

SEYMOUR *chronicle*



TOWN OF SEYMOUR
6500 TOWER DRIVE
EAU CLAIRE, WI

Phone: (715) 834-4999 || Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM ||

www.townofseymour.org

From your

TOWN CHAIR

Greetings Fellow Seymour Residents,

I'm beginning to think that the story about the groundhog seeing his shadow or not really does not affect the amount or length of winter weather we experience. Maybe I am just now realizing that it is more apocryphal than factual. Anyway, related to snow plowing and salt sand usage, we have gotten through the winter quite well so far. This past summer we had some significant road damage due to flooding. Thanks to Kerry and John the roads were repaired and open to traffic within a week. We were fortunate that a Town resident allowed us to take some sand and fill material from her property to use as repair material. And thanks to the availability of Loren Gorell and his equipment and operators we were able to move the material to the locations where it was needed. Kerry has applied for reimbursement aid thru a State emergency management program but we have not yet heard if we will be receiving reimbursement for the damages to our roads. If so, we may recover \$30,000-40,000.00. Thanks also to John Martenson and Eric Wehling for their help during the storm and road washouts, as they were out there directing traffic away from the area where the roads were not safe. Thanks to everyone who helped during this time. Due to the flood damage on 84th Avenue we did not put an asphalt surface on that road as planned last year, so we plan to do that this year.

In 2016 the Town purchased nine acres of land adjacent to our existing recreation area. The Seymour Ball Club is interested in developing that land into a Babe Ruth sized ball field with parking. The "new" property is north of the ball field on the east end of the Town property. We also razed the rental home that the Town owned which was located north of the Town Hall. We plan to use that area for additional parking as well. Hope all is well with you and your family. Spring may be on the way! Enjoy the Spring time.

Call a Town Board member if you have questions or concerns.

Douglas Kranig

As I was writing this today, March 8th, I saw my first robin in the front lawn at the Town Hall!

TOWN OFFICIALS

Douglas Kranig, Chair	(715) 877.2899
Sheila Running, Supervisor	(715) 832.9686
Gary Schulenberg, Supervisor	(715) 835.0938
Sue Larson, Clerk/Treasurer	(715) 834.4999
Laura Konwinski, Dep. Clerk/Treas	(715) 834.4999
Fred Hankel, Building Inspector	(715) 577.7983
Roger Koski, Assessor	(715) 835.1141
Douglas Kranig, Co. Board Rep	(715) 877.2899

From Your

TOWN SUPERVISOR

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at the Seymour Town Hall at 7:30 pm. The meeting will include presentations from our auditor regarding the 2016 audit, a report on the 2016 Fire Department and Emergicare activity, planned road work for 2017, update on Comprehensive Plan activity, as well as other topics that you, the electors of the town, may bring to the board. Also this year, representatives from the Eau Claire School District will be present to share an update on the recent referendum and to answer questions about the school district. Information on the recent referendum that passed in the November election can be found on the school district's website at [https://www.ecasd.us/District/Referendum2016-\(1\)](https://www.ecasd.us/District/Referendum2016-(1)).

The Annual Town Meeting is a great time to bring up concerns/suggestions to your Town Board, to talk with other concerned residents and to hear what's happening in the Town. **WE ALSO SERVE REFRESHMENTS!!!!** See you there!!!!

Sheila Running, Supervisor

From Your

TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

2017 has brought some changes to the Seymour Station. Randy Schenk was promoted to Battalion Chief, Mike Rudd was promoted to Captain, Matt Reas and Cody Davey were promoted to Lieutenant. John Oxley was promoted to Captain of EMS for the Dept, and after 29 years as Battalion Chief of the Seymour Station, I was promoted to Assistant Chief of the Dept. Please stop by the Pancake breakfast and congratulate each of them!

Regarding the annual pancake breakfast, it will again be held on Father's Day, June 18th. Serving is 8am to 1pm. All Fathers will be allowed to have their children buy them breakfast!

The Fire Department responded to 353 calls in 2016. The EMS division of the Fire Department, "Emergicare", was dispatched to 896 calls in 2016. As you can see, we average almost a call a day on the fire side, and just shy of 2.5 calls per day on the EMS side.

Our Christmas party was again underwritten by Santa. The firefighters would like me to pass along their sincere thanks.

Another change for 2017 is the new website being developed for Township Fire Dept. When the website is finished you will be able to get burning permits online, weather permitting. If you live in the part of Town that is covered by DNR fire regulations, please remember you need both permits. You may get the DNR permit on line at the DNR website or you can obtain one at the Town Hall Office.

If you are interested in becoming a Firefighter or 1st Responder, please contact our Dispatch Center at (715) 834-6868 for an application.

Kerry Parker, Assistant Chief
Township Fire Dept

From Your

BUILDING INSPECTOR



When do I need a Land Use Permit before I can get a Building Permit?

A Land Use Permit is required for all improvements to your property that will have an impact on the existing structures or if you are adding additional structures. Examples: If you are adding a new deck *of a different size*, or if you are going to purchase an outdoor shed, even a small one, you will need a land use permit from the County Planning and Development Department before you can apply for a building permit from the Town. The reason for this is to insure that your project will be in compliance with the zoning regulations for your parcel.

Do I need a Building Permit if I am just updating my house with new replacement windows?

No, as long as the windows are of the same size as the existing windows, a building permit is not required.

Why do I need a Building Permit if I am purchasing an "as built" small storage shed for my property?

Yes, you need both a Land Use Permit (to make sure it complies with zoning regulations) and you need a Building Permit also, even though it has already been constructed. The reason for the Building Permit is to inspect how the shed was placed on the foundation, if one exists and to also verify the size and placement coincides with the Land Use Permit issued.

Do I need a Building Permit if I am just doing some updates to the interior of my home – such as a kitchen remodel that would include new cabinets, new flooring, new appliances, etc?

Yes and no. First of all, for the replacement of the cabinets and the flooring and the appliances, the answer is no, you don't need a building permit for those items. But many times when doing a kitchen or bath remodel, there may be a need for update of the electrical or plumbing systems also. If there is, then an electrical permit and/or a plumbing permit will need to be obtained. These must include the name, address and phone number of the licensed electrician/plumber along with their License #'s.

Where can I get a Building Permit Application?

Applications can be found on the Town website at www.townofseymour.org or you may stop at the Town Hall and the staff there will assist you in completing the application.

If I have more questions? You can call my cell phone number at 715-577-7983. Please understand that I do have a full time job during the day, and so I will attempt to get back to you in the evenings or weekends. Or you can call the town office at 715-834-4999 between the hours of 9am and 1 pm and the staff there may be able to assist you.

Fred Harkel
Building Inspector

**If firefighters rode bicycles
they could make it down this driveway**

**Don't you want
them to drive a
fire truck instead?**

www.townofseymour.org

From Your

CLERK/TREASURER

DOG LICENSE REMINDER – Starting with April, 1st, there will be a \$5.00 late fee applied to all dog licenses issued. So, if you forgot to get that dog tag for Rover, please do so before the end of the month to avoid that additional charge. Fees are \$7.00 for altered dogs and \$18.00 for unaltered dogs. Dog Licenses need to be renewed every year and they are good from January 1st through December 31st. If you are mailing in your request for a dog license fee, please be sure to send in a self addressed stamped envelope. Thanks

APRIL 4TH ELECTION –The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 4th with polls opening at 7 am and closing at 8 pm. On the Spring Ballot are the races for the Town Board Chairperson, Town Board Supervisors, School Board Members, Justice of the Supreme Court and the race for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In office absentee voting started on March 13th and will run until Friday, March 31st. We will be conducting the Public Test on the voting equipment on Monday, March 27th at 9 am. If you need an absentee ballot sent to you, you must send us a request, along with a copy of your photo ID and we can mail, fax or email you a ballot. You can also go on the website www.myvote.wi.gov and request a ballot on line.

TAX BILL RECEIPTS – You may have noticed that our office did not send out receipts for all tax bills paid this year unless, of course, you had mailed us a self addressed stamped envelope in which to return your receipt. If you need a copy of your tax receipt you can go on line on the county website at <http://eauclairecovi.wgxtreme.com>. You can then enter your computer number off of your tax bill (starts with 020-XXXX-XX-XXX)and it will bring up a report that can be accessed, by year, of information on that parcel, including tax payments made. If you do not have a computer and still need a receipt, you can stop down to our office and we will print one off for you.

Sue Larson, Town Clerk/Treasurer

SUMMER HELP WANTED: We are looking for someone to mow lawns and do other odd jobs during the summer months. Perfect job for a retired person or student. Need to be available for about 20 hours a week May through Sept. If you are interested, stop at the Town Hall for an application.



(And we promise not to make you mow with the type of mower on the left!! We do have a nice riding lawn mower!)

From Your

TOWN SUPERVISOR

As someone that enjoys living in the woods and the Town of Seymour is fortunate to have an abundance of wooded land for us all to enjoy, I would like to address a couple of topics that affect our wooded properties – **OAKWILT** and the invasive species **BUCKTHORN**.

As new properties are developed and new homes constructed, oftentimes trees need to be removed prior to construction. Oak trees that are wounded during construction can become infected with oak wilt and then spread to neighboring properties. Oakwilt is a fungal disease that causes the water conducting vessels in oak trees to become plugged and once plugged, the water stops causing the leaves to wilt and fall. The tree can die in a matter of a few weeks. It spreads in one of two ways – over land, by sap feeding beetles that carry the fungal spores and underground from infected oaks to nearby healthy oaks through grafted or interconnected root systems.

Oak wilt prevention is easy and effective. **DO NOT CUT, PRUNE OR OTHERWISE WOUND OAKS IN THE SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER, generally from April through June.** Any activity that cuts or tears through the bark at this time exposes live wood in the tree and places the tree at high risk of infection. If an oak is wounded during this period, immediately and thoroughly apply pruning sealer or tree paint over the wound. Torn branches or roots should be cut clean and the cut surface painted. Cover treated roots with soil

For more information on Protecting your Trees from Oak Wilt, you can access the DNR website or we do have a few brochures on hand at the town hall. You can pick one up when you come to the Annual Town Meeting on April 20th!

The other plant I would like to just mention is the invasive species –BUCKTHORN. We recently were contacted by a town resident that requested we add some information to our newsletter on this invasive species. Buckthorn is found in the Town of Seymour. It is a shrub that was once planted as ornamentals but has since spread aggressively beyond their natural range and can quickly develop into a messy thicket. If left unchecked, it can out-compete native plants for nutrients, light and moisture, it degrades wildlife habitat, it serves as a host to other pests, such as crown rust fungus and soybean aphid and it threatens the future of forests, wetlands, prairies and other natural habitats. For more information on how to identify and control buckthorn on your property, go to <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Common-and-Glossy-Buckthorns-P1641.aspx>.

Gary Schalenberg, Supervisor

**TOWN OF SEYMOUR
6500 TOWER DRIVE
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703**

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TOWN OF SEYMOUR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Town of Seymour's Comprehensive Plan was initially adopted in 2009 and is valid for 10 years. The Town Board has appointed a 5 member Plan Commission to work with the community and County planning staff to evaluate and update the plan over the course of the next year. This process entails opportunities for public participation and involves a review of each element, including the Future Land Use Map, to ensure that the plan accurately reflects the vision, values and desires of the community. The plan provides guidance and direction to help the Town to make rational decisions consistent with the values and desires of the residents. All ordinances, such as rezoning, land divisions, and other similar land use decisions must be consistent with the comprehensive plan.

Over the next year, the Plan Commission will meet on a monthly basis to review the current plan and consider amendments or updates to meet both current and future needs. Several opportunities will be provided during the process to engage members of the public. Your input is important. You may participate in a number of ways:

- Visit our town website for updates and information on the planning process.
- Attend one or both of the upcoming community open houses – more information will be provided in the future through website and public notice - no dates set yet.
- Attend a Plan Commission meeting – monthly meeting notices and agendas will be posted on the Town of Seymour website, the Town Hall bulletin Board and at the fire station
- Contact a Plan Commission member (Sheila Running, Jim Murray, Loren Gorell, Nick Schmock and Joe Kirst)
- Send comments directly to the Town via email at Seymour.town@att.net.
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Thank you for your interest and participation.

PHONE: 715-834-4999

FAX: (715) 834-3687

EMAIL:

Seymour.town@att.net

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Monday – Friday

Visit our

website:

www.townofseymour.org

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