

LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD! February, 2024

Our next meeting is Monday, February 5, 2024

Wausau Police Department Community Room, 6:30 PM

Agenda

- Welcome remarks from Longfellow Neighborhood President – Brooke Mueller
- Guest Speaker – Jennifer Thompson, Dementia Specialist with ADRC
- Marathon County District 2 Supervisor – Ann Lemmer (with Q & A)
- Wausau District 2 Alderperson – Michael Martens (with Q & A)
- Wausau Police Department – with Q & A

Dates to Remember

- February 2: Groundhog Day
- February 5: **Longfellow Neighborhood Meeting**
- February 14: **Happy Valentine's Day**
- February 19: President's Day
- February 20: Spring **Primary** Election (only some races need a primary, Mayor is one)
Wausau Winter Market, Saturdays, 8:00 AM – Noon, Whitewater Music Hall, 130 1st Street
Marathon County Historical Society History Chats – Thursdays, 12:30 PM; livestream on Facebook and YouTube

Minutes from the January 8, 2024 Meeting

An Officer was unable to join us this month for our meeting.

Michael discussed the following with our group:

- Michael discussed the release of employee job classification information by the Human Resource Committee especially regarding the pay rates and salary grades for water utility workers; it appears to be competitive with other communities. A review of costs for the Water Department will take place in June/July when a more accurate picture of the revenue and expenses for running the new facility should be available; potential utility rate changes would not be expected to occur until at least January 2025 since there is a specific process that must be followed for a rate change to be approved.
- TID #6 (located on the west side, north of Stewart Avenue to Bridge Street) will be extended for 1 more year. All the incremental funding that is generated by the extension will be used for affordable housing.

Ann shared these items with our group:

- Ann clarified that the County budget is made up of at least 12 different funds rather than 4, as mentioned last month; some funds are restricted while others are part of the general fund.
- Ann discussed the status of the childcare resolution previously discussed at County meetings. Although the resolution is currently on hold, it is still being considered. Ann shared that 84 childcare staff quit in October (due to wages, benefits or leaving the field entirely). Although 77 childcare staff were hired last year, 36 positions are still open in Wausau. There are currently 647 children on a waiting list with over 500 of them under the age of 2. Marathon County is hoping to find state and/or federal funding to assist in resolving this issue.

- Marathon County will receive a portion of the \$400 million in opioid funding the State of Wisconsin received. Ann let everyone know there will be a Public Safety and Health and Human Services Committee meeting tomorrow (1/9) at 2:15 to discuss the topic; it will also be available on YouTube. Vending machines with overdose supplies are located inside Health First and were funded through a state grant.

There was discussion about future meeting topics. Scheduling a speaker from the ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) or AARP to speak to the group regarding support services for caregivers (in February) and scheduling a tour of our new polling location at the Health Care Center (in March) were suggested.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2024

From My Desk to Yours . . . Brooke Mueller, President, Longfellow Neighborhood

Hi everyone! Our next meeting will be on Monday February 5th. Jennifer Thompson, Dementia Specialist with the ADRC will be joining us. She will have information and resources for caregivers of patients with dementia as well other resources and tips. As always, you can reach out to me with questions, issues, concerns, or recommendations for upcoming meeting topics at longfellowN2N@gmail.com. See you at the meeting!

Michael Martens, Wausau District 2 Alderperson

ARPA or the American Rescue Plan Act is coming to an end. This program awarded the city \$15.5 million as part of the recovery process from the pandemic. Unlike most grant programs, this one had some very basic guidelines, so the city was in control on how the money could be disbursed. The finance committee and common council had two goals, though: the funding should not be used primarily for one-time projects and not for continuing programs unless a future funding mechanism is identified and must have a transformative effect on our community. I believe, for the most part, that we achieved those goals. Some of the projects that we funded, in no particular order, are: funding to mitigate our PFAS contamination (water pitchers and a treatment pilot study); increasing the number of fire fighters; affordable housing initiatives; storm sewer and wastewater improvements; a new skate park; year round funding of the homeless shelter and warming center; lead water line replacement; closed captioning for city meetings aired on public access channels; LED street light conversion; and city communications infrastructure. With about \$1 million of funding left, we have until the end of 2024 to commit to projects and 2026 to spend it. But, even now we are starting to see the positive aspects of this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Ann Lemmer, Marathon County District 2 County Supervisor

Our March meeting will be held at our NEW polling place, the Lake View Conference Center, 1000 Lake View Drive (North Central Health Care Center Campus). I'm excited about this because not only will we be learning about making our vote count, but we will also get a quick tour of the newly completed areas of this facility. Our Deputy Administrator, Chris Holman, will be on hand to share the updates to the North Central Health Care Center as well. This significant investment will serve our community well into the future. It's not too early to think about voting. Not registered? Stop by City Hall or, you can register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and track your ballot at myvote.wi.gov. This will be a great meeting to attend in person!

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
Distinctive Treasures (seasonal)	701 Prospect Avenue	715-842-7739
Global View Capital Advisors	215 Grand Avenue	715-298-0313
Herrle Health Services	215 Grand Avenue	715-846-3444
JAS Construction	josh@jasbuilds.com	715-432-5732

NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY BUSINESSES (continued)

M & S, The Siding Specialists	818 Henrietta Street	715-842-7965
Olson Tire and Auto	601 Forest Street	715-845-8473
Incredible Bank	101 Grand Avenue	715-845-0900
Schmidt & Schmidt	123 Grand Avenue	715-845-9621
Townline Market	916 Townline Road	715-842-5201
True North Counseling & Wellness	207 Grand Avenue	715-370-8863

NEED TO KNOW NUMBERS

LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT:

BROOKE MUELLER (longfellowN2N@gmail.com) 262-349-0605

NEIGHBORHOOD ALDERPERSON:

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

WAUSAU MAYOR:

KATIE ROSENBERG (katie.rosenberg@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-261-6800

MARATHON COUNTY DISTRICT 2 SUPERVISOR:

ANN LEMMBER (ann.lemmer@co.marathon.wi.us) 920-207-3105

SECRETARY/NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

JOY FOYE 715-842-9197

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

NON-EMERGENCIES 715-261-7800

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

OFFICER JOHN SHEAR (john.shear@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-261-7998

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

TAMMY STRATZ (tammy.stratz@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-261-6682

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT:

Uncut grass 715-261-6780

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

Unshoveled sidewalks 715-261-6740

STREET CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE:

Missed by snow plows 715-261-6960

FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE:

BRIAN STAHL (brian.stahl@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-261-7900

