

# NEWSLETTER



## SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Greetings Town of Wilson! It's that time of year again as we move from the long, warm days of summer to the beautiful, crisp days of fall! I want to take this opportunity to educate the Town of Wilson residents on a topic most are not aware of, the FIRE PARTNERS agreement the Town of Wilson has with the Oostburg Fire Department. This contract has cost the residents of Wilson over \$315,000 over the last ten years, including \$43,599 in 2023 alone. Over the next 5 years, in addition to the yearly \$14,000 fee your tax dollars pay to the Oostburg Fire Department, we will also be responsible for 15% of an estimated 1.7 million dollars (per Fire Partners) that the Oostburg Fire Department is planning to spend on new equipment.

That is over \$250,000 that each and every one of us will be sharing the cost of starting in 2026. The first planned purchase is a new engine for Oostburg at a price of \$750,000. To give perspective on your return on investment with Fire Partners, in 2022 the Oostburg Fire Department responded to 9 calls in the Town of Wilson, none of which were structure fires, at a cost of \$39,566 or \$4396 per call.

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Why are we part of Fire Partners? Let's go back to 1969 when things were different not only in the Town of Wilson, but with fire departments and how they were structured. Back then, due to equipment and available technology, it was sometimes necessary for fire departments to work with neighboring fire departments to address certain needs in their communities. This could include trucks, manpower or other resources as they arose. It was a necessary arrangement for the times.

It was determined back in 1969 that a small section of the southwest corner of the Town of Wilson and the handful of residents that live there be covered by this Fire Partners Agreement with the Oostburg Fire Department. There are other members of the agreement too. The Town of Lima and the Town of Holland are both partners. It was very important for them then and still is today, because they have **no fire department of their own**. They rely on and pay outside departments for fire protection.

Fast forward to 2024, President Nixon is no longer in office, The Temptations no longer have a number one hit and thankfully for all of us bellbottoms have gone out of style. Only one thing remains, Fire Partners. The residents of the Town of Wilson are still bound by an archaic contract, still paying the Oostburg Fire Department for services they already have through our own Town of Wilson Fire Department!

What has changed with fire departments since 1969? A lot! The Town of Wilson has their own department with two engines, a pumper/tender, brush truck and an experienced, well trained and dedicated volunteer force of firefighters. The Town of Wilson Fire Department has an annual budget of

\$113,370 and like any other department in Sheboygan County we have equipment and facility upgrade expenses every year. The Town of Wilson also purchased land next to the Town Hall with ideas for an auxiliary or secondary fire station.

Another important development has been the introduction of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) in Sheboygan County. MABAS is a statewide collaborative agreement that facilitates the coordination of effective and efficient provision of mutual aid during emergencies, natural disasters, or man-made catastrophes. MABAS is not intended to relieve communities of their responsibilities for providing emergency services, since all communities should be their own first line of defense. Thankfully, the Town of Wilson has its own Fire Department!

MABAS allows for community fire departments to call on other local departments for assistance on calls where it may be needed. There is an excellent system set up with all Sheboygan County fire departments based on the type of emergency, the geographic location, the fire apparatus necessary and the potential manpower a call might require. For example, if a house fire is called in to the Town of Wilson Fire Department, the Town of Wilson Fire Department can immediately call for engines, water tenders and manpower from Sheboygan Falls, Kohler, Town of Sheboygan, etc.

A new, exciting development has happened as well. Residents of the Town of Wilson are fortunate to have a response plan in place with the City of Sheboygan where any **structure fire** in the Town of Wilson will result in immediate dispatch by the City of Sheboygan Fire Department from station 5 on S 18<sup>th</sup> St. These are full time fire fighters on call 24/7 responding right away.

How much does the Town of Wilson pay for MABAS and City Fire? NOTHING, ZERO, it's free! In fact, the Town of Wilson is the only Town in Sheboygan County, with its own Fire Department, that pays another department for services. Not only their service but also 15% of any capital expenditures! For years the Town of Wilson has had excellent fire

protection with the support of MABAS and now City of Sheboygan Fire. What was necessary in 1969 is no longer relevant in 2024 yet we continue to pay, year after year for services other towns get for free.

How does the Town of Wilson get out of the Fire Partners contract? Simple, the Town of Wilson notifies Fire Partners of the intent to leave and the request for dissolution goes to the Fire Partners Board. At that point an equity of assets is determined and any outstanding debt attributable to a specific party is deducted from their equity interest. We are already on the hook for \$83,000 of a \$332,000 Oostburg Fire Truck that was purchased in 2021, these payments of roughly \$10,000 a year continue until 2031.

**On October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Town Hall, the Town of Wilson will be holding a community forum to discuss the Fire Partners contract and potentially act on ending this agreement.**

I look forward to seeing you all there and in the meantime please reach out with any questions prior to October 16<sup>th</sup>.



Take care,  
**Matt Fore, Chairman**  
**920-212-0280**

**Did you know -**  
*Grass clippings left in the roadway can swiftly take a motorcyclist or bicyclist down to the ground. The grass clippings make the roadway slick. Please sweep off the roads or use a leaf blower to assist in keeping our two wheeled residents upright! Additionally when winter arrives, it is against Town of Wilson Ordinance to blow snow into the road ways. Please be mindful of where your snow is landing and keep it off the roads.*

**Thank you!!**

*“Hangin' out with Janis, movin' to Atlantis, could've made it if you tried.  
What's the point of force?  
It's easy as a horse to ride.  
A green-tinted sixties mind “ - Mr. Big*

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**A look back as Orion rises**

*Fun Fact: The constellation Orion rises in November in the Northeast sky and is visible until spring. During the summer months, Orion is in the sky during our daylight hours making it impossible to see from our hemisphere.*

As the days get short and we welcome Orion back to our view, I'd like to recap what we have accomplished throughout 2024.

**ROADS** - You may have noticed, it was a busy year. The majority of Frontage Road received much needed new asphalt! Also, Wahgouly Road, Curtiss Drive and Pioneer Road received new asphalt and drainage improvements. *I'd like to thank all the residents that live along the project roads for their patience and understanding during our construction.*

**STORM DAMAGE** - We had some minor storms roll through this year and had to deal with some compromised and downed trees. Thankfully there was no major damage or injuries.

This topic serves as a good reminder to keep an eye on trees on your property for any that may be dead or dying. It is always best to be proactive as you never know what mother nature will bring in the wee hours of the morning. If you notice any trees located within the road right-of-way that may require attention, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**TRANSFER STATION** - Things stayed busy as usual at the transfer station this year. Jeff has been doing a great job greeting residents with a smile, assisting whenever possible, and keeping things running smoothly. Remember to save the informative insert that comes in the newsletter as reference if you have any questions on what is accepted.

When we get to the Christmas holiday season, we will again be featuring the addition of 2 small dumpsters for cardboard waste which will be located on the side of



*“She thinks she missed the train to Mars, she's out back counting stars.” Hum*

each lane. With all the excess cardboard we see during the holidays we need extra capacity, so please have your cardboard boxes flattened before you make the trek to the transfer station and place it in the dumpsters. We generally have them here until the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January. Then we will transition to putting cardboard back into the recycling compactor as we do the remainder of the year.

Also note that since the cost to dispose of tires has increased, we will be incorporating a modest increase to tire disposal fees starting in 2025. Fees will range from \$4 for car tires up to \$25 for tractor tires. *There is an added charge if the tires are still on the rim.*

As our summer and fall projects are wrapping up, we are focused on getting equipment ready for the winter season. We will again be working with Wagner Excavating to utilize brine in lieu of salt this winter season when conditions are favorable. Things went well last winter season be-

ing the first time we used brine on town roads. There can be frequent occurrences of frost on the roads in the early parts of winter when nighttime temps get down to the freezing mark and the dew points are higher. Brine generally gets applied ahead of a weather event so don't be surprised if you see the brine truck out on a mild sunny day. We watch the predicted forecasts as closely as possible taking into consideration many factors like air temperature, road temperature, precipitation, dew

**Retirements:**

**Phil Reigel** retired from the Maintenance Department on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For 7 years, Phil worked both in maintenance and the Transfer Station. His years of dedication and commitment are appreciated, and he will be missed.

*Enjoy retirement Phil!*



point, and wind. Let's hope for an easy winter season! Submitted by Ben Darkow

**NEW FACES**

If you haven't had the chance to meet our newest town employee, the next time you swing through the Transfer Station, please give a warm welcome to Jeff - our new Transfer Station Attendant. Jeff started in July and works both Tuesdays and Saturdays, so you will see him every time you come through the dump. To get acquainted a little better with Jeff, I sat down with him and asked a few questions:

**Ben: What interested you in wanting to work for the Town of Wilson?**

**Jeff: The welcoming hospitality and country work setting!**

**Ben: What types of hobbies do you have and what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

**Jeff: I enjoy photography, graphic design, and plein air painting.**

**Ben: Having worked here now for a few months, what do you enjoy most about the job?**



**Jeff: Residents are very friendly when coming through the Transfer Station and I enjoy the visits from all the dogs that ride along to the dump for a treat!**

**Ben: Is there anything you would like to tell the residents when it comes to disposing of items?**

**Jeff: Please follow the newsletter and the garbage/recycling insert for guidance on what we do and do not accept at the Transfer Station. Save the insert for reference throughout the year.**

# HOMEostasis

*a revolution for care*

Groundbreaking developments are beginning in both the healthcare industry and the Town of Wilson!

Dementia Innovations, a local nonprofit, is excited to be designing and building **Livasu Village** - the first of its kind dementia village in the US. It will be located at the corner of Stahl Road and Moenning Road.

Individually owned homes will surround a village center with an open to the public restaurant, theater, small grocery store and much more. The entire village, by thoughtful, research-based design, will focus on the abilities of the person with dementia rather than create disabilities.

**All care and support will be provided by onsite staff.**

Dementia Innovations is in a capital campaign for infrastructure costs. For more information including how to donate, please visit the website

**DementialInnovations.org**



- Individually-owned, adaptable homes designed to maximize abilities of those with dementia

- Compassionate application of technology
- Barrier free grounds
- Neighborhoods tailored for specific needs
- Discreet medical care
- Family partnership in care

- Village center's restaurant, store, theater and more, are created to welcome and encourage interface with the public



**ANNUAL FALL FRY  
OCTOBER 5th, 2024  
LIVE MUSIC**

## FALL FRY

*Black River Advancement Association*

Join the Black River Advancement Association along with the Town of Wilson Fire Department and First Responders for our fall fry.

This community event will include a silent auction, raffles and delicious food. In addition, there will be live music featuring Jim Ohlschmidt and Rick Gustafson from 2-5pm.

**The Black River Museum will be open and admission is free.**

The Town of Wilson Fire Department and First Responders will be on site during their open house. Please join us for a day full of fun activities.

[blackriveradvancement.com](http://blackriveradvancement.com) [blackriveradvancement@gmail.com](mailto:blackriveradvancement@gmail.com)

The Black River Advancement Association is a 501c3. The mission of the organization is to preserve and maintain the history of the Black River area and through education perpetuate its wildlife and natural beauty.

*"If you leave, at least in my lifetime, I've had one dream come true. I was blessed to be loved By someone as wonderful as you. So please don't go ."- KC and the Sunshine Band*

*For the love of Wilson*

## PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Oostburg Fire Partners - Town of Wilson**

The Town of Wilson is holding a meeting on

**Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

at the Town Hall building located at

**5933 South Business Drive**

**starting at 6:00pm.**

*The meeting will be hosted by the Town Board and will include public discussion.*

## TRICK OR TREAT

The Town of Wilson follows the City of Sheboygan schedule for trick or treating. Typically, trick or treating has been on October 31st, from 4 PM to 7PM. *Watch the Sheboygan Press for any changes to City guidelines for 2024.*

**Motorists:** Please proceed slowly through the neighborhoods using extra diligence during trick or treating.

**Pedestrians:** Keep your kids safe by making sure everyone walking after dark is visible by and aware of oncoming traffic.



## THRILLS AND CHILLS

The Sheboygan Jaycees haunted house, the **Dominion of Terror** will begin October 4th, 2024. Friday and Saturday nights from 7 to 10 PM. The Children's Matinee is scheduled for **October 19th from noon to 2 pm.**

*The Dominion of Terror is located at 2024 North 15th Street, Sheboygan*

## FALL SAFETY CHECKLIST

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. 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.



*"Sorry I'm not home right now  
I'm walking into spiderwebs  
So leave a message  
And I'll call you back."  
No Doubt*

## FIRE DEPARTMENT REMINDERS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Sunday November 3rd

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



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.) When your detector "chirps" and isn't alarming it may need to be replaced. Check the dates on your detectors and replace them when they expire.

**TOWN OF WILSON  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
OPEN HOUSE  
OCTOBER 5TH**

**ELECTIONS**  
 November 5th, 2024  
 General Election  
 Visit  
[www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov) to register to vote or request absentee ballots

If you want an absentee ballot sent to you, please make sure you request them in advance!

- September 19th, 2024 Absentee ballots start mailing out
- October 31st, 2024 is the deadline to request an absentee ballot
- ALL absentee ballots must be returned by November 5th at 8 PM

**IN PERSON EARLY VOTING**  
 October 22-24 and  
 October 28-31  
 9AM—3 PM



**PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS**

Our office will be accepting full payment and first half payments of 2024 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.

*"Let's dance. Put on your red shoes and dance the blues. Let's dance. To the song they're playin' on the radio. Let's sway. While color lights up your face. Let's sway. Sway through the crowd to an empty space."* David Bowie



**VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES FOR NOVEMBER 5 ELECTION**

All voters must provide a Proof of Residence document when registering to vote by mail, in-person in the clerk's office, or at the polls on Election Day. Voters can register in the following ways:  
 \*October 16, 2024- Deadline to Register by Mail - Your voter registration form, along with proof of residence must be postmarked to your municipal clerk no later than October 16, 2024.  
 \*October 16, 2024- Deadline to Register to vote online - Voters who are able to match their name, date of birth, Wisconsin Driver License or State ID number, and address

with the Wisconsin DMV can register to vote online through October 16, 2024.  
 \*November 1, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.- Deadline to Register in Your Municipal Clerk's Office- Voters may register in-person in their municipal clerk's office during the clerk's business hours until 5:00 p.m. on November 1, 2024.  
 \*November 5, 2024 from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Register to Vote at Your Polling Place- Voters can register to vote at their polling place on Election Day.

**November 5, 2024.**

**For in-depth voter information visit: [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)**

**DOG LICENSES FEE INCREASE**

Licensing is required for all dogs over 5 months old. Fees are \$10 for fixed dogs and \$20 for intact dogs.

A copy of the current rabies certificate for each dog you are licensing is required, along with your payment AND a self-addressed stamped envelope.

**Please notify the Treasurer if you had a dog that is no longer licensable in the town. These rehomed or departed dogs will be removed from our list so that you aren't contacted regarding late fees.**

Dog tags and licenses for the following year are available mid-to-end of November. The deadline for registering your dog is March 31st each year. Please register by this date to avoid a \$25 late fee. Many residents choose to pay their dog registration at the same time that they pay their taxes.

Mail payments to:  
**Town of Wilson Treasurer**  
**5935 S. Business Drive**  
**Sheboygan, WI 53081**

**It's a Crime to Kill a Woodpecker**

Along with waves crashing and seagulls crying, the knock-knock of woodpeckers is a familiar sound in our town, particularly in the Black River area.

You might love the sound. It might annoy the heck out of you. And yikes, you might be seeing red if you spy a woodpecker drilling into your house.

Think long and hard before you take any action, though.

All eight varieties of woodpeckers that live in Wisconsin are protected by Wisconsin state law and under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Penalties for killing a woodpecker can be stiff - up to \$5,000 and six months in prison for a misdemeanor offense and up to \$250,000 and two years in prison for a felony offense.

If a resident feels a woodpecker is



harming their property, there are steps in place to address the issue, starting with a house inspection that can show if a bug infestation is the reason woodpeckers are attracted to the home.

That's the legal and sensible way to start, and it's also the right thing to do.

We live in an enviable place, filled with flora and fauna and the wonders of nature. Respect, regard and above all, knowledge, is the best way to treat the animals who share space with us.

For help with potential woodpecker issues, call Region 3 of the Regional Migratory Bird office. The number is 612-713-5436. For more information on woodpeckers, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office: [fws.gov/story/woodpeckers-and-your-home](http://fws.gov/story/woodpeckers-and-your-home).

*"I don't want to lose, this good thing that I got 'cause if I do I will surely, surely lose a lot. 'Cause your love is better than any love I know. It's like thunder, lightning, the way you love me is frightening. I'd better knock, on wood, baby."* Eddie Floyd

**SANITARY CHANGES**

The Sanitary District is changing the billing software we use to produce quarterly bills.

This was not by choice, it was made necessary through a sale of the software company and changes to the new product that were not in the best interest of the District. Fortunately, right here in Wisconsin is a company that manufactures utility billing software, that is used by almost all municipalities surrounding us. We are keeping it local!

The changeover will happen sometime in November, so fourth quarter billing will utilize the new software for bills received in January.

We have been assured that people set up on autopay or emailed billing will have no disruption to their payments and emailed bills, however those that

utilize the ub-pay link on our website should watch for changes, as the processor of ub-pay is tied to the old software. A new link will be provided once that is set up.

We do not anticipate any issues with the software changeover, but if you experience something unexpected please let us know. Also worth noting, account numbers WILL change. If you use autopay, once you receive your bill in January please **change the sanitary account number that is associated with your payment** before making that fourth quarter payment, *especially* if the address of service does not print on your check.

As always, checks can be mailed or dropped off at our office any time. There is a drop box by the front glass door of the office building, or visit during office hours and we would be happy to process payments immediately for you.

**Facts About Woodpeckers**

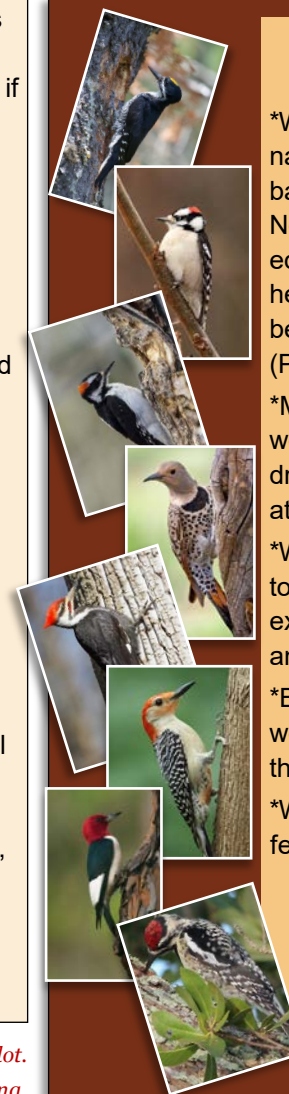
\*Wisconsin has eight native varieties: Black-backed, Downy, Hairy, Northern Flicker, Pileated, Red-bellied, Red-headed, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. (Pictured in order)

\*Male and female woodpeckers make drumming noises to attract mates.

\*Woodpeckers' barbed tongues enable them to extract bugs from trees and holes.

\*Both male and female woodpeckers look after their young ones.

\*Woodpeckers are a federally protected species under the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act.



*"And I'm made up of parts, not quite the sum. Worth less for all I've done. But I still love."* - Teenage Wrist

**State of Wisconsin Statutes require all unpaid sanitary accounts be tax rolled on November 15<sup>th</sup>. If you do not want unpaid amounts moved to your tax bill please plan accordingly and make your payment before the tax roll date.**



**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  
Grotta 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 Nancy DesJardins.....(920) 457-1230 or supervisorndj@townwilson.com

Supervisor Stu Stempihar .....(920) 452-4895 or supervisors@townwilson.com

Supervisor Mike Yocius..... (920) 698-9399 or supervisormy@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 Klokov: (920) 226-0586

**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

**RECYCLE CENTER & TRANSFER STATION**

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



*Newsletter by Karen Bollwahn*

**TOWNWILSON.COM**