



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. 47 No. 1 ~ March 2025

A Note from the Town Chair

The Levy and the Limits

What is the Levy? The Levy is the total amount of property taxes collected by and for the Town of Washington. If you review your property tax bill, you'll notice collections for the Town of Washington, Eau Claire County, CVTC, and the school district in which you reside. The sum of these collections for each taxing jurisdiction is considered the Levy.

Years ago, the state established Levy limits at the then-current level. In essence, a municipality cannot raise the Levy unless in specific circumstances: new construction, loan servicing, or by referendum.

The Town of Washington has raised the Levy several times due to new construction. For instance, when we have new construction that increases the Town's assessed value, there is a formula that is used to determine the increase in the total Levy. The Levy increase is offset by the additional tax revenue generated from the new construction. Additionally, we don't have any debt and have never resorted to a referendum to raise the Levy.

In practical terms, what does this mean for you and me? To gain a better understanding, we conducted an unscientific analysis of two properties that have experienced minimal improvements over the past 11 years. Please refer to the table below for details.

	2014	2024	% Change
Property #1 Town Tax	\$325.54	\$319.09	-2.5%
Property #2 Town Tax	\$540.13	\$574.66	+6.3%

Town taxes have remained largely unchanged over the past 11 years due to prudent fiscal management by our staff and previous leadership.

Incorporation Petition

Residents are encouraged to check our website regularly for updates regarding the Town's Incorporation efforts. Under the Government tab on the homepage, click on Incorporation Updates.

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Elections

If you are interested in working as an Election Inspector for the 2026-2027 Election Cycle, fill out and return the poll worker application on our website at <https://townofwashington.wi.gov/departments/elections/>, and we will contact you in the fall of 2025. Election Inspectors are appointed by the Town Board in December for a 2-year term.

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 and are unable to come in person.

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 is encouraged to attend.

2025 Election

April 1 - Spring Election

Elections are held at the Town Hall from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for all Town of Washington residents.

The Town Board Chairperson and two Town Board Supervisor positions are up for election on April 1, 2025. Offices are for a two-year term. Dates and times for in-person absentee voting are listed on our website.



Dog Licenses

License your dog for 2025 before April 1st. A \$5.00 late fee per dog, will be apply for any payments we received after March 31st.

Annual Town Meeting

Thursday, April 17 at 5:00 PM
Town of Washington
Municipal Building
5750 Old Town Hall Road

Real Estate Tax Payments

Any balance on your real estate tax bill must be made payable to: Eau Claire County Treasurer's Office at 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire on or before July 31. The Town cannot accept payments after January each year. Questions? Call 715-839-4805.

Raising Poultry

If you live in a Residential District and are interested in having chickens 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.echealthdepartment.org

2025 Road Projects

Roads to be Paved:

Balsam Road
Lila Lane

Pinewood Road
Silver Springs Drive



Chip Seal Projects:

Whitetail Drive, Voight Road, and Hillview 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 from 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.

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

Community Room Rental

The Town's community room is available to rent.

Room rental is available weekdays only, Monday-Friday from 8 AM – 9 PM

Per day rates: \$50 for under 2 hours, \$75 for 2-4 hours, and \$200 over 4 hours (hours include your set-up/tear down)

Contact Jackie at 715-834-3257 or

vold@townofwashington.wi.gov, for availability.

Form is on our website under Community, then Forms & Permits

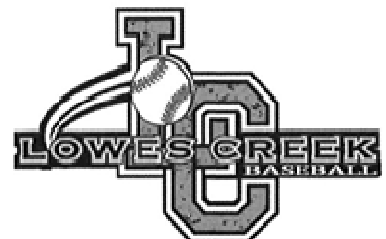


Lowes Creek Baseball

“Lowes Creek Baseball has been a proud part of the Town of Washington/Eau Claire community for over 55+ years, offering a safe, supportive, and development-focused environment for young athletes. Baseball has deep roots in our region, and we’ve seen the continued growth and enthusiasm for the sport. In recent years, Lowes Creek Baseball has experienced record enrollment numbers, reflecting the rising interest in baseball and the demand for quality youth sports programs.

As we continue to grow, it has become clear that our current facility on Horlacher Court is nearing its capacity. To ensure we can continue to serve our community and uphold our mission, we are exploring the possibility of relocating and expanding our organization. Our vision is to secure 30-50 acres.” Please see the full Lowes Creek Baseball article at <https://townofwashington.wi.gov/news-events/>

The Town of Washington has hosted Lowes Creek Baseball at our Horlacher Ballfields for all these years and is very supportive of their endeavor to relocate and expand in the Town of Washington. Please contact the Town Office if you can help to acquire land or funds.



Storm Water Pollution Prevention



WHY IS STORMWATER RUNOFF A PROBLEM?

When buildings, parking lots, roads and other hard surfaces are added to the landscape, precipitation no longer soaks into the ground. Water from rain or snow storms, known as stormwater, instead flows over streets, parking lots, roofs, and into a water body or storm drain.

Stormwater runoff is often worsened by human activities, and can contain nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants from fertilizers, pet and yard waste, trash, sediment, and other debris. Because stormwater flows over hard surfaces directly into a water body or storm drain, there is no opportunity for soil and plants to filter out pollutants.



POND MAINTENANCE

When left unmanaged, stormwater ponds can rapidly deteriorate, become aesthetically unpleasing, have poor water quality, and reduce the effectiveness of the wet basin.



Green Waste Facility

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

It is operated by the City of Eau Claire.

2025 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 and costs; contact the Community Service Department at 715-839-5039 or communityservices@eauclairewi.gov or go to their website at:

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



Well Water Testing Bundles

We get MANY questions about what you should test your well water for. So, we created a few new homeowners bundles to recommend common tests (and save you \$ too!)

Even without a change in color, smell, or taste of the water, many things like bacteria, nitrate, and metals can negatively affect your family's health. 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 at least bacteria and nitrate 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 for costs at wells.ehealthdepartment.org for more info! Testing kits are available to pick up in the Town Office.



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.



Township Fire Department, Inc. - Station 2

The Township Fire Department wants to alert our residents of the high fire danger due to the mild winter, lack of snow, and very dry 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 listed below. All the burning regulations can be found on the website as well. Help us by practicing safe burning!

Once again, we will be hosting an Open House at Station 2 on Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM along with the Town of Washinton Road Department. Anyone is welcome to come down and see the station. Our trucks will be on display as well as some of the Town equipment. A light lunch will be provided. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Fire Department, this event is a great opportunity to check out.

For the third year in a row, Station 2 will be hosting an in-person fundraiser breakfast at the Eau Claire County Fair, Saturday, July 26, 2025, from 7:00 to 10:00 AM. Pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk, and bananas will be served. This is a free will donation that assists us with purchasing equipment. We encourage you to stop in to 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 the Township Fire Department. Due to our central location as well as Interstate 94 and Highway 53, we run a lot of calls!

We are looking for additional fire fighters to join. We are a paid per call department and could not do with without our "volunteers". If the fire side of emergency services does not interest you, we also need first responders. Membership of the entire department is at some of the 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 or email 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

3rd 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.