



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. 46 No. 1 ~ March 2024

## A Note from the Town Chair

Recent annexations by the cities of Eau Claire and Altoona have significantly changed the landscape for the Town of Washington.

With each annexation, the cities reach and control of land use extends further into the Town because of city Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) authority. The ETJ extends 3 miles from EC's city limit and 1 ½ miles from Altoona. EC's ETJ now extends south to the town of Pleasant Valley.

Additionally, this year there will be an update to the Sewer Service Area (SSA). It is very likely it will be extended as well. Lands within both the SSA and ETJ are essentially off limits for any development in the Town that require a land division. It is territory that is basically reserved for future annexation and development by EC and Altoona.

The recent annexations by EC and Altoona were of a more aggressive nature than ever before. We should expect that will continue. For example, in the past, I-94 was a barrier for EC expansion to the south. That barrier has now been breached in a significant way and annexations and development has accelerated.

What are some possible options?

1. Do nothing and manage the best we can.
2. Be more aggressive about developing the lands we can control. A rural or town housing development area is not conducive to annexation for a variety of reasons.
3. Incorporate the Town into a Village. This stops annexation completely. However, seeking incorporation is not simple or guaranteed AND would not include the entire Town of Washington. Incorporation also requires that we develop lands. The Town Board is currently evaluating this option.

Note that all the options above will result in more development within the current Town boundaries. We can no longer just assume that things will not change in areas near the cities.

If you have questions about this topic, please contact Administrator Henning at [henning@townofwashington.wi.gov](mailto:henning@townofwashington.wi.gov) or 715-834-3257.

## Legislative Update

SB691 and AB768. The "Urbans Towns Bill" attempting to correct wrongs in regards to city land use control in the Town has died. It seemingly did not have the votes in the Assembly and therefore, it was not given the hearing it deserved. The cities tactic of flooding the dialog with fiction was victorious... this time around.

Please accept our sincere thank you in regards to your calls and letters to legislators! It was not in vain. We look forward to the next legislative session!

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# Elections

We encourage residents to obtain information regarding voting and elections only from our office or the Wisconsin Election Commission (including the MyVote website); content from other sources are not always accurate. We welcome questions from any of our residents regarding elections or the process.

Absentee voting is our largest expense for an election and we want to be fiscally responsible with the Town tax dollars. Please only request an absentee ballot to be mailed if you actually intend to vote that ballot.

A public test of our voting equipment is done before every election. The date and time for testing is posted on our website under Notices a couple weeks before an election. Anyone interested in the process are encouraged to attend.

## 2024 Elections

April 2 - Spring Election & Presidential Preference

August 13 - Fall Primary

November 5 - General Election

**All elections are held at the Town Hall from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**There are two Town Board Supervisor positions up for election on April 2, 2024. Offices are for a two-year term.**

**Dates and times for in-person absentee voting are listed on our website.**



## Dog Licenses

If your dog does not yet have a 2024 license, payment needs to be made to the Town of Washington before April 1 or late fees will be applied. In a residential zoning district you are

limited to no more than five dogs, unless you have a commercial kennel license.

## Annual Town Meeting

Thursday, April 18 at 5:00 PM  
Town of Washington  
Municipal Building  
5750 Old Town Hall Road

## Real Estate Tax Payments

If you make installment payments on your real estate taxes the 2nd installment is payable to: Eau Claire County Treasurer's Office at 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire on or before July 31.

## 2024 Road Projects

### Roads to be Paved:

Schumacher Road (Hobbs to S Elco +1825')  
Maplewood Court  
Hobbs Road

### Road Seal Projects:

Chip Seal - Elm Road

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



## Open Book & Board of Review

If you have just purchased your home in the past year or made any improvements to your home, the Town Assessor may stop at your property; this would be Gene Johnson, Adam Kremer, or John Garlick of Appraisal Services. Questions should be directed to their office at 715-834-1361.

If you question the assessment of your property, the time for you to do something about it is during Open Book. You do not need an appointment. You just come during the hours it is held to speak with the assessor.

If after reviewing your information at Open Book, you believe your property is not assessed fairly in relation to other Town of Washington properties, you must file a written objection form to be heard by the formal Board of Review. Factual evidence must be presented at the hearing.

**Monday, April 29 - Open Book from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Town Hall**  
**Tuesday, May 7 - Board of Review from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Town Hall**

## Meeting Room Rental

The Town's meeting room expansion is complete and ready for use.

Room rental available Monday-Thursday: 8AM – 9PM, Friday: 8AM – 4PM

4 hours or less: \$75, more than 4 hours \$150

Contact Jackie, vold@townofwashington.wi.gov, for availability.



## Broadband Update

Internet options continue to expand and change. Cell phone carriers offer options for Internet. For some Town residents, TDS is going to be a new option this year. <https://tdsfiber.com> is the website to visit to check availability.

Spectrum contractors will continue to lay underground cable in many parts of the Town right-of-way through 2024. <https://www.spectrum.com/cp/build> is the website to visit to check availability. If you are in the areas that are being serviced by the 2022 Broadband grant, Spectrum will send a mailing once cable and internet services are available.

## Storm Water Pollution Prevention



## Raising Poultry

If you live in a Rural Residential District and are interested in starting backyard poultry keeping under the new county ordinance, check out their website for resources on applying for a license and keeping your backyard flock healthy. Go to: [chickens.ehealthdepartment.org](http://chickens.ehealthdepartment.org)

## Well Water Testing Bundles

*Water testing kits special going from April 1–11*

**Homeowners Bundle - \$80** – includes testing for Bacteria, Nitrate, Lead, Copper, and Arsenic. Recommended for homeowners with private wells, especially if they've never tested for metals before.

**Homeowners Plus Bundle- \$120-** includes testing for Bacteria, Nitrate, Lead, Copper, Arsenic, Iron, Manganese, Hardness, Zinc, Cadmium, Cobalt, Chromium, and Nickel. Recommended for homeowners with private wells who want a more complete picture of your water quality.

Last year at our lab, **nearly 1 in 6** drinking water samples from Eau Claire County private wells had bacteria that can make people sick! If YOU have a private well, **YEARLY** tests for bacteria are recommended so you can keep your family healthy. Water test results are for your knowledge only. If your water result is unsafe, you can decide to treat your water or not. Visit the Eau Claire City-County Health Department website [wells.ehealthdepartment.org](http://wells.ehealthdepartment.org) for more info!



## Green Waste Facility

The Green Waste Facility at 5710 Jeffers Road provides an environmentally friendly solution for Eau Claire County residents to dispose of brush, grass clippings, and leaves.

It is operated by the City of Eau Claire.

### 2024 Season Information:

Typically, the brush site is open mid-April to mid-November; weather dependent.

Hours: Mondays: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Wednesdays: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturdays: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Questions regarding what is accepted, costs, i.e.? Contact the Community Service Department at 715-839-5039 or [communityservices@eauclairewi.gov](mailto:communityservices@eauclairewi.gov) or go to their website at:

<https://www.eauclairewi.gov/government/our-divisions/parks-forestry-and-cemetery/forestry/brush-disposal>



## Rest Haven Cemetery

Rest Haven Cemetery is owned and operated by the Town of Washington. For information regarding flowers, wreaths, stone sizes, purchasing spaces, transferring spaces, or scheduling a burial, contact Jackie at 715-834-3257. Spaces are currently available for \$700.

Winter decorations must be removed from the cemetery before April 1, each year. In the Spring, flowers (real or artificial) can be placed in a plant stand beginning May 1 and must be removed no later than October 15 each year. Anything remaining after this date will be disposed of.

Items placed in/on the ground or on a shepherd's hook are not allowed and will be removed.

If while visiting the cemetery you encounter dogs running off-leash with or without an owner present, please contact the Eau Claire Communication Center at 715-839-4972 while it is happening. If possible contain the dog until a Humane Officer arrives to take the dog.

## Township Fire Department, Inc. - Station 2

We want to warn everyone about high fire danger as we have had a very mild winter so far (if you don't love snow it has been great!) The dry conditions lead to high fire danger conditions. The department tends to be busy during this time and we would like to remind people about safe burning practices. You MUST get a burning permit, which can be found on our website, [www.townshipfire.org](http://www.townshipfire.org). All the burning regulations can be found on the website as well.

We have heard from residents how they have missed coming to the Station for a fundraiser since COVID. On Saturday, June 1, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Station 2 will be having an Open House at the Station! We welcome everyone to come down and see the Station. A light lunch will be provided. Fire fighters will also be giving a demo with the battery powered extraction equipment at Noon. The battery powered extraction equipment was purchased through YOUR generous donations.

For the second year in a row, Station 2 will be hosting an in-person fundraiser breakfast at the Eau Claire County Fair, Saturday, July 27, 2024, from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk, and bananas. This is a freewill donation that assists us with purchasing equipment. Come down and support the Fire Department and then enjoy the rest of the day at the fair!

Here at the Town of Washington station, we are the busiest of all five stations of Township Fire Department, Inc. Due to our central location as well as Interstate 94 and Highway 53, we run a lot of calls! We are looking for more fire fighters for the Department. We are a paid per call department and could not do without our "volunteers". If the fire side of emergency services does not interest you, we also 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 at [www.townshipfire.org](http://www.townshipfire.org) to obtain more information or email [chief20@townshipfire.org](mailto:chief20@townshipfire.org). Please strongly consider giving back to your community and join us!

**Township Fire Department, Inc.**  
**townshipfire.org**

**715-834-6868 (general questions; leave a message)**

**715-839-4972 (non-emergency complaints/concerns)**

**9-1-1 (emergency calls only)**





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## **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
Chairperson:	Robert Solberg	715-829-3138
Supervisors:	Jane Mueller	715-878-4058
	James Rolbiecki	715-379-0087
	Karen Tomesh	715-835-4742
	Jeff White	715-379-0699

### **Town Board Meetings**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 5:00 PM

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

*Close at 3 PM on Fridays from May - Oct.*