

TOWN OF LANARK NEWSLETTER

July 2017

DEUMAN & DAIN RETIRING!

After nearly 24 years of service to Lanark as the Town's only full time employee, Gerald (Jerry) Deuman has announced his intent to retire at the end of October.

Jerry is Lanark's only full time employee. Jerry plows, salts and sands our roads in winter, mows roadsides in summer, maintains the Town's equipment and property (including two cemeteries) and clears trees off our roads during and after storms. He is on call 24/7.

Lanark has repeatedly benefitted from Jerry's work ethic and devotion to his duties. That devotion is most evident during winter snow and ice storms when Jerry reports for work in the middle of the night along with Delmer Dain, Lanark's part time employee and second snow plow driver. Jerry and Delmer plow and salt/sand 34+ miles of town roads along with over 50 intersections.

Jerry's decision to retire has prompted Delmer Dain to announce his retirement as well. Delmer has worked for the Town since January 2003. The loss of these two employees means that the Town of Lanark is hiring!

THE TOWN OF LANARK IS HIRING!

We are looking for one full time employee (40 hours/week) to replace Jerry Deuman and one or two part time (on call) employees to replace Delmer Dain.

We're looking for candidates who possess a CDL (or can obtain one by the end of October 2017) and can pass a physical. Work for the full time employee would begin in early October in order to have some overlap with Jerry Deuman prior to his departure. Lanark residency is NOT required, although we do require a 15 minute response time to emergencies.

A complete position description is available on the Town web site at <http://www.townoflanark.org> or by contacting Cheryl Leatherman, Town Clerk, at (715) 256-9801 to obtain a position description and application. **We will accept applications until positions are filled, but we prefer to have applications by Friday, September 1st.**

Please share this information with anyone who might be qualified and interested in working for the Town of Lanark!

The Town has already been asked if there will be a party to celebrate Jerry and Delmer's retirement. It's too early to be sure, so please watch for announcements on the web site. Anyone wishing to send cards, etc., to Jerry and Delmer may do so by sending them to the Town at:

Town of Lanark
7174 County Road TT
Amherst, WI 54406

INSTALLING OR MODIFYING A DRIVEWAY ON A TOWN ROAD?

Please contact the Town if you are planning to install a new driveway or modify an existing one that joins with a town road. We want to work with you to make sure your project is consistent with Lanark's Driveway ordinance, especially within the right-of-way (33' from the center of the road) where the ordinance restricts the slope and paving material.

The Town's snow plow trucks have had several "encounters" with improperly installed driveways while clearing snow from the road and shoulder. The resulting damage put the truck out of action for several weeks which is a real problem in the middle of the winter!

Lanark does NOT require a driveway permit. Instead, we rely on you to work with us to avoid problems in the future. Experience has taught us that some contractors do not check with the Town prior to installing or paving a driveway. Please insist that your driveway contractor contact the Town before doing any work, or contact us yourself so we can make things right. The Driveway ordinance is on the Town's web site.

Local EMS and fire departments have also expressed concerns about driveways that restrict access by ambulances and fire trucks. A narrow driveway with tight curves and overhanging branches can prevent emergency vehicles from getting to where they can do the most good.

2017 ROAD WORK

The Town of Lanark contracted with American Asphalt to pave Clinton Road between Spring Creek road and County Road Q, a project that included grinding up the old road, adding 6" of new road base, paving with 2.5" minimum thickness hot mix asphalt, and adding shoulder material. The cost of this project was \$112,521.84.

In addition, the Town contracted with Scott Construction to chip seal the entire length of Otto Road, with cracks routed and filled by Crack Filling Service. The cost for Otto Road's work was \$28,766.

The Town also contracted with Scott Construction to chip seal portions of Buelow Road between County Roads D and TT, concentrating on areas where the surface was most severely eroded by traffic and weather to strengthen and stabilize those areas prior to chip sealing the entire 9300' length of Buelow Road between TT and D in 2018. The cost for this year's work on Buelow Road was \$10,926.

Up until recently, we aimed at paving a road every 30 years. That application of asphalt was durable enough to last 10-12 years before chip sealing was needed to lengthen the road's life span. Roads could be chip sealed several times to get the road surface to its 30th birthday, when it would be time to repeat the cycle. Today's asphalt, however, is more prone to damage by the elements and it needs to be chip sealed a mere 3-5 years after being installed. To complicate matters, asphalt prices rose 131%* between 2005 and 2013! We're paying more – and getting less. Lower petroleum prices in recent years makes for better consumer prices for fuels, but asphalt prices have not dropped in proportion to gasoline.

* "Filling Potholes – A New Look at Funding Local Transportation in Wisconsin" (page 15). A report compiled by the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance for the Local Government Institute. <http://www.localgovinstitute.org/library/id/131>