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**Town of Brooklyn 2010 Newsletter**

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**State of the Town:**

2009 has been a year of up's and down's for the Town. The Town has completed the amendments to our Comprehensive Plan before the 2010 deadline. Because as of January 1, 2010 the Comprehensive Plan is now in full force. The Lindenwood project has met its requirements in 2009 and is moving forward with the sale of lots and infrastructure restoration. This will be a boost to the entire area; we wish them the best in this undertaking. In the spring of 2010 we will be again looking at our 20-year road plan to guide us in infrastructure maintenance. We are still working on an agreement with the City of Green Lake on a land/sewer/street plan (A.K.A. Boundary Agreement).

With the economy "woe's" that loom ahead for all of us in the housing and job market, the Town needs to hold the line on "over-spending" and secure growth in a positive manner. Yes, 2010 will again be full of challenges, which will test the "metals" of all. Best wishes to all and thank you for allowing me to serve as your town chairperson with pride and respect.

Mike Wuest, Town Chair

**Recycling/Sanitation/Green Waste Center - Harley Reabe**

The New Year, 2010, brings with it some new guidelines under which we need to operate and control items being placed into the dumpsters at the Recycling/Sanitation/Green Waste Center. We are no longer permitted to accept items, which contain heavy metals and/or radioactive materials. These items include, but are not limited to, the following: microwaves, computers, computer monitors, televisions, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, etc. We also are prohibited from taking items that have, or do contain, refrigerants, such as: refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, etc. Should you have any items that fall into the aforementioned categories, please contact an appliance dealer in the area, since many of them will assist you in getting rid of them or will provide you the names of someone who does take them. I have checked with Waste Management in Berlin and was told that they are not authorized to accept these items. Please refer to the separate sheet included with this newsletter for more information on the Recycling/Sanitation/Green Waste Center. We want to thank you for the cooperation you have shown the employees at the Recycling/Sanitation/Green Waste Center and ask for your continued support and cooperation

**Update - Sydney Rouse**

Most of us are happy to have seen the end of 2009. However, among all the depressing economic setbacks we endured, there were bright spots for the Town. The motion I made, which was adopted, to increase the Town Board to 5 members has been implemented and I am pleased to report that it has succeeded beyond my dreams.

The 20-year Road Rehabilitation Plan you adopted is on schedule despite the snowy winters. In addition 3 more streetlights were installed at busy intersections.

Unfortunately the Town and the City have not to date been able to reconcile our differences but I am confident that continued diligence on both side will eventually resolve them.

We all want to continue to keep the Town a great, as well as affordable, place to live. If there is something you feel should be done, please contact one of us. We are here for you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as one of your Supervisors. It has been a truly satisfying experience.

### **Tax and Assessment Notes:**

There has recently been a concerted effort by the Wis. Department of Revenue (DOR) to remove the assessment process from the control of the local municipalities to a countywide assessment process. The reported purpose is to make and keep assessments across the state all at 100% each year without the need for the current equalization process. Studies indicate that, while it may reduce the assessment costs within the DOR, it is likely to increase the local per parcel cost from its present cost (Town of Brooklyn is less than \$10 per parcel) to an estimated \$25 or more, shifted from the local budget to the county budget - but still part of your property tax.

As proposed, physical, on-site, inspection of every property would be required every five years. Open Book and Board of Review would be held at the county level, presumably with county appointed board members. All assessments would be computerized. The full (42 page) proposed bill is on the DOR website under Governments/County Assessment.

The implementation would require a 3 year period during which every municipality would perform a total reassessment (again - for the Town of Brooklyn), to computerize if needed, upgrade property detail listing and bring values to full market value. (This cost us \$70,000 when done in 2008. It is unrealistic to think that there are even enough assessors/firms available to physically accomplish this in over 1800 municipalities statewide.) The 4<sup>th</sup> year the county would take over the assessment rolls and in year 5 the DOR would audit the counties to verify uniformity. A proposed "bill draft" (available on the DOR website) has been completed but not yet introduced into legislation.

The Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Association of Assessing Officers and many municipalities as well as assessing firms and individual assessors are objecting to this implementation of a major shift of assessing functions, when setting and enforcing realistic certification and performance standards could affect the same results at a more reasonable cost and without taking away local control. If you have any thoughts on the matter let us know or contact your state legislators.

For the present we continue to handle the assessment process locally. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns so we can work together to correct errors or avoid potential problems.

Elizabeth A. Rowley, Town Assessor

**Please remember we have a website:** [www.townofbrooklyn.com](http://www.townofbrooklyn.com) If you have not done so, please go on line and check it out. All agendas are posted, there is a calendar of events, and boards and commission names are posted. Some forms are available to be printed off, such as dog licenses, etc. Please check it if you have questions. Town's e-mail address is: [townofbrooklyn@centurytel.net](mailto:townofbrooklyn@centurytel.net). If you have questions, you can always e-mail us and we will try to answer in a timely fashion. If you would like to be added to the town e-mail list for notices, please let us know. If your address changes, please let us know that also.

**Annual Meeting:** Will be held at the Town Hall on **April 20, 2010** at 7:00 p.m.

**Building Inspector:** Jerry Buhrows, Jr. has a website. [www.jandb.info](http://www.jandb.info). You can get information and forms directly from the web.

**Budget Meeting:** Is scheduled in November, time to be announced. This is when the Town Levy, highway expenditures, and Town Board Salaries are approved. Due to the fact that we have increased the Town Board to 4 supervisors, 2 will be elected each year. Salaries for the 2 to be elected each year will be set at the

budget meeting. After the budget meeting held in November, the budget will be approved at the next regular Town Board meeting.

**Dog & Kennel Licenses:** Any dog over the age of five months must wear a license and have a valid rabies vaccination. Enclosed is a form with full instructions to obtain a license for your dog(s). This fee is collected by the Town Treasurer and should be paid by check. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for the dog license and tags. All fees are due 3/31/10. Late fees will remain at \$5.00 per dog. You may also pay for your dog license at the Town Hall during regular office hours. For Kennel fees, contact Kathleen Morris.

**Elections:** Are held at the Town Hall. Hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please remember that if you did not fill out a state registration form, you will have to complete one before you can vote. You may register at the Town Office during regular office hours, or print the form off the website and send it in. You may also register at the County Clerk's office in the Courthouse during their regular office hours.

**Fire Wardens:** The Town of Brooklyn has 2 emergency fire warden stations. One is: 4M Bison Farm, Marcel Mildebrandt, at N5697 Skunk Hollow Road, Ripon. The other station will be the Town of Brooklyn Hall at N5988 County Road A, Green Lake (This will be during regular office hours). Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> until May 31<sup>st</sup>, if there is not significant snow on the ground you need a burning permit for brush, leave burning and barrels. **Remember: After you have obtained your written annual burning permit, you must check the Internet or call the hotline for daily burning restrictions after 11:00 a.m. on the day you wish to burn.** [www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire) or call 1-888-947-2876. You only need one (1) permit per year.

**Open Book/Board of Review:** By Statute the Board of Review is opened during the 30-day period beginning the second Monday in May.

**Postings/publications.** Prior to each meeting an agenda is posted at the Town Hall; 1st National Bank-Green Lake Branch; and the Town Recycling /Sanitation Center. Legal Notices are also published in the Green Lake Reporter. We also submit the agendas to the Green Lake Reporter, on the town website: [www.townofbrooklyn.com](http://www.townofbrooklyn.com), and Channel 19.

**Meetings:** All Town Board Meetings are open to the public and are held at 7:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise posted. Plan Commission: Meets the first Thursday of the month when items need attention, or as needed.

**Code Red System from County Sheriff:** Green Lake County has contracted for "CodeRED" high-speed telephone emergency notification services. The CodeRED system gives county officials the ability to deliver pre-recorded emergency telephone notification/information messages to targeted areas or the entire county at a rate of up to 60,000 calls per hour. This is an extremely helpful tool when wanting to advise a large number of citizens about emergency situations such as: a lost child, flooding, gas leaks etc.

To ensure no one is omitted, Sheriff Mark Podoll urges all individuals and businesses to log onto the Green Lake County website, <http://www.co.green-lake.wi.us> and follow the link to the "CodeRED" enrollment page. Those without Internet access may call Communications Administrator Laura Polcyn, 920-294-4134 x1146 to give their information over the phone. Required information includes first and last name, street address (physical address, no P.O. boxes), city, state, zip code, and primary phone number, additional phone numbers (optional).

## 2010 Elections

April 6 Spring                      September 14 Partisan Primary                      November 2 General  
To cast an absentee ballot, contact .....Marian Mildebrandt, Clerk

**Census 2010 is Almost Here:** Census Day is April 1, 2010. Households will begin receiving Census questionnaires in late February or early March. The instructions for this year's Census form will instruct people to fill in the form to account for everyone living at their address as of April 1, 2010.

The League of Women Voters says Wisconsin could be under-counted in this year's Census because of the way the form is written. League director Andrea Kaminski fears that Wisconsin snowbirds who spend their winters down south won't list the Badger State as their primary home. Unlike previous counts, Kaminski says a simplified form for 2010 will not give people a chance to list their primary residence as a place other than where they received the form.

So she's urging Wisconsinites to wait until they get home to give their information to the Census. And if they return after the April first deadline for mailing their forms, Kaminski says they should wait until a Census worker pays a follow-up visit in May or June.

The Census determines how much government aid each state and community will receive. And Kaminski says snowbirds will hurt Wisconsin and help their winter home if they fill it out there. Also, the Census determines how many U-S House representatives each state gets. But after losing one seat a year ago, some observers do not believe Wisconsin will lose another -- and they'll most likely keep their current eight members.

The following was received from the Wisconsin Department of Administration - February Report

- The 2010 Census form asks only 10 questions and is expected to take only 10 minutes to complete. This form will be the shortest in the more than 200-year history of the Census.
- Citizens should know that personal information provided to the Census cannot be shared with anyone or used against you.
- The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years for the purposes of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Every person living in the United States must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens.
- More than 130 million addresses across the nation will receive a Census form in February and March 2010. Households should complete and mail back their forms upon receipt.
- Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take a count in person.
- Census workers can be identified by a census badge and bag.

#### Key Census Dates:

- February - March 2010 - Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
- April 1, 2010 - Census Day
- May - July 2010 - Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.
- December 2010 - By Law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President for apportionment.
- March 2011 - By Law - Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.