

# Town of Oregon Newsletter

Dane County, Wisconsin

December 2015

## Tax Payment Instructions

Enclosed is your 2015 property tax bill. Payments can be made at the clerk's office or mailed to the town hall by January 31st.

- Mail payment to: Town of Oregon, 1138 Union Road, Oregon, WI 53575.
- Payments can be made in-person during office hours.
- Make check payable to the *Town of Oregon*.
- Dog license fees must be paid with a separate check.
- Enclose the bottom portion of tax bill with payment.
- Endorse the back of any check made out to the town and property owner(s).
- Need a receipt? Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your payment or go to [accessdane.countyofdane.com](http://accessdane.countyofdane.com).

## Reminders

**No Credit Cards are Accepted.** Checks or exact cash only.

**Escrow Payments:** It is your responsibility to notify your financial institution of taxes due and/or verify payment.

**Payment Schedule:** The first half of the tax bill is paid to the Town of Oregon and must be postmarked by January 31, 2016. The second half of the bill is paid directly to the Dane County Treasurer by July 31, 2016.

## Property Tax Credits

**Lottery and Gaming Credit:** The owner of the dwelling must be a WI resident and use the dwelling as their primary residence. You must apply for the lottery and gaming credit. A property owner can receive only one credit.

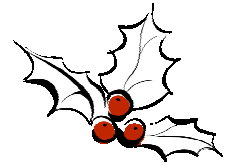
**First Dollar Credit:** All properties that have amount shown in the "Ass'd Value Improvements" box on the tax bill should automatically have the credit applied. An application is not required and an owner can receive credit on more than one property.

**Did you receive the credits?** To verify that you received these credits, locate the lines for the Lottery & Gaming Credit and First Dollar Credit on the tax bill located below the Total Tax line. If an amount is listed on these lines, then the property has received the credits. If you have not received the credits, please contact us at 835-3200.

**Private Septic Maintenance Fee:** All homes in the Town of Oregon will see a charge on their tax bill of \$8.67 for a private septic maintenance fee. This is a **REQUIRED** fee. The fee is used to fund the private septic system inspection program operate by Public Health Madison and Dane County. Questions contact: John Hausbeck, Public Health (608) 243-0331

## Oregon Town Hall

1138 Union Road  
Oregon, WI 53575-2742  
Phone: (608)-835-3200  
Fax: (608)-835-2235  
[www.town.oregon.wi.us](http://www.town.oregon.wi.us)



### Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday  
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

### Saturday Tax Collection:

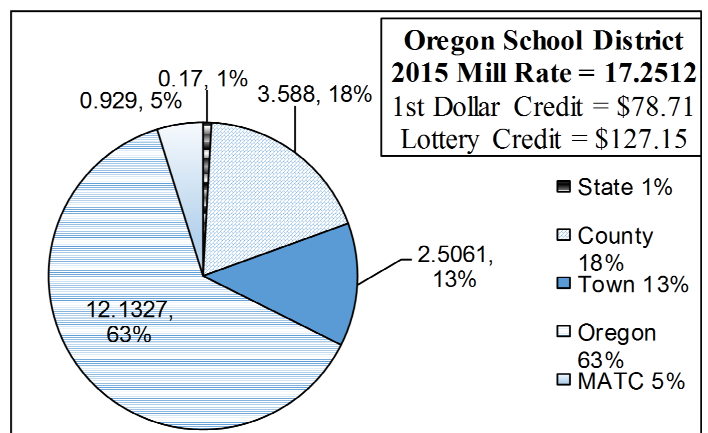
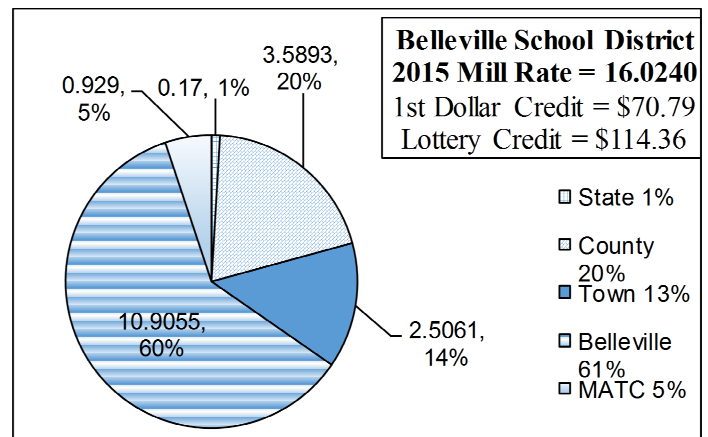
Dec. 26, 2015 & Sat. Jan. 30, 2016  
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Closed for the holidays on December 24 & 25 and January 1, 2016.**

### Town of Oregon Recycling Center (TORC):

Year Round: Saturday: 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Wednesdays from May 1 to November 1:  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

The office may close when local schools are canceled to reduce traffic and facilitate snow removal.



# Election News

## 2016 Election Dates

**February 16 - Spring Primary** it is not yet known whether there will be a statewide primary for Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

**April 5 - Presidential Preference & Spring Election** for Presidential Preference Vote, Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Court Judge, County Nonpartisan Offices, Municipal Offices, School District Offices; and Referenda (if required).

**August 9, 2016 - Partisan Primary** is a way to select each party's nominee for general election in November.

**November 8, 2016 - General Election** for President & Vice President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, even-numbered Wisconsin State Senate seats, all Wisconsin Assembly seats, and all District Attorneys.

## **WISCONSIN NOW REQUIRES VOTER ID TO VOTE.**

Visit <http://bringit.wi.gov/> for acceptable voter id.

## Registering to Vote?

- To vote in Wisconsin you must first register to vote.
- You can start the registration process online at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).
- You can also register in-person at clerk's office.
- You can register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.
- All voters must submit **proof of residence** with their voter registration.
- The only day excluded from registering to vote is the Monday before Election Day.

### **Remember:**

- Wisconsin law requires that you live at your current address for 28 consecutive days to be eligible to vote from your new address.
- If you have legally changed your name due to marriage or other reasons, you are required to update your voter registration by re-registering.
- If you own property in more than one place, you must register to vote using your primary residence.

Visit <https://myvote.wi.gov/> to check your voter registration information.

## **Absentee Ballot (Early Voting)**

Under Wisconsin law, voters do not need a reason or excuse, such as being out of town on Election Day, to vote absentee. Any voter who prefers to vote by absentee ballot may request one. You have several options for requesting an absentee ballot and casting your vote. You may request an absentee ballot by mail, email and fax or in-person at the clerk's office (also known as early voting).

### **Early Voting**

- ⇒ In-person absentee voting (early voting) runs on weekdays for two weeks before an election, ending at 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election. Early voting is no longer permitted on weekends or the Monday before Election Day. **Ballots are not put into the machine until Election Day.**
- ⇒ If you apply for an absentee ballot in your municipal clerk's office, vote your ballot 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. **Ballots cannot be picked-up.**
- ⇒ Remember, you can only vote once. In 2011 the Legislature passed Act 227, which prohibits a voter who has returned a completed absentee ballot from voting at the polling place on Election Day. Previously, voters who cast an absentee ballot and changed their mind could go to the polling place and vote on Election Day, and their absentee ballot would not be counted. This is no longer an option.

### **Mailed Absentee Ballots**

- Requests for mailed absentee ballots must be received 5 day prior to the election.
- Children living away from home may request an absentee ballot be mailed to them.
- Ballots cannot be faxed or emailed (except military).



## Town of Oregon Snow Removal Guidelines

The Town of Oregon road crew strives to plow and remove snow from the roads as efficiently and safely as possible. Here are some tips to follow to help the snow removal crew:

- \* Please move vehicles off the road and park in your driveway, especially in the cul-de-sac areas.  
**Vehicles parked on the road are hazardous and interfere with snowplows. Vehicles can be ticketed and towed at owner's expense.**
- \* Snow plow drivers work long hours, often beginning at 1 or 2 AM. They spend hours fighting the blowing snow, the night glare and traffic. When you meet a plow, give them the space they need to get their job done. It is not only a courtesy, it's the law!
- \* Walk with caution. When encountering a snowplow while walking, move to the opposite side of the road. A snowplow has a 9 foot wing on its right side that can throw snow 20 feet! When visibility is limited, it maybe better to avoid walking on the roadways.
- \* The town road right-of-way stretches 33 feet from the center of the road. The landowner may use and maintain this area as lawn. However, it is very important that plants, sprinkler systems or other items, such as marker poles are not placed in the road right-of-way as the snowplows can damage them. **The town is not responsible for the damage of items in the road right of way.**
- \* The town road crew removes trees, limbs and branches that hang over the road right-of-way for safety.
- \* Pushing or blowing snow from a private driveway onto the roadway is dangerous and prohibited by law.
- \* Do not put trash and recycling receptacles in the road, instead place them in your driveway.
- \* Homeowners are responsible for clearing the snow around the mailbox. The town is not responsible for damage to a mailbox caused by the weight of ice and snow.
- \* Dane County maintains County Highway MM, CC, A & D. The town is responsible for town roads only.
- \* If you have snow plow concerns when the office is closed, please contact Town Board Chairman Wayne Ace at 576-7281.

*Please note that the maintenance of Lincoln Road from Fish Hatchery to Union Road is the responsibility of the Village of Oregon. Any concerns should be directed to the Village of Oregon at 835-3118.*

## **Town of Oregon Caucus**

The caucus is a method used by towns and villages for nominating candidates to be placed on the Spring Election ballot. The caucus is open to the public, but only qualified electors of the municipality may nominate and vote for candidates. Any person who is a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older, who has resided in the municipality for at least 28 days is a qualified elector. A person is not required to be a registered voter in order to participate in the caucus.

The Town of Oregon holds a caucus every January to nominate candidates for open positions on the Town Board that are up for election. The Town of Oregon 2016 Caucus will be on **Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM** at the Oregon Town Hall located at 1138 Union Road, Oregon, WI. There are two Town Board Supervisor positions up for election that have two year terms. The current incumbents are Steve Root and Phil Van Kampen. In 2017, the open position on the Town Board will include chairperson, two board supervisors, constable and assessor.

If you would like to be a candidate for Town Board Supervisor, you need to be nominated for that position at caucus. Any nominated candidates not at caucus will be contacted by the town clerk. Paperwork needs to be completed for any candidate to be placed on the ballot. Nomination papers are not used in the Town of Oregon.

If you have any questions regarding the Town Caucus, please call the Clerk's Office at 608-835-3200. In the event there is inclement weather on the day of the Caucus, it will be rescheduled for January 23, 2016 at 2:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in this electoral process to determine the Town of Oregon 2016 Spring Election Candidates.

## 2016 Dog License Application

- ◇ **MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF VACCINATION WITH EXPIRATION DATE.**
- ◇ **All dogs over 5 months of age must be licensed.**
- ◇ **License are valid for one calendar year Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.**

**Dog Licenses are available by mail or at the clerk's office.**

- Mail completed application, a copy of proof of vaccination and a separate check payable to Town of Oregon, 1138 Union Road, Oregon, WI 53575
- Include a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive license by mail
- Bring proof of vaccination to the office and license will be issued.
- Property Owners are responsible for passing this information on to renters.

**Owner's Name:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:** WI

**Zip:**

**Phone:**

Dog Name	Breed	Color	Gender M/F	Neutered or Spayed	Rabies Expiration Date MM/DD/YY	2016 License Tag # (office use only)

**Fee:** # of neutered or spayed dogs x \$11.50 # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$11.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of unneutered/unsprayed dogs x \$17.50 # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Kennel License** (includes up to 12 dogs, over 12 is \$8.75 each) x \$45.75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Late fee** (if paid after April 1, 2016) x \$5.00 # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total to remit** (Make checks payable to *Town of Oregon*) \$ \_\_\_\_\_