

THE WEST BEND TOWN IMAGE

Lake Country Sanctuary

The Official Newsletter Of The Town Of West Bend - *Your Home Town*

Winter 2000

In This Issue . . .

- ♦ Reassessment
- ♦ Town History
- ♦ Census
- ♦ Generator Installed
- ♦ Town Population
- ♦ More On Town Government

Calendar of Events

- ♦ Little Cedar Lake PRD -
First Monday of Every Month
- ♦ Town Board Meetings -
Second Wednesday of Every
Month
- ♦ Big Cedar Lake PRD -
Second Thursday of Every
Month April through October
& Every Other Month
November through March
- ♦ Silver Lake Sanitary District -
Third Monday of Every Month
- ♦ Silver Lake PRD -
Third Monday of Every Month
- ♦ Plan Commission Meeting -
Fourth Thursday of Every
Month
- ♦ Town of West Bend Annual
Meeting - Second Tuesday in
April
- ♦ Election For County
Supervisors & Judicial -
Tuesday, April 4, 2000

REASSESSMENT

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue regulates property values based on "fair market value". All sales are recorded by the department. Property values are to be at 100% of sales. When sales indicate a decline below 90%, after a grace period, municipalities are required to reassess.

The Town of West Bend is now at 79%. The Town has planned the past years for a "walk through" interior inspection of all properties. This has been undertaken by Grota Appraisals Inc. Inspections are to be completed by July of

2000 according to Town Assessor Michael Grota. He further stated that after inspections are completed notices will be mailed to all property owners detailing assessments of land and improvements.

"Open Book" (assessment rolls review) will be scheduled to allow property owners the opportunity to compare assessments. Mr. Grota will schedule meetings to answer any questions property owners may have.

Your year 2000 taxes will be based on reassessments.

UNITED STATES CENSUS 2000

The Bureau of the Census, the general-purpose statistical agency of the Federal Government was created as a permanent office in 1902. It collects, tabulates and publishes a wide variety of statistical data about the people and the economy of the nation.

A census will be conducted begin-

ning in January, 2000. Forms will be mailed to all residents and those not returning the forms will be contacted by a Bureau of the Census employee.

Temporary job openings are available. For information call: 1-888-325-7753. This is a toll free number.

TOWN HALL GENERATOR INSTALLED

In the event of electrical power interruption a 35KW 120/240 VAC single phase generator with natural gas powered 4.3L V-6 GMC engine will automatically transfer power to the Town Hall and garage.

Power Now! is a pre-packaged emergency standby generator system that is permanently installed. The generator is powered by natural gas to provide a back up source of electricity in the event of a power outage. In the electric utility power is interrupted, Power Now! starts up automatically via an automatic transfer switch. The transfer switch provides an efficient and unat-

tended transfer of all or part of the electrical load (as specified) to the generator.

Over head garage doors (motor



driven) will continue in operation, fuel can continue to be dispensed and power equipment used.

Should residents experience power outages to their homes emergency services at the Town Hall will be provided. Heat and water will continue in operation.

In the event of a heat wave, for those in discomfort, air conditioning will function.

As John Smith, Emergency Management Director stated, "A back up power source is like insurance coverage, hopefully never needed, but available for any unforeseen event".

Smaller units are available for resident use. For information contact Wisconsin Gas Company at 414-385-7000.

TOWN POPULATION

The preliminary estimate of the January 1, 1999 population of the Town of West Bend in Washington County is 4,730. This repre-

sents a change of 565 persons- (13.565 percent) since the 1990 Census. Wisconsin's total population is estimated at 5,274,307

which is a change of 382,528 persons and 7.820 percent.

	<u>1990 Census Count</u>	<u>1999 Preliminary Estimate</u>
1990 U.S. Census Count	4,165	4,730
Motor vehicles registered.....	2,128	2,663
Percent of vehicles in state058064
Income tax filers	2,385	2,626
Percent of filers in state074080
Filers plus dependents	3,373	3,668
Percent of filers plus dependents073078
Income tax returns	1,582	1,749
Percent of income tax returns in state072077
Institutional Population	401	403

Approximately 3,710 of the estimated population for the Town of West Bend are of voting age.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Grassroots Heritage: At a time when virtually all levels of government, from Washington to the local school board, have become remote and bureaucratic, it is comforting to note that 1.5 million Wisconsin residents (roughly a third of the state) still live in towns that thrive on citizen participation and direct democracy.

Towns Focus on Nuts-And-Bolts Services: Town residents have a local government that is focused on basic public services like road maintenance, fire protection, snow plowing, building permits and lots of other services that people depend on every day. They know that towns are a lot like the corner hardware

store—places where Americans can still go to find people who are reasonable and knowledgeable, but rarely pretentious.

Towns Remain Simple in an Age of Complexity: Historically, towns have been irreplaceable building blocks in the development of Wisconsin. Today, towns operate under Chapter 60 of the Wisconsin Statutes—the only municipal law chapter that has been updated and streamlined in decades. The town form of government basically consists of a town board, committees and town employees. Citizens get results because there's simply no place to hide in a town hall.

Towns are the Last Refuge of Direct Democracy: Long before national politicians started holding “town meetings” towns had been meeting for generations. We still hold real town meetings – the kind where town residents themselves help set the agenda and discuss issues as a community. The kind where every elector who has lived in the town for more than 10 days is welcome. The kind where taxpayers actually get to vote on their own property tax rate. We think that alone makes the town form of government worth saving.

SMALL TOWN GOVERNMENT ENDANGERED RISE OF SERVICES NECESSITATE INCREASE IN PROFESSIONAL WORKERS

A migration of people into the countryside threatens to make the small town form of government in Wisconsin a thing of the past, officials say.

Towns traditionally have been sparsely populated areas without the type of urban center found in a village or city.

But with the rural population growing about 120 of Wisconsin's towns have crossed the population mark of 2500, the line in state statutes that brings additional responsibilities and opens organizational options, said Richard Stadelman, Executive Director for the Shawano-based Wisconsin Towns Association that represents 1,265 town governments.

Town of Greenville Chairman Dean Culbertson said his town needs a professional to handle growing personnel matters and to represent the town during the day when he and other part

time elected officials are unavailable.

“Last year, I attended 163 meetings during the evenings and I probably missed 163 that happened during the day,” Culbertson said.

Greenville's population is 5,600 and by comparison there are villages of 2,000 or less that have larger staffs.

“In Greenville, we're becoming a very urbanized town and we're dealing with some of the same issues that cities and villages are dealing with,” Culbertson said.

Vacation visitors who have become full-time residents in retirement are increasing towns' populations and they are demanding all the luxuries of big-city living. They expect the same services they were accustomed to in the urban areas. They want police, emergency services and the town to pick up their garbage.

“People don't want open ditches. They want urban living in a rural environment,” said Grand Chute Town Chairman Michael Mardsden.

Towns are coping by doing things like contracting with private professionals in place of keeping elected or appointed officials for certain jobs, Stadelman said. Towns are also appointing clerks, treasurers or clerk-treasurers, rather than electing them.

Town government officials should “adopt a comprehensive plan now and don't wait until the town develops and then try to plan. It won't work,” Marsden said.

Culbertson and Stadelman agree that the days of less formal government are gone- when the town chairman and supervisors gathered informally at the clerks house on Saturdays to pay the bills. It's not just in certain parts of the state, it's statewide.

TOWN HALL COMMUNITY CENTER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT & RECYCLING CENTER

ADDRESS

6355 County Trunk Z
West Bend, WI 53095-9201

Web: www.town.west-bend.wi.us

E-Mail: townhall@town.west-bend.wi.us

PHONE NUMBERS

Town Office: (262) 338-3417

Recycling & Public Works Dept.:
(262) 338-1795

OFFICE HOURS

Clerk - Russell W. Becker

Wed 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sat 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Town/Zoning Secretary -
Mary Smith

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m, Wed
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m., Fri 9:00a.m-12:00p.m.

CHAIRMAN

Robert Seebach - (262) 644-5019

SUPERVISORS

Paul Rice - (262) 338-8826

Joe Spaeth - (262) 338-1245

CLERK

Russell Becker - (262) 677-2373

TREASURER

William Voss - (262) 644-0044

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Gordon Hoffman - (262) 677-2270

BUILDING INSPECTOR

F.D. Mayer - (262) 692-9280

TOWN/ZONING

SECRETARY

Mary Smith - (262) 338-3417

TOWN ASSESSOR

Michael Grota - (262) 253-1142

PUBLIC WORKS

John Smith - (262) 338-1795

POLICE CHIEF

Robert Schulteis - (262) 629-5750

WEED COMMISSIONER

Leroy Thom - (262) 334-2756

*Please Note: Town Hall is closed on
holidays.*

