



Winter 2023

Quarterly Newsletter
 www.townofrockland.org
 1712 Bob-Bea-Jan Road
 De Pere, WI 54115

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the November 6th, 2023 Special Meeting of the Electors, the electors approved the 2023 Town Tax Levy to be paid in 2024 of \$617,733. That means the tax rate will stay at \$2.75 per \$1,000 of valuation. This is the third year in a row keeping our tax rate at \$2.75. With rising prices of everything, it's getting harder to keep our tax rate at that level without going up. I would like to thank the Town Board for working together to keep expenses under check all year long.

Speaking of taxes and assessments of properties, in 2024 Rockland will have a "Market Revaluation" done on properties in our town. Fair Market Assessments, Inc. will do the project; they are also our Town Assessor. They will be upgrading their files with new pictures and measurements of buildings. They will be starting this month and go into next year.

We applied for a grant through the T.R.I.P. Program for Ryan Road to help costs on resurfacing the roadbed. We were accepted and will receive almost \$17,000. Not a lot, but it helps.

With winter almost here, so is plowing of our town roads. Once again Carter Trucking will be plowing our roads. Do not push snow across the road from your driveway or leave piles of snow on the edge of the roadway or in the roadway. This is unsafe for drivers and plow trucks. This directly violates Wisconsin State Statute 86.01 and Sec 346.94(5). If you have any questions or issues on snow plowing, please call me or one of the supervisors!

Rockland Town Hall

Clerk Julie Koenig 920-336-2814
 jkoenig@townofrockland.org
Chairman

Dennis Cashman 920-336-7814
Supervisors

Alan Lasee 920-366-3859

Matt Meeuwsen 920-660-9718

Treasurer/Dog Licenses

Mary Van Dyck 920-609-1478

Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector

Bob Gerbers 920-655-8602

Fair Market Assessments

1-920-468-9698

Plan Commission Secretary

Julie Koenig 920-336-2814

Board of Appeals

Frank Hutjens 920-336-9359

Town Hall Rentals

Julie Koenig 920-336-2814

Harter Fox Valley Disposal

Garbage and Recycling Service

1-888-804-8556

Fire Dept: non-emergency (920)

GrL: 639-6939; Morr 676-3203

Continued from page 1

Remember..... SNOW means SLOW!!! Enjoy the upcoming winter season and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

Thank you,

Dennis J. Cashman



Hello Rockland Residents,

I hope everyone had some time to enjoy the fall weather. Christmas and Holiday celebrations are almost here so it's a great time to think about some of the hazards that can unexpectedly arise and take the fun out of the season.

Christmas tree fires can quickly get out of control so be sure to water them everyday and if you notice needles are dropping off in large numbers, it may be time for the tree to go away. Check over the light strings on the tree and any on the exterior of your home. If the cords are cracked or frayed, don't use them. There are many options with new LED lights that do not generate as much heat as older lights do. It's easy to walk away from items cooking on the stove or a candle burning but always try to keep them in view so any issues can be handled quickly. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns and keep them on a non-combustible surface such as a stove top.

There are many ash trees that have died due to the emerald ash borer so be sure that there isn't one waiting to fall on someone, a vehicle or structure. If you take a tree down do not place the brush in a ditch or drainage area. We all count on the water flowing well so that it doesn't cause flooding or any other issues. We have the ditches cut twice a year and we don't need any additional debris in the way.

Happy holidays to everyone,

Matt

TAX COLLECTING FOR 2023-2024

Again this year I will be collecting the taxes for the Town of Rockland. You can pay by mail, or I will be at the Town Hall from 8:30 – 4:30 on December 18, 19, 21, 27, 28, or 29. I will also be at the Town Hall in January. Those dates are January 30 and January 31 from 8:30 – 4:30. If you want a receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. The address to send the taxes by mail is Town of Rockland, 1712 Bob Bea Jan Rd., De Pere, WI 54115.

I will only be accepting checks or cash. If you want to pay with a credit card, you must do that on line. My preference is a check. Thank you.

Your tax bill should arrive around December 8. If you do not receive it by December 15, please call the County Treasurer Office at 920-448-4074 to check where it is. Every year there are bills that get lost in the mail. It is your responsibility to pay taxes on your property.

When you receive your bill, look it over. If your home in the Town of Rockland is your primary residence, make sure you have a lottery credit on the bill. It is up to you to claim the lottery credit. You only need to claim the lottery credit once. Then every year it should be on your tax bill.

I am also accepting dog license applications. You may pay your dog license by mail with your taxes or in person on the dates listed. Dog licenses are due by April 1, 2024. The form to fill out is included in this newsletter.

If you have any questions, please call me at 920-609-1478. I am happy to help anyone out with their concerns.

Wishing everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your new year be full of warmth and happiness.

From Treasurer Mary Van Dyck

Burning yard waste?

Chief Mark DeCleene of Greenleaf can be reached at (920) 639-6939 or (920) 864-2200. In Morrison, the Chief is Jeff Pischke. Jeff can be reached at the same (920) 676-3203. If you are doing any kind of rubbish or ditch burning, please give them a call to verify conditions are safe and to give them a heads up in case they get calls regarding the smoke, etc. If it will be a sizeable fire, please also call Brown County Sheriffs Non-emergency number 920-391-7450.

Garbage and recycling news

Please keep in mind that winter and snow is coming and will continue for a couple months. Remember when you set out your garbage and recycling bins for Monday pick up if snow is forecast, the snowplow drivers need to clear the roads. If at all possible put your bins out in the morning. If you put them out at night, remember to have them in your driveway so the plows can do their job of clearing the town roads. Take your bins in as soon as possible so the plows can do their job if snow is forecast during the day. Maybe even remember your garbage man at Christmas with a little gift; he is doing an excellent job for us.

Keep up the good work that you are all doing for us in the Town with garbage and recycling. We have met the weights that the State sets for us. We again are receiving a grant to help pay for the recycling pick up in our Town. It is a small portion of the cost, but something is better than nothing.

Remember that you cannot put building materials in your garbage bin and you cannot put plastic bags in the recycling bin. If you have big items, Harter's picks them up, but you must call them. They will give you a date when they are coming into the Town for big items. If your bin is broken, call Harter's. They do fix them if possible or give you a new one. Harter's phone number is 1-888-804-8556.

Our next Cyber Green day is April 13, 2024. It will be from 8 – noon. On this day you may bring washers, dryers, stoves, freezers, TV's, computers, and much more. It is a day where anything with a plug is recyclable. Some items have a fee. Watch for a flyer on the website in February for more information.

Election Information

Per Wisconsin Law, Absentee Applications for elections must expire at the end of every year, and as a result if you wish to have absentee ballots sent to you, you will need to reapply for the 2024 election year. Currently there are three scheduled elections with a possible primary in February. If you wish to receive ballots by mail for all elections, please be sure to check the box for the current calendar year.

You can also go to myvote.wi.gov to request this. If you haven't used this process in the past, please know that you MUST attach a photo of your photo ID (Drivers License for most of us). Your request will not be processed if you don't have an ID on file. Please contact me if you need help. Thank you, Julie Koenig



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EAST RIVER WATER QUALITY

There is a group working with the town's planning commission to help alleviate flooding potentials along the East River as it runs through the Town of Rockland. Many of you have properties along the East River or its tributaries. If you are interested in adapting some of your acreage to help hold and settle flood waters, please reach out to me at the Clerk's office email or stop by. There could potentially be a community meeting around this and at this time we're simply measuring interest. Thank you.



Hey Rockland,

Did you know you can rent the Town Hall for \$100/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. We can support your gathering with lots of tables and chairs and a full kitchen. We can accommodate parties too large for your home. Our new rental terms and ample parking make the town hall a very appealing venue for any resident hosting a party. A portion of your security deposit will be withheld if the hall is not cleaned properly or returned to meeting set up.

Reserve your date today. *conditions apply

Town Clerk Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-2:30, though hours may vary

Or please leave a message at 920-336-2814 or email jkoenig@rocklandbrownwi.gov

Hello Rockland friends,

I can't believe how fast this year 2023 has gone by. But all in all, its been a pretty good year here in our little township; world wide not so much.

We recently set the town budget for next year and we all worked to keep Rocklands' share of taxes stable. We did get hit with a increased expense of over \$30,000 in fire protection between the two fire departments.

The State of Wisconsin says we must re-value all property in our town. The law says we must be within 10% of true value. Currently, the state says we are at 86% of what all property is worth here. We are allowed only three years of non-compliance and then a re-evaluation must be done. This is the second consecutive year of being out of range, likely due to the inflated market. Therefore, our new Rockland assessor will revalue everyone's property . If we don't do it the state will step in and do it. Most everyone's property value will see an increase. Your full town board is committed to then lowering the tax rate per thousand to avoid a huge increase. We have no control over what the school districts levy or the county's share of taxes.

On that note, nearly two thirds of Rockland is in the De Pere School District; the rest is in the Wrightstown District. The De Pere School Board is currently proposing a \$ 206.6 million dollar building program which will definitely increase your property bill. I find it hard to believe at a time when Green Bay Schools are closing 8 buildings because of lower number of children per family, etc. that our school needs this degree of expansion. I think that our school board needs to rethink this excessive plan.

You need to get involved by contacting school board members and let them know what you think.

On a lighter note, if you think you are a person of importance, try ordering someone else's dog around.

Keep smiling, warmest regards,

Alan Lasee Supervisor

Important Dates:

Town Board Meetings: 1st and 3rd Mondays ea. month

Planning Commission: (usually 2nd Thursday of ea. month) please check the calendar on the website

Tax Collection dates at town hall: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on December 18, 19, 21, 27, 28 and 29 and Jan 30 & 31.



Rockland Dog License for 2024

All dogs must be licensed according to state law and there are no exceptions. The fee for a kennel license is \$40.00. Anyone with 3 or more dogs needs to get a kennel license. **If you get a kennel license, there is no additional fee for each dog.** The fee for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5.00. The fee for a male or female dog is \$10.00. Please fill out the following form for each dog that you have. Also include a copy of the dogs rabies shots. Dog licenses are due by **April 1, 2024**. Return the form to Mary Van Dyck, 2185 Deer Point Lane, De Pere, WI 54115. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope and your check made out to the Town of Rockland.

Name of dog _____ Phone number _____

Name of dog owner _____

Address _____

Breed _____ Color _____

Chip No. if available _____

Male _____ Female _____ Neutered _____ Spayed _____

Date of Rabies shot _____ Expiration Date _____

Include copy of vaccination record

Construction Projects: Please be reminded to get your permits before your building, solar panel 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 \$\$\$ 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.

If you have been approached by a wind turbine company, please do your research. Glen Schwalbach has been on the front lines of legislation and land owner rights. It is worth your time to consult with him prior to signing anything the company might offer. Please reach out to him at 920-680-2436.

ROCKLAND 4-H NEWS

The 4-H Club participated in the De Pere Christian Outreach program for buying Christmas gifts for less fortunate families in the De Pere area. Members went to Wal-Mart on a Saturday morning and each family was given a budgeted amount of 4-H money to shop for items to add to the Outreach Program. Members picked out items they would have liked and/or some really good deals. Seventeen families participated in the shopping experience. Gifts were sorted by age, tickets removed and were delivered later that week. Money used was profits from our horse show food stands during the summer at Creekview Stables. In early December, we will be baking about 85 dozen cookies, frosting, decorating and sorting for Friends of 4-H in Rockland, grandparents and other families. So, if you hear a knock at your door by a young 4-H member, hopefully you will



enjoy some really good decorated cut out sugar cookies. Our December 4-H meeting will be our Christmas party. We will be sorting out and packaging our cookies, playing Christmas Bingo, and eating pizza.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season from the Rockland 4-H Club.

PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES! THANK YOU!

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