
'AA' Bond Rating Reflects Town's Strong Financial Position

The Town of Cedarburg's prudent financial management practices and unique community characteristics has earned the Town a 'AA' bond rating by Standard & Poor's. Only four taxing jurisdictions in Wisconsin currently have a bond rating higher than 'AA' from Standard & Poor's. As a result of this high bond rating, the Town received lower interest rates that will save taxpayers \$91,000 over the life of the borrowing the Town Board approved April 1st.

The Town sought its first bond rating in conjunction with the refinancing of two promissory notes issued in 2007. Approximately \$3.1 million was borrowed in 2007 for road improvements and land acquisition. On April 1st, the Town Board approved resolutions refinancing both notes, totaling \$2.21 million or \$900,000 less than the original 2007 borrowing. This refinancing will, among other things, provide funds for the Town to acquire additional property for a public works garage and recycling center. The Town plans to eventually sell the current recycling center property for redevelopment purposes. A bond rating is a measure of a bond issuer's ability to repay borrowed funds. According to Standard & Poor's, a rating of 'AA' differs from the highest-rated obligations only to a small degree and indicates the Town's capacity to meet its financial commitments is very strong.

Annual Town Meeting on April 22nd

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22nd at 7pm at Town Hall. **All residents are welcomed and encouraged to attend.** The Town's 2008 Financial Statement and storm water management information and practices will be presented.

Recent Study on Arsenic A Reminder to Test Wells

You may have heard of a recently released study by the Ozaukee County Public Health Department on the occurrence of arsenic in private wells. In 2008, water from 98 private wells was tested for arsenic. Of these 98 wells only 7 had unsafe levels of arsenic. Sixteen of the 98 wells were located in the Town of Cedarburg and only two were found to have an unsafe level of arsenic.

Arsenic is a natural element found in soil and bedrock that can be released into groundwater and private wells under certain conditions. The presence of arsenic is very common and can be found in groundwater throughout Wisconsin. Depending upon the amount of arsenic and the level of exposure, arsenic can cause serious health problems. The Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization have determined that an arsenic level below 10 parts per billion (ppb) is safe to drink and use for food preparation. An arsenic level at or above 10 ppb is not safe to drink or use to prepare food. However, washing food and dishes in water with an arsenic level at or above 10 ppb is not a significant source of exposure.

A simple water test can determine whether your well has an unsafe level of arsenic. Once arsenic has been detected, it can be treated for safe consumption. Public health officials recommend testing wells at least once every five years. A list of local labs and additional information on arsenic can be found by [clicking here](#).