



# *Town of Sheridan*

## *April 2012*

**NO**

No. This will NOT be a monthly newsletter.

**YES**

Yes, we did learn from the newsletter last month. First is a correction. One of the old schools still stands, Vanceburg. I reported this incorrectly in the last newsletter. Second is the mechanics were wrong last time. The newsletters went back and forth to the Post Office a few times as I learned the hard way that I should tape on the top of the mailing address side and not the bottom. Thus the tape became excessive last time.  
On to the reason for the newsletter....

### ***Elections***

The dates have been set for four more elections this year. Mark your calendars:

**May 8**      **Recall Election Primary**  
**June 5**      **Recall Election**  
**August 14**    **Partisan Primary**  
**November 6**   **General Election**

Our polling place is the Town Hall. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

When there is a newspaper published in the municipality the municipality is required to publish notices in that newspaper or another locally published newspaper. For townships like Sheridan that do not have a newspaper published within the municipality the municipality is allowed to post in public places rather than paying for newspaper ads. We have incomplete coverage by Barron and Dunn county newspapers and smaller papers like the Hay River Review. This newsletter is to inform you of election dates and that the Town of Sheridan chooses to post notices rather than buy ads. See "Posting Notices" later. Using this newsletter rather than many ads in many papers will reduce our cost for the elections.

### ***Paper Ballot or Touch Screen?***

This is a frequently asked question.

Surprise 1: Both provide a "paper record"!

Surprise 2: Both are counted by a computer with the computer printing a tally sheet at the end of the day.

Both systems create computer counts with paper records of each vote. The biggest difference is that the touch screen system shows you what you selected. If you hit Mitt but wanted Michelle then you see that on the screen and can correct it before hitting "Cast Vote". There is yet a second chance to edit your choice with the touchscreen. It will print your vote on paper. You view the paper beside the screen. Then it asks you to "Cast vote" or void the printout and make corrections. On the paper scanner there are no such second chances.

When computers first appeared at elections voters complained about not having a paper trail to allow a recount. In Wisconsin all voting equipment provides a paper trail so a manual recount is always possible.

Our optical paper scanner and our touch screen voting system are both serviced by the same company. Each election they send new program cartridges with the names and issues on that election's ballot. At a recent training class the service company explained that Wisconsin did have manual recounts last year. For all the districts they service, the touchscreens manual recounts resulted in 0 (zero) corrections. 100% accurate. They could not say that for the paper scanner equipment, which relies on user's pen marks.

Barron County is actively discontinuing the optical scanners and going with just touch screens. In Dunn County the effort is being encouraged but not yet pushed. In Dunn County at a recent county wide clerks meeting one township reported they were 100% touchscreen last election.

### ***Board of Review***

The annual Board of Review will be June 12, 2012 at the Town Hall. Open Book will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.- Board of Review 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The monthly Town Board meeting will follow the Board of Review, starting no earlier than 7:00 p.m..

### ***Mailing List***

Help us maintain this mailing list. Let us know if we've misspelled a name or if someone was left out. The list was made from property records and voter registrations.

### ***Public Test of Voting Equipment***

May 1, May 28, August 6 and October 29. Each time at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Each election a new program is written for both types of voting equipment. The clerk tests both programs in our voting equipment. The clerk tests both programs in our voting equipment. A second test invites the public to view the testing and results. Votes and ballots are fed through the systems such that Candidate A gets 4 votes, Candidate B gets 3 votes etc. Although I haven't heard of anyone actually attending these tests it's good to know they are done before each election. Recently in Florida a voting equipment mistake swapped two candidates' votes. The Wisconsin procedures would identify such program problems before the election.

### ***Posting Notices***

The best and easiest way to see the public notices of elections, meeting etc. is to visit the township's web site and click on the menu item "Public Notices and Newsletters". The web site address is:

[www.sheridantownship.org](http://www.sheridantownship.org)

Notices are also posted three places in the township.

- 1) At the town hall
- 2) Corner of County Road VV and 1350th Ave.
- 3) near the clerk's mailbox (see return address of newsletter).

Notices have more legal constraints on the wording than a newsletter like this does.

## ***Town of Sheridan Newsletter***

***Election Dates***

***Board of Review Date***

***Public Test of Voting Equipment***

***Posting Notices***

**Town of Sheridan**  
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