

Annual Newsletter 2017

www.riverfallstown.com

What's New in the Town of River Falls?

A lot has been happening in our Town during the past year. Ten new home projects were initiated during 2016. The Town Board would like to welcome all of our new town residents. We hope this newsletter will be a good resource in helping you and other town residents navigate your way through information regarding town government and programs. Our town website is a great way to find out additional information. It is located at:

www.riverfallstown.com.

The Town is currently working on developing "New Town Resident Information Packets." We hope these will be helpful and informative to other new town residents in the future.

~Agricultural Programs~

As mentioned in previous Town newsletters, the River Falls Town Board recently updated the Farmland Preservation regulations and zoning map. Along with this,

portions of the Town of River Falls were recently designated by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture as an Agriculture Enterprise Area (AEA). More information on this program can be found on Page 4 of this newsletter.

~Nuisance Ordinance~

At the end of April the Town Board passed a revised "Nuisance Ordinance". This has been requested by the public for several years to address issues such as junk vehicles, blighted properties, dilapidated buildings, abandoned swimming pools, noise issues and other items that can affect the health and safety of those living in our community. The Nuisance Ordinance is also known as Chapter 10 of the Town Code of Ordinances. The Town Board is nearing completion of review of its entire Town Code of Ordinances. This has been a multi-year project. Once approved, the code will be placed on the town website

making it easier for residents and others to research the River Falls Town Code.

~Business Development~

During 2016 and early 2017 three businesses applied for permits to operate in the Town of River Falls. Since these proposals complied with the current Town of River Falls zoning regulations all three were approved by the Town Board. The proposals included: Forestville Vines at the corner of Hwy. 65 and 690th Ave.; a new wireless broadband tower approved for Broadband Wireless Services (BWS) located at N7245 910th St.; and storage units in the South Park Light Industrial Park located on 902nd St. While none of the business proposals were without opposition for various reasons, all of the business owners showed a desire to make as many accommodations as possible to reduce detrimental impacts to surrounding land uses.

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
651-303-9028

Ruth Stern, Town Clerk
715-425-7373

Rita Kozak, Town Treasurer
715-425-8554

Town Highway 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

General Town Notices



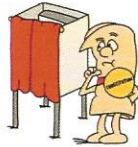
2017 Burn permits are available at the Town Recycling Center during center hours. The summer hours are: Saturdays from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Burn permits are also available from Town Board and staff members by appointment.



Per regulations established in State Statutes, the Town of River Falls is required to maintain a listing of landowners that request to be notified of any proposed ordinance or amendment that will affect the allowable use of their property. If you would like to have your name placed on this listing please send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address (if applicable) to the Town Clerk, Ruth Stern, at: W8378 760th Ave., River Falls, 54022, or e-mail this information to: clerk@riverfallstown.com.



Don't let your dog be the only one unlicensed in the Town! All dogs in the Town of River Falls need to have proof of current rabies vaccination and be licensed. **Dogs licensed after April 1 require an additional \$5/dog.** Contact Town Treasurer, Rita Kozak, at 715-425-8554 for dog license information.



Even though there aren't any elections scheduled in the upcoming months, new town residents or those changing their name or address within the town can complete voter registration forms to keep their information up-to-date. Wisconsin voter registration forms can be accessed on the town website by clicking on "Government" followed by "Election Information."



Special event permits are required for any gathering where an entrance 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 Clerk at least 30 days prior to the event to be considered by the Town Board. The form is located on the town website at: www.riverfallstown.com.



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



Fireworks Permits are required for shooting off larger fireworks (items such as sparklers, caps, toy snakes, etc. are exempted by state law). A permit can be requested from Diana, Smith, Town Board Chair at 715-425-5478. Please plan ahead so that you are ready at the time you need the permit. You must have your permit at least two business days ahead of your event in order to provide the required notification to the River Falls Fire Department.

Town Parks and Recreation Information

The Town of River Falls is home to seven beautiful parks of varying sizes. These parks serve as an important place for wildlife habitat and recreation. Would you like to get involved? We are always looking for individuals and groups to help maintain our parks. Volunteering with the River Falls Town Parks & Recreation Committee (who are also volunteers) is a great opportunity to give back to the community you live in and to make it a better place.

Work was already completed on May 6th at South Ridge Park located at W9701 818th Ave., however three upcoming parks maintenance dates still remain. You are welcome to join us for the following park clean up events. Please bring gloves, rakes, shovels, pruners and chainsaws. Extra tools will be available if needed.

- -May 20th 9-Noon, Rocky Branch N8272 1015th Street
- -June 22nd 5:30pm- 8pm, Hillwood Park W10353 880th Street
- Halverson Park (May 20th, time to be determined)

You are also welcome to attend the Parks & Recreation Committee meetings to share your thoughts and ideas. Meetings are held at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770th

Ave. at 6:30 PM unless otherwise noted.

- May 11th @5:30 PM meet at the Town Hall for a quick meeting and afterwards hiking Rocky Branch Park
- July 27th
- August 24th
- September 28th
- October 26th (last meeting of 2017)

For more information and to RSVP, please email:

parks@riverfallstown.com
or call Brad at 262-206-4845

2017 Town Road Work Report

Road work bids for the 2017 construction season were recently approved at the May 1st Town Board meeting.



The priority project for 2017 will be to rebuild a one mile section of 690th Ave. (Forestville Road) beginning at the point where 690th intersects with Highway 65. This one mile project was bid at a cost of \$208,114.69. This cost does not include culvert expense or town

employee time to prepare the area for paving. Since this road experiences heavier travel than many of our other town roads, a three inch base will be laid to provide a good foundation to withstand the heavier travel and freeze-thaw conditions (frost heaving) that is prevalent in our area. An additional \$43,500 was allocated for cold mix (to spot patch other town roads), culverts, gravel for maintaining road shoulders, and tree removal services. The Town Board will monitor projects as they take place throughout the construction season. If extra funds and time are available they will be utilized for further road work on 690th Ave. or to chip seal other town roads. It is expected that 690th Ave. will be a 2-3 year road project before all sections are complete.

Job Opening – The Town of River Falls is seeking a Recycling Center Assistant. This position includes working occasional Saturdays (year round) and occasional Wednesday evenings from April-October. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. More information and application forms can be found on the Town website, picked up at the Recycling Center, or by contacting Recycling Center Administrator, Michele DeLong-Reiter at 715-425-1477.

Town of River Falls: Annual Recycling Center Report 2016

Drop Site Totals		
	2016	2015
Commingle & Paper	83.21 tons	86.92 tons
Trash & Demo	222.05 tons	219.29 tons
Collection of other Recyclable Materials		
	2016	2015
Appliances	333 units	254 units
Car Batteries	0.65 tons	0.73 tons
Tires	4.04 tons	3.29 tons
Antifreeze	130 gallons	85 gallons
Waste Oil	2,800 gallons	2,500 gallons
Oil Filters	1500 units	1600 units
Scrap Metal	47.08 tons	38.4 tons
Electronics	7.71 tons	10.0 tons
Fluorescent Bulbs	743 bulbs	617 bulbs

Many thanks to the Town residents who have participated in using the Town's Recycling Center. We have once again exceeded the DNR's collection standard by double. Well done!

~A Message from the Pierce County Sheriff's Department~

At the Wisconsin Town's Association Pierce County Unit meeting on April 25, 2017, Pierce County Sheriff, Nancy Hove, reported that heroin and methamphetamines are both major problems in Pierce County. She cautioned anyone who is doing roadside clean-up to use protective clothing and gloves. Drug users are throwing containers such as pop bottles and paper into the ditches. A small amount of skin contact with either of these drugs can be dangerous. Sheriff Hove also noted that the new Pierce County Jail is going to be ready in mid-summer. Pierce County is looking for volunteers to come and "spend a night in

jail" for a practice run. For more information contact the Pierce County Sheriff's Department at 715-273-5051.

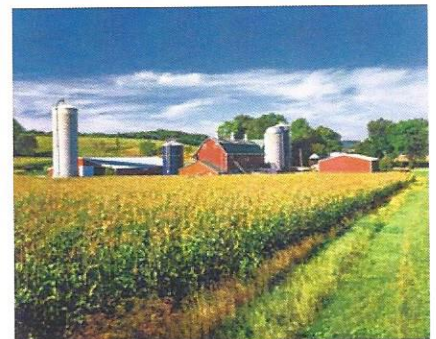


Farmers – Want to Save on Taxes??

Now that you've paid your Wisconsin income tax for last year, are you interested in cutting your tax bill for next year and future years? If you own land that is zoned Farmland Preservation and you practice good land conservation, you may be eligible for a \$10/ acre Wisconsin income tax credit.

Most of the Farmland Preservation Land in the Town of River Falls is part of an Agriculture Enterprise Area (called an AEA). The purpose of an AEA is to preserve the larger parcels of the better quality land.

To find out about the AEA program and how to apply, call Rod Webb, Pierce County Land Conservation Director at 715-273-6763.



Palmer amaranth: Another invasive threat to regional farmers.

As if garlic mustard, purple loosestrife and wild parsnip weren't problems enough, farmers in the Upper Midwest, including Wisconsin and Minnesota are now facing an even greater threat to their livelihoods - the "super weed" Palmer amaranth, *Amaranthus palmeri*. This species is native to the southern U.S. where it has caused millions of dollars of damage to southern farmers, but is now inching its way north and has been found in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and other Midwestern states.



What makes Palmer amaranth such a threat? Several things. A single plant of this weed can produce a quarter million seeds, reach a mature height of 6–10 feet, grow two to three inches per day and the plants are exceptionally aggressive. But the biggest problem may lie in the fact that many of the established populations appear to be resistant to glyphosate, the active ingredient in the common herbicide Roundup, now the most heavily used pesticide in the world. Farmers in southern states have seen 80–90% yield losses in heavily infested fields and find they may have to spray multiple times. As a testament to how tough this weed is, officials in

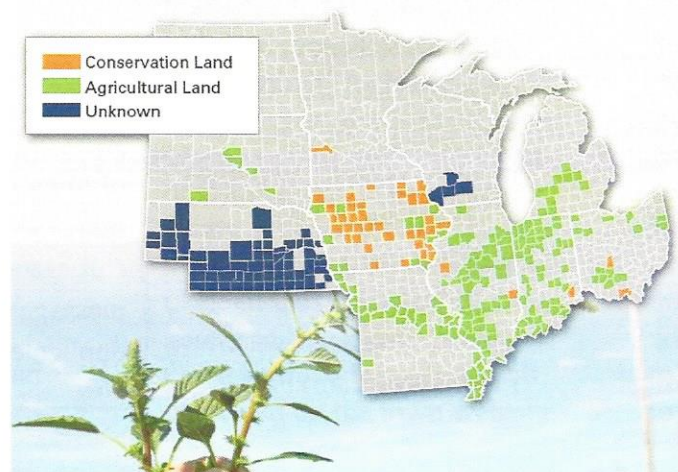
some areas are using blowtorches to try and eradicate introduced small plant populations before they can spread.

Sadly, the weed was inadvertently distributed to some areas, including the possibility of our local geographical area through the purchase of contaminated pollinator seed mixes. Some farmers in the Town of River Falls were recently notified by the USDA that conservation plantings completed during 2016 or in 2017 should be monitored for signs of the invasive weed. The weed will look similar to waterhemp or pigweed, but is much faster growing.



MANY WAYS FOR PALMER TO GET INTO FIELDS

Palmer amaranth is quickly making its way across the Midwest. While most has been found in agricultural land and is from unknown origins, a growing number of counties are being infected by CRP planting. PHOTO: BRUCE POTTER; MAP SOURCE: JULIE MCMAHON, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



TOWN OF RIVER FALLS
W8378 760th Ave.
River Falls, WI 54022

2017 TOWN NEWSLETTER

Ambulance and Fire Calls

The Town of River Falls is required to provide its residents with access to fire and ambulance service. The Town contracts with the City of River Falls Emergency Medical Services for ambulance services and with the River Falls Rural Fire Department (RFRFD) for emergency services. Individuals who use the ambulance service are billed directly by a medical

billing service.

Accident/fire calls that require RFRFD services are billed by the Town.

When a 911 call is made, the RFRFD responds by sending out personnel and apparatus to the scene of an auto accident or a real property fire call. The base charge for a one-car incident is \$800, two car--\$600/car and 3 car--\$500/car, plus actual costs of additional materials used at the scene (water, Floor Dry, foam). Real

property fire calls are \$800, a charge incurred whether there is a malfunctioning alarm, smoke detector problems, burnt food or a structure fire. Fire calls also include brush/grass fires and hazardous material containment calls.

Are you receiving duplicate copies of town newsletters? Please e-mail: clerk@riverfallstown.com or call 715-425-7373 and leave a message so that we can eliminate duplicate mailings!