

## Town of Union Newsletter

December 2020

Season's Greetings Town of Union residents, property owners and businesses...

2021 is fast approaching, and I think we are ready to put 2020 behind us! For most people, the new year can mark an opportunity to set New Year's resolutions, or a chance for a fresh start. The year 2020 has provided many challenges both personally and professionally for all of us. In the face of challenges, I find it is important to continue to show resilience and perseverance through these hard times. Be grateful for every day you are given and show kindness to everyone. The Town of Union Election Workers are proof of dedication and commitment. They put themselves in harm's way during a pandemic and I am very thankful to this wonderful team, Thank You! A special sincere thank you to our Clerk, Bev Christopherson, for her countless hours of absentee ballot voting process. I appreciate you hanging in there 😊

May you and your families have a safe, happy & healthy New Year!

*Jennifer Meyer*

Town Chair

***Learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow.***

### TAX COLLECTION

Location: Union Town Hall, 1506 Town Hall Road, Eau Claire 54703

Treasurer's hours: Dec. 21, 23, 28 & 31 5:30-8:30pm  
Saturday, Dec. 26, 9:00am-1:00pm  
January 18,20,25 & 27 5:30-8:30pm  
Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021 9:00am-1:00pm

**\*\*\*Mailed payments are encouraged\*\*\***

Please include a stamped envelope for receipt. 2021 dog license applications are also available at the Town Hall or at [townofunionec.com](http://townofunionec.com), under Forms and Permits.

When making a payment in person, please enter the Town Hall on the East Side of the building, up the ramp and through the door and into the hall meeting room. Chairs will be staged six feet apart. Please wear a mask and maintain social distancing. When it is your turn to pay taxes, please proceed down the hall to the office. When your transaction has been processed, please exit through the north door into the parking lot.

Should you wish to speak with the treasurer, you may leave your name and phone number with the Town Clerk, at (715) 874-6123 and your message will be forwarded to the Treasurer.

## **Township Fire Station #3**

5333 West Cameron Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

In 2020 Township Fire Department was dispatched to approximately 350 fire calls. This number is down from previous years due to the COVID pandemic. With the holiday season upon us, please be safe by keeping your Christmas Tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, candles and even televisions. If your tree is dry, immediately dispose of it properly. Always keep a fire extinguisher nearby. Shut off tree lights when you are not present and through the night.

As a reminder, burning garbage is NOT allowed in the Town of Union, not even in burn barrels. Burn barrels can be used for clean lumber and brush burning.

For helpful information or *to obtain a burning permit, visit [townshipfire.org](http://townshipfire.org)*

*Online applications are strongly suggested.* If you are interested in becoming a Township Firefighter, contact Battalion Chief, Dave Kleist for an application.

With the generous community support of pull tab tickets sold at past Country Jam events, TFD has been able to purchase helpful equipment such as an ATV, a blitz nozzle, a rehab trailer, and an air compressor to fill SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) bottles. We are incredibly grateful for past support.

*Dave Kleist*

Battalion Chief Station #3

## **Town Hall Property**

1506 N. Town Hall Rd.  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Our Town Hall building has had some upgrades over the last 3 years. Most recently new Anderson windows were installed throughout the building. A ramp was added to the East side of the building. The purpose of the ramp was to allow 6' social distancing traffic flow during the November 2020 election. The ramp is a nice addition and makes for an additional handicap accessible entrance. Installation of new security lighting in the parking lot makes it safer and user friendly. To help with these expenses The Town applied for the R2R (Routes to Recovery) Grant and is expecting full reimbursement for these upgrades. Additionally, a defibrillator was installed on the wall in the kitchen. This should only be used for emergencies. If abused, replacement fees will be charged.

Currently the Town Hall facility is closed for **any** rentals. The Town Board meets monthly and continues to evaluate when it is appropriate to open. Please contact the Clerk for information.

## Town of Union Parks

The Park Commission of the Town of Union is pleased with their recently completed Outdoor Comprehensive Plan 2021-2026. On January 12, 2021, the Town Board will review & adopt the plan. The Commission appreciates all comments and suggestions on improvements to the Comprehensive Plan. To view the plan please visit our website:

[www.townofunionec.com/community/parks](http://www.townofunionec.com/community/parks) or to obtain a copy from the Clerk during Clerk hours. Comments can be made to [townofunion@wwt.net](mailto:townofunion@wwt.net) or [fredbelay@yahoo.com](mailto:fredbelay@yahoo.com).

The Town of Union has 3 park areas in our Township. Sherman Creek Park & The Town of Union Conservancy are actively maintained year-round. The third are multiple ravines surrounding Elk Lake. Our most recent effort is the 120-acre Town of Union Conservancy. This beautiful, wooded forest borders one quarter mile of the Chippewa River. Recent upgrades to the trails enable a peaceful hiking experience. Trail signage with helpful location information was added earlier this summer. This next year we are hoping to add a covered shelter and a handicapped accessible privy for your convenience.

Presently we are working with Visit Eau Claire to pursue grant funds to enhance our parks further. With your help with suggestions for direction of the types of enhancements you would like to see in these parks, we have enormous potential to create the park spaces that would enhance life for you and for all our residents. But it is important that you read our Comprehensive Outdoor Plan and help us make it better.

Happy Holidays,

*Fred Belay*

Park Commission Chair

## Winter Plowing

The Town of Union contracts annually with Eau Claire County Highway Department to maintain snow removal on Town of Union roads as well as county roads within the Town. Plowing for the Township follows the same rules as the County system: ***Snow removal will begin after 2 or more inches of accumulation; during standard business hours; 4:00am– 6:00pm, Monday – Thursday.*** During non-standard business hours, with 2” or more accumulation, EC CTH Department will ensure all roadways are open and passable; snow clean up and pushing back will resume Monday – Thursday from 6:00am – 4:00pm. Overtime is charged to the Town during non-standard business hours. Contact Supervisor Jeff Whyte @ (715) 497-2558 or visit our website.

## **Transfer Station**

1910 White Pine Drive  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-5:30pm / Saturdays 9:00-5:30  
Available to Town of Union Residents

The Town of Union Transfer Station has seen an increase in usage through the COVID pandemic months. Tipping and hauling fees have increased. The Town Board evaluated and approved an updated fee schedule at the December 8, 2020 meeting. Effective January 1, 2021, all black, or green Town of Union, 30-gallon bags will increase from \$2/bag to \$3/bag. Bags over 30 gallons are \$5/bag. Please refer to the Fee Schedule on our website: [townofunionec.com](http://townofunionec.com).

Report illegal ditch dumping! Non-Emergency EC CTY Sherriff's Department phone (715) 839-4972. Or Town Supervisor Jeff Whyte @ (715) 497-2558. Trash removal in ditches is a Town/taxpayer expense.