

## APRIL 7, 2009 ELECTION

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Voters will have an opportunity to cast votes for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Supreme Court Justice and Dane County Circuit Court judicial seats, Dane County Executive, school board races, Middleton Cross Plains Area School referendum, Town of Springfield Town Chair and Board Supervisors I and II. The polls are accessible to all. Just a reminder that before you can vote, you must be registered. Please bring appropriate identification. If you are going to be out of town on Election Day consider voting absentee. Just be sure you allow enough time to do so either by mail or in person at the town hall. More information on all of the above is available on our website – [www.town.springfield.wi.us](http://www.town.springfield.wi.us) click on Government and then on Elections/Voting or call the town hall at #849-7887.

Following is the portion of the ballot showing Town of Springfield races:

As you encourage others to vote remind them that if they are not sure where they vote they can now go to <http://gab.wi.gov> , enter their own information in Voter Public Access and find out where to vote, see sample ballots, etc. Check it out!

### **Remember Election Day Extras:**

Food Donations for the local food pantries will be accepted on all election days.

Used cell phones are being collected for the Dane County Sheriff to redistribute to victims of trauma.

This is an ongoing program and the Town Hall is a collection site. No phone ever ends up in a land fill.

Dane County 2009 Posters are available in a limited quantity.

Sign up to purchase an All Weather Radio through Dane County.

Bring your worn out US Flag to us & we'll recycle that also.

### **Missouri Tavern's Sponsorship of "Mae Mefford Scholarship Fund"**

The Missouri Tavern would like to offer a scholarship to a local high school student in honor of the late Mae Mefford. The scholarship amount is \$500. Candidates should be: graduating in the spring of 2009, from Waunakee, Middleton, or Sauk Prairie School District, reside in the Town of Springfield, and plan on furthering their education at a 2-year, 4-year, or technical college. To apply for this scholarship, please send your name, address, telephone number, high school, and future education plans, as well as a one page response to the following statement: "The person I look up to most is....."

Please send application and response to no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>:  
Mae Mefford Scholarship Fund

7839 Twinflower Drive  
Madison, WI 53719

**BEWARE OF HEAVY METAL!** The heavy metal we're talking about is lead.

In their 2008 report, The State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services explains that children living in Wisconsin are at higher risk for lead poisoning than children living in most other states. The number of homes built before 1950, which is the single greatest risk factor for lead poisoning, accounts for 25 percent of homes in Wisconsin. With each poisoning that is prevented, the savings from special education classes, frequent trips to the doctor and the cost of medical care, juvenile and adult correctional programs, lifelong loss of earnings, higher health care insurance premiums, and local government case management is estimated to be \$40,000 to \$50,000 per child according to the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Typically, the effects of lead poisoning are unseen in young children. However, by the time children reach school age and move on to elementary, middle, and high school, the effects of lead poisoning become apparent and can last a lifetime.

Normally, as the brains of children grow and mature during this time they become more capable of abstract thinking, learning and applying what they've learned, following complex directions, understanding cause and effect, and predicting consequences for their behavior. However, a child who was lead poisoned when they were toddlers are at risk for learning disabilities, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder, abnormal maturation of their bodies, dropping out of high school, and aggression. In fact, new research by Rick Nevin, an economic consultant and National Center for Healthy Housing senior advisor, shows that childhood lead poisoning is a powerful predictor of school disciplinary problems, delinquency, and adult criminality.

The State of Wisconsin has developed recommendations for doctors to test for lead. These recommendations include:

- Inquiring about lead hazards the child may be exposed to at 1 and 2 years of age and subsequent screening with a blood sample if a potential hazard is identified,
- Inquiring once again for lead hazards between the ages of 3 and 6 if children haven't been screened with a blood sample
- Take a blood sample for every child on WIC or Medicaid at 1 and 2 years of age.
- Test all children on Medicaid between 36-72 months of age if there is no record of a previous test.

The typical treatment for lead poisoning is simply eliminating the exposure to the source of lead, remediating the source of lead if possible, and continuing to test children until they are no longer poisoned.

Sanitarians from the Public Health Department for Madison and Dane County provide free home inspection and renovation information for households with children showing elevated levels of lead. If a hazard is suspected, paint, dust, dirt, or water samples can also be taken and tested for lead.

The Public Health Department recommends the prevention of lead exposure before treatment is needed. Preventing lead exposure requires first knowing where lead is likely to be, how it gets ingested into children's bodies, and how to fix any actual or potential problems.

Lead paint will likely be found in buildings or houses built before 1950, or in buildings or houses built before 1978 that are undergoing renovations. Lead paint is easily recognizable on the outside of many houses as either peeling or chipping paint, commonly described as looking similar to alligator skin.

Lead paint inside the home will most likely be in the form of dust that evolves from the opening and closing of windows from window sills. Similarly, lead dust from scraping the outside of the house settles into the grass or dirt where children play.

Nontraditional sources of lead include

- vinyl mini blinds, old furniture
- candy (e.g., Tamarind) or medicine (e.g. Greta or Azarcon) from other countries
- foundries
- auto body repair shops
- welding and furniture refinishing jobs or hobbies
- oil painting
- ceramic dishware
- stained/leaded glass
- pottery.

It is also important to note that the fetus of a pregnant woman has the same blood lead level as the mother if the mother is being exposed to lead while she is pregnant.

Preventing exposure where lead hazards present themselves often involves preventing children from ingestion of lead dust. When working outside or inside the home, try strategies such as wet dust wiping and confining the work area from the rest of the house. Make sure professional painters and home contactors are lead paint certified if they are working on housing projects where you suspect lead paint. Your local or state public health departments as well as many online resources have directions for do-it-yourselfers.

Adults working in conditions that expose them to lead shouldn't wear their work clothes inside the house and ideally should shower before coming into the house after work. Children's hands should be washed before eating and napping and after playing. Be sure your child's diet is rich in vitamin C, calcium, iron, and low in fat to slow the absorption of lead into the blood.

There are several online resources parents can use to learn more about lead.

Some of these resources include:

- Wisconsin Department of Health Services([www.dhs.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov))
- Center for Disease Control([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov))
- Environmental Protection Agency([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov))

- Center for Healthy Housing([www.centerforhealthyhousing.org](http://www.centerforhealthyhousing.org))

You may also call or stop into the Public Health Department for Madison and Dane County for lead information.

The message about this heavy metal is that it's poisonous, it's highly destructive, it costs us all, and it's preventable.

## Annual Town Meeting and Thank you Party for Mary Hellenbrand

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Springfield, in the County of Dane, State of Wisconsin will be held at the Town Hall, 6157 County Hwy P, Dane on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. All are encouraged to attend. There is no set agenda. Refreshments will be served. Volunteers in the Town will be recognized.

Following the meeting will be a party for outgoing Supervisor Mary Hellenbrand. Please come and help us thank Mary for her years of service and wish her well. She will be missed greatly.

We'll also be recognizing Sherri Endres for her dedicated service at the Annual Meeting. She has been the Clerk for the Town of Springfield for 20 years. Come and wish her well on her next 20 years as Clerk. You don't want to miss a party – do you?

## Open Book and Board of Review

The assessing firm of Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc. has scheduled the Open Book for Tuesday, April 28 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and the Board of Review for Wednesday, May 13, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

During **Open Book** the property owners may review their assessments, check for errors and compare assessments. This is a very informal meeting.

The purpose of the **Board of Review** is to ensure that the assessment roll is fair and equitable for all property owners (real estate and personal property). The Board of Review is also responsible for identifying and correcting technical errors in local property assessments.

The main function of the Board of Review is to hear objections to valuations which have not been resolved with the assessor. This formal process provides the first step in an appeal procedure if a property owner objects to the assessment on their property whether real estate or personal property. Objection forms need to be filed.

Contact the Town Clerk at the Town Hall, 849-7887 if you would like to make an appointment or to obtain forms for either time or if you have any questions. There is a lot more information available at [www.dor.wi.gov](http://www.dor.wi.gov).

### **Will I be notified if there is a change in my assessment?**

According to section 70.356 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, whenever an assessor raises the assessment of any real property the owner, if known must be notified, or else the occupant of the property is notified. The notice must be in writing and mailed at least 10 days prior to the Board of Review Meeting. Failure to receive a notice does not affect the validity of the increased assessment. The notice requirement does not apply to personal property. If you feel the assessor is in error, please call to meet with him during Open Book to understand how your valuation was determined. If you feel the assessor has made an error in the assessment and can not resolve the issue with the assessor, you may file an objection form with the Board of Review. Objection forms are available from the Town Clerk at 849-7887.

### **RECYCLING – It's the GREEN thing to do!**

In 2008 the town averaged 29% in recycled materials with January, May, June, September and December at just 24-25%. By recycling at least 25% per year of our curbside materials the town qualifies for grant money that is applied to your yearly refuse/recycling fees on your property tax bill. Keep up the good work and remember to recycle all that you can. Check out Waste Management's website at: [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com) for more information on recycling.

### **A message from Road Patrolman Mark Grosse**

Thank you to everyone for your patience with the roads this past winter. It was another challenging one for all of us. It's good to see the snow melt and know spring is on the way. The recent ice storm caused a lot of trees to lean way over into the right of way and in some cases break off and end up in the road. Now is a great time to do some major trimming or eliminate dead trees so that doesn't happen in the future. We do not have brush service so you and your neighbors might want to consider jointly hiring a contractor to remove the debris. **PLEASE** remember to wear reflective clothing if you are jogging, walking, biking or roller blading on the side of the road. It is impossible for motorists to see you in the early a.m. or in the evening. Remember to do the same for your pet. Be smart! Stay safe!

### **Thank you Alex Vodenlich – Plan Commission**

A huge thank you goes out to Alex Vodenlich as he has completed his three year term on the Plan Commission. Your service to the Town of Springfield was very much appreciated.

### **Budget Cuts, Mandates, Stimulus Checks –What about Town Finances?**

For the last few years the State has imposed levy limits on the local units of government. At first glance that may seem like a good thing. It should keep our taxes down – right? However, when you are held to a 2-3% increase and all other costs of "doing business" are increasing at a rate much higher than that –how does one keep up?

Just think of how the cost of gas has fluctuated over the last year. Fuel costs impact the budgets for snow removal, mowing, road repairs (asphalt, cold mix, trucking), heating the town hall, and the list

goes on. The town is part of two fire districts and three EMS districts which provide much needed emergency services to all of us. However, they are not under the levy limits we as a town are but rather submit a budget to their district board and then the board votes on it and when approved each municipality is then responsible for their share. All of these districts constantly need to update their equipment and most of their buildings are about 40 years old so everything seems to be coming due at the same time. The only way the town can support these increases is by borrowing the money for the 911 services as they are not part of our levy limit if we borrow. Though the Town of Springfield has enough in the bank to pay the bills, we have had to start using some of our fund balance and are in debt for the Middleton Fire Station and one of our trucks. Soon we will be faced with the funding of the Waunakee EMS remodel and after that, the Waunakee Fire Station is planned for a remodel as well. This past winter we stretched the salt which was hard to get and very expensive. This spring and summer the few road projects that we are able to fund will be carefully monitored so as to not exceed our budgeted amount. We also need to be vigilant about saving for the unexpected and planning for future needs. Does this sound familiar? In these uncertain times we are all thinking more about where our hard earned money goes. The Springfield Town Board does not take decisions about spending our tax dollars lightly – funds are carefully monitored.

We have three school districts in the town so that means we have three different mill rates (i.e. tax rates). However, each tax payer pays the same \$1.75 per thousand of assessed value for our local town tax. So if your assessed value is \$250,000.00 then the town receives approximately \$437.00 per year out of your total tax due. So you can see that the town retains a small percentage of the taxes you pay and yet more and more services are mandated upon the local level.

Examples of some of the cost increases:

Salt	\$38.44/ton (2007)		\$46.35/ton (2009)
Fuel	\$2.29/gal (2007)	\$4.30/gal (2008)	\$2.65/gal (2009)
Cold mix	\$54.95/ton (2007)		\$76.95/ton (2009)
Middleton Fire Station	\$315,500.00 to be paid back on a 10 yr. loan		

Office Hours: The office is generally open at the Town Hall from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Occasionally meetings or errands may alter that time frame, so you may want to call ahead at 849-7887.

### **TOWN BOARD MEETING TIMES**

The Town Board holds their regular monthly meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall (6157 County Highway P). Agendas are posted at the Town Hall, Bong Excavating and the parking lot at the corner of Church Rd. & Co. Hwy. K and at [www.town.springfield.wi.us](http://www.town.springfield.wi.us). If a meeting time should be changed, it will also be posted. Our official newspapers are the Waunakee Tribune and the Middleton Times-Tribune. To be placed on the agenda contact the Clerk at 849-7887.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Planning Commission meets the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall upon demand. The Commission hears zoning and re-zoning requests, land division requests and amendments to Dane County zoning ordinances. They act in an advisory capacity to the Town Board. Please contact the Clerk to be placed on the agenda and to file the necessary papers for your request.

## **BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS**

The Town contracts with the firm "Independent Inspections, LTD." for a building inspector. Office hours are Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Town Hall or call # 1-800-422-5220 anytime. A reminder that permits are required for all residential and commercial buildings. Remodeling also requires a building permit. Re-siding, re-roofing and finishing of interior surfaces (e.g. carpeting) shall be exempt from permit requirements. A reminder that Dane County also requires building permits and zoning requirements. We suggest that you call 266-4266 with questions regarding their regulations.

## **TOWN BOARD MEMBERS**

Don Hoffman, Chairman

Mary Hellenbrand Supervisor 1

Jim Pulvermacher, Supervisor 2

Art Meinholz, Supervisor 3

Dan Dresen, Supervisor 4

Sherri Endres, Clerk Treasurer

Bernie Laird, Assessor

Jan Barman, Office Assistant

Mark Grosse, Road Patrolman

A drop box is available at the Town Hall. It is located just outside the front door.

Springfield Town Hall: 849-7887 (Voice mail is available 24 hours a day.)

Fax: 849-6187 Email: [thspring@chorus.net](mailto:thspring@chorus.net)

Web site: [www.town.springfield.wi.us](http://www.town.springfield.wi.us)

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Jeff Gabrysiak

Jeff Endres

Karen Crook

Kate Hetzer

George Pasdirtz

Jim Pulvermacher

## **WE NEED YOU TO GET INVOLVED!**

The Springfield Plan Commission has a vacancy and we would encourage you to consider applying if you are at all interested in land use planning and the future of the Town of Springfield. They meet the first Monday of the month upon demand. Contact the town staff for an application. Applications are due by Friday, April 17, 2009.