



Town of River Falls Spring Newsletter

Spring 2024

Notes from Town of River Falls Chair, Diana Smith

Greetings to you all! I hope you are among those who have enjoyed this warm and lack of snow winter. We are grateful for the snow and rain of the last few weeks though. Here are a few updates:

Brian Weber retired as a Road Maintenance Worker on December 1, 2023. We will miss him and wish him well as he moves onto other adventures. Rob Schaar, our remaining worker, has done a remarkable job stepping up to fill in the gaps. That's why I am so grateful we didn't have much snow! We hired Andrew Rodewald as a part-time snowplow driver, and he was very helpful during the last two snowstorms. The Board is reviewing the current Road Maintenance worker job description and considering what our next steps will be. The current job description is on the [website](#), and you may contact me if you have questions. As a result of the warmer weather both the Town and County have been able to get a lot of tree trimming done. We know it looks rough when first done but it really helps with safety and moving in the Road Right of Way. Things should look better once summer gets here.

Also, the Town needs your help as they work on State Highway 10 from Ellsworth to Prescott. The official detours are on State Highways 29, 35 and 65, but if you notice an increase in traffic on a town road, you should let me know. There are steps we can take to help minimize any damage done by extra traffic.

Don Rodewald has been doing an excellent job as our new Zoning Administrator and town go-to helper. We wish Jerome all the best as he steps down to Assistant Zoning Administrator and are really grateful he is still taking an active part in zoning and looking after the town.

The Recycling Center continues to do well and is a great resource for our town residents and others. We have recently installed surveillance cameras to help control the illegal dumping, which is very costly for the town. We are currently working on the next steps for the information we collect. We also say a sad goodbye to Elizabeth Dohrer as she is now working full time at Culvers, going to high school, and planning her next steps for college. We welcome Kaleb Johnson as a new part-time assistant. We are looking for more people to work as recycling assistants. The job description is available on our [website](#) and at the Recycling Center. Contact me for more information.

I am sure you are mourning the loss of our beautiful ash trees as the Emerald Ash Borer has really hit this area.

Please contact me with any issues or concerns at 715-425-5478. Have a nice summer!

Respectfully yours,

Diana G. Smith

River Falls Town Chair

Meeting Information

Town Board Meetings: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 8:00pm

Roads Committee: 2nd Thursdays at 6:30pm

Plan Commission: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30pm

Parks Committee: 4th Thursdays at 6:30pm

Cemetery Committee: 3rd Thursday as needed

Recycling Committee: May 2, August 1, November 7, at 6:30pm

[WATCH OUR FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE FOR UPDATED MEETING INFORMATION](#)

Town of River Falls Roads Update

A change in the world of Town roads has been the creation of a new Roads Committee that will prioritize, plan, and oversee all future roads projects. The members of this committee are Brad Mogen, Chair, Terry Kusilek, Co-Chair, Peter Stern, Don Rodewald, Rob Schaar and Diana Smith. Please feel free to contact any of these members should you have questions/comments regarding our Town roads. The mild winter we have experienced has allowed the Town to save money on salt/sand, fuel, and truck maintenance. As a result, the Town was able to partner with the County to get a tremendous amount of much-needed tree removal/trimming done. Keeping the Town right-of ways clear of encroaching trees enhances safety and minimizes damage to agricultural and Town equipment. Tree work will be an on-going project throughout the Town over the next couple of years as we try to catch up on this deferred maintenance project.

The primary road project planned for 2024 is completing the rebuilding of the final 1.3 miles of 770th Avenue (Randall Road). 770th is the most heavily traveled road in the Town and this will be the third and final phase to complete this multiyear project. The Town spent 2023 preparing for this (ditch shaping, culvert replacement, tree removal, etc.) and we anticipate work to begin the latter half of April contingent upon contractor's schedules. Residents should anticipate some inconvenience as this will be a summer's long effort. The Town understands this can be frustrating and plans to inform residents of any planned road closures. Please refer to the Town's Facebook and website for updated information.



2024 Spring Election Results

On April 2, 2024, there were 657 voters that voted in the Town of River Falls. The following were all re-elected to their current positions:



Joe Mahoney (Supervisor III)

Brad Mogen (Supervisor IV)

Road Right of Way

The Town of River Falls follows Wisconsin State Statute when it comes to road right of ways. State Statute 82.18 states that: Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, highways laid out under this chapter shall be laid out at least 66 feet wide unless, in the town board's discretion, that width is impractical. If the town board determines that a 66-foot width is impractical, the width shall be determined by the town board but shall be at least 49.5 feet in width. When no width is specified in the highway order, the highway shall be 66 feet wide.

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Mark Your Calendars! Recycling Extravaganza and Shred Event

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Recycling Extravaganza - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Town will offer special recycling rates for the following items:

- Appliances—\$5 off appliance recycling price
- Electronic—Half off electronic recycling price
- TVs--\$5 off recycling price

Shred Event—9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.(noon)

- Up to 3 boxes/bags per person (up to 100 lbs.) FREE to Town of River Falls residents.
- Non-residents will be charged \$5.00 per box or bag with a limit of 3 boxes/bags.

We encourage citizens to bring appliances, electronics and tires for recycling on September 28 and help prevent illegal ditch dumping!



Permits Required

Here is your reminder that you need permits for:

Fire/Burning

2024 burn permits are available at the Town Recycling Center during center hours—Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m year-round. From April through September, the recycling center is open on Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. Permits are also available from the Town Board and staff members by appointment.

Business

All businesses operating in the Town of River Falls, homebased or not are required to obtain a permit. Contact Don Rodewald, Zoning Administrator for more information.

Fireworks

Fireworks permits are required for shooting off large firework displays. A permit can be requested from Diana Smith, Board Chair at 715-821-4049. You must have your permit at least TWO business days ahead of your event in order to provide the required notification to the River Falls Fire Department. Small fireworks displays such as sparklers, caps, snakes do not need a permit.

Special Events

A permit is required for events where an entrance fee is charged or attendance is expected to be over 300 people. Applications for special event permits must be submitted to the Town Clerk at least 30 days prior to your event to be considered by the town board. The permit application can be found on the Town website.