



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. 48 No. 1 ~ March 2026

Incorporation Petition

On December 17th, the Wisconsin Incorporation Review Board (IRB) held a public hearing for a portion of the Town to become a Village. Many residents, business owners, and neighboring communities appeared in support of the Petition. Washington residents expressed that they are proud of the community they call home, identify with that community, are satisfied with the current level of services, and desire full autonomy over land-use and development decisions in the future. Only one neighboring community, the City of Eau Claire, appeared in opposition to the Petition.

The IRB held a meeting on February 19, to discuss the petition and will meet again mid-April where they will make a determination. The Board may recommend approval, adjustments to the proposed village boundary, or dismissal. If the petition advances, the next step will be a public referendum, giving residents the chance to vote on the future of their local government.

The IRB has posted items relative to the Washington request on the Wisconsin Department of Administration webpage: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/MunicipalBoundaryReviewNews.aspx>

Washington Fire & Road Dept. Open House Saturday, May 9 from 10 am - 2 pm at Town Municipal Complex

Join us for:

- Equipment Demonstrations
- Smoke Trailer
- ECC Sheriff's Office
- Firefighter Info & Applications
- Stormwater Plinko
- Lunch
- Drawing for Washington Gift Basket

Freewill donation with proceeds going to the Fire Department



Articles:

Elections	2
Dog Licenses	2
2026 Road Projects	2
Annual Meeting	2
Support Town Businesses	2
Open Book & Board of Review	3
Community Room Rental	3
New Town Staff	3
County Recycling Fees	3
Storm Water Pollution	4
Green Waste Facility	4
Rest Haven Cemetery	5
Township Fire Station 2	5

Elections

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.

Spring Election - April 7

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



Two Town Board Supervisor positions are up for election on April 7, 2026. 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 2026 **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 23 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.

Support Town Businesses

The Town has many businesses that we encourage residents to support. We will highlight a few in various newsletters from time to time.

- ⇒ Sammy's Pizza
- ⇒ The Glass Orchard
- ⇒ Tin Roof Gardens
- ⇒ Barks n' Recreation
- ⇒ Tokyo Japanese Restaurant
- ⇒ Pet Food Plus
- ⇒ Infinity Beverages
- ⇒ Bijou Bistro & Catering
- ⇒ Kahvi Coffee
- ⇒ Valley Edge Dental
- ⇒ Olympic Flame

2026 Road Projects

Roads to be Paved:

Gust Road Hickory Road (North Rd to US 53)



Chip Seal Projects:

Inwood, Andrew, Ashley, Kathryn, Woodcrest Highlands, Mischler Rd, Palomino, Sindelar, Susan, Shetland, Birdlawn, and Rainetta

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 28 - Open Book from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Town Hall
Wednesday, May 6 - 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



New Town Staff

Leesa Malek began as the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer in November, 2025. Leesa is a familiar face on Election Day as she has worked as one of our Election Inspectors for a number of years.

Leesa and her family have been residents of the Town since 2014.

County Recycling Fees

Recycling is mandatory in the State of Wisconsin.

The Eau Claire County recycling program includes: clean sweep days for hazardous materials, electronic recycling, recycling drop-sites throughout the County, and some staffing. Currently, the program costs are charged to residents through their garbage hauler and a special charge on their tax bills.

Change is coming on your next tax bill!

The recycling charge will ONLY be on your tax bill as a special charge. You will no longer have a fee on your garbage hauler's bill. Watch for details in our November newsletter. Questions can be addressed to Regan Watts, the County Recycling Coordinator at 715-839-2756 or regan.watts@eau Clairecounty.gov

Storm Water Pollution Prevention



Spring is just around the corner!

Time to spruce up the lawn and garden.

Here are a few suggestions to avoid adding phosphorus and fertilizers to nearby waterways.

- Reuse leaves and grass clippings as mulch, add it to a compost pile, or till into gardens.
- Test your soil before fertilizing. Fertilize per specified rate and clean up excess.
- Use a soaker-style hose to water and don't overwater.
- Conserve water by planting a rain garden of native plants, shrubs and trees to maximize infiltration and reduce runoff. Consider capturing rain from your downspout in a barrel for watering.

Illicit Discharges

When traveling around town be on the lookout of “illicit discharges” to storm drains and ditches. This includes materials from failing septic systems, spills or dumping of chemicals, oils or ag by-products, and pipes carrying anything other than storm water. Storm water that enters a storm drain in urban areas is NOT treated before entering waterways. Discharges into ditches may not immediately reach a waterway; nevertheless, they pollute the ditch line and may reach waterways when ditches are frozen and little infiltration takes place. If you observe an illicit discharge contact the Town Office for investigation.



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.

2026 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>



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 \$800.

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

We would like to remind residents that seasonal conditions significantly increase the risk of wildland fires. This is historically a busy time for our Department, and we urge everyone to exercise caution with any outdoor burning.

A valid burning permit is required for all authorized burning activities. Permits, along with a complete list of burning regulations, are available on our website. Your cooperation in following safe burning practices to help protect our community is important.

Our annual **Open House** will be held on **Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at Station 2, in partnership with the Town of Washington shops. Community members are invited to tour the station, view our fire apparatus and equipment, and see various pieces of Town equipment on display. A light lunch will be provided. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in joining the Fire Department to learn more about our operations and meet our members.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported the Department through donations. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to purchase the UTV we were fundraising for, which is now in service. Many of the tools and equipment we rely on were made possible through community contributions. Your continued support plays a vital role in helping us serve effectively and safely.

TFD, Inc. operates as a paid-per-call organization. Our members respond to emergencies from their homes or workplaces, dedicating their personal time to serve the community. We are currently seeking additional members to join our team. Individuals 18 yrs. of age or older may apply to become firefighters, and anyone between the age of 16 and 18 may apply as student firefighters.

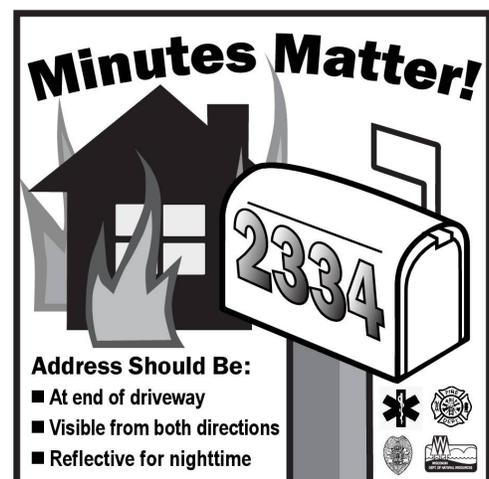
Applicants are not required to reside in the Town of Washington; many of our members live on the south side of the City of Eau Claire. What matters most is commitment to service and a desire to make a positive impact in the community.

Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to visit our website or contact Battalion Chief, Jared Rico at chief20@townshipfire.org.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the Open House.

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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Eau Claire, WI
Permit 203

TOWN STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Administrator:	Janelle L. Henning	715-834-3257
Clerk/Treasurer	Jackie Vold	715-834-3257
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer:	Leesa Malek	715-834-3257
Chairperson:	Robert Solberg	715-829-3138
Supervisors:	Tina Ball	715-577-0003
	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 - Thursday

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM