

LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
April, 2020

Our next meeting is **Monday, April 6, 2020**
Wausau Police Department Community Room, 6:30 PM

Agenda

Our April meeting is cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

Dates to Remember

- April 1: April Fools Day
- April 6: **Longfellow Neighborhood Meeting - cancelled**
- April 11: **Happy Easter**
- April 22: **Happy Earth Day (50th anniversary)**

Minutes from the March 2, 2020 Meeting

Chief Ben Bliven, of the Wausau Police Department, gave a brief introduction then answered questions from the group.

1. Accreditation for the Wausau Police Department by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Group was discussed. This process is usually completed for hospitals, universities, etc. and includes standards and best practices for the organization being accredited. Current policies are reviewed, proof they are being followed is required. Although all police departments must meet the same guidelines, each Department may have a different way of doing so. The review is conducted every 3 years, includes going through files, and was completed during 3 days last week. The first time the Wausau Police Department was reviewed was in 2017 when they were initially accredited.
2. Evidence storage is an on-going issue for the Department since they have a very small space to work with. Departments are required to have separate areas for drugs, guns, cash and other types of evidence. There is a separate building for large items such as boats, cars, etc. Evidence must be kept until the case is resolved and is regularly reviewed to determine what can be disposed of.
3. Police officers write a substantial number of citations for running red lights since the criteria is very strict but there is a little more flexibility for yellow light violations. Wisconsin law bans citation "quotas".
4. Annual evaluations of are conducted and includes assessing:
 - officer productivity
 - how well officers meet core values every day
 - documentation of calls, citations, and violations; the Department is evaluating using voice documentation to reduce the time needed to complete these tasks
5. Bicycle lanes can, and should, be used as a turn lane if there is no bicycle in the lane.

6. The Wausau Police Department has been constantly recruiting and hiring officers since 2015. The number of officers in the Department is dictated by the City budget. Recruiting has become more difficult due to a variety of factors including a much smaller number of applicants, the required written test, the number of demands/responsibilities of the job (long days, shift work, and overtime), and the personality needed to be a good officer. The Department attends “job fairs” to help in their search. The steps in the hiring process itself are very involved and take approximately 40 hours of time by the candidate and command staff. Potential officers must:
 - pass the written test
 - participate in 2 interviews with a 2-3 person group
 - complete and submit a 30-page packet and 2 more interviews with a different 2-3 person group
 - pass a background check (high school and college teachers/counselors, parents and a spouse (if applicable) are contacted)
 - interview with a group of 4 people
 - pass a polygraph test
 - a conditional offer is then made
 - physical and psychological exams are given
 - all information is reviewed by the Police and Fire Commission (by regulation, only they can hire and fire officers)
 - a final offer is made to the applicant
7. The Department currently has multiple sources for non-English speakers or when dealing with someone with special needs. There are 4 Hmong speakers (1 is currently attending the police academy), 2-3 Spanish speakers and 1 sign language interpreter who can be used. The Department also has access to 24-hour translators if needed.

Officer Shawn Meyer distributed and discussed the Brief Sheet. He discussed the work the Community Resource Unit (CRU) does. There has been an increase in heroin lately, which correlates with an increase in overdoses as more drugs are being cut with fentanyl.

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From My Desk to Yours . . . Anne Heidemann, President, Longfellow Neighborhood

Thank you to chief Ben Bliven for speaking to our group. And as always, a big thanks to the Wausau Police Department for always supporting all the neighborhood groups. I do not have a guest for our meeting, but will be glad to see all of you. Try to stay calm during this medical crisis—this too shall pass. Take care everyone! **(Editor’s Note: Anne submitted her “article” before the decision was made to cancel the meeting.)**

Michael Martens, District 2 Alderman

To say we are living in unprecedented times is an understatement. I know there is a certain level of fear and anxiety of what is happening and what the future will hold, but we are a resilient community and we will get through it. If you are struggling, or know someone who is, let me know and I’ll try to point you to the appropriate local resources. Hold strong and wash your hands.

Neighborhood/Community Businesses

Acro Plumbing	904 Sumner Street	715-842-9425
Bull Falls Brewery	901 East Thomas	715-842-2337
Cveykus Law Office	301 Grand Avenue	715-842-5205
801 Custom Threads	801 Genrich Street	715-298-8010
Forward Electronics	115 Prospect Avenue	715-845-4355
JAS Construction	josh@jasbuilds.com	715-432-5732
John Jokela Law Firm	207 Grand Avenue	715-845-9000
Little Bull Falls Soap Works	607 Prospect Avenue	715-846-2555
M & S, The Siding Specialists	818 Henrietta Street	715-842-7965
Meverden Chiropractic	215 Grand Avenue	715-848-4088

Neighborhood/Community Businesses (continued)

Olson Tire and Auto	601 Forest Street	715-845-8473
Incredible Bank/River Valley Bank	101 Grand Avenue	715-845-0900
Schmidt & Schmidt	123 Grand Avenue	715-845-9621
Subway	601 Forest Street	715-848-1930
The Nathan House	921 Grand Avenue	715-845-4922
The Hair Designers	607 Prospect Avenue	715-845-2666
Townline Market	916 Townline Road	715-842-5201

NEED TO KNOW NUMBERS

LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT:

ANNE HEIDEMANN 715-845-4148

NEIGHBORHOOD ALDERPERSON:

MICHAEL MARTENS (michael.martens@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-845-4218

SECRETARY/NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

JOY FOYE 715-842-9197

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

NON-EMERGENCIES 715-261-7800

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

OFFICER SNOW THAO (Snow.thao@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-261-7937

OFFICER SHAWN MEYER (Shawn,meyer@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-261-7934

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

ASHLEE BISHOP 715-261-7842

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

TAMMY STRATZ 715-261-6682

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT:

TRAVIS LEPINSKI and ADAM MALZAHN 715-261-6780

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

uncut grass/unshoveled sidewalks 715-261-6740

STREET CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE:

missed by snow plows 715-261-6960

FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE:

DAVE DESANTIS 715-261-7904

JEREMY KOPP 715-261-7906

