# SPRING 2024



# Happy Spring, Wausau!

I want to thank you for your support over the last four years. Serving as your mayor has been the most challenging and rewarding job I've ever had. As I reflect on the last four years, I know that the next stewards of this city have the resources they need to continue serving you.

One of those key investments includes Wausau's Fire Department. The firefighter-paramedics haven't increased their ranks in my lifetime but thanks to

support from the federal government and you, they are hiring a dozen new firefighters. That means the team will be able to keep up with the increasing calls for service. It will also affect the rankings given to our community by the Insurance Services Office. That will have a real impact on things like your residential and commercial insurance rates – in addition to getting better service when you need it.

Your new fire leaders, Chief Jeremy Kopp and Deputy Chief Justin Pluess, are also working on a first in Wisconsin Firefighters Apprenticeship program, thanks to some heavy lifting from our friends at North Central Technical College. In addition to presenting the program to Governor Evers, they've also been working hard to identify and apply for grant funding to get the program off the ground. This will create a pipeline for firefighters for decades to come.

As I am writing this letter, the United States Environmental Protection Agency is releasing the very first enforceable PFAS regulation for municipal drinking water systems. They have set the Maximum Contaminant Level at 4 parts per trillion. That's going to be mighty challenging for many municipal drinking water treatment facilities to meet in the next five years, but it won't be a challenge for Wausau because we've already addressed this issue. The new granulated activated carbon system is scheduled to be online at the end of 2024. I am sure our utility staff will be bombarded with questions from other municipalities about how to get this work done and they will be able to offer valuable insights to move our whole state forward.

I'm so proud of the work that Team Wausau has accomplished over the last four years. Good luck to the next administration as they navigate the challenges of the next four years.

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**City Hall** 407 Grant St. Wausau, WI 54403 715-261-6500 General Hours: M-F, 8-4:30

# Metro Ride



### Hello, my name is Arran Hersey, Lam very

excited for the opportunity to be the Transit Director for the City of Wausau Metro Ride.

I make my way to Wisconsin from TriMet in Portland Oregon where I spent the last ten+ years dedicating my career to serving the community in public transportation. I began my public transportation career as a bus operator. I have served in many

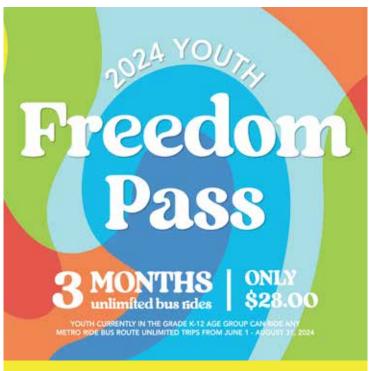
different leadership roles since then, operations center manager, bus transportation assistant manager, and bus operations manager. I look forward to using my knowledge to help continue to build a positive culture here around open communication and growth.

I have over twenty years of operations management experience in the service industry, live theater, and public transportation.

I was born in Redding California, and moved to Portland Oregon after finishing high school where I met my wife Shawnee. We have three wonderful children Jerra, Aidan, and Jade.

My family and I enjoy an array of hobbies including fishing, hiking, rafting, paddle boarding, snow boarding, and camping. I also enjoy strategy board games, reading, live theater, and Oregon Ducks Football (sorry everyone).

I look forward to immersing myself in this community, and learning and experiencing everything it has to offer. The welcome I have receiving in the short time I have been here has been nothing short of amazing.



### **GET YOUR PASS!** AT THESE LOCATIONS STARTING MAY 1<sup>st</sup>

- HORACE MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL
- + COUNTY MARKET
- + WAUSAU CITY HALL
- + WAUSAU WEST HIGH SCHOOL
- + JOHN MUIR MIDDLE SCHOOL
- + WAUSAU EAST HIGH SCHOOL





# Saturday, June 1, 2024 | Downtown Wausau

One day, four events! Join us downtown for a full day of fun as we celebrate and appreciate the diversity in our community. Events include Family Pride Fest, Teen Pride, Wausau Pride at Night, and an after-hours party at Oz. Find all the details or apply to be a food, merch or non-profit vendor here: wausaupride.org. Applications are open until March 20.



# Thursdays, June 20, July 18 and August 15 3rd Street | 5pm-9pm

Come on down to 3rd Street for a mix of local makers, artists, farmers and food trucks. Each event will also feature live music, sidewalk dining, and extended hours from your fave downtown businesses. Find event details and the vendor application here: wausauriverdistrict.org/night-market-series. Applications are open until April 1.

# **Fire Department**

# **Understanding Recreational Fire Regulations**

Campfires can be a delightful pastime, especially during the spring and summer seasons. However, it's essential to be aware of the regulations set forth by the City of Wausau to ensure the safety of our community. These recreational fires, intended for cooking, warming, or similar recreational purposes, require a permit. Let's explore the ordinances governing recreational fires and how they impact residents.

### **Understanding the Regulations**

City Ordinance 7.24.020 grants the Fire Chief the authority to issue permits for open fires, including recreational fires, which are small outdoor fires for recreation or cooking. This ordinance establishes regulations for fire pits, fuel types, safety distances from buildings and combustible materials, and the presence of responsible supervision.

### **Compliance Guidelines**

When enjoying a recreational fire, it's crucial to adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1. Fire Pit Requirements: Recreational fires must be contained in a fire pit, with specific dimensions as follows: Diameter less than three feet and the fire may not extend more than two feet above the fire pit. All below-ground fire pits shall be at least four inches in depth and shall be surrounded on the outside, above ground, by a noncombustible material such as concrete block, rock or metal. A portable device shall be placed upon a noncombustible surface and secured.
- **2. Fuel Restrictions:** Only clean, dry wood or untreated lumber is permitted as fuel for recreational fires.
- **3. Safety Distances:** Ensure that there is a safe distance of at least 25 feet between the fire and any buildings, structures, or combustible materials. Additionally, maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from property lines that lack combustible fences.
- **4. Wind Conditions:** Avoid starting or continuing a fire during windy conditions exceeding seven miles per hour to prevent smoke and embers from posing a hazard.
- **5. Supervision:** Ensure that a responsible individual aged 18 or older attends the fire at all times until it is completely extinguished.

### **Permit Requirements**

Any property owner wishing to host a recreational fire must obtain a permit from the City Clerk. The permit is valid for up to five years and requires compliance with all applicable laws and ordinances. A \$30 fee is associated with obtaining the permit and is valid for five years.

Please remember to visit the Wausau Fire Department website to stay informed about any burning bans in effect. Recreational fires are prohibited when the fire danger level is very high or extreme. You can access the website at https://www.wausauwi.gov/ your-government/fire.

### Conclusion

As we embrace the warmer months ahead, let's enjoy recreational fires responsibly while prioritizing the safety and wellbeing of our community. By understanding and following the regulations outlined by the City of Wausau, we can ensure enjoyable and safe recreational experiences for all residents.

For more information or to obtain a recreational fire permit, please contact the City Clerk's office.

Remember, safety first!

Respectfully, Deputy Fire Chief Justin Pluess

Bio: Justin Pluess joined the Wausau Fire Department as Deputy Chief in January 2024, bringing nearly two decades of experience from the Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department. His firefighting journey began in 1997, continuing a cherished family tradition spanning four generations. Along this path, Justin has exemplified commitment and leadership, earning the respect of his peers in the Fire Service.





# **Police Department**

# **Citizen Volunteers assist WPD**

The Wausau Police Department is seeking citizen volunteers to be a part of its Emergency Police Unit. The Wausau Emergency Police is a citizen auxiliary unit which serves the community under the direction of the police department. The unit provides staffing during major functions where traffic control and extra security is needed. Emergency Police volunteers may also be called upon to assist during an emergency.

The unit is comprised of volunteers from communities throughout the Wausau metropolitan area. The Wausau Emergency Police unit regularly assists at Wings Over Wausau, The Hmong Festival, Wisconsin Valley Fair, Festival of the Arts, and the Wausau Marathon along with several other 5k run/walks and parades.

The unit is also ready to assist the community during emergency events such as storms, floods, or any other incident in which the police may require additional staffing for scene security and crowd control. The Emergency Police unit provides training throughout the year to ensure its members are prepared to handle a variety of situations. The unit currently has twenty members and is growing. 
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The unit has been in existence since 1951. As

a volunteer organization it is always looking for new members to join its ranks. If you are a person who enjoys helping people and being an active part of the Wausau community, we invite you to join! Contact Lt. Jillian Kurtzhals at 715-261-7988 or stop by the Wausau Police Department to pick up an application. Candidates must be 18 years of age and pass a background check.

You can also learn more about the Wausau Emergency Police on our Facebook page.



# **Planning Department**

# Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee

It's almost Spring and change is in the air! In past years, you have been encouraged to participate in No Mow May and the ordinance enforcing grass height has been suspended for that purpose.

Now, following updated science and practices, the Sustainability committee is encouraging you to **Slow Your Mow**! That's right: No Mow May is no more.

Slow Your Mow is rooted in the science of helping pollinators throughout the warm months, saving water (and thus, saving you money), and saving you effort!

### Why should we help pollinators?

While more than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields, pollinators include much more than bees. Flowers can be pollinated by insects and animals - such as bees, wasps, moths, flies, butterflies, beetles, birds and even small mammals such as bats.

Along with plants, insects (including flies and mosquitoes) are the foundation of the food web. Removing insects from the food chain threatens other species and ultimately, us. We may hate mosquitoes, but they provide a tremendous amount of food to frogs and birds.

About 85% of the world's flowering plants and 35% of the world's food crops (one in three bites of food we eat) depend on insect and animal pollinators to reproduce.

### Why are pollinators declining?

Habitat loss and degradation, pesticide use, invasive species, and climate change are threatening insect populations worldwide. Although pollinator conservation is a big task, we can each play a part by adopting four simple steps: growing pollinator-friendly flowers, providing nest sites, avoiding pesticides, and spreading the word!

### How To Slow Your Mow:

Leave it Long: Keep your grass between 2-6" tall. Leaving it long allows it to conserve water and become more resilient to dry spells (saving you water and money). Flowers that grow within your lawn also provide forage for insects and bees. Why and How to Slow Your Mow video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgFMINFJDi0)

Leave it There: Every few times you mow, mulch the grass and spread it on the lawn. This will act as mulch that not only helps the lawn retain moisture, but also returns nutrients to the soil.

### Leave it Bee:

- Avoid treating your lawn with chemicals. Adding chemicals to your lawn has many harmful consequences. Pesticides (including herbicides) become incorporated into the soil and our water supply, harming both wildlife and people.
- **Plant native plants.** Consider reducing your lawn footprint and planting native vegetation (shrubs, trees, perennial wildflowers, grasses, and sedges) in its place every little bit helps!
- **CAUTION:** When purchasing plants, be aware that some may be treated with pesticides that are harmful to wildlife. Thus, it's important to ask the supplier whether they're treated before purchasing them. Local nurseries tend to be the best sources of pesticide-free native plants.
- **Consider planting a diversity of species** to provide blooms and food to pollinators and wildlife throughout the entire season (including the spring and fall).
- In areas where you want/need an actual lawn, transition your turf grass to a *Bee Lawn*. Bee lawns can still be used recreationally by your household like a regular lawn, their flowers provide food (nectar and pollen) for pollinators, and they can attract over 50 species of native bees.

For best information on what to plant and how to manage a Slow Mow lawn all summer, check out these resources:

Pollinator-friendly native plant lists (<u>https://tinyurl.com/mwnfrt45</u>)

Milkweed and Wildflower Vendor Map (https://tinyurl.com/4w99cuzh)

List of places to purchase bee lawn seed (https://tinyurl.com/3wykbvw9)

Mowing practices for healthy lawns (<u>https://tinyurl.com/pvdn2err</u>)



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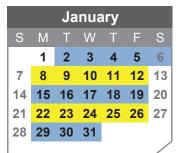
# 2024 Wausau Recycling Collection CORRECTED

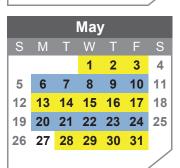
Please refer to the table and calendar to determine your recycling and garbage pick-up day. If you have any questions as to whether you live in a blue or yellow collection area, call City Hall at 715-261-6500.

Recycling carts should be set out with garbage containers between the hours of 3:00 pm the day prior to collection day and should be removed from the curbside area by 11:00 a.m. the day after pick-up. Recycling containers have a green lid and Garbage containers have a blue lid. Garbage pick-up is every week and Recycling cart pick-up is every other week. Placement of the carts at the curbside need to be placed at least 4 feet from other objects such as other carts, mailboxes and trees to accommodate the mechanical arm as it grips the cart and empties its contents. Thank you! **Keep this schedule for future reference and remember the holiday schedule of a "day delay" pick-up.** 

West Side of Wisconsin River	Garbage P/U	Recycling P/U
North of W. Wausau Avenue	Monday	Monday - BLUE
North of Elm St, South of W. Wausau Ave, & East of USH 51	Monday	Monday - YELLOW
South of Elm St & North of Stewart Ave, including entire area west of USH 51	Tuesday	Tuesday - BLUE
South of Stewart Ave & North of Thomas St.	Tuesday	Tuesday - YELLOW
South of Thomas Street	Wednesday	Wednesday - BLUE
East Side of Wisconsin River		
North of Managements Del O. Frank of united at the state		

	North of Marquardt Rd & East of railroad tracks	Wednesday	Wednesday - BLUE
	North of Nina Ave & South of Marquardt Rd including homes west of the railroad tracks to Evergreen Rd.	Wednesday	Wednesday - YELLOW
	South of Nina Ave & North of Hamilton St	Thursday	Thursday - BLUE
	South of Hamilton St & North of Kickbusch St.	Thursday	Thursday - YELLOW
	South of Kickbusch St. North of McDonald St & East of Northwestern Rd.	Friday	Friday - BLUE
5	South of McDonald St & entire area west of Northwestern Rd.	Friday	Friday - YELLOW





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WAUSAU WORKS FOR YOU

# **Public Works**

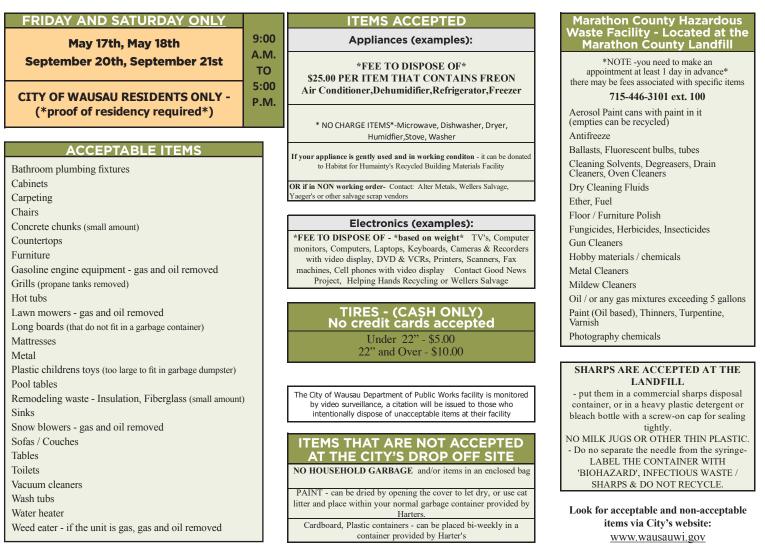
### City Of Wausau

# Clean It Up, Wausau! Large Item Drop-Off

Friday & Saturday,

May 17-18, September 20-21 • 9am - 5pm

Location: east end of E. Chellis Street - Near the Yard Waste site



# **City of Wausau Yard Waste Site**

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

### 2024 Hours of Operation

The Yard Waste Site will be open from April 3rd through November 24th during the following hours: Monday CLOSED. Tuesday CLOSED Wednesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. CLOSED Thursday Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

### \*NOTE\*- Schedule times may vary in the fall, call D.P.W. at 715-261-6960 to confirm scheduled hours.

The site will be locked and gated during non-operating hours. The site is monitored by video surveillance. Citations will be issued to those who leave yard waste outside the gate of the facility.

### Materials Accepted:

Garden & flower debris, Grass, Leaves, Tree branches/brush

DATES TO REMEMBER:

**April 3** 

Yard waste site opens.

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 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



# Wausau Water Works

# Rain Barrels Are Available

Wausau Water Works, as part of their "Wauter Savvy" Campaign, is once again offering discounted Rain Barrels \$51 for residents & \$76 for non-residents

Rain barrels are available for both city residents and non-residents. Wausau Water Works will subsidize the purchase of the rain barrels for city residents and non-residents may purchase at the discounted price.

Rain barrels may be ordered online through our partner Rain Water Solutions at the following website www.rainwatersolutions.com/ products/wausauwi Wausau Rain Barrels Rain Water Solutions Inc.

# Order early, the last day to place an order is Wednesday April 24, 2024

All rain barrels will be delivered to Wausau Water Works and residents may pick up their rain barrels at the scheduled pick-up event

### **Rain Barrel Pick Up Event**

Tuesday May 7, 2024 3pm-7pm Wednesday May 8, 2024 3pm-7pm 1801 Burek Ave., Wausau, WI 54401

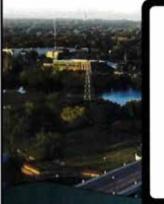
Reminders will be sent out periodically for both ordering and for the pick-up event.







New **24/7** Online Account Management and Payments



WAUSAUWATERWORKS



# Pay Online

VIEW USAGE HISTORY
VIEW PAYMENT HISTORY
SET UP RECURRING PAYMENTS
SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING

### SAVE TIME. SKIP THE LINE. PAY ONLINE. Service Fee of 3% or \$2.95 minimum.

City of Wausau 407 Grant Street Wausau, WI 54403-4783

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WAUSAUWATERWORKS

# **Do Not Discard**

Every year, homeowners needlessly pay for radio transmitters that are lost or thrown away during construction projects. If you are planning to re-side your home or do any other construction that may affect the location of these boxes, please give us a call at 715-261-7265. We can schedule an appointment for a technician to come out and relocate the radio box which will prevent any additional cost to you.



WAUSAU WORKS FOR YOU

# Wausau Water Works

# **Spring Hydrant Flushing Begins May 6th**

Avoid water use during the scheduled flush, especially for laundry purposes. It is particularly important to NOT use bleach in your laundry as it may stain your clothing. It is also suggested that you bypass water softeners during this time. Please also be aware that some homeowners may experience very low pressure during the flushing process.

Wausau Water Works anticipates the flushing to last about two weeks depending on emergencies or weather related delays. The progress may lead to flushing more than one zone per day. To work more efficiently the Wausau Water Works Department will completely flush the West Side before moving to the East side.

### **Flushing Schedule:**

### West Side

Zone 1 - North city limits south to West Wausau Avenue

**Zone 2** – Wausau Avenue south to Bridge Street and Pine Crest area to Stettin Drive, west to 48th Avenue and north to Hilltop Avenue.

Zone 3 - Bridge Street south to Sherman Street

Zone 4 - Rosecrans Street south to City limits

**Zone 4B** - high pressure zone by 28th Avenue Reservoir, Highway U

**Zone 5** – 56th Avenue west to City limits

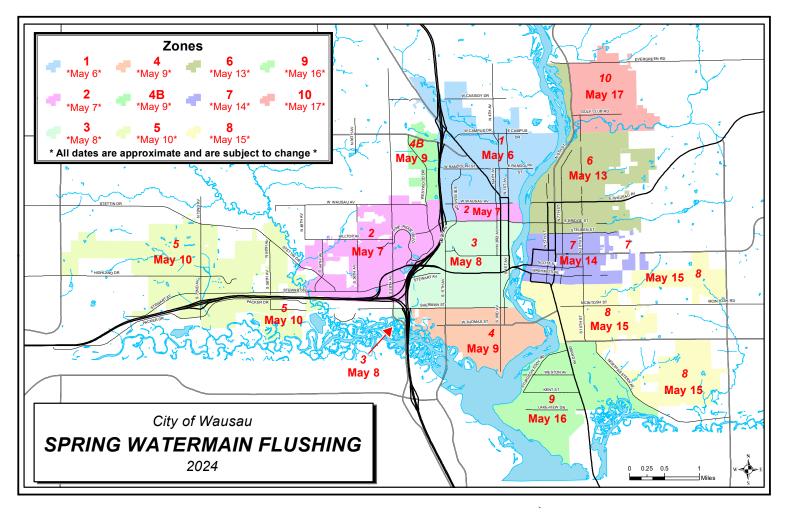
### East Side

**Zone 6** – Steuben Street north to Sylvan Street; 6th Street to City limits (Evergreen Road), Riverview Court and Riverview Drive

Zone 7 - Hamilton Street south to Forest Street

**Zone 8** – Kickbusch Street south to Town Line Road and Northwestern Avenue

Zone 9 - Town Line Road south to City limits Zone 10 - Riverview area



# Engineering

# Storm Water Pollution Control for Vehicle Washing, Pet Waste, and Household Hazardous Wastes

### Vehicle Washing:

Car washing is a popular weekend activity. But what happens when the rinse water leaves the driveway? The detergent joins antifreeze, oil, grease and bits of tires, brakes and rust left by cars on the streets and is carried into storm sewers.



### **Eco-Friendly Washing Tips:**

- Considering choosing a non-toxic, biodegradable soap that is free of phosphates, fragrance, chlorine, and petroleum-based ingredients.
- Avoid using acid-based wheel cleaners or hose-off engine degreasers which are harmful to the environment.
- Wash your car on the lawn or over an unpaved surface if possible, so the rinse water can be filtered through dirt before reaching a storm drain or waterway. When washing on paved surfaces the rinse water drains directly into the storm drains.



### **Risks of pet waste runoff:**

- When pet waste is washed into lakes or streams the waste decays, using up oxygen and sometimes releasing ammonia.
- Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth
- Pet waste can carry diseases which make water unsafe for swimming or drinking.

### What can you do?

Correct pet waste management practices will help avoid pet waste runoff. Clean up pet waste by burying it or throwing it in the trash. Don't let pet waste accumulate in your yard and always encourage responsible pet ownership. Never throw pet waste into a storm drain or leave it lay where it is susceptible to entering storm water runoff.

# **Household Hazardous Waste Management:**

Household hazardous waste is any waste product found in your home, yard, or garage that can cause harm to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Household hazardous waste is not subject to Wisconsin's hazardous waste rules unless it is separated from normal household trash for management, but it is still potentially dangerous when stored or disposed of improperly.

Improper household hazardous waste management can result in hazardous waste reaching storm water and contaminating our rivers and lakes. Prevention of contamination is possible by conducting proper management practices. A guide for household hazardous waste disposal can be found at the following site: <u>https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/</u> <u>HouseholdHW.html</u>

The location of the Marathon County Hazardous Waste Collection Site is at the Marathon County Solid Waste Department (landfill) at R18500 East Highway 29 in Ringle. The Solid Waste Department is located on the north side of Highway 29, approximately 12 miles east of Wausau and 1.5 miles east of the County Q exit. For any questions or for other recycling and solid waste information, please contact the Marathon County Solid Waste & Recycling Information Line at 1-877-270-3989 (toll free).

# **Emergency Management**

# Wausau Outdoor Warning Sirens

### Marathon County/City of Wausau Emergency Management

Spring is finally here in Wausau, and the increased chance of severe weather comes with that. To help ensure the safety of its residents during severe weather, there are eleven outdoor warning sirens located throughout the city. These sirens are activated by the Marathon County Sheriff's Office Communications Center when a tornado warning is issued for the area or if a tornado is sighted in the immediate area. Sirens are also activated for testing every Monday at 1:15 P.M. from April 1st through September 30th and on the first Monday at 1:15 P.M. for the remaining months. Outdoor warning sirens in the City of Wausau are not activated for Tornado Watches, Thunderstorm Watches, or Thunderstorm Warnings.

It is imperative that residents and visitors to Wausau know what the sirens mean and what to do if they hear them sounding. These types of sirens are designed to alert those outside that a hazardous situation is approaching and that they should take shelter indoors and tune in to local media or another source to get more information. Those inside may or may not hear the sirens and should have an alternate way to be alerted to warnings in the area. An option for indoor alerts -whether home or business - is a NOAA Weather Radio. The NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

66th Ave and Packer Dr	John Marshall School	Riverview School	
Jefferson School	3rd St and Scott St	13th St and Brown St	
Elm St (Water Reservoir)	32nd Ave and Honeysuckle Ln	Holy Name Church	
Kelly Park	Stettin Dr (Between 48th Ave and 56th Ave)		

### Wausau Warning Sirens are located at the following eleven locations:

If maintenance is needed on sirens located within the City of Wausau, please contact City Hall at 715-261-6780.

Kelly Bremer, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

# Tornado

Warning: A tornado is either happening or imminent. Seek shelter immediately.

Watch: Conditions are favorable for tornadic storms. Be alert.

# Thunderstorm

Warning: Severe storms are either happening or are imminent. Seek shelter immediately.

Watch: Severe storms are possible in the near future. Be alert.

# **Flash Flood**

**Warning:** Flood is either happening or is imminent. Move to higher ground.

Watch: Conditions are favorable for flooding. Be alert.



### Mayor

Doug Diny 407 Grant St doug.diny@ci.wausau.wi.us



**City Council Representatives** 

All mail for Alderpersons can be sent to: City Hall 407 Grant Street Wausau, WI 54403

### **District 1** Carol Lukens



715-261-6831 carol.lukens@ci.wausau.wi.us

### **District 2**

Michael Martens

michael.martens@ci.wausau.wi.us

### **District 3**

Terry Kilian terry.kilian@ci.wausau.wi.us

### **District 4**

Tom Neal tom.neal2@ci.wausau.wi.us

District 5 Gary Gisselman 715-848-5160 gary.gisselman3@ci.wausau.wi.



District 6 Rebecca McElhaney 715-261-6830 becky.mcelhaney@ci.wausau.wi.us



### **District 7** Lisa Rasmussen 715-261-6832 lisa.rasmussen2@ci.wausau.wi.us

### **District 8**

Sarah Watson sarah.watson@ci.wausau.wi.us



**District 9** 

Victoria Tierney victoria.tierney@ci.wausau.wi.us

**District 10** Louis Larson 715-261-6840



lou.larson@ci.wausau.wi.us

District 11 Chad Henke 715-261-6841 chad.henke@ci.wausau.wi.

# CITY OF WAUSAU

407 Grant Street Wausau, WI 54403

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 Area Events



PROFESSIONAL DAY AIRSHOW NIGHT AIRSHOW & FIREWORKS KID'S ACTIVITIES & GAMES LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FOOD VENDORS DRONE & RC DEMONSTRATIONS FULL CAR SHOW WINGS OVER WAUSAU 5K



# WWW.WAUSAUEVENTS.ORG

# CONCERTS ON THE SQUARE 400 BLOCK - DOWNTOWN WAUSAU

6 PM TO 8 PM JUNE 5 - AUGUST 28

