

Town of Washington Messenger

December 2023

I am honored to serve our residents in the Town of Washington as we continue to work together to move our town forward.

2023 was a very interesting, exciting and busy year in the Town of Washington.

Some projects included a Short-Term Rental Ordinance, winning a grant of \$246,938 to be used for new equipment, The Crossings formerly Lake Forest building project of 155 units and additional piers on the lake, new firetruck financing, internet installations, Trex bench recycling program, road resurfacing, and working with the County on a county-wide ambulance program.

Everyone talks about the apathy (lack of interest) of citizens in the democratic process. That does not apply in our Town. Citizen involvement in issues concerning our Town's future has been overwhelming this past year as exemplified by:

- Attending meetings
- Offering opinions and suggestions
- Expressing concerns to the Town Board, County officials and other agencies such as the DNR and state legislators
- Starting a petition and gathering over 2700 signatures to deny the additional piers at The Crossings development

All these initiatives and the participation of the citizens in the Town have been very helpful to the Town Board as we write ordinances and make policy recommendations.

Things may not always work out the way we want them to. The Board values your passion, concern and input.

We welcomed Mike Murray Transfer Station attendant to the Town Crew.

We said goodbye to Katie Hayes and Davey Tomlanovich.

Please remember to check on your neighbors, especially the elderly and disabled during storms and during winter. Also remember to make sure your pets are safe.

Your input is valued, and we look forward to hearing from you. Please try and attend our Town Board meetings and let us know if you would like something added to our meeting agenda. You can reach out to any board member. Their contact information can be found on our website at town-of-washington.org.

On behalf your Town Board, Carole, Art, Nancy, Tiffany and myself, along with your Town Crew Paul, Kevin, Terry, Mike and Rich, we hope you embrace 2024 with an open heart and go forward with faith, hope and courage.

Jim Egan
Town Chairperson

SPECIAL THANKS

This past April, Katie Hayes resigned her position as treasurer for the Town of Washington. A big Thank You to Katie for her six years of service to the Town!

Before resigning, Katie worked with our new treasurer, Tiffany Bolte, to ensure a smooth transition.

Thank you, Katie, for a job well done. We appreciate all your hard work for the Town!



Stay Informed

We send a monthly electronic newsletter
Sign up on our website
town-of-washington.org

HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS WERE SPENT IN 2023

Roads \$542,000
Fire Commission \$127,000
Ambulance Service \$116,000
Transfer Station \$82,000
Olson Memorial Library \$38,000
Airport Commission \$28,000
Chain O'Lakes Safety and AIS \$6,500
General Government \$260,000

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Our grant application for 2024 has been written and submitted. Projects included in the 2024 grant are:

- Spring mailing to all town property owners
- Home Ignition Zone assessments offered free of charge to a portion of Carpenter Lake residents
- Roadside chipping offered free of charge to Carpenter, Deerskin and Finger Lake residents
- Campfire safety education package to all short-term rental properties

The WDNR has fully funded all our CWPP projects. We've been awarded \$71,269

in funding since 2017. There has been no cost to the town!

Special thanks to Laura Hayes, WDNR Wildland Urban Interface Specialist, for her hard work and dedication to facilitating the Town of Washington CWPP.

The brush site is the cornerstone of the CWPP and is loved by our residents. Usage continues to increase each year. This year we averaged 365 visits per month.

Wood chips and compost are available to take at no charge. You are also free to take any firewood you would like.

The brush site shares the same parcel as the town gravel pit. Sand and gravel are present at the gravel pit. Please do NOT take any sand or gravel.

The brush site opening date is weather dependent and will be posted on our website. Closing date is October 31st. Open hours are every Friday at 4PM until Monday at 6AM.

The brush site will be OPEN on Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The brush site regulations are found within this newsletter. It is your responsibility to know and follow the regulations.

KEEPING OUR ROADS IN TIP-TOP SHAPE

The Town of Washington works hard to keep our roads in great shape.

This year, one mile of North Military Rd from Maple to E Anvil Lake Rd was completely rebuilt.

In 2024, we will completely rebuild North Military Rd from Maple to Hwy 70 and overlay Rangeline Rd from Hwy 70 to the intersection with Eagle Waters Road.

Please note that the sand and gravel present at the brush site is not available for residential use. It is for use on town roads.

Special thanks to our road crew, Paul, Terry and Kevin, for clearing our roads and keeping them in great condition throughout the year.

ADOPT A ROAD

We need more volunteers for Adopt a Road! Why not adopt a segment of town road you live near? Help keep it looking clean and beautiful.

If you volunteered for the program in the past, please contact program coordinator Jill Faulkner, and let her know which road segment you covered and if you would like to continue.

The Town provides all the materials and

support. All that is required is for you, or your group, to pick up litter twice a year (spring and fall) on your desired segment of town road. Please consider volunteering!

To volunteer or for more information, please email Jill at Jill.adoptaroad@gmail.com or reach her by phone at 630-750-6563.

Adopt-A-Road applications can be found on our website.

NEW PUBLIC PIER FOR DEERSKIN LAKE

We are pleased to announce that the public boat landing on Deerskin Lake will be getting a new pier in 2024.

The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC) offers grant funding for public recreational access sites on its reservoirs. Deerskin Lake is one of those reservoirs. The grant program is designed to improve existing public recreational access sites.

With the help of Deerskin Lake Association, the Town applied for and received grant funding for a new pier in the amount of \$9,500. The 50/50 cost share will be covered by Deerskin Lake Association.

The new roll-in ADA accessible aluminum pier will have a 6-foot width for greater accessibility, a 6'X 8' ramp, and a heavy duty anti-skid surface.

We are grateful to WVIC for this grant award and their partnership with the Town of Washington.



GRANT FUNDING FOR THE EAGLE RIVER CHAIN BUOYS

The Town of Washington, which coordinates the Eagle River Chain buoy program, was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$7,625 from the Eagle River Tourism Promotion and Development grant.

The Town applied for grant funding to purchase 25 buoy lights and light guards. They were installed this past summer.

There are more than 100 buoys on the Chain. With limited funding from the towns and city, there is insufficient money to replace the buoys and additional financial support is needed to operate the Chain buoy program.

We thank the Eagle River Tourism and Promotion Committee for their partnership and support.

Short-Term Rentals and Room Tax... What You Need to Know

This year there have been a number of changes relating to short-term rental properties and room tax. The Town of Washington passed a Short-Term Rental Ordinance and amended the Room Tax Ordinance. Both ordinances are posted on the Town website Ordinances webpage.

Each short-term rental unit is required to have the following licenses and permits:

- A state of Wisconsin Tourist Rooming House License
- A seller's permit issued by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue
- A Town of Washington Short-Term Rental License

All rentals are subject to the Town of Washington Room Tax Ordinance.

You are required to collect room tax in the amount of 4.5%. The Room Tax Return is remitted to the town Treasurer on a quarterly basis. Failure to pay room tax within thirty days after the due date will result in automatic suspension of the Short-Term Rental License.

If your rental property is handled through Airbnb, VRBO or other marketplace provider, you must register with the Town of Washington and file a quarterly room tax return with the town.

If using a marketplace provider, the owner, when submitting the quarterly room tax report, is required to submit the marketplace provider financial report demonstrating the amount of tax paid to the Township by the marketplace provider on the owner's behalf.

Contact Tiffany Bolte at tbolte.townofwashington@gmail.com for more information or visit our website, Community tab, Rental Property.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANT

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program helps communities plan for and mitigate wildfire risks. The USFS administers this grant.

A grant proposal was written by Carole Linn, a member of our CWPP team, and the Town of Washington was awarded a grant in the amount of \$246,938 with no grant match required. There were more than 400 applications nationwide and only three projects were funded in the northeast-midwest sections of the United States.

This grant focuses on fuels reduction projects which will augment, enhance and expand our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to protect lives, property, and resources from wildfire and provide for public safety.

One component of the program is to increase the public's and emergency

responders' safety through vegetation management on town rights-of-way. This will be accomplished on all 72 miles of town roads rights-of-way through mowing and cutting using a leased new John Deere tractor, boom mower, and swing flail for a total cost of \$212,938. The Town will own the tractor at the end of the lease period. You'll likely see this piece of equipment in use next year.

Another feature of the program is the reduction of hazardous fuels to mitigate fire danger through annual chipping of the town's brush site. Foley Tree Service will chip the brush site and remove the chips at a cost of \$6,800 per year for 5 years for a total cost of \$34,000.

We are grateful for our partnership with the WDNR. Through their support of our CWPP, we were able to take advantage of this federal funding opportunity.

TRANSFER STATION NOTES

The transfer station is running smoother than ever this year. We're fortunate to have such good attendants!

We thank Rich for his commitment and dedication to improving the transfer station. He's always thinking of and implementing new ideas!

Davey resigned earlier this year. We thank him for the excellent job he did and wish him well. We welcomed Mike to the transfer station crew this year.

Thank you all for a job well done!

We participated in the NexTrex Challenge this year. We gathered 500 pounds of plastic bags and sheeting in a 6-month period and were awarded a Trex bench which has been placed at the transfer station. We'll participate in the program next year, so keep bringing your plastic bags to recycle!

In order to ensure only town residents are using the facility, we will continue to check permits EACH TIME you visit. Photos of your permit are not acceptable. You will be turned away without your permit.

Take care not to lose or damage your permit. Replacement permits are subject to a \$40 replacement fee. Contact Tiffany Bolte, Town Treasurer, at tbolte.townofwashington@gmail.com for a replacement.

The metal dumpster, located outside the drive-thru, is for metal only. NO water heaters, lawn mowers, lawn tractors, appliances etc. All items must be placed inside the metal dumpster, not left beside or behind the dumpster.

No carcasses of any kind are allowed at the transfer station. You may bring carcasses to the Highway G Landfill located at 7001 Hwy G, Eagle River. Please stop in the landfill office before proceeding, as carcasses must be buried.

Oils of any kind may NOT be deposited at the transfer station. This includes cooking oil! Highway G Landfill accepts cooking oil for a fee. O'Reilly Auto Parts accepts car oil at no charge.

Cardboard boxes must be flattened and no larger than 2'X2'.

If you're not sure if an item can be brought to the transfer station, please check with Rich or Mike before bringing the item.

Rich and Mike say "thank you" for following the rules!

HELPFUL TAX INFORMATION

- When paying taxes by mail indicate your telephone number on the check. This will ensure payment is properly applied. It also ensures we have a way to contact you if necessary.
- Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your payment if you would like a receipt. Receipts cannot be mailed without the self-addressed, stamped envelope.
- Postmark governs the payment date.
- Mail payments to PO Box 1373, Eagle River, WI 54521
- Payment by credit card is available (for a fee) for the 2023-2024 tax season. Details are available on our town website Taxes page.
- Tax payments for the exact amount only may be made in person at the Peoples State Bank located at 1011 E Wall St.
- Visit the Vilas County website at <https://ascent.vilascountywi.gov/LandRecords/> for payment amount, tax receipt, or copy of your tax bill.
- 2023 tax payments are posted on the Vilas County Treasurer's website.
- Pay taxes with a personal check, cashier's check or money order payable to the Town of Washington.
- Personal property taxes are due in full by January 31, 2024.
- Real estate taxes are due as follows:
 - Full payment or first installment by January 31, 2024 to the Town of Washington Treasurer.
 - Second installment due by July 31, 2024 to the Vilas County Treasurer
- Each year we receive escrow checks in excess of tax due. The town policy regarding these payments is we will refund checks at our next regularly scheduled meeting. The Treasurer cannot endorse an escrow check and return it to the taxpayer. Escrow checks must be used for the payment of taxes only.
- If your mailing address is incorrect, send a signed address change request along with your tax payment.

DRIVEWAY AND FIRE NUMBERS

Prior to construction of any new driveway you MUST complete a driveway permit application.

To obtain a fire number, complete a fire number application issued by Vilas County.

Both the fire number application and driveway permit application can be found on the Forms and Permits page of our website.

For more info contact Nancy Sobraliski, Town Clerk, at 715-479-8886.

DO YOU HAVE A DOG?

Without a current dog license, it would be difficult to identify the owner of a lost dog. As a result, your pet may end up at the Vilas County Animal Shelter.

Licensing your dog is the LAW. Wisconsin State Law requires dogs five (5) months of age or older to be licensed annually. The license year is January 1 through December 31. The license fee is \$5.00 for a neutered or spayed dog, and \$10 for an unneutered or unspayed dog. A late fee of

\$5.00 is due after April 1.

A copy of your dog's current rabies vaccination MUST be included with a separate check made payable to the Town of Washington for the Dog License fee. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for receipt and tags. Mail to Tiffany Bolte, PO Box 1373, Eagle River, WI 54521.

For questions please contact Tiffany Bolte, Town of Washington Treasurer, at 715-891-1271.



*Board meetings are the first Monday of the month.
If there are items you'd like placed on the agenda,
please let any board member know*

PLACING SNOW ON TOWN ROADS

Snow blowing or shoveling snow back into the road is not legal per Wisconsin statute 346.94(5) which states "No person shall place or cause to be placed upon a highway any foreign substance which is or may be injurious to any vehicle or part thereof."

You may not plow snow onto roads, right of way, or your neighbor's property!

Town Contact Info

Jim Egan	Town Chairperson	715-479-2074
Art Granat	Town Supervisor	715-891-2683
Carole Linn	Town Supervisor	715-479-6873
Tiffany Bolte	Town Treasurer	715-891-1271
Nancy Sobraliski	Town Clerk	715-479-8886

Town Shop		715-479-2024
Paul Chlapecka	Town Foreman	715-891-4833
Hoffman Appraisal	Town Assessor	715-536-6236
Melissa McDonald	Animal Control	715-617-1979
RC Inspection	Building Inspector	715-439-4222

2024

TRANSFER STATION AND BRUSH SITE REGULATIONS

TRANSFER STATION SCHEDULE

8AM till 12 Noon

SUMMER May 3, 2024 thru October 7, 2024
Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday

WINTER October 11, 2024 thru April 27, 2025
Friday, Saturday, Sunday

TRANSFER STATION REGULATIONS

- Permit must be shown each time. Photo of permit is not acceptable. No permit, no admittance.
- Transfer station permits are numbered. This number is ASSIGNED TO YOU! If you lend or give your permit to others not entitled to use the Town of Washington Transfer Station you risk confiscation of your permit along with loss of your transfer station privileges.
- If your permit is confiscated for misuse, you will not be issued another.
- The issuance of replacement permits will be limited. Contact Town Treasurer for replacement.
- LOST OR DAMAGED PERMITS ARE SUBJECT TO A \$40 REPLACEMENT FEE.
- Open bed trucks and trailers used to haul garbage or recyclables MUST have loads covered in transit.
- 2 vehicles allowed in drive-thru and side entrance, backing up is prohibited, and walking garbage or recyclables in is not allowed
- These rules and regulations may be subject to change at any time.
- The Transfer Station will be closed on Easter.

Some items NOT ACCEPTED at the Transfer Station are listed below. If uncertain, check with attendant.

Junk automobiles & trucks	Engine blocks & transmissions	Tires, rear ends	Pyrex/heat resistant glass
Computers, printers & monitors	Snowmobiles/PWC's/ATV's	Lawn clippings, leaves, pine needles	Appliances
Mattresses	Furniture	Liquid paint - dry paint is accepted	Concrete
Animal carcasses & hides	Drywall, windows	Demolition materials	Light bulbs/fluorescent bulbs
Electronics of any kind	Asbestos	Doors	Waste chemicals
Propane containers & bottles	Toilets	Oil of any kind including cooking oil	Televisions
Appliance compressors	Carpet	Water heaters	Transformers
Wood	Roof shingles	Cardboard drums	Hazardous waste

BRUSH SITE SCHEDULE

Brush Site opening date is weather dependent and will be posted on the town website and announced via the town electronic newsletter.
Brush site closes October 28, 2024

OPEN HOURS

Every Friday at 4PM till Monday at 6AM

BRUSH SITE REGULATIONS

- The brush site is a service to our residents .
- NO contractor dumping is permitted.
- If you hire a contractor, they must dispose of brush at their customary disposal site, NOT the town brush site.
- You can bring grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, sawdust, branches, brush, limbs, logs or any type of clean wood. NO STUMPS.
- Tree limbs/trunks/logs can be no larger than 12 inches in diameter and no longer than 8 feet in length.
- NO painted or varnished wood, concrete, stones or brick, plastic, or metal is allowed.
- NO NAILS, SCREWS, OR WIRE.
- NO MAN-MADE OBJECTS.
- Please place plastic bags in the container provided.
- Wood chips, firewood, and compost are free to take.
- Sand or gravel is not to be taken.
- Abuse will result in reduced hours or closure.



**No Permit
No Admittance
No Exceptions**

2024 Recycling Guidelines

PAPER, CARDBOARD & CARTONS

Break down all large items to maximize space



Envelopes & Junk Mail



Newspapers



Magazines



Office Paper Products



Phone Books



Flattened Cardboard



Milk & Juice Cartons



Cereal & Food/ Beverage Boxes



Empty Paper Towel/ Toilet Paper Rolls



Hardcover Books (covers removed)

NO WRAPPING PAPER

METAL

Rinse clean

NO E-WASTE, TV'S, COMPUTER ITEMS, BATTERIES



Aluminum & Steel Cans



Aluminum Pie Tins



Empty Aerosol Cans



Clean Aluminum Foil



Small Metal Appliances



Small Plumbing Fixtures & Pipes, Misc. Scrap (limit 2ft x 2ft; 35lbs)



Metal Pots, Pans & Utensils

PLASTIC CONTAINERS

Rinse clean, remove & discard plastic lids & caps

NO PLASTIC BAGS/FILM, STYROFOAM OR SYRINGES



soda, water, ketchup, peanut butter, salad dressing, vegetable oil containers



milk jugs, juice bottles, bleach, detergent, shampoo containers



margarine, yogurt, syrup, sour cream, medicine bottles

Only plastic bottles & containers marked #1, #2 or #5 are recyclable

GLASS

Rinse clean, remove & discard plastic lids & caps

NO WINDOWS, MIRRORS, CERAMICS OR LIGHT BULBS



Brown, green, blue & clear glass bottles & jars

- DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES
- Place all recyclables loose in the recycling bin
- Cardboard boxes must be **FLATTENED** and no larger than 2'X2'
- Place large metal items and scrap metal in the metal dumpster outside the building
- Place plastic bags and plastic film in the NexTrex containers

Only plastics marked #1, #2 and #5 are recyclable

All other plastics should be placed in the garbage dumpster



**No Permit
No Admittance
No Exceptions**