

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Quarterly Newsletter

www.townofrockland.org

Summer 2014

Rockland Town Hall

1712 Bob-Bea-Jan Road

Phone: 336-2814

www.TownofRockland.org

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Supervisors

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Vicky Van Vonderen, 609-7724

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jcharette@townofrockland.org

Treasurer/Recycling Bins/Dog Licenses

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Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector

Bob Gerbers, 655-8602

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Planning Commission Board

Vicky Van Vonderen, 609-7724

Board of Appeals

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Town Hall Rentals

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jzillges@townofrockland.org

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Garbage and Recycling Service

1-888-804-8556

A Note from the Chairman:

With summer finally here, so have the repairs and maintenance on our town roads begun. It has been a rough winter on roads, a lot of break ups due to the depth of the frost under the road beds.

This year's road projects consist of Blake Road East, Club Drive, Eiler Road, Solitude Road and parts of Big Valley Road. Midway Road received cold mix wedging and seal coating. Stonewall Drive, Seven Oaks Drive, and part of Hickory Ridge Drive have a lot of soft spots in the roadbed from this spring. The Town Board will be looking into the drainage issue in this subdivision this summer. Overall, we spend approximately \$160,000.00 on road repairs. The Town of Rockland has 42 miles of roads that we maintain every year.

The Greenleaf Volunteer Fire Department Picnic is on Sunday, July 20, 2014 at the Greenleaf Fireman's Park in Greenleaf. This is the only fundraiser they have, so please stop out there and support your Volunteer Fire Department.

Also this summer, the farmers are busy working land, making hay, and hauling manure. Please be careful when passing or following farm equipment.

Enjoy the weather and have a great summer!

Dennis J. Cashman



Hello Rockland Residents,

The Planning Commission has started our review of our Comprehensive Plan with Aaron Schuette, Brown County Planning as our advisor. Our current comprehensive plan was adopted in 2005.

INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 1 OF THE PROPOSED 2015 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A comprehensive plan is intended to be a living, dynamic document that sets an overall vision while maintaining flexibility to efficiently respond to opportunities and challenges all communities face. A comprehensive plan's vision is generally considered to be over a 20-year horizon; however, keeping the same plan unchanged for 20 years will lead to the document becoming irrelevant if it is not occasionally updated to reflect current realities for a community.

The 2005 Town of Rockland Comprehensive Plan recognized this need and included an implementation recommendation of reviewing and revising the comprehensive plan at a minimum of every 10 years to update background data, review the goals and objectives, and evaluate the overall implementation of the plan. It is this recommendation that the 2014 Town of Rockland Comprehensive Plan Update is intended to address.

As this is an update, much of the background data from the 2005 plan is still relevant and therefore is not changed. However, with regard to specific instances where additional and/or more recent data is available such as new census data, population projections, and existing land uses, the maps, graphs, and recommendations reflect the new data.

It is anticipated within another 10 years, consistent with the recommendation in the 2005 plan, this update will be supplanted by a new Town of Rockland Comprehensive Plan. In the meantime, this comprehensive plan update provides the necessary bridge to ensure development decisions continue to be considered and acted upon in a manner consistent with the original vision in the 2005 plan, while addressing the issues and opportunities of 2014.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

The Rockland Planning Commission will serve as the primary steering committee for this update. The commission will review data and other materials for inclusion into the updated comprehensive plan. **ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** Please check our website: TownofRockland.org for the agenda, copies of the minutes, and copies of the draft chapters. You can find this information on the Planning Commission page. When the entire DRAFT plan update has been compiled, at least one PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE meeting will be held to present the key updated sections and findings of the plan. Meeting participants will also have the opportunity to discuss the recommendations with planning staff and planning commission members and to suggest modification to be considered during the statutory review period. After the open house meeting and a recommendation of approval from the Planning Commission, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held at the Town Hall to receive additional input on the comprehensive plan update.

Following the public hearing, the draft plan update and feedback from the public hearing will be presented to the Town Board for action at a regular Town Board meeting.

Currently, the following chapters have been revised and can be reviewed on the www.townofrockland.org website:

Chapter 1 Issues and Opportunities

Chapter 2 Land Use Background

Chapter 4 Economic Development

Chapter 5 Housing

Chapter 7 Natural, Cultural, and Agricultural Resources

It is my expectation that this project will be completed by the end of this year. Currently, there are no comprehensive plan meetings scheduled for June and July.

Please refer to the Rockland website: TownofRockland.org or contact myself, Dennis, Glen, or any member of the Planning Commission if you have any questions regarding this project.

Also, I want to thank the Planning Commission members: Randy Hansen, Lee Anderson, Bob Coenen (Chair), Terry Vertz, Sue Zeamer, Bob Gerbers, Glen Schwalbach, and Dennis Cashman for their work on this project. This is an extra meeting a month until this project is completed. Our Planning Commission is a dedicated group of residents who work for the benefit of our entire community and it is a true pleasure working with them.

Have a great summer and as always, take care and thank you for your support.

Vicky Van Vonderen, Supervisor Contact: Cell (920) 609-7724; e-mail: vvanvonderen@townofrockland.org

Hello Everyone,

Just a short update. You may have noticed the new traffic signs around town. We contracted with Brown County to replace the signs which no longer meet the federal and state reflectivity standards and to install additional signs at some locations. The work is progressing well. As soon as the sign-only replacements are done, the county crew will switch to those which need new posts and signs.

I've been serving as the state's town representative on the Wind Siting Council (WSC) for the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. By statute, the WSC is preparing a report to the Legislature as a five-year update of literature and studies on public health impacts and regulatory developments in other states and nations. The report is due by October 2014. Since there has been a debate as to which literature is acceptable, it appears there will be two reports. One approved by the majority of the WSC who happen to benefit financially, either directly or indirectly from wind energy. And, one report from the five of us who are focused on putting health and safety of residents first.

Have a good summer!

Glen R. Schwalbach Contact: Cell: (920) 680-2436; e-mail: gschwalbach@townofrockland.org

Rockland 4-H News

To celebrate June Dairy Month - members and parents all enjoyed making their own Ice Cream Sundae or making a Root beer Float at our June monthly meeting. Club trip to Discovery World Museum in Milwaukee was discussed and the date is set for July 17th.

The timetable leading up to entry day at the Brown County Fair is being watched very closely by all our 4-H members. We are in the middle of getting our fair projects completed - the vegetable and flower gardens are getting a boost with the warm and wet weather, ceramic items range from dry brushed peasants, glazed green frogs, lizards, fish, acrylic painted monkeys in diapers, to cats and dogs and flower pots. We have been making stepping stones for the garden from Redi-crete and colorful stones. We're getting ready to paint the bill board sign and put together a scrapbook. Entry day is: Tuesday, August 12th - and the fair officially opens on Wednesday, August 13th. Entertainment: Demolition Derby and Fireworks on Wednesday night, Truck Pull on Thursday, Lumberjack shows on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. PRCA Rodeo on Friday and Saturday. Tractor Pull on Saturday. Horse Pull on Sunday morning. Animal judging on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Add to that Kid Shows, Live Music, Clowns, Cotton Candy, Rides - all on the Midway - Never a dull moment.....Make the Brown County Fair a summer destination.

2014 Brown County Fair: Wednesday, August 13 through Sunday, August 17th at the Brown County Fair Grounds. For more information go to www.browncountyfair.com

News from the Treasurer:

On May 3rd our Town held a Cyber Green day. Thanks to you and the Rockland 4H, this event was a huge success! Cyber green day specializes in electronics recycling. The Rockland 4-H helped man the event. We are thinking about doing another cyber green day. This would be in the fall or next spring. We would like to hear from people to see if there is enough interest to hold another one in the fall or if we should wait until next spring. Please let us know. Thank you to all who took part in the first cyber green day. It was amazing to see how many different types of electronics were recycled and kept out of our landfills. Overall, 14,330 pounds of material was collected.

I would like to give a few reminders about our garbage and recycling pick up times. Please have your garbage by the road by 6:00 AM. Do not over fill your containers. If over full, the wind opens the container easier and also it spills when the driver is dumping the container. Always have the containers facing the road. This means that the container must open towards the road. Again if your container is backwards, it spills or the driver must get out and turn it the right way.

Please try not to put out your containers until morning if possible. The Town has experienced some stolen containers or containers that were pushed down the roads. We do not want to have any trouble but if you see anyone pushing or damaging containers, please call one of the Town officials and let them know.

Have a great summer and happy recycling!

Mary Van Dyck



Wanted: Deputy Treasurer

It has been highly recommended to have a Deputy Treasurer in every Town. This person must be a resident of the Town of Rockland and will be responsible for performing the duties of the treasurer in case of the treasurer's absence, sickness, or other disability. Per Wisconsin Statute, Sec. 60.31, each town treasurer may appoint a deputy for whom the treasurer is responsible.

Some of the responsibilities of the treasurer are to receive and disburse town money, keep an itemized account of all money received and disbursed, present the account books and supporting documents, deposit the town money into the proper accounts at the bank, and perform all duties relating to taxation. Each month, the treasurer reconciles also the bank statements and prepares a treasurer report for the town board. The treasurer works closely with the clerk and must be able to be bonded.

If you are interested in learning more about the deputy treasurer position, please call Mary Van Dyck at 336-5968 or email mvandyck@townofrockland.org.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS: It's time to get registered for the annual Rockland Craft Sale, Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the town hall. All money raised goes back towards the cost of the Town's newsletter. Reserve your spot now: \$12.50 (non refundable) plus \$5.00 for each 8' table, gets you a 10' X 10' space. Accepting registrations from only Rockland residents until August 1st. Open registration: August 1st until filled. Send your check, made out to Town of Rockland, to Barb Zambon, 2988 Ledgeview Rd, De Pere, 54115 or call me at 920-338-9942 or e-mail Barb at bmz2988@yahoo.com.

FEMA Grant Update :

The Town is still waiting for the FEMA approval/disapproval decision on our Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) grant application. The FEMA decision could come anytime up until August 31, 2014.

Part of the FEMA grant application is a request for FEMA to help the Town purchase one 10-year battery life new Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector for each household in the Town. In developing the FEMA grant application we learned that residents have installed either battery powered or plug-in style (with battery backup) CO detectors in their homes. The big lesson learned from that discovery is that those CO detectors only have a 7-year life span and manufacturers specifically incorporated an end of life-span alert system into the detectors. That end of life-span alert system sounds exactly like a battery low warning - a quick series of noises vs. an actual CO alert which is a longer series of noise alerts. You can determine your detectors end-of-life date by looking at the detector - on my First Alert plug-in CO detector the manufacturers data plate (a sticker) located on the back of the detector shows the manufacture date as "2011 April 28", which means my existing CO detector should be good until April 2018. If your CO detector was manufactured in the 2007 - 2008 (or earlier) year range you can expect the detectors end-of-life alert alarm to sound in the near future.

Not recognizing the end-of-life CO detector alert alarm could cause you to call 911. This has been happening in Green Bay where a rash of CO emergency calls to the Green Bay Metro Fire Department (911) has occurred. As a public safety message, WBAY Channel 2 TV in partnership with the fire department, produced a CO safety video highlighting the differences between those alert sounds. This CO safety video highlights the end of life-span alerts vs. actual CO alerts and how the public should respond to the alerts. This is the link to the WBAY CO safety video -

<http://www.wbay.com/category/169373/video-landing-page?clipId=10152878&topVideoCatNo=266287&autoStart=true>

The video is well done and we recommend you view it as part of your home safety plan. But when in doubt - call 911 - if you have any CO detector alarm concerns our Town's supporting fire departments have devices that can detect if CO gases exist in your home.

Randy Hansen

Rockland Planning Commission



A Note from the Greenleaf Fire Department

The Greenleaf Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., would like to remind residents that it is imperative to keep trees trimmed next to and above driveways so fire apparatus can gain access to your property in the event of an emergency. We have also noticed that during winter months, driveways are not plowed wide enough to allow our vehicles to enter. Both of these hazards have been encountered in the past. We want to be proactive so citizens are aware of these issues and can work to correct them. Failure to trim trees and properly plow driveways will result in significant delays, elevated or complete property loss and possibly the loss of life.

Generally speaking, under current regulations, yard waste such as grass clipping, twigs and sticks are the only items that may be burned. The Town of Rockland does not require a burn permit. However, an outdoor fire should never be left unattended since it can spread quickly. If you decide to burn, have a cell phone handy and firefighting equipment standing by such as a garden hose, rake and shovel. Remember, you assume all liability for any damage, injury or death that may occur as a result of a fire that gets out of your control.

In closing, we would like to thank the many citizens who are fire conscious. Although the number of calls has risen, the seriousness of those calls has not increased. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at our annual fund raiser on Sunday, July 20 from 11 AM to 7 PM at our park located just north of Greenleaf on STH 32-57.

John Brittnacher, Greenleaf Fire Department : 920-862-2200

93rd Annual Greenleaf Fireman's Picnic

Sunday, July 20, 2014, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Greenleaf Fireman's Park. This is the perfect way to support one of our local fire departments while also enjoying great food and great fun!

Happy Summer Everyone!

I hope you are finding time to enjoy the outdoors, especially, the Fox River and Fox River Trail, which our Town is fortunate to have right in its own backyard! I bike and walk the Rockland part of the trail often. It is quite beautiful and peaceful and full of diverse landscapes. I hope you get a chance to enjoy this treasure this summer!

Since our last newsletter, we finished the website and reviewed some of the highlights at our Annual Meeting in April. As you know, the Town's website can be found at www.townofrockland.org. On the website, you can find many items that can help answer your questions and obtain the documents you need. A few of the highlights are as follows:

- 1) **TOWN HALL RENTAL:** If you are interested in renting the town hall and want to know if the date is available, just Click on the calendar and it will show you what is happening for the month or year. If you click on the month and day you are interested in renting the hall, the calendar will show you whether it is being used or rented on that date. If it is not being used or rented, download the town hall rental agreement, complete it and mail it in with your two checks and you are set to go.
- 2) **BOARD MEETINGS, AGENDA AND MINUTES:** If you are interested in attending a meeting, viewing an agenda, or reviewing the minutes from a prior meeting, please Click on the Agenda, Minutes & Notices link. Minutes from past meetings will not be posted until formally approved (except for the Annual Meeting minutes).
- 3) **MAPS:** If you have a question as to what your property is zoned, you can Click on the Official Zoning Map. The Ordinances link will then lead you to the Rockland Code of Ordinances which explains what types of uses are allowed under your current zoning.
- 4) **LICENSES, PERMITS AND FORMS** link has many of the forms that you may need if you are interested in rezoning, remodeling, building, voting or renting the town hall. There is also a CONTACT page which will allow you to find the person you may need to speak to or write an e-mail to.
- 5) **RESIDENT INFORMATION** page has the Garbage and Recycling calendar, Dog License form, Town Hall rental form, upcoming community events and a link to this newsletter. The newsletter is published each quarter in March, June, September & December. If you would prefer to read it electronically, please send me an e-mail and I will take you off the mailing list. Each newsletter costs approximately \$.85 to print and mail.

ELECTION NEWS: At our April Election, there were 92 residents or 8% of our eligible voters who voted. Unfortunately, we did not win the Voter's Challenge Award that is awarded after each election day in Brown County for highest voter participation. The Fall Primary will take place on **Tuesday, August 12, 2014**. This election is a Partisan Primary. This means that you may vote in only one party selection and cannot cross parties. The party selections are Democratic, Republic, or Constitution. A sample ballot of the August 12th Partisan Primary is on the townofrockland.org website under VOTING & ELECTIONS– Election News and will be posted at our three posting sites as well.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED FOR ALL REGISTRATIONS: The legislature passed 2013 Wisconsin Act 182 which requires all registrants to display or provide a valid proof of residence with their registration. Prior to this legislation, electors could apply during an open registration period in the Clerk's office without having to provide such proof of residency. This change means that if you are intending to register to vote for the August 12, 2014, or November 4, 2014 or any other future elections, either by mail, electronically, or in person, you need to provide proof of residency. If you are interested in registering, please go to www.townofrockland.org website, Click on Voting & Elections– Voter Registration and download GAB-131 form. The instructions with the GAB-131 provide a list of the valid proof of residency documents. The deadline for mailing in a registration (which must include a copy of your Proof of Residency) for the August 12, 2014, Primary is Wednesday, July 23, 2014. After this date, registrations can be made in person in the Clerk's Office until Friday, August 8, 2014 or on election day, Tuesday, August 12, 2014.

Please note that I will be out of the office on vacation from Wednesday, July 2nd-Thursday, July 10th and then at an offsite training the week of July 14th. If you require assistance during this time, please contact Supervisor Van Vonderen at (920) 609-7724, vvanvonderen@townofrockland.org or Deputy Clerk Magley at (920) 864-2388. I hope you have a great summer!

Jann Charette, Clerk

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