



TOWN OF HULL 2020 FALL NEWSLETTER

Issue 41

October 2020

Municipal Right of Way – Control Versus Ownership

You may have heard of a “Municipal Right of Way” or in our case the “Town Right of Way”. What is it; why is it important and how does it affect me?

The “Right of Way” is an area of land including the roadway portion of a municipality, along with equal amounts of non-roadway property. In a town, the “Right of Way” portion is approximately 66 feet in width. The “Right of Way” is measured from the centerline of the roadway and extends out on both sides approximately 33 feet. A single lane of roadway surface in a typical town is approximately 10-12 feet wide, so the remaining non roadway surface included as “Right of Way” is usually the remaining 20-23 feet. There are instances, though few, where the “Right of Way” is wider than described because of the road shape or other issues.

The Town has control over what happens in the “Right of Way” typically for the following reasons. Water management practices such as ditches or swales, vegetation/tree plantings for safety and line of sight issues, allowing utility companies a location to lay infrastructure, and management of snow removal from roadways. There are other reasons as well but these are the main ones.

The roadway surface portion of the “Right of Way” is usually dedicated to the town during the land development phase of the property. The non-roadway portion of the “Right of Way” in most cases is still part of the property it is attached to, and therefore is still privately owned. The term “Right of Way” really implies “control” rather than “ownership”. There are instances where the non-roadway portion of the “Right of Way” is owned by the Town but in most cases, the area is usually privately owned.

Regardless of “Right of Way” ownership, the “Right of Way” portion of a roadway should be treated as property that should be respected just as the personal property we own. So often we see debris of all kinds thrown in the “Right of Way” portion especially in outlying areas of the Town. Neighbors are often casual about not picking up after their pets because they feel the “Right of Way” belongs to everyone. It does not! Regardless of ownership, we all need to be personally responsible for our actions and respect the “Right of Way”!



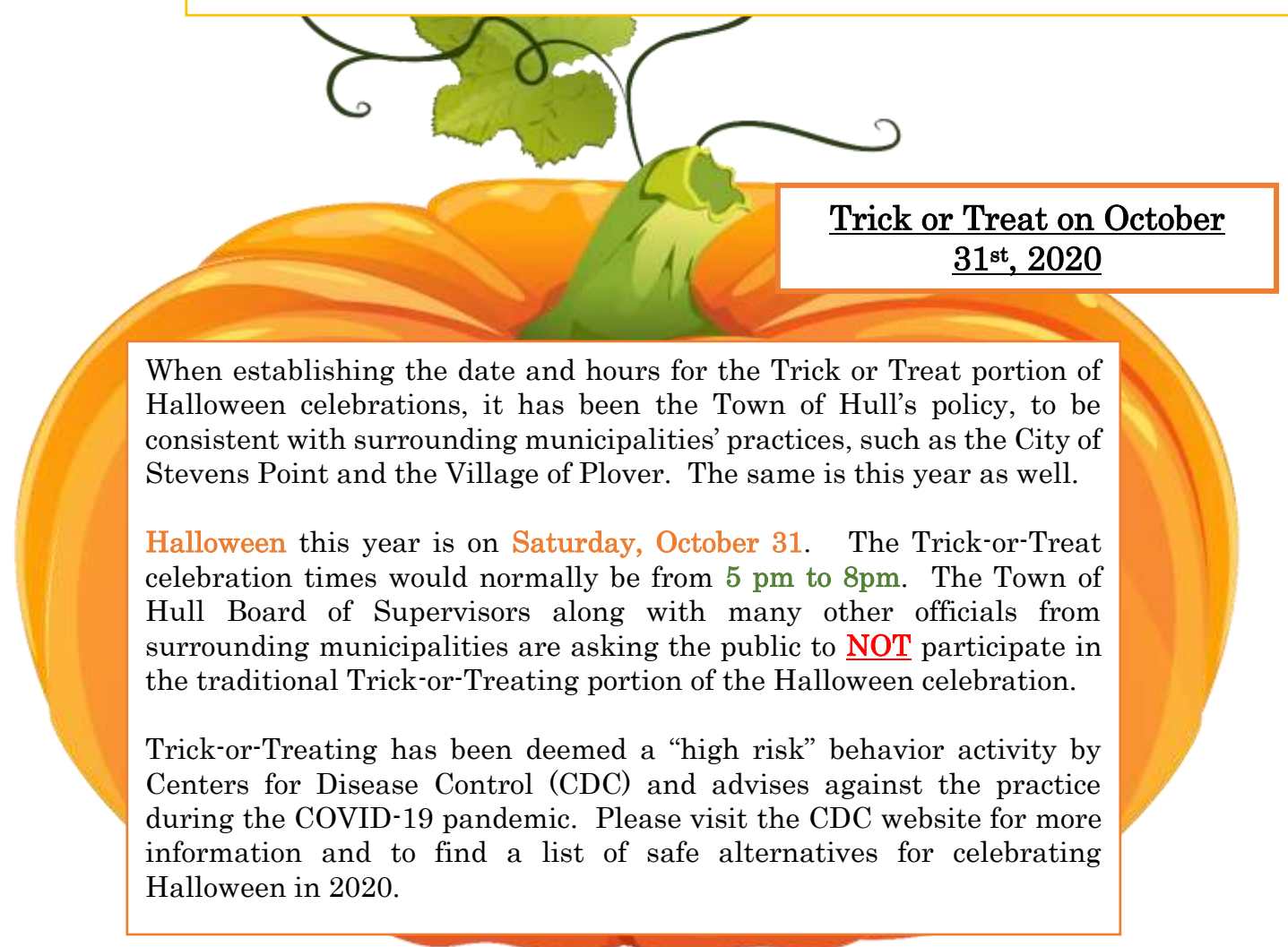
END OF YEAR – 2020
YARD WASTE SITE HOURS

The Town of Hull Yard Waste Site will be **CLOSED FOR THE SEASON**
•••**Effective November 20, 2020**•••

Remaining hours in November are:
November 1 – November 19

Monday	Noon – 4:45pm
Thursday	Noon – 4:45pm
Saturday	10:00am – 4:00pm

REMINDER: Any lumber, treated wood or garbage is **NOT** allowed in the brush pile. Please remove tags and plastic bottoms from planters. Please dispose of these items at home.



Trick or Treat on October
31st, 2020

When establishing the date and hours for the Trick or Treat portion of Halloween celebrations, it has been the Town of Hull's policy, to be consistent with surrounding municipalities' practices, such as the City of Stevens Point and the Village of Plover. The same is this year as well.

Halloween this year is on **Saturday, October 31**. The Trick-or-Treat celebration times would normally be from **5 pm to 8pm**. The Town of Hull Board of Supervisors along with many other officials from surrounding municipalities are asking the public to **NOT** participate in the traditional Trick-or-Treating portion of the Halloween celebration.

Trick-or-Treating has been deemed a "high risk" behavior activity by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and advises against the practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit the CDC website for more information and to find a list of safe alternatives for celebrating Halloween in 2020.



VOTE

NOVEMBER 3, 2020

POLLS OPEN AT 7:00am
POLLS CLOSE AT 8:00pm

ATTENTION:

Voters that have already received a requested absentee ballot via the mail, **PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** You may return via the U.S. Mail Service (must be post marked by Nov. 3, 2020), return to us in person or deposit in the black drop box outside of the Hull office.

• **Do you need to register to vote?** After October 14, you must register in person at the Town of Hull office. The final day to register to vote at the Town Hall is October 30 by 5:00pm. You may also register the day of the election but we suggest you do so prior to November 3rd.

Proof of Residency is required for registration. You can use:

- Driver's license with a current address or State I.D.
- Utility bill
- Bank Statement
- Tax Statement
- Licenses issued by the DNR (fishing, hunting license)
- Paycheck or paystub
- A residential lease
- A check or other document issued by a unit of government.

• If you have recently moved to the Town of Hull, you must be a resident for 28 days to vote in Hull. If you have lived here less than 28 days, please vote in your previous municipality.

• **When Voting:** A **PHOTO ID** must be presented. Please remove your photo I.D. from your wallet to show to the election inspectors.

THANK YOU FOR VOTING!!

If you have "**ANY**" questions, please contact Judy or Barb at 715-344-8280





ATV/UTV Task Force Update

On June 6, 2020, the new ATV/UTV route in the Town of Hull opened for ATV/UTV users. This route became possible through the Town of Hull ATV/UTV Ordinance, which became official as of March 9, 2020. The route is generally defined as the roads north of State Highway 66 and East of the Wisconsin River. The required signage posting those routes and their speed limits were put in place. We are grateful to the ATV/UTV and Snowmobile Club who generously donated the signs required to make this route possible.

The Town of Hull has received some feedback with the new route. Some of the feedback has been positive with citizens enjoying this recreational activity in our beautiful area. And, as expected, some of the feedback was negative. The Town of Hull appreciates citizen feedback, questions and suggestions for improvements to any policies. We encourage residents to provide feedback and share their experiences with this new ordinance. Residents can call our office (715-344-8280) or e-mail us (townofhull@tn.hull.wi.gov) to share information with our elected officials.

The Town of Hull's ATV/UTV ordinance contains strict requirements to keep all riders and residents safe. ATV/UTV users are expected to be aware of the ordinance in our Town and adhere to the laws and requirements as written by the state and our local ordinance. ATV/UTV users will find the information on the Town of Hull website (www.townofhull.us) along with a route map. Riders are expected to obey the posted speed limit and rules of the road. We strongly urge people of all ages to wear a helmet.

The Town of Hull is committed to continuing a successful experience on the roads in the Town of Hull by ATV/UTV users, bicyclists, walkers, runners and vehicles. We expect all road users to follow the policies and regulations in place for their mode of transportation. If all road users do their part, we will all have a safe, respectful and enjoyable experience on Town of Hull roads. The Town of Hull Road Committee and the ATV/UTV Task Force will regularly revisit the policies, ordinances and use of Hull's roads to ensure continues safety and positive experiences.

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CONTACTS AT THE TOWN OF HULL

The Town of Hull is governed by a 5-member Board of Supervisors

John Holdridge – Chairperson

Dave Pederson....Dave Wilz....Jan Way....John Koshnick

Other Staff:

Judy Holley – Clerk

Barb Brilowski – Adm. Asst./

Deputy Clerk

Patty Fritsche – Yard Waste Attendant

Ken Sadogierski – Fire Chief

Mark Fritsche – Asst. Fire Chief/Treasurer

715-344-8280

Road Crew Staff

Pete Kaminski - Foreman

Nick Kaminski

Bill Omernik

Joe Wierzba

Ken Johnson – PT backup

Grant Larson – Parks Maint.

[townofhull@tn.hull.wi.gov](mailto:townofhull@tn.hull.wi.gov)





## Citizen Procedures During Snow Events

A snow event in the Town of Hull is categorized as accumulation of snow or ice that requires removal/treatment of the snow or ice by mechanical means such as a plow truck or other pieces of equipment. The length of the event depends on weather conditions, includes the start of the accumulation, and lasts until the time the event is done in terms of treatment and when the condition of the roadway is restored to normal conditions. It can be from a few hours to several days.

Please read and practice the following recommendations. This will help insure that snow events stay as safe as possible, show consideration for you and your neighbors and help keep removal costs low.

### Recommendations to Follow

- Please **do not** shovel, plow or blow any snow or ice in the street or roadway after that street or roadway has been plowed and treated by the Town. This creates a hazardous situation for users of the road, including you and your neighbors. Plow crews may also need to return creating extra cost and fatigue on tired equipment and bodies.
- Please **do not park** any vehicles, equipment or any item that causes an obstruction in the road, the shoulder of a road, or in the remaining right of way portion. This forces the plow to go around the obstruction, narrows the roadway and creates an unsafe situation. The plowed snow needs to be placed in the right-of-way portion of the property. This cannot take place unless the roadway is free of obstructions. Do not use the roadway for parking of your vehicle or equipment. Park or store those items on your private property.
- There are numerous cul-de-sacs throughout the Town of Hull. Cul-de-sacs are designed to allow a safe area to turn around on a dead-end portion of a roadway usually in a subdivision type of development. Cul-de-sacs also play an important role in the wintertime. Plow trucks need to disperse snow around the fringes of the cul-de-sacs and keep the turnaround area open for vehicle traffic. Please do not set up obstructions on the edge of your cul-de-sacs like fences, plantings, large rocks, etc. that will prevent the effective plowing and dispersment of snow. Please understand that the snow from the plow needs to go somewhere just as it does on the straight portions of the roadway.
- We cannot control when a snow event will start and end. If your garbage and recycling containers need to be emptied during an event, please do not have any of these containers protruding into the roadway. The snowplow could unknowingly hit and damage them or the snowplow will have to go around. This creates a road obstruction. Please take a proactive and practical approach to container placement during a snow event.
- Some citizens place stakes along the edge of the roadway to give an awareness of where the lawn or non-roadway surface begins. Please try to install stakes that are flexible and will not be damaged. Throughout the winter season, the snow can build up and become very high along the edge of a road. Your driver may need to extend the wing out to disperse the buildup of snow to make room for more, keep line of sight issues controlled or keep the roadway surface from narrowing. In many cases, these stakes will be hit during that type of procedure. Keep this in mind when considering using stakes to mark the edge of the road.
- Have you ever cleaned up from a snow event in your private driveway and then the plow comes through and fills up your driveway opening with more snow than you originally removed? It has happened to all of us and it will most likely continue. You can however do something that will limit the amount that is plowed back in. Try to limit the amount of snow you build up near the opening of your driveway along the roadway, especially in the direction the snowplow comes from. Use a snow blower to throw the buildup in another area or never shovel it there to begin with. Remember, the snowplow cannot push and disperse snow that is not there.

## Safety Tips for the Fall/Winter Season

When the weather turns cold most people spend more time inside their homes using fireplaces, furnaces and heaters to keep warm. There is nothing quite as cozy as a fire, but it presents some safety hazards. Keep these tips in mind.

- *Service Your Furnace* – A specialist should inspect the furnace to make sure everything is in working order and there are no leaks.
- *Use Fireplaces Safely* - Keep that fire in its proper place by using a fireplace screen to keep sparks from flying out of the fireplace.
- *Use Caution with Space Heaters* – A space heater can be an effective way to warm up a chilly room, but it is

essential that you read the instructions on the unit before you use it. If your space heater requires venting, make sure you have vented it to the outdoors. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home; only use space heaters that are approved for this purpose. Always allow at least three feet of empty area around space heaters

## Safety Matters

There is nothing more important than the safety of your family. Everyone in your home needs to know how to behave responsibly to reduce the likelihood of a fire. However, because fires can start at any time without warning, it is also very important that the members of your household know how to react in the event of a fire. It is a good idea to review fire prevention and safety tips with your family every fall, and several times throughout the year.

- Make sure young children know how to dial 911.
- Establish and practice a fire escape plan with your family that includes a designated meeting area outside the home.
- Practice stop, drop and roll with your children so they learn how to escape beneath a fire.
- Teach everyone in your family multiple ways to escape from every room in the event of fire.
- Make sure there is a sufficient quantity of smoke detectors in your home.
- Make sure family members know how to use a fire extinguisher.
- Do not place lit candles where children can reach them. Never leave burning candles unattended and do not leave candles burning when you go to sleep.

## Get Your Car Ready For Winter

Be sure to check the fluids in your vehicle. Ensure that your tires are meant for winter travel and have the appropriate amount of tread. Stock the trunk with a blanket, hat and gloves, a bag of salt, sand or non-clumping kitty litter for traction, plus extra windshield fluid and of course, an ice scraper and shovel. Throw in a brightly colored cloth to tie to your antenna in case you get stuck. Also, toss in a few snacks as well as bottled water.



## CHIEF'S CORNER

### Visible House Numbers Key to Emergency Response Times

Emergency response teams cannot find you if your house number is not clearly displayed. Believe it or not, a majority are not visible from the road. It is even worse at night. A badly displayed number can cost you precious time in an emergency. We recommend 3" black on white reflective numbers on both sides of the mailbox.

### “Close Before You Doze”

That's close door before you go to sleep. Did you know that during a house fire, temperatures could rise to 900 degrees? The best thing you can do is put a barrier between you and that heat! Moreover, that is a closed door before you go to sleep. Nearly half of all deaths in house fires happen between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. With today's home full of highly flammable synthetic materials, the average time to get safely out of a house on fire is just three minutes. A closed door can deprive the fire of oxygen and buy you the extra time you need to escape. Do not forget to check your smoke detectors regularly to ensure you get the earliest warning possible when a fire is present.



Look for Hull Fire Departments Annual raffle tickets in your mailbox by the end of the month. I would like to thank you in advance for your support. \$\$\$

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## RESPONSIBILITY OF ANIMAL OWNERS



The Town of Hull has received numerous concerns/complaints from citizens regarding oversight with their pets (specifically dogs and cats). Below are a few reminders:

1. Any dog over 5 months old shall be licensed. Cats are not required to be licensed.
2. When walking your pet, a leash of maximum 6 feet length is required.
3. Any person having custody or ownership of a dog in the Town of Hull shall promptly remove and dispose of any excrement left or deposited by the animal upon public or private property of others.
4. It is unlawful for any person to permit any animal to be on private property unless such person has permission and appropriate means of removing excreta.
5. Town of Hull has contracted with the Portage County Humane Society for enforcement of all animal control ordinances.



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