

HOLIDAY HOURS AT THE TOWN RECYCLING CENTER:
The Recycling Center will close at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 24 and Saturday, December 31, 2016.

Property tax payments should be made to the Pierce County Treasurer's Office in Ellsworth (not the Town of River Falls). More information can be found on the back side of this newsletter.

Snow season parking runs from November 1st through April 1st (exceptions granted by Town Board permit). To avoid the possibility of a citation, please don't leave motor vehicles standing on any street, road or highway right-of-way during this season.

Snow removal should be done by shoveling your snow to your right at your driveway entrance as you face the road. That way the snowplows will take the snow down the road. If possible don't plow your driveway until the snowplow has gone by and don't leave snow on the road – it creates a safety hazard and possible legal liability.

Dog Licensing & Rabies Vaccinations are the law (state law). Please license your dogs with the form on the back or come to the dog licensing morning at the Town Hall on Saturday, January 7th (also a good morning to get rid of all of those post-holiday recyclables /garbage at the Town Recycling Center).

2017 Burn Permits are available at the Town Recycling Center during center hours (Winter hours are: Saturdays from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM). Burn permits are also available from Town Board and staff members by appointment.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION UPDATE

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture (DATCP) changed the Exclusive Agriculture Program to "Farmland Preservation" and certified a new Pierce County Farmland Preservation Plan in 2013. The Town was then responsible to complete a Farmland Preservation Ordinance and Zoning Map for the Town which carries out the directives of that plan. In March

of 2016 the Town was notified by DATCP that the certification process had been completed. The new Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance will expire on December 31, 2026.

To be included in Farmland Preservation, land has to meet minimum standards. A point system was devised by the Land Use Ad Hoc Committee and approved by the Town Board using a United States Department of Agriculture program called Land Evaluation – Site Assessment (LESA). Land Evaluation (LE) rates the percent of each soil class. Site Assessment (SE) takes into account the size of the farm and the surrounding land use. The intent of the LESA program is to identify and preserve larger tracts of the better farmland. Some of the previous Exclusive Agriculture land no longer qualified for Farmland Preservation and some of the previous Agriculture Residential land became Farmland Preservation based on its point score.

Land zoning is not a voluntary thing. No one was "asked" if they wanted to be in or out of Farmland Preservation. The decisions were based entirely on LESA point values. The Land Use Committee followed the direction of the Town Comprehensive Plan in creating a fair and equitable Farmland Preservation Plan. The zoning map was revised to account for these changes. The revised zoning map can be found on the Town web site at www.riverfallstown.com.

Upcoming Dates: Town Caucus, Monday, January 16, 7:30 P.M.; Annual Meeting, Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 P.M. (Both at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770th Ave).

ELECTION RECAP

The Town of River Falls would like to thank our residents for ensuring that the November 8th election procedures went smoothly. While there was an initial line of voters when the polls opened at 7:00 A.M., the election inspectors worked through this in a timely manner. Accuracy is key in handing out voter numbers and recording voter information, thus there is a limit to how

fast this procedure can happen. The Town is not allowed to open the polls before 7:00 A.M. (per state law) and people were waiting to vote before 6:00 A.M. Once the initial rush of voters was processed wait times at the polls were very short for the remainder of the day. Photo ID has been a contested topic the last few years, but town residents came prepared with them and were patient with the election inspectors as they administered this relatively new voting procedure.

The statistics in the Town of River Falls included a total of 1412 residents that cast a ballot. This is an approximate 78% turnout of estimated adult residents in the Town. There are always a small percentage of residents that never register to vote. The percentage increases to 87% turnout when compared to the actual number of registered voters in the Town. There were also 191 new voter registrations completed and 160 absentee ballots issued (over 11% of the vote) prior to the election.

2016 ROADWORK REPORT

The major roadwork projects undertaken in the Town this year were completed on east 770th Ave., 870th Ave. and 920th St. Crack and chip sealing were done on east 770th Ave. and 920th St. at a cost of approximately \$40,000. Paving was completed on east 770th Ave. and 870th Ave. at an approximate cost of \$225,000. These costs do not include considerable "prep" work to get the roads prepared for paving. In addition, the handicapped accessible area of the Town Hall parking lot was paved and striped per federal and state disability standards. Two pieces of road equipment were purchased in 2016 each at a cost of approximately \$11,000. This included a mower to keep road right-of-way areas clear and a street sweeper to clean up gravel/debris following road improvement projects. The Town Road Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss and prioritize projects. In 2017 the west portion of 770th Ave. will be completed. This includes the section from County Road W west to where 770th Ave. intersects with 810th St.

Town website: www.riverfallstown.com
(More on Back) 

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPERTY TAXES TO PIERCE COUNTY (Three options)

IN PERSON – Pierce County Treasurer's Office, 414 W. Main Street, Ellsworth. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Phone: 715-273-6743. For your convenience, drive in the rear parking lot from Kinne Street, and straight ahead will be a drop box, located just inside the building in the hall. **PLEASE NOTE: THE PIERCE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, Monday December 26th AND MONDAY JANUARY 2ND.** *If you want a receipt showing December payment, the payment must be here by Friday, December 30th. For year end payments, your receipt will show the date payment was received, not the postmark date.*

U.S. MAIL – Pierce County Treasurer, PO Box 87, Ellsworth, WI 54011 – **Must be postmarked on or before January 31, 2017.** Please make payment to Pierce County Treasurer. Enclose tear off from tax statement so payment will be applied correctly. However, if there are delinquent taxes, payment will be applied to delinquent taxes first. *If you want a receipt(s) please include a self-addressed envelope with appropriate postage. Please do not include fees for dog licenses with your property tax payment.* Dog licenses will be issued by the town treasurer (instructions below).

CREDIT CARD – Credit Cards AND electronic check payments

If you wish to pay taxes by credit card or electronic check, a processing fee will be added to your payment. Please go to the Pierce County website www.co.pierce.wi.us On the home page, go to the left to the Departments tab, go to treasurer office. On the far right, click on top link - Online Tax Payment Information. The credit and debit card fee is 2.39% of the amount being paid (minimum fee \$1.50). Electronic check fee is \$1.50 (for payments up to \$10,000). You need your parcel computer number and dollar amount to complete the transaction.

Kathy Fuchs/Pierce County Treasurer
Phone: 715-273-6743/fax: 715-273-6861

2017 DOG LICENSE - SUBMIT TO THE TOWN OF RIVER FALLS

DOG LICENSES ARE REQUIRED YEARLY.* PLEASE RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT BY JANUARY 31, 2017 – to Rita Kozak, W7843 810th Ave, River Falls, WI 54022.

Please fill out form below and return with the proper fee. Checks should be made out to the Town of River Falls and mailed to Town Treasurer, Rita Kozak, W7843 810th Avenue, River Falls, WI 54022.
Phone: 715-425-8554. Please use additional forms for more than one dog.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____

Name of dog _____ Breed _____ Color _____

Male \$12.00 Neutered Male \$7.00 Kennel License \$40.00**

Female \$12.00 Spayed Female \$7.00

Date of Rabies Vaccination _____

Vaccine Mfg. _____ Serial Number _____

***WI STATUTES 174.05 (5) states there is a \$5.00 late fee to be assessed to a dog owner if the dog was at least 5 months old & not licensed by April 1st.**

****A Town of River Falls conditional use permit and a kennel license is required. This fee licenses 6-10 dogs. For 11 or more dogs, please add an additional \$5.00/animal.**