

LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
October, 2024

Our next meeting is Monday, October 7, 2024

Wausau Police Department Community Room, 6:30 PM

Agenda

- Welcome remarks from Longfellow Neighborhood President – Brooke Mueller
- Guest Speaker – Dustin Kraege, Dept. of Public Works, will discuss leaf pickup (with Q & A)
- Wausau District 2 Alderperson – Michael Martens (with Q & A)
- Marathon County District 2 Supervisor – Ann Lemmer (with Q & A)

Dates to Remember

- October 5:* Harvest Fest, 400 Block, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM; children’s activities and crafts, Petting zoo, trick-or-treating at local businesses; food donations for Peyton’s Promise suggested
- October 7:* **Longfellow Neighborhood Meeting**
- October 12-13:* Central Wisconsin Indigenous People’s Day Pow Wow; doors open at 11:00 AM; Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center, 10101 Market Street, Rothschild; Pow Wow and Native American Art Market; free and open to the public
- October 14:* Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day
- October 31:* **Happy Halloween**

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
Fiber Arts Night – Thursdays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, Rise Up Hub in Whitewater Music Hall

Minutes from the September 9, 2024 Meeting

Ann discussed several items with the group.

- Budget discussions continue to gain momentum.
- Ann also updated residents about lead lateral replacement. The joint grant between the County and City of Wausau for about \$2 million was reviewed again by the City and was approved; it must still go through additional County review. At least 3 lead poisoning cases requiring blood transfusions have been reported in Marathon County.
- Ann discussed available public/private childcare funding sources. About \$1 million in ARPA funds remain; around \$200,000 of those funds can be used to train childcare providers but private support is also needed to help stabilize childcare provided in the county.
- Discussions on the new County highway building are on-going including the need for the new building, its location, who will pay for it, etc. The project will require coordination between the County and City.

Michael also discussed multiple items including the lead lateral replacement and its funding.

- Michael reminded everyone that the Good News Project will have e-cycling during the “Clean It Up Wausau” event later this month (there is a per pound fee to recycle electronics).
- There will be a ground-breaking ceremony on September 24 for the Westside Commons housing project at Stewart and First Avenues. The project will consist of 40-50 units. Residents had several questions about the project. Parking will be at the lowest level of the

building with additional parking available west of the building, across First Avenue. The units are considered “affordable housing” meaning rental rates are based on the resident’s income.

- The Commonwealth project on the corner of Grand Avenue and East Thomas Street has faced several hurdles. One was an issue with an existing sewer pipe; that was resolved by shifting the building slightly to the right from its original location. The current hurdle is regarding the right of way. Michael explained that originally the State DOT planned on reconstructing the corner in 2030-2031. The City purchased the land in 2007; there had been no activity in 2012 and the DOT indicated they didn’t plan anything. This year, however, the DOT indicated they wanted the right of way or Wausau would lose about \$300,000 in funding, there is a possibility a 20 foot easement may resolve this issue.
- Wausau is getting a \$490,000 grant for emerald ash borer treatment. The grant can be used for removal and tree replacement on boulevards; it MAY also be available for ash tree removal on private property.
- A resident asked if one of the buses they saw was an electric one since it didn’t have Wausau “decals” on it. Michael shared that Wausau did receive an electric bus from Duluth but it isn’t being used since Wausau currently doesn’t have the ability to service them.
- A resident asked about the status of Bull Falls Brewery. It is closing in September with about \$230,000 of debt remaining on the TID.

Other topics of discussion at the meeting were:

- Concerns were expressed regarding a home in the 300 block of Seymour Street; the strong smell report last month is still an issue (2 additional residents reported concerns about the odor). Suspected suspicious activity at the address was also reported. Officer Shear has been trying to contact the tenant and landlord but has either not been able to reach them or has not received a response. He will spend more time to try to resolve the issue.
- Someone reported seeing multiple police cars and officers drawing their guns on someone in a vehicle on Prospect Avenue. Officer Shear explained it was a warrant arrest.

Jonathan Smith, Chair of the Wausau Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee provided an update on the Committee.

- Continuation of the River Edge Parkway is still slated to break ground this year.
- The Wausau to Merrill trail (a hard gravel surface) will have public meetings in the future.
- The trail south of Townline and Northwestern Avenue will follow the railroad. The first meeting was in late July. The estimated cost is \$12-\$16 million with an estimated start date of 2040. There may be federal grant funding to reduce the amount that will need to be privately raised.

Officer John Shear distributed and discussed the Briefing Sheet.

- There was a pursuit that started in Kronenwetter and ended outside the Wausau Police Department.
- The number of drug houses remains stable although the quantity of drugs has seen a slight increase. The Briefing Sheet included year to date Community Resource Unit (CRU) statistics.

Eric Jones talked with the group about the EquiFlow Lead-Free Program to replace lead pipes.

- Only certain areas of the City are eligible for the program, and the entire Longfellow neighborhood is in the eligible census tract. Another grant criteria is that the public side of the lead line must have already been switched over; grants must be reapplied for each year. Eligible homeowners will not have to pay anything for the lead line replacement.
- This is a 5-step replacement process. The first step is to determine whether or not the home has a lead service line (there is a quick and easy self-verification tool or you can schedule an in-person service line inspection); call 715-793-7417 or go to www.leadfreewausau.com. Equiflow tries to complete the replacement process in one day.
- October 15 is the last day for inspection to determine eligibility; November 15 is the final replacement completion date.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 7, 2024

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

Hi everyone! Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 7th. A reminder that everyone is welcome, not just homeowners! Dustin Kraege from the Department of Public Works will be joining us to discuss the fall leaf pick up schedules and answer any questions or concerns you might have. With Halloween coming up in a few weeks, please make sure to be aware of little ghosts and goblins crossing the streets! 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

According to a message I received from the superintendent of streets, the city's leaf collection process generates the most questions and concerns of its operation. The biggest problem is maintaining a schedule while also dealing with the unpredictability of the weather and when the leaves will fall. To reiterate the process, here's how collection will go this year.

- The city has a two-phase process. During phase one, a leaf vacuum truck will roam the neighborhoods sucking leaves from the boulevard. This collection in our neighborhood will happen the week of October 7th. Please do not rake leaves into the street but leave them on the curb for the truck.
- Phase two involves a baler and plow combination to remove the bulk of the leaves. This will occur in the Longfellow area the week of October 28, although could be delayed due to weather or equipment breakdown. Do not rake your leaves into the street until the week of the 28th as they could clog the storm sewers.
- For updates on the process, please visit the city of Wausau website at www.wausauwi.gov. There is a banner link on the home page.

Ann Lemmer, Marathon County District 2 County Supervisor

September was Falls Prevention month, but there are reasons for "celebrating" it all year long. Did you know that there is a surprising link between hearing loss and fall risk? New research suggests that hearing aids can help with balance issues. Individuals who consistently wear their hearing aids can reduce their chance of falls by up to 50%. In fact, individuals with hearing loss may be up to 3 times more likely to have a fall. And falling increases hospitalization, and also can decrease your lifespan, unfortunately. (See additional information at the end of the newsletter.)

A preventative way to avoid falls is to join one of the Aging and Disability Resource Center's STEPPING ON courses. This interactive, group program is for adults 60 and older who have fallen or have a fear of falling. Hear from local guest experts, trained leaders, and other group members on ways to reduce your fall risk, while increasing self-confidence. The link between hearing health and falls will be discussed. Program participants should live independently in a home or apartment and be able to walk and exercise safely on their own.

Stepping On is a **seven week class** that meets one time a week for two hours. The next class is at the Wausau Fire Department, Station 2 (on the west side of Wausau) at 3017 Seymour Lane. They occur on Tuesdays, October 8 - November 19, 2024 from 9:30- 11:30 AM. Pre-registration is required. If you are interested in signing up for a class, please call the ADRC-CW at 1-888-486-9545, or fill out the form on the webpage below and they will get in touch with you with more information. <https://www.adrc-cw.org/classes/stepping-building-confidence-reducing-falls/>

Childcare update: I am happy to report that the Marathon County Board voted to allocate \$200,000 of our remaining ARPA funding to Childcaring, Inc. to train 30 individuals in the next two years to become childcare professionals as well as to support the organizations hiring them. This should open 240 high quality childcare slots in Marathon County. We will continue to meet and look for ways to get matching support from our business community. For more information, you can view the September 19th County Board discussion on our You Tube Channel.

NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

Acro Plumbing	904 Sumner Street	715-842-9425
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@wausauwi.gov) 715-845-4218

WAUSAU MAYOR:

DOUG DINY (doug.diny@wausauwi.gov) 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) 715-261-7990

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

TAMMY STRATZ (tammy.stratz@wausauwi.gov) 715-261-6682

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT:

Uncut grass 715-261-6780

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

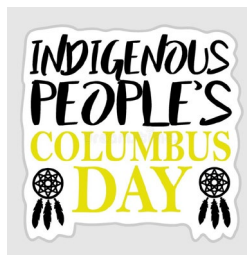
Unshoveled sidewalks 715-261-6740

STREET CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE:

Missed by snow plows 715-261-6960

FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE:

BRIAN STAHL (brian.stahl@wausauwi.gov) 715-261-7900



Better Understand Your **RISK OF FALLING**

Falling is not a normal part of aging. You can help to prevent falls by understanding the different risks in your environment. Below are free resources to help you better understand your risk of falling.



Explore the Home Safety Challenge from Falls Free WI

<https://fallsfreewi.org/prevent-falls/surround/interactive-home-walk-through/>



Take a Falls Free CheckUp Survey

<https://fallsfreewi.org/prevent-falls/test-your-knowledge/>

<https://www.ncoa.org/tools/falls-free-checkup>



Check out the Home Safety Checklist from NCOA

<https://www.ncoa.org/adviser/sleep/home-safety-older-adults/>

**AGE WITH CONFIDENCE,
PREVENT FALLS.**



Contact ADRC-CW

888-486-9545

