



# FOCUS



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

**MARCH 2011**

**[www.westonwisconsin.org](http://www.westonwisconsin.org)**

**VOLUME 50**

## WESTON BALANCES \$272,000 LOSS IN STATE REVENUE

The Village of Weston will lose \$272,000 of state shared revenue as a result of Governor Walker's proposed 2012-13 biennial budget as the State of Wisconsin attempts to reduce a \$3.6 billion dollar deficit. But efforts are underway to fill the funding gap.

"The State of Wisconsin is broke and in this recalibration of government, everyone from local municipalities to the school district to our prison system has to participate in balancing the budget," said Village President Fred Schuster.

The revenue reduction comes in three forms: a \$140,000 cut in shared revenue, the elimination of \$109,000 in recycling grant funds, and an adjustment of approximately \$23,000 in local transportation aid.

"Only 30% of our operating budget comes directly from property taxes, which generally is applied to public safety. The rest of our funds come from fees and intergovernmental revenue. So this reduction affects only non-police and non-fire operations of the Village" said Finance Committee Chairman Barb Ermeling.

The Village of Weston has already taken immediate steps to save \$88,000 by eliminating their bus route contract with the Wausau Area Transit System starting January 1, 2012. In addition, Village employees will contribute \$103,000 in retirement funds as a result of the Governor's budget repair legislation. A change in the way business computers will be taxed could yield an additional \$87,000, giving the Village a small cushion going into 2012.

"The proposed state budget will limit our ability to raise the local tax levy rate – but we will still have to find a way to deal with the rising costs of energy, insurance services, and winter maintenance supplies like salt. We have run lean for ten years, with no tax increases in five of those years, so we are practiced in making the proper reductions without impacting basic services for our residents," concluded Schuster.



## VILLAGE LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE LOCAL BUSINESS

In an effort to encourage more local shoppers and diners to spend their money in Weston, the Village has launched the "**Step Into Weston**" campaign that will run from February 10<sup>th</sup> through July 24<sup>th</sup> the last day of Weston Fest. The campaign began in the fall of 2010 with the introduction of the Mystery Foot – a quirky character that subtly pointed folks to Weston with giveaways at Target, Pick N Save and Walgreens and special appearances at area events. This guerilla marketing technique caused hundreds of local residents to wonder what was being promoted and to sign up for a Facebook page.



"We intentionally used this marketing technique **to differentiate ourselves from the pack** and cause some consumer intrigue. In the process, we obtained over one thousand email addresses that will now be turned over to our local hospitality, retail and professional services businesses to use for direct marketing," said Dean Zuleger, Village Administrator.

**By frequently visiting [stepintoweston.org](http://stepintoweston.org),** area residents will be able to register and take advantage of giveaways, drawings, shopping excursions, and special events between Valentine's Day and Weston Fest.

**Village of Weston 2010 Census Population is  
now recorded at 14,868**



## APRIL 5, 2011 SPRING ELECTION

### VILLAGE OFFICES TO BE ELECTED ON APRIL 5TH:

#### Village President (Vote For Not More Than One)

Fred Schuster

#### Village Trustee (Vote For Not More Than Three)

Colin Hintz  
Mark T. Porlier  
Jon Ziegler  
Loren White

#### WHERE TO VOTE & VOTER PUBLIC ACCESS

You may access the Village's website at [www.westonwisconsin.org](http://www.westonwisconsin.org) (click on the *Village Government* tab then click on the *Elections* tab.) If you are a registered voter you can access the Voter Public Access website at <http://vpa.wi.gov/>. This website offers polling place location, voting history and current office holders. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Municipal Center at 715-359-6114.

#### POLLING PLACE HOURS

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

#### 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 you are not already registered, you will need to register to vote before an absentee ballot can be sent to you. 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](http://www.westonwisconsin.org) (click on the *Village Government* tab then click on the *Elections* tab.)

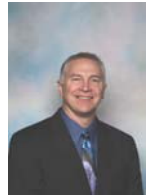
## FOUR TO VIE FOR THREE TRUSTEE SEATS, SCHUSTER WILL RUN UNOPPOSED

Four Village residents will run for three Village Trustee positions in the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 general election. **Current Village President Fred Schuster is running unopposed for his third term.** The following is a brief candidate summary for the Village Trustee race.



**Colin Hintz, 44**, is married with one grown daughter, and is owner of Hintz Training Group – a consulting firm that specializes in quality management, lean systems and safety training for business. Mr. Hintz is currently a member of the **Public Works Committee** and a volunteer member of the Weston Fire Department. At present, Hintz is aiding the Village in the adoption of lean management principles for municipal government. Mr. Hintz holds two master degrees and was an active duty officer in the U.S. Army.

**Mark Porlier, 50**, has lived in Weston for twenty years where he raised three children. He is an Electrical Project Manager for Clark-Dietz, and has consulted on numerous lighting designs for public works projects. **He is a seven year veteran of the Public Works Committee** and also served on the Storm Water Task Force. He is running for Village Board "as a means of using his technical skills to give back to the community."



**Jon Ziegler, 49**, is married and has two daughters. He has been a retail executive for twenty-seven years and has won numerous awards for innovation in customer service and retail sales. Ziegler **has served on the Village Board since 2002** and currently chairs the Public

Works Committee that oversees 40% of the Village's operation. As a member of the Park Committee, Ziegler has acquired over \$20,000 in grants for the Aquatic Center.

**Loren White, 59**, is married with two grown children. He served the community for 30 years as police officer, retiring as the Deputy Chief of the Everest Metro PD. He also served as the Fire Administrator of the Weston Fire Department and is currently employed at Aspirus Hospital. White has **served on the Village Board for four years.** He is currently the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and also serves on the Personnel Committee. Known for his attention to detail, White has created many policies for the EMPD and Fire Department.



**The Village Board and Staff would like to recognize and thank retiring Trustee Karen Schmutzler for her over thirty years of service to the community.**



## PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES NEWS

### **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER STH 29 AT BIRCH STREET**

– After nearly 4 years of planning, design, design revisions, and right-of-way – acquisition, the construction of a landmark pedestrian bridge is imminent. Bids from 5 general contractors were opened on December 22, 2010. The low bid of \$1,944,003.39 was submitted by Lunda Construction Company of Black River Falls. An update on the project appeared in the January 14, 2011, edition of the “Weston Wire.” The low bid exceeded the construction cost estimate used to set the overall project budget. The main reason for the higher than expected bids was the cost of concrete in the bids exceeding statewide averages by over \$400 per cubic yard. The higher price is due to the relatively small scale of the project as compared to larger highway bridges and other local factors. After a thorough review of the project budget it was determined that savings will be realized in other areas that will allow the Village to proceed with essentially a zero contingency in the budget.

On February 7, 2011, the Village board recommended that the project proceed and that Lunda Construction Company be awarded the construction contract. At press time, the Village is awaiting official approval of the project award from the Department of Transportation. Once the contract is in place with Lunda, the Village will explore possible cost savings measures to build back some contingency in the overall project budget. Last fall in preparation for the project, Wisconsin Public Service completed the installation of underground electric lines to abandon the overhead crossing. Construction of the bridge itself is expected to begin in early May. The Village is receiving \$1.32 million of federal and state funding for the bridge that will provide a safe link between the residential neighborhoods on the south side of Highway 29 and shopping, parks and schools on the north side of Highway 29. The bridge will also link up with a future four-mile path system to be constructed around Windemere Oaks and Crane Meadows subdivisions in 2012. This system will interface with Rothschild’s plans for a path to access the Cedar Creek area and the Wisconsin River Bridge



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**SCHOFIELD AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION** – The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will open bids for this project on April 12. A late May or early June construction date is anticipated. The project primarily involves the construction of 4 undivided traffic lanes with curb & gutter on both sides. Also included is sidewalk on the south side of Schofield Avenue between Ryan and

Hunt Street and a 2-foot wide bicycle lane on each side of Schofield Avenue. A condition of the project, though not technically part of the project, is improvement of a 10 foot wide paved path for year-round pedestrian use within the Mountain Bay State Recreation Trail corridor between Ryan Street and CTH J. DNR has finalized the language for an amendment to their agreement with Marathon County on the Mountain Bay State Recreation Trail that will allow this paved path to be constructed. The Village is working on language for an agreement with Marathon County to address the specifics of the pedestrian path construction and maintenance. The Marathon County Highway Department has agreed to pave the pedestrian path in exchange for the Village taking on maintenance of the new multi-use path to be constructed on Camp Phillips Road in 2011.

### **ALDERSON STREET RECONSTRUCTION – The Village of Weston and the Village of Rothschild have executed an inter-municipal agreement for reconstructing Alderson Street between Weston Avenue and Howland Avenue.**

Through this area the entire west half of Alderson is in the Village of Rothschild and the east half in the Village of Weston. The street footprint will not change, but gravel base will be added to achieve a total thickness of 12 inches. The work will be accomplished by Weston and Rothschild forces. In 2012, the Village wishes to add a multi-use path along the east side as part of a separate, federally funded, project.

### **CAMP PHILLIPS ROAD RECONSTRUCTION**

– The Wisconsin Department of Transportation opened bids on March 8 for the reconstruction of Camp Phillips Road from Bernard Avenue to ±1,900 feet north of Northwestern Avenue. At press time, the apparent low bidder had not been officially announced. An early June construction start is expected. **The closure of the bridge over the Eau Claire River will follow shortly after the project starts.** A project schedule was not yet available. This project will result in a 4 lane highway between Bernard Avenue and Northwestern Avenue, including a reconstructed bridge over the Eau Claire River and a multi-use path on the west side. 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**

– At press time, the Village has a bid opening scheduled on March 15, 2011. The project will involve the construction of sidewalk on the south side of Schofield Avenue from Birch Street to the current sidewalk termination approximately 300 feet east of Camp Phillips Road. This project will be funded through the Village’s TIF #2.

### **2011 STREET MAINTENANCE**

– Village Public Works and maintenance staff are in the process of planning work for the summer 2011 season. Likely



candidates for chip seal maintenance are Northwestern Avenue, Fuller Street, Schofield Avenue (east of CTH J) where a double chip seal was recommended in 2008, but was deferred due to budget constraints. Additional candidates this summer are Weston Avenue from Ryan to CTH J, Ryan Street from Weston Avenue to Shorey, the Wandering Springs subdivision, and parts of the Sandy Meadows subdivisions. A lesser amount of chip seal is planned this year in order to address concrete joint maintenance on Schofield Avenue between Alderson Street and Birch Street and/or other areas in need of attention.

**EAU CLAIRE RIVER, LLC PROPERTY WELL SITE –**

The Village is in the process of acquiring approximately 40 acres of property along the west side of Camp Phillips Road just south of the Eau Claire River. It was determined that the area could support multiple wells on the basis of hydro-geological analysis last fall. The property will serve a dual purpose as well sites and Village park land.



**SPRING WATER SYSTEM**

**FLUSHING** – The spring session of water distribution system flushing is scheduled to begin during the week of April 25. The specific schedule

will be posted on the Village web site and published in the “Everest Herald.”

**SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS**

**Effective March 15** seasonal weight restrictions have been imposed on on Village streets and roads. Seasonal weight restrictions remain in effect until there is evidence that all frost beneath roadways has thawed; this is usually later than in unpaved areas. The obvious implication of seasonal weight restrictions is the suspension of the transport of heavy loads. Construction activities cannot begin, or those activities must be drastically limited (i.e. small loads on streets, construction limited to off-road areas), until seasonal weight restrictions are rescinded. It is impossible to predict the date when weight restrictions will be rescinded since it is a weather dependent event. Weight restrictions are posted with signs throughout the Village that will also be removed when weight restrictions are rescinded. Additional information about seasonal weight restrictions, including which streets are not affected, is available on the Village’s website.



**DON’T FORGET TO LICENSE YOUR PETS BY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> TO AVOID FEE INCREASE**

2011 Dog and Cat Licenses have been available for purchase since Jan. 1st. 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.** For example, a license for a previously licensed neutered/spayed dog would now cost you \$30 instead of \$10 starting April 1, 2011.

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 are as follows:**

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



**3RD ANNUAL WESTON FEST**  
**JULY 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Free Family Fun, Music, Prizes**

**\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\***

Also, as a reminder, the Village of Weston ordinance requires that all dogs and cats need to be under control of some person at all times and on a leash when off premises. It is against the Village ordinance to allow these animals (including horses) to defecate upon property not owned by them or on public property. If such should happen that person is required to remove of and dispose of in a sanitary manner such excreta. Failure to comply will result in fines up to \$100.



# EVEREST METRO POLICE NEWS

Chief Wally Sparks

## DRUG TRENDS

The local communities were successful in getting synthetic marijuana, aka K-2, banned this fall after the substance began showing up in the community. The latest drug of concern that is sweeping across the nation is a form of synthetic cocaine which is being marketed as "Bath Salts", under such names as Ivory Wave, Bliss, White Lightening, Vanilla Sky and others. These products contain powerful stimulants such as methedrone and methylenedioxypropylvalerone (also called MDPV). The products cause increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, agitation, hallucinations, extreme paranoia and delusions. There have been scattered reports across the country of drug-induced deaths, accidental overdose or suicide. While we have not seen any cases at the local level, parents are urged to safeguard their children as these products are readily available to people of any age over the internet.



**One area of concern we are experienced locally**, including in the schools, is the issue of prescription drug abuse. Parents should always make sure prescription drugs are secured and not available to children and to properly dispose of old prescriptions and medications.

## RBS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

There is funding available through the Marathon County Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Partnership Council to provide 36 scholarships for the Responsible Beverage Server (RBS) training course at North Central Technical College. This course was recently revamped through a collaboration with local tavern owners, the Marathon County Tavern League, law enforcement and the AOD Partnership council. These scholarships cover the \$25 course fee and are available to servers working for liquor licensed establishments in Marathon County. If you would like to obtain an application or have any questions, please call the Marathon County Health Department at 715-261-1931.



## URBAN DEER HUNT / DEER FEEDING

The urban deer hunt which has been taking place in the Mallard Lane subdivision area has not resulted in any deer being harvested to date. The crux of the problem with too many deer in

these residential areas can be directly associated with residents intentionally feeding deer. Feeding deer is illegal and the DNR issued warnings to a number of residents that were actively feeding deer. Every single Wisconsin DNR wildlife biologist is opposed to deer baiting based on ecological and disease considerations. As countless studies have pointed out, when fed supplemental feed, deer never eat just the feed; they also eat their natural foods, which include trees, shrubs and other vegetation.

Unfortunately, many village residents are already painfully aware of this as it becomes impossible to grow gardens or maintain landscaping. **While we will continue with the Urban Deer Hunt in an attempt to reduce the urban deer population, we implore residents NOT to feed deer.** Although their efforts are well intended, feeding is having a detrimental effect to the deer herd as well as causing significant monetary damage to neighboring properties.



## INVESTIGATIONS

During the past year, the department has continued to provide investigative training to our officers while placing an emphasis on following up on all cases in a timely and efficient manner, many of which are done at the patrol level. The patrol officers have responded to, and have cleared, everything from minor nuisance complaints to complex felony investigations, which has allowed our detective bureau to focus on the more time-intensive investigations. We recognize that in these economic times, we need to do more with less and our staff has taken on additional responsibilities to improve our performance, efficiency and service to the community.

## VIOLENCE TREND

The U.S. has experienced an overall trend of increased violence against law enforcement officers with line of duty deaths increasing 37% in 2010. Domestic violence and sexual assaults have also been increasing nationwide and EMPD has experienced increases at the local level.



Through the first two months of 2011, the department handled 11 sexual assaults (some with multiple victims), compared with an average of only two per month in 2010. EMPD officers have also engaged a number of violent offenders this year, including two recent cases involving a suspect attempting to disarm an officer during a struggle and another case where a suspect tried to run several officers down with a motor vehicle.



## WESTON F.D. NEWS

Chief Steve Meilahn

### New Fire Protection & Prevention Ordinance To Be Adopted

The Village Board at its March 21, 2011 meeting will consider for approval a new fire protection and prevention ordinance. The new code is based on a model suggested by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce with input from Village staff. The new code was thoroughly vetted through the Public Safety Committee and Planning Committee, which are made up of elected officials and members of the public. The complete code is available for viewing on line at the Village website or by requesting a copy through the Village. The new ordinance adopts many State and Federal/National Codes, outlines certain fees, required permits, definitions, authority of the Fire Chief, fire inspections, fire investigations, combustible materials, fire hazards, enforcement, places of assembly, and general fire safety requirements, to name but a few. One area we field many questions on concerns outdoor burning. The information provided below is a very quick review of this aspect of the code.

#### 34.209 Burning, heating and lighting -

- (a) (1) Cooking with gas or charcoal on portable or permanent grills is allowed. (See complete ordinance for further explanation).
- (a)(2) Recreational burning is allowed. (See complete ordinance for further explanation).

**34.209 (b) Open Fire and Burning** (1) Controlled burning of agricultural materials, forestry debris or prairie areas on parks, farms, wildlife sanctuaries, and cemeteries; provided such burns are issued a current permit by the fire department, the smoke and products of combustion do not create a hazard to nearby streets or a noxious atmosphere for neighbors, the burns are attended by personnel who have readily available firefighting equipment, and the Fire Chief has not declared a no burn period due to dry conditions or other unfavorable weather. Such burns shall be restricted to properties of at least five acres under single ownership, and this permit process shall not be construed to allow property owners to burn leaves, grass, trees, or landscape debris from their individual properties.

(2) Recreational fires

(2) b.2 – A recreational fire is a small outdoor fire intended for recreation or cooking.

(2) f – Only clean, dry wood, untreated and unpainted lumber is permitted to fuel a recreational fire.

(2) m – No recreational fire may be started or allowed to continue between 12 a.m. and 12 p.m. Any such fire is presumed unreasonable and must be extinguished upon demand.

## FIRE RATING REQUEST MAY LOWER HOME OWNER'S INSURANCE PREMIUM

The Village of Weston has asked an insurance rating service to rate the community's ability to provide superior fire protection that will hopefully result in lower homeowner premiums for taxpayers. In a January 21<sup>st</sup> letter written by Village President Fred Schuster, Weston asked the Chicago-based ISO Public Protection Classification Service to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the community's ability to protect property values based on the performance of both the fire department and the efficiency of water distribution system. ISO ranks a community on a 1 – 9 scale (1=Best). This rating is used by insurance companies to determine premium levels for insuring buildings within a community. The last such evaluation was conducted in 1991 when Weston was still a rural township and it received a rating of "6".



Since that time Weston has been incorporated as a full-service Village per Wisconsin State Statutes, has established a 24 hour, seven day a week fire department, added to our public water supply with the development of new wells geographically spaced to serve the entire population centers of the Village, and added 500,000 gallon water reservoir to supplement two existing towers. A regular fire hydrant maintenance and testing program has been adopted to insure proper water pressure and instant flow," said Schuster in his letter of request.

ISO will now schedule a field visit to Weston to validate that improvements have been made to the community and then assign a classification rating. If the rating is better than "6", homeowners should see an adjustment in their rates. An answer is expected in the summer of 2011.

### VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS DONATE 1735 HOURS

Thirty-three paid-on-call firefighters donated 1735 hours of time to the Village of Weston in 2010 saving the community close to \$35,000. Firefighters Shawn Abel (205), Ross Witucki (188), Bill Guillen (174), Matt Van Den Heuvel (153), and Chad Zerkle (132) led the way with 3-5 equivalent weeks of donated time.

"These dedicated firefighters exemplify what community service is all about and help us operate an efficient fire service at an affordable cost," said Deputy Chief Kris Grod.

## VILLAGE RECEIVES AWARD FOR 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

For the seventh consecutive year, the Village of Weston was presented the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report ("CAFR") for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. The award is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada to government units whose CAFR's achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting. The CAFR is judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. "The receipt of this award will assist the Village to maintain its strong bond rating for all future capital borrowing issues," said Finance Director John Jacobs. A copy of the 2004-2009 annual reports (CAFR) can be found on the Village's website at [http://www.westonwisconsin.org/government/finance/annual\\_report.php](http://www.westonwisconsin.org/government/finance/annual_report.php).

## SUCCESSFUL TAX SEASON WITH ASSISTANCE FROM 12 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Village of Weston taxpayers came out in full force to pay property tax payments by January 31st, the first installment due date. With a net tax levy of \$22.2 million, about \$16.4 million (74% of the total tax levy) was collected by January 31, 2011.

Please remember that the **second** installment is payable to the Marathon County Treasurer. Payments can be dropped off at the County Courthouse or mailed to the following address:

Marathon County Treasurer  
500 Forest Street  
Wausau, WI 54403



If you did not receive a tax receipt by mail or misplaced your tax receipt, please call the Municipal Center at (715) 359-6114 to obtain a receipt.

The Village of Weston would especially like to thank the twelve financial institutions that assisted in the tax collection process this year. This customer service was provided to the Village at no charge. Those institutions were the following:

- Associated Bank
- Cloverbelt Credit Union
- Covantage Credit Union
- Mid-Wisconsin Bank
- Peoples State Bank
- River Valley State Bank
- Abby Bank
- Brokaw Credit Union
- Intercity State Bank
- M & I Bank
- Tower Credit Union
- US Bank

## DELINQUENT PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ACCOUNTS TO BE PUBLISHED

Beginning in April 2011, the Village will publish a listing of those businesses which have outstanding personal property tax bills. The delinquency listing will be published on the Village's website and in the Village of Weston June 2011 newsletter.

Personal property includes all tangible property used in the course of a business including machinery, tools and patterns, furniture, office equipment, supplies, fax machines, copiers, leased equipment, and buildings on leased land. The valuation of personal property is calculated separately from real estate property, which is land and buildings. Separate property tax bills are mailed out for real estate tax bills (on white forms) and personal property tax bills (on green forms).

Personal property tax bills are payable and due in full each year by January 31<sup>st</sup>. When the personal property tax bills become delinquent, it is the local government's responsibility to collect these unpaid property taxes. In contrast, the Marathon County Treasurer is responsible for collecting delinquent real estate tax bills, but not the personal property tax bills.

For the December 2010 tax levy, there are 26 businesses that have a combined total of \$21,912.57 in outstanding personal property taxes to date. The Village will assess a 1.5% monthly charge for interest and penalties on these delinquent tax bills until they are paid in full.

The Finance Committee gave a recommendation at the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting to have Village Staff publish and post a listing of these delinquent personal property tax accounts. Therefore, the Village will give an opportunity for those businesses to pay their taxes in full (by the end of March 2011) prior to the Village posting these delinquent accounts on the Village's website and in the June 2011 Village newsletter.

If some of these businesses do not pay their personal property tax bills in full, they will not be able to renew their liquor, cigarette, or hotel licenses on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, the Village will process these delinquent personal property tax bills through the Marathon County Circuit Court/Small Claims Court for the 2010 tax year and all previous years.

If you are one of those delinquent businesses that received a Village delinquency letter in the mail in February 2011, please forward your tax payment immediately to the Village of Weston, PO Box 438, Weston, WI 54476. Otherwise, your business will be published in the listing for other taxpayers to see.



## NEW PLAYGROUND GIVES ALL KIDS HOPE

Sharon Jaeger, Village Trustee

For three years the Village of Weston Park & Recreation Committee has been working on a new project that not only will add a new dimension to our quality of life – but will also provide children of all stations a chance for fun.

The WINGS (Where Innovation N' Growth Soar) Playground will be located in our Yellow Banks Park at the corner of Camp Phillips Road and Northwestern Avenue. This "boundless playground" has been designed to allow all children – regardless of physical or cognitive ability – a playful experience that meets their individual needs. To our knowledge, this will be the only boundless playground north of Madison and we have decided to place it at Yellow Banks Park so both the DCE School District and the Wausau School District can easily access the facility and use it in their curriculum.



The idea was brought to us by **Park Committee member and Future Weston graduate Joe Abt**, after he visited a similar (but not boundless) playground in Stevens Point. We then partnered with a park equipment provider and the Boundless Playground organization to design the park you see above.

Our goal is to build this park without using any tax dollars at a cost of \$450,000. We will use our street crew to prep the site, but everything else will come through donations. We have approached a couple of local foundations, but a bulk of the funds will come in those all important \$10, \$25, and \$50 donations. We will even provide an opportunity for naming some of the equipment, benches, retaining walls and other items.

In the next two weeks, the Village will be placing placards throughout the community that will allow you to look at the WINGS playground up close. We hope that after you see the possibilities of this playground, you will decide to help us by writing a check to:

**Weston Playground**  
c/o Community Foundation of North Central WI  
500 1st Street Suite 2600  
Wausau, WI 54403

If you have a desire to participate in a bigger way or are interested in naming a specific portion of the playground, please contact Dean Zuleger at 715-241-2600 and he will take you through the project and show you how you might be involved. I thank you for your consideration.

## WESTON AQUATIC CENTER 2011 SCHEDULE

**Opening Day – June 4<sup>th</sup> (11 AM- 7:45 PM)**  
(Free Community Swim)

### Family Passes on Sale Now

Residents - \$89 through May 27<sup>th</sup>  
Non-Residents \$109 through May 27<sup>th</sup>  
\*\*Passes are good for up to 6 people

**Birthday Party, Special Event or Large Group Rental**  
Discounts are available. Call 715-359-9988 with requests

**May 31<sup>st</sup> is currently available for a pre-season school or group rental**

### Swimming Lesson Classes

(All Classes Run from 10 AM – 10:50 AM)

**Cost:** Resident \$15, Non-Resident \$20

**Levels 1-5 Available / Red Cross Standards**

**Session #1: June 13<sup>th</sup> – June 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Session #2: July 5<sup>th</sup> – July 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Session #3: July 25<sup>th</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Residents may register on April 25<sup>th</sup>, Non-residents may register on May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**All pass and lesson registrations take place at the Municipal Center from 8 AM - 5 PM until June 3<sup>rd</sup>. After June 3<sup>rd</sup> all pass and lesson registrations take place at the Weston Aquatic Center.**

# Sustainable Weston

## **WESTON ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP**

**SPRING YARD WASTE PICKUP**  
MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>  
ON YOUR NORMAL GARBAGE DAY

**BULK ITEM DROP OFF**  
MAY 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>  
AT THE WESTON MUNICIPAL CENTER

**WESTON YAEGER RECYCLING  
COUPON REDEMPTION**  
MAY 12<sup>th</sup> – JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>

*Yaeger coupons should be available to be  
picked up at the Municipal Center on or around  
May 9<sup>th</sup>.*

*Call (715) 359-6114 for more information on  
Weston's Spring Clean Up!!  
\*\*\*\*\**

**WESTON YARD WASTE DROP-OFF SITE**  
The yard waste drop-off site, located at **8200 Ryan Street (1/4-mile south of Weston Avenue)**, is open 7 days a week, 24-hours per day (and under 24-hour surveillance), so you can dispose of your yard waste at your convenience.

## **HOME COMPOSTER SALE**

Marathon County Solid Waste will be selling home composters on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Marathon County Solid Waste Facility (landfill), in Ringle. Another sale will be held at the Marathon Park Judging Barn, the same day as the North Central WI Master Gardeners Plant Sale, on May 21<sup>st</sup>. For sale hours during those events, call (877) 270-3989 or email: [emguthrie@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:emguthrie@co.marathon.wi.us).



**Home Composter Bins** are made of 100% recycled materials, holds six to eight 30-gallon bags of yard and organic waste and come with a 10-year warranty. The cost per bin is \$50. There will be a display model at the Municipal Center in April.

## **WESTON RECOGNIZED AS LEGACY GREEN TIER COMMUNITY**



On December 1, 2010, 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.

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

## **WESTON AWARDED THE SILVER WATER STAR STATUS**

The Village of Weston has been awarded the Silver Water Star by the University of Wisconsin Extension for excellence in the protection of surface water and ground water.



The award was presented at the February 7, 2011, Board meeting to Village President Fred Schuster and Director of Public Works Keith Donner. The award is based on a community meeting a majority of over 400 criteria focused on the adoption of conservation and protection practices to preserve a community's water supply. UWEX's Mary Kluz highlighted the community's progress in storm water management education and water conservation as two of the featured highlights of Weston's recent efforts.

**DO YOU HAVE A RAIN BARREL OR RAIN GARDEN?** If so, you could be eligible for the one-time credit toward your storm water utility bill. The credit of \$32.64 is available to Village of Weston residential property owners one-time only if a rain barrel or rain garden is installed.



Property owners may install multiple rain barrels or rain gardens, however, there is no additional credit for the additional improvements. The Village of Weston encourages rain water harvesting through the use of rain gardens and rain barrels. A great benefit of rain water harvesting is a reduction in water runoff, reducing the impact of erosion on surface water quality and promoting groundwater recharge. Contact Valerie Parker at (715) 241-2607 or at [vparker@westonwisconsin.org](mailto:vparker@westonwisconsin.org) for information on building a rain barrel and/or rain garden. If you already have a rain barrel or rain garden constructed and currently in use, and you have not requested this one-time credit of \$32.64 in the past, contact Valerie Parker to set up an appointment to have your active rain barrel or rain garden verified.

**REUSE THE PAST  
RECYCLE THE PRESENT  
SAVE THE FUTURE!!**

**FREE ALUMINUM WATER BOTTLES**

Be sure to stop in at the Municipal Center to get your reusable aluminum water bottle today! These bottles are made out of recycled aluminum and have a BPA-free lining. As part of our recycling and drinking water education program, they also come with a handy recycling fact sheet. We've only have 1,000 of them so hurry and get yours today! Limit 1 per household please. **Help us spread the word that the Village of Weston is recycling for a better tomorrow!** Funds for the purchase of these water bottles were obtained through the 2010 recycling grant. One of the requirements of the recycling grant is to promote recycling in our community. Contact Valerie Parker for more information at (715) 241-2607, or at [vparker@westonwisconsin.org](mailto:vparker@westonwisconsin.org).



**WESTON RECYCLES!!**

Let's continue to be a responsible community and keep up on your recycling efforts. There have been some changes over the past year as to what is banned from the landfills.



Beginning September 1, 2010, devices covered under 2009 Act 50, Wisconsin's electronics recycling law, including computers, televisions, desktop printers, computer peripherals, DVD players, digital video recorders, VCRs, fax machines and phones with video displays (cell phones) are banned from Wisconsin landfills and incinerators.

Beginning January 1, 2011, oil absorbent materials over one gallon and used oil filters are banned from Wisconsin landfills.

Visit the WI DNR website for further information and updates on the recycling laws at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/>.

**RECYCLING PLASTICS** – In case you missed the story in our December 2010 Focus Newsletter, Marathon County Solid Waste Department announced that we can now recycle more plastics (other than just #1 and #2 plastics) which will 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.*

**PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS** – Many people wonder if they can recycle plastic shopping bags. According to the WI DNR's website, recycling opportunities for plastic shopping bags are growing. Several retailers are accepting plastic shopping bags for recycling (such as Quality Foods IGA, Target, and Weston Pick'n Save). Although most plastic shopping bags are made of polyethylene plastic, local curbside collection programs in Wisconsin are generally not yet equipped to accept them. Plastic bags clog recycling machinery and are difficult to separate from other materials. Visit the WI DNR website at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/issues/plasticbagsFAQ.htm> for more information.

## VILLAGE BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED

Spring is almost here, which means many of you may be planning 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, in-ground irrigation systems, finishing basements and building additions.

If you are not sure if a building permit is needed, please feel free to call the Village Municipal Center at 359-6114 and a Village staff member will assist you in determining if your home improvement project requires a building permit. 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](http://www.westonwisconsin.org/planning/building_permit.php).

## GET ONLINE WITH FACEBOOK & THE WESTON WIRE



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](http://www.westonwisconsin.org) and join today. **Each Friday, a new *Weston Wire* is also available for viewing. This weekly newsletter provides up to the minute news and events happening in our community.** You can access it via a link on the Village website or watch the Facebook page newsfeed to find out when the latest edition is posted.

## VILLAGE WIDE RUMMAGE SALE MAY 6th

The Village will be having its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Wide Rummage Sale on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost to participate as each party having the sale will be responsible for their own advertisement if they so choose. The Village will, still be doing a map as to where the sales are located. To be included on the map please submit the application located on the Village's website at [www.westonwisconsin.org](http://www.westonwisconsin.org),

or you may pick one up at the Weston Municipal Center between 7:30am and 5:00 pm. Applications need to be turned in by Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## FARMER'S MARKET OPENS MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>

Mark your calendars, as the Village of Weston Farmer's Market will open for the season on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>. The farmer's market which is held at Farmer's Market Park, next to the Village Municipal Center on Schofield Avenue, is open every Tuesday and Saturday from 8 am until sold out. The market offers wonderful fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants, meat, bakery, kettle corn and homemade crafts. Also enjoy special entertainment and demonstrations during the summer months. If anyone is interested in performing on Saturday mornings, please contact Renee Hodell, Taxpayer Relations Coordinator at 715-241-2608 or [rhodell@westonwisconsin.org](mailto:rhodell@westonwisconsin.org)



## BICYCLE RODEO and FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

The Everest Area Optimist Club (along with various sponsors) is hosting its annual Bike Rodeo on Saturday, May 7th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Weston Safety Building on Mesker Street. There will be family activities for all, with the Bike Rodeo open for children through age 13. Trophies will be awarded in 6 classes with the first 325 children receiving a FREE helmet, ID, t-shirt, and Goody Bag. There will also be Free Bicycle Safety Inspections, Free Bike Licenses, Free use of the Mountain Bay Bike Trail, and Door Prizes that include 4 bicycles. Food and soda will also be available.



## THANK YOU TO OUR AREA RESTAURANTS!!

Thank you to the following area restaurants for participating in the **Everest Men Respect "Eat in Weston"** coupon campaign. Arrow Sports Bar, Basil Restaurant, Big Dan and Spaces Kelly Club, Buffalo Wings and Rings, Dale's Weston Lanes, 4 Nations Cafe, Godfather's Pizza, Johanna May's Fine Teas, Iozzo's Italian Restaurant, Marco's Pizza, The Palm's Supper Club, Razz's Bar and Grill, Sam's Pizza, Shanghai Grill, and WISH Steakhouse.

**Everest Men Respect bumper stickers (pictured above) are available at the Municipal Center free of charge.**



## TOWN OF WESTON NEWS

Milton Olson, Chairman

### TOWN OF WESTON ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting for the Town of Weston will be held **on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**, in the Everest Municipal Courtroom, 5303 Mesker Street, Weston, beginning at 7:00 pm. Agenda items include:

1. Approval of minutes from 2010 meeting
2. Auditor's Report
3. New Business

All Town residents are encouraged to attend.

### SPRING ELECTION APRIL 5, 2011

The polling place for all Town of Weston residents is at the Weston Safety Building, 5303 Mesker Street. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Town offices to be elected are:

- **Town Chairman**  
Milton Olson, Incumbent
- **Two Town Supervisors**  
Arnie Baumann, Incumbent  
Walter John Chilsen, Incumbent
- **Clerk/Treasurer**  
Joan Erdman, Incumbent

### 2011 TOWN ROAD PROJECTS

We are planning to put a one and a half inch layer of blacktop on all the roads in the Home Sweet Home subdivision. All these streets only received one layer of blacktop when they were constructed over 20 years ago.

### SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

The Marathon County Private Sewage System Ordinance currently regulates the maintenance of Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS), better known as "septic systems", which were installed after July 1, 1980. Changes in the state code (Comm 83) now require that all septic systems, regardless of when they were installed, be inspected and/or serviced at least once every three years. Every county in Wisconsin must complete an inventory of all POWTS in their jurisdiction by October 1, 2013 and implement a comprehensive maintenance program for these systems by October 1, 2015. The county Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ) Department has started the inventory, which is simply a list of properties with septic systems, but does not have a timetable for implementing the expanded maintenance program at this time.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS

If you replace an older septic system (POWTS), you may be able to receive some financial assistance through the Wisconsin Fund Grant program administered by the county Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ) Department. The program could provide a reimbursement of up to 60% of the replacement cost. Eligibility for a grant is based upon income (must be under \$45,000.00), age of the failing system, type of failure, and other factors. For more information, visit the CPZ page at Marathon County's website: <http://www.co.marathon.wi.us> or contact Dale Dimond, CPZ Department, at (715) 261-6028.

If you think that your septic system may not pass an inspection, you may want to have it checked out now and start looking into applying for the funds before the year 2015.

### PARK RESERVATIONS

Reservations are now being accepted for park shelters for 2011. The Village of Weston has 7 shelters available at 6 different parks. Each park has restrooms, water, electricity and facilities for play and sports. Visit the Weston Municipal Center, 5500 Schofield Avenue between 7:30 and 5:00 to make reservations or call 359-9988 with questions regarding these parks. Reservation forms along with information regarding all parks is also available at [www.westonwisconsin.org](http://www.westonwisconsin.org).

### DOG PARK CLEAN UP

The Village of Weston Dog Park has been experiencing a large amount of individuals that are not cleaning up after their pets when they visit the dog park. Individuals interested in helping keep the park clean and **open** are encouraged to attend a clean up event **on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** **The Village will provide pails to complete the clean up process. The dog park is located at 6100 Rogan Lane.**

### LIFE IN MARATHON COUNTY Survey Determines Where Funds Will be Spent

Early in April, 4000 randomly selected households in Marathon County will receive a postcard inviting them to take the *LIFE in Marathon County 2011 Community Survey*. For the first time, the survey will be done on-line to save costs. If you receive a postcard, please take a few minutes to take the survey, using the website address on the postcard. There will also be instructions for obtaining a paper copy for those residents who do not have internet access. Survey results provide important data for the LIFE report and helps groups in our community focus on those issues that are most important for our residents. In addition, many organizations use data in the LIFE report when writing grant applications and reports.