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Equalized property values increase 7% in Vilas, 4% in Oneida: state report

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH
NEWS-REVIEW EDITOR

The current market value of taxable property in the North Woods has increased for the eighth consecutive year, according to a report from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR).

Figures based on actual sales in 2020 show property values increased 7% in Vilas County and 4% in Oneida County. The report also shows the property tax base in Forest County increased 4%.

Following a five-year decline from 2009 to '14, the DOR report shows the current market value of all taxable property in Wisconsin as a whole rose for the seventh consecutive year, rising 7% in 2020 to \$654 billion.

"While the statewide commercial market value increase of 2% lagged the 2020 market value increase, the residential market value experienced a robust increase of 7%," said DOR Secretary Peter Barca. "In total, this represents the largest amount of market value increase on record. The current housing boom, along with behavior changes due to the pandemic, is likely driving those market value changes."

In 2009, the North Woods marked the first decline in equalized property values since 1992. Last year, based on actual sales in 2019, values increased 2% in Vilas County and 3% in Oneida. Values increased 3% in Forest County last year.

Values here have shown slight gains each year since

2014 until the larger jump this year. Vilas and Oneida counties witnessed double-digit property value increases in the late 1990s and early 2000s fueled by hikes in residential values, which represent more than 90% of the property tax base in most towns here.

As of Jan. 1, 2021, Vilas County property was valued at \$7.883 billion, Oneida County at \$7.797 billion and Forest County at \$1.259 billion.

Vilas had \$62 million in new construction, a 1% increase. Oneida County had \$72.9 million in new construction, an increase of 1%. Forest County had \$10.1 million in new construction, also a 1% increase.

Local variations
As is the case every year,

equalized values change at a different rate in the various communities here, and sometimes for differing reasons.

Equalized values increased in all 15 municipalities in Vilas County and 18 of 21 municipalities in Oneida County. Oneida County municipalities seeing equalized values that dropped included Lake Tomahawk and Pelican both at -1%, and Newbold at -2%.

Four municipalities in Vilas County saw a 9% gain in value, including Lac du Flambeau, Land O' Lakes, Lincoln and Winchester. Conover saw an 8% gain. Seven percent gains were calculated for Washington and the city of Eagle River, and 6% gains were recorded

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Changes in equalized values



VILAS COUNTY				
Municipality	2020 Equalized Value	2021 Equalized Value	\$ Change + or -	% Change in Value
Arbor Vitae	594,867,000	632,056,600	+ 37,189,600	+ 6
Boulder Junction	503,965,900	529,766,900	+ 25,801,000	+ 5
Cloverland	273,134,400	286,529,900	+ 13,388,500	+ 5
Conover	399,012,200	431,706,200	+ 32,694,000	+ 8
Lac du Flambeau	938,176,700	1,024,278,600	+ 86,101,900	+ 9
Land O' Lakes	454,458,200	493,789,700	+ 39,331,500	+ 9
Lincoln	588,637,500	640,808,600	+ 52,171,100	+ 9
Manitowish Waters	585,636,800	613,238,700	+ 27,601,900	+ 5
Phelps	414,875,100	437,218,800	+ 22,343,700	+ 5
Plum Lake	284,275,200	296,383,400	+ 12,108,200	+ 4
Presque Isle	574,586,300	608,543,400	+ 33,957,100	+ 6
St. Germain	720,290,700	740,557,400	+ 20,266,700	+ 3
Washington	588,082,000	631,715,700	+ 43,633,700	+ 7
Winchester	279,197,100	305,485,300	+ 26,288,200	+ 9
Eagle River	198,355,100	211,658,700	+ 13,303,600	+ 7
Vilas Total	7,397,550,200	7,883,730,900	+ 486,180,700	+ 7

Figures from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue Bureau of Equalization



FRIDAY CRASH — Two people were injured in a two-vehicle crash last Friday just before 2 p.m. at the intersection of highways 45 and

17 north of Eagle River. Emergency personnel removed the driver from this vehicle. —Staff Photo By GARY RIDDERBUSCH

Pines board OKs back-to-school plan with masks optional

BY KEN ANDERSON
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The back-to-school plan for the Northland Pines School District was adopted by the school board last week, including a face coverings-optional policy due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students and staff in the Northland Pines School District returned to the classroom today, Sept. 1.

"Our goal is to return to in-person instruction for all students and to stay in session five days a week, create a safe environment for all students and staff, and to keep flexible in case change is needed," District Administrator Scott Foster told the

board. "We will start with face coverings optional and encourage all staff to get vaccinated."

Foster said the sources used in developing the plan included the Vilas County Public Health Department, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, state Health and Social Services departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WIAA, a survey of parents, students and staff, insurance companies and legal opinions.

"For some (students), a

To PINES, Pg. 2A

Sausage Fest, other events set in North this weekend

The busy North Woods summer season draws to a close Labor Day weekend with several community events planned in the area.

The Eagle River Lions Club will host its annual Sausage Fest fundraiser Sunday, Sept. 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Riverview Park, serving a variety of sausages and Oktoberfest-style beers.

Sausage Fest also offers music, dancing, raffles and a variety of children's activities provided by the Northwoods Children's Museum.

Meanwhile, an arts and crafts show also will be held this Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Eagle River, featuring many area crafters as well as artists from the North Woods and beyond.

Concurrently with the arts and crafts show, downtown Eagle River merchants will host a sidewalk sale featuring a variety of indoor

and outdoor bargains.

More information is available by calling the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 479-6400 or 1-(800) 359-6315, or by visiting eagleriver.org.

Additionally on Labor Day weekend, the Eagle River Sports Arena will be home to the Eagle River Gun Show slated for Friday through Sunday, Sept. 3-5.

Gun shop owners and collectors will be buying and selling firearms, ammo, knives and sporting collectibles. Show hours are from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

The Eagle River Ice Arena is located at 4149 Highway 70 E.

More information on the Eagle River Gun Show is available by calling (608) 751-6678.

In Three Lakes, the To EVENTS, Pg. 4A



SHINE IT UP — A car owner at the Eagle River Car and Truck Show in downtown Eagle River last Saturday polished his restored

custom truck. The show attracted several thousand automobile enthusiasts to the area. —Photo By Theresa Tomasoski