**Town of Janesville**

**Annual Newsletter December 2020**

**REMINDER!!!**

**The most convenient, and COVID safe, way to pay your taxes is to mail them to or drop them off at the town hall. We have a new secure, red, white and blue, drop box located in front (west end) of our town hall. The box will be checked daily and is secured.**

**Payments “in person” are only accepted during the special collection hours listed on the back page of this newsletter.**

**The Clerk does not accept or receipt taxes at any time.**

**Town of Janesville Officials**

 **Chairman** Bruce Schneider 751-1245 **Clerk** Don Blakeney 754-1468

 **Supervisor** David Rebout 752-8253 **Treasurer** Peggy Augustine 754-1468 or 201-2391

 **Supervisor** Gary Fox 289-4452 **Constable** Archie Henkelmann 752-5474

 **Supervisor** Janet Kassel 876-6311 **Bldg. Inspect** Tim Kienbaum 295-2765

 **Supervisor** Lon Coplien 756-1065 **Assessor** Associated Appraisal 800-721-4157 (Luke)

**Town of Janesville website: The Town Hall mailing address:** Emergency: Dial 911

[www.townofjanesville.org](http://www.townofjanesville.org/) Town of Janesville Non-emergency: (608) 757-2244

**Town of Janesville E-Mail: 1**628 N. Little Court John’s Disposal Service: -1-262-473-4700

tnclerk@litewire.net Janesville, WI 53548 Town Hall: (608) 754-1468

**Town Clerk Office Hours:** Monday-10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

 Tuesday-Closed

 Wednesday- 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

 Thursday- 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

 Friday- Closed

 **The Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021, at 7:30 P.M. at the town hall. This is the planning session for 2021.

**Town Board**

The Town Board consists of five elected members. One member is elected as Town Chairman and the other four are elected as Supervisors. Each position is elected to a two-year term. Two Supervisors are elected in April of even numbered years, and two Supervisors and the Chairman are elected in April of odd numbered years. Nominations for elected offices, including Town Board, Clerk, Treasurer, and Constable, are made at the Town Caucus to be scheduled in January at the Town Hall. Anyone interested in running for these offices, will need to be nominated at the caucus in order to get their name on the ballot for the spring election. Please visit our website or contact the Town Clerk for information regarding the town caucus. The date for the next Town Caucus is Tuesday, January 12th, 2021 at 7:30 P.M at the town hall.

The Town Board usually meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Meetings may fall on another day of the week due to a Holiday or Election schedule. Please check the Town website for the exact date of all meetings. One of the first items on the agenda is “Citizen Participation” which allows residents an opportunity to address the Town Board on any subject of concern that is **not** on the agenda. Any matter where Town Board **action is desired**, must appear on the posted agenda. Anyone who wishes to have an issue placed on the agenda should make their request, in writing, to the Town Clerk by the last Monday of the month. Minutes of the Town Board meeting are available for public review during regular office hours and may be posted on the town website after final approval by the Town Board.

**Mark your calendars:**  We are participating in an e-cycling event allowing you to bring in any electronic equipment to be recycled. The event will be held at our own Town Hall, 1628 N. Little Ct. Janesville, on June 19th, 2021 during the hours of 8:00 am – 11:00 am. If you have any questions, please contact our Town Hall at (608)754-1468 or visit our website for details.

**Public Notices**

Information concerning town meetings, agendas, or public notices are required to be posted at the following locations: Lions Quick Mart--Hwy 14, Consolidated Elem School--Co Rd F, and the Town Hall. Notices may also be on the town website.

**Planning and Zoning Committee**

The Planning and Zoning Committee consists of seven appointed members and one alternate member. One of the seven is also a member of the Town Board. The Town Chairman appoints members for a term of either one, two, or three years. Citizens interested in serving on the committee should contact the Town Chairman. Meetings, if necessary, are the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the town hall. Current members of the committee are:

 Doug Rebout, Chairman 290-5928 Dennis Thiele 751-3353

 Julia Donahue, Secretary 752-5153 Edward Quaerna 752-1165

 Janet Kassel 876-6311 Bill Curtis 756-1087

 Lon Coplien 756-1065 David Henkelmann 752-5474

**Snow Plowing**

Per State Statute 346.94(5), It is illegal to plow or blow any ice or snow from your driveway out into the roadway or into the road right of way including the ditch. We have had several complaints of residents pushing the snow from their driveway, across the road and into the ditch on the other side. Any person violating this statute may be fined $50 per offense.

**Elections**

Voter ID will be required for all Elections in 2021. A Driver’s license is the most common form of ID, but many other documents are also acceptable. The Town Clerk can answer questions about acceptable forms of ID. The town voting place is the Town Hall. You may register to vote prior to the election at the Town Hall during regular office hours or on the day of the election. If you are new to the Town, or have a name/address change, you are encouraged to register with the Clerk ASAP to ensure that you are in the poll book on election day. Voters must be residents of the town for at least 28 days before an election. The Town of Janesville is looking for poll workers, if you are interested, please contact the Town Clerk. Please visit MYVOTE.WI for useful voter information and questions.

**Building Permits**

A building permit is required for new construction and for any structural alterations, remodeling, additions, deck or swimming pools. A permit is also required for razing or wrecking a structure. Please call Building Inspector Tim Kienbaum at 295-2765 to obtain a building permit.

**Town Ordinances**

The Town of Janesville, along with many other municipalities in the state, does its own land zoning. We have ordinances, or laws, that govern the rules in our Township such as building set-back requirements, permitted uses in your zoning district, animal definitions and laws per zoning district, pool fencing requirements, etc. How your property is zoned, will dictate the rules or ordinances that you will be required to obey. For example, someone living in a single family-rural residential zoning will have different ordinances and permitted uses than someone living in an agricultural district. The Town of Janesville ordinances are posted on our town website, or you may request a copy of the ordinances at the town hall-- (copy charge is $0.25 per page). It is the responsibility of the property owner to read and understand the ordinances as they apply to their property zoning. Because times and circumstances change, our ordinances evolve and change too. If you have a question regarding the ordinances, you may bring it up at any of the regularly scheduled Town Board meetings (usually held on the first Monday of the month). It is important to note that the Town Board will not give you any legal advice, and you may need to consult with your attorney, if there is a question on legal issues involving the ordinances.

**Fire Calls and the Town Burning Ordinance**

The town contracts with the City of Janesville for fire protection and ambulance services.

**\*\***A burning permit **is needed** for an Outdoor Burning Area. An Outdoor Burning Area means a fire which is intentionally set and which is intended to travel outwards to seek its source of fuel. An example of an outdoor area burn is the burning of grass, weeds and prairie grasses where it is intended that the fire will travel to such items to burn them. To obtain burning permits contact the Town Clerk, Don Blakeney, at the town hall during posted business hours. (Citizens **MUST** call the non-emergency number, 757-2244, before **and** after a burn). **Do not call the fire department or 911**.

**\*\***A burning permit **is not** required when burning leaves, brush, wood, other vegetative debris, camp fires, or burns that are intended to take place in an area where the materials to be burned are brought to the location of the fire, such as a brush pile. (Citizens **MUST** call the non-emergency number, 757-2244, before and after a burn). By calling this number, you will let the fire department know that you have a “controlled burn” in case someone passing by sees smoke and calls “911“-- and protect yourself from getting a $500 bill if the fire department is dispatched by mistake. Professional burning companies are not required to obtain a burning permit.

**\*\*\*** The WI-DNR websitehas important information regarding open burning, including the health risks of smoke, chemical contamination of soil and air, and alternatives to burning. Smoke from wet leaves can create a toxic environment for some people. Please think of your neighbors when burning any debris. We have had complaints of residents burning toxic material and/or allowing smoke to travel onto their neighbor’s property causing concern for people with certain health conditions. If burning becomes a problem, please talk to your neighbors or call the Town Clerk.

**Rock County Towns Education and Outreach-Water Management**

As a town on the Rock River, we are working with other townships along the river to promote beneficial storm water and clean water management practices. More information about this topic is available at the Town Hall.

**Boat Launch Fees**

The Town of Janesville enforces a boat launch fee of $3.00/daily or $20.00/annual at the town owned boat launch on

North River Road/Hwy 14. Launch permits, whether daily or annual, may be purchased at the box on the launch or at the Town Hall.

**Garbage and Recycling Totes:**

All Town residents will receive one tote each for garbage and recycling. Town residents who choose to leave their garbage and recycling bins out by the road may face problems this winter. If your tote is damaged by a snow plow, you will be billed for the replacement.

**Town Hall Rentals**

The town hall may be rented personal events. The hall has a refrigerator and microwave in the kitchen as well as a few tables and chairs that may be used. The rental fee is $125.00 and a security deposit of $125.00 will be required. If the hall is left in good order after your event, you will be refunded the deposit at the next regularly scheduled town board meeting. Please note that there are no alcoholic beverages or smoking allowed in or at the town hall or on any town property. You may contact the town clerk for availability and information. Rates are subject to change.

**Primary Residence**

If your primary residence is in the Town of Janesville, your driver’s license, vehicle registration and your Wisconsin Income Tax Return should say “*County of Rock*” and “*Town of Janesville*” to ensure that the town receives its full amount of the Shared Revenue taxes from the State of Wisconsin.

**Driveways**

Both the Rock Co Public Works Department and Town of Janesville, have ordinances that **do not allow cement** approaches for driveways. Where a driveway meets the road, there should be asphalt or gravel, **not cement**, 10 ft back from roadway.

**Weeds and Brush**

It is mandatory for all property owners, adjacent to town roads, to cut or trim to ground level, clear and remove all brush, shrubbery and trees within 10 feet of the edge of the pavement of any town road. This requirement includes the trimming of overhanging brush to a height of 16’ and removing any debris, rocks or other obstacles within 10’ from the edge of the pavement. If the ordinance requirements are not met within 30 days of receiving notice, the Town will cut and trim, as required, at the expense of the property owner. A property owner may request an exemption of specific trees/shrubs. Please keep in mind that the town right-of–way is 33 ft. --measured straight from center of road. This area may be trimmed by the County when they are cutting the roadside weeds in the spring and fall.

**Dogs and Dog Licenses**

The number of dogs allowed, per home, in the town, is dependent upon the zoning district. Parcels zoned Rural Residential or zoned Single Family Rural Residential may have two dogs. Three dogs are allowed only on parcels zoned Agriculture, whether it is A-1, A-2 or A-3. More than three dogs require a kennel license **and** kennel permit. A kennel permit requires a parcel greater than 10 acres with Agriculture zoning and also requires a conditional use permit. State Statute prohibit dogs from running at large and require every dog over five months old must be licensed annually and have a rabies vaccination. Proof of rabies vaccination, not an invoice, must accompany the license application and will be returned to you with the dog license(s) and tag(s). There is a $5.00 late payment penalty for dog licenses issued **after** March 31st, 2021.

2021 Dog Fees are as follows:

Unaltered male/female $8.00 Puppies-five months old after July 1st $4.00

Neutered male/spayed female $3.00 Neutered puppies-five months old

Kennel Licenses $35.00 after July 1st $1.50

Kennel Permit $100.00

Please mail the correct amount, proof of vaccination-not an invoice from the veterinarian, and proof of spay/neuter to the Town Treasurer**. A telephone number & self-addressed stamped envelope must be included for the application to be processed.**

 STATE OF WISCONSIN

OFFICIAL APPLICATION/ DOG LICENSE YEAR: \_**2021\_** COUNTY OF ROCK

MUNICIPALITY: **Town of Janesville** FEE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_LATE FEE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE ISSUED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ VACCINATION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

LICENSE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ VACCINATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OWNER’S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NEXT VACCINATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF DOG: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BREED OF DOG: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ COLOR OF DOG: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

MUNICIPAL TREASURER SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_**Peggy Augustine\_\_\_\_**

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Neutered/spayed \_\_\_\_\_ Puppy \_\_\_\_\_ New Resident \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Tax Collection

The tax bills provided and printed by Rock County, are a laser print, single copy form. The top portion tears off to become a coupon to send with your payment. The first installment or payment in full, of real estate tax and **all** personal property tax, is due by January 31st 2021. Payments may be mailed to the town hall address and must be postmarked by January 31st 2021 to be considered paid on time. **Please provide a phone number on your check in case there is a problem processing your payment.**

**Make checks payable to:**  Town of Janesville, Treasurer

**Mail your payments to:** Town of Janesville Treasurer, Peggy Augustine

 1628 N. Little Court

 Janesville, WI 53548

**The most convenient, and COVID safe, way to pay your taxes is to mail them to the town hall or use our new secure red, white, and blue drop box in front of the town hall. Payments are receipted by postmark or drop off date. If you are requesting a receipt, you must provide a self-addressed stamped envelope. Your payment history is available online at www.co.rock.wi.us –see info below.**

**To pay in person: The Town Treasurer will collect at the Town Hall, 1628 N. Little Court, at these times ONLY:**

Saturday December 19th9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday January 23rd 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday December 26th 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday January 30th 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Payments in person will not be accepted or processed at any other time except for those listed above. The Town Clerk does not receipt or accept tax payments.**

**Receipts for taxes paid** may be printed at [www.co.rock.wi.us](http://www.co.rock.wi.us). Click on the tax database search and enter your tax ID or parcel ID-making sure to enter all spaces- or you may enter all/part of your address. You can then view your complete payment history, parcel details or print a copy of your tax bill. Please allow 3-5 days for payments to post.

**Please make your payments for the exact amount as no cash is on hand and no change will be given**. Refunds will be authorized at the next month’s Town Board meeting. If a refund is less than $5.00, the town **will not** issue a check or mail a refund unless a written request for the refund is received. If your escrow check is made out to you, or to you and the town, please endorse the check. There is a $25.00 fee for all returned checks. The town does not redeposit NSF checks. If you receive an NSF check notice from your financial institution, please contact the Town Treasurer ASAP, especially if you have an unlisted phone number. **Any** parcel with “past due” taxes **must** be taken to the courthouse for processing prior to coming to the town hall. Due to COVID, please call 757-5670 before going to the courthouse to see if they are open.

**All Personal Property tax bills**, whether paid timely or delinquent, should be paid to the Town Treasurer. At no time are personal property tax bills paid to the Rock County Treasurer. For Personal Property (**improvements on leased land only**), we cannot process both the taxes and garbage charges that are paid together on one check. If you own Personal Property and have received a separate billing for your 2021 garbage and recycling, then please send a separate check for the garbage charges. If your garbage is on your tax bill, then one check for both tax and garbage is fine.

**All Real Estate tax bill payments** paid or postmarked after January 31st, as well as any second installment payments paid in July, are to be paid to the Rock County Treasurer. Due to COVID, please call the Treasurer’s office at 757-5670 to see if they are open. The Rock County Treasurer’s office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Rock County courthouse will be closed on Thursday December 24th, Friday December 25th, 2020 and Friday January 1st, 2021. Notify the Town or County Treasurer of any address changes or changes in a tax parcel such as a split. Notification must be received by November 1st for any changes to take effect on the current tax bill.

Residents may contact our assessor, Associated Appraisal, anytime of the year regarding your assessed value. The phone number is 1-800-721-4157. There are several ways to question your assessed value. You may contact the assessor directly or attend Open Book, which is an opportunity to see every parcel’s assessed value. The next step in the process is to make an appointment for our Board of Review, a time in which the assessor is present with the town board to hear any objections. Without a pre-scheduled appointment, you may not be heard at Board of Review. Both Open Book and Board of Review may be scheduled as early as May. Please watch our website for exact dates or contact the clerk.

**Lottery and Gaming Credit**

Please check your tax bill for the lottery credit. If you owned your home and used it as your **primary residence** as of January 1st 2020, you are entitled to a Lottery Tax Credit on your real estate tax bill. Vacation homes, rental properties or business properties do not qualify for this credit. Homeowners are required to sign a credit application form to initially receive the credit on their tax bill. If you qualify, and the Lottery Credit is not listed on your 2020 tax bill, you will need to come to the town office during the tax collection hours listed above or visit the Rock County Treasurer website to obtain a credit form. You have until January 31st, 2021 to claim the credit on your 2020 tax bill. **Please do not pay your property taxes in full prior to claiming the Lottery Tax Credit if you are entitled to the credit.** After filling out the application, your tax amount will be recalculated and the Lottery Credit applied to your tax amount due.