

# TOWN OF OREGON NEWSLETTER

## November 2004

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## **Town Board Report**

The Town Board would like to remind residents that all vehicles must be off of the road right of way, cul-de-sacs and dead-end roads in order to facilitate snow plowing. The plow trucks need to be able to turn around and to pile the snow. The Town Board is very conscious of safety but also needs to watch the budget, and as before, we will be mixing sand with the road salt to spread on slippery roads. Please, slow down and respect the snowplows while they are doing their job.

There will be some speed limits changed on some of our town roads as well as weight limits. Please watch for these changes.

The Town of Oregon recycling center has a compost pile so you may add leaves and grass clippings to that pile. Also, you may get compost from there and the attendant will show you which pile to take from. There is no charge for compost, but bring your own container. Fees for tires on rims have been increased so that it will be \$20.00 extra, per tire, on the rim. This was increased by Town Board Action. Trimming trees is also a part of the fall process. We need to trim trees back so trucks and large vehicles do not hit the branches.

The Town is purchasing a new mower for the roadsides for next year.

A new truck is also in the planning for next year.

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**Oregon's Website**

The town of Oregon's web site is a great success. Thank you for your input and encouragement. There were over 200,000 hits since our beginning.

We will continue to improve and upgrade this site to inform our residents about the town's business and to inform the public about our unique community.

Our next step is to add the newsletters to our site. In November of 2004 you will be able to see the first newsletter. In the future, if you would like to cut down on paper at home and help decrease the town's budget for postage and printing, simply call the town hall, 835-3200, and request that your name be removed from the newsletter mailing list.

You are encouraged to make comments regarding text, graphics, information and ease of use as well as becoming involved in posting information. If you have comments or information, which would interest our community, please contact Linda Jackson at 835-6700 or [jax@chorus.net](mailto:jax@chorus.net).

The web address for the town of Oregon is [www.town.oregon.wi.us](http://www.town.oregon.wi.us) .

-Linda Jackson  
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## A Word from County Supervisor Jensen

After being elected to the County Board, I have been appointed to a number of committees that will give me a great opportunity to work for the people of the 31st district. I was appointed to Zoning and Land Regulation, UW-Extension, and Land Conservation, by Board Chairman Kesterson; and Lakes and Watershed Commission, Agriculture Advisory Commission, and Community Action Coalition by County Executive Falk.

**Budget:** County Executive Falk proposed a budget that holds property tax increases to 3.5%. Most county departments were able to meet the target set by the Executive. I heard from many of you and worked with Supervisor Brown, chair of Personnel and Finance, to restore cuts that were made in supportive services to young adults with developmental disabilities, and added \$175,000 to the Library Service budget. I do not expect prolonged budget deliberations by the County Board this year, so your property tax bills should be arrive on time.

**Land Use:** I and 13 other leaders in land use were appointed to a committee to develop a framework for a countywide transfer of development rights (TDR) program. We met weekly throughout the summer and have completed the portion of the program that creates zoning districts for sending areas of development rights to receiving areas of development rights. Before a TDR program can be fully implemented in the county, more work needs to be done.

**The Environment:** Our Land Conservation Committee has been working with a dairy farmer in the Black Earth Creek watershed to limit barnyard runoff. We approved over \$80,000 of matching grants to build a roof over the barnyard and direct storm water runoff away from the

Black Earth Creek. We have completed work on a stream restoration project along the West Branch of the Sugar River. Because of this restoration, a 12 mile stretch of the river will be removed from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of degraded waters.

Due to my background in agriculture, I have been asked by the Environment, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee to serve on a subcommittee to update an ordinance that regulates manure storage facilities, and to develop an ordinance and guidelines for the placement of large livestock facilities.

-Jerry Jensen  
Dane County Supervisor  
Town of Oregon Chairperson  
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## **Town Park Update**

The Town of Oregon received a \$51,268 grant in matching funds to complete "Phase Two" for the development of the Town Park in April of 2004. This "Phase Two Grant" will allow for asphalt surfacing of the new road, which is now being completed. The Park Committee will be overseeing the further development of "Phase Two", which includes; signs, parking barriers, line markings, safety fencing and nature trails. The main trail, which traverses a portion of the woods, has been paved to allow for wheel chair access. The completion of "Phase Two" is scheduled for 2006.

A portion of the nature trail has also recently been completed and is being submitted as an Eagle Project. The remaining trails to be developed will commence in the spring of 2005 and will hopefully be accomplished also as an Eagle Project. The nature trails are being developed for non-motorized traffic and are intended primarily for hiking and cross-country skiing. Barriers will be put in place at the trail entrances to prevent the misuse of the trail system.

Picnic tables are being ordered and will be placed in the Town Park in the spring of 2005, and there will be a resurfacing of the playground area with a new fiber mat. The Town Park has two entrances, one for motorized traffic located off of Glenway Road, which leads to the parking lot and the second being a foot entrance located at the end of Sheil Road.

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## **Clerk's Corner**

The Clerk's office has been very busy with the absentee ballots for the November Presidential Election. By the time you read this newsletter, the election will be history. I hope everyone took their responsibility seriously and voted.

The Town's budget has been put together by your elected officials and is included in this newsletter. The Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 10th at 7 p.m. at the Oregon Town Hall.

At the April 2004 Annual Meeting, the electorate voted to change the position of clerk from elected to appointed. The change will be effective at the end of my term in April 2005. I am planning to retire at that time, but will be available on a part time basis. The Town Board will be making the appointment after advertising.

**Office hours:** Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Closed on Friday, unless an appointment is scheduled with the Clerk, in advance.

**Town of Oregon Recycling Center (TORC) hours:** Saturday from 7:30 to 4:30 p.m. year round. From May 1st to October 1st, we have the TORC site open on Wednesdays, from 2 to 6 p.m. Hours and times are also printed on the punch card. Vehicle I.D. stickers are sold at the clerk's office for \$1, and we have recycling brochures available.

Once you are registered to use the facility, you may purchase additional punch cards (\$30) at the TORC or at the clerk's office. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask one of the attendants on duty.

**Building Inspectors Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or you may phone Bill Glenn at 698-7495 (cell) to schedule a different time if needed. Inspections need to be called in directly to Bill.

-Ruth Klahn, Clerk  
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## Assessment Changes

There isn't much to report, at this time, on changes in the assessment practices. One change that is in the works right now will affect about twenty percent of the forest land in our Town.

Qualifying forest land will be reduced in assessed value by fifty percent. Last year all swamp and waste land was reduced by fifty percent. Last year the legislature's intent was to reduce forest land that was owned by a farmer but the governor exercised his line veto and very little forest land received the reduction. This year some of that will change.

The rest of our agriculture land will probably be unchanged. The Farm Land Advisory Council has not met yet, this year, but I would not expect them to make any changes in the use value of agriculture land this year. It will probably be frozen at last years values.

We are trying to get quotes for updating our assessing software. This would be a good time to raise our assessment ratio at the same time. Doing this should not be a reason for increasing

anyone's taxes. If the assessment ratio increases then the millrate will drop proportionately and if everything stayed the same, no one's taxes would increase

-Andrew Blomstrom, Assessor

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## **Rhonda's "Treasure Tidbits"**

Soon it will be that time again. Family gatherings, snow falling and tax paying....

It looks as if the County Board will have their budget settled in mid-November and I'll be able to get the tax bills sent out shortly thereafter.

You'll have two payment options.

- 1) To pay by 12/31/04 to claim on your 2004 Income Taxes.
- 2) To pay by 1/31/05 to claim on your 2005 Income Taxes. As always, make sure they are postmarked by the above dates to insure proper posting.

Please remember, if you request a receipt you'll need to return your entire tax bill, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your payment. I will then return your portion with the payment noted on your copy and this will be your receipt.

**Dog license** applications will also be included with your tax bill. A separate check will be needed to purchase your dog license. Keep in mind, it may take longer to receive your dog tag because my first priority is processing the tax payments.

If you'd like to stop by and pay in person, I will be collecting taxes on the following Saturdays at the Town Hall.

December 18, 2004 10 am - 2 pm

January 29, 2005 10 am - 2 pm

I will be sending this same information along with your tax bills as a reminder.

The best to you and yours this upcoming holiday season!

Your Town Treasurer,  
Rhonda LaFlash

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## **Charter Communications**

*The following is an update of Charter Communications' current activity in the Oregon area.*

We are nearing completion of plans for construction and placement of facilities and equipment in the Town of Oregon that will allow Charter Communications to deliver new advanced video and telephone services in the Town. The upgraded facilities will deliver our popular of video-on-demand service whereby customers can order movies and events at their convenience rather than based on scheduled times. In addition, customers will have the ability to pause, rewind and fast forward the programming and have access to the programming for an extended period of time to allow for multiple viewings within the allotted time. The time frame may be up to 48 hours for most movies, but varies among types and genres of programming. Our goal is to launch video-on-demand in the Town in the near future, but we certainly anticipate that it will be available by the end of this year.

Another benefit of the facility upgrade is that telephone can be extended into the Town. Telephone service was launched in the Village of Oregon last month and is a popular product for Charter Communications customers. Discounted packages including video, high-speed internet access and telephone service offer convenience and substantial savings opportunities for consumers. We anticipate that telephone service will become available in the Town in 2005.

The design phase for a network extension to service the Tipperary Road area is near completion. Construction will begin in 2005. Also under consideration is an extension from the Rome Corners/County A area down to Tony Lane and Bramble Court. That project is being assessed internally and is pending internal approval. We will keep you updated on the status as it evolves.

-Tim Vowell  
Vice President of Government Relations Charter Communications  
(608) 288-6823  
(608) 274-1436 fax  
[tvowell@chartercom.com](mailto:tvowell@chartercom.com)  
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## **The Constable Report**

This year has been very active, with 4510 patrol miles and 236 patrol hours logged through September. 34 written reports have been done, along with numerous phone calls for questions involving town ordinances. In addition 137 parks checks have been conducted. Approximately 20 background checks for liquor licenses were conducted. Numerous town board and committee meetings were attended.

Many questions and complaints received involved dogs running at large. "Yes", the town has an ordinance pertaining to dogs running at large. All dogs must be under direct control of its owner when outside or restrained by leash, chain or in a dog kennel. In addition to dogs running at large, a large amount of dog barking complaints have been received. Again, the town has an ordinance for barking dogs. When you hear your dog barking, please, take actions to correct the problem. Be courteous to your neighbor.

Recently there has been two weekends of mailbox vandalism. The only information of a suspect vehicle in as full size truck with loud exhaust. Anyone with more information may contact the Dane County Sheriff or myself.

With fall here, so is harvest and deer movement time. Watch out for large farm machinery and deer when driving.

-Garry Wackett  
Constable  
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## **Brooklyn Fire & EMS**

The annual Brooklyn Fire & EMS district meeting was held Oct. 13, 2004. Budgets were presented and reviewed. The 2005 fire budget increased \$7,600 from 2004. There was no big increase on any one item, just across the board general increases. The Town of Oregon share of this budget is \$15,258, an increase of \$28 from 2004.

The board spent very little time discussing the building project of the new fire station. At the September meeting the board asked the Village of Brooklyn and the Town of Brooklyn to inform the Fire District Board on their space need, if they were thinking of a joint building project. Neither of the boards has responded with an answer at this time.

The Town of Brooklyn representative made a motion that the fire district start to charge for fire calls. The motion was seconded. We will start to look at different methods and ideas on this issue.

A new grass fire truck was purchased in 2004. The old 1973 pickup was sold for \$8000. This money and a budget item will be put together to purchase a newer van-type truck for carrying personnel. The old 1981 van is going to be replaced.

The 2005 Fire budget for the fire district is \$157,687.68. The Town's share is 11% or \$15,258.42.

The 2005 EMS budget for the district is \$66,761.17. The Town's share is \$4,082.00.

The Brooklyn Fire & EMS district serves a population of 314 people in the Town of Oregon.

Thanks for your support.

-Mark O'Brien, President  
Fire District Board  
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## **From the Planning Commission**

Again 2004 was an extremely busy time for the Planning Commission. We have worked on updating many existing land use plans, creating long overdue Site Plan Ordinance which will help in business and commercial planning for the Town of Oregon.

Also we are continuing to pursue and complete our Smart Growth Plan. In the year 2005 we will complete this program. On an average we have had three public hearings each month so you can see there are and have been a lot of changes in the Town of Oregon.

One of the greatest accomplishments we have achieved this year is creating a great Planning Commission team. Team members include Ellen Smith, Lloyd Klahn, Andy Blomstrom, Dave Hageman, Brian Duffin and Doug Steinberg . We have all been together for over 1 year. As a team we continue to work on hard decisions and problems we are faced with and continue to look out for the best interest of the people in the Town of Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Darryl Weber, Chairman  
Plan Commission for Town of Oregon  
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## **Oregon Fire & EMS**

There have been some unfortunate fires in the area. Everyone can help the fire & ems districts by communicating with your fire district if you have an unusually long driveway or a driveway that the trucks cannot get in and turn around in. Please call your fire district if any of the above mentioned situations apply to your property, so that they can have someone come out and look at your drive access and have a pre-plan record on file.

The phone numbers are to help you contact your correct department.

Brooklyn Fire & EMS: 455-3812

Belleville Fire & EMS: 424-3814

Oregon Fire & EMS: 835-5587

-Rick Anderson, Supervisor  
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-Ruth Klahn, Clerk