a two year term and represent the entire Town. Incumbents: Donald Perry and Karen Tomesh.



### Upcoming Elections: UPCOMING ELECTIONS

# 2018

Spring Primary - February 20 (if needed)

Spring Election - April 3

All Town residents vote at the Town Municipal Building.

For more information on registering and voting go to [www.townofwashington.org](http://www.townofwashington.org)

### NEW ELECTON EQUIPMENT

All municipalities in Eau Claire County have new election equipment that will be implemented in 2018.

# Winter Regulations and Reminders

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

If you live on a County road within the Town of Washington, your road is plowed by the County. Any concerns should be directed to the Eau Claire County Highway Department at 715-839-2952.



## MAILBOXES

The plows continue to push back snow throughout the winter to make room for additional snowfalls. Large amounts of snow and ice hitting a mailbox post can cause it to break off. The Town only 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. Depositing snow back onto the roadway or across the road when plowing your driveway or parking lot is not only unsafe - it is illegal.
- 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.

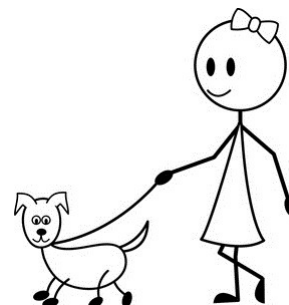
# Animal Ordinances

## License Requirements

All dogs (over 5 months old) are required to be licensed annually in January of each year, or within 30 days of obtaining a new dog. Applications are on our website or at the Town Office. If you no longer have a dog that was previously licensed with the Town, please let us know.

## Animal Control

Contact the Eau Claire Communication Center at 715-839-4972 if you have a complaint regarding barking, animal at large, biting, an animal being mistreated, or a vicious animal. If there is a dog or cat running at large a humane officer will not be dispatched without you first having contained (i.e. leashed, in garage, or fenced yard) the animal for pickup.



## Township Fire Department

This fall we have had a near record setting number of fire and medical calls. We are also busy preparing to replace two of our main fire trucks. Our fire engine and water tender are nearing the end of their lifespan. It takes many volunteer hours to create the perfect truck that will last many years and meet our needs within the Town. We hope to have our new water tender in service next spring and as always, it will be on display at our Annual Charcoal Chicken Feed on May 20, 2018.

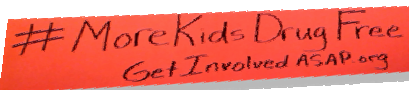
Our last fundraiser was a great success, thanks to all who supported us! A big thanks to Boxx Sanitation, Bracketeers Snowmobile Club, Culvers, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, Firehouse Subs, General Beer Northwest, and Snowie of Altoona for donations to us in 2017. Their generous donations have allowed us to purchase specialized equipment that will make a significant positive impact. Please support these sponsors who invest in our community.

The Bracketeers Snowmobile Club made a donation that allowed us to purchase rescue equipment for use on the snowmobile trails. We used those funds to purchase head restraints for our special rescue long boards. These head restraints help prevent further injury to a patient's spine while in transport from an accident on the trails to the ambulance. These restraints will see many years of service and it's great to see organizations going the extra mile to protect their fellow snowmobilers.

We were also able to purchase professional grade extrication cribbing. Extrication cribbing is used in tandem with the Jaws of Life during a major vehicle crash when we need to cut a car open to remove occupants inside. Before this purchase we used wooden blocks and boards. These wooden blocks and boards can become soiled from gas, oil and other fluids, which make them useless. We have to discard them and make new ones, which is not ideal since it takes time to replace them and we may need them at the next incident. Our new extrication cribbing is much stronger, will perform for decades, and can be washed and put back on the truck after the incident is over. So thanks to all of you who have made donations that allow us to purchase valuable equipment!

If your business or foundation would be interested in donating to our Department, we would be glad to talk with you and have a banner displayed with sponsor names at our next station fundraiser. We thank all of you who have supported us over the years, and if you see us at the Fire Station, stop in and say hi; we would be glad to show you around.

## More Kids Drug Free



In Eau Claire County, 200 high school youth will misuse prescription drugs this month, and 1 in 4 high schoolers tell us it is easy to get prescription medications. Most youth that are misusing medications got them without permission. They say either a friend gave it to them, or they got them from their own home, a friend's home, or a grandparent's home. We all can play a part in preventing prescription drug misuse in our community. Here are some ways you can impact this issue:

- **Lock up your medications.** Keep meds in a safe place and monitor them, and ask friends and family to do the same.
- **Dispose of medications** that are expired or not needed. Eau Claire County has five medication drop boxes.
- **Learn more about the issue** – visit <http://eauclairewi.gov/departments/health-department> for resources, information and tools at [getinvolvedASAP.org](http://getinvolvedASAP.org).
- **Talk to your kids** about the dangers of prescription drugs.





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Eau Claire WI 54701  
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PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Eau Claire, WI  
Permit 203



**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**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 5:00 PM  
**Plan Commission Meetings**  
As Needed

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

**Office Closed**  
Friday, December 22 at Noon  
Monday, December 25  
Monday, January 1, 2018