



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

TOWN OF WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

Vol. 45 No. 2 ~ December 2022

Tax Collection

The 2022 tax bills will be mailed out near December 10.

Options for Submitting Tax Payments:

Drop Box: A 24 hour secure drop box is located just outside our front entrance; include your payment stub.

US Postal Service: Mail your payment to our office; include the payment stub from your bill

Pay Online: By credit card/debit card; convenience fees are applied - go to townofwashington.wi.gov; click Pay Online at the top of the home page—ONLY available for Town parcels

In-Person Collection:

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM beginning December 12

December 23 Closed at Noon

December 26 Closed

January 2 Closed

- 1st installment (or full payment) is due by January 31, 2023 to the Town of Washington.
- Receipts will only be mailed to you if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included with your payment. You can view or print a copy of your receipt by going to the Eau Claire County website at <http://eauclairecovi.wgxtreme.com/> - then type in your last name and/or address.
- Checks are deposited on the date received. All returned checks will be charged a \$30 service fee.
- **Do not included payment of dog licenses on the same check as your tax bill**; a separate check is required.
- If you have delinquent taxes, they can only be paid to the Eau Claire County Treasurer's Office.

Broadband Update

The State of Wisconsin Public Service Commission 2022 Broadband Grant was awarded to Charter Spectrum to build fiber to homes in the Town of Washington. Charter and the State PSC board are finalizing the details and timeline. This grant will enable Charter to connect the parts of the town unserved by high-speed internet.

Go to www.spectrum.com/cp/build At the top of the page, type your address to see if service is available in your area. If it is not available yet, you will be directed to contact Charter for more information.

This project will take time and all areas will not be completed in 2023.

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Ambulance Service Funding

State Statute requires all towns to provide ambulance service to its residents. Up until 2019 the four major hospitals/clinics in Eau Claire (Mayo Health Systems, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Marshfield Clinic, and Oakleaf Surgical Hospital) have subsidized approximately \$200,000 annually for the taxpayers of the municipalities utilizing this Regional Emergency Medical Service (EMS) program provided by the City of Eau Claire Fire Department. The Township Fire Department, Inc. provides volunteer First Responders when available to each call.

In 2018 the Town of Washington paid \$5,800 for this service. This year it increased to \$75,000 and by 2028 it will be over \$100,000. This is a valued and necessary service and based on levy limits statutes there is no funding sources outside the Town general levy that can be utilized for said services.

The Town desires to be fiscally responsible and continue the high level of services that our residents have come to appreciate.

2023 ELECTIONS

Spring Primary - February 21
(if needed)

Spring Election - April 4

Polls are Open

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Election Day

Top Seven Functions of Town Government:

1. Highway/Road Maintenance, Construction and Signage
2. Public Safety - fire protection, ambulance service, ordinance enforcement
3. Administer Elections - federal, state, county, school district, and municipal offices
4. Licensing - liquor, tobacco products, dogs, mobile home parks, etc.
5. Planning, Land Use, and Boundary Requirements
6. Assessment and Taxation
7. Public Records Management

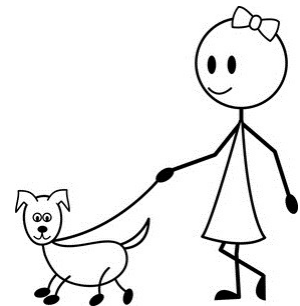
Dog Licenses & Animal Regulations

A courtesy postcard will be mailed soon as a reminder to those who have a 2022 license for their dog with the Town of Washington. Dog owners that are new to the Town of Washington should license their dog by January 1. Applications are on our website (under How Do I tab) or at the Town Office; you must provide written proof of vaccination against rabies from your vet. If you no longer have a dog in the Town, let us know or you will continue to receive reminders to license your dog.

The Town does not require cats to be licensed however, you can be issued a citation if your cat is at-large. To report obsessive barking, animals at large, biting, an animal being mistreated, or a vicious animal; call the Eau Claire Communication Center at 715-839-4972. A humane officer will not be dispatched to pick up a dog or cat at-large unless the animal has first been contained.

2023 Dog License
Spayed/Neutered - \$15
Unaltered - \$25

(If sent with tax payment,
a separate check is required)



Revaluation of Property Assessments

A revaluation of property assessments in the Town of Washington will occur for the 2023 assessment year. The Town Assessor may stop at your property anytime in the next six months or so; this would be Gene Johnson, Adam Kremer, or John Garlick 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 2023. The last revaluation of property assessments in the Town of Washington was done in 2018.

Winter Regulations and Reminders

We encourage you to check our website (homepage) for updates during a snowstorm regarding plowing operations. The larger the snowfall, the more time it takes to plow; we encourage you to be patient. School bus routes and hills are always given first priority. 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 the timing of the snowfall this is not always possible. The Town Road Department plows over 200 lane miles of roads after a snow fall.

If you live on a County road within the Town of Washington, your road is plowed by the County. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Eau Claire County Highway Department at 715-839-2952. County Roads within the Town include: E & W Beaver Creek Road, Chickadee Road, Deerfield Road, E & W Lowes Creek Road, Mathwig Road, part of Mayer Road, Nine Mile Creek Road, Otter Creek Road, and State Street.

GARBAGE & RECYCLING

- Garbage and recycling receptacles and bins are only allowed at the edge of your yard or driveway on your collection day and should be at least 10 feet off the road in your driveway or yard. They are **never** allowed on the shoulder of the road, across the road from your residence or in a cul-de-sac.
- For safety reasons, if your receptacles or bins are an obstacle during plowing operations, our drivers will not exit their truck to move them.

PARKING

- No vehicles are allowed to park on roads 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 road for 48 hours.
- Violators will be ticketed by the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department.
- 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.



Tentative 2023 Road Projects

Roads to be Paved:

- S. Hastings Way (joint project w/City)
- S. Hubbard Drive
- N. Hubbard Drive
- Kern Drive
- Davis Drive

Road Seal Projects:

- Chip Seal — Schumacher Road, Markgraff Road, Wenzel Drive, Howard Drive, and Beulah Lane

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



2022 Road Projects Recap



Shouldering of newly paved Mueller Road



Repaved Corydon Road

Reconditioned and Pave Roads

- Corydon Road
- Larchmont Road
- Glen Way
- Mueller Road (Hillview +6900 ft to CTH D)

Chip Seal Roads:

- S. Lowes Creek, Brian Street, London Road, E. Hamilton Avenue, Corona Avenue, Skeels Avenue, Henry Avenue, Pomona Drive, Blakeley Avenue, Beverly Hills Drive, Beverly Hills Lane, Clairemont Avenue Parkway

Township Fire Department

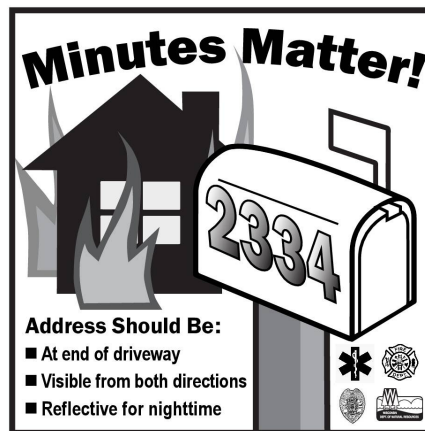
As of the middle of November, the Fire Department has experienced an increase in call volumes due to the changing of the seasons. Vehicle accidents that have required extrication of a patient from a vehicle have been the most common, so please stay attentive while driving. Road conditions can change fast this time of year and we get very comfortable driving on ideal road conditions all summer. Eliminating distractions while driving and traveling at a safe speed during adverse weather conditions can save your life and others.

As the temperatures decrease, the potential for structure fires increases. The most common structure fire we see are chimney fires, which turn into house fires. Regular maintenance of wood burning fireplace should not be overlooked; yearly inspection and cleaning of your chimney by a professional is essential. As an added safety tip, most larger hardware stores carry a device that will suppress or stop chimney fires. If you were to have a chimney fire, simply follow the directions on the box, evacuate everyone out of the building, and call 911. Even if you think the fire is out, the Fire Department should respond to make sure. If the fire is too dangerous to attempt suppression, evacuate the building and call 911 immediately. Never use water to suppress a fire in a fire place or chimney. The expanding hot vapor from the water will crack chimney walls and will allow fire to escape into walls and the attic of the building.

Changing the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors yearly is also a good practice; along with testing and checking the expiration date on these devices. Most carbon monoxide detectors only last three to seven years and will not be reliable if they are expired. If you are unsure on the age of the detector, it is best practice to replace it.

Here at the Town of Washington Fire Station, we are the busiest of all five stations, due to our central location as well as Interstate 94 and Highway 53. We are always are looking for more volunteers in the Fire Department. If you are not interested in the fire side of things, we also desperately need first responders. Our membership on the entire department is at some of its lowest numbers that we have ever seen. Training is provided through the department and in most cases are evening classes at Chippewa Valley Technical College. We encourage anyone who may be interested to check out our webpage to obtain more information. Please strongly consider giving back to your community and join us!

Township Fire Department, Inc. - www.townshipfire.org or 715-834-6868
Burning permits can only be obtained online through the TFD, Inc. website.



Do Your Part, Be Septic Smart

Routine maintenance and inspection are required for all septic systems in Eau Claire County. This helps to ensure they are operating correctly and can identify or prevent failures. We send reminders to homeowners when a routine inspection is due. Most systems require service every three years (some unique systems may require service up to every 3 months). Make sure to submit a septic tank maintenance report to the Health Department, if you have your tank pumped before you receive a notice. The pumping reports must be returned to the Health Department.

DO:

- Flush toilet paper only
- Use water efficiently and staffer use of water-based appliances
- If you have a private well, have it tested regularly to ensure a failing septic system isn't contaminating your water
- Have your system professionally inspected and pumped per requirements

DON'T:

- Park vehicles or plant trees on your drainfield
- Pour grease, fats, harmful chemicals down your drain
- Flush feminine hygiene products, diapers, hair, wipes, medicine, or trash



Email or call ehealth@co.eau-claire.wi.us or call 715-839-4718, for more information.



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 Eau Claire WI 54701
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PRSRST STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
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 Eau Claire, WI
 Permit 203



TOWN STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Administrator/ Clerk/Treasurer:	Janelle L. Henning	715-834-3257
Deputy Clerk:	Jackie Vold	715-834-3257
Deputy Treasurer:	Aleta Kauffman	715-834-3257
Chairman:	Micheal Peterson	715-497-6333
Supervisors:	Andrea Kott	715-225-7698
	Jane Mueller	715-878-4058
	Karen Tomesh	715-835-4742
	Jeff White	715-379-0699

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

Office Hours
 Monday - Friday
 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Office Closed
 Thursday, December 23 at Noon
 Friday, December 24
 Friday, December 31

Agendas & the Minutes for Board Meetings can be found on our website along with current news, notices, forms, etc. at townofwashington.wi.gov