



Edition 1, Jan. 2025

At the Municipal Level...



Reedsburg - The City of Reedsburg received a sizable growth in residential units in 2024. In the past year, the City saw or currently sees the construction of 33 single and two-family houses, which includes 12 townhouses and 11 workforce housing duplexes. As part of the workforce housing development, there are 32 additional apartment units that the city assisted the developer with through tax increment financing.

The City purchased several acres of vacant infill land in 2023. That area is intended for a 55+ population that will consist of apartments, duplexes, and townhomes as well as accessory recreational amenities. The first six duplexes are complete along with near completion of the 56-unit apartment building. Phase 2 of the duplex construction is planned to start in December.

A 48-unit apartment building is currently under construction on Viking Dr. This is the third of the three planned buildings and will open in 2025. The former South School continues its transformation by renovating the previous classrooms into apartments. There are at least eight apartments in use today.



Spring Green - The River Valley Housing Coalition is using the information in its regional housing report to continue to support municipalities and others in the area. Upcoming projects for the Coalition include:

1. Mapping available land and vacant houses/buildings. This map will then be available online for interested parties.
2. Holding monthly educational opportunities to learn from others who have implemented specific strategies of interest to the Coalition. This project is generously supported by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.
3. Collaborating with area libraries to share more information about the Coalition, the report, and upcoming initiatives.
4. Delving into the survey data from the report to learn more about the needs of specific target populations.
5. Securing additional funding to support the coordination of the coalition.

To foster community engagement and keep residents informed, we invite all municipalities to contribute housing updates for all upcoming newsletters. This is an opportunity for you to highlight the latest developments, initiatives, and successes in your area, ensuring that your community's voice is heard and celebrated. If you have news or updates to share, we encourage you to reach out to Jodie.molitor@saukcountywi.gov. Your insights not only enrich our newsletter

Attend the Juneau County Rural Roundtable - Jan. 7

A learning and networking space for municipality leaders focused on Housing.

Questions: abasel@juneaucountywi.gov 608-847-9373



Creative Funding

Presenter: Russell Kaney-WI-CARH, 21st Century Communities
Location: Services Building Room 209 (200 S. Hickory St. Mauston)
Time: 9-10:30am

- ✓ Where do you look
- ✓ Common Funding Streams
- ✓ Examples of Creative Use
- ✓ Community Share Out

Making the Case for Housing as Healthcare: A Fireside Chat

Making the Case for Housing as Healthcare: A Fireside Chat
Wednesday, January 15
10:00 a.m. PT / 1:00 p.m. ET

Emily Bentler, Senior Advisor, HealthBegins, Associate Professor of Clinical Law, George Washington University
Michael Santos, RESULTS Educational Fund, Chair, ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty
Rishi Manchanda, MD, MPH, CEO, HealthBegins
Maria Corneil, Community Health Consultant, Kaiser Permanente
Bethany Hamilton, Director of NCMLP at the Milken Institute School of Public Health
Eliza Carina, Supervising Attorney, Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County

Wednesday, January 15, 10:00 a.m. PT / 1:00 p.m. ET

[Register Here](#)

With millions of households still struggling with the high costs of housing and healthcare as we start 2025, the **ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty**, **HealthBegins**, **National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership**, and **RESULTS Educational Fund** are co-hosting a conversation to examine 1) the undeniable link between housing stability and health and 2) how the healthcare system can address housing precarity, prevent homelessness, and improve health outcomes of whole communities.

This webinar will provide an overview of how medical-legal partnerships work and their impact on housing and healthcare policy in the communities they serve. Attendees will learn about lessons, successes, and key data on health and housing outcomes using as a case study Kaiser Permanente's Health, Housing, and Justice: Medical-Legal Partnership Initiative. Panelists will discuss opportunities for future advocacy, with a spotlight on related broader federal, state, and local policy interventions advocates, lawmakers, and other relevant stakeholders should know.

WHEDA Awards Housing Grant in Sauk County



The 2024 WHEDA Foundation Grant awards were made recently, on December 19th. Grant funds were made available through the annual Housing Grant Program competition. Pathway Home of South Central Wisconsin, Inc., located in Baraboo received \$44,281 for rehabilitation of space to increase client capacity, ADA accessibility, private meeting space and storage. **Read the entire article here.**



Reduce Minimum Lot and Dwelling Unit Size Restrictions

An effective way for local policymakers to begin eliminating zoning barriers to more housing choice and supply and, in the process, help address affordability issues, is to reduce lot size, lot coverage, and setback standards, while allowing smaller homes to be built.

[Read More Here](#)

Watch the More Housing WI interview HERE with Katie Bannon, Zoning Administrator for Madison, as she further explains how to eliminate zoning barriers.

WI Housing Updates

DHS Announces Innovative Medicaid Housing Benefit

Starting February 1, 2025, Wisconsin will launch a new initiative to provide housing support services to Wisconsin Medicaid members experiencing housing insecurity who are also affected by substance use or mental health conditions. Wisconsin is one of the first states in the country to use housing solutions funded through Medicaid to achieve improved health outcomes for members.

"This new program offers a support system grounded in the stability, dignity, and well-being that secure housing can provide," said Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Kirsten Johnson. "For people who are struggling with substance use or mental health challenges, having a place they can call home can significantly improve their overall health and quality of life." View the entire [news release](#).

WI Launches Home Energy Rebate Programs

Rebates for low- and moderate-income households will help save energy and money when switching to energy-efficient home upgrades and appliances

HOMES Program: \$74.8 million was made available to support whole-home energy efficiency improvements, including insulation, air sealing, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrades. All Wisconsin households are eligible. More info is available [here](#).

HEAR Program: In 2025, rebates will be available for insulation and air sealing that require contractor installation. Customers will also receive instant rebates for appliances, such as electric clothes dryers, electric stoves, and insulation bought at stores or through a contractor. More info available [here](#).

HOMES and HEAR rebates are administered by Focus on Energy, WI's statewide energy efficiency program. To learn more visit the Residential Rebate Finder at FocusonEnergy.com/get-started.

We invite you to become a vital part of our collaborative effort to address the pressing issue of housing supply in Sauk County. Join the Sauk County Housing Action Team, where passionate individuals come together to brainstorm innovative solutions and share insights. Our meetings are held virtually on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month at 1 pm, beginning on January 21st, providing an accessible platform for everyone to contribute their ideas and expertise. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on our community's housing landscape, fostering a brighter future for all residents. Please contact jodie.molitor@saukcountywi.gov for the meeting link.



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