

WHITEWATER CITY NEWSLETTER



Whitewater Cultural Arts Center Dedication Held

The Grand Opening of the Whitewater Cultural Arts Center, housed in the White Memorial Building (402 W Main Street), drew a full house of more than 125 people on December 9th. The Center, which will be managed by the Whitewater Arts Alliance, is a gallery and performance space for local and visiting artists.

Events and exhibits for 2008 include a Wisconsin Regional Art Program competition, The Fountain Festival, a "Green Art Show" and "Miracles of the Spirit: Celebrating Wisconsin Folk Artists".



Arts Alliance Board of Directors Cutting the Ribbon to Open the New Whitewater Cultural Arts Center

The Center affords some wonderful opportunities to be involved, including volunteering, attending events and providing financial support. For more information visit the Whitewater Arts Alliance website at <http://www.whitewaterarts.org/>.

Reminder - Elections Coming Up!

February 19 – Primary
April 1 – Spring Election
September 9 – Primary
November 4 – Fall Election
Aldermanic Districts 1, 3, 4, & 5 vote at the Downtown Armory (146 W North Street) and District 2 at the Hamilton Center on the UW-Whitewater campus.

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Freeze Fest Scheduled for February 9th

The City of Whitewater will be kicking off the annual Freeze Fest on Saturday, February 9, 2008. The festivities start off early with a pancake breakfast at 6:30 am at the Downtown



Armory. After breakfast, be sure to venture to Cravath Lakefront for ice carving and courageous polar bear plungers, or visit Big Brick Park where a DJ supplies ice skaters with their favorite tunes. Be sure to visit the Downtown Mall where cooking enthusiasts battle in the chili cook-off or visit the Cravath Lakefront building for a quilt show, hot chocolate and finger food. For further information or to register for events, please visit the city website at www.ci.whitewater.wi.us

Stormwater Utility Now Operating

As of October 1, the City has formed a Stormwater utility in order to manage surface water discharges within the city. All real property in the city is subject to the charges. The stormwater utility charges will be billed as a separate line item on the quarterly utility billing. The ERU (equivalent runoff unit) charge has been set at \$10.75 per unit per quarter. Most residential properties have been assigned one ERU.

Nonresidential properties ERUs are determined in a similar manner. If you have questions regarding your property's charge, contact Dean Fischer at (262)473-0140 or dfischer@ci.whitewater.wi.us. A copy of the ordinance is available on the City website at www.ci.whitewater.wi.us under Departments-Public Works.

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Whitewater Parks and Recreation Gift Catalog Now Available

The Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for providing the community with a wide variety of recreation programs, planning new park facilities, and managing City open space.

Enhancement of the program and facilities currently available to the community represents a sizeable financial commitment. To help bridge the gap between available public resources and the cost of needed and/or desired improvements, community-based support plays an increasingly important role. As the City strives to meet the wide range of citizen interests, needs and ideas, donations and support will serve to augment and improve the recreational experiences provided.

A newly completed Gift Catalog provides potential donors with a menu of donation opportunities regarding specific Parks and Recreation department needs. These needs are provided in an easy-to-read format and present options for direct monetary donations. Donations of any size or scale are welcome. All donations will receive appropriate recognition and are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

An example of an item in the catalog is the newly created "Recreation Sunshine Fund". This fund has been established to offer everyone an opportunity to participate in our programs, regardless of financial status. This fund will follow the United States Department of Health & Human Services Poverty Guidelines and

approved applicants will need to pay half of the program cost with the other half of the cost covered by donations made to the "Recreation Sunshine Fund".

The gift catalog is now available on the City's website and will be mailed to Whitewater businesses and service clubs. To obtain a copy, please contact Matt Amundson at 262-473-0122 or mamundson@ci.whitewater.wi.us.

"A gift or memorial to our parks and recreation department is a wonderful way to honor a loved one, celebrate significant events and occasions in your life or simply say thank you for the parks, trails, trees, and programs that you have enjoyed over the years."

Public Safety Communications Upgrade Project

The City of Whitewater Public Safety Communications Center provides dispatching and telecommunications service for Whitewater Police, Fire, and EMS, as well as the UW-Whitewater Campus Police Department. The Center is slated to undergo a major remodeling and upgrade in early 2008.

The current radio equipment will no longer be supported by the manufacturer. End of support means maintenance plans are no longer available and repairs are made only if parts are available. Therefore, it is critical to the operation of the Center that there is an upgrade in equipment. The City is borrowing to fund the equipment with the University pledging a sizable amount of money to help finance the project as well.

The Police Department has also received authorization to hire an additional dispatcher. This position will enable the department to have two dispatchers on duty during peak service times. The additional staffing, as well as the new equipment, means that the community will continue to be provided with the best in emergency communications.