



Town of Wilson Spring 2022

You just call on me brother,
if you need a hand.
We all need somebody...
BILL WITHERS

Update from the Town Chairman

Welcome to spring? That means March madness, mother nature's tease, and another town newsletter.

Kudos to our many volunteers! – We cannot stop thanking all of those who donate their valuable time and talents to our community, because town governments simply cannot work without them. To our fire-fighters, fire advisory committee, first responders, plan commission members, parks and forestry team, and many other committee members and volunteers, your dedication and commitment is so greatly appreciated.

Continued below



NEWSLETTER

Staff & Volunteer Updates

A fond farewell - We wish **Rick Meyer**, our friend and longtime Maintenance Supervisor, the very best as he joins the ranks of the retired on April 20. Rick has been an amazing teammate and a real force in making our community a better place to live. Rick was instrumental in making our maintenance facility a reality.

Director of Public Works – We are excited to introduce **Ben Darkow**, who will replace Rick as the Town's Director of Public Works, a newly created position. Ben most recently worked for the County of Sheboygan where he served in the role of Building Services

Technician. Ben takes on an expanded role that includes sanitary maintenance in addition to maintenance of our town roads, parks and other infrastructure.

Plan Commission Chair – We are happy to announce the appointment of **Erik Thelen** as Plan Commission Chair. Erik retired from Marquette University as the Executive Director of Research and Sponsored Programs and holds a PHD from UWM. A huge thanks to **Roger Miller** for his leadership as Chair for the past 5 years. His knowledge of zoning, planning, and development, as well as local history, has proved invaluable. Roger will be staying on as a

Plan Commission member.

Pandemic Emergency Plan – As COVID-19 cases continue to decline in Sheboygan County, the town board re-opened the town office and are considering holding in-person meetings. We will likely go with a hybrid approach to board meetings where citizens will have the option to attend in-person, by phone or online. We are in the process of putting the technology in place to accomplish that. Check our town website for updates.

Road Improvements – Several major road projects were completed in 2021 including Timberlake Road, Juniper Drive East, Claver Court, and Ourtown

Road. Road construction and maintenance expenditures in 2021 totaled \$258,000.

With the arrival of spring, we are gearing up for our annual tour to evaluate road conditions and prioritize road projects for 2022. We'll target a portion of the \$350,640 received in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds towards road projects. We are also applying for grants available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), however funds are limited for 2022, so we anticipate a greater chance of securing some of those dollars in 2023.

Surface Water Drainage – Springtime also brings more surface water because of snow and ice melt, spring rains, the still frozen ground, and our current high-water table. This is a friendly reminder that the town-owned right of way in front of your home

“On the one hand our furry friends are part of the beauty and charm of living here. And on the other, these creatures are wreaking havoc on forest habitat and other vegetation.”

and along other town roadways are largely used for collecting and draining surface water. The town is responsible for maintaining these areas and it is unlawful for anyone to obstruct, alter their depth, or contour without town permission.

A few residents have called to say their ditches need maintenance. If you have concerns with drainage in the publicly owned ditches near your home, please call our Public Works department at 920-980-0198. We will do an assessment of your ditch and if necessary, make modifications we determine practical to improve their performance. Please keep in mind that ditches are

designed to capture and hold water and are graded to flow downstream only if the slope allows. However, this is not always possible due to the relatively flat landscapes in many residential areas. In these instances, the ditches are meant to hold water until it is absorbed into the ground. It also means the water in ditches will likely naturally alter the vegetation in a manner that is different from your groomed lawn.

Our Deer Friends – The town board continues its effort to respond to resident concerns over the deer population, with which it seems we have a complicated relationship. On the one hand our furry friends are part of the beauty and charm of living here. And on the other, these creatures are wreaking havoc on forest habitat and other vegetation. And perhaps more concerning is that the diseases they carry may be harder

to avoid with the abundance of ticks and the increasing amounts of excrement in our yards where we spend our time.

The first step in this process is to have the DNR perform an assessment of the deer population, including impacts on vehicle accidents and to cropland and forest habitat. This is scheduled to take place sometime in the spring. Then intention is to establish a small committee made up of supervisors, Parks & Forestry Commission members and local citizens to conduct further research and make recommendations to the town board.

FAIR WARNING: One recommendation that will certainly be on the list is for the town to enforce its Chapter 26 ordinance prohibiting

the feeding of whitetail deer. We know this practice is prevalent in the town and that it is contributing to the problem. Please be aware that violating this ordinance can result in a citation of up to \$500 for each occurrence and that the DNR can impose additional penalties.

Black River Museum – The Black River Museum will be open again this summer on Sundays from 1-3, Memorial Day until the Fall Fry in October. For more information please see page 6.

Ash Trees and Phragmites – The town is starting a project to replace lost Ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. We are working with the Sheboygan Rotary Club who began an initiative called ROOTS (Restoration of Our Trees Sheboygan). ROOTS and their partner, LNRP (Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership) were awarded US Forestry and Rotary International grants in addition to corporate support, all totaling more than \$1.5 million. This is a matched funding project where we will be replacing trees in Fireman's Park, the Jerving Conservancy, and Schinker Creek Park.

The town board is also partnering with Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development Council on a project to control invasive Phragmites on public lands in the town. Phragmites is a tall, colony-forming grass that is invading our wetlands, shores, and waterways. It forms dense, impenetrable stands that push out native vegetation, reduce habitat quality for wildlife, and choke wetlands streams, beaches, and shores. Treatment will begin this year with follow-ups over the next 2-3 years.

If you have any questions or feedback on any town matters, please don't hesitate to call the town office, me, or any town supervisor.

John Ehmann, Chairman
(920) 254-9362



*There I was, back in the wild again,
and I felt right at home where I belong.
I had that feelin' comin' over me again.
Just like it happened so many times before.*

TED NUGENT

NEW PARK AND FORESTRY MEMBER -

The Park and Forestry Commission has added new member, Bill Hartmann.

A Black River resident for 20+ years with a passion to foster and protect this area, Bill is a retired Physical Therapist. He is also an avid outdoors person with interests in hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and birdwatching.

Furthermore, Bill is a certified WI Master Naturalist and has brought his dynamic energy to several DNR workdays at KASP battling honeysuckle.

We welcome Bill and appreciate his Enthusiasm!



LIGHTS OUT!

Studies show that darkness is essential to sleep. The absence of light sends a critical signal to the body that it is time to rest. Light exposure at the wrong times alters the body's internal "sleep clock"—the biological mechanism that regulates sleep-wake cycles—in ways that interfere with both the quantity and quality of sleep.

Not only can leaving your outdoor lights on overnight be an annoyance to your neighbors trying to sleep, it could be a violation of the Town's public nuisance ordinance. The Town's

Chapter 25 Public Nuisance ordinance states that light beams, rays, reflections, or diffusions are prohibited between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. if they unreasonably disturb the comfort of neighboring residents. The ordinance goes on to state, "Protective security lighting, landscape lighting, or architectural lighting may be operated at all hours of the night provided that it is directed and shielded to avoid interfering with the peaceful enjoyment of adjoining or neighboring property or unreasonably disturbing the comfort and repose thereof."

There is a global movement to reduce light pollution, and everyone can help by turning off outdoor lights when it's dark out or by using motion lights for security purposes.

*Everybody here is out of sight
They don't bark and they don't bite
They keep things loose, they keep things light
Everybody was dancin' in the moonlight*

KING HARVEST



FELINES VS. FAUNA

A tracking study of 900 cats found felines were bringing home up to 11 dead birds, rodents, or lizards a month. That number doesn't include what they ate or didn't bring home. Feline predatory behavior takes a heavier toll on wildlife than what is caused by wild predators.

If you already have a cat that roams outdoors, there are a few things you can do to protect wildlife while your kitty roams. Bells, leashes, or Birdsbesafe® collar covers may help. Birdsbesafe® collar covers make your cat more visible to birds, so birds have time to fly away to safety. Cat pens can "feed the need" to roam while keeping the pet in a safe surrounding while also protecting wild birds. Added incentives are avoidance of fights, traffic, traps and neighbors who aren't as fond of the outdoor pet. Furthermore, indoor cats are significantly less likely pick up fleas and ticks.



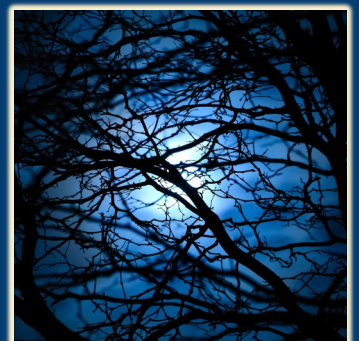
Did you know??

Light pollution is creating havoc with humans and animals alike. Humans circadian rhythm is affected, and some migratory birds guided by moonlight are getting confused by artificial lights. Studies suggest even turtles are being affected.

You can join the movement today by turning out unnecessary night time lighting, and aiming necessary lights down instead of up at the sky.

Read all about the studies and the "lights Out" movement at:

www.nationalgeographic.org/article/light-pollution/



Supermoon and cat photos courtesy of M. Klokow

Looking for some summer fun on the cheap? Here are some Local and State attractions worth a look this summer:

- **The Covered Bridge:** Cedarburg, Wisconsin. Home to one of the last remaining covered bridges in the state.
www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/2241/Covered-Bridge-Park
- **Hennings Cheese Store and Museum:** Kiel, Wisconsin
Award winning cheeses and free self guided tours.
Henningscheese.com
- **Bookworm Gardens:** Sheboygan Opens May 1. Their mission: To inspire the love of books and nature in the young and young at heart.
Bookwormgardens.org
- **James Tellen Woodland Sculpture Garden:** Town of Wilson., Evergreen Drive.
Concrete sculptures as outdoor art.
jmkac.org/artist/tellen-james/
- **Der Sheboygan Biergarten:** Kiwanis Park. Opens May 2022 Beer, wine and a fantastic atmosphere!
sheboyganbiergarten.com
- **Throttlestop Museum:** Elkhart Lake, WI. Over 275 museum pieces! Cars, motorcycles and kids under 12 are FREE!
throttlestop.com
- **Symco Weekender:** Symco, WI. The second weekend in August. Festival of hotrods, customs, music and food. Step back in time!
symcohotorods.com

DODGING A DELUGE-

Have you ever stopped to think about how many devices around us have safety features? Almost everything we have has some sort of feature to aid in the avoidance of accidents. Our faucets have stops so the temperature doesn't get too hot, our cars have back up cameras and collision warning lights, even our lawn mowers have safety shut offs so we don't get hurt by a running blade.

Some safety features we install ourselves, such as anti-virus and firewall software!

What if I told you there was an "Firewall" that could help to avoid a nasty sewer back up in your home? It's TRUE! Well, not the software part but there is a piece of equipment solely designed to prevent a messy, and expensive catastrophe before it happens.

This amazing device is called a *Backflow Preventer*.

Backflow preventers work like a one way street for water or sewage. Water can go past it

but when it tries to reverse direction, a check valve closes and will not allow the backward flow.

Why and how do backups occur anyway?

Why

There are a few reasons why a backup could happen. Equipment failure, or flushing items that should not be entering the sewer system like sanitary wipes are reasons. There are other causes too, for example tree roots invading a lateral pipe.

How

Floor drains in our basements are connected to the sanitary sewer. When unfortunate circumstances arise in a sewer system, eventually the backup will reach the lowest drain in the home and spill out. A basement floor drain is commonly the first exit sewage will find, but if the

home doesn't have one it might be laundry equipment or a basement sink.

Protect

A backflow preventer would prevent sewage from flooding into the home. The pressure from rising backup would push the check valve closed and protect the home environment from very costly containment, clean up and likely replacement of home furnishings.

Installation and regularly scheduled inspection and preventative maintenance of a backflow preventer can save you thousands of dollars.

In the Town of Wilson, all of the sewer pipes after the main line are the homeowners property and responsibility and while some insurance policies protect homeowners, others do not. If you have concerns about your coverage, asking your insurance agent about backup protection is a good place to start.

"Don't just set it and forget it!

Regular maintenance of a backflow preventer is an important step.

Inspect and clean to keep yours functioning properly."



Come on people now, smile on your brother. Everybody get together. Try to love one another....
THE YOUNGBLOODS

WISCONSIN



1848

HELP FOR FAMILIES

IMPACTED BY CORONAVIRUS -

Wisconsin Help for Homeowners (WHH) is a new statewide program that can help with overdue bills like mortgage payments, property taxes, and utilities. The program is available to Wisconsin homeowners with overdue housing-related bills, both with and without a mortgage, who meet income and other eligibility requirements, and have experienced a qualified economic hardship since January 21, 2020.

Contact the WHH call center at 1-855-2-HOME-WI for additional information about how to apply or visit HomeownerHelp.WI.Gov.



Those lazy days of summer are here. When the blues whop you up on the side of the head, throw them to the floor and kick them out the door.

THE B52s

THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS—

We all feel inflation. Rising costs are putting a dent in most American's wallets these days.

Many of you noticed the Sanitary bill increase again this quarter. For several years the District has been operating at a loss. Rising maintenance costs and water treatment fees we pay to the City of Sheboygan Water Treatment Plant have caused the increases. Contrary to popular belief, your taxes do not pay anything towards the Sanitary District.

There has been and always will be an early warning prior to an increase. Watch the memo portion of your bill in December for the next calendar year increase. We aren't out of the woods yet.

REMINDERS

TAXES: For those of you that chose the installment method of paying property taxes, *Second half payments MUST BE made at the County Administration Building.*

We cannot accept them at our office.

Write checks to:

Sheboygan County Treasurer,
and mail or pay in person at:
508 New York Avenue,
Sheboygan, WI 53081.

DOG LICENSES: Dog licensing for 2022 is now overdue. You can still receive your license by contacting the treasurer. A \$25 late fee applies. Newly acquired puppies and dogs can be licensed year round for no additional fee.

Spayed/neutered: \$7 Intact: \$14



Photo courtesy of M. Klokow

2022 ELECTIONS -

AUGUST 9, 2022 PRIMARY

NOVEMBER 8, 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

Don't wait until the deadline to request your absentee ballot. It takes time for election officials to process voter requests and mail out ballots. You can request a ballot online by visiting myvote.wi.gov or calling the clerks office.

**The Town of Wilson Hall WILL BE OPEN
for regular voting on election day.**

Black River Museum and Education Center

Open every Sunday from 1-3PM, Memorial Day until the Town of Wilson Fire Department Fall Fry.

This year we are featuring two new exhibits!

1) A replica of the 1852 ship "Challenge" - Black River resident Rocky Groth is building a replica of the shipwreck Challenge which lies near the Nature Center at Kohler-Andrae State Park. The Challenge was abandoned and set on fire in 1910. The schooner model will be three feet long with sails. Look for it sometime this summer.

2) Shipbuilding exhibit - A ship manufacturing business, started in 1857, was located on the Black River close to Lake Michigan. Owned by a Mr. Johnson, they built wooden schooners for commerce.



Admission is free.

The museum is located on Evergreen Drive, just north of the Town of Wilson Fire Station.

If you can donate time or money, or if you have old photographs, articles, and artifacts, please contact John at **920-458-1795.**

SUMMER HELP WANTED -

Seeking a responsible individual to fill our summer seasonal position. 40 hours per week, Monday to Friday May to Sept. 2022. Ability to work in an outdoor setting most days
Drug Test required (paid for by the Town of Wilson) Full list of requirements located on our website.
Must have a great "can-do" attitude and be able to work independently.
Please submit your resume to:
bdarkow@townwilson.com or mail/
drop off at the Town Office, 5935 S. Business Drive.



Eagle hunting at maintenance dept.
Photo courtesy of O. Kiehl

Safety tip

A weather radio is a great way to be prepared for the up and coming storm season. These radios are very valuable in the event of a storm and will provide advanced warning with a built in alarm.



NEW CONTACT FORM -

Town of Wilson Maintenance Department has a new "CONTACT US" form on our website. You can find it on our contact us page. Use this form for NON-EMERGENCIES ONLY. Messages are checked daily.

This is an excellent way to report pot holes in need of patchwork, overgrown right of ways, and ask any questions you may have regarding the recycling center!

RETIREMENTS:

Tom Sanville, Town of Wilson Sanitary Districts retired on March 20th, 2022.

Rick Meyer, Maintenance Supervisor retired on April 20th, 2022.

Congratulations! May the sun shine on you every day of your retirement!

GETTING TO KNOW BEN-

Karen Bollwahn sat down with Public Works Director Ben Darkow for an exclusive Fireside Chat to get acquainted:

KAREN: What was the biggest thing that drew you to this position?

BEN: *The opportunity to serve the residents of the town utilizing the skills and knowledge I have acquired throughout my career thus far.*

KAREN: How long have you lived in the Town of Wilson and what is your favorite thing about it?

BEN: *I have resided in the town for 7 years with my wife and 2 children. I absolutely love living in the woods with the deer and critters.*

KAREN: The Rolling Stones or The Beatles?

BEN: *The Beatles!*

KAREN: What do you feel will be the most satisfying aspect of this position?

BEN: *Improving everything roads, sanitary, and maintenance related to keep the Town of Wilson a safe great place to live.*

KAREN: Do you have a favorite color for everything or is it dependent on what it is?

BEN: *Camouflage!*

KAREN: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

BEN: *Everything outdoors; hunting, fishing, camping. I also am a State of Wisconsin certified Hunters Safety Instructor, member of Koenigs Conservation Club, and a drummer in a local polka band called The Waltzmeisters.*

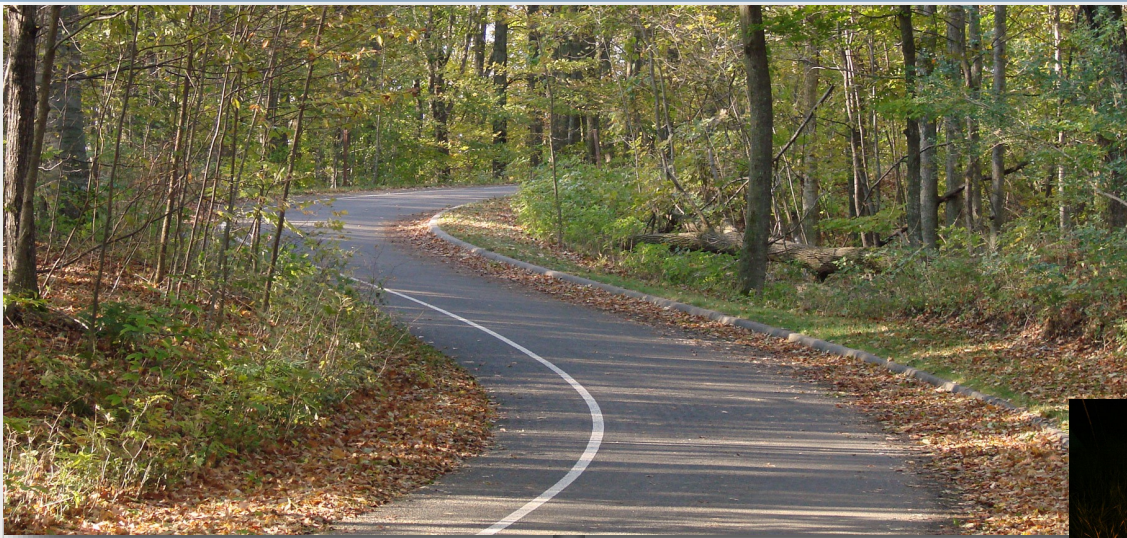
Even though Ben's chose The Beatles, he is a decent guy and an upright citizen.

Ben and the Town of Wilson are a great match.

Welcome Ben!

She comes in colours everywhere, she combs her hair. She's like a rainbow.

Coming, colours in the air. Oh, everywhere, She comes in colours - THE STONES



SUPERVISOR CHAT -

As the weather gets warmer, one of the most important things we can all keep in mind is the safety of our neighbors, friends and fellow Town of Wilson residents. There are many ways accidents can be avoided and they all start with a simple mind-set of watching out for one another.

Did you know the Town of Wilson has 39.13 Miles of roadway and 25.93 Miles of County highways? There are 4 bridges and lots culverts and box culverts in our town. With culverts being lower than the road surface, its harder to see the kids or pets that might be playing in or near them.

We also have multiple speed limits ranging from 25 MPH to 55 MPH (excluding I-43 that is 70 MPH.)

Some of these roads are residential, many are curvy and some have true blind spots.

It is important to observe the speed limits for everyone's safety. We have walkers, children playing and bikers to keep safe not to mention the damage to a driver that loses control and careens into a tree.

Most of our town roads were not built for high rates of speed. The 39.13 miles of Town of Wilson roads are maintained by the Town of Wilson Maintenance Department with annual pot-hole repair, resurfacing and signage. When traffic moves faster than the posted limits the roads tend to degrade faster leading to increased repair costs, which affect us all.

Speeding could also take a bite out of your wallet. The Sheboygan County Sheriff patrols our area on contract with the Town of Wilson and current fines range from \$175 to \$400 dollars based on the speed you are traveling.

In conclusion, please observe the speed limits, drive safely and save money.

As my Grandpa used to say "You don't need to be in a hurry to get to the cemetery."

Respectfully,

Supervisor Brian Hoffmann

TWFD NEW MEMBERS-

A hearty Wilson Welcome to Taylor Singer and Scarlett Lewis.

Taylor has already completed her Entry Firefighter course and has her EMT certification and Scarlett is enrolled in her Entry Firefighter course.

FIRST RESPONDERS

Town of Wilson First Responders are commonly asked; Will residents receive a bill for First Responder assistance on the scene of a 911 call?

No. Town of Wilson First Responders are a volunteer organization made up of members of the community. We do not bill anyone for our service, ever.

*With the dark, Oh I see so very clearly now
All my fears are drifting by me so
slowly now, Fading away
I can say, The night is long but you are here
Close at hand I'm better
for the smile you give.
GENESIS*

Did you know -

Heavy grass clipping left in the roadway can swiftly take a motorcyclist down to the ground.

The grass clippings make the roadway slick like ice or sand. Please sweep off the roads or use a leaf blower.



BURN PERMITS -

Spring time is upon us! It is a great time to remind residents that outside burning, other than cooking fires and small campfires require burn permits.

All contact information and permit applications are available on the Town of Wilson website at: townwilson.com.

For a complete copy of the Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance visit our website.



**FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
IS LOOKING FOR A
RESIDENT MEMBER!!**

*Meets once every few months
See our Website for
additional details!!*

Reminder

Please check your Smoke detector and CO detector batteries and expiration dates. CO detectors can have expiration dates on them (usually they are good for 5-7 years.)

TOWN OF WILSON STAFF

Clerk Julie Wicker(920) 208-2390 jwicker@townwilson.com
Treasurer Kari Mooney ...(920) 208-2390, Ext. 302
kmooney@townwilson.com
Sanitary District Administrator Karen Bollwahn....(920) 694-0088
kbollwahn@townwilson.com
Public Works Director Ben Darkow.....(920) 980-0198
bdarkow@townwilson.com

INSPECTORS

Tom Rogers, Electrical Inspector(920) 377-0074
Grotta Appraisals.....(262) 253-1142
Jack Vander Weele, Building Inspector.....(920) 946-7844
Scott Winter, Plumbing HVAC Inspector(920) 207-2818

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Todd DeBruin(628) 253-0810
Jason Schoen.....(920) 912-4205

EMERGENCY SANITARY SEWER CONTACTS:

Ben Darkow: (920) 980-0198
Otis Kiehl: (920) 918-8723
Steve Pautz: (920) 946-2216
Mike Klokow: (920) 457-6727

TOWN OF WILSON BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman John Ehmann.....(920) 254-9362 or chairman@townwilson.com
Supervisor Tom Stoelb..... (920) 627-5647 or supervisors@townwilson.com
Supervisor Brian Hoffmann(920) 918-2010 or supervisorbh@townwilson.com
Supervisor Nancy Des Jardins....(920) 457-1230 or supervisorndj@townwilson.com
Supervisor Matt Fore.....(920) 212-0280 or supervisorfm@townwilson.com

TOWN OF WILSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

firedept@townwilson.com

Todd Hittman, Chief(920) 458-6763
Steve Pautz, Assistant Chief(920) 946-2216

TOWN OF WILSON FIRST RESPONDERS

Dan Murphy, Service Director (920) 838-3214
Shelly Hittman, Co-Director (920) 458-6763

OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Mon. - Thurs;

Phone (920) 208-2390; Fax (920) 208-2450

SANITARY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday Afternoons *hours vary*

Tues. 10-3:30 PM and Thursday 8:30 - 12:30PM;

Phone: (920)694-0088; Fax: (920) 452-0548

Newsletter by Karen Bollwahn



TOWNWILSON.COM