

# NEWSLETTER

## *From the desk of the Chairman*

Fall is a beautiful time in the Town of Wilson. Many changes happen to our lives and our landscape, and as we say goodbye to the flowers and leaves for the year, room is made for new things to bloom in the months to come.

We have had quite a few changes in our staff too. Long-time Chairman John Ehmann has resigned to focus on his retirement. Mr. Ehmann joined the Town Board as Chairman in April of 2015 and has put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into his time with the Town Board.

Thank you, John, for accepting the call to lead our Board for so many years with an open heart and mind. We truly appreciate all you have done for the Town of Wilson. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 the Town of Wilson Board nominated me to lead as the new Chairman. I am humbled and honored to accept this position.

As this left an empty seat, the Board then nominated Todd Richter to join as a Town Supervisor. We are grateful that Mr. Richter accepted the nomination and now sits with the Board and Sanitary Commissioners.

The Town of Wilson Park and Forestry Commission has seen major changes too. We currently have two members on the Park and Forestry Commission which is too few for a quorum so if you are inter-



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*Online building permit  
applications now available!  
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ested in picking up the shovel and taking charge, contact the clerk. We would like to thank Deb Lisberg, Dori Nemeth and Bill Hartmann for all of their hard work and commitment. You all have done some great work and will be missed!

Change is sometimes difficult, sometimes exciting and sometimes.... Just what is needed to shake things up.

I look forward to serving you as your Town Chairman. I think we will do great things together.

Matt Fore

chairman@townwilson.com

*So if you're tired of the same old story.... Oh, turn some pages.  
I'll be here when you are ready, to roll with the changes - REO Speedwagon*



## BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Town Wilson Fire Station

(5536 Evergreen Dr.)

October 4th, and 20th

November 1, 15 and 29

December 13

January 10th, 2024

The Bookmobile will come to your community on the dates and times listed above.

E-mail your reference questions, requests for materials or reserves to [bkmref@monarchlibraries.org](mailto:bkmref@monarchlibraries.org) or call 920-208-4900 Extension 315.

Remember you can return your materials to any public library in Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Dodge or Washington Counties.

## OPEN SEATS and VACANCIES

Submitted by Erik Thelen

### The Plan Commission

If you are interested in being considered as a Plan Commission member, please review the zoning ordinance at <https://townwilson.com/town-of-wilson-ordinances/> and send an email to the Town Clerk. We are currently looking for an alternate member.

The Plan Commission reviews plans and applications submitted to the Town under the zoning ordinance. This includes conditional use permits, requests for rezoning, driveway permits, and sign permits. After reviewing and holding a public hearing, if necessary, the Plan Commission makes recommendations to the Town of Wilson Board of Supervisors for the final decision.

The Plan Commission also makes reports and recommendations to the Board as to the planning and development of the

Town of Wilson.

The Plan Commission consists of seven members who are appointed by the Town Chair. The Commission also has one alternate member who is elected by the Town Board. The alternate member steps in where there are not enough regular members available to form a quorum.

Plan Commission members serve without compensation for three year terms, typically beginning in April. Plan Commission meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

### The Park and Forestry Commission

Commissioners are needed to fill vacant positions on the Parks and Forestry Commission. If you are interested in finding more about these positions please call the Town of Wilson Office.



## PARK AND FORESTRY NEWS

Submitted by Dori Nemeth -

Treatment of invasive Phragmites was completed in August throughout the Town of Wilson. If you are a private landowner who has Phragmites and would like to know more about enrollment in the treatment program, please contact: Melissa Curran at Stantec (920-841-1072)

Spot treatment of invasive Barberry has taken place within the Balzer Woods – Wilderness Park.

Clearing of Barberry throughout the Mueller Conservancy is planned to begin in late October-November 2023.

Walking paths in Fireman's and Schinker Creek Park now have a fresh layer of compacted limestone. Stumps of trees that were cut down were ground/removed.

Addresses for the Town's public green spaces are being posted on the Town's website:  
[www.TownWilson.com](http://www.TownWilson.com) / Links tab / Points of Interest

There is ongoing effort to create a walking trail loop within the Balzer Woods – Wilderness Park.

Painting of the bathroom at Schinker Creek Park has been completed.

The Noxious Weed Ordinance for the Town of Wilson has been updated with clarification & call-out of the most prevalent invasive weeds in the Town.

Thank-you Volunteers for:  
Invasive species removal on the Honey-suckle within the Jerving Conservancy and maintenance of its trail network.  
Schinker Creek Park weeding, mulching and additional planting in the Pollinator Garden and watering of and weeding of mulch around the trees.

**Attention:** Commissioners are needed to fill vacant positions on the Parks and Forestry Commission. If you are interested in finding more about these positions please call the Town of Wilson Office.

### Pollinator Garden in full bloom at Schinker Creek Park

You may have noticed – there's work in progress: the Pollinator Garden is evolving at Schinker Creek Park! This was the vision of Tom Sonntag, Greg Hopkins & Jane Kettler (Town of Wilson Parks & Forestry Commission volunteers past & present) who made the original plant donations and started the work in 2020.

The garden continues to develop into a magical place where you can observe any number and variety of butterflies, moths, caterpillars, bees, spiders, dragonflies, wasps, crickets and more. Its native plant species support the essential role that pollinators provide to our fragile ecosystem.

We want to thank those who provided plants, labor and vision this summer to supplement this project. Thank you, Sue Mathews, especially! Much gratitude to

Jeanne & Glenn Genske for providing labor support to get this area shaped up. Consultants included Elaine Wagner and Stephanie Larson, WI Master Gardeners. Your insights are very much appreciated!

This endeavor requires support from all directions. If you'd like to engage & help sustain the pollinator garden by volunteering, please contact Tom Sonntag (920) 447-2747.

Even if you cannot devote any time, please visit the garden & enjoy! Bring a magnifying glass if you have one. I guarantee you will be transfixed!

*Your enjoyment makes all the hard work & countless hours spent on this project worthwhile.*

*Thank you,  
Deb Lisberg,  
for being a steward of the  
pollinators, organizing  
this summer's revamp  
and the huge amount of  
hard work pulling the  
weeds and making the  
garden enjoyable for all.*





## SUMMER IN THE REAR-VIEW

### MIRROR *Submitted by Ben Darkow*

Another beautiful summer has come and gone. With the unbelievable stretches of good weather we've had, the town was able to complete all the planned road work, patches, and surface maintenance treatments we had in store for this year.



Parks and cemeteries have been countlessly mowed and trimmed by the town's hard-working maintenance staff. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped put those extra touches on the parks and invasive species removal. Without them, the town would not look as beautiful as it does. If you see one of our Parks & Forestry members or any of the countless volunteers that contributed their time, resources, and knowledge, please extend a big 'THANK YOU' to them for their efforts!

The town sanitary crew accomplished a few major lift station rehabilitation upgrades this year as well as the normal daily and weekly maintenance needed at all 4 of our lift stations and the main pump station on Lakeshore Drive.

There is a lot that goes in to keeping the sanitary system operating at full efficiency, so I wanted to make sure the efforts of the crew have been recognized. It is not the most glamorous job dealing with sewage yet is very critical in keeping everything flowing as it should. Hats off to the guys that do their jobs every day and sometimes in the middle of the night as needed!

As we transition to the Fall/Winter seasons, the town's maintenance staff will be prepping snow and salting equip-

ment as well as deploying sand boxes and flag rods. Please remember that is against town ordinance to place any types of markers in the road right of way or deposit leaves/debris in the ditches. If you think you need flag rods for plowing

concerns, please contact the maintenance department.

We are also working with Wagner Excavating (who plows a portion of our town roads) on a game-plan to start utilizing brine

in lieu of road salt to treat some of our roads at times for this upcoming winter season.

We are happy to say that our transfer station got some much-needed concrete and asphalt work done this summer.

Thank you to all the residents that came through during the construction period and were patient coming through the line. We tried our best to keep things moving as efficiently as possible, aiding residents in unloading their vehicles.

The crew put in a lot of extra days and hours to provide the services we are all used to so please thank them when you come to visit us.

Remember our transfer station is set up to not only take your garbage and recyclables, but we also accept grass clippings, leaves, and branches. Aside from those items, we also take in scrap metal and non-freon bearing appliances. See the insert within the newsletter for a full list of items we accept and do not accept. Please remember to separate your gar-

bage and recyclables. It is state law that we all do this. Garbage needs to be brought to the transfer station in clear or opaque/white bags. Any garbage brought in black bags will be turned away. You can bring recyclables in any color bag since they get emptied into the compactor. We have been seeing more and more people utilizing plastic totes to bring in their recyclables to save money on bags and not have to deal with tearing open sticky bags.

Lastly, you will notice tree work will continue well into the fall and winter months. There are still plenty of dead ash trees that we will be taking down to keep roads safe. Keep an eye around your house and property for dead or dying trees. Give the crews that are out on the roads doing tree work extra space when driving by. Chainsaws and chip-pers are loud equipment which can



make it hard to hear cars coming by. We all want to go home to our families each day and appreciate drivers giving extra space when we are doing work on or along the roads.

*"No matter how far I run,  
I always end up back here  
No matter how far I go, I always end up back here  
In the mirror ..." - The Interrupters*



## THE RIGHT WAY IN THE RIGHT OF WAY -

Many homes in the Town of Wilson have drainage culverts and ditches in their yard. As appealing as it may be to make changes to these areas, it is technically land owned by the town. It is called the right of way. Let's look at some definitions to get familiar with the terms.

**Right of Way** is essentially a plot of land, 66 feet wide used for the road, and the shoulder. The end of the right of way is a specific distance from the center of the street. An easy way to visualize this is to remember that the first fifteen to twenty feet (give or take depending on the width of your street) from any road is in the right of way.

Here is the technical definition:

“Right-of-way” means the full extent of lands acquired for road purposes, whether by deed, easement, statute, patent, court order, or prescriptive use.

Drainage Ditches and Culverts are used to divert water run-off in the direction of a master drainage plan developed by engineers. The **ditch** is a place of lower elevation and the **culvert** is the pipe that runs under a driveway. Some places have both, others may have just ditches or just culverts, but their goals are the same.

Drainage ditches and Culverts give excess ground and stormwater a route to travel, limiting the areas of standing water in heavy rainy seasons or when the ground water level is high like we have seen here in Sheboygan County in past years.

More importantly, ditches protect your home from having water spill or leak into your basement. This year was particularly dry so it's easy to forget those ditches are there for a reason.

Every property has a **right of way** even if it doesn't have a drainage ditch or culvert.


The Town of Wilson has ordinances limiting changes that can be made to the right of way and can be found in Chapter 54 of the ordinances available on our website. The only things allowed in the Right of Way is a culvert and a mailbox.

Trees and shrubs are classified as "obstructions" and are not allowed in the right of way.

Here is a snippet of the ordinance:

“Obstruction” means all materials placed within a right-of-way that may impede the flow of drainage water, obstruct visibility of roadway users, increase the risk of injury to roadway user who collides with the materials, or interfere with road maintenance operations, including the ability of employees or agents to access or occupy any portion of the right-of-way. As illustrations, obstructions include snow, stones or rocks, railroad ties, landscape timbers, basement drain tile pipes, private drainage systems and other decorative landscaping fences; garbage, rubbish, refuse or other discarded materials; all agricultural crops regardless of height; trees, shrubs, bushes and other decorative plantings that extend above the natural or established grade by more than six (6) inches; and delineator posts including metal stakes, wood stakes or snow fence posts.

The reason for this is obstructions do just that. They Obstruct the flow of water, but also limit the visibility for traffic on the roads. If you plan to do some landscaping please consult the full ordinance and follow the rules. The repercussions of ignoring them can result in an order to remove, fines and a whole lot of your hard work that gets undone!



“Love all, trust a few,  
do wrong to none.”

– William Shakespeare



## 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.

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

**Please notify the Treasurer if you have a dog that is no longer licensable in the town.**

Rehomed and departed dogs will be removed from our list so you aren't contacted regarding late fees.

Mail Any Payments to:  
Treasurer  
5935 S. Business Drive  
Sheboygan, WI 53081



## SANITARY PAYMENTS

Sanitary District 3rd quarter payments that are not received in our office by November 15th will have the full balance owed tax rolled onto the corresponding property tax bill.

## REMINDER

Rates will be going up in 2024 to remain a fiscally responsible utility. Many upgrades and repairs are needed to ensure reliable service.

Watch your fourth quarter bill mailed in January or our website for advanced notice on 2024 rates.

## SNOW PLOWING

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.

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

## ONLINE BUILDING PERMITS

Building permit applications can now be submitted online! Visit [www.cloudpermit.com](http://www.cloudpermit.com) to submit an application.

You will need to make an account, and create an application. There is a link to a directional video on our website. [Townwilson.com](http://Townwilson.com)

Online payments are not available at this time, but this service will simplify the process of applying for a permit and uploading documentation.

**You can still visit our office to apply for your permit in person.**

## PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Our office will be accepting full payment and first half payments of property taxes. Payments can only be accepted until January 31st 2024 at the Town office. **Any payments after January 31st must be made to the Sheboygan County Treasurer. This includes online payments!**

You are encouraged to mail your taxes to our office or use our drop box conveniently located outside of our front door.

If you are paying for more than one parcel you can make out ONE check.

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.



## ELECTIONS

**2024 has four elections coming up!**

- February 20th, 2024 Spring Primary
- April 2nd, 2024 Presidential Preference
- August 13th, 2024 Partisan Primary
- November 5th, 2024 General Election

Visit [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) to register to vote!  
If you want absentee ballots sent to you, please make sure you request them in advance!  
If you are interested in working at the polls, please call the clerk.

*"It was the morning of All Saint's Day, ninety-eight  
When that old blind dog started roaming around the graveyard  
Wouldn't have bothered me so much  
Were he not walking on his hind legs and smoking cigars "*

- Clutch



## SAFETY FIRST FROM TWFD/FR

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 5, 2023 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.

Inspect fireplace chimneys to assure they are cleaned and free of debris.

If you have a high efficiency gas furnace, keep the venting pipe free from snow so that harmful gasses don't build up inside your home. Shoveling the area free of snow eliminates the restriction that snow can cause.

Examine cords on decorative lighting to

ensure everything is in safe working condition before installing and be mindful of how many plugs and adapters are being used. Loose connections can make for a dangerous situation both inside and out.

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."

When using ladders for holiday decorating make sure they are stable and on dry ground (no ice!) before stepping onto the ladder.

Keep your walkways free of ice buildup to avoid slips and falls that can quickly lead to broken bones.

**New Firefighters and Explorers  
Welcome to the Fire Department.  
Joe Duwell Brianna Johnson**



With bonfire season in full swing, please visit Chapter 3 of the Town of Wilson Ordinances to make sure your fire is in compliance.

All of our Ordinances are located on our website at [Townwilson.com](http://Townwilson.com)

## BLACK RIVER ADVANCEMENT

Please join us for our upcoming fall and winter events and educational programs at the Black River Advancement Hall.

- Oct 19 at 7pm: Indian Mound Park – A Black River Gem  
Lulu Lubbers and Tippy Jung
- Nov 14 at 7pm: History of Kohler-Andrae State Park – Jim Buchholz, Retired Superintendent
- Feb 25 at noon: Chili Cook-Off

Our organization is always looking for volunteers to support our mission and efforts. Become a member and take advantage of the programs and events being offered. For more information, please visit our website

and like us on Facebook.  
[blackriveradvancement.com](http://blackriveradvancement.com)  
[blackriveradvancement@gmail.com](mailto:blackriveradvancement@gmail.com)

*The mission of Black River Advancement Association is to preserve and maintain the history of the Black River area and through education perpetuate its wildlife and natural beauty.*



**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  
Troy Pietroske .....(920) 918-9338

**TOWN OF WILSON BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman Matt Fore.....(920) 212-0280 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 Todd Richter.....(920) 212-0280 or trichter@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**

Shelley Hittman, Service Director ..... (920) 458-6763

Pam Schneekloth, Co-Director ..... (920) 980-1788

**EMERGENCY SANITARY SEWER CONTACTS:**

Ben Darkow: (920) 980-0198

Otis Kiehl: (920) 918-8723

Steve Pautz: (920) 946-2216

Mike Klokow: (920) 457-6727



Newsletter by Karen Bollwahn

**TOWNWILSON.COM**

**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**