

# The Town Crier

The Trenton Township Newsletter

[townoftrenton.wi.gov](http://townoftrenton.wi.gov)

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## PROPERTY TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

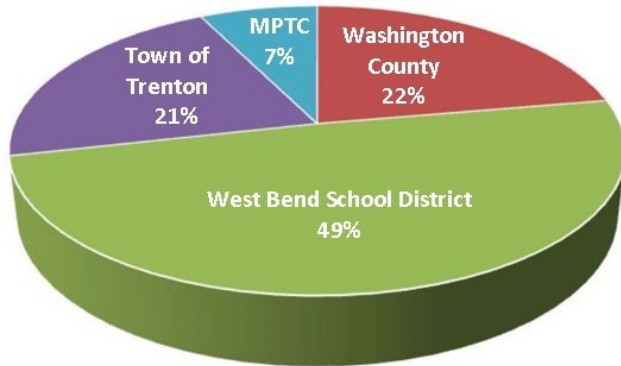
Property assessments are updated annually, and the assessed values at January 1 are used to calculate property taxes the following November, using the "mill rate." The mill rate is calculated by dividing the total taxes levied on the Town of Trenton by the total property value and multiplying that fraction by 1,000. The levies used in this calculation include the Trenton town levy, as well as levies from Washington County, West Bend School District, and Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC).

The 2023 mill rate was 9.927674, which means your tax bill was calculated at \$9.28 for each \$1,000 of assessed value. As an example, a property assessed at \$300,000 would have a property tax bill of \$2,978.30 ( $300 \times 9.927674$ ).

It is important to understand where each dollar of your taxes goes. The pie chart below shows the portion of 2023 tax related to each levy on the town. The \$2,978.30 of tax in the example above is distributed as follows:

- Town of Trenton: \$220.33
- West Bend School District: \$1,465.01
- Washington County: \$663.08
- MPTC: \$220.33

Note that an additional separate levy affects those properties in the Wallace Lake Sanitary District.



In 2024, a full revaluation was conducted to reassess the entire town with the goal of getting all properties' assessments closer to actual fair market value. Property assessments increased an average of 33% across the town. This means that the total assessed value in the town increased 33%, and your "piece of the levy pie" will vary based on whether your assessment increased more or less than the average. It is impossible to predict future property tax bills without knowing what the 2024 levies will be.



If a resident believes their assessment is incorrect, contacting the assessor is the first step. Contact Catalis Tax & CAMA, Inc. at [eric.feavel@catalisgov.com](mailto:eric.feavel@catalisgov.com) or 262.253.1142. Next, the completed assessment roll is open for examination by the public during a period referred to as "Open Book." Open Book began on April 15 with an in-person opportunity for residents to compare their property's assessed value with similar properties within the town and discuss their property value with the assessor who can clarify the reasoning behind the value. The preliminary assessment roll is available for viewing on the Assessor page of the Town website if you were unable to attend Open Book in person.

If a resident still disputes their assessment, they may appeal the assessment with the Board of Review, scheduled for May 30. This body is quasi-judicial (court-like) empowered with the following duties:

- Adjusting assessments when proven incorrect by sworn oral testimony
- Correcting errors or omissions in the descriptions or computations found on the assessment roll
- Checking the assessment roll for omitted properties or double assessments.

Contact Clerk Heather Krueger to schedule an appointment with the Board of Review.

## DOGS

### Licenses Required

Dogs licenses are required for dogs over the age of five months. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be submitted with the dog license application. Applications received after April 1 will be charged a \$5 late fee. Late fees do not apply for new dogs.



### "BARK, BARK, WOOF, WOOF!"

This message is brought to you by the Town of Trenton canines, and is interpreted here: "Please respect the neighbors. We dogs should not be roaming at large, and our waste must be collected and properly disposed."

See Town ordinance §158-7 for additional information on the keeping of dogs.

### ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING EVENT FOR TOWN RESIDENTS

Saturday, September 14  
8:00 a.m. - Noon

Town Hall Parking Lot  
1071 Highway 33

See website for list of acceptable items

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

# BUILDING & ZONING FAQs

## Town Yard

The Town Yard is open monthly on the second Saturday from 8:00-noon, and the third Thursday (March - October) from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. for disposal of the following items:



- Brush
- Yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, MUST BE loose or in compostable bags)
- Metal
- Batteries (EXCLUDING alkaline AA and AAA)
- Automotive waste oil

Other large items, including building materials, can be taken to Waste Management Transfer Station, W124N9355 Boundary Rd, Menomonee Falls, or GFL Transfer Station, 803 N River Rd, West Bend. Disposal charge is based on the weight of the items and a minimum fee applies.

Hazardous waste disposal options are listed on the Household Clean Sweep page of the Washington County website or by calling 262.335.4445.

## Town Road Work in 2024

Several town roads will be repaired in 2024. Watch the website for updates on road closures or restrictions.

## Safety

Depositing grass clippings or leaves onto the roadways is a safety hazard and against town ordinances. Please be considerate and mindful while maintaining your property.



Throughout the year, public works employees work to maintain town roads, including snowplowing, weed cutting, ditching, shouldering, and culvert maintenance. For everyone's safety, SLOW DOWN and use caution when navigating around employees and equipment.

## "I Want to Build a Shed"

The most common question residents ask is: "What do I need to know if I want to build a shed?" Town ordinances govern the rules and restrictions on Accessory Structures based on several factors.

The term "accessory structure" means that it is accessory, or secondary, to a primary use (such as a primary residence in residential districts). Therefore, in most zoning districts, a primary residence must exist before an accessory structure is allowed. In addition, the number and size of accessory structures on a parcel will vary depending on the particular zoning district and size of parcel. Other rules may affect the answer, including:



- Metal accessory structures greater than 60 square feet are currently prohibited in residential districts other than Country Estates
- Some structures require architectural approval from the Town Plan Commission
- Setback rules, in other words, how far from the parcel's lot lines the structure must be

All accessory structures require a building permit and zoning permit, as well as approval of the location by the Washington County Land Use Department.

## Home-Based Businesses

Some home-based businesses require a conditional use permit to operate in the Town of Trenton. The zoning of your property determines what business uses are allowed without a permit, and which uses require a permit.

In general, the following restrictions apply in most zoning districts: outside storage of inventory is not allowed; vehicles not garaged must display current license plate registration and must belong to the property owner; uses creating noise, dust, and excess traffic are generally not permitted in residential districts; and the business must be conducted entirely within your residence.

Additional zoning questions should be directed to Town Administrator Cindy Komro.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Personnel

Andrew Mammen returned to the Town of Trenton last fall and is now the full-time Chief of Police. Officer Chris Picco resigned in December to focus on his full-time position in Kewaskum. Two new officers were hired recently: Tom Develice and Chris Utecht.

## Town Parking Ordinances

The Town of Trenton allows parking on town roads for UP TO TWO HOURS during the hours of 6:00 a.m. - midnight. No overnight parking is allowed



(midnight - 6:00 a.m.). Additional restrictions apply at the Wallace Lake boat launch.

To remind residents of this restriction, warnings will be issued for some time. Within a few months, however, citations will be issued for violations. The initial fee is \$20, increasing to \$50 if it remains unpaid for 20 days. After 60 days, the violator's driver's license will be suspended.

## ATVs and UTVs

In November 2023, the Town Board adopted an ordinance to allow All-Terrain Vehicles and Utility Terrain Vehicles on town roads. Traffic laws and speed limits must

be obeyed. Protective headgear is required for minors. Operators under 16 years of age must be in direct supervision and within earshot of a parent or legal guardian. See ordinance §368-21 for full details.



## Home Vacation Checks

Residents who will be out of town can request a periodic vacation check during their absence. Contact the Police Department at 262.675.6009 x111 with your name, address, phone number, and dates.

**Newburg Fire Department Annual Picnic**  
**Newburg Park**  
**Friday – Sunday, May 31 – June 2**

**THE INS AND OUTS OF TOWN WATER**

Private Wells

Town of Trenton residents get their water from private wells. Residents are encouraged to test their wells annually, or any time they notice a change in how the water looks, tastes, or smells. Washington County provides free test kits. However, a fee is required when submitting a water sample to the UW-Stevens Point Water & Environmental Analysis Lab. The \$68 lab fee (as of July 2023) includes the following tests:

- Coliform bacteria
- Nitrate plus nitrite-nitrogen
- pH
- Alkalinity
- Total hardness
- Chloride
- Conductivity
- Corrosivity index

Additional fees are required if testing for fluoride, bacteria, metals, and Diaminochlorotriazine (DACT).



Septic Systems

With the exception of the small number of residents in the Scenic Drive and Wallace Lake Sanitary Districts, the vast majority of Trenton properties have Private On-Site Water Treatment Systems (POWTS), commonly referred to as “septic systems” for wastewater. Residents are responsible for regular septic maintenance and pumping. Washington County manages POWTS service records and will send a reminder when service is due.

Washington County’s Land Resources Department provides education and technical expertise to help improve and conserve the area’s soil and water resources. View the department web page at [washcowisco.gov](http://washcowisco.gov) or call 262.335.4445.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Early this year, the Town of Trenton was notified that PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) were detected in the groundwater within the Army Guard facility boundary at the West Bend Airport’s Army Aviation Support Facility and Armory. No private wells in the town have tested positive for PFAS contamination.

PFAS are manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, many PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals all over the world. Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.

Because PFAS are so small and difficult to detect, the standard water test provided by Washington County (mentioned above) does not test for PFAS. See the Town website’s “Resident Information” page for additional information regarding the specifics of the airport contamination, as well as links to learn more about PFAS and how residents can protect their water.

[townoftrenton.wi.gov](http://townoftrenton.wi.gov)

Visit the Town website for information on such topics as:

- Town Board and Plan Commission Meetings
- Public Hearings
- Elections
- Building and Zoning
- Public Works
- Refuse/Recycling
- Community Links

*Subscribe to Notifications to receive alerts when new information is posted*

**CICADAPOCALYPSE**

Cicadapocalypse is coming to southeastern Wisconsin! During the months of May and June, hordes of 17-year cicadas will emerge from the ground to seek a mate, lay eggs, and die. The last time the 17-year cicadas emerged was in 2007. Some areas of southern Wisconsin will see millions of these insects.



Cicadas have the longest life cycle of any insect. The eggs laid this summer will hatch and the larvae will burrow into the ground, emerging in 2041 to continue the 17-year life cycle.

Cicadas do not bite or sting. They are harmless to people and animals. If you don’t like bugs, don’t worry. They will be gone in a month or so! If you do like bugs, get out there and enjoy it before they are gone!

**2024 FALL ELECTIONS:**  
**PARTISAN PRIMARY – AUGUST 13**  
**GENERAL & PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 5**

# The Town Crier

Trenton Township  
1071 Hwy 33 East

PRSR STD  
US Postage Paid  
West Bend WI  
Permit No. 122

## CONTACT US

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CHAIRMAN Mike Lipscomb	262.675.6009 x300 <a href="mailto:chairman@townoftrenton.wi.gov">chairman@townoftrenton.wi.gov</a>	POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Andrew Mammen	262.675.6009 x111 (town hall) 262.335.4411 (dispatch) 262.336.9014 (fax)
SUPERVISOR Ed Doerr	262.675.6009 x301 <a href="mailto:Supervisor.Doerr@townoftrenton.wi.gov">Supervisor.Doerr@townoftrenton.wi.gov</a>	NEWBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT Chief Mark Chesak	<a href="mailto:tpdpa-trol@townoftrenton.wi.gov">tpdpa-trol@townoftrenton.wi.gov</a> 262.675.6262 508 Main St, Newburg
SUPERVISOR Barb Davies	262.675.6009 x302 <a href="mailto:Supervisor.Davies@townoftrenton.wi.gov">Supervisor.Davies@townoftrenton.wi.gov</a>	APPRAISER Catalis Tax & CAMA, Inc. Eric Feavel	262.253.1142 N88 W16573 Main St. Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
CLERK Heather Krueger	262.675.6009 x101 <a href="mailto:clerk@townoftrenton.wi.gov">clerk@townoftrenton.wi.gov</a>	WALLACE LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT Judy Mastenbrook	262.338.6934 P.O. Box 31 West Bend, WI 53095 <a href="mailto:wlsd@townoftrenton.wi.gov">wlsd@townoftrenton.wi.gov</a>
TREASURER Nicole Cozzuli-Meer	262.675.6009 x103 <a href="mailto:treasurer@townoftrenton.wi.gov">treasurer@townoftrenton.wi.gov</a>	SCENIC DRIVE SANITARY DISTRICT Mary Kilian	414.331.0883 PO Box 1092 West Bend, WI 53095
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Cindy Komro	262.675.6009 x106 262.290.0154 <a href="mailto:townadmin@townoftrenton.wi.gov">townadmin@townoftrenton.wi.gov</a>		
BUILDING INSPECTOR Walter Grotelueschen	262.675.0909 (home office) 262.675.0415 (town hall) <a href="mailto:building@townoftrenton.wi.gov">building@townoftrenton.wi.gov</a>		
PUBLIC WORKS Director Charles Schmidt	262.675.6009 x109 <a href="mailto:dpw@townoftrenton.wi.gov">dpw@townoftrenton.wi.gov</a>		
CURBSIDE COLLECTION Harter's Lakeside Disposal	833.854.2158 (toll free) 920.552.5414 (fax)		

VISIT  
US

TOWN HALL  
GENERAL  
OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
TUESDAY 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
THURSDAY 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
FRIDAY 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

BUILDING INSPECTOR  
HOURS

WEDNESDAY 3:00 – 5:00 PM

### Town Hall Yard Hours:

Second Saturday 8:00AM-Noon  
& Fourth Thursday (March to October) 3:00-7:00PM

#### ACCEPTING ONLY THE FOLLOWING:

**brush, yard waste, waste oil, batteries, metal goods**

Other large items, including building materials (but NOT hazardous waste) can be taken to Waste Management Transfer Station, W124N9355 Boundary Rd, Menomonee Falls, or GFL Transfer Station, 803 N River Rd, West Bend. Disposal charge is based on the weight of the items and a minimum fee applies.

**Hazardous waste** options are listed on the Household Clean Sweep page of the Washington County website or by calling 262.335.4445.

FROM MIKE LIPSCOMB

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## CHAIRMAN REPORT

Dear fellow residents of the Town of Trenton,

As we enter a promising Spring of 2024 for the Town of Trenton, I'd like to take a moment to address a few key successes our town achieved in 2023 and look ahead to endeavors of 2024. It has been a genuine pleasure to serve these past 12 months as your Town Chairman and I have enjoyed the time spent getting to know so many of you. I appreciate your sincerity and collaboration throughout this first year in office.

### **2023 STRATEGIC RECAP**

2023 was an exciting year for the town with a change in leadership. My sincerest thank you to everyone including our new Clerk, Police Chief and combined Zoning and Town Administrator.

During the year, we looked inward to locate what we could do better, what we could do without and how we would manage expenses for the town operations. As a result, the following optimizations were created:

- Reduced legal fees by having one monthly board meeting (as opposed to twice monthly).
- Saved incremental funding through competitive bidding on town services.
- Passed an ATV/UTV ordinance aligning with all towns in Washington County.
- Updated a detached garage ordinance.
- Developed a new website that provides proactive notifications and increased communication between residents and the town board and staff.
- Developed a partnership with the Washington County Humane Society for town residents.

### **ZONING UPDATE**

A prominent community conversation in 2023 related to zoning regulations (specific to farming and agriculture) began when a large family-run dairy farm approached the town requesting and expansion of their existing farm to accommodate 1,500 cattle. Following this request the town board engaged in extensive conversations with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and legal counsel specific to zoning to assist us in examining our zoning requirements based on the several stringent requirements set in place by the State of Wisconsin.

It is important to note that when the request was first presented, inaccurate information was spread to the community. The false claim that 10,000 cows were moving into Trenton created much fear and alarm.

During the ensuing months, a petition to deny the rezoning request was circulated and signed by many residents.

**For those of you who signed the petition - I hear your voice. I personally reviewed every signature and want you to know that we share the same values for the Town of Trenton.**

Currently, the zoning request has been rendered moot because the parcels in the application have been reconfigured. Therefore, the Town Board will not be considering any zoning change and the parcels will remain in the Exclusive Agricultural District.

As we move forward together, we will be reviewing the town's agricultural zones to make the best long-term plan for our farmland. I respect the rural heritage and future of Trenton farming and will continue to uphold my commitment to serve the best interests of the town and all residents.

As a part of this process, I have invited experts in the field of the regulation and oversight of Wisconsin's farmlands to educate both the Board and Plan Commission to guide our decisions. I ask for your patience and faith during this process. As you may know, a plan was established 15 years ago to guide Trenton into the future - the "2050" plan. This plan was carefully constructed based on input from the public, Board and Plan Commission and includes specific mapping for framing and development. We will continue to operate in accordance with this plan.

Be assured that large factory farms will not be populating and moving into Trenton and no single group's interests will be placed above the greater well-being of the town. As a longstanding resident with a vested interest in the town's future, I am dedicated to the relentless pursuit of preservation and continued success for the Town of Trenton.

### **2024 AND BEYOND**

As we look forward to 2024, be assured that the town board is working to preserve the rural and historic quality of the Town of Trenton and serve our residents. In addition to collaborating with 22 other towns, villages and cities in Washington County, I have spent hours educating myself and the town board about our roads, fire safety, EMS, zoning and elections. We continue to prioritize the safety of our residents, road improvements and town maintenance while remaining efficient with given rising costs. In addition to these priorities, we are increasing focus on identifying and eradicating invasive species along our roads and fields, developing a larger town meeting facility, emphasizing quality police services and town safety, and evaluating our permitting and ordinances.

Town of Trenton residents - join me in looking toward a bright 2024!

Warm regards,



Mike Lipscomb - Town of Trenton Chairman