

# Waterford Township



"where the path from the past & the future meet"

## MEETING REMINDER

The Township Board meets monthly from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday is a Federal Holiday, the Board will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. All residents are welcome for all or part of the meeting as the work that goes on in the meetings affects the residence of Waterford including quality of life and taxation. Minutes of the meeting are always available by requesting them from the township clerk at: [waterfordtownship@gmail.com](mailto:waterfordtownship@gmail.com)

## CALL FOR HELP!!!

Serving as an Election Judge is a great service to our township and essential to our democracy. Election Judges are officials that staff local polling places, administer election procedures, and ensure that the rights of voters are protected on Election Day.

Please consider becoming an election judge. A four or eight hour "shift" is available. You must be eligible to vote in Minnesota, be able to read, write and speak English. Hourly rate of pay will be set by the Town Board at the July 14, 2014 meeting.

Two hours of election judge training is required and offered several different days and times throughout the summer/fall by Dakota County. The Township pays for your training time and mileage.

Please contact Elizabeth Wheeler via e-mail at [waterfordtownship@gmail.com](mailto:waterfordtownship@gmail.com) or call the Waterford Township phone number at [651-346-8467](tel:651-346-8467) and leave a message if you are able to help with the elections on August 12, 2014 and or November 4, 2014.

## DON'T FORGET!

Don't forget to vote in the primary election on August 12, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the general election from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Waterford Town Hall. Absentee ballots can be obtained from Dakota County government center in Hastings or Apple Valley starting June 27, 2014 for the primary and September 19, 2014 for the general election.

# Newsletter - June 2014

The Waterford Township Board will be sending newsletters to residents in June and February to ensure Waterford neighbors know what's up in the township.

## ANNUAL PICNIC

SAVE THE DATE---The Waterford Township Annual Picnic will be held **July 4, 2014** at the historic Waterford Town Hall and Park starting at 11:30 a.m. with the "dinner bell at noon". Bring a dish to pass, utensils and plates. Beverage, cups and napkins will be furnished by the Township Board. This event has been a huge success in the past and is a good opportunity to meet your Waterford neighbors.

## BUILDING OR REMODELING

On April 14, 2014 the Waterford Township Board contracted with MNSPECT, LLC to help Township residents comply with the Minnesota Building Code (Section 1300.0120) for new construction, remodeling, re-roofing, re-siding, basement finish, decks, windows, exterior doors, electrical, plumbing, water heaters, water softeners, etc.

Code compliance is required whether you hire a contractor or you do the work yourself. If you hire a contractor verify they have a valid contractor's license by calling 952-442-7520 or via the internet at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/lookup/licensing.aspx>.

Building permits are extremely beneficial to you and the township for many reasons. In working with an expert building code official, you will benefit from their knowledge of building codes to ensure your construction project is built correctly and is constructed with safety in mind for you, your family, visitors, and future owners.

If you are building a new structure, you should contact Bryan Nelson, Waterford's Planning Commission Chair for a site plan review at 507-663-9057. After review by the Planning Commission you will need to meet with the Township Board for review and approval.

When building a home, garage, deck, and/or remodeling, re-roofing, re-siding, and any plumbing, heating, or electrical work contact Elizabeth Wheeler, Township Clerk for a permit application, supplemental information and checklist. To reach Elizabeth leave a phone message at 651-346-8467 or most expediently contact her via e-mail at [waterfordtownship@gmail.com](mailto:waterfordtownship@gmail.com).

Questions regarding the building code can be answered by the Building Official at MNSPECT: **Scott Qualle – Office # 888-446-1801 or Cell # 763-458-6926**

Questions regarding septic system design, installation and or repair can be answered by the Certified Septic Inspector at BFS LLC: **Robert Freiermuth - Phone # 651-437-5343**

# IRON BRIDGE UPDATE

The Waterford Iron Bridge was constructed in 1909 and served the community continuously until 2009 when the new cement (Dudley) bridge was built. The bridge has been given a National Historical Site designation due to its unique design and long use in the Township.

In 2011, the Township was notified of a grant program through the National Historic Trust allowing it to be considered for grant funding through 'Partners in Preservation Program' with 20 other sites in the 7 County Metro areas. After completing the grant process, the Iron Bridge was awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest grant amount of \$95,000.

The grant funds were to be used for repair of the south abutment which had developed several deep cracks in the foundation. Repairs had been anticipated in 2013, but lack of finding suitable engineering plans delayed the repairs until this spring. With the help of Working Bridges, an iron bridge restoration group out of Grinnell, Iowa, the needed engineering and repairs were started in February 2014. The bridge will be open for walking and fishing by mid June.

The cost of repairs over the grant amount will be assessed to property owners in the Township over a period of 10 years at an expected cost of \$15.00 per property per year.

Long term plans included the bridge to become part of the bike trail from Northfield to Cannon Falls. More repairs to the north abutment are needed as well as painting, deck restoration and guard rail repair.

The Board will seek more grants funding, but are interested in setting up a small group of people who are willing to work on this project. Please contact Liz Messner at [507-663-1096](tel:507-663-1096) or [lmessner@northfieldwifi.com](mailto:lmessner@northfieldwifi.com) if you are interested in helping.

## WATERFORD FACTS

"Township" generally refers to organized but unincorporated communities governed by a local board of supervisors and created to provide services to their residents. Major responsibilities include road maintenance services, zoning/planning, election administration, and septic/building code compliance while maintaining agriculture as the primary industry.

## TOWNSHIP BOARD

**John Dudley, Township Supervisor** and Chairman, is a lifelong resident of Waterford Township. He attended Northfield High School. As a World War II veteran he served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946. He has been serving on the Waterford town board since 1970.

John is a farmer who has worked tirelessly over the years to maintain Waterford's philosophy of only one residence for each forty acres. His efforts have helped to preserve local green space in an era of rapid urban sprawl and to maintain Waterford's identity as an agricultural township. John always puts the residents of Waterford and their well being first when making decisions regarding the

township...a rich tradition that has protected Waterford's ground water and kept its soil free of pollution while keeping property values high and taxes low. John and his wife Patricia have 5 children and 10 grand children. His term expires 2016. John may be contacted via phone at [507-645-7903](tel:507-645-7903).

**Frank Wergin, a Township Supervisor**, has lived in Waterford Township since 1987. He and his wife have raised their children in this township, enjoying the company of good neighbors. Prior to this, he served on the Como Area Planning Committee in St. Paul. Shortly after moving here, he joined the planning commission. Several years later, he was elected to the board of supervisors, where he has served since. Frank's experience in commercial building and local code has been useful during the repair and maintenance of the historic Iron Bridge, as well as other township issues. His attention to township ordinance and its comprehensive plan maintain an objective platform for decisions. His term expires in 2015. He can be reached by phone at [612-308-1401](tel:612-308-1401), or at [fwergin@steelstructures-mn.com](mailto:fwergin@steelstructures-mn.com).

**Liz Messner, Township Supervisor** has been serving the Township since 1997; first on the Planning Commission and then as a Supervisor starting in 1999. Liz grew up in Eureka Township, moved to Sciota Township (right next door to Waterford) when she got married in 1979. Liz and her husband (Steve) became Waterford Township Ag property owners in 1984 and homeowners in 1996. Liz owns and operates the Aquatic Pets in downtown Northfield. Township residents often drop by the store to talk with Liz about any number of township issues. Term expires 2017. Liz can be reached via phone at [507-663-1096](tel:507-663-1096) and or via e-mail: [lmessner@northfieldwifi.com](mailto:lmessner@northfieldwifi.com)

**Larry Odegard, Township Treasurer**, has held the position since 2007 and served on the Planning Commission prior to that. Larry and his wife Jan moved to their home in Waterford Township in 1984. Larry retired from his position as Assistant Director of the MN State Employees Union, AFSCME, in 1997 and started working part time at the Rockler Woodworking and Hardware store in Burnsville. In 1999 he went to Colorado and served there as the Director of the Colorado Public Employees Union, AFSCME, until 2005. Jan, meanwhile, stayed in Minnesota and continued working at the State Deaf Academy in Faribault where she has worked for over 40 years. Larry keeps himself busy with a part time job (again at Rockler), a small business (Waterford Wooden Specialties), 8 Grandchildren and a wonderful wife. He loves the outdoors and is an avid Maple Syrup maker. His term in office expires in 2015. Larry can be reached at [507-645-4576](tel:507-645-4576) or by e-mail at [larryodegard@yahoo.com](mailto:larryodegard@yahoo.com)

**Elizabeth Wheeler**, a Waterford Township resident since 1983 was recently elected **Township Clerk**. Elizabeth spent 23 years in city government before retiring in May 2013. Elizabeth loves retirement as she can spend time with her two daughters, their husbands and two grandchildren, volunteer, garden, quilt, and fly her glider with her husband Steve of 46 years. Term expires 2016. Elizabeth can be reached via township phone number [651-346-8467](tel:651-346-8467) or most expediently via township e-mail: [waterfordtownship@gmail.com](mailto:waterfordtownship@gmail.com) or by U.S. mail: Waterford Township, P.O. Box 531, Northfield, MN 55057.