

Lanark News

Volume 12, Issue 2

April 2009

G o v e r n m e n t b y a n d f o r t h e P e o p l e

New Refuse Hauler Will Service Lanark

By Meleesa Johnson, Administrator, Portage County Solid Waste Department

It has been no secret that the Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) has been working to find a new provider of curbside collection services for waste and recycling. The SWMB began this work in September 2008 when they became aware of the financial difficulties facing contract provider Wittenberg Disposal.

At first the search was for a “contingency” provider that would step in within a few days notice should Wittenberg’s money woes serve to interrupt or cease curbside services. Even though Wittenberg Disposal continued to provide service throughout their difficulties, the SWMB felt that several key issues still had the potential to threaten consistent, reliable curbside service to Portage County residents.

Of greatest concern to the SWMB was the condition of the trucks used to service the Portage County contract. Most of the trucks used in Portage County showed significant signs of age and damage. Given that the average cost of a new collection truck is around \$200,000 and the repairs to or replacement of major parts (engines, transmissions, hydraulic systems) would be costly, Wittenberg Disposal may not be able to easily manage, the SWMB finally opted to seek bids from a new pool of haulers with greater financial stability.

A request for bids was released on March 24, 2009, with sealed bids opened on April 10th. Four companies qualified to bid on the project (had the financial standing and

attending a pre-bid meeting). However, only two companies opted to submit a bid for curbside collection of waste and recycling.

In the end Veolia ES Solid Waste Midwest (Wisconsin Rapids) was the lowest, most qualified bidder and the SWMB awarded the contract to them at an April 13th meeting. Veolia is slated to begin collection service to Portage County during the week of May 18th.

In the Town of Lanark, Wittenberg Disposal will collect for the last time on May 15th. Carts owned by Wittenberg Disposal will be collected on or shortly after that date. New carts from Veolia will be delivered as they arrive. However, the order for new carts may not arrive by the start date. So, the Solid Waste Department asks that residents of Lanark watch for updates on the department’s (<http://www.co.portage.wi.us/mrfb/index.htm>) and the town’s (<http://www.townoflanark.org>) websites, as well as for announcements in local newspapers.

Residents with questions or concerns are welcome to call the Solid Waste Department at 715-345-5969.

During the transition period between haulers, the Town of Lanark asks for your patience while route drivers learn new routes and carts are placed as soon as possible. If you do not have a cart before a scheduled pickup day, please put your garbage by the road either in a container you already have or just bagged.

Roadside Cleanup & Potluck Picnic Saturday, May 2

Roadside cleanup and the accompanying potluck picnic is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2009.

Please e-mail townoflanark@waupacaonline.net or call 256-9801 to volunteer and/or to be a coordinator. Coordinators are still needed for the southern and central areas of the town.

Bags of garbage picked along county roads should be left on those roadsides. Bags of garbage picked up along town roads should be brought to the Town Garage and placed behind the northwest corner of the garage. Please

bag recyclables separately.

Safety guidelines, bags, and safety vests will be available from your coordinator and also at the Town Hall. The Town of Lanark does not assume any responsibility for volunteers involved with this event.

Cleanup does not necessarily have to be done on that day, but we will meet for a potluck picnic at the Town Hall at 12:00 p.m. on May 2. Please bring a dish to pass; soft drinks will be provided.

Summer Road Projects

This year the Town Board has decided to repair Morgan Road and Durant Road. Both roads will be wedged and parts overlaid with asphalt. At this time we do not have a specific start date, but work is scheduled to begin after school lets out for the summer and be finished by August 21. Plan now for alternate routes.



Town Board Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Federal Broadband Grants

Excerpted from the Wisconsin Towns Association monthly publication

Article by Richard J. Stadelman

Being able to connect to the internet at a high speed is a key benefit that many places in rural Wisconsin are lacking due to inadequate infrastructure to provide high speed connections. Federal funds are available in Wisconsin to improve the access in rural areas of the state. However, part of the problem that exists is knowing where gaps in the current infrastructure limits high speed connectivity. Here is information from the PSC website seeking information on a survey to assist the PSC in awarding federal funds to improve broadband access. The survey can be filled out on-line, but of course if you don't have any connection you will need to contact Gary Evensen at the Public Service Commission (PSC) at (608) 266-6744. If you only have on-line dial up connection without "DSL" service you should advise the PSC in this survey. The hope is that the PSC can award funds to areas of the state that will expand the higher speed connections to more rural people.

Here is the information from the PSC website:

The purpose of the PSCW's Broadband Customer Survey is part of a larger effort to deploy broadband in Wisconsin and ultimately throughout the entire nation. The federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides for grants to map and deploy broadband, especially to unserved and underserved areas. By completing this survey, you can help identify where the need for broadband exists, and in so doing, help yourself get adequate broadband sooner. If you need to respond for more than one residence or business location, or have more than one type of broadband service at a single location, please repeat the survey.

For more information about broadband efforts in Wisconsin, contact Gary Evensen at the PSC at (608) 266-6744 or via email at Gary.Evenson@psc.state.wi.us.

Notable News

- Please note that any and all land combinations and splits within the Town of Lanark must be reviewed by the Plan Commission and approved by the Town Board. Contact the Clerk to be placed on the agenda.
- Old tile fire numbers within the Town will be replaced with reflective flag-style signs on State Highway 54 and South beginning this spring. **Do not move them once placed or obstruct them in any way.**
- April 7, 2009 Local Election Results: There were no contested races and all municipal incumbents were reelected.
- Spring is here: remember it is state law to keep your dog on your property and under your control.

**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**

