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## Local News

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- Latest Local News**
- 6-30-11 wisconsin home sales**
- Wisconsin home sales and median prices fell in May. Compared to last year at this time, sales of existing homes fell 22.6 percent and the statewide median sale price was down 5.2-percent to \$136,700. Wisconsin Realtors Association president, Bill Malkasian, says in Dodge County home sales fell 18-percent and the median sale price dropped 22-percent from May of 2010. In Fond du Lac County sales fell nearly 21-percent...but the median sale price increased 16.2 percent from \$110,000 to \$128,000. Malkasian says the good news is that statewide, housing affordability remains high driven by moderating prices and low interest rates.
- 6-30-11 ripon school district budget**
- With the state government moving forward on the budget, school districts now have a better idea of how things may play out. Ripon School Superintendent, Richard Zimman, says the district will have some leftover funds. Zimman says the school board considered not spending the extra money.
- 6-30-11 ripon school start times**
- Ripon high School students will have to be to school a little earlier beginning in the fall. Ripon School Superintendent, Richard Zimman, says the high school and middle school will start at the same time next school year. Zimman says the change is necessary, in part, due to the recent change in the high school going from an eight period to seven period day. Start times for Murray Park and Barlow Park schools will remain the same.
- 6-30-11 fourth of july holiday**
- In observance of the Fourth of July holiday, city offices in the City-County Government Center and the Municipal Service Center will be closed on Monday, July 4th. The Public Library and the Senior Center are also closed. Please note – all City offices will be open and operational on Friday, July 1st. Fond du Lac City buses will not operate on the 4th of July. The City of Fond du Lac Police and Fire Departments will be fully operational throughout the holiday period. Refuse normally collected on Monday, July 4th will be picked up on Tuesday, July 5th along with the regular Tuesday collection. The pick-up schedule for the rest of the week is unchanged. Municipal swimming pools will close at 4:00 PM on July 4th. The fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day will be held at Lakeside Park beginning at 9:15 PM on the 4th of July with a rain date of the 5th of July. The fireworks have been provided by Festival Foods.
- 6-30-11 aaa predicts fewer travelers for 4th of july holiday**
- AAA forecasts 39 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home during the July 4th holiday...a 2.5 percent decline from a year ago. State Triple As spokesperson Pam Mben says in Wisconsin 826,000 people are expected to travel during the holiday a 2.8 percent decrease. Mben says the survey found that

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56 percent of residents said high gas prices would not impact their travel plans. Mben says while the average travel distance is down, the median spending is projected to be up. Travelers in Wisconsin will find gas prices averaging \$3.65 a gallon or 89 cents more than a year ago.

#### 6-30-11 waupun blood drive

Area residents are invited to join Waupun Memorial hospital employees, volunteers and physicians in donating blood. The Waupun Memorial Hospital blood drive will be held in the lower level meeting room from 12:30 to 4:30 pm Thursday July 7th. The Blood Center of Wisconsin is experiencing an acute need for A positive, O positive and O negative donors. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 324-6512.

#### 6-30-11 hospice cancer care charity open chairpersons

Gary and Linda Ott have been named the senior chairpersons for the 23rd annual Hospice Hope Cancer Care Charity Open. Doctor Doug and Diane Fownes are the junior chairs. The event is scheduled for Monday August 22nd at the South Hills Golf and Country Club in Fond du lac. The charity golf outing has raised more than \$2.7 million over the past 22 years. All of the proceeds go to the patients and families in need of hospice or cancer care.

#### 6-30-11 johnson street bridge

The Department of Public Works would like to give notice that the south (east bound) traffic lane and sidewalk of the Johnson Street (STH 23) Bridge, between Military Road and Hickory Street, will be closed for about 2 weeks beginning June 27th. The lane closure is due to bridge painting. In about two weeks the south lane will be re-opened and the north outside lane will be closed while that railing is repainted. The bridge will be open to traffic with two lanes open in one direction and one lane open in the other direction next to the painting operation. There will not be a detour route marked.

#### 6-30-11 wfdl, wtcx are wba award winners!

WFDL and WTCX captured 13 awards at the recent Wisconsin Association of Broadcasters Awards for Excellence Gala in Madison. The program is sponsored annually by the WBA to recognize outstanding achievement by Wisconsin broadcasters. The Sunny 97.7 WFDL morning show team of Nick Rusch and Heather Robins took home 3rd place for **Best Morning Show**. WFDL FM also received two awards in the **Significant Community Impact** category for the Relay for Life cancer fundraiser. Golden throat veteran WTCX announcer Gregg Owens captured first place for **Best Commercial** with the "Bob's 151 Wheel of Misfortune" commercial. Owens also won awards for **Best On-Site Broadcast Remote**... "Master Spas Wet Test" and **Most Entertaining Client Commercial**... "Its Cold." Owens is also a past winner in the **Best Morning Show** category. WFDL AM 1170 received awards for **Best Sports Play by Play**... the "Randolph Football Playoffs" and **Significant Community Impact**... "Cut the Calories, Count the Cash." WFDL news director, Greg Stensland, won first place in the **Best Continuing Coverage** category for his coverage of a Fond du lac woman who tried unsuccessfully to have several books removed from a middle school library. Stensland also received awards in **Hard News** for his coverage of a Fond du lac police officer and firefighter involved in a hit and run and attempted cover-up of the incident, **Spot News**... for the Last Stop Bar and Lanes arson fire, **News Writing**... for a feature story on a local woman in Haiti during the massive earthquake, and **Live On The Scene Reporting**, for his coverage of a house fire. Stensland and Owens also took home first place for their **Information Block Morning News** on WTCX. The WBA competition was established to encourage the highest standards of reporting, community service and production creativity.

#### 6-30-11 wfdl news wins big at associated press awards banquet

Sunny 97.7 WFDL news has won more awards this year for excellence in broadcast journalism than any other radio station in the state. News Director, Greg Stensland, received eight first place awards at the Wisconsin Associated Press Broadcast Journalism Excellence Awards Banquet. The awards dinner was held recently at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. For the fourth year in a row Stensland took home first place for **Best Newscast**. Stensland also received first place in the **Hard News** category for his coverage of the Fond du Lac police officer and firefighter involved in a hit and run crash and subsequent cover up. Stensland received first place for **Spot News** for his stories on the fire that destroyed a Fond du Lac bowling alley, first place in the **Best Enterprise Reporting** category for his investigative reporting of the Fond du Lac police officer accused of using excessive force on a handcuffed prisoner, first place for **Best Continuing Coverage** for overall coverage of the Fond du Lac Management Information Systems embezzlement scandal, first place in **Best Series Reporting** for a Sunny 97.7 series on drunken driving, first place for **Best Feature** for a story on the Iraq war, and first place for **Best Audio** for a feature story on grease fires. Over the years Stensland has received more than 80 awards from the AP and Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, plus numerous local awards.

#### 6-30-11 fdl county sheriff's department law of the month

Slower traffic keep right - Drivers must allow faster traffic to pass in the left lane on divided highways. Many divided highways in Wisconsin have signs that warn "slower traffic keep right." That advice is backed by state law - Wis. Stats. 346.05(3). Any vehicle traveling "at less than the normal speed of traffic" must be driven in the right lane (or as close as practicable) except when overtaking or passing another vehicle, according to Wisconsin law. A citation for violating this law costs \$213.10 with four demerit points assessed on the driver's license. Even when you're driving at the posted speed limit, you should not try to force faster drivers to slow down by blocking the left lane, which usually leads to more tailgating, road rage and other problems. It certainly doesn't slow down other drivers for long. We hope that drivers will leave enforcement of speed limits to our deputies and other law enforcement officers. If faster drivers want to waste gasoline and risk a speeding ticket, you should move to the right lane and get out of their way. The Sheriff's Office advises motorists to follow these guidelines to help maintain a safe flow of traffic on Interstate and other divided highways:

- \* If you're not passing another vehicle, use the right lane as much as possible.
- \* If you're in the right lane, allow other drivers to merge from the left lane into the right lane so that faster traffic can pass in the left lane. In addition, provide space for vehicles to merge into the right lane when they are entering a roadway from an on-ramp.
- \* If you're in the left lane, don't tailgate or try to make a slower vehicle ahead of you move to the right lane. Be patient and courteous.

When slower moving vehicles use the right lane, traffic flows more smoothly with less congestion and road rage, which certainly helps make our highways safer and more efficient. Have a Safe Month,

**6-30-11 fdl police department law of the month**

For June, officers from the Fond du Lac Police Department will be paying particular attention to drivers who are texting. The new state law that took effect on December 1, 2010 falls under the inattentive driving statute. Research from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has shown drivers who send and receive text messages end up taking their eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds out of every 6 seconds while texting. Of all fatal traffic accidents in 2008, the U.S. DOT reported 16 percent involved distracted drivers and nearly 6,000 people were killed. Wisconsin state statute 346.89(3)(a) states that, no person may drive any motor vehicle while composing or sending an electronic text message or an electronic mail message. This does not include when the vehicle is stopped, including when a vehicle is stopped at a traffic light, stop sign or in traffic due to congestion. The texting ban is only enforceable when the vehicle is in motion. The fine for texting while driving starts at \$101.40. This does not apply to an operator of an authorized emergency vehicle. The use of any device whose primary function is transmitting and receiving emergency alert messages and messages related to the operation of the vehicle or an accessory that is included in the vehicle, including a global positioning system device. An amateur radio operator who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license issued by the federal communications commission, when he or she is using dedicated amateur radio two way radio communication equipment and observing proper amateur radio operating procedures. The use of a voice operated or hands free device, if the driver of the motor vehicle does not use his or her hands to operate the device, except to activate or deactivate a feature or function of the device. Texting while driving is a primary law, which means officers, can pull over drivers solely for texting without having to identify another violation first, such as speeding or a lane violation. Even though the law does not ban reading messages or using the internet while driving a motor vehicle, these activities can be just as dangerous and should be avoided while driving. So, even though it may only take a few seconds to send that text, remember that it can wait!



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