



Photo by Roger Zimmermann,

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

New Voting Requirements

Nan Kottke, County Clerk & Mary Kluz, UW-Extension

The new Wisconsin Photo ID Law requires all voters to show an acceptable photo ID to vote starting with the 2012 February Primary and all subsequent elections.

Acceptable IDs are not required to have a current address. Acceptable IDs include:

- Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) issued drivers license
- WisDOT issued identification card
- Military ID
- United States passport
- Certificate of naturalization issued within the past two years
- Unexpired driving receipt issued by WisDOT
- Unexpired identification card receipt issued by WisDOT
- Identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- An unexpired identification card issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college

The above must have an expiration date after November 2, 2010.

For more information:
 Visit gab.wi.gov
 1-866-VOTE-WIS
 608-261-2028
 or TTY 1-800-947-3529

WisDOT will provide free ID cards to individuals who will be at least 18 years old by the next election.

To obtain an ID card, you must provide a birth certificate and other documents, so if you do not have an acceptable photo ID and plan on voting, start the process early!

The law contains several other provisions affecting elections:

- Residency requirement has changed from 10 to 28 consecutive days.
- A voter can no longer use a corroborating witness.
- Voters are required to provide their most recent address where they were previously registered to vote.
- In-person absentee voting begins the third Monday before the election.
- In-person absentee voting ends at 5 p.m. or the close of business, whichever is later, the Friday before the election.
- No in-person absentee voting on the Saturday, Sunday or Monday before the election.

Marathon County Newsletter No Longer Being Mailed

Ed Locke, City-County Information Technology

To keep costs down, we will no longer mail hardcopies of the newsletter. Instead, the newsletter is available on-line and you can be notified when new issues are posted through RSS feed or by "opt-in" email.

By now, you've probably noticed a small square orange icon on many web sites. That is an RSS link; by clicking on it you can 'subscribe' to that content and keep up to date of any changes.

To view these news feeds you need a 'News Reader'. This feature is built into most modern browsers, but you can also use other software, many mobile devices, or an online source like 'Google Reader' (www.google.com/reader). This technology can also be used to keep an eye on our Announcements and Calendar!

Due to the variety of hardware/software, we cannot provide direct technical support in the use of RSS technology.

You may also subscribe to the newsletter by the "Opt-In" email option.

Both subscription options are available on our newsletter page: www.co.marathon.wi.us/newsletter.asp



RSS icon

How is Marathon County Growing?

Diane Wessel— Conservation, Planning, and Zoning

How we grow as a community impacts infrastructure, community services, economic development, agriculture production, and land use.

From 2000 to 2010, Marathon County population increased by 6.5% while the number of households increased by 14.5%.

What this is suggesting is that the household size is decreasing and it is taking more homes to house our population than it did 10 years ago.

In the rural areas of the county, the population increased by 1,721 while households increased by 1,845.

We “grew” more homes than people. This, combined with large minimum lot sizes, results in more land needed to house our growing population.

If a community averages 5 new homes per year with a 9 acre minimum lot size, 450 acres will be converted by 2020. If these homes were built on 2 acre lots, 100 acres will be converted by 2020.

Most communities identified “preserve rural character” as a goal in their comprehensive plans. What is rural character to you? Forest? Agriculture? Large-lot homes? A mix of these?

We need to have a conversation with our residents to define what we want our communities to look like, then utilize the tools to achieve that vision.

What lot size and zoning restrictions your community chooses should be based on your community’s vision for the future.



Large-lot home

Resources for the Aging and Disabled

Deb Hager, Deputy Administrator

As people age the impacts of chronic health conditions like heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, hearing loss, visual impairments, memory loss, etc. limit a person’s ability to do everyday activities like cooking, cleaning, driving, and even bathing. Planning and wise use of resources results in older adults have more control over options to access needed services.

Understanding what an older adult needs and what option best meet that need conserves financial resources and promotes independence. The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) helps older adults and the disabled identify needs, options and resources to live as healthy and independently as possible.

The ADRC provides information and assistance on available programs, counseling regarding housing options, transitional services, long term care options, elderly and disabled benefits, nutrition programs, caregiver support, home safety and transportation services.

For information on ADRC programs and services, visit www.adrc-cw.com or 888-486-9545

Stiff Penalties for Hosting Underage Drinking

Renee Trowbridge, Health Department

To limit underage access to alcohol, some state and local governments are passing social host liability laws.

A social host law penalizes anyone who provides a location for underage drinking to take place. A location includes any place where three or more people gather and could include a home, back yard, land, hotel room, camper, boat, etc.

Under the social host law, the penalty for providing a location for underage drinking results in forfeiture between \$1,000 to \$5,000. This sends a strong message to the community that underage drinking is a serious issue.

Studies show that those who drink alcohol before age 15 are five times more likely to misuse alcohol as an adult.

In October, Wausau became the first municipality in Marathon County to pass a Social Host Law. If you would like more information about this law, contact Lt. Ben Bliven at the Wausau Police Department.



Set a good example. Securely store the alcohol in your home.
Create an atmosphere in your home and community where underage drinking is not acceptable.

Partnerships Vital to Camp Phillips Project

Kevin Lang, Highway Department

To increase traffic safety and accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians, County Road X (Camp Phillips Road) in the Village of Weston was expanded from two lanes to four lanes with an off-road paved multi-use path.

The project required Town, Village, County, State, and Federal agencies to partner.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration funded portions of the project.

Marathon County and the Village of Weston developed plans and coordinated work on the road construction project, extending sewer and water, locating a municipal well, road access, and access to the open pit mining operation.

The Town of Wausau and the Village of Weston coordinated emergency services while the road construction was underway to ensure residents in the area had timely emergency service response.

The project was a success and Camp Phillips re-opened in early November.

For updates on road construction projects in Marathon County call 715-261-1600 or visit: www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/HighwayDepartment/RoadConstruction.aspx



Camp Phillips Rd
Eau Claire River Bridge

Central Wisconsin Airport Renovations

Stephanie Luisier, Central Wisconsin Airport

To increase passenger safety, security, and convenience, Central Wisconsin Airport (CWA) has begun a three phase terminal renovation and expansion project.

Part of the first phase, construction of an 8,000 square foot rental car facility, is 65% complete, on time, and on budget.

The utility corridor project at CWA is also expected to be complete in late fall. Work includes upgrading underground electrical, water main, sanitary and storm sewer and telecommunications lines.

Work on the west terminal addition is scheduled to begin in 2012.

The airport is working closely with Congressman Sean Duffy's office and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to move this project to completion. Uncertainty remains, however, due to the lack of a multi-year FAA Reauthorization Bill and the funding it would provide.

Central Wisconsin Airport: www.fly-cwa.org/

Task Force Tackles Big Eau Pleine Fish Kill Concerns

John Small, Task Force Chair

In response to the Spring of 2009 fish kill, Marathon County created and led a task force of diverse community interests including citizens, farmers, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC), and State and Federal agencies.

The task force was charged with developing long term policy and program recommendations aimed at improving water quality, reservoir operations, and sustainability of the fishery.

In December, the task force delivered recommendations to the County for policy consideration and program development.

The recommendations are founded upon the need of all private and public interests to contribute to water quality and quantity strategies with Marathon County providing local coordination of the financial and technical resources.

The recommendations also balance the need to reduce high nutrient runoff into streams with community and economic development.

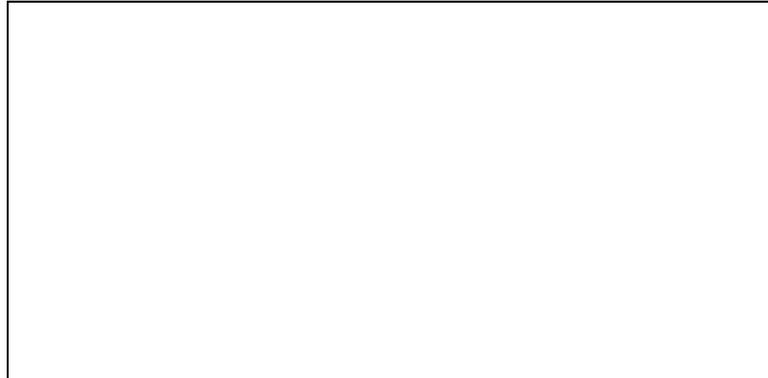
Specific recommendations address the following:

1. Operation and Maintenance of Aeration System
2. Resource Management Initiatives
3. Development of a pilot project to promote innovative best management practices on farms.

Community Connections

Marathon County CPZ
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Wausau, WI 54403-5449

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If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter, visit: www.co.marathon.wi.us/newsletter.asp

Marathon County Unites with Lake Residents

John Blume, Pike Lake landowner

My family has owned land in the Wausau area since 1910, and owned property at Pike Lake since 1926. Family members have tried to be good stewards of the land, and have generally succeeded. Winters may drag on too long and storms are more severe than we would like, but, on balance, Marathon County is a beautiful area. We are blessed by our farms and forests, as well as our lakes, rivers, and streams.

Over the years, neighbors and I have observed the changes in the lakes, but we often don't have the knowledge to understand the causes of change or how to protect the lake. We want good things to happen to the lake.

So, in 2009, lake residents representing eleven lakes in the eastern part of Marathon County approached the Marathon County Conservation, Planning, & Zoning Department, and the Land Conservation & Zoning Committee for help.

Together we combined forces with the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and secured grants to determine the current health of the lake system and to develop action plans that will protect our lakes. The study is funded by DNR grants, as well as in-kind donations from residents, and UW-Stevens Point.



Today, we are collecting lake users' and lakeside residents' viewpoints on what is important to them about our lakes. More importantly, we will gather real data on water inflow and outflow, water chemistry and biology, plants, fish, and animal life in and on the lakes. We are learning to tell 'good plants' from 'bad weeds.' Even non fishing folks will learn to improve fish habitat.

As a friend always said, "All of us are smarter than one of us." Joining together to participate in the Eastern Lakes study will make all of us a little smarter, then we'll make the lakes a little better. The study represents a great partnership of citizens, public agencies, and university experts working together to protect and improve their community.