

“RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF AMERICA’S BEST MANAGED SMALL CITIES”

JUNE 2008

www.westonwisconsin.org

VOLUME 36

VILLAGE WRESTLES WITH SMOKING BAN QUESTION

The Village of Weston has been targeted as the next Marathon County community to enact a public places smoking ban to combat the effects of second hand smoke. Earlier this spring members of the Village Board were contacted by the Breathe Fresh Committee, an anti-smoking advocacy group, on their opinions about smoking in public places.

“All of our Trustees were contacted via a phone survey on their feelings on a wide variety of issues about smoking – including a ban on smoking in public places,” said Village Administrator Dean Zuleger.

The Breathe Fresh Committee is targeting Weston not only because it is Marathon County’s second largest community, but also because it is the home of State Senator Russ Decker, the majority Leader of the State Senate and the key player in a state-wide smoking ban debate.

“In 2006, the Village Board voted to support a statewide smoking ban to create a level playing field for all businesses. It was our hope that the state legislature would take up the matter in the last session. Items such as the state budget and political gridlock did not allow that to happen, so the issue has shifted back to the local front,” said Village President Fred Schuster.

The Breathe Fresh Committee has a model ordinance that would prohibit smoking in municipal-owned facilities (which Weston already has in place) and bars, child care facilities, schools, health care facilities, hotels, busses, restaurants, retail stores, shopping malls, and theaters. The most controversial part of this ordinance is whether to ban smoking in bars and restaurants.

“The bar – restaurant question is really at the heart of any anti-smoking ordinance. So, as always, we are going to poll our taxpayers and find out what the community wants,” said President Schuster.

(See Taxpayer Question of the Month on Page 8)



Dreamland staff put the finishing touches on a large wall that will serve as the second half of a challenging half-pipe.

SKATE PARK NEAR OPENING

Heralded as Wisconsin’s best, the Weston Skate Park is weeks away from opening. The park is being constructed by Dreamland Parks, the nation’s premier skate park builder.

“This is a seven-year dream come true. The skating community has been waiting for a facility like this for some time and with the help of our friends from Dwellers we’ve built a park that allows the novice skaters a good first experience and advanced skaters quite a challenge,” said Sharon Jaeger, Chair of the Park & Recreation Committee.

The skate park, located in Kennedy Park, features two bowls in the interior, a half-pipe, and a challenging street course around the top of the bowls. Other features include a pump bump, a brick in-laid wall and several drop-in areas to keep the ride fresh.

“This is the best park in Wisconsin. I was really impressed on how the community worked with the local skaters in creating a park that everyone can use,” said Mark Scott, Owner / Chief Foreman of Dreamland Parks.

The Village saved about \$100,000 by providing labor and fill to the project **and County Concrete donated** half of the cement. The remainder of the expense will come from the room tax fund.



EFFICIENCY IS AT THE HEART OF OUR OPERATIONS

All the talk lately seems to be about the economy. Creative financing for homeowners led to foreclosures and abandonments of many houses in some areas. High energy costs have us all thinking how we can save a few bucks at the pump. In some areas, unemployment and layoffs is reaching the crisis stage.

We've been a bit more fortunate here in the Weston area. According to local realtors many houses valued at \$150,000-\$250,000 are being sold in less than two weeks, employment remains relatively stable, investors continue building apartments (ugh) and some industries continue to expand.

From the Village's perspective, we are fiscally sound as well. Our credit rating has improved (see page 6), we have just eclipsed the \$1 billion mark in community value, our utilities are performing well and cost-saving partnerships like the Everest Metro Police Department keep us lean.

Through a partnership with our union, Teamster Local 662, and an aggressive wellness initiative, we have also held the line on the rising cost of health insurance. Over the last three years, we have held our increases to single digits and based on our recent utilization report could have only a 1% increase in our health insurance premiums.

At the first Board meeting in June we launched a plan aimed at reducing our use and cost of energy. Currently, we are looking at the feasibility of converting an old well into a geothermal heat pump to power the municipal center. In addition, our police officers and Village staff no longer idle vehicles when standing still. We have much to do in this area and are looking at all ways to be good stewards.

To save time and keep personnel costs down, we have recently invested in two software packages that will expedite Village services. Energov is an integrated program that links zoning, planning, licensing, building inspection, nuisances, and finances by individual parcel. This integration will save money in staff look-up time alone. Civic Systems is our new accounting program that will improve financial services to our taxpayers.

All in all, it is about **keeping the tax rate low** and we believe our efforts will help us achieve this goal. Have a great summer...

Fred Schuster, Village President

CATTANACH AWARDED WESTON QUALITY STAR

The Village of Weston Board of Trustees has awarded Finance Committee Member Scott Cattanach, 2501 Parkway Lane, for his work on the Above Reproach policy and advice on the Village's investment portfolio. Cattanach, the CFO at Peoples State Bank, is part of a trio of Certified Public Accountants that serve on the Finance Committee.

"Through Scott's efforts we were able to construct a policy that satisfied our auditor's needs in the area of ethics in financial management. Further, his investment advice has allowed the Village to outperform the market in interest earnings," said Finance Committee Chairman Barb Ermeling.

The Weston Quality Star is a recognition award given to employees and committee members that perform extraordinary fetes of service on behalf of taxpayers or Village government.



WESTON CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS NEEDED

The Village of Weston is seeking nominations for its 2008 Citizen of the Year. Nominees must live in the Village or own a business in the Village, and have engaged in an activity in the past year that improved the quality of life in the Village. There is no age limitation. Nominees will be chosen by the Village Board at a July Board meeting and the award will be presented at Weston Fest. Please email your nomination to dzuleger@westonwisconsin.org or call 241-2600.

FUTURE WESTON ACADEMY UNDERWAY

Eighteen taxpayers under the age of 35 have enrolled in the Future Weston Academy and completed their first classroom session on economic development. The class is comprised of eleven men and seven women from all walks of life. In coming months the class will discuss public safety, quality of life, street operations, park & recreation and finances. A graduation ceremony will be held at Wish on October 9th.

"There is a lot to learn from these young taxpayers and we hope to take what we learn and put it to use," said President Fred Schuster, who moderated the first session.

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITY NEWS



As indicated in the last issue of "FOCUS" 2008 will be a busy construction year. Taxpayer's are reminded that the construction projects on Business 51 by DOT, Camp Phillips by Marathon County, and the Village's projects will be impacting major arterial routes within the Village and alternate routes will be limited. Here is an update on this summer's construction projects.

RECONSTRUCTION OF BIRCH STREET (SCHOFIELD AVE. TO JELINEK AVE.), JELINEK AVENUE (BIRCH ST. TO ALDERSON ST.) AND ALDERSON STREET (SCHOFIELD AVE. TO JELINEK AVE.) – Bids for the project were opened on May 29. A-1 Excavating, Inc., of Bloomer was the low bidder out of 5 contractors submitting bids. The Village awarded the project to A-1 Excavating on June 2 for a contract price of \$1,459,300. A construction start of June 16 is expected. The scope of the project, as described previously, is to construct a thicker base course (12" instead of 8") and thicker asphalt pavement (4" instead of 3"), replace the majority of curb & gutter, and accomplish utility main improvements. The only curb that doesn't require replacement is along the east side of Alderson along the Target property and the west side of Birch along the Kwik Trip property. The utility main improvements include replacement of cast iron water main on Alderson Street, abandonment of a section of the duplicate sewer main on Jelinek Avenue, replacement and increased size for some segments of the storm sewer on Jelinek Avenue, and spot repairs on the storm sewers and sanitary sewers in all areas. The work will be performed in three phases. The first phase will involve closing the intersection of Jelinek and Alderson to re-configure storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water mains. The first phase will include utility main replacements extending 200 to 300 feet north of the intersection as well. The intersection will be re-opened once the Phase I work has been completed. Phase II will consist of the work on Jelinek and Birch Streets and could begin concurrently with Phase I. Phase III is the remainder of the work on Alderson Street. Phases I and II of the project are to be completed by August 29. Phase III (Alderson) is expected to be completed by October 31. Bear in mind that unforeseen conditions and weather could affect the schedule. One factor that is still unknown is the intentions of Verizon with buried cable and vaults in Alderson Street. Verizon has yet to respond to Village requests to state their intentions with their facilities despite being provided information during the design process.

BUSINESS HIGHWAY 51 RE-SURFACING FROM STH 29 (ROTHSCHILD) TO DROTT STREET (SCHOFIELD) BY WISCONSIN DOT – The Wisconsin Department of Transportation began construction at the Metro Drive/Schofield Avenue/Business 51 intersection the week of June 9. American Asphalt is the general contractor for the project. Motorists will need to pay close attention to signing on the project as the work zones and traffic control change. Highlights of anticipated impacts are as follows:

- In June and July, traffic on Schofield Avenue will have limited left-turn access to Business 51.
- In June and July, traffic on Metro Drive will have limited access to and from Business 51.
- In June and July, West Grand Avenue will be closed from Park Street to Business 51.
- Throughout construction, various closures will occur on South Grand Avenue, Drott Street, Eau Claire Street, Ross Avenue, Post Avenue, Neupert Avenue, Jelenik Avenue, East Kort Street, Volkmann Street, Keck Street, Ellen Street, and Everest Drive. Public access to local neighborhoods will be maintained.
- From August to October, crews plan to close the North Rothschild WIS 29 interchange. During the closure, traffic will be detoured via Business 51, Schofield Avenue and Camp Phillips Road to Exit 173 on WIS 29.

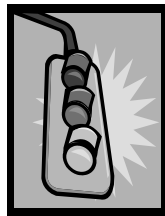
A more detailed description of the staging of the work can be found in a copy of a letter from the Wisconsin DOT posted on the Village's website. This letter also explains that a recurring project coordination meeting will be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, beginning June 19, at the Schofield City Hall. All comments or questions about the project should be directed to: Stacy Hagenbucher, Construction Project Leader, (715) 305-1470, shagenbucher@emcsinc.com

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS): RECONFIGURATION OF DROP-OFF AREA AND SIDEWALKS AROUND DC EVEREST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL and MACHMUELLER STREET RECONSTRUCTION – Bids for the Junior High School parking lot/drop-off reconfiguration off Machmueller Street and the reconstruction of Machmueller from Jelinek to Everest were opened on June 10. The bids came in approximately

\$60,000 higher than estimated for each portion of the project. This means that there will be no excess funds to construct other segments of sidewalks. At press time, it is uncertain whether the project will proceed. If the project goes forward, the work on the parking lot and drop-off area along with that part of Machmueller from Jelinek to Everest will be started just before July 4 and completed by August 15. The remainder of Machmueller will be completed by the end of the construction season. A special assessment hearing was conducted on May 22 and reconvened on June 2. Based on the input at the hearing Machmueller Street will be reconstructed only between Jelinek and Huess, but the work will include curb & gutter on the entire project. If the project does not proceed in 2008, it will be deferred to 2009.

TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL PROJECTS –

Design is underway for the **new signals at Howland Avenue and Camp Phillips Road**. With lead times involved in acquiring the signal hardware and poles, the Village will pre-purchase those items. The signals should be functional about the end of November. The Village has *retained* Traffic Analysis and Design to prepare plans and specifications for the **addition of pedestrian accommodations on the traffic signals along Schofield Avenue**. This would affect the signals at Birch Street, Alderson Street, and the Target/Ace Hardware entrance. No timetable for the addition of the required hardware has been established, but completion by the end of November 2008 is possible.



STREET MAINTENANCE PROJECTS – The Village maintenance staff has been preparing various streets in the Village for chip sealing later in June or early July. The prep work primarily involves patching potholes and wide cracks with hot mix asphalt. This will be followed by spraying of emulsified asphalt (oil) covered by small stones (chips). The application of the oil and chips will be taking place between June 23 and July 11. Extended periods of cool or wet weather could delay the start and completion. Chip seal will be applied on the following streets:

Linda Street, Lee Avenue, Scott Street, Jean Ellen, Sternberg (Von Kanel to Lora Lee), Zadra, James Lee Street, Pat Street, Powers, Kiowa, Apache, River Bend, Trotzer, Fuller, Schofield Avenue (CTH J to Ringle line), Alderson (Schofield Avenue to Ross), Shorey (Alderson to Birch and Heeren to east of CTH X), and Northwestern Avenue (CTH X to Village Limits).

Immediately after the chip seal application, there will be loose stones/chips on the streets, despite the use of a heavy roller. However, one to two weeks after the initial chip seal application the remaining loose stones/chips will be swept up and removed. The Village asks for your patience as this sometimes messy process is completed. **A late addition to the projects list this summer is the application of an asphalt overlay on Volkman Street from Everest Avenue to Business 51.** The existing asphalt will be pulverized and incorporated into the base course followed by the addition of an asphalt overlay. This will be a joint project with the Village of Rothschild. The start date for this project has not yet been determined. The reconstruction of Shepherd Lane has been eliminated as a project in 2008 based on input at the special assessment hearing in May and reconvened on June 2. However, the project remains a long term need and the Public Works and Utility Committee has stated that it should be reconstructed no later than 2010.

SUBDIVISION PROJECTS – There has been no change in the status of the LINDEN GROVE SUBDIVISION (Karl Matthews) project. The Village was expecting the project to move forward this spring. Owing to the current economic climate this project appears to be on hold indefinitely. Work on the public infrastructure for the MOUNT VIEW MIXED DEVELOPMENT (Arden Emmerich and Rick Drewek) is nearing completion. The street was being prepared for paving as of June 11.

SANDY LANE (EXTENDED) NORTH CORRIDOR STUDY – As reported last time, Graef, Anhalt & Schloemer (GAS) has updated the Village with some initial concepts for the location of a bridge over the Big Sandy Creek and a master street plan on the north side of the creek. The Village and or GAS will be contacting various stakeholders to discuss preferred options through the remainder of the year, though that has been deferred for the past 2 months.

MARATHON COUNTY HIGHWAY WORK – The Marathon County Highway Department's re-paving of CTH X from south of Howland to the Bull Jr. Bridge began on June 11. Camp Phillips will be open to local traffic during the work. The work consists of pulverizing the existing pavement, new asphalt, new gravel shoulders, and pavement marking to include a bike lane. Anyone with questions or concerns about the project should contact Kevin Lang at the Marathon County Highway Department at 261-1800. Information about the project will be posted on the County's web site <http://www.co.marathon.wi.us>.





EVEREST METRO POLICE NEWS

EMPD Chief Dan Vergin

Over the past several years, the Everest Area Noon Optimists have recognized police officers in the Everest Area for their outstanding service to the community and each department recognizes one of their officers. It is a great privilege to announce that we have named **Officer Frank Wierzbanski** as our Officer of the Year. Officer Wierzbanski, or more commonly at the schools, "Officer Frank" has been on our department since 2005 when we hired him from West Palm Beach Florida. Frank has been an outstanding officer with great ethics, personality, and courage. He is currently serving as the School Resource Officer at the High School and Middle school.



As you are well aware, recently EMPD has investigated more than our share of violent and disturbing crimes. Some of the crimes have been the result of domestic violence, and most recently a senseless stabbing death over an argument between friends. Thankfully, through a quick response by patrol officers and detectives, we were able to solve the most recent homicide within hours of the incident. In addition, at a recent press conference of local law enforcement agencies, we announced the arrests of several persons for drug crimes and the recovery of a large quantity of pure methamphetamines. We knew that the completion of Highways 51 and 29 would make the Wausau area more accessible to criminals and those bent on criminal activity, especially illegal drug trafficking – apparently our suspicions were correct.

As you are all now well aware, the **Police Commission voted to drop the current merger talks with the City of Wausau.** It is interesting to note that as representatives of the communities we serve, the Commission recognized that people are overwhelmingly pleased with the police services they are currently receiving and did not want to change. As a side note, the recent meth drug bust was the result of shared services between Everest Metro, Marathon County Sheriff, Wausau Police, and Wisconsin Department, so we will continue to share services where and when it makes sense.

As we enter the summer season, I must remind you that we will continue the **zero tolerance on fireworks.** Like most of you, I have already heard the explosions and it seems to get earlier and earlier each year. The bottom line is that if it shoots up in the air or blows up – it's illegal.

DOES WESTON NEED PARAMEDIC SERVICE?

WFD Chief Mike Pierce

Emergency Medical Service levels are an important quality of life factor in any community. Weston's initiation of 24/7 EMT staffing in 2007 reduced average ambulance response times to six minutes or less for Village locations. Faster response time means that EMT's can consistently get to medical emergencies fast enough to make life saving interventions in critical cases. The Village Board and the department are now considering how we can provide more advanced pre-hospital care when EMT's get on scene. **Are advanced life support services needed by Weston, or does our proximity to Saint Clare's mean we do not need paramedics?** Should we upgrade the training and certification of our current fire personnel to EMT-Paramedic so they can provide ALS services? Should we contract with an advanced life support ambulance service to provide paramedic service?

Advanced life support crews (EMT-Paramedics) can administer a wide range of medications that relieve pain, resolve diabetic emergencies, stop seizures, improve respirations, assist in controlling airways, slow or speed up heart rate, and relieve some symptoms of heart failure. Our current EMT-IV Technician personnel are more limited in the medications and interventions they can perform.

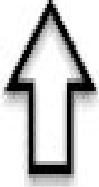


Upgrading an EMT to the paramedic level can cost \$15,000 per EMT, and it will take several years to put enough EMT's through paramedic training to upgrade the department to an advanced life support service. Equipping and supplying a paramedic ambulance can cost in excess of \$30,000, with annual ALS medication replacement costs of \$5,000 more per ambulance than current costs.

Since the opening of Saint Clare's, Weston residents have received paramedic services via paramedic intercepts with Spirit Ambulance crews. Spirit personnel have been available to provide advanced life support interventions for Weston 70% of the time they have been requested.

Aspirus Hospital is in the process of staffing two paramedic intercept vehicles for Marathon County, with one to be located at the Weston Aspirus Clinic. Aspirus' intercept program will increase the availability of a paramedic intercept to almost 100% of the time for Weston residents.

VILLAGE SAVES THOUSANDS WITH MOODY'S BOND RATING UPGRADES FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION & SEWER DEBT



On May 29th, the Village of Weston was awarded a bond rating increase from an "A2+ (positive outlook)" to an "A1" from Moody's Investors Service on the Village's general obligation debt. In addition, the sewer revenue bond debt of the Weston Utilities was also upgraded from an "A3" to an "A2" bond rating. Moody's serves as a municipal

bond rating agency that assigns ratings to municipal governments as to their creditworthiness. The direct impact of this rating upgrade to the Village and the Weston Utilities will result in a reduction of the interest rates charged on the Village's present and future general obligation debt and sewer revenue bond debt with a savings of 0.05%-0.10% in the interest rates being charged on all new debt issued.

When the Village borrows for its upcoming \$2 million general obligation note issue in July 2008, the new "A1" bond rating will be securely in place to result in lower interest costs over the life of the 10-year note issue. This interest rate reduction and interest savings for the "A1" rating will remain in effect for future years also, as long as the Village maintains its new "A1" bond rating.

The Sewer Utility issued a \$4,950,000 refunding revenue bond issue in June 2008. This refunding issue will consolidate 3 debt issues (for 1998, 2000, and 2001) into one single issue. The Utility will save \$218,884 in interest (present value savings after costs) over the remaining life of the new bond issue through 2021. The upgrade in the Sewer Utility bond rating realized \$12,379 of this interest savings total.

Moody's financial analysts also encouraged the Weston Water Utility to provide similar information for a probable bond rating upgrade in July 2008, at the time that the Village will issue the general obligation debt. Even though the Water Utility will not be issuing any debt in 2008, Moody's can still assign an upgrade in the bond rating right now so that Village staff can budget for future years' principal and interest payments at a more accurate level.

Moody's highlighted several reasons for their 2008 rating upgrades for the Village of Weston and the Weston Sewer Utility that included the following:

- Village's financial operations to remain sound due to continued prudent fiscal management, healthy existing reserves, and tight budget oversight.

- Weston's steadily growing tax base is benefiting from its development strategies, proximity to Wausau (General Obligation rated "Aa3", which is only one notch above the Village of Weston now), and forward looking planning.
- Future budgets are not expected to see a discernible increase in head count, with an emphasis placed on cost containment across departments.
- Given management's commitment to maintain existing fund balances, tight budget planning, institutional controls, and key personnel operating under multi-year contracts to ensure continuity, Weston has favorably positioned itself to respond to future challenges should they emerge.
- Somewhat above average debt burden is expected to remain manageable and enjoys significant non-tax levy support and has a rapid principal amortization (100% general obligation debt is retired within 10 years).
- The Weston Sewer Utility is a smaller utility, but has a growing customer base, rate setting autonomy, favorable legal framework, strong cash position, solid historical and projected debt service coverage, and a low, declining debt ratio with limited future borrowing plans.

	April 2008	May/July 2008
<u>TYPE OF DEBT</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Rating</u>
General Obligation Debt	A2+	A1
Sewer Revenue Debt	A3	A2
Water Revenue Debt	A3	A2 *
CDA/TIF Revenue Debt	A3	A3
Stormwater Revenue Debt	A3	A3

* assuming that the Water Utility receives the probable rating upgrade in July 2008

ANIMAL ORDINANCE ON-LINE FOR REVIEW

The Public Safety Committee and the Planning Commission have both advanced a new Animal Ordinance to the July 7th Village Board Agenda for consideration. The new ordinance would limit the number of pets (dogs & cats), prohibit dangerous dogs, regulate kennels and breeders, and better regulate exotic animals. The ordinance was drafted in coordination with the Marathon County Humane Society and can be reviewed at the Village's website: www.westonwisconsin.org. Comments should be submitted to the Village Board by July 3rd.



TOWN OF WESTON NEWS

TRAFFIC SIGNS

Traffic signs are very important to the safety of everyone that walks or drives a vehicle in the Town. If you see a sign that is down or damaged, please take the time to report it to a town official or Everest Metro Police so it can be replaced before any serious accidents occur.

BURNING

Burning permits can be picked up at the Everest Fire Department at no cost. A burning issues brochure may be picked up at Everest Metro office for more details. You are responsible for any damage if your fire gets out of control.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Board of review will be held on September 4th at 4:00 p.m. The Town is doing a reassessment of all the property in the town. Assessor Greg Schmidt may be calling and looking at some of the property in the town to complete his assessment. A letter will be sent out to all residences that have a change in their property value due to the reassessment. Open Book will be held in the afternoon on September 4th if you wish to talk to the assessor in regards to your property value.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

There will be very little road construction on town roads this year. We hope to do some minor repairs on Riverview Dr. in preparation for blacktopping some time in the next two years. Crack filling will be done on several roads to help maintain them. We will also be seal coating Timber, Salzman, Lahr and Payne this summer.

CHRISTIANSSEN OPERATIONAL PLAN

The Town of Weston has approved a two year plan that lists what Ron Christiansen Trucking will be doing in the sand pit on Kramer Street. The town is very pleased to have come to an agreement with Christiansen Trucking Inc. The following important items have been agreed upon:

- Current sand and gravel extraction shall continue to occur on the Property as approved by the WDNR and as set forth on Exhibit A which is a conceptual map showing 27 future residential lots. Said map is being submitted to the WDNR by RCTI for approval of its Wis. Admin. NR 30 permit.
- Blending of off site virgin aggregate material (excluding asphalt and concrete) with onsite

sand and/or gravel shall continue to occur on the Property

- No asphalt manufacturing or production shall occur on the Property
- The existing recyclable asphalt material on the Property shall not be stored in the well head protection area (previously delineated by the Village in the northwest portion of the Property). A one hundred foot (100') buffer zone from the well head protection area will also be kept free of existing recyclable materials.
- Excavation of areas for development of road, sewer, and lots shall take place near the edge of the Property and as set forth on Exhibit A.
- Blasting shall be limited from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and shall be in accordance with all applicable State and Federal rules and regulations.
- Current stock piles of recycled concrete and asphalt shall be crushed on the Property no later than June 1, 2009. The crushed and recycled concrete and asphalt product shall be removed from the Property no later than June 1, 2010.

Christensen Trucking was in the town long before any zoning was done. This Operational Plan will be on file in the Town and Village office for your review.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2008 Annual Meeting for the Town of Weston was held April 22. Don Stabenow, Auditor from Krause, Howard & Company, reviewed the 2007 annual audit completed by his firm. The net cash assets of \$350,000 for the Town have remained fairly stable over the past several years. This amounts to about 70 percent of our budget for any given year. We are in very good financial condition and are still able to keep our taxes for the town very low.

WATER UTILITY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

All customers of the Village of Weston Water Utility will soon be receiving their copy of the utility's "2007 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources require this annual report to be provided to all water customers.



TAXPAYER QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Would you favor or oppose a law in the Village of Weston that would prohibit smoking in most indoor public places, including all workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants, and bars?

- Favor Strongly
- Favor Not So Strongly
- Oppose Not So Strongly
- Oppose Strongly

Do you believe that if the Village of Weston passed a law that would prohibit smoking in most public places, that bars / taverns should be exempt?

- Favor Strongly
- Favor Not So Strongly
- Oppose Not So Strongly
- Oppose Strongly

Please mail your responses to Smoking, 5500 Schofield Avenue, Weston, WI 54476 or email to dzuleger@westonwisconsin.org or leave a voice mail at 241-2600 by July 15, 2008.

GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING COMPLETED JUNE 1ST

It took only twenty minutes, but both of the critical gypsy moth infested areas of Weston were treated early in the morning on June 1st – while most taxpayers slept.

“We identified two critical blocks of tree stands in the Village for treatment with Bt – a biological predator of the gypsy moth. Early in the morning on the first, the WDNR made a few passes over each area and we were done”, said Jess Falkowski, park maintainer & Urban Arborist for the Village of Weston.

The Village staff continues to be on guard for additional gypsy moth areas and for the dreaded Emerald Ash Borer. If you have suspicious looking tree pest please call the Weston Parks Department at 359-9988.

WESTON / UWSP PARTNERS IN 3RD PLACES STUDY

The Village of Weston has joined the University of Stevens Point and the Institute of Public Policy & Service (UWMC), to examine how easily taxpayers can travel from their home without automobiles to critical “third places” in the community.

A third place is defined as a place other than home or work/ school that people spend time. In Weston, the key third places are the Aspirus YMCA, the Target / Pick N’ Save shopping area, Dale’s Weston Lanes, Stiehm Stadium / Greenheck Fieldhouse and Mount Olive Church.

The study will identify gaps in the sidewalk / path system and bus service between Weston’s major neighborhoods and third places. In addition, the study will calculate the costs of bridging the gaps. Summer intern and University of Minnesota pre-law student Dan Snyder is heading up the project and soon will be surveying taxpayers at “third places” for their input. For more information call Dan Snyder at 359-6114.

LEASH LAW (& POOP)

Village of Weston ordinances requires that all dogs and cats need to be under control at all times and on a leash when off premises. **It is also against the Village ordinance to allow these animals to defecate or urinate upon property not owned by them or on public property.** If your animal defecates in a place other than your property it is **required** that you remove and dispose of the excrement in a sanitary manner. Failure to comply will result in fines up to \$100. The Everest Metro Police Department has been instructed to aggressively enforce this ordinance.

EVEREST MEN RESPECT DOMESTIC ABUSE TIP LINE

If you suspect that someone in the Village is a victim of domestic abuse please call **our anonymous tip line at 355-5000** - your identity will be protected and you most certainly will save a life! In Weston and the Everest School District – it’s about respect!

VILLAGE OF WESTON
5500 SCHOFIELD AVENUE
WESTON WI 54476

Presort
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.20

POSTAL PATRON CUSTOMER
CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT

FED FLOOD INSURANCE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE VILLAGE OF WESTON

The Village of Weston has joined over 20,000 communities nationwide that are allowed to purchase federally backed flood insurance. This availability follows the Village's adoption and enforcement of ordinances to reduce flood losses and acceptance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The Village became an official participant in the NFIP effective April 10, 2008. This means that Village residents are now able to purchase flood insurance up to the allowable limits under the Regular Phase of the program. However, there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage goes into effect. For single-family dwellings, the building coverage limit is \$250,000, and the contents coverage limit is \$100,000. Renters can also protect their belongings by purchasing contents coverage. For commercial properties, the building and content coverage limits are both \$500,000.



Lenders must require borrowers whose properties are located in a designated flood hazard area to purchase flood insurance as a condition of receiving a federally backed mortgage loan in accordance with the Federal Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

If you would like additional information on the NFIP, please contact Jennifer Higgins, Village Community Development Director at 241-2638 or visit the NFIP website at:

<http://www.fema.gov/about/programs/nfip/index.shtm>

If you are interested in purchasing flood insurance, please contact your insurance agent.

GARAGE SALE SIGNS

It's garage sale season again and if you are planning on holding a garage sale, please be aware that the Village does have ordinances in effect that restrict where and when garage sale signs can be placed. Garage sale signs are not allowed in the Village road right of way. They are exempt from sign permits and are allowed to be placed on private property one day prior to the sale and must be removed within one day of the sale. If you are planning a garage sale, please ask your neighbor or

the business or property owner prior to placing your signs on their property. The property owner may have landscaping irrigation that could be punctured and damaged by the placement of your sign on their property. Signs within the landscaped areas along Schofield and Weston Avenues are prohibited due to the irrigation system present. Park Department personnel will remove any signs found in these areas when mowing and the sign owner will be responsible for any damage to the irrigation lines that may occur.

WHEN ARE BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED?

Summer is here, which means many of you may be starting your summer home improvement projects. Building permits are required in the Village of Weston for a number of home improvement projects such as fences, yard sheds, swimming pools, finishing basements and building additions.

If you are not sure if a building permit is needed for your home improvement project, please feel free to call the Village Municipal Center at 359-6114 and a Village staff member will assist. Building permit applications can be easily picked up at the Village Municipal Center during normal business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday, or can be accessed on the Village's website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at http://www.westonwisconsin.org/planning/building_permit.php.

FARMER'S MARKET NOW OPEN / "BRUNCH" OFFERED

The Village of Weston Farmer's Market kicked off its 4th season on May 17th. The Farmer's Market offers a variety of items including crafts, plants, flowers, vegetables, and fruits. The market also has meats from Dayland Meats, breakfast and lunch sandwiches by



Hawaiian BBQ and coming in July southern cooking by the "House of Soul". There are still a few more stalls available for interested vendors along with openings for entertainers wanting to perform on Saturdays. Interested vendors and/or entertainers please contact Renee Hodell at 241-2608 for more information or visit our website at:

http://www.westonwisconsin.org/lifestyle/farmers_market.php

WESTON FEST TO BE HELD JULY 24th – 27th



Music, fireworks, food and most of all, family fun, will highlight the events of Weston Fest 2008 to be hosted by Dale's Weston Lanes from July 24^h – 27th. And once again, all proceeds will benefit local charities, food pantries, the D.C. Everest Area School District, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The event kicks-off on Thursday evening at Dale's Weston Lanes with Carnival Games, and the "Battle of the Bands. Then at dusk, it is the return of Lyle's Spectacular Opening Fireworks Show.

On Friday, it's the "Band on the Sand Concert" with the winner from Thursday's Battle of the Bands opening up for "**The Bad Downs**" at 7pm. There will also be a High School Luau Dance for youth entering grades 9th-12th, featuring Underground DJ-Miah Wolf. The event is sponsored by Pepsi. General admission, for both events is \$5.00 with a \$1.00 discount if you bring a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry (*up to \$2.00 off*).

Saturday begins at 9:00 AM with Sid Kyler's Dixieland Band performing at the Weston Farmer's Market, sponsored by The Renaissance, along with a rummage sale. There will also be the Grand Opening for the State of the Art **Skateboard Park**. Later in the evening, Ministry Health Care and People's State Bank will sponsor "**A Family Night at the Movies**" with preshow entertainment by Rock n Roll to go PLUS, featuring inflatable games and activities, followed by more fireworks. **There is NO CHARGE for admission.**

Sunday features a family-friendly worship service "**In His Courts**" at 10:30am from New Day followed by the "**Parade of Weston**" - **Business Expo at Weston Lanes**. There is also a FREE Community Swim day at the Weston Aquatic Center, and at 7:00pm the weekend ends with a Rock on the Sand Concert "**Too Huge for Hollywood**" sponsored once again by New Day. In addition there will be volleyball, horseshoe, and softball tournaments throughout the weekend. There will also be a charity golf outing at Greenwood Hills on Monday July 21st.

For more information please see the website at www.westonfest.com. For sponsorship opportunities, or to become a volunteer please contact Molly or Sarah at Dale's Weston Lanes at 359-8488.



BOY SCOUTS CLEAN-UP LOCAL ROADWAYS

On June 3, 2008 Boy Scout Troop 439 (with the help of Service Project Chairman, Gayle Marshall), volunteered their time to help clean up along the road on Schofield Avenue between Ryan Street and Highway J, and on Camp Phillips, between Weston Avenue and Howland Avenue in the Village of Weston. There were 26 Boy Scouts along with 13 adults that helped in picking up 48 bags of garbage. Thanks to all!

MUNICIPAL CENTER NOW WI-FI EQUIPPED

In an effort to better serve our taxpayers on the go, the Village of Weston has installed wireless internet access points in the Municipal Center at 5500 Schofield Avenue. Located in the Board Room and the large conference room, this wireless access allows taxpayers and members of the media to access the internet / email during meetings or when waiting at the Municipal Center.

SECOND LAMAR LCD BOARD APPROVED FOR HIGHWAY 29



The Village of Weston Board approved the installation of a second LCD billboard along the Highway 29 corridor by Lamar Outdoor Advertising. In exchange, Lamar

has agreed to place new lower level lighting packages on its existing conventional signs on Highway 29 and to allow the sign to be used for public service announcements and for the Amber Alert system – which will allow viewing of close to 40,000 cars per day. Lamar will pay the Village \$3700 per year to place the sign on the northwest corner of Business Park South.