



# Farmington Town Hall Newsletter

Issue 2

www.farmington-waupaca.com Fall-Winter 2009

**Fall** means leaves! What should I do with them? Please remember the burning permit rules. Call 1-888-WIS-BURN or check DNR website to confirm daily burning restrictions for our county. Contact: **Wisconsin Vets Home** 11am-1pm & 6pm-8pm &/or **Ken & Jill Vergauwen** E1022 State Hwy 54. Burning permits are required January 1 through May 31. You can also take your leaves to the **Waupaca Regional Recycling & Compost Center** 601 Lakeside Pkwy (Cty K) at 258-9838. Yard hours: Monday 12-6pm. Friday 7am-4pm. Saturday 7am-5pm. Let's talk about the Recycling Center. Did you know that separation of recyclables from garbage is mandatory in Waupaca County and the State of Wisconsin?

The Recycling Center offers a "Pay-By-The-Bag" garbage service. This program enables you to pay only for the garbage you produce instead of paying a flat rate no matter how much you have. At the Recycling Center, you pay only \$1.50 to dispose of a **CLEAR bag (maximum size 35 gallon; maximum weight 30 lbs.)** of garbage. You will need to wrap an **orange trash tag** around the neck of each clear plastic bag. Tags are available in sheets of 5 at a cost of \$7.50 per sheet from the following retailers: Pick'n Save, Piggly Wiggly, JR's Waupaca True Value Hardware, Waupaca Parks & Recreation (School St.) and Waupaca City Hall. Farmington Town Hall also has trash tags available for purchase. Recycling is

free! Each recyclable item has a specific bin or dumpster at the Center. Waupaca County also has the **Processing & Transfer Facility (PTF)** (for recyclables, solid waste, hazardous waste and other special wastes) at E4981 Swan Road, Manawa - 920-596-5370. Their hours are: Mon.-Fri. 7am-3pm; Sat. 7am-11am (11/1-4/30) and Sat. 7am-1pm (5/1-10/31). For further information, contact the **Waupaca County Solid Waste & Recycling Dept. At 715-258-6240.**

**For new residents:** Town of Farmington does not contract with any private company for garbage/recyclable removal.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Winter snow news:

The snowplows will be out as usual, but should you have any road issues, contact Chairman Trinrud at 715-281-4803. Please remember that your cautious driving is imperative to everyone's safety.

**Did you know** that Waupaca County has over 400 miles of well-groomed snowmobile trails? Maps are available at the **Courthouse Park & Recreation Department** on first floor. **John Anderson** (715-258-8472) heads up the County Line Trailblazers. He and the Waupaca County Snowmobile Assoc. Inc. want everyone to know that "the land in this area is privately owned. By their kindness, these private landowners have

(continued on pg.2)

allowed them to build snowmobile trails across their property. This permission is for snowmobile trails only. Snowmobiling any place else on their land is trespassing. If you trespass, you will be reported to the Law Enforcement Authorities. You will be fined and may also be sued for trespassing and damages by the landowner. The Association builds, marks and grooms snowmobile trails for your convenience. You may ride on them at your own risk, but PLEASE observe these rules: **stay on marked trails; don't trespass; keep off open fields; don't litter; stay away from private buildings; never cut fences; keep noise down; don't ride trails in thawing weather; protect small tress, shrubbery, etc.; respect other people's property.**

Waupaca County is divided into 6 zones. Farmington township is in zone 5. To find out which zones are open or closed, call either Parks & Recreation Dept at 715-258-6243 or Country Inn at 715-258-2901 or visit [www.waupacacountyparks.com](http://www.waupacacountyparks.com) for more information. "Happy Trails to You!"

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Chain O'Lakes** becomes busy during the winter with ice fishermen, walkers and cross country skiers. Snowmobilers and other vehicular drivers, PLEASE observe safety conditions and keep your distance. Happy winter!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Farmington** township is also home to the Waupaca segment of the **Ice Age Trail** which starts within Hartman Creek State Park, running

north of the park to Indian Valley Road, and south of the park through the Emmons Creek Fish Hatchery and Wildlife Area. The segment is part of the 1,000-mile National Scenic Ice Age Hiking and Skiing Trail. Trail is for **hiking, snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing - no biking.**

The Ice Age Trail is closed during deer gun season. Maps are available at the Parks & Recreation Dept in the courthouse. You can also visit the website [www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org) or call 715-258-6243 or 1-800-227-0046 for local contact information.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Road Updates:**

**Pryse and Otter** had major uplifting to ensure safe driving conditions. We also had work done to Larson, Hartman Creek, Nelson, Lamplighter, Pebble Run, Fawn Ridge and Covered Bridge. This is the start of our 3-5 year plan to maintaining the township roads. Cobbtown bridge will also be involved with a major reconstruction this fall and beginning again next spring into summer. Future plans call for work on Hwy Q from Round Lake Rd to Hwy 54 as well as Oakland Dr. Road maintenance is a top priority for the township, using close to 50% of our tax dollars.

**Winter snowplow** contract went to Faulks Bros. Construction, Inc.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Waupaca Recycling Compost Commission** meeting was held August 20, 2009. "Pay By the Bag" garbage program has been very successful. The outlining Townships have been asked to be additional "point of sale" locations for the trash tags. Farmington will start selling

(continued on pg.3)

Trash tags - \$1.50 for one; \$7.50 for a sheet of five, effective September 22, 2009. These are available at the Town Hall – hours M-F 8am-1pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Waupaca Park and Recreation Senior Center News:**

At the August Park & Recreation Board Committee meeting, a suggestion was made to start charging non-resident senior citizens fees for specific senior recreational programs. This includes our Town of Farmington seniors. Supervisor Joel Bartel is the Town representative who voted against this decision based on the following reasons: 1) The Township provides money for youth programs. 2) The Park & Recreational Dept. is currently under budget for the 2009 year. 3) Today’s economy plus future expenditures may provide hardships for our seniors. Teri Moe, Senior Coordinator, is against all membership/user fees & will continue to make the Senior Center available & affordable. At the time of this printing, this suggestion of a user fee has been tabled for further evaluation.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Your Tax Bill**

As your tax assessor, I will try to explain the tax bill that you get every December. There are many factors that make up the bill you receive. Many of the amounts you pay are out of the Town Boards control. I have included two sample bills from the town to try & show what I am speaking about. One bill is from the lake property and one from a property that is off the lake.

When you look at item “A” on the tax bill you will notice that if your property is on the lake or not, the percent of change is the same. Unless you made an improvement in that year, or removed a structure, that will be the same for every property in the Township. The only additional tax amount in the two bills is if you are in

the Lake Sanitary District. Items “B” through “E” are the items that your Town Board has no control over the amount you pay. All of those amounts are determined by their budget & are based on the equalization formula that State of Wisconsin arrives at. That ratio is made up of the past years sales & the assessed value of the sold properties. Being I have used a 2007 bill for reference, you will note, that the ratio is .759220. What that means is the properties that sold are selling at 25% above what they are assessed at. Once the ratio amount drops below 80%, we must reassess within the next four years.

The last item that we receive many questions on is the assessed value & fair market value. The taxes you pay are based on assessed value, not fair market value. The fair market amount is what the State uses to adjust the taxes between taxing bodies in a given School District, County, State and Fox Valley Tech. Your tax bill is a total of all budgets that all of the above government units have. Once they arrive at a budget for the year, it is divided by the total value of each taxing entity. Using this figure, your Town Board then must arrive at a mill rate. A mill rate is the amount per thousand of value you have to pay in taxes. This is found as item “F”.

I do realize this is not a very easy system to understand, however, this is the system we work with. I do hope that this gives you some idea as to why we must do a revalue every few years and what makes up your tax bill.

Whenever you have a question regarding anything about your taxes, please feel free to call me and I will try & answer your questions. I do believe the largest part of my position is to answer taxpayer’s questions. Even though I am not always in my office, if you leave a message I will return your call.

**James Stephens, Central Assessors  
715-258-9255**

[Type text]