



Johnson Road Hayfield Ringle

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## Road Salt Shortage

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning & Zoning

Last winter the supply of road salt was diminished due to the long, snow covered season. Communities throughout Wisconsin exhausted their salt supplies before the snow stopped falling. And shortages from last winter are affecting the supply and price of road salt for the upcoming winter.

Those communities that bought salt through the State bid were somewhat limited in the quantity they were able to purchase and realized an increased cost. Some communities that did not bid with the state are having difficulty finding a supplier able

to fill the orders due to the shortage from last season. And all are offered the salt at drastically increased prices. Along with increased salt prices, the cost of blades for snowplows has dramatically increased, and fuel costs have increased. The combination of these price hikes may lead to less salt on Wisconsin roads and additional stress to already stretched municipal and County budgets.

To deal with the shortages and increased cost, some communities are altering their road salting plans for the upcoming winter.

Steps some Wisconsin communities are taking:

- Not salting until the storm is over
- Mixing salt with sand to extend quantities
- Only salting intersections, hills, curves and bridges
- Supplementing road salt with a de-icing product (beet juice)

Whatever steps your community uses, be sure to notify your residents that roads in Marathon County may not be salted as much this year as they have been in the past.

Please encourage your residents to slow down this winter.

## Home Heating Assistance Programs

Mary Kluz, UW-Ext and Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning & Zoning



The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) is a one-time payment per heating season. Crisis assistance is available in a heating emergency (no heat, disconnect notice, etc).

**Energy Services, Inc**  
(715) 842-3111

Wisconsin Weatherization Program (WAP) provides weatherization services to reduce heating costs. Services may include insulating, furnace repair, and safety inspections.

**North Central CAP**  
(715) 424-2581

The Targeted Home Performance program offers energy efficiency improvements at minimal cost.

All programs have income eligibility thresholds.

**Targeted Home Performance**  
800-762-7077

### Special points of interest:

- Emerald Ash Borer in Wisconsin. Report infestations to (800) 462-2803
- Tower regulations in Marathon County
- Revisions to Administrative Rule 60.12 relating to building inspection and erosion control
- Comments? Questions? Suggestions? Guest contributors? Article reproduction? Call (715) 261-6042 or email [diane.wessel@mail.co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:diane.wessel@mail.co.marathon.wi.us)

# Avoid Mold This Winter

Dale Grosskurth, Health

Lowering thermostats to combat rising home heating costs can increase mold growth. Exterior surfaces like windows and walls fail to warm as indoor temperatures decrease. Colder surfaces cause moisture in the air to condense even if the home relative humidity is not high.

Mold spores are common indoors and need moisture to grow. In the absence of a leaking pipe or roof, the first step to address mold is to determine the home's relative humidity using a hygrometer (\$5-10 at hardware stores).

For levels over 50% relative humidity, identify and reduce moisture sources such as many plants, uncovered aquariums, cooking involving boiling of water, long showers, or humidifiers.

At normal humidity (30-50%), simple steps limiting mold growth include plastic wrap on windows which add another barrier to the cold glass; operating a fan to circulate room air to dry and warm exterior surfaces; and regularly wiping off surface moisture.

If mold is found, use a mild detergent to clean the surface. Repeat cleaning as long as the moisture source remains.

Surface Cleaner

¼ to ½ cup bleach

1 gallon water

Test surface before cleaning!

Questions?

On the Internet:

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/mold/index.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/mold/index.htm)

By Phone:

Health Department: (715) 261-1900

# Rib Falls County Park Moves Forward

Peter Knotek, Parks, Recreation & Forestry

In the fall of 1982 two County departments, the Parks, Recreation & Forestry (PRF) Department and the Highway Department joined forces to acquire 296 acres along the Rib River in the Town of Rib Falls from the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation.



The County's intent was twofold:

- Provide a sand and gravel source for the Highway Department
- Provide a future recreational site operated by the PRF Department

In 2004 the PRF Department took over management of the land to further the goal of park development.

Sand and gravel continues to be excavated with all proceeds going to development of Rib Falls Park. With an anticipated completion in 2012, the park will include a 40 acre lake with a swimming beach and fish habitat, picnic areas, hiking trails and open play areas. A public meeting will be held to solicit input on the parks design.

# Emerald Ash Borer Found in Wisconsin

Tom Lovlien, Parks, Recreation & Forestry

Emerald Ash Borer, the destructive green metallic beetle that has killed tens of millions of Ash trees since 2002 has been discovered in Ozaukee and Washington counties.

The borer attacks all species of Ash trees. The larval stage of EAB feeds under the bark of trees cutting off the flow of water and nutrients. Infested trees gradually die over a 2-4 year period.

Without help, EAB only moves several hundred yards by flying from where they emerge. EAB is most commonly spread long distances through the movement of infested firewood, nursery stock or ash logs.

Emerald Ash Borer  
DNR Photo  
Renee Pinski



What can you do to help prevent the spread?

- Don't transport firewood.
- Report suspect EAB infestations to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection at (800) 462-2803.
- Learn more at [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

# Tower Regulations In Marathon County

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning & Zoning

Regulations for towers in Marathon County vary, depending on the zoning status of the community. In communities with no zoning there are no known regulations on towers. Independently zoned communities may or may not have regulations on towers. In communities that are county-zoned, towers are regulated as "Special Exceptions".

For information on regulations in independently zoned communities, contact the Town Board or Village/City Council.

The remaining sections apply only to county zoned communities.

Communication towers are allowed in all zoning districts except the shoreland-wetland district.

Approval of a special exception permit for towers by the Board of Adjustment at a public hearing considers the following conditions:

- location of similar towers
- co-location possibility
- visual impacts
- number of users
- potential interference problems
- public safety telecommunications

There are setback requirements from property lines, highway and railroad, and residential areas. Illumination and abandonment are also regulated. Airport height restrictions may apply, depending on location.

Commercial wind towers are also regulated through restrictions on distance from residential zoning districts and property boundary setbacks. Wind towers are not allowed in floodplains or wetlands.

For more information on tower regulations in County zoned towns, refer to section 17.48 of the Marathon County Zoning Code. (Available on the Marathon County website: [www.co.marathon.wi.us](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us))



# Polling Place Accessibility—Everyone's Responsibility

Mary Kluz, UW-Extension

As we approach the November 4 elections, it is important to assure that polling places are accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities. Polling locations may present many barriers to voters, including parking accessibility and moving from the parking area to the voting area, and the ease of use for the sight or hearing impaired.

All local officials are responsible for assuring that the full voting public has access to polling places.

More information about accessibility rules and laws are available from Nan Kottke, County Clerk.

Additional information can be found at <http://elections.state.wi.us/>

The Government Accountability Board plans to continue random accessibility checks of polling places to ensure that there are no barriers to the voting public.



# Legislative Spotlight—Administrative Rule 60.12 Clean Water Act

Ed Hammer, Conservation, Planning and Zoning

The Department of Commerce (DOC) is developing rules for stormwater and erosion control for all commercial building projects under 60.12 in response to the Clean Water Act. These rules revisions will require that DOC "agents" address stormwater and erosion control in the building inspection process.

The revisions should be complete in 2009. Rule changes could require additional training for inspection staff or contracting with private firms to achieve compliance.

These rule changes are another unfunded mandate passed down from the state. While we support clean water, it cannot be achieved on the backs of municipalities.

The advisory council monitoring the proposed changes include representatives from:

- Wisconsin Counties Association
- League of Municipalities
- Wisconsin Towns Association

Contact your municipal representative to voice your opinion about Administrative Rule 60.12 revisions.

# Community Connections

Marathon CPZ  
210 River Drive  
Wausau, WI 54403-5449

Nonprofit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #186  
Wausau, WI

## A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER BY THE MARATHON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND ITS DEPARTMENTS

Conservation, Planning & Zoning: 261-6040  
Health: 261-1900  
Highway: 261-1800  
Parks, Recreation & Forestry: 261-1550  
Solid Waste: 446-3399  
UW-Extension: 261-1230

The Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee provides guidance on policies and strategies that balance, protect and enhance environmental and community resources through cooperation with all levels of government.

We're on the Web!  
[www.co.marathon.wi.us](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us)



Hemlock branch  
UWSP—CNR

## Did You Know?????

Leather Camp, located in Guenther and Kronenwetter was originally owned by the United States Leather Company. The company harvested hemlock and extracted tannins for use in the company's leather goods. There was a camp located in the forest, hence the name "Leather Camp".

## Neighborhood Connections Town-Wide Waste Hauling in Easton

Anne Heggelund, Easton resident

In the past, residents from the Town of Easton were responsible for contracting individually with a waste hauler for curb-side garbage pick-up. Only one hauler would provide service to Town residents, so there was no competitive pricing.

Quarterly bills ran over \$150 with driveway pickup. Some town residents compared their garbage collection fees with residents from nearby communities with town-wide contracts and felt they were overpaying. To address residents' concerns, the Town of Easton requested bids from waste haulers for town-wide garbage collection service.

Waste haulers providing community-wide contracts receive discounted tipping fees at the Ringle Landfill. The reduced tipping fee in conjunction with a volume discount allows waste haulers to offer more competitive pricing than when offered on an individual resident basis. Veolia and Rite-Size Rolloff provided competitive bids to the Town of Easton. The Easton Town Board held two public meetings to discuss entering into a town-wide contract. The majority of residents present were in favor of town-wide waste hauling service. The Town Board then voted in favor of entering into the contract, and chose Rite-Size Rolloff with a contract fee of \$11 per residence per month, and an annual driveway pickup fee of \$60 per year.

The new town-wide contract is 1/3 the cost of the old individual contracts. I am saving over \$400 a year with the new contract!

Easton residents pay for our waste hauling annually through a special charge on our tax bill. The Town wide curb-side garbage pick-up began in August 2008. While I can't speak for all the residents of the Town, I am certainly enjoying my reduced garbage collection fees without sacrificing the service I expect!

