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DECEMBER 2010

www.westonwisconsin.org

VOLUME 49

LOCAL TAX REMAINS SAME, HOMEOWNERS WILL SEE DECREASE FOR 2ND YEAR

The Village of Weston Board of Trustees voted unanimously to hold the local tax rate at \$5.08/\$1,000 of home value for the third straight year. Couple this with an increase to the state lottery credits, a reduction in the garbage fee, and Marathon County’s reduction in taxes and a resident owning a \$150,000 can expect a **\$37.23 reduction in their tax bill.**

“After the DCE School District raised their taxes, we knew we needed to roll up our sleeves and do our best to keep Weston an affordable place to live,” said Village President Fred Schuster.

The 2011 no increase budget was accomplished through three specific actions: the elimination of one full-time employee, a modification of employee health insurance, and use of \$65,000 of the Village’s \$2.5 million rainy day fund.

“Most Wisconsin communities our size maintain over 100 employees and have local tax rates that average \$8 per \$1000 of home value. With our latest reduction, Weston will have 63 employees (including the Everest Metro allotment)”, said Mark Maloney, Chairman of the Personnel Committee.

Weston employees also agreed to modify their health insurance plan to reduce the premium increase from a proposed 8.9% increase to a 2.63% increase. Currently Weston employees pay the biggest share of their insurance premiums than any other government employee in Marathon County.

“Our represented employees, especially the Teamsters, understand that times are tough for many of our residents – who essentially pay 80% of their premium. So they agreed to coverage modifications to keep the tax rate flat,” said Trustee Barb Ermeling, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Police and fire protection make up 53% of the new spending in the 2011 budget, while the streamlining of the street operations made up 81% of the reductions.



Thanks to Jerry Petrowski, Weston will receive more than \$500,000 of state gas tax funds to construct a 4.4 mile multi-use path in 2012.

WESTON RECEIVES \$546,640 MULTI-USE TRAIL GRANT

Due to the efforts of State Rep. Jerry Petrowski and support from 50 taxpayers & businesses, the Village of Weston will received over one-half million dollars from the State of Wisconsin to construct a multi-use path that will connect the southern part of the Village with school, shopping and parks in the north.

“This grant will allow the Village to construct a 4.4 mile loop in 2012 that will get pedestrian and bicyclists off of the street. This is an important safety measure for these neighborhoods that are full of school age children and walking enthusiasts,” said Jen Higgins, Community Development Director.

The trail will be constructed along Weston Avenue west to Alderson Street. It will then run south on Alderson to Howland. The path will commence east on Howland to Camp Phillips where it will join up with the current multi-use path. An additional spur will be constructed on Birch Street to the Windemere Oaks subdivision.

“This pathway will link up with the pedestrian bridge to be constructed across Highway 29 and connect to our path system on Ross Avenue. If you include the County’s plan to add a path on Camp Phillips from Ross to Northwestern and to extend the Mountain Bay Trail – we have made Weston very bike and pedestrian friendly in a short amount of time,” said Sharon Jaeger, Chairman of the Park & Rec Committee.



“LEAN” WILL BE THE WATCHWORD IN 2011

As I write this memo, Thanksgiving has just passed and so has our first snow of the year. The metro area had several serious fender benders as many retrain themselves for winter driving, but not those who ventured out in Weston as you had the benefit of the Village road crew that was already out plowing & salting to keep the streets as safe.

Forethought is just one of the many unseen things the Village does for our taxpayers and the point of my message - Weston is ahead on many of their operations due in part to good planning. Our staff spends a certain amount of time each month analyzing for the future and talking about new ways to provide the affordable services you depend on. Just recently they began implementing “lean government.” They are looking at ways to eliminate duplicate efforts, unnecessary procedures and/or combining procedures to make for a more efficient operation. It gets down to the point that every employee is expected to put in a full day of work taking care of our taxpayers in the most efficient manner possible. To accomplish this, each employee is encouraged to provide input on how operations can be cost-effective and eliminate waste.

By this time, most of our taxpayers have received their property tax bill for the coming year. The tax rate for the Village of Weston remains at \$5.08/\$1000 and this is the 2nd year in a row we did not raise the rate. Sacrifices were made to keep this rate down. As an example we are down one full time employee. As stated, this means the remaining employees have to (and I know they will) pick up the slack. I’ve said it before, but I’ll say it again, we have the best municipal employees - period.

Weston has become a state leader in many areas of municipal government. We have drafted many policies and procedures that other communities ask us to share with them. We have numerous instances where other communities have modeled our procedures. We have won our share of awards.

We have even helped some businesses in educating their employees. One month ago, we received a request from the Wausau Daily Herald asking if the Village would put on a brief seminar for new WDH employees to become educated on various tax & budget terminology. Our finance director and deputy director spent about 1 ½ hours with several reporters going over these matters and answered many of their questions. The important thing is others look to the Village for their input and knowledge. They realize we are good at what we do and willing to help wherever we can. I hope all of you have a Blessed Christmas and a more prosperous New Year.

Fred Schuster, Village President



VOTING TURNOUT FOR THE 2010 GENERAL ELECTION

There were 4,843 residents that cast a ballot for the November 2nd

General Election in the Village of Weston. This is 45% of the population that is of voting age and 62% of the total registered voters. Out of the 4,843 votes, approximately 14% voted absentee. There were approximately 650 new voter registrations filed with the Village Clerk October 1st through November 4th.

2011 ELECTION DATES

February 15, 2011 Primary Election (if necessary)
April 5, 2011 Spring Election

All polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

VILLAGE OFFICES TO BE ELECTED ON APRIL 5, 2011:

Village President and Three Village Trustees

Incumbents:

Village President - Fred Schuster

Village Trustee - Loren White, Jon Ziegler and Karen Schmutzler (not running for re-election)

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE VILLAGE BOARD?

Nomination papers can be picked up for the Village President or Village Trustee seats. The final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. All seats are at-large positions serving 2-year terms. Please call at 715-241-2626 with any questions.

WHERE TO VOTE & VOTER PUBLIC ACCESS

The new Voter Public Access website is available online at <http://vpa.wi.gov/>. The new website offers polling place location, voting history and current office holders. You may also access the Village’s website at www.westonwisconsin.org (click on the *Village Government* tab then click on the *Elections* tab.) If you do not have access to the internet, you may contact the Municipal Center at 359-6114.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You may register to vote in the Clerk’s office, by mail or at the polls on Election Day. When registering please provide one form of identification that shows your name and current address. You will also need to provide your driver’s license number, or if you do not have a driver’s license the last four digits of your social security number. If you choose to register by mail, the deadline is always 20 days before any election.

ABSENTEE VOTING

If request is made by mail for an absentee ballot, it must be in the Clerk’s office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before an election. If the request is made in person at the Clerk’s office, the deadline is 5:00 p.m. on the day before an election. For more information on Absentee Voting and Voter Registration, please go online to www.westonwisconsin.org (click on the *Village Government* tab then click on the *Elections* tab.)

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES NEWS



2011 promises to be a more active year than we experienced in 2010 for public works projects with five major projects on the docket.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER STH 29 AT BIRCH STREET – As previously reported, the acquisition of the right of way for this project was not accomplished until late August. The project is currently being advertised for bids with a December 22, 2010, bid opening date. Wisconsin Public Service has completed the installation of underground electric lines in advance of the bridge construction in 2011. Construction of the bridge itself will start as soon as weather permits in the spring.

SCHOFIELD AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION – This project is moving toward the DOT's final submittal deadline of January 18, 2011. The major tasks to complete prior to that are final design, right-of-way acquisition, and commitments for acceptable bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. In regard to this last item, the DOT did not agree with the Village's proposal to provide bicycle accommodations by paving a path within the Mountain Bay Trail corridor. However, a 10 foot wide paved path will be added in the Mountain Bay Trail corridor for year-round pedestrian use, between Ryan Street and CTH J, in addition to the sidewalk on the south side of Schofield Avenue between Ryan and Hunt Street. In late October the Village agreed to construct the pavement 2 feet wider to allow bicycles to travel in the curb lane in each direction, but without a striped bicycle lane. These changes require significant plan modifications. In addition, the Village received an agreement in principal from Marathon County and the DNR to add the path in the trail corridor, actually advancing part of the County's plan to extend the Mountain Bay Trail to Camp Phillips Road. Progress on right-of-way acquisition has been good so far with those interests being very minor in nature. With a scheduled April bid opening, a mid to late May 2011 construction start is expected.

ALDERSON STREET RECONSTRUCTION – The Village of Weston and the Village of Rothschild have agreed upon the major points of an intergovernmental agreement to share in the cost of reconstructing Alderson Street between Howland Avenue and Weston Avenue. The street footprint will not change, but the gravel base will be added to achieve a total thickness of 12 inches. The work will be accomplished by Weston and Rothschild forces.

CAMP PHILLIPS ROAD RECONSTRUCTION – Marathon County continues to work toward final project submittal deadlines. This project will result in a 4 lane highway between Bernard Avenue and Northwestern Avenue, including a reconstructed bridge over the Eau Claire River. The Village will be installing water and

sanitary sewer mains along the project corridor up to the entrance to the Boy Scout Center property.

SCHOFIELD AVENUE SIDEWALK FROM BIRCH TO CAMP PHILLIPS – CWE is preparing a plan for sidewalk on the south side of Schofield Avenue. A public information meeting was held with property owners along the route to discuss the project scope, etc. Pedestrians and bicyclists have worn a trail on this part of Schofield Avenue, demonstrating the need for the facility. This project will be funded through the Village's TIF #2.

2011 STREET MAINTENANCE – Street maintenance projects for 2011 have not been finalized. Possible candidates are Northwestern, Fuller, and Schofield Avenue (east of CTH J) where a double chip seal was recommended in 2008, but was deferred. Additional candidates are Weston Avenue from Ryan to CTH J, Ryan Street from Weston Avenue to Shorey, Wandering Springs subdivision, and parts of the Sandy Meadows subdivisions.

EAU CLAIRE RIVER, LLC PROPERTY WELL SITE – The Village received favorable results from the pumping of a test well on the property along the west side of Camp Phillips Road just south of the Eau Claire River. The area can support multiple wells according to the hydro-geological analysis and the Village is moving forward with the purchase of part of the property that will serve a dual purpose as well sites and Village park land.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF VILLAGE WIDE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

A public hearing will be held before the Village Plan Commission on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 6 pm at the Village Municipal Center to hear testimony relative to the adoption of the Official Village Zoning Map for January 2011. All persons owning property and all interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing. To provide a yearly snapshot of zoning in the Village for future historical and planning purposes, the Village from this year forward will adopt the Official Zoning Map in January of each year.

The Official Zoning Map is on file at the Village Municipal Center for your review during regular business hours. You may also access the map on the Village website at <http://www.westonwisconsin.org/planning/maps.php>.

Persons may file written or verbal statements concerning discrepancies with the proposed Official Zoning Map at or prior to the public hearing. No decisions will be made on these discrepancies until a rezoning application is filed with the Village and neighboring property owners are properly notified of a future public hearing for specific property before the Village Plan Commission. Please contact Jennifer Higgins, Zoning Administrator at (715) 241-2638 or jhiggins@westonwisconsin.org with questions.

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL POLICY



Winter maintenance includes the Village roadways and sidewalk snow-clearing also plays a key role. According to Sec. 70.112 of the Village Code of Ordinances, snow and ice removal from sidewalks is the responsibility of property owners of a building or lot within 48 hours after snow fall ceases.

The Village will be responsible for clearing sidewalks, walkways, driveways, and parking lots around Village-owned and maintained buildings and properties. The Village will also be responsible for clearing the sidewalks of the three major 4-lane arterials (main thoroughfares) that run through the Village: Camp Phillips Road, Business Highway 51, and Schofield Avenue; the east side of Birch Street between Mount View Avenue and Sternberg Avenue (due to the lack of a boulevard on the east side of the street), the Ross Avenue round-a-bout sidewalks and all multi-use paths within the Village.

All other sidewalks of the Village not listed above will be the responsibility of the property owners of a building or lot. Failure to remove snow or ice within the allotted time specified in the ordinance will result in issuance of a citation which carries with it a \$75 fine and, the Village without further notice may clear the said sidewalk at the expense of the property owner. The costs incurred by the Village in clearing the sidewalk will then be charged to the responsible property owner. Failure to pay these special charges by the due date will result in these charges being added to the tax bill for the premises and collected as other taxes on real estate.



KEEP YOUR ROAD CLEAR OF SNOW

As a reminder, it is against the law to plow snow from your driveway, sidewalk, or parking lot onto any roadway. It is also against the Village of Weston Ordinance to plow snow across the street, as both of these instances can create a safety hazard. **All vehicles must be off the roadway between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and any other hours deemed necessary to allow for proper snow removal.**

The Village of Weston has cameras in the rear on their snowplows to monitor traffic, but it is important to **stay at least 200 feet behind** a snowplow and/or salt truck when the driver is operating it.



MAILBOX & GARBAGE PLACEMENT



As a reminder, it is important to check your mailbox for structural strength and correct placement. Required placement of mailboxes within road and street right of way dimensions can be obtained at the Village of Weston Municipal Center. In

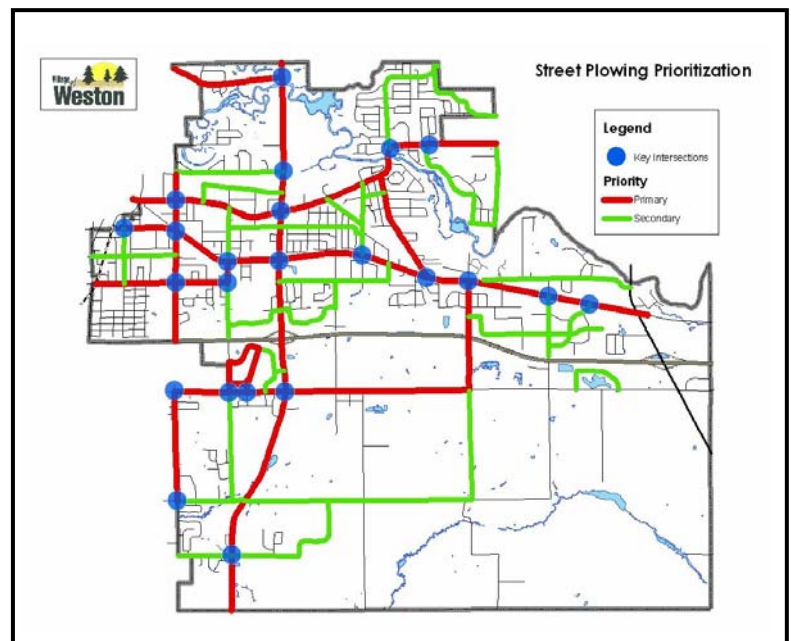
accordance to the ordinance adopted in 2000, **the Village of Weston and the Town of Weston will not replace or repair mailbox covers that are damaged due to the door being left open or actual mailboxes being damaged, from snow being discharged from the plow wing in the process of snow removal.**

Also on garbage pickup day, please place your trash container in your driveway and/or off the street and as far away from your mailbox as possible. This will allow the plow operators to clear the snow without hitting it as plow operators are mandated to not cross the centerline of the street. The garbage truck will not have a problem reaching your container from this location.



SNOW PLOWING PRIORITIES

The Village Street Department has established snow plowing priorities to get you to work and your child to school safely. Schofield Avenue, Ross Avenue, Camp Phillips (in conjunction with Marathon County), Alderson, Weston Avenue, Fuller Street and Jelinek Avenue receive priority as main thoroughfares. The map below details our strategy. You may view a larger version of this map on the Village's website.





EVEREST METRO POLICE NEWS

Chief Wally Sparks

NEW OFFICER

Nicholas Aldrich, 25 years of age, originally from Merrill, has been hired as a police officer for EMPD. Aldrich has a bachelor's degree from UW Stevens Point and had already completed the Police Academy prior to starting here on November 29th. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Capt. Scott Sleeter this summer.

ALCOHOL SERVER TRAINING

EMPD participated with other Metro area police departments, the Marathon County Alcohol & Other Drug Partnership (AOD) Council, North Central Technical College, the Marathon County Tavern League and local tavern owners to update the Responsible Beverage Server Training program at NTC and develop an additional Law Enforcement Alcohol Server Training (LEAST) program. Both of these programs are designed to educate servers and develop good working relationships between servers and law enforcement, reduce the misuse of alcohol, reduce problems at licensed establishments and hopefully keep the community safer through responsible beverage service.



There is a significant relationship between the misuse of alcohol & drugs and criminal activities. Because of this, EMPD strives to provide education and prevention programs such as DARE, School Resource Officers, Community Service Officer programs and training opportunities such as the LEAST program to help curb criminal activities. While we will continue to aggressively enforce the laws and protect the public, we recognize that crimes prevented and lives saved, although much harder to quantify, should always be our primary goal. EMPD will always strive to maintain an appropriate balance between enforcement and prevention efforts to help keep our community safe.



URBAN DEER MANAGEMENT

The Village has received numerous nuisance and property damage complaints from residents stemming from an increase in the urban deer population. EMPD is

working with the DNR and Village staff to develop the framework for an urban management program that would allow limited bow hunting in selected areas to reduce the size of the deer herd. While there is no shortage of complaints, we are still looking for property owners in the affected areas with enough land to grant access to hunters to accommodate this program. Any questions on this can be directed to Renee Hodell at 715-241-2608 or Chief Sparks at 715-359-4202.

WESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chief Steve Meilahn



CHRISTMAS FIRE SAFETY

Each year fires occur during the holiday season claiming the lives of over 400 Americans, injuring 1,650 more and causing over \$990 million in damage. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

PREVENTING TREE FIRES

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. When selecting a live tree, needles should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Do not place your tree close to a heat source. The heat will dry out the tree causing it to be more easily ignited. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times. Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect the lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into an outlet. Periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch. **DO NOT LEAVE HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON UNATTENDED!**

DECORATIONS & HOME SAFETY

Use only nonflammable decorations. Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace. If you are using an artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant. Avoid using lit candles. Never leave the house with candles burning. Never put lit candles on a tree. Finally, as in every season, have smoke alarms installed on every level of your home.

FIRE DEPARTMENT GETS NEW TURNOUT GEAR

After ten to twenty years of use, the Village of Weston Fire Department has replaced their entire complement of fire suppression turnout gear.



The new protective clothing was specifically designed for increased safety, personnel identification, and comfort.

“Every little detail of this new gear has a purpose. Whether it is a pocket to store a flashlight or a harness to help remove a firefighter from a building, this clothing will make us a more effective and safer fire department,” said Chief Steve Meilahn.

VILLAGE ADOPTS 2010 TAX RATE AT \$5.08 WITH NO TAX INCREASE; BUDGET SET TO RISE 2.03% IN 2011

On November 29th, the Village Board adopted the 2011 Operating Budget of \$7,735,360, which is a 2.03% increase from 2010. The Village's tax rate was set at \$5.08, which is the same as the previous year's tax rate. Therefore, the Village share of taxes paid on a \$150,000 assessed value home on the 2010 tax bill will remain unchanged at \$762.

WESTON TAX RATE REMAINS BELOW CITY OF WAUSAU, SCHOFIELD, & ROTHSCHILD

After the adoption of the 2011 budget, the Village of Weston's 2010 combined assessed tax rate was set at \$20.26, as compared to the assessed tax rate for the City of Wausau at \$24.06 (in the DCE School District) or at \$25.06 (in the Wausau School District). In addition, the tax rates for Rothschild (\$21.73) and Schofield (\$24.81) remain higher than the Village of Weston. This means that the Village of Weston's tax rate as a "full-service" community remains about \$1.50 - \$5.00 below the tax rate for other Metro area residents. The assessed values are used to calculate the tax rates and the tax bills for each community.

A \$150,000 assessed value home in Weston would be billed \$3,039 for property taxes, while a \$150,000 assessed value home in Wausau would be billed as much as \$3,759 for taxes. This is a savings of \$720 annually for our **Weston** taxpayers, when compared to most Wausau taxpayers.

The 2010 rankings for the local Wausau metro area communities are shown below, ranked by the 2010 combined assessed tax rate (from lowest to highest):

VILLAGE OF WESTON

Operating Budget Summary – General Fund 2010 - 2011

<u>BUDGET CATEGORY</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>	<u>% Change</u>
General Government	\$874,760	\$884,760	+ 1.14%
Public Safety	3,685,560	3,813,575	+ 3.47%
Public Works	2,459,460	2,449,785	- 0.39%
Health/Human Services	2,000	2,300	+ 15.00%
Culture & Recreation	300,510	317,550	+ 5.67%
Conservation & Develop.	208,860	217,390	+ 4.08%
Miscellaneous	50,000	50,000	+ 0.00%
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	<u>\$7,581,150</u>	<u>\$7,735,360</u>	<u>+ 2.03%</u>

**Village of Weston - 2011 Operating Budget
(Allocated by Budget Category)**

<u>FUND TYPES</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
General Fund	\$7,735,360
Debt Service Fund	8,609,819
Special Revenue Funds	10,915,325
Capital Projects Funds	7,227,000
Internal Service Fund	1,035,635
Enterprise/Utility Funds	4,972,926
TOTAL VILLAGE BUDGET	<u>\$40,496,065</u>
Total Capital Improvements Program Budget	<u>\$9,169,100</u>

<u>MUNICIPALITY NAME</u>	<u>Assessed</u>		<u>Equalized</u>
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>
	<u>Local Rate</u>	<u>Combined Rate</u>	<u>Combined Rate</u>
Town of Weston (D)	\$0.45	\$15.95	\$16.29
Village of Kronenwetter (M)	\$3.72	\$19.11	\$19.44
Village of Kronenwetter (D)	\$3.72	\$19.34	\$19.68
Village of Weston (D)	\$5.08	\$20.26	\$21.43
Town of Rib Mountain (W)	\$3.11	\$20.48	\$19.77
Village of Rothschild (D)	\$5.99	\$21.73	\$22.02
City of Mosinee (M)	\$6.42	\$23.95	\$21.42
City of Wausau (D)	\$8.49	\$24.06	\$24.50
City of Schofield (D)	\$7.62	\$24.81	\$22.87
City of Wausau (W)	\$8.49	\$25.06	\$25.52

(D) - DC Everest School District (M) - Mosinee School District
(W) - Wausau School District

Of course, the level of service in the various metro communities is not the same. Not all communities provide mass transit service, 24/7 Fire/EMS service (instead of 100% volunteer crews), or 24/7 police protection service with a detective bureau. Because all communities are not assessed at the same % as each other, the equalized tax rate is used to compare municipalities by converting their property values to 100% full market value per State statutes. This fact results in the Village of Weston's equalized tax rate to be \$21.43 as compared to Rothschild/Schofield/Wausau in the \$22.02-\$25.52 range when all communities are valued at 100%.

A summary of the Village's local assessed tax rates for the period of 1999-2010 is shown below:

Village of Weston Assessed Tax Rates/Levy Years:

1999 and 2000	\$4.91	2005	\$5.70
2001	\$5.02	2006	\$6.07
2002 and 2003	\$5.21	2007	\$4.91
2004	\$5.45	2008 - 2010	\$5.08



TOWN OF WESTON NEWS

Milton Olson, Chairman

2011 TOWN BUDGET

At a special meeting of the electors on November 23, the Town passed the 2011 budget of \$501,223. The Town of Weston's local tax levy was set at \$0.45399 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value and the Town's total 2011 highway expenditures was approved pursuant to Sec. 82.03(4) of Wis. Statutes in the amount of \$158,300.

TOWN BOARD SEATS OPEN IN APRIL ELECTION

If you are interested in becoming more involved in your town, several Town Board seats are up for re-election in the April, 2011 Spring Election. Town Board seats up for re-election include Town Chairman, two Supervisors, and the Clerk/Treasurer. If you have any questions or are interested in running for one of these positions, please contact the Town Clerk, Joan Erdman, at 715-241-8209. The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2010. Nomination papers are due back to the Clerk by 5:00 PM on January 5th, 2011.

2010 PROPERTY TAXES

Town of Weston property owners should have received their bills in the mail by this time. The 1st installment is due by January 31; however, if you want to claim a property tax deduction on your 2010 income taxes, your payment must be postmarked by December 31st. The preferred method of payment is by mail using the envelope provided with your tax statement. Three in-person collection times have been scheduled at the Town office, 5209 Mesker Street. The dates and times are as follows:

- * Tuesday, December 28th, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- * Friday, December 31st, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- * Monday, January 31st, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Any refunds due from overpayment of escrow checks will be processed and mailed in a timely manner to taxpayers along with a receipt. If you have any questions regarding your tax bill, please call the Town Treasurer at 715-241- 8209.

2010 ROAD PROJECTS

The Town Board wants to keep the Town roads in the best possible condition. This year, three inches of blacktop was put down on E. Gusman Road, Gavitt Street and Skrzypchak Lane. The developer of the Clearview Heights subdivision also completed the blacktopping of Clearview Road and Skrzypchak Lane as part of his contract with the Town. Crack were also filled on the following roads: Kersten

Road, Gusman Road, Wilderness Lane, and Fust Lane. The Town applied for and received a state road improvement grant for \$25,000. This was used to help with the expenses of the blacktopping projects this year.

2011 ROAD PROJECTS

The following street projects totaling \$95,000 in capital outlay are being planned for the summer of 2011:

1. **Gusman Road** will receive lane wedging to fill in the wheel tracks so the water will not stand on the road.
2. All the roads in **Home Sweet Home subdivision** will receive a 2-inch blacktop overlay.
3. The following roads **will be crack-filled**: Timber, Salzman, Payne, Lahr, Pauls, Tamarack, Clearview, and ¼ mile on Northwestern Avenue.

ORDINANCE UPDATES IN 2010

1. The Subdivision ordinance was updated to clarify many items dealing with land division. The ordinance now makes it easier for the building inspector to enforce in that it is similar to the Village ordinance.
2. Zoning code Sec. 94.154 Private residential parking was changed to allow larger garages in certain zoning districts.

NEW SUBDIVISION APPROVED

Wood Haven subdivision was approved last spring. This subdivision established five new lots on the end of Riverview Drive. The private road has been constructed and one lot has been sold.

GYPSY MOTH EGG MASSES

From now until spring, people can help decrease the number of next year's caterpillars by treating or removing egg masses. A gypsy moth egg mass is tan, oval or tear-shaped and a little bigger than a quarter. It is flat and has a velvety texture. Egg masses can be found on trees, vehicles, fences, playground equipment, buildings and any outdoor item. An egg mass can hold 500 to 1,000 eggs.

Egg masses can be scraped off with a putty knife, stiff brush or similar hand tool and dropped into a container of warm, soapy water. Let them soak for a couple of days and discard them in the trash. Horticultural oil also can be sprayed onto egg masses. Crushing the egg masses will not destroy the eggs.

**BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL FROM THE
TOWN OF WESTON CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS AND CLERK/TREASURER!**



WDNR Secretary Matt Frank presents Weston's President Fred Schuster with the Green Tier Environmental Excellence Award

WDNR RECOGNIZES WESTON AS A GREEN TIER COMMUNITY

The Village of Weston joined Appleton, Bayfield, Fitchburg and Middleton in signing an environmental charter that promotes a balance of sustainability and economic development. The Legacy Communities Green Tier Charter is Wisconsin's innovative program for communities that pledge to go beyond just basic regulatory compliance to protect the environment.

"Both our Comprehensive Plan and our Quality of Life Goals stress that we will balance preservation of our natural resources with planned growth. Our participation in this charter just formalizes what we have been doing for many years," said Village President Fred Schuster, who represented the Village at the December 1st signing event in Appleton.

Weston is already recognized as a state leader in drinking water, recycling and storm water compliance and has recently worked hard to promote use of multi-use paths and mass transit to reduce auto use. Initiatives like paperless government and reducing energy costs have also been a focus in recent years.

"Our participation in this charter allows us to remain at the forefront of issues like renewable energy, wetland preservation, public health and other stewardship issues. This will insure that we leave our community in good shape for our children and grand children without forgetting that economic growth and jobs are still a priority," concluded Schuster.

SEASONAL PARK POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Village of Weston is now accepting applications for an **Assistant Manager**, lifeguards, W.S.I. Certified lifeguards, Head lifeguards, front desk workers and maintenance workers for the 2011 season at the Weston Aquatic Center. These seasonal positions will run from approximately June 1st through August 31st, 2011. If interested in any of these positions please pick up an application Monday thru Friday between the hours of 7:30 and 5:00 at the Weston Municipal Center, 5500 Schofield Ave. Weston, WI. 54476. Applications are also available online at www.westonwisconsin.org. Applications for lifeguard positions should be returned by March 11th, 2011 with testing for new employees scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 19th, 2011. Applications for all other positions will be accepted till opening of Aquatic Center.

The Weston Park Department **will also be accepting applications for seasonal positions** for the summer of 2011. Please contact the Weston Park Department at (715) 359-9988 or sosterbrink@westonwisconsin.org with questions concerning all of the above positions.

ICE RINK HOURS

If the weather cooperates the Village of Weston ice rinks will open for the season on Friday, December 17th. The Village has rinks located at Weston Elementary School and Kennedy Park.

Rink hours are 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and School Holidays and Monday through Friday from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. All rinks will be closed in the evening on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve and all day on Christmas.

WESTON AQUATIC CENTER GIFT CERTIFICATES

There is still time to purchase Aquatic Center Gift Certificates before Christmas. These gift certificates make great Christmas presents and can be used towards the purchase of any pass or daily admission available at the Aquatic Center throughout the 2011 season. Stop by the Weston Municipal Center, 5500 Schofield Avenue between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to purchase your 2011 Weston Aquatic Center gift certificate or 2011 season pass.

2011 CAT & DOG LICENSES NOW AVAILABLE

2011 Dog and Cat Licenses are now available for purchase. Chapter 10 of the Village of Weston's Municipal Code requires that all cats and dogs must be licensed by the time they become four (4) months of age or within 30 days of an owner obtaining the animal. **Late license fees will be charged for those failing to obtain a license by April 1 of each year or within 30 days of taking ownership of the animal.**



Late license fees will be charged for those failing to obtain a license by April 1 of each year or within 30 days of taking ownership of the animal.

Before a license can be issued, you must furnish a rabies vaccination certificate to show proof of vaccination against rabies. A fine of \$290 may be imposed for failure to have your dog or cat licensed and vaccinated. The applications were included in your tax bill statements. You may also obtain copies of the applications on the Village's website or by stopping by the Municipal Center. You may return your license application in person or with payment by mail to the Village of Weston, 5500 Schofield Avenue, Weston, WI 54476.



Annual license fees for renewals (through March 31st) and new licenses are as follows:

	Annual License Fees
Cats – spayed/neutered	\$5 per year
Cats – unspayed/unneutered	\$15 per year
Dogs – spayed/neutered	\$10 per year
Dogs – unspayed/unneutered	\$15 per year

Annual license fees for renewals (beginning April 1st) are as follows:

	Annual License Fees
Cats – spayed/neutered	\$15 per year
Cats – unspayed/unneutered	\$45 per year
Dogs – spayed/neutered	\$30 per year
Dogs – unspayed/unneutered	\$45 per year

Please note that there are restrictions to the number of dogs and cats allowed per property based on the property's zoning district. Single family zoning districts are allowed to license 4 cats and 3 dogs per address.

ADDRESS NUMBERS REQUIRED ON ALL BUILDINGS IN VILLAGE

Village staff has noticed a number of properties where address numbers are not in place or visible from the street on residential and commercial properties within the Village. This makes it very difficult for fire and law enforcement personnel to find your home or business in the event of an emergency.

The Village does have an ordinance concerning house and building numbering (Article V of Chapter 14 of the Municipal Code). Address numbers are required to be placed on every home and building per ordinance. There are also different size requirements depending on how far your home or business is located from the street. If your home or building is within 75 feet of the street the numbers shall not be less than three inches in height and shall be placed immediately above or at the side of the main door to the house or building facing the street upon which it fronts. If it is not visible from the street, it shall be placed in such a location that it is visible.

If your house or building is more than 75 feet from the street you will be provided a fire number by the Village when you obtain your building permit. The standard number shall not be less than three inches in height either in bright metal or plainly painted so as to be easily seen and read. If no part of the house or building is visible from the street or if more than 75 feet back from the street line, the number shall be placed on a gatepost, fence, tree, post, or other appropriate place near the street that can be easily seen from the street.

For more information or to purchase a fire number, you may contact the Building Inspection Department at (715) 241-2620. You may also view the Municipal Code by visiting the Village website, www.westonwisconsin.org

GET ONLINE WITH FACEBOOK & THE WEEKLY WESTON WIRE E-NEWSLETTER

Stay in touch electronically with all the Village of Weston current events, meeting notices and blogs by subscribing to *Village of Weston, Wisconsin* Facebook Fan Page. Go to the bottom of the home page on the Village's website at www.westonwisconsin.org and join one or all of the social media network tools today. By joining the other 587+ members of our Facebook family you will automatically receive **52 editions of the Weston Wire**, our community's weekly electronic Village news, current events and entertainment update.





RECYCLING NEWS

New Recycling Opportunities for Plastics. Recycling can be confusing, especially when it comes to plastics. In the past, residents have only been able to recycle # 1 and #2 plastics through our garbage & recycling hauler, Veolia. The Village

just received word from Marathon County Solid Waste that we will be able to recycle more plastics and help prolong the life of area landfills. Some types of plastics #3-7 and aseptic packaging can now be processed at the Portage County Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Veolia, uses the Portage County MRF to process Village recyclables. The following items can now be placed in with your curbside recycling: *#3 - #7 plastics items: food & beverage containers, cat litter containers, ice cream pails, 5-gallon pails, medicine / pill containers, bakery containers, flower pots or trays, yogurt or cottage cheese containers, cups & tubs, clear and rigid clam shell (deli-style) packaging and small plastic toys. Aseptic containers: cartons or boxes used for juice drinks, milk, soy milk, ice cream, broths, etc. Paper milk cartons: cartons used for milk, juice and paper ice cream containers, etc.*

You may also now recycle large plastic items such as children's playhouses, tables, slides and wagons, as well as 55-gallon drums (must be triple rinsed). These larger items must be self-delivered to the Portage County MRF. No fees apply. For more information, please contact the Marathon County Solid Waste at 1-877-270-3989.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Christmas Trees will be picked up with your garbage collection through January 7th. Veolia Disposal, our refuse contractor, has requested that the trees be cut in 4ft sections and be placed on their side, next to your trash container, at the curbside. Do not stand them in the snow banks, as they tend to freeze and may become impossible to remove. If you are unable to get your Christmas tree out by then, you may always bring it to the Village's NEW Yard Waste Site located at **8200 Ryan Street (1/4 mile south of Weston Avenue on the west side)**, FREE of charge.



WESTON VS. ROTHSCHILD SUIT MOVES FORWARD

The lawsuit over \$131,000 of annual utility taxes owed to the Village of Weston by the Village of Rothschild will be heard by Marathon County District Court Judge Jill Falstad in early 2011. The suit claims that the Village of Rothschild has breached a 1993 agreement between both communities to settle five court cases regarding Rothschild's tactics in the annexation of portions of the


Town of Weston that included land that was home to the WI Public Service power plants, Wausau Homes, and Wausau Tile.

"The utility tax payments were made to cover a multitude of concerns the Village of Weston and the State of Wisconsin had with regards to the propriety of the annexation of land that represented over 1/3 of Weston's value. It was the then Town of Weston's opinion that tax incremental financing funds were used to induce land owners to sign annexation papers to Rothschild. This was clearly against the state statutes. The disappointing part of this is that the current Rothschild President was one of the signers of the settlement and he has chosen not to comply with the terms he negotiated to make the other lawsuits go away," said Dean Zuleger, Village Administrator.




Article 3 of the 1993 agreement says that the Village (Rothschild) shall pay to the Town (now the V. of Weston) a partial sum of the utility tax for the WPS power plant located in Sections 34 and 35 of the Township 28 North, Range 7 in Rothschild. Weston Power Plant 4 was completed in Sections 34 and 35 in 2008. In 2006, the Village of Weston refinanced \$22 million of pollution abatement bonds for the Weston 4 power plant.

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS IN WESTON



Dan Mortensen



Jan Mueller

Peoples
STATE BANK

visit us just off Camp Phillips Road,
on Stone Ridge Drive

715.359.1645

• www.psbwi.com

• *Always see the Potential*

Member FDIC

2011 Village of Weston Recycling Guide

Please place your recycling bins next to your mailbox and away from your waste container. This will help our automated waste collection truck avoid damaging your recycling containers and your mailbox. We suggest you put your waste container in your driveway, in line with the back of your mailbox, so that it is off the road, but on the opposite side that your mailbox is on. If your mailbox is on the right side of your driveway, then put your waste container on the left side of your driveway. For standard drawings for the refuse container placement, or more general recycling information, see the Village's website at <http://www.westonwisconsin.org/utilities/garbage.php>.

CONTAINER FOR "CO-MINGLE" (Any color bin – no plastic bags please!):

GLASS Bottles and jars only. All colors accepted. Rinse clean and remove lids. Do not break glass!! No windows, mirrors, light bulbs, dishes, pyrex, glasses or medical containers.

ALUMINUM CANS Cans and clean foil only. Rinse clean and flatten if possible. No foil food packaging, and no aluminum pots and pans!

TIN CANS Food cans only! Rinse clean and flatten if possible. Labels may stay on cans. No aerosol cans, metal hangers, foil food packaging, metal pots and pans.

PLASTICS #1 through #7 Bottles and food type containers. Remove caps and lids. Rinse clean and flatten if possible. Examples of these: food & beverage containers, cat litter containers, ice cream pails, 5-gallon pails, medicine / pill containers, bakery containers, flower pots or trays, yogurt or cottage cheese containers, cups & tubs, clear and rigid clam shell packaging, and small plastic toys.

Veolia will not accept the following plastics: Plastic oil/chemical containers, large plastic toys, plastic cups/dishes, and plastic hangers. #1 brown plastic bottles; #6 polystyrene (Styrofoam) i.e. egg cartons, hot beverage cups, plates, formed packing pieces, packing peanuts, etc. Motor oil containers. Plastic film, shrink wrap and bags (all #'s), CD cases, vinyl items (i.e. window, siding).

Large plastic items #3 through #7 that are considered recyclable, but need to be delivered directly to the Portage County MRF at no charge to the resident (*Veolia will not pick up with regular recycling*) include: >15-gallon containers, 55-gallon drums, large plastic furniture (chairs/tables), large plastic toys (playhouses, slides, etc.). Call for more information.

MIXED PAPER/CARDBOARD (Placed in paper bags or tied in bundles and placed next to recycling bin):

Newspapers, magazines, cardboard, office paper, junk mail, computer paper, phone books, envelopes, colored paper, file folders, beer/soda carriers, and cereal boxes. Clean material only! Flatten cardboard boxes.

Veolia will not accept the following mixed paper/cardboard: Bathroom waste, paper toweling, pizza boxes, and waxed cardboard.

Aseptic containers, such as cartons or boxes used for juice drinks, milk, ice cream, etc., packaging can be placed *in your cart or bin along with other recyclables.*

SPECIAL WASTE-RECYCLING (to be placed next to your recycling bin):

Lead acid batteries (car, lawnmower, motorcycle, etc.); used motor oil – should be in a plastic container with lid.

CONTACT NAME	PHONE #	ITEMS
Veolia Environmental Services	359-2317	Overflow Recycling Materials – Located on Fuller Street
Veolia Environmental Services	359-6637	Tires, Appliances, Furniture, Computers, Computer Monitors, Keyboards, Televisions, Compact Lamps, Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Batteries of All Types **Call for Fees and/or Pick Up**
Marathon County Hazardous Waste (R18500 Hwy. 29, Ringle)	446-3101	Lead Based Paint (Hazardous), Anti-freeze, Chemicals, Medical Needles, Etc. – Closed from December 11, 2010 through March 2011
Battery Mart	359-9019	Will Accept All Batteries at No Charge
Styrene Products	359-6600	Styrofoam, Clean Styrene Products, White Expanded EPS, Soft Foams
Weston Pick'n Save	359-9123	Plastic Shopping Bags (with any brand/store name)
Target Department Store	355-4494	Nicad & Rechargeable Batteries/Take To Electronics Dept.
Village Yard Waste	359-6114	Grass Clippings, Leaves, Needles, & Brush less than 6" Diameter
Yaeger Auto Salvage	359-3606	Tires, Appliances, Office Equipment, Computers, Metal Items, TV, etc.

**If you have any questions, please contact
Village of Weston (715) 359-6114 or Veolia Environmental Services (715) 359-6637**



Committed to Quality

2011 RECYCLING PICK-UP SCHEDULE

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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31						

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November

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December

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VILLAGE OF WESTON RECYCLING PROGRAM-2011

RECYCLABLES ARE TO BE SET OUT WITH THE REFUSE AND WILL BE PICKED UP ON THE SAME DAY AS REFUSE-ON ALTERNATING WEEKS. THE **SHADED WEEKS** INDICATE THE "PICK-UP WEEK" FOR YOUR AREA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE OUR WEBSITE @ WWW.WESTONWISCONSIN.ORG OR CONTACT THE VILLAGE AT:
PHONE: 715-359-6114 OR FAX: 715-359-6117



Accountability



A Report To Weston Taxpayer-Investors on 2010 Tax Dollar Use

Downsizing Government

Dean Zuleger, Village Administrator

The Village of Weston uses performance measurement technique known as benchmarking to evaluate how we stack up against other local governments. In particular, we look at seven other full-service communities that have similar populations and equalized values to determine how efficient we are in terms of per capita spending of your tax dollars. This was the result of our analysis (M= millions, B=billions)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pop.</u>	<u>Worth</u>	<u>Tax</u>	<u>Employ</u>
Chipp Falls	13,410	776 M	\$7.27	130
Baraboo	11,755	863 M	\$8.66	100
Kaukauna	14,495	928 M	\$7.65	145
Beaver Dam	15,740	1.15 B	\$6.76	170
WI Rapids	18,480	1.02 B	\$10.54	200+
Onalaska	16,660	1.54 B	\$5.68	85
Howard	15,965	1.30 B	\$4.37	49*
Weston	14,610	1.06 B	\$5.08	63^

*Does not include Brown County Sheriffs Staff
^Includes 18 Allotted Everest Metro Officers

While we are baffled by some of the figures above, we determined that on a per capita basis only the Village of Howard, a suburb of Green Bay, has a higher per capita efficiency. This is largely due to their shared services contract with Brown County for police protection– a growing trend in the State of Wisconsin.

There is a direct correlation to full-time employment and the tax rate and in the Village of Weston we have done our best to make sure that each front line employee is giving you an honest 40 hour a week effort and each member of the management team is giving you at least 50 hours per week.

In 2010, the Village engaged in four initiatives to keep our employment at a level that maximizes the tax dollar. **First**, we renewed our paramedic intercept agreement with St. Clares Hospital to provide on the scene care for advanced life support emergencies. Since the hospital is only seven minutes away from any point in the Village and they are staffed with paramedics, we were able to save over \$100,000 in training costs and approximately \$68,000 per year (8 cents on the rate) in annual operations by partnering with the hospital. This agreement, coupled with our aerial pact with Wausau, makes Weston one of the low cost fire and EMS providers in the State of Wisconsin.

Second, our paperless government campaign has eliminated six hours of manpower per Board and Planning Commission meeting, allowing us to keep our clerical staffing static for the last four years. **Third**, we continue our partnership with the Humane Society, rather than expect the Everest Metro, to pick-up strays and manage our animal issues. This partnership saves us approximately \$22.00 per hour / \$66 per incident and animals are treated much more humanely. **Finally**, we have entered into an automatic aid agreement with the Rib Mountain Fire Department to provide joint fire suppression, training and equipment purchases. Each community will be on each other's fire site to provide a Rescue Intervention Team.

In 2011, we will implement two more programs that will save money. **First**, we were able to determine that by moving the yard waste facility to Ryan Street we could eliminate one street position and save an additional \$65,000 in wage and benefits, reduce wear and tear on our equipment, and achieve a savings on our liability insurance. **Second**, we will partner with Kronenwetter and share a building inspector that will provide an additional \$31,000 in savings and maximize the use of personnel for both communities while new home building is still slow.

In the operations area, we have also continued our purchase of slightly used equipment saving anywhere between 20-40% in up-front costs. We are recycling all of our asphalt for street projects saving close to 30% of material costs on road rebuilds and maintenance. Overtime has been limited to only snow, water-main breaks, and weather-related emergencies. In **winter maintenance** we have reduced our salt use by 50% in 2010 and saved over \$70,000 in material purchases. In addition, we are plowing our cul-de-sacs every other time (unless we get more than 3" of snow or dangerous ice) to reduce our overtime. Additionally, we will implement a lean government program that is meant to shave 3% off our administrative budget in waste, duplication of effort and combining procedures.

The operative word in all of this is **WE**. All of the savings described only work through a collective effort by the Board, Committees, Management and our Teamster / IAFF Frontline Staff. And it will take a continued "team" effort if we receive the reduction in state shared revenue that we anticipate in 2012.

Every day we think cost savings at the Village of Weston. We thought you should know the specifics of just how we do this. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Water, Sewer & Storm Sewer Utility Highlights

The Weston Water and Sanitary Sewer Utilities are enterprises of the Village whose operations are supported solely through the rates paid by customers. The sanitary sewer and water utilities each maintain over 100 miles of main along with other facilities such as sanitary sewer lift stations and manholes and fire hydrants, water towers, and wells. A few of the highlights for the year were:

- **No rate increases in 2010**
- Replaced and tested 605 meters over 10 years old.
- Read over 20,000 water meters and obtained an additional 655 final reads.
- Performed approximately 1,000 hours of distribution system flushing during 2 annual operations to maintain water quality at a high level. For the first time water quality improvements were documented through “before” and “after” water quality testing in the fall. The Village will build additional history with continued sampling in the future.
- Operated and inspected 452 fire hydrants
- Painted 273 fire hydrants
- Operated/tested over 530 water distribution valves
- Cleaned the Foremost well (Well No. 2) screen and casing in July.
- Cleaned the Sternberg well (Well No. 4) screen and casing and repaired the pumping equipment in March.
- Replaced 18 freeze susceptible water service lines on Ross Avenue, and Brook Court.
- Cleaned approximately 47 miles of sanitary sewer mains
- Cleaned grease accumulation in all 13 sanitary sewer lift stations.
- The Village’s private well program, as mandated by the DNR, monitors the condition of 447 wells in the Village to assure there are no cross connections to the Village’s water distribution system and that these wells are in proper condition. In 2010, 56 5-year private well permits were renewed and 36 wells were abandoned.

Storm water drainage system activity included:

- Maintenance on detention basins in various parts of the Village including cleaning of sediment and plant material and/or repairs of inlet/outlet pipes at 2 locations each in the Sandy Meadows and Heritage Hills Subdivisions.
- Stabilization of the ditch on the southeast corner of Alderson Street and Mallard Court.
- Repair of partially eroded storm sewer outfalls on Lang Street and Riverbend Road

- Inspections of all 16 major storm sewer outfalls (36 inches and larger) in the Village for evidence of illicit discharges – no problems were found.
- Cleaning of accumulated sediment from 580 of 2,005 storm sewer inlets

Taking It To the Streets

The Village is responsible for maintaining approximately 113 miles of streets accounting for nearly 300 lane miles and 101 cul-de-sacs. Additionally, the street operations staff works cooperatively with the utility staff to perform maintenance on the storm sewer system. The more visible activities involve street reconstruction and maintenance work. The Ross Avenue reconstruction project was completed in 2010. The project resulted in the following added improvements:



- 1.25 miles of new street surface designed for heavy truck traffic
- 5 miles of striped bicycle/pedestrian lanes
- 3,300 feet of additional large diameter storm sewer between Birch and Alderson and on Alderson to Radtke to improve drainage in the area;
- Replacement of ±2,600 feet of sanitary sewer main between Alderson and Birch;
- Replacement of ±4,000 feet of curb & gutter on both sides of Alderson and on the south side of Ross from Alderson to Birch Street;

Street maintenance projects improve the pavement’s ability to shed water by sealing cracks. Once again in 2010, crack sealing was performed on streets throughout the Village at a cost of just under \$100,000. **Chip sealing was performed on 10 miles of Village Streets** in the following areas at a total cost of ±\$180,000:

- Hidden River, Coronado, Windemere Oaks, Sandhill Meadows, Crane Meadows, and Weston Acres South subdivisions and the Riverbend Road area.
- Other streets were parts of Old Costa Lane, Eau Claire Ave. Birch St., Horizon Ct., Fox St., Delonay St., Ferge St., Jelinek Ave., Michael Drive, Christie Lane, and Adventure Way.

An additional **±4.6 miles of streets received chipseal** treatment in 2010 as warranty work for deficiencies in the work performed in 2008. Those streets included Linda, Lee, Scott, Jean Ellen, Sternberg, Zadra, the Powers Subdivision, and parts of Shorey Avenue. Other street maintenance work included:



- Sealing of the joint between concrete curb and asphalt pavement on 11.7 miles of curbed streets
- Thin asphalt overlay applied on Jelinek from Alderson to Coronado (±1/3 mile).

Crime Down, Efficiency Up

The Everest Metro Police Department serves a resident population of 17,528 across three municipalities with a staff of 25 officers and three civilian personnel. Our staffing levels have remained the same for yet another year and our staffing ratio has declined to 1.42 officers per 1,000 residents. According to the Bureau of Justice, the national average is 2.5 officers per 1,000 population for all departments and 2.0 officers per 1,000 population for communities our size. According to the Wisconsin Taxpayer's Alliance, Weston **has the lowest per capita costs for policing among the 22 comparable communities** in Wisconsin that offer their own full-time police departments.



The 2011 EMPD budget reflects a 2.47% total levy increase. With a 0.78% levy decrease in 2010, EMPD has averaged only a 0.85% increase total levy increase during the past two fiscal years. The Village of Weston contributed \$2,163,419 or 77.53% of the budget. Technological advancements in law enforcement have been increasing at such a rapid pace, that this is one of the leading areas that is driving current operational and budgetary considerations.

In 2010, EMPD received all new P-25 digital radios for the department through Marathon County as part of a county wide communications project that will update our public safety communications and comply with new federal standards requiring the conversion to a new digital frequency. This included portable radios, mobile radios (for squads), a base station radio for the department and a new radio tower site at EMPD. EMPD is looking at ways to utilize this new tower / microwave link to provide greater IT bandwidth while also saving money on our computer and network access that is currently provided through fiber optic contractual services.

Calls for service and crimes in general have declined slightly during the last year. The following Uniform Crime Statistic categories reflect the respective increases / decreases for statistics between January to November 2009 and January to November 2010:

Category	2009	2010	% Change
Murder	0	0	0
Rape	5	1	-400%
Robbery	3	2	-50%
Agg. Assault	17	16	-5%
Burglary	58	77	+32%
Theft	294	226	-23%
MV Theft	11	10	-10%
Arson	0	2	+200%
Total	388	331	-15%

Keeping It Clean...

In 2010, the Village of Weston handled a record 791 nuisance issues largely due to the large number of bankruptcy and home foreclosures. 36% of the issues mitigated were weed, lawn mowing and sidewalk shoveling due to vacant homes. Unkempt properties were cleaned up on Raybelle, Neupert, Solar, Radtke, and Fuller Streets. The twice a year yard waste pick-up and drop off site **collected 17,775 cubic yards of leaves, trees and shrubs**. The Annual Item Drop Off **collected 126,280 pounds of junk** and the Village issued **267 coupons** for taxpayers to use at Yaeger Auto Salvage. **In the past two years the Village has recycled 18,000 cubic yards of road asphalt for re-use.**



Fire & EMS Calls Up 10%

The Weston Fire Department has responded to **1,198 fire & ambulance calls through the end of November**



putting the service on pace for a 10% increase in 2010. To date Weston Fire has responded to 1,066 calls in the Village of Weston, 30 calls in Ringle, 58 calls in the Town of Wausau, 10 calls in the Town of Weston, 20 calls in Easton, 6 calls in the City of Wausau, 1 call in Schofield, 3 calls in Rothschild, and 3 calls in the Town of Rib Mountain.

From a time standpoint 241 calls occurred between Midnight and 8 AM, 494 calls between 8 AM – 4PM, and 463 calls between 4 PM and Midnight.

In 2010 the Weston Fire Department began providing the Town of Wausau with emergency medical services and partnered with Rib Mountain to provide mutual Rescue Intervention Teams at working fires. In addition, the Fire Department **received \$113,000 in FEMA and OJA grants to fund new radios and upgrades to weather sirens.**

Community Building Fast Facts

Weston Bus Route K averages 98 riders a day up .5% over last year...

In two years Weston has improved its "walk-ability" score from 46 to 64 (out of 100)...

The Village dropped its Workers Compensation Modification Rating from 1.04 to .89 saving over \$10,000 in insurance premiums...

2010 Weston Fest net proceeds exceeded the previous year by \$2400 which was donated to the Women's Community and Boys & Girls Club...

587 taxpayers receive news alerts and web feeds via Village's Facebook Fan Page. The Village also has a Dog Park and Aquatic Center Fan Page. The Village receives over 5200 website visits per month.



Park Yourself in Weston

In 2010 the Village of Weston Park Department was able to complete several projects and forge partnerships that enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Village of Weston.

Beautification

- Installed new landscaping at the Weston Municipal Center and Farmers Market. Worked with a volunteer from Marshfield Clinic that has adopted the maintenance on all of the shrub beds around the hospital. Continued partnership with school district to grow annual flowers for the village. Worked with Master Gardeners to help with the propagation of perennial plants within Village Landscape. Cut down medians and moved plants to improve visibility in areas on Schofield Avenue.

Aquatic Center

- Utilized Target Grant funds to purchase and install additional shade umbrella. Complete installation of Extreme Body Slide at the Aquatic Center. Held two successful Teen Swim/Dance parties at the Aquatic Center. **Cash flowed the day-to-day operations with no impact to tax rate.**

Park & Recreation

- Completed the installation and construction of an observation tower, shelters, board walk and gravel paths at the **Waterfowl Refuge**. Worked with a Girl Scout and Wild Birds Unlimited to complete the installation of birdhouses and other items.



Installation of a **Born Learning Trail** at Machmueller Park in cooperation with the Emerging Leaders Group from the **United Way, Wausau Tile, County Concrete, and Custom Design Precast.**

- Construction and installation of new dugouts and foul posts. Start construction on a new storage shed on the Junior League Diamond at **Kennedy Park**. Funded by Everest Area Youth Baseball. Worked with Everest Youth Soccer and the School District to complete repairs to the soccer goals. Certified over 110 youth coaches. Installation of drinking fountain at the skate park. **Donated by the Stine Family.**
- Worked with Boundless Playgrounds and Commercial Recreation Specialists to design a new all-access playground for **Yellowbanks Park**. Started preliminary layout of new disc golf course.

Tree Health

- Successfully completed the requirements to comply with the Urban Forestry Grant that was received through the W.D.N.R. Completed tree ordinance, tree inventory & Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Plan.

Making a Difference in the Lives of Others....

Everest Men Respect –

In February of 2010 over 600 men at the DC Everest High School and 400 men at Wausau East High School stood and took the pledge to respect women and refrain from domestic abuse as part of the Village's Everest Men Respect Program.



Annual Food Drive –

The Village of Weston and the DC Everest School District have donated enough food over the past five years to feed close to 100 needy families that regularly use Covenant Community Presbyterian Church. Schools participating include Mountain Bay Elementary School (pictured here), Weston School, the DCE Middle School and the DCE Junior High.



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Financial Health: Village's Bond Rating Equal To Wausau

Moodys Investor Services has upgraded the Village of Weston's bond rating from **A1 (strong)** to **Aa2 (very strong)** as a result of a reexamination of municipal finance. The Aa2 rating reflects a two level increase from 2008, the last time Moodys offered an opinion on Weston's financial condition. The Villages bond rating has climbed four notches since FY 2000 and is now equal with the City of Wausau, and State of Wisconsin.



2010 Village Growth Statistics

- Rezoning – 4
- Site Plans Approved – 20
- Certified Survey Maps – 13
- Conditional Use Permits – 3
- Variance Hearings – 4
- Street Vacations – 1
- Subdivision Reviews – 1
- Sign Permits – 96
- Building Permits – 555



Permitted Development Value as of 12/7/2010:

\$11,239,137