

# Wausau Works

## For you!

Spring/Summer 2008



James E. Tipple

## Mayor Tipple's Message

Our thoughts look forward to the return of spring and summer during this time of year. This winter has presented the City with many challenges including several water main breaks and continuous snow removal. City employees responded with great dedication to get the job done. Yes, there were times when the snow piles continued to grow higher and higher! However, I believe crews responded in the most efficient and timely manner possible, given the weather conditions. I would like to thank our residents for their patience and for abiding by the snow emergencies for the safety of our employees. My thanks also go to DPW and Water Works employees for their never-ending work and sleepless nights.

In the last issue of Wausau Works for you, I reviewed how Tax Incremental Financing Districts support developments which add substantial property value and helps keep our tax rate in line. Private investments in our community, like the Wausau Center Mall, would most likely not occur without the public/private partnerships. The feedback from this article was very positive and residents indicated they would like more information on how tax dollars are spent and did City taxes go up or down from the previous year? Please review articles in this issue that address these important questions and give specific up-to-date information.

Prior to reviewing these articles, I would like you to notice the following highlights. It is interesting to note in Tax Facts, (pg. 2) only **approximately 1/3 of your total tax bill pays for City services**. The rest of the monies fund schools, NTC, and County services. The article Did My City Taxes Go Up or Down in 2007?, (pg. 2) **indicates 72% of the City of Wausau tax**

**bills increased less than \$50**, another 22% increased between \$50-\$149, and 6% increased \$150 or more. The City of Wausau continuously works hard to keep your taxes reasonable without compromising the necessary basic services. Efforts are made throughout the year, not just during the budget process, to find more efficient ways to provide the services you expect.

The United States is the greatest nation in the World! There are many things we can be thankful for including the cherished right to vote. Locally, we can be very proud of the clerk, customer service staff and poll workers for their dedication during the election process. On behalf of the citizens of Wausau, thank you for the long hours spent protecting this right — it is commendable. Be sure to exercise your right to vote on April 1st!



## WANTED! Parade Participants

Patriotic floats, marching units, and any group or organization interested in participating in the Memorial Day Parade on Saturday May 24th are needed!

Please contact Wausau Veterans Committee members Bob Andringa at 845-5881 or Roger Sydow at 675-1839. Line-up for the parade is scheduled at 9:45 am in Marathon Park with the parade beginning at 10:45 am. The parade will proceed along Stewart Avenue and end at the VFW Clubhouse on River Drive. Make plans today to honor our Veterans in a special way!

## inside this issue...

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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.



## Are You Looking for Property Information?

When searching for property information in the City of Wausau, one of the best tools to use is our Assessment webpage located on the City's website at (<http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/assessment>). The information available includes:

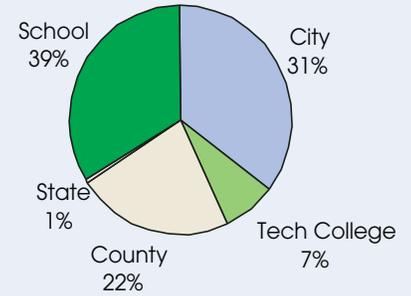
- Assessments for residential real estate property.
- Assessments for commercial real estate property.
- Frequently requested information (i.e. # of buildings, # of stories, exterior siding, # of total rooms, # of bedrooms, baths, finished basement living area sq. footage, total sq. footage, year built, garage, sale date, sale price, assessment – which is listed as Land, Misc., Building, and Total Assessment)
- Property search and selection by address, neighborhood, recent sales, assessed value and other property details. There is the capability to select not only the criteria of your choosing, but also to sort by Sale Date, Address, PIN, Size, Year Built, Sale Price, Assessed Value either in ascending or descending order.

This ability to perform a sales comparison is valuable for the taxpayer who feels their

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## Tax Facts

The City of Wausau taxes are only one component of the tax bill sent out in December. Below is a comparison of the jurisdictional taxes for 2007 and 2006:



### Who Gets Your Tax Dollar?

Jurisdiction	December 2007	December 2006	Dollar Change	Percent Change
City of Wausau	\$ 8.19	\$ 8.85	\$ (0.66)	-7.46%
NC Technical College	1.80	2.02	(0.22)	-10.89%
Marathon County	5.21	5.86	(0.65)	-11.09%
State of Wisconsin	0.16	0.19	(0.03)	-15.79%
Wausau School District (Net)	7.85	8.57	(0.72)	-8.40%
<b>TOTAL TAX RATE</b>	<b>\$ 23.21</b>	<b>\$ 25.49</b>	<b>(\$2.28)</b>	<b>-8.94%</b>

A small portion of the City of Wausau is located within the DC Everest School District. Those properties will pay the tax rates for the State, City, County, and College listed above and the DC Everest comparable tax rates are as follows:

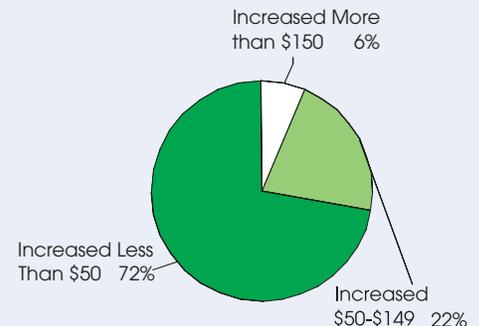
Jurisdiction	December 2007	December 2006	Dollar Change	Percent Change
DC Everest School District	6.66	7.54	(0.88)	-11.67%
<b>TOTAL TAX RATE</b>	<b>\$ 22.02</b>	<b>\$ 24.46</b>	<b>(\$2.44)</b>	<b>-9.98%</b>
Wausau Lottery Credit	\$ 97.57	\$ 109.54	(11.97)	-10.93%
DC Everest Lottery Credit	\$ 93.65	\$ 98.47	(4.82)	-4.89%

## Did My City Taxes Go Up or Down In 2007?

After providing all of the information on who receives your taxes and what services are provided for your tax dollar, what concerns people is, how much more did I pay than last year? Well, for most people, not much - if any at all! You can see by the pie chart below that **72% of the tax bills increased less than \$50**, another 22% increased between \$50-\$149 and 6% increased \$150 or more.

The full detail is as follows:

Increased More than \$150	6%
Increased \$75-\$149	10%
Increased \$50-\$74	12%
Increased \$25-\$49	16%
Increased \$11-\$24	14%
Increased \$.01-\$10	12%
Decreased or No Change	30%



**FREE child passenger safety seat checks** are available with trained Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians on the 1st Wed. of each month at Aspirus Wausau Hospital's Birthing Center from 4-6 pm. The checks are offered on the 3rd Wed. of each month at Saturn of Wausau from 11 am-1 pm and again from 4-6 pm. 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.



## Major Road Projects

### PROJECT: USH 51 Lane Reductions

SCHEDULE: March 10th to April 18th

DESCRIPTION: The DOT contractor will be placing steel tub girders for the free flow ramp from USH 51 north to USH 29 west. In order to do this, traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction.

TRAFFIC IMPACT: Traffic will be reduced on Highway 51 to one lane in each direction from approximately the Rib River to Stewart Avenue. The Sherman Street off ramp will be closed for approximately two weeks. Sherman Street under Highway 51 will be closed for a two week period also. During the lane restrictions on Highway 51, the southbound on ramp from Highway 52 Parkway will be closed along with the northbound on ramp from County NN. To try and help reduce congestion on Highway 51, the DOT will be detouring Highway 29 traffic using County NN, County R/28th Avenue, and Highway 52 Parkway (STH 52). The DOT is urging local residents to use alternate local routes.

### PROJECT: Sherman Street from East of 28th Avenue to East of 24th Avenue

SCHEDULE: April/May to Fall

DESCRIPTION: Sherman Street will be reconstructed to a full four lane section under Highway 51.

TRAFFIC IMPACT: Construction will occur in phases by constructing the north half and then the south half. One lane in each direction will be maintained for the majority of the project. During construction of the north half, 24th Avenue will be closed for approximately two to three months starting April 1st. It is anticipated that the on and off ramps will remain open during the construction of Sherman Street.

### PROJECT: State Highway 52/ Highway 52 Parkway

SCHEDULE: Spring/Summer 2008

DESCRIPTION: The DOT contractor will be removing the old Highway 51 overpass structure in order to construct the new overpass.

TRAFFIC IMPACT: It is anticipated that in order to remove the existing structure, Highway 52 Parkway will need to be closed. These closures would take place during the night. In order to construct the new piers for the overpass, the inside lanes of Highway 52 Parkway will be closed.

### PROJECT: Stewart Avenue from 24th Avenue to 26th Avenue

SCHEDULE: October & November 2008

DESCRIPTION: The DOT contractor will be removing the old Highway 51 overpass structure in order to construct the new overpass.

TRAFFIC IMPACT: In order to remove the old overpass over Stewart Avenue and construct the new piers for the new overpass, Stewart Avenue will be closed to all traffic. Traffic will be detoured using 24th Avenue, Sherman Street, and 28th Avenue.

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

### PROJECT: Jefferson Street Closure

At the time this article was written, Jefferson Street from 2nd Street to 3rd Street was anticipated to be open by March 20th. **Come visit downtown again using Jefferson Street!**

### PROJECT: Stewart Avenue from 32nd Avenue to 48th Avenue

SCHEDULE: April/May to November

DESCRIPTION: Stewart Avenue will be reconstructed from two lanes to four lanes

with left turn lanes and a two-way center turn lane. Sidewalks will be constructed on the north side from 32nd Avenue to 48th Avenue and on the south side from 48th Avenue to Stettin Drive.

TRAFFIC IMPACT: Two lanes of traffic, one in each direction, will be maintained throughout the project. No detours will be posted. Construction will occur in halves with the north side constructed first and then the south side. Access to businesses will remain open.

### PROJECT: Street Reconstruction/ Curb, Gutter & Pavement Projects:

**7th Avenue - Chellis Street to Sherman Street**

**52nd and 54th Avenue - Lombardy Drive south to the end**

**32nd Avenue - Hilltop Avenue to Westhill Drive**

**27th Avenue - W. Wausau Avenue to Mary Ann Lane**

**Mary Ann Lane - 27th Avenue to 28th Avenue**

**10th Avenue - Elm Street to Cedar Street**

**Campus Drive - 4th Avenue to Burek Avenue**

**Hamilton Street - 10th Street to 12th Street**

**Stark Street - Sherwood Circle to the east approximately 1300 feet**

SCHEDULE: May to November, 2008

DESCRIPTION: Projects consists of new curb and gutter, asphalt, sanitary sewer and water laterals and storm sewer.

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

## Wausau's Web Update

The City of Wausau's website at [www.ci.wausau.wi.us](http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us) will soon be seeing BIG changes!

**Spring of 2008...**Order "Welcome to Wausau" clothing and novelties online.

**Fall of 2008...**City of Wausau website redesign will be completed. The construction will provide for improved navigation, organization, and a complete new look.

## Have You Checked Your Sewer Backup Coverage Lately?

**Sewer backups...there's nothing good that you can say about them, but unfortunately, they do happen!**

Homeowners are encouraged to contact their insurance agent to have a special rider placed on their homeowner's policy to include sewer backup coverage. Often the cost of this coverage is minimal, but can save so much in the long run. If you already have sewer backup coverage, check to make sure your limits are adequate, especially if you have an improved basement.

Normally, sewer backups are the result of a plugged sewer lateral, which is the line that goes from the home, or business, out to the main line in the street. Even blockages that occur in the main in the street can cause backups, but often there is not coverage for any damages you may experience. In order for any coverage to exist, the utility needs to have prior knowledge that there was a problem with the main, or to have failed to adequately clean and/or inspect the main within a reasonable time frame.

**How can you avoid having sewer backups?** Here are ways to minimize the potential for backups:

- **Have your sewer lateral cleaned on a regular basis** - this helps remove roots and other debris that can lodge in your lateral.
- **Avoid using your toilet or drain for anything other than its intended purpose**, and never flush diapers or feminine hygiene products.
- **Wipe grease from pans and dispose in the garbage**, do not rinse down your drain.
- **If you have a garbage disposal**, make sure you use plenty of water and do not dispose of items such as potato peelings or bones through the garbage disposal.

For more information on how to maintain your sewer lateral, contact Wausau Water Works at 715-261-6530.

## Storm Water Management-Phase II Permit

Have you ever been driving around during a rainfall and noticed soil eroding off a construction site, or an oily sheen on the water running into a storm sewer inlet and wondered what affect it may have on the environment? Chances are, given our increasingly busy lives, most of us do not pay much attention to these and other storm water pollution events. The City of Wausau hopes to change that and make everyone more aware of storm water pollution and the affects it has on our lakes, streams, and ground water.

Recently, the City received a Phase II Storm Water Discharge Permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This permit allows the City to continue to discharge storm water to lakes and streams provided the City meets the specific requirements of the discharge permit.

What does this mean to the City and its residents? The permit requires the City to implement the following:

- Public Outreach and Education
- Public Involvement and Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Pollution Control
- Post Construction Storm Water Management
- Pollution Prevention
- Storm Water Quality Management
- Storm Sewer Mapping and Annual Reporting

Each of these permit conditions has specific requirements and timelines for compliance. These specifics can be viewed at the WDNR website or a copy can be obtained at the Engineering Department.

Through a cooperative agreement with

Marathon County and surrounding municipalities, a Public Outreach and Education Plan is currently being developed. The primary goal of the plan is to reach out to the community and raise awareness for storm water pollution. In the coming year, you can expect more information through the City's website, mailings, seminars, or programming on the Public Access Channel.

Implementing all the requirements of the Phase II Storm Water Permit will require both an investment in time and money by the City, with the end result being permit compliance and cleaner lakes, streams and groundwater.





## Important Notice!

### Overnight Parking Ban Modified

**Changes to the overnight parking ordinance are effective April 1, 2008.**

Between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., alternate side parking regulations will be in effect on all streets in the City of Wausau from April 1 through November 30, unless otherwise posted or exempted by ordinance. All vehicles shall be parked only on the even-numbered side of the street on even-numbered calendar days and only on the odd side of the street on odd-numbered calendar days. This will eliminate the need to call the Marathon County non-emergency number during these months for permission to park overnight.

From December 1 through March 31, however, there remains **NO PARKING** on any City street between 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Overnight parking in the downtown area is prohibited all year. The downtown area is bounded on the north by McIndoe Street, east by 6th Street, south by Forest Street and west by 1st Street.

The forfeiture for violating the ordinance is \$25.00. To review the ordinance on the City's website, go to section 10.20.030 of the online Municipal Code.

## Wisconsin's New Video Franchise Law

The state's new video franchise legislation went into effect on January 9, 2008. The new law replaces the current system of local municipal franchises with statewide franchises that are to be granted by the State's Department of Financial Institutions. Incumbent cable operators, such as Charter Communications, may apply for state franchises or opt to operate under their municipal franchise agreements until those franchises expire. Until they are issued a new state franchise, an incumbent operator is subject to existing local franchise requirements. Charter Communication's non-exclusive, 15-year franchise with the City of Wausau expires April 14, 2008. The City had been in negotiations with Charter to renegotiate its franchise when the legislation was signed by the Governor. At the time of this publication, Wausau has received notice that only Charter has applied for a state franchise to provide video/cable service to the city.

The new law allows municipalities to collect a franchise fee of up to 5% of the provider's gross receipts derived from providing video service within the municipality, to audit the franchise fee payments, and to allow commercial advertising on PEG (Public, Education, Government) channels, because all current PEG support payments made by cable operators must end in three years. With respect to consumer protection, video service providers may have to comply with FCC guidelines, or state law, including any administrative rules established by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Contact your state legislators with questions or complaints.

## Urban Deer Dilemma

The City of Wausau has conducted an informal survey on Urban Deer in response to many complaints about the number of deer in the City. The issue has also been discussed at Public Health and Safety Committee meetings over the last year.

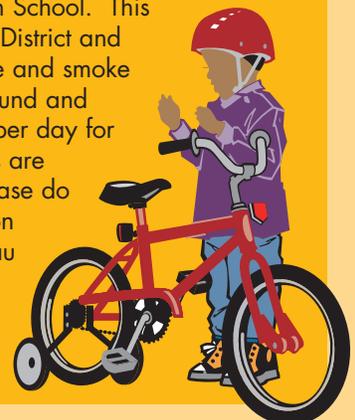
A total of 68 survey forms were submitted. Of those responses, 57 residents indicated they had experienced damage to plants from deer and 50 residents felt the problem was severe enough that the City of Wausau should take measures to control or reduce the deer population. A "car accident or near accident" within the last three years because of deer within the City limits was reported by 36 residents.

Wausau has an ordinance (WMC 8.08.255) prohibiting feeding deer within the City limits. In some neighborhoods, residents have reported encountering as many as 20 to 30 deer at one time. Feeding deer aggravates this problem and creates a nuisance and a traffic hazard.

The City is continuing to explore options, in cooperation with the DNR, to keep the number of urban deer under control. Please contact Dave Erickson, Environmental Engineer, at [daerickson@mail.ci.wausau.wi.us](mailto:daerickson@mail.ci.wausau.wi.us) or by telephone at 261-6536 if you have questions or comments regarding urban deer in Wausau.

## Safety City

, a week long program targeted for children entering Kindergarten this fall, will be held this summer at Thomas Jefferson School. This training program is a conjoint effort between the Wausau School District and the Wausau Police Dept. focusing on safety around the house; fire and smoke detectors, bike and pedestrian, vehicle and traffic, water, playground and strangers. Beginning June 9, there will be three 1½ hr. sessions per day for three weeks. A fee of \$10 is required, however financial waivers are available; this program is on a first-come, first-serve basis and please do not register your child if they have previously attended. Registration forms are available through the Wausau Police Dept. or a Wausau School District Elementary School/Preschool. Children will receive a bicycle helmet and smoke detector when attending. Contact Safety Officer Maureen Pilsner at Wausau PD at 261-7853, if you have any questions or request for financial assistance.





# City of Wausau Annual Large Item Pick-Up

Service begins April 14th per the schedule listed in this publication. The program is intended to help residents dispose of LARGE and HEAVY, unwanted items. It is NOT a program to be used for cleaning out all sizes of unwanted items on an annual basis or for the removal of large scale remodeling project debris. ITEMS WILL BE PICKED-UP AT THE CURB FROM RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS AND APARTMENTS ONLY. ITEMS WILL NOT BE PICKED-UP FROM BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS.

**Examples of items that will be accepted:**  
 bath tubs, toilets, sinks, BBQ grills (without LP tank), cabinets, carpeting, countertops, desks, dining room tables, hot water heaters, large metal items, large furniture items, mattresses, sofas, overstuffed chairs, pianos, pool tables, lawn mowers/snow blowers/small engines (gas & oil removed)

The City WILL NOT take small items, trash, and any bagged items which can be placed with your trash that is collected weekly. Drums and barrels containing unknown material, any liquid material, and hazardous waste WILL NOT be picked-up. A tag will be left informing you of how to dispose of these rejected items.

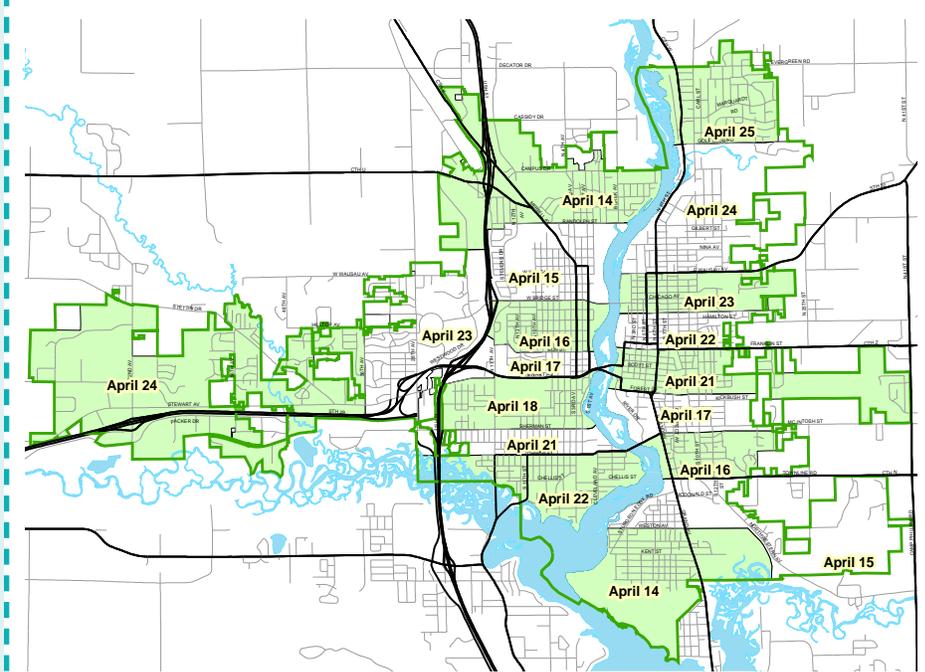
TO DISPOSE OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, ROOFING SHINGLES, CONCRETE, AND ROOT BALLS/STUMPS: Rent a commercial dumpster or haul privately to the Marathon Co. Landfill in Ringle, call 446-3101; or the Transfer Station at Veolia in Weston, call 359-6637.

If you have questions regarding acceptable or unacceptable large items, please call 261-6960. All material should be placed curbside by 7 am on the scheduled pick-up day.

**DO NOT** place items for Large Item Pick-Up at the curbside until the day before the scheduled pick-up day. Persons placing material at the curbside more than 24 hours prior to their collection day are subject to a daily fine of up to \$200, or shall be subject to having the material removed at the cost to the property owner.

Leaving material on the curb for days can create an unsightly, hazardous situation and increase the City's disposal costs if items get waterlogged. Store the material in a garage or elsewhere until pick-up. 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.

	East Side of Wisconsin River	West Side of Wisconsin River
April 14	South City Limits to Weston Ave.	North City Limits to Randolph St.
April 15	Weston Ave. to Townline Rd.	W Randolph St. to W Bridge St. between USH 51/139 and the Wisconsin River
April 16	Townline Rd. to Thomas St.	W. Bridge St. to Elm St. between 17th Ave. and 1st Ave.
April 17	Thomas St. to Forest St.	Elm St. to Stewart Ave. between 17th Ave. and 1st Ave.
April 18	All of Grand Ave. from South City Limits to Forest St.	Stewart Ave. to Sherman St. between 1st Ave. and USH 51/139
April 21	Forest St. to Franklin St.	Sherman St. to Thomas St. between USH 51/139 and Wisconsin River
April 22	Franklin St. to Stark St.	Thomas St. to South City Limits between USH 51/139 and Wisconsin River
April 23	Stark St. to E. Wausau Ave.	USH 51/139 to 36th Ave.
April 24	E. Wausau Ave. to Golf Club Rd.	36th Ave. to West City Limits
April 25	Golf Club Rd. to North City Limits	



## Weekly Garbage Pick-Up

Residents must put their garbage containers curbside prior to 5:45 am of pick-up day but NOT prior to 5 pm the day before pick-up. Empty containers must be removed from curbside by 8 am the day after pick-up and stored out of view from the front of the house.

Garbage containers should be of substantial construction with tight-fitting covers and strong handles on the outside, be watertight and fly-proof, and they should have a capacity not to exceed 30 gallons. A container, when filled, should not weigh more than 75 lbs. Landlords should provide a sufficient number of containers to hold the recyclable and non-recyclable solid waste for their properties.

**Examples of larger and small household items accepted in regular weekly pick-up:** (NOTE: These items must each weigh less than 75 lbs. and be no larger than 4 ft. by 4 ft.) *bathroom sinks, bicycles, blankets, broken window panes, clothing, construction material (up to 60 lbs. weekly), desks, dining room chairs, doors (saw into pieces), humidifiers, lamps, lawn chairs, luggage, plastic pails, radios, small furniture items, tables (disassemble), toasters, toys, vacuum cleaners, water hoses, window screens.*

## Recyclable Items

Recycle bins are sold at City Hall for \$10. Recyclable items may also be placed in a weatherproof container noted "RECYCLING" for bi-weekly pick-up. Current calendars are available at the City's Information Center and are printed in the City's Fall/Winter Newsletter.

**Aluminum and steel cans, glass and plastic containers may be co-mingled.** Continue to separate *corrugated cardboard, magazines, newspaper, office paper, car batteries, and oil.*

## Appliance Drop-Off

The City of Wausau is again providing the opportunity for residents to dispose of appliances and other items. This effort falls directly in line with the City of Wausau's "Green Sustainability" goals. The DROP-OFF will take place

next to the City of Wausau Yard Waste Site, at the end of E. Chellis Street, and is scheduled for **Friday, May 16 (9 am-8 pm), Saturday, May 17 (9 am-3 pm), and Sunday, May 18 (11 am-5 pm).** **Proof of residency required.**

**Examples of items that can be dropped off:** *air conditioners, BBQ grills, bicycles, car batteries, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, dryers, freezers, LP tanks, lawn mowers (gas and oil removed), microwaves, TVs, vacuum cleaners, vending machines, washers, water purifiers, and tires with rims.*

**Tires WITHOUT rims can be disposed of during this drop-off with the following fees imposed:** *car tires smaller than 16", \$1.25; 16"-19.5" tires, \$1.75; any tire larger than 19.5", \$6.00. Tires may also be disposed of anytime of year at tire dealers for a nominal fee.*

**Vehicles of all types may be disposed of at the time of APPLIANCE DROP-OFF ONLY. DO NOT bring vehicles to Yard Waste Site; contact personnel at the site to discuss individual pick-up arrangements.**

Contact DPW at 261-6960 if you have questions on Appliance Drop-Off. Veolia will also pick-up appliances at anytime for a fee, call 359-6637.

## Computer Equipment & Monitors

Computer/electronics recycling events are held at the Good News Project warehouse. **Accepted items are computer and stereo gear, copiers, fax machines, microwaves, phones, printers, TVs, VCRs, and other items containing circuit boards.** No dehumidifiers, air conditioners, or appliances. Please call Good News Project at 843-5985 or visit their website [www.goodnewswi.com](http://www.goodnewswi.com) for fees, dates, times, and their location. Veolia will also dispose of these items for a fee, call 356-6637.

## Yard Waste

The City's Yard Waste Site, located at 105 East Chellis Street, will open April 1st, weather permitting, and remain open through November 16 at 5 pm. Residents are not allowed to drop anything off at the Yard Waste Site except during the hours of operation as follows: Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday- Friday, 9 am-8 pm;

Saturday 9 am-3 pm; and Sunday 11 am-5 pm (please note the revised hours on Sunday). This site is "CLOSED EVERY THURSDAY". It is equipped with security cameras to catch unwanted and/or illegal dumping of materials – a \$200 fine can be imposed! **Proof of residency required.**

**Examples of items that can be dropped off:** *brush, garden and flower debris, grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, shrubs, tree branches.*

To assist individuals who are physically unable or who do not want to take yard waste to the drop-off site, Veolia offers a weekly "Yard Waste Curbside Pick-Up Program". The 2008 fee for this weekly collection service is \$75 for 7 months, mid-April to mid-November, billed for the full season. To participate in this service and for a listing of detailed debris that will be picked-up, contact Veolia at 359-6637.

## Medical Waste

Home-generated Sharps waste, may be placed in Sharps containers available at participating pharmacies, or by contacting LB Medwaste Specialists at 842-2048 for information on their services.

## Hazardous Waste

The Marathon County Hazardous Waste Facility, located at 301 Alderson St. in Schofield, will open on April 11th. This facility is open the 2nd and 4th Friday and Saturday of each month from April through October and the 2nd weekend of the month in November and December. The hours are Friday, 2-7:00 pm and Saturday, 9 am-2 pm on those weekends.

It is recommended that **used household batteries, fluorescent light bulbs,** and the **newer compact fluorescent bulbs** be taken to this facility for proper disposal and recycling. They can also accept other **household chemicals** that do not belong in the landfill or in the City's sewer system.

Commercial hazardous waste disposal must be pre-approved. Please call 261-1922 if you have questions on commercial or household hazardous waste disposal, recycling, or directions to the facility.



## Property Information

Continued from Page 2

assessment may be on the high-end of value. Should you have any problems when navigating the web page, we are available for questions at: 715-261-6600.

Currently, the web site shows the "Finalized 2007 Assessments". In the spring, we will be mailing the 2008 Change of Assessment Notices (the target date is sometime in April, but watch the paper for actual dates and times). After these notices are mailed, the web site will be updated with the "Preliminary 2008 Assessments". This allows the taxpayer an opportunity to review all the new 2008 assessments at their convenience either in person at City Hall or on the City's website: <http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/assessment>.

These "Preliminary 2008 Assessments" will be subject to change until the 2008 Board of Review adjourns. After the Board of Review adjourns, the website will be updated to show the "Finalized 2008 Assessments".

If you have any questions regarding the website, please contact the Assessment Dept. at 261-6600 or email [assessment@mail.ci.wausau.wi.us](mailto:assessment@mail.ci.wausau.wi.us)

Your Help Is Needed To ...

# Protect Maintenance and Emergency Personnel

Many City employees put their lives at risk, in performance of their job. They are proud of what they do to serve the citizens of Wausau and enjoy their chosen professions. However, being struck by a vehicle is a major cause of fatalities among emergency and maintenance personnel: Public Utilities Workers, Police, Firefighters, and EMT's. Every year, employees encounter "brushes with death".

## Imagine these scenarios which actually occurred to City employees:

You are a Street Department employee patching potholes, in an effort to make it safer for the motoring public. You are wearing your safety vest and are carefully watching traffic flow. A passing motorist ignores the cones and signs. They speed through the work zone, brushing up against you, and knocking you to the pavement. The next vehicle slams on their brakes and stops just short of you. You count your blessings!

In this situation, you are a Police Officer, Firefighter, or EMT who has responded to a crash scene that has burst into flames. The squad car is positioned in a manner to protect the crash vehicles, passengers, and victims. The driver of an approaching vehicle is distracted while talking on their cell phone and does not see the Police Officer directing traffic. The Police Officer jumps out of the way to avoid being hit. The driver stretches their neck to see the burning vehicles, and their side mirror brushes up against a Firefighter who is retrieving equipment from the fire truck.

It is late Saturday evening, with a torrential downpour. There is a break in a water main and the intersection is flooded. You are on-call for the Water Department this weekend and rush to respond. You are working diligently to turn off the water flow when a passing vehicle hits the water in the street with such force that the water splashes up, knocking you into the other lane of traffic. Fortunately the on-coming vehicle is driving very slow and comes to a safe stop.

All of these scenarios have one thing in common – each of them could have resulted in a fatality. If you are a member of the motoring public, you can help protect lives. You can help assure that each employee returns home safely to their family, at the end of a work shift.

City workers live among you; they are your neighbors, your friends, your family members, your civil servants. Please show your respect and appreciation for the work performed for you, by following these precautions:

- Slow down when approaching the scene
- Follow instructions from Police/Signs
- Be aware of Personnel/Surroundings
- Think of the safety of the workers
- Look ahead – see the BIG PICTURE
- Avoid the scene if possible
- Move over – it's the law!
- Pay attention to your driving
- Get off the cell phone
- Be patient and courteous

## Give 'em a brake!

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