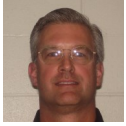




June, 2022



The Chairman's Corner

Exciting Things Happening to the Town Hall

The township will receive a distribution of about \$460,000 from the federal government as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. The intent of this money is to compensate municipalities for lost revenue resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impact on the economy. We have until 2024 to spend this money. The money can be utilized for many purposes by the affected municipalities, including improvements to government buildings. The Board has chosen to direct the funds toward some much-needed renovations at the town hall. There are three objectives we would like to accomplish:

1. To make this a community-friendly event location.
2. To bring the town hall into American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.
3. To address present storage, technology and security deficiencies.

We are only in the preliminary planning stages and residents will be updated as progress continues.

Town Hall Renovations Committee Being Formed

In response to the previous paragraph, the Board would like to form a Town Hall Renovations Committee. This committee will comprise a board member, town clerk, planning commission member and a few residents. Using the plan objectives as a guide, the purpose of this committee will be to research ideas for renovation and then offer recommendations to the board. They will likely meet a few times per month for the next 2-3 months, or

as needed. Residents who might be interested in serving on this committee are asked to contact our town clerk, Carrie Seifert, by June 30, 2022.

Storm Chasers

Recently, the township has experienced a serious storm involving high winds and large hail which caused significant damage to some residents' homes and properties. Consequently, roofing and siding companies have descended upon the township to quickly take advantage of this opportunity to sell their services to unsuspecting home owners. I want to caution our residents from making hasty decisions related to these repairs without doing their due diligence in researching the reputations of these companies. Make phone calls and ask questions about these contractors. The township requires businesses to acquire a peddling permit to solicit door-to-door. However, most companies do not take the extra step of acquiring the permit. The purpose of the peddling permit is to prevent unwanted and unscrupulous solicitation of our residents. If a salesperson comes to your door to solicit business, you have a right to ask for their township-issued peddling permit. If they can't produce any such paperwork, then send them on their way and report the incident to the township office.

Sincerely,

Chairman Dan Kylo

SAVE THE DATE!!! AUGUST 2 IS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT! WEST LAKELAND TOWNSHIP WOULD LIKE TO ORGANIZE AN OPEN HOUSE FOR RESIDENTS TO VISIT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND SEE THE NEW TOWN HALL AT THE SAME TIME. MORE INFORMATION SOON TO FOLLOW.

Roads and Bridges

Ash Trees



Like other nearby communities, we are in the process of removing diseased ash trees that are in the township right-of-way. As we continue to work our way through the community, it appears the emerald ash bore is progressing in the township at a faster pace than expected. When infected trees are identified, they are marked with an orange dot. If a tree that was not previously marked for removal begins to show sign of infestation, it may later be added to the list. It is an on-going battle, but we hope to be done with this project within the next three years.

Catch Basins

With spring and summer comes street sweeping and yard work. As this article goes to print, we should be done with our street sweeping. When raking or mowing your yard, please don't place grass, leaves, or sticks into the street or gutter. These materials tend to plug catch basins and culverts which then has the potential to cause road flooding during heavy rain events. In fact, if you have a catch basin near your home, please take the time to make sure it is clear of leaves and debris, so the township doesn't have to deal with it after the fact when there is a flooding event. The township does not have a public works department to maintain catch basins, so we welcome residents "adopting" their nearest one(s).

Landscape Materials

We expect many homeowners will be doing landscaping this season. Every year, there are contractors who place landscaping materials (large rock, boulders, mulch, dirt) on our paved roads and cul-de-sacs, in what is called the road right-of-way (ROW). This work is often being done at the request of a homeowner. First, this is illegal by state statute and township ordinance 16.8. Second, there is a liability issue if these materials cause an accident, or impede police, fire and EMS vehicles. Lastly, in the process of depositing or removing these materials, the road surface may be damaged. We have seen this happen in the past. If damage does occur, the contractor and/or the homeowner may be liable for road repairs. By placing these materials in the street or in the ROW, it could end up costing you more than you expected in the long run. If you have any questions regarding our roads, please don't hesitate contact me.



Thank you,

Dave Schultz

FOOD SCRAPS PICKUP PROGRAM

You'll soon have a new way to recycle food scraps from home! This service will be available to all residents in Ramsey and Washington counties, with rollout happening in phases throughout 2023.

WHY COLLECT FOOD SCRAPS?

Food scraps make up about 20% of trash collected in Ramsey and Washington counties by weight. The counties are developing a new way to recover this material so that it can be turned back into soil. Recovering food scraps from trash will provide health, environmental and economic benefits to the community.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

Food scraps will be collected from residents using special bags called "food scrap bags." Food scrap bags will be collected with trash and then separated from the trash after collection. This system requires no additional carts or trucks.



Food scrap bags are thicker than compostable bags currently used at county drop-off sites or that you might purchase in a store or online. They are designed to hold up on the trip in a garbage truck. They're also designed to eventually break down along with their contents.

There will be no charge to residents for bags or program participation. Bag distribution will occur through an online ordering system with a call-in option available for those without internet access.

WHY FOOD SCRAP BAGS?

Food scrap bags are an efficient and cost-effective method of collecting food scraps from residents' homes. Benefits of this method include:

- Does not require an additional collection cart
- Does not require a separate collection day
- Does not require additional hauling trucks
- Has little impact on current waste hauling services

DROP OFF SITES

County food scraps drop-off sites will remain in operation. The food scraps pickup program is one part of a larger system for managing food scraps. Residents may prefer the food scraps pickup program, drop off sites and/or backyard composting. The food scraps pickup program is about expanding choice for residents.

TIMELINE

- Pilot – Limited test in late 2022
- Phase I launch – Roll out to select number of cities initially starting in 2023
- Phase II launch – Additional phases will be launched, rolling out over several months to become available to all residents in both counties by end of 2023.

R&E and the counties will share information on which communities will be involved in the pilot and initial launch phase as soon as this is determined

MORE INFORMATION

FAQ list is available on the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy website: recyclingandenergy.org/food-scraps-pickup