

## TOWNHALL OFFICE HOURS:

**Mondays and Wednesdays:** 9am to 3pm

**Tuesdays:** 1pm to 6pm

**Fridays:** 9am to Noon

**New email address:**

townofvinland@ntd.net



# THE VINLAND VOICE

TOWN OF VINLAND  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY, WISCONSIN

## TOWN OF VINLAND CONTACTS:

### Chairman:

Don O'Connell 920-915-9857

### Supervisor 1:

Todd Devens 920-379-4828

### Supervisor 2:

Stacy Frakes 920-851-3765

### Clerk/Treasurer:

Karen Brazee 920-235-6953  
vinlandtreas@ntd.net

### Deputy Clerk/Treasurer:

Maggie Starr 920-235-6953  
townofvinland@ntd.net

### Fire Chief:

Chris Anderson 920-428-7812

### Assistant Chief:

Jason Schmoker 920-379-1094

### Assessor:

Bowmar Appraisals 920-733-5369

### Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator:

Tom Spierowski 920-428-3361

## Hello Friends & Neighbors,

It's hard to believe, but your current town board has been in place, working for you, for six months. In this newsletter, I provide a brief summary of some of the more significant issues confronted by the board thus far and a look forward to the next big thing.

1. 911 address signs – Earlier this year the town board and clerks evaluated the condition of all 911 address signs in the town. Over 200 were considered unreadable. An order was placed to replace those signs as these are our first responder's primary guidance to residences in need of emergency services. These signs have been received and have been installed.

2. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds – In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Federal Government passed the American Rescue Plan Act which provides funds to municipalities to help mitigate the pandemic's impact on families, businesses and essential workers. The town has received one half of its allocated total of \$177,000. The board has exercised patience in deciding on how to utilize these funds as it has until 2025 to do so. The act does restrict ARPA spending to the following uses:

- Make up for revenue shortfalls the town experienced due to Covid-19.
- Storm water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.
- Grants to covid-19 affected businesses.
- Payments to essential workers.

The act also requires the town to submit an annual Project and Expenditure report to the US Treasury Department on how these funds are used. Potential uses for these funds will be considered as part of the town's 2022 budget process.

3. DNR Municipal Separate Storm Water Sewer System (MS4) Permit – The Federal Clean Waters Act, enacted by the Environmental Protection Agency, mandates that municipalities permit their storm water systems. The town's storm water system is comprised entirely of grass swales (ditches) intended to drain storm water runoff to either the Neenah Slough or Lake Winnebago. In the drainage process, the grass swales filter pollutants such as phosphorus and sediment from the flowing storm water. The town, through its permit, is required to maintain the effectiveness of these grass swales, which are located in town road right of ways. The town's MS4 permitting process began in 2006, with permits issued in 2014 and 2019. The 2019 permit expires in 2024. By the end of the current permit term, the town will have to provide evidence through sampling and modeling that the sediment and phosphorus reduction goals stipulated in the permit have been met. The engineering firm, McMahon and Associates has been hired on an as needed basis to



On October 21, the Town of Vinland provided lunch/dinner to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department as a thank you for their service in our town.

assist the town through this process. Supervisor Frakes will provide additional MS4 details in this newsletter.

4. 2021 Road Maintenance –The annual road maintenance plan is in the final phases of execution. You have seen the county working on various projects throughout the summer. Between maintenance, salting and snow removal, the town will spend an estimated \$175,000 on its 37 miles of roads in 2021. Supervisor Devens will provide additional road project details in this newsletter.

The board has prepared a proposed 2022 budget and has analyzed revenue and spending. Over the past several years, spending has exceeded revenue which has resulted in a reduction in reserves. However, the town is currently debt free as the remaining debt on the town's airpack loan for the fire department was retired earlier this year. Our previous town board also did an extraordinary job of keeping the town tax rate to a minimum. Whether or not we can continue this remains to be seen. However, the current board is committed to doing everything possible to minimize taxes. It may come down to what services are valued, should be maintained and therefore funded, and those that we may do without or to a lesser degree. Multiple public hearings will be scheduled during the budget process in order to get as much public input as possible. Budget input and updates will also be sought and provided during regularly scheduled board meetings in October and November. I invite and encourage all to attend and participate in this process.

Finally, over the past six months, I have met, and worked with, many residents, town supervisors, our clerk/treasurer and deputy clerk/treasurer, the volunteer fire department and first responders. While there are many different ideas, the one common thread is all of these people are very dedicated and have the best interests of the town in mind. We owe them a debt of gratitude for the work they do to keep us safe and the town functioning. Together, we can face and meet whatever challenges come our way and continue to make our town the great place to live that it is.

Yours Truly,  
Don O'Connell  
Chairman

### **From the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer:**

Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Maggie Starr. In the past, I have shadowed former clerk Marilyn Fahrenkrug and have also served as Deputy Treasurer assisting Karen Brazee at tax time with collecting dog licenses and learning tax collection. I have also enjoyed working elections. As my interest in local government grew, in 2020 I took the initiative and attended the Wisconsin Clerks and Treasurers Institute through UW-Green Bay at my own cost of \$485.00. This year I applied for a scholarship and won full tuition and attended my second-year classes at WCTI. The week-long classes are very informative and it is a full week of learning.

The combined position of clerk/treasurer has been very beneficial in my ability to help Karen and vice versa. We have been working as a team and are both able to assist residents with all of their needs.

If you need anything please don't hesitate to call the town hall or send an email. I look forward to working for you.

Maggie

### **Hello from your Clerk/Treasurer!**

Maggie and I have been busy organizing the office. We've been working on several projects already and I thought I'd give you a list of just a few things we're working on:

- ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)- Town of Vinland received a grant allocation of \$93,940.03. We are awaiting criteria on what the funds can be allocated to.
  - Town Website (townofvinland.org)- continually updating with agendas, minutes and spotlight news.
  - 911/address signs. Phase 1 of the faded signs have been ordered and are in the midst of getting replaced.
  - Redistricting- since the census, our town is now separated by 2 wards (with Hwy 76 being the dividing line).
  - New recycling project with Trex- please see the separate details in the newsletter on how you can recycle your plastic bags.
- Lastly, I'd like to send out thanks to Maggie Starr for helping me get thru the projects. Don O'Connell for being so thorough on all the new processes. Ray Batley for helping me get the board room and kitchen repainted. The Fire Department for replacing the faded address signs. And thanks to the Plan Commission Board members (Joe Kuehn, Jay Jack, Dale Wilde, John Kunde, and Jeff Gorr). It seems that we've been having a historic number of meetings, and I'm glad they are supportive of the process. Our town is truly lucky to have so many people that are willing to help keep this a great place to live!

Karen Brazee

### **From Supervisor Devens:**

Have you noticed your faded 911/address sign was replaced? The volunteer Fire Department along with the board members and office staff replaced roughly 235 faded signs in the first phase of this project. Please make sure to keep your sign visible from the road clearing away any overhanging branches or shrubs. This will assist the fire department and first responders in locating you more efficiently in an emergency. If you have concerns about your address sign, please email or call the town hall.

The town board has been busy working with the Winnebago County Highway Department to complete some much-needed road work. Road improvements have been started and/or completed for the following roads in the town: Angell Rd, Breezewood Ln, Brooks Rd, Fahley Rd, St. Ives Rd, Wild Rose Ln, Clevedon Ln, Gibs Rd, Rhyner Rd, and Vinland Center Rd. We welcome you to contact the town or come to our board meetings if you have questions or concerns on the roads in your area.

Please be diligent of your speed. Most of our town roads have a set speed limit of 45 MPH. Our town roads are narrow and we get a lot of bikers and walkers. Please slow down and use caution when driving, especially with winter coming.

We do live in a great community with low crime rates, but crime does still happen. To ensure your safety, please keep your vehicles and homes locked. Also, be a good neighbor and keep an eye out for suspicious behavior if your neighbor is not home.

Recently we have had some large items dumped on our town roads. This costs the town time and money to remove and dispose of such items. If you see someone partaking in this type of activity never

approach them but if you can get a license plate number and call the authorities or the town hall we can take action.

Thank you,  
Todd Devens, Supervisor

### From the Fire Chief:


Hello, my name is Chris Anderson and I am the current Town of Vinland Fire Chief. I would like to tell you a bit about who we are and what we do as a volunteer fire department. Currently, the department has 32 members including myself and assistant chief Jason Schmoker. As a department, we are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A majority of members are also part of the Town of Vinland First Responders. The first responders are a group certified in responding to emergency medical calls that can range from a sick person to a traffic accident. In the unfortunate event you find yourself in an emergency and need assistance, most often the department members responding are also a resident of the Town of Vinland. If you have questions or would like to know more about the Vinland Fire Department we have a meeting on the first Tuesday of every month held at the town hall.


Recently I applied for a grant offered through Compeer Financial and was awarded \$3000 to the Town of Vinland Fire Department. The money is very much appreciated and will be used towards fire gear.

As we get into fall and the temperatures start to change, the fire department would like to remind you that it is a good idea to have your fireplace and chimney cleaned and inspected whether it is gas or wood-burning. A fireplace or chimney that is not properly working can cause a fire or lead to carbon monoxide in your home. Remember carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless flammable gas. That is why it is important to have properly working and maintained carbon monoxide and smoke detectors in your home.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Annual Vinland Fire Department Sportsman's Raffle! The proceeds from this fundraiser are used towards fire and rescue equipment. You can find a list of winners on our website: [www.townofvinland.org](http://www.townofvinland.org).

[www.townofvinland.org](http://www.townofvinland.org)  
 **SUBSCRIBE**  
Receive town news, updates, meeting agendas and minutes by subscribing to the Town Website.

 **Need something notarized?  
Karen and Maggie are both Notaries.**

 Interested in working the elections? Please contact the office, so we can get you the proper training that you need before the spring election or potential primary in February.

### Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

Let's talk about MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System). With the guidance of McMahon Associates Inc., the Town of Vinland's Stormwater Management Plan was prepared. The purpose of the plan is to provide the Town with the long-term guidance necessary to comply with NR 216 stormwater regulations and improve water quality within receiving waters. Pursuant to NR 216, the Town of Vinland was required to obtain a WPDES Municipal Stormwater Discharge Permit. The purpose of the permit is to control urban non-point source pollution by regulating discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4). As part of the municipal permit, the Town is responsible for developing a stormwater management plan and implementing six minimum control measures.

The six minimum control measures consist of:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Involvement and Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Pollutant Control
- Post-Construction Site Stormwater Management
- Municipal Pollution Prevention


The plan identifies the goals and objectives for each of the six minimum control measures, explains how the program was developed, and describes how the Town intends to implement each aspect of the stormwater program, including measurable goals. Detailed information can be found on the town's website – [www.townofvinland.org](http://www.townofvinland.org).

As part of our Public Education and Outreach we will be sharing MS4 information and events at our monthly board meetings. One event we are planning is partnering with Fox Valley Watershed Alliance in a Clean Up Day for the Town of Vinland, set for May 7, 2022 from 9-11am. Please save the date!

Stacy Frakes  
Supervisor #2

### Posting Boards For Meeting Agendas

In an effort to minimize the amount of paper being used beginning January 1, 2022, we will no longer be utilizing the posting board at the storage units on 6344 County Rd A for our meeting agendas. In accordance with Wis § 19.84(1)(b)(2) we will be posting agendas on our website, on the town hall foyer entrance door and the Bee Hive posting board. Sign up to receive email and/or text message agendas, minutes, and important up-do-date town information via our website.

 Accepting bids now for 2022 snow removal on private roads in the Town of Vinland (Cowling Bay, Old Glory Lane, Paynes Point Roads, and Woodenshoe Court). Submit your bid by email to [townofvinland@ntd.net](mailto:townofvinland@ntd.net).

 **ADVERTISE WITH US**  
Contact us if you'd like to advertise in our next newsletter and/or on our website.

## Town of Vinland

6085 County Road T  
Oshkosh, WI 54904

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
OSHKOSH, WI  
PERMIT NO. 147



Harter's Fox Valley Disposal is our garbage and recycling company.  
Phone: 888-804-8556

Garbage and Recycling pick up is weekly on Tuesdays. Please have your cans out by 6 am Tuesday. When a holiday falls on a Monday, pick up will take place on Wednesday.

Large Household items will be collected at the cost of the resident. Items such as: Furniture (i.e. couch, table, dresser, bed frame, mattress, box spring, bike, push mower (no gas/oil), toilet, sink), Electronics (i.e. stereo, printer, monitor, CPU tower) or Non-Freon Appliances (i.e., stove, microwave, washer, dryer, compactor, dishwasher, humidifier, water heater, water conditioner) and Freon Appliances (i.e., refrigerator, dehumidifier, freezer) and TV's. Residents are to call Harter's at (888) 804-8556 to schedule their large item pick up and for pricing, payment is required before pick-up. The cut off will be 2:00 p.m. the day prior to pick-up day.

Looking to replace your garbage or recycle bin? Cost is \$75 per bin. Call or email the office for more information.



We have also signed up with Trex in hopes to not only promote recycling, but ALSO to try and collect enough plastic bags, plastic wrap, and bubble wrap to get awarded a bench made out of recycled plastics. We have collection bins at both entrances of the town hall foyer and the east side office door as well as Kwik Trip on Green Valley Rd. Please clean any plastic bags of food/residue before placing into the storage unit. There is a poster explaining what plastic items are accepted, but there is also a form included in the newsletter to help you learn more about what plastics materials should NOT be put in your curbside containers. Thanks for helping out and hoping that we can reach the goal of 500 lbs!

[www.trex.com](http://www.trex.com)



### PLEASE RECYCLE

*Did you know...* Plastic bags, garbage, food, cords and clothing can cause problems during sorting or damage recycling facility equipment. Please keep these items out of your recycling bin.  
<http://www.WinnebagoCountySolidWaste.com>

# More than just plastic bags are recyclable!!

APPROVED ITEMS FOR NEXTREX® PROGRAMS

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



## PLUS.....

- Plastic films labeled with #2 or #4 recycling symbol (polyethylene films)
- Ice bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Salt bags
- Cereal box liners
- Bubble wrap

Please bring your plastic wraps, bags, food bags (clear of residue) to the Town hall for recycling ... KEEP out of the landfill! Containers are located at each entrance of the Town Hall and Kwik Trip located on 76/Green Valley Rd