

Lanark News

Volume 11, Issue 3

September 2008

Government by and for the People

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Voter Registration Day October 9

With the November General Election just around the corner, it's time to make sure you're registered to vote. If you have never voted in Lanark or Wisconsin, or you just aren't sure if you're registered, come to the Town Hall on Thursday, October 9 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and get registered. You can also check your registration status online at www.vpa.wi.gov.

If you have a driver's license, state law requires you provide that number to regis-

ter. Only if you do not have a driver's license will you be able to use your social security number.

We expect a very large turnout for the November 9 General Election. Registering ahead of time will help reduce your time spent at the Hall on election day when there will likely be long lines.

Call the Hall at 256-9801 or e-mail townoflanark@waupacaonline.net for more information.

Water Testing Opportunity

Contributed by Ray Schmidt, Water Quality Specialist, Portage County Planning & Zoning Department

The Town of Lanark will offer a pickup of sample bottles and drop off of samples at the Town Hall. Bottle pickup will be on Friday, September 12 from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Drop-off of samples will be at the Town Hall on Monday, September 15 from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. (If these times do not work for you, contact the Clerk to make other arrangements.)

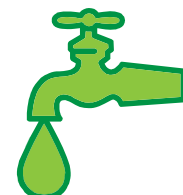
Residents of Portage County most affected by Atrazine contamination will be contacted soon to advise them to test their wells. This herbicide, found in about 50% of Portage County wells in the '90s, is once again an issue in private wells. There are potential health consequences for people who drink water contaminated with this chemical.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture designated Atrazine "prohibition areas" near the wells contaminated above the health standard. One of those prohibition areas is in the northwest corner of Lanark. Given the normal rates of groundwater flow of 1' to 2' per day, the contaminated water supplying some wells in the '90s could have now moved a mile or more away. People whose wells previously had low or no contamination could now be consuming high levels of Atrazine in their drinking water, while those whose wells were previously contaminated could currently have little or no Atrazine.

Atrazine residues have no taste or odor. The only way to know if your water is contaminated is to have a sample analyzed. The Atrazine screening test is

available at the UW-SP Water and Environmental Analysis Lab and costs only \$27. You can contact the lab at 715-346-3209. They can arrange for you to receive a special bottle for your sample.

If your well tests positive for Atrazine residues, you should contact the County Water Quality Specialist Ray Schmidt at 346-1334 or schmidtr@co.portage.wi.us) for possible follow-up (free) sampling or information regarding possible water treatment or well replacement.



September's Town Board Meeting is on Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Buried Treasure in Lanark

**Contributed by Bill McKee, Lanark Rep.
Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee**

Buried beneath every parcel of land in Lanark is a real treasure, one of our most precious resources: our groundwater. Protecting groundwater from contamination and overuse is vital to the health of our people, ecosystems, communities and economy.

Lanark sits over a great aquifer, but because of our sandy soils contaminants can easily filter down through the soil to our groundwater. A number of private wells in Lanark have tested positive for Atrazine, an herbicide once more commonly used on our agricultural fields. Contaminated well water will affect the value of your property. Groundwater moves slowly over time so that contaminants will eventually flow from the point of origin on the surface to properties downstream (the flow of groundwater in Lanark is generally from the NW to the SE). Nitrate contamination is a much more common contaminant in Lanark. The sources are the spreading of manure, fertilizers and private septic systems.

Once groundwater is contaminated it is often expensive and often not technically possible to clean. Groundwater use in Portage County has more than tripled in the last twenty years with most of that increase coming from irrigation and industry. Lanark still has great groundwater, but it is at risk. Have your well water tested – it is relatively inexpensive and the information gained is not only valuable to you and your family, but to the greater community as well. Read the related article on testing on page 1 in this issue of the Lanark News and check out the following website for a more comprehensive look at groundwater in Portage County and Wisconsin: <http://wi.water.usgs.gov/gwcomp/find/portage/index.html>

Garbage Collection Contingency Plans

**Contributed by Meleesa Johnson
Administrator, Solid Waste Department**

The current financial issues associated with Wittenberg Disposal have made many of us aware of the world of solid waste management and its impact on our lives.

The Portage County Solid Waste Department recognizes that residents have continual solid waste collection and disposal needs. Departmental staff have therefore developed a contingency plan that should meet immediate needs if any hauler serving any Portage County municipality becomes unable to perform collection services. First a media alert would be issued so affected residents and community leaders would be informed of events as they unfold (press releases, print and television media, personal phone calls, and other avenues of information dissemination would be used). Short-term collection options would be implemented including: temporary placement of roll-off boxes at a centralized point in the affected municipality; free use of the Transfer Facility for residents with proper identification showing residency from the affected municipality; or mobilization of emergency curbside collection provisions. The next step would be to transition into a prearranged long-term contract with an alternative hauler who has the capacity to serve the municipality both efficiently and cost-effectively.

As with all emergencies planning as best we can for their advent is critical. During these times, some inconveniences will occur. However, the execution of the above plan will ensure these inconveniences will be minimal and of very short duration.

The Solid Waste Department always welcomes comments and questions from citizens. Please contact us at: 345-5969 or 345-5972.

Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Leatherman. This Town publication is intended for public information on local issues and does not express opinions of the Town Board or Editor.

*****Plan Commission Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. as needed*****

Be Good to Your Best Friend

Contributed by Jennifer Blum

Director, Humane Society of Portage County

Greetings from the Humane Society of Portage County! We are proud to be part of a community that takes pride in treating its four-legged friends with respect and kindness. But even responsible pet owners sometimes need a refresher – we hope that the following care tips will serve to remind everyone that our best friends are counting on us!

Having your dog spayed or neutered is the single most important step you can take to be a responsible pet owner. The result of both operations is that your companion will no longer be able to bring more homeless animals into the world. Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer; neutering reduces the incidence of prostate cancer and prostate disorders. Neutered pets are also less likely to bite, run away or get into fights.

No matter how careful most dog owners are, there's always the chance their companion may become lost. A dog who's not protected by a license, collar and identification tag may be just plain out of luck.

An up-to-date license and rabies tag are required by law in Portage County. A veterinarian can provide a rabies vaccination at a relatively low cost; just bring proof of vaccination to the Humane Society or contact your town treasurer to purchase your license.

A collar and tag with owner information are a lost dog's



ticket home. You may want to consider a microchip which can be implanted just under the skin of dogs and cats.

Veterinary, animal control, animal shelter, and local humane society professionals then use handheld scanners to "read" the chips implanted in animals found wandering unsupervised. The microchip provides a unique code for the pet that can then be matched against an identification database. Microchips are made to work throughout the lifetime of a pet; they don't ever need replacing and can't be lost.

A dog who roams the neighborhood, chases cars, bicycles and joggers, soils the neighbor's yard or barks incessantly is a dog with an irresponsible owner. An essential rule to follow is: *off* property, *on* leash. When not confined to your property, your dog must be under your control.

So be good to your dog, and be good to your neighbors. If you follow the rules of responsible pet ownership, you'll be rewarded with the many joys of having a dog by your side.

The Humane Society of Portage County invites you to stop by and meet your new best friend – call us at (715) 344-6012.

Notable News

- The Wisconsin Department of Revenue has determined the Town of Lanark's 2008 equalized value to be \$120,406,300, up 6.33% from 2007.
- By ordinance ALL proposed land splits and combinations MUST come before the Plan Commission and the Town Board; contact the Clerk for more information
- The Town of Lanark will be reassessed for 2009. The town's assessor will begin work this fall.
- "Good-For-Your-Life" class for those age 50 or older will be at the Jensen Center September 16 from 6:15-7:45.p.m. It's free but call 346-1401 for more information and to register by September 5.
- Two regular Plan Commission members and one alternate member terms will expire at the end of this year. If you are interested in serving on the Plan Commission, contact the Clerk. Members of the Plan Commission are appointed by the Town Board.
- Burning permits can be obtained from our fire wardens Chris Clinton, 9388 Clinton Road or Sarah Lucht, 7188 County Road D.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Town of Lanark
7174 County Road TT
Amherst WI 54406

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AMHERST WI
PERMIT NO. 15

OFFICIALS DIRECTORY

Chairman: Theodore Marquardt
8965 Boelter Lake Dr.
Almond WI 54909
366-2283

Supervisor: Michael Pagel
10408 Otto Rd.
Amherst WI 54406
824-5231

Supervisor: William McKee
6167 County Rd. A
Amherst WI 54406
824-3725

Clerk: Cheryl Leatherman
9819 County Rd. D
Amherst WI 54406
824-3842

Treasurer: Jean Eddy
5630 Morgan Road
Amherst WI 54406
824-3953

Assessor: Jeremy Kurtzweil
1501 N. Hume Ave.
Marshfield WI 54449
715/486-9019

**Portage County
District 20 Supervisor
Lonnie Krogwold
824-5600**

**Planning & Zoning
346-1334
County Treasurer
346-1348**

**Lanark Town Hall
256-9801
Lanark Town Garage
256-1376**

**Humane Society
344-6012
Building Inspector
715/254-0886**

We're on the Web!

www.townoflanark.org