

LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD! August, 2024

Our next meeting is Monday, August 5, 2024

Wausau Police Department Community Room, 6:30 PM

Agenda

- Welcome remarks from Longfellow Neighborhood President – Brooke Mueller
- Guest Speaker – Brad Lenz, Wausau City Planner
- Wausau District 2 Alderperson – Michael Martens (with Q & A)
- Marathon County District 2 Supervisor – Ann Lemmer (with Q & A)

Dates to Remember

- July 27-28: Hmong Wausau Festival, People’s Sports Complex
 July 30- August 4: Wisconsin Valley Fair, Marathon Park; concerts at 7:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (7/30-8/1); rodeo 7:30 PM on Friday and Saturday (8/2, 8/3); demo derby at 5:00 PM on Sunday (8/4); midway/rides daily, animal judging Tuesday through Saturday (7/30-8/3); food; admission and parking charge (daily and season rates available)
- August 5: **Longfellow Neighborhood Meeting**
 August 13: **Referendum and partisan primary election**
 August 16-17: Big Bull Falls Bluesfest; Friday, 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM; Saturday, 1:00 PM – 10:00 PM; admission charge

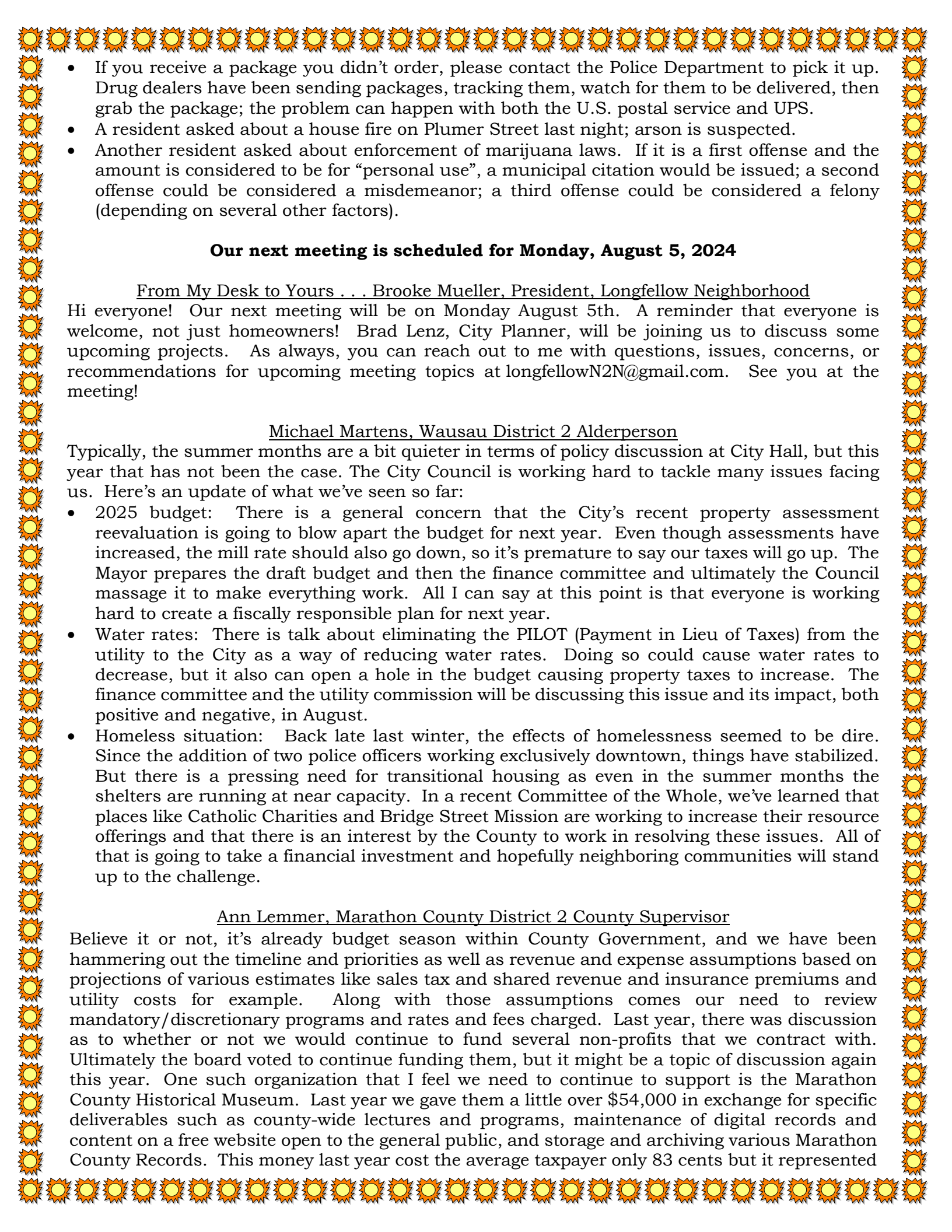
Concerts on the Square, Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM (7/31, 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28)
Wausau Farmers Market, Saturday and Wednesday, 7:00 AM – Sold Out – 200 River Drive
Marathon County Historical Society Vintage Game Night – 1st Friday of each month, 5:30 PM
Jazz on the River - Sundays, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Kickbusch Plaza (7/28, 8/4, 8/11, 8/18)
Friends of Wausau Historical Landmarks Neighborhood Walking Tours – 8/29 (Old German)
Fiber Arts Night – Thursdays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, Rise Up Hub in Whitewater Music Hall

Minutes from the July 1, 2024 Meeting

Ann and Michael were unable to attend the meeting due to previous commitments.

Officer John Shear distributed and discussed the Briefing Sheet.

- June was busier than May but there was still not much activity in our neighborhood. There were no incidents at Wings Over Wausau or Chalkfest.
- There was a suspicious death on Genrich that appears to be drug related.
- Upcoming activities with a standard police presence include the Hmong Festival and the Wisconsin Valley Fair.
- Based on feedback received by the Police Department, the downtown CSO officers are doing a good job.
- The drug unit issued several warrants; some overdoses occurred (none in our neighborhood). Based on Police Department contacts, there is little meth in Wausau.
- The Police Department is dealing with the “usual” summer issues of car break-ins and package theft.

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- If you receive a package you didn't order, please contact the Police Department to pick it up. Drug dealers have been sending packages, tracking them, watch for them to be delivered, then grab the package; the problem can happen with both the U.S. postal service and UPS.
 - A resident asked about a house fire on Plumer Street last night; arson is suspected.
 - Another resident asked about enforcement of marijuana laws. If it is a first offense and the amount is considered to be for "personal use", a municipal citation would be issued; a second offense could be considered a misdemeanor; a third offense could be considered a felony (depending on several other factors).

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

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

Hi everyone! Our next meeting will be on Monday August 5th. A reminder that everyone is welcome, not just homeowners! Brad Lenz, City Planner, will be joining us to discuss some upcoming projects. 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

Typically, the summer months are a bit quieter in terms of policy discussion at City Hall, but this year that has not been the case. The City Council is working hard to tackle many issues facing us. Here's an update of what we've seen so far:

- 2025 budget: There is a general concern that the City's recent property assessment reevaluation is going to blow apart the budget for next year. Even though assessments have increased, the mill rate should also go down, so it's premature to say our taxes will go up. The Mayor prepares the draft budget and then the finance committee and ultimately the Council massage it to make everything work. All I can say at this point is that everyone is working hard to create a fiscally responsible plan for next year.
- Water rates: There is talk about eliminating the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) from the utility to the City as a way of reducing water rates. Doing so could cause water rates to decrease, but it also can open a hole in the budget causing property taxes to increase. The finance committee and the utility commission will be discussing this issue and its impact, both positive and negative, in August.
- Homeless situation: Back late last winter, the effects of homelessness seemed to be dire. Since the addition of two police officers working exclusively downtown, things have stabilized. But there is a pressing need for transitional housing as even in the summer months the shelters are running at near capacity. In a recent Committee of the Whole, we've learned that places like Catholic Charities and Bridge Street Mission are working to increase their resource offerings and that there is an interest by the County to work in resolving these issues. All of that is going to take a financial investment and hopefully neighboring communities will stand up to the challenge.

Ann Lemmer, Marathon County District 2 County Supervisor

Believe it or not, it's already budget season within County Government, and we have been hammering out the timeline and priorities as well as revenue and expense assumptions based on projections of various estimates like sales tax and shared revenue and insurance premiums and utility costs for example. Along with those assumptions comes our need to review mandatory/discretionary programs and rates and fees charged. Last year, there was discussion as to whether or not we would continue to fund several non-profits that we contract with. Ultimately the board voted to continue funding them, but it might be a topic of discussion again this year. One such organization that I feel we need to continue to support is the Marathon County Historical Museum. Last year we gave them a little over \$54,000 in exchange for specific deliverables such as county-wide lectures and programs, maintenance of digital records and content on a free website open to the general public, and storage and archiving various Marathon County Records. This money last year cost the average taxpayer only 83 cents but it represented

more than a quarter of the general operations budget for the museum and about 12% of the Yawkey House Museum's income. Without these funds, it would be quite possible that they would not have earned the very prestigious history award, the 2023 Reuben Gold Thwaites Trophy. We've been awarded this trophy two other times, which says a lot about the excellence in local story-telling we have right here in our city. If you want to learn more, go and visit the museum! It's a fun walk back in time led by a very qualified staff. As always, feel free to reach out to me at my county email if you have thoughts or questions.

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
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
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:		
DOUG DINY (doug.diny@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

