



# THE TOWN CRIER

Town of Delafield's Newsletter

October 2009

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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 Treasurer Retires

After providing 26 years of dedicated service as the Town of Delafield Treasurer, Shelby Engel retired on July 31st. We will definitely miss her historical knowledge, as people referred to her as "The Town Historian". Residents will always remember her for her expertise in providing a friendly, caring atmosphere for taxpayers. She was recently recognized by the Wisconsin Towns Association for her 26 years of professional service.

Please join us on Wednesday, November 18, at 7:00 for cake and coffee in honor of Shelby's many accomplishments.

## Flight for Life Scene Call of the Year Award

The Flight for Life Transport System has selected the Town of Delafield Fire Department to be the recipient of the 15th Annual Flight for Life Scene Call of the Year Award for 2008. This award is presented to a fire department/rescue squad each year in recognition of outstanding patient care, scene management and valiant efforts that are considered above and beyond the scope of its everyday job.

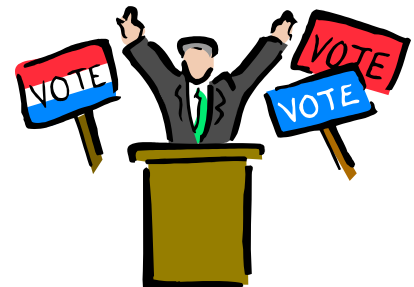
Please join us at the Annual Budget Meeting on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m., in honor of this prestigious award.

## 2010 Election Dates

- Spring Primary - February 16
- Spring Election - April 6
- Partisan Primary - September 14
- General Election - November 2

Please come to the polls between the hours of 7:00 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.

**Your vote is very important!!!**



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

In October, the Board of Supervisors conducts its workshops with the various Town departments to establish the next year's budget. This is my sixth time going through the process, and I can attest that it is usually an arduous process to find a way to keep our taxes at a reasonable level yet provide the efficient and responsive services that our citizens deserve. If put under close scrutiny, people will find the Town of Delafield has been able to keep its tax rate per thousand dollars of property value one of the lowest in Waukesha County. This year is even more difficult knowing that many in our town have been hurt by the economic downturn and the property tax burden may be harder to meet than usual.

I am confident the Board will do everything it can to keep the tax levy as low as possible while trying to maintain acceptable services. Unfortunately, normal wear and tear on our infrastructure means we have to be diligent in our maintenance schedules and there isn't room for any meaningful reductions in our normal day-to-day operations or staffing. In the past, we have reserved funds for known future expenses and possible emergencies ("rainy days") but, in our last few budgets, we used some of those funds to offset larger than usual expenses and have now utilized all of that we prudently can without jeopardizing our ability to meet emergencies and unexpected exigencies.

As part of the budget process, the Town maintains schedules for the replacement of capital assets that have expected operational lives such as highway department vehicles and equipment and fire department trucks and emergency service vehicles. The older assets are reviewed each year to ascertain if more service with reasonable maintenance can be received from them and their replacement delayed. Some of those assets' lives are now at or near a definite end and must be dealt with in the next few years.

A decade or so ago, it became evident that some of our older town buildings had outgrown their utility value and had, in one case, become very inadequate to meet the Town's requirements. The Town's Fire station #1 on Maple Avenue is about 50 years old and was built to accommodate a department of smaller size to service a much smaller citizenry. It can no longer house all the essential vehicular equipment it should nor is it big enough to allow appropriate maintenance and storage of necessary fire fighting and emergency gear and supplies. Additionally, it can now only provide training and operational space for one-half of what the department requires. These substantial deficiencies definitely affect the department's ability to perform at its highest capability.

Despite these very serious deficiencies, the fire department has maintained an extremely high standard of efficiency but only through the extraordinary diligence and hard work by its members and excellent management and motivation by its leaders. The town, however, can not rely on this effort alone for the future. Our fire department of 45 (except two full-time) is a paid-call force of volunteers. We cannot continue to recruit the best qualified personnel for these dangerous and critical occupations without adequate and appropriate facilities.

Nobody wants to increase taxes, but we have to honestly face the fact that the Town of Delafield urgently needs to replace the existent Fire Station #1 or our ability to efficiently provide property safety protection and emergency services will be dangerously insufficient.

In recognition of this urgent need, last year, the Town undertook a lengthy and in-depth planning

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program with professional assistance to design a replacement Fire Department facility. During that process it became evident that all the Town's operational bases with a new fire facility in context should be reviewed so that the maximum return could be realized on any investment.

It was determined that the most efficient and overall cost effective solution was to place the new fire facility at the Town Hall campus site and incorporate the Town Hall functions in the same building. This accomplished several things: the Town Hall's assembly room would be large enough allow for the entire fire department force training as well as Town meetings; all the Town services such as the Engineer, Building Inspection and Park and Recreation functions would be in the same location and all could share administrative equipment. As important was that the old Maple Avenue fire station site could be sold and added back to the tax rolls, and the 50+year old former garbage truck garage presently housing the Clerk/Treasurer offices and Town meeting room could be razed.

As many are aware, a referendum for approval to borrow the funds for this construction was planned for the general election in November 2008. In late summer of 2008, the Town Board recognized that a significant economic downturn was at hand and withheld the referendum until conditions return to a more favorable level. Hopefully, our economy is gaining its former strength and we can address our urgent need for a new fire department /town hall facility soon.

Russ Ackley, Town Supervisor

## Town Highway Department Has New Salt Storage Shed

After numerous years of planning and saving up funds for a new salt/sand storage building, it has become a reality. Earlier this October, the Highway Department started loading salt and sand from the existing storage facility into the new facility located adjacent to the highway garage at the Town Hall property on Golf Road. The new 40 foot by 60 foot timber structure replaces a 25 foot by 30 foot timber structure that was built sometime in the 1970's. It is



made from treated lumber and is double walled on the inside up to 13 feet high. The total wall height on the inside is 20 feet. The building can accommodate approximately 1500 tons of sand/salt. In an average year, the Town uses 1200 to 1500 ton of sand/salt.

The building will help the Town highway department become more efficient during storm clearing operations. Access to the salt will be closer to their highway garage where they store the loading equipment, the additional space allows for pre-mixing of salt and sand within the structure and more salt and sand can be stored on site. The overhead door is automated (like a residential garage door opener) so that the loader operator doesn't have to get out of the vehicle to open the garage door every time a truck comes in for loading. The highway department may also realize some monetary savings since they will be able to order and take delivery of a large portion of their annual sand/salt needs in the late summer/early fall when prices tend to be lower. They will be able to order a larger amount at any one time which allows for a volume discount.

**Town of Delafield**  
N14 W30782 Golf Road  
Delafield, Wisconsin 53018-2117

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## Fright Hike

12th Annual  
Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31  
5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Scary scenes are set along  
a 1 mile hiking path at  
Lapham Peak State Park  
W329N849 Highway C

For more information contact  
the Park and Recreation Coordinator  
Amy Miller at 262-364-7773.