



JANUARY—MARCH, 2007
TOWN OF SAUKVILLE

Chairman's Message . . .

... From Jim Kadow

Hello Neighbor!

I hope that you are enjoying a wonderful holiday season and the coming year brings all good things to you and your loved ones.

With the choices and lessons of the last twelve months behind us and the opportunities and challenges of the coming year ahead, I'd like to take a moment to thank every one of you who shares your time and talent with your neighbors.

Thanks for attending town meetings. Thanks for sharing your ideas and concerns with your town officials. Thanks for writing letters to the local newspapers in support of your community. Thanks for getting together with your neighbors to talk about ways you can get the word out about boundary issues. Thanks for attending the public participation meetings about our 2035 Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use Plan and telling us what you think our town should look like in twenty or thirty years.

Thanks for voting. Our voter turnout is as high as any other community in the state. Thanks for your patience with the new voting registration requirements, and a big thanks to all our election workers who took the training they needed and then ran our polling place so well. Thanks to Walter Clarke, your Town Clerk, who runs all our elections. Thanks to Ruth Maze, his able and enthusiastic Chief Election Inspector.

Thanks for calling us when your road needs repair, and thanks for supporting our efforts to maintain those roads on a regular basis so they don't need an expensive re-paving. Thanks for getting along with your neighbors and living together peacefully. Thanks for watching out for each other and lending a helping hand once and a while.

Thanks to Mark Dickmann. Our town lost a loyal friend and a terrific Constable with his recent passing. I am grateful that he so freely shared his considerable ability to work well with people and kept the peace in the town for more than twenty years.

Thanks to Mr. Henry Krause who fixes the town flag pole. Thanks to all the farmers and farmland owners who came to our Farmland Preservation Roundtable this summer. Thanks to Mike Wollmer who coordinated and supervised the painting and carpeting of the meeting room. Thanks for the gently used chairs, Mike. And thanks for serving as a Town Supervisor until you moved out of the Town this year. Thanks to Kate Smallish for lending us her painting of a corn field for the meeting room. And thanks Kate, for agreeing to finish Mike's term as Town Supervisor. Thanks to Todd Korb for taking Kate's spot on the Plan Commission. Thanks to Bill Niehaus who attends even more meetings now that he is both a Town and a County Supervisor. Thanks Bill, for your eloquent presentation of the Town's position when we meet with the Village of Saukville. And thanks Bill, for your sound advice.

Thanks to Jody Barrington, who writes and publishes our quarterly newsletter. Jody joined our Town Hall staff this year. Thanks Jody, for learning all about the National Incident Management System so that the town can manage in an emergency. Thanks to Debra Walls, our Zoning Administrator, for learning our zoning codes and helping Town residents navigate through them. Thanks Town Treasurer Kay Danielson. With property tax season upon us Kay will be very busy accepting property tax payments at the Town Hall for a while.

Thanks to Frank Mayer and Walter Grotelueschen, our building inspectors and thanks to the Ozaukee Sheriff's Department for protecting our safety and patrolling our roads. Thanks to Phyllis Carrier, a town resident who is an EMT for the Village of Saukville Fire Department. Phyllis volunteered to coordinate the installation of our new fire number signs. By recruiting her fellow firefighters in several of our neighboring communities to install the poles and signs, Phyllis made us all a little easier to find on a dark night. A special thanks to all the first responders who keep us safe and protect our homes.

Thanks to my family who freely allow me the time I need to do this job even though it takes a considerable amount of time. And finally, thanks to my fellow town residents for placing your confidence and trust in me to do this job on your behalf.

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Contact Changes

We have an easier way to direct your email questions to the people at the Town of Saukville Town Hall. There are now separate email addresses to send your inquiries to the individual who can best answer your questions.

For questions relating to property taxes and dog licensing, contact Kay Danielson at Tsauk.treas@hughes.net

For questions concerning zoning, property information, boundaries, contact Debra Walls at Tsauk.zone@hughes.net

For general questions, newsletter inquiries, follow-ups, contact Jody Barrington at Tsauk.admin@hughes.net or tsauk@hughes.net

To now better assist you when you call here, we have added extensions to reach someone directly. When the voicemail picks up, you can enter extensions and bypass the greeting. You may also listen to the greeting and follow the instructions to get the information that you want.

Ex 101 - General calls
Ex 102 - Zoning Administrator
Ex 103 - Town Clerk
Ex 104 - Treasurer

Treasurer's Message

Taxpayers are always welcome to make payment of taxes at Town Hall; however, taxpayers can also choose to make payment at the Port Washington State Bank, Saukville Branch. Tax payments will be accepted during all hours the bank lobby is open for business.

You must bring your tax bill with you to make your payment. Payments cannot be accepted at the drive-through windows.

If your escrow check exceeds the amount of tax due, please make your payment at the bank since the bank can issue an immediate refund of the overpayment.

If you mail your payment, please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for the return of your receipt.

Just a Reminder

Dog licenses are required for all dogs more than five months old on January 1, 2007. State law requires that dogs over five months of age be vaccinated against rabies.

Please send the certificate of rabies vaccination form your veterinarian for any dog you are licensing.

Do not include this amount in your tax payment. Send a self address stamped envelope for the return of your dog license and dog tag.

Neutered males or spayed females - \$5.00
Males or Females - \$10.00

All checks are payable to the Treasurer, Town of Saukville. The first tax payment must be made before January 31, 2007.

WANTED

We are looking for stories that give the Town of Saukville a more personal feeling. Long time residents have seen the changes, can tell the stories, and provide a personal view on the history of the town that a text book cannot offer.

If you have been a resident of the town for many decades and have a story or two to share on the changes you have witnessed over time, contact Jody Barrington:

Phone: 262-675-9217 during business hours
Extension 101 after hours
Email: tsauk.admin@hughes.net,
Mail: 3762 Lakeland Road, Saukville, WI 53080

Story ideas would include, but not limited to, changes in land, voting, farming, even personal stories of times before vehicles became popular. I love to listen to stories and would love to share them with everyone, so let your memory do the talking!

Poll Workers Make Elections Happen

By Ruth Maze

The national voter turnout for the November 7 election was remarkable and our Town was no exception. Of the Town's 1,371 pre-registered voters, 958 voters cast ballots. This includes 87 Election Day registrants. It was a very busy Election Day for us.

The friendly faces of the Town of Saukville poll workers, your neighbors, greeted voters. These volunteers are responsible for ensuring that the election process is uncomplicated and voter-friendly for the Town's residents. Elections wouldn't run as smoothly without them.

The operation of the election is much more complicated than in the past due to new regulations to prevent voter fraud. The Town is very lucky that we have enough volunteers to split the 6:30AM to 8:30PM voting day into two shifts of seven hours. Some of the other municipalities in Ozaukee County have to rely on a few poll workers who are required to work the entire day.

The Election Day begins at 6:30AM with the set-up of the ballot machines and printing of reports to show that no ballots have been cast. There were two ballots for the election; a white ballot for Ward 1 and a yellow ballot for Wards 2-5. Two poll lists separated the voters by the ward they resided. When voters register at the polls, their names are checked, their ward determined and the voter was assigned a consecutive number based on the type of ballot, white or yellow. Two poll workers or witnesses are required to register a voter on the poll lists. Next, the voter receives a ballot that has been initialed by two workers who distribute the ballots. The completed ballot is inserted in the main voting machine that counts the ballots. A poll worker is assigned to secure the ballots and assist the voters if the ballot is rejected. Most ballots are re-

jected if the ballot has two votes for candidates running for the same office.

To prevent voter fraud, the state requires state identification such as a driver's license, date of birth and attesting to voter provisions by signing the registration form. Many of the Town's voters were required to update their registration at the polls because this information was incomplete. In addition, many new voters registered on Election Day. Poll workers helped registered voters update their information and new voters with their forms.

At the end of the Election Day, reports are printed totaling ballots and votes for each office. Write in votes are manually tallied on hand-written reports and reported to the County. Envelopes that contained absentee ballots are manually counted and separated. New Election Day registrants are also counted and recorded because their names do not appear on the poll lists. Poll workers sign the reports as witness to the results. Finally, when all this is done, the late shift poll workers can go home.

Many municipalities are not as fortunate as we are to have enough capable volunteer poll workers and are considering contracting for poll workers. Also, we are more advanced than others are since we have a dedicated and enthusiastic Chief Election Inspector. The inspector is responsible for completing election training, being certified, and working with the Town Clerk to process the election.

The Town of Saukville is grateful to the poll workers for their hard work and willingness to support our Town at these elections. These are our model citizens at their best.

A Note From the Chief Election Inspector

By Ruth Maze

When I retired, I notified the Town of Saukville that I wanted to volunteer to work the elections. Rumor has it that because no one knew me, as I was fairly new to the Town, there was a reluctance to contact me. Now that I know how much is involved in an election, I can understand why. At the second election that I worked, Town Clerk Clarke said that the Town needed a Chief Inspector, and I volunteered. I didn't realize at the time, or I didn't pay attention, that the State was devising new voter registration requirements and introducing new machines. As the Chief Election Inspector, I was required to obtain 6 hours of certified training, which is really more than that. I've attended classes on

the overall election, the new machine, forms and other updates. It's been a great experience for me; I've met some wonderful people, especially the poll workers who have been so patient with me.

There is one part of the voting process I find frustrating. It is senseless write-in votes. All write-in votes are manually tabulated at the end of the Election Day. Hand written reports are prepared by the office and candidate, then provided to the County for their reports. Legitimate write-in votes are important to voters and their parties, and have resulted in these candidates winning office. It's amazing to me how many people abuse

this democratic process and waste our dollars by voting for Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and names that can't be printed in this newsletter.

To those of you who have the need to cast a silly write-in vote, please consider the extra work that results from this needless act. ALL write-in names are accounted for, whether they are fictional or not. At 8:30 PM, the last thing we want to do is count votes for Disney characters.

Now that you know the process, I'm hoping we'll see less of the frivolous votes and only write-in votes for qualified candidates.

State Takes Ash Trees to Look For Insect Pests



Adult Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer is an insect that lives under the bark of ash trees. Once a tree is infested with the pest, it is unlikely the tree will survive.

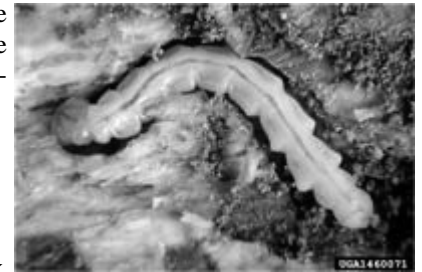
A native of China, this exotic bug probably entered the country in Detroit riding on wooden pallets and packing material from China. The Borer has already infested and killed about 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Recently the insect was discovered in Northern Illinois.

Adult beetles are bright metallic green in color. They are only one third inch long and one sixteenth inch wide. The larvae are creamy white with flattened, segmented bodies, growing up to an inch long.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has included Ozaukee County on

its list of areas at high risk for infestation. Unfortunately, the only way arborists can tell if an ash tree has been attacked by the Borer is to cut down the trees to look for infestations or stress the trees by removing the bark. The larval form of the Borer may live under the bark of the ash tree without the tree showing any symptoms of decline. Many generations of the adult insect can leave infested trees to infect trees up to ½ mile away before the host tree begins to die.

During the next several months DATCP workers will be marking and cutting a maximum of 9 trees in the township for testing and removal. All of trees will be on the Town right-of-way. No trees on private land will be touched without the permission of the property owner.



Larvae in bark.

Northern Ozaukee Schools' Scholarship Foundation

The Northern Ozaukee Schools' Scholarship Foundation was created in 1987 by a group of civic-minded individuals with a goal to create a perpetual trust fund of assets to generate income that would be awarded annually to deserving Ozaukee High School graduates. The ultimate goal of the Foundation is to provide a scholarship to every deserving student who aspires to pursue a post-secondary education. The current assets of the Foundation have been raised through fund-raising activities sponsored by the Foundation, as well as individual/family donations and wills. Through your support, five scholarships totaling \$13,500 were awarded to the graduating class of 2005.

Please consider donating to the Foundation as this year draws to a close. Your donation will help continue to expand scholarship opportunities for graduation seniors of Ozaukee High School.

The Foundation also extends an invitation to the annual Scholarship Foundation Dinner/Dance. The event will be held on Saturday April 21, 2007, 6 p.m., at The Bog. It is a delightful evening of celebration the success of the Foundation.

For further information on the Scholarship Foundation, please feel free to contact Al Krier, Board President, at 262-692-2444. Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation. Your donation makes a difference in our community and in the lives of many grateful young people.

Fire Sign Update

There is still a handful of citizens that have not received their fire sign, yet. Addresses are easily overlooked through no fault of anyone. There are quite a few properties in the Town of Saukville. When we place an order for the next shipment of addresses, we want to make sure that we have everyone's house number to keep the costs low. The more we order at one time, the larger the discount for taxpayers.

If you have not already done so, contact the Town Hall to get your address on the list. The list is being generated through the middle of February, so call, email, or stop in as soon as you are able to.

We apologize for the wait on the homes that were missed. We understand that looking at an empty post and mowing the lawn around it is an inconvenience when there doesn't seem to be a reason to have it there if there isn't a sign posted on it. It will be done as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience through this project. We hope you will be glad to see it at the end of your driveway when it arrives..



Save On Heat

January and February are the coldest months of the year for Wisconsin, as well as the most costly. With the expense of heating our homes, regardless of size, I wondered how each heating customer could save money while staying warm.

With the costs of gas, heating oil, propane, and kerosene consistently rising, many people are looking for ways to save money. Electric heat is the most cost effective, although it takes more time to heat a home; it does so gradually and maintains that temperature.

Go through your home and do an energy audit to help identify the spots that leak heat to the outside. Check around doors, windows, fireplaces, and other areas that may feel drafty. You can use caulk, weather stripping, door sweeps, plastic, and other creative ideas to close off the leaks. If your home is poorly insulated, add extra insulation.

Another way to keep the warm air in the home is by minimizing the use of ventilation fans in bathrooms and kitchens. Using these fans suck out the heat of a small home in a little more than an hour.

Solar heating doesn't mean spending a ton of money and putting a panel on top of your home. You can open your curtains on the side of the home the sun is shining on, let the sunshine in, then close them as soon as the sun moves away. Keeping the curtains drawn on shady sides of the home will also help. Use heavy fabric curtains with lots of folds to retain the "solar" heat and prevent cold air from seeping in.

When you wash laundry, use cold water instead of warm or hot. Taking quick showers to not use as much hot water will help. If your water heater is a room that isn't heated, wrap it in an insulation blanket to prevent heat loss. The amount of money you save by not using your water heater quite as much will show on your bill.

Turning down the heat in rooms that you don't frequent throughout the day is a logical idea. When you are in a common room using heat that isn't electric, use space heaters instead of blasting the hot air in the room. Electric is actually less expensive than gas, oil, propane, and kerosene.

Do not turn your thermostat up above your desired temperature. It doesn't heat the room faster, and it causes the furnace to work harder. Also, don't believe that you're saving money by turning the thermostat down while you are sleeping. Turning it down too low can actually cost you more because the home needs to be re-heated in addition to the air. 68 to 70 degrees while you're home or awake and 60 to 65 degrees while you sleep are reasonable temperatures. If it seems too chilly for you, wrap yourself in blankets.

Another idea is to invest in a programmable thermostat to raise and lower the temperature at pre-set times. Raising and lowering the thermostat to quickly will actually cost you more than doing it gradually. Doing it by hand is an inconvenience.

A humidifier boosts the "heat index," making it feel warmer. If you have the thermostat set to 68 degrees, it feels like 76.



Fireplaces are great to heat up the home. When the fire starts to die down, there isn't enough heat to keep the cold out of the flu. Closing up the damper will keep the nippy air out.

Insulate your attic if you haven't done so already. Remember, heat rises. Insulation can be inexpensive if you look in the right places.

Keep your furnace *happy*! Change filters in forced-air systems once a month. Bleed hot water radiators once or twice a month, and have sediments removed a couple times a year. Always check your owner manuals on required maintenance.

Clean the registers as needed. Make sure the heaters are not blocked by fly-away doll clothes stuffed inside. Be sure to keep any drapes and furniture from blocking registers and ducts.

If your furnace is older, consider replacing it with a more energy efficient one.

If you have kept it well maintained over the years, you may not have to worry about it.

Remember, the higher the efficiency, the less heat is wasted, giving you and your family the warmth they need and deserve for less.

Wisconsin Weather Safety

Most people would rather stay inside bundled up under a blanket next to the fire reading a book than venture out into the frigid air. There's a wondrous winter wonderland to enjoy for the entire family. Get out your sleds, get on a snowmobile, hit the slopes, try snowboarding, or teach a youngster to ice skate.

January and February are the coldest months of the year for Wisconsin, but don't let that put a freeze on staying fit. Knowing how to keep you and your family safe, happy and healthy will prevent trips to the emergency room.



Children

Injuries are most common with children due to all the activities available to them. Sledding, ice skating, and snowboarding, to name a few, put winter lovers at risk to bodily harm. It's difficult to prevent a child from injuries when all they want to do is be a kid. Supervising them will allow sufficient reaction time in case of an accident.

When out in the cold:

- Protect exposed skin with sunscreen. Sun burns in January do happen. Snow can reflect up to 85% of the sun's UV rays.
- Layer your clothing. Drowning children and adults in layers not only keeps in the warmth, but it allows layers to be peeled off when outer layers get wet.
- Cotton doesn't keep the body very warm. Using wools with long underwear, a turtleneck, and coat help.
- Water proof pants and jackets won't allow the wetness to seep in.
- Use warm socks inside water proof boots.
- Carry extra mittens or gloves to change out of wet ones.. Mittens keep your hands warmer than gloves.

Keeping these tips in mind will help in the prevention of frost bite. Children are a greater risk for frostbite than adults.

Frost nip is the early stages of frostbite. Skin that is white and numb should set off an alarm. As soon as a child gets inside, remove all wet clothing before it draws heat away from the body and immerse the chilled body parts in **WARM** water (104^o - 108^o F) until feeling comes back.

Frostbite occurs mostly on fingers, toes, ears, noses, and cheeks. The skin becomes very cold and turns white or yellowish grey. As soon as these symptoms occur, a trip to the emergency room may be necessary.

Hypothermia is another risk that increases in the cold. Elderly and infants are the most vulnerable. An infant's muscles are not capable of generating heat since they are not strong enough. Elderly have slower metabolisms, decreasing their ability to produce heat. A physically fit individual is more resistant due to their bodies being more efficient in processing oxygen.

Hypothermia is not just a threat in extreme cold weather. Even temperatures below 60^oF have the potential to cause hypothermia. **Symptoms** of hypothermia are uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.

Every winter, several people die from hypothermia. Many people slip and fall, bump their heads and become unconscious. If no one finds them, they freeze to death. Some may leave a snow-stuck vehicle in search of help only to become exhausted and freeze after their body temperature falls to dangerous levels.

To keep you and your family warm and happy every winter, keep these tips in mind. Be sure to have a snack before going out in the cold to help the body produce heat and energy. Try not to go out alone; use the buddy system when possible. Also, keep an emergency kit in your car. If you are stuck in your car, run the heat occasionally and keep the tank full. Never leave your vehicle until a storm is over.

In Your Vehicle

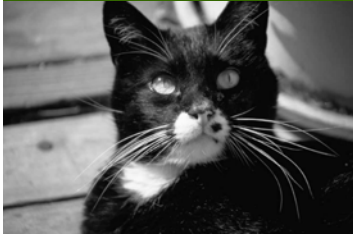


It is also wise to keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. You hear about it in the news and other television programs, but are you really prepared? This may sound like a long list to prepare for your trunk, but you never know.

Keep a shovel, snow brush and scraper, road salt and/or sand, jumper cables, emergency flares, and a florescent distress flag for when you are stuck. You do want to see and be seen if you are on the side of the road. Also, if you need a jump, you're prepared in case a kind-hearted citizen doesn't have a set of jumper cables on them.

For helpful battery-powered items, keep a flashlight, battery powered radio, and extra batteries in your kit. Having the radio in your vehicle will help you in hearing information about the storm you may be in, or if the road conditions are horrific near you in other areas. It is also good to hear if the temperature is going to drop just to prepare yourself in keeping warm. You would then know how often to run the heat in your

Emergency Pet Planning



Many of us have pets. Our pets are members of our families, a child we are raising, nurse when they are sick, and love dearly. Losing a pet due to an emergency is devastating, but there *are* ways to en-

sure the safety your friend relies on you for.

Planning for an emergency does take some time, but it is worth it in case of a fire, flood, tornado, or terrorist attack. Even getting snowed in with 2 – 3 feet of snow is a possibility in Wisconsin. Having an emergency kit with water, food, bowls to feed your pet, and blankets to keep your buddy comfortable are ideas to keep in one place. Any medication your pet relies on should be kept with the kit.

Rotating the items in the kit will help ensure freshness and food safety. Your emergency kit should also be transportable in case of evacuation.

If you were to be evacuated, make sure you have a plan for multiple scenarios. If you were to end up in a public shelter, your pet may not be allowed inside. Planning ahead for shelter alternatives that will work for

you **and** your pets will save you a potential heart ache and head-ache. Perhaps you may have to drive a distance to stay with friends and relatives just to keep your pet safe, happy, and healthy.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you cannot care for your animals. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure someone is available to care or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

We all know preparedness is important for any worse-case scenario in keeping everyone safe and healthy during the inevitable. If you have a plan that includes your pet, your family will survive anything.



For more information on emergency planning for your pets, visit <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtml>, and/or <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/animalsafety.html>

If you would like more information than this, there are multiple sites on the internet to check out, as well as information at your local pet stores.

A Change In Plan

For the last 6 years, Mike Wollmer started on the Plan Commission in April 2000. He was appointed Town Supervisor in April 2001, moving him to the Town Board.

In 2006, Mr. Wollmer organized and supervised the changes to the meeting room. With fresh paint, carpet and chairs, the room is warm and welcoming while keeping the atmosphere of small town living.

Mr. Wollmer has since moved out of the town. Kathryn Smallish has been appointed to finish his term. She was

a member of the Plan Commission for a long time. She is also a long-time resident of the town.

Kathryn has donated a painting of a corn field to the meeting room. This also keeps the ambiance of small town living alive.

Also, with the recent passing of Mark Dickmann, Town Constable, a new constable will be appointed. When his father passed over 20 years ago, Mr. Dickmann took over. He served the community well and was a respected citizen. He will be deeply missed.

Wisconsin Weather cont

car and how long to stretch out the gas.

Keep easy snack foods in your trunk. Small packaged items, such as crackers, peanuts, granola bars, even cereal bars, work easily. They won't freeze, keep well, and won't easily be wasted. Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) are also a great idea. They last forever and can withstand our ever-changing climate. Ask any military personnel which ones are the best!

Also, keep bottled water in your kit. You always need fluids.

Common sense tells you too keep blankets in the car. Heavy blankets work well. If you are under the blanket with more than yourself, you will stay warm until help

arrives. If you don't want to carry a blanket in your kit, you may use "Space Blankets". They take up very little room, and they work well.

Keep a first aid kit, pocket knife, matches, tow chain and rope, extra hat, socks, and mittens, and any necessary medication to finish off the list. You may need them in a worse case scenario.

If you would like to buy a kit for your vehicle with all the trimmings, check with military surplus stores. There are plenty of sites on-line, also. You may find other items that would be helpful, such as chem lights.

The drive could be to the grocery store or to Aunt Estelle's in St. Louis. No matter what the distance is, you should always be prepared. You never know what could happen.

Gardening Help: Growing Pumpkins Right



We are creating a gardening section in our newsletter. Many of us love to grow our own fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the summer and into fall. Our goal is to help you help yourself in growing healthy, beautiful, chemical-free, fresh produce.

We have chosen pumpkins as our main subject. They can grow easily from any pumpkin seed. If you have tried your hand at these cucurbits and were not as successful as you had hoped, we will walk you through from start to finish for a fantastic crop.

We have enlisted the help of Dan O'Neil from the Ozaukee County University Extension Agricultural. With his expertise, everyone can grow a fantastic garden.

A little background knowledge on this vegetable will help you along the way, or at least interest you on your adventure of growing perfect pumpkins.

American Indians were using pumpkins long before Christopher Columbus landed here and before pumpkins became a tradition for our Thanksgivings as food and decoration. They ate pumpkins roasted, boiled, stewed, in soups, and roasted seeds. Now, they are mostly used for pies and jack-o-lanterns.

When the Settlers came over, they saw the pumpkins grown by the Indians. Pumpkins then became a staple of their diet, as well. They also took seeds back to Europe, where they became popular, starting to spread pumpkins across the world.

The first pumpkin pies were made by early settlers by hollowing out a pumpkin, filling it with milk, honey, and spices, then baking it in the hot ashes of a dying fire. It isn't known whether the settlers came up with this technique or learned it from the Indians.

It is believed pumpkins originated in Mexico. Seeds from related plants have been found dating back over 7000 years to 5500 B.C.

Turning to the horticultural side of this, a pumpkin is a squash in the cucurbita genus. Cucurbita refers to the gourd family. More specifically, it is any vine family that bears fruit with hard rinds in the Cucurbitaceae family. This family consists of squash, cucumbers, melons, and gourds.

Remember the confusion over tomatoes being a fruit or a vegetable? The same holds true for pumpkins. Pumpkins are looked at as vegetables, but they are a fruit. Fruit has seeds and edible flesh. A vegetable is grown as a plant whose parts are used as food.

There are many types of pumpkins out there. Some have been genetically bred for specifics. Some have just altered themselves through the natural art of cross pollination. They can range in size from a few ounces to over 500 pounds and range in colors from white to pink to red to orange to even blue and blue-green. Some pumpkins are great for cooking and baking, and others are perfect for carving and decoration. There are, of course, the giant pumpkins that need a crane to be moved.

Now that you know that pumpkins are growing all over the world, including Alaska, Morton, Illinois is proclaimed as the "Pumpkin Capital of the World." Morton is the home of Libby's pumpkin industry and plant. Libby's plants approximately 4,000 acres of pumpkin each year. More than 50 million pies are made every Thanksgiving! Just goes to show how pumpkins the pumpkin industry is huge!

When planning your garden for spring, consider what you would like to use these fruits for. Would you like to have them for Halloween? Would you like to bake with them? How about for your home décor? Perhaps you want to just have roasted seeds covered in salt and a little butter. Maybe you want to grow a 500 pound show pumpkin.

No matter what the purpose is for your pumpkins, your decision will help you with preparing for the next growing season.

We will be discussing how to plan ahead for your garden next quarter before spring to walk you through the process. This is a year long project of information, so get ready to plant some vines and enjoy your harvest!



Just For Kids: That White, Crunchy, Morning Carpet

Walking outside to catch the bus, you see white stuff on the grass. Each step crunches under your feet. It's so cold outside you see your breath. What is this? Is this snow? Why is it stuck to everything?

Frost! Old Man Winter must have kissed everything overnight, touching the world with his frigid fingers. Maybe he had blown his cold breath on the house, Mom's car, the trees, even the wagon that was forgotten in the back yard.

Actually, the chilly winter air froze all the tiny water droplets in the atmosphere overnight into ice crystals. As the day goes on, it warms up. The ice crystals melt and become tiny water drops in the air again.



Try It!



Here's an experiment to see how frost is created right in front of your eyes.

You Will Need:

2 tin cans without lids (soup cans work well, but peel the labels off)
Rock salt or table salt
Crushed ice

What To Do:

Fill one tin can halfway with crushed ice. Add 4 tablespoons of salt. Mix it well for 30 seconds and

then let it sit.

In the other can, fill it halfway with crushed ice. Then fill the can with cool tap water just enough to cover the ice.



What You See

Notice the frost forming on the outside of the can you mixed with salt? What is happening to the can with just ice and water?

Why does this happen? The salt wants to suck up the water like a sponge to make a *salt solution* (a mix). To do this, the salt has to melt the ice to make water. The heat that is needed to melt the ice actually comes from the ice! Salt, also known as *Sodium (Na)*, is one of many elements that make up our Earth.

How does something so cold make heat? A *chemical reaction* between the salt and ice is created. As strange as this seems, melting the ice actually makes the mixture *cooler*. The salt mixture inside the can gets **below freezing**, making any teeny tiny water drops on the outside of the can freeze. That is why frost forms.

How about the other can? It didn't freeze. You can see water droplets (dew) forming on the outside of the can. The mixture is **just at freezing point** and the



temperature outside the can is warmer causing the dew to form.

You see this all summer with your glass of ice water.

To understand chemical reactions, just look around you.

When someone is cleaning the toilet, you may see fizzy white foam. The fire in the fireplace, a candle burning on a wick, mixing your favorite drink mix in a pitcher, the gas in the car making the engine roar, lunch digesting in your stomach... These are all chemical reactions.

Chemical reactions are processes when one type of substance chemically changes into another. As you watch mom make dinner, Dad working on the car, or Grandma making mulch, you will know that a chemical reaction was created to get their results!



Town of Saukville
3762 Lakeland Drive
Saukville, WI 53080

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TOWN HALL OPEN
Weekdays - 9 am to noon
Plan Commission Meeting:
2nd Tuesday of month 7 pm.
Town Board Meeting:
3rd Tuesday of month 7 pm.
Elections
April 3, 2007
Recycling Center:
Saturdays 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Website:
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