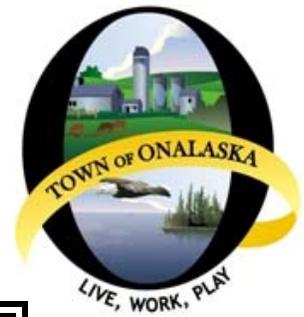


Town of Onalaska

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Newsletter Spring 2012

It's Spring – time to get out to the park

The Town of Onalaska has 19 parks, and in this newsletter we would like to make you all a little more familiar with where they are and what they have to offer. In alphabetical order they are:

- Apple Valley Park is located at Schilling Road and Park Drive – offers tennis courts that currently are in need of some work, two smaller open shelters, playground equipment, a ball field and a half basketball court
- First Prairie Park is located at Eric Avenue and Fairview Street – offer a small open shelter, playground equipment, and a ball field
- Heritage Hills Park is located at Sugar Lane and Hilltop – offers a basketball court, playground equipment, and picnic tables and sitting benches
- Homestead Park is located at the end of North Lake Shore Drive – offers a small playground area and picnic table
- Lake Park (Balduzzi Park) is located on Schaller Drive – offers a small playground area and picnic table
- Marvin Gardens Park is located at N5523 Sobkowiak Road – offers a covered bridge, playground equipment and a rentable shelter with power but no water
- Meadow Estates Park is located off Hwy 35 on Evergreen Way – offers a small playground area and picnic table
- Mesa Grande Park is located on Eagle Circle Drive – offers a small playground area and picnic table
- Mulder Field is located at Park Street and Prairie Drive – offers a ball field, a small open shelter, small playground area and picnic tables
- Prairie Heights is located on Prairievew Drive off County Rd OT – offers a half basketball court, a playground area and picnic table
- Rocky Top (sun Valley Park) is located at N6770 Sun Valley Road – offers an open shelter, picnic table and playground area
- Roth Field is located at the corner of Eric Avenue and Tower Street – offers a ballfield, a half court basketball court, picnic tables, and open shelter and playground area
- Sandy Knolls is located at the East side of Reef Road – offers a ball field, open shelter, picnic tables and playground area
- Sobkowiak Park is located on Sobkowiak Road – offers a full basketball court, picnic tables and playground area
- Strawberry Commons is located at Abby Road – offers a ballfield, a half court basketball court, soccer field, volleyball court open shelter, picnic tables and playground area
- Swarthout Park is located at W8020 County Road ZB – offers a large enclosed rentable shelter with electricity and non-drinkable water, a full basketball court that is in need of repair, a gazebo with electricity, 2 horseshoe pits, a volleyball court, picnic tables, and playground areas
- Terrace Heights (Circle Park) is located at Circle Drive and Terrace Heights Drive – offers a picnic table and playground area
- Thunderbird Hills is located on Mohican Trail – offers a half basketball court, open shelter, volleyball court, picnic tables and playground area
- Town Hall Park is located adjacent to the Town Hall at W7052 2nd Street – offers a picnic table and small playground area

We encourage all our residents and their families to use our parks often and enjoy all that they have to offer. To rent one of our shelters in either Marvin Gardens or Swarthout Park, please call or stop in and visit the Clerk at the Town Hall to check availability. The clerk will collect a \$100.00 fee to reserve the shelter, with \$50.00 of the fee refunded upon return of the keys and inspection of the park to assure no damages. Our parks are a valuable resource in the Town, and our Parks Committee would like to hear from you if you have ideas, suggestions or offers of assistance to keep all our parks in good order, as well as how to improve them.

Emerald Ash Borer treatment completed in all our parks

This spring, the Town of Onalaska has undertaken a program to prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borers. As you may have heard, Emerald Ash Borers have been found in traps as close as the Town of Medary. The continued spread of EAB disease to other parts of LaCrosse County is imminent.

Last fall, concerned citizens approached the town board about possibly treating the ash trees in all the town parks. They volunteered to survey the parks and identify all ash trees, and measure their circumference to determine the amount of insecticide drench that would be required to treat all the trees. The product, Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Drench, made by Ferti-Lome is a safe and proven, cost-effective method of treating ash trees. The active ingredient is Imidacloprid-1.

Upon receiving the report, the Town of Onalaska board authorized the purchase of enough product to treat 197 trees that were identified in 14 different parks. The cost of the treatment was aided by Christian Farm Nursery, which donated over 10% of the cost, amounting to over \$200.00. The donation was made in an effort to maintain the health of the ash trees and to prevent further spread of EAB in our area. Thank you Christian Farm Nursery.

John Haese and Tim Carrier, both town residents, completed the survey, last fall, and then followed up with the application of the product this spring. The town provided a 250-gallon water tank that was mounted on a trailer. One of the town trucks was used to transport the water to the park sites. It took four days and about 100 man-hours to treat all 14 parks. John and Tim, both volunteering their time and effort saved the town a great deal of money. The final cost was \$2,490. The original survey stated that 75 gallons of product would be required, and 74.65 gal were used. The treatment should be performed once yearly, in either the spring or fall, when the sap is flowing freely in the tree. The tree absorbs the chemical through the roots, which makes the tree taste unpleasant to the beetle, causing it to move on. The product is mixed in a five-gallon pail of water, one ounce of product for each inch of tree circumference at waist high. The product is poured directly at the base of the tree.

It is hoped that homeowners also will be looking to protect their ash trees. Cutting down a mature ash tree can cost up to \$300, stump removal \$150, and planting a new tree \$100, while the cost of treating a forty-inch mature ash is about 32 cents an inch or about \$13 a year. At the cost of \$550, you could treat this tree for another 42 years!

Our parks are a great resource and add value to our neighborhoods and the town. Protecting these resources is the right thing to do.

The Town Board and the Parks Committee extend a hug Thank You to both John Haese and Tim Carrier for bringing this project to our attention, surveying the ash trees in all our parks, researching treatment solutions, and volunteering their time and energy to bring this project to completion to protect the ash trees in our parks.



And, Thank You to John Haese, for submitting this article and photos for inclusion in our Newsletter.



Please take John's advice to heart and protect the ash trees on your own property. Together we can work toward keeping our entire Town of Onalaska free of the Emerald Ash Borers.

Fred Funk Boat Landing

At the April Town Board meeting the Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution to rename the boat landing on County Road ZB across from Swarhout Park to The Fred Funk Boat Landing. Fred was a long time dedicated advocate for public use and access to Lake Onalaska and the Mississippi River who worked tirelessly for the protection and rehabilitation of the water quality and the fish and wildlife habitat of the Mississippi and it's backwaters. Fred passed away this Spring, having been a long time resident of the Town of Onalaska. The naming of the Fred Funk Boat Landing is a fitting memorial to the life of this humanitarian and conservationist. A Fred Funk Boat Landing sign will soon be erected at the entrance to the landing.

Upcoming Events in our Town

- The 8th annual Brice Prairie Time Trials bike race and related events will be headquartered at Swarthout Park on Brice Prairie on June 29th and 30th. This event has given back thousands of dollars to our community, and we encourage you to support and attend. For additional information about the event, please contact Steve Johnson at 608-383-3071 or bptimetrial@aol.com. Steve is also looking for additional volunteers. Call him if you can help.
- The Brice Prairie First Responders "Rockin the Prairie" will be held on August 11th, with doors opening at 2:30PM. Entertainment this year will include Pat McCurdy, Tunnel Vision and the Freezers. Tickets will be on sale starting on July 28th at Kwik Trip on Hwy 35, Kwik Trip on OT and Brice Prairie Pub and Eatery. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Please plan to attend this great event and help support the BPPFR.
- A public dedication of the new US Fish and Wildlife facility will take place on Saturday, August 25th, with the time to be determined yet. This will be a great time to tour the grounds and buildings. Fish and Wildlife plans to move in around the end of June. Watch for more details on the dedication as they become available.

Our history revisited

Deputy Clerk, Gerald Monti has been doing a great deal of research into the history of our town, and particularly the Town Hall in Midway and Asbury Cemetery on County ZZ and is working on having the cemetery and Town Hall (originally the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church) added to the La Crosse County Historical Sites registry. The La Crosse County Historic Site Preservation Commission has accepted the nominations and the process is continuing with a public hearing on June 1st at 9AM in the County Administrative Center. Interest residents are encouraged to attend.

The Town Hall was purchased from the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church in the late 1800's for \$250.00. The church was originally built in the mid 1800's at a cost of \$4000.00, which was quite a sum of money in those days. So our town hall has been a meeting place for over 150 years and we are hoping to preserve it for many more years.

Also in the late 1800's the Town petitioned the County to have the Township declared a village and a map was drawn up to show the area the town would encompass. Today, that area is believed to be under Lake Onalaska. It is interesting to note that the records show that the petition was voted on by 76 MEN of the Town. Some of the voting places were the Hotel at Midway (now Petticoat Junction), an area bank, and one other undefined location in the Town. The vote passed on a 75-1 vote, but the village never came to pass as the paperwork was never forwarded to the State. This information remains safely in the safe at the Town Hall.

The Asbury Cemetery contains the graves of many of the prominent citizens of Brice Prairie - Mr. Alexander Brice among them. Mr. Brice served in The War of 1812. We have five Civil War Veterans, World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam Era veterans also buried at Asbury. The Civil War vets grave markers are in poor condition and Jerry has contacted the La Crosse County VA to have them replaced.

Jerry continues his research and is anxious to hear from anyone who may be able to supply pictures of weddings and other important events that occurred in the church (now our Town Hall). If any of you have information to add to Jerry's work, please contact him. We will keep you posted as the Historical Society continues their process with regard to our sites.

Chipping and Recycle Information

The shop crew has been working tirelessly to keep up with curbside chipping, and it is going well. Remember that curbside chipping is designed to handle small limbs and trimmings from storm damage, and to be helpful for your light pruning and trimming, but not entire tree removal projects. We are hopeful that this reminder will assist residents in determining what may be placed at the curb, and what may not be. Please also remember that you may drop brush off at the shop yard ONLY on the Tuesdays and Saturdays that the yard is open and staffed.

There has also been some thought of perhaps going back to only curbside pickup days in our town, with our own crew determining how to best handle this. It would be a way to assist residents who are not able to bring their larger items to the yard, and it could be a better use of our crew's time by eliminating Saturday hours. It would also eliminate the situations where we are getting a lot of stuff dropped off at the yard from folks who are not residents of our town, costing our own taxpayers money.

We are interested in receiving citizen input and comments on whether this should change, or not. Please contact the Clerk or any Supervisor with your thoughts.

Helpful Information for you

For those who pay your property taxes in installments, remember that your 2nd half taxes are due by July 31, 2012 and are paid directly to La Crosse County. Checks should be made payable to La Crosse County Treasurer, and should be mailed or taken directly to the County Treasurer's office in the La Crosse County Courthouse. The Town cannot accept 2nd half property taxes.

New Fire Signs

The Town has contracted with American Signs and Printing for new fire signs. The new signs will be two-way signs, mounted on the posts so that they are visible to street or road traffic from both directions. Watch for sign replacement to start occurring before the end of the year. If your sign post is bent or damaged, please let us know. We expect a number of posts will also need replacing, however most will work fine with the new signs.

TOWN OF ONALASKA
W7052 Second Street
Onalaska, WI 54650

Some of nature at its best in our town . . .



We have also had reports of a black bear in Chairman Bogert's yard last year in Apple Valley, and in a back yard very near the Brice Prairie First Responder property a few weeks. I don't have pictures of those to share, and I think that is a good thing!

Have a wonderful Summer!

The Town of Onalaska's website is a valuable resource and offers you a wealth of information about your Town. Check it out regularly.
Don't forget to let us know if you would rather receive this Newsletter electronically.
Call or e-mail the Town Hall with your e-mail address and we will send you a message when future newsletters are posted on the website.
