

THE TOWN CRIER

The Trenton Township Newsletter



DID YOU KNOW?

Trenton was officially established as a town on March 11, 1848, and much of its early population consisted of German immigrants who built a strong farming community rooted in dairy and general agriculture.

Today, that legacy of caring for the land continues—about a quarter of the Town (over 5,300 acres) is made up of woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, and other sensitive natural areas where development is limited to help protect wildlife habitat, clean water, and reduce flooding risks. The Town also participates in the Farmland Preservation Program, helping landowners keep agricultural lands in production while receiving tax credits for protecting open space.



IN THIS ISSUE

Fire Prevention Tips	P.2
New Burning Ordinance	P.2
Online Zoning Hub	P.3
Winter Parking Restrictions	P.3
Tax Collection Schedule	P.3
Well Water Safety	P.4

A Letter From The Chairman

As summer turns to fall, I reflect on the progress we've made this year. My focus has been on productivity—encouraging departments and staff to use resources wisely while adapting to challenges such as weather events and unexpected repairs. Our goal remains steady: making thoughtful, common-sense decisions that serve the town and protect taxpayer dollars.

This year, we invested in road improvements focusing on our most heavily traveled routes. These projects require balancing cost, durability, and growing traffic. Our aim is to maintain quality infrastructure while keeping pace with aging roadways.

The Town also adopted a Burning Ordinance, which does not require a permit, but sets expectations for responsible burn management and limits smoldering. In addition, the Planning Commission and Board approved updates to the Agricultural Districts (last revised in 1978) and refined the AE Zone. This change from the AE Zone inception in 2023 will better align with our residents' desires and our Town 2050 Strategic Plan.

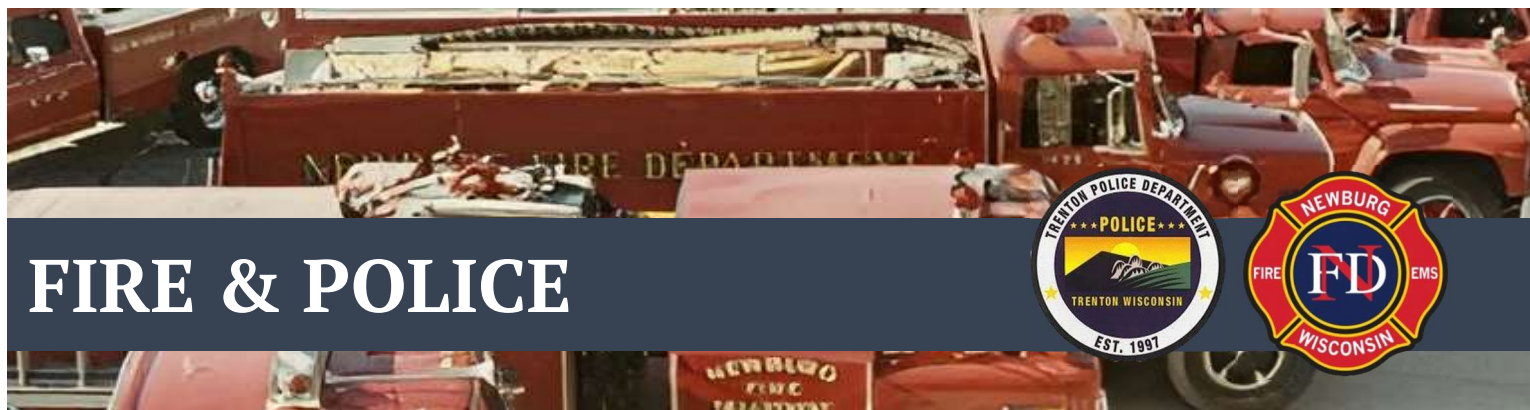
Additionally, we reviewed our IT systems and now partner with Washington County to manage Town Hall services, allowing us to save money and focus on core responsibilities.

Finally, we've spent many hours on zoning—understanding our authority and how best to apply it. Growth is inevitable, but how we guide it will shape Trenton's future. Those of us who serve on the Planning Commission and Board are committed to preserving the character of our town.

Harvest season is upon us and quickly will be the Holidays. I wish each of you a safe, secure and family filled end to 2025. I appreciate your support in my leadership.

- **Mike Lipscomb**

Chairman, Town of Trenton



FIRE & POLICE

Smoke Detectors Save Lives — But Only If They Work

Smoke detectors are one of the most important tools for keeping you and your family safe. They provide an early warning that can mean the difference between escaping safely and tragedy. However, they only work if they're properly maintained.

FIRE PREVENTION TIPS:

Know Their Lifespan

Most smoke detectors have a lifespan of about 10 years. After that, even if they seem to work, their sensors can become less reliable. Check the manufacture date on the back of your detector; if it's older than a decade, replace it.

Have and Practice an Escape Plan

In the event of a fire, every second counts. Create an escape plan with your family:

- Know at least two ways out of every room.
- Establish a meeting spot outside, away from the home.
- Practice your plan twice a year — in daylight and at night.
- Teach children how to get low and crawl under smoke.

Change the Batteries

For battery-operated smoke detectors, change the batteries at least once a year. A good habit is to do this when you change your clocks in the spring or fall. If your detector starts chirping, that's its way of saying the battery is low — don't ignore it.

Fire Prevention Starts at Home

While smoke detectors are crucial, preventing fires in the first place is just as important. Here are a few reminders:

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Dispose of smoking materials safely.
- Don't overload electrical outlets.

The fire department's mission is to keep our community safe, but prevention and preparedness start at home. Check your smoke detectors today, replace old ones, and make sure your family knows what to do in case of a fire. Your safety is our priority — and together, we can prevent tragedy.

- The Newburg Fire Department

NEW BURNING ORDINANCE

Trenton has adopted an Ordinance joining neighboring communities with local burn guidelines. No permit is required, but residents are expected to use common sense, monitor their fires, and follow time limits (no burns left smoldering beyond 12 hours).

The goal is simple: prevent smoldering fires that linger and cause problems for others. With everyone's cooperation, outdoor burning can remain safe and productive within our community.

More details are available on our website.

TOWN MATTERS

Online Zoning Hub & Lighting Reminder

Trenton's new Zoning Hub is live! Accessible from the town website zoning page. You can look up parcel info such as size, zoning district, and permitted uses. Planning a garage or other accessory structure? Zoning Hub shows what's allowed on your property.

The portal also includes permitting info for actions like Zoning Map Amendments, Conditional Use Permits, and Land Divisions. You can download and submit applications online, though a meeting with the Zoning Administrator is recommended.

Zoning doesn't just cover buildings—it also helps preserve the rural character of Trenton. One important example is our lighting ordinance, designed to protect the town's dark night skies. Exterior lighting must be aimed downward and not shine on neighboring properties—this includes lights around homes, pools, accessory structures, and standalone fixtures. Motion-detecting lights are recommended, and vintage-style streetlights that shine all night are not allowed.

Note: The portal is for informational purposes, and all details should be verified with the Zoning Administrator.



Parking Restrictions

As we head into the winter season, it's a good time to revisit Trenton's parking rules. To help keep roads clear and safe, a two-hour parking limit is in effect from 6 AM to midnight. Overnight parking is not allowed between midnight and 6 AM. **No parking is permitted during a declared snow emergency.**

These rules apply to all vehicles parked on the road or within the town right-of-way. Your cooperation helps ensure plows can do their job and everyone can travel safely through the winter months.

In-Person Tax Collection Schedule

Property tax payments can be made in person at Town Hall during the following collection times. Payments may be made by check, money order, or cash—please bring your tax statement to ensure proper processing.

If you cannot attend in person, payments may also be mailed or placed in the secure drop box at Town Hall.

Saturday, December 13, 2025 — 10 AM to Noon

Friday, December 19, 2025 — 10 AM to Noon; 3 to 5 PM

Tuesday, December 30, 2025 — 10 AM to Noon; 3 to 5 PM

Friday, January 16, 2026 — 10 AM to Noon

Friday, January 30, 2026 — 10 AM to Noon; 3 to 5 PM

Reminder: Renew your dog license for 2026! You will receive an application with your 2025 tax bill. When submitting, please include a copy of your dog's current rabies vaccination records.



PRIVATE WELL WATER SAFETY

HISTORIC RAINFALL

This summer's heavy rainfall had a financial impact on the Town. Because the storm hit over a weekend, our crew worked overtime to respond. Several roads were closed or posted for high water, and North Oak Road experienced a complete culvert washout. In addition, more than a dozen roads suffered shoulder damage.

Charlie, Tim, and the Public Works crew did an excellent job responding quickly and getting out early to stabilize and repair roads so they could be reopened safely. While this delayed our regular ditch-cutting schedule by about a week, the team has since caught up and operations are back on track.

“Water You Waiting For?”

If your home is served by a private well, it's your responsibility to ensure the water is safe to drink. Unlike public water systems, private wells aren't regulated by the EPA. The CDC recommends annual testing for:

- Total coliform bacteria – indicates potential harmful microbes in the water.
- Nitrates – high levels can be harmful, especially for infants and pregnant women.
- Total dissolved solids (TDS) – measures minerals, salts, and metals in water.
- pH level – affects water taste, plumbing, and effectiveness of disinfection.

Additional tests may be recommended depending on your location, well depth, or nearby land use. Regular testing helps prevent health risks and ensures your water is clean and safe for drinking, cooking, and bathing.

WATER TESTING IN OCTOBER

This October, the Town of Trenton is offering a convenient service to transport water samples for testing every Monday. Residents are responsible for the cost of the test.

To participate:

1. **Sign up** for a testing date by contacting Town Administrator Cindy Komro.
2. **Pick up a test kit** at Town Hall during business hours.
3. **Collect your water sample** on Sunday afternoon and refrigerate overnight or first thing Monday morning.
4. **Drop off your sample**, along with the check and paperwork, at Town Hall Monday morning between 9 and 10 AM.

For more details and additional water safety resources, visit the **Resident** page on the town website.

STAY IN TOUCH

The Town Crier publishes biannually. For general questions or information on the Town of Trenton current events, please contact your local officials or visit TownofTrenton.wi.gov.



TRENTON TOWN HALL

1071 Highway 33
West Bend, WI 53095

Phone: 262.675.6009

Fax: 262.675.6052

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday from 9 AM to 3 PM
Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM

Building Inspector Hours:

Wednesday from 3 to 5 PM

TOWN HALL RECYCLING

Yard Hours:

Second Saturday (Year-Round): 8 AM to Noon
Fourth Thursday (March-October): 3 to 7 PM

Accepted items only: Brush, leaves, yard waste, waste oil, batteries, metal goods, and e-waste

Other Large Items (including building materials, excluding hazardous waste) go to:

- **GFL Transfer Station**, 803 N. River Rd, West Bend

Fees are weight-based, with a minimum charge.

For hazardous waste, visit the Household Clean Sweep page at washcowisco.gov or call 262-335-4445.

TOWN REPRESENTATIVES

TOWN LEADERS

CHAIRMAN Mike Lipscomb	262.675.6009 x300 chairman@townoftrenton.wi.gov
SUPERVISOR Tony Thoma	262.675.6009 x301 Supervisor.Thoma@townoftrenton.wi.gov
SUPERVISOR Barb Davies	262.675.6009 x302 Supervisor.Davies@townoftrenton.wi.gov
CLERK Heather Krueger	262.675.6009 x101 clerk@townoftrenton.wi.gov
TREASURER Nicole Cozzuli-Meer	262.675.6009 x103 treasurer@townoftrenton.wi.gov
ADMINISTRATOR/ZONING DEPUTY CLERK Cindy Komro	262.675.6009 x106 262.290.0154 (Mobile) townadmin@townoftrenton.wi.gov
BUILDING INSPECTOR Walter Grotelueschen	262.675.0909 (Home Office) 262.675.0415 (Town Hall) building@townoftrenton.wi.gov

POLICE AND FIRE RESCUE

POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Andrew Mammen	262.675.6009 x111 (Town Hall) 262.335.4411 (Dispatch) 262.336.9014 (Fax) tpdpatrol@townoftrenton.wi.gov
NEWBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT Chief Brad Karnitz	262.675.6262 508 Main St, Newburg mail@newburgfirerescue.com

PUBLIC WORKS, SANITATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR Charles Schmidt	262.675.6009 x109 dpw@townoftrenton.wi.gov
CURBSIDE COLLECTION Harter's Lakeside Disposal	833.754.2158 (Toll Free) 920.552.5414 (Fax)
ASSESSOR Catalis Tax & CAMA, Inc. Eric Feavel	262.253.1142 N88 W16573 Main St. Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
WALLACE LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT Judy Mastenbrook (Billing Contact)	262.338.6934 P.O. Box 31 West Bend, WI 53095 wlsd@townoftrenton.wi.gov
SCENIC DRIVE SANITARY DISTRICT Mary Kilian	414.331.0883 PO Box 1092 West Bend, WI 53095



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West Bend, WI 53095

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FALL 2025

Inside This Issue:

- Fire Prevention Tips
- New Burning Ordinance
- Online Zoning Hub
- Parking Restrictions
- Tax Collection Schedule
- Well Water Safety