

Read & Save *TOWN OF BARTON NEWSLETTER 2016*** Read & Save**

This is your only notice - please keep

TREASURER/TAXES – This year we have a temporary treasurer for tax collection, Elaine Gauthier. Please mail your taxes in the enclosed return envelope and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a *receipt returned* to you **or** if you have a refund due. This helps keep our costs and your taxes down. Please note that refunds of under \$2.00 will not be refunded. NO CASH PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Please note: it is the Clerk's hours that are 5-7 pm M-Th and that the Clerk CANNOT process tax payments!

See back for tax collection dates. You are asked to mail your tax and dog payments.

DOG LICENSES – State Law requires dogs to be licensed. You must enclose a **separate check** for dog licenses as the Tax Collection and Dog License Program are two separate data base programs. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope for the license/tag to be returned to you. The deadline to license dogs and kennels is March 31, 2016. After that date, there is a \$5 late fee.

WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS AND SNOW/ICE REMOVAL- Please use caution this winter, and keep in mind that this is a rural area and perfectly clear roads will not always be possible.

Please do not follow plow trucks closer than 200 feet. The State Legislation has made this illegal. Following too close can result in an accident. When approaching the plow truck, SLOW DOWN to a crawl and both vehicles will be able to pass safely.

The Town's roads are plowed by the same contractor as in the past 30+ years. His contract with the town states he has control over when the plows go out. The Washington County Sheriff's Dept. has his number as the first contact person when conditions become icy or too snow covered. Note that a maximum of \$25 will be paid for damaged mailboxes by the snow plow contractor. *Please be aware of your children playing on and in the snow piles within the Right-of-Way, as they may not be visible to the driver when the plow trucks are clearing roads.*

Pushing your driveway snow onto or across a town road, or into the right-of-way is illegal (Wisc. State Stats 82.03, 83.01, 86.01 and 86.022). This may result in a citation per Town Ordinance No. 86-2. The Right-of-Ways need to be kept free of snow piles, rock piles, decorations, new plantings, fences, etc. Any items in the Right-of-Way may be removed by the town at the property owner's expense.

A reminder of the law passed previously REGARDING ATVs and snow removal: legislation has been passed by the State that permits ATVs to be operated along highways with speeds *45 mph or less* for snow removal. There are many requirements for ATV operators under this law. Please go to the web site for a full description in order to avoid citations: dnr.wi.gov and go to the **Recreation tab. Follow the prompts to ATVs and snow removal.**

CHIPPING – This service is only available May through October for residential properties only. The Chipper is operated by Don Maurer. **YOU MUST CALL DON TO HAVE YOUR BRUSH CHIPPED.** Call Don to schedule any chipping (ph 338-8253.) A few rules for the chipping service: please pile branches with the cut ends all laying the same way and spread out enough so as not to create a tangle of branches. The cut ends need to face the road and be approximately 2 ft from edge of pavement and the pile cannot exceed 3 ft in height. Please leave at least 2 ft between the piles. The thickest part of the branch cannot be more than 4 inches in diameter. Please trim any forks on heavy branches so as not to jam the chipper. If these rules are not followed brush will not be removed and property owner will be responsible for removal. If you would like to keep the chips, please inform the men doing the chipping. Otherwise they are taken to the Transfer Station and are available to anyone. If you would like chips, call Don Maurer for availability.

BURNING PERMITS – The Chairman or any Supervisor may issue a burning permit to a property owner in the Town to burn brush, leaves, pine needles, grass, clean wood and unrecyclable paper and cardboard (only these items allowed by State Law). The fire needs to be adequately supervised so it will not spread out of control or endanger life or property. The property owner is to call the Washington County Sheriff's Department's non-emergency number (335-4420) to report that they will be burning and have obtained the required permit. Having a burning permit **does not** release you of responsibility if a fire gets out of control due to carelessness or negligence. In addition to the costs of a careless fire (up to \$3000), **a fine of \$100 for not having a permit will be issued.**

Burning barrels with screen coverings are allowed for burning without a permit. Any out of control fires that result will be charged back to the property owner(s). See above for items allowed to be burned by the Town per state law.

TRANSFER STATION – Winter hours are 12 Noon to 4:00 P.M. on Saturdays November through April. Summer hours are 8:00 A.M. to 12 Noon Saturdays, May through October. A sign is put out a few weeks prior to the change as a reminder.

Loose garbage is not permitted at the Transfer Station, all garbage must be bagged. Only household garbage is accepted. Appliances, furniture, rolls of carpet, electronics and any hazardous waste items are NOT accepted. Please do not use plastic bags for paper/cardboard as they cause problems with the equipment. The Town encourages recycling. Place glass, steel cans, plastic #1 & #2 and aluminum cans in the containers provided by the town for these items. Please **crush or flatten plastics** to save on space – often the bins become too full of recyclables. We encourage everyone to separate their aluminum cans from the other recyclables and place them in the receptacle for the Good Luck 4-H Club. The Club uses this as a fundraiser.

Electronics –The State DNR has a website that answers many questions, and lists businesses that are collection centers for electronics. Electronics are not accepted at the Transfer Station.

****FIRESIGNS**** –Firesigns are to be left alone, **not moved, altered or decorated**. The Town has an ordinance in place authorizing their use and where they are to be located. There is a penalty if the signs are moved or tampered with. These were put in place by the Fire Department for a reason – so that emergency responders could easily locate a residence when called for aide. If yours is damaged or missing, call the Town Hall to request a new one. Please keep the firesign area free of snow, so that they may be visible to emergency personnel. Please remember, firesigns were installed for your family's safety and protection.

TOWN CLERK OFFICE HOURS- *Note: the Clerk cannot process tax payments.*

Mondays – Thursdays 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please call to make sure the Clerk is in, as on occasion it may be necessary to miss office hours.

DEPUTY CLERK OFFICE HOURS – Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

PHONE NUMBERS – TOWN HALL 334-2765

CHAIRMAN DICK BERTRAM – CELL 355-5111

SUPERVISOR MIKE DRICKEN – DAY# 334-1335 10 am to 7:30 pm; HOME 338-6388 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

SUPERVISOR JERRY MEULEMANS – 338-1338

SUPERVISOR DAN MUELLER – 334-8086

SUPERVISOR KRIS TURNER – 338-0815

CLERK AGGIE PRUNER – TOWN HALL 334-2765 (use voicemail if not there)

DEPUTY CLERK – JENNY LENZENDORF- 262-909-0602

TEMPORARY TREASURER ELAINE GAUTHIER – 334-2765

Tax Collection dates: December 18th and 29th 5 to 8 p.m.

January 7, 14, 19, and 26th 5 to 8 p.m.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR STEVE WENDELBORN – 306-9446

BUILDING INSPECTOR – GORDON HOFFMANN – 677-2270

ASSESSOR – GROTA APPRAISALS – 262-253-1142

CHIPPING DON MAURER – 338-8253

MERRY CHRISTMAS & BEST WISHES FOR 2016!

THE BARTON TOWN BOARD