

# Wausau Works

*For you!*

Spring/Summer 2005



I hope you enjoy the new look of the Spring/Summer "Wausau Works For You" newsletter. We are combining these editions into one publication as a cost savings measure and continue to search for additional ways to save taxpayer dollars.

It is with great excitement that Wausau and Weston have entered into the first step in a shared services agreement with our respective fire departments. During the last four months, many discussions were held exploring the best options for both communities. We are happy to report an agreement has been reached. Wausau will house the Village of Weston's Pierce Aerial Platform truck. In exchange, we will respond with five firefighters in emergency mode to known structure fires in the Village of Weston. Wausau is looking forward to working with Weston and our other neighboring communities as we explore sharing services and resources. It is through this "metro mentality" that our future successes are possible. We applaud Weston for their vision!

Wausau's caring community continues to step forward by contributing to the many charitable causes. City employees participated in the annual Christmas Giving Tree and the first annual blood drive, with a second scheduled in June. The process for donating blood is relatively simple and I encourage all residents to stop at the Blood Center of Northcentral Wisconsin and donate. There is also, an urgent need to donate food items to our local pantries at the Neighbor's Place and the Salvation Army. It is through the spirit of giving that makes Wausau a close-knit community.

Earth Day is April 22nd! Our community is engaged in an Earth Day/Clean-Up Week starting Sunday, April 17 through Sunday, April 24th. I encourage your church/youth groups, neighborhood associations, company co-workers and partners to choose a day and an area and roll up your sleeves to help your neighbors.

Road construction is upon us **once again!** I encourage you to be patient with the progress and refer to the *2005 Major Road Projects* article for alternate routes

The Wausau area is an exciting place to be in the Spring and Summer of 2005! I hope you enjoy the new calendar of events in this edition and reference it for your future planning.

Spring is finally here and I extend wishes for a safe summer.

*James E. Tipple*

## Mayor Tipple's Message



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**Mission Statement...** In response to our citizens, we will provide services in the most effective manner in order to promote and enhance our living environment. | Plan and encourage positive growth. | Promote a positive community image by encouraging citizen involvement and civic pride.



# Summer Safety

Along with warmer temperatures comes higher volumes of traffic (vehicle, bike and pedestrian) as most of us can't wait to get out and play. Please use extra caution when driving. As you clean out the garage take a few minutes to think about safety and go through our checklist. We don't want to live in fear and constantly worry about safety, but **"an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure..."**

Now is a good time to dust off the bicycle helmets from last summer and make sure they still fit properly. A good helmet fit is essential to bike safety. The Wausau Area Safe Kids Coalition along with the Wausau Police Department partner throughout the spring and summer to offer helmets at reasonable costs. Please watch for details.

Life vests are a critical part of water safety. Make sure your vests are the right size for your child. Check that the buckles are in working order. Make sure that when your child is playing near the water they not only have the vest on, but they are being supervised by a responsible adult. A life vest is not a substitute for supervision! If you own a pool, make sure other safety measures are in place; fences are in tact, covers, alarms, and gates are all in the proper location and in working order to ensure a safe, accident free summer.

Lighter jackets on the kids will cause you to have to readjust their car seats. Remember that the recommendations for child restraints state that children ride rear-facing until at least one year and 20 lbs. (preferably longer) and in the harness straps forward facing until 40 lbs. After that they are much safer in a booster seat until about 8 years old. Wisconsin is still trying to pass this into law. Seatbelts are still being designed for adults. A booster seat simply "boosts" your child up to properly fitting into the seat belt. Most children are still improperly restrained. Please stop in at a location listed below and make sure your child is safe. Your child's life may depend on it!

## Car Seat Inspections/Sales

Wausau Area Safe Kids and the Wausau Police Department work together at the Baby Fair. This event is held at New Beginnings Birthing Center/Aspirus Wausau Hospital and is held on the first Wednesday of each month from 4-6 pm. Car seat inspections are free of charge, first-come/first-serve basis and seats are sold at a reduced cost. Future dates: April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov 2, and Dec. 7.

The Wausau Police Department and Northwoods Child Passenger Safety Assoc. partner to host the second event of the month at Saturn of Wausau, 2727 N. 20th Ave, Wausau on the third Wednesday of each month. These times are from 11 am-1 pm and again from 4-6 pm. Car seat inspections are free of charge, first come/first serve basis and seats are again sold at a reduced cost. Future dates: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, and Dec. 21.

If you would like to make an appointment for a car seat inspection outside of these event times, please call Safety Officer Maureen Pilsner at 261-7853. You may also check our city website (bulletin board) for information.

## Safety City

Safety City is a program designed for children 5 years of age that will be attending Kindergarten in the fall. This program is sponsored by the Wausau Police Department and the Wausau School District and teaches children safety basics. During the week long course the children work with Officer Friendly learning about stranger dangers, bus safety, pedestrian safety, and bicycling safety through a mini city set up in the gym at Thomas Jefferson School. Registration is free of charge, but space is limited. Registration is obtained through the Wausau Police Department or any elementary and some preschools. Reservations are on a first-come/first-serve basis. This years course dates/times are as follows: June 13-17, June 20-24, and June 27-July 1 with times from 8:30-10:00 am, 10:30-12:00 pm, and 12:30-2:00 pm. Please contact Safety Officer Maureen Pilsner (Officer Friendly) with questions 261-7853. Have a great, safe spring and summer!

## WATS Discontinues Services During Summer Months

The Wausau Area Transit System will discontinue the following services during the summer months:

- **Saturday bus service and WATS+ Paratransit Service will be discontinued after May 21st. Saturday service will resume on September 10th.**
- **All "Express Routes" will be discontinued when the school year ends. "Express Routes" will be provided when Wausau School District classes resume in September.**

For information regarding bus routes, schedules, fares, or WATS+ Paratransit Service, call WATS at 842-9287.



## Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week

is scheduled for April 18-22, 2005. In conjunction with this campaign, a statewide Tornado Drill will be conducted on Thursday, April 21, 2005. Please be advised that in Marathon County a mock tornado warning will take place in all municipalities from 1:10-1:15 p.m.

### Residents Can Help Street Trees

The City of Wausau has an extensive urban forestry program that provides and maintains the trees found along city streets. These trees live with considerably more stress than most yard trees. These stresses include poor soil, restricted rooting space, less water, higher temperatures from adjacent paved surfaces, road salt and impacts from road, sidewalk and utility construction. City residents and landowners can help keep our street trees healthy through two actions:

- 1) If you notice that a street tree has damaged or dead limbs, poor leaf color, loose or missing bark, or limbs that are obstructing streets or sidewalks notify the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department at 261-1550. The City Forester will come and assess the situation. Do NOT attempt to remedy the situation yourself. Proper limb removal is important to ensure rapid wound closure and limit decay. Improper trimming can destroy the structural integrity of a tree and ruin its appearance and city ordinance prohibits pruning of street trees by the public.
- 2) Newly planted trees need additional water for at least the first growing season. The city plants 400 - 600 street trees annually and these trees are watered by city crews but not to optimum conditions. Homeowners can greatly enhance the survival rates and vitality of new trees by watering them. A good rule of thumb is that at least one inch of water per week is needed and a weekly soaking using a slow watering method is the most effective. During a prolonged dry period, older established trees also need additional water.

### News from the Assessment Department

The City of Wausau Assessment Department released a new webpage in August of 2004. This webpage has been extremely busy. As of today, over 10,000 people have visited this webpage resulting in over 68,000 hits with over 15,000 final reports being generated. These numbers include over 28 visitors from Europe and Australia. At a minimum, this webpage has eliminated hundreds of phone calls to our office because taxpayers were able to find the information they were seeking in the comfort of their home or office. This type of efficiency results in noticeable savings for the taxpayer.

#### What information is on the new City of Wausau Assessment webpage?

When people are looking to purchase a property, searching for comparable properties to help determine value, or maybe they are curious how their assessment compares to their neighbors, then they will need to view the following amenities: *Year Built, Square Footage, Style (Ranch or Mansion), Number of Buildings, Stories, External Wall (Aluminum or Wood Siding), Basement (Full, Crawl, or None), Heat, AC, Total Room Count, Number of Bedrooms, Family Rooms, Full Baths, Half Baths, Garage Type (Attached or Detached), Garage Capacity, with the ability to perform a Sales Comparison based on the parameters you select: Price Range, Neighborhood, Date Range, Sale Price or Square Footage.*

#### Where do I go to find assessment information for a property in the City of Wausau?

Go to the City of Wausau website [www.ci.wausau.wi.us](http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us), hold your cursor over Government to get a dropdown window and click on assessment. When you get to this page there is a wealth of information at your fingertips.

Our webpage is a work in progress, so watch for our new enhancements that will be released in the near future.

### “Welcome Home to Wausau” Momentos

The City of Wausau has a large assortment of promotional items. All are printed with the colorful “Welcome Home to Wausau” logo. Please consider purchasing momento items for your next family/school reunion or company picnic. They make wonderful gifts for college students or those moving in or out of the area. Following is a short list of what is available for purchase at the Clerk/Customer Service counter of City Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Item	Price ea.
Pins/Tie Tack/Charms	\$2.00
T-Shirts	\$10.00 \$13.00
Baseball Caps	\$12.00
Waterproof Sport Safes	\$2.50
Fanny Packs	\$5.25
Insulated Lunch Bags	\$7.75
Polo Sport Shirts	\$17.00
Ceramic Mugs	\$7.50
Fleece Blankets	\$25.50
Tote Bags	\$6.50
Golf Balls (sleeve of 3)	\$5.00
Umbrellas	\$7.00
Key Chains	\$4.00

### Life Survey to be Distributed

The **Life in Marathon County 2005 Community Survey** was mailed in late-March to 3,000 randomly selected households. Its purpose is to measure local residents’ perceptions about the quality of life in our community.

The results of the survey will be included in the biennial **LIFE Report** fifth edition, to be published in late 2005. Its purpose is to identify community strengths and priorities that help guide and mobilize action to improve life in the county. If you receive this brief but important survey, please take a few minutes to complete and return it to the Community Planning Council’s LIFE Steering Committee, c/o United Way of Marathon County. To view the 2003 LIFE Report, visit the web site [www.unitedwaymc.org](http://www.unitedwaymc.org) (go to Program & Services/Initiatives/LIFE in Marathon County).



## Yard Waste Collection Service

For about \$2.00 per week, Onyx Waste Services will pick up yard waste at your curb.

### How does this program work?

- 1) Call Onyx Waste Services at 359-6637 and tell them you would like to participate in their Yard Waste Curbside Pick-Up Program. **You must be within the Wausau limits.**
- 2) Onyx will provide you with a yard waste container on wheels which will be delivered to your door. **Do not use plastic bags.** Simply dump your yard waste into the waste container.
- 3) Onyx will pick up your yard waste curbside every week, on the west side of the river on Mondays and the east side on Wednesdays.

# City of Wausau Large Item Pick-Up

The City of Wausau Large Item Pick-Up Program is intended to help residents dispose of LARGE, unwanted items. It is not a program to be used for cleaning out all sizes of unwanted items on an annual basis. **ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP FROM RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS AND APARTMENTS ONLY. ITEMS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP FROM BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS.**

## Examples of Large Items Which Will be Picked Up

Bathroom Fixtures	Hot Water Heaters	Large Metal Items	Pool Tables
Carpeting	Humidifiers	Lawn Mowers (gas & oil removed)	Sofas
Cabinets & Countertops	Large Furniture items	Mattresses	Pianos
Dining Room Tables	Large Grills	Overstuffed Chairs	Sinks
Televisions	Small Engines (gas & oil removed)		

## Household Trash & Small Items Which Will Not Be Picked Up & Should Not be Placed at the Curbside

The city will not pick up small items which can be placed at the curb or in trash containers for weekly garbage collection. In addition, up to 75 pounds of construction materials can be placed curbside every week for Onyx to collect. **SMALL ITEMS AND TRASH WILL NOT BE COLLECTED AND THE ITEMS WILL BE TAGGED INFORMING THE PROPERTY OWNER OF THE PROPER METHOD OF DISPOSAL.**

## Items Which Will Not Be Picked Up

**SMALL ITEMS AND MATERIALS** such as dining room chairs, water hoses, luggage, toys, clothing, blankets, plastic pails, radios, toasters, broken window panes, up to 75 pounds of construction materials. Put out for weekly garbage collection.

**APPLIANCES** such as refrigerators, air conditioners, microwave ovens, ranges/stoves, washers, dryers, freezers, dishwashers, vending machines, computers and monitors, water purifiers, dehumidifiers, water heaters. Onyx (359-6637) will pick-up appliances for a fee.

**TIRES.** Residents may dispose of tires at tire dealers for a nominal fee.

**HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE.** Put out for weekly garbage collection.

**BRUSH, TREE LIMBS, AND OTHER TYPES OF YARD WASTE.** Take to the Yard Waste Site on Cleveland Avenue, or contact Onyx at 359-6637 to participate in the Yard Waste Pick-Up Program.

**ROOT BALLS/STUMPS.** Small root balls weighing less than 50 pounds can be placed out for weekly trash collection.

**LARGE QUANTITIES OF BUILDING MATERIALS AND ROOFING SHINGLES.** Use a commercial dumpster or haul privately to Marathon County Landfill or the Transfers Station at Onyx in Weston, call 359-6637.

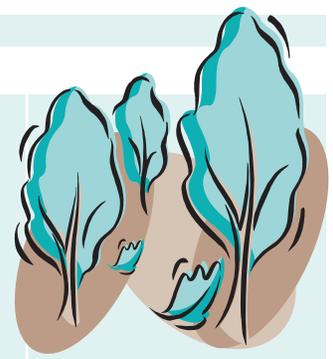
**ALUMINUM CANS, NEWSPAPER, OIL, CAR BATTERIES, GLASS CONTAINERS, MAGAZINES, PLASTIC CONTAINERS, CORRUGATED CARDBOARD.** Recyclable items must be placed in the green recycling container for bi-weekly pick-up.

**FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS, HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES, LIQUID, HAZARDOUS OR TOXIC MATERIAL.** A collection facility is located at 301 Alderson Street, Schofield. Call 848-9060 for hours, fees, and further information on disposal of hazardous materials. Onyx also has a fee for collecting this type of material, call Onyx (359-6637)

**TRASH BAGS, CONTAINERS, DRUMS OR BARRELS CONTAINING UNKNOWN MATERIAL.** Dispose of properly as noted above.

**MEDICAL WASTE,** specifically home-generated Sharps waste, may be disposed in Sharps containers available at participating pharmacies. Medical waste may not be deposited in garbage containers or recycling bins.

If you have questions about what is acceptable or unacceptable, please call 261-6960. All material should be placed at curbside by 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled pick-up day. If your property is missed, please call 261-6960 on the day after your scheduled pick-up.



## Yard Waste (Cont)

This Yard Waste Curbside Pick-Up Program will assist those individuals who are inconvenienced by taking yard waste to the drop-off site or who are physically unable to do so.

**Please be advised that the following items will not be accepted and should not be placed in your yard waste container for curbside collection: garbage, food waste, animal waste, tree stumps, tree limbs, and brush.**

### This Pick-Up Service is For Large Items Only and Will be Strictly Enforced.

	East Side of Wisconsin River	West Side of Wisconsin River
April 18	South City Limits to Weston Avenue	North City Limits to Randolph Street
April 19	Weston Avenue to Town Line Road	Randolph Street to Bridge Street between USH 51/139 and Wisconsin River
April 20	Town Line Road to Thomas Street	Bridge Street to Elm Street between 17th Avenue and 1st Avenue
April 21	Thomas Street to Forest Street	Elm Street to Stewart Avenue between 17th Avenue and 1st Avenue
April 22	All of Grand Avenue from South City Limits and 1st Avenue	Stewart Avenue to Sherman Street between USH 51/139 and 1st Avenue
April 25	Forest Street to Franklin Street	Sherman Street to Thomas Street between USH 51/139 and Wisconsin River
April 26	Franklin Street to Stark Street	Thomas Street to South City Limits between USH 51/139 and Wisconsin River
April 27	Stark Street to E. Wausau Avenue	USH 51/139 to 36th Avenue
April 28	E. Wausau Avenue to Golf Club Road	36th Avenue to West City Limits
April 29	Golf Club Road to North City Limits	

**DO NOT** place items for Large Item Pick-Up at the curbside until the day before the scheduled pick-up day. Doing so can create an unsightly, hazardous situation and increases the city's disposal costs if items get waterlogged. Store the material in a garage or elsewhere until that time. Persons placing material at the curbside more than 24 hours prior to their collection day shall be subject to a fine of up to \$200.00 for each offense (each day a violation occurs), or shall be subject to having the material removed at a cost to the property owner. No person may bring material for disposal into the city from property outside the city. Violators will be subject to a fine of up to \$200 for each offense.

## \$75 Charge for Hazardous Waste

Please be aware that on January 1, 2005, Marathon County began charging Wausau residents \$75 per visit to the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at 301 Alderson Street, Schofield. Remember this charge should you decide to use the county's facility.

The good news is the City of Wausau will be offering a free hazardous waste drop-off service for city residents this fall. The exact date, times, and drop-off location will be announced after these details have been finalized and city residents will be notified.



## United Way's FIRST CALL Publishes Directory for Senior Citizens

United Way's FIRST CALL has published the 3rd edition of the **Senior Resource Directory**. The 174-page resource book, designed especially for Marathon County senior citizens, contains valuable information about senior housing, transportation, home care, legal services, recreation, caregivers, social security, grandparents' rights, veterans' services, and much more.

United Way's FIRST CALL is distributing copies, free-of-charge, to senior residents of Marathon County. Senior citizens may obtain a copy of the new **2005 Senior Resource Directory** by calling FIRST CALL at 848-2255 or 1-800-922-5590, emailing [askus@unitedwaymc.org](mailto:askus@unitedwaymc.org) or stopping in at the United Way Office, 137 River Drive, Wausau. Directories are also available at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Marathon County, 1000 Lakeview Drive, Wausau.

**Mayor's Youth Action Council** is seeking demo tapes/discs from all talented youth age 20 years and under. Please drop them off at the **Information Desk at City Hall** or bring them to **Acoustic Night** on May 7. Make sure the demo has the name and contact information, including telephone number and email address (if available), included on the jacket or in an envelope with the demo. Further questions can be answered by Karyn Powers, MYAC Advisor, at 261-1559.

## Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) Update

N2N is a community driven group working to unite neighborhoods to improve safety and enhance quality of life for residents of the City of Wausau. N2N consists of community members and individuals that were appointed by Mayor Tipple to address the issues that face the neighborhoods in our city. N2N is available as a resource and place to exchange information for neighborhood groups that have already formed, as well as for neighborhoods or individuals that are considering forming a group. There are many exciting things happening in the neighborhoods that form the City of Wausau!

Groups have already been working on issues in their neighborhoods such as lighting, revitalization, clean-ups, and Neighborhood Watches. These groups have proven to be very successful. Watch this spring and summer for a clean-up coming to a neighborhood near you and find out how you can join in the efforts. Not only will your neighborhood as a whole benefit, but you will benefit also through new connections with neighbors and a sense of accomplishment at a job well-done!

N2N meets at City Hall the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 7:45 a.m. in the Boardroom and the 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:15 p.m. in the Birch Room.

Please call the Mayor's Office at 261-6800 for more information on how to start a neighborhood group, to have a starter packet mailed to you, or for information on neighborhood groups that have already formed.

## Rent Smart Tenant Education

**May 14, 2005 • 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

UW Ext. 212 River Drive, Wausau

Registration Required

Please contact Rita Straub at 212-1242 for information

## Minority Affairs Office Updates

Recently, the Committee of Wausau 2000 "A Community United" which is co-chaired by Mayor Jim Tipple and Marathon County Administrator Mort McBain has adopted a new name and mission statement to reflect the current needs and issues of the minority population in Wausau/Marathon County. The committee's new name is Vision 2020 "A Community United" and its mission is to achieve racial and ethnic equity throughout Marathon County, to foster cross-cultural understanding and to embrace our diversity. The Vision 2020 Committee is composed of 17 active community leaders representing a broad range of community sectors and variety of minority groups. The following are updates of current projects:

**Hmong Leadership Initiative:** The next Hmong Leadership Initiative class will be starting May 20, 2005, and the class will meet one day a month for the next eleven months to learn about the many different topics and issues concerning their community.

**Marathon County April Hmong History Month:** Please join the Wausau/Marathon County Hmong community in celebrating April Hmong History Month. Throughout the month, there will be an ongoing free cultural exhibit at the Marathon County Historical Society and the Wausau Daily Herald will contribute articles as part of the celebration of this event.

**Minority Town Hall Meeting:** This new project is being implemented by the Minority Affairs Office. The design of this project is to provide quarterly meetings with the minority community and give individuals the opportunity to meet with their local government, elected officials, and community leaders or service providers. Open dialogue on community issues and concerns will take place. The first Minority Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at John Muir Middle School in Wausau.

For more information on any of the above activities, please contact the Minority Affairs Office at 261-6805.

# 2005 Major Road Projects



**PROJECT: Merrill Avenue**

**SCHEDULE: April, 2005 to October, 2005**

**DESCRIPTION:** Merrill Avenue will be reconstructed from Union Avenue to 12th Avenue. The work will consist of watermain replacement, storm sewer replacement, new curb and gutter, sidewalk and asphalt pavement. Merrill Avenue will be four lanes after construction.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** Merrill Avenue will be closed to thru traffic. The contractor will maintain local traffic and emergency access to businesses and residences along Merrill Avenue. During the first stage, Merrill Avenue will be closed from 12th Avenue to Business 51. Traffic along Business 51 will be maintained on the existing pavement.

Stage 2 construction will be from Union Avenue to Kannenburg Plaza. Stage 3 construction will be from Kannenburg Plaza to just north of the CTH U intersection. During Stage 2 and 3, traffic will be detoured. Southbound through traffic will follow CTH U to Stevens Drive to Bridge Street and northbound traffic will follow First Avenue to Randolph Street to Third Avenue to Campus Drive.

Wisconsin River bridge – From August, 2005 to November, 2005 and April, 2006 to November, 2006 traffic on the bridge will be reduced to only one lane. Temporary traffic signals will be placed on the west side of the bridge and at River Drive. McCleary Street will be closed. Motorists can expect to sit at a red light approximately three minutes while traffic from the opposite direction clears. Motorists are encouraged to use alternate routes. From December, 2005 to March, 2006 the bridge will be open to two-way traffic.

**PROJECT: CTH R / 28th Avenue & Sherman Street**

**SCHEDULE: Summer 2005**

**DESCRIPTION:** The contractor will be finishing work from last year. CTH R south of Sherman Street will be finished to provide a west side arterial. A left turn lane will be added to south bound traffic on 28th Avenue at Sherman Street.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** Temporary lane closures on 28th Avenue north of Sherman Street will occur during off peak hours. The intersection of 28th Avenue and Sherman Street will have some temporary lane restrictions.

**PROJECT: Thomas Street Railroad and Wisconsin River Bridges**

**SCHEDULE: August, 2005 to October, 2006**

**DESCRIPTION:** The railroad bridge will be replaced with a five lane bridge. Two west bound lanes and three east bound lanes. The Wisconsin River bridge will be widened and repaved. The bridge will have one lane in each direction. An 8-10 foot sidewalk will be on the north side of the bridge and will be separated from traffic by a parapet wall. There will be no sidewalk on the south side.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** Railroad bridge – The contractor will start the construction of the new bridge south of the existing bridge this fall. There should be minimal traffic interference during this work. In the Spring of 2006, the contractor will start the road work associated with the widening of the bridge. During this stage there will only be one lane of traffic in each direction from Grand Avenue to River Drive. After the south half of the bridge is constructed, traffic will be switched over. During this stage there will be two east bound lanes and one west bound lane. Semi traffic will not be able to turn from Grand Avenue onto Thomas Street while the road work is going on.

**PROJECT: Stewart Avenue at 32nd Avenue**

**SCHEDULE: July 15, 2005 to October, 2005**

**DESCRIPTION:** Stewart Avenue will be reconstructed 400 feet east and west of 32nd Avenue. The reconstruction is in preparation for the new intersection of STH 52 and an on ramp for HWY 29. After construction westbound traffic on Stewart Avenue will not be able to north onto 32nd Avenue. Also, southbound traffic on 32nd Avenue will not be able to turn east onto Stewart Avenue.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** One lane of traffic in each direction will remain open during construction. 32nd Avenue will be closed to thru traffic for a couple of weeks. The on ramp for Hwy 29 will remain open at times.

(cont. on page 8)

## Right-of-Way Mandates When Merging Onto a Freeway

Merging onto an interstate or other multiple-lane highway can be tricky at times even for an experienced driver. It helps when drivers on the expressway change lanes to provide better access for merging vehicles. Operators of merging vehicles must be aware that vehicles on the main expressway have the right-of-way and are not required to move over even though safety experts recommend such if lane space is available.

Law enforcement offer the following advice for smoothly merging onto interstate type expressways.

- Enter the freeway using a ramp speed at or near the speed of freeway vehicles.
- Use your turn signals.

### Right-of-Way (Cont)

- Unless absolutely necessary, do not suddenly stop or slow down.
- Do not squeeze into a gap in traffic that's too small. It may not provide you the room to react.
- Once onto the expressway and if you need to cross several lanes of traffic, cross them one at a time.

All drivers, whether on the freeway or merging, must be focused on all the vehicles around them. Be courteous and considerate. A driver who unsafely merges into expressway traffic can be fined from \$77.20 to \$156.20 and assessed three (3) demerit points.

## Courthouse Triangle Improvements

The traffic island at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Forest Street is known as the Courthouse Triangle. The triangle was rebuilt as part of the recent 1st and Forest Streets project. With the completion of the road work the city has received a number of suggestions on how to enhance the Courthouse Triangle. If you or your group have a suggestion or would like to contribute to the enhancement of this area, please contact the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department at 212 River Drive, Suite 2, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403, phone 261-1550. You will be provided with information on development limitations on the triangle and how to submit a proposal for improvements.

**PROJECT: Washington Street, 1st Street, Forest Street**

**SCHEDULE: Spring/Early Summer 2005**

**DESCRIPTION:** The contractor will finish the work that was not completed in 2004. The work will consist of pavement marking, landscaping, and some concrete replacement. The work should last 1-3 weeks.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** There will be some temporary lane closures while the contractor is painting the pavement markings. Also, there will be some temporary lane closures while the contractor is doing the landscaping.

**PROJECT: 20th Avenue, Bridge Street, West Wausau Avenue, Pine Ridge Boulevard**

**SCHEDULE: Spring/Early Summer 2005**

**DESCRIPTION:** The contractor will be finishing the work started in 2004. Work will include sidewalk construction, landscaping, and the final layer of asphalt.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** There will be temporary lane closures while the contractor is finishing the work.

**PROJECT: 17th Avenue North of Elm Street to South of Bridge Street**

**SCHEDULE: Summer 2005**

**DESCRIPTION:** 17th Avenue will be reconstructed to include turning lanes into and out of the property on the east side of 17th Avenue.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** 17th Avenue will remain open during construction but will be reduced to one lane in each direction.

**PROJECT: Street Reconstruction – 10th Street from Kickbusch Street to McIntosh Street and Stueben Street from 6th Street to 10th Street**

**SCHEDULE: Summer 2005**

**DESCRIPTION:** 10th Street and Stueben Street will be reconstructed with new curb and gutter and asphalt pavement.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** The streets will be closed to thru traffic. Property owners should have access to their driveways for most of the construction.

**PROJECT: Curb, Gutter & Pavement Projects**

- Chellis Street from 11th Avenue to Park Boulevard
- Park Boulevard from Chellis Street to 3rd Avenue
- 48th Avenue from Stettin Drive to Edgewood Blvd
- Gowen Street from Union Avenue to Nina Avenue
- Wegner Street from 19th to 22nd Avenue
- 32nd Avenue from Westhill Drive to West Wausau Avenue

**SCHEDULE: Summer 2005**

**DESCRIPTION:** The streets listed above will have storm sewer, curb and gutter, and asphalt pavement installed.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** The streets will be closed to thru traffic. Property owners should have access to their driveways for most of the construction.

CITY OF WAUSAU

407 Grant Street  
Wausau, WI 54403

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Wausau, WI

\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*

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