

Lanark News

Volume 12, Issue 3

September 2009

Government by and for the People

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Waste Lamp Recycling

The Wisconsin DNR is encouraging private citizens to recycle waste lamp bulbs; the Portage County Transfer Facility accepts both incandescent and fluorescent bulbs for \$.50 each. Please do not put either type in your recycle bin; bring them to the MRF Center if you wish to recycle them. Recycling waste bulbs is not mandatory but is encouraged.

2009 roadwork complete

This summer Scott Construction completed wedging work on both Morgan and Durant Roads. Wedging is a lower-cost alternative to completely tearing up a road and rebuilding it by building up the sides of the road to the level of the center (crown) of the road.

Town employees Gerry Deuman and

Delmer Dain took care of shouldering both roads. The Town Board is planning to sealcoat both of these roads in 2010 to protect our investment.

Oakdale Road from County TT to the Belmont town line was also sealcoated this summer.

Fire number sign update

New fire number signs and posts have been placed in the Town of Lanark from Highway 54 to the south end of town. Each property owner who received one this spring/summer will receive a charge on their tax bill of \$22.17 for 2009 payable in 2010.

Please do not move your fire number sign or place any objects on or near it.

In spring/summer 2010 the fire number signs north of Highway 54 will be replaced.

Change in appearance of property tax bills for 2009

In an effort to save money for Portage County taxpayers, all 2009 property tax bills will be printed on 8-1/2" x 11" perforated paper to allow payments stubs to be torn off and returned with payment. The Town of Lanark has chosen to have Portage County mail the tax bills to you, and we anticipate that the 2010 garbage/recycling brochure will be included with your

tax bill.

Please note that the first half of taxes (or the full amount) may be paid at the Town Hall on dates yet to be determined in December 2009 and January 2010; the dates will be printed on your bill and we ask that please read those dates and times carefully. You may also mail your payment to the Town Treasurer.

****Town Board Meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.****

Where do your tax dollars go?

By Mike Pagel, Town of Lanark Supervisor

The Town of Lanark is one of the few Towns left in Portage County that enables residents to pay their taxes at the Town Hall (except for July payments). Most Towns, in contrast, play no role in tax collection, opting to have the County collect taxes instead.

Once your taxes are paid, where does the money go? Most of the tax money you turn in is quickly passed along to other units of government. A breakdown for how last year’s property taxes were distributed is below. Lanark residents paid slightly different amounts of tax per thousand dollars of assessed value based on which of three school districts their property was in.

The column labeled “Mill Rate” defines the taxes levied for every \$1,000 in assessed and equalized value.

Lanark recently conducted a reassessment because assessed values had dropped to 85% of market value (as defined by the Department of Revenue). Most properties increased in assessed value, but it is important for property owners to know that the “Mill Rate” is likely to go down, yielding a property tax rate that should be close to last year’s levels. Both the Town and the County have state imposed limits in levy increases (3% or value of new construction – whichever is greater). Local governments will be facing serious budget issues for the upcoming year (like most of our residents!). The State, in an effort to balance their own budget, cut “revenue sharing” to the Town of Lanark by 15%. In an effort to make Wisconsin landfills less attractive to out of state customers, the State increased the tax imposed on solid waste from \$5.90 to \$13/ton. That tax is being phased in as of July 1, 2009 so it is impacting our current budget.

Most of Lanark’s expenses focus on maintenance and repair of roads and adjacent right of way land,

and budgets are directly impacted by the condition of our roads. Budgets are also impacted by the duration and severity of the snow plowing season.

Amherst district

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Mill rate</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
State of WI	0.194473	1%
Portage County	5.511267	31%
Town of Lanark	2.43213	14%
Tomorrow River Schools	7.879601	44%
MidState Tech College	<u>1.694066</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	17.71154	100%

Almond-Bancroft district

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Mill rate</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
State of WI	0.194473	1%
Portage County	5.511267	32%
Town of Lanark	2.43213	14%
Almond-Bancroft Schools	7.609638	44%
MidState Tech College	<u>1.694066</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	17.44157	100%

Waupaca district

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Mill rate</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
State of WI	0.194473	1%
Portage County	5.511267	31%
Town of Lanark	2.43213	14%
Waupaca Schools	7.824819	44%
Fox Valley Tech College	<u>1.928076</u>	<u>11%</u>
Total	17.89077	100%

If you’re wondering about how you can take steps to keep taxes and fees as low as possible, you are urged to:

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Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Leatherman. This Town publication is intended for public information on local issues and does not express opinions of the Town Board or Editor.

***Plan Commission Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. as needed ***

Refuse Updates

- All Lanark residences should now have a Veolia garbage cart. If you still have a Wittenberg cart, please contact Wittenberg Disposal at 715/263-2619 to have them come pick it up. If you do not yet have a Veolia cart contact them directly at 715/421-3939. If you have both carts, you are only allowed to put one out at the curb: the green Veolia cart. All residences in the Town of Lanark will be charged for garbage pickup this year including seasonal homes so make sure you have a cart and use it!
- The state budget effective July 1, 2009 increased the charges the Portage County Transfer Facility must pay the state and those costs will be passed along to residents. Initial rate increases are already in place at the Transfer Facility and another increase will be put into effect on October 1, 2009. Contact the Solid Waste Department at 715/345-5970 for more information or go to their website (<http://www.co.portage.wi.us/solidwaste/departmentsbrochures.htm>) to see updated brochures with costs.
- This same budget increase will also directly affect what we will be paying for refuse pickup for 2010 payable on 2011 taxes.



ATV/Snowmobile Use Reminder

Per Portage County Ordinance 2.18.2 it is illegal to operate any recreational vehicle (including snowmobiles and ATVs) “on any property owned, leased, controlled, or maintained by the County of Portage or any other public entity without express permission.” If you witness someone riding recreational vehicles on any road or road right-of-way please contact the Portage County Sheriff’s office at 715/346-1400.

Attention Lanark Historians

Several residents and Board Members have noted they would like to see the Town Newsletter include articles on Lanark history. If you have an article of historic interest you would like to submit for possible publication, please send it to the Clerk at the Town Hall, 7174 County Road TT, Amherst 54406 or to townoflanark@waupacaonline.net

Where do your taxes go? (Continued from page 2)

- Honor the Class “B” Weight Limit on all Town of Lanark roads. Roads with Class “B” limits last much longer than roads without these restrictions. If you or someone you contract needs to exceed the limit, contact the Town for a permit. Rebuilding a town road now costs approximately \$100,000 per mile!
- Recycle! Any time you put recyclable material into your garbage, you add to the town’s expenses which are then passed back onto residents through special assessment for waste collection.
- Attend the budget meeting in November!

All dogs 5 months of age and older must be licensed; contact the treasurer for more information

Town of Lanark
7174 County Road TT
Amherst WI 54406

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AMHERST WI
PERMIT NO. 15

OFFICIALS DIRECTORY

Chairman: Theodore Marquardt
8965 Boelter Lake Dr.
Almond WI 54909
366-2283

Supervisor: Michael Pagel
10408 Otto Rd.
Amherst WI 54406
824-5231

Supervisor: William McKee
6167 County Rd. A
Amherst WI 54406
824-3725

Clerk: Cheryl Leatherman
9819 County Rd. D
Amherst WI 54406
824-3842

Treasurer: Jean Eddy
5630 Morgan Road
Amherst WI 54406
824-3953

Assessor: Jeremy Kurtzweil
1501 N. Hume Ave.
Marshfield WI 54449
715/486-9019

**Portage County
District 20 Supervisor
Lonnie Krogwold
824-5600**

**Planning & Zoning
346-1334
County Treasurer
346-1348**

**Lanark Town Hall
256-9801
Lanark Town Garage
256-1376**

**Humane Society
344-6012
Building Inspector
715/254-0886**

We're on the Web!

www.townoflanark.org