

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Quarterly Newsletter

www.townofrockland.org

SUMMER 2017

Rockland Town Hall

1712 Bob-Bea-Jan Road

Phone: 336-2814

Website: www.TownofRockland.org

Chairman

Dennis Cashman, 336-7814

Supervisors

Alan Lasee, 366-3859

Matt Meeuwsen, 660-9718

Clerk

Julie Koenig, 336-2814

jkoenig@townofrockland.org

Treasurer/Dog Licenses

Mary Van Dyck, 336-5968

Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector

Bob Gerbers, 655-8602

Assessor

Robert Taicher, 863-6454

Planning Commission Secretary

Julie Koenig, 336-2814

Board of Appeals

Frank Hutjens, 336-9359

Town Hall Rentals

Kim Winkler

(920) 309-0765

Harter Fox Valley Disposal

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A Note from the Chairman:



The Town Board inspected all of our roads for possible repairs and maintenance earlier this spring. At the June Town Board meeting, the Town Board decided to sealcoat and wedge the following roads: Old Ledge Drive, Lasee Road, Shirley Road, Moon River Road, Old Martin Road, Ledge Crest Road, Julie Circle, and the roads in the Hickory Ridge Subdivision. Julie Circle will be widened out for better access for garbage trucks, snowplows and vehicle traffic. Several other roads in the town will also have some minor repairs done.

With the 4th of July holiday just weeks away, please be safe with all fireworks, and know the laws on which fireworks you can shoot off legally. Some fireworks require a permit from the town before you use them. Remember, you are responsible for your own actions, not the town.

The Greenleaf Volunteer Fire Department Annual Picnic is Sunday, July 16, 2017 at their park in Greenleaf. This fire department serves over half of our township, so please come out and support this fundraiser. There will be games for all ages, raffles, food and refreshments. This year they'll have chainsaw carving and a country band, Nashville Pipeline at 4:00 p.m. Please help support your volunteer fire department.

Have a great summer and see you at the next town meeting.

Thank you,

Dennis J. Cashman

Hello Rockland residents,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I grew up in DePere and my family and I have lived in the general area ever since. My wife and I moved to Rockland about two years ago and we love being here. We have two adult children and a Great Dane. This is the first time I have held a position in any form of government, so it may take me a bit to get in the swing of things. (Thank you for your patience.) I am taking Vicky's place and those are big shoes to fill, she did an excellent job and I wish her well in retirement. Dennis Cashman and Alan Lasee have been great mentors and I look forward to working with everyone. I base my decisions on what I feel is common sense and I am a pretty straight-forward person, but I am also always willing to listen. I would like to see the town remain as rural as we can be, and that is what I believe the majority of the people want. We didn't move out of the city only to end up in a subdivision and lose the peace and quiet. I know progress and development are inevitable, but I believe it can be done in a slow and reasonable manner. There will be challenges ahead for us as a town to remain rural, so we must make good decisions based on what is best for our vision of the future. I will do my best as a new supervisor and look forward to serving my community.

Thank you,
Matt Meeuwsen



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A Note From Supervisor Alan Lasee...

Hi Friends,

Time flies, it's already June and summer is here. Last month we held our annual Board of Review and Open Book. Our Assessor Bob Taicher must have done a good job because no one appeared before the Town Board to contest their property taxes. Per state law, we must be at close to 100% of actual value and we are. Rockland received our share of the Lambeau sales tax in the amount of \$93,575. The board decided to put \$50,000 towards the loan we took out to pay for the Hickory Ridge drainage project. (\$325,000). The balance will go towards road improvement after our annual road inspection tour. Overall we are in pretty good shape.

On June 5th, I attended the funeral of my friend Duane Tetzlaff. He was our Zoning Administrator for many years; that was when building permits were \$40.00 and you got the permit and went on your way. Later, he became a Town Supervisor. As past Chairman, I appreciated his support and friendship.

Rockland's new Town Clerk Julie Koenig is doing an excellent job. At our last town meeting, we approved the towns liquor license for the De Pere Sportsmen's Club and the Just Stop In bar on Hwy 57. Julie did background checks with the Sheriff's Department and they reported no calls for any problems for the past year; good job by all! The licenses were all approved including a wine and beer license for Scray Cheese Factory.

Lastly, Rockland continues to have one a quarry in operation. It is licensed annually. This helps us regulate and somewhat control any blasting. On May 24th, 26th and May 30th, they did in fact set off charges and so far they appear to be using restraint in the size of the blast.

Have a safe summer.

Alan

Hey Rockland!

Our Town Hall has a wall we'd like to dedicate to Rockland heritage. We're exploring the idea of creating a "where we came from" wall. Drop by the Town Hall with your old photos of early land clearing, road development, farmsteads, etc.

Imagine a picture of kids sledding down Old Ledge Road? I for one have always found it very interesting to see a historical representation of what the land looked like, what hardships the people faced, and how development changed our environment. You will get the photo back as we will make copies and potential enlargements of anything we receive. Any detail you can provide would be fantastic (who, what, when, where, why).

We think this project will take a considerable amount of time to put together, so if there is a volunteer in the community who'd like to oversee the elements of this effort that would be terrific. Be warned, there is no guarantee your photo will be selected as we will decide based on how unique the photo is, how it best fits into the montage, and whether it will reproduce well for our intentions. A final proposal will be presented to the Town Board for their ultimate approval before we actually hang anything on the walls. Submit your photos to me at the Town Hall before November 30, 2017. I can't wait to see what you'll come up with.

Julie



NEWS from Treasurer Mary Van Dyck

Summer 2017 is here. I hope all have a great summer and great vacations. Please be safe and watch for bikers and farm machinery on the roads. This is a busy time for all of us to have fun, but we must be cautious.

Thanks to everyone who came to the recycling day held on April 29th. We collected 31,572 pounds of material. This equals 54 pallets and 21,694 pounds of electronics and 9,878 pounds of appliances. A total of 271 vehicles came and no one waited more than 10 minutes to get unloaded. The 4-H youth and their parents did a fantastic job. Our next recycling day will be in April, 2018.

Dog licenses are still available. Remember all dogs must be licensed. This is a State law. If you do not license your dog, you can be penalized. If your dog happens to get away, and you have a license, your dog will be returned very easily with the new dog license system. To get a dog license, just send the form that is on the Town of Rockland website to me and the fee for the license. I will return your license to you as soon as I get the application and fee.



A few reminders about garbage and recycling in the town. Put garbage out by the road by 6:00 on Monday morning. Please have the lid opening to the road. Also on recycling day, put garbage and recycling containers at least 4 feet apart. PLEASE take containers back to the house ASAP— do not leave them at the road. If they get hit or are destroyed, you will be charged for a new container. We want to keep our town clean and neat, so if your garbage tips over, please pick up the mess.



Have a great summer and remember the Brown County Fair is August 16 – 20. Anyone can enter the fair. Consider entering your favorite cookies, quilt, or homemade wine or beer. Just go to browncountyfair.com and click on Exhibitor Handbook to see all that can be entered. Use the entry form provided on the website and enter today. It is a lot of fun.

<http://browncountyfair.com/exhibitor-handbook.php>

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A hearty hello!

Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me into the Town of Rockland Clerk's position. On March 6th, I began training for this position and was sworn in as clerk the day of the Annual Meeting. I was blessed to have Jann show me how she conducted your business and my hope is that you'll find the transition to be seamless. You can expect to find me in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and Monday—Thursday afternoons till 2:30. I can also meet by appointment. If you drop by and I'm not there, please leave a message on the office phone at 336-2814 or email me at jkoenig@townofrockland.org. I will do my level best to assist you in your needs.

I live in the De Pere area with my husband Bart and our children, Ben, Kate, and Megan. The two youngest attend De Pere High School and the oldest will be starting her third year at UW— Eau Claire studying Marketing and Spanish.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you. I hope to see you soon!

Julie Koenig

ATV Use on Town Roadways

Over the past few weeks, I've been asked numerous times about the ATV ordinance here in Rockland. I've done some research, talked with the local Sheriff's office and checked our Ordinance Code.

All-terrain vehicle and utility terrain vehicle riding is a growing sport in Wisconsin. Along with the privilege of enjoying the sport comes the responsibility of making sure you are operating these vehicles safely and responsibly. ATV and UTV operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 who are at least 12 years old for ATV (and at least 16 years old for UTV) must complete an ATV and UTV safety certification course in order to operate on public

ATV/UTV trails and areas in Wisconsin. DNR recreational safety specialists recommend all ATV and UTV operators complete a safety course.

ATVs cannot drive on public streets and should not use connected space such as ditches or shoulders. In addition to bans on ATV use on public roads, the state also does not permit common street use of dirt bikes and similar off-road vehicles. However in the case of ATVs, the state does allow for some sharing of the road. ATV operators are allowed on the road in the following situations:

- When a road is not maintained for adverse conditions or seasonal obstructions
- When crossing a bridge on a route designated for use by ATV
- With permission on private property (like driveway)
- For agricultural use: Minimum age for agricultural use of an ATV on a roadway is age 12 with a safety certificate
- Minimum age for agricultural use of a UTV on a roadway is age 16 with a safety certificate



While Rockland is primarily a rural community, it remains illegal to ride an ATV, UTV, golf cart or dirt bike on any town road. The Town of Rockland Planning Commission and I had a discussion recently where we investigated what would be required to build a trail system. Simply put, the town does not have the resources required to build, sign, promote, maintain or enforce such a trail system.

Fortunately, there are many property owners who have ample acreage to run these vehicles for ag use or for their own enjoyment. In other more urban areas of Rockland, neighbors are encouraged to work together to allow access to rideable areas without using town roads. However, please respect your neighbor's right to decline. Also be reminded that the Town of Rockland has a noise ordinance.... "To prohibit noises which are unnecessary, excessive, annoying, prolonged, or unusually loud in relationship to their time or place". And remember, the Fox River Trail does not permit motorized vehicles of any kind.

These vehicles can be very handy and fun when used safely and within the law. Please be sure to use these rules to keep your loved ones safe and your neighbors happy.

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