

TOWN of CEDARBURG

Preserving Yesterday's Heritage for Tomorrow



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Want to stay informed on Town news like elections, recreation registration, road work, and refuse/recycling collection?

The Town uses an email tool called "eNotify" that goes out at least once per week.

We include important updates, links to meeting agendas/minutes, and consider it our most valuable tool for communicating with residents as we can send out emails at a moments notice.

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The Challenges of Zoning and Growth

Given the past few months in the Town, I have been spending quite a bit of time thinking about zoning codes. Not so much the specifics, but the larger picture of zoning, as a central function of local governance. About how it is implemented, and how it affects, and is affected by, our citizens: both direct applicants with potential business in the Town, and the many neighbors of those projects.

At first blush, land-owners might envision ourselves as the "rulers of one's domain;" that we have free reign to reshape a property as a blank slate, with no limits. This is actually not true. There are always limits. Structurally, you would not be able to put up a 50 story skyscraper. Also, due to easements, set back rules, and other existing codes, even the new house one may want will be restricted in size, location, and other factors. These limitations apply equally to all members of the community, according to the interpretation of our codes. This is for the sake of fairness.

This is a familiar characteristic of many organizations of which you or I may have been a part: businesses, volunteer groups, team sports, coaching, and public service. I have found the best of these, and those with better outcomes, have a collection of things in common, such as abiding by codes, rules, and expectations. This is widespread throughout all facets of life. For instance, a business is free to organize itself at will, but our society places reasonable boundaries and restrictions to ensure fair treatment of employees. This represents the premise of the social contract underlying our representative government. Hence, this familiar concept is very important in the role of Town governance and its relationship with its citizens.

Successful organizations seem to have these things in common: **Well-defined mission:** This provides a clear sense of direction. It makes it easier for all parties related to the same entity – employees, managers, suppliers and customers – to know what to expect and to judge the quality of those outcomes. The Town has a specific charter built into its motto - "Preserving yesterday's heritage for tomorrow." These words may not have the force of law, but it does provide the cultural nuance that should drive interpretation. In practice, we should not change just for change's sake.

We do not pursue growth as a primary goal, but we do accept it in a measured way. For this, residents rely on the consistency of zoning codes and their application, enforcement, and expectations. This avoids disrupting the investments that have been made by our long term residents.



THOMAS ESSER
SUPERVISOR SEAT 4

Continued on page 7



ERIC RYER
ADMINISTRATOR

Town Board Approves Agreement to Update Park & Open Space Plan

The Town Board has taken an important step toward updating the vision for Town parks and recreational facilities by approving an agreement to update the Town's Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan. This effort comes as the Town launches its fundraising campaign for improvements to the Korb Sports Complex and looks ahead to future recreation needs for the growing community.

Updating the Park Plan will allow the Town to incorporate the vision for the Korb Sports Complex while also reviewing and refreshing other goals and objectives identified by the Park & Recreation Committee and Town Board. Just as importantly, maintaining a current plan makes the Town eligible to apply for and receive grant funding through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for certain parks and recreational facilities.

Ahead of bringing update options to the Board, Town staff confirmed with the WDNR that having an approved local park and open space plan is a key factor in eligibility for Stewardship Local Assistance and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants. In addition, specific projects for which the Town seeks funding should be identified within the plan itself. The WDNR has been informed that the Town is in the process of updating the document.

SEWRPC Selected to Complete the Update

At its February meeting, the Board approved the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) proposal to complete a thorough plan update for \$25,000, under the \$40,000 budgeted for the project. SEWRPC previously assisted the Town with its Comprehensive Land Use Plan update in November 2024 and is well acquainted with the Town.

As part of the work, the update will review the stand-alone Master Bike Route Plan from 1999, along with relevant recommendations approved by the Town Board from the currently active Joint Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Ad-Hoc Committee. The goal is to bring key park, trail, bicycle, and pedestrian planning elements together into one comprehensive, easy-to-use document.

SEWRPC staff will work closely with Town officials to conduct a detailed inventory of park and open space sites, recreation facilities, trails, and natural resource features within and immediately adjacent to the Town. The updated plan will also include a brief narrative description of each publicly owned park and open space site.

Process and Timeline

The project is expected to begin in late 2026 based upon SEWRPC staff availability, with a full draft plan anticipated in late 2027 or early 2028. Throughout the process, the Town Park and Recreation Committee is expected to review draft chapters as they are completed.

Once a consolidated draft is prepared, the Town will host an Open House led by SEWRPC staff to gather community feedback. After incorporating public comments and any necessary revisions, the plan will move through the formal approval process to include: review by the Park and Recreation Committee, recommendation by the Plan Commission via resolution, and lastly a public hearing held by the Town Board; plan adoption would occur at the Town Board meeting via ordinance.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed and participate as the project moves forward. To receive updates, sign up for notifications on the Town website at:

<https://www.townofcedarburgwi.gov/subscribe-to-updates/>



PAUL JUNGBAUER
DIRECTOR OF PARKS &
RECREATION

2026 Youth Track & Field Meet

The Town of Cedarburg recreation department will be hosting a youth track & field meet in the spring of 2026. This program receives entry into the track meet, a t-shirt and track meet awards. Participants in Kindergarten-4th Grade will be allowed to participate in three events. Awards are given out to the top 3 finishers in each event and each division. A traveling team trophy is given to the school who scores the most team points in the track meet. Last year, Thorson Elementary won the first ever Cedarburg Cup.

Details on the date of the track meet are posted on the Town of Cedarburg's track & field webpage. To be added to the email list when registration is open, please email Director Jungbauer at: pjungbauer@townofcedarburgwi.gov

Youth Track & Field at FIL

Registration for the Kindergarten-4th Grade youth track & field program for FIL will begin in March. Volunteer Coaches for this program will be needed! All past participants will receive an email when registration is opened, as well as an informational flyer being sent to all FIL students.

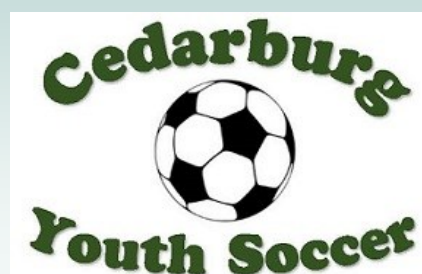


UMPIRES NEEDED

The Town is seeking umpires for the 2026 Little League season. Applicants must be at least 13 years of age and if under the age of 16 you they must be able to obtain a work permit. If you are interested, please call Director Jungbauer at 262-377-4509 ext. 2.

Fall Program Registration Will Begin In June

The Town Offers Flag Football, Youth Soccer & Fall Baseball/Softball in the fall.





Brush and Wildland Fires

Spring in Wisconsin is known for its rainfall, but it is also the most common time of the year for brush and wildland fires. These fires are difficult to manage based on their size, land configuration, and available access for fire apparatus. Many brush and wildland fires are caused by human actions, whether they are intentional, such as when a property owner wishes to burn prairie land to restore plant life and eliminate invasive plants and loses control of it. Or sometimes it is purely accidental, such as when a family is having a campfire and embers spark fire in nearby dry brush. Anything can happen, and you should use caution when burning anything outside!

While the Township allows for open burning, it only applies to the burning of clean wood, paper products, and diseased vegetation. Burning of any other materials is not permitted. For larger fires and fire areas, the Cedarburg Fire Department asks that you notify the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office at 262-284-7172 to help in reducing false calls. In addition, we urge you to exercise extreme caution or ask you to postpone burning when wind speeds are greater than 15MPH, and that you have a water source available.

Checking the Fire Danger level for our County is a good tool to use when determining if you should burn or not. Go to **DNR** <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/wisburn/#/> Any level greater than moderate presents a major risk of uncontrolled brush and wildland fires occurring.

The Cedarburg Fire Department is willing to help you with your prairie burns, if the conditions, timing, and area are right for it. If you have a larger prairie area that you would like our assistance in burning, please contact the Cedarburg Fire Department Training Division at 262-375-7630. These are great trainings for our firefighters to learn how to control brush and wildland fires. Please contact us with any questions at 262-375-7630 or info@cedarburgfiredept.com.



April 7th, 2026 Spring Election Update

What's on my ballot?

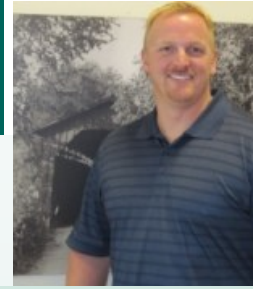
The spring election includes Supervisor Seats 2 & 4 (elected at-large). Please visit <https://myvote.wi.gov/> to verify you are registered, review your voter profile, and view other important voter information including sample ballots. Visit the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) website <http://elections.wi.gov/> for additional information regarding voting.



Where do I vote?

Polling locations are open from 7am-8pm on Election Day. Electors living in Wards 1-4 vote at the Town Hall located at 1293 Washington Avenue next to Kwik Trip. Electors living in Wards 5-10 vote at the Ozaukee County Pavillion located at W67N866 Washington Ave . Visit the Town's website to view the Ward map. If you are planning on registering to vote at the polls, please allow additional time to do so.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



ADAM MONTICELLI
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Town Road Maintenance for 2026

The Town plans on conducting asphalt roadway sealing, crack sealing, pothole patching, shoulder repairs, ditching, noxious weed removal, minor culvert repairs/replacements, and maintenance within Town easements to correct drainage flow. Please reduce your speed and provide extra space when passing Public Works employees and equipment. For a full list of projects that are happening in and around Ozaukee County please visit the following page
<https://www.townofcedarburgwi.gov/road-improvements/>

DID YOU KNOW
 Just one pound of fertilizer over-application on the average lawn can equate to **34.2 lbs.** of excess algae growth in streams and lakes.

Fertilize Efficiently



- Always follow the manufacturer's application recommendations. More isn't better!
- Fertilizing in the early fall promotes healthy root systems – leading to stronger, more resilient lawns and plants

Illicit Discharge

Per Town Code: 108-13.1 (E) An illegal discharge including, but not limited to, any discharge of sump pumps, yard drains, roof drains, or a potentially polluting substance directly or through stormwater that reaches a municipal storm sewer system, drainageway, wetland, water body or groundwater, except those authorized by a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit or other discharge not requiring a WPDES permit such as landscape irrigation, individual residential car washing, diverted stream flows, air conditioning condensation, irrigation water, flows from riparian habitats and wetlands, and similar discharges. These and other discharge exceptions do not apply if the discharge is identified by the Director of Public Works or designee as a source of pollution to the waters of the Town of Cedarburg.

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BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

Bicycles are considered vehicles on Wisconsin roadways and all types of vehicles need to share the road to keep everyone safe. Bicyclists must obey the rules of the road and must be treated as equal users by other vehicles. Bicycles are particularly vulnerable to injuries, but there are simple things bicyclists can do to greatly reduce their risk of crash, death or injury.



Be visible. If you can't see the driver, they can't see you
Use extra caution when passing trucks, buses or approaching an intersection alongside a large vehicle.



Be seen when stopped
At red lights, stop slightly ahead of a waiting vehicle. Avoid the driver's blind spot.



Obey traffic laws, signs and signals
Running a red light or stop sign can result in a serious crash with other vehicles or pedestrians.



Be aware of your surroundings
If using earphones, wear only one while riding. Check behind you, especially when changing lanes. Watch for opening car doors.



Ride on the road, bike lane, paved shoulder or path
Follow the rules of the road. Ride to the right in the direction of traffic. Watch out for others and be alert for hazards that may result in a crash such as rocks, potholes, utility grates and train tracks.



Enhance visibility with proper lighting
Use a white headlight and a red taillight



Wear a helmet
Wearing a helmet will significantly reduce your risk of being killed or seriously injured in a crash.



Avoid Getting "doored" Riding close to parked cars leaves cyclists vulnerable to car doors that open unexpectedly.

DO:
Be alert and watch parked vehicles carefully.

Ride in a straight line and maintain at least three feet of distance from parked vehicles.

Watch vehicle tail lights to anticipate driver actions and for exiting passengers.

DON'T:
Swerve back and forth around vehicles.



Safety at Intersections When approaching intersections where cyclists and turning vehicles merge:

DO:
Look for turning traffic.

Take the full lane as necessary.

DON'T:
Hug the curb or pass on the curbside of a turning vehicle. If vehicles are turning in front of you, move away from the direction of the turn.

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SUPERVISOR ESSER CONTINUED

Continued from Page 1

High level of experience: I like to refer to this as institutional knowledge. This is a key strength of long term businesses, and one of the sources of their economic success over time. But this concept also applies to the public sphere, which has its own difficulties with long-term planning.

Elections and staff turnover create gaps, where new people may have a long learning curve to adapt the ideas and standards that have evolved over time in our community. It takes some time to absorb this complex material, and even more to use it in decision-making. Part of this long-term learning has highlighted to us some of the difficulties of areas that are ultimately dictated by other levels of government. For example, the Town is obligated to comply with State and federal statutes, which may be out of the Town Board's control. It is a careful balance.

Open communication and collaboration: The Town has a variety of ways in which we interact and provide services to the community. Use of new technology has provided a growing collection of channels to keep our citizens updated. Agendas and minutes of meetings are published on the Town website (www.townofcedarburgwi.gov). These records are useful in staying informed, as well as forming an internet-accessible archive of the Town's business. Printed newsletters, such as the one you're reading, provide good intermediate updates.

We also use electronic messaging to allow weekly updates. (It is also very easy to sign up for E-Notify here: <https://www.townofcedarburgwi.gov/subscribe-to-updates/>). These weekly messages include short-term service information, such as snow plowing schedules, tree trimming and road work, plus recreation program access, historical programming, and other scheduled events. We try to prioritize alerts that provide an immediate benefit to the townspeople. Importantly, E-Notify also shares how to participate in community governance, such as upcoming meeting schedules and agendas.

In these ways, the public can become aware of the various places and times that the potential Town's plans and changes may happen, both short-term and long-term, on new and ongoing projects. We always look forward to receiving feedback and getting input and ideas from our citizens.

How it works: Our Town zoning code and long-term plan (Comprehensive Plan 2050) have been with the ideal of preservation. In this way we can maintain the Town's rural beauty and character while making room for reasonable growth in certain areas. Zoning code modifications are introduced and studied at the Plan Commission level. Currently, it has 2 board members and 5 citizen appointees. They evaluate plans and proposals. When this process is complete, they pass that recommendation along to the Town Board, which makes the final decision. The Board evaluates changes and has the final say: it must either approve or deny any changes to zoning, ordinances, land divisions, certified zoning map changes, and the like. The Board must take into account the integrity of the entire zoning code as the bedrock of these decisions, which means fairness to every resident in interpreting and making possible amendments.

Our recent experience in the Town has shown the need for some possible adjustments. As any organization expands, the success it achieves creates new problems that come with that growth. Like most systems, it all works well until it doesn't. In this case, I believe we should focus on bringing in the community earlier on proposed projects. Ideally, this will create a more open process, enhancing the channels of communication to better serve our citizens and applicants.

Are these meetings and structures serving their purpose? Do they provide the direction and outcomes that are desired in the Town? To the degree that it captures our Town motto, I think we are going in the right direction. We have had a lot of valuable participation recently, and I welcome everyone who wants to speak up.

Thank you,
Tom Esser



THOMAS ESSER
SUPERVISOR SEAT 4



Westlawn Elementary Claims Victory in Record-Breaking "Stuff the Bus" Food Drive for Ozaukee Food Alliance

What began eight years ago as a modest Thanksgiving service project in a single 4K classroom at Thorson Elementary has blossomed into a powerful tradition with community-wide impact. This year, the Cedarburg community reached a new milestone of generosity during the annual "Stuff the Bus" food drive held during the last week of February.

In a remarkable display of collective achievement, the students, staff, and families of Parkview, Thorson, and Westlawn Elementary Schools came together to gather a record-breaking **9,352 pounds** of food for the [Ozaukee Food Alliance](#). This total shatters last year's record by over 2,100 pounds, ensuring that significantly more local families will have access to essential resources.

While the friendly competition for the "Stuff the Bus Trophy" adds a layer of excitement, the true victory belongs to every student who brought in a donation. This year's rankings (based on pounds collected per student) are:

- **Westlawn** (8.351 lbs. per student)
- **Parkview** (6.788 lbs. per student)
- **Thorson** (6.341 lbs. per student)

As the winning school, Westlawn has earned the right to see their principal "pied in the face" during an upcoming school celebration!



Our Heartfelt Thanks

This milestone was made possible by the dedicated support of our elementary PTOs and College HUNKS Hauling & Moving, who generously donated their time and vehicles to transport the mountain of donations. All collected items go directly to aiding local families through the Ozaukee Food Alliance.

Congratulations to every student, parent, and educator involved, and thank you for your incredible generosity! Your collective spirit is what makes Cedarburg such a special place to live and learn.

About Ozaukee Food Alliance: The [Ozaukee Food Alliance](#) is dedicated to ensuring food security and support for residents across Ozaukee County.

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www.cedarburg.k12.wi.us



Westlawn Elementary



Parkview Elementary



Thorson Elementary

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE 2026 LANDMARKS PRESERVATION AWARD

Do you know of a 100+ year old restored structure in the Town of Cedarburg that is historic in nature and has undergone recent preservation work? This includes preservation of a home, barn, outbuilding, or other significant structure by restoration of its architectural character, structural integrity and state of repair to ensure its future.

The Landmarks Commission offers this award to encourage the preservation of century-old structures, in keeping with the rural character of the Town and its historic agricultural heritage. Structures that qualify for nomination in 2026 must be built before 1926.

Here is how to apply for the Landmarks Preservation Award:

- Applications can be picked up in-person at Cedarburg Town Hall, 1293 Washington Avenue
- Applications are available online at <https://www.townofcedarburgwi.gov/landmarks-commission/>

Deadline to Apply is April 1, 2026



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LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Honoring our Historic Covered Bridge's 150th Anniversary in 2026

A Rural History and Preservation Pop Quiz

1. What are skirts and girts?
A. hens and roosters B. petticoats and corsets C. logs and boards D. sheriffs and outlaws
2. What is clunch?
A. a mid-day snack B. limestone C. chicken's nest D. a herd of goats
3. What are wind eyes?
A. sunflowers B. cyclones C. roof vents D. kites
4. What is a spring house?
A. vintage refrigerator B. chicken coop C. greenhouse D. outhouse
5. What is a bank-barn?
A. drive thru financial institution B. barn built on a river bank C. place where most valuable cattle are stored D. barn on a hillside
6. What are dibbers and dibbles?
A. garden tools B. ears of baby corn C. ducklings and goslings D. jacks and tiddlywinks
7. What is a ha-ha?
A. a trap door B. another word for "whoa" C. a sunken fence D. an overflowing well
8. What is apricity?
A. mold in the basement B. bats in the attic C. dew in the pasture D. sunshine in the winter
9. What is a haymow?
A. feeding trough B. scarecrow C. barn loft D. gunny sack
10. What are quoins?
A. pancakes B. cornerstones C. bug bites D. wood worms
11. What is crinkum-crankum?
A. fancy walls B. stirrups and reins C. foundation cracks D. thunder and lightning
12. What is jealousy?
A. broken-down car B. ex-boyfriend C. hot pepper relish D. shutters and blinds
13. What is a gin pole?
A. bootlegger's rifle B. homemade pulley C. fishing rod D. canoe paddle
14. What are hips and gambrels?
A. horse tack B. cow breeds C. barn types D. weather vanes and rain barrels
15. What is barbacoa?
A. barbecue B. corn crib C. scaffold D. bunkbeds

Hope you aced the pop quiz! The answers are shown below!

- With many thanks to Emily Esser for her great contributions and sense of humor!

- We welcome everyone to our Landmarks Commission meetings and events.

- Kari Esser - Landmarks Commission Chairperson

Answers to Pop Quiz

1: C, 2: B, 3: C, 4: A, 5: D, 6: A, 7: C, 8: D, 9: C, 10: B, 11: A, 12: D, 13: B, 14: C, 15: all of the above!

CHAIRMAN SALVAGGIO

Development and Website Updates

The City of Cedarburg is considering a proposal for hundreds of new housing units at the location of the former Grob airfield, just north of STH 60 across from ATACO Steel. While any development of that scale will impact the immediate area, it is of note that about 40 acres of the old airfield running northeast of Cedar Creek Motorsports will remain in the Town as part of the Boundary Agreement between the Town and City. This intergovernmental agreement establishes areas eligible for annexation for the purposes of orderly and planned growth, with the aforementioned portion of Grob field being one of the last areas of Town land eligible to annex into the City. Of the proposed ~214 acre development, 56 acres were long ago annexed into the City and have been farmed. Generally speaking, land is annexed at the request of the landowner, not the municipality.

New residential development in the City of Cedarburg and surrounding neighboring communities will likely drive demand for more commercial/residential mix at Five Corners, which is an opportunity for the Town to realize it's long held vision of a Town Center in this area. The focus of Town commercial and mixed-use growth is aimed at the Five Corners area and along STH 60, which the updated zoning code will encourage once adopted.

The Town Comprehensive Plan thoughtfully makes available zoning options within one mile of neighboring City of Cedarburg and Village of Grafton for ~1 acre lots as a way to transition development from dense city/village style development to larger Town lots. Areas further from the City and Village increase focus on rural character, with zoning options blending agricultural zoning with estate style lots or conservation (or cluster) style subdivisions. Conservation style development allow for smaller lots (1+ acre) clustered together, while retaining a specified percentage of the gross land you start with as common open space for a more rural appearance.

As a side note, the Town website is currently being redesigned to modernize the site. It will be more efficient, user friendly, and ADA accessible, with new content such as a page to help residents understand the Boundary Agreement and other helpful topics.

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SPRING
2026**

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TOWN BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

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