

Town of Dewey December 2019 Newsletter

Because of changes made by the company printing and mailing the tax bills please note that the Town of Dewey Newsletter will be split on the back of two different documents; part on the back of the dog license form and part on the back of the recycling calendar.

ATV/UTV Routes on town roads – The town ordinance establishing these routes became effective on June 1, 2019. The majority of the feedback received has been positive. We ask that those using the routes remember that “safety” is the No.1 priority.

Update on Fiber Optic Project: this information has been provided by the Amherst Telephone Company. The good news is that progress has been made this year with the installation of Fiber Optic cable in the Town of Dewey. The year was not without its challenges. There are two segments that were not completed this year; County Road X between Oakwood Drive and Dewey Drive and Haymeadow Drive from Oakwood Drive to the south. These areas will be completed in 2020 when conditions permit. In the areas that we were able to get the “orange pipe” installed, we will be installing the fiber optic cable in the coming month. Then all the fiber optic cable will need to be spliced. This will occur over the winter months. In the spring, we will start to contact residents and businesses that expressed interest in our High-Speed Fiber Internet to bury a “fiber drop” from the main line cable at the road up to the house/business. This is the first step in having service installed and will take place over the spring/summer/fall of 2020. Residents and businesses that are interested in our services should make sure they have notified our office. You may contact us at **715-824-5529** to verify that you are on our fiber internet drop list. We appreciate all of your patience with the construction and look forward to completing the installation of the fiber optic cable in 2020.

Garbage/Recycling Material Collection Service – Beginning on January 1, 2019 the town began receiving these services from Harter’s Fox Valley Disposal. The transition went well and we are very happy with the services we are receiving. Please see your collection date calendar for pick up date information.

Tax Collection – Please review the tax collection insert that is part of this mailing for the information you need to know regarding the payment of your taxes.

Property Revaluation – Our town’s assessment firm, Pauls & Associates, Inc. completed the reassessment to properties in our town this summer. This work was necessary to bring us in compliance with state requirements.

Dog Licenses – The State of Wisconsin and Portage County **require** all dogs (over 5 months of age) to be licensed each year (from January 1 to December 31). Therefore, all licenses issued for 2019 expire on December 31, 2019. **The license application for 2020 is part of this mailing.** License fees are determined by Portage County. Many Portage County municipalities charge an extra fee; the Town of Dewey does *not* charge an extra fee, in an effort to keep rates affordable for residents. The town treasurer spent a lot of time updating the dog license files this summer. Thank you to everyone who responded to the treasurer’s requests for information. **As a reminder, if you no longer have a dog that was licensed in 2019, please notify the town treasurer.**

Yard Waste/Brush Disposal – The town will continue to accept yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, etc.) and brush (tree branches, shrubs, etc.) for disposal at its property at the northwest corner of Oakwood Drive and Haymeadow Drive (address 3550 Oakwood

Drive). While the site was open since the storm of July 20th to allow residents the opportunity to dispose of these items from the storm, it is now closed again and you will need to contact someone to get into the site. Residents will need to call the Dewey town garage at 715-344-2343 or Town Supervisor Dennis Meis at 715-341-0729 to set up a time to meet with someone at the disposal site. Residents must deliver materials to the site. An ID may be requested to verify residency. There will be **NO** disposal without an appointment.

Equipment – The town spent a lot of money this past year on repairs to equipment with the most money being spent on the 2002 dump truck and the tractor. The truck is starting to show its age and we hope that these repairs will get us several more years of use out of this vehicle.

Garage Roof – After reviewing our options for repairs to the roof, the decision was made to put a new roof on the building. The cost of those repairs was \$36,500. The board decided to borrow that money on a 3 year loan so that we could also continue to maintain the town roads. The loan will increase our tax bills by about \$11.50 per \$100,000 of equalized value.

Town Road Work – The town took on many projects this past summer to maintain and up-grade the roads in the town. We cracked sealed about 10 miles of road, chip sealed about 3 miles of road, scrub sealed about 2.5 miles of road and added new granite to about 2.75 miles of road. We replaced 7 culverts including a six and one half foot in diameter culvert on Sunset Drive. We added 3 new culverts to improve drainage and did several ditching projects. We also started the reconstruction of Oakwood Drive between Sunset Drive and County Road X. The complete 2019 Road Work Report can be found on the town's website at www.townofdeweywi.com.

Private Driveway Access - It is important that all residents maintain an adequate access to their homes and other buildings on their property. In order for emergency vehicles such as an ambulance or fire truck to access your home or other buildings, residents are asked to keep vegetation cut back. It is recommended that driveways be clear of vegetation for a minimum width of 12 feet and a minimum height of 12 feet.

Fire Department and/or EMT Unit Members – The Town of Dewey is always looking for residents that would be interested in serving the town as a member of the Fire Department and/or the First Responder Unit. If you are interested in joining or would like more information please contact a member of the town board. Your neighbors would appreciate your service to the town. We had a couple of new members join this year but are always looking for more members.

Thank You – I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Town Board, the Plan Commission, the Fire Department, the EMR Unit and our town employees for their time and effort. Their efforts throughout the year, and especially this year in dealing with the storm of July 20th, are very much appreciated. We all owe each of them a “thank you” for the countless hours they put in. **I would also like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to each and every person who took the time to help their fellow residents after the storm on July 20th. It was an effort to be proud of. We, the Town of Dewey, were the first town that sustained major storm damage that day to have the roads to all our residents open. That happened because of all of you.** All of the people mentioned above and yes, you, are responsible for making the Town of Dewey a great place to live. Again “thank you”.

Maurice King
Chairperson, Town of Dewey