

# The Claytonite

## From the Desk of the Town Chairman

As Summer winds down and Fall approaches we are scrambling to finish the road projects in the Town. On Clayton Ave we are totally reconstructing this roadway. At this point fine grading and paving should be completed by the end of August. On Hickory Ave, fine grading, paving is also complete.

Finally, in our newest subdivision Whispering Meadows, Whispering Meadows Drive will have a new road built and the paving completed this fall. Clayton Fire Rescue has responded to a total of 159 calls so far this year.

We have received high marks for our response times and cooperation with other Departments. The Firefighters and First Responders working for you are some of the best this Town has to offer and we should all be proud of their dedicated service. They are one of our finest assets. If you have an interest in joining this fine Department as a Firefighter or First Responder please contact Chief Rieckmann. These are volunteer, paid on call positions with pay for training.

Since the last Newsletter the Town has purchased two homes on Clayton Avenue and entered into a right of first refusal with an agreement to purchase on another property. These properties are currently being rented out to individual families by the Town. This more than covers the cost of any borrowing or any taxes we were collecting from these properties before. What that means for you, is it will not have any adverse impact on your taxes. These have been very positive moves and we continue to hope the acquisitions of certain properties may slow or possibly halt Annexation by the Village of Fox Crossing. We continue to look at the best ways to keep Clayton from becoming part of the Village and preserve our country appeal, the farms and green space that we all cherish. Losing our East side to annexation would significantly harm our current and future tax base and we would seriously struggle to remain Clayton. That is the rural / agricultural / residential community we enjoy along with a much more aggressive business development plan on the east side. Our residents endorsed this plan in the latest Comprehensive Plan Update adopted 8/17/16. We understand agricultural use values and residential taxes are not enough to keep our Town economically viable to operate as the Town we know.

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### **Chair Geise Continued.....**

Please remember the Town only gets 14 cents of every tax dollar you pay. We very much need the mix of the current tax base and future tax base the east side businesses provides to remain the Clayton we know and the life we have.

We are also locked in a race to protect and secure our borders from annexation by the Village of Fox Crossing. This is an uphill battle as the Village has their new found power of annexation at their disposal and they seem intent on using it. We now face the same things the former Town of Menasha feared and the reason they incorporated to become a Village, annexation by others around them. However, the new Village seems set on becoming the very thing they feared.

There are some very tough choices facing us going forward. I believe if done right we can prevail and maintain our borders, bring in new business and keep our rural appeal. However, I'll be the first to admit that options are somewhat limited and time is not on our side to make the very difficult decisions and complete the plans we have. Without question, it is in our best interest to make sure it is Clayton not the new Village that dictates and decides how our future takes shape. We intend to do whatever is needed for Clayton to be Clayton for another 166 years!

As always I will end by encouraging every resident to stay involved. It is your Town. Please reach out to me or any other board member with your thoughts and concerns. We do listen and try to make the best decisions we can for our, your Town. The Town of Clayton is more than a "Touch of Country", "We Are the Best Place to Be" and we need to keep it that way.

Thank you for your trust.

Russell D. Geise – Town Board Chair

## **CONTROLLED BURN**

**BEFORE YOU BURN...CALL 920-727-2890**

**By doing this, you have alerted Emergency Services  
that you have a planned burn.**

**Make Sure You Have the Following:**

**Someone attending the fire at all times.**

**Enough water to put the fire out.**

**Someone attending the fire UNTIL the fire is OUT!**

**AFTER YOU BURN...CALL 920-727-2890**



## Why is the rulebook so thick?

By Dick Knapinski

Plan Commission Chairman



Your Plan Commission and Town Board, not to mention the town staff, hear it often – usually in conjunction with someone who is attempting a project or developing a piece of land. The exasperated inquiry (the clean version, anyway) usually goes something like, “Why are there so many regulations and rules for a simple process?”

For what it’s worth, we agree with you. There are too many rules. One wishes all the town’s codes could fit on one sheet of paper. Maybe something like, “Respect your neighbors, think about the whole town, and don’t do nuthin’ dumb.” I know that last one is a double negative, but you get the point.

Unfortunately, in real life it never quite works out like that. Anyone who has served on a church council, run a business with employees, or umpired a youth sports contest knows what happens. It starts with a very simple, straightforward set of guidelines that quickly blossoms into lists of can-do and can’t-do that rarely ever shrink.

Why are there so many ordinances, regulations and policies when it comes to doing things with property? That answer could fill this entire newsletter, but some reasons that come immediately to mind:

- 1) Precedent. If it’s written down, it’s easier to know what happened before. Your town board and plan commission have, on more than one occasion, run into instances where a decision was made in the town 20, 30 or 50 years ago but it was never written down in detail. That leaves a situation open to interpretation, dispute, and sometimes legal action.
- 2) Federal, state and county laws. The town and its residents can create a minimum of rules but are still beholden to those laws made by larger units of government. An example of that is shore land zoning. It’s complicated and can be extremely frustrating for the town and its property owners alike. However, the town must by law give authority over that to the county, which follows the rules set down by the state.
- 3) The human factor. A wise man once told me, “People, being people and all, are always the most magnificent examples of human nature.” Most of us are trying to do the right thing, so we find lots of rules and policies vexing. Many of those rules and policies are in place, unfortunately, because other people weren’t trying to do the right thing, but rather their thing. We sometimes pay the price for the town being burned in previous dealings.

The Clayton Plan Commission has sought to reduce the number of rules or make them less confusing. In the move to town zoning a few years ago, the Plan Commission looked to follow the county zoning code as often as possible to eliminate hurdles or conflicting language. The town staff has also combined sections of code to reduce the number of different town ordinances, some of which occasionally disagreed with each other.

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## Chair Knapinski (continued from Page 3)

Setting down a vision for the town's future, as we did with our updated comprehensive plan this year, means there have to be some rules. No one benefits from chaos and anarchy. Even with the best-intended guidelines, there will be what I sometimes call "tweeners" – those issues that don't quite fit in all the policies and procedures created. At those times, we'll make our best effort to interpret the rules we have to benefit all – and so we don't have to create any new ones, if at all possible.

## Back to School Tips

### ◆ **First Days of School:**

- ◆ If your child seems nervous, remind him or her that there are probably a lot of students who are uneasy about the first day of school. This may be at any age. Teachers know that students are nervous and will make an extra effort to make sure everyone feels as comfortable as possible.
- ◆ If it is a new school for your child, attend any available orientations and take an opportunity to tour the school before the first day.

### ◆ **For Backpack Safety follow these tips:**

- ◆ Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back.
- ◆ Pack light. Organize the backpack to use all of its compartments. Pack heavier items closest to the center of the back. The backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of your child's body weight. Go through the pack with your child weekly, and remove unneeded items to keep it light.

### ◆ **For Traveling To and From School follow these tips:**

- ◆ Remind your child to look both ways to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing the street, just in case traffic does not stop as required.
- ◆ If your child has a chronic condition that could result in an emergency on the bus, make sure you work with the school nurse or other school health personnel to have a bus emergency plan.
- ◆ When dropping off your child, be aware of specified drop off procedures for your school. According to the National Safe Routes to School program, more children are hit by cars near schools than at any other location.
- ◆ Do not double-park as it blocks the view for other children and vehicles.
- ◆ Do not load or unload children across the street from the school.

### ◆ **Riding Bike To and From School tips:**

- ◆ Always wear a bicycle helmet and wear bright colored clothing to increase visibility.
- ◆ Ride on the right, in the same direction as auto traffic and ride in bike lanes if they are present.

### ◆ **Walking To and From School tips:**

- ◆ Make sure your child's walk to school is a safe route with well-trained adult crossing guards at every intersection.
- ◆ Be realistic about your child's pedestrian skills. Because small children are impulsive and less cautious around traffic, carefully consider whether or not your child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision.



The summer has gone by much too quickly, but unfortunately there's not much we can do about that. With that said, school has started so please watch out for the buses and school children. Fall is just around the corner so now is the time to have your chimneys and heating appliances inspected to be sure they are ready when the weather turns cold.



The Fire Department along with the Public Works Department is in the process of installing the underground piping for a dry hydrant. A dry hydrant is a pipe installed below the frost line from a pond to the edge of the road. A fire truck can then hook to the road end of the pipe and draw water from the pond. By using the readily accessible water supply we don't need to truck as much water for a fire.

The Community Blood Mobile will be at the fire station every 8 weeks on the first Tuesday of the month. The next visit will be on October 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm until 8 pm. I encourage all of our residents to donate as many of our firefighters do. Please contact the Community Blood Center website to sign up.

Applications are now being accepted for the positions of Firefighter and Emergency Medical Responder. If you would like to know more about becoming a member of the Clayton Fire Rescue team, please stop in or give me a call. I am at the station from 7:00 am until 3:30 pm Monday through Friday and the station number is 920-836-2170.

Please call the Sheriff's Department Communications Center at 920-727-2890 before you burn and when you are done burning. You also need to watch the fire the entire time it is burning to make sure it doesn't get out of control. When you call the Communications Center with this information, it helps us respond appropriately if someone else sees the fire and reports it.

Stay Safe out there,  
Scott Rieckmann  
Fire Chief

## Labor Day Facts

1. The first celebrated US Labor Day was on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City, planned by the Central Labor Union. There is still a Labor Day parade in New York City, which takes place throughout the 20 blocks north of the 1882 labor march
2. 10,000 workers marched from City Hall all the way to 42nd Street and then met with their families in Wendel's Elm Park for a picnic, concert, and speeches.
3. Canada is said to have originated the idea of hosting a day honoring the labor movement. In 1872, they held a "Nine-Hour Movement" to show support for striking workers.
4. There is disagreement about who actually proposed Labor Day as a holiday. Some say it was Peter J. McGuire, who was the cofounder of the American Federation of Labor. Others believe that it was Matthew Maguire, a machinist.
5. Oregon was the first state to celebrate Labor Day as a legal holiday in 1887.
6. The decision to make Labor Day the first Monday of September was approved on June 28, 1894.
7. Labor Day started as a part of the labor union movement, to recognize the contributions of men and women in the US workforce, but modernly is seen as a chance to celebrate the last weekend of summer.
8. Americans worked 12-hour days seven days a week during the 19th century!
9. The Adamson Act was passed on September 3, 1916 to establish an eight-hour work day.
10. Historians say the expression "no white after Labor Day" comes from when the upper class would return from their summer vacations and stow away their lightweight, white summer clothes as they returned back to school and work.

## November 8, 2016 Election

In order to avoid the expected long lines at the November Presidential Election, you can cast an Absentee Ballot in person at the Town of Clayton on **Monday, October 24th through Friday, November 4th, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM**. The office will remain open **ONLY** on Friday, November 4th until 5:00 PM, for your convenience.

A Touch of Country



**You can also request an Absentee Ballot by mail, email or fax.**

8348 County Road T  
Larsen, WI 54947

Additional information concerning this Early Absentee Voting, can be found on the Town of Clayton web page ([townofclayton.net](http://townofclayton.net)) by clicking "Voting and Elections" or on the GAB link: <http://www.gab.wi.gov/voters/absentee>.

Phone: 920-836-2007

Fax: 920-836-2026

E-mail:  
[tocclerk@new.rr.com](mailto:tocclerk@new.rr.com)



## Yard Waste Drop-Off Site

The Town of Clayton has a yard waste drop-off site located near the corner of Hickory and County Rd II. This site will close for the season on **Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016** (closed November 24<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving).

**Site hours are as follows:**  
**Thur. 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm**  
**Sat. 8:00 am to 4:00 pm**  
**Sun. 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm**  
**(Except Holidays)**

