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Home sales slide as median price appreciation moderates

According to latest data from Wisconsin REALTORS Association

The Wisconsin REALTORS Association recently released its March 2025 Wisconsin Real Estate Report today, revealing a double-digit decrease in existing home sales of 10.2% compared to March 2024.

Inventory supply remains well below what would be considered a balanced market, and the median price of homes rose to \$300,500 in the first quarter of the year compared to the same period in 2024.

However, affordability has improved after a re-benchmarking of statewide median family income data showed positive growth. As a result, the Wisconsin Housing Affordability Index increased by 7.2%.

Wisconsin REALTORS

Association' 2025 Chair of the Board of Directors, Chris DeVincentis, highlighted the movement toward affordability for potential homeowners.

"The moderating price appreciation, income growth and slight improvement in mortgage rates really helped on the affordability front," he said.

"This is a good sign as we move into the peak season for sales. The ongoing challenge is the weak inventory levels that constrain home sales growth," DeVincentis added.

Tom Larson, President & CEO of the WRA, commented on the return of buyers to the market.

"When mortgage rates first tapped 5% almost three years ago some buyers stepped back from the market, hoping rates would improve," he said.

"Now that 30-year rates have been in the 6% to 7% range for most of the last

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While real estate inventory supply remains well below what would be considered a balanced market, and the median price of homes rose in the first quarter of the year compared to 2024, affordability has improved. As a result, the Wisconsin Housing Affordability Index increased by 7.2%, the state realtors' association reports.

STOCK PHOTO Homes and Design

two years, there are signs that buyers are treating this as the new normal," Larson said. "That bodes well for solid buyer demand going into the peak sales period."

David Clark, Professor Emeritus of Economics and WRA Consultant, reminds that tariffs may affect the market.

"The Fed is closely monitoring inflation as it considers future rate cuts to stimulate the economy. While the March inflation figures suggest progress on inflation – with core CPI inflation dropping to 2.8%, which is its lowest level since March 2021 – those numbers were released before widespread tariffs were imposed in early April," Clark explained.

"The Fed recently acknowledged that tariffs can be inflationary, and it may need to delay cuts in short-term rates – which would be warranted if recession risks increase – to counter those inflationary pressures," he added.

Report highlights

• Existing home sales fell by double digits in March as inventories remained tight. Wisconsin home sales fell 10.2% compared to solid sales in March 2024. The median price rose 3.7% over the past 12 months to \$310,000, but this is only about a third of the pace of price growth seen in the first two months of the year.

During the first three months of 2025, sales were down slightly, falling 0.8% relative to that same period in 2024. The

median price rose 7.3% to \$300,500 in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the first quarter of 2024.

• Inventory levels remain well below the balanced market benchmark of six months of

available supply, with March inventory at 3.2 months, which is unchanged from March 2024. Total listings were relatively flat over the last 12 months, rising just 0.6% in March, whereas new listings fell 1.3% compared to March 2024.

An annual re-benchmarking of statewide median family income data by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development revealed more income growth over the past 12 months than was earlier estimated. Wisconsin median family income rose 7.7% between March 2024 and March 2025. This, combined with moderating price appreciation and a slight improvement in mortgage rates – specifically, a 17 basis point drop in the 30-year fixed mortgage rate to 6.65% in March – helped improve statewide housing affordability.

• The Wisconsin Housing Affordability Index measures the portion of the median-priced home that a typical buyer with median family income qualifies to purchase, assuming a 20% down payment, and the remaining balance financed using a 30-year fixed mortgage at current rates. The index rose 7.2% to 134 in March 2025.

For more information, visit wra.org.

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Dethatching your lawn has numerous benefits. But if you're not sure what dethatching is or how to do it, you may be wondering if it's really worth all the effort.

To shed light on dethatching, lawn care equipment manufacturer, Exmark is answering some frequently asked questions.

What is thatch?

Thatch is a compacted layer of grass and plant stems, leaves, roots, and other organic debris that builds up faster than it can decompose. It accumulates right below the surface of your lawn and right on top of the soil, at the base of your grasses' blades.

Overly thick thatch blocks water and fertilizer from reaching the grasses' roots, causing them to be trapped and vulnerable to heat, drought and stress – further stunting your lawn's health and growth.

However, thatch isn't always a bad thing – a layer that's less than a quarter-inch thick is normal and isn't cause for alarm. It actually helps reduce soil compaction and water loss through evaporation, and it increases tolerance for cold and heat by protecting the growing blades.

When should you dethatch your lawn?

For warm-season grasses, it's best to dethatch in the late spring or early summer,

and for cool-season grasses it's best to do it in early spring or fall.

But before you start dethatching, mow your lawn to half its normal height to avoid tearing up any live grass in the process. Then, take out your rake or dethatcher and remove the thatch.

How do you dethatch?

The process of dethatching is simple. You can purchase a specialized rake, but in a pinch, a regular rake will do. You can also rent a dethatcher to make the job even easier.

Your lawn might look a bit ragged afterwards, so you'll need to go over it again – this time just barely skimming the top of your lawn to remove all the loose debris that you just dug up.

But before you start, call up your local utility company and have them mark any buried lines to avoid unwanted surprises.

what are the benefits of dethatching the lawn?

The time and effort that it takes to remove thatch pays huge dividends. Primarily, it exposes your soil to warmth and sunlight, helping carbon dioxide and key nutrients reach your grasses' roots, resulting in deeper growth.

It also encourages the effectiveness of

fertilizers and reduces water pooling on the surface of your yard by facilitating drainage.

And, it helps fight back against invasive weeds that thrive in conditions created by a heavy thatch layer. Best of all, it promotes an overall healthier, greener lawn.

For more insights, watch "The Benefits of Dethatching," an episode of "Backyard Smart," an original series from lawn care equipment manufacturer, Exmark.

To watch the video, visit https:// backyard.exmark.com – which is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners improve their outdoor living spaces. There you can also download additional tips and view other Exmark Original Series videos.

Now that you have the lowdown on dethatching, it's time to get outside and free up your soil. Your lawn will thank you later.

(STATEPOINT)

While it's not all bad, overly thick thatch blocks water and fertilizer from reaching the grasses' roots, causing them to be trapped and vulnerable to heat, drought and stress – further stunting your lawn's health and growth. Dethatching can be performed with a manual or powered rake, or a rotary broom.

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Tips to tackle challenging paint projects

Some do-it-yourself projects are easier than others. Painting tricky areas like windows, curves, corners, murals and more might intimidate some painters, but don't let difficulty deter you from transforming your home into a space you love.

DIYers of all skill levels can complete tough paint projects with a few useful tips and the right tools.

Challenge 1: Windows

When facing any difficult painting project, like windows, preparation is critical. First, clean the wood trim with warm, soapy water and a cloth or sponge.

For wooden windows that will require paint application near the glass, don't forget to wipe the windowpanes with a glass cleaner. Buildup on these surfaces can prevent painter's tape from bonding to the surface, leaving room around the edges for paint to seep through and creating unnecessary cleanup post-painting.

Once the surface is prepped, line each

windowpane and the trim with painter's tape, overlapping the edges in each corner for the tightest seal.

Challenge 2: Curves and Edges

A good multi-surface painter's tape can help DIYers achieve professional results for most paint projects, but when it comes to unusual contours, it's worth investing in a conformable painter's tape, like FrogTape Advanced. Made with thin but strong washi paper backing, the green tape lies flat while conforming to curved areas, like around light fixtures, mantels, molding and fireplaces. It's also treated with exclusive PaintBlock Technology to seal tape edges for clean, sharp paint lines.

Challenge 3: Corners and Trim

When painting a wall or ceiling, it's not always easy to prevent paint bleed in the corners where adjacent walls or trim meet. Properly applying painter's tape can simplify the task.

For the ceiling, apply tape to the wall around the perimeter of the room, keeping the tape flush with the line where the two areas meet, and overlap the tape in the corners. A similar process can be followed when painting wood trim.

When the project is complete, remove the tape slowly at a 45-degree angle while the paint is still wet for best results.

Challenge 4: Murals

Recent consumer research conducted by FrogTape discovered that one of the most popular painting trends for DIYers is nature-inspired faux wallpaper.

While more than half of people prefer painting a mural over applying wallpaper, 36% still say "not feeling confident in painting skills" is holding them back from trying this project.

Experienced painters may be confident enough to freehand a design, but those who are newer to the task can rely on painter's tape or stencils to bring their vision to life. Stencils can be used as a guide to create floral or leaf patterns, or DIYers can sketch the shapes and tape them off with painter's tape to keep outlines crisply defined.

Painting is one of the most rewarding DIY projects, but don't make it harder than it has to be. These tips can help simplify your next paint project, no matter how complicated it might seem.

(STATEPOINT)

When it comes to painting tricky areas like windows, curves, corners, murals and more, it's easy to be intimidated. But don't let difficulty deter you from transforming your home into a space you love because people of all skill levels can complete tough paint projects with a few useful tips and the right tools.

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In addition to being more popular, there are many benefits

Homeowners know there's no shortage of ways to tweak a property. Some homeowners may lament that the work associated with home ownership is never done, but owning a house also provide endless opportunities to upgrade the spaces people call home.

Landscape lighting has become increasingly popular in recent years. That popularity is undoubtedly due to a number of variables, and each highlights a benefit of installing landscape lighting around a property.

Affordability

Some may think of big budget projects like kitchen remodels or room additions when pondering home renovations. Such projects can have a dramatic impact on the look and feel of a home, but landscape lighting can be equally transformative at a fraction of the cost of larger undertakings.

The home renovation experts at Angi. com estimate the average landscape lighting project costs around \$4,000, making affordability a notable benefit of the project. **ADDeaPance**

There's no denying the aesthetic appeal

of a well-lit landscape at night. Landscape lighting can be utilized to draw attention to awe-inspiring components of a landscape. That includes natural features like gardens and foliage as well as manmade components like architectural features.

Improved appearance can increase curb appeal, which is often associated with how a home looks during daylight hours. But photographs of a well-lit nighttime landscape can impress buyers as well.

Cost savings

Landscape lighting might help homeowners reduce the cost of their homeowners insurance. Researchers at PolicyGenius.com found that insurance companies typically offer a discount of 2 to 5 percent to homeowners who install a home security system.

Insurance providers may offer additional savings to homeowners who pair such systems with landscape lighting, which can be a deterrent to burglars who prefer to operate under a cloak of darkness.

safety

Insurance firms may discount premiums because of landscape lighting because they view it as a deterrent to potential criminals.

But landscape lighting also makes moving around a property at night safer for residents and guests. Lighting can be used to illuminate walkways, outdoor living rooms, patios around pools, and other areas where residents and guests will be walking at night, which can reduce the risk of falls and injuries that may result from such spills.

Return on investment (ROI)

Savvy homeowners consider a renovation's return on investment before deciding to go forward with a project.

Studies vary, but the National Association of Realtors indicates landscape lighting can recoup as much as 70 percent of homeowners' investment in the project at resale.

When viewed through the lens of ROI, the cost of installing landscape lighting is even less.

Landscape lighting adds notable aesthetic appeal to a home at a fraction of the cost of other renovation projects. The benefits such lighting provides make the project one every homeowner can consider. (METRO CREATIVE)

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on investment. METRO CREATIVE PHOTO Homes and Design

Landscape lighting has become increasingly

popular in recent years. That popularity

is due to a number of variables including

appearance, potential cost savings and return



On the garden path Tips on managing ticks and mosquitoes

Summer is synonymous with fun outdoor activities like barbeques, lawn games, hikes. and gardening. But it can also mean unwanted pests like mosquitoes and ticks. Employing a few preventative strategies can help minimize the annoyance and reduce the risk of tickand mosquito-borne diseases.



By **MELINDA MYERS** Contributor

Start by creating a landscape less inviting to mosquitoes and ticks. Reduce mosquitoes' daytime resting spaces by keeping your garden weeded. Removing weeds and managing neglected garden spaces will make your landscape less inviting to these pests.

Evaluate drainage patterns in your landscape. Improve drainage by amending the soil in garden beds with organic matter. Consider adding a rain garden to capture water run-off, putting it to work in a garden filled with flowers for you and pollinators to enjoy. Water collected is these gardens drains within 24 to 36 hours and doesn't provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Drain water from toys, buckets or any object that can hold water. Clear debris from gutters so the water flows freely through the gutter and out the downspout.

Change the water in birdbaths at least once a week. Make it part of your watering routine or install a small pump to keep the water moving, which prevents mosquito breeding.

Toss a Mosquito Dunk (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) in birdbaths, rain barrels and water features. It only kills the larvae of mosquitoes, black flies, and fungus gnats, and won't harm bees, butterflies, birds, pets and people.

Help reduce the tick population by keeping the grass mowed and removing brush, groundcovers, firewood piles, and bird feeders where your family frequents. Consider creating a tick-safe area where your family frequents, and limit time spent in tick-infested areas. Widen pathways, properly prune trees to increase light, exclude deer, and discourage rodents to reduce the risk of exposure. Place children's swing sets away from the woods and cover the soil with woodchip mulch. Eliminate invasive barberry, honeysuckle, and

Time spent outdoors doesn't have to be ruined by ticks and mosquitoes. There are several ways to minimize the insects' annoyance and reduce the risk of diseases associated with them. buckthorn that create a tick-friendly habitat.

Wear light-colored clothing to more easily spot ticks before they move onto your skin. Loose fitting, light-colored clothing is also less attractive to mosquitoes. Wear long pants and tuck them into socks and tuck your shirt into your pants. Ticks often gain access through pant legs or shirttails and crawl up.

Consider spraying your clothing with an insecticide labeled for repelling and killing ticks and mosquitoes. Select an insecticide spray like Summit Green Armor Insect Repellent labeled for use on clothing. Read and follow label directions and let your clothing dry before wearing it.

Remove and check your clothing for ticks anytime you have been outdoors. Showering within two hours of spending time outdoors can greatly reduce your risk of Lyme and possibly other tick-borne diseases. Always conduct a tick check, paying special attention to underarms, belly button, in and around ears, hair, behind knees, and around the waist.

Keep mosquitoes away when hosting a party, gardening, or relaxing outdoors. Use a

fan to create a gentle breeze that keeps weakflying mosquitoes away from you and your guests. Some gardeners even take a small fan into the garden while weeding.

Citronella oil and scented candles have some mosquito-repelling properties. Scatter the candles in outdoor spaces within a few feet where family and friends gather for some short-term relief.

A combination of these strategies will help minimize exposure to these biting insects for better enjoyment of the outdoors this summer.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program.

Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.





Taking steps in advance will help alleviate potential issues

Home renovations can increase resale value and outfit spaces to make them more accommodating to residents.

Homeowners interested in remodeling projects understand that such undertakings are often a lengthy process. But the time spent waiting often is well worth it when the work is done, and the finished product looks just as homeowners imagined.

Depending on the scope and scale of a project, home renovations can take anywhere from a day or two for minor cosmetic changes to nine months for a major project.

The lender RenoFi says projects like remodeling a kitchen or bathroom have a lot of moving parts, including plumbing and electrical work, structural changes, flooring, and installation of appliances. Due to that complexity, such projects may take six to 12 weeks.

A home addition can take months. Homeowners weary of such lengthy undertakings can implement strategies to make conditions at home more manageable.

Know the costs

Get a rough estimate from contractors so that you can budget accordingly. A project will go nowhere without proper funding. Get detailed estimates that include labor and building materials.

Then start saving and stash money away for the project so you're not caught offguard later on.

Clear out clutter

Remove any extraneous items from the room or rooms that will be remodeled.

Although it will be an added expense, it is a good idea to rent a storage unit or have a storage pod placed in the driveway or yard for the duration of the project. Move items that will not be needed into the unit. This will get them out of the way and protect them from damage.

Warm weather start time

Consider starting in warm weather. Contractors will be going in and out of the home each day, and doors and windows may need to be propped open.

Schedule a project during those months when temperatures are more comfortable.

If the project involves limited access to the kitchen to cook, utilizing an outdoor grill or kitchen is much easier when the weather is pleasant.

Home away from home

Depending on the length of the project, consider staying with relatives.

While some people have no issues living in a residence during a renovation, others may find the work simply too inconvenient or distracting to be around.

Time away from the property can help manage stress, and prevent kids, pets and others from getting in the way of work.

Safeguard sensitive items

Take inventory of items in the home and catalog them for insurance purposes. This way you're covered in the case of damage or theft.

Remove documents, like birth certificates, passports, insurance policies, and other private papers, and keep them in a safety deposit box or fireproof safe.

Home renovations may stretch on for weeks or months. However, with adequate preparation, homeowners can see such projects through without facing too much adversity.

(METRO CREATIVE)

Home renovation projects can take anywhere from a couple of days to several months. Homeowners weary of lengthy undertakings can implement strategies to make conditions at home more manageable.

METRO CREATIVE PHOTO Homes and Design

Here is a listing of recent single-family home, condominium and vacant land sales in Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties. The information is provided through the Multiple Listing Service.

RACINE COUNTY

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Burlington

home and property sales

Burlington		
• 242 Amanda St		
• 32821 Bayview Dr	\$335,000	
• 465 W Chestnut St	\$315,000	
• 432 Dardis Dr	\$325,000	
• 33706 Fern Dr	\$357,500	
• 8110 Fishman Rd	\$342,340	
• 8651 Hilltop Dr	\$180,000	
• 7710 Hunters Ln	\$650,000	
• 2904 Martin Terr	\$280,000	
• 180 Monica Ave	\$450,000	
Norway		
• 8822 N Hart Dr	\$686,000	
• 7723 E Wind Lake Rd		
• 8454 N Wind Lake Rd		
• 26238 S Wind Lake Rd		
Raymond	. ,	
• 2052 124th Ave	\$605,000	
• 4605 80th St		
Union Grove		
• 1094 Bluebird Ln	\$345,000	
• 1976 Cheshire Dr	\$557,500	
• 309 Kiddle Ln	\$718,900	
• 379 Kiddle Ln	\$685,000	
• 498 Kiddle Ln	\$465,000	
• 1300 Yorkville Ave	\$385,000	
Waterford		
• 663 E Bluff Cir		
• 208 E Jefferson St	\$360,000	
• 30504 Oak Dr		
• 850 River Ridge Cir	\$585,000	
• 5110 Riverside Rd	\$600,000	
• 603 Rohda Dr	\$345,000	
• 7837 N Tichigan Rd	\$474,900	
• 119 S Water St	\$335,000	
Yorkville		
• 2707 59th Dr	\$600,000	
• 15501 Braun Rd		
• 15220 Spring St	\$490,000	

CONDOS

Mount Pleasant

• 4227	N Circle Dr	\$410,000
• 7015	Fair Oaks Rd	\$344,990
• 7025	Fair Oaks Rd	\$343,900
• 7027	Fair Oaks Rd	\$343,990
• 1118	Hastings Ct 202	\$271,000
. 6200		¢215 000

Sturtevant

- 9700 Rayne Rd 7 \$209,000 Union Grove
- 1122 58th Rd.....\$309,990 Waterford
- 512 Hickory Hollow Rd
- 0302.....\$439,900
- 240 Marina Ct 33..... \$353,000
- 615 Park Dr \$335,000
- 923 Prestwick 3 \$230,525
- 420 Racine St 107..... \$173,000
- 618 Ravenwood Ct B \$400,000

VACANT LAND

Burlington

- Lt1 S Teut Rd.....\$155,000 Raymond
 2004 100th St Lt2.....\$450,000
- Waterford
- Lt8 Riverside Rd..... \$89,000

KENOSHA COUNTY

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Randall

nanuan		
• 33402 120th St	\$440,000	
• 38912 90th Pl	\$344,000	
• 39910 97th St		
• 1910 Esch Rd		
Salem Lakes	. ,	
• 26700 103rd Pl	\$240,000	
• 26833 106th St		
• 23209 111th Pl		
• 10401 256th Ave		
• 23305 82nd St		
• 229 E Depot St		
• 303 E Elm St		
• 230 Maple St		
Silver Lake		
• 124 W Wisconsin Ave	\$220,000	
Twin Lakes		
• 2810 Elizabeth Ln	\$319,900	
• 901 Fairway Dr		
• 2212 Laurie Ln		
• 705 Legion Dr		
• 1724 Pheasant Ave		
• 1846 Sunset Dr		
• 1900 Swallow Rd		
• 1913 Willow Rd		
Wheatland		
	.	

• 6209 Hilltop Dr \$315,000 • 31211 71st St \$130,500

VACANT LAND

Pleasant Prairie

• 10110 28th Ave \$100,000

• Lt2 3rd Ave\$71,900

Salem Lakes

Lt0 296th Ave\$190,000
Lt16 308th Ave\$42,000

WALWORTH COUNTY

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Delavan

Delavan			
• 3491 Country View Dr	\$615,000		
• 311 Eagle St	\$177,000		
• 508 Eagle St	\$245,000		
• 115 S Eighth St	\$255,000		
• 116 Evergreen Dr	\$360,000		
• 1219 Evergreen Dr Lt14.			
• 2027 Green Meadow Dr.	\$460,000		
• 2316 Lake Shore Dr			
• 2221 North Shore Dr			
• 613 Parish St			
• 4107 Pleasant St			
• 3799 South Shore Dr			
• 2528 Tilden Ave			
• 59 W Walworth Ave	\$315,000		
East Troy			
• 1704 Carriage Dr	\$425,000		
• N9171 Elm St			
• 1959 Mitten Ct			
• 2788 Ridge Dr			
• W1801 Saint Peters Rd			
W858 Shorewood Dr	\$620,000		
• 3056 South St	\$370,000		
• 3057 South St	\$499,000		
Elkhorn			
• 127 S Eastown Manor			
• 115 S Lincoln St			
• 210 W Page St			
426 W Pockwell St			
 43 E Sedgemeadow St 			
• 710 W Walworth St			
• 119 S Washington St	\$419,900		
Fontana			
958 Sauganash Dr	\$580,000		
• 517 Sauk Tri	. \$1,235,000		
• 861 Shoshone Rd	\$690,000		
Geneva			
• N3182 Acacia Rd	\$255,000		
• N3242 Hickory Rd	\$582,900		
• N3131 Nymph Rd	\$225,000		

home and property sales

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• W4691 Palmer Rd	\$390.000	
• W3430 Park Dr		
• 1530 Ryder Cup Rd 16-23	\$1 250 000	
• W3433 Walnut Rd	\$365,000	
Genoa City		
• 1023 Mallard Ln	\$315,000	
669 Partridge Pkwy		
• 410 Sumner St	\$265 000	
La Grange	\$303,000	
N7526 Cardinal Dr	\$475.000	
• W5742 North Dr		
Lake Geneva	¢1,303,000	
• 1535 Center St	¢657 500	
1191 Edgewood Dr	φ730,000	
N2473 Forest Rest Ln S		
• 950 Henry St		
• 677 N Joshua Ln		
• 1900 LaSalle St		
• 421 Madison St		
728 Milwaukee St		
• 1236 Park Row		
• 1022 Park Row St	\$800,000	
Linn		
• W2926 S Lakeshore Dr S	\$3,175,000	
• W3434 Linton Rd	\$245,000	
• N1517 Meadow Ridge Cir	\$938,750	
* N1517 Woodstone Ln	\$982,500	
Sharon		
• 231 Baldwin St	\$325,000	
• 223 Martin St	\$265,000	
N880 Salt Box Road	\$700,000	
Sugar Creek		
W5676 Babcock Rd	\$381,000	
• W5391 Kenosha Dr	. \$380,000	
• W5211 Tippecanoe Trl		
Walworth	. ,	
• N1048 Bonner Dr	\$640,000	
• 543 Summer Dr	\$510,000	
• 226 Thistledown Ln	\$276,600	
Whitewater	+ - ,	
• 240 S Dann St	\$195.000	
• 1598 Meadowview Ct		
526 E Milwaukee St		
W9016 RW Townline Rd	\$260,000	
• 633 W Starin Rd		
• 502 S Ventura Ln		
• 125 N Wakely St		
• 214 S Whiton St		
• 214 S Whiton St Williams Bay	⊅∠05,000	
• 311 Frost Dr \$560,000		
82 Lwr Loch Vista Dr		
• 544 Wiswell Dr		

CONDOS

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