

## SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR VOTERS IN THE MILITARY:

Mitchell residents in the military, including members of activated / mobilized reserve or national guard units, can still cast their vote in the Town of Mitchell.

To do so, the person who is in the military or activated unit, needs to request to be placed on the absentee ballot list for military personnel. Once on this list, and as long as the person is in the military or an activated unit, I will mail or fax an absentee ballot to them for all elections held in the Town.

To find out more about voting by military absentee ballot, or to request one, please call me at 528-7776 or by mail at Town Clerk, W8095 Parnell Road, Cascade, WI 53011.

Signed: Barbara Crosser, Clerk

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## YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

With this newsletter, you have received your property tax bills for 2004.

Based on the information the Town has right now (mid-November), the total tax levy rate in the Town will increase by about 5% this year, or about \$1 per thousand dollars of assessed value. So unless the assessed value of your property has gone down this year (you would have received notice of the change in April or May), your tax bill will have increased.

Please, do not blame the Town. The Town has actually decreased the amount of taxes it levies and its tax rate. In fact, the tax rate for the Town has decreased by 2% or 3 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value (from 1.78 last year to 1.75 this year).

Nearly all of the increase in property taxes in the Town is due to increases in the levies for schools and the county. The

increase for the three school districts in the Town averages 49 cent per thousand dollars of assessed value and the increase for the county is 42 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, for a total increase of 91 cents (state forestry and technical college levies make up the rest of the increase, but remember the Town's levy rate went down 3 cents).

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## TOWN PICNIC & HOMECOMING

The Town Board is hopeful that the Town's Family Picnic and Homecoming will be held during 2004. The Board's newest member, Bill Puetz, has agreed to be the chairman for this year's event.

If you are interested in helping to plan or run this activity, please call Bill Puetz at 528-8614.

As in past years, the Picnic and Homecoming will be held at the Town Park.

AND

stay turned for  
an announcement of the day and time

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## BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED

The Town requires building permits for all new construction, all additions to buildings, and most alterations to and remodeling of existing buildings. For new residences, the Town requires obtaining an occupancy permit before the residence is moved into. The Town also requires permits to move a building or structure and to raze or tear down a building or structure.

On permits for new residences and additions to existing residences, the work being done must be inspected by the Town

Building Inspector as it is done. Some alterations and remodeling jobs of residences also require inspection.

You obtain building permits from the Town Building Inspector (Pete Scheuerman 526-2200) who also does the inspection.

## ELECTIONS

### DATES:

2004 will be an important election year. There will be both Spring and Fall elections. In the Spring (primary on February 17<sup>th</sup>; election on April 6<sup>th</sup>) we elect the county board, school board members, and judges. In the Fall (primary on September 7<sup>th</sup>; election on November 2<sup>nd</sup>) we elect federal, state, and county partisan officers, including the president.

### NEW THIS YEAR:

The Spring primary election, February 17<sup>th</sup>, will also be a partisan presidential preference primary. And since it is relatively early in the presidential primary season, it is highly probable that, at least for the Democratic Party, Wisconsin's vote may actually be important in deciding who is nominated.

### VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT:

If you are unable to make it to the polls during the voting hours (9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.), you can vote by absentee ballot either in person in my office or by mail. In fact, in Wisconsin, we are even allowed to send you a ballot by fax.

To find out more, or to request an absentee ballot, please contact Barbara Crosser, Town Clerk, at 528-7776 or at W8095 Parnell Road, Cascade, WI 53011.

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## SMART GROWTH NEWS

The Plan Commission is making progress in preparing the Town's smart growth plan and has also been meeting with the Town of Lyndon smart growth planning committee. The Commission has completed the survey and held the first open house

The Town Clerk can also provide you with an application for a permit and can mail completed applications to the Inspector for you.

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meeting this Fall.

From the survey and their discussions, it is likely they will recommend to the Town Board that the areas of the Town east and west of the State Forest remain primarily in agricultural use with some scattered residential uses within those areas and with residential use also to the east especially along and just outside of the State Forest. It does not appear they will recommend any extensive commercial or industrial development in the Town.

In light of the progress being made by the Commission, in November, the Town Board expanded its land use moratorium resolution. **The resolution now requires any new development or use in the Town to come before the Commission and Board for review and possible approval before it begins.**

If you have any questions, please call Chip Beckford at 528-8692.

You are invited to attend the Plan Commissions meetings. They meet at the Town Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Their next meeting will be on January 22, 2004 at 4:30 p.m.

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## WINTER SAND AVAILABLE

The Town Board realizes there are times when sidewalks get very icy and a small amount of sand is needed by residents. To meet this need the Board, again this winter, has arranged to have a supply of sand available at the old town dump for residents' use. The old dump is on the north side of Parnell Road just east of the Town Park, about a quarter mile east of the intersection of Parnell Road with County Roads A & V.

**PLEASE**, use only pails and shovels to load and remove the sand from the pile. Remember, if your sidewalk is icy, other residents' sidewalks are too.

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## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Time for you to license **all dogs that you own or that you keep** in the Town (whether you own **FIREWORKS PERMITS**

To legally shoot off fire works in the Town, **you need to first get a permit** from the Town Chairperson. And you need to apply for the permit before you expect to shoot them off.

By state law, the Town must notify the County Sheriff and local Fire Department at least 2 days prior to the event and must require you to have insurance. Also, by law, the Town can only issue permits to groups, it cannot and will not issue permits to individuals.

For more information, contact Chip Beckford at 528-8692.

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## IF YOU WANT A RECEIPT . . . A NOTE TO THOSE PAYING TAXES BY MAIL

For the past few years, both the Mitchell Treasurer and County Treasurer's office have mailed tax payment receipts to all taxpayers, whether the taxpayer requested one or not. In an effort to save taxpayers money, both the County Treasurer's office and Mitchell's Treasurer will no longer automatically mail these receipts to all taxpayers. **If you wish a receipt, you need to send a stamped self-addressed envelope along with your tax payment.**

If you have any questions about the County's procedure, please call Laura Henning-Lorenz, County Treasurer at 920-459-3015. If you have any questions about the Town's procedure, please call Rosemary Muga, Town Treasurer at 920-528-8494.

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## FOOD AND TOY REQUEST

From: Cascade First Responders

them or not).

If you have any questions about licensing dogs, call Rosemary Muga, Town Treasurer at 528-8494.

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Going on right now, the Cascade First Responders are sponsoring toy and food drives. Any new toy, to be used as a Christmas gift for a boy or girl who might not otherwise have one, would be greatly appreciated. We are also looking for any non-perishable food items that will go to families who are having a tough time this winter.

There are food / toy barrels located at Parnell School, Cascade School, Corner Pin Lanes, Marshall's Gas 'n' Goods, National Exchange Bank, R-Place Restaurant, and local churches. These barrels will be out though December 12<sup>th</sup>.

For further information, either on donating items or on receiving help for your family, contact Kelly Fischer 528-7326.

Let's all help to make this a Christmas for everyone.

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<b>WANTED</b>
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<p><b>HANDY-MAN OR -WOMAN</b> to do maintenance and repair work at the Town Hall. This is a part time, as-needed position. Hours will vary greatly as will the work done. Exact duties and time worked depend on qualifications and are open to discussion.</p>
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<p>Some examples of the types of work expected are: Hall set-up for elections and meetings, Minor repairs to the Hall and its furniture, Snow shoveling, and Yard work.</p>
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<p>If you are interested, please call Barbara Crosser, Clerk at 528-7776 for more information. Or, by January 6, 2004 submit your name, address, telephone number, qualifications, and pay scale to Mitchell Town Board, c/o Town Clerk, W8095 Parnell Road, Cascade, WI 53011.</p>
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**HOUSE NUMBERS:**

JUST A REMINDER: Please make sure your house number (fire code number) is clearly visible both during the day and, especially, during the night. Numbers hidden by brush or trees or that are too small could delay fire, police, or first responders in answering your call.

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## PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION – AT MITCHELL TOWN HALL

Saturday	Dec. 13, 2003	9:00 a.m. - Noon
Saturday	Dec. 20, 2003	9:00 a.m. - Noon
Saturday	Dec. 27, 2003	9:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	Dec. 30, 2003	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Dec. 31, 2003	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	Jan. 17, 2004	9:00 a.m. - Noon
Saturday	Jan. 24, 2004	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Jan. 28, 2004	1:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	Jan. 29, 2004	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	Jan. 30, 2004	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	Jan. 31, 2004	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### IMPORTANT NOTES

ONLY checks or money orders will be accepted by mail or for payments at the Treasurer's home. **Stamped, self-addressed envelope required for receipt.**

Real Estate taxes may be paid semi-annually:

· **First half** due to TOWN OF MITCHELL, TREAS., on or before January 31, 2004 and

· **Balance** to COUNTY TREASURER on or before July 31, 2004

Real and Personal Property taxes may be paid in full on or before January 31, 2004.

### DOG TAX

ALL DOGS MUST BE LICENSED AND VACCINATED

**Landlords – Please inform your renters !**

At time of licensing, give breed, sex, name, and color of dog; and bring or send proof of rabies vaccination. Mail-ins are allowed, if records are provided BUT you must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of the license(s). Costs are as follows:

Unneutered male or Unspayed female . . . . . \$ 8.00      Neutered male or Spayed female . . . . . \$ 3.00  
Kennel license . . . . . \$35.00 for up to 12 dogs PLUS \$3.00 for each additional dog

**Late Fee** . . . . . \$5.00 per dog if licensed after April 1, 2004

## TOWN OFFICIALS

### ELECTED:

Chairman:	Chip Beckford	528-8692	Clerk:	Barbara Crosser	528-7776
Supervisors:	John Flunker	528-8374	Treasurer:	Rosemary Mugan	528-8494
	Bill Puetz	528-8614			

### APPOINTED:

Building Inspector: Pete Scheuerman 526-2200      Assessor: William Barbieur 892-2898  
Park Reservation: Mitchell Athletic Club President (To be elected, January 2004)

### OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

	County Board Supervisor, District 32: Dick Bemis	994-9026		Senator, 20 <sup>th</sup> District
Representative, 59 <sup>th</sup> District:				
Dan LeMahieu	(888) 534-0059		Mary E. Panzer	(800) 662-1227

**REMEMBER:** Second installments of property taxes, due July 31, 2004, are sent to the County Treasurer. First installments and full payments, due January 31, 2004, are sent to the Town Treasurer.