



# HILES HAPPENINGS

December, 2005



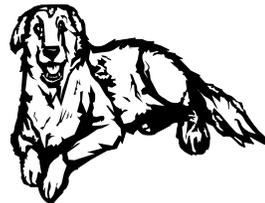
## TAXES - One of the Two Things That We Have to Do!

Real Estate Taxes may be paid in full at one time or in two installments. In either case, a payment is due by January 31. The proper amount, for either full payment or installment payments, can be found in the dark bordered boxes on your tax bill. If you have chosen the installment method of payment, the second payment will be due by July 31 at the Forest County Treasurer's office. For Personal Property taxes, payment is due in full by January 31. The installment method of payment is not available.

Taxpayers should note that all current year Real Estate Payments made by January 31 should be made to the Town of Hiles Treasurer at the address that appears in the upper left corner of your tax bill. Please enclose a SASE, if one is needed, (self addressed stamped envelope) if you would like a receipt for your payment. Real Estate tax payments made after January 31 should be made to the Forest County Treasurer at 200 E. Madison, Crandon WI 54520.

**The Town Treasurer will be available for tax collection payments at the Town Hall on Saturdays in the months of December and January from Noon until 3PM**

**Annual Dog Licenses:** A reminder to you that in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 174.05 every dog over the age of 5 months is required to be licensed. A requirement of licensing is that proof of rabies vaccination be provided to the Town Treasurer. Licenses can not be issued without proof of rabies vaccination. Dog license fees are as follows and are renewable at the first of every year. Please enclose a SASE for the return of the license and the rabies certificate.



**Male/Female: \$8.00  
Neuter/Spay: \$3.00**

## From Your Fire Department and Town Board:



You may realize that there is increasing concern regarding the use of fireworks—concern for safety and also for the impact of use of illegal fireworks on the environment. Last year, fires caused by fireworks resulted in \$28 million in property damage. Sixty percent of people injured by fireworks are age 19 or younger. The highest risk of child injuries are those ages 5 to 9. Please read and consider the enclosed scenario regarding the use of illegal fireworks.

Emergency services personnel continue to be concerned about not being able to locate emergency scenes because of inaccurate location information. If you dial 911 to report an emergency, the dispatcher will have a display showing your phone number, name, and address. About 50% of emergency calls are now from cell phones. In this case you need to provide specific location information—fire number, near what intersection, etc.

## From the Hiles Service Club:

Many people have generously donated items to the Hiles Museum this past year, and also money, as well as dropping off aluminum cans at the playground collection site. This is still an important source of money for the museum. We thank all who have contributed to aid our efforts.

Our plans to keep regular weekend hours did not do well, so for now the museum continues to be open when there are events at the town hall, or by request.

Our biggest news this year has been the \$7500 grant from the Potawatomi Tribe for construction of an outdoor shelter for large exhibits, and some other improvements that are planned for this coming year.



## Voter Registration Coming Soon to a Town Near You

In October 2002, the federal government passed the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). This legislation created new election administration requirements for all states and called for an upgrade of voting systems. HAVA calls for the creation of a single interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered at the state.

### So—What does this mean to you??

Until now, voter registration has not been required in the Town of Hiles. Prior to the next election in which you plan to vote, or on the day of the election, voters in the Town will need to officially register. You have three options to accomplish this registration — (1) by mail, (2) in person before the next election, or (3) the day of the election at the polling place. Absentee voters will need to register in advance of the election. If you have not voted in the Town of Hiles before, you should be prepared to provide proof of residence and identification. Contact Town Clerk Cathy Votis for more information.



## Property Assessment Values

The Town Board contracted with our appointed tax assessor to perform a complete property revaluation that will be effective during the coming year. The assessed values need to be reviewed periodically in order to maintain compliance with the Department of Revenue equalized values. Recent market sales will be used to establish new assessed values. The DOR estimates the Town of Hiles is at less than 80% of full market value and we are required to be closer to the state view of our property value. It is important to remember that the new assessed values are based on market sales and not tax demand. The amount of tax is determined by the amount of revenue needed by the taxing entities and the apportionment of revenues. The new values for the 2006 assessments will be established later in the year of 2006 and property owners will be notified of these new values.

**Who to Call For What** - here are your current Town Officials

Name, Title	Address	Contact	Contact For —
Marilyn Pfeifer, Chairperson	10682 Fire Tower Road Hiles WI 54511	715-649-3381	General Town information, snow plowing, roads
Chuck Hill, Supervisor	10851 Nature Trail Ln Three Lakes WI 54562	715-479-6903 chuck@townofhiles.org	General Town information
Larry Berg, Supervisor	8506 E. Pine Lake Road Hiles WI 54511	715-649-3707 larry@townofhiles.org	General Town information
Judy McKay-Burkey, Treasurer	10744 W. Main Street Hiles WI 54511	715-649-3320	Snow plow contracts, real estate tax questions, dog licenses, transfer station permits
Cathy Votis, Clerk	9156 N. Main Street Hiles WI 54511	715-649-3469 cathy@townofhiles.org	Cemetery, alcoholic licenses, elections, hall bookings
Todd M. Pauls, Assessor BA Pauls & Associates	PO Box 2190 Wausau WI 54402	715-848-9300 bapauls@charter.net	Questions on tax assessments

Call the above people or call the Town Office (715-649-3680) and leave a message. You may also e-mail us at [hiles@townofhiles.org](mailto:hiles@townofhiles.org)



**A Happy Holiday Season to all of you**



# FIREWORKS FACTS

## FOLLOW FRED FIREWURKER AS HE LEARNS ABOUT WISCONSIN FIREWORKS LAW

**Fred Firewurker:** Hey, the warm weather is here and we're back up in good old Forest County for a well deserved vacation. I brought the family, the fishing rods and a cooler of brats and beer along and in the trunk I have a nice load of some really nifty fireworks!

**Town Board:** Welcome back Fred! The brats and beer sound great. But we bet that you don't know that most of your nifty fireworks are illegal to possess and use in the State of Wisconsin.

**Fred Firewurker:** Whaddya mean! I've always shot fireworks up here. Why, I bought most of them on the way up here. I even got some more in Eagle River. How can fireworks be illegal?

**Town Board:** Yeah, it's true, Fred. Just because you bought fireworks in Wisconsin doesn't make them legal. Look here, Wisconsin state law may allow the sales of fireworks, but the state law is very clear and restrictive on the possession and use of fireworks. In simple terms, you might be able to buy them here, but you can't legally keep or use them here!

**Fred Firewurker:** You guys are scaring me! Which fireworks are illegal?

**Town Board:** "Fireworks" in Wisconsin are defined as anything manufactured, processed or packaged for exploding, emitting sparks or combustion which does not have another common use. That covers all types of bottle rockets, sky rockets, roman candles, missiles, parachutes, wheels and spinners, display shells and aerial items and many ground display products. This includes all types and sizes of firecrackers. There are no 'legal' fireworks in Wisconsin, only a small list of products that includes sparklers, toy snakes, roll caps, smoke bombs and party poppers that are not defined as 'fireworks'.

**Fred Firewurker:** Hey, you guys are crazy! The place in town sold me a membership in a fireworks club that permits me to legally possess and use my fireworks.

**Town Board:** Wrong again, buddy! All you purchased was a worthless piece of paper. Wisconsin state law only allows the mayor of a city and the chairperson of a village or town and their agents, the power to issue fireworks permits. However, that permitting power is discretionary, and is usually strictly limited to civic organizations, with the added stipulation that the fireworks be purchased and fired by a licensed professional.

**Fred Firewurker:** Gypped again! I could've used those 2 bucks to buy some legal sparklers. But hey, I've been using fireworks up here for years. Why the sudden bad attitude?

**Town Board:** Times are changing. As more folks have taken up permanent and seasonal residency, the tolerance for fireworks, especially late at night, has greatly diminished. Also, the proliferation of year 'round fireworks stores has resulted in greatly increased fireworks availability. Fireworks use is no longer confined to the few weeks around the 4th of July. It has become a nightly noise nuisance throughout the entire vacation season. Fireworks complaints and the resulting citations hit new highs each year. And lets face it, you have probably been using illegal fireworks up here all along, because you can't get away with that back home!

**Fred Firewurker:** You mean I can get ticketed for possessing and using fireworks?

**Town Board:** Absolutely! The Forest County Sheriff's Dept. is the enforcement agency in this town. Citations can range from noise violations to disorderly conduct. Fines can be in excess of \$200 plus costs. And your expensive fireworks can be confiscated.

**Fred Firewurker:** Gosh, you guys are harsh! Next you're going to tell me that I could be held personally liable for damages caused by my fireworks.

**Town Board:** Now that's a no brainer! Of course you can be held personally liable for bodily injury and property damage caused by your fireworks possession or use. And listen, what if it is you or a family member who is injured? Do you really want to live with that?

**Fred Firewurker:** But I'm a pretty safe guy. I always shoot my fireworks over the lake.

**Town Board:** Think of what you just said. The lakeshore areas have some of the greatest population densities in the Northwoods. Sound also travels much farther over water. The potential for injury, damage or just annoying your neighbor is far greater on the lake. Remember that skyrocket that got away from you last year and landed in your neighbor's boat? And think of this, all of that stuff that you're shooting up there has to come down. Where? In the lake! Think of the chemical compounds that you could be putting into that crystal clear water that you brag to your buddies about. And what about the floating fireworks litter that collects around your neighbor's pontoon boat and washes up on his beach?

**Fred Firewurker:** Well, I'm an American. And using fireworks is as American as the 4th of July and apple pie. I've taken my chances before, and I'm here to have some fun!

**Town Board:** Fred, we just can't save you from yourself! But if you're bent on making a foolish decision then listen up. We as a Town Board cannot condone illegal fireworks possession or use. Be aware that fireworks noise is the primary cause for fireworks complaints. Using fireworks after 10pm will almost guarantee a complaint and a visit by a Sheriff's deputy. Be a good neighbor and ask yourself again if the risks are really worth it!

## **THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWN OF HILES AND THE HILES FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **ASK YOU TO PLEASE OBSERVE WISCONSIN FIREWORKS LAWS**

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## **PLEASE DO NOT USE ILLEGAL FIREWORKS**

Wisconsin Fireworks Law can be found online at [www.legis.state.wi.us](http://www.legis.state.wi.us). On the homepage of this website click on Wisconsin Law, then in Wisconsin Law menu box click on Statutes. On the Statutes page enter 167.10 in the "go to specific statute" search box.

Adapted to the Town of Hiles with permission from  
Dave Alleman, Supervisor, Town of Washington, Vilas County