



works for you!

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Mayor Tipple's Message



As we near the end of February, I'm reminded of the many winter activities we have within Wausau and the surrounding communities. I volunteer with the Badger State Games each winter at Nine Mile Ski area and it's a pleasure to see the sport enthusiast skiers enjoying the challenge of cross country skiing. Not only is the camaraderie of the sport something that brings these skiers back each year, but the scenic winter wonderland that we have in central Wisconsin, is a treasure. Winterfest was held during a warmer weekend in January (in the 20's!) and it brought many families to the 400 Block. This "Wausau Event" sponsored activity provided free ice skating, horse-drawn wagon rides, a snow sculpture slide and cookie decorating with a mac and cheese contest by local restaurants. What a fun way to enjoy what can be a long winter in Wisconsin.

I'm excited to report of the upcoming soccer tournament this May in our newly developed sports complex off of Kent Street. This state-of-the-art facility will bring thousands of soccer fans to Wausau. Please take an opportunity to observe this jewel we have created in our backyard.

- You will see three city referendum questions on the April election ballot this spring.
1. Remove the cost of service from the tax levy for Refuse and Recycling
 2. Remove the cost of service from the tax levy for storm water management
 3. Hire an Administrator and reduce the Mayor's position to part-time

The first two questions are binding referendum questions and the third one is an Advisory referendum question that will be decided on by the City Council based on the results.

I close by bringing attention to the enclosed article regarding the City's upcoming "Clean It Up, Wausau" event in April. The City of Wausau will not be picking up large disposable household items this spring as we have in the past. We are encouraging you to bring your items to the yard waste site to safely dispose and recycle them. If you have a truck, consider helping a neighbor or friend by transporting their items. We are pleased to offer these services in an effort to keep our neighborhoods clean, safe, and inviting.

Please remember that my door is always open and I welcome your comments and feedback. We are looking forward to spring in Wausau!



From December 1 through March 31, **no overnight parking** is allowed on city streets. Overnight parking downtown is restricted all year long.

For the rest of the City of Wausau, parking is allowed on the odd or even side of the street from April 1 through November 30. On odd calendar days, parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd house numbers. On even calendar days, overnight parking is permitted on the even side of the street.

If you intend on parking overnight on a city street, please remember that the calendar day changes at midnight. For example, if you park your car on the street on September 1 at 9:00 PM and intend to leave it overnight, you must park on the even side of the road. At 3:00 AM, the date is actually September 2 and the overnight parking ordinance restricts the parking on city streets between the hours of 2:30 AM and 6:00 AM.

Mission Statement... In response to our citizens, we will provide services in the most effective manner in order to promote and enhance our living environment. Plan and encourage positive growth. Promote a positive community image by encouraging citizen involvement and civic pride.

Wausau Water Works Inside

Volume 17 No. 1 WINTER 2015

Public Hearing Scheduled March 3 For Water Rate Increase

Public hearing scheduled for 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 3, 2015, at the Wausau City Administration Center, 400 Block Kent Street, Wausau, WI. The City of Wausau is currently reviewing the proposed 2015 water rates. The proposed rates are based on the 2014 rates and include a 3.5% increase for water and a 2.5% increase for sewer. The proposed rates are subject to a public hearing on March 3, 2015, at 7:00 PM. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chamber, 400 Block Kent Street, Wausau, WI. The hearing will be open to the public and anyone interested in the proposed rates is encouraged to attend. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chamber, 400 Block Kent Street, Wausau, WI. The hearing will be open to the public and anyone interested in the proposed rates is encouraged to attend.

Regarding Lead Exceedance

The City of Wausau has received a letter from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) regarding a lead exceedance at the Wausau Water Treatment Plant. The letter states that the WDNR has identified a lead exceedance in the water supply system. The City of Wausau is currently reviewing the letter and will be implementing a lead abatement program. The program will include testing of the water supply system and the installation of lead abatement devices. The City of Wausau is committed to providing safe drinking water to its citizens and will continue to work with the WDNR to resolve the issue.



Attention Voters!

Election Day is Tuesday April 7, 2015. All polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The City of Wausau will have three referenda on the spring ballot.

Where to vote:

Districts 1 & 2	Pilgrim Lutheran Church 709 Weston Avenue
Districts 4 & 5	Boys & Girls Club of Wausau 1710 N. 2nd Street
Districts 6	Wausau East High School 2607 N. 18th Street
Districts 7 & 8	Wausau West High School 1200 W. Wausau Avenue
Districts 9 & 11	Marathon Park East Gate Building 600 Block of Garfield Avenue
Districts 3 & 10	Marathon Park East Gate II Building 600 Block of Garfield Avenue

Absentee ballots are available for anyone that is unwilling or unable to vote at the poll site locations on Election Day. Applications for absentee ballots are available at the City Clerk/Customer Service office in City Hall, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or download a registration application at the following website: <http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Services/Elections/Resources.aspx>.

If you are not already registered to vote, if you have moved or had a name change, save time by registering to vote prior to Election Day. Registering before Election Day will speed up the process for you. You may register at the City Clerk/Customer Service office in City Hall, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or download a registration application at the website: <http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Services/Elections.aspx>.

If you have questions regarding elections, absentee ballots or anything else not addressed here, please contact the City Clerk's office at 715-261-6620.

REFERENDUM QUESTION 1

Refuse & Recycling

The ballot you consider on April 7, 2015 will include a referendum question for Wausau voters:

"May the City of Wausau institute a fee for garbage pickup and recycling, while removing the cost for this service from the tax levy?" Yes No

Explanation:

A "yes" vote indicates you would agree to the institution of a fee for garbage pickup and recycling and remove the cost for this service from the tax levy.

A "no" vote indicates you disagree to the institution of a fee for garbage pickup and recycling and would leave the cost for this service in the tax levy.

Currently, residential refuse and recycling is paid with property taxes. This means that the cost paid for the service is dependent on the value of your home. Based upon the 2014 tax bill you received in December, each property owner was assessed \$.69 per \$1,000 for refuse and recycling. Thus, if the assessed value of your home was \$150,000 you paid \$104 in taxes for refuse and recycling. By using property value as the basis for payment, residents are contributing very different amounts for the same level of service. In fact, when we examined the taxes paid by homeowners for refuse and recycling services it ranged from a low of about \$14 to a high of \$825. In addition, the cost is paid through taxes by commercial and industrial properties that are not eligible to use the service.

If the City of Wausau were to move the refuse and recycling costs off of the property tax bill the cost would be collected as a Special Charge on your tax bill. Based upon the 2015 costs and the number of eligible households the rate would be \$121.

When comparing the City of Wausau to many of the communities in the Metro Area you will find the majority of the communities collect for refuse and recycling as a special charge on the tax bill. Communities contiguous with the City that fund refuse and recycling services with the special charge include: Town and Village of Weston, Town of Rib Mountain, Town and Village of Kronenwetter, Town of Maine, Town of Texas, Town of Stettin, and Town of Wausau. This would allow homebuyers the ability to compare tax rates of communities on an "apples to apples" basis when deciding where to live. Administration of the payment for the home owner is the same as it still appears on your tax bill.

Some people may worry that the City of Wausau would implement a new fee without reducing the levy. For a number of years all government units in the State of Wisconsin have been living under "the Levy Limit Law". The law limits municipal tax levy increases to net new construction growth in property values. In 2013, the Wisconsin legislators increased the strength of the law by preventing communities from enacting certain new fees without a corresponding reduction in taxes. Both refuse fees and stormwater fees fall within the levy limit law. This law prevents the City from enacting these new fees without a corresponding reduction in the levy.

 **Marshfield Clinic**

PROUDLY PRESENTS



CHASE'N CHOCOLATE

5k Fun Run **1.5 mile Walk**
Saturday, May 9, 2015
Marathon Park, Wausau
9 AM

To Benefit **THE WOMEN'S COMMUNITY** domestic and sexual violence victim service agency.

\$25.00 pre-registration; \$30.00 after April 24, 2015

Register online at www.womenscommunity.org/run-walk

REFERENDUM QUESTION 2

Stormwater

The ballot you consider on April 7, 2015 will include a referendum questions for Wausau voters:

“May the City of Wausau institute a fee for stormwater management, while removing the cost for this service from the tax levy?”
 Yes No

Stormwater Utility Coming to Wausau?

The Wausau City Council has voted to place a referendum question on the spring 2015 ballot for establishing a stormwater utility as a mechanism for funding stormwater runoff control and remove the stormwater costs from the tax levy.

You may wonder what a stormwater utility is. A stormwater utility is like any other utility system (water, sewer, electrical, etc.) in that a fee is charged to customers for services provided. Most are generally familiar and comfortable with water and sewer utilities and understand that we pay for the water we use and the proper treatment of sewage. A stormwater utility system would be new to Wausau, but this funding approach is being used by over 85 communities in Wisconsin, such as Eau Claire, Green Bay, Appleton, Stevens Point, Madison and Weston, and has been in Wisconsin since the early 1990s. Under

a stormwater utility funding approach, each property owner in the city pays a fee for the proper conveyance, management, and pollution treatment of stormwater runoff. The fee paid by each property owner (customer) is based on how much runoff their property generates. Under this approach, properties with large amounts of hard surfaces (roofs, parking lots, etc.) generate more runoff and thus pay a higher fee than properties with less impervious area. The key criteria is that everybody pays their fair share for this service. Also, if a property installs measures to reduce stormwater runoff, they may be eligible for a reduction in their fee.

At this time, the city funds its stormwater management program under the general revenue budget, which is supported by residential and for-profit commercial property taxes. Currently not-for-profit and governmental property owners do not contribute revenue to the stormwater management program, although they may generate runoff.

The city’s stormwater management responsibilities have changed dramatically over the years and the general revenue budget is not a reliable, equitable way to pay for the program. Stormwater needs have increased for many reasons including a growing backlog of maintenance needed for numerous existing stormwater structures. New state and federal environmental regulations in the near future will require the city to improve its City-wide stormwater pollution control practices. The

burden of these increased services lead the city to seek a revenue source dedicated to stormwater management and one that is equitable among users.

Stormwater runoff from urban lands (streets, parking lots, lawns, etc.) can contain high levels of water pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, heavy metals, bacteria, salt, etc. The stormwater runoff, along with pollutants, drain into storm sewers located within our streets that discharge directly into the Wisconsin , Rib, Eau Claire Rivers and Lake Wausau. The City of Wausau has already invested resources and money in the construction of stormwater detention ponds, swales, and other pollution practices. More practices are needed and the existing practices need maintenance to be kept functional. Inadequate funding for this work results in failing to meet required water quality standards, possible fines, and deteriorating water quality.

In summary the creation of a stormwater utility would remove the stormwater management program costs from the tax levy and impose a utility fee based on the amount of stormwater runoff the property generates. This equitable, dedicated and reliable revenue source will help the City protect its valuable waterways and continue to meet current and future water quality standards.

Author: Sean Gehin, City Project Engineer with assistance from Jim Bachhuber, Stormwater Practice Leader at Brown and Caldwell

ADVISORY REFERENDUM QUESTION 3

Hire an Administrator & Reduce the Mayor’s Position to Part-Time

On April 7, voters will consider an Advisory Referendum question that reads as follows:

“Shall the City of Wausau establish the positions of city administrator, reduce the Mayor’s position to part-time, and transfer administrative and operational responsibilities from the Mayor to the city administrator?” The City of Wausau will retain the Mayor-Council form of government under Chapter 62 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Yes No

Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, the Council is free to decide whether to maintain the Mayor-Council form of government in its current form, or retain the Mayor-Council form of government, but establish the position of a city administrator, in addition to having an elected, part-time Mayor.

If the Council chooses to establish the position of city administrator, it will need to consider the description of duties assigned to each position, and whether they will be full- or part-time. A city administrator is a professionally trained and experienced person hired by the City Council on the basis of the person’s qualifications. Administrative and operational duties would need to be reconfigured. In cities with administrators, mayors have general oversight responsibilities but are not involved in day to day municipal operations. A city administrator would likely serve at the pleasure of the Council. Broadly speaking, a city administrator would serve as the chief staff person to the city council, providing information and recommendations to the city council. The administrator would implement city council decisions and direct the administration and operations of the city staff.

In a part-time Mayor scenario, the Mayor would continue to perform legislative responsibilities as defined in the Wisconsin Statutes and would continue to represent the city in a variety of forums and roles. The Mayor would continue to deal with constituent requests and issues and could pursue individual initiatives, with a limited scope.

The primary difference between the two options is who is responsible for the administrative and operational tasks of city government. A YES vote means that these tasks will be performed by the city administrator. A NO vote means that these tasks will continue to be performed by the Mayor.

Watch for news of further forums regarding the three referendum questions which will appear on the spring ballot for your consideration.

Police Academy

Wausau Police Citizens Academy meets twice a year, one class in the fall and another in the spring. The police department welcomes anyone who is interested in learning more about their local police department and how it operates. A past student from Wausau Citizens Academy said "As citizens of Wausau, it's beneficial to learn more about our local police department. I believe that these two programs not only expose citizens to police work, but can help build and enhance the relationship between the police and community"

During the Citizens Academy community members learn things such as, recruitment/ training, deadly force/ firearms, Dangerous drugs, gangs, defense and arrest tactics, operating while under the influence investigations, Detective bureau, K9 demonstration, tour of jail and dispatch, and traffic stops. Also community members in Citizens Academy have the opportunity to go on a ride along with an Officer to see what an Officer experiences first hand.

The class meets for 2 1/2 hours for eight weeks. If you are interested in the Citizens Academy program applications can be picked up at Wausau Police Department or found online under the Wausau Police Department's page. The classes consist of approximately 10 to 12 community members. A brief background will be conducted on the candidates prior to acceptance into the program. There is no cost for community members to take the Citizens Academy classes.

Save the Dates:

YWCA Women of Vision

April 30, 2015

Program begins at 5:30pm

The Grand Theater

Contact: Melanie Schumann at 715-842-3381

Relay For Life of Wausau

June 12-13, 2015

Friday 6pm - Saturday 8am

John Muir Middle School

Contact: Laural Harder at 512.490.8772

WAUSAU POLICE DEPARTMENT

Your Police, Our Community



The mission of the Wausau Police Department is to strive for excellence in policing by partnering with the community to enhance the quality of life.

The philosophy behind this mission carries with it ideas that can be traced back to the 19th century. Sir Robert Peel, a British statesman known by many as the founder of the modern police force, is known for his Nine Principles of Policing. The most notable principle reads, "Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence." In essence, we are your police, this is our community, and we must work together to find ways to enhance the quality of life.

In 2013, the Wausau Police Department created the Community Resource Unit; a unit designed to identify and target underlying conditions that give rise to chronic nuisance activities that diminish quality of life. The unit has evolved from one officer in 2013 to four officers in 2015. It did not take long for officers to identify drugs as the most pervasive underlying condition that precipitated a significant amount of crime and quality of life issues. Accordingly, the Community Resource Unit focused attention on drug use and distribution and executed approximately 80 search warrants, arrested over 340 individuals, and seized over \$138,000 worth of illegal drugs in its first two years.

During the course of tracking "Nuisance Activity," as defined by 9.24.070 (Wausau Municipal Code), the Community Resource Unit determined in 2013 that 84 percent of properties identified as a "Chronic Nuisance Premises" were rental properties, as opposed to the 16 percent that were owner-occupied. In an effort to reduce chronic nuisance activity in rental properties, over 1,900 letters were sent to landlords notifying them of relevant police responses to properties they own.

Knowledge can mean power when the information provided is acted upon. We are certain that increased communication between police and landlords has increased the efficiency in which nuisance activity is resolved.

In 2015, with the addition of a fourth officer to the Community Resource Unit, we are looking at additional ways of partnering with the community to enhance the quality of life. Officer Ben Graham will be working in cooperation with neighborhood groups, City departments, the Wausau School District, and many others to create, cast, and carry out a common vision that promotes a greater sense of community in each of our neighborhoods.

In 2015, we look forward to continuing to serve with you as your police within our community.

- Author: Officer Ben Graham

The Wausau Police Department strives for excellence in policing by partnering with the community to enhance the quality of life.

Good Neighbors Keep our City Safe

The City of Wausau currently has seven neighborhood groups operating in the city. These neighborhood groups are organized and run by the citizens who live in the area. The overall goal of the neighborhood groups is to improve the quality of life in Wausau and their neighborhoods. During the meetings, citizens have the opportunity to speak with their neighbors, elected officials, Wausau Police Officers, and city employees. Citizens can share their concerns, voice grievances, or ask questions. The neighborhood group has the ability to have a unified voice to the Police Department and City Government.

Please consider attending one of the following neighborhood groups. If your residence is not in an established neighborhood group and you are interested in starting one, please contact Wausau P.D. Lieutenant Barnes at 715-261-7884.

The Longfellow Neighborhood Group is bounded by Townline Road north to Forest Street and Grand Avenue east to the railroad tracks. The Longfellow group meets the 1st Monday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Wausau Police Department. A contact for this group is Anne Heidemann 715-845-4148

The S.W. Jones Neighborhood Group is bounded by 900 Block of South 3rd Avenue south to Lake Wausau, west to 28th Ave, North to Sherman Street. The S.W. Jones group meets the 4th Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at GD Jones School. A contact for this group is Officer Ben Graham 715-261-7955.

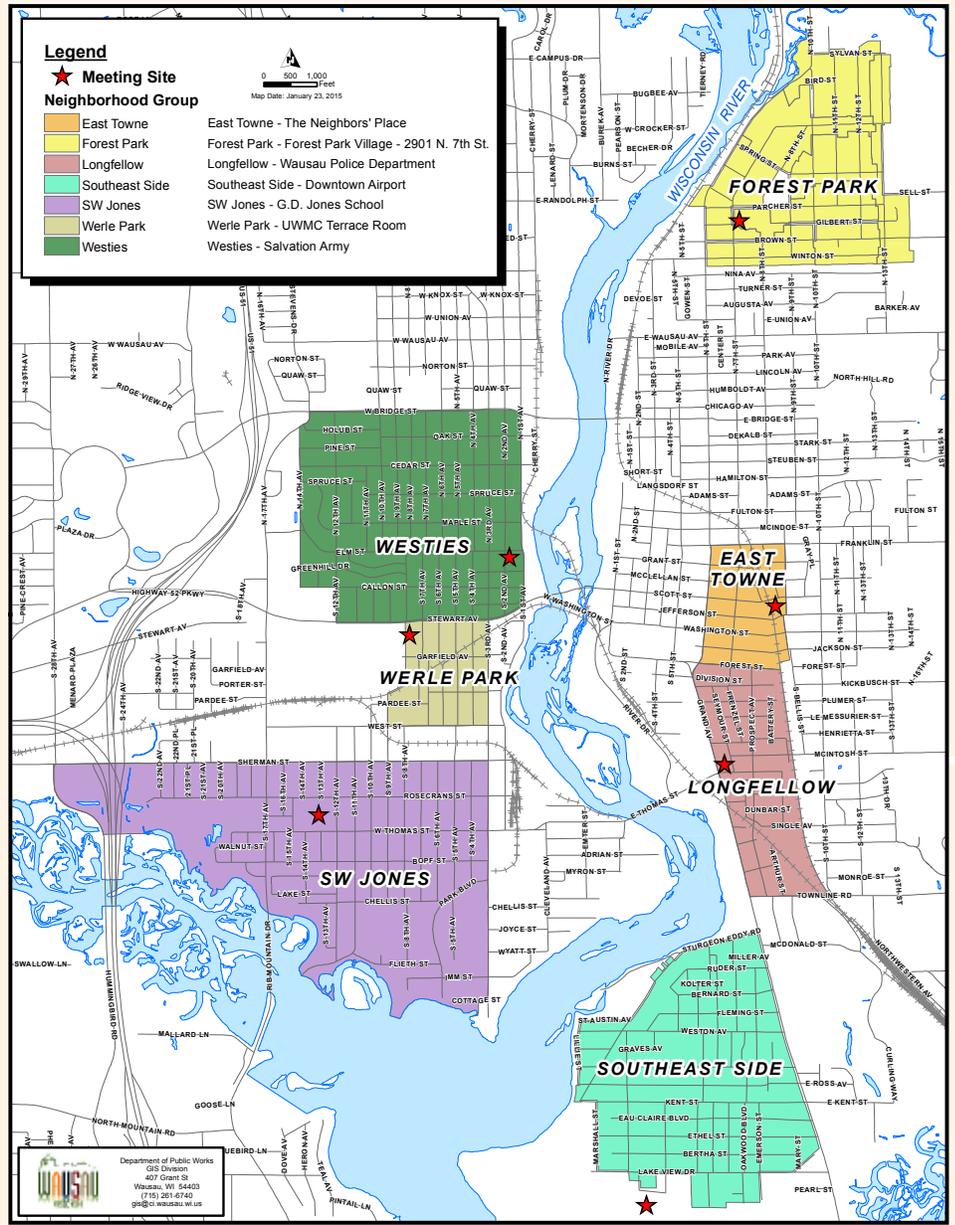
The Werle Park Neighborhood Group is bounded by South side of West Street north to the south side of Stewart Avenue and the east side of 3rd Avenue west to the west side of 9th Avenue. Werle Park Neighborhood Group meets the third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the U.W.M.C. in the Terrace Room (#100), use the west side entrance. A contact for this group is Alderperson Robert Mielke at 715-845-1830. You may email your concerns to Werleparkneighborhood@aol.com.

The Westies Neighborhood Group is bounded by Stewart Avenue north to Bridge Street and 1st Avenue west to 14th Avenue. The Westies group meets the second Monday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Salvation Army Community Room. A contact for this group is Debra Ryan at 715-803-4909.

The East Towne Neighborhood Group is bounded by Forest Street north to Franklin Street and N. 6th Street east to LaSalle Street. East Towne Neighborhood Group meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30 pm at the Neighbor's Place at 724 Scott Street. A contact for this group is Deanna Schuette at 715-218-4434.

The Forest Park Neighborhood is bounded by Sylvan Street to Winton Street and 6th Street to 13th Street. This Neighborhood meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm at Forest Park Village. A contact for this Neighborhood is Dick Rayborn at 715-845-2665 or Marie Schmidt at 715-845-9559. You may email your concerns to Forestparkneighborhood@aol.com.

The Southeast Side Neighborhood is bounded by Lakeview Drive to Sturgeon Eddy and Grand Avenue to Lake Wausau. The Southeast Side Neighborhood meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the Downtown airport. A contact for this group is Joan Jackson at 715-842-1464.



CITY OF WAUSAU

Yard Waste Site

The City of Wausau Yard Waste Site is located at the east end of East Chellis Street.

2015 Hours Of Operation

The Yard Waste Site will be open from: April 1st through November 22nd, 2015 during the following hours:

Monday	CLOSED	Friday	CLOSED
Tuesday	CLOSED	Saturday	9 am to 5 pm
Wednesday	9 am to 8 pm	Sunday	9 am to 5 pm
Thursday	CLOSED		

The Yard Waste Site will be CLOSED on Independence Day (4th of July).

NOTE There will be extended hours starting approximately the last week of September to November 22nd. The site will be locked and gated during non-operating hours. The site is monitored by video surveillance. Citations will be issued to parties who leave yard waste outside the gate of the facility.

Materials Accepted: Garden & flower debris, Grass, Leaves, Tree branches/brush

Materials That Will Not Be Accepted: Tree stumps, Root balls (Stumps and root balls that are under 60 lbs. can be placed at the curb with your normal garbage for pickup).

The City of Wausau appreciates your cooperation. The site is for City of Wausau residents only. Call The Department of Public Works at 715-261-6960, if you have any questions. Office hours are: Monday thru Friday 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Habitat for Humanity of Wausau Recycled Building Materials facility (RBM)

Surplus, new and gently used furniture and home construction supplies at discount prices

Open to the public Saturdays from 9 am - 1 pm
Located at 500 South 38th Avenue in Wausau
Request Pick-up 715-848-5042

DONATIONS WE ACCEPT:

Appliances: Washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, ovens, air conditioners. *Must be less than 10-years-old and in 100% working condition. No dishwashers.*

Cabinets: Kitchen and bath cabinets in sets or individual pieces, straight countertops only. *Must have all doors and drawers, no excessive damage, dirt, or mold; no countertops with sink cutouts.*

Doors: Interior doors, exterior doors; storm doors and patio doors must have complete frames. *Must be in very good condition, no major damage or peeling paint, no fogged glass, no hollow core doors.*

Windows: Insulated glass only, complete units with all sashes and frames. *No single glass, no windows larger than 5' by 5', no major damage or foggy glass, no screens, loose sashes, or storm windows.*

Electrical: Materials must be new or nearly new, light fixtures and fans, if complete. *Residential electrical supplies only, no fluorescent fixtures or fluorescent bulbs*

Plumbing: Kitchen and bathroom sinks, fiberglass tubs, claw-foot tubs, complete faucets. *No chips, rust, or stains; no toilets unless new in box.*

Clean it up Wausau

Friday & Saturday, April 17 & 18 9:00am - 5:00pm

Spring Large Item Pickup
replaced by drop off event

Spring Large Item Pickup replaced by drop-off event The Mayor's Neighbor to Neighbor committee is partnering for the 6th consecutive year with a local non-profits and recyclers to offer residents a way to dispose of unwanted items. This Clean It Up Wausau event will replace the Spring large item pickup which was removed from the City of Wausau budget for 2015.

On Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, Wausau residents will be able to drop off items at **105 E Chellis St, adjacent to the Yard Waste site**. The hours for the event will be 9am to 5pm both days. Please be prepared to show proof of city of Wausau residency.

If you have any questions about the event call the City of Wausau Public Works department at 715-261-6960 or the Mayor's office at 715-261-6800.

Items not accepted at Clean It Up Wausau include: Light bulbs, batteries, paint, chemicals, remodeling waste, roofing materials, waste oil, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides or medication will not be accepted at the clean up. Medication can be dropped off at the Wausau Police Department. For information on how to dispose of other unacceptable items please call the Marathon County Solid Waste Department at 877-270-3989.

Charge for recycling:

TVs and computer monitors	40¢/lb.
All other electronics (anything with a cord)	30¢/lb.
Dehumidifier	\$15
Refrigerator/Freezer	\$15
Charge for tires: Up to 15"	\$2
16" to 20"	\$5
Over 20"	\$10

Free disposal:

Microwaves • Lawnmowers
Snow blowers • Stoves
Washers & Dryers
Dishwashers • Scrap Metal
Furniture • Mattresses



Flooring: Unused carpet and tile; new and reclaimed hardwood and laminate flooring. *All carpet or tile must be new; carpet must be at least 100 square feet or larger.*

Hardware: Complete sets of door hardware; nails, screws, and fasteners — if sorted with single item type per container. *Only residential hardware that is free of rust and in complete sets.*

Furniture: Hutches, tables, chairs, dressers, desks. *Overall good condition, no sofa beds, no upholstered furniture.*

Tools: Hand tools, power tools, and gardening tools. *Must be in working condition; if battery powered, must have battery and charger.*

Wood: Baseboard, casing, molding, framing lumber, sheathing and paneling must be at least 4' by 4'. *Nothing less than six (6) feet in length, no nails or concrete, no scrap wood.*

Miscellaneous: Architectural elements, mantels, columns, stained/leaded glass, shutters, landscape block, and paving bricks. *Free of structural damage, water damage, or mold.*

WE DO NOT ACCEPT:

Used siding • Window parts like sashes and loose screens • Shower doors unless new in box • Clothing and household items • Mattresses and box springs • Mercury thermostats • Opened or rusted cans of paint or stain • Exercise equipment

Residential Rental Licensing

In 2013, the City of Wausau Common Council passed a residential rental licensing and inspection ordinance (Wausau Municipal Code Section 16.04.039). This ordinance was enacted to encourage property owners who rent residential dwelling units to exercise their responsibility to ensure that they maintain safe, decent and sanitary living conditions for residents living in the units and to prevent blighted conditions. All rental dwelling units within the City of Wausau are required to be licensed, including single-family homes that are rented out. Rental licenses are not transferable—owners, upon purchasing any rental property, must apply for a rental license within thirty (30) days.

As part of the rental licensing ordinance, an inspection is required every three (3) years. The inspection will be based off of the City's adopted basic housing and property maintenance code along with other municipal codes such as building, electrical, fire, plumbing and zoning. The rental license inspections have commenced on January 2.

If you need to apply for a license or have any questions regarding the rental licensing and inspection program, please contact the Division of Inspection and Zoning at 715.261.6780, or visit their website at: www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/Inspections/RentalLicensing.aspx.



Property Maintenance Reminders...

The City of Wausau has ordinances that are designed to protect the public's health and safety, and to preserve the appearance of neighborhoods. For the most part, City residents take great pride in maintaining their property in an aesthetically pleasing condition, and comply with City ordinances. Following are the most common violations observed by City Inspectors, and most are subject to immediate tickets:

Exterior Property Areas:

- Shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free from any accumulation of items, garbage, debris, yard waste.
- Dog/animal excreta must be picked up on a daily basis, so as to minimize health hazards.
- Furniture, not intended for outdoor use, is not allowed on yards or open porches.

Vehicles:

- Must be parked on established driveway/parking areas that are hard-surfaced.
- Parking on the grass is not allowed.
- Vehicles that are inoperable, abandoned, unregistered/unlicensed or dismantled are not allowed on residential properties.
- Motor vehicle repair is not allowed on residential properties.

Trash Containers, Recyclable Containers And Trash:

- Can be set out for collection after 3:00 PM on the day before pickup.
- All containers must be removed from the curb-side/boulevard area by 11:00 AM the day after pickup.
- Between pickups, trash and recyclable containers must be stored inside a garage or behind the front of the house.
- During winter months, trash containers must not be placed on snow banks.
- Trash containers must be:
 - Of substantial construction with tight-fitting covers and strong handles on the outside;
 - Watertight and flyproof, and shall not exceed a capacity of 35 gallons; and
 - Any container when filled shall not weigh more than 50 pounds.
- Landlords must provide a sufficient number of containers to hold the recyclable and nonrecyclable solid waste for their properties.

Recreational Equipment:

- Motor homes, camping and travel trailers, boats, boat trailers, snowmobiles, ATV's, utility trailers, etc. cannot be parked or stored in any required front yard or corner side yard, except for on a designated driveway which meets the City's hard-surfacing requirements.
- Equipment or trailers that are longer than 30' (measured from back bumper to tongue) must be parked within enclosed structures.

Signs: Rummage sale, garage sale, real estate, advertising or other such signs cannot be placed on boulevards, other public right-of-ways or attached to public utility poles.

If you have any questions or wish to report any violations, call the Division of Inspection and Zoning at 715.261.6780.

Construction/Remodeling Projects

If you are planning any construction or remodeling projects within the City of Wausau, we would like to remind you that permits are required for most projects, such as:

- New construction or an addition to a building.
- Alterations/remodeling (kitchen cabinets, drywalling, etc.).
- Construction of a detached garage, lean-to, storage building, gazebo, or any additions or alterations thereto.
- Construction or reconstruction of a deck, stoop, porch or ramp.
- Residing of a building. (Make sure house numbers get reinstalled upon completion.)
- Roofs: A building permit is required for the installation/replacement of all roofing in the City including reshingling.
- Old shingles must be removed, unless the Building Inspector approves installation over one existing layer.
- Metal roofs are NOT allowed on residential buildings in the City unless they meet certain guidelines and are approved on an individual case-by-case basis by the City's Building Advisory Board. (Metal roofs using corrugated panels or exposed fasteners will not be approved for use on residential buildings.)

- Construction, replacement or expansion of a fence.
- Demolition of a building.
- Separate permits are required for any plumbing or electrical work.

A more complete list of what requires permits is available on-line at: www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/Inspections/ResidentialPermitRequirements.aspx

Permits are required not only to ensure your project meets City zoning regulations and complies with City and State codes, but also lets us assist you in achieving a project that is safe and structurally sound.

The inspectors are typically in the office between 8:00-9:00 AM and 12:30-1:30 PM, Monday through Friday, to review plans, issue permits and answer questions. The remainder of the work day, they conduct on-site inspections. However, if these times are not convenient for you, contact the Division of Inspection and Zoning at 715.261.6780, and they are generally able to make other arrangements for you to meet with their staff.



CITY OF WAUSAU

407 Grant Street
Wausau, WI 54403

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POSTAL PATRON

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Smoke Alarm/Detector Information

Wisconsin law requires owner-occupied homes, rental homes and other residential buildings to be protected by smoke alarms or a smoke detection system. Owners must install and maintain them, and tenants must inform the owner of any smoke alarm problems. The requirements differ between those for one- and two- family dwellings and those for multi-unit housing, which includes hotels and motels and apartment buildings.

Why are smoke alarms necessary?

Smoke alarms save lives. In 40% of home fire deaths there were no working smoke alarms in the home. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with either no smoke alarms or alarms that were not working.

Where must smoke alarms be installed?

For multi-unit housing built before January 1, 1982, and for one- and 2-family dwellings built before April 1, 1992, the smoke alarms may be self- contained and battery-operated.

Although not always required, the following are recommended:

- Interconnect all of a living unit's smoke alarms and have them powered by both a building circuit and batteries to ensure audible operation in all situations.
- Connect building-powered smoke alarms onto regular lighting circuits, ahead of any switch, so the loss of power to the alarm is likely to be noticed because the lights don't work.
- Include strobe lights with alarms for the hearing- impaired. (Besides those required in common-use areas, strobes may be required in some individual living units).

The owner must install at least one smoke alarm in the following locations:

- In the basement
- At the head of the stairs on each level.
- Either in each sleeping room or elsewhere in the unit within 6 feet of each sleeping area.
- Install smoke alarms according to the manufactures instructions.

Smoke alarm maintenance:

- Change batteries at least once a year.
- Test the alarm once a month.
- Vacuum the alarm to remove dust from the sensor.
- **Replace all smoke alarms after ten years.**
- **All replacement battery-powered alarms shall be ten-year battery type.**

The Wausau Fire Department recommends that all families have and practice a fire escape plan with two ways out and an outside meeting location. We have a limited supply of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and strobe detectors available for income qualifying homeowners within the City of Wausau. Please call 715-261-7900 for more information.

Source: NFPA and WI Dept. of Safety and Professional Services



Recreational Burning Permits

With spring just around the corner, this is a reminder to check the expiration date of your Recreational Burn Permit if you have a fire pit within the city. Burn permits are issued for a term of five years and expire on March 31 of the fifth year. Permits are required in the City of Wausau for any recreational fires including a below-ground pit or a portable device intended to contain and control outdoor wood fires.

Please visit City Hall to pick up a recreational burn permit or go to City of Wausau's website and download an application at <http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/>. If the property is a rental unit, the application must be completed and signed by the property owner/landlord. You may contact the clerk's office if you have specific questions at 715.261.6620.



WAUSAU WATERWORKS

FOR YOU!

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Public Hearing Scheduled March 3 For Water Rate Increase

An Application has been filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for a water rate increase. The increase is necessary due to increased operating expenses and for the need to replace aging infrastructure, particularly water mains.

For an average family who uses 1400 cubic feet, the increase will be \$6.40 per quarter, or \$0.07 per day. Separate rates are being proposed for Irrigation class customers as well as non-residential class customers along with increases in fees such as for checks returned for non-sufficient funds.

A telephonic public hearing will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3 in the Council Chambers, 1st Floor, City Hall. For more information on how to testify at the public hearing see the Notice of Public Hearing on page 3 of this newsletter.

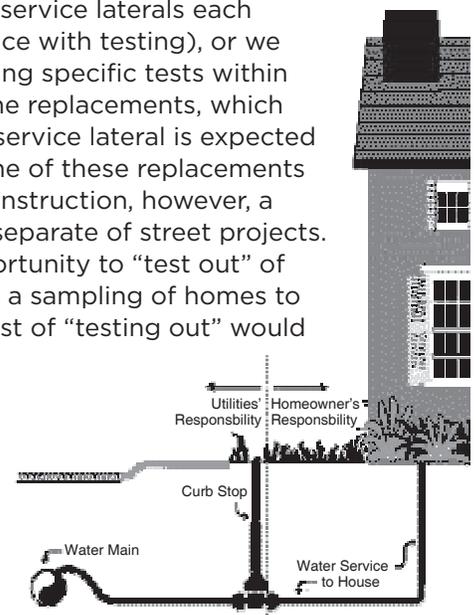
DNR Holds Enforcement Hearing Regarding Lead Exceedence

Department of Natural Resources staff met on December 19 with utility and City staff along with consultants representing the City, regarding the 2014 lead exceedence. In 2014 the utility was required to test 30 homes from a list of pre-approved properties known to either have a lead water service line or lead solder. Out of the 30 homes we were allowed to have up to 3 properties exceed the Action Level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) limit. We had 4 homes exceed. The exceedence which was the second in 22 years, will now require under DNR and EPA rules the additional testing of 60 homes, twice a year, until the utility gets back into compliance. Unfortunately, it does not end there. At the enforcement hearing, the DNR reviewed additional tasks that the utility may be required to accomplish under a Consent Agreement. The utility will be required to replace 7% of the 6056 lead service laterals each year (or until the utility gets back into compliance with testing), or we can try testing out of replacements by performing specific tests within properties with lead service lines. The cost of the replacements, which would only be on the utility's side of the water service lateral is expected to be in the range of \$2,500,000 annually. Some of these replacements will be scheduled along with regular street reconstruction, however, a good share of them will have to be completed separate of street projects. The other option the DNR offered was the opportunity to "test out" of replacements. Water Utility staff will be testing a sampling of homes to see whether this will be a viable option. The cost of "testing out" would be considerably less than replacement, if it proves to be a viable option. *(continue on page 4)*

Configuration of a Service Line with Partial Ownership by the Utility and Homeowner

Utility Service Line - the pipeline between the water main and the curb stop.

Homeowner Service Line - the pipeline between the curb stop and the water meter.



Employees obtain DNR Certification

Three water utility employees recently received DNR Water Operator Certification during the fall testing process. Obtaining their Distribution Certification were Brandon Ball and Rick Dorn. Deb Geier obtained both her Distribution and Groundwater Certifications.

Roy Kressman, a Wastewater Treatment Plant maintenance mechanic, received his DNR Lab Certification which completes all the Wastewater certifications.

Congratulations to all these employees for obtaining additional training and certifications to allow them to do their jobs better.



Ask Professor Faucet

Lead Concerns in Wausau

There has been a considerable amount of discussion recently about lead in Wausau's drinking water. We'd like to use this opportunity to explain some of these concerns.

How does the lead get in the water? Lead gets into the water anytime it sits for 6 hours or more in plumbing that is either made from lead, such as lead service lines, or has lead solder.

What areas of town have concerns over lead in the drinking water? The issue can be anywhere in the City, but is basically limited to older homes.

How old does the home have to be? Homes built in 1965 or earlier would likely have lead service lines, while homes built between 1965 and September 1984 would likely have lead solder.

How do I know how old my pipes are? The Utility has records on most homes as to when the laterals were installed. Give us a call at 715-261-7262 to find out.

Are there health hazards associated with lead? Yes, lead can cause serious health problems if too much lead enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can also be affected more than healthy adults at lower levels of lead. Lead is stored in the bones, and can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones while in utero, which may affect the child's brain development.

What can be done to minimize lead? Flushing your water at any faucet that you would normally drink from whenever the water has sat unused for 6 or more hours will help minimize your exposure as it brings in fresh water from the mains. You may need to run your water for 30 seconds or more. Also, never use hot water from your tap for drinking or cooking. Use the cold water and heat it.

Will boiling water eliminate lead? No, boiling the water will not eliminate the lead. Some home treatment devices are an option, but may only treat the water at the faucet where they are installed. These items also require periodic maintenance and replacement. It is recommended that you thoroughly research any product that claims to remove lead.

What is the Utility doing? We will be working with a consultant to address our water quality in regard to corrosiveness. We will also be having a consultant prepare a water hydraulic model to aid in performing unidirectional flushing of our distribution system.

How can I get my water tested? There are several private labs that can test your drinking water for lead. Labs in our vicinity include: Northern Lake Service, 715-478-2777; AgSource Laboratories at 715-898-1402 or Badger Labs at 1-800-776-7196. Labs should be contacted prior to taking a sample as there are specific instructions on how to properly take the sample. Costs of samples may vary from lab to lab.

Where can I get more information? Information on lead in your drinking water is available on our website at: <http://ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/WausauWaterWorks/InformationonLead.aspx> or on the EPA's website at <http://epa.gov/lead>.

Public Notice to all Customers of Wausau Water Utility

Wausau Water Utility has filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to increase water rates. The increase is necessary because of the need to replace aging infrastructure, particularly water mains, and because of increased operating expenses since the last water rate case in 2006.

The total increase in water revenues requested is \$855,958, which will result in an estimated overall rate increase of 20% over the water utility's present revenues. If the request is granted, the water bill for general service and public fire protection service for an average residential customer with a 5/8-inch or 3/4-inch meter who uses 1,400 cubic feet (10,500 gallons) of water per quarter will increase from \$48.07 to \$54.57, or 14%.

The proposed water rates include class rates, with a uniform volume rate of \$2.10 per 100 cubic feet (750 gallons) for residential class customers and a uniform volume rate of \$3.00 per 100 cubic feet (750 gallons) for irrigation class customers. Nonresidential customers would continue to be billed volume rates using a declining-block rate structure.

A telephonic public hearing on the application has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers (first floor) at the Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street, Wausau, Wisconsin. Scheduling questions regarding this hearing may be directed to the PSCW at (608) 266-3766.

A person may testify in this proceeding without becoming a party and without attorney representation. A person may submit this testimony in one of the following ways:

Web Comment. Go to the PSCW's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, click on the "Public Comments" button on the side menu bar. On the next page select the "File a comment" link that appears for docket number 6300-WR-104. Web comments shall be received no later than the day before the hearing.

Oral Comment. Spoken testimony at the public hearing session.

Written Comment. Instead of speaking at the hearing, write out a comment and submit it at the public hearing session.

Mail Comment. All comments submitted by U.S. mail shall be received no later than the day before the hearing and shall be addressed to:
Docket 6300-WR-104 Comments, Public Service Commission,
P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854.

The PSCW intends to webcast this hearing live on the PSCW's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov> under the "PSC Live Broadcast" button.

All documents in this docket are filed on the Commission's Electronic Regulatory Filing (ERF) system. To view these documents: (1) go to the Commission's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, (2) enter "6300-WR-104" in the box labeled "Link Directly to a Case," and (3) select "GO."

If you have any questions, please contact Wausau Water Utility at (715) 261-7262.

Winter Comparison

How is the winter of 2015 comparing to that of 2014? In 2014 we thawed over 425 service laterals and had water running at an additional 400 homes to keep service lines and water and sewer mains from freezing. So far we only have a hand full of properties running water. The utility continually monitors water temperatures throughout the City and will advise property owners IF the need to start running their water should occur. In 2014, frost depths dropped to 8+ feet in many areas throughout the City. So far this year, frost depths are at around 5 feet. Unfortunately, we have had more than our share of water main and lateral breaks in 2015 having made 16 repairs in January alone. For the safety of our employees, cooperation of the public to detour around areas where breaks are occurring is greatly appreciated.

Businesses Reminded of Cross Connection Inspection Requirements

Businesses that completed Cross Connection Inspections in 2013 are reminded that they will need to have an inspection of their internal water system completed in 2015, and forward a copy of the inspection to Wausau Water Works. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources mandates that owners of commercial, industrial and publicly owned properties conduct a Cross Connection Survey every two years.

A cross connection can occur when a drop in pressure in the water system causes a back siphoning into the water system (such as when a hydrant is opened, or a water main breaks). Making sure that no cross connection exists ensures a safe drinking water supply for our customers.

Residential customers can do their part to make sure the water supply stays safe by installing hose bib vacuum breakers on outside faucets and removing any hoses that may be connected to laundry tubs or other sinks or tubs. Additional information is provided to residential property owners during routine meter upgrades.

For more information on cross connections, contact Wausau Water Works at 715-261-7265.

Sewer Back Up Insurance Is Good Insurance for Homeowners

This year make Sewer Back Up Insurance a priority. With the start of a new year, we all like to visit ideas to make our lives better. One that should be considered is to purchase sewer backup insurance.

Sewer backup insurance can be added to most homeowner's policies, and typically at a minimal expense, especially when you consider what it costs to replace goods and clean up the mess. This is especially important for homeowners who have improved basements.

Backups are typically the result of a blockage in either the homeowner's sewer lateral or the City's sewer main in the street. It should be noted that damages from blockages in the City's mains are not automatically reimbursed by the utility. We follow the Wisconsin State Statutes as it pertains to negligence, and as long as we have maintained the main within the last 3-5 years, there may not be coverage. That is why it is important to carry sewer backup insurance. Another thing to consider is the amount of coverage to carry, especially if you have an improved basement.

Having your sewer lateral cleaned on a regular basis is another good thing to do to help with backup concerns, and never ever use your toilet as a replacement for a garbage can.

DNR Holds Enforcement Hearing

(continued from page 1)

A water service lateral has two portions, the portion that the City owns which goes from the water main in the street to the round shut-off valve which is typically located in the boulevard area of the property. The other portion is the private side which is the homeowner's responsibility. The Utility would only be responsible for replacing the portion that the City owns; the private side would need to be replaced at the homeowner's expense. While homeowners are strongly encouraged to replace their portion at the same time. If property owner opts out of replacing their portion, they should expect to see elevated lead levels for an unknown period of time due to the disturbance of the lines.

Wausau Water Works will also be working with a consultant on performing a Water Quality Investigation and to develop a water hydraulic model to aid in unidirectional flushing of hydrants.

More information of lead is available on our website at: <http://ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/WausauWaterWorks/InformationonLead.aspx> or by calling 715-261-7262.