

WHITEWATER CITY NEWSLETTER



Community Survey Shows Citizen Satisfaction with City Services

Earlier this summer, the City conducted a Comprehensive Plan Community Survey in conjunction with the UW-Whitewater Center for Political Science and Public Policy Research. The purpose of the survey was to measure residents' perceptions of the overall quality of life, their evaluation of facilities, services and safety and their preference for future development in our City. Among the major conclusions reached by survey researchers Drs. Susan Johnson and Jolly Emrey were:

- Residents were very positive in their evaluation of the overall quality of life here and were also very positive when it came to changes made in the City compared to five years ago.
- Garbage collection/recycling, park maintenance and library services were the three highest rated city services with public safety services (police, fire and EMS) also receiving high marks; code enforcement and economic development were cited as needing the most improvement.
- Among long-range planning priorities, significant percentages of respondents agreed that pedestrian/bike trail development, park and open space acquisition and park and open space development were all things that should be pursued.

The response rate for the survey was 12% with 360 total surveys returned. A full report of the community survey results can be found on the city website.

Census Surveys to be Mailed April of 2010



What is the Census?

- The Census is a count taken every 10 years of everyone living in the United States.
- The Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution.
- The next census is April 1, 2010.
- Your participation in the census is required by law.
- It takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census.
- Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.

*Please complete the 2010 Census
It's important to Whitewater's future!*

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Freeze Fest Scheduled for February 20th

The City of Whitewater will be holding its annual Freeze Fest on Saturday, February 20, 2010. The festivities start early with a pancake breakfast at 6:30 AM at the Downtown Armory. After breakfast, be sure to venture to the Cravath Lakefront for



family entertainment and courageous polar bear plungers, or visit Big Brick Park where you can enjoy an afternoon of ice skating. Visit the Cravath Lakefront warming tent where cooking enthusiasts battle in the chili cook-off or the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library for a Snow Dogs Presentation. For further information or to register for events, please visit the city website at www.ci.whitewater.wi.us

Team Studies Trail Improvements



Whitewater 4th Motor Lego Team Members
Left to Right in Back-Leif Sahyun, Jan Maroske,
Rachel Hunter. Front-Lauren Hunter.

The City of Whitewater would like to congratulate the 4th Motor Lego Team for being awarded the 1st place trophy for Innovative Robot Design at a recent state competition with 48 teams. The 4th Motor Lego Team researched possible solutions to the connection of the trail through Brewery Hill Park and the trail through Trippe Lake Park and Waters Edge South. They presented their proposed solution to the Parks and Recreation Board as a practice run for the state level competition.

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Indian Mounds - Oldest Whitewater Landmark

The oldest landmark in Whitewater is a group of Indian mounds named, "The Maples Mound Group", after the farm they were located on when they were first recorded by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1920. The Society's representative, Charles E. Brown, was "most enthusiastic over them". He was very interested in the rare and unusual effigy mound of the bird with wings that "trailed beside and behind the body".

About 1000 years ago native people built the conical and oval shaped mounds in the oak savannah that covered this area. They lived in a nearby village and formed the mounds by excavating a shape in the ground with hand tools and then filling it with soil they carried in baskets from other areas and continuing until the mound was several feet high. The large amount of effort involved demonstrates the importance of this area and the mounds to the native peoples. Over time effigy mounds in the shape of animals were built using the same methods.

When the possibility of building the Highway 12 Bypass through this area threatened the mounds, many from Whitewater worked to have the land purchased for a city park and to have it listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1994, it was officially named a Local Landmark, giving it further protection. A Mounds Committee meets monthly to formulate a plan for the preservation and maintenance of this park. Anyone interested is invited to attend. A "Friends of the Mounds" Group will begin meeting in January to plan educational and volunteer activities. (Contact Parks & Recreation Director Matt Amundson (473-0122, mamundson@ci.whitewater.wi.us) for more information on opportunities to get involved with preserving this community landmark.)

Spring Programming at Irvin L. Young Library

The Library has a great lineup for children's programming through the winter and spring. Story-time will begin January 11th and run through the week of April 26th. Registration for Preschool (ages 4-6), Toddler (ages 2-3), and Lapsit (ages 12-24 months) story times begins in December.



Michael, Reading and Writing at the Library

The Library will be hosting a program with Nature's Niche, a nonprofit educational company that teaches humane wildlife and rain forest education. The program is made possible through a grant to encourage literacy in middle school-age boys. The Library will host the Snow Dogs again for Freeze Fest on February 20th from 2:00-4:00 pm. The Library will sponsor a Teen Tech Night on Thursday, March 11th from 4:30-8:30 pm featuring wii gaming and board games with pizza and pop provided. The Library will have the READ Therapy Dogs again on Saturday, April 17th from 10:00 am-noon. Also this spring, the Library will again be participating in the Big Read. The title selected is *Sun, Stone and Shadows*, a collection of short stories by Mexican authors. The Big Read will kick off on April 1st with *No Foolin' A Free Book* giveaway and end on May 5th, Cinco de Mayo. This year there is also a Big Read for Little Readers with the book, *My Life with the Wave*, a children's picture book based on the first story in the *Sun, Stone and Shadows* collection. There will be a program on Tuesday, April 13th from 6:30-7:30 pm for the Little Big Read.

Home Buyer's Workshop

Are you interested in purchasing a home? The Home Buyer's Workshops may be a place to start. On Saturday, March 6th, 2010, The Whitewater Community Development Authority is offering a six-hour course to help you achieve your goal of home ownership. The course will teach you what you need to know to purchase a new home.

A **free** workshop to help you own your own home. The Home Buyer's Workshop is designed to help more families become homeowners in the City of Whitewater. This program will give you a greater opportunity to own your own home by:

- Giving you the information you need to make a wise purchasing decision.
- Possibly lowering the down payment requirement.
- Possibly eliminating a savings reserve.
- Possibly lowering the amount of income you need to qualify for a home loan.

2010 Workshop Schedule

- Cravath Lake Front Center
Saturday, March 6th, 8:30 Registration
- 9:00am-3:00pm (Program includes working lunch)

How to Register:

- Email the Community Development Authority: mnimm@ci.whitewater.wi.us
- Phone: 262-473-0148