

February 2016

The Claytonite

From the Desk of the Town Chairman

While we are still dealing with the final grips of winter we can take some comfort that we are all in it together. Winter misses none of us. Just like everything we do as a Town, we are all in it together.

Together, we all just recently shared the pain of paying our property taxes. I would like to take time and remind everyone that your Town only receives 14% (**14 cents**) of every tax dollar you pay. Even though you pay the taxes to the Town these dollars are redistributed to the schools Winneconne, Neenah, Fox Valley Tech, Winnebago County and the State. As a Board we take very seriously how we spend the Towns percentage of your tax dollars.

In the past couple of News Letters I have talked a lot about our future as a Town. Where are we going and why? The answer to this is simple. We can either let things happen to us or take control and be part of how things happen. It is way too easy to do nothing. The seven words of a dying company or Town are “We have always done it that way.” We are not that.

I feel you have entrusted your Town Board to help protect the reasons you and your family call Clayton your home. It is important to me so, I am equally as sure it is important to you that we maintain a quality of life that we are proud of and want to raise a family here. This is a great place to live. “We are the place to be”.

When I refer to us as “The Place to Be” it means we need to ensure certain things. Mainly, access to services, sustainability, affordability and the peace of mind that says no one can take it away. Your Town Board has worked very hard to hold the line on taxes and provide the services you need and expect. We continue to improve services with a constant look forward to tomorrow.

With that I am proud to say that the new **Clayton Fire Rescue** is now up and running successfully. We were showcased in the Winneconne newspaper and on Channel 5 News. We have a Great new Department with 34 On Call Volunteer Fire Fighters and First Responders, Well Trained, Well Equipped, Dedicated and Very Professional. We also now have a full time Fire Chief, Mr. Scott Rieckmann. He brings years of experience to the job and he is also a First Responder. One of our other Town employees is also available to respond to Fire calls and another is in training.

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Chair Geise continued...

Response time for our First Responders during the week is now about one to one and a half minutes leaving the station, verified by Winnebago County's Sheriff's Office dispatch. These are response times equal to fully staffed departments. If you are having a stroke, heart attack or any other serious health issues minutes matter and they are here to respond. Our First Responder services have also been contracted by the Town of Winchester to provide this same level of quality to their community.

Fire Response time has also been improved as we are able to load and get Firefighters on the scene ready to fight fires, saving lives and property.

Your Plan Commission led by Mr. Knapinski has been working very hard on the Future Comprehensive Land Use Map. We have had several public meetings to get input from our residents. Your voices have been heard and changes have been made. I appreciate all of the residents that took time to attend the meetings and express their ideas. Final presentations to the Board will be made in the next couple of weeks. I personally thank all of those that serve on the Plan Commission and their dedication and vision.

As I have mentioned before the Town is now facing incorporation from the Town of Menasha. They will become the new Village of Fox Crossing. A Referendum vote will likely be scheduled for April. Direct discussions with the Town of Menasha have produced mixed results. At this time they are not willing to enter into any Boarder Agreements with Clayton. However, their Chairman has agreed not to oppose the Town of Clayton from buying into the Grand Chute Menasha West Waste Water Treatment Facility. Discussions on Clayton's entry and cost will be discussed at the March 2nd (GCMW) Commission meeting.

Either way these changes will impact us all. Growth will happen in the areas along Clayton Ave, West American Drive, the Hwy 10 and 76 corridors. What we are concerned about is the same thing the Town of Menasha has fought for years, annexation. For Clayton It is a matter of securing and maintaining our current Town boarders and future growth. At every level it is in our best interest to make sure it is Clayton not the new Village that dictates and decides our future.

As always I encourage 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 may not be able to immediately fix every problem that arises yet; we need to hear from you. 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"!

Russell D. Geise – Town Board Chair

Inserted in this newsletter are two pages for the 2016 Agriculture & Household Hazardous Material Clean Sweep dates along with the type of materials which are acceptable materials.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: DOWN THE HOME STRETCH

By Dick Knapinski, Plan Commission Chairman

Thanks to all the town residents who attended the public information session for the Comprehensive Plan update in January. It was impressive to see a good turnout for the information session and have plenty of questions asked. That was exactly what we had hoped for – Clayton’s residents being part of the process.



Those who attended received the background information on projected population increases, demographic changes, and trends that the plan commission had been using to make their decisions in the plan. They also saw the detailed work completed thus far that included sanitary districts, working lands, green space, and farmland preservation areas.

Those opportunities for public input are also among the reasons a comprehensive plan update is a process that will cover more than six months. It would be more efficient to simply schedule a series of commission and town board meetings and working sessions to complete the update, but it wouldn’t be the right thing to do. Not only should you as the town’s residents have multiple opportunities to review the current status and add input, your involvement makes for a better plan. There are perspectives and ideas that come from those who attend these sessions that are incorporated into the final document.

So, where are we now? In February, the Greenspace Committee recommended that the town’s Park and Open Space Plan also be incorporated into the updated Comprehensive Plan. That makes sense, as it brings the town’s plans together in one document and eliminates confusion in cross-referencing different documents.

In March, the Plan Commission will receive the final edits to the draft documents and will refer them to the Town Board. The Board at its following meeting will officially receive the draft document, then schedule a public hearing – likely in early April. That will be an additional opportunity for public review and input. The Town Board will then schedule the plan for final consideration at its following meeting later in April.

I encourage town residents to join us at the upcoming meetings as we finish the process. Together we can create our town’s vision for the immediate future based on what we see as the important elements regarding both growth and preservation.



Absentee Voting

How to apply for an absentee ballot

Please note: 2011 Act 227 prohibits a voter who has voted and returned an absentee ballot from voting at the polling place on Election day. If you are not already registered, you will need to [register to vote](#) before an absentee ballot can be sent to you.

Please see the last page for more information on absentee voting...



Clayton Fire Rescue

8348 County Road T - Larsen, 54947

As I sit and think about what to write for the first article of the town newsletter, I want to say thank you for supplying us with the assets to provide our residents and neighbors high quality EMS, fire, and rescue services. I am truly excited for the future. We are working on some things to improve our level of service and shorten our response times. I will have more details in upcoming issues.

We have partnered with the Community Blood Center to be a host donation site. The Blood Mobile will be at the fire station every 8 weeks on the first Tuesday of the month. The first visit will be on April 5th from 5 pm until 8 pm. Please contact the Community Blood Center 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 team member of Clayton Fire Rescue please stop in or give me a call. The station number is 920-836-2170.

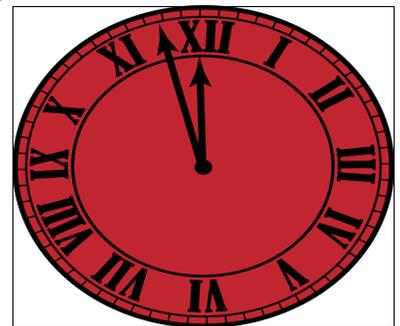
Spring is just around the corner. Please call the Sheriff's Department Communications Center at 920-727-2890 before you burn and when you are done burning. This information helps us respond appropriately if someone else sees the fire and reports it.

Stay Safe out there,

Scott Rieckmann
Fire Chief

Daylight Savings Time - Sunday, March 13, 2016

I think we all are looking forward to more sunlight in each day. **On the night of Saturday, March 12, 2016 set your clocks ahead one hour.** Daylight Savings Time is a day when people of various countries and states across the world set their clocks one hour ahead of the standard time. The practice was first introduced in Europe during the First World War. The idea was to take advantage of the longest summer days by gaining an extra hour of daylight and shortening the days in winter. It was not a new concept, back in 1784 American inventor and politician Benjamin Franklin suggested that starting the day earlier in summer will save a considerable number of candles. Those in favor of practice same today's energy consuming society the environmental benefits links to changing a clock on considerable or of a small amount of electricity as save per household added up they can be significant.





2016 Election Dates:

April 5th, 2016 – Spring and Presidential Preference Vote

August 9th, 2016 – Partisan Primary Vote

November 8th, 2016 – Fall Federal Presidential Vote

WHAT CAN I USE AS PHOTO ID TO VOTE? ***

The following photo IDs are acceptable for voting purposes, and can be unexpired or expired after the date of the most recent general election (currently, the November 4, 2014 election):

- A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- Military ID card issued by the U.S. Uniformed Services
- A U.S. passport book or card

An acceptable Photo ID for voting does not have to include a current address.

*** This list is NOT all-inclusive.

For detailed information about the Voter Photo ID law, visit www.bringit.wi.gov

Absentee Voting:

A copy of your valid Photo ID **must** be provided when requesting an absentee ballot unless you are a type of voter that is either exempt by statute or may have an alternative process to verify your identity. More information is on the last page of this newsletter.

The following photo IDs are acceptable for voting purposes, and can be unexpired or expired after the date of the most recent general election (currently, the November 4, 2014 election)***:

- A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- Military ID card issued by the U.S. Uniformed Services
- A U.S. passport book or card

*** This list is NOT all-inclusive. Additional information can be found at

www.bringit.wi.gov

Voters who are exempt from providing Photo ID:

- Military Voters
- Permanent Overseas Voters
- Confidential Voters

More information regarding information on voting can be found on the Town of Clayton website at:

www.townofclayton.net.



The Claytonite

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A Touch of Country

Dog licenses are due March 31st, 2016. After that there is a \$10 late fee per dog. \$5 fee - Spayed / Neutered. \$10 fee - NOT Spayed/Neutered.

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 location is will re-open on **Saturday, April 2nd through Sunday, November 27th, 2016.**

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)



Severe Weather Awareness Week

Please note that the week of **April 11th through 15th, 2016** is Severe Weather Awareness Week. The test Tornado Drill will be conducted on **Thursday, April 14th at 1:45 p.m.** It is important that your household have an emergency shelter and survival supplies on hand ready to go in the case of a tornado and/or severe weather.



Absentee Voting - 2016 Elections

Request by Mail: Download the **Application For Absentee Ballot** (GAB-121). Complete the form and mail it to your municipal clerk's office **with a copy of your Voter ID**. Your Voter ID will be retained for future absentee requests according to the Government Accountability Board (GAB) regulations. If it has expired please provide a new copy of your ID or your sheet from the DMV showing it has been renewed to: **Town of Clayton, 8348 County Road T, Larsen, WI 54947.**

Request by E-Mail or Fax: A voter may request that a ballot be sent to them by sending an e-mail or fax to their municipal clerk. Town of Clayton, 8348 County Road T, Larsen, WI 54947. This request must be made no later than the **Thursday before the election date at 5:00 p.m.** for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you.

In-Person at your Municipal Clerk's Office: In-person absentee voting runs for two weeks before an election from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and ending on **the Friday before the election at 5:00 p.m.** or the close of business (whichever is later). If you apply for an absentee ballot in your municipal clerk's office, you must vote immediately, seal your ballot in the proper envelope, and return it to a member of the clerk's staff. **No ballots may be taken from the clerk's office.**

Uniform instructions for absentee voters: Please see the Town of Clayton website.

Deadline for Returning Ballot: The completed ballot must either be delivered to the clerk no later than election day or postmarked no later than election day and received by the municipal clerk no later than 4 p.m. on the Friday after the election.

Please note that there are exceptions for military and overseas voters. Please refer to the Military and Overseas Voting page for rules.