

# TOWN OF PARIS

16607 Burlington Road Union Grove, WI 53182

Phone Number: 262-859-3006 Website: town-of-paris.org

Open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am – 4pm

March 2021 VOLUME 7

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Spring Election
- April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Annual meeting at 7:00 pm
- April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 Open Book 1 to 3 pm
- April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Town Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 Shred Day
- May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board of Review 12:00-2:00 pm
- May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Town Board Meeting 7:00 pm

## SHREDDING DAY

On Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the Town will be having a shredding day at the Town Hall, 16607 Burlington Road Union Grove, WI 53182, from 8:30 to 11:30. Bring any document you need to have shredded.

Kenosha County Household  
Hazardous Waste, E-Waste, &  
Refrigerant Collection Event

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 8:00 to 1:00 pm

## Courtesy, Caring and Community

In a rural community like Paris, we often see ourselves as independent and a bit isolated with our actions not affecting our neighbors. I'd like to talk about that today and maybe start some thinking and conversation! Paris has modified its land use plan over time to provide for some increase in residential growth.

This has allowed for an improving housing stock and new residents in the town. New houses bring neighbors, new in district students for the school and at times, opportunities and some concerns. We are seeing good things – new volunteers, parents being active in school activities, neighbors helping neighbors, residents out walking together and getting involved in online community forums – keeping each other informed and safe.

Sometimes there are growing pains that come with change. At the town hall, we are receiving calls about some of those concerns. We are asking everyone to think about how the decisions you make and actions you take on your property may affect your neighbors and community.

Water management is a concern – where does the water from your sump pump go? If you grade your property to aid run off to keep your basement dry, make sure you are not directing your water in such a way as to cause problems for your neighbor. Is the lighting on your property installed in such a way that it does not shine directly on your neighbor? Make sure you know the ordinances that guide the use of firearms. We are getting reports of buildings being struck by bullets going off target. We are receiving reports of repetitive, disruptive target shooting. We are receiving reports of aggressive driving, speeding and squealing tires on local roads. We will be using the town website to make sure that everyone is aware of the ordinances that regulate these items.

Please keep in mind that some activities have impacts that carry past our property lines and affect others and reduce their enjoyment of their properties. We are a community and respecting each other makes Paris a great place to live.

# Town Hall Changes:

You will notice some changes soon at the Town Hall.

1. The Town rents out the land surrounding the town hall by competitive bids. The renewed lease gives the farmer the flexibility to rotate crops in exchange for a higher lease payment. So, you may see corn or soybeans growing where you have only noticed hay ground for a long time. The alfalfa in the field is pretty much depleted and it's time for rotation.
2. 4-H Community Garden Project: The Paris Happy Workers 4-H club, led by adult leader Nikki Nicolai, will be creating a community service gardening project at the town hall. Plans are for both conventional garden plots as well as three raised bed plots. The Club will be sharing more information as the project progresses. Plans include a message kiosk on the site to share information about what is growing, recognizing donors etc.
3. The town will be installing a new sign in front of the Town Hall this spring that will include a message board. Diana and Teesa will be able to share information and reminders.
4. Much of the current landscaping at the town hall is maturing and, in some cases, over grown or dying. The fire department reports the trees along the road block site lines when rescue equipment is leaving the fire station. Some of the trees have grown up into the overhead utility lines. After evaluation, we will be removing some trees, some overgrown rose bushes and some ground cover beds that have become overgrown with weeds. There will be some new trees planted after the removal of the old trees.
5. We plan on installing a weatherproof outdoor bulletin board near the front entrance so that we don't need to tape notices to the front door. We hope the new board is easier for people to stop by and check on agendas and legal notices and to improve the looks of our front entrance.

# DONATIONS:

Town residents and local businesses have expressed interest from time to time in making donations to the Fire/Rescue department to help the department buy items that doesn't always make it into the annual budget. Some residents have inquired about memorial donations in honor of a family member who may have served on the department.

The Town can accept donations on behalf of the department and direct those funds to specific uses that benefit the department or are designated by the donor. We can provide acknowledgement of donations and provide an IRS information sheet that your tax preparer can use for tax deduction determination. Checks should be made out to Paris Fire/Rescue.

The Town will maintain a record of donations to provide a memory of donations and what they were used for.

Current donations are allowing the department to order accessories for the UTV to allow it to function as a grass fire suppression rig as well as transport victims from more remote areas and to purchase safety harnesses for the rescue rigs. More recognition of donors will be shared once the new equipment arrives.

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## **Internet:**

Even before the pandemic complicated our lives, the Town Board was aware that reliable and fast internet were needed in the town. The town has reached out to regional and national internet providers in the past to encourage them to consider offering service to town residents. Due to the size of the town, the distance between houses and the relative low population, no company felt there was enough potential business to justify the investment required.

As more people are working from home, more education is on line and more of our daily lives and activities involve using the internet, the Paris Town Board has been meeting with multiple internet service providers looking for options. With private companies reluctant to commit to a project, the board decided to look into the potential of the town helping to underwrite some or all of the infrastructure costs to establish quality internet service that could be provided town wide. Each company seemed to have a slightly different idea of how to provide service but were unwilling to invest in the cost of engineering to give the town an accurate cost estimate that we could use to determine the feasibility of a project.

The board hired E-Vergent, a local internet provider/cable installation company to design and engineer an actual plan for providing internet capability to every home and business in the town. Contracting for the actual service package will be up to the property owner. Once completed, the board can use the study to solicit bids for the project, to apply for grants for cost sharing and to determine whether it is feasible to move forward with the project. The board's desire is to create a proposal that would provide access regardless of your location in the town and provide reliable, consistent service. E-Vergent plans on delivering the completed study/plan by mid to late summer this year. We will continue to share information with you as we receive it. At this time, the board has only committed to the study.

## **COVID:**

The pandemic has affected all of our lives. We appreciate how sensibly our residents have responded, following good distancing protocol and using masks when appropriate. After extra precautions, our fire and rescue department has been able to provide all needed rescue operations while maintaining a safe and clean environment at the town hall. Town office functions have been accomplished with minimal delays. Diana, Teesa and the poll workers have provided the opportunity to vote in a safe and efficient manner. Building inspectors Don Fox and Tim Popanda have kept permitting and inspections on schedule. Our thanks to everyone for being responsible and understanding. Hopefully with the availability of the vaccines, life will return to a bit more normal soon.

**Telephones:**



After years of struggling with landline phone service outages and limited ability to communicate within the building, some changes are coming! The Town was able to upgrade our wireless internet service to a fast-enough connection to allow the installation of a voice over internet protocol telephone system.

Once the new equipment arrives, the plan is to have one phone number for the town. All calls will be answered and then you will be able to select whether you want to reach the town office or the fire/rescue department. Separate voicemail boxes will be created for the clerk, assistant clerk, town chair and supervisors. The fire/rescue department will create voicemail accounts for the chief and other leadership as they see fit. Call forwarding and inter office transfers will be possible.

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**OPEN BOOK**

*If you have any concerns with appraised value of your home and/or property, Call the Town’s appraisers on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at (920) 749-1995. They will be able to answer your questions and how they arrived at the new evaluation.*

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**For more information visit the town’s website at [town-of-paris.org](http://town-of-paris.org)**



Join the Paris Consolidated Community at The Spaghetti Supper Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

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**Open Burn**  
**April 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Subject to dry conditions and wind**

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