



### Views from the Chair

By Ed Minihan, Town of Dunn Chair

The chorus of Sandhill Cranes has returned as they gather again to head to their wintering grounds. The Monarch Butterflies have already left for their trip to Mexico. The migrating fauna in the Town will return to their habitats next Spring. They will be able to return to their life-sustaining habitats because of our Town's land preservation program.

We knew that permanently protecting land would attract those with the interests of personal wealth and a municipal tax base. As this is written, there are two pending annexations into neighboring municipalities who have been aggressive in their own growth. The Town of Dunn has open space and of course they want to fill it. Fitchburg wants to fill our entire western border with development and has already started that process, as most can see every day. That

is what could have happened in the Town without our preservation efforts. Gaze to the east as you cruise Highway MM and you will see what we could look like if not for our stewardship. It makes it abundantly clear that the Town citizens made the correct decision when they voted to establish a mechanism to chart a sustainable future for our Town.

We have anticipated such predatory efforts from our neighbors and if you wonder what the very capable staff and the Town Board engage in every day, it is to maintain and improve a viable community. It is an ongoing battle that you, the voters have directed us to do. It was the wise choice. Other municipalities have not made that choice, and they are paying for it with their future generations' money and lifestyle. (*Views from the Chair continued on page 4.*)

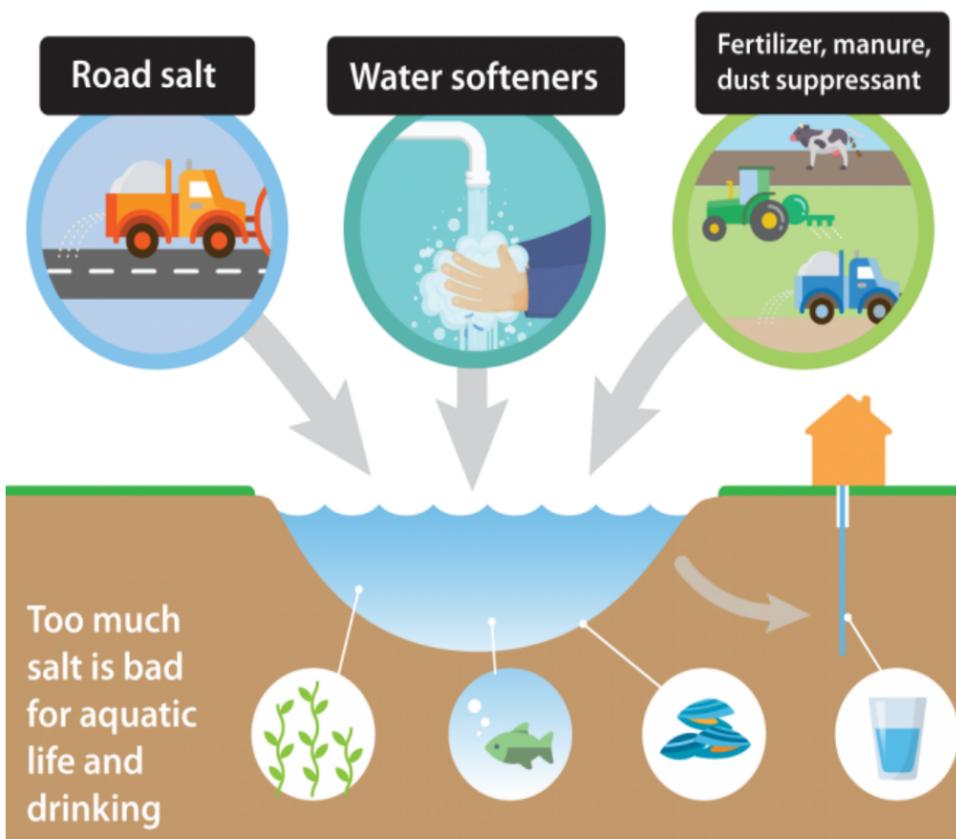
### Special Town Meeting November 19th, 2019 7:00 PM

Dunn Town Hall at 4156 County Road B, McFarland.

#### Agenda

- I. Minutes of the April 19th, 2019 Annual Town Meeting
- II. Announcements
- III. Business
  - A. Public hearing on the proposed 2020 budget. Approve the 2019 tax levies for 2020 operating budgets in accordance with 60.10(1)(a) Wis. stats.
  - B. Other business from the floor allowed by 60.10 Wis. stats.
  - C. Presentation of storm water education information.

## Free Water Softener Optimization for Homes in Sanitary Districts



We rely on salt to keep our roads safe in the winter and to soften water in our homes year-round but using more salt than is needed comes with a heavy price. It's easy to add salt to water, but costly and energy-intensive to remove it.

Each day, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), our local wastewater utility, receives water with over 100 tons of dissolved salt, mostly from water softeners. The treatment plant isn't designed to remove chloride (a component of salt), so the salt passes through treatment and into freshwater waterbodies. It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic to freshwater ecosystems. If chloride levels continue to rise, downstream waters may become too salty for aquatic life, and the treatment plant will be facing expensive upgrades. Treatment to reduce chloride would cost over 400 million dollars: meaning higher sewer bills for everyone. Rather than adding costly treatment, we can reduce chloride at the source.

To reduce rising levels of chloride pollution in our environment, the Town of Dunn is partnering with MMSD to initiate a pilot program that improves or replaces inefficient home water softeners throughout Town sanitary districts. This unique and limited program allows specialized local service providers to evaluate water softeners **free of charge!** If the service provider deems the water softener a 'clunker,' a \$200 rebate will be offered to residents who replace their inefficient water softener.

See page 2 for more information about this limited-time program!

\*Septic system users not eligible for this program.

**LIMITED  
TIME PILOT  
PROGRAM!**

## **FREE Water Softener Optimization**

### **Earn a \$200 Rebate for a New Softener**

For Dunn Residents in Sanitary Districts\*

**SAVE THE LAKES WHILE YOU SAVE MONEY!**

*Through  
the Town  
of Dunn  
Funded by  
MMSD*

## Fight Climate Change With Trees

PLANT A TREE or better; plant a forest. By planting trees, you can make a tangible impact.

Some ecological impacts that trees have are:

- Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and potentially harmful gases, such as sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, from the air and release oxygen. One large tree can produce a day's supply of oxygen for four people. A healthy tree can store 13 pounds of carbon each year. For an acre of trees that equals 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide!
- Trees can reduce air temperature by blocking sunlight. Further cooling occurs when water evaporates from the leaf surface. The conversion of water to air vapor removes heat energy from the air.
- Trees help settle out and trap dust, pollen and smoke from the air.
- Trees help reduce surface water runoff from storms, thus decreasing soil erosion and the accumulation of sediments in streams. They increase ground water recharge and reduce the number of potentially harmful chemicals transported to our streams.



### Planting Tips

Cool temperatures and adequate rainfall make fall a good time to plant. As long as you can easily push a shovel into the soil, you can plant. In fall, the tree can make new roots without having to feed the leaves. Water requirements are much lower without the leaves on the tree. Roots grow best in cool soil.

Select container-grown or ball-and-burlap rather than bare-root stock. Bare-root plants should only be planted in late winter or early spring. According to the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University Extension, "some slow-to-establish species are better planted in spring include fir, magnolia, tulip tree, birch, American hornbeam, American yellowwood, ginkgo, larch, sweetgum, hophornbeam, willow, bald cypress, hemlock and some oaks." Water plants when needed to supply about 1 inch of water per week. Continue watering until the ground is frozen, even after deciduous plants have lost their leaves. Wrap the trunks of thin-barked, young trees in late November to prevent frost cracks, sunscald, and animal damage, but be sure to remove the wrap in early spring. Place 2-4 inches of compost or mulch around new planting, but not in direct contact with the trunk or root collar. Whether you plant now or in the spring, you will have made a lasting impact!

## Free Softener Optimization (continued)



*The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District treatment plant receives more dissolved salt EACH DAY than the pile pictured.*

It is the Town's goal to have every water softener evaluated throughout the Town's sanitary districts. You have the power to make a difference in your community by helping us protect our water resources by reducing salt use. By eliminating the use of just one bag of salt, you will protect 20,000 gallons of fresh water! Please consider participating in this innovative program while we still have a limited window of opportunity to keep sewer bills low and protect water.

If you find yourself lugging more than one bag of salt to your softener every month, your softener might be losing efficiency and using more salt than

it used to or needs to. Not only does that mean more trips to refill the softener, but it also means more salt is ending up in the sewer system and into the nearby water sources.

MMSD is offering technical training to area water softener service providers and installers, including plumbers and softener technicians, to educate them about evaluating and adjusting softeners for efficiency. These trained providers will evaluate home water softeners and determine if they are inefficient units which should be replaced with a new softener, or if they have potential to be reprogrammed to use less salt. Here's how to participate in our chloride reduction program:

1. **Self-screen your home softener:** Is your softener more than 15 years old? Are you using more than one bag of salt per month? There are certain clues that indicate an inefficient softener. For general guidance on the condition of your softener, you can take a home softener screening at [www.madsewer.org/HomeSaltReduction](http://www.madsewer.org/HomeSaltReduction).
2. **Sign up for a free softener evaluation event:** The Town of Dunn will be partnering with trained service providers to schedule softener evaluation days in designated neighborhoods which are connected to Town sanitary sewer systems. Visit [www.town.dunn.wi.us/services/sanitary-districts/](http://www.town.dunn.wi.us/services/sanitary-districts/) to learn more about softener evaluation days and how to sign up for a free evaluation.
3. **Contact a trained service provider to schedule a service:** Service providers qualified to evaluate and optimize home softeners will be listed at [www.madsewer.org/SaltSavers](http://www.madsewer.org/SaltSavers). You can call a service provider on that list to schedule a softener service. Check back for updates as more service providers join the list!

For more information, visit [www.town.dunn.wi.us/services/sanitary-districts/](http://www.town.dunn.wi.us/services/sanitary-districts/)

## Do NOT Burn Leaves

Open burning is NOT an environmentally sound way to dispose of leaves and plant clippings, according to the Wisconsin DNR. Leaf smoke can be an irritant to healthy adults, but it can be much more harmful to the elderly, children, and people with health concerns. This is because the visible smoke from leaf fires is made up almost entirely of tiny particles that can reach deep into lung tissue and cause symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, chest pain and shortness of breath. Besides being an irritant, leaf smoke contains hazardous chemicals, including carbon monoxide and benzo(a)pyrene.

Town Ordinance 14.7 includes a ban on burning leaves in designated roadside pick-up areas. Burning is a source of air pollution and ashes are a source of highly concentrated phosphorus. Even if the smoke and burnt leaves do not fall directly into the lake, storm water run-off can carry ashes and its associated phosphorus to waterways.

To see if you are in an eligible leaf pick-up area or to sign up for leaf management updates, please visit [www.town.dunn.wi.us/services/leaf-management/](http://www.town.dunn.wi.us/services/leaf-management/)

If you are in an eligible leaf pick-up area please follow the guidelines: Place piles at the road's edge in front of your home. Piles should be parallel to the road and no more than 4 feet in width. Do NOT place piles by cars or mailboxes or in ditches. Piles beyond 4 feet in width will not be collected. Do NOT put brush, rocks, animal waste, or non-leaf material in piles.

### Ordinance 14.7:

- Prohibits raking or moving leaves into any drainage ditch, waterway or shoreline.
- Prohibits putting brush, rocks, animal waste, and other non-leaf material within leaf piles placed for roadside pick-up.
- Allows for a special charge to be placed on tax bills of residents in leaf pick-up areas to help offset up to one half of the Town's cost for the program.

The Town discourages burning leaves everywhere as they can smolder and create a nuisance for neighbors. Town Ordinance 16.3 prohibits smoldering and nuisance fires. To view the full length of Town Ordinances, visit [www.town.dunn.wi.us/ordinances/](http://www.town.dunn.wi.us/ordinances/).

## Comprehensive Plan Update

For the past year, the Town has been reviewing the updated Dane County Zoning Code and by the end of 2019, we anticipate that the Town will adopt this code. As part of this process, the Town will also need to update its Comprehensive Plan in order to incorporate references to the new Dane County Zoning Districts. You can view more information about this latest Comprehensive Plan update process at this page: [town.dunn.wi.us/land-use/December-2019-comprehensive-plan-update/](http://town.dunn.wi.us/land-use/December-2019-comprehensive-plan-update/). At the time of printing, the tentative plan is to have draft copies of the amended Comprehensive Plan available for viewing and written public comment at the Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. A draft will also be posted on the above listed website. For further information, please contact Ben Kollenbroich, Town of Dunn Planning and Land Conservation Director at (608) 838-1081, ext 205.

## Costly Repairs Needed Due to 'Flushables'

Information from the City of Lacrosse, WI

People sometimes view the toilet as an auxiliary wastebasket - an easy place to dump all kinds of things and make them disappear with a flush or the turn of a faucet. Some people may believe that if a product clears their toilet bowl, it's flushable. However, items in the sewer remain fully intact and combine with other items, creating solid blockages. Even products labeled "flushable" or "biodegradable" can cause significant clogging problems. Often, these items do not make it past the lateral connection from your home to your local sewer system, building up and clogging the line, potentially causing overflows and basement backups that can be costly to repair. If those products make it to the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Treatment Plant, they can also jam up equipment there. The following items should NEVER be flushed:

- Wet Wipes (Baby wipes, disinfecting wipes, "flushable" wipes)
- Feminine hygiene products and condoms
- Cotton swabs and band-aids
- Paper towels
- Paper
- Disposable diapers
- Grease/oil
- Dental floss
- Cat Litter
- Cigarette butts
- Needles



Impacts from flushing these unacceptable items can include clogged pumps, increased overflows, plugged plumbing and septic systems, increased labor costs, failed equipment, injuries to staff cleaning up non-flushable items, and higher sanitary bills.

To help protect the investment we have all made in our homes and our community's sewer systems, please dispose of all wipes, personal hygiene products, and all other items listed above in the garbage and NOT the toilet.

## Sump Pump Water Into Sanitary Sewers Increases Costs for Homeowners

Besides the fact that connecting sump pumps to the sanitary sewer is illegal, it causes big problems! Sanitary sewer pipes are designed to carry sewage, not groundwater and rainwater. Discharging a sump pump into the Town's sanitary sewer system is a big 'no-no'. While this might seem like an easier and more attractive option than running a discharge tube from the sump pump to the exterior of your home, it's illegal.

During heavy rain events, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District has the potential to overload if they also have to process sump pump water. When overloads happen, sewage may back-up into people's homes, or the sewage water may only be partially treated before being dumped into local waterbodies.

The other reason it is illegal to discharge sump pump water into the sanitary sewer is because Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District charges Town Sanitary Districts for the amount of sewage and water they process. When a sump pump discharges into the sanitary sewer, the Sanitary Districts have no way of tracking and billing each violator for this additional usage of the sewer. Thus, when someone discharges sump pump water in to the sanitary sewer, they're raising sewer bills for the whole sanitary district.

If you have this type of setup at your own home, please correct as soon as possible. The legal thing to do is to make the sump pump discharge to the exterior!

### Notice of Public Meeting Sanitary Sewer #3 Collection System Project

Since the informational meeting held June 2, 2016, commissioners along with Mead & Hunt have completed the assessment of the full system built in the 1970's. Based on assessment findings, the commissioners opted to be proactive in the repairs needed to mitigate residential and environmental impact. Please plan to attend the public meeting for final details and impacted areas of the project scope prior to bidding later this year.

#### Public Meeting Information

Presentation By: Mead & Hunt and Sanitary District #3

Thursday, November 7, 2019

7:00PM

Town of Dunn Town Hall,

4156 County Road B, McFarland, WI 53558

Meeting Highlights: Findings of the assessment studies, final project scope and maps of the impacted areas, financial impact, and needed access to manholes on private property for construction projects. For further questions, contact Sanitary Sewer # 3 Commissioners at [tdssd3@gmail.com](mailto:tdssd3@gmail.com)

## Oregon Area Memory Café

Memory Café is a place where individuals with memory impairment, mild cognitive impairment, early Alzheimer's or other dementias, and their caretakers, family, or friends, get together to share common interests and enjoy refreshments. Memory Café meetings can include educational components with guest speakers or an activity. There is no cost to attend and registration is not required but is helpful. Meetings are held at Sienna Crest Assisted Living, Inc, located at 845 Market St, Oregon, WI. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month from 9:30AM to 11:00AM and consist of varied topics. For questions or to find out future Café topics, please contact the Oregon Area Senior Center at (608) 835-5801.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Income Tax Preparation Assistance Needed

The City of Stoughton and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue are looking for enthusiastic, energetic volunteers to prepare free basic income tax returns with electronic filing during the upcoming tax season (January - April 2020), through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Tax aide volunteers assist persons with disabilities, senior individuals, and lower-income taxpayers who can't afford a tax preparation service and who otherwise would miss out on the credits and deductions they have earned. No experience is needed to be a volunteer - Federal and State tax preparation training and IRS certification. If interested please visit:

[www.revenue.wi.gov](http://www.revenue.wi.gov), and search VITA ; or  
Contact Cindy McGlynn at (608) 873-8585 or  
[cmglynn@ci.stoughton.wi.us](mailto:cmglynn@ci.stoughton.wi.us)

### Stoughton Area Youth Center

Is in need of volunteers to assist with afterschool homework help, cooking, watching children, being active in gym activities with students, and someone to teach arts and crafts sometimes. Hours are from 3PM-6PM during school weeks or between 12PM-4PM on non-school days. If you can't provide your time but would like to provide assistance, snack donations or gift cards to local grocery stores for 20 to 30 kids is greatly appreciated. If interested contact:

567 E. Main Street, Stoughton, WI 53589  
(608) 877-9980

### McFarland Senior Center

Is seeking drivers to deliver meals and/or drive seniors to medical appointments. Mileage and extra insurance is available. Flexible schedule. If interested contact:

5915 Milwaukee St, McFarland, WI 53558  
(608) 838-7117

### Oregon Area Food Pantry

Is in need of volunteers to assist with tasks including help with restocking tables, carry-outs, registration, etc.

Volunteers are needed for distribution days and community collections and events. For info, contact:

[oregonfoodpantry@hotmail.com](mailto:oregonfoodpantry@hotmail.com)

### Shared Table Community

Is seeking volunteers to help with bringing food, preparing and serving meals, setting up or cleaning up, providing musical entertainment, or bringing a neighbor or friend in need of a nutritious meal or companionship. Groups and businesses are also welcome to volunteer. Volunteers are provided the information and training.

For more information, contact:

[info@sharedtablecommunitymeals.com](mailto:info@sharedtablecommunitymeals.com)  
(608) 345-3403

### McFarland Youth Center

Is welcoming community members who would like to tutor, help out with one of their programs, create your own program, lead a discussion, or just hang out with the kids. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact MYC for more information:

5114 Farwell St, McFarland, WI 53558  
(608) 838-3839

### Oregon Senior Center

Is in need of kitchen helpers to assist with packaging home-delivered meals, serving meals at the center, and cleaning up. If interested, please contact Lucy at:

219 Park Street, Oregon WI 53575  
(608) 835-5801

## Town of Dunn Safety

By Deputy Leslie Fox,  
Dane County Sheriff



Remove all valuables and lock your cars!

The Dane County area is still experiencing an increase in motor vehicle theft, theft from auto, and burglaries. Many of these crimes are committed because the opportunity is there due to unsecured vehicles and homes. Everyone is encouraged to maintain a “hard target” by securing their property. Here are some tips:

- When parking outside, do not leave your keys, garage door opener, or any valuables in your vehicle.
- Close and lock all windows and doors of your vehicle when you park.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended while it’s running.
- Keep your residence well lit with adequate exterior motion sensing lighting to illuminate all areas surrounding your residence.
- Lock the doors of your residence, especially at night or when you are away. Pay extra attention to lock the interior door from your garage to your house.

Homeowners need to be extremely diligent about securing their homes and vehicles. The Sheriff’s Office cannot stress enough. This is a large and organized group of criminals that are becoming increasingly brazen. They are swarming entire neighborhoods in search of easy targets. No area or neighborhood is considered off-limits. In several recent burglaries throughout the county, firearms have been stolen and there is a high likelihood that some of these thieves may be armed. In addition to locking homes and vehicles, we encourage citizens to have outdoor motion-sensing lights and to not leave valuables like wallets, purses and car keys where they are easily accessible.

Law enforcement is also asking for the public’s help in catching the perpetrators. If you see or hear suspicious activity in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately. For those with home video systems like a Ring doorbell or other home security system, save and share anything suspicious or concerning with your local authorities.

In other news, the Dane County Sheriff’s Office now has a mental health worker embedded within our department. This collaboration is with the Journey Mental Health Crisis Unit. We are able to co-respond to mental health crises in the community and work proactively to connect the community with mental health resources.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis call Journey Mental Health at (608)-280-2600 or 911 for emergencies.

If you would like more information on these topics, please contact Deputy Leslie Fox at the Dane County Sheriff’s Office at (608) 283-3964 or fox.leslie@danesheriff.com.

## The Beauty of the Night Sky Can be Protected

Information from [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)

### What is light pollution?

Most of us are familiar with air, water, and land pollution, but did you know that light can also be a pollutant? The inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light - known as light pollution - can have serious environmental consequences for humans, wildlife, and our climate.

### How does light pollution affect us?

- Light pollution harms wildlife: Plants and animals depend on Earth’s daily light and dark cycle to govern life-sustaining behaviors. Research shows that artificial light at night has negative and even deadly effects on many species.
- Light pollution may harm your health: Studies suggest that artificial light at night negatively affects human health by increasing our risk for obesity, sleep disorders, depression, diabetes, breast cancer, and more.
- Light pollution may make you less safe: If outdoor lighting is left on all night, it can decrease personal safety by making victims and property more visible to criminals.
- Light pollution wastes energy and money: As much as 50 percent of outdoor lighting is wasted, which increased greenhouse gas emissions, contributes to climate change, and renders us all more energy dependent.
- Light pollution robs us of our heritage: Our ancestors experienced a night sky that inspired science, religion, philosophy, art, and literature. Now, millions of children across the globe will never know the wonder of the Milky Way.

### How can you make a difference?

- Install lighting only when and where it’s needed and use only the right amount needed.
- Use only fully shielded, dark sky friendly fixtures for all outdoor lighting, so lights shine down, not up.
- Use energy saving features such as timers, dimmers, and motion sensors on outdoor lights and turn off lights when not in use.
- Educate friends and neighbors about the importance of proper lighting.
- Use motion sensors for security lighting.
- Use only lighting with a color temperature of 3000K and below to reduce the blue (cool) light that is more harmful to many animal species.



Picture from [darksky.org](http://darksky.org)

For more information, please visit [www.darksky.org/](http://www.darksky.org/)

## Views from the Chair (continued)

There is some light beginning to shine on a few of our neighbors. The Spring elections brought more enlightened public officials into their governance. People who value their way of life and who also want a sustainable community for future generations. By and large they are younger and most importantly there are more women in local politics now. It is a good sign. Our citizens took the lead and

others are following. Local officials are beginning to look to the future of their children and much less to the pocketbooks of those who usurp the wellbeing of these communities for their own personal purposes. Stoughton and Oregon are beginning to look in the correct direction of the future. Leaders make a difference and there is encouragement in the new leadership in some of our neighbors.

There might even be a spark of rationality in our conversations with Fitchburg.

You invested in our future by establishing our Rural Preservation program. You are paying for it. Your investment is paying dividends. You have one of the lowest rates of local taxes in the County. But most importantly, you have established a viable community for future generations.



Photo by Mark Jung

# Exiles Return to Dunn

By Meg Nielsen

There have been recent sightings, fleeting glimpses in the rustling grass around Hook Lake. A small plump brown bird, once a common inhabitant, has been returned to the Town of Dunn like a refugee seeking asylum in its former homeland. These resettled immigrants, the bobwhite quail, have been brought back largely through efforts of John and Suzy Severson working in close-knit cooperation with the Town, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the newly formed Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Quail Forever.

Longtime Town of Dunn residents, the Seversons lived for many years on the original Schneider homestead on Schneider Drive. The farm is small by today's standards, only 84 acres, 20 acres of which have been placed in a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as part of a conservation corridor around Hook Lake. Of those 20 acres, the Seversons received permission from the NCRS to use a one-acre plot to restore quail population.

Both John and Suzy credit their interest in quail resettlement to growing up on a farm. While John lived in Deerfield, his mother spent her childhood on a farm just miles from Suzy's home. When Suzy recalls the intertwining relationships among Town

neighbors during her childhood, her memories seem to parallel the ways in which wildlife co-existed around Hook Lake before the balance was lost to farms and fields. Suzy remembers a gentler time when bobwhite quail whistled on farm fences and close neighbors formed a haven of security and support.

John cites a different experience for his interest in bird habitat preservation, the excitement of going pheasant hunting every fall. "Opening day of pheasant season was always a big event in our community. Every boy from the age of 10 to 12 looked forward to spending time in the fields searching for those beautiful birds. Even as a boy, I loved relating to animals, both domestic and wild," John said.

In the years since John and Suzy were children, pheasants and quail have diminished greatly all across the Midwest – up to 80 percent of the original population has been lost – largely due to loss of habitat to farmland and urban development, but also of pesticides and chemical sprays. While quail are indigenous to the US, pheasants are not, having been brought here in the 1800s. The two types of fowl require completely different habitats. Two different, but related, habitat restoration organizations, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, have found success in restoring these two distinct kinds of environments.

"Pheasants like tall grassy areas, quail need forbs, flowers and patches of bare earth where they can forage for tiny seeds and insects appropriate to their size. When quail are first hatched, they are not much larger than a bumble bee. They can't eat grasshoppers or flies. They need a landscape with plants that attract smaller insects and drop tiny seeds onto patches of bare ground," John said.

Over the past five years, the Seversons have groomed their one-acre patch of land into a welcoming habitat for quail. They removed all plant life, then drilled a special "recipe" of forbs and flower seeds into the soil using a special planter. During the next two years John and Suzy observed a careful process of mowing and removing unwanted growth from the area, all the while anticipating the arrival of the quail refugees.

John and Suzy invested their own funds to purchase young quail, call houses, and appropriate feed to supplement the insects and seeds they find in the wild. Newly hatched quail are too small to survive on their own, so the birds are not sent until they are five- to six-week-old. By then they have learned survival skills. They are helped in that respect by finding protection in call houses, the taller quail version of a chicken coop. The quail arrive, hundreds of them shipped in



cardboard boxes, ready to settle into their new home.

While quail forage during the day, twilight finds them congregating in call houses where they exhibit an interesting survival tactic. John explains: "You look into the call houses in the evening and find the quail sitting on the ground in a circle with their tails on the inside and their heads pointing out. That's how they sleep in the wild. If one of them sees a predator approaching, it takes flight and all the others scatter in different directions. It's a safety measure, kind of like they're circling the wagons."

Bobwhite quail live in coveys, low to the ground, where their dappled brown and white plumage provides excellent camouflage. Their sharp, two-note whistle resembles their name, bobwhite.

John's interest in quail led him to form the Southern Wisconsin Quail Forever chapter three years ago. The fledgling organization has already raised enough funds to begin supporting local quail habitat. Like Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever is "dedicated to the conservation of quail, pheasants and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs," so that future generations can enjoy abundant populations of these birds.

"We couldn't do this on our own," John said. "Patty Hack at NCRS gave us permission to use an acre of land within our conservation easement to establish quail habitat. The Town of Dunn has been helpful and so have the neighbors who report sightings of the birds we release each spring. Quail Forever is gaining strength each year. We already have \$3,000 in our account and will hold another fund raiser this winter," he added.

The money received at the fundraiser will help keep the Severson's dream of quail repopulation alive. It will perhaps encourage others to provide habitat for these small shy birds. And soon the whistle of the bobwhite quail will once again become a familiar song sounding upon the winds around Hook Lake.

To learn more about Quail Forever, visit [QuailForever.org](http://QuailForever.org).



John Severson and his wife Suzy (Schneider), have been restoring quail habitat for the past five years, during which time John started the Southern Wisconsin Quail Forever chapter. Inside the tobacco shed behind them, tamarack logs cut from Hook Lake years ago still support the structure. The Hook Lake conservation buffer protects one of the Town of Dunn's unique environmental areas, the last remaining cranberry bog in Southern Wisconsin.

# 2020 Proposed Budget

## 2020 Budget Highlights

Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treas./Business Mgr.

The proposed budget published here is preliminary and will be updated as more information becomes available. The public may attend the budget hearing and Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, November 19th at 7:00PM at the Town Hall. The hearing is an opportunity to ask questions, make comments and learn more about how Town funds are budgeted. After the discussion, Town residents who are eligible and present at the meeting will vote to set the tax levy. It is possible that the town residents will set a levy amount that is different from the amount proposed in this newsletter. The final budget is considered for adoption at the December 16th, 2019 Town Board meeting.

### 1% Increase in the Mil-Rates Proposed for 2019 Tax Bills:

The local assessed value mil-rate is proposed to be \$2.91 per thousand, which is up 1% over last year. The proposed equalized value mil-rate is \$2.30 which is a decrease of 7.13% as compared to last year. This equates to \$230.00 local tax for a property value of \$100,000.

### 2020 General Fund Revenue Highlights:

The Town anticipates an increase due to an increase in road aids of \$27,939 for 2020 and a \$16,739 reimbursement from FEMA for Town costs relating to flooding in 2018. The Town was not awarded a phosphorus reduction grant for leaf pick-up for 2020. The leaf pick up program will continue in a limited area, but it will not be expanded for 2020 as we had hoped. Grants continue to be an important revenue source for capital improvements to parks and special projects like the water softener optimization project.

Licenses and permits revenue is anticipated to increase due to an increase in building permit applications. Building has increased over prior years and this revenue is expected to increase by \$17,000 over last year. The Town also expects a refund of \$14,000 from the Village of McFarland from fees previously paid as part of the Fire and EMS contract.

### 2020 General Fund Expenditure Highlights:

General Government is proposed to decrease by \$1,136. This category covers the Town Assessor, Administration, elections, insurances, legal fees, publishing, and Town Board.

Public Safety is expected to increase by \$38,094 for Fire and EMS services, and law enforcement.

Culture and Recreation is expected to increase by \$24,963. The increase for 2020 reflects additional spending that will be offset by a grant that is part of the Intergovernmental Revenue.

The budget maintains a target General Fund balance of \$595,294.

GENERAL FUND	2018	Yr to Date	Estimated	Adopted	Proposed	Variance
Revenues	Year End	9/30/2019	19 Yr End	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	2019-2020
TOTAL Taxes	1,225,284	1,297,291	1,300,062	1,297,417	<b>1,267,159</b>	-30,258
TOTAL Intergov. Rev	388,462	271,343	385,626	377,559	<b>453,780</b>	76,221
TOTAL Lic./Permits	106,974	107,733	117,260	91,749	<b>107,757</b>	16,008
TOTAL Fines/Penalties	32,841	33,642	36,652	30,700	<b>36,700</b>	6,000
TOTAL Publ Charges	309,027	317,899	318,319	317,954	<b>327,215</b>	9,261
TOTAL Misc. Revenues	45,375	82,689	86,960	35,239	<b>45,584</b>	10,345
<b>Expenditures</b>						
TOTAL General Gov.	362,853	278,731	411,609	417,195	<b>416,059</b>	-1,136
TOTAL Public Safety	567,150	534,790	604,168	599,690	<b>637,784</b>	38,094
TOTAL Public Works	868,502	692,898	942,417	920,074	<b>966,584</b>	46,509
TOTAL Health & Human Svc	54,800	55,200	55,200	59,000	<b>59,000</b>	0
TOTAL Culture Recreation	26,802	16,000	33,437	33,437	<b>58,400</b>	24,963
TOTAL Conservation & Dev.	67,716	55,235	77,041	67,041	<b>69,482</b>	2,441
TOTAL Transfers	160,139	0	121,000	53,000	<b>30,700</b>	-22,300
<b>Beginning General Fund</b>	595,101	595,101	595,101	595,101	<b>595,107</b>	6
<b>Gen Fund Revenues</b>	2,107,963	2,110,597	2,244,879	2,150,618	<b>2,238,195</b>	87,577
<b>Gen Fund Expenditures</b>	1,947,823	1,632,855	2,123,873	2,096,438	<b>2,207,309</b>	110,871
<b>Gen Fund Transfers</b>	160,139	0	121,000	53,000	<b>30,700</b>	-22,300
<b>Ending General Fund</b>	595,101	1,072,843	595,107	596,281	<b>595,294</b>	-988
<b>RURAL PRESERVATION FUND (PDR)</b>						
<b>Beginning PDR Fund</b>	283,014	196,089	196,089	289,426	<b>139,984</b>	-149,442
<b>PDR Fund Revenues</b>	379,891	305,506	305,706	1,085,497	<b>992,112</b>	-93,385
<b>PDR Expenditures</b>	505,137	278,423	361,811	1,334,936	<b>965,894</b>	-369,042
<b>Ending Balance PDR Fund</b>	196,089	223,172	139,984	39,987	<b>166,202</b>	126,215
<b>BURYING GROUND (BG)</b>						
<b>Beginning BG Fund</b>	66,026	75,227	75,227	75,227	<b>78,828</b>	3,601
<b>BG Fund Revenues</b>	13,742	9,513	10,163	8,235	<b>8,235</b>	0
<b>BG Fund Expenditures</b>	4,541	3,450	6,563	6,563	<b>6,746</b>	183
<b>Ending Balance BG Fund</b>	75,227	81,290	78,828	76,899	<b>80,317</b>	3,417
<b>DEBT SERVICE FUND</b>						
<b>Beginning Debt Service</b>	0	26	26	26	<b>26</b>	0
<b>Debt Revenues</b>	313,078	313,879	313,879	313,879	<b>321,477</b>	7,598
<b>Debt Expenditures</b>	313,052	313,879	313,879	313,879	<b>321,503</b>	7,624
<b>Ending Debt Service</b>	26	26	26	26	<b>0</b>	-26
<b>SANITARY DISTRICT 4 FUND (SD #4)</b>						
<b>Beginning Balance SD #4</b>	242,018	245,935	245,935	245,935	<b>238,075</b>	-7,860
<b>SD #4 Revenues</b>	17,642	23,677	25,277	25,668	<b>25,668</b>	0
<b>SD #4 Expenditures</b>	13,725	29,137	33,137	50,000	<b>50,000</b>	0
<b>Ending Balance SD #4</b>	245,935	240,474	238,075	213,743	<b>213,743</b>	-7,860
<b>CAPITAL PROJECT REVENUE</b>						
Grant Income State	29,503	0	0	0	<b>18,000</b>	18,000
Loan Proceeds Roads	54,782	0	404,000	464,000	<b>300,000</b>	-164,000
Grant Proceeds Equipment	79,276	0	0	10,750	<b>0</b>	-10,750
Equipment Trade-in	0	0	0	0	<b>53,000</b>	53,000
Transfers in from Gen Fund	121,818	121,000	121,000	53,000	<b>30,700</b>	-22,300
TOTAL Capital Revenue	108,779	0	18,500	27,171	<b>71,000</b>	43,829
<b>CAPITAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES</b>						
Road Construction	382,694	339,966	349,755	309,000	<b>269,000</b>	-40,000
Drainage and Bridges	0	0	0	35,000	<b>35,000</b>	0
Hwy Related Equipment	0	100,892	207,000	205,000	<b>98,000</b>	-107,000
TOTAL Capital Expenditure	461,970	440,857	556,755	549,000	<b>402,000</b>	-147,000
<b>Beginning Capital Fund</b>	190,238	13,646	13,646	13,646	<b>391</b>	-13,255
<b>Capital Revenues</b>	108,779	0	18,500	27,171	<b>71,000</b>	43,829
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	461,970	440,857	556,755	549,000	<b>402,000</b>	-147,000
<b>Ending Capital Fund</b>	13,646	-306,211	391	8,817	<b>91</b>	-8,726
<b>VALUATION</b>						
Assessed Valuation	654,621,200		658,038,200		Not available	
Equalized Valuation	763,271,300		834,455,200		Not available	
<b>Tax Levy and Mil-Rate</b>						
General Fund Tax Levy	1,233,462		1,269,824		1,239,629 -2.38%	
Debt Service Tax Levy	206,837		313,879		321,477 2.42%	
PDR Tax Levy	345,763		305,297		356,792 16.87%	
<b>Total Levy</b>	1,786,062		1,889,000		<b>1,917,898 1.53%</b>	
<b>Assessed Value Mil-Rate</b>	2.77		2.89		<b>2.91 1.00%</b>	
<b>Equalized Value Mil-Rate</b>	2.58		2.47		<b>2.30 -7.13%</b>	
Undesignated Gen Fund Balance	232,100		220,364		307,862	
General Fund Balance	595,100		595,100		595,100	
Prior Year Assessment Ratio	85.76%		78.93%			

## 2020 Budget Highlights Continued

### 2020 Capital Projects:

The 2020 budget provides \$269,000 for road reconstruction for Halverson Road between Lake Kegonsa Road and Greene Road. Equipment upgrades are planned for 2020 and include the sale or trade in of the Ford pick-up truck and the purchase of a new truck to replace it. Sale or trade in of the 550 Ram truck with box is expected to be \$71,000. New debt will cover the cost of these long-term asset investments.

### Debt Service:

The 2020 budget proposes new borrowing of \$300,000. This amount could be reduced by any budget surplus amounts for 2019. The Town's overall indebtedness is proposed to be \$1.67 million at the end of the 2020 budget year.

## On the Road Again...

Town of Dunn fall maintenance mowing has begun in rural roadside areas. Please remove any materials or landscaping items from the road right-of-way to assist with this process.

Mowing is done further back in the road right of way to reduce potential drifting of snow onto the road, and to prepare for winter plowing. **All yard signs must be placed at least 33 feet from the center of the town road.**

The Town of Dunn has completed its road work projects for the 2019 year. Road work was done on Hawkinson Road (from Hwy B to Schneider Drive), Orvold Park Drive, Woodland Road and other connecting roads. Roads to be seal-coated for 2020 include Alma Road, Lake Farm Road, Meadowview Road, Nora Lane, and View Road. Halverson Road between Lake Kegonsa Road and Greene Road will be reconstructed.

The cost of reconstruction for one mile of new blacktop has increased within the last ten years from \$80,000-\$90,000.00 to \$170,000-\$180,000 dollars. The average life span of new blacktop if no maintenance is done is 15 years. When maintaining the road by treating it with oil and pea gravel every five to seven years, the potential life span of the road can extend up to 30 years. The cost to treat the road with oil and pea gravel is \$18,000.00 per mile versus the above listed costs. While the treatment of oil and pea gravel can create a bit of a mess, this temporary state of the road is needed to invest in the condition of the road going forward. The preventative maintenance is needed to save on both the road and the budget.

A one-time roadwork funding grant is available for projects in 2021. The Town will be applying for grants to reconstruct several miles of town roads. The Town hopes to receive partial funding to reconstruct Rutland Dunn Townline Road, Schneider Dr, Quam Drive, and Lalor Drive.

## Winter Mailbox Damage

If a mailbox is dislodged or knocked down by the force of snow or slush thrown off the plow or wing, the repair is the responsibility of the owner. If the plow or wing struck the box or post, a member of the Town Highway Department will inspect the mailbox for repair or replacement, not to exceed \$25.00. Replaced mailboxes must comply with the Town of Dunn Mailbox Policy. To view the Town's Full Mailbox Policy, visit [www.town.dunn.wi.us/media/1518/tod-mailbox-policy.pdf](http://www.town.dunn.wi.us/media/1518/tod-mailbox-policy.pdf)



## Extra Pick-up Day: Dos & Don'ts

Extra Pick-Up Day is the time to place items that do not fit in your trash cart at the curb to dispose of them. However, these items must be placed **NEATLY** at the roadside. Items must be packaged in a way that is reasonable for Pelliteri Waste Systems to collect. Loose items must be placed in bins, bags, or boxes. Violators may be ticketed.

### DO Place These Acceptable Items:

- Bed Frames
- Box Springs & Mattresses (only if placed in a sealed, waterproof storage bag)
- Charcoal & gas grills (no propane tanks)
- Dry Carpet (rolled & tied for one person to handle)
- Furniture Items
- Household trash items placed in bags, bins, or boxes
- Small lawn mowers & snow blowers (gas & oil must be removed).
- Swing set (must be dismantled)

### DO NOT Place These Non-Acceptable Items:

- 55-gallon drums
- Building materials
- Oil tanks
- Concrete or dirt pieces
- Household pesticides
- Lead acid batteries
- Paints & thinners
- Pianos
- Engine blocks
- Tires
- Yardwaste
- Electronics (Televisions, computers, computer monitors)
- Appliances (air conditioners, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, dryers, freezers, microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, ovens, washers, water heaters, water softeners)



**NOT ACCEPTABLE**

## Winter Snowplowing

The Town has approximately 64 road miles to maintain. Our goal is for all roads to be safely passable as soon as possible after a snowfall or other winter weather events, but that does not mean that the roads will be clear and dry after plowing. Drivers should plan to slow down on snowy rural roads. For major snow events, removal operations involve at least two rounds of plowing on major roads followed by widening. It can take more than 48 hours to plow all roads after a winter storm event.

### How can I help?

- **Be Aware:** Snowplows make sudden stops, weave around obstacles, and back up – especially at intersections. Be patient – give them room.
- **Do Not Follow too Closely:** WI law states vehicles must remain 200 ft behind a snowplow for safety reasons. If you can't see both mirrors of the snowplow, you are too close. Failure to comply may result in a citation.
- **Do Not Place Items in the Road Right-of-Way:** Keep trailers, burn barrels or any other obstacles out of the road right-of-way. This includes markers or stakes. Snow must be able to be winged back off the road and shoulder, especially in drift prone areas. This is needed for safety, roadside parking, and for road longevity. A deep frost is needed along the shoulders of the road to help support the road bed during the winter.
- **Do Not Park on the Roadside:** Please refrain from parking on the road or shoulders when snow is forecast.
- **Do Not Push Snow Into the Road:** It is illegal.
- **Garbage Carts:** Please place garbage carts in your driveway apron on the morning of your garbage pick-up and remove them as soon as possible after garbage pick-up.

# Recycling Guide

## Town of Dunn Transfer Site

4030 County Road B, McFarland WI  
(about 1/4 mile east of the Dunn Town Hall)  
Open the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month  
8 AM to 3:45 PM  
Wednesdays, April through the end of November  
2 PM to 4:45pm

### The Transfer Site accepts:

- **Brush and Wood** - Brush and limbs that are free of soil. (We cannot take stumps, lumber, or furniture. Dane County's landfill will take tree stumps, construction materials, and many other large items. Please call (608) 838-9555 for information.)
- **Leaves and Grass Clippings** - Any compostable material.
- **Holiday Trees** - Trees without tinsel, decorations, or stands. (Pellitteri will not pick up trees left at the curbside).
- **Antifreeze** - Used antifreeze that is free of oil.
- **Motor Oil** - Used motor oil that is free of other liquids.
- **Automotive Type & Rechargeable Batteries** - (Household batteries are NOT accepted).
- **Tires** - We charge a fee based on our costs for disposal. At the time of this publication, auto tires without rims are \$5 and \$10 for tires with rims. Semi-truck tires cost \$10 for disposal and tractor tires cost \$25.
- **Appliances** - We accept all appliances **EXCEPT FOR** TVs, electronics, water softeners, and dishwashers.
- **Scrap Metal** - Scrap iron, steel, copper, and other metals. (We only accept motors after gas and oil has been drained).

**Questions? Please call the Town Hall at (608) 838-1081**

## Electronic Recycling

*Information from the Wisconsin DNR ECycle Program*

Electronics are one of the fastest growing parts of the waste stream. TVs, laptops, cellphones and other electronics contain valuable materials that can be recovered through recycling. Electronics also contain hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury, which can harm human health and pollute the environment if not properly managed. Wisconsin has a electronics recycling law which keeps millions of devices out of landfills and incinerators. The following electronics cannot be put in the trash in Wisconsin, or sent to Wisconsin landfills and incinerators:

- TVs
- Computers (desktop, laptop, netbook and tablet computers)
- Printers (including those that scan, fax and/or copy & 3-D printers)
- Monitors
- Other computer accessories (including keyboards, mice, speakers, external hard drives and flash drives)
- E-readers
- DVD players, VCRs and other video players (i.e., DVRs)
- Fax machines
- Cell phones
- Appliances, including air conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, ovens, dehumidifiers, furnaces, boilers, water heaters and microwave ovens

These electronics can be recycled at various locations across the state. For a full list of collection sites, visit: [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), search "ecycle". Some collectors may charge fees and may not accept all devices. Contact collectors beforehand to learn about their policies.

## Clean Sweep Wisconsin

Dane County offers a place to bring hazardous household materials and electronics such as TVs, computers, paints, poisons, oil, and rechargeable batteries. Fees may apply. Please contact Clean Sweep Wisconsin prior to delivery of items to receive more information.

Open year round,  
Monday-Friday 7AM to 2:45PM & Saturdays 8AM to 10:45AM.  
Closed Sundays and Holidays.  
Call (608) 838-3212 or visit [danecountycleansweep.com](http://danecountycleansweep.com)  
Located at 7102 US HWY 12.

### Paper Recycling Acceptable Items:

- Cardboard (empty)
- Catalogs, magazines, and phone books
- Cereal and cracker boxes (empty)
- Paper milk and juice cartons or boxes
- Computer and office paper
- Envelopes and junk mail
- Holiday gift wrapping paper (no foils)
- Pizza boxes (no food or grease)
- Newspapers
- Paper egg cartons
- Paper grocery bags
- Shredded paper (place in a clear transparent plastic bag and tie shut; a full bag should be the size of a basketball)

### Plastic Recycling Acceptable Items:

- All plastic bottles (no motor oils or gasoline)
- Plastic containers/cups #1-7, including #1 clamshell
- Plastic bags (no black or brown bags. Place in a clear transparent plastic bag and tie shut; a full bag should be the size of a basketball)

### Recyclable Metal and Glass Acceptable Items:

- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Aluminum cans and aluminum pie plates
- Glass bottles and jars (clear, blue, brown, green translucent glass)
- Metal pots and pans
- Small metal appliances (toasters, blenders, etc. Nothing larger than a basketball.)
- Small metal plumbing fixtures, faucets, valves
- Tin and steel cans

### Non-Recyclable Items Acceptable Items:

- Brake rotors/drums
- Construction waste
- Deli containers - except #1 plastic
- Electronics
- Frozen food or microwave dinner plates
- Glassware and ceramics
- Metal items heavier than 10 pounds
- Mirrors and windows
- Motor oil and gasoline containers
- Plastic film, wrap, and Styrofoam
- Recyclable containers containing liquid or food
- Misc: Carpet, clothing, diapers, fishing line, hoses, ropes, and shoes

### Recycling Tips

- Recyclables will not be picked up if not in a cart or a clear untied bag.
- Containers containing food or liquids, construction waste, or electronics CANNOT be placed in the recycling cart.
- Should you choose to bag recyclables you place into the cart, please use clear or transparent bags and do not tie or seal. Clear bags can be purchased at most grocery and hardware stores.
- Do not flatten or crush plastic or metal items.
- Do not place smaller items inside larger containers - all items should be loose and empty.
- Remove all food waste, plastic, Styrofoam & packing peanuts.
- Flatten cardboard boxes and cereal boxes to make room in the recycling cart.
- Your recycling cart will not be picked up if it contains trash, yard waste or prohibited items.
- In a week containing a Holiday, garbage and recycling pick up is delayed by one day. Please plan accordingly.
- For additional volume pick-up or contact Pellitteri. For a fee, they will provide a 65-gallon or a 95-gallon cart for trash. For free, you may also receive a 35-gallon or a 95-gallon cart for recyclables.

**For more information: Visit [pellitteri.com](http://pellitteri.com) or call (608) 257-4285**

## Medicine Drop-Off

Protect our water! Do not flush unwanted or unused medications. Drop these items off at local police departments. Contact:

McFarland Police Department at 838-3151  
Oregon Police Department at 835-3111  
Stoughton Police Department at 873-3374

