

THE TOWN CRIER

The Trenton Township Newsletter



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A Letter from The Chairman

Dear Fellow Residents of Trenton,

Serving Trenton is both an honor and a responsibility, and part of that responsibility is keeping residents informed about the decisions shaping our town. In this issue of the Town Crier, I want to share several updates on staffing, budgeting, and public safety, along with a few choices we'll soon be facing as a community.

I value hearing from our residents and appreciate the opportunity to explain how we are managing day-to-day operations while also planning for Trenton's future. Effective local government requires research, thoughtful decision-making, and an understanding of our town's history and origins, as well as knowledge of town ordinances. Trenton is fortunate to have a dedicated staff, including our Department of Public Works, Treasurer, Chief of Police, and a full-time Administrator. The Administrator is responsible for town administration, zoning and clerk duties, such as overseeing our elections and managing a staff of six. Created by the previous Board in 2022, this position sets Trenton on a path many communities envy.

Fiscal responsibility remains a priority. Balancing Town operations, health care, equipment, and parks amongst many other services in an environment of ever-increasing costs requires attention. I look for real and sustainable areas to reduce our expenses. During a closed session in December 2025, the Board discussed priorities for 2026 and 2027. We chose to increase employee contributions toward health care beginning in 2027 as part of managing expenses responsibly.

Trenton is also unique in maintaining its own Police Department, established in 1997 by Jim Esselmann and continued by Joe Gonnering. We currently staff approximately 40 hours per week. The personal service provided by our officers is truly exceptional in Washington County and we receive positive feedback on a regular basis.

Finally, I encourage residents to reach out to any Board member with questions and concerns about our beloved town and its operations. We are dedicated to keeping communications open with all residents to learn about the topics that are important to you.

It is going to be a great summer! Thank you for your continued engagement.

- Mike Lipscomb



BUILDING & ZONING

Permit Reminders: Know Before You Build

Greetings Residents and Business Owners of Trenton,

As warmer weather approaches, please keep in mind the following regulations surrounding construction activity and code enforcement.

Permits are required for most construction projects, including additions or structural changes, fences, roof and siding replacements, electrical service upgrades, plumbing modifications, HVAC system replacements and water heater replacements.

Zoning & Fence Guidelines:

As more residents look to install fences, whether for privacy, pets, or property definition, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Front yard fences may not exceed three feet high, while backyard fences may be up to six feet high
- All fences require a building permit before installation
- Always confirm your property lines before building

We appreciate your adherence to these guidelines to help maintain neighborhood consistency and avoid disputes.

Zoning questions should be directed to the Zoning Administrator.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to responsible property maintenance and development. We look forward to working with you this summer and beyond as we continue building a strong community—one project at a time.

“I Want to Build a Shed”

Q: *If I want to build a shed, what do I need to know?*

A: Accessory structures such as sheds are typically allowed but must follow zoning requirements, including:

- Setbacks from property lines
- Maximum structure size and number
- Location on the parcel
- Architectural approval for metal accessory structures

All accessory structures require a building permit and inspections. For details, contact the Building Inspector or Zoning Administrator.

Some home-based businesses may also require a conditional use permit, depending on the property's zoning.

For Contractors & Homeowners Hiring Contractors

All licensed contractors performing work must be registered with the State of Wisconsin and carry valid proof of insurance. Homeowners hiring contractors should verify credentials and ensure the proper permits have been secured before any work begins.

Scheduling Inspections or Questions?

Inspections are available throughout the week by appointment. If you have questions about building codes or whether your project requires a permit, please reach out.

Contact:
262-675-0909
building@townoftrenton.wi.gov

TOWN MATTERS

Property Taxes & Assessments

As good stewards of your tax dollars, we strive to inform you where every dollar of your tax dollars goes. Trenton's tax levy is locked in by law. It increases each year by about .0002% while expenses increase at the cost-of-living rate that we all experience. The growth of new homes does NOT significantly add to our next revenue. In 2025, the levies increased as follows:

- Town of Trenton: Increased .002%
- West Bend School District: 6%
- Washington County: 4%
- MPTC: 2.5%

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



Dog Licenses Required

Friendly reminder that all dogs over the age of five months within the Town of Trenton must be licensed. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be submitted with the license application.

Dog license fees have increased to \$8 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$15 for others. Dog license applications received after April 1 will be charged a \$5 late fee. Late fees do not apply for new dogs.

Please respect neighbors. Dogs must not be roam at large, and waste must be collected and properly disposed.

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

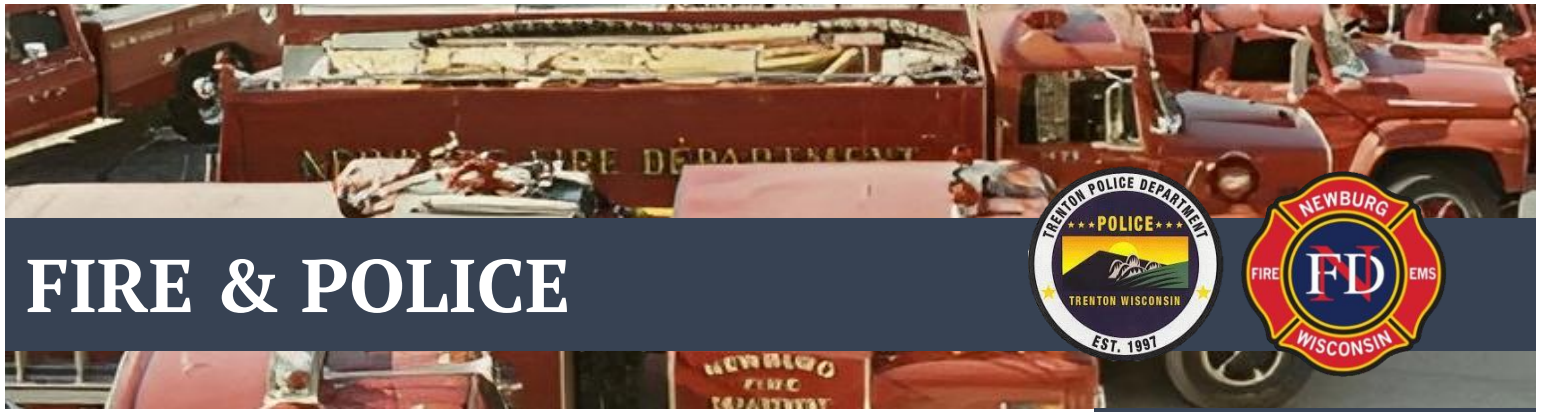
Looking For More Information?

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.

townoftrenton.wi.gov



FIRE & POLICE

Spring Fire Safety Reminder

As warmer weather returns, so does an increased risk for grass and brush fires. Dry vegetation, windy conditions, and unattended outdoor burning can quickly turn a small fire into a dangerous situation. Our department would like to remind residents to take extra precautions this spring to help keep our community safe.

If you plan to conduct any controlled burning, always check local conditions first and never burn on windy or extremely dry days. Keep a water source, shovel, or fire extinguisher nearby, and never leave a fire unattended. Make sure all fires are completely extinguished before leaving the area. Burning of trash, leaves, or debris should always follow local ordinances and safety guidelines.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: REGISTER YOUR CONTROLLED BURN

All controlled burns must be reported to the Washington County Sheriff's Department prior to starting. Residents can now conveniently report controlled burns online, helping dispatchers and emergency responders know the difference between a permitted burn and an emergency situation.

Visit the Sheriff's website at washcowisconsin.gov/departments/sheriff_office and complete the brief online form located under the "Report Controlled Burns" tab. Working together, we can reduce preventable fires and protect our homes, fields, and neighbors. If you see an uncontrolled fire or unsafe burning, call 911 immediately.

Stay safe this spring,
- *The Newburg Fire Department*

Solicitor at Your Door?

Soliciting in Trenton is legal with a permit purchased directly through the Town Hall. Complaints can be forwarded to the Trenton police department for investigation.

Newburg Fireman's Picnic

Spring is almost here, which means things are about to pick up at the Newburg Fire Department. Our annual fundraiser, the Newburg Fireman's Picnic, will be held **Friday, June 5th through Sunday, June 7th**.

We have a full weekend planned, including live music, carnival rides, duck pin bowling, the kids' fishing derby, the return of the 5-Stop Ride and of course the parade on Sunday at noon. Be sure to stop by the hamburger stand, cake stand, and beer tent when you find yourself hungry or thirsty.

If you are interested in sponsoring, donating, or participating, we would love to hear from you. For more information, please visit our website, www.newburgpicnic.com.

We look forward to seeing you there and thank you for your continued support of our department and community.



TOWN YARD



Noxious Weeds

As nature comes back to life in the coming months, this is a friendly reminder that the following weeds and plants are prohibited within the town. Property owners and occupants are required to remove and destroy any that are present.

- Canada Thistle
- Field Bindweed (Creeping Jenny)
- Leafy Spurge
- Purple Loosestrife
- Multiflora Rose
- Plants which are infectious or poisonous in nature or adjacent to populated areas
- All weeds designated as noxious weeds by the department of natural resources

All weeds, grasses, and plants over eight inches in height, excluding garden plants, flowers, trees, and shrubs, which become a potential hazard to vehicular traffic in vision clearance triangles are also prohibited.

Public Works Department

Town Yard

The Town Yard is open monthly on the second Saturday from 8:00AM–noon (all year) and on the fourth Thursday from 3:00–7:00PM (May through October) for disposal of the following:

- Yard waste including brush, branches, leaves, grass clippings (must be loose or in compostable bags)
- Electronics
- Batteries
- Waste oil
- Metal goods

GFL Transfer Station

Other large items including building materials can be taken to the GFL Transfer Station at 803 N. River Rd. There is a disposal fee based on the weight of the items and a minimum fee applies.

For additional disposal options, including hazardous waste, see the Clean Sweep page on the Washington County website.

Roadway Safety

Depositing grass clippings or leaves onto the roadway is a safety hazard and is prohibited. Please be considerate and maintain your property.

STAY IN TOUCH

The Town Crier publishes biannually. For general questions or information on the Town of Trenton current events, please contact your local officials or visit TownofTrenton.wi.gov.



TRENTON TOWN HALL

1071 Highway 33
West Bend, WI 53095
Phone: 262.675.6009
Fax: 262.675.6052

Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday from 9:00AM–3:00PM
Friday from 9:00AM–1:00PM

Building Inspector Hours:

Wednesday from 3:00–5:00 PM

TOWN HALL RECYCLING

Yard Hours:

Second Saturday (Year-Round): 8:00AM–Noon
Fourth Thursday (March–October): 3:00–7:00PM

Accepted items only: Brush, leaves, yard waste, waste oil, batteries, metal goods, and e-waste

Other Large Items (including building materials, excluding hazardous waste) go to:

- **GFL Transfer Station**, 803 N. River Rd, West Bend

Fees are weight-based, with a minimum charge.

For hazardous waste, visit the Household Clean Sweep page at washcowisco.gov or call 262.335.4445.

TOWN REPRESENTATIVES

TOWN LEADERS

CHAIRMAN Mike Lipscomb	262.675.6009 x300 chairman@townoftrenton.wi.gov
SUPERVISOR Tony Thoma	262.675.6009 x301 Supervisor.Thoma@townoftrenton.wi.gov
SUPERVISOR Barb Davies	262.675.6009 x302 Supervisor.Davies@townoftrenton.wi.gov
ADMINISTRATOR/ZONING/CLERK Cindy Komro	262.675.6009 x106 262.290.0154 TownAdmin@townoftrenton.wi.gov
CLERK Cassandra Walker	262.675.6009 x101 DeputyClerk@townoftrenton.wi.gov
TREASURER Nicole Cozzuli-Meer	262.675.6009 x103 Treasurer@townoftrenton.wi.gov
BUILDING INSPECTOR Walter Grotelueschen	262.675.0909 (Home Office) 262.675.0415 (Town Hall) Building@townoftrenton.wi.gov

POLICE AND FIRE RESCUE

POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Andrew Mammen	262.675.6009 x111 (Town Hall) 262.335.4411 (Dispatch) 262.336.9014 (Fax) tpdpatrol@townoftrenton.wi.gov
NEWBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT Chief Brad Karnitz	262.675.6262 508 Main St, Newburg mail@newburgfirerescue.com

PUBLIC WORKS, SANITATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR Charles Schmidt	262.675.6009 x109 dpw@townoftrenton.wi.gov
CURBSIDE COLLECTION Harter's Lakeside Disposal	833.754.2158 (Toll Free) 920.552.5414 (Fax)
ASSESSOR Catalis Tax & CAMA, Inc. Eric Feavel	262.253.1142 N88 W16573 Main St. Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 Eric.Feavel@catalisgov.com
WALLACE LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT Judy Mastenbrook (Billing Contact)	262.338.6934 P.O. Box 31 West Bend, WI 53095 wlsd@townoftrenton.wi.gov
SCENIC DRIVE SANITARY DISTRICT Judy Zusy	262.689.2649 PO Box 1092 West Bend, WI 53095 ScenicDrSanitaryDistrict@gmail.com



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West Bend, WI 53095

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Permit No. 122

The Town Crier

SPRING 2026

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CHAIRMAN REPORT FROM MIKE LIPSCOMB

TownofTrenton.wi.gov
1071 Highway 33
West Bend, WI 53095
262.675.6009

Dear Fellow Residents of the Town of Trenton,

Last year was a good year for progress. We adopted some new ordinances that made sense for how residents manage their properties, and we paid close attention to our expenses. Trenton's team of employees is outstanding in each of their areas of responsibility, and I am proud to lead them as we all serve you.

2025 Budget Notes

Public Works is the budgetary category with the highest cost. Services to town residents within this category include snow removal, ditching and shouldering, refuse and recycling, and weed control. In 2025, public works expenses were \$39,100 under budget. We had expected larger savings until the December snowstorm. This demonstrates that we cannot control all expenses.

Public Safety, including our Fire/EMS contract, building inspection and law enforcement, is another significant budgetary category each year. In 2025, our Town Police Department came in \$8,600 under its \$148,100 budget, a savings of nearly 6%.

Information Technology (IT) expenses exceeded budget by \$3,200. We signed an IT agreement with Washington County which, once fully transitioned, is expected to save an estimated \$25,000 over the course of five years.

Overall, town expenses in 2025 were under budget by nearly \$90,000.

Roads: Past, Present, and Future

In 2025, we successfully repaired and reworked several town roads. Looking ahead, we plan to chip seal various roads to provide some relief. In addition, protecting newly reconstructed roads with a sealing compound should slow the aging process and lengthen their lifespans. Acquiring state grants is vital to tackling very long and poorly performing roads like Washington Drive. These projects will be categorized by severity, location, and budgetary feasibility. I am also building a long-range road plan, as a map and guide, to help us prioritize the work ahead.

Planning Commission

I am pleased to announce that Pat Groth has joined the Planning Commission team of six. Pat's mother, Margaret, served the Town in years past on this Board. Pat takes the place of Bob Roden, whom we thank for his service, input, and dedication to Trenton.

Fire and EMS Services

The Newburg Fire Department (NFD) continues to provide invaluable fire and EMS (Emergency Medical Services) support to Trenton. Fire/EMS service calls in Trenton are up 38% over the past five years. The NFD is a 501(c)3 entity, and as a nonprofit, it can accept your charitable contributions. If their service and dedication move you, please consider adding them to your nonprofit choices.

Staffing

Heather Krueger resigned from the Clerk position in November. Town Administrator Cindy Komro has assumed all Clerk duties on an interim basis. Ms. Komro is a Certified Municipal Clerk, a certification process that requires three years of training. In addition to administrative and clerk duties, as the Zoning Administrator, she also handles land divisions, zoning ordinances, and almost-daily requests for sheds. Trenton is the largest town in Washington County, and we are always busy—a fact which supports the previous Board’s decision to create this full-time position.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Cassandra Walker, our newly appointed Deputy Clerk. This is a part-time position, and Cass will spend 2026 learning the election process and training to become our Clerk.

Final Thoughts

This year promises to be a productive one for Trenton. We are committed to making thoughtful decisions regarding road improvements, equipment purchases, and zoning updates to preserve our residential and rural way of life. The Town Board will continue to focus on driving productivity and reducing expenses where possible.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our community.

Best regards,



Mike Lipscomb
Town of Trenton Chairman

