

# Wausau Works

*for you!*

Fall/Winter 2006



*James E. Tipple*

## Mayor Tipple's Message

What a great time of year with a spectacular fall season upon us and winter just around the corner! We live in a wonderful area so please take advantage of all Wausau has to offer by making time with your family to enjoy our great outdoors.

In August, two thousand Citizen Surveys were randomly mailed to hear how well we are doing and what services can be improved. We received outstanding results with over 46% of the surveys completed because residents wanted their opinions heard! THANK YOU to everyone who took the time to respond to the survey. The results are being tabulated and will be published in the near future.

City staff and the Common Council are currently working on our 2007 annual budget and the Citizen Survey will also help us during the budget process. We have scheduled five working sessions with our financial consultant to help in the budgeting process and to develop our Five Year Financial Plan.

Economic development is occurring in all parts of our city and that is good news for our Wausau residents. The city's new economic development strategy is being formulated and will be considered by the Common Council this fall. The Eye Clinic of Wisconsin has begun to clear the land for their new \$16 million facility. This development furthers our commitment to increase our economy. Work will begin soon on the \$9 million Palladian project which will add condominiums, banquet space, and additional hotel rooms, further enhancing Downtown Wausau.

This year, like other years, involves substantial road construction and another year of orange cones! Progress doesn't come without some headaches and I appreciate your continued patience until all major road projects are completed. Please refer to an article inside explaining updates on the Major Road Construction projects.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and please keep the insert for important reference information including the 2007 Waste Disposal and Recycling Calendar.

Wishing everyone safe and happy Holidays!

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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.



## School Zone Safety

School is back in session. During school hours, the speed limit is 15 MPH, in a school zone, if children OR crossing guard are present. Four new speed display boards have been installed at two permanent locations (12th Ave/Stewart Ave) and (6th Ave./ Bridge St.) and two portable units are being rotated among several other schools. The speed boards have proven to be very valuable in educating the public of their speed in the school zones. The Wausau Police Department received grants for these units from The B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation and The Dudley Foundation. These units will assist the crossing guards and safety patrol as they achieve their mission – **to cross children safely to and from school.** PLEASE protect the children by SLOWING DOWN in school zones.

## Police Department Neighborhood Meetings

This year the Wausau Police Department will be conducting two neighborhood meetings. The east side meeting will be at the Wausau City Hall, in the Council Chambers, at 6:00 p.m. on January 22, 2007. The west side neighborhood meeting will be held in the auditorium of Wausau West High School on February 19, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. Command Staff from the Wausau Police Department, along with officers that are assigned to your neighborhood, will be available to answer questions and address concerns.

## Child Passenger Safety New Booster Seat Law

The Wausau Police Department would like to remind you that the new Child Passenger Safety Law went into effect June 1st, 2006. The new law is as follows:

### Rear-facing child safety seat in the back seat is required when the child:

- is less than 1-year-old
- weighs less than 20 lbs.

### Forward-facing child safety seat in the back seat is required when the child:

- is at least 1-year-old but less than 4-years-old
- weighs at least 20 lbs. but less than 40 lbs.

### Booster seat is required when the child:

- is at least 4-years-old but less than 8-years-old
- weighs at least 40 lbs. but less than 80 lbs.
- is less than 57 inches (4-feet, 9-inches) tall

### Safety belt is required when the child:

- is 8-years-old or older, or
- weighs 80 or more pounds, or
- is 57 inches or taller

Under the new law, drivers may be cited for allowing passengers of any age to be unbelted in their vehicle.

**FREE** child passenger safety seat checks are available with trained Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians on the first Wednesday of each month at Aspirus Wausau Hospital's Birthing Center from 4-6:00 p.m. The checks are offered on the third Wednesday of each month at Saturn of Wausau (20th Ave., past Fleet Farm) from 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and again from 4-6:00 p.m. Child passenger seat and booster seats are sold at a reduced rate. If you have any questions please contact Safety Officer Maureen Pilsner at 261-7853.

## N2N—Neighbor to Neighbor

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 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. N2N meets at City Hall the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 7:45 am in the Boardroom. Please call the Mayor's Office at 261-6800 for information.



*Working to enhance the quality of life for Wausau residents*



## Neighborhood Revitalization

Neighborhood Revitalization is not just about the bricks and mortar. Social networks are critical to safe neighborhoods. You can “clean-up” a neighborhood but you also need to strengthen the social networks. Neighborhood work is a great way to involve individuals who might not be comfortable getting involved in other ways. Arrange your “clean-up” and see the changes for yourself.

Strong Neighborhood associations exist in the city and they are working on issues such as lighting, Neighborhood Watch Programs, building Tot-Lots, and arranging social events. The whole neighborhood benefits through the new connections and a sense of accomplishment at a job well done.

*Social networks are critical to safe neighborhoods*



## Corporate Sponsorship - Let's Work Together!

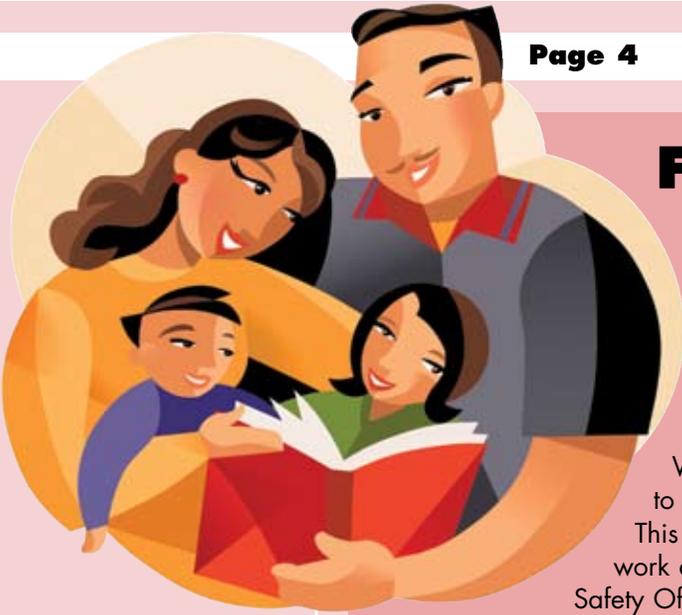
N2N works with neighborhood groups to facilitate and support their efforts. N2N does not receive any funding. All work is accomplished by volunteers with donations from Wausau businesses and citizens. If you're a business in the City, neighborhoods can benefit from your help. Consider donations such as food, beverages, tools, t-shirts or a monetary donation. Are you and your

employees looking for a service project? Join in a scheduled clean-up or arrange one in your neighborhood. It's a great chance to interact with your neighbors and accomplish something special. Teams with specialized carpentry skills are always welcome to adopt a special need of citizens. If contacted to help, consider the impact you can make.

Call the Mayor's Office at 261-6800 to volunteer.



*Cleaner neighborhoods, safer neighborhoods, and connected neighborhoods are a community solution.*



## Family Fun in Wausau...

**Thrillville** will be held Saturday, October 28, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Great Hall in Downtown Wausau with pumpkin painting, scarecrow making, a Bat Booth, and many more spooky surprises.

The Wausau Police Department, along with the YMCA, will again offer a **Safe Kids Halloween Party** at the YMCA–Downtown Wausau, October 29th. The party is free, open to all, and geared to preschool/elementary aged children. Party hours are from 1-3 p.m. This is a great opportunity for families to volunteer together and help work at the party. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Safety Officer Maureen Pilsner at the Wausau Police Dept. 261-7853.

**Halloween** - Trick or Treat hours will be on Sunday, Oct. 29, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Wausau's **Holiday Parade** will be held on Friday, December 1, at 6:30 p.m. The parade route will begin at Marathon Park, continue on Stewart Avenue, and end on the 400 Block. Join the holiday festivities!

## Winter Recreation Contact Information

Biking (Mountain)	Wausau Wheelers	359-0187
Boys and Girls Club		845-2532
Boy Scouts		355-1450
Cross Country Skiing	Trails/Conditions	261-1550
	Nordic Ski Club	845-1637
	Lessons	
	Grades K-5	355-5907
	Grades 5-8	355-8021
	Adults	355-1271
Downhill Skiing	Rib Mtn Ski Club	359-9081
Girl Scouts		355-9850
Hockey Leagues	Youth & Rec	845-3316
Figure Skating	Timberlines	845-9060
	6.0	849-8646
	Adult Lessons	
	Skating w/ Charlotte	261-1550
Senior Exercise	ADRC	261-6070
Snowmobile	Trails/Conditions	261-1550
	Safety Classes	261-1224
Speed Skating		536-2636
Sports-Toddlers	Start Smart®	261-1550
Table Tennis (Ping Pong)		359-9327
Sylvan Hill Tubing	Rentals & Public Hours	261-1550
	Chalet Phone (Seasonal)	842-5411
Water Exercise	Adults	261-1550
YMCA		845-2177
YWCA		842-3381

**For specific Park Department program information and scheduling, please call 715-261-1550, or visit their web site at [www.co.marathon.wi.us/parks.asp](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us/parks.asp).**

Cut out and keep for future reference



## Major Road Projects

For up to date information regarding the USH 51/STH 29 corridor projects please go to [www.5129wausau.com](http://www.5129wausau.com)

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

**SCHEDULE:** Ongoing thru November, 2006

**DESCRIPTION:** The railroad bridge will be replaced with a five-lane bridge, two westbound lanes and three eastbound 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 constructed 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 –Traffic will be restricted to one lane in each direction from Grand Avenue to River Drive. Semi-trailer traffic will be restricted from turning from Grand Avenue onto Thomas Street.

Wisconsin River Bridge –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 wait at a red light approximately three minutes while traffic from the opposite direction clears. Motorists are encouraged to use alternate routes.

### **PROJECT: New STH 52 from 18th Avenue to Stewart Avenue**

**SCHEDULE:** Ongoing to November 2006

**DESCRIPTION:** A new four lane road with sidewalk will be constructed from 18th Avenue to Stewart Avenue at the newly constructed intersection from last year. The new street will intersect 28th Avenue where Westwood Drive currently intersects 28th Avenue. Westwood Drive will be realigned and intersect with West Ridge Drive. West Ridge Drive will intersect with the new STH 52. Seymour Lane will connect with Pine Crest Avenue.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** STH 52 will be four lanes (two lanes in each direction) during the day and two lanes (one lane in each direction) during off peak hours. The new STH 52 will also carry STH 29 traffic until the ramps connecting STH 29 to USH 51 are completed.

### **PROJECT: USH 51 Overpass at Stewart Avenue**

**SCHEDULE:** October 2006 to November 2006

**DESCRIPTION:** New piers will be installed for the future installation of the new overpass over Stewart Avenue.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** Stewart Avenue will be closed to all traffic from just west of 24th Avenue to just east of 26th Avenue. The intersection of 24th Avenue and Stewart Avenue will remain open to traffic. Traffic will be detoured using 24th Avenue, Sherman Street and 28th Avenue.

### **PROJECT: Bridge Street Relocation**

**SCHEDULE:** August 2006 to November 2007

**DESCRIPTION:** The Bridge Street Bridge over USH 51 will be removed and relocated slightly to the south. Bridge Street will be reconstructed from 17th Avenue to Westwood Drive, aligning with the intersection of Pine Ridge Boulevard. Sidewalks will be constructed along this segment.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT:** The north bound off and on ramp to Hwy 51 is closed. The entire interchange is anticipated to close the week of October 9. **BRIDGE STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC** from 17th Avenue to Westwood Drive. All off and on ramps will also be closed. The intersection of 17th Avenue and Bridge Street will be open at all times.

### **PROJECT: Street Reconstruction–Sturgeon Eddy Rd. from Grand Ave. to Kent St.**

**SCHEDULE:** Completion end of October, 2006

**DESCRIPTION:** Sturgeon Eddy Road will be reconstructed with new curb, gutter and asphalt pavement.

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

## Did You Know?...

Feeding deer within the city limits is prohibited by ordinance, with few exceptions. The Mayor may authorize feeding for the purpose of assisting in a program for the removal of deer from the city. Feeding is allowed on the property of the Hospice House.

Discharging of firearms is prohibited within the city limits; this includes firearms, rifles, spring or air guns. Generally, hunting is prohibited within the city limits, with only two exceptions. The Police Chief may issue written permits for hunting or shooting on private land if necessary for the protection of life or property. The prohibition does not apply to areas annexed to the city where the discharge of firearms was permitted under township ordinances governing the area prior to annexation.

The shooting of arrows is prohibited in any public place. Arrows may be shot on private property, but not for the purpose of hunting.



*The Mayor's Youth Action Council volunteered their time this summer to paint local fire hydrants throughout the city.*

## Survey Results Overwhelming!

To help give city officials a better idea of how a cross-section of our citizens feels about city operations and potential government service cuts, a 5-page survey was mailed to 2,000 randomly selected households in Wausau. The surveys were mailed on August 11 and the response has been overwhelming! Over 940 surveys were completed and returned to City Hall, and over 46 percent of these included written comments. This is an incredibly high response rate, which shows that the people in our community care about government operations.

In addition to the mailed out surveys, 40 people downloaded the survey from the internet, completed and returned it, and 77 percent of these responses included written comments. City staff is still in the process of tallying the results and a full report should be completed in the next several weeks. This report will be available on the city's website, the City Hall Information Center, and at the public library. A summary of the results will be included in the next city newsletter.

## Minority Affairs Office transforms into the Wausau-Marathon County Diversity Affairs Office

The Minority Affairs Office has recently relocated and received a new name. The name has been changed to "Wausau-Marathon County Diversity Affairs Office" and the Vision 2020 Committee has been changed to "Wausau-Marathon County Diversity Commission". The Diversity Affairs Office, under the direction of Thomas Lee, has moved and is now located in the Marathon County Courthouse. Stop in and see their new space! Current contact information for the Diversity Affairs Office is as follows:

**Wausau-Marathon County Diversity Affairs Office**  
**Marathon County Courthouse**  
**500 Forest Street**  
**Wausau, WI 54403**  
**Phone: 715-261-1192 or 715-261-1193**  
**Fax: 715-261-4173**  
**TDD: 715-261-6770**  
**Email: [tlee@mail.co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:tlee@mail.co.marathon.wi.us)**

# News from the Assessment Department - City-Wide Revaluation for 2007

In an effort to keep assessments near 100% of Market Value, provide for equity, and keep increases small, the City of Wausau has instituted a 3-Year Revaluation Cycle with 2007 being our next Revaluation Year.

Wisconsin Statutes require assessments to be within 10% of Market Value at least once every five years. Market Value is what a property would sell for on the open market from a willing seller to a willing buyer. The best evidence of Market Value is a recent arm's length sale of your home or sales of comparable homes. Comparable sales are similar in location, style, age, size, condition, quality, and amenities. A City-wide Revaluation updates assessed values of all properties to more accurately reflect current Market Value.

The Assessment Department is responsible for fair and equitable assessments throughout the city. The Assessor and the Assessment Staff are State Certified Professionals whose duties are to discover, list and value all taxable real and personal property in the city, in a uniform manner.

An assessment is simply an opinion of value based on the three valuation methods: Market Approach, Cost Approach and Income Approach. In most cases residential property is best represented by use of the Market Approach.

Market Value is defined in Property Assessment Valuation as: *The most probable price in terms of money which a property would bring in a competitive and open market under all conditions requisite to a fair sale, the buyer and seller each acting prudently, knowledgeable and assuming the price is not affected by undue stimulus.*

Factors the Assessor considers are: what similar properties are selling for; what it would cost to replace the property; the rent it may earn if it is an income producing property; and any other factors that affect value. We attempt to inspect every property due to: Sales, Building Permits, Taxpayer Requests, Annexations, or Annual External Inspections. **It is important to remember that the Assessor does not create this value, but rather interprets what is happening in the market place.**

Frequently in December when tax bills are mailed, a groan will be heard from taxpayers who feel their taxes are too high. The Assessment Department does not set the tax rate nor raise taxes to cover municipal budgets. Our valuation process operates independently of the budget and the tax processes. Remember in December it is too late to challenge your assessment for that assessment year, but we can look at your assessment for the coming assessment year.

If you do not agree with your assessment talk with one of our Appraisers. You can learn how your assessment was determined, what factors were considered, and what type of records we maintain regarding your property.

If your assessment is still incorrect after talking with one of our Appraisers, the next step is to file an objection with the

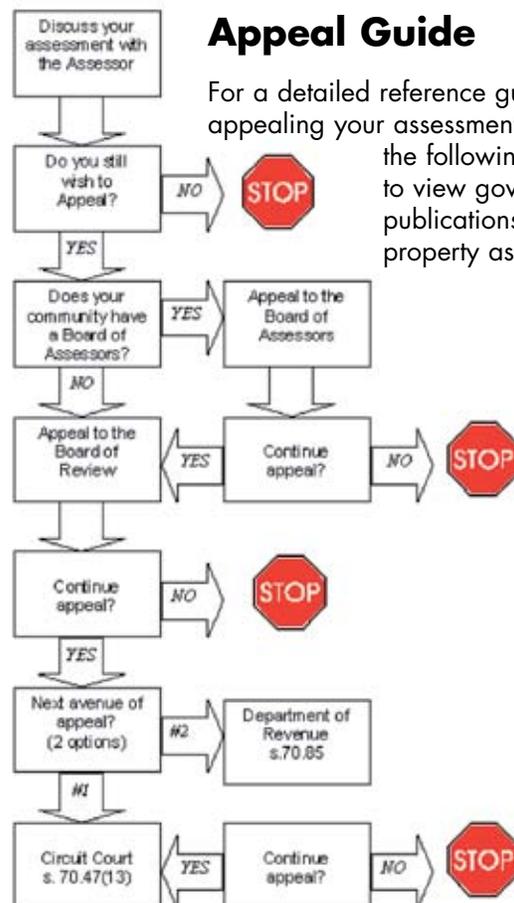
City Clerk for the Board of Review. The property owner must provide the City Clerk with a written notice of intent to file an objection at least 48 hours before the Board's first scheduled meeting. The Board can waive the 48-hour notice requirement if the property owner shows good cause for failing to meet the requirement or provides evidence of extraordinary circumstances. Objections must be in writing and should be filed with the City Clerk within the first two hours of the Board's first scheduled meeting. The Board of Review usually requires an objection to be filed on standard forms, which are available from the City Clerk.

Keep in mind that at the Board of Review you must present evidence that is strong enough to prove that the Assessor's value is incorrect. *Stating that property taxes are too high is not relevant testimony.* The best evidence of value would be a recent sale price of your property. The next best evidence would be recent sales prices of properties that are similar to yours. Another type of evidence is oral testimony from a witness who has made a recent appraisal of your property.

For further property information call the Assessment Department at 715-261-6600 or visit our webpage at: [www.ci.wausau.wi.us/assessment](http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/assessment)

## Appeal Guide

For a detailed reference guide to appealing your assessment, use the following link below to view government publications related to property assessment.





## Wausau Business Development Center

In July of 2002, a strategic planning session revealed the need for a new mixed-use business development facility that combined light manufacturing and office/service/high tech space, at or below market rent to serve entrepreneurs and start-up businesses in the region. The new facility would be intended to replace the existing incubator at 1300 Cleveland Avenue in Wausau.

In May of 2003, a feasibility study recommended a "first to market" strategy for a regional incubator to focus on an industry-based approach to high-tech incubation including agriculture, medical/healthcare, window manufacturing, paper/wood products manufacturing, environmental services and others.

In late October of 2004, the Wausau Common Council unanimously approved a site in the Wausau West Industrial Park at 100 N. 72nd Ave. In addition, approval for the implementation plan to proceed with construction was granted. After a year of extensive fund-raising, ground was broken on the new facility in October of 2005, and the new center was dedicated on August 28, 2006. The facility is a 43,900 square foot mixed-use business development center catering to light manufacturing, high-tech, service and office related businesses. The center opened with six tenants and is happy to welcome a seventh this month. The six tenants include Resilient Technologies; PDM Solar; Integra Tool and Manufacturing, Inc.; Lane Patents, LLC; Red Giraffe Innovations; and The Dirks Group. The seventh tenant is the Inventors' Café and Coffee, a coffee and soup/sandwich café to serve the west side and particularly the Industrial Park employees. For more information on the Wausau Business Development Center, contact Kristen Fish, Business Development Director at 261-6685 or Harry Bourquin, Wausau Business Development Center Manager, at 848-5880.



### Mayor

Jim Tipple  
314 Gerald's Court  
261-6800

### City Council Representatives

#### District 1

Jim Rosenberg  
1806 Plato Street  
842-8898

#### District 2

Debra Hadley  
3603 Hidden Links Drive  
843-9999

#### District 3

William Forrest  
1303 Jackson Street  
849-4692

#### District 4

Jim Brezinski  
822 Hamilton Street  
842-7988

#### District 5

Gary Gisselman  
319 Park Avenue  
848-5160

#### District 6

Gary Klingbeil  
1225 Maple Hill Road  
675-7217

#### District 7

Michelle Ostrowski  
1414 Pearson Street  
675-7939

#### District 8

Tom Miller  
1501 Brady Street  
845-7151

#### District 9

DuWayne Herning  
2712 Mary Ann Lane  
842-2453

#### District 10

Steven Foley  
502 Sherman Street  
842-4978

#### District 11

Sherry Abitz  
1201 S. 7th Avenue  
843-0990

#### District 12

Edward Gale  
1231 Sunset Drive  
848-5006

### City Hall Info

407 Grant Street  
Wausau, WI 54403  
Information Center:  
715-261-6500  
Web: [www.ci.wausau.wi.us](http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us)

## CITY OF WAUSAU

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