



Annual Newsletter 2018

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

## Town of River Falls Plans for the Future

At the Town of River Falls Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Town of River Falls took a major step towards preparing for the future needs of the Town.

Volunteers serving on the Town of River Falls Future Facilities Planning Committee have spent many months discussing the future needs of the Town and looking at properties that would provide the Town with options for the future.

Town residents attending the April 17<sup>th</sup> annual meeting acted on the advice and research of the Future Facilities Planning Committee by voting to purchase 30.5 acres from town resident, Bruce Meents, for future Town Hall facilities. The land is located very close to the current town facilities in a centrally located, easily accessible parcel on a major highway (Highway 65).

One quarter of the purchase cost was saved through impact fees that were collected on new dwellings in the town since the year 2008. Another one quarter

of the purchase cost has been gradually saved over the last several years. The remaining half of the cost will be financed over a five year period of time. Impact fees on future new town dwellings will continue to be collected, but with the land purchased, the new impact fees will be saved and placed in a special interest-bearing fund to use towards construction of new town facilities. These facilities are likely still 10-15 years into the future. The Town Board plans to get the land paid off before moving on to the next step in this process to keep any resultant tax burden low on our town residents. Current projections estimate that the land cost will increase the property taxes by \$15 on a \$100,000 valued property.

In working with Mr. Meents it was evident that he and his family have a heart for public service. Town service runs deep in the Meents family. Bruce's father, Richard, served on the River Falls Town Board from 1951- 1962 with nearly 10 years of service as the Town Board

Chair. Bruce's wife, Yvonne, passed away in 2017, but her family was also heavily involved in town government. Her father, J. Orville Tostrud, served on the River Falls Town Board from 1953-1959.

During the purchasing process Bruce commented that a lot of thought and consideration was given into what would be the right decision for himself and for his family. However, Bruce and his family wanted the opportunity to help provide a lasting benefit to the same local community that the Meents/Tostrud families served over half a century ago.

While town residents won't see updated town facilities in the near future, long range planning will continue to take place to ensure that future updated facilities will meet the needs of a growing Town.



## 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 is a great opportunity to give back to the community you live in and to make it a better place.

Park board meetings are open to the public. Come join us to share your thoughts and ideas.

When: Fourth Thursday of every month @6:30pm  
Location: River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Seeking New Board Members!  
For more information please email:

[parks@riverfallstown.com](mailto:parks@riverfallstown.com) or call Brad at 1-262-206-4845



Photo Above: 2017 River Falls Lions Club volunteer work day at Halverson Park

## 2018 Town Road Work Report

Road work bids for the 2018 construction season are currently being processed.



The priority project for 2018 will be 690<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Forestville Road). The Town will complete the work started in 2017 by adding the second layer (lift) of pavement to the first mile starting at County Road W. The Town will also continue reconstruction and paving of the second mile ending at County Road O. Since this road experiences heavier use than many of our other town roads, three inches of pavement will be laid on top of our usual good foundation. A good foundation of breaker rock and gravel is necessary to support heavy traffic, heavy equipment and to help withstand the freeze-thaw cycle that causes frost heaving and potholes that are prevalent in our area.

Other 2018 road projects will include: chip and crack sealing of 950<sup>th</sup> St. (Cady Lane) from 690<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 770<sup>th</sup> Ave; chip and crack sealing of 790<sup>th</sup> St. (Cottonwood) from Hwy. 29 to the town line; replacing culverts on 770<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Randall Road) from Cty. W to 810<sup>th</sup> Ave.; adding riprap to the bridge on

770<sup>th</sup> Ave.; and milling of 820<sup>th</sup> St. (Sleepy Hollow).

**Position Opening:** The Town of River Falls is seeking an Animal Control Officer. This position responds to reports of dogs that are running loose in the Town. Temporary shelter for loose dogs needs to be provided while attempts are made to locate the owner. In limited cases when the owner cannot be determined, the animal may need to be transported to the Humane Society of Goodhue County. There are very few hours involved with this position – mostly a desire to return to dogs to their homes! If interested, please contact Diana Smith at 715-425-5478. The Town Board would like to thank LeRoy Kusilek for his years of service as the Town's Animal Control Officer.

For those that have lost a dog there may be some assistance at the [HelpingLostPets.com](http://HelpingLostPets.com) or [lostdogsofwisconsin.org](http://lostdogsofwisconsin.org) websites.

***Save the Date: Sunday afternoon, September 9, 2018: Glass Valley Cemetery Walk, Cty. Rd. E, featuring the history of the Glass Valley Cemetery and recognition of the Town & Country 4-H Club for their many years of service maintaining the cemetery.***

## Town Housing & Business Update

The Town of River Falls welcomes our new town residents. There were six new home permits issued in the Town in 2017. Soon after new residences are occupied (or there is a mailbox in place), the Town of River Falls mails out “New Town Resident Information Packets.” This packet explains many of the local governmental services and programs that are characteristic of living in a rural township. For example, many new residents are not familiar with how the local assessment process works, what to do about snow removal, how fire and ambulance protection are provided, options for garbage collection, and how and where voting takes place in the Town.

In addition to the new home permits, two Conditional Use Permits were approved by the River Falls Town Board for businesses in the past year. In August of 2017 a permit was issued for a Nonmetallic Mine at Peterson Family Real Estate on Hwy. 29 south of River Falls. This sand mine is located on a major highway and provides a valuable natural resource that is traditionally in short supply in our area.

At the April 16, 2018 Town Board meeting a Conditional Use Permit was granted to Chris Ahrens of Kinni Storage to install additional storage units at the South Park Light Industrial Park (located north of the Town Hall). A Conditional Use Permit is the town’s way of

regulating a business to ensure that it continues to operate as a good neighbor to other residents and land uses located near it.

### A Message Regarding Voter Registration

You may have in the past, or may at some time in the future, receive information regarding your voter registration status. While the majority of these voter registration forms are valid, in most cases they were not solicited by the River Falls Town Clerk or the Pierce County Clerk’s Offices. Please be aware if either of these offices are requesting information, a request would be submitted on our official letterhead. The bulk of these requests are solicited by political action groups, in which neither the Town nor the County have any control over.

Oftentimes when voter registration applications are mailed back to the Town or County Clerk’s offices they are incomplete as they do not include the proof of residency documents that are required to complete the voter registration process. In these cases, the local clerk’s offices will be contacting the individual requesting more information to properly complete the voter registration process.

Residents that complete voter registration paperwork from sources other than the Town or County Clerk’s Offices are asked to carefully review the instructions to ensure that their application is complete when it is submitted to these offices.

Current Wisconsin voter registration forms can be found on the Town website under “Government-Election Information” or by going to the myvote.wi.gov website.

### 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.

### Town of River Falls Annual Recycling Center Report - 2017

Item	Amount Collected
Commingle & Paper	80 tons
Trash & Demo	216 tons
Appliances	291 units
Car Batteries	17 units
Tires	402 tires
Antifreeze	135 gallons
Waste Oil	695 gallons
Oil Filters	250 pounds
Scrap Metal	35 tons
Electronics	8 tons
Fluorescent Bulbs	577 bulbs

## Attention: Commercial Real Estate Owners

The Bureau of Real Estate Management has an electronic notification system that will contact any entity or individual of upcoming Requests for Proposals (RFP) or Requests for Information (RFI) for state real estate opportunities such as leasing of building space (office, storage, warehouse, etc.), procuring land for development of state buildings, or other state real estate opportunities. If you have any questions regarding the state notification list, please contact Scott Berger at e-mail: [DOADFMLEASING@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DOADFMLEASING@wisconsin.gov) or call 1-608-267-2004.

## Pipeline Awareness

*As a local emergency response entity, the Town of River Falls is reprinting this information received from Oneok Pipeline.*

Do you have any heavy digging planned for this spring, summer or fall? Be sure to call “811” before doing so. Calling the national 811 “call before you dig” number is the law. There is a gas transmission pipeline that runs across the Town of River Falls and a hazardous liquid pipeline that runs through the center of Pierce County. Pipelines will generally run underground and be marked with appropriate signage, but the signs do not indicate the exact location, or depth of the pipeline. Also, someone may have inadvertently moved or damaged a pipeline sign.

### Recognizing a Pipeline Leak

If you suspect a leak, your senses of sight, sound and smell can help you recognize it.

Sight – Look for a pool of liquid, bubbling at any wet area over a pipeline, a white cloud or fog, dead, dying or discolored plants or grasses, flying dirt, flames or vapors near the pipeline.

Smell – Natural gas may have a “rotten egg” smell while natural gas liquids may have a strange or unusual smell with a strong petroleum odor.

Sound – Listen for a hissing, roaring or bubbling sound from the ground or water near a pipeline. Pipelines in the area can be viewed on the web at [www.npsms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npsms.phmsa.dot.gov). For questions on pipeline integrity management programs or available emergency response plans please e-mail [pipelineawareness@oneok.com](mailto:pipelineawareness@oneok.com).

## Make Sure Emergency Services Gets to Your Home

Hopefully the River Falls Fire Department and/or Ambulance Service never has to come to your property. The reality is however, that many calls are made each year in our Town to these emergency service providers. If it ends up being your family that needs their services, you want them there as quickly as possible. What are some things that you can do to help them get to you in as little time as possible?

Fire Number Signs – Make sure that yours is in good condition and displayed facing the road. If you need a replacement sign it can be ordered through the Pierce County Land Management Department at 715-273-6746. The cost of a replacement fire number sign is \$25.00 – which is a small investment for a new, clearly visible sign.

Driveway Access – Is your driveway narrow, steep, or overgrown with dense vegetation? All of these factors can slow down emergency response time. In the winter months steep and narrow driveways can make it impossible to get close to your house with a fire truck or ambulance. Residents should take it upon themselves to ensure that their driveway meets emergency response needs. Questions about access for emergency vehicles can be directed to Jerome Rodewald, Town Zoning Administrator and Driveway Permit Issuer at 715-307-1774.



## General Town Notices

### 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, 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

Recycling Department  
Questions  
Contact Diana Smith,  
715-425-5478

All-Croix Building Inspections  
1-715-377-2152

Associated Appraisal  
Consultants,  
Inc. (Assessing)  
1-800-721-4157

Parks & Recreation  
Committee Contact,  
Brad Labadie,  
[parks@riverfallstown.com](mailto:parks@riverfallstown.com)  
1-262-206-4845

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



2018 Burn permits are available at the Town Recycling Center during center hours. The spring/summer/fall 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 760<sup>th</sup> Ave., River Falls, 54022, or e-mail this information to: [clerk@riverfallstown.com](mailto: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.

There are two more elections scheduled in 2018 - August 14<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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.