

# The Town of Drammen, Eau Claire County

Established 1873

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

**From the Town Board.** As spring arrives and fields across Wisconsin come to life, farmers are hitting the road with tractors and planting equipment in tow. With planting season underway, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau is urging both farmers and drivers to prioritize safety on rural roads. Sharing the road with large, slow-moving agricultural machinery can be challenging, especially during the busy spring months. As rural byways see an uptick in traffic, encounters between tractors and implements of husbandry are inevitable, so it is crucial that farmers and drivers work together to keep roads safe for everyone. “Everyone is busy, especially during the spring season,” said Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Brad Olson. “It is easy to get impatient, but we all share the road and the goal of making it home safe to our families. A little patience and awareness can be lifesaving.” Here are five tips to help ensure rural road safety

1. Drive smart and be patient
2. Stay alert for farm equipment.
3. Watch for field turns.
4. Give farmers plenty of space.
5. Do not assume visibility.

**Drammen Election Inspector (Poll Worker).** 4 Positions available. Pay is \$14.50 per hour (tax exempt). Looking for responsible, civic-minded individuals interested in serving for the 2026 election year. Applicants must complete state-required training online. If interested, please go to the Town Website or contact the town clerk, 715 926-3870.

**My Vote Wisconsin** is an essential online tool for Wisconsin voters, offering a range of services to simplify the voting process. Here is how **My Vote Wisconsin** can help you:

- Check Registration Status
- Register to Vote
- Find Polling Place
- Request an Absentee Ballot
- Track Your Absentee Ballot
- View Sample Ballot
- View Voter Participation History
- Get Information on Election Dates and Deadlines
- Learn About Voter ID Requirements

**myvote.wi.gov**

**Upcoming 2026 Elections**

April 7 – Spring Election  
August 11 – Fall Primary  
November 3 – General Election

***Caution – voter registration and absentee ballot requests from 3<sup>rd</sup> party Vendors – CAUTION!*** Voter registration drives and absentee ballot requests from special interest groups will increase this year. Although some of the mailings will appear to be originated from the Town of Drammen, the town is not affiliated with any of these organizations. While most organizations are legitimate, this is also an area of opportunity of IDENTITY THEFT. Be aware that voter registration requires personal information such as your date of birth and drivers license number. Always read the fine print and be aware that some of the mailings do not provide you with all the information you need to properly register to vote or request an absentee ballot. Voter registration requires Proof of Residency, and absentee requests require photo ID.

*Contact your Municipal Clerk, Nicholas Lutes via 715-926-3870 or via email [clerk@townofdrammen-wi.gov](mailto:clerk@townofdrammen-wi.gov) to have the proper forms emailed or mailed to you.*

**Property Assessment.** In 2026 Drammen will conduct another Maintenance Assessment vice the Full Market Evaluation as stated in earlier newsletters due to scheduling conflicts. In 2027, Drammen will undertake a Full Market

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Reevaluation of all properties as required by the state to ensure assessed values comply with state statutes. For more information contact the Town Assessor, Mark Garlick, at [garlick5@triwest.net](mailto:garlick5@triwest.net).

**Tree Cutting.** For public safety, any trees within 10 feet of the road right of way, even if on private property, will be addressed. If you encounter hazardous tree limbs that require removal, contact us by email [clerk@townofdrammen-wi.gov](mailto:clerk@townofdrammen-wi.gov) or call 715-926-3870.

**Fire and Emergency Services.** In 2025 the Town of Drammen had 7 calls requiring the Mondovi Fire Department/EMS, averaging \$895 per incident. Property owners are responsible for fire bill costs for their real estate and personal property. The town Clerk receives all notices of service provided – you will be billed accordingly. For more information, please refer to the Town of Drammen Fire Protection Charge and Burning Permit Ordinance (see Drammen website). 98% of forest fires are started by personal error. Check the WDNR website for Burn Ban Status <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ForestFire>

**Dogs Running at Large.** Dogs running at large are a major concern within our Township. It is the dog's owner who is responsible for a dog off the owner's property. According to the Drammen and State ordinance all dogs will have current vaccinations, and a dog license bought from the Drammen Town Treasurer (renewed annually). Residents who find a dog/dogs running at large and can safely hold the canine - contact the Eau Claire Humane Society (715) 839-4747 for removal.

Rabies is a, nearly 100% fatal, yet preventable, virus transmitted through the saliva, bites, or scratches of infected animals, including unknown cats and dogs. NEVER approach, pet, or feed stray animals or wildlife, even if they appear friendly, calm, or are acting strangely (e.g., timid, aggressive, or unusually tame) Always use caution when approaching animals – the treat of RABIES is always present. If bitten or scratched, at once wash the wound with soap and water and seek emergency medical attention! If the bite occurred in Eau Claire County, report the bite to the Eau Claire Communications Center at (715)-839-4972. After a report is completed by Animal Control, the case will be forwarded to the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

**Dog Licenses Required Annually.** Wis Statute 174.05 states that any owner with a dog 5 months of age or older SHALL annually on or before the FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, apply for a license from the Town Treasurer. Contact Donna Lampman at 715 926-3870 or via email [treasurer@townofdrammen-wi.gov](mailto:treasurer@townofdrammen-wi.gov) to request a license. Also see Drammen Ordinance 25-2, Animal Control on our website for more information.

**Your 911/Fire Address Sign Could Save a Life — Keep It Visible.** 911/Fire Address signs are installed to guide emergency responders quickly and accurately to your location — often at the entrance to your driveway. In an emergency, seconds matter, and if your sign is blocked by overgrown vegetation or is missing altogether, it could delay lifesaving help. It is your responsibility to keep your sign clearly visible in all weather conditions. Trim trees and brush as needed. If your sign is damaged, faded, or missing, contact the Town Clerk to order a replacement. Replacement signs cost \$50 and are the homeowner's responsibility. Access, residents are advised that there is no guarantee of emergency fire service if conditions prevent safe access to your property. This includes but is not limited to road conditions that do not permit safe travel; driveways or private roads that are too narrow, lack sufficient clearance, are structurally unsound (e.g., weak bridges or culverts), do not have turnarounds, or are not properly maintained for emergency vehicle maneuvering. Additionally, service may not be provided if weather conditions prevent access. The Town and City assume no liability if a fire apparatus becomes stuck, damaged, or otherwise unable to reach a site due to road failure, Acts of God, closures, or any other unavoidable obstacle. Ensuring proper and safe access is the responsibility of the property owner.

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### 2026 Clean Sweep Schedule & Details.

- Dates: May 16, July 25 and September 12, 2026.
- Time: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Location: WRR Environmental Services, 5200 Ryder Road, Eau Claire, WI.
- Free Items: Oil-based paints, thinners, stains, varnishes, corrosives, solvents, cleaners, old fuel, used oil. filters, antifreeze, and aerosol cans.
- Fee Items: Latex paint (\$4/gallon), light bulbs, and propane cylinders (no rust).

### New Town Contact Information & Phone System for Drammen Township

*Drammen Township is implementing several improvements to how residents can contact the town by phone and email. These changes will move town communications away from personal phone numbers and email addresses and instead use official town accounts connected to the position, not the individual serving in that role.*

**Email Change.** The current town email address [townofdrammen@outlook.com](mailto:townofdrammen@outlook.com) will transition to official government addresses:

- [clerk@townofdrammen-wi.gov](mailto:clerk@townofdrammen-wi.gov)
- [treasurer@townofdrammen-wi.gov](mailto:treasurer@townofdrammen-wi.gov)

*These new addresses operate under the wi.gov domain, showing them as official Wisconsin government email accounts. The current email address will continue to function for the near future, but residents are encouraged to update their contact information for the Drammen Town Clerk and Treasurer. Updated contact information is always available on the town website: <https://townofdrammen-wi.gov>*

**Town Phone System.** Drammen Township is upgrading its phone system to make it easier for residents to reach the right person for town-related matters.

**Residents will call the Drammen Town Hall: 715-926-3870**

From this number, callers can connect directly to the right person through an automated menu as follows:

- Road Maintenance (plowing, sanding, potholes, downed trees, etc)
- Clerk
- Treasurer
- Town Chairman
- Town Hall
- All Other

*These upgrades are intended to improve communication, increase transparency, and make it easier for residents to reach their local officials when needed.*

**Clerks Corner.** As we start a new year, many residents may have seen a notable increase in their property tax bills. This rise is not attributed to a single decision made locally in Drammen; rather, it reflects the cumulative impact of cost increases across several taxing entities, **including the county, school districts, and the technical college system.** Each of these authorities decides its own tax levy according to its budgetary requirements, and their adjustments contribute directly to the overall property tax bill for local homeowners. **Taxes collected for 2025 increased approximately \$229,047 from the previous year but only \$10,845(5%) went to our town, the rest were distributed as follows: EC County \$73,837(32%), EC Schools \$926(1%), Mondovi Schools \$126,445(55%), and CVTC \$16,994 (7%).**

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## **New/Updated Town Ordinances and Resolutions.**

### **Ordinances**

26-1 Establishing Split Shifts for Elections  
26-2 Fire Protection Charges and Burn Permits

### **Resolutions**

25-5 Exceed the Levy Limit  
25-6 Adopt the Total Town Tax Levy  
25-7 Treasurers Bond, Substitute for  
26-1 Changing the Number of Election Officials

*All Town Ordinances and Resolutions can be viewed on the town website <https://townofdrammen-wi.gov>*

**Interesting Facts.** The Town of Drammen is about 22,986 acres (35.9 square miles) in size with predominant land use being agricultural. According to the 2020 Census, the age group with the highest population is those 55 to 59 years old (9.7%). The median age is 49.3 which is higher than the county and state median age. In the year 2020, approximately 31.1% of the population was at or near retirement age (60+), which is higher than the county and state.

## **New Building Project. *Make sure to obtain the correct County permits!***

If you are planning on new construction on your property, make sure to have the correct County permits! It may be confusing about what types of permits you will need for certain projects but being prepared ahead of time will save you money in the long run. Any questions regarding what types permits you will need please contact Eau Claire County Zoning Inspector at (715) 839-1660.

**Know Your Fence Line Responsibilities.** As the Town of Drammen continues to grow and rural land uses change, it is important for property owners to understand their responsibilities regarding line fences. Wisconsin law clearly outlines these duties under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 90. The information below highlights several key points to help landowners stay aware of their responsibilities and avoid disputes with neighbors.

- When is a fence required? Under Wisconsin Statute §90.03, a fence is required when land is used for farming or grazing purposes.
- When a fence is used for farming or grazing, neighboring property owners must erect and maintain the fence in equal shares, even if only one property owner has livestock.
- Who maintains which part of the fence?

A common rule of thumb used across Wisconsin is simple:

- Stand on your property and face the fence.
- The part of the fence to your right-hand side is your responsibility to maintain.

Why this matters? Maintaining fence lines helps prevent misunderstandings between neighbors and ensures compliance with Wisconsin law. Property owners are encouraged to periodically inspect their fence lines and work cooperatively with adjoining landowners when maintenance or repairs are needed.

*This brief overview is intended to highlight responsibilities under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 90 and is not a complete listing of the law.*

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## \*\*\* Burning Permit Information \*\*\*

Burning Permits may be obtained by:

**1st Call Buffalo County Sheriff Emergency Dispatch (608) 685-4433.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Call the Mondovi Fire Chief (715) 495-6708.**

If Authorization is granted, the “**Fire Signs**” at the Drammen Town Hall are recommended to be posted near the main roads around the location of controlled and approved fire. The purpose of the fire signs is to alert passing traffic of the authorized burn, so they don't call 911. Additionally, it is appropriate to inform your neighbors adjacent to your property regarding your burning plans. Please, return the signs.

**\*\*NO burning between Midnight to 8:00 AM in incinerators, garbage barrels, or open burning \*\***

**\*\* NO Burning on Sundays \* NO Burning on Sundays \* No Burning on Sundays \*\***

**Open Burning** - Burning of grass, leaves, brush, etc. **by permit only**. An attendant must be present until the fire is quenched or burned out to where no smoke is present.

**Closed Burning** - Closed burning periods will be announced by the town board during prolonged dry periods. Absolutely no burning during closed periods. Check the Drammen Website [townofdrammen-wi.gov](http://townofdrammen-wi.gov) or call the Clerk at 715 926-3870.

**Incinerators, Garbage barrels** - Burning only in an incinerator, with ½ inch or less wire mesh covering the entire top of the burner. No permit required.

**Outdoor Cooking** - No permit required for outdoor fireplaces used for cooking.

***Fire Protection rules and regulations are for your protection. Fines of \$100.00 may be imposed on anyone not complying with these rules and regulations, plus all costs of suppression, property damage, and liabilities.***

**Having permission to burn, in no way lessens your liability if your fire gets out of control resulting in a call to the Fire Department or damage to neighboring property.**

See <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ForestFire> for more information about burning! The DNR Forestry and Fire Management website has a visual map showing active area burn bans. Did you know that %98 of all wildfires in Wisconsin are caused by PEOPLE?

**\*Save a life \* save property – learn before you BURN!\***

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## Drammen Recycling and Waste Management Hours of Operation

**Saturdays** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Wednesday** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (FROM April 15<sup>th</sup> to August 26<sup>th</sup>)

\*\*\*\*\* *It is ILLEGAL to dump outside of these hours* \*\*\*\*\*

The Township provides waste (trash) and recycling services as a convenience for the residents of Drammen — not for profit. Each 35-gallon bag of trash costs \$5. These fees go directly toward covering the costs of the service, including employee wages (as required by law) to watch proper disposal, and payments to GFL for trash and recycling processing. Every dollar collected goes right back into running the service — nothing more, nothing less. The system pays for itself and ensures that we meet all legal and environmental requirements. Any trash that does not fit in a 35-gallon waste bag will be assessed by the on-duty Waste Management employee and additional fees will apply. **The Waste & Recycling Center exists to serve residents - but only works if everyone follows the rules. We must all do our part.**

### What We Accept

- Small household trash only – must fit into a 35-gallon bag (\$5 fee per bag)
- Loose household trash is NOT accepted! **BREAK IT DOWN** and **BAG IT**, and it will be accepted
- Clean recyclables and only items pictured on recycling containers
- Scrap metal – pile managed by Troy Shulner
- Acceptable: mostly metal appliances (washers, dryers, water heaters) (Scrap Metal)

### What We DO NOT Accept

- Mattresses, furniture of any kind
- Small appliances containing electronics
- Oil containers, oil filters (even if cleaned)
- Paint, solvents, or chemicals
- Aerosol cans (unless punctured & empty)
- Microwaves
- Refrigerators, freezers, or anything with Freon (Freon being the Key issue - No FREON)
- Large loads (barn clean-outs, renovations, truck/trailer loads) must go to the Eau Claire County Dump

*Download the “Recycle Coach” APP to your phone for immediate answers on how to properly dispose of all WASTE!*

**Important Notice.** The Waste/Recycling center is under **24/7 VIDEO SURVEILLANCE** due to illegal dumping of refrigerators and other restricted items. Illegal dumping costs our township money. Citations will be issued if violations continue.

**Your Responsibility.** The Town of Drammen is proud of its clean, responsible program. To keep fees low and service available, everyone must follow the rules.

- Respect the program
- Dispose of items properly
- Help keep Drammen safe, clean, and sustainable

\*\*\*\*\* *The Waste/Recycling Area is Video Monitored 24/7* \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* *Fines and Citations will be applied* \*\*\*\*\*