

Summer 2020

Quarterly Newsletter

www.townofrockland.org

1712 Bob-Bea-Jan Road

De Pere, WI 54115

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Town Board inspected our roads in the month of May for possible repairs and maintenance with Scott Construction. The Board decided to sealcoat and wedge the following roads/sections of roads: Old Military, Old Martin, Big Valley, Ledge Crest, Ledgeview, Wanie and Bildings. The following roads have small repairs on them: East Blake, River Oaks, Moon River and Goldust.

We are trying a new product on Silver Quail; it's a single hot oil Blackstone seal coat from Scott Construction. It's still a chip seal product, but it will be a black color when finished. Our list consisted of five other town roads, but there is not enough money in this year's budget for them.

We also changed out two culverts on School Road and two culverts on Midway Road. All four will come out of our bridge fund with a 50-50 match from Brown County. The culverts must be at least 36 inches in diameter to qualify for the bridge fund match.

This spring, we accepted the low bid from Highway Landscapers for the extension of the two - five foot diameter culverts on Old Martin Road. Weather permitted, the project should be finished in two weeks. This project will also come out of our bridge fund.

The 4th of July holiday is only a couple weeks away. Please know the laws on which fireworks you can shoot off legally. Some fireworks require a permit with a signature from the Town Chairman. The permits are supplied by the fireworks vendor. You are responsible for your own actions, not the town.

Thank you, Dennis J. Cashman

Rockland Town Hall
Clerk Julie Koenig 336-2814
jkoenig@townofrockland.org
Chairman
Dennis Cashman 336-7814
Supervisors
Alan Lasee 366-3859

Matt Meeuwsen 660-9718

Treasurer/Dog Licenses
Mary Van Dyck 609-1478
Zoning Administrator/Building
Inspector
Bob Gerbers 655-8602
Assessor
Robert Taicher 863-6454
Plan Commission Secretary

Julie Koenig 336-2814

Board of Appeals
Frank Hutjens 336-9359
Town Hall Rentals
Julie Koenig 336-2814
Harter Fox Valley Disposal
Garbage and Recycling Service
1-888-804-8556

Are you ready to vote?

MYVOTE.WI.GOV has been improved. There is a new functionality that will show you when your absentee ballot has been mailed, and when it has been received back at the clerk. You must first be registered to vote, so check to verify that you are. Then you can request a ballot for this election or for the remainder of 2020. Or if you prefer, call Julie with any questions you might have (336-2814). Note: you must apply each year for absentee ballots, and the request must include an acceptable photo ID. In person absentee voting is available after July 27th during clerk's hours 9:30-2:30 Mon, Tues & Thurs, and by appointment. Late hours are available on Mon, Aug 3 and Thurs, Aug 6 until 7:00 pm. Please plan ahead if you wish to vote absentee.

ATV Use in Rockland

Hi everyone—so far so good with the use of ATVs. Here are a few reminders to keep everyone, including those we love, safe.

Operators must be 16 years of age with a DNR-issued ATV safety certificate AND a Drivers license. Anyone younger than 18 must be wearing a helmet.

Max speed is 35 MPH, or less if the speed limit on that road is less. County roads and State Highways are off limits. Ride single file on the extreme right side of the pavement, not on the shoulders or in the ditches. It is never ok to ride on private property without the owner's consent. Headlamps and tail lamps must be turned on at all times. Passengers are not permitted on ATVs

All vehicles must meet DNR definitions for ATV or UTV, and display registration decals. Vehicles strictly used for agricultural purposes must display a private-agricultural decal. Noise is restricted to less than 96 decibels.

In no case may an ATV or UTV be in use after 11:00 pm or before 5:00 am. In no instance is it permittable to be driving an ATV or UTV under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

It is our intention to keep Rockland safe and still allow for rural use of the ATVs. If everyone abides by these conditions, there will be many more years of ATV use in our future. Thank you!

Hi Folks,

Finally nice weather has arrived. I think everyone's sump pump got a real workout this year. We all had to stay home and listen to them turn on an off during the COVID-19 stuff. Don't know about you but I'm ready to get out and move around a bit. Hope a vaccine is near. In Rockland, we've had several meetings which our citizens attended. Our clerk Julie Koenig did a good job arranging chairs so as to help people stay 6 ft apart. The annual meeting last month and then last week a rezone request drew nearly 50 people. Rockland has received a request to allow creation of a new subdivision of some 30 new homes located on the north side of Highway W, where 2 large ponds were built years ago. Neighbors near and far expressed their feelings both for and against it. This plan would see about the same number of homes that we've had in the last 5 year combined. That alone, causes some concern. We all appreciate Rocklands slow "controlled "growth over the years. Rain water diversion is also of great concern. The board will most certainly require changes and hopefully reduce the size of the development. It's a long way from final approval.

One other issue, we are repairing the 2 large culverts under Old Martin Road by the Equestrian Center. Last year, we put the job out for bids and only one bid was received for \$138,500. We rejected it, waited till this spring and asked for new bids. The lowest was \$76,375 at quite a savings for our taxpayers. We can give a BIG thank you to Mike Wiers and Ervin Hutjens who cleared the trees and lots of the brush from the site, also thanks to Mike, for letting the contractor use his land to access the project and do the needed repairs at the site—good neighbors to have in our town.

On June 15th, a quick storm hit parts of Rockland. It took down a very large tree at the intersection of Old Military and Midway Roads and also a tree on Big Valley Road. I met chairman Cashman and his trusty chainsaw with my tractor to clear Big Valley, then we went over to Midway Road. With the help of Jerry Ley, a skid steer and his tractor we cleared that road. A BIG thank you to Jerry, another good neighbor in Rockland. Also a large trailer was blown over on the Mike Mashel property just east of CTH PP. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

Lastly, food for thought, "Life is a lot easier when you plow around the stumps" and "every path has a few puddles". Warmest Regards Alan Lasee



Summer is a great time to check your well pipe to ensure that the grade of soil around your pipe slopes away from the well pipe in all directions for a couple feet or more.

There should be no gaps between the pipe and the ground. Gaps would allow contaminants to flow directly to the groundwater.

A note from the Clerk:

We've all been very busy around here; when I say we, I mean Planning Commission, the Board of Appeals, the Town Board, the Building Inspector, the Treasurer, the Election Inspectors and myself. It takes an community to make a government work. When people volunteer their time to represent their community, and enforce the guidelines set forth by the Rockland Code of Ordinances, it is a beautiful thing because the work can be exhausting. Everyone is doing the best they can to be sure all the rules are being followed. The number of hours of work put in before each meeting or election can be grueling, and yet these people come to every meeting or every election prepared and ready to meet the challenges put before them. COVID was definitely a challenge. Rockland is blessed to have caring individuals work for the community. I know it's easy to take for granted that work will continue to be done—it doesn't just happen by itself. If you see someone who works on behalf of Rockland, thank them.

It will go a long way.

Hello Rockland residents,

I hope everyone is managing as well as can be expected in this unfortunate time in our history. Things have changed so much and getting back to normal may be difficult, but we will get there. There have been some topics at our meetings lately that have been a challenge to work through and ensure we are doing the right thing for the community.

Government needs to be there for the people, all the people, and making the best decisions for all is what we strive for. The decisions that are made affect all the people in the town, and we take that into careful consideration. Some of the decisions are not going to be popular with some in our town and I understand that. These are not easy decisions and I want to hear both sides of the discussion before I do make a choice. There will be changes happening in town and we need to manage them as best we can because if we do not, the city will do it for us. I don't think any of us will be happy if that takes place.

I wanted to thank our clerk Julie and everyone that worked on the election. We had a fantastic turnout and won the Project Vote trophy! It takes a ton of effort behind the scenes to have it go as smoothly as it did. Thanks again to everyone, it is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, a quick reminder that there are some wild parsnips in the area; be careful not to touch it, as it will blister and burn your skin. I hope everyone has a good summer.

Matt Meeuwsen





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Hey Rockland,

Did you know you can rent the Town Hall for \$75/day, with a \$100 security deposit (refundable*). The Rockland Town Hall is a great venue for get togethers, grad parties and showers and even small weddings. With seating and tables for up to 150 people, a stove and refrigerator, we can accommodate parties too large for your home.

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Construction Projects: Please be reminded to get your permits before your building or landscaping project. Permit fees double when taken out after the fact. It's always better to call first and ask questions before you start your project. You could save big money by getting in contact with our Building Inspector, Bob Gerbers.

You can reach him by email at bgerbers@townofrockland.org, or by cell phone at 655-8602.

IMPORTANT DATES:

parking make the town hall a very appealing venue for any resident

hosting a party. Reserve your date

today. *conditions apply

July 9, Planning Commission meets 7:00 pm

July 22, last day to register online or in mail for the Aug 11 primary

July 27, First day of in-person absentee voting for August election

August 3, evening in-person absentee voting until 7:00 pm

August 6, evening in-person absentee voting until 7:00 pm

August 6, the last day prior to election that an absentee can be mailed.

August 11, Fall Primary Election 7:00 am—8:00 pm Town Board Meetings: 1st and 3rd Mondays ea.

SUMMER NEWS From Treasurer Mary Van Dyck

I hope everyone is doing well in these troubling times. I pray all may be well soon and that we can all get back to a little more normal life; just hoping that school may start again in the fall.

Just a reminder that garbage and recycling bins should be put out by 6:00 AM on Monday morning. I know a lot of you put your bins out on Sunday. That is fine but the later, the better. When it is windy and raining, bins fly open and garbage flies out. Then our ditches become full of garbage. Let's try to keep Rockland clean. Also remember that you are not allowed to put grass clippings in your garbage. No lumber or siding are allowed in your garbage. Tree branches are not allowed in the garbage. Also make sure the opening of the garbage container faces the road. When it is garbage and recycling day, make sure the containers are at least 4 feet apart so the trucks can pick up the containers without knocking them over. Keep up the good work that you are doing. Rockland has received a grant of \$2408.00 in 2020 to help pay for the cost of recycling. We were able to get this grant because Rockland has been in compliance with the rules and weights that the State sets.

DOG LICENSES

Thank you to all that have obtained their dog licenses already. With COVID-19, dog licenses can still be obtained without a penalty. The fee is \$5.00 for a neutered or spayed dog; \$10 for a dog not neutered or spayed. Please fill out the application and send a check to Mary Van Dyck, 2185 Deer Point Lane, De Pere, WI 54115. The application is on the Rockland website. Remember it is a State law that you license your dog. The license also helps us find the owner when a dog gets away. I know no one wants to lose their dog, but sometimes it happens. If the dog has the tag on, we look up the number and call the owner for a quick return. The tags on the dog are so important. In the Town, about once a month a stray dog is found. If the tags are on, we can find the owner even if the dog belongs to someone in another township.

2020 Census

Please take the time to complete your census information. Federal dollars are disbursed to communities based upon the population count. If we are under reported, our communities in Brown County could receive up to \$1300 less of federal money per resident. This money comes in the way of federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

The invitation should have arrived by April 1st. Please respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone or by mail. Report all who lived in your home as of April 1, 2020. Thank you!

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