

WHITEWATER CITY NEWSLETTER



Housing Task Force Developing Recommendations

A citizen task force has been meeting since last September to develop recommendations to the Whitewater Common Council regarding improving community housing conditions, residential housing mix and housing-related ordinances/policies. So far, the task force has made the following recommendations: 1)the City should develop a first-time home buyers program; 2)the current property re-inspection program ordinance should be amended; 3)the City should encourage the creation of neighborhood associations; and 4)a chronic nuisance ordinance should be developed (using the recently enacted Janesville ordinance as a possible model). Additional recommendations might be forthcoming from the task force.

Members of the task force are Dane Checolinski, John Chenoweth, Donna Henry, Jeff Janz, David Kachel, Rosemary Leaver, Roy Nosek, Al Stanek, Dennis Stanton and Kristine Zaballos. Councilmember Patrick Singer has also served on the task force.

It is expected that the Common Council will consider the task force recommendations this Spring.



Cravath Lakefront Arch Dedication

Ceremony will be Sunday, April 20 from 2 pm to 4 pm. Refreshments at the Lakefront Center following the dedication.

Fountain Arts Festival

April 26, 2008, 9 AM to 4 PM

Enjoy a day of shopping and viewing of ceramics, oil paintings, bead and metal jewelry, kid's activities, and uncategorized excellence of local and surrounding artists.

www.fountainartsfestival.com

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Whitewater Police Department Seeks Reaccreditation

Accreditation refers to a system of rules and regulations, called "Standards", that an agency is to follow in order to retain the status of being "accredited" (colleges, health care providers, and school districts are commonly accredited). In 1998, the State of Wisconsin developed a program designed to accredit law enforcement agencies. The Whitewater Police Department is proud to be among the 52 police and sheriff's departments currently accredited by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG).

Accredited agencies demonstrate compliance with 233 applicable standards covering virtually all aspects of a law enforcement operation, e.g. evidence collection and property management, criminal investigations, jail operations, management and administration, patrol, personnel process, etc.



The accreditation process benefits both the agency and the community it serves by ensuring that the Department remains committed to providing the highest quality of professional service and public

safety. Accredited in 2003, the Whitewater Police Department is about to undergo an exhaustive review by a team of outside assessors in order to ensure continued compliance with the accreditation standards. If successful, the Department hopes to become reaccredited by the 12 member governing board of WILEAG at their summer meeting.

Community Development Authority Working on Bringing More Retail Business to City

Bringing new and varied retail businesses to Whitewater is a goal of the City and its Community Development Authority. The City recently hired The Retail Coach, LLC, a national marketing research firm, to perform a retail market analysis of the Whitewater area as well as produce a retail recruitment and development program for the community.

The Retail Coach will also provide a minimum of 25 targeted retail and restaurant marketing packages based upon a matching of these firm's site selection criteria to the findings from Whitewater's retail trade area determination and analysis, psychographic and demographic profiles and retail leakage analysis.

The Retail Coach's work is being funded by the City and the following private sponsors: Downtown Whitewater, Inc., DLK Enterprises, First Citizens Bank, RR Walton and Company, UW-Whitewater, Vultaggio Development and the Whitewater Community Development Authority.



A Walgreens Pharmacy has been approved to move into the former Staples building on W Main Street

City Staff Changes

Recent retirements from City service include Theresa Lee (City Treasurer-37 years of service); Duwayne Brown (Public Works-37 years) and Gary Bornick (Public Works-29 years).

Connie De Kemper, a CPA and former cash management specialist with the City of Tempe, Arizona has been hired as the new City Treasurer/Assistant Finance Director. Wally West has been promoted to Operator at the City Wastewater Treatment Facility and Kelly Freeman and Gary Mack have also joined the Public Works Department.

Kyle Cromos and Scott Weberpal are now working part-time for the Neighborhood Services Department in building maintenance and code enforcement respectively.

James Elder is the Police Department's newest patrol officer and Kim Millis is a new dispatcher in the Department. These positions were created by the Common Council in the 2008 City Budget.

2007 Whitewater Main Street Award Winners

Downtown Whitewater Inc. held its annual stakeholder meeting and awards celebration in early March. Its 2007 Main Street award winners are the following:

- ✧ Volunteer of the Year: Dr. John Patterson
- ✧ Best Façade Rehabilitation over \$7500 and Best Historic Building Restoration: Ryan Hughes for 200-214 W. Whitewater Street
- ✧ Best Façade Rehabilitation under \$7500: Ana Rodriguez for 201 W. Center Street
- ✧ Best Interior Renovation and Best Upper Story Renovation: RR Walton for 133-139 W Main Street
- ✧ Best Downtown Special Event: Taste of Whitewater
- ✧ Best Adaptive Re-Use: Whitewater Arts Alliance for the Whitewater Cultural Arts Center (White Memorial Building, 435 W Main Street)
- ✧ Best New Business: Dan & Kristy Malone for Dan's Meat Market
- ✧ Best Public/Private Partnership: Stone Stable Restoration Project.

City Named 2007 Tree City USA And Growth Award Recipient

Whitewater has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. It is the fourteenth year Whitewater has received this national commendation.

"Trees in our cities and towns help clean the air, conserve soil and water, moderate temperature and bring nature into our daily lives," said John Rosenow, Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation, in announcing Whitewater's selection. "Tree City USA designation recognizes the work of elected officials, staff and citizens who plant and care for the community forest. Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, and provide environmental and economical benefits. A community, and its citizens, that recognize these benefits and provide needed care for its trees deserves recognition and thanks."