



The GAD Report



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Special points of interest:

- Controversial Driveway Ordinance Stopped
- RANWW Hosts Candidate Interviews
- Vote, Act, Invest
- Wood's Legal Troubles Nearing An End
- Pinch Your Nose and Gulp Hard

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Controversial Driveway Ordinance On Hold

An ordinance that passed the Altoona city council last year that would require changes to the size and scope of some driveways in the city didn't draw a lot of attention.

Until the notices went out.

Numerous complaints from property owners, many of whom are senior citizens on fixed incomes and who have homes in the oldest part of the city.

The ordinance was intended to limit the number of vehicles that are parked in a yard, many

of those vehicles parked on grassy surfaces.

Another intent of the ordinance is to reduce the runoff from properties that have larger driveways. The city recently received over three million dollars in federal stimulus funds to update and upgrade their stormwater retention system.

Specifics of the ordinance state that properties that do not meet standards will be required to have a parking plan for their driveway drawn to scale to highlight improvements,

those without sufficient space in their driveway have five years to meet the ordinance.

Homes that have too much space are grandfathered, but if 50% of the driveway is determined to be in disrepair, the property owner must remove the failed part of the driveway.

The city council unanimously decided to revisit the ordinance before any additional notices are sent. The city had targeted 278 property owners for review and renovation to meet the new code.

RANWW Hosts Candidate Interviews

RANWW will host candidates for the 67th Assembly seat on September 22nd in the association's new education and conference center.

Candidates that have been invited include Independent candidate

Thomas Lange, Democratic candidate C.W. King (no relation to RANWW GAD Bruce King), and the GOP winner of the September 14th primary.

In addition, the association will host interviews

for the 7th Congressional District, invited candidates include Democrat Julie Lassa and Republican Sean Duffy.

Interviews will assist WRA in making endorsement decisions.



"The primary election is Tuesday, September 14th. What do you know about the candidates on the ballot?"

Convio Migration, Whitelisting of Mail Servers

Beginning this summer, NAR is moving a portion of their member messages to a new mail system, this system also allows your association to communicate with all of you thru the GetActive platform that has been in use for the last three years.

With the conversion from GetActive to Convio, this new system will give us more tools to more effectively communicate with all of you, but there will be a couple of step you will

have to do in order for this to work.

All broker, real estate and our association office will need to have Convio mail servers whitelisted as soon as possible, either yourself, or if you have an IT person or company, have them do it. Next, make sure messages from the Realtors® Association of Northwestern Wisconsin are added to your Windows Office safe sender list.

If your mail system is ca-

pable of whitelisting messages issued From a specific domain, then the following two domains should be provided to the person handling your mail server.

cluster2.convio.net and cluster3.convio.net

All offices will be provided with a two page document from Convio regarding these changes on Tuesday, September 7th.

Wood's Legal Trouble Should End In September

State Representative Jeff Wood (I)-Chippewa Falls is scheduled to appear in both Marathon and Monroe counties in September to answer charges and in one case, enter a plea to fourth offense drunk driving.

As of a few weeks ago, Wood was represented by Tracey Wood of Madison.

Jeff and Tracey are not related, however, attorney Wood has asked a Monroe county judge to be removed as Jeff Wood's attorney, which was granted.

In June, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel published a story that said Wood had reached a plea deal in the Monroe case, the

paper citing online records and the county district attorney's office.

In Marathon county, Wood is charged with operating under the influence of prescription drugs and inattentive driving, a hearing is set for September 3rd on those charges in Wausau.

Vote, Act, Invest: Have YOU Invested In RPAC?

This year marks a level of political turbulence that we have not seen in American politics in quite some time.

We will elect a new Governor, new Lt. Governor, an Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, all 99 members of the Assembly and half of the state Senate, we will elect one U.S. Senator

and all the members of the Wisconsin delegation to the House of Representatives.

In Wisconsin, we have had a very successful two years with a high percentage of bills passed that were real estate friendly, and many more that we worked to fix before votes were taken.

This success would not

have been possible if members like you didn't step up with your Direct Giver dollars and help to elect real estate friendly members of both parties to the Legislature.

If you have not made your Direct Giver investment for the year, please do so right now, contact Bruce at 715-828-1976 or bruce@ranww.org.

News Flash!

There could be changes coming in the City of Rice Lake. For years, no make that decades, the "City Engineer" has been a representative from Cooper Engineering. For years, no make that decades, allegations of "conflict of interest" have been raised over this arrangement. This arrangement has always been defended by the "that's the way it's always been done" argument.

Now the Rice Lake Chronotype reports that District Attorney Angela

Beranek has sent a letter to City Engineer Bruce Markgren advising him of the state's conflict of interest laws. This is fascinating reading for the politically inclined. [\(READ HERE\)](#)

It's Election Time!

There is a Primary Election on September 14 and candidates across the state want your vote. They need your vote.

If you feel the country and state are headed on the right track you are needed to help elect candidates who will continue the policies of the present admini-

strations. Very simple.

If you feel the country and state are headed on the wrong track you are needed to help elect candidates who oppose the current policies being pursued by the present administrations. Very simple.

The choice is yours and there are very clear differences of opinion to choose from.

Either way ... VOTE!

If you have any questions about the candidates or election process do not hesitate to contact me.

September 14th Is At Hand

The primary election is almost at hand, and there will be races within the association's area that those of you who live there should be aware of.

Three races that have drawn quite a bit of interest are the open seat in the 67th Assembly district, where Jeff Wood is stepping down, a primary will narrow the GOP field from six to one, next district

north in the open 75th Assembly seat being vacated by Mary Hubler, four candidates on the Republican side will be narrowed to one.

Farther north in the 74th, the seat is open due to Gary Sherman leaving to take a state judgeship, two Democrats will vie for the right to meet Republican Shirl Labarre in November. The 93rd Assem-

bly district will also have three Republicans meeting on September 14th to determine who will go against Representative Jeff Smith in November.

If you live in these districts, ask yourself a question: What do I know about these candidates?

If you don't know, you've got about two weeks to do your homework.

"Have you
invested in your
real estate
business? Have
you invested in
RPAC?"

Getting What You Pay For

Here's a question for you.
Are you getting what you pay for?

If you are using all the tools in the collective toolboxes of NAR, WRA and RANWW, you are!

Spend a few minutes going thru the websites, fa-

miliarize yourself with all three and make a checklist of things you didn't know were there from the last time you were on each site, then find the member benefits from each organization and see what benefits you can use, then share that infor-

mation with others in your office. Be sure to take advantage of every member benefit from each organization.

After all, these benefits are for you, shouldn't you be using them?





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The indispensable
resource for real estate in
northwestern Wisconsin

WWW.RANWW.ORG

The REALTORS® Association of Northwestern Wisconsin is the largest association in terms of area, stretching from Lake Pepin to the south all the way to near Cable in Bayfield County to the north. We are the fourth largest of the 24 associations in terms of membership. Between Al Arnold and Bruce King, your Association covers 270 units of local government, monitoring a wide variety of issues that can and do affect you. In addition to local government, your GAD's also monitor issues at the state and national level that will have a direct or indirect impact on housing and the industry, as well as legislation that can affect the consumer. The GAD's work with member volunteers to raise investment dollars for RPAC that helps to support elected officials that support your business. RANWW is one of only three REALTOR® Association's in Wisconsin that has their own PAC, which was started 31 years ago to support candidates on the local and state level.



Pinch Your Nose & Gulp Hard

(The following is an opinion by Bruce King, GAD of RANWW. It does not necessarily represent the opinion of staff, RANWW Board of Directors or individual members)

Every election cycle, many of you are asked to give your Direct Giver dollars to a candidate that is supported either by RANWW, or WRA. Many times, that candidate is an incumbent, and many more times, that person is from the opposite political view or party, or ideology as you.

Which begs the question:

Why should I give money to a politician who's party I don't agree with?

It comes down to several things. First is that person's voting record is he or she is already elected.

Clearly, if the incumbent has a poor voting record, chances of WRA supporting them are less than someone with the 100 percent or 80 percent record. Next, is the elected official willing to work with WRA and its members to craft and pass real estate and consumer friendly legislation.

Same goes for newbies

that are running in open seats. WRA and the GAD's (where applicable) will be interviewing candidates for open seats, and asking them these questions to determine who to recommend for your consideration on November 2nd.

That also means asking those of you who are Republicans to support a Democrat and visa-versa. It doesn't mean asking you to change your personal beliefs, it means supporting legislators who support your business and your customers.