



# Town of River Falls Annual Spring Newsletter

## 2015 Revaluation/Open Book /Board of Review

### Inside Information:

- Town Annual Meeting – Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 7:00 P.M.
- Recycling Center Information
- 2015 Road Work
- Burn Permits
- Town Website
- Contact Information
- Property Revaluation Project
- Invasive Weed Information
- Fireworks Permits
- Animal Control
- Parks & Recreation Updates
- Large Gathering Permits

The Town of River Falls has partnered with Associated Appraisal Consultants as their municipal assessment firm. The partnership has already begun in 2015 commencing with a town-wide revaluation of all properties. The purpose of the revaluation is to establish new assessed values based on current market conditions. The values are based on what was present on the property as of January 1, 2015.

Associated Appraisal staff will physically visit all properties in the Town of River Falls. In order to make accurate assessments, appraisers will conduct an interior and exterior review of all

homes, apartments and businesses. A brief interior walk through is necessary to consider features, quality and condition of each residence or structure. These factors can significantly impact market value. The appraisers will take exterior photos of your property. The appraisers have no interest in your housekeeping or personal belongings.

Associated Appraisal staff members will carry a letter of introduction from the Town of River Falls, a photo ID and will drive red vehicles displaying the Associated Appraisal company name. If no one is home when the appraiser visits a property,

a door hanger will be placed on the main entrance with instructions on how to schedule an interior review. Your courtesy and consideration are appreciated when the appraisers are visiting your property.

Because of the revaluation project, Open Book and Board of Review will be held later in 2015. An October timeline is tentatively being projected.

Property owners should be receiving a direct mailing from Associated Appraisal detailing much of this same information. Should you have questions regarding the revaluation process please contact Associated Appraisal directly at 1-800-721-4157.

## Recent Changes in Town Offices

The Town of River Falls would like to thank outgoing Town Board Supervisor, LeRoy Kusilek, for his 16 years of service as a town board member. LeRoy was first elected to the board in the spring of 1999 after "retiring" from his position working for the Town of River Falls Highway Department. He was with the Highway Department from 1981 through 1999. This means that LeRoy has provided service to

the Town of River Falls in either an employee or board member position for 34 consecutive years! LeRoy has also served as the Town's Animal Control Officer since 2006, a position that he will continue to hold after he retires from the Town Board. Some of LeRoy's other professional accomplishments have included working for 3-M Corporation and owning the River Falls Dairy Bar on Main Street, River

Falls. LeRoy and his wife, Kathleen have raised seven children and currently have 12 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. LeRoy will continue to stay busy with his farmer's market business.

Taking LeRoy's place on the Town Board will be: John Galgowski. John is currently serving on the Town Plan Commission. He was the dairy herd superintendent at the UWRF lab farms and is currently serving as the River Falls Farmer's Market president.

## TOWN FIREWORKS PERMITS

With summer activities on the way it is important to remember that a permit is required from the Town Board Chair (Diana Smith) for shooting off larger fireworks. Smaller items such as sparklers, caps, toy snakes, etc. are exempted by state law. A reputable fireworks dealer will be able to direct you on whether or not a local permit is required. Please plan ahead and request your permit early so that you are ready at the time you need the permit. The permit is good for one event only. You need a new permit for every event you plan.

### TOWN CONTACT LIST

#### ***Diana Smith, Chair***

715-425-5478

#### ***John Galgowski, Supervisor I***

715-425-7093

#### ***Siri Smith, Supervisor II***

715-425-1339

#### ***Joe Mahoney, Supervisor III***

715-425-0220

#### ***Brad Mogen, Supervisor IV***

1-651-303-9028

#### ***Ruth Stern, Clerk***

715-425-7373

#### ***Rita Kozak, Treasurer***

715-425-8554

#### ***Town Shop***

715-425-9901

#### ***Jerome Rodewald, Zoning***

#### ***Administrator, Cemetery***

#### ***Contact***

715-425-0228

#### ***Michele DeLong-Reiter***

#### ***Recycling Administrator***

715-425-1477

#### ***All Croix Building***

#### ***Inspections***

1-715-377-2152

#### ***Associated Appraisal***

#### ***Consultants, Inc. (Assessing)***

1-800-721-4157

#### ***LeRoy Kusilek, Animal***

#### ***Control Officer***

715-425-6185

#### ***Town Website:***

[www.riverfallstown.com](http://www.riverfallstown.com)

## TOWN FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE

The Land Use Ad Hoc Committee has been working on a new **Farmland Preservation Plan**. The Town's Comprehensive Plan directs us to preserve the best farmland and to do it by zoning.

In 2008, the State of Wisconsin created a new "Working Lands Initiative" which has changed some of the rules and language that we currently use in our Farmland Zoning. Important definitions are:

- Land that is currently zoned Exclusive Ag A-1 will now be called A-1 Farmland Preservation Zoning. A-1 has a minimum parcel size of 35 acres.
- Land that is currently zoned Ag Residential A-2 will be called A-2 Ag Residential Zoning. A-2 allows 4 parcels per Qtr/Qtr Section. (40 acres)

The Ad Hoc Committee decided to use the percentage of productive soil, as designated by the USDA - NRCS Soil Survey Map, Farmland Classification, along with parcel size, as the main zoning criteria. The Committee is working on a map showing Qtr/Qtr sections with their percentage of productive soil. The goal is to preserve the larger parcels that have the highest percentage of productive farmland.

## TOWN CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Committee's goal is to utilize the burial space that is available and to use the funds obtained from grave sales to do needed upkeep and repair. Nine lots have been sold with one burial. Many more lots are available.

This year we are focusing on the five Civil War veterans buried at Glass Valley. We "lost" one of them, Thomas Walker, due to the fact that he is buried in an un-marked grave. We're working with the American Legion to correct that oversight. Walker was a former slave who moved north after serving in the Civil War.

We replaced the fence wire along County E and created a parking place off the road. The fence wire was chosen to match the 100-year old wire that was there. The original posts were used. We put up a flagpole and want to repair some of the broken gravestones.

The Town and Country 4-H Club has provided mowing services as part of their community service commitment for over 50 years.

The Cemetery Committee consists of Diana Smith, LeRoy Kusilek, Al Pechacek, Scott and Peggy Jensen, Elizabeth Terlinden, and Jerome Rodewald, (715-425-0228) Chair.



## 2015 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Rita Kozak, Town Treasurer, Katie Pata, Parks & Recreation Committee Chair; Jerome Rodewald, Zoning Administrator & Cemetery Committee Chair; Michele DeLong-Reiter, Recycling Administrator; Ruth Stern, Town Clerk; Roy Lund, Ad Hoc Committee Chair. Please continue to send newsletter address corrections or additions to: [clerk@riverfalls.town.com](mailto:clerk@riverfalls.town.com)

### TOWN BURN PERMITS

It is important for residents to pick up a burn permit before they undertake any burning activities involving more than a small campfire. The permits are available at the Town Recycling Center during center hours, or from a town board or staff member by appointment. Acquiring a burn permit may help you avoid a costly false alarm fire call of \$800.00 or more. Permits are good for the entire calendar year. Permit holders must notify the local sheriff's department prior to starting any burning activities. Town residents are encouraged to check their insurance policies to ensure they have adequate coverage for the current cost of fire calls.

## INVASIVE/NATIVE PLANT SPECIES



(Note: The Town of River Falls has worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in creating this color insert which may be clipped out and kept for future reference)

Have you seen the following invasive/native weed species on your property? Below are some of the more common species that you may notice in the Town of River Falls. While roadside mowing programs help to control some of these weeds, the Town appreciates your assistance in helping to keep them under control on your property. Manual and chemical control measures (reprinted from Wisconsin DNR publications) for these species have been listed. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has a lot of good information, color photographs and publications available on their website regarding invasive species at: <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives>. More detailed control information can be obtained from the Pierce County Extension Office at 715-273-6781 or at the state extension website:

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/weedsci/>.



### WILD PARSNIP

Wild Parsnip flower stems are stout, hollow, grooved and up to 5 feet tall. **CAUTION: When sap contacts skin in the presence of sunlight, it can cause severe rashes, blisters, and discoloration of the skin. Wear gloves, long sleeves and long pants when handling.**

**ECOLOGICAL THREATS:** Wild Parsnip invades oak savannas, prairies, fields, pastures and roadsides. It has a broad habitat tolerance, growing in dry, mesic or wet habitats, but it does not grow dense shade.

**CONTROL:** Manual/Mechanical: Hand pull or use a sharp shovel to cut root 1-2" below soil surface. Use a brush cutter on large populations before seeds develop. If flowering or in seed, burn or bag and landfill the flower heads. Chemical: Foliar spray with metsulfuron-methyl (mid-May to mid-June), glyphosate, or 2,4-D.



### COMMON BUCKTHORN

Common Buckthorn is a shrub or small tree growing up to 20-25 feet tall, often with several stems and a spreading crown. Its bark is grey to brown. Cut branches will reveal yellow sapwood and orange heartwood.

**ECOLOGICAL THREATS:** Common buckthorn will invade forests, woodlands, oak savannas, prairies, fields and roadsides. It leafs out very early in the spring and retains leaves late in the fall blocking out sunlight to other native plants including native trees.

**CONTROL:** Manual/Mechanical: Hand pull small plants. Dig or use a leverage tool on larger plants.

Cutting without herbicide treatment will result in re-sprouting. Burn in spring to kill seedlings. Chemical: Foliar spray with metsulfuron-methyl or triclopyr. Cut stump or basal bark and treat with triclopyr or glyphosate in late fall through the winter.





## POISON IVY

Poison Ivy is a native, woody plant that can occur as a climbing vine or groundcover. Each leaf has three leaflets. In the fall, some plants bear yellowish-white berry clusters.

**ECOLOGICAL THREATS:** The plant is generally harmless to other native plants and animals. The oils from the leaves can cause skin rashes in humans. It prefers woodlands, forest edges, flood plains, and sandy or rocky openings.

**CONTROL:** Manual/Mechanical: Uproot plants in fall or winter. **CAUTION: Wear gloves, long sleeves, long pants, socks and shoes! Do not burn or compost.** Inhaling the fumes of burning poison ivy plants can cause other physical health problems. Chemical: Killing poison ivy with chemical herbicides is faster than organic pulling, but even the strongest herbicides must be applied several times before being able to fully eradicate poison ivy. Glyphosate herbicides or triclopyr herbicides are both good poison ivy killers.



## GARLIC MUSTARD

Garlic Mustard is a herbaceous biennial. First year plants form basal rosettes that remain green throughout the winter. Second year plants grow up to 4 feet tall and produce flowering stems with small, white 4 petaled flowers.

**ECOLOGICAL THREATS:** Garlic mustard rapidly invades high quality forests, woodlands, and oak savannas, as well as disturbed areas. It can be found in full sun, but prefers shade. Native, herbaceous cover declines in sites invaded by garlic mustard.

**CONTROL:** Manual/Mechanical: Pull plants in early spring prior to seed set. If flowering, burn or bag and landfill. Cut plants close to the ground just after the flower stalks have elongated, but before flowers have opened.

Repeat as necessary during growing season. Use controlled burns to kill plants in seedling or rosette state. Chemical: Foliar spray with triclopyr, glyphosate, sulfometuron methyl, imazapic or 2,4-D in early spring or late fall when native plants are dormant.

## TOWN OF RIVER FALLS RECYCLING CENTER INFORMATION

Location: N7750 Hwy. 65, River Falls

Saturdays: 8-4 year round; Wednesdays 5-8 April – October

### COMPOSTING & RECYCLING

Wisconsin has a strong history of recycling and composting, and each of us has a role to play in continuing this success. We keep almost 2 million tons of material out of Wisconsin landfills and incinerators every year through recycling and composting. Recycling and composting are good for our economy, providing hundreds of community-based jobs and reusing valuable materials that would otherwise go to waste. Reducing our waste through recycling and composting is also good for our environment, reducing waste, cutting air pollution and saving energy.

Recycling one ton of aluminum saves the energy equivalent of 2,350 gallons of gasoline or the total amount of electricity used by a typical Wisconsin home over 10 years.

### TEXTILES

Upwards of 85 percent of household textiles currently end up in landfills. Items like old shirts, pants and towels can be recycled in a number of ways. The Town of River Falls Recycling Center received a Certificate of Sustainability from USAgain for donating 3,142 pounds of textiles in 2014. Thank you for your donations!

Town of River Falls 2014 textile donations saved enough water to supply 30 homes for a year.

### ROADSIDE CLEAN UP April 1<sup>st</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup>

Clean your section of roadside within the Town of River Falls and bring it to the Town Recycling Center for free disposal. You can pick up your free, clear roadside clean-up bags at the Recycling Center. Please separate items to be recycled (plastic, glass & cans) from trash.

Recycling 1 ton of plastic saves the equivalent of 1-2,000 gallons of gasoline.

### COMPOSTING AT HOME

Home composting yard materials and certain food scraps can provide valuable material for gardens and landscaping while reducing costs for off-site composting or disposal.

Certain food scraps can be easily composted with yard materials at home. Be sure to follow recommendations on what types of food scraps can be composted in order to prevent odors and avoid attracting animals and other pests.

### What to compost

- ❖ Yard materials
- ❖ Vegetable and fruit scraps
- ❖ Coffee grounds and filters
- ❖ Tea bags
- ❖ Nut shells
- ❖ Eggshells
- ❖ Clean, un-waxed paper, such as newspaper and cardboard
- ❖ Animal manure (not pet waste)

### What not to compost

- ❖ Meat or fish scraps, bones and packaging
- ❖ Dairy products (milk, cheese, egg yolks)
- ❖ Fats and oils or foods containing fats and oils
- ❖ Pet waste
- ❖ Diseased or insect-ridden plants
- ❖ Highly invasive plants

The Town of River Falls is seeking a Recycling Center Assistant. This position includes working 1-2 Saturdays/month and occasional Wednesday evenings during the months of April-October. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. Application forms and position descriptions can be found on the town website and should be submitted by Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Recycling Center Administrator, Michele DeLong-Reiter, at 715-425-1477 for more information.



# Town Parks & Recreation Information

How lucky are we? The Town of River Falls is home to seven parks of varying size and are free for all to enjoy. Some parks are more developed than others: Halverson Park, just east of the Cemetery Road round-about, has wood-chipped trails, bridges and boardwalks to get visitors out into nature. Spring is a great time of year to visit Halverson.

Many migrant birds rest in the protective wetland grasses on their way north and frogs

and toads make their presence known by their unique calls and trills. As half of the park is in, or very near, a wetland, while the other half is deciduous woodland, visitors will notice many different wild flowers blooming in the two areas as we move through April into May.

Look for Dutchman's Breeches, False Rue Anemone and Wild Geranium in the woodland areas and Blue Flag Iris and Swamp Milkweed in the

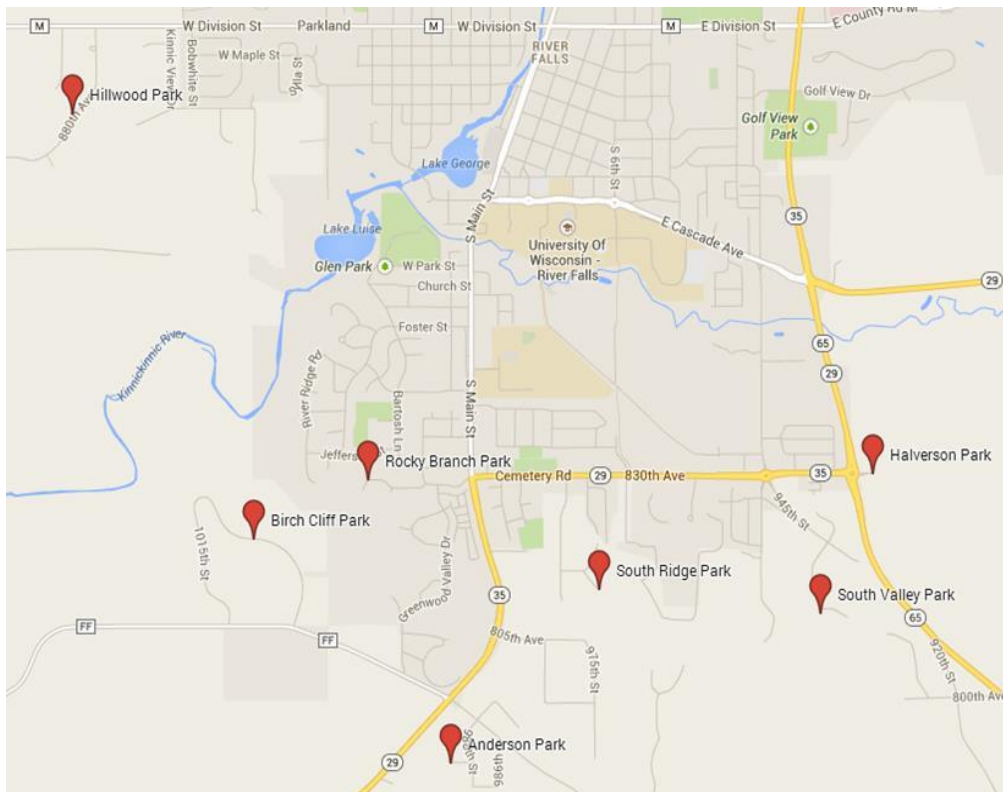
wetland areas. Halverson is easily accessible by city walking paths, and if you decide to drive there, several parking spaces are identified at the park entrance for your vehicle. Halverson Park is just one of seven unique parks to discover. Make a plan to explore them all this summer.

Volunteers make our parks possible. Thank you to the many who have helped maintain them to keep them clean and safe over the past year!

We're always looking for more volunteers willing to lend an hour or two here and there to help trim back trails, keep entrance landscaping looking good, pick up litter, and even help with larger projects like trail building, invasive species removal and chain sawing downed trees. If you are interested in more information on what you can do to help, please send an email to: [parks@riverfalls.town.com](mailto:parks@riverfalls.town.com) or call Katie at 715-425-5118.



Carmen Pata volunteers his services to clear a park trail.



## DOG LICENSING IN THE TOWN OF RIVER FALLS

The Town of River Falls is responsible for licensing dogs within its boundaries to insure that there is compliance with state regulations that mandate all dogs have an up-to-date rabies vaccination. In 2016, dog licenses will not be issued without **complete** rabies vaccination information that includes the vaccine manufacturer, serial number and the date of vaccination as well as dog breed, color, male or female, neutered or spayed as indicated on the dog license form included with the property tax letter. Because of privacy concerns, the Town Treasurer cannot contact veterinarians for rabies vaccination information so please remember to store your information where you can easily find it again for dog licensing purposes. Dog licenses issued after April 1 have an additional \$5 licensure fee.

If a dog complaint is received and a dog is unlicensed, penalties pursuant to the Town of River Falls Town Code will be issued.

To accommodate 2016 dog licensing requirements, a licensing day will be offered at the Town Hall in December of 2015. The exact date will be posted at the Recycling Center, at the Town Hall, in the River Falls Journal and on the Town of River Falls website.



### ***The River Falls Town Board has put the following policies in effect to deal with dog control problems:***

**Policy 1:** When the board receives a complaint relating to dog barking, dog running, unlicensed dogs, dog excreta, etc. the board will send a letter to the dog owner notifying them that they have received a complaint and request that they take steps that will satisfactorily address the complaint.

**Policy 2:** If a second complaint is received the town board will send a second letter to the dog owner asking them to meet with the Town Board to devise a plan to deal with the complaint.

**Policy 3:** According to Section 25.04 of Town Code the River Falls Town Board has the authority to issue citations as necessary to control the problem.

***“The Town of River Falls is responsible for licensing dogs within its boundaries to insure that there is compliance with state regulations that mandate all dogs have an up-to-date rabies vaccination.”***

## IMPLEMENTS OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (IoH) WEIGHT LIMITS

On December 15, 2014 The Town adopted Ordinance 2014-4 to comply with the State required IoH weight limits. All Category B farm

vehicles that exceed the posted weight limits, must have a permit to operate on Town, County or State roads. This permit allows farm vehicles to exceed maximum gross weight limits by 15%.

Category B includes self-propelled and towed vehicles such as combines, forage harvesters, grain carts, fertilizer or spray equipment. It also includes all highway vehicles modified for farm use. See State rules if you have a question about a particular vehicle.

A no-fee permit for the additional 15% weight may be obtained from Zoning Administrator, Jerome Rodewald, at 715-425-0228. A separate permit must be obtained for every vehicle and must be carried in the vehicle when it is on the road. An approved alternate route may be necessary if the planned route contains roads or bridges that cannot handle the additional weight. If you will be traveling on Town, County or State roads, a separate permit is required from each governmental body.

## LARGE GATHERING PERMITS

A large gathering permit is required for any gathering where a fee is charged or where there are expected to be over 300 people gathered in one location at the same time for more than six hours. The application needs to be submitted to the Town at least 30 days prior to the event. The form is located on the town website.

## BUSINESS LICENSING

New businesses in the Town are required to obtain a permit. Please contact Jerome Rodewald, Zoning Administrator, at 715-425-0228 for more information.

## TOWN OF RIVER FALLS

Ruth Stern, Clerk  
W8378 760<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
River Falls, WI 54022

### **TOWN WEBSITE**

[www.riverfallstown.com](http://www.riverfallstown.com)

*Please be sure to check out the town website for current information on a variety of subjects. The website contains contact information, election results, meeting notices, minutes, departmental information, town newsletters, town history and a variety of other topics. The Town Code portion of the website remains under reconstruction.*

### **2015 Road Work**

Please remember that the right-of-way on a town road is 66 feet consisting of 33 feet from the center line on each side of a town road. County and state roads have different standards. Right-of-way area is needed to properly maintain the road, road shoulder, and to provide for clear and safe visibility along town roads. Residents are asked not to plant trees, shrubs, or gardens or put parking spaces in the right-of-way areas.

The Town of River Falls has 60 miles of road to maintain each year. The board is currently working on developing a list of road work for 2015 based on the needs that are documented on the annual road tour. The biggest issue that the board deals with each year is the limited amount of funding to pave and renovate existing roads. There are always more needs

than funds available, and continually increasing road construction costs make the decisions even more difficult. It now costs over \$100,000 to pave one mile of town road. Fifteen years ago this cost was approximately \$35,000/mile.

It is hoped that the Town can accomplish more road maintenance work than usual in 2015 due to some carry-over funds and a state road grant of \$22,000. Also, you may notice a new building has gone up at the Town Shop. This is a lean-to structure that was added on to the existing salt/sand shed. The structure will provide additional storage to keep town equipment under cover.

### **Town Annual Meeting Scheduled**

Want to know more about the various programs or the inner workings of our town? Plan to attend this year's annual meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770<sup>th</sup> Ave. A variety of reports will be provided including more information on many of the topics addressed in this newsletter.

Also included will be the 2014 financial accounting, and a farewell to outgoing town employee and town board member of 34 years, LeRoy Kusilek. We hope to see you there!