



NEWSLETTER

16607 Burlington Road
Union Grove, WI 53182

262-859-3006
townofparis.org

Open: 9am - 4pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

OCT 11 5pm
2023 Budget Workshop

OCT 17 6pm - 9pm
Plan Commission Meeting

OCT 25 6pm - 8pm
Town Board Meeting

NOV 8 7am - 8pm
General Election Voting

NOV 15 6pm
2023 Budget Hearing

NOV 21 7pm - 9pm
Plan Commission Meeting

NOV 22 6pm - 8pm
Town Board Meeting



Fire/Rescue Changes

Fire/Rescue departments in our area are all reacting to changes in availability of personnel and how to best make use of staffing. The Town Board and the Fire/Rescue

Department have been working on evaluating possible changes to allow the town to continue to respond to emergencies and provide the level of care our residents expect.

We have made some changes – purchasing the “I Am Responding” app, which allows department members to see in real time, who is responding to a call and how quickly; we have made changes in the building to make better use of the space available; we are considering making the Chief a full time position to improve management and staffing/response; and providing quality equipment and training to attract staff.

The department members are dedicated and reliable. They would benefit from more local residents becoming involved in the department. Paris is a “paid on call” department. The Town pays for the training to become qualified as either an EMT or firefighter. We encourage town residents to consider getting involved with the department.



Paris Solar Updates

The Paris Solar project continues to move forward. Land preparation and internal driveways are largely completed. Installation of posts and transmission wiring is advancing. Perimeter fencing will be coming soon.

A project of this size has had impacts on the community, mostly with increased traffic due to the amount of material and supplies that are being delivered. Town Board members interact with Paris Solar and contractors on an almost daily basis. Paris Solar has an employee who acts as a liaison with the town and does respond to all concerns that are raised to attempt to find solutions. Construction traffic is supposed to be restricted from using 1st Street, 144th Ave and 180th Ave. We continue to work with Paris Solar to communicate the approved routes to delivery drivers. Timely weed control on solar farm lands has been an issue and is a priority.





One of the challenges of additional residential growth in the town is keeping everyone safe as residents walk along roads for exercise and to visit neighbors. Most of our roads were built as rural profile roads with narrow shoulders leaving little room for pedestrian traffic. The increased traffic associated with the solar project has made this more evident. There have been reports of near misses when delivery trucks have not slowed down or moved over when encountering pedestrians. The concerns have been raised with Paris Solar, the County Executive's office, the Sheriff's Department and the Kenosha County Highway Department.

Paris Solar has shared the concerns at its safety meetings and with the vendors making deliveries. County Executive Samantha Kerkman has made a tour of the construction area and delivery routes to review the situation. Kenosha County Highway Director Clement Abongwa has met with town officials to review options. Kenosha County is installing signs requiring motor traffic to yield to pedestrian traffic in areas where incidents have been reported. The Sheriff's Department is increasing patrolling in the area with the specific intent to enforce safe driving.

Residents can report any incidents where they feel unsafe driving occurred. Date, time, location and vehicle identification is valuable. Paris Solar does respond to incidents reported and has followed up with drivers and dispatchers with mixed success. Most of these issues are outside the Town's ability to regulate but we are working to address these concerns.

I-94 Corridor Development

There has been considerable activity in 2022 in the corridor, in both the Somers and the Kenosha Growth areas. The Town has a revenue sharing agreement with the Village of Somers. The Town will be receiving a portion of the revenue raised as these properties are attached to Somers and start paying Village property taxes. The Town and the Village have been working together closely to ensure the development is high quality and maximizes value.

As development occurs, there is impact on nearby property owners, especially owners of residential properties. The town has been working with Kenosha, Somers and developers to try and manage the changes. We have encouraged developers to meet with nearby neighbors to identify impacts and to offer buy outs if landowners are interested in selling and there is potential to incorporate additional land into a development. Changes to use and traffic are difficult to manage. The town has shared traffic concerns with the dispatchers at the companies as well as the Kenosha County Highway Department and the Sheriff's Department.

So far, development in the growth areas has occurred without the use of Tax Incremental Districts (TID). The extension of sewer and water to new development has been paid for by the developer rather than funded by the municipalities and recaptured by taxes. This has allowed municipalities and school districts to use the increase in valuation as part of their tax bases immediately. This will allow the spreading of the tax levy over an increased tax base which usually allows for a decrease in the mill rate for individual tax payers.

PHEASANT RUN

At the landfill, we have wrapped up 2022 improvements with a new four acre cell and a 12 acre capping/cover event.

Upcoming Saturday Hours:

Oct. 1, 2022	8am – 12pm
Nov. 5, 2022	8am – 12pm
Nov. 26, 2022	7am – 12pm
Dec. 3, 2022	8am – 12pm
Jan. 7, 2023	8am – 12pm

Help the Town avoid penalties due to recycling material in plastic bags being placed in the dumpsters at Pheasant Run. The company that processes the recycle material monitors each delivery and assesses fines if plastic bags are detected. Those fines are paid by the Town. Use paper grocery bags to collect your recycle material or dump them loose into the bins. It is important we follow the rules. Do not use plastic garbage bags or plastic grocery bags to contain your recycles. Recycles should be clean and include only the allowed items.



Waste Management has experienced fires in the dumpsters caused by residents dumping the contents of their burn barrels into the dumpsters while containing smoldering ashes. Burn barrels can be emptied in the dumpsters providing that the barrel has not been used for one week prior to bringing it to the landfill. Please completely soak the contents of a burn barrel before bringing to the landfill to avoid any fire hazard. This protocol has been put in place to allow Waste Management to accept burn barrel waste. If there continues to be fires from smoldering ashes, barrel waste will not be accepted in the future.





Internet Service Update



As we have shared in past, in November of 2021, the State of Wisconsin awarded a grant to provide residential internet service in underserved areas of Paris, Bristol and Brighton to Charter Communication/Spectrum. The grant requires the project to be completed no later than December of 2024. The areas to be served are based on maps maintained by the Public Service Commission (PSC).

We wanted to share with you an update with as much information as we are currently aware of. Upon the awarding of the grant, Spectrum and the State of Wisconsin entered into negotiations to formalize the contract, laying out the specifics of area to be served, service to be provided and construction details. Because a portion of the grant money was provided by the federal government, part of the detail included standards that any contractors involved in the project must meet as required by federal guidelines. This process had to be completed before any planning for the actual project began. The county and the local communities were not included in this preliminary process and Spectrum was unable to share much information while this process took place.

Now that the contract has been signed and contractors have been vetted, Spectrum is moving forward with designing the project. They have staff out in the field doing studies and engineering staff will begin design work upon completion of the studies. Spectrum expects to be able to make formal announcements about the project by the end of 2022. At that time, we expect to be able to confirm with our residents what homes are included in the grant area. Spectrum is aware that there are homes outside the PSC map areas that do not have internet service. Once we have the definitive maps, we will be able to work with Spectrum to identify any additional services needed and strive to make sure all residences in the Town receive service as originally intended.

Spectrum has shared with us that they will have crews available once the project is designed, they are not experiencing supply chain delays and they have a history of completing projects ahead of schedule. Kenosha County and the local municipalities have an expedited permit process in place and do not anticipate any delays on permitting. The County Executive and the County Board have committed to broadband expansion in Kenosha County and we expect a coordinated approach to this project.

A consequence of the awarding of the grants is that it changed the economic field for other potential service providers. Prior to the grant program being created, the town had taken the step to interview potential internet providers and had selected a partner and was moving forward with a self-funded project to provide internet to the entire town. When the grant program was created, Paris submitted an application along with our proposed partner, E-Vergent. When the grant was awarded to Spectrum, E-Vergent withdrew from the proposed fiber project primarily due to the fact that with a grant funded competitor also serving the same area, the potential market capture would have fallen below a sustainable level. This has also affected the availability of other internet services for residents to use until the fiber system is constructed. Residents are using existing wireless service, cell phone hotspots and some satellite service where available. Per Starlink's website, coverage in Kenosha County is expected to expand in 2023.

The Town and Kenosha County are aware of the challenges that our residents are facing until quality high speed internet is available. We will continue to share updates with you.



Town Hall

We have a number of people to thank for continued work on the Town Hall grounds. Joan Murphy has continued her care of the town memorial, adding bricks, making sure sand is added and swept and working to control weeds. Diana and Leah (with additional family labor) have been improving the landscaping around the building, adding flowers, bushes and decorative gravel. The flowers growing in the Paris Happy Workers community garden have added a bright spot as well.



CRIME & SAFETY

Town residents have recently experienced break ins again. The Town remains in close contact with the Sheriff's Department. We have posted a recent media release from the Sheriff's Department on the Town website home page, alerting County residents of a recent spate of "ruse" burglaries, where individuals pose as utility workers and try to draw the home owner out of their house and distract them while an accomplice enters the home. Please read and follow the advice.

I am working with Bristol and Brighton along with county officials to hold some form of open house that would have representatives from the Sheriff's Department as well as vendors of security systems and internet-based cameras to help residents learn ways to increase their own security and surveillance. Deputies report that images captured from doorbell cameras and other surveillance cameras are valuable to them to identify suspects and patterns. Watch the Town's website for dates and location for these planned open houses.