



# THE TOWN CRIER

Town of Delafield's Newsletter

June 2008

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## The Town Crier

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The Town Crier Newsletter provides useful information and reports for the citizens of the Town of Delafield. Reader comments and contributions are welcome.

## Town Board Plans for New Combined Fire Station/Town Hall

Since October of 2007, the Town Board of Supervisors began studying the options available to replace the current Fire Station #1 facility. This 45-year-old structure is no longer large enough for the necessary fire fighting vehicles, emergency service vehicles and allied equipment. It also lacks sufficient space to conduct training and carry out administrative requirements.

Analysis of probable growth and development in the Town strongly suggested that the Fire Station should be relocated to a site offering the most efficient emergency response to all areas. The study indicated that the best location would be the current Town Hall and Highway Department campus. It was also recommended that a consolidation of structures at the current campus would be the most economical and best placement for the Town's major departments.

The proposed plan suggests the replacement of the existing salt shed (already funded) to another location on campus and the elimination of a more than 50-year-old metal, cold storage shed. The present metal Town Hall, a 45-year-old former garage, would possibly be utilized for storage of Park and Recreation equipment and Highway Department assets and equipment.

A new, combined Fire Station/Town Hall structure would be constructed on the current campus to adequately provide for the Fire Department and various Town officials (Clerk, Treasurer, Engineer, Building Inspector, Park and Recreation Coordinator) for the future. The combination of these functions into a single structure allows for the significant sharing of usable spaces and amenities. After the construction is completed, the Town would divest the approximately 1.82 acres of the current Fire Station #1 property and add it to the tax rolls.

## Littering at Sports Commons Skateboard Park

The Town Board and Park and Recreation Committee would like to remind skateboard park users and their parents that it is your responsibility to keep the area around the park clean. In recent weeks the Town has noticed an increase in litter around the skateboard park. Time spent picking up litter reduces the time that the Town's Department of Public Works staff could be spending on park maintenance and other activities.

We recognize that the majority of the skateboard park users dispose of their garbage responsibly, but we ask that you go one step further and be willing to pick up litter left by others. By doing that, you would set a powerful example as a caring member of the skateboard park community.

The Town will be monitoring this issue for the remainder of the skating season. If we do not see a reduction in litter in the parking lot and grassy area surrounding the park, we will consider a range of options including closing the park for some period of time. We are proud of the Town's skateboard park and want it to remain a model for other communities in the area. Please help us in this regard by keeping the skateboard park clean.

## Household Recycling Guide

RECYCLABLE BOTTLES & CANS - Rinsed, loose in BLUE bin, labels okay

- Steel/tin and aluminum cans including empty aerosol cans
- Aluminum foil pans - cleaned
- Glass bottles and jars - all colors
- Plastic bottles, jars, jugs **#1 & #2 only**  
i.e. soda, juice, water, cooking oil, milk, detergent and toiletries, etc.

NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS (Place in Trash)

- **No plastic bags or salt bags**
- **No lids of any material**
- No electrical cords or Christmas lights
- No window glass, ceramic dishes, light bulbs, drinking glasses
- No plastics #3-#7, plastic toys, or Styrofoam
- No yogurt or margarine tubs, flower pots, or trays
- No motor oil or antifreeze bottles
- No metal items such as clothes hanger, pots, pans, tools, pipes

**Place in a scrap metal bin at drop-off sites or take to a local scrap dealer.**

RECYCLABLE PAPER - Place in paper bag or tie with string; O.K. to combine all paper types

- Newspaper
- Magazines and catalogs
- Junk mail (windowed envelopes are okay)
- Office paper and shredded paper
- Corrugated Cardboard - **cut to 3 feet x 4 feet, flattened and bundled**
- Cereal, snack, and tissue boxes, beverage carrier, paper egg cartons, paper towel rolls
- Phone books and paperback books

For more information please visit [www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling) or call 896-8300

## Proper House Number Identification

At a recent Town Board meeting, it was brought to our attention that a number of residences do not have proper house number identification. In case emergency services are required, it is important that the responding emergency personnel can easily identify the residence.

The Uniform Address System, recommended by Waukesha County in 1957 and adopted by the Town of Delafield (Chapter 8.16 of the Town of Delafield Municipal Code), states such and provides guidelines for the proper placement of address numbers for all residences and places of business to ensure efficient identification in times of emergency. Unlike some municipalities that have erected fire numbers, the Town has elected to use reflective tiles to display the north/south and east/west designations.

### **8.16 UNIFORM ADDRESS SYSTEM.**

#### **(9) INSTALLATION OF NUMBERS**

- (a) (Repeal & Rec. 99-484) When each residence and place of business has been assigned its respective number, the owner, occupant or agent shall install or cause to be installed those numbers on the premises along the side of the street on which the home sits; in a place clearly visible from the road, no more than 25 feet from the edge of the road pavement; within 10 feet of either side edge of the driveway; and between 2' and 8' above the finished grade at the point of installation.
- (b) Numbers shall be installed within 30 days from date of assignment or from the date of occupancy.
- (c) (Repeal & Rec. #99-484) The minimum size of the numbers assigned under the uniform address system to be installed shall be 2¼" wide and 3½" high. The letters and numbers assigned shall be black on a white or a reflective background. The numbers shall be installed at a place clearly visible from the traveled portion of the road. Mailboxes may serve to display the house numbers if they are located within 10 ft of the driveway and provided there is no other mailbox adjacent. House numbers displayed on mailboxes must be placed at a height between 2' and 8' above the finished grade at the point of installation. In instances where more than one mail box exists house numbers must also be placed on each individual property as prescribed by the ordinance.

One set of numbers will be sufficient and should be placed parallel to the road. If the house numbers are perpendicular to the road, the numbers must be visible from the travel direction immediately adjacent to the numbers. The owner, occupant, or agent shall install or cause to be installed those numbers on the premises on the side of the street on which the home sits; in a place clearly visible from the road; no more than 25 feet from the edge of the road pavement, within 10 feet of either side edge of the driveway; and between 2' and 8' above the finished grade at the point of installation. Homes and businesses sharing a common driveway or located on a private road shall have numbers at the intersection with the public road, at each split, fork or intersection thereafter, and on the property itself as specified in this ordinance.

This may not sound like a pressing matter ("everyone knows where I live and I don't want unwanted visitors") until it comes time for emergency personnel to make a call to your home. There have been numerous instances when emergency responders (police and fire) have had to phone the individual requesting service to switch on a porch light, or offer some sort of indication, so that they could identify which household was to receive service. The driveway length, plantings and shrubbery, weather-worn materials all contribute to the problem. It would be a tragedy if someone in need of emergency services did not have proper house number identification. This issue is not just a convenience for Town personnel; it is a matter of safety for Town residents.

## Rain Gardens: An exciting new idea for your home or business

Rain gardens are a way we all can help protect one of our most important resources, water. You know, as the children's song goes... "Rain, rain, go away." But the question is "Where does it go?"

Well it can go away, soaking into a beautiful garden to become part of our groundwater. Groundwater is important because it replenishes our streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands, and most of us get our drinking water from wells that tap into groundwater.

For instance, groundwater bubbling up from a spring, with great volume is the headwaters of Token Creek, which is the most significant source of clean water to Dane County's Lake Mendota. Groundwater is also critical to rare communities such as wet prairies and fens.

However, in most of our urban environments, rain falls on roofs, roads, and parking lots – areas where it can't soak in. Gradually these impervious surfaces cause problems - as our urban areas increase, so do the problems.

With a parking lot, water moves quickly off paved areas into storm drains ... with it carrying a smorgasbord of leaves, grass, soil, oils, fertilizer - all of which end up in our lakes and streams. Urban runoff - along with runoff from rural sources - causes major problems for our water resources.

The health of our waterways depends on clean water and places for animals to hide and find food. When too much soil or fertilizer gets into our rivers and lakes, it first covers the bottom with a blanket of sediment smothering the insects and fish eggs, destroying the home or habitat of many animals.

Next the rich source of nutrients causes tremendous growth of nuisance weeds. Finally as the weeds die, bacteria, feeding on the dead matter, use up the oxygen in the water, which can lead to fish kills.

Besides the pollution, an even bigger problem for our rivers and lakes is the tremendous volume of water that rushes off of our roofs, roads, driveways and parking lots.

Streams that once caused no problems now flood more and more often. Not only is that a problem for folks in the city – in agricultural areas near cities, farm fields that in the past only flooded occasionally and only in early spring, are now flooding every year and with every heavy rain.

Streams impacted by runoff change dramatically in depth and force. These are called 'flashy'. Amazing amounts of water rush down the channel with incredible destructive power. Our response in the past was to 'control' these streams. The result is ugly and dangerous, kids have drowned in the fast water – and it's no picnic to be a river critter trying to live here with too much water one minute and not enough the next.

The impact of poor water quality is felt not only by the animals that live in the streams and lakes, but also by our economy. Water-based tourism brings in \$12-\$15 billion every year to Wisconsin's economy.

But when our waterways become choked with algae, it impacts boating, fishing, swimming...all those things that our tourist economy depends on.

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### ***And what about you and me?***

Poor water quality affects our quality of life, our sense of who we are and where we live, our community gathering places and our enjoyment of the local resource.

Here's one reason why we have this problem: When people build houses they design them to get rid of water as quickly as possible. Builders and developers use the principal of collecting water, concentrating the flow, and conveying it quickly off the property. While this protects the home, it ends up sending the problem downstream.

We've tried to address this by building detention ponds to collect the water and send it downstream more slowly. But these engineered practices are expensive, frequently look ugly and can become full of algae if not properly maintained.

Here's one solution that you can do – it's elegant in its simplicity. A slightly depressed garden full of native plants where rainwater can soak into the ground, replenishing groundwater and protecting our surface water.

They are rain gardens!

- \* they help protect and restore natural hydrology,
- \* they allow rainwater to soak in instead of running off.
- \* they help trap pollutants that might be in the runoff.

Rain gardens aren't only for city folks. A rain garden can go between two sheds on a farm – they can be used anywhere the amount of water running across the ground is a problem. There are also other benefits to rain gardens – the native plants attract birds and butterflies.

They are attractive additions to property, enhancing the beauty of the neighborhood, not only in summer but in winter too. The winter seed heads can be an appreciated food source for our winter songbirds.

### ***So what exactly is a rain garden?***

It's a sunken garden, typically 4-6 inches deep with a flat bottom.

While any size does some good, they normally are about 1/3 of the size of what is draining to it – usually a roof, yard or driveway.

It can be wild or formal looking depending on the plants selected and the desires of the home owner.

### ***Use native plants***

- The roots of native wildflowers and prairie grasses typically go twice as deep into the ground as they are tall, while turf grass roots are the same depth as the grass is kept. Therefore, natives absorb much more water.
- Uses no fertilizer.
- Uses little or no pesticides.
- Maintenance similar to perennial gardens.
- After establishment does not need watering.
- Native plants are also beautiful individually, and as a community.

More help, including a how-to build a rain garden manual, is available at your UWEX or DNR office or on the web at <http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/rg>.

***Town of Delafield***

N14 W30782 Golf Road

Delafield, Wisconsin 53018-2117

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STANDARD

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Delafield, WI 53018

Permit No. 4

## **Log Cabin Run/Walk**

10th Annual

Lapham Peak State Park

Saturday, August 9

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., Run/Walk begins at 8:30 a.m.

Registration Forms can be found on the Town of Delafield website by visiting:

[www.townofdelafield.org](http://www.townofdelafield.org) under "Parks"

For more information contact  
The Park and Recreation Coordinator  
James Gruenberg at 262-364-7773