

MARCH NEWS 2011

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN SPRINGFIELD? SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST SERVE!
IT'S SO EASY – FAST and FREE!

Go to our website www.town.springfield.wi.us (mark as a favorite) and on the left hand side click on "Town Email List" and fill in your email (name is optional) and enter a password and you are a member. It is so easy and then you'll get the information as quick as possible. Your email is secure and will not be shared with any other list. THANK YOU to the 84 users we have signed up, but we are hoping to get hundreds.

We keep the emails short and to the point and don't overuse the service.
What sort of things do we send?

Emergency notices

Changes in pick up day of garbage and recycling due to weather or break downs

Election news – reminder of dates & times, when ballots arrive for absentee voting

Events in the area – CPR classes, Dane Co Sheriff sponsored classes (drug use, internet safety)

Recycling news – special electronic drop offs

Road conditions/closures due to construction

Lost dogs

Just to name a few. PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SERVICE!

GET OUT AND VOTE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE.

You will have the opportunity to vote for judges, Dane County Executive, school board representatives and town board chair and two supervisors and a county referendum which reads as follows:

"Should the United States Constitution be amended to establish that regulating political

contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting freedom of speech, by stating that only human beings, not corporations, are entitled to constitutional rights?"

More information is available on our website – www.town.springfield.wi.us click on Government and then on Elections/Voting or call the town hall at 608-849-7887.

FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES ARE ACCEPTED ON EVERY ELECTION DAY!

The Town Hall is also a place to donate your old unused cell phones. They are redistributed to those in need for 911 services only.

The ANNUAL TOWN MEETING will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7:30 pm

Everyone is invited. As always our volunteers will be recognized. Refreshments will be served.

This is your opportunity to bring up any item you would like to discuss regarding the town.

OPEN BOOK WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011 FROM 3-5 PM

BOARD OF REVIEW WILL BE WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011 FROM 6-8 PM

A MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATED APPRAISALS INC:

In 2007 the Town of Springfield had its last full township-wide revaluation in which all properties were reassessed to 100% of the state's equalized values. Each year the Department of Revenue conducts a sales analysis for each municipality in the state to determine its equalized value. The level of assessment is then computed comparing the town's assessments to the state's equalized values. After the 2007 revaluation, Springfield's level of assessment was 101.49%; in 2010 the level of assessment was 101.09%. This level of assessment is the same ratio you see on your tax bill, which is used to compute the estimated fair market value indicated on your tax bill each year. This tells the municipality that even though some sales are lower or higher than their respective assessment, on average, properties are selling close to their assessed values.

Everything I read and hear in the news media tells me housing values have dropped over the past year. So why hasn't my assessment dropped?

In Wisconsin, we've been fortunate that our property values are weathering the market relatively well compared to many other areas of the country. While the news media portrays values as dropping, it speaks to an overall trend in some areas and doesn't take into account a specific neighborhood or specific properties. In actuality, some communities and some neighborhoods have seen values increase; many neighborhoods are experiencing fewer sales yet values remain relatively stable; and a few neighborhoods have experienced foreclosures and short sales that have driven market values lower. It's the latter neighborhoods that capture news media attention.

The Town of Springfield is not conducting a revaluation this year, so your assessment will likely not be adjusted if the only change occurring is the same market adjustment that the rest of the community is experiencing. Just as your assessment didn't go up each year when property values were rapidly increasing, your assessment will not be adjusted downward just because values are declining. The reason for this is twofold. If all values are going up or all values are going down, it doesn't change the relationship of one property to another and therefore doesn't change the tax burden relationships.

Secondly, in order to contain costs, most municipalities do not perform a revaluation every year. It is the revaluation process that adjusts everybody's value to reflect those properties that have sold.¹

In 2011 the assessor will continue to adjust assessed values for reasons such as new construction, remodeling, land divisions and land use changes. We began visiting and reviewing properties in December and will be notifying property owners in April of any changes to their 2011 assessments.

If you have any questions about your assessment, please contact Ryan Andersen by phone at 800-721-4157 or email at ryana.apraz@gmail.com. Additional information is available at the following websites: www.dor.state.wi.us/faqs/slf/declmrkt.html and www.revenue.wi.gov/pubs/slf/pb060.pdf.

These websites have very valuable information. We highly suggest you visit them.

¹ Wisconsin Department of Revenue Publication "Property Assessments in a Declining Market"

THE WINTER OF 2010-11 – PHEW!

Once again Mother Nature kept our road crews very busy. Many of you called, sent a note or an email thanking our fantastic road crew for the great job they do each and every time. They really appreciate those kind words after working very long hours. Now it is our turn.

Thank you to everyone that helped our road crews clean up after the blizzard on February 1-2, 2011.

Snow plowing went very well considering the blizzard conditions (18+ inches of snow and winds in excess of 40 mph). There were no major break downs, accidents or town vehicles stuck. He thanked all the farmers who helped by using some of their own equipment to open some of our

roads. That one cleanup cost the town \$14,331.13. We are hoping to obtain some FEMA funding to help with a portion of that. Winter is what makes us appreciate spring!