



TOWN OF WYOMING NEWS

Volume XVIII, No. 1

December, 2011

TAXES DOWN A BIT

Taxes levied against property in the Town of Wyoming decreased \$14,682 to \$1,812,138, a small decrease of 0.8%. This compares to increases in the 3 to 4 % range the past few years. Most school districts, counties, and municipalities in the state levied about the same as last year due to revenue caps and levy limits enacted earlier this year in the state's Budget Repair Law. The total town levy remained flat, but the town only portion was increased to help fund a back log of seal coating and help fund the cost of replacing a single lane bridge that is posted with weight limits. Three-fourths of the cost is expected to be covered with the state's TRIP program for major projects and the county's 50/50 cost sharing program for bridges.

<u>Levies</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Town	\$ 98,700	\$106,000
Fire – Spring Green	74,932	66,974
Fire – Dodgeville	9,624	9,854
Ambulance – Dodgeville	2,580	2,549
Total Town	185,836	185,377
State	16,720	16,461
County	561,191	567,644
School – River Valley	700,296	678,503
School – Dodgeville	357,748	349,977
Voc. – MATC	99,465	113,337
Voc. – SWTC	65,978	65,312
TOTAL LEVIES	1,987,234	1,976,611
State School Cr – RV	(109,823)	(112,423)
State School Cr – DV	(50,591)	(52,050)
PROPERTY TAXES	1,826,82	1,812,138
Lottery Credit	(8,868)	(9,318)
First Dollar Credit	(19,484)	(18,942)
TO BE COLLECTED	1,798,468	1,793,878
State Aids	1,137,713	1,054,801
Lottery Credit – RV	90.33	92.10
Lottery Credit – DV	100.17	102.61
First Dollar Credit RV	71.64	69.59
First Dollar Credit – DV	79.44	77.53
ASSESSED VALUE	88,931,700	96,165,800
EQUALIZED VALUE	98,523,700	96,997,400
AVE ASSESS. RATIO	90.26	99.14

Mime to return to Wyoming Valley



This coming summer the Wyoming Valley Church will be the site of THE WHITE CHURCH THEATRE PROJECT of the International School of Corporeal Mime, and its production company, Theatre de l'Ange Fou (Theatre of Mad Angles), both located in London, England. It will be the opening celebration of their future summer residency. Proprietors Steven Wasson and his wife Corinne Soum will be presenting their intensive summer corporeal mime training program, lectures, films and live performances introducing the work of the Theatre de l'Ange Fou and Etienne Decroux, the father of modern mime. Mr. Wasson and Ms. Soum were his last assistants and carried on his work with a mime school in Paris that was relocated to London in 1995.

Mr. Wasson, from Rock Falls, IL, was a student in the 1970's of Reid Gilbert's Valley Studio of International Mime, about a mile down the road from the Church. He acquired the Church from Herb Kritz who had purchased it from the United Methodist Conference when the congregation disbanded in 2009. After having the exterior and interior refurbished and painted, Mr. Kritz made the Church available for community use.

This year, Mr. Wasson installed a restroom in the next door "Ladies Hall" and will be installing air conditioning in the Church for the 2012 season along with special lighting for the mime performances. He will continue to make the Church available for weddings, funerals and community use. The Wyoming Valley Church Hymn Sings, under the sponsorship of the Rural Musicians Forum for the past six years, will continue for the 33rd season.

CENSUS – 2010

WYOMING POPULATION DECLINES

While the U. S. population increased 9.7% from the 2000 census to 308.7 million, and Wisconsin increased 5.5% to 5.7 million, and Iowa County increased 4.0% to 23,687, the Town of Wyoming declined 20% from 364 in 2000 to 302 in 2010. Wyoming is a small enough place to do an unofficial recheck and that confirmed the 2010 census count was accurate.

So why the decline? To start with, the population age 19 and under decreased from 91 in 2000 to 63 in 2010. There were a lot of graduations to attend the last few years. And fewer baby showers. Also, 12 rental units were not occupied in April, 2010 when the census count was done, and some housing that was owned by residents in 2000 is now owned by non-residents. Finally, there is a possibility that some Taliesin residents, who split time between here and Taliesin West, were counted here in 2000, but were counted in Scottsdale, Arizona in 2010.

Wyoming was not the only township in Iowa County that declined in population. Nine others also declined. Only the towns of Arena, Barneveld, Dodgeville and Mineral Point experienced increases and all of them surrounded growing incorporated municipalities. Wyoming with a count of 302 now has the lowest population of the 14 towns in Iowa County, but not by much, taking away that designation from neighboring Clyde, which declined from 322 to 306.

CENSUS DATA AND COMPARISONS

Wyoming had more males than females, 165 to 137, and little diversity, with 295 checking off “white alone” on the census form, and seven reporting “two or more races”. For the 2000 census, no one was over 85, but this time there were three, all men. (See next article for one of them.) For the 2000 census the median age was 41.8 years, but it jumped considerably to 52.1 in 2010, as young people departed and the grays stayed put.

The 2010 census counted 221 housing units, 131 being occupied. The other 90 were classified as vacant – 73 were for seasonal, recreational or occasional use, 12 were for rent, one was for sale, and four were vacant for other reasons.

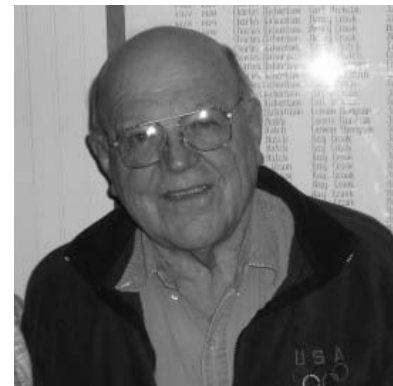
In 1850, the first census for Wyoming, there was a total population of 206, with males outnumbering females back then too, 108 to 98. There were no questions on race then. 39% of the population was 19 years of age or younger, compared to 21% in 2010. The oldsters were 65, and there were two: Thomas Pound, an innkeeper born in New Jersey, and Lucinda Fann, of Fann’s Hill on Hwy 23. In 2010, 160 years later, there were 46 people 65 or over, too many to list.

The current population is less than half the peak in 1900, per table below.

Wyoming Census

1850 – 206	1910 – 731	1970 – 298
1860 – 623	1920 – 688	1980 – 325
1870 – 736	1930 – 602	1990 – 338
1880 -	1940 – 632	2000 – 364
1890 -	1950 – 455	2010 – 302
1900 – 791	1960 – 358	

WARREN HOYER DAY



The 90th birthday of Warren Hoyer was celebrated last July with a big party at his house and a fireworks display after dark. A proclamation from the Town Board declaring Warren Hoyer Day in recognition of his life-long civic and community service, was read to all at the event by Mike Degen. It is printed below for those who were unable to attend.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas Warren Hoyer will be 90 years of age on July 21, 2011, and his birthday will be celebrated on July 16, 2011 with an open house planned by his sons, and

Whereas Warren Hoyer, has resided in the Town of Wyoming since 1938, and whose ancestors settled here during the time of the Civil War, and

Whereas Warren Hoyer has served the Town of Wyoming as Chairman for three terms from 1955 to 1961, as Treasure for three terms from 1983 to 1989, as Trustee to the Spring Green Area Fire

Protection District for 16 years from 1991 to 2006, as an election official for over 25 years, concluding as Chief Election Inspector in 2009, and

Whereas Warren Hoyer has served as Supervisor on the Iowa County Board for three terms from 1955 to 1961, and further served on the Iowa County Draft Board for 20 years, and

Whereas Warren Hoyer has participated in civic and community service as Treasurer of the Wyoming Valley United Methodist Church for 50 years, as a School Board member of the former Hillside School, District 3 for two years, as a member of the River Valley School Canvassing Committee for 30 years, as a member and officer of the Spring Green American Legion, as a member and officer of the Spring Green Lions Club, and as a member and officer of the Spring Green Masonic Lodge, and Whereas Warren Hoyer served his country during World War II as a B-29 bomber mechanic,

Therefore, in recognition of his service to the Town of Wyoming, to the County of Iowa, to the greater Spring Green area community, and to his country, the Wyoming Town Board declares July 16, 2011 as **Warren Hoyer Day** in the Town of Wyoming.

LAND STEWARDS

The 1850 Wyoming census referred to in a previous article, counted 39 dwellings, of which 21 were farms, and most were dairy farms. In the 1940's and 50's there were over 50 dairy farms. Today there are three.

The Town continues to have a rural character, despite the decline of dairying. There are cattle herds managed in different fashions, grain and hay operations, hardwood tree farms, and some specialty agriculture. Another major contributor to the rural character are the "Land Stewards" who have acquired property to live on, to manage as forest or prairie, to manage for wildlife, and/or to use for recreation.

There is a program for private landowners that promotes woodland wildlife stewardship. It is the Wisconsin Coverts Project, sponsored by the Ruffed Grouse Society and UW-Madison, Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. It is a cooperative program: In exchange for a free, 3-day workshop and materials, participants agree to become "Coverts Cooperators", sharing what they have learned with their communities. Two Wyoming

property owners have attended - John Hess in 1999 and Roger Williams in 2010. There will be two workshops offered at two locations in 2012. Dates and locations will be posted soon at http://forestandwildlifecology.wisc.edu/wl_extensi on/wicovertsproject.html



Promoting Woodland Wildlife Stewardship

WHAT'S LAND WORTH IN WYOMING?

A precise answer is – Down \$253 per acre to \$3943 per acre, a 6 % decline from the weighted average price per acre of \$4196 for the last four years. There were seven arms-length land transactions totaling \$1,932,670 in the town during the past 12 months as reported on the Wis. Dept. of Revenue's real estate closing forms, which are now filed electronically. Three of the transactions included improvements, and the assessed value of the improvements was removed from the three sales prices to calculate the value of the acreage. Parcel size ranged from 36 acres to 173 acres, and price per acre ranged from \$3050 to \$4909. See table below for comparisons to prior years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Av. Price</u>	<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Range*</u>
2011	7	490	\$3943	\$3050-4909	36-173
2010	5	411	4204	3547-4500	16-227
2009	5	732	4154	3820-4238	53-236
2008	No transactions				
2007	4	264	4301	4074-4500	53- 88
2006	6	415	3862	3254-4640	38-109
2005	3	298	3893	3649-3998	42-205
2004	5	389	2536	1671-3414	40-134
2003	7	830	2761	1788-3704	43-203

*Parcel size in acres

VOTING WILL BE DIFFERENT IN 2012

Voters will have the opportunity to go to the polls or vote in absentee at least four times in 2012, and maybe more, if recall efforts are successful, and if the dates selected for recall elections are different from the regularly scheduled dates. The four known election dates are:

- Spring Primary – February 21
- Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary – April 3
- Partisan Primary – August 14
- Fall Election and Presidential Election – November 6

To comply with the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act), which was enacted because many military ballots were not received in time to be counted, Wisconsin passed Act 75, to address the election calendar and the absentee voting process. The September Primary has been renamed the Partisan Primary and has been moved up to the second Tuesday in August. Absentee electors' ballots may be counted after election day if received by 4 PM on the Friday after an election and postmarked no later than election day.

More in the public eye has been the passage of Wisconsin Act 23, known as the Voter I. D. Law. Under this law, a valid photo ID will have to be presented to receive a ballot. The following four are valid, and can be unexpired or expired – Wis. DOT Driver License, Wis. DOT ID card, Military ID card, and U. S. Passport. Five other photo ID cards are also acceptable, but they must be unexpired.

Voter registration rules also were changed, increasing residency in the voting district to 28 consecutive days in order to be eligible to vote. (formerly it was 10 days). There are a number of other changes, notably that Proof of Residency must be shown if registering on election day. Mary Lloyd-Jones has prepared a list of all the rule changes and posted them on the town's website at <http://www.townofwyoming.org>

Voters can be assured that going through the new voting process will be a lot easier than going through airport security. And poll workers will be a lot friendlier than those surly custom officials along the Canadian and Mexican borders. Chief Election Inspector Wendy Dunagan will see to that.

One other change for 2012. County Board Supervisor Districts were redrawn following the 2010 census. Wyoming, which was entirely in District 7, is now included in two districts, No's 4 and 7. The dividing line starting from the north is Hwy 23, Percussion Rock Road and Limmex Hill Road, with District 7 located south and east of the dividing line, and District 4 north and west of it.

VALUATIONS CONVERGE

This past year all property in Wyoming was reassessed, since the values assigned in 2005 were outdated, out of compliance and skewed. The values that had been assigned to forest land were only 78% of last year's market value, and other categories of property were in the low 90% range. Assessor Randy Edge, mindful that outdated assessed values had to be increased, but in a market of declining values, increased the assessed value of all properties from \$88.9 million to \$96.2 million. Meanwhile, the Wis. Dept. of Revenue, using current market sales data, lowered the equalized value for Wyoming from \$98.5 million to \$97 million, resulting in a convergence to an average assessment ratio of 99.14.

TOWN PLANNING

While there was considerable real estate activity in the town this past year, the Plan Commission had to act on only four accessory building and two driveway applications, plus put on the Annual Pig Roast at Tower Hill State Park. Next year it will be held at the newly restored Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center.

The Plan Commission meets as needed on the first Tuesday of the month. It consists of seven members appointed by the Town Board. Mike Degen is the Chairman and Board Rep. Judy Symon-Hanson is the Secretary. Other members are John Dunagan, Lewis Lama, Mary Lloyd-Jones, Mark Olson, and Taliesin Rep Floyd Hamblen.

TOWN OFFICERS

Chairman	John Hess	588-7082
Supervisor	Len Olson	588-2064
Supervisor	Mike Degen	588-5346
Clerk	Mary Lloyd-Jones	588-9000
Treasurer	Laurie Baruch	753-9247
Assessor	Randy Edge	623-2719