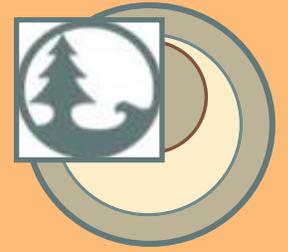
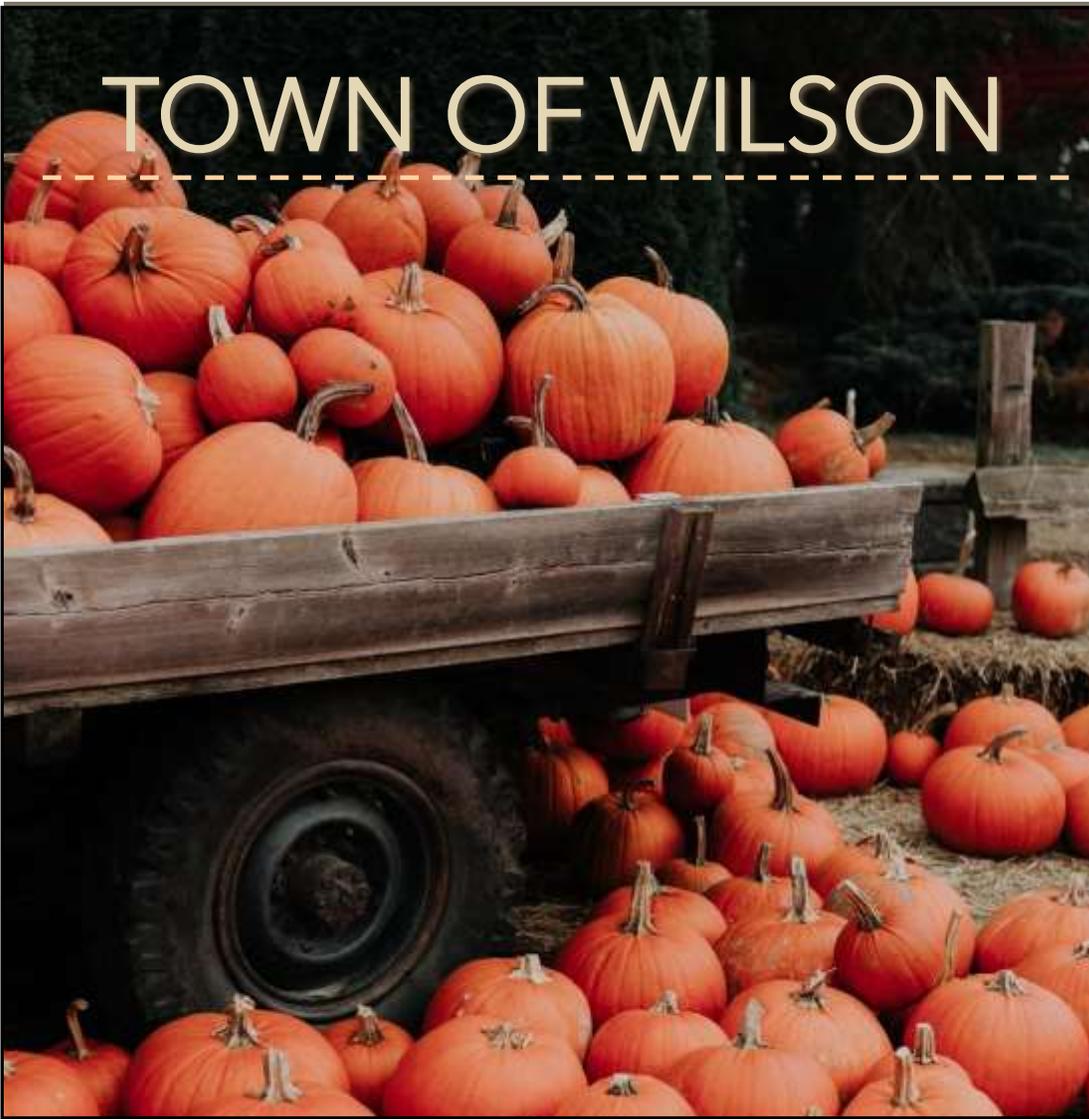


# TOWN OF WILSON



## FALL 2022 Newsletter

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### Update from the Town Chairman

Greetings everyone! I hope you enjoyed the amazing summer and are easing into the wonders of fall.

**It Takes a Village** – My continued thanks and appreciation to our talented town staff and amazing volunteers who make our local government work and help make this a great place to live. They are our office, maintenance, and sanitary district staff; our firefighters, fire advisory committee and first responders; our plan commissioners, board of appeals and parks and forestry team; and the many other committee members and volunteers who fill in all the gaps. If you would like to get involved, please give any of us a call and we will find something that fits your interests.

#### Staff & Volunteer Updates

**Change in Treasurer** – We are thrilled to welcome **Shawna Scovronski** as our new Town Treasurer. Shawna brings with her a strong background in customer relations, office administration and finance. She replaces **Kari Mooney**, who transitioned away from the rigors of full-time employment to spend more time with family. We thank Kari for her years of service and wish her all the best.

**Code Enforcement Officer Opening** – **Todd DeBruin** has stepped down as one of our two Code Enforcement Officers to focus more on the demands of his day job as Principal at Farnsworth Middle School. We thank Todd for his service to the town and wish him well. If you are interested in this very part-time, well-paid position, please contact Julie Wicker, the Town Clerk at (920) 208-2390. And, if you have an enforcement issue you need help with, call Jason Schoen at (920) 912-4205.

**Parks & Forestry Update** – We're excited about our new leadership team on the Parks & Forestry Commission: **Deb Lisberg** (Chair), **Bill Hartmann** (Vice Chair), and **Dori Nemeth** (Secretary). We are also delighted to add **Samantha Lammers**, Park Director at Maywood, to the team. And a huge thanks to **Greg Hopkins** for his many years of leadership as Chair. Greg took the commission to a new level and was instrumental in putting together the current team. Thank you so much, Greg.

**2023 Budget Public Hearing** – The Town Board will hold its public hearing on the 2023 town budget sometime in November. You will be able to attend in person or remotely via Zoom. The board will present the preliminary budget and then open the floor to public comment. Next the electors (residents) in attendance will approve the tax levy and the board will vote to adopt the final budget. Watch our website for the posted date and time.

**Road Improvements** – The major road project this year is to make drainage improvements and replace the pavement on Juniper Drive West. We anticipate construction to begin in October and be completed before the snow flies. Juniper drive residents will be notified in advance of the construction timing and details. Next year’s road projects are still being discussed and will be identified as part of our 2023 budget.

**Short-term Rentals in the Town** – The rental of private residences as vacation homes is a rapidly growing trend in the Town of Wilson. They typically operate through booking agents such as Airbnb and Vrbo. Short-term rentals are regulated by the State of Wisconsin with some limited regulation allowed at the municipal level. A “short-term rental” is

defined as a residential dwelling offered for rent for a fee for fewer than 29 consecutive days. The Town Board is evaluating adopting a short-term rental ordinance that would impose certain restrictions to address things like traffic, noise, and any other impositions to the health, safety, and general welfare of our town residents. Municipalities can also limit the number of rental days, require local licensing, and even levy room taxes. The Board is currently working with a small citizen group to gather input. Our neighbor, the Town of Holland, already has such an ordinance in place. If you are curious, you can find Holland’s Chapter 280 Short-term Rental ordinance on their website.

**Turn Out the Lights** – This is just a friendly reminder to turn off your outdoor lights at night so as not to unreasonably disturb the comfort of neighbor-

Please, **do not feed the deer!** Not only is this illegal and subject to heavy fines, it places humans in closer contact to disease and contributes to our overpopulation problem.

I realize **fireworks** are as American as hotdogs and apple pie, but by state law, shooting off fireworks without a permit is illegal and subject to hefty fines. Why? Because they can cause real trauma to children, veterans, and our pets. They also disrupt the sleep of nearby residents, especially those who work 3<sup>rd</sup> shift or need to be up early. Please consider the impact on others and weigh that against some momentary fun.

The town’s **road right-of-ways** are primarily used for surface water drainage, driver visibility, and vegetation buffers to keep our roads dry. Please do not alter or place any debris or materials in

*“My continued thanks and appreciation to our talented town staff and amazing volunteers who make our local government work and help make this a great place to live.”*

ing residents. Darkness is essential to quality sleep. Our Chapter 25 Public Nuisance ordinance states that most lighting is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. We appreciate your cooperation.

**Rules of the Road** – Do you ever wonder about the common issues our town staff and supervisors deal with? Well, here are a few that come to mind. To read more on these subjects, refer to the ordinances on the town website. And if you have any questions, you can call our town office at (920) 208-2390.

Mind the **speed limits!** I see firsthand every day that many town roads are turning into racetracks. People are routinely travelling 10-15 mph over the speed limit on roads heavily used by pedestrians and bikers. Please, consider the safety of your fellow neighbors and **SLOW DOWN!**

**Burn permits** are required for any fires exceeding the requirements for recreational campfires: wood only, with maximum firepit diameter of 42” and flame height of 24”.

the right-of-ways, including yard signs.

**Building permits** are required for everything from home renovations to replacing a roof. This includes installing a deck, fence or shed! Please call the town office if you have questions as to what requires a permit.

**Driveway permits** are required to construct, pave, or alter a driveway.

All **dogs** older than five months must be licensed and vaccinated for rabies. When off your property, they must be leashed, under control, and picked up after.

It is unlawful to store **unlicensed, inoperable, or disassembled motor vehicles** in any outdoor areas of any property not zoned for such activity.

Our **public nuisance ordinance** prohibits several activities including unnecessary and loud noises, frequent, habitual, and excessive animal noise, dilapidated buildings, obstruction of streets, abandoned autos, mobile homes, trail-

*“For your selflessness my admiration.  
For everything you've done you know I'm bound, I'm bound to thank you for it.” - Natalie Merchant*

ers, appliances, or storage of junk, and any other nuisance as defined by Wisconsin statutes.

**Municipal Court** – The Town of Wilson will be joining the Lakeside Municipal Court located in North Fond du Lac, effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, to process citations for Town ordinance violations. Lakeside Municipal Court is made up of 23 members that include cities, villages, and townships from four counties. Municipal courts are much more efficient and less costly than our current option of using the Sheboygan County Circuit Court. We had reached out and asked to join several local municipal courts but were turned away because our low volume of citations would not produce enough revenue for these courts to cover their overhead.

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

### FIRE DEPARTMENT REMINDERS:

As we enter the heating season the Town of Wilson Fire Department and First Responders offers a few safety tips to keep you and your loved ones safe.

**Sunday, November 6, 2022 is the end of daylight savings.**

This is a great time to check your smoke detectors and your Carbon Monoxide detectors and maintain them as needed. With many smoke detectors hard wired in homes now the batteries last much longer but still require changes.



Carbon Monoxide detectors also require maintenance, please check for expiration dates on the sensor packs on detectors as well.

When using space heaters this winter, first and foremost, never leave them unattended. Space heaters that are unattended are very dangerous and can cause fires quickly if the unit gets tipped over or faults out and no

one catches it immediately. Make sure that when using space heaters there is no clutter around the unit.

Updated units are much safer than older units and if you choose to update a unit make certain it is UL Listed and has "Tip Over Protection."

Any questions about the fire department, the explorer program or becoming a volunteer, please contact us via email at [firedept@townwilson.com](mailto:firedept@townwilson.com).

### New Firefighters-Welcome to the Fire Department!

Scarlett Lewis    Dustin Kubert    Ethan Damrau

*"Just play with me and you won't get burned."* - Jimi Hendrix



# Black River



Advancement Association, Inc.

Did you know: The Black River Advancement association, Inc. (BRAA) was first organized in 1934? We are a non-profit organization that continues today to actively support the preservation of our natural beauty and history of Black River.

BRAA is led by a group of 10 volunteer board members who meet monthly, and are always seeking new members to become involved and take advantage of our programs and membership events. Past programs have included awareness of invasive species, Lake Michigan water level concerns, well water testing and many others. Community events offered by BRAA have included chili cookoffs, ice cream socials and our annual Fall Fry. These events continue to bring our community together and encourage the appreciation for the history and beauty of Black River.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$10/yr; \$50/ 6 yrs

MUSEUM: Historical and educational displays; Located at 5512 Evergreen Drive in the Alfred Jung Building. Free Admission. Donations always welcomed and very appreciated.

HALL: Available for rent; Located at 435 Indian Mound Road. Membership discount available.

For more information contact us at:

[Blackriveradvancement.com](http://Blackriveradvancement.com)

[blackriveradvaassociation@gmail.com](mailto:blackriveradvaassociation@gmail.com)

BRAA 501© non-profit organization



## TWO IF BY LAND, ONE IF BY SEA?

### OH DEER!

By Matt Fore

The Town of Wilson is one of the more unique population areas in Sheboygan County. With its beautiful shoreline, abundant woodlands, and green pastures we all get to experience things few others do. With that comes some tradeoffs, none more so than the whitetail deer population and its destructive impact on our environment. But our environment is also their environment and has been long before we were here. Trying to find a balance is the tricky part.

The Town Supervisors have received many calls regarding the deer population and their constant feeding on our landscape plants. We have reached out to the Wisconsin DNR to find a solution to the problem. The advised, easiest and most effective step we can take is for residents to stop feeding

the deer. Town ordinances already prohibit this activity, they just need to be followed and enforced.

The culling, relocating, or hazing of deer were also discussed. The DNR's response was that culling of deer is generally ineffective unless a very aggressive, multiyear plan is put in place that removes large numbers of deer on a consistent basis. Likewise, relocating whitetail deer is not a good solution as many don't survive the transport. And efforts to haze deer or scare them away work only temporarily until the deer learn there is no threat.

We are not alone in dealing with this situation. Long Island New York has a similar problem, and they tried a controversial method to remove the deer by sterilizing the population. The result was it was costly



Photo by Mike Klokow

and ineffective.

Our next step is to have a specialist from the DNR come to the town and give a presentation on this topic. That will allow you to hear directly from the experts, ask questions and share your thoughts. Our target date is sometime in January or February as that is their first availability. Please check the Town website or call the town office later this year for the specific date, time, and location.

### THE LOVE CATS

It was a beautiful late summer day when Public Works Director Ben Darkow arrived at the transfer station to notice something odd at the end of the street. He walked over to investigate what had been left at the side of the road.

Sitting on the grass, he spied a soft-sided cat carrier had been discarded. Upon further investigation he found a food dish and water dish had been left there too. His first thought was that someone was trying to locate their missing pet.

Upon entering the transfer station building, he saw a beautiful little black kitty running out of the corner of his eye. With a little coaxing and a lot of love, the little girl came to sit with him. Sweet as can be and desperately gobbling up the attention, she sat with him purring and asking to be pet.

As a precaution in the event there were more, Mr. Darkow put out a live trap with some fresh food and water. It's a blessing that he did.

Over night, he caught another little girl and the next day, a little boy. This continued, and at the time of this article being written a total of 5 young cats all appearing to be siblings have been successfully trapped and taken to the humane society.

While it is possible for a formerly domesticated cat to adapt and turn to a feral animal, it's much more likely that in the first year of life they will succumb to a predator, disease or starve to death. Cats that have gotten used to being in a home do not possess the necessary skills to hunt or defend themselves, leaving them at a significant disadvantage while they attempt to learn these life-skills.

Photo by Ben Darkow



When faced with an unexpected litter of kittens, there are resources available to help. The Humane Society of Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Ozaukee and Fond du lac are some options, and there are many other non-profit organizations out there to help families in situations where there is more little lives than they can handle.

Kitten #4 affectionately named Miss Mae, found her forever home with Ben Darkow's family. Needless to say, they are in love.

My sincere hope is that there is a happily ever after for these five beautiful souls. Thank you to the Sheboygan Humane Society for all they do for animals of all kinds in need!

*UPDATE: After the writing of this article, this author was informed that ALL of the kittens brought in by Mr. Darkow have found families. Congratulations Ben on a job well done!*

## A WHALE OF A STORY

This little piece of newsletter filler is this author's reflection on how much she has learned from nature.

In 2009, a diver named Yang Yun was competing in a polar dive to become a whale trainer. The polar dive requires a diver with no equipment to sink 20 feet down into arctic temperature water in a tank filled with whales.

When Ms. Yun was nearing the bottom, her legs suddenly paralyzed. Coming to the rescue was the least likely heroine imaginable.

Mila a Beluga whale grabbed Yuns legs in her mouth and literally propelled the diver to the surface. In an article written by M.A. Potts for National Geographic, an event organizer of the polar dive credited Mila for saving Yuns life.<sup>1</sup>

In 2017 off the Coast of Cook Island, diver Nan Hauser was approached by a Humpback whale that she couldn't seem to shake. The whale gently nudged and prodded her, and even tried to put her under its pectoral fin. Simultaneously, Hauser noticed another Humpback slapping its tail a short distance away. Whales have enough power to shatter bones and explode organs and one wrong move could prove deadly. This strange behavior continued for 15 fear-filled minutes.

When Hauser was finally able to resurface her mates frantically called out for her to hurry back to the boat. They had spotted, what the whales were reacting to! A 15 foot tiger shark was lurking in hunting mode just beyond the tail-slapping whale.

Once Hauser was safely back in the boat the Humpback did a drive-by and blew a stream of water out his blow hole, to which Hauser called back " I LOVE YOU TOO! I LOVE YOU TOO!"<sup>2</sup> You can watch the video on YouTube as well as interviews with Ms. Hauser

from various news outlets, and countless nature programs.

When I was a young girl and the neighborhood kids would taunt me by calling me a whale, I was insulted. Today, as I interact with strangers and friends alike....

*I aim to BE THE WHALE.*

1 [www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/article/mila-to-the-rescue-beluga-whale-saves-drowning-diver](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/article/mila-to-the-rescue-beluga-whale-saves-drowning-diver)  
2 [www.livescience.com/61380-humpback-whale-saves-diver-video.html](http://www.livescience.com/61380-humpback-whale-saves-diver-video.html)

*"And I think to myself, what a wonderful world."  
- Louis Armstrong*

## TRANSFER STATION ETIQUETTE

Working long hours in the yard is part of many resident's fall routine. Once all of the leaves are raked and bagged, or the gardens are emptied for the coming spring, many of us visit the transfer station. This increase in traffic can result in a backlog of residents waiting their turn. First and foremost, please be patient when there is a line. Our staff works hard to keep things flowing as much as they can. There are some simple things you can do at home to speed up the process for everyone.

Please have the separating of trash from recyclables done prior to visiting the transfer station, and have your cardboard already flattened. It's real time saver for your visit as well as those waiting behind you.

**The following reminders will also keep things moving :**

- Garbage needs to be in clear or opaque white bags, as black bags are not acceptable for garbage.
- Seek the assistance of an attendant prior to loading mulch or discarding tires. These convenience features are things that the Town has to charge for.

Additionally, While there are some appliances we can dispose of, freon bearing appliances such as dehumidifiers, air conditioners and refrigerators of any size we cannot accept. Recently, a dorm sized refrigerator snuck its way into the dumpster. Unfortunately it resulted in a garbage compactor ram failure. As a result of the service charge for repairs and paying to empty the spare container, it cost the town and ultimately the residents a significant amount of money.

If you have a **non-freon bearing** appliance to discard, please check in with an attendant before unloading.

We can all do our part to keep these added costs down, and keep the line moving at a good pace with just a little forethought and preparation.

**Thanks for doing your part to keep it in check!**



## SNOWPLOWING

The Town of Wilson contracts two companies to plow and salt roadways.

Wagner Excavating plows roads East of I-43, and North of CTH-V. Sheboygan County Highway Department plows West of I-43, and South of V.

If you have snowplowing issues or concerns your fastest course of action is to call the responsible contracted party.

Please remember, shoveling snow or snow blowing into the roadway is an ordinance violation.

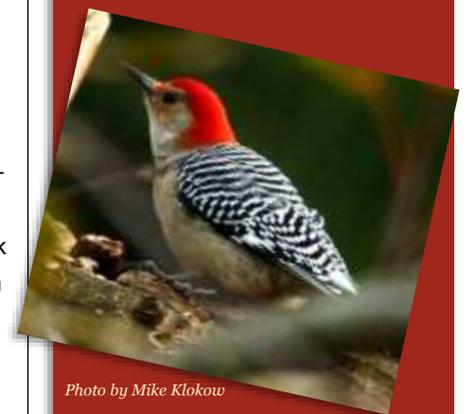


Photo by Mike Klokow

*You've got to pick up the pieces  
Come on, sort your trash better  
Pull yourself back together*

- The Ramones



## Jerving Conservancy Honeysuckle Removal - Volunteers Requested!

- Tuesday October 18
- Tuesday November 15
- Tuesday December 20  
9 AM- Noon

Meet at the North end of Evergreen Drive where it dead ends near the Black River.

Questions and RSVP :  
billhartmann@charter.net  
920-627-4731

Make sure to leave a phone number so you can receive text alerts in the event of a cancellation.

Bring: Work gloves, boots, loppers/handsaws, protective eye-wear



## COMING IN 2023

Park and Forestry will be working with the Town of Wilson in 2023 to update our Noxious Weeds Ordinance.

Our plan is to educate our residents on how to identify these plants, how to eradicate them, and why this is important.

This ordinance will be one that can impose fines, so we intend to provide resources to help with compliance.

Watch for more information to come in 2023.

## PARK AND FORESTRY NEWS

### Grants at work

The Town of Wilson received Emerald Ash Border Mitigation grant funds through ROOTS (Restore Our Trees Sheboygan) and LNRP (Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership); matching contributions from the Town, and the assistance of many energetic volunteers enabled us to plant a diverse variety of trees in Fireman's Park, Schinker Creek Park and Jerving Conservancy.

*Trees promote a healthy environment in a myriad of ways."*

Thank you to all who participated! It could not have been accomplished without your support!

A fall planting will also be scheduled so stay tuned and join us if you can! It's fun, and an investment in the future and beautification of our Town. Trees promote a healthy environment in a myriad of ways!

### Welcoming new members

The Park and Forestry Commission welcomes it's newest member, Samantha Lammers!  
Samantha brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to P & F.

She is the executive director of Maywood, former DNR warden and Statewide Aquatic

Invasive Species Coordinator for Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Washington and Waukesha counties. She is also a Sheboygan native who is passionate about environmental sustainability and restoration. On top of that, she is a Wisconsin Master Naturalist.

In her free time she enjoys kayaking, hiking, camping and all things nature related. We are delighted to have her on board!

Park and Forestry would like to recognize the dedication of our exiting members Nancy Kissel and Jane

Kettler. Your years of service are much appreciated. Your efforts were invaluable and you made a difference!

**Thank you!**



Photo by Dorci Nemeth

*"There is unrest in the forest. Trouble with the trees. For the maples want more sunlight, and the oaks ignore their pleas" - Rush*



## PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Our office will be accepting full payment and first half payments of property taxes.

You can mail your taxes to our office or use our drop box conveniently located outside of our front door. If you would like a receipt for your payment please include a self addressed stamped envelope and we will mail it to you as soon as your payment is processed.

At the time of newsletter publication, Wisconsin Bank and Trust has indicated they will be open for accepting payments this year, however as things change so rapidly please watch our website for any changes to these guidelines.

## ELECTIONS

The next election in the Town of Wilson will be held on :

**Tuesday, November 8th, 2022.**

**Town of Wilson Hall**

**Polls open 7 AM—8 PM**

Unable to vote at your polling place on Election Day? Take advantage of one of these other options.

### *Receive your ballot by mail*

Wisconsin voters can receive their absentee ballot by mail. If you are a regular voter who would like to vote in the 2022 General Election, make sure to submit your request for an absentee ballot by November 3, 2022.

### *Vote early in your Municipal Clerk's office*

Voters can request and vote an absentee ballot in-person in their municipal clerk's office beginning two weeks before Election Day .

### *Receive a ballot for every election by mail*

If you are unable to go to your polling place on Election Day due to age, illness, disability or infirmity, you can request an absentee ballot be sent to you for every election, automatically, as an "indefinitely confined elector."

**There is no early in person voting allowed in the State of Wisconsin the Monday before election day.**



## A WARM WELCOME

Sanitary's own Karen Bollwahn sat down with the Town of Wilson's new treasurer Shawna Scovronski for a hot cup of cider and a little chat. Karen asked Shawna how she was feeling about and what her impressions are with her new appointment as Town Treasurer:

*"It's great!" She exclaimed. "I work with some really amazing people. I really love the small town atmosphere, and there is such a great sense of community amongst all of our residents. I am also really impressed by the Town Board's willingness for spirited debate. It really shows how much they care about our town. I am very happy to be a part of it!"*

**Shawna, we are happy too! Welcome to the Town of Wilson. We are so lucky to have found you!**



## DOG LICENSING

Licensing is required for all dogs over 5 months old. Fees are \$7 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$14 for intact dogs.

2023 Licenses are generally available beginning in mid December of 2022.

A copy of the current rabies certificate for each dog you are licensing along with your payment are required.

### Mail Any Payments to:

Treasurer

5935 S. Business Drive  
Sheboygan, WI 53081

## SANITARY NEWS

State of Wisconsin Statutes require that Sanitary District payments not received in our office by **November 15th** will have the balance owed tax rolled onto the corresponding property tax bill.

### GENTLE REMINDER

Please be aware that flushable wipes are not biodegradable and can cause a costly and messy clog. Any clog of the sewers in a residents home and in the lateral (pipe that runs to main line at the street) is the responsibility of the home owner.

The Sanitary Commissioners, Town Engineer and staff continue to diligently work on maintenance and repair issues within the sewer system while keeping rates low. Watch your 4th quarter bill mailed in January for information on any adjustments to 2023 rates.

**COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS - Please keep your meters clear from clutter.**

*"One life but we're not the same  
We get to carry each other, carry each other  
One" - U2*

**TOWN OF WILSON STAFF**

Clerk Julie Wicker ....(920) 208-2390 jwicker@townwilson.com  
 Treasurer Shawna Scovronski ...(920) 208-2390 ext. 302  
 sscovronski@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  
 Grota Appraisals.....(262) 253-1142  
 Jack Vander Weele, Building Inspector.....(920) 946-7844  
 Scott Winter, Plumbing HVAC Inspector .....(920) 207-2818

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

Jason Schoen.....(920) 912-4205

**OPEN POSITION, SEE OUR WEBSITE**

**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

**EMERGENCY SANITARY SEWER CONTACTS:**

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

**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

**RECYCLE CENTER & TRANSFER STATION**

4430 Meyer Court **Tues. 8 AM - 5 PM; Sat. 8 AM- 4 PM**

