



Greetings!

May 2020

Warmer days are upon us and the beautiful spring weather is most welcoming during these uncertain times! All of us are troubled by the unusual circumstances around us, the pressure of sudden changes in our daily routines, the necessity of developing new skills, financial worries and caring for those we love through social distancing all while trying to understand and accept the responsibilities of basic health practices we must seriously follow, not only for ourselves but on behalf of others. This is overwhelming! Be good to yourself and find ways to limit your stress and anxiety. Exercise, yoga, enjoying the beautiful nature at our Sherman Creek Park, taking a hike in The Town of Union Conservancy, phone chats, board games and projects are a few healthy ways to help us adapt during these difficult times. Stay well and be healthy.

With our Spring Election behind us we welcome returning Supervisor Paul Travis, who has served on the Town Board for 4 years and Mona Mathews, who served as an interim Supervisor from August 1, 2019 and will begin her 2-year term. I look forward to serving with you!

Our Spring 2020 Election was certainly one for the books! Thank You for your patience as we were presented with the challenges of COVID 19 risk protection and the daily changes prior to Election 2020. It was certainly frustrating for everyone! I am grateful for our Election workers who dedicated their time on Election Day, despite the risk exposure, and those who helped with the endless hours of absentee ballot and application mailings. A very sincere and special THANK YOU to: Mark & Barb Aebly, Gene & Mary Smith, Sue Schrantz, Curtis Castleberg, Kayla Emery, and Town Clerk Bev Christopherson's countless additional hours. You are appreciated!!

*Jennifer Meyer*  
Board Chair

## *Town Parks*

The Town of Union Park Commission welcomes Kathy Roland, Kathy Alf, Tom Roach and Barb Kleist to the board and thanks Gloria Bloom, Chuck Zabrowski, Judy Bechard and Eileen Peterson for their service. Continuing members include Marie Vornholdt, Jennifer Meyer and myself. Please contact any of these members for information or suggestions regarding our parks. We continue to work with Cedar Corporation to create our Outdoor Recreational Use Plan for Town of Union Parks. Signage and amenities in both parks are underway. The Conservancy, located at 1912 White Pine Dr., has been popular for walkers/hikers and is also shared with seasonal hunters. Conservancy users must be mindful and take precautions when utilizing this multi-recreational area. Sherman Creek Park, located at west Vine St, is popular to nearby residents for its location and beauty. Campfires in the fire ring at Sherman Creek Park must not be left unattended and Township fire should be contacted to ensure permission at [townshipfire.org](http://townshipfire.org) or (715)834-6868. Please be respectful of our Town Parks, if you carry in you must carry out to help keep our parks safe and clean! Please notify the Sheriff's Dept of any unusual activity.

*Fred Belay*

Park Commission Chair

## *Township Fire Burning*

To comply with the social distancing mandate and to minimize the exposure of our firefighters to the SARS-Cov2 (COVID-19) virus, the Township Fire Department in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has suspended all burning permits until further notice. Therefore, all burning of debris in barrels, piles on the ground and grass or wooded areas is prohibited at this time. Campfires and cooking fires are allowed. Please note that a fire in a campfire ring or fire pit with the intent to eliminate debris requires a burning permit. Roasting hotdogs or marshmallows over a debris fire does not make it a cooking fire; it's still a debris fire which requires a burning permit.

Let us begin the discussion about outdoor burning with the statement "Open burning, outdoor burning and refuse burning are prohibited in the Town unless the burning is specifically permitted by Township Fire Department".

In general, one may burn brush, leaves, pine needles, grass, clean wood, unrecyclable paper and cardboard, with a burning permit, during the hours of 6 PM to Midnight Monday through Friday and 8 AM to Midnight on Saturday. There is no burning on Sundays and Legal holidays. A competent person, 18 years of age or older must be in attendance of the fire until it is completely out (cold).

All piles of materials to be burned shall be sized appropriately so that the fire will be completely out by midnight. It is best to make several small piles rather than one large pile.

**Burn Barrels** are a safe means of disposing of brush, leaves, pine needles, grass, clean wood, unrecyclable paper, and unrecyclable cardboard (legal materials). Properly maintained, this control structure will minimize the risk of a fire getting out of control. Burning permits are not required when burning legal materials in a properly maintained burn barrel between the hours of 6 PM to Midnight Monday through Friday and 8 AM to Midnight on Saturday (except legal holidays). A competent person, 18 years of age or older must be in attendance of the fire until it is completely out (cold). A burn barrel that is not properly maintained, is considered open burning, and requires a burning permit. Burn barrels may never be used to burn trash or garbage.

**Materials that may never be burned include:** Rubbish or garbage including but not limited to food wastes, food wraps, packaging, animal carcasses, animal waste, paint or painted materials, furniture, composite shingles, construction or demolition debris or other household or business wastes. Asphalt and products containing asphalt. Treated or painted wood including but not limited to plywood, composite wood products or other wood products that are painted, varnished or treated with preservatives. Any plastic material including but not limited to nylon, PVC, ABS, polystyrene or urethane foam, and synthetic fabrics, plastic films and plastic containers. Rubber including tires and synthetic rubber-like products.

When the fire danger is posted as EXTREME and/or a **Red Flag Warning** has been issued by the National Weather Service, ALL outdoor burning is prohibited (including camp/cooking fires). During a red flag warning, the use of outdoor charcoal grills, smoking, chainsaws, off-road vehicles, or other small engine powered devices should be suspended.

One may have a campfire or cooking fire without the need of burning permit. "Campfire" means a small outdoor fire less than five feet (5') in diameter, intended for recreation, cooking or warming the body, not including a fire intended for disposal of waste wood or refuse. Wood used in a campfire shall be cut, split, trimmed, and sized appropriately for a small campfire and the fire shall be confined by a control device or structure such as a barrel, fire ring or fire pit.

Please be informed that anyone who starts or uses an outdoor fire shall be liable to the Township Fire Department for all fire suppression costs if the fire is in violation of law or it endangers property of others. Fines for unlawful burning start at \$326.50 per violation. Fire suppression costs are based on the number of fire apparatus and fire fighters used to extinguish the fire. Depending on the size of the fire, these costs can total in the thousands of dollars.

Burning permits and additional information regarding outdoor burning may be obtained by accessing the Township Fire Department Web page at <http://townshipfire.org/>

*Joe Alf*

Chief of Rescue Services

### ***Town Road right-of-way***

As a reminder, Town road right-of-way (ROW) as defined in State Statutes 82.18 is 66', or 33' each side of the center line of any town road. Road maintenance in the Town of Union is priority and we are proud to be able to maintain our roads as needed, as we know town residents take pride in their property as well. We appreciate when residents maintain the right-of-way adjacent to their property. However, any altering is non-permittable by residents. ROW maintenance such as snow plowing, mowing, tree trimming and or the removal of any natural or man-made objects in the ROW is within the Town's legal right to remove. Our local Township Fire Department maintains annual brush cutting, ditch mowing and tree trimming. Please do not plant trees, perform any landscaping, install fencing, lawn markers or sprinklers in the ROW as the Town is not responsible for any damage that may occur and may remove at the expense of the property owner. Large items in the road right-of-way can present a direct hazard and impede one's vision at intersections which can pose liability issues. Also, please remember to never blow lawn clippings, pine needles or leaves into the road. This is a serious hazard for any motor bike potentially causing motorists tires to lose traction and control. Let us make sure our Town Roads are safe!

### **Building Permits:**

Contact Al Balsinger @ (715)577-9922

Driveway permits must be issued *first* before any new construction builds

### **Driveway Permits:**

Property owners who plan to establish a new driveway or property entrance off a Town road must obtain a permit. Contact Chris Turner @ (715)829-3737

Contact EC CTY Hwy Dept for a driveway permit off a County Road or State HWY 12 @ (715) 839-2952 ext. 4

- Additionally, helpful information about your property can be accessed on Eau Claire County's website  
<https://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/departments/departments-l-z/planning-development>  
as well as the GIS Map/Prop Tax Info resource tool located on their homepage

### ***Address Markers***

Our local Township Fire Dept (TFD), Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel and ambulance service use your address marker to quickly locate the correct address in the event of an emergency. It is in your best interest to keep your address marker upright, at the end of your driveway and clear of all obstructions for TFD to identify quickly. If your marker becomes broken

or missing the replacement fee is \$25... please contact Chris Turner @ (715)829-3737 for a replacement. visit [usps.com/manage/mailboxes](https://usps.com/manage/mailboxes) for mailbox information.

### ***Local Road Construction***

North Crossing STH 312 & North Town Hall Road intersection will be under construction this spring and into summer. The project timeline is mid-April through June 2020. Area businesses should be mindful of rerouting delays or detours which may impede daily business activity.

### ***Dog Licenses***

If you have not registered your dog for 2020, please do so. You can download a dog application from our website [townofunionec.com](https://townofunionec.com), under forms and permits or call the Town Hall at 715-874-6123 to obtain an application. Late fees are of course waived if you have a new dog.

### ***Transfer Station updates***

Transfer Station hours are now Wednesday 1:00-5:30 & Saturday 9:00-5:30. The green Town of Union bags can be purchased at the Town Hall, Transfer Station or Holiday Gas Station located at 6123 Truax Ln., next to McDonald's off 312. A roll of 10 bags cost \$20. Recently the Town Board voted to reduce the charge of the 33-gallon black trash bag from \$5 to \$3, to avoid those having to re-bag their trash. Please continue to save your aluminum to support our local Township Fire Station, drop off your recyclable aluminum at the Union Transfer Station or Township Fire Station at 5311 W. Cameron St.

### ***2020 Census***

The Census Bureau is forging ahead with their constitutional mandate to count every person living in the U.S. Please visit [www.my2020census.gov](https://www.my2020census.gov) to complete online or [www.2020census.gov/languages](https://www.2020census.gov/languages) for a full phone. Please call Town Chair, Jennifer Meyer @715-456-5903, if you would like help completing.

### ***Town Hall Rental***

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic the Town Hall is currently **not** available to rent until further notice. Rental availability will be based on current events and Town Board determination. You must be a Town of Union resident or property owner to rent the Union Town Hall. Due to abusive renters, we have been forced to raise the deposit to \$200, which is fully refundable providing criteria is met. Rental is \$150.00/day. Please contact the Town Clerk to schedule @ (715)874-6123 and obtain an application

*Chippewa Valley COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force Informational Page*  
<https://www.eauclairechamber.org/economicrecoverytaskforce.html>

### *Music Events*

**Blue Ox Music Festival:** The 2020 Blue Ox Music Festival will be held on August 27-29, 2020 at Whispering Pines Campground in the Town of Union. The festival is going on its 6th annual year of bringing the best in Bluegrass and Americana music to the region. A huge thank you to the Town of Union for helping us make the festival a success! [www.blueoxmusicfestival.com](http://www.blueoxmusicfestival.com) Jim Bishel

### **Country Jam:**

Country Jam USA is continuing to work with local authorities and health officials on the possibility of having our event in 2020. The health and safety of our artists, fans and staff is always our top priority. We want to thank you for your patience as we work through this. Stay tuned for additional updates and be kind to each other. [www.countryjamwi.com](http://www.countryjamwi.com).

### ***Town of Union Annual Meeting***

**\*\*\*\*\*Our Spring Annual meeting is May 26, 2020 @ 7:00pm\*\*\*\*\***

Social Distancing practices will be in place and those wishing to attend via tele video conferencing:

To Join Zoom Meeting click on the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86271350713?pwd=VHRmWGVaV2Q1dFRaS3hoWVYxTXUvQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 7135 0713

Audio Pin: \*

Password: 156853

Those wishing to call in on the telephone use the phone number below:

(312) 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 862 7135 0713

Password: 156853

If you encounter difficulties during the meeting please call Supervisor Mona Mathews at 715-577-3908

***Town of Union 2019 Financial Report***

***Jan – Dec 2019***

**Income**

1IN-TAXES	3,687,121.66
2IN-INTER GOVERNMENT	140,289.23
3IN-LICENSES & PERMITS	25,650.00
4IN-PUBLIC SERVICE	20,975.30
5IN-OTHER REVENUE	187,802.11
6-TRANSFERS	0.00
Total Income	\$ 4,061,838.30

**Expense**

1-TAXES (PD)	3,058,996.67
2-GENERAL GOVERNMENT	65,707.97
3-PUBLIC SAFETY	148,539.61
4-PUBLIC WORKS	476,387.37
5-CULT & RECREATIONAL	113,173.02
9-OTHER	3,898.09
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	194.73
PAYROLL EXPENSES	100,627.00
Total Expense	\$ 3,967,524.46
OVER	\$ 94,313.84



1506 North Town Hall Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

#### **Elected Town Officials**

Chairperson Jennifer Meyer  
(715)456-5903  
Supervisor Paul Travis  
(715)456-0564  
Supervisor Mona Mathews  
(715)577-3908

Supervisor Jeff Bechard  
(715)828-0586  
Supervisor Jeff Whyte  
(715)497-2558

#### **Appointed Treasurer**

John McLaughlin  
(715)874-6123

#### **Appointed Clerk**

Beverly Christopherson  
(715)874-6123

#### **Driveway Permits**

Chris Turner  
(715)829-3737

#### **Building Inspector**

Al Balsinger  
(715)577-9922

#### **Town Constable**

Russ Johnson  
(715)839-9991

#### **County Supervisor**

Colleen Bates  
(715)835-9813

#### **Clerks Hours**

Tues & Thurs 5:30 – 9pm  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat 8am – 12pm  
Email: [townofunion@wwt.net](mailto:townofunion@wwt.net)  
Website: [www.townofunionec.com](http://www.townofunionec.com)

#### **Park Commission Members:**

Fred Belay, Marie Vornholt, Jennifer Meyer  
Kathy Rowland, Kathy Alf, Tom Roach, Barb Kleist

#### **Comprehensive Planning Commission Members:**

Jennifer Meyer, Judy Bechard & Ruth Burr